

WILLIAM GREEN,
HIS SON, JAMES GREEN,
AND THE FAMILY OF JAMES GREEN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The first William Green is referred to several times in early Grants and Warrants as a blacksmith. His first recorded Warrant was in July 1695 for 50 A of land "for ye arraivell of himselfe". This was changed to 100 A in Sept 1695 to cover "arivall rights for himself & Wife".

On 3 Aug. 1695 an order was issued to lay out 100 A for William Green Blacksmith, "the said Willm Green may make Choice of the said land in Some Convenient place...." It is not shown where this 100 A was taken up, but subsequent records offer an excellent clue.

William Green received two grants on 12 Jan. 1705, one for 500 A & one for 100 A. Both grants are to land in Colleton County "bounding to the East on BOHICUTT CREEK, S on the said Green, and on all other parts of land not laid out." We know from this that William Green already had land there prior to 1705. This is further confirmed by a Warrant issued to one Edmund Jarvis on 7 May 1701. It was for 230 A of land "fronting on a branch of BOHICOTT CREEK, adjoining to Wm. Wells on ye West, & on William Green on the East", so we know William was there prior to 1701. This is most likely the 100 A originally granted William Green.

A Warrant record in 1700 relating to Bonum Sams refers to William Green owning land "East on Bonum Sams", so we have now gotten William back to 1700 and in Colleton County. Bonum Sams was the first of that family to arrive in South Carolina. He received his first warrant to land in 1694 & another in 1697, which he took up in Colleton County. Bonum was the father of John Sams, who married Hannah Hamilton, (the daughter of John Hamilton and his wife, Dorothy, later Dorothy Ogle; Mary Sams, who married Henry Walker; Robert Sams, who married Bridget Barnwell: and Elizabeth Sams, who married Wm. McGillivray. These Sams' names will become important in later records.

No Warrant has been found specifically for the arrival of William's son James or other children, yet we know from other records that James was born prior to 1690. William did, however, receive a Warrant for 1000 A on 8 May 1697, and on 20 April 1709 he received one for 500 A in Colleton County.

In 1734 Benjamin Dennis sold Robert SAMS 370 A in Colleton Co. bounding on BOHICKET CREEK; "part of 500 A granted William Green on 14 Mar. 1704/5". I have a copy of the plat of this 500 A which indicates it was granted William Green on Jan. 12, 1705 and which shows the location of Bohicket Creek and the adjacent lands of Daniel Jenkins and EPHRAIM MICHAEL.

South Carolina Land Grants, Colonial Series show that William Green received a grant for another 500 A in Colleton County on 23 July 1711, "in the Parish of St. Pauls being on the WATCH ISLAND of Edisto North River bounding to the W on land not yet laid, to the N on marsh and Creek called WATCH CREEK, to the E on the North Edisto River, & to the S on the Sea Bay,"

On 13 June 1755, the Memorial of Jeremiah Fickling is to 500 A in Colleton Co. being an island commonly called and known by the name of WATCH ISLAND abutting to the N on Edisto River & W on WATCH ISLAND CREEK, which tract of land was "on the 23 day of July, 1711, granted by the Lords Proprietors to William Green... & in and by a certain deed of conveyance bearing the date of the 13th day of May 1722, by Margaret Green, Widow and Executrix of the said William Green and James Green, his son, bargained & sold to EPHRAIM MICHAEL", etc.

On 24 March 1755, Abigail Townsend's Memorial is to 100 A on BOHACUT CREEK which was part of 500 A "granted on the 18th of June 1702 unto one William Greene and the said William Greene, dying intestate, the same descended to his son and heir at law James Greene, who together with Susannah, his wife, sold to SAMUEL DAVIS".

Then we have James Green's own Memorial dated 25 May 1733. He refers to 150 A in St. Pauls Parish, Colleton Co. "granted unto William Green by a grant dated the ? day of Sept. 1698 bounding NW on the Wadmalaw River, W on land of SAMUEL DAVIS, E on JOHN SAMS, etc.... which said William Green dying intestate, the said James Green that is the same (as the Memorialist), as son, then to him". Confusing verbage, but still makes the point

In 1720, Henry Sheriffe sells to Benjamin Dennis 386 A - part of 550 A "on 14 March 1704/5 granted William Greene bounding on BOHICKET CREEK & other ways; & whereas William Greene on 12 Jan 1712/13 sold the 500 A to James Leroche Sr. "

A deed transaction between Margaret Ramsay & William Nicol dated 14 June 1739 refers to 500 A of land granted William Greene called BOHICKET.

