

**Origin of the Thomas Green family  
of Chester County, Pennsylvania**

David G. Mickle

© 2008  
David G. Mickle  
Bandon, Oregon



# **Origin of the Thomas Green family of Chester County, Pennsylvania**

## **Introduction**

Thomas Green, his wife Margaret, their sons Thomas and John, and their daughter Mary with her husband Richard Moore arrived in America in 1686 and members of the family eventually settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Genealogical information about their descendants has appeared in print and on the Internet, but apparently no information about their origin in England and their first place of residence in America has been previously published. The purpose of this publication is to fill that gap.

The present study is based on readily available sources and is only a starting point for further research. While researching one of his ancestors, Thomas Green of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the author investigated several of the many Green families of eastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey in search of a connection. The information presented here was collected during that investigation. When it was concluded that there was no connection between my ancestor and the Greens of Chester County, further research on that family was discontinued. These preliminary results are being published to assist others who may want to carry the investigation further.

In writing about the family I have used the spelling Green throughout, but when quoting from a source document I use the spelling shown in that document, either Greene or Green.

## **Previous Publications**

Arrival of the Green, Moore, and Guest families at Philadelphia from England has been recorded as follows:<sup>1</sup>

"The ship Delaware From Bristoll in Old England John Moore Comander Arived here the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Month 1686.

Thomas Greene Husbandman & Margaret his wife, Thomas and John Greene his sons. Mary Guest his servant for 7: yeares to come from the third day of May 1686.

Richard Moore Brick maker & Mary his wife & Mary his Daughter & John Moore his sone. Sarah Searle his servant for 4: yeares to come from the 3d of May 1686.

Henry Guest Sawyer & Mary his wife and Henry his sone."

Before 1752 March was counted as the first month of the year, so the *Delaware* arrived on July 11, 1686. Contracts for the two servants were apparently written on May 3, 1686, undoubtedly before sailing and perhaps at Bristol. The voyage thus lasted about three months which was not uncommon at that time.

A brief history of the family by noted Chester County genealogist Gilbert Cope begins as follows:<sup>2</sup>

"GREEN, Thomas, with Margaret, his wife, and sons Thomas and John, arrived in this country from England in 1686, and settled in Concord. A daughter, Mary, wife of Richard Moore, came in company with them. Thomas bought 400 acres of land in 1691, which he divided between his two sons. John died unmarried in or before 1695. From the will of Margaret Green, who died in 1708, it would appear that she had also a son, Robert Green. Thomas Green, Jr., died about 1712, leaving a widow, Sarah, and sons Thomas and Robert."

In 1901 Cope published a more extensive genealogy of the family in which he stated:<sup>3</sup>

"There is some reason to suppose that these persons came from the neighborhood of Birmingham, England."

In 1913 Cope prepared an even more extensive genealogy in which he stated:<sup>4</sup>

"Thomas Green, Jr. married Sarah ----- perhaps Searle, his fellow passenger on the voyage to America. The fact of her coming as a servant was doubtless simply a scheme to get the 50 acres of land which William Penn had promised to all who came as servants."

Cope determined that Mary Moore was a daughter of Thomas Green and that Thomas also had a son Robert who does not appear in the notice of arrival. Evidence for Robert is the following statement in the 1708 will of Margaret Green:<sup>5</sup>

"I give and bequeath unto my son Robert Green the twenty pounds formerly given to him by ye will of my deceased husband."

In this will Margaret Green also refers to "my cousin Henry Guest", probably one of the two persons by that name who accompanied the Greens on their voyage to America.

## Origin in England

The first goal of this study was to locate in English records Thomas Green, his wife Margaret, and their four children Mary, Thomas, John, and Robert. An attempt was also made to locate Richard Moore, Henry Guest, and Sarah Searle. The source used for data from English parish registers is the International Genealogical Index (IGI) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (which can be searched on the Internet at <http://www.familysearch.org>) rather than images of the parish registers themselves. The latter are available on microfilm from the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, Utah, and should be consulted for verification of the data presented here. The films can be borrowed and viewed at local Family History Centers of the LDS church.

IGI records are of two types which I call extracted and submitted. In the context of the present study (17<sup>th</sup> century England), extracted records contain data copied from microfilms of parish registers and bishop's transcripts or from published books containing transcriptions of those documents. An extracted IGI record generally shows a complete date, the parish and county name, and the source of the data (a microfilm or book number which can be looked up in the FHL catalog). Extracted records contain reliable, verifiable data, but the IGI may contain only part of the data in the source. For example, it may contain only christenings or both christenings and marriages; burials are usually not extracted. It also may contain only part of the range of dates available in the source.

