

IX.—ROBERT DE REYMES OF BOLAM, SHORT-
FLATT AND AYDON CASTLE, AND HIS CONNEXION
WITH SUFFOLK.

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Until quite recently nothing was known of the origin of the Raymes family of Northumberland, and the coat of arms of Robert de Raymes had been sought for in vain in order to complete the series of banners in the great hall of the castle of Newcastle;¹ recent research has, however, at last solved these difficulties.

Mr. J. H. Round² considers that the name was derived from the castle of Rames, near the forest of Lillebonne in Normandy, and states that it was originally 'de Raimes,' though Latinized in Domesday as 'de Ramis.' The Norman fief of Rames or Raimes was in the Pays de Caux, and consisted of the parishes of St. Vigor de Vimerville, Guillerville, Gomerville, etc., in the last of which the manor-house was situated.³

The first of the family of whom we have any record is Roger de Rames, who is included by M. Leopold Delisle in the *Dives Roll*⁴ among the 'Companions of William the conqueror at the conquest of England in 1066.' At the time of the Domesday survey he held many manors in Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Middlesex, the head of the barony being at Little Rayne (formerly Reymes⁵) in Essex, and it was held by the service of twenty knights' fees.

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, vol. III, 17.

² Round's *Geoff. de Mandeville*.

³ *Description de la Haute Normandie*, vol. I, fo. 492.

⁴ *Battle Abbey Roll*, by Duch. of Cleveland, i. xxxi.

⁵ Pipe Rolls and early charters.

Roger 'de Rames' was succeeded by William 'de Raimés' and he by his two sons Roger and Robert, between whom the barony was divided on William's death, some time before 1131.⁶

Robert's half barony descended to Richard de Reimes, who died at the beginning of the thirteenth century, leaving four daughters, coheiresses.⁷ Roger de Raimés (II) married a daughter of Aubrey de Vere,⁸ and died in 1131. Another Roger occurs as lord of the fief in 1159,⁶ and in 1165⁶ William 'de Reimes,' probably his son,⁹ was in possession. He accompanied Richard Coeur-de-Lion to the Holy Land, and died at Jerusalem in 1195.¹⁰ A Roger de Reimes and a William de Reimes were with the barons in their revolt against king John,¹¹ but the history of the main branch of the family after that time is at present obscure.

Among the Raimés estates was a considerable area of land scattered round Ipswich, and about the year 1200, we find a 'Henry, son of William de Raimés,' obtaining a grant of land at Wherstead, a village about four miles from that town. Robert and Hamon de Raimés are witnesses to the deed,¹² and Henry de Raimés and Hamon and William, his brothers, witnessed another deed of about the same date.¹³ In 1204, Gilbert de Reymes 'gives to the Hanse of the [Ipswich] guild one quarter of malt, and grants yearly to the ferm of the said town for himself and his villeins in Wherstead, that they may be quit of toll in form aforesaid, four pence and two bushels of wheat.'¹⁴ Between 1225 and 1251, Gilbert, prior of the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul in Ipswich, granted land in Wherstead to 'Gilbert, son of Robert de Reymes.'¹⁵ In 1240 another Gilbert de Reymes 'became a sworn burgess and