These and other deeds to be cited later prove that William Green took numerous tracts of land before and immediately after 1700, all in Colleton County, and variously described as being on or bordering on Bohicket Creek, Watch Island, Wadmalaw Island, Edisto Island, John Sams, Ephrim Michael, & Samuel Davis. In the absence of birth and death records, I believe these deeds also prove that William Green died prior to 1722, survived by a wife, Margaret, and a son James.

Fortunately, none of the other ante 1700 Greens took up land in Colleton, and more fortunately, the other Greens who show up in Colleton do not do so until later, so there is no confusion as to family at this early period.

In 1709, William & James Green are shown together in connection with the estate of Daniel Nash. The administrator was William Nash, Jr. and a Warrant of Appraisement was directed to John Jarvis, Sammuel Shaddock, James Green, Thomas Stanyarn, & William Green. The Nash connection is interesting in that this family also shows up frequently in connection with Jonathan Thomas who married James Green's dau. Ann. After the deaths of James Green Sr. & Jr. in 1739 & 1740/41, Jonathan Thomas was probably the only adult male in the Green family. The younger Greens were left in his care, and he and Ann, probably raised the children. So records as to Jonathan Thomas are important in that during this period he also represented the Green interests.

There is a connection in many early records between the families of Green, Thomas, Nash, Davis, & most importantly, the Sams and their kin of Stanyard, Hamilton, Ogle, Michael/Mikel and McGilveray, and these documents indicate that these families were not only geographically close, but related to one another socially if not by kinships.

In the Memorial of JOHN SAMS of 10 May 1733, he refers to a tract of land on Wadmalaw Island bordering on the Wadmalaw River and his own land, having been conveyed to "said John Sams by a Deed of Sale by James Green and Sara (?) his wife, dated the 20th day of March, 1721."

The Will of Henry Walker in 1724 names "brother, JOHN SAMS" and James Greene as Exors. Walker married Mary, sister of John Sams.

A Memorial of Elizabeth Sams McGilveray & her husband, William, to 150 A on Wadmalaw Island, Colleton County, summarizes a chain of title to a conveyance from Jonathan Thomas on 7 Sept. 1730 of land belonging to James Greene.

Jonathan Thomas was a witness to the 1719 Will of Dorothy Ogle, mother of Hannah Sams.

We know now that James' father was William and that he died prior to 1722. From James' Will in 1739, we have the names of his children - at least those who were alive then. In a 1723 deed witnessed by JOHN SAM, James Green and Susannah, his wife, of Wadmalaw Island, made a gift of land to their married daughter Ann & Jonathan Thomas, her husband. This indicates James must have married not long after the turn of the century, and thus was born at least by 1690 when his father immigrated.

James' age and the age of his older children raises the question of whether James may have married twice, as it seems he had one group of children early on; Ann, Mary, & James, and then a second batch in the mid 20's who were still minors in 1739; Benjamin, Samuel, Josiah, & Susanna. We would expect James to have had a son, William, named after his father, and since no William was among the sons in the 2nd group, we look to the 1st.

There are three references to a William Green, that appear after William Sr.'s death. All appear during the short period 1731 to 1734. A William, son of James, born around 1710, would have come of age about that time, and there were just no other Green families in this particular area during that period.

On 10 July 1731, James Greene and wife Susannah sell 50 A to George Simona in Colleton Co. bounding on Dr. William McGilivray (brother-in-law of JOHN SAMS) and other lands of James Greene. One of the witnesses was WILLIAM GREEN.

The second mention is in the Memorial of JOHN SAMS of 10 May 1733. Vol.5, p270-1 referred to above. In addition to the tract purchased of James Green, he refers to another tract of land on Wadmalaw Island in St. Paul's Parish bordering in part on lands of WILLIAM GREEN.

