

## FIDDIAN AS A MIDDLE NAME

Having already documented the Fiddian-Green family (see ‘Far-Flung Fiddian-Greens’) there are at least 52 more occasions where Fiddian has been used as a middle name. Almost all of these have occurred following the marriage of a female Fiddian, but not always in the next generation of children. Most of the individuals are male (46) and over half (33) are multiple instances in different branches of the family. A few may be errors where the name was wrongly written down or transcribed and for a few others there was only a single record and no corroboration. Beginning with the better substantiated cases and by branch of the family we have:

1. **MOULTON** (8) – Although we have dealt with the Moulton family elsewhere it is worth reviewing the relevant members here. Catherine Fiddian married Rev James Egan Moulton in 1833 at Birmingham. Their eldest son was Rev Dr William Fiddian Moulton born in 1835 at Leek, Staffordshire. His two sons were Rev Prof Dr James Hope Fiddian Moulton born in 1863 at Richmond, Surrey and Rev Prof William Fiddian Moulton born in 1866 at Westcott, Surrey. The latter had a son Raymond Fiddian Moulton born in 1905 at Birkenhead, Cheshire but he died a few weeks after birth. James Hope Fiddian Moulton had a son Rev Prof Dr Harold Keeling Moulton who was a Methodist Missionary in India and two of his four daughters born in India were Elspeth Fiddian Moulton born in 1939 and Hilary Fiddian Moulton born in 1942, both at Bangalore. Hilary married Christopher Warman in 1962 and they had a son Guy Fiddian Warman the following year. Another son of James Egan Moulton and Catherine Fiddian was Rev Dr James Egan Mouton who became a Methodist Missionary in Australia and Tonga. His grandson was Harold Fiddian Moulton born in 1907 at Marrickville, NSW Australia.
2. **BIRTLES** (7) – Florence Fiddian married Robert Birtles in 1869 at Kings Norton, Worcestershire and they had a son George Frederick Birtles born in 1876 who had a son Roy Alan Birtles born in 1909 both at Kings Norton. The latter had two sons, Anthony Fiddian Birtles born in 1931 and John

Fiddian Birtles born in 1936 both at Birmingham. Anthony had a son Simon Fiddian Birtles born 1960 at Stratford-upon-Avon whilst his brother John had four sons from two marriages. These were Charles Fiddian Birtles born in 1964 and Henry Fiddian Birtles born in 1966 both at Oxford plus Sam Fiddian Birtles born in 1986 and William Rufus Fiddian Birtles born in 1988 both at Swindon, Wiltshire.

3. **REDDAWAY** (4) – Catherine Fiddian married Rev John Colwill Reddaway in 1868 and they had a son William Fiddian Reddaway born in 1872 at Middleton, Lancashire. His eldest son was Major Thomas Fiddian Reddaway born in 1908 at Chesterton, Cambridge who had a son Edgar James Fiddian Reddaway born in 1945 at Hambledon, Surrey. William also had a great grandson Andrew Fiddian Colyer born in 1975 at Birmingham via his daughter Ruth Reddaway.
4. **PEART** (3) – Mary Fiddian married Richard Peart in 1816 at Birmingham and they had a son Rev William Fiddian Peart born in 1822 at Birmingham. He had a son Rev Fiddian Edward Peart born in 1861 at Shepton Mallet, Somerset who in turn had a son, John Fiddian Peart born in 1899 at Beer Crocombe, Somerset. John was a career soldier and never married.
5. **JONES** (3) – Sarah Fiddian married Edward Jones in 1832 at Aston, Warwickshire and they had a son Edward Fiddian Jones born in 1833 at Birmingham. The latter Edward had a son Charles Fiddian Jones born in 1864 at Birmingham. The younger son of Sarah Fiddian and Edward Jones was William Parkes Jones who had a son Harry Fiddian Jones who was also born in 1864 at Birmingham.
6. **COATES** (2) – Sarah Fiddian married James Coates in 1804 at Old Swinford, Worcestershire and they had a son William Fiddian Coates born in 1808 at Old Swinford. William in turn had a son James Fiddian Coates born in 1841 at Dudley, Staffordshire.

7. **GREEN (2)** – Caroline Grace Fiddian married James Green in 1867 at Old Swinford, Worcestershire and they had a son Samuel Fiddian Green born in 1872 at Stourbridge, Worcestershire (not the same family as the Fiddian-Greens). They also had a son Harold Acton Green who in turn had a son Sergeant Harold Fiddian Green born in 1911 at Southam, Warwickshire. This latter Harold was a POW at Stalag VIIIA in Gorlitz, Germany during WW2 and died in Birmingham shortly after his return to England at the end of the war.
  
