

## VII.—SHORTFLATT TOWER AND ITS OWNERS

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PART I—1206 to 1611.

### SECTION I.

#### *The Thirteenth Century.*

Walter fitz Gilbert, the last of the Buron family to hold the barony of Bolam, died in 1206.<sup>1</sup> He was a person of some importance in Northumberland. His wife was an Umfraville, and he was related to the Delavals and, probably, to the Baliols.<sup>2</sup> He held the barony of Bolam in chief by the service of 3 knights' fees, 40s. castleguard and 8s. 8d. cornage. It consisted of Bolam, Belsay, Bradford, Trewick and Deanham in a compact block near Bolam; Aydon, Thornbrough and Little Whittington near Corbridge; and Greenleighton (including Harwood<sup>3</sup>), lying several miles to the north-west of Bolam. It also included three distant manors, Cowpen, East Brunton and Tunstall.<sup>4</sup>

The barons of Bolam also held, by the service of 2½ knights' fees, eight vills of the barony of Bolbec—Harnham, Shaftoe, South Middleton, Hawick, Cambo, Newton Grange, Rothley and Hartington<sup>5</sup>—with the result that the greater part of Walter fitz Gilbert's lordship was an almost continuous estate, stretching from Belsay and Trewick on the south to Greenleighton and Harwood on the north. The vills were small, and were widely separated from one another by larger areas of waste, moor and forest. Many of these

vills were held by sub-tenants, and in those Walter fitz Gilbert's interest was limited to the usual feudal services. Bolam and the neighbouring vills of Harnham, Bradford and South Middleton were, however, among those held in demesne.

John Hodgson states that, when Bolam House was built by Robert Horsley, the ruins of a large house within the pre-historic entrenchment on Bolam Hill were used as a quarry, and that previously there was still standing part of a strongly built tower, about 40 feet by 30 feet externally, with the remains of other buildings overgrown with turf.<sup>6</sup> Another description runs, "There has been formerly a very considerable castle at the west end of this village [Bolam]. The fosse is very visible, and has been of vast depth."<sup>7</sup> This house was probably Walter fitz Gilbert's home and the administrative centre of his barony.

Walter fitz Gilbert's daughters, Aline and Alice, inherited the estate, and the king gave them in marriage to two brothers, John and James of Cauz, between whom the Bolam barony and the Bolbec vills were divided. From later inquisitions<sup>8</sup> it seems evident that the share allotted to John and Aline of Cauz included the capital messuage at Bolam and the manor of Shortflatt, though possibly it was not then known by that name and may not have existed as a separate property.

Shortflatt is not named in any of the early lists of the vills comprised in the barony of Bolbec<sup>9</sup> and probably came into being when the estate was divided. Harnham is the only adjoining Bolbec vill, and I suggest that Shortflatt was originally part of Harnham. This is supported by the fact that these two places are grouped together in the 1296 Subsidy roll.<sup>10</sup>

It is not until 1223 that Shortflatt is mentioned by name, John of Cauz in that year nominating Everard of Shortflatt (*Schorflet*) as one of his two sureties in a suit against Wischard, parson of Horton.<sup>11</sup> Everard must have been a man of standing, and his description indicates that in 1223 Short-

flatt existed as a separate property, probably with a capital messuage.

John of Cauz died in 1234, and his widow, description as Aline of Bolam, probably indicates that she resided there. Their heiress was a daughter, Margery, and her marriage was granted to Walter Gray, archbishop of York, who married her to his nephew, William le Bretun. In 1246 both Aline of Bolam and William le Bretun were dead,<sup>13</sup> and the wealth of the young widow excited the cupidity of a Suffolk knight, Sir Richard of Gosebek, who, with the assistance of a number of his friends, seized her at night, carried her off, and compelled her by force to be his wife.<sup>14</sup> In 1256, however, it was stated that "Margery married herself to Richard of Gosebek without the license of archbishop",<sup>15</sup> the wording suggesting that Margery had connived at her own abduction. In October 1246 the king ordered the sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk to put Gosebek's accomplices in prison and to seize their lands and chattels, as well as those of Richard and Margery, while the sheriff of Berkshire was ordered to take possession of Margery's lands in that county.<sup>16</sup> Eventually, Richard and Margery regained possession of their estates.

It seems probable that after his marriage Richard of Gosebek continued to live mainly in Suffolk, where he was lord of the manor of Eston Gosebek (now Gosbeck). He took an active interest, however, in his Northumbrian property, and in 1256 and 1269 he was at Newcastle, accompanied on at least one occasion by his wife, contesting alleged encroachments on his feudal rights by the Bishop of Durham, Sir Hugh de la Val and others.<sup>17</sup> He married his daughter Alice to a Northumbrian neighbour, Robert son of Henry of Bradford, giving him as his wife's dowry a moiety of the manor of Bradford and a moiety of the mill at Aydon.<sup>18</sup> He also gave land in Greenleighton (*Lithdon*) to Newminster Abbey.<sup>19</sup> In 1277 he was summoned to serve against the Welsh, and on the same occasion he sent three *servientes* to the muster at Worcester for the service due for his half-baronry of Bolam.<sup>20</sup>

During the second half of the thirteenth century there was a close connection between the Gosebeks and the family of Reymes of Wherstead, a village near Ipswich.<sup>21</sup> In June 1270 Richard of Gosebek was at Wherstead witnessing a settlement made by Roger of Reymes on the eve of his departure on crusade with Prince Edward. Roger returned in safety and made another settlement, as by an undated charter Sir Richard of Gosebek quitclaimed to Hugh of Reymes his rights in the manor of Wherstead "which manor I at one time held by the demise of Sir Roger of Reymes, deceased".<sup>22</sup>

Richard of Gosebek<sup>23</sup> was dead in 1281, holding moieties of Bolam, Aydon and South Middleton, and property at Cowpen.<sup>24</sup> The property was retained in the king's hands, however, as Margery, his widow, was in Suffolk and unable to take the required oath not to marry again without the king's consent.<sup>25</sup> A few months later she did homage, took the oath, and was given possession.<sup>26</sup>

At this time we again find a reference to Shortflatt, in a charter granting land in Greenleighton (*Lithdon*) to Newminster Abbey, one of the boundaries being defined as "the toft of the lady of Shortflatt" (*dominae de Scortflatte*).<sup>27</sup> The charter is undated, but it immediately follows one of Richard of Gosebek, and it seems probable that the lady of Shortflatt was Margery of Gosebek.

Margery died in 1284, holding land in Bolam, Greenleighton, Deanham, East Brunton, Little Whittington and Aydon *in capite* by the service of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  knights' fees and 20s. castle-guard; and also "Le Scortflat, the manor and 160 acres of land", and land in Middleton, Cambo, Shaftoe and Hawick of the heirs of Hugh of Bolbec, rendering 20s. yearly to those heirs.<sup>28</sup>

Hugh of Gosebek was thirty years of age when he succeeded his mother. He was not interested in his Northumbrian property, and before June 1290 he had leased the moiety of the barony of Bolam, with, presumably, his share of the Bolbec vills, to William of Middleton at the annual rent of 50 marks.<sup>29</sup> It is curious that when in 1293 the king's

judges required evidence of this, the jurors were satisfied with a writing<sup>30</sup> to the effect that the king had sanctioned the lease to Middleton of the manor of Shortflatt with the appurtenances for 50 marks yearly, although Shortflatt was not even a member of the barony.

Between 1293 and August 1295,<sup>31</sup> Hugh of Gosebek demised the moiety of the barony of Bolam to Hugh of Reymes of Wherstead and Robert his son.<sup>32</sup>

## SECTION II.

### *Robert of Reymes I.*

Hugh of Reymes had succeeded about 1275 to a manor in the vill of Wherstead near Ipswich, valued in 1323 at £5 19s. a year, and held by the service of the 4th part of a knight's fee. He also held land in other villages, and in a settlement of the Reymes property made in 1270 the rent reserved to the settlor was £40 a year.<sup>33</sup> The earliest reference to Robert of Reymes is in 1286, when Roger of Brandiston is stated to have sought against Robert son of Hugh of Reymes one messuage, 50 acres of land, etc., in Chelminton and Wolverstone.<sup>34</sup>

Between 1276 and 1291 Hugh of Reymes was buying land in Wherstead and other villages,<sup>35</sup> and then he and his son acquired a large estate in Northumberland, while the Suffolk property passed after his death to his brother Robert, rector of Eston Gosebek, and ultimately to the latter's daughter, who was the wife of Sir Robert of Reydon.<sup>33</sup>

Hugh probably died in Suffolk in 1295,<sup>36</sup> and in the following year Robert obtained possession of the moiety of the barony of Bolam, which had been taken into the king's hands, as Hugh of Gosebek had made the transfer without the king's license.<sup>37</sup>

In 1296 Robert of Reymes had probably settled at Shortflatt<sup>38</sup> and in the same year war broke out with Scotland. Both in April 1296 and in November 1297 Scottish armies

swept through Northumberland, plundering, burning and slaying. Corbridge was destroyed, and at Hexham the Scots burned the abbey and the school with two hundred boys inside.<sup>39</sup>

In 1297 Robert took part in the expedition which culminated in the battle of Stirling in September of that year.<sup>40</sup> In May 1298 he was granted letters of protection until Christmas, remaining in Scotland with Henry Percy,<sup>41</sup> and probably in July he was with Percy at the battle of Falkirk. For the Caerlaverock campaign Robert of Reymes sent two *servientes* to the muster at Carlisle in June 1300, but his own name does not appear in the marshal's roll.<sup>42</sup>

About this time<sup>43</sup> he married Maud, daughter of Sir Nicholas of Wortley and granddaughter of Sir William Heron of Ford,<sup>44</sup> and in 1305 the king, at the instance of Henry Percy and "for the good services which the said Robert has rendered us against the Scots", allowed him to settle Bolam, Aydon and Greenleighton (*Lytdon*), with the services due from Little Whittington and East Brunton, on himself and Maud his wife, with remainder to his heirs. The settlement did not include Shortflatt, but it included the capital messuage at Bolam, valued at 6s. a year, and Aydon Hall, valued at 1s. a year.<sup>45</sup>

On April 5th, 1305, Reymes was licensed "to fortify or embattle his dwelling-houses of Shortflatt and Aydon".<sup>46</sup> At Aydon he apparently added the crenellated parapets to the main structure, and built a bailey with embattled walls to protect the north side of the house, the south side receiving natural protection from a deep ravine.<sup>47</sup> So far as Shortflatt is concerned, the tower, which is the only medieval part of the present house, was probably built at this time, possibly as part of a larger scheme of fortification. On the same date Robert of Reymes and Thomas of Bekering, lord of the other moiety of the barony of Bolam, were granted a weekly market and an annual fair in their manor of Bolam, and free warren in Bolam, Aydon, Greenleighton (*Litendone*) and South Middleton.<sup>48</sup>