Submitted records are those containing data from family group sheets and pedigree charts submitted by family genealogists. The data may be just as accurate as in the extracted records, but often it is not. Dates and locations are often incomplete or estimated and it is usually difficult to identify the original source.

In this study I have used only extracted IGI records or, in a few cases, submitted records that are so complete that the probable source is obvious. In all cases, the original source should be consulted both to verify the information and to find additional data that has not been added to the IGI.

The parishes mentioned below are in the immediate vicinity of Birmingham, Warwickshire, which is located near the junction of the three counties Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford. Coleshill is 8 miles east of the center of Birmingham, Fillongley is 5 miles east of Coleshill, Elmdon is 4 ½ miles south of Coleshill, Solihull is 3 miles south of Elmdon, Northfield is 8 miles west of Solihull, and Halesowen is 5 miles northwest of Northfield.<sup>6</sup> With the growth of Birmingham these formerly rural parishes are now either inside or just outside the city.

### Marriage of Thomas and Margaret

Thomas Greene married Margaret Sise on December 16, 1660, at Elmdon, Warwick.

### Children of Thomas and Margaret

Mary Greene, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Greene, was christened September 6, 1661 at Elmdon, Warwick.

Thomas Greene, son of Thomas and Margaret Greene, was christened January 22, 1665, at Elmdon, Warwick.

John Greene, son of Thomas Greene, was christened February 17, 1666 at Northfield, Worcester.<sup>7</sup>

Robert Greene, son of Thomas Greene, was christened January 2, 1669, at Northfield, Worcester.

Robert Green married Sarah Holloway August 24, 1697 at Halesowen, Worcester.

### Ancestry of Thomas Green

Thomas Greene, son of William Greene, was christened December 6, 1635, at Coleshill, Warwick.

The IGI contains one other possibility for Thomas Green: Thomas Greene son of Richard, christened November 14, 1630 at Saint Martin, Birmingham, Warwick. This is a less likely match for two reasons: (1) It would make Thomas 30 years old instead of 25 when he married Margaret, not impossible but less probable; (2) St. Martin's is in the center of Birmingham and "has been the focal point of the markets area since the 12<sup>th</sup> century".<sup>8</sup> When Thomas Green arrived in America he was described as a husbandman (farmer), so it is more likely he was from a rural parish.

The complete list of children of this William Greene christened at Coleshill is:

May 30, 1624 Anne Greene

Oct. 5, 1625 unnamed child, born and died on this date

Feb. 1627 Dorothy Greene

Apr. 16, 1630 Katherin Greene

Nov. 3, 1632 William Greene

Dec. 6, 1635 Thomas Greene

William Greene, son of John Greene, was christened February 25, 1595 at Coleshill, Warwick.

Gulielmus (Latin for William) Greene married Hannah Packwood July 17, 1621 at Fillongley, Warwick.

Anna Packwood, daughter of Thome (Thomas) Packwood, was christened August 28, 1591 at Fillongley, Warwick.

The complete list of children of Thomas Packwood christened at Fillongley is:

Aug. 28, 1591 Anna Packwood

Sept. 20, 1607 Elizabetha Packwoode

June 17, 1612 Tho. Packwoode (died April 14, 1615)

Thomas Packwood, son of Willmi.(William) Packwood, was christened January 18, 1569 at Fillongley.

Thomas Packwood married Margeria Grene (Margery Greene) May 28, 1590 at Fillongley.

#### Ancestry of Margaret Sise

Margaret Sise, daughter of Henrie Sise, was christened June 23, 1639 at Solihull, Warwick.

Henerie Sise married Marie Averell on October 10, 1637 at Solihull, Warwick.

Marie Averell, daughter of Richarde Averell, was christened January 13, 1611, at Solihull, Warwick.

Richarde Averell married Joyes Whateleye on June 29, 1606 at Solihull, Warwick.

Mary Sise, daughter of Henry Sise, was christened February 9, 1651 at Elmdon, Warwick. (Mary Sise may be a sister of Margaret Sise. Her significance will be discussed under the heading of Henry Guest.)

The surname Sise is rare among IGI records and attempts to trace Henry Sise have been unsuccessful. The name is of Dutch origin and is included in a list of surnames of people from Brabant and Flanders who settled in Essex in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.<sup>9</sup> Averell is included in a list of surnames of sixteenth century French Huguenots who settled in England.<sup>10</sup>

#### Marriage of Mary Green and Richard Moore

Richard More married Mary Greene on April 9, 1683, at Northfield, Worcester.