8. **MILLER (2)** – Frances Ann Fiddian married William Robert Miller in 1905 at Birmingham and they had a son Robert Fiddian Miller born in 1910 at Handsworth, Staffordshire. One of the latter's children was a son Roger Fiddian Miller born in 1943 at Birmingham.
  
9. **LACON (2)** - Charles Fiddian Lacon born in 1873 at Penn Fields, Staffordshire son of Eliza Fiddian and Edward Lacon. Charles Fiddian Proudman born in 1909 at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire grandson of Eliza Fiddian and Edward Lacon via their daughter Mary Lacon.

The remaining family members are all single instances with Fiddian as a middle name:

- Frances Fiddian Atkinson born in 1890 at Stambermill, Worcestershire daughter of Fanny Fiddian and Frederick Arthur Atkinson.
- Richard Fiddian Bird born in 1849 at Lye in Worcestershire, son of Eliza Fiddian and Joseph Bird.
- Mark Fiddian Bryson (my cousin) born in 1954 at Manchester, son of Dr Barbara Hilda Fiddian and Joseph Bernard Bryson.
- Charles Anderson Fiddian Fiddian-Green born in 1898 at Handsworth, Staffordshire a member of the Fiddian-Green family.
- Jane Fiddian Forrester born in 1809 at Halesowen, Worcestershire and daughter of Jane Fiddian and Joseph Forrester.

- Caspar James Fiddian Grimm (my great nephew) born in 2012, son of my niece Joanna Victoria Fiddian.
- Elizabeth Fiddian Hunstone born in 1843 at Tipton, Staffordshire grandson of Elizabeth Fiddian and James Hunstone.
- William Francis Fiddian Law born in 1958 at Kidderminster, Worcestershire son of Patricia Mary Fiddian and Francis John Reginald Law.
- Arthur Fiddian Lynall born in 1857 at Digbeth, Birmingham son of Sarah Fiddian and William Sylvester Lynall.
- Thomas Fiddian Male born in 1804 at Halesowen, Worcestershire son of Phoebe Fiddian and Thomas Male.
- Charles Fiddian Webster born in 1806 at Tamworth, Staffordshire son of Posthuma Fiddian and Samuel Webster.

The above are all clearly members of the extended Fiddian family and like the Fiddian-Greens were given the middle name Fiddian to help preserve the name. A number of common features can be seen amongst many of those distinguished by this middle name. Almost all of them were born in Birmingham or the surrounding Midlands, many of them were born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or shortly afterwards and most of them were the children of a female Fiddian. After one or more generations the use of the name generally became lost within each branch.

There remain a number of instances where individuals with Fiddian as a middle, or even first name are either unrelated to the Fiddian family or a link cannot be established. An interesting example of the former took some time to unravel but can now be seen to make perfect sense. In 1842 the 'Fiddian Foundry' which had been established by William Fiddian at Great Hampton Street, Birmingham was sold to James Barwell by William's son Rev Samuel Fiddian on his father's death. James Barwell grew the business so that by 1881 he was employing 110 hands (63 men, 43 boys, 3 girls and a woman) but they kept the name Fiddian as a trademark and many items such as brass bells were inscribed with 'Fiddian'. Some members of the Barwell family were given the middle name Fiddian as a result though I have identified only two so far:

- Bryan Fiddian Barwell born in 1920 at Kings Norton, Worcestershire was the great grandson of James Barwell and Sarah Ann Palmer. James died in 1898 and left £35k in his will. His son Edward (one of 11

children) took over the business and died in 1918 leaving £26k in his will. His son Cecil Edward Barwell took over the business but either sold or dissolved it in 1920. His son Bryan died in 1991 at Birmingham.

- John Charles Fiddian Barwell, OBE born in 1968 at Birmingham is the great great grandson of James Barwell.

The remaining instances of Fiddian as a first or middle name are as follows:

1. Lily Fiddian Ashwin born in 1861 at Birmingham – no connection found.
2. Henry Fiddian Hayward born around 1835 in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire to William Hayward and Catharine.
3. John Fiddian Taylor born in 1854 at Birmingham and died in 1855 at Birmingham.
4. Thomas Fiddian Napkin recorded once but probably Thomas Phethean Napkin born 1881 at Bolton, Lancashire to Thomas Napkin and Emma Phethean.
5. Fiddian Gidoy married in 1662 at Lea Marston, Warwickshire to Marry Greenwood – no other information.
6. Fiddian Ruston married Harriet Handy in 1833 at Birmingham – no other information.

