

## James Filmer

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No Picture Available

Born: 1478 Kent, England

Married: 1522 Marjorie Raymor

Died: 31 Aug 1571 Otterden, England

Parents: Benedict Filmer & Joanne Pepre

He is mentioned in his father, BENEDICT's will dated 16/9/1508 and proved on 15/11/1508. when he was made executor of that will and left the residue of his father's goods and all his lands and tenements.

Most persons with the name FILMER who can trace their origins to Kent are descendants of James Filmer of Otterden and Marjorie RAYNOR, daughter of Robert Raynor of 'Bamletts' Doddington. James died in 1571. Marjorie was buried at Wychling in 1588.

They were recorded in the Visitations of 1574 (Harleian Soc. Vol. 74), by their son Robert Filmer of Little Charleton in the parish of East Sutton, to whom Cooke, Clarenceaux, confirmed the arms of the family in 1570, viz. sable, three bars and as many cinquefoils, or. The crest - on a ruined tower, or, a falcon, wings expanded proper, beaked and bellied, or. The extreme simplicity of the arms seems to indicate a much earlier usage. He is again mentioned in the Visitation of 1592.

James and Marjories's children were all born before the Bishops transcripts were returned so their dates of birth are uncertain except for Robert, who was born in 1525. It seems likely that he was either the second son or the twin of his brother, George. In most documents and wills they are referred to together and seem generally to have been treated equally and in preference to the other children.

Her other children were sons, Reginald, John, William and Isaac and daughters, Benet, Agnis, Margaret, Fraunces, and Rabige. (They are all referred to in various wills).

At the time of his marriage the degree of James' property inheritance was not inconsiderable. At the very least it must have included the manor of Herst, twenty-six acres of lands and woods in Bourdfield, the old 'Filmer' farm, other messuages, tenements and at least a further twenty-nine acres of lands and woods at Slaide and elsewhere in Otterden and Wichling. He probably also held land in the old parish of Monkton and may have held the manor of Cleynden in Axtama Hundred.

His status would seem to have been such that he would have been on level terms with many of the surrounding yeomen and farmers. The family would probably have had their eyes opened to the opportunities in London by the activities of Sir Anthony Aucher, who was in high favour with King Henry VIII, and it is possible that it was his influence that encouraged their son Robert eventually to take up law. The other male children, however, appear to have all been local farmers and all but

Isaac married locally.

James had clearly educated all his children but how this came about is not clear. Certainly he had been doing well enough to support his large family, no doubt helped by the steadily rising price of corn, which by the time of his death was fetching some three times of that when he was born.

It also seems likely that his growing family required him to rebuild his residence at Herst. The house was visited by Reginald M. Filmer and is described by him in 'A Chronicle of Kent' as being timber framed with panels filled with whitewashed loaming. It would have had no glass in the windows. The contents can be gleaned from an inventory taken at his death (reproduced later) which, if correct, indicates a fair degree of simplicity in the home. Outside it had the advantage of a deep well of pure water.

When James was 70 years old, Clarenceaux King-at-Arms, confirmed the arms of the family viz. sable three bars or, and as many ciquefoils in chief or, and granted his son, Robert, a crest - a golden falcon with expanded silver wings rising from the tower of a castle also in gold. This implies that at least one of James' ancestors had been designated 'Esquire' (Armiger) and as such had borne heraldic arms.

His will was made originally in April, 1552 and it is thought likely that he may have been seriously ill at that time:

JAMES FILMER of OTTERDEN. (Act Books). Dated 16/9/1553.

ROBERT FILMER and GEORGE FILMER have been cited as executors of the will of JAMES FILMER of Otterden. ROBERT did not appear. (Partly illegible)

Reference. P.R.C. A. Act. 13/82. (Latin).

He did not die, however, until 1571 when it was proved (Arch C.C. - A 41 36; K.A.O. -U 120 T200/5). It is reproduced below:

Dated 24/4/1552 Proved 22/6/1571

JAMES FYLMER's will was made originally in April, 1552. He did not die, however, until 1571 when it was proved:

'In the name of God Amen The xxiiijth daye of Apryll in the yeare of our lord god a thousand fyve hundrethe fyfthe and two, and in the syxte years of the Reigne of our soveraigne lorde Edwarde the Syxte by the grace of god Kynge of Englande Fraunce and Ireland defender of the faythe And in earthe supream head of the Church of Englande and Ireland I, JAMES FYLMER of Otterden in the Countye of Kente sych in bodye and whole of mynde and of perfect remembrance thanks be unto god doe ordayne and make my last wyll and Testament in manner and forme followynge, fyrst and chyeflye I, gyve and bequeathe my sowle to all mightye god my creator Trustynge assuredlye that thorowe the precyous bludsheadinge and marytter of his sonne Jesus Chryst my only advocate mediator and savyor to be an inheritor of the Kyngdome of heaven in to whose handes I nowe doe and when I shall departe out of this Transytorye worlde and vale of myserye I shall comytt my spirytt. Also I gyve unto the poore mens boxe of the Church of Otterden aforesaid xij-d. Item I gyve to the Reparations of the said Church vj-s. viij-d. Item I gyve to the Reparations of the Church of Wytchelynge vj-s. viij-d. Item I give to MARGERIE my wyef one of my best kyen, one quarter of wheate, one quarter of ottes. Also I gyve to my sayd wyef fourtye shillinges to be payd unto her within one yeare after my decease. Also I give to REGYNALL my Sonne in corne cattell and other things to the value of twentye markes, (a. mark was worth 13s. 4d.) to be delyvered unto hyrn by my executors within one quarter of a yeare next after my decease. Also I gyve to either of my daughters AGNES, BENNETT and MARGARETT Tenne poundes to be payd unto them and either of them in the dayes of their severall mariages by my executors. Item I gyve to RABIGE

