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James Bray (1609 - 1690)



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Col. James Bray

Born **7 Jul 1609** in **Great Barrington, Gloucestershire, England** 

Son of [father unknown] and [mother unknown]

[sibling(s) unknown]

Husband of **Angelica (Burgess) Bray** — married 1653 in of York, Virginia 

Father of [Margaret \(Bray\) Booth](#), [Richard Bray](#), [Anne \(Bray\) Inglis](#), [James Bray Jr.](#), [Thomas Bray](#) and [David Bray](#) [DESCENDANTS](#) 

Died **24 Oct 1690** at age 81 in **James City County, Colony of Virginia** 

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Bray-291 created 31 Mar 2011 | Last modified 13 Aug 2024

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Biography

James Bray ^[1]


Col. James Bray was born on 7 Jul 1609 in Great Barrington, Gloucestershire, England. He married Angelica Burgess.

Children:

1. Elizabeth Ray (Allen) 1655 - 1703
2. Col. David Bray 1656 - 1717
3. Ann Bray (Booth) 1657 - 1688
4. James Bray 1660 - 1725
5. Margaret Bray (Booth) - 1662 - 1695
6. Col. Thomas Bray 1664 - 1732



James Bray is a [Qualifying Ancestor of the Jamestowne Society](#).



James Bray was a [Virginia colonist](#).

DNA

No known carriers of James's DNA have taken a [DNA test](#).

Collaboration

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Research

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"Bray, James, of James City county, was living in Virginia as early as 1666, and, on April 15, 1670, was sworn a member of the council.^[2] He retained his seat until 1676, when during Bacon's rebellion, he seems to have been an active supporter of Gov. Berkeley. He signed the proclamation of Aug. 11, 1676, calling an assembly to meet in the following September. The commissioners sent to suppress the rebellion reported, on Dec. 6, 1677, that Mr. James Bray was a great loser in his estate by that uprising, but they were evidently not favorably disposed towards him, for the English board of trade and Plantations, on Dec. 6, 1677, pronounced him to be a "rash and fiery fellow," and, on Feb. 10, 1678-79, the same body directed that he be put out of the council.^[3] He was too friendly to Berkeley to suit the tastes of the royal commissioners. His wife, Mistress Angelica Bray, will always be remembered as one of the "guardian angels of the rebel camp," as the ladies whom Bacon stood in front of his men at Jamestown to protect them while they were throwing up fortifications, were called. Her maiden name is not known. Col. Bray was a wealthy merchant and ship owner in Virginia. He died Oct. 24, 1691. He had three sons who left issue and a grandson, Col. David Bray, who was also councillor for a few months." -from http://vagenweb.org/tylers_bios/vol1-12.htm, Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography Vol 1 by Lyon Gardiner Tyler, p 131.

"After Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion was put down a trial was held for the 'traitors'. "The Chief men that subscribed it at this meeting [at Middle Plantation at the Head of Queen's Creek] were Coll. Swan, Col. Beale, Col. Ballard, Esq. BRAY (all four of the Councill), Coll. Jordan, Coll. Smith of Purton, Coll. Scarsbrook, Coll. Miller, Coll. Lawrence , Coll. Lawrence [the 'brains' of the Rebellion], and Mr. Drummond, later Governor of Carolina [i.e. Albemarle]; all persons with whom you have bin formerly Acquainted." -from Genealogies of Virginia Families

In 1657 James Bray of Middle Plantation was granted patent for 1250 acres for transporting 25 persons to the Colony of Virginia. (Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. 5, p. 15.) In 1658 he was granted 100 acres for transportation of his wife, Angelica, to Virginia. (Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. 5, p. 39, and William and Mary Quarterly, Series 1, Vol. 12, p. 185.)

In 1671 Bray bought 290 acres of Middle Plantation of Henry Wyatt. (PRO/CO 1389 ff 66-68 and Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. 3, p. 178, and Nugent's Cavaliers... , p. 161.) Henry Wyatt was son and heir of George Wyatt of Middle Plantation, decd. In 1645 George Wyatt held 250 acres, James City County at Middle Plantation, N by E along the Palisadoes and the land of George Lake, S by W to the head of Archers Hope Creek. In 1671/2 Henry Wyatt sold to Col. John Page 50 acres without the forest adjoining upon the Palisadoes of the Middle Plantation. (Hiden's Adventurers of Purse and Person, p. 375 taken from Kingsbury's Records of the Virginia Company, V, p. 1.)

In 1677 he had a house at Middle Plantation. Drummond was tried there. (Tyler's Williamsburg, p. 14.)

James Bray died in 1691/2 leaving a will which has not survived. In 1695 Mrs. Angelica Bray bought 190 acres of escheated land lately John Fisher's. (William and Mary Quarterly, series 1, vol. 12, p. 185.)

James Bray served as a member of the House of Burgesses in 1688, assembled April 19th. [2]

James Bray England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 Name: James Bray Event Type: Christening Event Place: Greasley, Nottinghamshire, England, United Kingdom Event Place (Original): Greasley, Nottingham, England Gender: Male Birth Date: 7 Jul 1609 Father's Name: John Bray [4]


Sources

- ↑ [Bray, James - A1014; James City Co.: 1688, 1691-1692 \(Burgess\); 1670 \(Councillor\).](#)
 - ↑ [2.0 2.1](#) Stanard, William G. and Mary Newton Stanard. *The Colonial Virginia Register*. Albany, N. Y.: Joel Munsell's Sons, Publishers. [Pages 39, 86](#)
 - ↑ Tyler's Cradle of the Republic, p. 156.
 - ↑ [James Bray](#)
- Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography Vol 1 by Lyon Gardiner Tyler. See https://archive.org/stream/encyclopediaofvi01tyle/encyclopediaofvi01tyle_djvu.txt
 - Genealogies of Virginia Families, William and Mary Quarterly Vol 1 p 447.
 - York County Virginia Deeds, Orders, Wills, Etc. No 10, 1694-1697, Part Two.
 - Colonial Virginia Register by Standard, p 39
 - Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol 5, p 39
 - Hiden's Adventurers of Purse and Person p 375, from Kingsbury's Records of the Virginia Company p 1
 - https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/bitstream/handle/10342/1817/Jones_ecu_0600M_10884.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y Pages 21-19 History of Littleton Plantation first occupied by James Bray and family. The author cites James Bray as born 1610 in Virginia. This is incorrect.

- William and Mary Quarterly series 1 vol 12 p 185
- Tyler's Cradle of the Republic, p 156
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/173689368>

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Apart from an unsubstantiated story, there is no evidence to link this James Bray with Sir Giles Bray and his wife Anne Chetwood.

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Categories: [Bruton Parish Episcopal Church Cemetery, Williamsburg, Virginia \(-\) \(±\)](#) | [House of Burgesses, Virginia Colony \(-\) \(±\)](#) |