

Bio: Harriet Mathews

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Harriet Mathews, born about 1763, was probably the second daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour of Flatbush in Kings county New York. During her teens she lived through the turbulent years of the American Revolution, with her loyalist father, who was serving as the mayor of New York City under British occupation. In 1783, at about the age of twenty, she fled with her family to Nova Scotia where they set themselves up among other loyalist families. Two years later, at Halifax in Nova Scotia, she was married to Francis Green.

Francis Green was born in in Boston Massachusetts in 1742, the second son of Benjamin Green and Margaret Pierce. He was first married to his cousin Susanna Green in 1769, and they had five children before her death in 1775. So, when Francis Green married young Harriet Mathews, he was twenty years her senior, and had three surviving children. Francis Green and Harriet Mathews added six more children during their years of marriage - Harriet Mathews Green 1786-1803; Henry Francis Green 1789-1867; Anna Winslow Green 1791-1863; Eliza Atkinson Green 1794-1813; Mary Hall Green 1799-1853; and Mathews Wylly Green 1803-1874.

The Dictionary of Canadian Biography (online) offers an insightful biography of Francis Green that would be of great interest to descendants. The article was written in 1983, by Phyllis Blakeley. It gives details of his military service, and his vacillating allegiances between the British and the American colonists. It describes the import business that Francis Green and his father operated in Boston Massachusetts and Halifax Nova Scotia, and from which they amassed great wealth. It also tells about his efforts to establish education for the deaf in both England and America. Also in 1983, Blakeley published her book, *Eleven Exiles: Accounts of Loyalists of the American Revolution*. It includes an extensive account of Francis Green, and includes some material on his family. See further links in Francis Green's biography on this website.

For the early years of their marriage, Francis Green and Harriet Mathews resided in Nova Scotia, but about 1796, convinced that "*strong feelings against loyalists had died down*", they returned to the United States and established a home in Medford, Middlesex county Massachusetts. Francis Green died there in 1809, just past the age of sixty-five.

In Medford, yesterday morning, Francis Green, Esq; funeral tomorrow afternoon, at half past 4 o'clock from his late dwelling house; the relations and friends of the family are requested to attend without a more particular invitation.

[source] Boston Mirror (Boston, Massachusetts); 22 April 1809.

On the ninth of February 1821, Harriet Mathews Green placed a "petition" in *The American*, a New York City newspaper. She was seeking members of her near family who would be involved in the division of property that had been bequeathed by her grandfather, Vincent Mathews in his 1784 Will. In this database see the sketch titled, *Petition of 1821, David Mathews' Descendants*.

Harriet Mathews Green outlived her husband by many years. Most researchers place her death about 1847 in Charlestown, Sullivan county New Hampshire, where she may have been living with the family of her son, Mathews Wyllly Green. A more recently located death notice suggests she died in July 1848.

Deaths - In Charlestown, NH, Mrs Harriet Green, 85, relict of Francis Green, Esq, formerly of Medford.

[source] Emancipator and Republican (Boston, Massachusetts); 19 July 1848.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Harriet Mathews in the database](#)

[Link to Francis Green in the database](#)

[Sketch: Petition of 1821, David Mathews' Descendants](#)

Biography of Harriet Mathews; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.