The IGI contains three possible candidates for the birth or christening of Richard More or Moore, all at Birmingham. In the light of this uncertainty no attempt was made to proceed further with his ancestry. Mary and John, the children of Richard and Mary Moore, were not found among the IGI christening records for Northfield or any nearby parish.

#### The Henry Guest family

The Guest surname is very common in the Birmingham area, but the only IGI record that might pertain to Henry Guest, Sr. is:

Henry Guest, son of William Guest, was born June 19, 1658 at St. Martin, Birmingham, Warwick.

The only IGI record that might pertain to Henry Guest, Jr. is a submitted record with estimated date and incomplete parish name (there were several parishes in the Handsworth district of Birmingham):

Henry Gest, son of Henry and Mary Gest, was born about 1684 at Handsworth, Birmingham.

The submitter of the latter record indicates that this is the family that came to Pennsylvania and that Henry Guest the father is the one shown above, born in 1658, son of William Guest. The source of the information is not apparent and it would probably be necessary to contact the submitter to verify it. Without further evidence I am not convinced that either Henry (b. 1658) or Henry (b. about 1684) is related to the immigrants to Pennsylvania.

No marriage of Henry Guest to Mary was found, but it should be remembered that marriage records for Northfield parish have not been added to the IGI. They are available on FHL microfilm 246670 which I have not consulted.

The passenger list of the *Delaware* lists two Mary Guests, one the wife of Henry Guest and the other a servant of Thomas Green. A search for Mary Guest the servant yielded the following:

Mary Guest, daughter of Henry Guest, was christened April 21, 1674 at Northfield, Worcester.

She would be 12 years old in 1686, old enough to be a servant, and could be a daughter of Henry and Mary Guest but declared as a servant to Thomas Green to obtain 50 acres of land as mentioned above relative to Sarah Searle.

#### Henry Guest, cousin of Margaret Green

As previously noted, Margaret Green left a legacy to "my cousin Henry Guest" in her 1708 will. This could be either Henry Guest, Sr. or Henry Guest, Jr. Since Margaret is the daughter of Henry Sise and Marie Averell, a first cousin Henry Guest would have to be the son of a male Guest and a female Sise or Averell (sister of Margaret's father or mother). That is certainly possible but I have found no data to support it. Another possibility is that, as was very common, she used "cousin" in a broader sense to mean not only the children of aunts and uncles but also the children of brothers and sisters. In my opinion the "cousin" referred to was probably Henry Guest, Jr. who was her nephew, the son of Henry Guest, Sr. and Mary Sise, Margaret's younger sister. The scenario I propose for the relationship between Margaret Green and Henry Guest, Jr. is shown in the descendant charts which follow.

#### Sarah Searle

The search in IGI records for most of the passengers on the *Delaware* has been aided by knowing the names of their spouses, children, or parents, but this help is not



available for Sarah Searle. For her it is therefore necessary to make an educated guess regarding her age, the names of her parents, and her place of residence.

It is possible to estimate her date of birth from the lengths of service listed in the notice of arrival of the *Delaware*. Mary Guest was to serve for 7 years starting on May 3, 1686. If she was born in 1674 as previously noted, she would be 19 when her term of service expired, a common marriage age for women at the time. Applying the same reasoning to Sarah Searle, her 4 year term would expire on May 3, 1690, and if she were then 19 she would have been born in 1671. That she was actually married by December 29, 1689, as will be shown later, merely indicates that the service contract could be broken if both parties agreed, which they obviously did.

We can guess the given names of Sarah's parents by examining the names that Thomas and Sarah gave their children. In some families there is a strong tendency to name children after their grandparents, aunts, and uncles, and that appears to be the case with the children of Thomas Green, Jr. and Sarah Searle. Their known children, in the order they are mentioned in the will of Thomas Green dated Feb. 17, 1712, are John, Robert, Henry, Edward, Samuel, Abel, Margaret, Sarah, and Thomas.<sup>11</sup> All names except Edward, Samuel, Abel, and Sarah occur among Thomas Green's parents, grandparents, and brothers. The remaining four names are probably from Sarah Searle's side of the family. Daughter Sarah could have been named for her mother but it was more common for the first or second girl to be named after her maternal grandmother. This suggests that the name of Sarah Searle's mother was also Sarah. In other words, the two girls on the list were named after the two grandmothers Margaret and Sarah. The boy's names suggest that Sarah Searle's father was either Edward, Samuel, or Abel.