In July 1309 Robert of Reymes was summoned to be at Newcastle in September to serve against the Scots, but the intended expedition did not take place. He had now entered the service of Robert Umfraville, earl of Angus, and later, in 1309, he accompanied him to Scotland on a diplomatic mission.<sup>49</sup>

In September 1310 there was a feudal levy at Tweedmouth. Angus proffered the service for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  knights' fees, done by John of Vaus and Gilbert of Bourdoun (*Burradon*), knights, and Robert of Reymes, *servientem*, with armoured horses. Reymes, as a tenant-in-chief, sent to the muster Richard of Sharpinton, Baldwin of Boleyne and Gilbert of Babynton, with armoured horses, as the service due from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  knights' fees.<sup>50</sup> In November Robert of Reymes is mentioned as collecting 100 marks at Berwick on account of the earl's fee.<sup>51</sup> In April 1311 he was still with Angus in Scotland when his letters of protection were extended to Michaelmas.<sup>52</sup>

In September 1311 the Scots invaded Northumberland, advancing down Redesdale and "burning the whole countryside as far as Corbridge". In August 1312 both Hexham and Corbridge were burnt,<sup>53</sup> and it is hardly possible that Bolam and Shortflatt would escape devastation. Angus was among the prisoners taken at Bannockburn in 1314, and probably Robert of Reymes was also captured there.<sup>54</sup>

The raids increased in number and violence, and both in 1314 and 1315 the Scots overran Northumberland and Durham and penetrated into Yorkshire. Northumberland became a desert and, in the words of a monkish chronicler, was "abandoned to beasts of prey".<sup>55</sup> There was no safety outside the castles and fortified towns, and famine came to add to the misery of the inhabitants. Bolam and Shortflatt were burned or in ruins; the tenants had fled, and the livestock had vanished.<sup>56</sup>

In the spring of 1315 Aydon was plundered and burned by the Scots. Robert's estates had ceased to yield any income. In 1316 he petitioned the king for a grant for 10 years of the herbage of the park of Plumpton in the forest

of Inglewood, claiming that he had been in all the Scottish wars, had entirely lost the income from £50 a year in land, and had been taken prisoner and his ransom fixed at 500 marks, for the payment of which his son was in Scotland as a hostage.<sup>57</sup> His petition was granted, and in September 1317 he was also granted an annuity of £10.<sup>57</sup>

Robert's troubles were, however, not yet over. Northumberland continued to be in a state of anarchy. Many of the inhabitants had leagued themselves with the Scots: some became bandits and robbed those of their neighbours who still had goods to be stolen: others, like Gilbert of Middleton in 1317, broken into open rebellion. In December 1317 Aydon was again captured, this time by the one-time warden, Hugh of Gales, who held it for a month, while he and his followers terrorized the surrounding country.<sup>58</sup>

During this time Robert of Reymes probably continued in the service of the earl of Angus, and in September 1319, when the defence of the Marches was entrusted to Angus and Sir John of Crombwell, he was one of the men-at-arms in the former's contingent.<sup>59</sup> On March 16th, 1322, the king's army under Andrew of Harcla defeated Thomas of Lancaster<sup>60</sup> at Boroughbridge. We do not know whether Reymes fought in the battle, but he was evidently loyal to the king as he was one of the knights of the shire in the parliament of May 2nd.<sup>61</sup>

Robert died in the early summer of 1323, his I.P.M. being dated 28 Dec. 1324.<sup>62</sup> He was probably buried at Bolam, and there can be little doubt that he is represented by the effigy bearing the Raymes shield of arms that now lies in Bolam Church.<sup>63</sup>

The survey of Robert's estate in 1324<sup>64</sup> makes dismal reading. At Bolam there was "the site of an ancient manor the capital messuage of which was worth yearly in time of peace 12 pence,"<sup>65</sup> and now nothing owing to the destruction of the Scots". At Aydon there was "the site of a capital [messuage] which was worth yearly in time of peace and as in herbage 12 pence, and now nothing". The only part of

the estate which yielded any income was 25 acres at Aydon, from which a rent of 7 pence an acre was being received. The description of Shortflatt reads as follows:<sup>66</sup>

“They [the jurors] say that the same Robert was seised in his [demesne] as of fee, the day he died, of the manor of Shott Flatts with appurtenances in the same county. And there is there the site of a capital messuage which was worth yearly in time of peace 12 pence and now nothing because it was burnt, nor is the pasture thereof because of the lack of cattle. And there are there in demesne 200 acres of land in the demesne by the short hundred, of which each acres was worth yearly, tilled, in time of peace 6 pence, and now nothing because it lies waste and untilled because of the lack of tenants and the destruction of the Scots. And the pastures of the same are worth nothing yearly for lack of cattle. And there are there in the demesne 24 acres of meadow of which each acre was worth yearly in time of peace 12 pence, and now nothing because of the lack of —— and cattle.”

### SECTION III.

#### *Nicholas Raymes, 1336-1394.*

Nicholas Raymes was born about 1336,<sup>67</sup> a younger son of the second Robert Reymes, who died of the Black Death in 1349, after serving as knight of the shire in 1346 and as escheator and sheriff in 1347.<sup>68</sup>

We first hear of him in 1355 in the army which invaded France, and again in January 1356 when he served against the Scots. In 1359 he was again serving in France.<sup>69</sup> In 1362 Nicholas became heir to the estates by the death of his elder brothers<sup>70</sup> and mother.<sup>71</sup> He had, however, to wait many years before succeeding to Shortflatt, which his mother held in dower, but which in 1360-61 had been taken into the king's hands because she had married Robert Lowther of Halton without the king's license.<sup>72</sup> She died in 1362, but it was not until 1376 that it was handed over to Nicholas.<sup>73</sup>

In 1364, Nicholas was in trouble through his association

with his kinsman, Sir William Heron. About 1340 Heron had made his house at Ford into a castle,<sup>74</sup> and in 1363 he was using it for the oppression of his neighbours and as a sanctuary for malefactors.

The trouble arose through the murder of Sir John Coupland, warden of the Marches and keeper of Roxburgh castle, on December 20th, 1363. Coupland was riding northwards with a small retinue when he was attacked on Bolton moor by Sir John Clifford of Newstead, his brother Thomas Clifford, his kinsmen Gilbert, Alan and Richard Vaux,<sup>75</sup> and many others (named), the total strength of Clifford's party being nine men armed with lances, eleven archers and five pages. Coupland and two of his companions were killed, and the murderers got away with nine horses and five wheeled carts (*de IX equis V males cum rotalibus*) of the value of 200 marks.<sup>76</sup>

On January 23rd, 1364, Henry Percy and others held an enquiry at Newcastle when particulars of the murder were ascertained, and the jurors concluded their statement with an expression of their opinion that as far as they knew nobody had received the felons "because they at once fled to Scotland".<sup>77</sup> Further enquiries, however, revealed that Sir John Clifford and some of his accomplices had fled to Ford where Sir William Heron had received and sheltered them in the castle. The record continues, "the said William Heron, Roger Heron, knt, Richard Tempest, knt,<sup>78</sup> William [Lilburne, knt, John] Heron, knt, Walter Heron, Thomas Heron, John Heron, Nicholas of Raymes, Robert [Scolayclif, Henry] Cleseby, John serviens of the said Henry, Joan, widow of Thomas of Heton and Jo[hn Downom] were aiders and abbetors of the said felons".<sup>79</sup>

The sheriff was unable to arrest the murderers, who had probably found refuge in Scotland. Subsequently he was ordered to arrest the Herons, Sir William Lilburne and Nicholas Raymes, who are described as "maintainors of homicides and plotters of felonies, extortions and oppressions of the king's people", and are said "to have deprived of

their own many of the said people in Northumberland".<sup>80</sup> The king ordered Sir William Heron and his accomplices to appear before him and his council at Westminster in three weeks from St. Michael's Day (October 20th), and thirty-three knights and esquires appeared in court at Newcastle, and agreed to act as sureties for their due appearance.<sup>81</sup>

As the result of the proceedings at Westminster, Sir William Heron, Sir John Heron, Sir Roger Heron, Sir William Lilburne, John Heron, esquire, and Nicholas Raymes were all imprisoned in various castles, the committal orders being dated November 24th. Nicholas was sent to Corfe castle, the warden being instructed to keep him "safely and securely in our prison within the castle aforesaid".<sup>82</sup> On October 20th, orders had been issued for Joan Heton to be sent to the Tower of London,<sup>83</sup> and there she was still incarcerated a year later.<sup>84</sup> The miscreants were probably released in 1366, money payments to the king by Sir William and Sir Roger Heron, Sir William Lilburne and Nicholas Raymes being entered on the Patent rolls for that year.<sup>85</sup>

In 1366-67, Nicholas was guilty of "contempt in not taking up knighthood" and ten years later he had to pay a fine of 40s.<sup>86</sup>

He was at Widdrington in 1372 acting as godfather to John son and heir of Roger Widdrington.<sup>87</sup> In the same year Sir Henry Delaval settled his estates at Brandon, Dukesfield and Biddleston on Joan his wife for life, with remainder to Nicholas Raymes and John Selby. The settlement was, however, nullified by a subsequent legal decision.<sup>88</sup>

In 1377 he prosecuted his neighbour, Thomas Trewyk for poaching at Bolam,<sup>89</sup> and in the same year he arranged with Joan, widow of Sir Henry ap Griffith, for a marriage between his son and heir, Robert, and her daughter, Joan. The child was placed in Nicholas's custody, and various charters concerning the heiress's estate were also transferred to him. We do not know whether they were actually married, but Joan died young, as her sister Margaret, who was about seven years old in 1377, inherited the estates.<sup>90</sup>

In 1378 Sir Henry Delaval sought to compel Nicholas to render an account "of the time when he was his bailiff in Seton and receiver of the money of the said Henry".<sup>91</sup> In 1380 the Warden and College of the King's Free Chapel of Windsor sued him and Walter Heron, each for 145 marks,<sup>92</sup> and in 1383 he was sued by the prior of Carlisle for a debt of £50.<sup>93</sup> In October 1378 he attended the parliament at Gloucester as one of the knights of the shire.<sup>94</sup> In October 1380 he was appointed escheator for Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland,<sup>95</sup> and placed on the Commission of the Peace for Northumberland.<sup>96</sup> In April 1383 he was appointed Chancellor and Chamberlain of Berwick and the king's other dominions in Scotland at a salary of 50 marks yearly,<sup>97</sup> and at about the same time he and Sir Robert Clavinger were joint wardens of Roxburgh castle.<sup>98</sup> In November 1383, as chamberlain, he was authorized to receive at Roxburgh a sum of money agreed to be paid by the earl of Carrick or his deputies for the repairing of Wark castle,<sup>99</sup> and in the following month Nicholas Raymes, John Mitford and others were appointed to accept and keep for the king's use 24,000 marks in part payment of the ransom of King David II, captured at Neville's Cross.<sup>99</sup>

Nicholas had refused to render an account of certain sums of money collected by him when escheator, and on January 26th, 1385, the earl of Northumberland, as sheriff, was ordered to arrest him and to bring him to London to appear before the barons of the Exchequer. The sheriff was also ordered to take possession of all his lands and goods. The earl replied that he could not find him,<sup>100</sup> but that he had sequestered a cow worth 5s. and 20 acres of land at Shortflatt worth 40 pence yearly but unable to be let "because the country there is so wasted and destroyed by the frequent incursions of the Scots that none dares to dwell there".<sup>101</sup>

From October 20th to December 6th, 1385, Nicholas was at Westminster as one of the knights of the shire for Northumberland,<sup>102</sup> and on November 28th he appeared before the barons of the Exchequer.

