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PRINCETONIANS

== 1748-1768 ==

A BIOGRAPHICAL
DICTIONARY

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Enoch Green

ENOCH GREEN, A.B., A.M. 1763, Presbyterian clergyman, was born in Ewing Township, near Trenton, New Jersey, about 1734, the son of Lydia Armitage and William Green, a farmer and elder of Trenton's Presbyterian church. In College Green kept careful records of his theological studies, noting in short essays his responses to questions such as: "How does it appear consistent with the Justice & Goodness of God to Suffer evil Spirits to roam through the World doing Mischief & Tempting Men to Sin?"; "What are the principal Ingredients of heavenly Happiness?"; and "What is the Difference between the Law of the Gospel, or, between the Covenant of Grace and the Covenant of Works?" At his commencement, a Pennsylvania newspaper reported, Green delivered "a well-composed valedictory Oration in English."

After graduation Green studied theology, first with the Baptist Reverend Isaac Eaton in Hopewell, New Jersey, then with Samuel Finley after the latter assumed the College's presidency. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick on December 29, 1761. Even before then, on June 21, 1761, he had received detailed instructions from the Reverend John Brainerd, a trustee of the College, on where he was to preach on the south Jersey shore: Tom's River, Good Luck, Great Egg Harbor, Cape May, Little Egg Harbor as well as other places. He was ordained on October 1, 1762, by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, which sent him on a missionary trip to Virginia.

In 1763 the Presbyterian churches at Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville) and Hopewell, New Jersey, asked Green to serve as their supply preacher and the following year asked him to settle as their permanent pastor. The presbytery advised Green not to accept the position unless the two churches could resolve a long-standing dispute with each other. This they were unable to do, and in 1766 Green was called by the Presbyterian church at Deerfield, Cumberland County, New Jersey. He accepted and was installed there on June 9, 1767.

Shortly after taking up the Deerfield pastorate Green opened a Latin grammar school in his home. Over the years he prepared many youths for the College, among them Philip Vickers Fithian (A.B. 1772) and Samuel Leake (A.B. 1774). On June 7, 1770, Green married Mary Beatty, a daughter of the Reverend Charles Beatty of Neshaminy, Pennsylvania. Green prepared Mary's brother, Charles Clinton Beatty (A.B. 1775), for the College. The couple had three children. Letters of his former students indicate that Green inspired considerable respect and affection as a teacher. Visiting the Greens on April 29, 1774, Philip Fithian (who married a sister of Mrs. Green) found Green "vastly sen-

sible, very intelligible, dry, witty, satirical, yet good and exceedingly agreeable."

At the outbreak of the Revolution, Green was elected chaplain to a battalion of the Continental army (which one has not been discovered). An undated sermon he delivered to his unit still survives in the Princeton University Library. It is a straight-forward exhortation to battle, in which Green justified opposition to the king by recounting the history of the English civil war of the 1640s. He defended the justice of the American cause and assured the battalion that it would account itself bravely. He held up the men of Boston as examples for inspiration and emulation. It was sad to see British blood shed by British hands, he said, but liberty was an American birthright. The American cause would triumph, he thought, because of the distance of England and because in the past, "the Whigs have always gained ye Day."

Shortly thereafter Green fell ill. He made his will on September 9, 1775, and on the next day wrote the following letter to his father:

I am now reduced very weak and low, and do soon expect to leave this World[.] My Wife a disconsolate Widow and two Fatherless Children, whom I commend to Divine Providence and Your Care.

I have disposed of what little Estate I have to my wife for her Support and the support and maintenance of my Children: and as you have informed me that you have and intend Given me by Will some Real Estate, I am persuaded that the same regard you have for me will be retained for my Children and induce you to Dispose of the said Real Estate to my Son William after my Decease. And I do earnestly request that you would Consider and Provide for my Widow and Children in such a manner as you think best seeing I hav'nt it in my Power in my present Circumstances to make that Provision for them that the tenderness Esteem and Gratitude I owe and bear to my beloved Wife and the affection and regard I have for my Dear Children require. I have requested the Rev.d Mr Fithian to take the Charge of the Education of Billy in Case he inclines and you think best he should have a liberal Education.

My Dear Father, Mother, & all my Friends have my last Prayers for the Protection of a kind Providence, Who I hope will be a stay and stake to you in your advanced years a Husband & Father to my expected Widow & poor Fatherless Children. Adieu.

