

FIVE BROTHERS; TWO LOYALISTS – The Green Family

By David B. Clark, U.E.

At age fourteen I began the search for my family's lost Loyalist connection. The family oral history, repeated by my maternal grandfather, said we were related to a Loyalist but over the centuries the name of that individual had been blurred and lost. I took up the challenge sometime after his death, and for thirty-six years in an on-again, off-again manner, worked at unravelling the mystery. Eventually, in 2000, I was able to prove our connection to Adam Green, U.E., and I received my certificate from the U.E.L.A.C.

A few weeks ago, I looked over the Dominion UEL website and there was a Loyalist Directory listing my ancestor and the fact that there were many proven descendants who already had their certificates when I received mine, and some who had received their's since. Who knew?

Since the Directory had no details about Adam Green, I filled in as much as I could pull out of my research and wondered who all of these other certified descendants were. A simple count of the issued certificate dates showed that there were eighteen proven descendants (two were issued on the same day in 2000 – my brother and myself). I wondered what genealogical and historical 'pots of gold' each had hidden within their research files. So I decided to write this very abridged story of the Green family for Loyalist Trails in the hope that one or more of those descendants might have some more historical details about Adam Green.

For those who may be researching a connection to the Green family (or those who already have their certificates), this is the story of one of the five Green brothers, who all joined the Royal Standard during the rebellion (I restrain myself from using the term mutiny) of 1776. For this story, I have relied heavily on the books "*A Green Genealogy*" in four volumes, and "*Building Our Pedigree*", all by Ida F. Crozier, with a smattering of "*The Annals of the Forty*", Volume 5, thrown in.

Samuel Green, the Deputy Colonial Surveyor of New Jersey, and Hannah Wright lived in Johnsonburg (then known as Log Gaol). They had five sons between 1739 and 1746 and two daughters from 1747 to 1749. Samuel, in fact, was recorded as voting to build a log gaol (jail) near the Dark Moon tavern, owned by Jonathan Pettit (a vertically integrated entrepreneur who was judge, tavern keeper, stage stop-over administrator, and "motel" owner). Fatefully, that same gaol would house at least four of Samuel's sons during the rebellion.

Adam Green, the eldest of the five sons, in fact seems to have worked with Colonel (Judge) Nathaniel Pettit and appears somehow to have been attached to the 5th Battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers. The nominal rolls, however, do not mention his name but there is some hint that he may have been recruiting, possibly in the Civil Branch of the Army or possibly just at the behest of Colonel Pettit.

In his petition for entry onto the U.E.L. roll in 1808, a statutory declaration states that Adam spent time in Log Gaol prison with Judge Pettit (in 1777). Further, another declaration indicates that he “gave a brown Mare, Saddle and bridle ... (to) General Prescott (in 1779) ... for the purpose of making his escape to the British.” And lastly, “that he (had) been a great sufferer during the last war.”

Here is where the deepest mystery begins. Adam had inherited 300 acres of prime land in New Jersey after his father’s demise. Land records in Ontario show that Adam bought 100 acres of land in 1787. However, he is recorded in 1793 in Sussex County, New Jersey land records, as selling 238 acres of his inherited land to his son-in-law, Levi Howell. How is this possible?

Two theories come into existence due to this anomaly. The first is that he arrived at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) in 1787 with a group of 400 other Loyalists including many of the Pettits and his brother John Green. He then bought land, and was driven back to New Jersey during the “Great Hunger” of 1788-89 to returned again in 1793. His 1794 petition for 300 acres of land in addition to the previous purchase, was granted at Stoney Creek. The second theory is that the Ontario land records are wrong, and Adam and family arrived at Newark for the first time in 1793, bought 100 acres of land and petitioned for the remaining 300.

To close this story, a description of Adam’s house (“consisting of a room, a closet and a loft”) and his children, exists in the *Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe*. It states nothing of his family’s earlier arrival in Ontario, but tells us that Adam functioned as a local herbalist healer, as well as a farmer, in the Stoney Creek area and that Mrs. Simcoe, during her visit, was served a wonderful dinner of “cakes baked on the coals, eggs, a boiled black squirrel, (and) tea and coffee made of peas,” sweetened with black walnut sugar!

Adam’s Loyalist brother John, is also recorded in Mrs. Simcoe’s book as a farmer and operator of a grist mill. Adam’s other three brothers, who also all spent time in Log Gaol during the rebellion, although loyal to the Crown, remained in the United States. Parenthetically, Adam Green’s youngest son, William (Billy the Scout) Green became a well known Canadian figure in the War of 1812.

To the certified descendants of the Green family or others interested in this family’s history, if you have anything to add to or correct in the above very shortened history, please feel free to contact me Dave Clark <landmenbc1@shaw.ca>.