

JOSIAH, BENJAMIN & SAMUEL GREEN,  
YOUNGER SONS OF JAMES GREEN, AND THEIR WIVES & CHILDREN

JOSIAH GREEN

The Will of James Green, dated 30 April 1739, lists bequests to his children then living, but the order of listing is known not to be the order of birth. In listing the younger males, he mentions Josiah, Benjamin, & Samuel in that order. Only the birthdate for Samuel is known, being Sept. 7, 1727.

Josiah Green, presumably the older of the three, is the least known because of his early death. The first record of him other than the Will of his father is the recording of his marriage in the St. Helena's Parish Register. On March 18, 1754, Josiah married Catherine Beale, said to be the daughter of Edward & Catherine Beale. Unfortunately, the same entry records his burial on 30 Aug. 1757. He is shown as a cordwainer (Leather worker) & overseer.

Their son, William, was baptized on 20 April 1756.

Their daughter, Elizabeth, was baptized 20 Aug. 1758, almost a year after Josiah's death, and she may have been born posthumously.

It is not recorded in the Parish Register, but we know that Josiah & Catherine had another daughter, Catherine, from later records.

When Josiah's brother, Samuel Green, executed his Will on 4 Feb. 1767, he made a bequest to "my nephew William Green, the son of Josiah Green". The next bequest is "to my niece, Catherine Green", although she is not specifically identified as Josiah's daughter. A later provision in the Will mentions the "Children of my Brother Josiah Green ". Logically, Catherine would have been named for her mother. The only other Green brother of this period was Benjamin, and he is certainly not recorded as having a daughter named Catherine. Evidently Samuel was attempting to provide for Josiah's children, who had been orphaned early, and leads to the presumption that Elizabeth, the youngest child, had already died. The latter is substantiated by the Will of DANIEL WILLIAMS which was probated on 13 Dec. 1768.

DANIEL WILLIAMS "of Wales" was married to Elizabeth Sisom, dau. of Gregory & Elizabeth Sisom, on Nov. 20, 1751. They had a dau. Anne in 1751, who died that same year. A son Daniel was born in 1754 and baptized in 1755, with the parents and JAMS STEELE as sureties. This child must have also died, as they had another son in 1760 whom they named Daniel.

In Nov. 1757, DANIEL WILLIAMS purchased 100 A on Hilton Head - bounding N on David Alexander, S on Alex. Trench, & W on Scull Creek, "being part of 300 A commonly called Trench's Island."

Daniel's wife Elizabeth died after 1760, and he then married Catherine Beale Green, Josiah's widow. He is recorded as inventorying the estate of JOSEPH PARMENTER on 6 March 1764 along with BENJAMIN GREEN and SAMUEL GREEN.

DANIEL WILLIAMS, "planter", executed a will on 28 Nov. 1767 in which he provided for his widow Catherine to live on his plantation on Hilton Head Island during her widowhood, & then to son, Daniel, under age. He mentions a daughter Elizabeth, and then provides for his "dau-in-law (step-dau) Catherine Green" to be boarded and educated until the age of 14. Also mentioned is a possible unborn child. Executors were Catherine Williams & ISAAC PARMENTER. Witnesses were John Parmenter, Sr., John Boswood, Sr. & JOSEPH STEEL.

This would seem to confirm the supposition from SAMUEL GREEN'S Will dated 6 months earlier that Josiah's dau., Elizabeth, had died, in that Williams would not have provided for the education of one step-daughter and not the other. It would not necessarily imply that the son William Green had also died, in that he would have inherited his father's estate and have been provided for.

By the time DANIEL WILLIAMS' Will was probated in Dec. 1768, Catherine STEEL, widow, qualified as Executrix, so she had married either JOSEPH or JAMES (probably JOSEPH) STEEL during the year following her second husband's death. These two Steels were possibly sons of the Dr. John Steel of Beaufort who died prior to 1761.

The St. Helena's Parish Register records the birth on May 8, 1770 of John STEEL, son of John & CATHERINE STEEL. No records have been found relating to a John Steel in this period, but the names of JAMES & JOSEPH STEEL are found frequently. Some errors have been noted in the transcribing of the Parish Register, and until some evidence is found as to a John Steel, we must assume that the entry should have read James or Joseph.