The third and most convincing record is the marriage register of St. Phillip's Parish for Dec. 21, 1732 which shows the marriage of WILLIAM GREEN and MARTHA SAMS. Martha was the daughter of JOHN SAMS, and would have been an immediate neighbor of the Greens' on Wadmalaw Island. What is known of her is that she married secondly James Mitchell before April 1734, which means that William had died prior to that date. She was married a third time to John Hannahan. According to Sams genealogy, Martha had a daughter by one of her marriages named Ann (After William's sister, and possibly his mother, the first wife of James Green?) who married Joseph Parmenter, Sr. SCHM VOL. 64 P42. (I think more likely it was Joseph, Jr., later referred to as Sr.)

I don't know the source of the Sams' account of Ann marrying Joseph Parmenter, but it must have been from a Sams, or a Sams relation's, Will or Deed referring only to an Ann Parmenter, wife of Joseph Sr., as her maiden name seems unknown.

This should give an outline of my sources for William Green being the father of James, and for my statement that James had a son named William, who would have been an older brother to Josiah, Benjamin, and Samuel Green.

This all fits so neatly to explain why William appeared only from 1731 to 1733, having come of age, marrying, and then dying within 2 years. Very similar in circumstance to Josiah. It would explain why he was not in James' Will of 1739. And most importantly, it explains the early connection between the Greens & the Sams, and later with the Parmenters. Benjamin, Joseph, & John Parmenter were brothers - the sons of Joseph Parmenter Sr. If Joseph Jr. married Ann Green then he would have become the nephew of Benjamin & Samuel Green, although of the same age.

There are other Green/Parmenter marriages. Elizabeth Thomas, dau. of Jonathan & Ann (Green) Thomas married John Fendin, Jr. She is mentioned in the Will of her uncle, Samuel Green. John & Elizabeth Fendin had 7 known children. Of them, Elizabeth Jr. married Richard Bland 1st & then Charles Davant, Susan married John Cheney, Mary married Charles Floyd, and Ann is said to have married a Mr. Parmenter. (Probably John, Jr.) When Richard Bland married Elizabeth Fendin in 1769, Benjamin Parmenter was one of the trustees of Elizabeth's marriage settlement. I do not think it was because Benjamin had married Ann as some do. Both Benjamin Sr. & Benjamin Jr. had wives named Sarah when they died in 1771 & 1773 respectively. One of them, probably Jr., had married Sara Thomas, widow of Jonathan, Jr., Ann's uncle.

And then of course we have the marriage of Elizabeth Fripp Green, widow of Benjamin, to Isaac Parmenter, son of John & Martha Parmenter, which will be covered later.

Aside from kinships, there is another connection between the Greens & Parmenters - that of religion. The Parmenter family were early converts to the Baptist faith. Isaac, Joseph, & Thomas Parmenter were baptized on Edisto Island in the early 1700's by William Screven, along with Ephraim Mikell, (neighbor of the Greens) Thomas Grimbald & Joseph Sealy. Benjamin Parmenter was ruling elder of the Euhaw Church in 1752. The Green clan was converted by 1760 when Joseph Sealy Jr's. Will established a trust for the minister, Francis Pelot, with John Mikell, Benjamin Green, Jonathan Thomas, Samuel Green, Joseph Parmenter, Jr., William Sealy, Jr., and John Sealy as trustees.

Samuel Green would later marry as his 3rd wife, Susanna Chanler, youngest daughter of the Rev. Isaac Chanler, an early leader of the Ashley River Baptist congregation.

All of this is to illustrate the many relationships between the Greens and Parmenters and why they are so closely connected in the 1760's and later. It may go to answer the question of why Samuel Green left the care of his children to Benjamin Parmenter and Mrs. Martha Parmenter. My personal opinion is that there is another & much earlier bond of which we have no record, and I believe it involves Martha, wife of the first Joseph Parmenter, and mother of Joseph, Jr., Benjamin, John, Phillemon, and possibly Thomas. If we had some inkling of who she was or who James Green's wives, Susanna (Sara) and possibly Ann, were, I think we'd have the answer.

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July 27, 1988