

John Filmer

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No Picture Available

Born: 1380 East Sutton, England
Married: 18 June 1407 Joanne May
Died: 1436 East Sutton, England
Parents: John Filmer & Unknown

John was born about 1380 in East Sutton, Kent, England. John's father was John Feynmour. His paternal grandfather was John de Fynemore. He was an only child. He died about 1436 in East Sutton, Kent, England. General Notes Thought to have married in 1407 Birth date a guess, to place him in the right century. Simon Pepere was one of the witnesses at his wedding.

In a "marriage deed" dated June 18, 1407, John entrusts all his lands to Nicholas May to safeguard the welfare of Nicholas' daughter Joan, which at that time was John's future wife. John's will of June 6, 1436, mentions the children listed here. Joan was willed the property, but Benedict manages the property and paid his mother, thus relieved her of responsibility.

Children

1. John Filmer b: 1408
2. Richard Filmer b: 1410
3. Joan Filmer b: 1413
4. Thomas Filmer b: 1417
5. Elene Filmer b: 1420
6. Simon Filmer b: 1422
7. Benedict Filmer b: ABT 1427 in East Sutton Manor, Kent, England
8. Agnus Filmer b: 1430

In a deed dated 18th June, 1407 John enfeoffs (entrusts) all his lands to Nicholas May to safeguard the welfare of Nicolas' daughter Joane, John's wife to be. It is in fact a marriage settlement.

It is from the beginning of the fifteenth century that the records are sufficient to determine with a fair degree of certainty not only who are all the surviving members of the Filmer family but their relative social status and property holdings.

What emerges is that land was held by the family, not only in the parish of Otringden but also in the parishes of Monkton, Boardfield, Lenham, Charing and Wichling. When or how much of this property was acquired is not obvious.

Furthermore many of the deeds of this period are of a sophisticated legal nature and it seems quite clear that from earliest times the family seemed always to consider the legal implications of

important decisions and events. It looks possible that their interest in these matters considerably predated their recorded rise as a leading Kentish legal family. There is also a hint of a higher degree of educational understanding, perhaps, than would otherwise have been thought likely.

The first recorded family event in the fifteenth century is the marriage, in 1408, between John Fymer, presumably the son of the earlier John mentioned in previous deeds, and Joan, the daughter of Nicholas May of Downham in Essex. Just how they met is not clear but there were members of the May family living in Kent at that time. This is evidenced by a marriage settlement.

They appear to have had some eight surviving children: sons - John, Richard, Thomas, Symon. and Benedict, and daughters Joan, Elene and Agnes.

John died in about 1437 (or later) and his will refers to his wife's marriage settlement of 1408:

Will of JOHN FYNEMERE, of Otrynden

Dated. 6/6/1437 (15 Henry VI) No note of probate

'This is the last will and ordinance of JOHN FYNEMERE of Otrynden made there the sixth day of the month of June 15 Henry VI of all his lands and tenements with their appurtenances, rents etc. in the parish of Otrynden and held of Sutton Valenc etc. upon feoffment by the aforesaid JOHN FYNEMERE thereof made to WILLIAM ATTE SEATH, decd., THOMAS BABBE, decd., both of the County of Kent, JOHN GENOUR, now deceased, of Essex, and NICHOLAS MAY, now living in the county of Essex, as by a certain charter dated 18 June 9 Henry IV [1408] etc., to wit, that immediately after the death of the said JOHN FYNEMERE the said NICHOLAS MAY his heirs or assigns should enfeoff JOAN, the wife of the said JOHN FYNEMERE and daughter of the said NICHOLAS MAY, with all the aforesaid lands and tenements to hold them of the principal lord of the fee. And after the death of the said Joan by the space of twenty years then next following and fully complete; the said NICHOLAS MAY etc. will enfeoff JOHN, RICHARD, THOMAS, SYMON and BENNET (BENEDICT), sons of the said JOHN FYNEMERE, with all the said lands to hold them in perpetuity of the principal lord of the fee; provided always that during the aforesaid period of twenty years the said JOHN, RICHARD, THOMAS, SYMON and BENEDICT may take and receive all the profits of such lands and tenements paying to the principal lord what is his due. And if the said JOHN, RICHARD, THOMAS, SYMON and BENEDICT die within the said space of twenty years without heirs of their bodies then the said NICHOLAS MAY or his heirs will enfeoff the daughters of the body of the said JOHN FYNEMERE, JOAN, ELENE and AGNES, with the lands to be held in perpetuity of the principal lord of the fee'

Ref. U120 T124 & U120 T200/1

The original is in Latin. Accordingly on the 31st of July, 1437, Nicholas May granted to his daughter, Joan, the settled property for life.

There is also some evidence that this John Fynemere also added to the family's landholdings. He is recorded as having acquired in 1413 some six acres in Otrynden from Thomas Bradefere of the parish of Lenham, and in 1433/4 Thomas Waryn of Lenham remised to him the lands called Reynoldswode (which lie between Stubblefield and Herst) in Otrynden and Bourdfield. By a separate deed the day before a John Florens of Wychling also granted two acres of Reynoldswood to John Fylmere.

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com