

## CHAPTER II

### The Ancestors of Sarah Elizabeth Green

COPY

#### Part 1: The Green Family

\*\*1. WILLIAM GREEN is the earliest known member of the Green family to arrive in South Carolina. Nothing definite is known of his past, but we do have several clues. Some years ago the Charleston News and Courier published an article entitled, "Town of Andrews Situated on Land of Annadale Scions", which dealt mainly with the early history of the Johnstone (Johnston) family. This same material was also sent to Mr. Percy LaBruce of the Georgetown Times for use in publishing an article on old Georgetown families and plantations. Mentioned in the article is Joseph Benjamin Johnston, born in 1806. It is stated that Joseph Benjamin Johnston married " Elizabeth Green, of one of the first settled families of Prince Frederick, and descended from the ancient Greens of Boketon, in Northhamptonshire." We know that this is the same Green family because the article states that Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Capt. Richard Green of Revolutionary fame, of whom we will speak later.

According to the Colonial Dames paper of Alice Green Warren, (no. 146), a William Green emigrated to South Carolina from Rhode Island in the latter part of the Seventeenth Century, and was the father of John Green.\*\*\* We know that William Green received a grant of 100 acres on 3 August, 1695;( **this land was on James Island, Bohicket Creek**) he was to make his own choice of land (Index to Royal Grants, 1695-1776, Vol. 38, The State Archives, Columbia). There is also a record of his purchasing 100 acres on the same date as follows; "By virtue of the power given to me by their Rt. Honorable the Lords' Proprietors and under their hands and seal, I confess to have sold unto Wm. Green, Blacksmith... one hundred acres of land for which I have received the sum of Five pounds...Reg. This 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 1695. Paul Gimbball. (Records of the Register and of the Secretary of the Province, Vol. 2, G in Green's Index, p.444).

Based on the above Colonial Dames record we are able to name the son of William Green thus:

\*\* (2) i. John Green

\*\*2. JOHN GREEN—son of William—received a grant for 100 acres on James Island, Berkeley County, on 1 February, 1706 (Index to Royal Grants, 169---, South Carolina Archives). John Green's wife, Elizabeth had come to South Carolina from Bermuda as a young girl; they were married on James Island and moved to Winyah several years before the Indian War in 1715 \*(South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal, 4 November, 1766), South Carolina Historical Magazine, # 30-04, Webber Misc.). John and Elizabeth were among the early settlers in what is now Williamsburg County\*. The area in which they settled was known as Winyaw(or Winea) and was the first part of Williamsburg

County( **\*should read Georgetown County**) to be inhabited by white people. The earliest settlements were along the Black River where it turns northward just after entering Georgetown( **\*this is in reverse**) County, along the present Georgetown- Williamsburg County line to the Peedee River. [ **The two county names are reversed. -VG**]. On 24 September, 1709/10, John Green received a grant of 200 acres in Georgetown County at Winyah River, NW and S on lands not yet laid out, to E. on Black River (Proprietary Grants No. 2, 1676-1775, Vol.39, p.83, The Archives); That was in all probability the year in which John and Elizabeth moved from James Island to the Black River area. Until 1734, all this area was included in the Parish of Prince George, Winyah; in that year it became part of the new Parish of Prince Frederick. Even as late as 1766, the death record of Elizabeth refers to her as the “widow of John Green of P.G.P.” **\* NOTE: Surveyor General of SC, George Hunter drew a map of a trip he made in 1729 from the coast of NC through Georgetown, and on through SC to the Cherokees. On this map is a note that states,” before the year 1712 there were only five families living north of the Santee River”. {John Green was on of these. He located there on a land grant in 1709,along Black River and a creek that was later named John Green’s Creek.-VG.}**

During the years that followed the 1709 grant, John Green received several additional grants, all in Craven County on Black River: 500 acres in 1711; two 500 acre grants in 1718; 500 acres in 1734; and 197 acres in 1735 (Index to Royal Grants, 1695-1776, SC Archives). The stream on which he lived came to be known as Green’s Creek; it was used as a landmark when Prince Frederick Parish was divided from Prince George Winyah in 1734; the parishes were divided “ beginning at the Southwestern most part of the plantation of John DuBose, on Santee River, from thence on a line to the head of John Green’s Creek, and down said creek till you come to Black River, and from thence....” (An Act for dividing the Parishes of... and Prince George Winyah, in Craven County, dated 9 April, 1734, SC Statutes, III, 374-376; taken from source 72.)