Regarding a place of residence in England, the obvious first choice would be somewhere near Birmingham. But since Sarah Searle came to America as an indentured servant, it is also possible that the Greens and Moores met Sarah at Bristol. The port of Bristol was a meeting place between people seeking free passage to America and those willing to provide passage in exchange for several years of service plus the promise of land in America for each servant imported. The practice was so common during the seventeenth century that the following measure had to be taken to prevent abuses such as kidnapping:

"On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1654 the Council of the City of Bristol enacted an ordinance requiring that a system of enrolment be set up to record the names of all indentured servants embarking from the port of Bristol for service overseas."<sup>12</sup>

The enrollment lists have been published and an introduction to that book states:

"Of the total of just over 10,000 emigrants recorded in this book, all but a small handful were labourers, husbandmen or tradesmen, most from the West Country, the West Midlands, and Wales but with a fair sprinkling of intending emigrants from much further afield including London, Cambridge, Lancashire, Scotland, Ireland, France, and even from the American colonies themselves. While many undoubtedly arrived in Bristol having already indentured themselves to overseas service, there is good reason to suppose that a great

number came there speculatively in order to seek a considerate master to sign them up on the spot."<sup>13</sup>

Unfortunately record-keeping deteriorated from 1679 onward. Only eleven entries are recorded in 1686, and although the last entry recorded was on June 12, 1686, Sarah Searle's indenture dated May 3, 1686, is not among them.<sup>14</sup> However, the implication is clear that she might well have come to Bristol seeking passage to America, met the Greens and Moores as they prepared to embark, and signed a service contract shortly before they sailed. Therefore the search for Sarah Searle should not be limited to the Birmingham area.

An IGI search, including all spelling variations, for any Sarah Searle born or christened from 1666 to 1676 (within 5 years of 1671) anywhere in the British Isles, yielded 18 records of which 5 were duplicates. All were from southern or southeastern England (Devon, Somerset, London, Bedford, Cambridge, or Huntingdon). None were near Birmingham. The only record dated 1671 was also the only one where the father was Edward, Samuel, or Abel. If Sarah Searle's birth or christening is among the IGI records, this is by far the most likely record:

Sarah Serll, daughter of Edward and Sarah Serll, christened August 1671 at St. Mary Whitechapel, Stepney, London.

Three other children of Edward christened at the same parish show variations in spelling of the surname:

Frans Serele, daughter of Edward and Sarah Serele, christened July 17, 1670.

Elizabeth Searle, daughter of Edward and Sarah Searle, christened Jan. 13, 1673.

Mary Searle, daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Searle, christened March 28, 1679.

Presumably "Frans" is intended for Frances, and sometime between 1673 and 1679 Edward's first wife Sarah died and he then married Elizabeth. Marriages and burials for this parish are not in the IGI but this speculation can be checked by examining them on FHL microfilms 94691, 94692, and 94709. We could also speculate that Edward's remarriage may have influenced Sarah's decision to seek a better life in America.

## Descendant Charts

These charts are my interpretation of the foregoing data. Names in **bold** were passengers on the *Delaware*.

### John Greene

- (1) William Greene, chr. Feb. 25, 1595, Coleshill, Warwick.
  - md. Hannah (Anna?) Packwood July 17, 1621 at Fillongley, Warwick
    - (1) Anne Greene, chr. May 30, 1624 at Coleshill
    - (2) unnamed child, born and died Oct. 5, 1625 at Coleshill
    - (3) Dorothy Green, chr. Feb. 1627 at Coleshill
    - (4) Katherin Green, chr. Apr. 16, 1630 at Coleshill
    - (5) William Greene, chr. Nov. 3, 1632 at Coleshill
    - (6) **Thomas Greene**, chr. Dec. 6, 1635 at Coleshill
      - md. **Margaret Sise** Dec. 16, 1660 at Elmdon, Warwick
        - (1) **Mary Greene**, chr. Sept. 6, 1661 at Elmdon
          - md. **Richard More** April 9, 1683 at Northfield, Worcester
            - (1) **Mary Moore**, born 1683-1686
            - (2) **John Moore**, born 1683-1686
          - (2) **Thomas Greene**, chr. Jan. 22, 1665 at Elmdon
          - (3) **John Greene**, chr. Feb. 17, 1666 at Northfield
          - (4) Robert Greene, chr. Jan. 2, 1669 at Northfield
            - md. Sarah Holloway Aug. 24, 1697 at Halesowen, Worcester

