

## **Bio: Francis Green**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

*Much has been written about the life of Francis Green - soldier, businessman, writer, and advocate for the deaf. Born in 1742, he was the son of Benjamin Green and Margaret Pierce. He was first married to his cousin Susannah Green about 1770, and had several children. Following her death he married, in 1785, Harriet Mathews, daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour. The Green and Mathews families, both loyal to the crown, had fled to Nova Scotia in the later years of the American Revolution. The account below was prepared by Peter Coldham, for his series "American Migrations 1765-1799: The lives, times, and families of colonial Americans who remained loyal to the British Crown . . .", 2000. Several further resources are listed at the closing.*

Francis Green of Boston. Memorials London 1781, 1782; Hackney 1784; Halifax NS 1786. He is a native and late inhabitant of Boston, now residing at Halifax Nova Scotia.

In the French War he was an officer of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment and served as a Lieut at Martinique. When they were sent to Ireland in 1765 he retired from service and returned to Boston to become a merchant. For twenty years his father Hon Benjamin Green of Halifax was a servant of the Crown presiding over the Province of Nova Scotia. At the outbreak of the rebellion, the claimant was twice assaulted by mobs in Norwich and Windham in Connecticut. In Boston he commanded an independent Co and after the evacuation, went to New York where he fitted out several armed vessels at a loss of 4000 pounds. When he came to London from New York in 1781 he was allowed 100 pounds for himself and his family. In 1784 he was examined in London, and removed to Halifax to look after his concerns in America.

Claim includes: houses in Pomfret, Stafford and Hebron Connecticut; lands in Great Barrington, Petersham, part of the estate of Mrs Margaret Green as heir to Joseph Green; 300 acres in Parry's Town, New Hampshire; 240 acres in Salisbury New Hampshire; 2032 acres near Peabody River New Hampshire; a new ship left on the stocks at Sawco; one-third of the 16-gun ship Tryon demolished in an engagement with the Thorn; the 12-gun Carleton cast away on the expedition to Charleston South Carolina.

Letter dated Edinburgh [Scotland] 15 June 1781 from Charles Green (deaf and dumb son of the claimant according to an endorsement) to "dear sister": *Thank you for your letter by Papa. I love to learn. I can read and speak pretty well. I was very happy to see my Papa because he is always good and kind to me. Will you write to me very often, pray? Do you like to live in London? Pray, with whom do you live? My Papa tells me you are grown tall and*

*learn to dance. Do you remember Molly at New York and Birch Brinley and Mrs Bean the school mistress and Mr McAlpine?*

Abstract from the Massachusetts Gazette of 14 July 1774 reporting an attack on the claimant while he was resident at a tavern in Windham and refused to leave at the mob's demand. His arrival there had been announced by the grave digger who rang the Meeting House bell and a horse and cart were sent for his immediate removal. Advertisement in the same issue by the claimant offering \$100 reward for the apprehension of the ruffians responsible, Hezekiah Bissell, Benjamin Lothrop, Timothy Larraby, Ebenezer Bacchus, Nathaniel Warren and Simeon Huntington.

Return of arms delivered up in April 1775 to the Town House by the inhabitants of Boston (about 700 names).

Letter dated Halifax 1 May 1787 from the claimant to the Commission: *I have accepted a post as High Sheriff of Halifax without salary.*

Certificate dated Halifax NS 1 July 1789 by John Halliburton, surgeon of the Naval Hospital, that the claimant, late High Sheriff of Halifax, has been suffering from poor health and is infirm; he has tremors, loss of breath and appetite, and wears a truss for a rupture.

Do you want to know more?

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

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

Further Reading:

[Francis Green; Phyllis R Blakeley, 1983](#); published online in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol 5, University of Toronto, 2003.

Eleven Exiles: Accounts of Loyalists of the American Revolution; Phyllis R. Blakeley, John Grant, 1982. Chapter 3 - Francis Green, For Honour and His King; available (in part) online through googlebooks.

[The Descendants of Benjamin Green Sr; Peter Jangaard, 2007. \(online\)](#)

A Medford writer of long ago and a modern Medford School; found in The Medford Historical Register, Volumes 18-20; 1915.

**Biography of Francis Green; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.**