⁶ *Pipe Rolls.*

⁸ *Geoff. de Mand.*

¹¹ *Close Rolls, 1215-1217.*

¹³ *D. C. of A. D. A.3621.*

¹⁵ *Stowe Charters, 410.*

⁷ *Red Book of the Exchequer.*

⁹ *D. C. of A. D. A.2146.*

¹² *Add. Charters B. M. 10,640.*

¹⁴ *Ipswich Little Domesday, fo. 172.*

¹⁰ *Pipe Rolls.*

granted by the year to the said ferm for himself and his villeins in Wherstead, four pence and two bushels of wheat, or that he be at scot and lot.¹⁶ The next lord, Sir Roger de Reymes, was in possession in 1270,¹⁷ and in the same year had letters of protection from the king, 'going with us and our eldest son beyond seas in aid of the Holy Land.'¹⁸ Possibly he shared the fate of the valiant Adam de Jesmond¹⁹ and never returned, for in 1277 'Hugh, son of Gilbert de Reymes,' followed the example of his father and became a sworn burgess, etc., of Ipswich.²⁰ In 1276 he had letters of protection, going with Robert de Ufford to Ireland for three years.²¹ In 1282-3 the priory of St. Peter and St. Paul granted him 'the chantry built in his oratory within his court in Wherstead.'²² A year or two later he was engaged in a less creditable transaction, for in 1286 a jury present 'that Hugh de Reymes of Wherstead took the sheep of Thomas Eylred on the king's highway out of Ipswich and carried them away to Wherstead and kept them in his park till five of them died. And likewise he took from the cart of the said Thomas two horses in the king's highway and ejected his servant from the said cart against the statute of the lord king.'²³ In 1286, 'Robert, son of Hugh de Reymes,' was concerned in land transactions near Wherstead,²⁴ and in the same year Hugh de Gosebek, the lord of the moiety of the barony of Bolam in Northumberland, 'puts in his place Robert de Reymes against Roger de Braham on a plea of assize de mort d'ancestor.'²⁵ A year or two after this 'Hugh de Reymes and Robert his son' obtained from Hugh de Gosebek a grant of his moiety of the barony of Bolam. The evidence proving this important link in the pedigree is as follows:

¹⁶ Ipswich Little Dom. fo. 175.

¹⁸ Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. I, part i. fo. 484.

²⁰ Ipswich Lit. Dom. fo. 186.

²² Stowe Charters; 409.

²⁴ Assize Roll, 826, fo. 10.

¹⁷ *Idem*, fo. 180.

¹⁹ *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd series I, 50.

²¹ *Pat. Rolls*, 1276.

²³ Assize Rolls, Suff. 829 F. 29.

²⁵ *Id.* 832, fo. 58.

(1) *Calendar of Close Rolls, 1288-1296, fo. 492.*

Newminster. To John de Lightgrenes, escheator this side Trent; order not to interfere with the lands that belonged to Walter de Cambhow as the King learns that Walter held nothing at his death of the King 'in capite,' but that he held of Hugh de Gosebek, tenant-in-chief of the King by barony in the County of Northumberland, which barony the King caused to be taken into his hands by reason of the alienation thereof that Hugh made without his licence to Hugh de Reymes, now deceased, and to Robert his son, and which the King has now restored to Robert by a fine made with him in the exchequer, having previously taken Robert's homage, and it is also found by inquisition that Walter in his life never attorned himself to Hugh de Reymes or to Robert his son, or to the King when the barony was in his hands for the services that he was wont to do to Hugh de Gosebek for the lands.

(2) *De Banco Roll, 2 Edw. II, No. 178, Trinity, fo. 265, Northumberland.*

Robert, son of Hugh de Reymes of Wherstead, appeared by his attorney on the fourth day of April against Richard de Gosebek, on a plea that he should warrant to him a moiety of the manor of Bolam with its appurtenances which he holds and claims to hold of him and for which he has a charter of Hugh de Gosebek, father of the said Richard, whose heir he is, etc.

Hugh de Reymes died in 1295, probably in Suffolk, his executors being Robert de Reydon, Charles, vicar of Wherstead, and Alan de Ore. Unfortunately the only part of his will of which we have any record is that relating to his possessions in Ipswich and these he leaves to 'Alice de Hastyngges.'²⁶ His son Robert paid his relief for the moiety of the barony of Bolam²⁷ but did not succeed to the Wherstead estate, which apparently passed into the possession of Robert de Reydon, Hugh's executor. Hugh de Reymes had a brother Robert, who was rector of Eston-Gosebek in Suffolk, and with whom he had land transactions, and the evidence given below shows that Robert de Reydon, who married as his first wife Alice, daughter and heiress

²⁶ Will, Great Pleas, Ipswich.

²⁷ Pipe Roll, 25 Ed. I.

of this Robert de Reymes the parson, partly by his wife's inheritance and partly by purchase became lord of Wherstead²⁸ on the death of Hugh.