The letter was somewhat premature, for Green recovered enough to join his battalion near New York and to father a third child. But his

health had been weakened. He was struck with "camp fever" and returned home to die on December 2, 1776. His brother-in-law Fithian had died of the same malady on October 8, 1776. When Green's father died in 1786, his will followed the requests of his son's 1775 letter. Neither of Green's sons attended the College, but a grandson, Charles Beatty Green, graduated in 1824. Green's personal estate was inventoried at £657. A listing of all his possessions conveys some sense of the lifestyle of a provincial clergyman of his generation:

	£	S
Horse Bridle Saddle and wearing apparel	62	3
Cash Silver Watch Buckles and Buttons	43	6:3
Plate £10. 1 Clock 36£ with sundries makes	[?]5.	15.
Beds Bedding Meal Yarn and Sundries	147	15
Waggons Horses and a Riding Chair	65	
Negro man £50 a Wench and 2 Children £100	150	
Cattle Corn Grain growing and sundries	20.	16.
Outstanding debts	16	10
5 lb of Wooling Yarn and a Rugg	2	0
A Library of Books and Sundrys	54:	15

SOURCES: Brief sketch: F. D. Andrews, *A Biog. Sketch of Enoch Green* (1933); general data: Enoch Green folder, PUA; "Theological Responses, begun Novem^r 18th 1759 at Nassau-Hall," MS, NjP; commencement oration: *Pa. Journal*, Oct. 2, 1760; study with Eaton: Butterfield, *Rush Letters*, 1, 4; study with Finley (inferential): Rush to Green, April 12, 1762, MS, NjP; Brainerd instructions: *Presbyterian Mag.*, 2 (1852), 471; Fithian quotation: *Journal*, 1, 160; battle sermon and letter to father: MSS, NjP; father's will: 35 *NJA*, 166-67; Green's will: 34 *NJA*, 210-11; estate inventory: MS, N.J. State Lib., Trenton.

PUBLICATIONS: STE

Mss: NjP; NjR; PHi

Alexander Huston

ALEXANDER HUSTON, A.B., Presbyterian clergyman, was born in Dublin, Ireland. No information concerning either his parentage or the circumstances of his emigration to America has been discovered. He may have been prepared for the College at Samuel Finley's academy at West Nottingham, Maryland.

Huston was licensed by the Presbytery of Lewes on April 12, 1763. For the next year and a half he acted as a supply preacher at various Presbyterian churches in Delaware and Maryland: at Murtherkill, Three Runs, Wicomico, Princess Anne, Rehoboth, Broad Creek, Nan-

ticoke, and Queen Anne's. On October 9, 1764, Huston was ordained pastor of the churches at Murtherkill and Three Runs, Kent County, Delaware. Huston married Ann ("Nancy") Fullerton on January 23, 1766. The couple had four children.

Huston was a staunch Whig. During the Revolution his farm near Double Run (now Magnolia, Delaware) was raided by the British. In the nineteenth century a story was still current that during the Revolution Huston would often pray "that the Lord would send plenty of powder and ball" to the Continental army. In addition to his double pastorate Huston preached frequently at St. Johnston, Delaware, and taught school in Milford, Delaware. Huston made his will on December 31, 1784, leaving his property to his wife and three surviving children, John, Samuel and Ann. He died on January 3, 1785, and was buried in the vault of the Double Run church.

SOURCES: The name was sometimes spelled "Houston"; for vital data see extensive correspondence in Alexander Huston File, PUA; revolutionary anecdote: J. Ledrum, *A Hist. of the Rise of Methodism in America* (1859), 217; will abstract: *Calendar of Kent County, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800* (1944), 371.

Enos Kelsey

ENOS KELSEY, A.B., A.M. 1801, merchant and public official, was born in Killingworth, Connecticut, on January 16, 1733, the son of Matthias Kelsey. About 1740 the family moved to Salisbury, in the northwest corner of the colony, where the father was a deacon in the local Congregational church.

Kelsey entered the College on June 3, 1757. It was probably shortly after his graduation that he married Elizabeth Davenport, a sister of John Davenport (A.B. 1769) and daughter of the Reverend James Davenport, the once-notorious New Light evangelist who was a warm friend of the College. Not long thereafter Kelsey set up business as a general merchant in Princeton. His two-story brick shop was on Nassau Street, approximately across from the present Chancellor Green. Kelsey was active in Presbyterian affairs, acting in 1772 as a New Jersey agent for a lottery designed to raise funds for Presbyterian churches in New York.

Kelsey's political career began on July 4, 1774, when he attended a Somerset County meeting that passed eight resolutions supporting the beleaguered inhabitants of Boston, calling for the New Jersey Assembly to support them, and recommending a general nonimportation agreement among other things. The final resolution appointed a com-