

Visit Ewing Landmarks Connected with the William Green Family

By Anne McArthur anne@casano.com or 609 510-9120

Sources: research by Billy O'Neal and sources in the Benjamin Temple House

William Green I is one of Ewing's earliest and most prominent settlers. Many Ewing citizens are familiar with his *home, the William Green Farmhouse, listed* on The National Registers of Historic Places, located on The College of New Jersey campus. Descendants of William Green are scattered throughout the United States. A recent question received by the Friends of the William Green Farmhouse inspired this article. A descendant of William Green I's youngest son, Jeremiah, contacted the Friends and arranged a visit to his ancestor's home. Jeremiah had moved to Tennessee in the 18th century and his descendant now lives in Alabama. When he visited, the Friends arranged a driving tour to view the outside of buildings associated with William Green and his descendants. Jeremiah's descendant was impressed with how many historic treasures associated with his ancestors still survive. The Friends want to share with you information about sites related to the Green family still standing in Ewing. Enjoy a physical tour of these Ewing Township sites! None of the houses are open to the public but may be viewed from the exterior. If you or your friends have additional records about the Green family or their properties, please contact the author.

William Green was a yeoman and an early Hunterdon County judge. He and his wife, Joanna Reeder, came to Ewing from Newtown, NY around 1700. The offspring of their 11 children were prominent farmers and citizens in the Ewing, Trenton, and Lawrence area. William Green left England, his native land, at the age of twenty, and landed at the port of Philadelphia. Soon after, wanting to return and finding no vessel about to sail from Philadelphia, he went to New York. Not finding a ship immediately, he visited Long Island, where he met the family of John Reeder, recently arrived from England. William eventually married Joanna Reeder, who was either John Reeder's sister or daughter, and moved to Ewing Township about 1700.

William purchased three hundred and forty-five acres from Col. Daniel Coxe, with a deed dated 1712, and on it built the first brick house in the township, which is still standing. (Eli Cooley, *Early Settlers in Trenton and Ewing*, p 78). In fact, the land was purchased not from Coxe, but from Severns and Brearley, from the Daniel Coxe and Mahlon Stacey tracts respectively, the latter being the portion of the farm lying in what was then Maidenhead. This is the farm the Vernons later owned. William Green was appointed to serve as a judge in Hunterdon County, and from the frequent mention of his name in public affairs and important business transactions, he was evidently a prominent and useful citizen. He died in 1772 according to his tombstone in the Ewing church-yard.

To learn more about the Friends, join, or donate, visit <http://williamgreenhouse.org/> or email join@williamgreenhouse.org There are no dues; by joining you demonstrate community support for the Friends and are kept abreast of restoration activities in support of the William Green Farmhouse. The Friends are working with The College of

New Jersey to develop a phased restoration plan, so the building may be restored in stages as funds are raised.

**William Green Farmhouse
TCNJ Campus on Green Lane side**

Directions: To view the exterior, enter the campus from the Green Lane entrance, make a left, and park in the small lot on the right next to the ball field and track. The house is on a small hill next to the parking lot.

The William Green House is a significant example of colonial farmhouse architecture and is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Historic documents state that at various times during the American War, the Light Horse of Washington's Army billeted on the Green plantation. This historic treasure dates from ca. 1730. An earlier house, to which the current house was attached, stood on the site circa 1700. Its roofline is preserved and visible from within the 1830 portion of the house. In 2007, TCNJ funded a mothballing and stabilization of the house to ensure that no further deterioration occurs while funds are being raised.

The house today mirrors the area's architectural history with sections from three distinct building periods. For details, visit <http://williamgreenhouse.org/house/default.html>
The oldest remaining section, circa 1717 to 1730, is the southeast segment of the building facing TCNJ's perimeter road. This was originally a 2 ½ story brick house. The fine Flemish bond brickwork of this section, unusual in this part of New Jersey, is similar to that used in the 1719 Trent House in Trenton. Its interior preserves original 18th-century detailing. The second oldest section, circa 1750 to 1790, added as the Green family grew, is located behind the oldest portion, forming the northeast segment of the house and adding four rooms and a stair hall. The third building stage, circa 1830, a two-room-deep brick addition to the west, nearly doubled the size of the house.

**Green-Harrop House (Joseph Green)
181 Crescent Avenue**

Directions:

From the William Green Farmhouse on TCNJ campus: make a left on the access road to the parking lot by the farmhouse. Make a right onto Green Lane. Make a left on Pennington Road, then the second left (Crescent). Proceed down Crescent to the triangular intersection with Inland Avenue – the Green Harrop House is sited on the triangle, facing Inland with its back and street address on Crescent.

The Green-Harrop House is the home of Joseph Green, the son of William Green I and brother of William Jr. Joseph was an elder of the Ewing (Presbyterian) Church who died in 1784, aged 85, having married Elizabeth Mershon. (Cooley, *Early Settlers in Trenton and Ewing*, p 86).