He was immediately committed to the Fleet prison, but he soon obtained sureties and was released on the same day. He appeared again on January 13th and September 14th, 1386, when he rendered his account,<sup>101</sup> showing a debt to the Exchequer of £35 5s. 9d.<sup>103</sup> On November 26th he made his final appearance, when he was fined  $\frac{1}{2}$  mark for his contempt.<sup>104</sup> Two days later, the earl of Northumberland, Nicholas Raymes and John Mitford entered into a recognizance for 80 marks, to be reduced to 40 marks if paid by a certain date,<sup>105</sup> and this ended a troublesome business, although some years elapsed before the debt was finally extinguished.<sup>106</sup>

In December 1385 he was appointed with others to inspect the garrison and fortifications of the town and castle of Berwick, and in February 1386 appointed with the earl of Northumberland, John Mitford and others to see to the provisioning of Roxburgh castle.<sup>107</sup> An undated roll of the retinue of the earl *in bello Scotico* includes Nicholas Raymes with a contingent of 30 men.<sup>108</sup>

On November 19th, 1386, the earl of Northumberland and Nicholas Raymes appeared in the refectory at Westminster to give evidence in the armorial trial of Sir Richard le Scrope v. Sir Robert Grosvenor, when Nicholas's evidence, translated, was as follows:

Nicholas de Reymes, esquire, of the age of 50 years, having borne arms for thirty years or more . . . asked whether the arms *dazure ove une bende dor* belong . . . to the said Sir Richard Lescrop, says that it is so, for when the king who is dead went to Blaunge, Sir Richard Lescrop was of the retinue of the earl of Northampton and bore the entire arms *dazure ove une bende dor* . . . Asked by whom he knows that the said arms belong to the said Sir Richard, he says that the said Sir Richard was in the company of Sir Gerard de Wythirhyngton and of Sir Richard de Letham at the relief of Berwick bearing the entire arms . . . Also he says that he saw Sir Henry Lescrop with his banner bearing the said arms before Paris with a white label in the campaign of the king who is dead, and the said Sir Richard in the same campaign bearing the entire arms . . .<sup>109</sup>

In 1388 a Scottish invasion was expected, and on June 8th Sir Matthew Redman, Sir John Felton, Sir Thomas Umfraville, Sir Thomas Grey, Nicholas Raymes and the sheriff were ordered to array the men of Northumberland for the defence of the marches under Sir Henry Percy and John de Beaumont.<sup>110</sup> These levies probably formed part of the army concentrated at Newcastle at the beginning of August which took part in the battle of Otterburn on August 19th.<sup>111</sup> On August 20th the same six persons were again ordered to array the men-at-arms, hobilers and archers of Northumberland, and to obey the orders of the earl of Northumberland and John Nevill of Raby.<sup>112</sup>

In June 1389 a truce for three years was arranged, and in May 1390 Nicholas was one of the commissioners to treat with the Scots about infringements.<sup>113</sup> In March 1392 Nicholas was again a commissioner of array.<sup>114</sup> On December 19th of the same year he was paid 100 marks for the construction of a moat and the strengthening of the defences of Roxburgh castle.<sup>115</sup>

Meanwhile Nicholas Raymes had private troubles. In 1392 some miscreants destroyed his herbage at Troughend (Trongthen) to the value of 100 shillings,<sup>116</sup> and the following year one Simon Iremmon stole two heifers and their calves, worth 30 shillings, from Shortflatt.<sup>117</sup> A more serious trouble arose in 1393, as Margaret wife of Sir Roger Heron, engaged in a lawsuit with Sir Walter Taylleboys concerning certain lands in Cambridgeshire, called on Nicholas Raymes and John son of Sir William Heron to warrant her, and as they failed to appear, the sheriff seized John Heron's land to the value of £7 16s. 8d. and Nicholas's manors of Shortflatt and Aydon Hall, valued respectively at £5 and £4.<sup>118</sup>

Nicholas died October 11th, 1394,<sup>119</sup> having previously transferred his estates to his son Robert and his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Ogle.<sup>120</sup> His will is lost, but his executors were his widow, Maud, afterwards wife of John Whitfield, and Sir John Clavinger.<sup>121</sup> Maud and

her second husband were living at Shortflatt in 1415.<sup>122</sup>

#### SECTION IV.

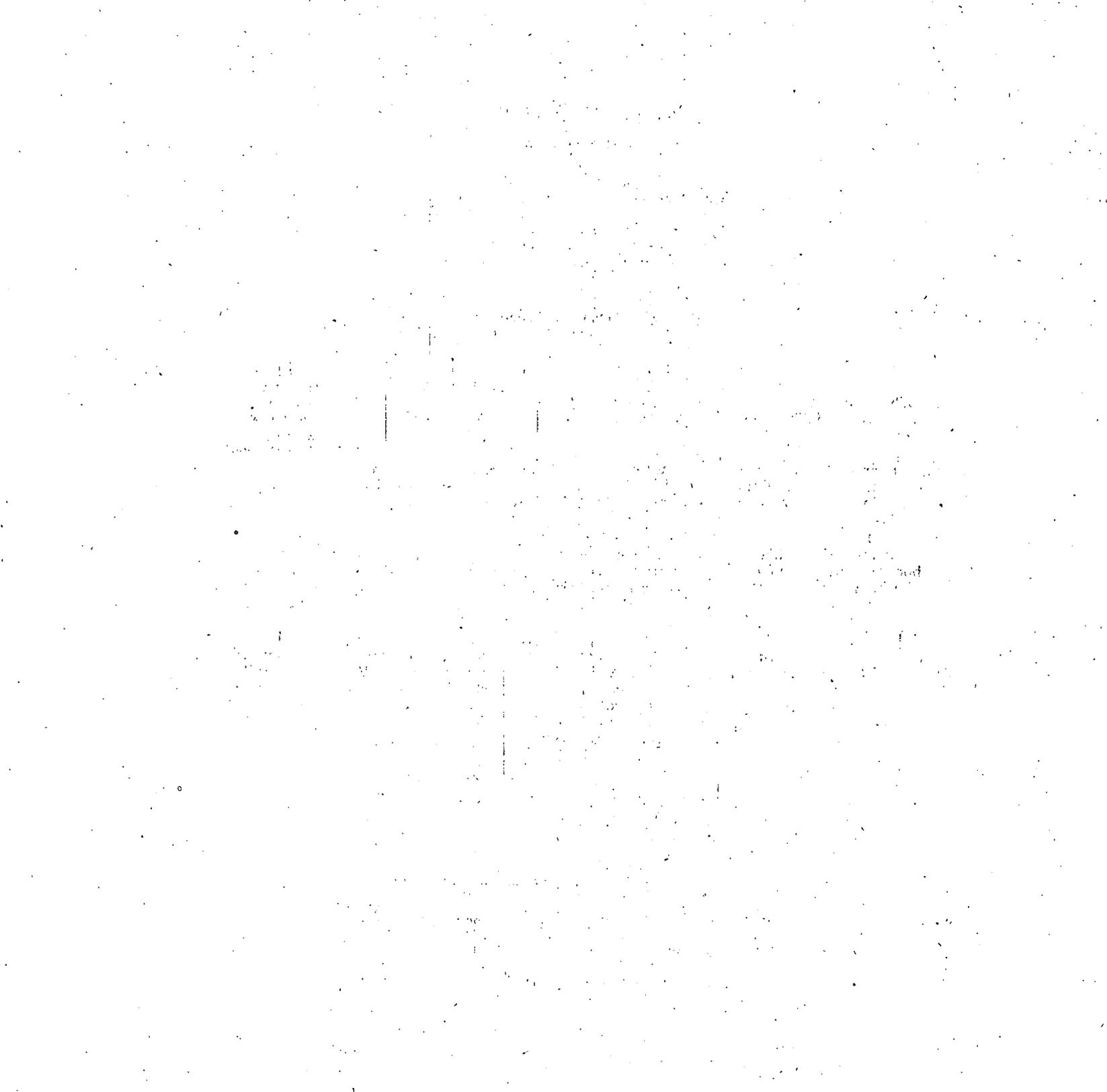
##### *The Sixteenth Century.*

Little is known of the owners of Shortflatt during the fifteenth century. They continued to suffer from Scottish raids, and in 1450 Aydon was described as "a certain castle in a ruinous condition", and Shortflatt as "the site of the manor containing a hall, three chambers, three cellars, one kitchen and divers other houses for husbandry which are worth nothing besides deductions because they are totally ruined by the destruction of the Scots and the laying waste thereof in the last war".<sup>123</sup> In 1489 the manor of Shortflatt was valued at 26s. 8d. a year "by reason of the spoiling of the pasture and the ravages of the Scots".<sup>124</sup>

For the sixteenth century more information is available. In May 1509 Robert Raymes of Shortflatt died at the age of about twenty-five, leaving a widow Anne, and two young children, Robert and Anne. His widow, on whom Shortflatt and other lands had been settled, became the second wife of John Swinburne of Chopwell.<sup>125</sup> Swinburne had already several children by his first wife, and it is probable that the two families were brought up together, although the wardship and marriage of the young heir had been granted in 1511 to Nicholas Turpyn.<sup>126</sup> Raiding over the border was almost incessant, the raiding parties frequently being organized and led by the wardens of the Marches. The Scots, however, were not the only enemies, as the inhabitants of North Tyndale and Redesdale were a terror to their neighbours in the lowlands. Some of the raids were on a large scale. In March 1524 four hundred men of Tyndale accompanied by many Scots burned Ingoe and Kirkheaton.<sup>127</sup> The glare from the burning houses must have been visible at Shortflatt.