No further record has been found of Catherine Beale Green Williams Steel, although JOSEPH STEEL continues to appear in connection with Green family affairs at later dates. The surviving children, Catherine and William, cannot be positively identified in later records as of yet, but there is a strong presumption that this William Green may be the Lt. William Green who appears with the Martinangels in the Loyalist Militia in 1781, East Florida, the Bahamas, & then on Daufuskie Island in the 1790's. His children's names are given as William Jr., Josiah, Mary, & Catherine.

## BENJAMIN GREEN

Benjamin Green was born in Colleton County c. 1725, the son of James and Susannah Green. His father died when he was 14, and he was probably raised by his brother-in-law, JONATHAN THOMAS.

His marriage to Elizabeth Fripp on 17 Aug. 1752 appears in the St. Helena's Parish Register. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Fripp, Jr. and his wife Martha, who some say was a Jenkins.

Only two children have been recorded as being born to Benjamin & Elizabeth Green. A son, James, was born 26 Dec. 1753 and was buried 3 Aug 1755. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born 17 July, 1755, and it was she who married JEREMIAH SAYRE on 20 Nov, 1770.

There is evidence that there was another son, Benjamin, Jr.. The Rev. Dr. Robert E.H. Peeples uncovered a survey made in 1783 by Dr. George Mosse of land belonging to the heirs of Landgrave John Bailey. The survey shows a Scull Creek plantation at the same location of the property owned by Benjamin Green as being in the name of Benjamin Green, Jr.

In 1756, Benjamin Sr. is listed with his brother Samuel in the St. Helena Company Militia of Granville Co. under Capt. John Fendin, who had married Benjamin's niece, Elizabeth Thomas.

Benjamin appears on the S.C. Jury lists of 1757 & 1767 for St. Helena's Parish.

In 1758, Benjamin was witness to a deed from George Delabere to Thomas Wigg to 682 1/2 A on Archer's Island on the Port Royal River on marshes facing Beaufort on the N. Interestingly, a year later, Kenard Delabere, brother of George, sold to Thomas Wigg adjacent land on the Port Royal River. This deed was witnessed by PHILIP MARTINANGEL. This indicates that for a time the Martinangels and Greens may have lived in the same area of Port Royal Island.

The 1760 Will of James Evans which was not probated until 1770 was witnessed by BENJAMIN & SAMUEL GREEN and Timo. Campbell & Digby Edwards, both Green connections by marriage. Evans' Will names six Executors among which are Benjamin's brothers-in-law, John, William, & Paul Fripp.

Also executed in 1760 was the Will of Joseph Sealy of "Euhaw on Indian Land". It contains an interesting provision relating to the Greens and their kin. Sealy leaves 1000 pounds in trust for the Rev. Francis Pelot of the "dissenting congregation or Society of Antipedobaptists at Euhaw". The Trustees were John Mikell, BENJAMIN GREEN, JONATHAN THOMAS, SAMUEL GREEN, Wm. Sealy, Jr., John Sealy, and JOSEPH PARMENTER, JR.. One of the witnesses was David Mongin, Jr.

While no records can be found linking the early Green family to any parish church or particular religion, we can assume from the above that the third generation Greens had been converted to the Baptist faith prior to 1760.

Another Will in this connection is that of William Spoad dated six years later. Spoad, also a Baptist, left his wife Mary his Spanish Wells plantation on Hilton Head for life, and then it was to go to David Mungin. No relationship between Spoad and Mungin has been determined. Exors: Andrew Agnew, David Mungin, Jr., & ISAAC PARMENTER. Wit: William Ritch, Thomas Ellis, & JOSEPH STEEL. The estate sale, including 40 slaves, was advertized in the Feb. 11, 1767 issue of the GEORGIA GAZETTE by the three executors.

X { On 3 Feb. 1763 a deed was executed by John Ellis & his wife selling to Benjamin Green 200 A on Hilton Head Island, and it is assumed Benjamin moved there shortly thereafter. This land is described as bounding N on Col. Barnwell, W on Scull Creek, & E&S on Alex. Trench. Witnesses were Wm. Reynolds, David McKee, & William Fripp, brother-in-law of Benjamin. The deed was not recorded until 10 Aug. 1768, the year after Benjamin Green died.