When William Green Sr. died in 1722, Joseph and his brother William Jr. split the old farm. Joseph inherited the portion across Green Lane from the college. The Green-Harrop House stands on the southern half of the farm given to Joseph Green by his father, William I. Some time around 1720 to 1730, Joseph built a house on the property. There have been so many renovations that it isn't certain whether the house currently standing on the site is from that period; more probably it is from the mid-18th century, possibly with older portions. Like the William Green Farmhouse, the house also contains evidence of an older house; a plaque dated 1717 was found by the residents when removing an old chimney.

The Green-Harrop House has Flemish bond brick work, similar to the oldest section of the William Green farmhouse at TCNJ, but the brickwork is unglazed, more like the Flemish bond brickwork of the 1765 Brearley House in Lawrence. The William and Joseph Green homes are rare examples of Flemish bond brickwork in Ewing. *The Mercer County Historic Sites Survey: Ewing, East Windsor, West Windsor and Washington Township* (Kinsey and Hand, 1988, prepared by Susanne C. Hand) mentions the Green-Harrop house and dates it as mid- to late 18th century, citing it as one of a handful of surviving 18th century brick homes in Ewing Township.

For details, see http://williamgreenhouse.org/green_family/gen/3.html

**William Green I's Grave
Ewing Presbyterian Church Cemetery
101 Scotch Road, Ewing NJ**

The first William Green to live in the Trenton area is buried near the left rear corner of the church, in the Ewing Church Cemetery. Originally the grave sat close to the foundation of the old Ewing Church. The present building is the fourth church structure built on the site, beginning in 1708 with a log cabin-wooden building-brick building, then two later buildings, and now the current building. The first minister, Robert Orr, an immigrant from Northern Ireland, is said to have lived on Green's farm. When the church was renovated and expanded in 1867 the grave was moved a few yards to the west. Henry and Virginia Green donated \$300 toward the enlargement project. Amos Reeder Green, as a boy, and his father Henry P. Green personally moved the fieldstone grave marker and then carefully dug through the earth to where the casket had been placed some 160 years before. All that was left were some bone fragments, a metal buckle and some buttons. These were gathered up and placed in a small pine box and buried in a shallow grave further from the church. The stone stood in this location for some one hundred years. Recently it was moved to line up with other stones to make yard maintenance easier. For details on this and the other Greens buried in the cemetery, visit:

http://williamgreenhouse.org/green_family/gen/1.html and

http://williamgreenhouse.org/green_family/gen/44.html

**Blooming Grove / Green Farm Fisk Estate
(now Paulie's Anna Rose Restaurant)
234 West Upper Ferry Road**

William I moved around 1717 to the farm where Blooming Grove would later be built to live with his son, Richard, who inherited the farm upon William's death in 1722 and added more than 200 acres. Richard or his son, also Richard, built Blooming Grove. William Richard Green, son of Richard, lived there and was in the Hunterdon Militia. He was there at the crossings of the Delaware, according to his wife Liz's widow's pension, in a statement from her brother Sergeant Burroughs. William R. Green is buried in the same row as William Green I in Ewing Cemetery and has a Revolutionary marker on his grave.

A newer house still stands on Upper Ferry Road, and is now Paulie's Anna Rose Restaurant. Probably in the mid 1860s the original house was replaced and a new house, now the restaurant, was built, according to records at the Benjamin Temple House. According to some sources, the original house was burned, but other sources say it was dismantled. If the current house was built in the mid 1860s, then James Burroughs Green or his son J. B. Green Jr. were the builders.

Shortly after the death of their father, Richard Green III sold the property to his brother William Richard Green Eventually the Blooming Grove property passed to James B. Green in his mother's 1847 will.

For details, visit http://williamgreenhouse.org/green_family/gen/2.html and http://williamgreenhouse.org/green_family/gen/10.html

**248 West Upper Ferry Road
James/Richard Green Estate
18th c. distillery or Old Cider Mill c.1739**

Owned by Richard Green I, son of William I. It is part of the Blooming Grove estate described above. The old cider mill still stands on the land owned by Richard Green and is dated c. 1739 according to records at the Benjamin Temple House.