### William Packwood

- (1) Thomas Packwood, chr. Jan. 18, 1569 at Fillongley, Warwick
  - md. Margeria Grene May 28, 1590 at Fillongley
    - (1) Anna (Hannah?) Packwood, chr. Aug. 28, 1591 at Fillongley
      - md. Gulielmus (William) Greene July 17, 1621 at Fillongley
    - (2) Elizabetha Packwood, chr. Sept. 20, 1607 at Fillongley
    - (3) Tho. Packwoode, chr. June 17, 1612 at Fillongley. Died Apr. 14, 1615.

### Richarde Averell md. Joyes Whateleye June 29, 1606 at Solihull, Warwick

- (1) Marie Averell, chr. Jan. 13, 1611 at Solihull
  - md. Henerie Sise Oct. 10, 1637 at Solihull
    - (1) **Margaret Sise**, chr. June 23, 1639 at Solihull
      - md. **Thomas Greene** Dec. 16, 1660 at Elmdon, Warwick
    - (2) **Mary Sise**, chr. Feb. 9, 1651 at Elmdon
      - md. **Henry Guest** about 1672, perhaps at Northfield, Worcester
        - (1) **Mary Guest**, chr. Apr. 21, 1674 at Northfield
        - (2) **Henry Guest**, born between 1674 and 1686

Edward Searle md. (1st) Sarah \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Frances (Frances?) Serele, chr. July 17, 1670 at St. Mary Whitechapel,  
Stepney, London

(2) **Sarah Serll**, chr. August 1671 at St. Mary Whitechapel, Stepney

(3) Elizabeth Searle, chr. Jan. 13, 1673 at St. Mary Whitechapel, Stepney

Edward Searle md. (2nd) Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Mary Searle, chr. March 28, 1679 at St. Mary Whitechapel, Stepney

## First Residence in America

The second goal of this research was to determine where the will of Thomas Green, Sr. and the marriage of Thomas Green, Jr. to Sarah Searle might be recorded, since they do not seem to be among the records of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

After arrival at Philadelphia in 1686, it appears that Thomas Green did not immediately settle in Chester County. His first known purchase of land in that county occurred three years later:<sup>15</sup>

"ffrancis Chadsey as Attorney to Dennis Rotchford acknowledged a Deed for a parcell of land in Concord Containing two hundred acres unto Thomas Green dated ye 4<sup>th</sup> day of ye 4<sup>th</sup> moneth 1689"

Two years later, shortly before his death, he made another purchase:<sup>16</sup>

"ffrancis Chadsey Attorney to Denis Ratchford Acknowledged a Deed in Open Court to Thomas Green for 100 Acres of Land Lying in Concord bearing date ye 6<sup>th</sup> of ye Eight month 1691"

The 100 acres shown in the published court record is perhaps a misreading of "400" in the original manuscript court record, as shown in the next paragraph.

The 1689 deed has not been found and was perhaps never recorded, but the 1691 deed is undoubtedly that recorded 51 years later in Philadelphia County deed book G3, p. 80, which reads in part:<sup>17</sup>

"This Indenture made the sixth Day of the Eighth month called October in the Third year of the Reign of King William and Queen Mary and the eleventh of William Penns Government 1691 Between Dennis Rochford of Schoolkill Creek in the County of Philadelphia Yeoman of the one part And Thomas Green the Elder of Lower Hook in the Province of West Jersey Yeoman of the other part Witnesseth that the said Dennis Rochford for and in Consideration of the Sum of twenty six pounds . . . " (sold to Thomas Green) ". . . Four Hundred Acres of Land Situate lying and being in ye Township of Concord in the County of Chester. . . ."

Further reference to the 1691 deed is made in an abstract of a 1752 Chester County land record which reads in part:<sup>18</sup>

"Dennis Rockford by deed recorded at Philadelphia, Book G, vol. 3, Page 80 on 5 & 6 Oct 1691 granted the said 500 acres to Thomas Green the elder. Who by his will dated 3 Dec 1691 devised one third of his estate to his wife Margaret during her lifetime, 200 acres to his son John Green & 200 acres to his son Thomas Green."

Reasons for the discrepancies in acreage in the various records are not readily apparent, but for present purposes the significant information in these documents is: (1) the residence of Thomas Green, Sr. on October 6, 1691, was Lower Hook in the Province of West Jersey, and (2) Thomas Green, Sr. made his will on December 3, 1691.