my daughter tenne poundes to be paid unto her in the daye of her marriage by my sonne ISAAKE at the oversight of my executors. Also I gyve to GEORGE my Sonne my greate brasse pott. Item I gyve to ROBERT my sonne and to the sayd GEORGE all my chestes cupbordes spytted brandyrans and one greate maultynge fate (vat). To be equallye devyded emongest them. And the resydue of my howshold staff I gyve and will equallye to be devyded between my sayde wyef and the sayd GEORGE. The resydue of all my goodes and cattells not wyllid nor bequethed my dettes and legacies payde and fulfilled I give to the sayd GEORGE and ROBERT my sonnes whome I ordayne and make my executors. Item I will that ROBERT BARNES be the overseer of this my testament and last will and to have for his labor xiijs. iij-d.

This is the last will of me the sayd JAMES FYLMER made and declared the day and Yeare above wrytten for the order and disposytyon of all my lands and tenements in the countye of Kente. First I gyve to the above named ROBERT and GEORGE my sonnes all my messuage or Tenement with all lande medowe pasture and woodd thereto belonging with the appurtenances in Otterynden wherein I nowe dwell together with xxvj acres of lande and woodd in Bordfeilde to have to them and to the heyers of their hodies lawfully begotten forever. And yf yt happen any of my sayde Sonnes to departe without yssue then the survyvor of the sayd ROBERT or GEORGE to be the others heyer, and if yt happen the sayd ROBERT or GEORGE to make sale of his parte of the premisses the other of them to by yt, and to have the preferment thereof before any other, if he wyll, and if yt happen the sayd ROBERT and GEORGE to departe without yssue of their bodycs lawfully begotten. Then I will that the said messuage or Tenement with all and synguler the premysse and appurtenances shall remayne to REGYNALL my Sonne and to the heiers of his bodye lawfully begotten for ever upon condycyon that the sayd REGYNALDE his heyers or assignes shall paye or cause to be payde to JOHN and WYLLYAM my Sonnes or the heyers of their bodies lawfully begotten within two yeares next after such Remynder to hyrn or them happened either of them twenty poundes, and if it happen the said REGYNALD to dye without yssue of his bodye lawfully begotten before such Remynder to hym happened Then I will that the said messuage or Tenement with all and synguler the premysse and appurtenances shall wholye remayne to the sayd WYLLYAM my sonne and to his heyers for ever upon condycyon that the said WYLLYAM his heiers or assignes shall paye or cause to be payde to his sayde brother JOHN or to the heyers of his bodye lawfully begotten Twenty poundes within one yeare next after such Remynder to hym or them happened. Also I will that my foresayd wyef shall have one chamber at her owne electyon with free egress and regresse in my said messuage or Tenement with fyer and fuell as long as she will contynue therein and also that her cove aforesayd shall be there kepte the wynter and somer at the costs and charges of the sayd ROBERT and GEORGE their heyers or assignes. Item I gyve to the sayd WYLLYAM my Sonne my Tenement at Slaide in Otterynden with the appurtenances with xxvij acres of lande belonging to the same and vij acres of Woodlande which I lately purchased of ROBERT BARNES lyeing in Otterynden. To have to hym and his heyers for ever and if yt happened the sayd WILLIAM to dye without heyers, etc., then the sayd Tenement at Slayde with all and syngular etc. shall remayn to the said JOHN my sonne and to his heyers, etc. and if JOHN die without heyers, etc., the Tenement at Sleyde shall remayne to all my other sonnes then lvyng equally to be devyded. Also I will that the sayd JOHN shall occupy the Tenement at Sleyde for a terme of five yeares after my decease payinge therefore yearlye to the sayd WILLIAM xxxij-s. iij-d. and payenge the lordes Rente and other charges thereof and keepynge the Reparations thereof tenants lyke at the oversight of my executor. Item I gyve to the abovenamed ISAACK my sonne my tenement with appurtenances at Paytonstrete in the parishe of Wytchelynge with all landes etc. to have etc. for ever. And if the said ISAAC dye without heires then I will the sayd tenement to ROBERT and GEORGE my sonnes etc. for ever. Also I gyve to my wyef one annuities or yerelye Rente of xxvj-s. viij-d. goinge out to be payde to her out of my sayd Tenement at Paytonstrete at the feastes of thannuncheon of our ladye and St. Mychell tharchangell by even portyons for the terms of her lyef. Also I will that the sayd REGYNALL my Sonne shall occupye my tenement at Payden strete until my sayd Sonne ISAACK come to thage of xxj yeares payenge yearlye therefore to my Executors five pounds and keapyng the Reparations thereof Tennate lyke. Moreover I gyve to the sayd JOHN and REGYNALD my Sonnes two acres of Woodlande lyenge in Otterynden to the landes of St. ANTHONY AUCHER, Knight, East and Northe and to the lands of me the aforesayd JAMES West and South equallye to be devyded between them.

(The will continues further indicating if the said JOHN or REGINALD die without heirs of his body, the survivor of them to be the other's heir, if both should die without such heirs, the said piece of woodland shall remain to son WILLIAM).

Wyttnes ROBERT BARNES, AUGUSTYNE HENEKER and others. Proved 22nd June, 1571.'

Ref. Arch C.C. - A 41 36;

K.A.O. U120 T200/5

Information from online research at: [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)