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A Better Knowledge of our Roots

2008 marked the 25th Anniversary of our association. But our time spent will certainly be better remembered for all those discoveries we have made since, which are now giving us a much better knowledge of our roots: having a family name of a scandinavian origin, we are bearers of a DNA mutation apparently unique to Saxons from North Germany. We also discovered our past in the old Danelaw (England), before our ancestors moved to Normandy. We are even distinctive because of a blood type repartition which indicates that, around one thousand years ago, there was a mix between our far Danish Saxon ancestors and Slavs from Eastern Europe. All this new information gives us more clues about the migrations of our ancestors, our relation with the Viking period, as well as a very special place among French Canadian families, including those who came from Normandy.

The name

In the fall of 2008, Georges-Louis and Alfred wrote an article about Viking names. They taught us about many places in Eastern England named Bergaby one thousand year ago. Those places are mentioned in the *Domesday Book* written in 1086, at the request of William the Conquerer. They still exist today under names like Barrowby, Barby or Borrowby. But in the XIIIth, XIVth and XVth centuries, those same places were named Berghby, Berughby, Beruby, Beroby, Berowby, Bareby and Baruby or Barube, all using different spellings at different times. Furthermore, we can find today in Sweden, Norway or Denmark places still bearing names like Bergaby, Bergby or Borroby, as well as family names deriving from those place names like Berby, Bergby or Barreby. We have to remember also that the oldest known traces of our ancestors go back to Normandy in the 1540s. And I added in 2010 Spring issue of *Le Monde Berrubey*, some arguments about our ancestors arrival in Normandy, around 1420-1430, during the Hundred Years' War through Harfleur, an English colony; from there, they progressively moved around, in the *Pays de Caux*.

Our Y-DNA

In the spring and summer of 2008, René started to introduce us to genetic genealogy, which is based on the analysis of a small sample of our Y-DNA. He revealed his own personal results in the publication of summer 2009. He added a lot of new information in the special issue of August 2009, for instance about the resemblance of our DNA with the one of some English and Scottish families. He also gave the result of an additional test confirming that he was the bearer of a mutation (U198) that identifies a subgroup of the Western Europe population, the R1b1b2a1a1 group, essentially Saxons. From there we could have already presumed that all members of the family descending from a common ancestor in France, before Damien Bérubé (also written Damian Barubé, Berruby or Berrubey), our first ancestor in North America, were bearers of the same mutation. Nevertheless, I did the same test and also obtain this confirmation, about U198, as reported in the issue of winter 2010. I, a descendant of Mathurin, had almost the same Y-DNA as René, a descendant of Pierre, the other son of Damien who had children. On 37 markers, three were slightly different, and one of these three markers is not considered very reliable.

A blood type more typical of Eastern Europe

I first raised the question of a strong representation of the AB blood type, among members of the Bérubé family, in the spring issue of 2008, indicating at the same time that the share of AB and B types among us was more typical of some Asian nations. I came back in the fall of 2009 with the results of a small survey made during the family gathering of August 2009. When I isolated the results of those who had a Bérubé father, almost 30% were AB or B, 14 out of 49, which is three times the average in any group of people coming from Western Europe. Considering only men, it was even higher at 37.5%. In the spring, I showed how some Slav people, also bearers in large numbers of the AB and B blood types, came across the Eastern Saxon territory after the VIIth century. Knut the Great, king of Denmark, Norway and England from 1016 to 1035 was himself governing this area, from south Jutland (Denemark) to Pomerania (Poland), before becoming king, and his mother was a Slav princess. It's easy to imagine that migrations toward England were greatly facilitated during his reign. It could well be during this period or just after, under one of Knut's sons (1035-1042), that our ancestor migrated from the Baltic Sea coast to England.

People with our name all over England History

Our family name is rare in France and we have not found trace of it before a marriage dated 1542. It is a little bit different for England if we take all the possible spellings of our name derived from Bergaby. I mentioned a few individuals from the past (for the Middle Age period) in my different articles: Ralph, son of Uctred de Borrowby (pronounced Ber-Heby) around 1186, giving some land to the Rielvaux Abbey, Simon de Berughby, owner of a manor in Northamptonshire (before 1240), William de Baroby, Lord of Laysencroft (Yorkshire 1240), Richard, son of Ranulf de Beruby (he received a farm in Lincolnshire, 1242), the priest Robert Berewby, *rector ecclesia* (Yorkshire 1265), John of Beruby (also written De Berghby), attorney in Daventry in 1280, Robert de Beruby, landowner in Northamptonshire (1301), John de Beruby signing a petition against taxation in the Cleveland area around 1322 (a document found in the UK National Archives), Adam de Beruby, landowner in Daventry, 1323, another Adam who owns a tavern in Grantham (1348), Isabella de Berughby, Arthington prioress (1349), Thomas of Beruby, priest of Oxford (1362 and 1373), William de Beroby or Baruby, notary in York (in the 1420s), Robert Baroby, a London merchant in 1527, William Burreby de Morland, martyr of the England Catholic Church (1537).

In the 2009 summer issue, I transcribed the 1519 testament of John Barube, a burgess of Coventry, in relation with important merchants of the time, people in link with York as well as Calais. In a text of spring 2009, I also traced a lot of people named Berube and Beruby in the XIXth century, from Perth in Scotland to the south west of England (Cornwall) and around London. More recently (spring 2010), I recalled the place of Sir Joseph Baruby in music history, as a master of Eton college, a composer and a choir conductor in his younger years, before 1872. There is more to come. In the meantime, I invite any person who knows something about our England cousins to get in touch with me (michelberube22@videotron.ca).

Michel Bérubé #0338, August 9, 2010