In 1525 and 1526 Sir William Eure, warden of the





Middle Marches, introduced defence schemes of some elaboration.<sup>128</sup> Some ten or twelve miles west and north-west of Shortflatt a line of desolate hills and moors then formed a barrier, and Eure issued orders for watchers to be posted each night in pairs on the high ground. One post was at Fourlaws, another probably at Steng Cross,<sup>129</sup> a third near Simonside. In certain towns and villages—for example, in Hexham, Dilston and Bywell—watchmen were on duty each night and had “to reyse a blast off an horne” when there was warning of a raid, and the inhabitants were then expected “to cum forewarde to maigtayne the fray, which way so ever yt goo”. The responsibility for maintaining the watches on the high ground from Carraw on the Roman wall to Simonside was placed on seventeen local landowners headed by Sir John Heron of Chipchase and Sir Ralph Fenwick, keeper of Tyndale, and including Robert Raymes.<sup>130</sup>

When Anne Raymes remarried, Shortflatt was let. In 1511 the tenant was a John Heron.<sup>131</sup> A later tenant was a Thomas Fenwick,<sup>132</sup> whose career ended on the scaffold. In 1516 Sir William Lisle was living at Ogle,<sup>133</sup> and it was possibly then that he and Fenwick began their association. In 1527 Lisle was using Felton as the headquarters of a gang of freebooters, and Fenwick was one of the leaders. In August of that year they were proclaimed traitors, and rewards were offered for their apprehension. Eventually they surrendered themselves to the earl of Northumberland “in their lynnnon clothes and halters abowte their nekks”, submitting themselves to the king’s mercy. But there was no mercy for them, and on April 2nd, 1528, the earl reported grimly to Wolsey that “the said William Lisle, Humfrey Lisle his son, John Ogle, William Shaftowe and Thomas Fenwicke, gentilmen of name and chefe leiders of all the said rebellis . . . hade ther judgement by me giffen to be hanged, drawen and quarterd according to their demerittis, and soo was executed accordingly”.<sup>134</sup>

Robert Raymes was now of age, and on November 16th,

1528, received possession of his estates, subject to his mother's dower.<sup>135</sup> In the same year his name appears in a list of Northumbrian gentry who received fees from the warden of the Marches.<sup>136</sup> In 1534 he obtained a lease from the abbot and convent of Blanchland for ninety-eight years of the tithes of Bolam, Belsay, Bradford, Harnham, Shortflatt and Trewick at an annual rent of £6.<sup>137</sup>

Northumberland was not very seriously affected by the Pilgrimage of Grace, which broke out in 1536. Some of the gentry took the pilgrim's oath, but there was no general rising.

In 1539 there was a threat of invasion by the Spanish and French, and the fortresses on the Scottish border were strengthened,<sup>138</sup> while musters of men were held throughout the country. The muster of the Tyndale ward, held on April 19th, was under the control of Sir Reynold Carnaby, Sir John Fenwick and John Swinburne, and a Peter Raymes headed the Bolam contingent, which consisted of twenty-one men "able with hors and harnes" and nine "footmen able without harnes".<sup>139</sup> The emergency, however, soon ended, and on April 19th Thomas Cromwell was able to assure the king that the enterprize had been abandoned.<sup>140</sup>

Raiders from Tyndale and Redesdale continued to be a menace. In 1540 Sir Cuthbert Radcliffe was appointed deputy warden of the Middle Marches and, acting on the advice of some of "the most wyse borderers", revised the scheme of defence, the chief alteration affecting the inhabitants of Shortflatt being that the line of watchers was withdrawn from the tops of the ridge to a line on the lower ground running northward through Great Swinburn, Thockrington, Hawick, Catcherside and Greenleighton. The watchmen were paid 4d. a night and were liable to a fine of 6s. 8d. for default, a similar fine being imposed on every able-bodied man who, in case of alarm, failed to turn out to pursue the raiders.<sup>141</sup> In addition to this responsibility, the male inhabitants of Northumberland were under an obligation to ride on raids into Scotland with the warden

or his deputy two or three times a year at their own expense.<sup>142</sup>

Robert Raymes died on October 20th, 1544, and his I.P.M. gives the annual value of Shortflatt as £6 13s. 4d. In his will, dated October 10th, 1544, he names "my father John Swynborne, my brother John his son, and my brother Thomas Myddelton esquier", and among other bequests he leaves to his heir "th'ymplementes bilonginge to th'altare of my chapell"<sup>143</sup>—presumably the Shortflatt chapel in Bolam church.

The new owner of Shortflatt was about twenty-two years of age when his father died.<sup>144</sup> Being the heir to property, education was considered unnecessary, and he could not even sign his name.<sup>145</sup> His brother John, however, and possibly two other brothers, went to Cambridge, and John was elected a Fellow of St. John's in 1554.<sup>146</sup>

In 1543 Capheaton was burned by the Scots with the aid of some outlawed Charltons from Tyndale.<sup>147</sup> There was open war with Scotland, and in 1544 an English army burned Edinburgh, while in 1545 the Scots defeated and killed Sir Ralph Evers at Ancrum Moor. In September 1552 Lord Wharton summoned a meeting at Newcastle at which Robert Raymes was present, and it was decided that men who failed to "rise and follow the fray upon blowing of horn, shout or outcry" should be liable to death, and instructions were issued that any gentry not then living in their houses should forthwith resume residence in them, and that the gentry must see that their tenants were well horsed.<sup>148</sup>

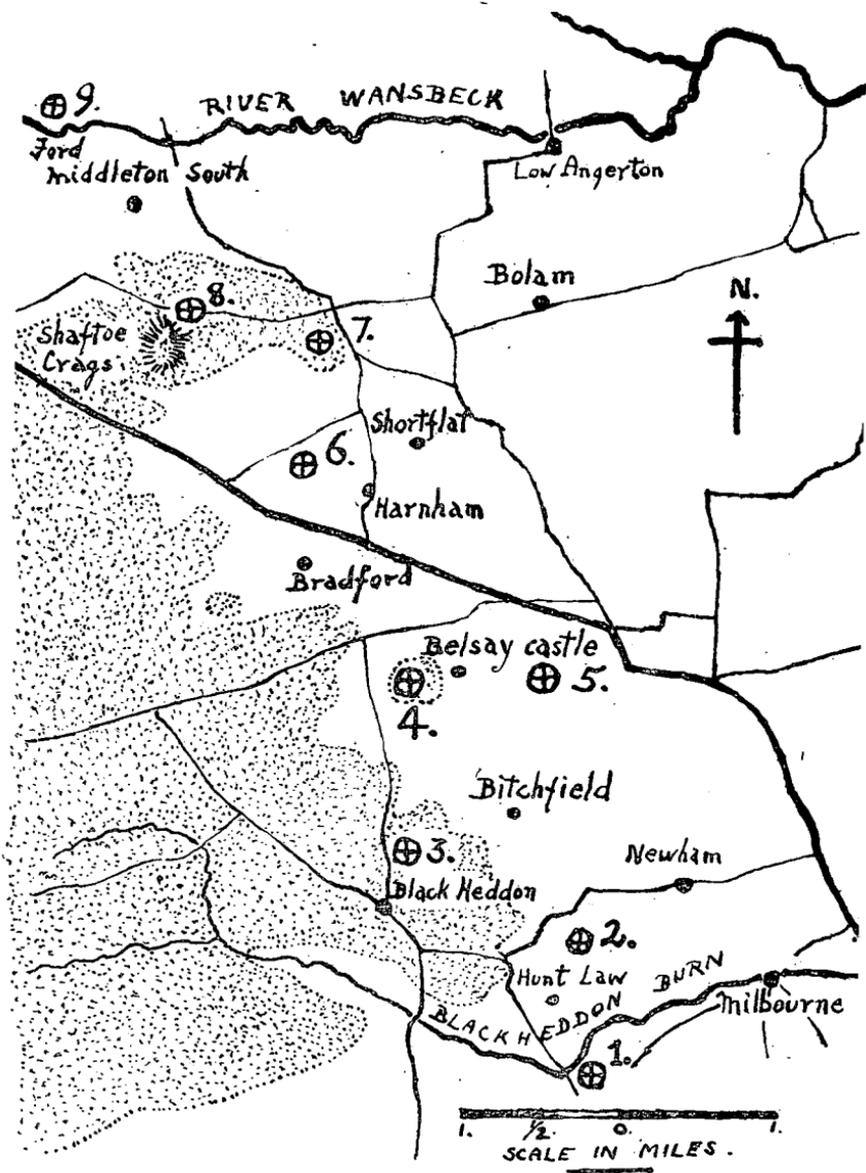
A new system of watches was devised, the county being divided into sectors in each of which several pairs of watchmen had to be posted each night. Each village had its specified responsibility, and three or four of the local gentry were in control of each sector, being assisted by a number of "setters and watchers", to whom was probably committed the nightly posting of the sentries. The Belsay sector stretched from the Wansbeck near South Middleton and Low Angerton on the north to Blackheddon Burn and Mil-

bourne on the south, and the overseers were Robert Raymes of Shortflatt, Robert Middleton of Belsay, Roger Fenwick of Bitchfield and John Horsley of Milbourne Grange.<sup>149</sup> The organization of the "Belsay sector" is shown in the following table:

<i>Watchers' posts.</i>	<i>Villages responsible.</i>	<i>Setters and Watchers.</i>
No. 1. At Blakedoneburn	Mylbourne	Rauf Robson, John Redheyde
No. 2. At Hedden (Hadden-Lonnyng)	Newame and Huntleye	ditto.
No. 3. By East - Hedden- hill	Blackhedden	Roger Harle and John Tendail
No. 4. At the Barkhough [possibly Biskhill near Belsay Castle]	Belso	ditto.
No. 5. At the March (Mers) of Belso called Notter- hough	Belsoo	William Hetton Gyles Ward
No. 6. At the Thorn-hill [probably Tofthill nr. Harnham Hall]	Harnam and Bradfurthe	ditto.
No. 7. At the two stones called the Poind and his Man	Bellame [Bolam]	George Nicholson George Raines [Rames]
No. 8. At the Streyte by East-Shaftadore [Salter's Nick— H.N., II, I, 349 n.]	Angerton	ditto.
No. 9. At the Forde of Manespeke at Medleton South	Medleton South	George Nicholson John Cutter

(Probably Shortflatt was included in Bolam.)

In addition to this system of watchmen, arrangements were already in operation for the firing of certain beacons. The nearest to Shortflatt in 1549 was at Mootlaw, five or six miles away, and for this beacon Sir Roger Fenwick, Roger



APPROXIMATE POSITIONS OF WATCHERS' POSTS, 1552.  
 (Land above the 500 ft. contour is indicated by stippling.)