This tract had originally been acquired by Ellis from Daniel Savage, who had married in 1754 as his 2nd wife Jane McKee, dau. of David McKee. The Savages lived on land adjacent to the Greens on Hilton Head. In 1764, a daughter of Daniel by his first marriage, Susannah, married John Parmenter, Jr., brother of ISAAC PARMENTER. This raises the question of whether this is the same John Parmenter who later married Ann Fendin?

In 1763 the death of JOSEPH PARMENTER is recorded. This and several other records involving the two Joseph Parmenters and the Greens should be mentioned here, although they do not prove conclusively the question of which Joseph married Ann Green. An Inventory of Joseph's estate was presented on 6 March 1764 by BENJAMIN GREEN, SAMUEL GREEN, & DANIEL WILLIAMS. It is assumed this was Joseph Sr.. On 27 April 1764, the next month, JOSEPH PARMENTOR borrowed 62 Pounds Sterling from the Legacy Fund of the St. Helena Parish Church with BENJAMIN GREEN as Security. This Joseph would have to have been of age to have been able to bind himself to repay a loan from the church, and thus could not have been the son of Ann Green Parmenter. William Green & Martha Sams were married in Dec. 1731, and their dau. Ann, if born in 1732, would probably not have married before 1747, if that early. Joseph Jr. then would have been the son of Joseph's first wife, Martha, and why would Benjamin act as Security for him? I think the Joseph who died in 1763 was probably Joseph Sr., and the Joseph who borrowed money with Benjamin as Security was Joseph, Jr., the husband of Ann, and thus Benjamin's nephew.

Virginia C. Holmgren's HILTON HEAD, A SEA ISLAND CHRONICLE, states the wife of Joseph who died in 1763 was Sarah, with the later implication that she married Lewis 'Bona.' I think this in error. The widow Parmenter who wed Bona was more likely the widow of Benjamin Parmenter, Jr. and Jonathan Thomas Jr.,

JOSEPH PARMENTER, JR. died before May 1768 when an inventory of his estate was presented by SAMUEL GREEN, Daniel Savage, & Timothy Campbell. DANIEL WILLIAMS had died the previous November and then we find that BENJAMIN GREEN had also, for on 11 Dec. 1767, a citation was issued to "Elizabeth Green and SAMUEL Green as next of kin" to administer the estate of BENJAMIN GREEN.

The unique circumstance of BENJAMIN GREEN, DANIEL WILLIAMS, & JOSEPH PARMENTER, JR., all closely connected and related by marriage, dying at approximately the same time raises the question of whether they might have died as the result of a common disaster or disease.

An Inventory of Benjamin's estate was presented on 8 Apr. 1768 by Thomas Bull, Edmund Ellis, & Benjamin Parmenter. It was acknowledged by the administrators, Samuel Green and Elizabeth PARMENTER. This inventory is the first real insight into the circumstances of the Greens and their manner of living, and indicates a very comfortable lifestyle for the times. He was listed as having 29 slaves, 43 head of Neat? cattle, 35 hogs, 38 fowls, 5 turkeys, & 9 geese; 3 feather beds, 15 pillow cases, 11 towels, trunks, chests, 1 doz. chairs, etc.; 2 silver buckles, a silver watch, 2 looking glasses, a spy glass, 1 doz. china cups & saucers, china bowls, and books, in addition to many of the usual household necessities.

On Dec. 7, 1767, three days before the citation to administer Benjamin's estate, Elizabeth Green contracted with Benjamin's nephew, James Gray, to have a house built. Elizabeth's contract with James Gray is an interesting document surviving from this period. It details the house she wanted built and is probably one of the few, if any, records of the type houses on Hilton Head during this early time. It was to be 34 ft. long 19 ft. wide, to be boarded and shingled, with a Dutch roof and four Dormer Windows and four gable end windows. Two floors plained, a staircase, two outside doors, one chamber door, one closet door, also shielding and baseboards in the rooms below, one partition above, etc., and the "the whole to be done in a plain and workmanship manner"

The cost of the house was to be Three Hundred Pounds in addition to which Elizabeth was to supply Gray and any of his workers with "sufficient meet, drink, and lodging, and one pint of rum and sugar equivalent" with a penal sum of Six Hundred Pounds.