John Green was the original owner of the well known Plantation Mansfield on the Black River near Georgetown; it was one of the 500 acre tracts mentioned above for which John received a grant in 1718, and was described in the grant thus; “five hundred acres in Craven County, bounding on the northeast on Black River, to the southwest on lands not yet laid out, and to the northwest on lands of said Green, at one shilling per hundred acres.” In his will John stipulated that this plantation should be sold and the proceeds be divided among his heirs (see will in this section). The property was purchased by James Coachman, planter, who sold it in 1754 to Mrs. Susannah Man, widow of Dr. John Man of Prince Frederick Parish. The plantation at Mansfield remained in the Man lineage until 1912. It is interesting to note further that the land granted to John Green in 1735 became part of the plantation Windsor, which is also on the Black River in Georgetown County (Georgetown Rice Plantations, Alberta Morel Lachicotte, The State Printing Company, Columbia, SC, 1955).

John Green and his wife Elizabeth were communicants of Prince Frederick Church, which was located on the south bank of Black River about 13 miles from the present day Georgetown. The birth of their son John is recorded in the church register (1726), and Elizabeth 's death is recorded in 1766.

John Green wrote his will on 8 January, 1749; he died about a year after this- the will was proved 1 March, 1750. He stated that that he was "of Prince George Parish in Craven County", and that he was a planter. He bequeathed all of his personal estate (including Negro and Indian slaves, stocks of cattle, hogs and sheep) to his wife Elizabeth and his children John, Richard, and Elizabeth. The sons would receive their shares at age twenty-one; the daughter would receive her share at age eighteen. His wife Elizabeth would receive her maintenance out of the profits of the estate during her widowhood and no longer. (**NOTE: She did not remarry**). He also left ten pounds of money to his three other children: " my son William; my daughter Sarah, wife of Daniel Maginney; my daughter Hannah, wife of William Smith. The land was bequeathed thus: 500 acres on Black River to Richard; 300 acres on Waccamaw Creek to Elizabeth; 500 acres on the Black River to be sold and the money divided between wife Elizabeth, sons Richard and John, and daughter Elizabeth; and 249 acres "which plantation I now dwell on" to wife Elizabeth during her widowhood and no longer. The will was signed John C. Green (Charleston Will, Vol. 6, 1747-1752, p. 463-465, South Carolina Archives, Columbia, SC.)

**NOTE: John Green was one of two people in PFP that mentioned Indian slaves in their will.**

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The death of Elizabeth Green, wife of John, occurred in 1766 and is recorded in the Register of Prince Frederick Church thus: " Elizabeth Green, wife of John of P.G.P. Departed this Life 1766 and was Buried. Her obituary, as published in the SC Gazette and Country Journal on 4 November, 1766, is given here. "A few months since died at Winyah, in this Province Mrs. Elizabeth Green, Widow to the late Mr. John Green. She came here from Bermuda, a young girl, married on James Island, and removed to Winyah some years before the Indian War in 1715. She lived to see her children's children to the fourth Generation, her Grand-daughter having a Grand-daughter born within that period, and what is more remarkable, she never had any occasion for the use of spectacles, and read very distinctly but three days before she died. Her age is suppose to be a little short of 100 years."(South Carolina Historical Society, # 30-04, Webber Misc.) Her will was dated 10 October, 1765, and proved 10 August, 1766. She bequeathed a Negro girl to her grand-daughter Sarah Maginney; the remainder of her property was to be sold at public vendue and equally divided among her five children: William, Hannah, John, Richard, and Elizabeth. (Charleston County Court of Probate Will Book 1760-67, p. 600.)

John and his wife Elizabeth had the following children, all of who are named in John's will:

\*\* (3) i. William Green, b. September, 1712. (*Calculated*)\*\*

**NOTE: William's grave and that of his wife Jane Thompson are still visible in the graveyard at Prince Fredrick Church cemetery. His birth date is calculated based on the information on his grave stone. If this is all correct, his birth is much earlier than the earliest one recorded on the church registry at Prince Fredrick.**

**There is also some doubt that William's mother was the same as the mother of the remainder of the children. In his father's will he only received 10 pounds, NO LAND! This was very unusual, since the oldest son usually received all of his father's land in those times. Also when calculating the age of the wife Elizabeth, and the birth of her later children his birth date does not fit well. It's too early. Elizabeth, the youngest was born about 1726, 14 years after William. William is our ancestor. His grandson, William, is the one that moved to Lee County.**

ii. Sarah Green, who married Daniel Meginney (McGinney).

Sarah must have died before 1757, as Daniel Meginney and his wife had a child in 1757(Source # 3). Also, Sarah is not mentioned in her Mother's will, though the grand-daughter Sarah Meginney is.