His son John Green made his will on December 14, 1691, leaving his entire estate to his mother Margaret. The will was witnessed by Richard and George Lawrence, was probated May 16, 1695, and was recorded in Philadelphia County Will Book A, p. 313.<sup>19</sup> Failure of John to mention his father does not necessarily imply that Thomas, Sr. had died between December 3 and December 14 because John also failed to mention his brother, Thomas, Jr., who is known to have survived him. Nevertheless, John was a young unmarried man and the fact that he wrote a will 11 days after his father did suggests some reason for urgency. One possibility is that both father and son fell gravely ill, the father quickly succumbed and the son wrote a will in anticipation of his own death but recovered and lived another three and a half years.

Unfortunately neither the will nor a probate record for Thomas Green, Sr. has been found. Gilbert Cope speculated that the will might have been recorded in England where, presumably, his son Robert resided and where Thomas may have still held property.<sup>20</sup> In such a case the most likely probate court is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, but a search of the index to those records disclosed no relevant Thomas Green.<sup>21</sup> Since Thomas Green, Sr. was a resident of Lower Hook, West Jersey, at the time of his death and presumably since his arrival in America, it seems more likely that his probate record would be in New Jersey.

The will of Thomas Green does not appear in the published Calendar of New Jersey Wills, 1670-1730, but other wills in that document provide information about the location of Lower Hook and the presence of the Green and Moore families there.<sup>22</sup>

On December 29, 1689, Richard Lawrence of Gloucester County (undoubtedly at Lower Hook, as will be shown below) wrote his will leaving his lands, goods and chattels to his wife Amie and son George Lawrence. Two of the witnesses were Thomas Green and Sarah Green. Probate occurred on December 3, 1695, and an inventory of the estate listed a plantation of 500 acres "where he lived", another plantation of 300 acres on Berkley River (an early name for Oldmans Creek), another of 500 acres "at the Fishing Place", and 300 acres "on Forlorn Hope". The inventory was made by Andrew Robeson and Thomas Green and was sworn to by George Lawrence.<sup>23</sup>

On May 6, 1690, an inventory of the estate of Christopher Watkin of the Lower Hook, Gloucester County, was made by Andrew Robeson, Andrew Robeson junior, Richard Moore, and John Orions.<sup>24</sup>

On May 5, 1721, George Lawrence of the Lower Hook, Gloucester County, made his will and mentions a tract of 520 acres "at the Figgin Place", another of 500 acres called Brotherses, and a home farm and 100 acres.<sup>25</sup>

Keeping in mind that Richard Lawrence and George Lawrence witnessed the 1691 will of John Green, it seems clear that John Green, Thomas Green, Sarah Green, and Richard Moore were neighbors of the Lawrence family at Lower Hook, Gloucester County, New Jersey. It is also clear that Thomas Green, Jr. had married Sarah Searle before December 29, 1689, presumably in Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Lower Hook was the name of the peninsula on the Delaware River at the mouth of Oldmans Creek, near Nortonville, as shown by the following deed abstract:<sup>26</sup>

"1686 May 16. Edward Byllynge, Governour of W. J., by his attorney Thomas Matthewes of Woodbury Creek, Gloucester Co., yeoman, to Richard Lawrence of the Lower Hook, same Co., gent., for 650 acres, the first dividend of 1/8 of a share, to be taken up near said Lower Hook, fronting on Old Man's Creek, said. Co."

Further evidence of Thomas Green, Richard Moore, and, surprisingly, Henry Sise, is found in the earliest court records of Gloucester County.<sup>27</sup> Gloucester County was set apart from Burlington County in 1686 and the first session of the Gloucester County Court was held on September 1, 1686. On September 7, 1686, the court ordered that by the end of the next month all persons register the ear marks of their hogs.<sup>28</sup> Hogs were allowed to run wild in the forest and their ownership was indicated by distinctive ear marks. The ear-mark list contains about 300 names, probably chronological as the registrants appeared, but with no dates and probably extending for many years after 1686 as new settlers registered their marks. The 14<sup>th</sup> name on the list is Henry Sise, probably the father or a brother of Margaret (Sise) Green. Richard Lawrence is 53<sup>rd</sup> on the list; Thomas Green and Richard Moore do not appear. The early position of Henry Sise on the list suggests that he may have registered his mark as early as September or October, 1686. Since the *Delaware* had arrived on July 11, 1686, it is possible that he came with the Greens, Moores, and Guests on that voyage, but since his name does not appear on the passenger list he may have preceded them to America.