Fenwick of Bitchfield and Richard Dacre of Belsay were responsible.<sup>150</sup>

We are told that the Northumbrians were recalcitrant and "almost ceased to attend the musters",<sup>151</sup> and many of the owners of towers would naturally have preferred to stay at home to protect their own property. Lord Wharton realized this danger, and insisted on regular inspections and reports. One of his orders to the "Gentleman Searchers" has been preserved. It is dated January 11th (1553) and required them to "make due search throughout all the said watches upon Sunday night next, the 15th of this instant", to send any defaulters to Alnwick for punishment, and to send in a written report on Saturday, January 28th, this report to be followed by similar reports at the end of every month. The order ends, "Fail you not hereof, as ye tender the King's Majesties Pleasure, the common wealth of the Countrey, and will answer at your perill. And heartily fare you well."<sup>152</sup>

In 1558 John Raymes was presented to the mastership of St. Mary the Virgin's Hospital at Newcastle. He neglected his duties, was rarely resident in the hospital, let the buildings fall into decay and took the rents for his own use to a total of £1,000. He was accused in 1567 of being "a mistaker of Christ's holy Religion authorized by public authority". He was then living at Louvaine University, and when summoned to appear before the York Ecclesiastical Court he appointed his brother Robert, John Swinburn of Chopwell and John Swinburn of Wylam as his attorneys.<sup>153</sup>

The rebellion of 1569 placed Robert Raymes in a very uncomfortable position, as he and his wife had relatives on both sides, and he was sheriff of the county at the time.<sup>154</sup> John Swinburne of Chopwell, his uterine uncle, was one of the leaders of the rebellion. His brother John Raymes, who had come home, became involved in the rising and was thrown into Durham gaol.<sup>155</sup> On the other hand his wife was a cousin of Lord Hunsdon.<sup>156</sup> However, as sheriff, Robert Raymes no doubt did his best to comply with the

order to take possession of the lands, goods and cattle of the rebels and to arrest them.<sup>157</sup> John Raymes was released from prison, and we last hear of him in 1579 when he was formally deprived of his mastership of the hospital.<sup>158</sup>

In 1561<sup>159</sup> and 1570<sup>160</sup> further meetings of gentry were held to discuss means of defending the Borders. At the later meeting, at which Robert Raymes was present, the articles drawn up included "ev'y man that hath a castell or a tower of stone shall upon ev'y fray raised on the night give warning to the contrey by fier in the toppe of the castell or tower in such sorte as he shall be directed from the Warning Castell upon paine of 3s. 4d." It was also decided that the penalty for failure to follow the fray should be imprisonment for seven days and a fine of 3s. 4d.

Raids, however, continued. In 1583, for example, Armstrongs from Liddesdale drove off eighty cattle from Capheaton, and in 1587 some 400 Scots raided Haydon Bridge in daylight.<sup>161</sup> The misery of the Northumbrians was not, however, due solely to the Scots and to the "thiefs" from Tyndale and Redesdale. The gentry and their tenants were lawless and violent, ready to draw sword or dagger rather than to settle disputes by peaceful means. In 1583, Ralph Delaval, a nephew of Robert Raymes's wife, fought a pitched battle with Robert's cousin, Alexander Heron of Meldon, for the possession of some property at Rivergreen,<sup>162</sup> and in 1588 James and Robert Raymes burned Ralph Lambton's stacks in the yard near his dwelling-house.<sup>163</sup> Joshua Delaval, who married Robert's daughter, was in the garrison at Berwick, and in 1601 attacked one of the aldermen in the market-place "first astonishing him with his fyst, and after stabinge him into the belly with his dagger".<sup>164</sup> Through his wife, John Raymes was related to the unruly Herons of Chipchase and Ridleys of Willimoteswyke. Reynold Heron, his brother-in-law, was arraigned in 1588 for march treason<sup>165</sup> and about 1603 had to go into hiding as the instigator and leader of a raid into County Durham when the house of John Lilburn of East Thickley was burned.<sup>166</sup>

The union of the Crowns in 1603 brought happier conditions to Northumberland, though raiding continued to some extent; the gentry were able to live more peaceful lives, to turn their attention from defending their houses to the improvement of their estates. Before then, however, Shortflatt had passed into the hands of other families. Robert Raymes died in 1600 and was succeeded by John Raymes, who in 1604 transferred his property in Bolam, Shortflatt, Aydon town, South Middleton, Longwitton, etc., to his eldest son, Henry.<sup>167</sup> In 1604 and 1611 Henry Raymes resold most of the Raymes estate to William Selby,<sup>168</sup> who was described in 1607 as William Selby of Shortflatt.<sup>169</sup>

I am greatly indebted to Mr. H. L. Honeyman for his account of Shortflatt tower and to Lieut.-Colonel W. E. Hedley-Dent for allowing me to examine his family documents. I also acknowledge the help I have received from Miss Elizabeth M. Halcrow and from Mr. W. Percy Hedley, Mr. A. J. Lilburn, Mr. W. A. Cocks and the late Edward Hedley.

(to be continued in Volume XXXIII.)

### *Appendix A.*

#### THE MANOR OF SHORTFLATT, 1293.

Pleas of the Crown . . . at Newcastle upon Tyne . . . on the morrow of the Holy Trinity in the 21st year of the reign of King Edward.<sup>1</sup> [May 25th 1293]

Extracts:—

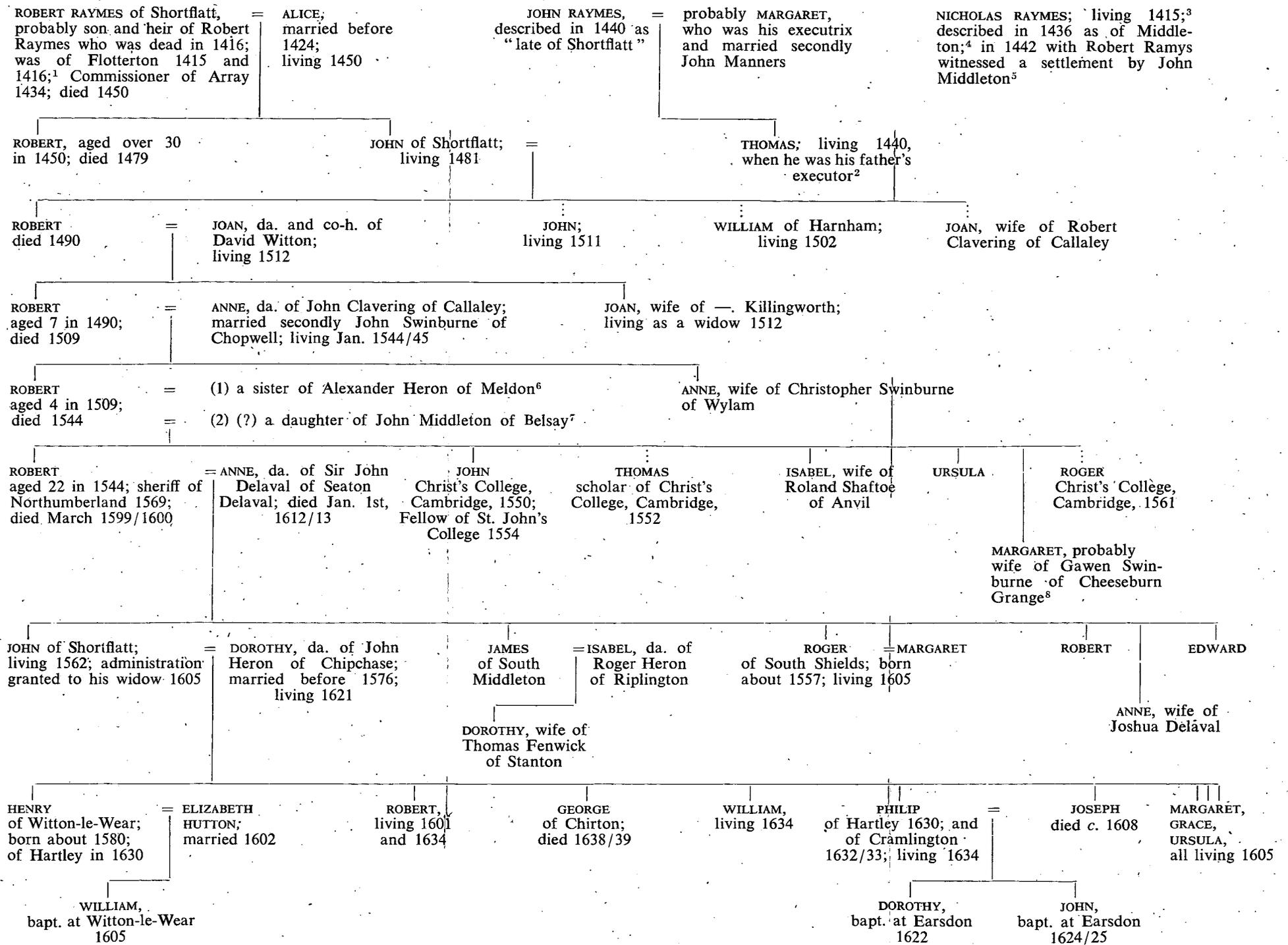
- (1) . . . Also they say that Hugh de Gosebek and Thomas the son of Thomas de Bekering hold the Barony of Bolum of the Lord the King *in capite* by the service

<sup>1</sup> From transcripts made for the late Sir Arthur E. Middleton, Bart. They are apparently from Assize Roll 650, mem. 12 and 14 dorso, see N.C.H., X, 380, note 4.

RAYMES OF SHORTFLATT.

(Pedigree 2.)

(continued from page 140)



<sup>1</sup> De Banco Rolls 618, mem. 152 and 623, mem. 332 Mich: 4 Henry V (October 1416).

<sup>2</sup> N.C.H., X, 349.

<sup>3</sup> A.A., 4th series, XVI, No. 47.

<sup>4</sup> De Banco Rolls 701, mem. 335 dorso, Easter, 14. Henry VI.

<sup>5</sup> Cal. C.R.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander Heron was Robert Raymes's brother-in-law (Exch. Dep. 5, James I, Easter, No. 4). Heron's mother married Thomas Fenwick as second husband (Proc. 1910) and Robert Raymes names in his will "my mother Elizabeth Fenwick of Littleharle" (N.C.H., X, 350).

<sup>7</sup> Thomas Middleton was Robert Raymes's brother-in-law (N.C.H., X, 349). He married Margaret, da. of Ralph Lord Ogle when he was probably under 20 years of age, and she outlived him. (N.C.H., XIII, Middleton pedigree.) The relationship must therefore be due to Raymes having married either a sister of Middleton or a sister of Middleton's wife.

<sup>8</sup> N.C.H., VII, 133.

