

# John Rateliffe


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Around 896 A.C. a group of Danish Vikings settled in the estuary of River Seine, and in 911 A.C. Charles the Simple King of France conceded the territory of Normandy to these Norsemen. The first Duke of Normandy was, therefore, a French Descendant of Northmen.

William the Conqueror departed precisely from Normandy to conquer England. William was the 5th generation of descendants of this Viking group, although he was at the same time full heir of the French culture of his time.

The Manor of Radcliffe, or Radecliue appears mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086), since it was a Royal Manor created back in the period of Edward the Confessor.

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After the Normans conquered England, the Manor of Radcliffe was given to Nicholas Fitz - Gilbert de Talbois or Tailbois (Talbot), and since then he was started to be called Nicholas of Radcliffe.

It is believed that the name

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Radcliffe was introduced in England by the Normans when they conquered this country in 1066.

The first Norman family bearing the Radcliffe name lived in Nottingham. As time passed this family became one of the oldest and with highest nobility of Lancashire.

Also it is believed that the name Radcliffe is a Saxon name, being its oldest style Rade - Clive. The variations of this surname might respond to the fact that being a toponimic name, which makes reference to a red hill next to a river, it could have been used by different European ethnic groups that might have owned the land in some way, as surnames would also indicate the ownership rights over a certain territory.



Radcliffe can be translated as “red cliff”. The town of Radcliffe, built on red sandstone soil, is located next to River Irwell, which has precisely red cliffs made out of this red sandstone type. At a bend of this river, the former tower of the Radcliffe Manor stands up, now in ruins. Also the coasts of Lancashire have red sandstone cliffs.

As it has been previously commented, the red cliff that probably gave name to the area, located in the South part of River Irwell, just below the confluence of River Roch, still exists. The primitive village of Radcliffe received also the name of Rougemont (Red Mount) due to the Norman Conquer. During the years that followed this conquer, the surname Rougemont also existed in England.



This sandstone is a good construction material -it easy to work due to its humidity when is recently extracted from the quarry and hardens considerably when it gets dry. Therefore, the areas where this type of rock is abundant are ideal for constructing buildings

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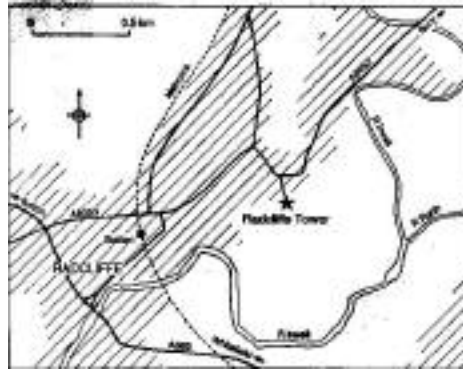
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and fortifications.

Nowadays the town of Radcliffe is a suburb of Manchester.

The Radcliffe tower is located next to the church; despite its being in ruins it still keeps its ground plan.



It is believed that the Radcliffe tower was built by Nicholas Fitz - Gilbert de Talbois. It seems that Nicholas was the grandson of Yves de Talbois, which was on his turn batman to the Norman Duke William the Conqueror in the battle for the control of England.



The name Radcliffe has suffered the same phenomenon as so many other surnames, which consists in presenting different modifications throughout history. Some of these variations are: Rateliffe, Ratecliffe, Ratcliff, Radclyffe, Ratliffe, Ratliff, Ratlife, Ratcliffe and many more.



Each variation comes from a different place of England, in this sense, Ratcliffe comes from Devonshire; Ratcliff from

Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire; Radcliffe and Radclive from Buckinghamshire; Redcliff from Warwickshire, etc.

In particular, the variation Rateliffe of the name Radcliffe is very common in England, U.S.A and other countries like Australia, New Zealand, etc.

The first Radcliffe related with the Canary Islands was John Ratcliffe, Captain of **"The Discovery"**, one of the three ships that carried 104 settlers to Virginia to found the Jamestown camp on 13th May 1607. On their way, this expedition had to stop first in the Canary Islands in order

Radcliffe.

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## A LANDSCAPE



*...Bienestar gané  
y saber también,  
crecí y me crecí en mi  
crecer  
**de una palabra a otra  
fui llevado, y otra más;  
de hecho en hecho...***

to obtain provisions, due to the bad winds they encountered on their leaving England and this delayed them three weeks.



The name Rateliffe in the Canary Islands always appears written in the same way, from Yrene Rateliffe to María del Carmen Hernández Rateliffe.



According to all this, it can be stated that the surname Rateliffe shown in the previously mentioned certificates has been correctly written. As further documents shall be examined, more certainty shall be obtained concerning this particular aspect.

The name Radcliffe can also be found among the first settlers of the English colonies in America. There is evidence of a Radcliff family living in New England in 1685, of a Radcliffe family living in Philadelphia around 1775, and of a Radcliff family living in New York by 1803.

Among the distinguished ancestors bearing the name Radcliffe, the following stand out:

- John Radcliffe, doctor (1650 - 1714).
- Anne Radcliffe, novelist (1764 - 1832). Formerly Ann Ward, and married to William Radcliffe.