At a session of the court held at Red Bank on December 1, 1686, Tho. Green is listed as one of the members of the Traverse Jury.<sup>29</sup> On December 2, 1689, the court received a petition by inhabitants of the lower part of the county to hold two winter courts at Red Bank. The petition is signed by, among others, Tho: Green and Richard Moore.<sup>30</sup>

"An account of lands and cattle from the lower side of Mantoes Creek to Oldmans Creek, in the County of Gloucester, taken by Andrew Roberson Jr., from the third to the sixth of February 1689/90" includes the statement "New Stockholm and Lower Hook were in this locality". Near the end of the list are:<sup>31</sup>

	Acres of land	Cattle	Horses
Thomas Green	250	11	1
Richard Lawrence	1600	12	1
Rich. Moore for Standbank	150	14	

Another assessment list for the same area, probably of 1694, shows many of the same names and includes near the end:<sup>32</sup>

	Acres of land	Cattle	Horses	Sheep
Thos. Green for Horton	250	12		17
George Lawrence	1600	13	4	4

Richard Moore does not appear on this list.

The source I have been referring to as records of the Gloucester County Court is not a full transcript of those records. It is a series of extracts from the original documents edited by Gloucester County historian Frank H. Stewart and published in the Woodbury newspaper *The Constitution* from April through November, 1941, and then republished as a pamphlet titled *Gloucester County under the Proprietors*. The original documents may contain more information about the Green family. In addition to court records, the Gloucester County Historical Society in Woodbury and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City contain very extensive collections of Gloucester County data, some of which covers the early years when the Greens resided there. Perhaps a probate record or even the 1691 will of Thomas Green Sr. is among those documents.

### **Marriage of Thomas Green, Jr. and Sarah Searle**

Search for the marriage of Thomas Green, Jr. to Sarah Searle has been unsuccessful. The Greens were members of the Church of England as shown by their presence in the English parish registers. Two of their sons, Edward and Henry, were baptized in 1704 and 1705 respectively in St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church in Chester, Pennsylvania, the American equivalent of the Church of England.<sup>33</sup> St. Paul's was built in 1702 and the first sermon preached there on May 3, 1703, so its records begin at least 14 years after the marriage of Thomas and Sarah.<sup>34</sup> Other than Quaker meetings there were no churches on the east side of the Delaware during the time the Greens lived there.<sup>35</sup> It is unlikely they were married in one of the Swedish churches on the west side of the Delaware at Wicaco (now Philadelphia) or Crane Hook (near Wilmington, Delaware).

The early Gloucester County court books indicate that marriages were accomplished by the publication of banns followed by marriage in a private residence by a Justice of the Peace.<sup>36</sup> This is probably how Thomas and Sarah were married, and there would be no mention of it in the court records unless there were some irregularity such as failure to publish banns. Other than these irregularities, only four marriages were recorded, from 1690 to 1703.<sup>37</sup> It therefore seems likely that no record of the marriage exists. Nevertheless, research in the extensive collections of Gloucester County data previously mentioned may yet turn up some evidence of the marriage.



## Conclusion

I believe the evidence is compelling that the Green, Moore, and Guest families were from the vicinity of Birmingham, England, and that at least the Greens and Moores first resided in Gloucester County, New Jersey, before moving to Chester County, Pennsylvania. I also believe Sarah Searle was probably the daughter of Edward and Sarah Searle of London. This research, however, is based on secondary sources and can undoubtedly be carried further by examination of primary sources. To those wishing to do this, I would recommend first the parish registers and bishop's transcripts for parishes near Birmingham and those in London, especially those which have not been completely indexed in the IGI for the period of interest, such as marriages and burials at Northfield, Worcester, and at St. Mary Whitechapel, Stepney, London. Secondly I recommend further research in the records of Gloucester County, New Jersey, some of which may be among records of the state of New Jersey rather than the county.

When researching the Green family it is important to distinguish between the numerous families in New Jersey and Pennsylvania bearing that surname. For example, there was a Green family in Burlington County, New Jersey, about the same time that Thomas and Margaret were in Gloucester County. In 1951 professional genealogist John P. Dornan was asked to determine whether there was any connection between that family and the Green family of Lower Hook, West Jersey, and Concord Township, Chester Co., Pennsylvania. His research demonstrated that the Burlington Co. family was from Bugbrook, Northamptonshire, and that there was no connection between the two Green families.<sup>38</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Roach, Hannah Benner, "The Philadelphia and Bucks County Registers of Arrivals", in *Passengers and Ships Prior to 1684*, Publications of the Welcome Society of Pennsylvania, Number 1 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1970), p. 167.