(For other references the reader is referred to the more detailed pedigree in N.C.H., X.)



- of three knight's fees in parcinary of the inheritance of Margery and Mary de Cauz, . . . and the aforesaid *Hugh de Gosebek likewise alienated his purparty of the aforesaid Barony to a certain William de Middleton*, and it is not known whether with the license of the Lord the King &c. . . . And the aforesaid William de Middleton by his attorney came and offered a certain writing under the name of the present Lord the King in which it is contained that the same Lord the King granted that the *Manor of Schortflatt* with the appurtenances might be held for term of his life for fifty marks upon certain conditions according to the demise of the aforesaid Hugh de Gosebek: . . . . Therefore the aforesaid William at present is therefore quit . . . .
- (2) . . . . And John the son John le (*sic*) Vaus saith that he hath nothing in the aforesaid tenements [in Belsay and Bitchfield] . . . except only in the name of the custody by demise of Margery de Gosebek, and he calls therefore to warranty Hugh de Gosebek, and he was summoned in the County of Suffolk. And Henry and Joan [del Clay] say at their peril that Hugh hath a sufficiency in that County &c. viz. fifty marks in rent &c., and pray at their peril that he be summoned in that County. Therefore he was summoned that he be here on Friday next after the feast of St. Paul. . . .
- (3) . . . . and John de Middleton . . . saith that the same Hugh [de Gosebek] hath fifty marks rent in that County &c. . . . on which day it was witnessed by the Sheriff that the aforesaid Hugh had nothing in his Bailywick except a certain Manor demised to William de Middleton for fifty-seven (*sic*) marks annually payable to him. . . .

### Appendix B.

#### FEET OF FINES (abbreviated).

- (1) 1604. Henry Rames, plaintiff, and John Rames, esquire, deforciant—the manors of Bolam and Shortflatt with their appurtenances, and of 16 messuages, 18 cottages, 20 tofts, 2 water-mills for grain, 400 acres of land, 500 acres of meadow, 700 acres of pastures, 2,000 acres of furze and

heath . . . in Bolam, Shortflatte, Aydontowne, South Middleton, Longwitton, Netherton, Roughlee and Ewsley.

Consideration £240.

- (2) 1604. William Selby, plaintiff, and Henry Rames, gentleman, deforciant—the manors of Bolam and Shortflatt with their appurtenances and of 10 messuages, 8 cottages, 1 water-mill for grain, 2 gardens, 1 orchard, 160 acres of land, 140 acres of meadow, 160 acres of pasture, 1,500 acres of furze and heath in Bolam and Shortflatt.

Consideration £120.

- (3) 1611. William Selby, esquire, plaintiff, and Henry Rames, gentleman, deforciant—the manors of Bolam and Shortflatt with their appurtenances, and of 30 messuages, 30 cottages, 2 water-mills for grain, 10 gardens, 10 orchards, 300 acres of land, 400 acres of meadow, 600 acres of pasture, 2,000 acres of furze and heath in Bolam, Shortflatt, Middleton, Long Witton, Ewsley alias Taslawe, and Roughlees.

Consideration £360.

- (4) 1629. Cuthbert Heron, esquire, plaintiff, and William Selby, knt, and Elizabeth his wife, deforciant—the manors of Bolam and Shortflatt with their appurtenances, and of 16 messuages, 8 cottages, 16 tofts, 20 gardens, 16 orchards, 400 acres of land, 120 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 200 acres of moor, 200 acres of turbary, 400 acres of furze and heath, common pasture, free warren, view of frankpledge, court-baron &c. in Bolam and Shortflatt.

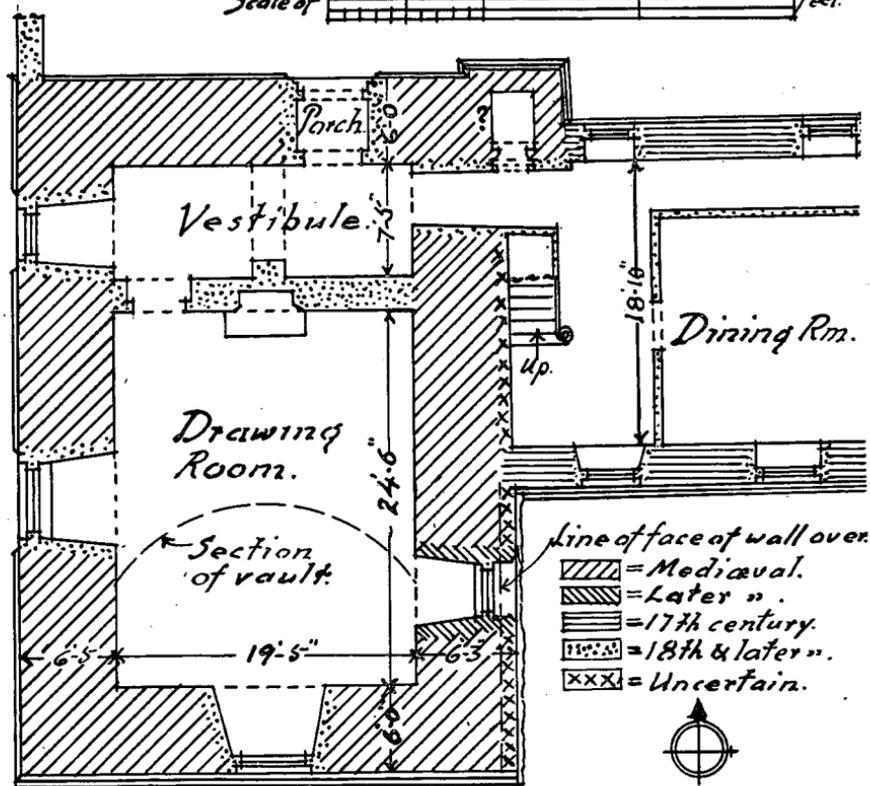
Consideration £600.

#### NOTE ON THE ARCHITECTURE by H. L. Honeyman.

Shortflatt, as its name implies, is no tactical defensible site like Dally Castle or Elsdon Tower; on the contrary it is a stretch of nearly level ground with a slight fall towards a small streamlet, a tributary of the wandering Blythe. Here, with no thought of enemy action, an early lord of the manor built a comfortable homestead of the normal pre-Scottish War type. A roomy hall with at one end a small two-storey "camera" block of stores and private apartments and at the other the usual domestic offices, kitchen, buttery, etc.

Shortflatt Tower.  
Plan of west end of ground floor.

Scale of  $\frac{1}{10}$  5 0 10 20 feet.



This first house of Shortflatt was probably mainly built of timber, perhaps with some stonework at the camera end. No doubt it was burnt with so many of its contemporaries in disastrous 1296, but its general lay-out provided the main lines of all its successors. First of these was the great stone tower-house with its vaulted ground floor, cape-house, and crenellated parapets, licensed in 1305, which has ever since dominated the cluster, or, as it would now be more fashionable to call it, the "complex" of later additions. "Fortalicium de Shortflate" of Robert Rames said the 1415 list of strongholds, and it may well have been more than a simple tower; but whatever was attached to the east side of the tower was ruinous in 1450 and was rebuilt, or reconstructed and re-windowed, probably by William Selby, after the accession of James I. A north wing followed, and in the eighteenth, early nineteenth, mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries successive re-fittings and improvements brought the house to its present delightfully mixed and thoroughly attractive state.

#### *Description.*

Shortflatt mansion now consists of three main portions, namely a central block; a great tower at its west end; and a north wing, with attached yards (Pl. XII).

The central block, with a frontage of about sixty feet and measuring nineteen feet in breadth within its walls, is now two stories high, with garrets in its roof, and has four windows in its length. These are of eighteenth-century date but are inserted within the mutilated framework of Tudor windows, with ogee moulded hoodmoulds continued as a stringcourse, of a common early or mid-seventeenth-century pattern. But there is a double splayed base which looks earlier, and we may have here a seventeenth-century reconstruction of that older "hall" which was ruinous in 1450. The first and second windows from the east end are separated by a wider space than the others and this marks the position of a cross wall containing fireplaces, alongside of which there

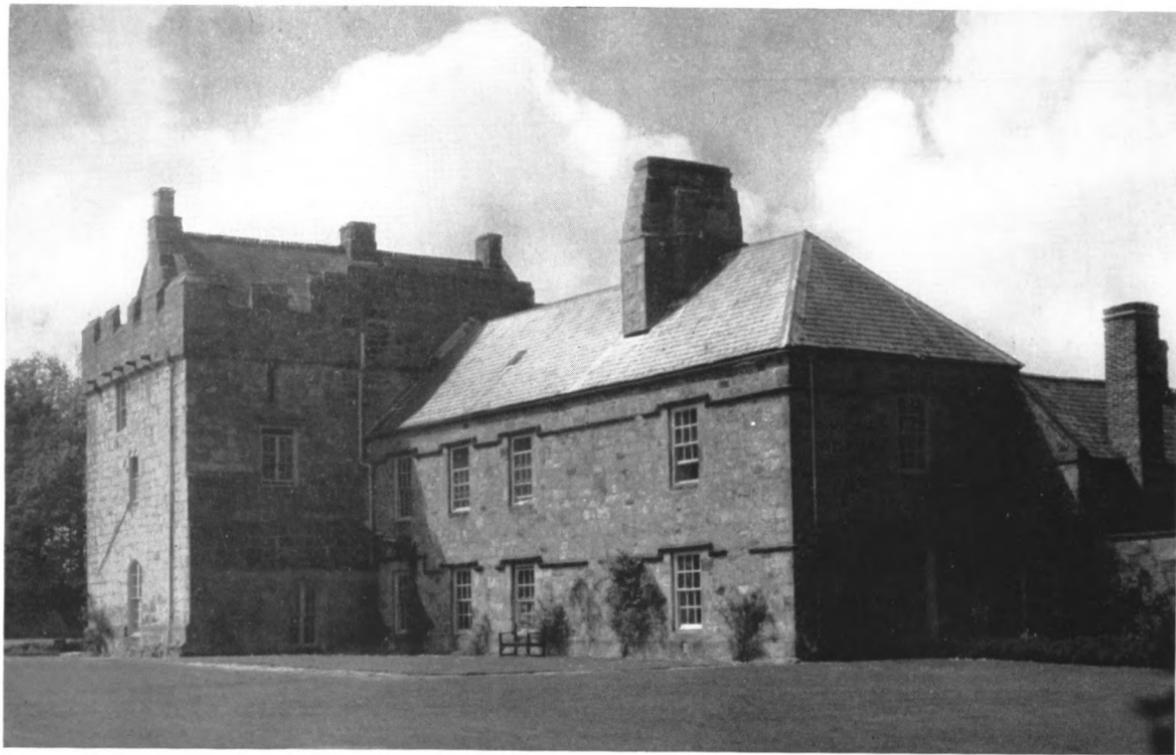
is a secret chamber on the lines of those at Hesleyside and, formerly, at Kirkheaton. This chamber is between five and six feet square, is at first-floor level, and is entered from the chimney. Doubtless the attics were lit by "lucarne" dormer windows which have disappeared, or there may have been a complete second floor, to judge from the fireplaces in the attic. The east end of the block is now hipped and has the remains of two three-light mullioned windows, mutilated to receive wood sashes. The north front is less interesting: it has a single splayed base but its windows have been much altered.