Beginning in 1757, Daniel Meginney served many years on the vestry of Prince Frederick Church (Source 3).

iii. Hannah Green, who married William Smith. **NOTE: Haven't been able to find out which William Smith this was. However, I have found a Gift Deed to, "William Smith, my loving son", for 200 acres at Winyaw, bounded on the South by Mr. Lloyd's land and part by land of Morreau Sarazin, and on John Green's land on the north and east on Black River." On the 1819 plat of Thomas Ford, a tract is cut out from the rest and is on the south side. This is the "Home Tract" ( the one left to wife Elizabeth for her lifetime). The 200 acre tract south of this Home Tract is the one given to William Smith.**

iii. John Green, born 28 September 1726. ( Source 3).

iv. Richard Green, who was elected to the Vestry of Prince Frederick Church in 1764. He was among the Parish men who were chosen to conduct an inquiry into the death of Mary Bonnell in 1770, as related in the section on William Green, Sr.(Source 3). He became a member of the Winyah Indigo Society in 1755 (Source 142). He had a son, John Green, who was listed in the 1790 Census of Williamsburg County and who is shown as being

the only male over 16 in the household; there were two females in the household and 46 slaves (Source 114). **NOTE: Richard Green inherited the property on the east side of Black River just south of the Hwy 701 bridge. This property is now known as Keithfield Plantation. ALSO, the Reverend Francis Asbury was a frequent visitor of Richard Green on his plantation (see the White- Green Family History).**

v. Elizabeth Green- **NOTE: Youngest child- have not been able to find out who she married, but property records of John Green's original land grant indicate that the property came into the Ford family by descent, so she might have married a Ford( see Mills Atlas-1825). 2001 update- now believe Elizabeth Green married a John Glen ( or Glenn). See PFP church records for a Glen. Also, John Thompson Green's home place plat.**

***THIS MATERIAL FROM A FADING COPY OF AN ORIGINAL AMONG PAPERS OF F. L. GREEN. Was written in the News and courier, Charleston, April 20, 1941. I have added the notes to this paper, those recorded in bold print.- VG.***

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- 1. This is a mistake. John Green's original land grant in the region of Georgetown- called Craven County, was on the south side of Black River at the entrance of a creek that became known as John Green's Creek.

**\*\*\* NOTE: The removal of William Green and his wife to SC from Rhode Island may have been prompted by some problems with his in-laws. The information I received in 1998 from a relative said that William's wife was Elizabeth Warren, the 11<sup>th</sup> child of Nathaniel Warren of Plymouth Colony. Nathaniel Warren was on the governing board of the colony, and was in fact its top officer. This relative also told me that William and Elizabeth had a child out of wedlock, and if this is true I suspect that would have been sufficient reason for them to leave the colony and move to Rhode Island. The move to SC may have been prompted by knowledge that there were other relatives already here. Land grant records in Charleston show a Green entering and receiving land in 1681. I believe these Greens are the one that moved into what is now Beaufort County and later formed the group that moved on into Georgia. Nathaniel Warren's father was Richard Warren. He may have been the physician on the Mayflower. I have several references that say this and**

**another that does not. I do know that he was fairly old in 1620 and only lived about 8 years after the founding of the Plymouth Colony.**

**However, William Green's wife may not have been Elizabeth Warren. She could have been Sarah (Bateman-??). John Green named his oldest daughter Sarah- after his mother??- a common practice at the time.**

## **Notes on John Green's wife, will, and children**

These notes added after spending the day in the Archives and History Dept. July 12, 2001.

Documents confirm that John Green's wife in 1728 was Elizabeth. This is when John and Elizabeth sold property to Benjamin Atwell on James Island. This property was part of an original land-grant to "William Green, Blacksmith", in 1695. Also a newspaper article printed just after Elizabeth's death in 1766 (see above) tells that they moved to "Winyaw" sometime before the Indian Wars (1711-1716)". John Green's first land-grant on Black River was in 1709/1710. This 200 acre grant was where he lived the rest of his life. Records in the Archives Dept, that I found today, explain what happen to this some of this land after John died in 1750. But first, a discussion of John's children and his will is in order.

Hughson Green did almost all of the work to put together the family history, and we are all indebted to him. But access to records was not as good in those days as they are now, and new documents have been found that can add to the information we already know. However, in Hughson's book he records John Green's will. Probated in 1750. In this will there are 6 children and a wife. The wife received the house for her life, and then it went to daughter Elizabeth- the youngest of the children. The property that became Mansfield plantation was sold, and the remainder of the real property was divided between the two middle boys- Richard and John jr. The older girls, Sarah and Hannah received money ( they were both married). The strange part of the will was that the oldest son, William only received money- 5 pounds- no land!! That's not much, even in those days, but it was unheard of not to give the oldest son the land.