<sup>2</sup> Futhey, J. Smith, and Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Chester County Historical Society, 1996), p. 575.

<sup>3</sup> Cope, Gilbert, *Genealogy of the Smedley Family* (Lancaster, PA: Wickersham Printing Co., 1901), p. 129. This reference can be viewed on the Internet at HeritageQuest.

<sup>4</sup> Cope, Gilbert, Green folder in collection of family data on FHL microfilm 517026. This contains a typescript genealogy of three generations of the family in America and manuscript transcripts of many source documents.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, transcript of will of Margaret Green dated September 7, 1708. A brief abstract of the will, which was recorded in Philadelphia County Will Book C, p. 134, can be found in *Abstracts of Philadelphia County Wills, 1682-1726* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1995), p. 106.

<sup>6</sup> Gardner, David E., Derek Harland, and Frank Smith, *A Genealogical Atlas of England and Wales* (Provo, UT: Stevenson's Genealogical Center, 1974), p. 37.

- 
- <sup>7</sup> Extracted IGI records for Northfield parish show the county name as Warwick, but the source document, FHL film 246670, and the atlas noted above clearly indicate that Northfield is in Worcester. I have changed all "Northfield, Warwick" locations to "Northfield, Worcester".
- <sup>8</sup> Quoted from Birmingham Heritage website <http://www.birminghamheritage.org.uk/stmartin>
- <sup>9</sup> Ewen, C. L'Estrange, *A History of Surnames of the British Isles* (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., 1931), p. 204. This reference can be viewed on the Internet at HeritageQuest.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 201.
- <sup>11</sup> Cope, Gilbert, Green folder in collection of family data on FHL microfilm 517026.
- <sup>12</sup> Coldham, Peter Wilson, *The Bristol Registers of Servants Sent to Foreign Plantations 1654-1686* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), p. v.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. vi.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. v, 388.
- <sup>15</sup> *Records of the Courts of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia?: Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, 1910-1975), vol. I, p. 167. This reference can be viewed on the Internet at HeritageQuest.
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. I, p. 263.
- <sup>17</sup> Philadelphia County Deed Books G3-G4, on FHL microfilm 21882.
- <sup>18</sup> Bryant, Carol, *Abstracts of Chester County, Pennsylvania Land Records, Vol. 3, 1745-1753* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1997), p. 162.
- <sup>19</sup> *Abstracts of Philadelphia County Wills, 1682-1726* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1995), p. 29.
- <sup>20</sup> Cope, Gilbert, Green folder in collection of family data on FHL microfilm 517026.
- <sup>21</sup> *Index of Wills Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury* (London: British Record Society, 1893-), vol. 77 and 80, on FHL microfilm 410200.
- <sup>22</sup> *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, Vol. XXIII, "Calendar of New Jersey Wills, Vol. I, 1670-1730" (Paterson, NJ: The Press Printing and Publishing Co., 1901).
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 285.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 493.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 283.
- <sup>26</sup> *New Jersey Archives*, Vol. 21, "Volume C - Gloucester Deeds, No. 1" (Published on the Internet at [www.westjerseyhistory.org/books/njaV21/njaVOLUME\\_C-GLOUCESTERDEEDSNo1.shtml](http://www.westjerseyhistory.org/books/njaV21/njaVOLUME_C-GLOUCESTERDEEDSNo1.shtml))
- <sup>27</sup> Stewart, Frank H., *Gloucester County under the Proprietors* (Woodbury, NJ: The Constitution Co., 1942)
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12-13.
- <sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22-23. Standbank is probably John Stonbank shown on a jury list on p. 16.
- <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 30.
- <sup>33</sup> Launey, John Pitts, and F. Edward Wright, *Early Church Records of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Volume 1* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1997), p. 243.
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, p. xxiii.
- <sup>35</sup> *Combination Atlas Map of Salem & Gloucester Counties, New Jersey* (Philadelphia: Everts & Stewart, 1876; reprinted by the Gloucester County Historical Society, 1970), p. 63, 89.
- <sup>36</sup> Stewart, *op cit.*, p. 32, 40, 41, 43.
- <sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 45.
- <sup>38</sup> Dornan, John P., Green folder in John P. Dornan collection at Rutgers University, on FHL microfilm 851683.