

Origins of village names

SHEARSBY

SHEARSBY (132-6290)

Seuesbi, -v- 1086 IB, 1195 P (p), 1196 ChancR (p), 1204 Cur (p), -by
1208 FF, e.13 Rey (p), e.13 (p) bis, 13 WYG (p)

Svevesbi 1086 IB

Suesbi 1086 IB

Sauesbi 1200 Cur

Sewesby 1216 CLR

Seuebi 1197 P (p), 1190-1204 France, -by 1205 CLR

S(c)heuesby, -ys-, -v- 1209-35 RHug, 1236 Fine (p), 1247 Ass (p),

1276 RH et passim to 1.13 WYG, 1292 Ipm et freq to 1455

Fine, Chevysby 1271 Ipm

Shewesby 1488 Ipm

Scheveby 1306 Pat

Shethesby(e), -is- 1436 Banco, 1502 MisAccts, 1509 CoPleas, 1510 Visit
et passim to 1590 Fine

Sheysby 1517, 1523, 1526 AAS

Sheasb(e)y 1576 Saxton, 1610 Speed et passim to 1691 IML

Shearsby 1721 IML

Perhaps 'Skeifr's by', v. by. The ON personal name Skeifr (ODan Skef) is a by-name, cf. ON skeifr 'askew, crooked', v. Feilitzen 356. In this case an original Scandinavian [sk] seems to have undergone anglicization to [ʃ] (v. SPNLY § 131) in an area of only light Scandinavian influence. Ekwall DEPN suggests the OE personal name Swæf as the first element basing his interpretation, one assumes, on the single IB form Svevesbi. The weight of the evidence, however, would indicate OE sc as the initial sound. Perhaps there was early association with the mythical OE Sceafa.