This is a very strange departure from the custom of those times, since the oldest son usually got the bulk of the property, if not all of it. I considered two possible reasons for this fluke. The first was that William was so much older than the others (he was born in May 1712- probably the first European child born on Black River), that he had already received his inheritance by way of land-grants supplied by his father. The second notion I had was that maybe William's mother was not the same as the mother of the other children, and his father was persuaded to exclude him from the property settlement. There is good evidence

to support this idea, that Elizabeth is not William's mother. The time between the birth of William and the birth of the youngest, Elizabeth, is fourteen years. Further, Elizabeth, the mother was said to be very near 100 years old when she died in 1766. Subtracting 1712 from 1766 leaves some strange numbers in reference to the dates of the children's births. Was she 54 years old when William was born, and then had the rest of the children after that? Don't think so!

Even if Elizabeth was, say, 96, when she died in 1766, that means that when the youngest child, Elizabeth was born in 1726, she was 56 years old- and when William was born in 1712, she was 42 years old! It's a strange mess and I'm not convinced yet that we know what we need to know to figure this one out. But it does leave some doubt that Elizabeth was William's mother.

One last thought. Elizabeth did record that William was one of her children in her will (we have a copy of her will). All of this was just a jumble until I found some new information today. It will not solve the major dilemma, but it will help.

In the Memorial Books, vol. 2v, pp77-78 is a Lease and Release for 500 acres on the north side of Black River. In John Green's will of 1749, this property was given to son Richard. By virtue of this lease and release, dated July 31, 1754 (this is a Bill of Sale document from those ole times of long ago), William sold his interest in this property to brother Richard. What he really did was sign what is called a quit-claim deed to Richard. This ended any claim he might ever have to the property. The document goes on to explain that John Green's will of 1749 "*does not appear to be authentic and good in law, and the said William Green, being the oldest son and heir at law of the said John Green, hath for the consideration above mentioned, granted, bargined, and sold to Richard Green the said plantation....*". So, this does say that there was a problem with the way the property was divided, and the brothers must have come to a settlement rather than fight it out in court. They were good Greens! There is no mention as to how the will got into the shape it was probated in. My reason listed above is a possibility, but far from the only one.

There is another document that sheds good light on some more of the problems with the will and several other unknowns. There is also recorded a lease and release (dated Nov 26, 1756) from Daniel McGinney and his wife Susannah and William Green to George Ford. This document gives George Ford title to 140 acres (John Green's land-grant 1737) on the home place that is adjacent to Green's Creek and the other side joining the original 200 acre grant. From reading the explanation in the document, this tract of 140 acres was given to McGinney in 1741, but was never conveyed, **in fact**, by John Green to McGinney. McGinney was married to daughter Sarah, but Sarah died sometime after 1749, when John wrote out his will, but before 1756; and McGinney then married Susannah. However, McGinney and Sarah had a daughter, and she was given property by Elizabeth (her grandmother) in that will. This piece of property was not mentioned in John Green's will, so it is likely he was aware that it belonged to McGinney (or daughter Sarah). Anyhow, to clear the title on this

property, McGinney, his wife Susannah, and William Green, all possible claimants to the property, signed quit-claim deeds to George Ford.

One puzzle that has bothered me was that the name Ford is shown on Mills' Atlas of 1825, where John Green's property was located. Two possible answers here. The first is that Ford had bought this property (before 1825) from Elizabeth and the younger brothers. This transaction actually had to take place before 1819, since that is when the Ford's (Thomas Ford) had a survey completed. However, considering this lease and release document, it must have taken place before 1759. This followed the same procedure as with the other son-in-law-William Smith, husband of Hannah- that is, give him a tract of land. When you look at the survey (1819) it does not show the Fords owning the 200- acre tract to the South. The 200 acre tract had been given to son-in-law, William Smith in 1744. Thus, it appears that Elizabeth, her brother William, and brother in law, Daniel McGinney, conveyed the house tract to Ford. We don't know if Elizabeth (the daughter) was still alive in 1819 when the Survey was made, but her husband must have died (she would have been 70 years old). A Thomas Ford was the one that commissioned the survey. The location of the house is shown on the 1819 survey. This house lasted until the 1950's, when it was torn down.

*All of this clears up some things and doesn't clear up others, but it helps. I didn't waste my day. Finding the mother of William is still high on my list.*