

While some secondary sources report that the precursor of one variation of the name "Albro" was brought to **England** by a Norman Knight arriving about two generations after William the Conqueror, specifically de Alberrye, I have not researched this aspect of the issue and will not comment on it here. Genealogists seem to agree (at least I haven't found any who disagree) that "Albro" and many of its variants are derived from place names, that is, where someone was born or a place of residence with which they became associated. Since the precursor "Aldebrough" dates back at least to the Domesday Book <sup>6</sup> written in 1088, it could not have originated with a Norman knight arriving in the 1100s. Since the quaint notion that a given word has a "correct" spelling did not catch on until the invention of the dictionary in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, one can not always identify the place of origin from the way a place-derived surname is spelled. Moreover, there are several places in **England** from which a person could (and did) derive a surname that could be simplified to "Albro."

### Suffolk

It is believed by onomatologists <sup>7</sup> that the name originated in **Suffolk**, spread to Yorkshire, and thence to Norfolk. The current Aldeburgh, near Ipswich, corresponds to what was given as *Aldebrough* above (Domesday Book.) However, one finds alternate spellings, including *Aldburgh* <sup>8</sup>, and *Alborough* <sup>9</sup>, sometimes used in referring to this East **Suffolk**, seaside village <sup>10</sup>, which is located north of Oxford and south of Dunwich. Wilkie Collins <sup>11</sup> set the key confrontation of his novel "No Name" (1862) in *Aldeburgh*, using the then contemporary spelling of Aldborough, as it appeared in 1860s train timetables. Local people complained that there were at least six ways to spell the name of the town. *Aldeburgh* is famous for an international music festival founded by Benjamin Britten <sup>12</sup>, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier; a poetry festival; the poet George Crabbe; and it is a Mecca for aficionados of sundials <sup>13</sup>. Moreover, it was administered by the first woman mayor in **England**, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. The current population is about 3000, swelling to 6000 during the festivals <sup>14</sup>.

### Yorkshire

In Yorkshire, North Riding, close to the border with Durham, we have Aldborough, "old fort", in the parish of St. John Stanwick, wapentake of Gilling West, seven miles from Richmond and Darlington. Its population <sup>15</sup> was 544 in 1822. This site had been a large Roman city, but its Roman name has been lost. The name is now commonly shortened to *Aldbrough* <sup>16</sup>. The manor of this 1807 acre township, referred to as *Aldburne* in the Domesday Book, belonged at that time to the Saxon chieftains Tor, Sprot and Grim. The name *Aldbrough* is considered Anglo-Saxon <sup>17</sup> or Anglian <sup>30</sup>. The area was the property of Sir William de Aldburgh during the time Edward Balliol was claimant to the throne of Scotland (around 1330). In the time of Henry I, the manor at Stanwick St. John was known as *Aldburgh* and belonged to Harsculf Musard. The spelling *Aldburghe* was used in the time of the Taillebois (Tallboys) barony. The church is named for St. John and St. Paul.

There is a hamlet named Aldburgh in the township of Burton-upon-Ure and parish of Masham <sup>19</sup>. This hamlet is two miles from Masham, six from Bedale, and nine from Ripon, again in Yorkshire North Riding. It contains Aldburgh Hall (Aldbrough Manor), in 1822 the residence of James Henry D'Arcy Hutton, Esq. A long-gone castle here, whose site was called Aldborough, was the seat of the Earls of