This document survived because there was a dispute over the payment, and James Grey brought suit against Elizabeth. Included in the suit papers was a copy of this agreement. The agreement and suit are interesting in another respect. It was witnessed by JAMES STEEL and by Elizabeth Green, Jr., who at that time was 12 years old.

The legal action was brought in 1772 against ISAAC PARMENTER and Elizabeth his wife, and it states the contract was executed " by the said Elizabeth whilst she was sole by the name of Elizabeth Green... and the said Isaac and Elizabeth after the marriage between them was celebrated, etc.". This confirms that Elizabeth Fripp Green was married secondly to Isaac Parmenter, between Dec. 11, 1767 and April 8, 1768, when her name appeared on Benjamin Green's inventory as Elizabeth PARMENTER.

ISAAC PARMENTER was one of the older sons of John Parmenter & his wife Martha. John Parmenter's Will dated 29 Sept. 1772 names Isaac and John, Jr. as Executors. The Will and a Codicil of 23 July 1774 are witnessed by JEREMIAH SAYRE, who married Elizabeth Green Jr. on 20 Nov. 1770. Another witness was JOSEPH STEEL, the probable husband of Catherine Beale Green Williams Steel.

Elizabeth Fripp Green was born in 1736 and was only 31 when she married Isaac Parmenter. It is entirely possible that she may have had a child or children by him. These children would be half brothers & sisters of Elizabeth Green Sayre. If a Parmenter half-sister had married an Ellis, this would explain the often repeated Hopkins story that the Sayre girls lived with an aunt, Mrs. Ellis, in Beaufort.

The finding of the 1783 survey reflecting a Benjamin Green, Jr. raises another possibility in this regard. If Benjamin Jr. had married, and his widow re-married an Ellis, this would give us the aunt, Mrs. Ellis. We can assume he had no children in that all family accounts indicate that the daughters of Elizabeth Green Sayre eventually inherited the Scull Creek property.

Jeremiah Sayre and his wife, Elizabeth Green Jr. are said by family accounts to have had four children: Elizabeth Green Sayre; Rebecca Sayre, born in March 1776; Benjamin Green Sayre; & Sara Bell Sayre, whose birth is recorded in the Parish Register as 6 March 1786. Ben Sayre is said to have died as a child, and since nothing further is known of Sara Bell Sayre, there is a presumption she also died young.

No information is available regarding the death of Elizabeth Parmenter. On the 1790 census for Beaufort District an Elizabeth Parmenter appears as head of household with two other females and one male under 16. Could this be our Elizabeth Fripp Green

Parmenter, age 54, and her three orphaned grandchildren, Ben, Rebecca, & Elizabeth, whose parents had died circa 1787?

Jeremiah Sayre was said to be a ship builder and merchant from Elizabeth, New Jersey. He had come south, met Elizabeth Green, and married her on Hilton Head. They must have gone back to New Jersey prior to 1776, as he is shown as a Captain in the New Jersey Militia in 1776 & 1777. We know that Rebecca was born there in 1776, so no record of her birth appears in the Parish Records. They were there through the Battle of 1780, and came back to Hilton Head after then. We assume they lived on Hilton Head on the land Elizabeth inherited. We do know they were there in 1785, when the following advertisement was run in THE GAZETTE OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA: " Stolen from the subscribers landing on Hilton Head Scull Creek, a canoe called \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_ long & \_\_\_\_\_ wide with a keel, her timbers live oak," It was signed JEREMIAH SAYRE.

Family tradition states that both the Sayres died in 1787, and that only Rebecca & Elizabeth lived to inherit the Hilton Head property. Elizabeth Green Sayre is shown in the St. Helena's Parish Register as marrying Paul McKee of Beaufort on 9 Aug. 1792. According to family records, Rebecca married Francis Hopkins, who lived on the May River near Bluffton, on 8 April 1794.

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August 30, 1988