The north wing projects about fifteen yards from the main building (Pl. XIII, fig. 1). The western half is mostly modern but there is a seventeenth-century door in its north end, and its east side, which overlooks a walled courtyard, contains several windows whose mullions have been cut out to make way for "Yorkshire" sashes.

The great tower is mainly of early fourteenth-century date and contains several features of interest. The ground floor measures thirty-four feet by nineteen and a half feet internally, with walls six feet thick on north and south, six and a half feet on west and six and a quarter feet on east sides. It is crossed near the north end by a wall two and a half feet thick containing a modern fireplace. The interior has been modernized but retains its segmental barrel vault, eleven and a half feet high to the crown and six and a half to the springing. All openings have been modernized except a doorway on the east side. The part of the east wall covered by the main building is thinner than the rest, and another curious feature is a small thin-walled chamber at the north-east corner (*see* plan) entered by a narrow door with an ogee-arched head cut out of a single stone. The first and second floors have been much reconstructed but the attic, which seems to be a seventeenth or eighteenth-century replacement of an earlier "cape-house", has a medieval fireplace at its south end where there must have been a room of some importance (Pl. XIII, fig. 2). Access to the parapet

walk is by a modern door at the west end, but in the centre of the north gable there is an elliptical-headed opening, twenty-five inches wide and six feet high, whose sill is two feet above the present level of the parapet walk.

Externally, the part of the east front of the tower not covered by the main building, has a splayed intake a little above first floor level, and this thickening of the lower part of the wall looks as if it may have been a later addition and, if so, would indicate that the tower walls were thickened to receive a vault, as, for instance, happened at Embleton Vicarage tower. In it there is a curious door, having a Tudor-shaped head in two stones, one carved with a blank shield and the other with what looks like a pair of tongs. The south front has a rough scarcement under a double-splayed base. Its only other features of interest are a first floor window whose head has two semi-circular panels, a small medieval window on the second floor, and the parapet, resting on a chamfered corbel course, and surmounted by a steeply weathered cope with a roll moulding along its top and pierced by four embrasures at irregular intervals. The parapet is nine and a half inches thick, and the walk behind it is now two and a half feet wide. The west front has a single-splayed base, a first floor window whose jambs may be old, a modern window on the second floor and, tucked in below the parapet, a small blocked medieval window. The north end, which contains the modern front door, has a splayed base three feet above ground, and some small medieval windows of the plain rectangular, chamfered, type usual on fourteenth-century towers. The centre part of the north parapet has "stools" or stub bases cut on it as if it had formerly some kind of ornamental cresting or panelling set upon it. The corner turret, already referred to, has a double-splayed base and no windows except a small modern one on the east side. It has every appearance of being contemporary with the tower but it is not easy to see how it fitted into its plan except as part of a medieval predecessor of the present centre block. It might, for instance, have been



SHORTFLATT TOWER FROM SOUTH-EAST.



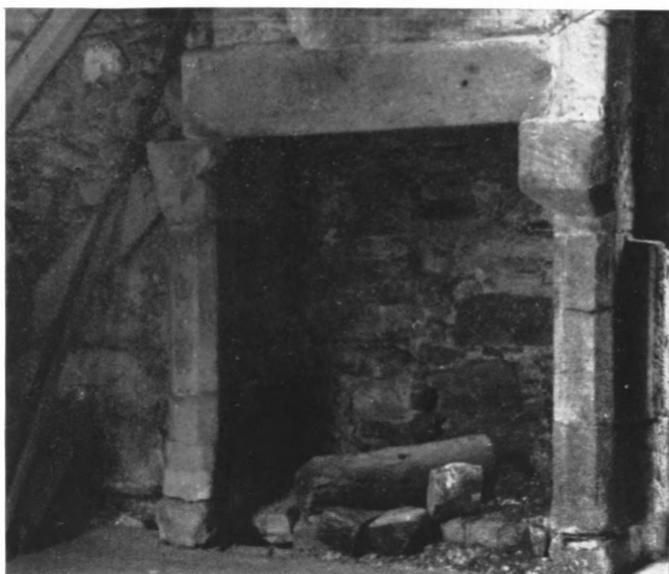


FIG. 2. FIREPLACE IN TOWER.



FIG. 1. SHORTEFLATT FROM NORTH-WEST.



the entrance to a narrow stair in the thickness of the north wall of the tower. Another pointer in this direction is the great height to which the centre part of the east parapet of the tower is carried, as if to meet a much higher roof than the present one.

#### ABBREVIATIONS.

A.A.—*Archæologia Aeliana*.

Proc.—*Proceedings* of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries.

N.R.C.—Publications of the Newcastle Record Committee.

S.S.—Surtees Society's Publications.

H.N.—Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*.

N.C.H.—The *County History of Northumberland*.

S.Inst.—*Proceedings* of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology.

P.R.—Patent Rolls.

C.R.—Close Rolls.

Cal. Inq.—Calendar of Inquisitions.

Bain.—Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland.

Cal. B.P.—Calendar of Border Papers.

Rot. Scot.—*Rotuli Scotiæ*.

#### REFERENCES.

<sup>1</sup> N.C.H., X, 306-10 and 337-9.

<sup>2</sup> N.C.H., IX, 315-6.

<sup>3</sup> H.N., II, i, 288; S.S., LXXXVIII, 205.

<sup>4</sup> H.N., II, i, 332.

<sup>5</sup> Book of Fees, II, 113; Red Bk. of the Exch., I, 437; S.S., LXVI, 286-7.

<sup>6</sup> H.N., II, i, 336.

<sup>7</sup> Mark's Survey of Northumberland, *Proc.*, 3rd ser., III, 265.

<sup>8</sup> See pp. 129, 131-3.

<sup>9</sup> Note 5.

<sup>10</sup> Note 38.

<sup>11</sup> *Northd. Pleas* (N.R.C.) Nos. 242, 244.

<sup>12</sup> N.C.H., X, 341, 342.

<sup>13</sup> Excerpt. e Rot. Fin. in Turri Lon, I, 463 and 465. Cal. P.R. 1232-47, 489.

<sup>14</sup> S.S., 88, p. 102.

<sup>15</sup> See note 14.

<sup>16</sup> *Northd. Pleas* 1198-1272. Also S.S., LXXXVIII.

<sup>17</sup> N.C.H., X, 343.

<sup>18</sup> S.S., 66, pp. 88, 89.

<sup>19</sup> Harl. Soc., 81.

<sup>21</sup> For the early history of the family of Reymes, see S.Inst., XXIII, and Norfolk Arch., 30. The name is derived from the hamlet of Rames, near Lillebonne in Normandy (Round's *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, 181, and *The origins of some Anglo-Norman Families*, Lewis C. Loyd (Harl. Soc., CIII).)

<sup>22</sup> S.Inst. XXIII, 99ff.

<sup>23</sup> For Richard's trans. with the Jews see Cal. Plea Rolls of Exch. of the Jews, II, 252, 314; and I, 217.

<sup>24</sup> I.P.M., 1281—Cal. Inq. Edw. I.

<sup>25</sup> I.P.M., 1281.

<sup>26</sup> Cal. C.R., 1281, October 24th.

<sup>27</sup> S.S., LXVI, 90, 92.

<sup>28</sup> Cal. Inq. Edw. I.

<sup>29</sup> App. A. In N.C.H., X, 331, William Middleton is identified with the person of that name who became vicar of Bolam before 1281 and was still vicar in Oct. 1294.

<sup>30</sup> Cal. C.R., June 17th, 1290.

<sup>31</sup> Hugh Reymes was dead in August 1295 (note 36).

<sup>32</sup> Cal. C.R., Sept. 1296; N.C.H., X, 343.

<sup>33</sup> S.Inst., 23.

<sup>34</sup> Assize Roll 828, mem. 14, Suffolk.

<sup>35</sup> More than 50 charters conveying land to him are in the British Museum, Public Record Office and in my own possession.

<sup>36</sup> Will proved at Ipswich, August 1295, S.Inst., XXIII, 102.

<sup>37</sup> Pipe Roll 25, Edw. I.; Cal. C.R., Sept. 29th, 1296.

<sup>38</sup> Lay Subsidy Roll 24, Edw. I (1296) (Transcript in the Society's library).

<sup>39</sup> N.C.H., III, 137-8; X, 77-8.

<sup>40</sup> Rot. Scot., I, 47.

<sup>41</sup> *Scotland in 1298*, Henry Gough.

<sup>42</sup> Palgrave's *Documents Illustrating the History of Scotland*.

<sup>43</sup> His son and heir, Robert, was born in 1301, see I.P.M., 18, Edw. II.

<sup>44</sup> N.C.H., X, 248-9 and Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, II, 309.

<sup>45</sup> P.R., May 2nd, 32, Edw. I; Inquis. A.Q.D., Robert Reymes, 1304 (Chancery Inquis., File 49, No. 12); and Feet of Fines, Northumberland, July 5th, 1304.

<sup>46</sup> P.R.

<sup>47</sup> See N.C.H., X.

<sup>48</sup> Charter Roll 91, No. 46-33 Edw. I, see Proc., 4th ser., XI, 235.

<sup>49</sup> N.C.H., X, 344.

<sup>50</sup> Madox, *Baronia Anglica*.

<sup>51</sup> Bain, III, 38.

<sup>52</sup> Cal. Chancery Warrants 1244-1326.

<sup>53</sup> N.C.H., X, 84.

<sup>54</sup> See his petition to the king in 1316.

<sup>55</sup> N.C.H., IX, 106.

<sup>56</sup> See pp. 133-4.

<sup>57</sup> N.C.H., X, for details.

<sup>58</sup> N.C.H., IX, 109; X, 345.

<sup>59</sup> Proc., 3rd ser., IV, 20-21.

<sup>60</sup> In N.C.H., X, 346, it is stated that in 1317 Robert Reymes served under Thomas of Lancaster, the reference given being Exch. Q.R. Accounts 15/12, dated 10, Edw. II. The date should be 10, Edw. III and the document is a list of men-at-arms serving under Henry of Lancaster in that year. The Robert Reymes said to have gone to France in 1320 with the earl of Norfolk may be the person of that name who in 1307 held  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee in Essex of Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk.