**Green-Reading House c1775 - 1797
107 Wilburtha Road**

This house, now the New Jersey State Hog Farm, is on both the state and National Register of Historic Places. It was originally bought by William Jr. and Lydia Green, who moved there around 1775 when they retired. The exact construction date of the house is not known. William Jr.'s inventory from this property lists household items indicating that a house of some size stood on this site as early as 1775. However, the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, citing a 1797 mortgage in the name of William E. Green, son of William Jr., who had previously received the land from his grandfather (his father Rev. Enoch Green predeceased William Jr.), indicates that 1797 is a likely construction or expansion date of the house. William E. and his wife Charity owned the property after William Jr.'s death. The house subsequently passed to Charity and her second husband, Pierson Reading, grandson of Governor John Reading, whom she married after her husband William's death

The house is architecturally significant as a good example of a Federal-style farmhouse that dates from the early years of that style in New Jersey. The original house faces Wilburtha Road and uses Flemish bond brickwork, now painted. From the evidence of its construction and its ownership, it was a very fashionable house built for members of a socially prominent family. This home embodies many distinctive architectural features that typify the Federal period (c1787-1830) in American history. The house combines many architectural features not seen elsewhere in Mercer County. Both the interior and the exterior reflect an interest in high style, making use of fine details becoming popular in cities at the end of the American Revolution, uncommon in country and non-urban areas. The house is one of a handful of remaining federal-style farmhouses in Ewing Township.

Jones Farm
Bear Tavern Road
Also known as Rose Hill or Abner Reeder Farm

Joanne Reeder Green, b. 1669, who married William I in 1692, lived here. The Reeders purchased this house from Zebulon Heston in 1710. "The original deed for the Reeder Plantation at Ewing, which is called 'Rose Hill,' bearing date of May 24, 1707, was given by Daniel Cox, Jun. 'late of London' to Zebulon Heston, who in turn conveyed the same property by deed bearing date of Oct 20, 1710, to 'John Reeder of Newtown, Long Island, and Isaac Reeder, son of said John Reeder.'" -- Moses Bigelow, *the Scudder Family of Trenton*, p 23 (1948)

This property is now owned and maintained by the N.J. Department of Corrections. Records at the Benjamin Temple House have anecdotal evidence of a farmhouse there in 1776 when Washington Crossed the Delaware. According to oral tradition, Washington marched by the farm and his troops were served a meal on their way to the battle of Trenton. This tradition is recorded in "Aunt Abby's Christmas Story," *Trenton Times Advertiser*, 1927. The site is now a State of New Jersey prison farm, and the Benjamin Temple House has no records of the age of the buildings still there. This is no doubt called Jones Farm because a portion of the property was owned by the Jones family, who were also Green in the maternal line. The last Reeder to own the farm, Alfred, married Cornelia Jones as his second wife, and they moved to what is now 47 West Upper Ferry Road when Alfred retired. They sold the farm to Ferdinand Roebling.

Scudder-Reeder House 1780, 1850
295 West Upper Ferry

The Scudder-Reeder House is a large stuccoed stone house located at the intersection of West Upper Ferry and River Roads. This area was the scene of commercial and transportation activity during the mid-19th century, since it is adjacent to the Delaware and Raritan Feeder Canal, close to several important stone quarries active in the nineteenth century. The house was built by Daniel Scudder in the last quarter of the eighteenth century and enlarged by Amos Reeder in the mid-nineteenth century. Alex Green also lived here, so the house is connected to descendants of three original settlers

of Ewing Township. The house's connection to various members of the Scudder, Reeder and Green families, significant names in the Anglo-European colonization history of Ewing, demonstrate the house's relevance to the settlement history of the area. Its varied ownership is reflected in the diverse nature of its architectural features, added at different times, including a large mid-19th century addition and a high Victorian addition.

**Old Hickory or Green/Atchley House, (Dresser House), 1716
120 Upper Ferry Road**

The land containing this site was purchased by William B. Green in 1714. The widow Elizabeth Botts, who resided in England, sold the land in 1714 to farm laborer William C. Brown, who held it for 24 hours, then sold the land to William B. Green. Construction on the site began in spring 1715, and the resulting structure eventually tripled in size and became the home of four generations of Greens. This house was subsequently owned by one of the two Armitage Greens, the son of William B. and his second wife, Lydia, daughter of Joseph Green. Armitage married Jane, daughter of David Green. For details visit: http://williamgreenhouse.org/green_family/gen/60.html

There are conflicting stories about the age of the various parts of the house. Some believe the central portion to be the oldest, based on hand-hewn floor beams and ceiling joints in the center, while saw mill cuttings are used in the east end. Other indicators of an older age for the center are half lapper rafter joints with tapered hickory pins, extremely wide floor boards of unequal thickness, hand plane marks, and the brick tie-in of the end walls of the center section. However, the east end might be of earlier vintage based on a Dutch bake oven and an outside wall with bricks glazed with blue-green finish characteristic of early handmade clay and salt bricks. The west wing is regarded as the most recent addition with a 1780 date. Family tradition states that during the occupancy of Mr. & Mrs. William B. Green, a Revolutionary War incident occurred. Mrs. Green was at home with only one servant when they sighted a regiment of Hessian soldiers approaching. Mrs. Green hid the silver and other valuables and provided a light meal of cheese and bread, for which she was paid in gold coins (Interview with Mrs. Russell P. Dey, formerly Catherine Atchley, 12/15/65 by Nancy Dresser).