Sir Andrew de Bures died in 1360 holding Foxearth He had by Alice, his wife, daughter and heiress of Sir John de Roydon (Reydon) and grand-daughter of Sir Robert de Roydon, by Alice, daughter and heiress of Robert de Ramis, Robert and Andrew. (Wright's *Essex*, vol. I, p. 570).

1296. Release by Albreda, daughter of the late Gilbert de Reymes to Sir Robert de Reydon, knight, of all right which accrued to her after the death of Sir Robert de Reymes her brother, formerly rector of the church of Eston-Gosebekes, in the messuage with buildings, lands, woods, etc., in Wherstead, Freston, Chelmonton, etc.²⁹

1296. Similar release by Nicola, another daughter of Gilbert de Reymes.³⁰

1316. Robert de Reydon is certified as lord of the townships of Reydon³¹ and Wherstead.

1323. A jury certify that Robert de Reydon, deceased, held on the day of his death the manors of Reydon and Wherstead.³²

There is, in the Cambridge University library, an early fourteenth century Book of Hours³³ having on the first page a representation of a lady kneeling before an archbishop and wearing a red mantle on which is borne a *cross engrailed or*³⁴; this lady, according to Mr. St. John Hope, is probably Alice de Reydon, whose death in the year mcccx— is the only contemporary entry in the calendar. Three pages of this Book of Hours are herewith reproduced. On the first is depicted the archbishop and lady as above, and on the second is part of the 'Venite,' where will be noticed in the initial V a shield bearing *gules a cross engrailed or* (plate VIII). As this is not the Reydon coat, it is probable that it is that of the lady's father, Robert de Reymes, the younger brother of Hugh and the uncle of Robert de Reymes of Bolam, who would probably bear a similar coat. It is a

²⁸ It was, of course, very unusual at that period for a parson to marry, but they did so in some cases. In a rental of the priory of the Holy Trinity, Ipswich, c. 1245, we find among the holders of land in Shotley, 'filius persone de Schottele.

²⁹ D. C. of A. D., C. 171.

³⁰ *Id.* C. 517.

³¹ Palgrave, *Parl. Writs*.

³² Robert de Reydon, *Chanc. I.P.M.*, 16 Ed. II. No. 63.

³³ Catalogue number, Dd. 4.17.

³⁴ See plate v.1 facing page 313.

coincidence that cannot be overlooked that the coat of Robert de Ufford, who was accompanied to Ireland in 1276 by Hugh de Reymes, was *sable a cross engrailed or* and certainly suggests the feudal lordship of the Uffords over the Wherstead Reymeses.

The third page shows the entry in the calendar recording the death of Alice de Reidon and it will be noticed that part of the x and the following figure have been carelessly cut away by the binder (plate IX).

Additional confirmation of *a cross engrailed* being the coat of the Northumberland branch of the Raimes family has recently come to light in Mr. Dendy's *North Country Roll of Arms*, where the coat of Rames is given as *sable a cross engrailed argent*.^{34a} By the double evidence of this Roll of Arms and the Book of Hours, together with the Suffolk connexion now clearly established, the identity of the effigy in the Shortflatt chapel of Bolam church is at last settled, and the *engrailed cross* on the shield shows it to be not as hitherto wrongly surmised the effigy of Walter de Bolam, but that of a Reymes, probably Robert de Reymes, the first of the northern branch, who died in 1324.³⁵

The advowson of the church of Bolam in 1300 belonged to Thomas de Bekering and Robert de Reymes, who in that year agreed to present alternately, the said Thomas presenting his clerk on this occasion;³⁶ and it is evident by the death, in 1339, of Henry de Reymys, clerk,³⁷ that Robert had in due course exercised his right, Henry being probably one of his sons. In 1335 the advowson was disposed of by Thomas de Bekering and Robert, son of Robert de Reymes, to William de Herle,³⁸ and this accounts for his presenting Alan de Heppescotes on the death of Henry de Reymes.³⁷

^{34a} *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. III, 286.

³⁵ *Chanc. I.P.M.*, file 90, No. 65.

³⁶ *Feet of Fines, Northumberland*, 28 Ed. I. ³⁷ *Reg. Pal. Dunelm.*, vol. III. 232.

³⁸ *Pat. Roll*, 8 Edw. III. m. 34, Northumberland.

