

Robert de Reymes

The effigy of a knight lying in the Shortflatt Chapel is believed to be of Robert de Reymes, who acquired half the barony of Bolam in about 1295. He is believed to have built the chapel, probably as a Lady Chapel.

He was an active soldier, with letters of protection for the campaigns in Scotland at Stirling in 1297, Falkirk in 1298 and Bannockburn in 1314, where he was captured.

His family came from Rames, a hamlet in the parish of Gommerville, a few miles from Le Havre in Normandy. The first reference to the family is in the Domesday Book 1086, where a Roger de Ramis is recorded as holding land in Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Middlesex. Robert was the son of Hugh de Rames of Wherstead, Suffolk.

Unfortunately there is no reference to Bolam in Domesday Book, because Northumberland was an earldom and therefore financially of no value to the king.

Robert was also a busy builder, re-building Shortflatt as a stone tower and crenellating it and his home at Aydon in 1305. Aydon Hall was captured by the Scots in 1315 and by rampaging Northumbrian rebels in 1317.

He died in 1323. His grandson Nicholas, also an active knight, became escheator for Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland in 1380.

The Scots captured Aydon Hall again in 1346 and by 1450 it was described as being in a ruinous condition. It was sold in 1541 to the Carnaby family. Shortflatt was sold along with most of the Northumberland property in 1604.