<sup>61</sup> N.C.H., X, 346.

<sup>62</sup> Cal. Fine Rolls, III.

<sup>63</sup> See A.A., 4th ser., VII.

<sup>64</sup> I.P.M., 18, Edw. II.

<sup>65</sup> In 1304 the annual values of the capital messuages at Bolam and Aydon were 6s. and 1s. respectively, see p. 131.

<sup>66</sup> The manor of Shortflatt (with a moiety of the vill of South Middleton) was held of the barony of Bolbec by the service of 1½ knight's fees, 20s. yearly for the ward of the castle at Newcastle, and 4s. 4d. cornage. Cambo, Shaftoe and Hawick were held of the manor of Shortflatt by sub-tenants who owed services aggregating 1½ knight's fees, 24s. castle-guard and 3s. 6d. cornage (Cal. Inq., IX, No. 240, and 43, Edw. III, No. 410).

<sup>67</sup> He was aged 50 in 1386, see p. 138.

<sup>68</sup> N.C.H., X, Raymes ped.

<sup>69</sup> Evidence in Scrope and Grosvenor case, see p. 138.

<sup>70</sup> Cal. Fine Rolls, Nov. 18th, 1362.

<sup>71</sup> Cal. Inq., Edw. III, No. 410.

<sup>72</sup> Cal. Inq., Edw. III, No. 410.

<sup>73</sup> Escheators' Accounts, 50, Edw. III, Roll 6, mem. 46. Most of the Reymes' estate was in the king's hands on account of the debt incurred by Robert Reymes when sheriff, and was not handed over to Nicholas till 1370. He did not get possession of Aydon Hall until 1376, see N.C.H., X, 347-8.

<sup>74</sup> N.C.H., XI.

<sup>75</sup> John Clifford's mother was Elizabeth, dau. of John Vaux (N.C.H., XI).

<sup>76</sup> Cal. Inq. Misc., III, 531. Assize Roll 661, mem. 1 and 4 dorso.

<sup>77</sup> Cal. Inq. Misc., III, 531.

<sup>78</sup> Sir Richard Tempest was warden of Berwick (Bain, IV).

<sup>79</sup> Assize Roll 661, mem. 1. The membrane is torn and the words in square brackets are taken from mem. 3 dorso.

<sup>80</sup> Assize Roll 661, mem. I, dorso.

<sup>81</sup> *Op. cit.*, mem. 8.

<sup>82</sup> C.R. 38, Edw. III, mem. 7, dorso.

<sup>83</sup> Assize Roll 661, mem. 5, dorso.

<sup>84</sup> Cal. C.R., Nov. 23rd, 1365.

<sup>85</sup> Cal. P.R., Dec. 7th, 1366; also see Cal. C.R., Feb. 21st, 1366 and Bain, IV, 123.

<sup>86</sup> Pipe Roll 50, Edw. III. Neither Nicholas nor his father or grandfather became knights.

<sup>87</sup> A.A., IV, 329.

<sup>88</sup> N.C.H., IX, 144, 146.

<sup>89</sup> Proc., 4th ser., XI, 275.

<sup>90</sup> S.S., 66, pp. 268, 283. N.C.H., X, Carnaby ped.

<sup>91</sup> *De Banco Rolls* 475, mem. 228.

<sup>92</sup> *De Banco Rolls* 480, mem. 104 and 111 dorso.

<sup>93</sup> *De Banco Rolls* 491, mem. 365; 494, mem. 24; 495, mem. 367 dorso; 527, mem. 248.

<sup>94</sup> Cal. C.R.

<sup>95</sup> Cal. Fine Rolls.

<sup>96</sup> Cal. P.R.

<sup>97</sup> Rot. Scot., 6, Rich. II.

<sup>98</sup> £150 was advanced to them, April 11th, 1383 (Pipe Roll 13, Rich. II).

<sup>99</sup> *Originalia*, 7, Rich. II.

<sup>100</sup> Although on Jan. 6th he and Nicholas had witnessed a Heron settlement! (N.C.H., VII, 342 n.).

<sup>101</sup> L.T.R. Memoranda Roll 9, Rich. II, mem. 17.

<sup>102</sup> The parliament sat for 48 days, and Nicholas was paid 4s. a day for 64 days (Cal. C.R.).

- <sup>103</sup> Pipe Roll 9, Rich. II.  
<sup>104</sup> L.T.R. Memoranda Roll 10, Rich. II.  
<sup>105</sup> Cal. C.R.  
<sup>106</sup> Pipe Roll 15, Rich II.  
<sup>107</sup> Rot. Scot.  
<sup>108</sup> *Annals of the House of Percy*, 508. The roll may be dated between 1377 and 1388. The first name in Nicholas's contingent is William Raymes.  
<sup>109</sup> *Scrope and Grosvenor Controversy*, I, 216.  
<sup>110</sup> Cal. P.R.  
<sup>111</sup> Froissart names Redman, Felton and Grey as being in Newcastle early in August, and says that Redman and Grey were both taken prisoner in the battle (Froissart's *Chron.*, Globe Edn., 371, 376). Hardyng names Umfraville at the battle (H.N., II, i, 47, 129 n.).  
<sup>112</sup> Rot. Scot., II, 95.  
<sup>113</sup> Proc. of the Privy Coun., Sir Harris Nicolas.  
<sup>114</sup> Cal. P.R.  
<sup>115</sup> Pipe Roll 16, Rich. II.  
<sup>116</sup> *De Banco Rolls* 527, mem. 81, dorso, and 531, mem. 72.  
<sup>117</sup> Gaol Delivery Roll 2, Henry IV, Northd. 191, mem. 45.  
<sup>118</sup> *De Banco Rolls* 534, mem. 90, and 535, mem. 428. For Margaret Heron, see A.A., VI, 17, note; also H.N., II, i, 240.  
<sup>119</sup> I.P.M., 18, Rich. II.  
<sup>120</sup> Cal. P.R., 1394. In the I.P.M. Robert's age is given as fourteen, but I suspect an error.  
<sup>121</sup> *De Banco Rolls* 546, mem. 346 dorso; 547, mem. 51 dorso.  
<sup>122</sup> *De Banco Rolls* 618, mem. 152; 622 mem. 429 dorso; 626, mem. 433.  
<sup>123</sup> I.P.M., 29, Hen. VI, No. 20.  
<sup>124</sup> I.P.M., 4, Hen. VII, No. 114.  
<sup>125</sup> I.P.M., 3, Hen. VIII (C.26, No. 75); Visit., 1552 (S.S., 122); Dur. Visit. Ped.  
<sup>126</sup> Letters and Papers, Hen. VIII.  
<sup>127</sup> *Memorials of North Tyndale*, E. Charlton, 49.  
<sup>128</sup> *Arch. Journal*, XLVII, 171-4.  
<sup>129</sup> *Op. cit.* Actually the order states that the line of watchers was to go from Fourlaws "in a bow ray through Arwood and to Baldwell stene at Symondsye". Steng Cross is about a mile west of Harwood Head.  
<sup>130</sup> *Op. cit.*  
<sup>131</sup> I.P.M., 3, Hen. VIII (C.26, No. 75).  
<sup>132</sup> In Assize Roll 662, 19, Hen. V/III (1527/28) he is described as "Thomas Fenwyk, late of Shortflatt, gentleman".  
<sup>133</sup> A.A., 3rd ser., VI, 85.  
<sup>134</sup> N.C.H., VII.  
<sup>135</sup> C.R., 20, Hen. VIII, 39 dorso.  
<sup>136</sup> *Annals of the House of Percy*, 554.  
<sup>137</sup> Proc., 4th ser., XI, 6.  
<sup>138</sup> *Hist. of Eng.*, 1485-1547, H. A. L. Fisher, 431, 432, and Froude's *Hist. of Eng.*, III, 160-73.  
<sup>139</sup> A.A., IV, 159, 170 (where the date is incorrect).  
<sup>140</sup> *Hist. of Eng.*, 1485-1547, H. A. L. Fisher, 431, 432, and Froude's *Hist. of Eng.*, III, 160-73.  
<sup>141</sup> H.N., III, ii, 238-41.  
<sup>142</sup> *Op. cit.*, 245.  
<sup>143</sup> I.P.M., 1545; also N.C.H., X, 349, 350.  
<sup>144</sup> I.P.M., 1545. The annual value of the manor of Shortflatt is given as £6 13s. 4d.

- <sup>145</sup> See note 159.
- <sup>146</sup> Christ's Coll. Cam. Adm., 1448-1665.
- <sup>147</sup> *Hist. of Northumberland*, C. J. Bates, 218.
- <sup>148</sup> *Leg. March.*, W. Nicholson, 143 *seq.*
- <sup>149</sup> *Op. cit.*, 190, 191, 198, 199.
- <sup>150</sup> *Proc.*, VII, 296.
- <sup>151</sup> *Hist. of Northd.*, C. J. Bates, 220.
- <sup>152</sup> *Leg. March*, Nicholson, 198, 199. The date is almost certainly 1553.
- <sup>153</sup> Dr. Hunter's interleaved copy of Bourne's *Newcastle* (in the Society's possession); also A.A., 2nd ser., VII, 203, and XV, 177, 178.
- <sup>154</sup> Appointed sheriff Nov. 12th, 1569.
- <sup>155</sup> Charter granted to the hospital 1611, *see Brand's Newcastle*.
- <sup>156</sup> Delaval and Carey pedigrees.
- <sup>157</sup> Letters dated Jan. 1st and 6th, 1570, from the earl of Sussex to Sir William Cecil (Cal. State Papers, Dom. Add., 1566-79).
- <sup>158</sup> A.A., N.S., XV, 178.
- <sup>159</sup> Calig. B.V., 50. Robert Raymes signifies his consent to the decisions by making a cross, being unable to sign his name.
- <sup>160</sup> *Arch. Jour.*, vol. XLII, 72-5.
- <sup>161</sup> Cal. B.P., I, 110 and 284 *seq.*
- <sup>162</sup> H.N., II, ii, 23.
- <sup>163</sup> Acts of Privy Council, XVI, 124.
- <sup>164</sup> Cal. B.P., II.
- <sup>165</sup> *Op. cit.*, I, 320.
- <sup>166</sup> N.C.H., XII, 118, 119; also A.A.<sup>2</sup>, XXIV, 190, 191.
- <sup>167</sup> I.P.M., Robert Raymes, 1621 (*Proc.*, 4th ser., XI, No. 8) and Feet of Fines, 2, James I (*see App. B.*).
- <sup>168</sup> Feet of Fines (*see App. B.*).
- <sup>169</sup> Exch. Dep., 5, James I, No. 4.