Again Birmingham and the Midlands provide a common theme for many of these but I cannot say if any of them are related to the Fiddian family. Then it began to dawn on me that there was a common theme for most of the connected individuals from the Midlands. At first it appeared that the William Fiddian born in 1772 at Halesowen who developed the Fiddian Foundry in Birmingham was the common factor, and indeed he led to many of them including the 38 Fiddian-Greens. However, going back another generation we find William's father **William Fiddian** born in 1743 at Halesowen and a brother **Richard Fiddian** born in 1746. From these two we can in fact trace all of the directly connected family members with Fiddian as a middle name including the Fiddian-Greens. So we have a total of 81 individuals with Fiddian in front of their surname who are direct ancestors of these two men including one who had Fiddian twice and the 3 more distant descendants born after 1950.

To illustrate how these 81 individuals are connected we need to look at the family tree. You can view this by finding Thomas Fiddian born in 1711 on the website and using the descendants tab but I will also describe it here. Thomas had 7 children but 4 of these died in childhood leaving 3 sons, William born in 1743, Richard born in 1746 and Barzillai born in 1755. I can find no evidence that Barzillai Fiddian ever had children so that leaves only William and Richard who had descendants. Incidentally their father Thomas lived until the ripe old age of 90 but would still have died before the Fiddian middle-naming began. William married in 1767 and Richard in 1769 and they had 6 and 8 children respectively.

William's eldest son Thomas Fiddian born in 1768 was described as a Gentleman in 1849 suggesting he was well-to-do either from inheritance or acquisition. He had children but never used Fiddian as a middle name in his offspring and his sister Ann Fiddian born in 1770 never married. The remaining 4 of William's children all had descendants with the middle name of Fiddian as follows:

1. **William Fiddian** (born 1772) – 5 of his children either had children with Fiddian as a middle name and/or had descendants who did so. They were:

- **Mary Fiddian** born in 1796 who married Richard **Peart**,
- **Elizabeth Fiddian** born in 1801 who married Rev Richard **Green**,
- **Catherine Fiddian** born in 1802 who married Rev James Egan **Moulton**,
- **Sarah Fiddian** born in 1806 who married Edward **Jones**,
- **Rev Samuel Fiddian** born in 1804 who had a daughter **Catherine Fiddian** born in 1844 who married Rev John Colwill **Reddaway**. Later descendants of his are Mark Fiddian **Bryson** and Caspar James Fiddian **Grimm**.

2. **Sarah Fiddian** (born in 1774) married James **Coates**.

3. **Charles Fiddian** (born in 1776) had a son **George Fiddian** born in 1799 who had a daughter **Sarah Fiddian** born in 1830 who married William Sylvester **Lynall**. He also had a son **Frederick William Fiddian** born in 1810 who had a daughter **Florence Fiddian** born in 1847 who married Richard **Birtles**. Yet another son of Charles Fiddian was **Thomas Henry Fiddian**, Gentleman born in 1812 who had a daughter **Florence Ann Fiddian** born in 1866 who married William Robert **Miller**.

4. **Posthuma Fiddian** (born in 1780) married Samuel **Webster**.

Returning to Richard Fiddian born in 1746, he had 5 children who had descendants with Fiddian as a middle name as follows:

1. **Benjamin Fiddian** (born in 1769) had a son **Benjamin Fiddian** born in 1806 who had a daughter **Caroline Grace Fiddian** born in 1840 who married James **Green**. A later descendant of the latter Benjamin was William Francis Fiddian **Law**.

2. **Jane Fiddian** (born in 1770) married Joseph **Forrester**.

3. **Phoebe Fiddian** (born in 1772) married Thomas **Male**.

4. **Elizabeth Fiddian** (born in 1775) married James **Hunstone**.

5. **Richard Fiddian** (born in 1779) had 3 offspring with children and/or descendants with Fiddian as a middle name:

- **Charles Fiddian** born in 1809 who had a daughter **Eliza Fiddian** born in 1834 who married Edward **Lacon**. Their daughter Mary Lacon born in 1876 married Thomas George **Proudman**.
- **Eliza Fiddian** born in 1814 who married Joseph **Bird**.
- **William Fiddian** born in 1816 who had a daughter **Fanny Fiddian** born in 1865 who married Frederick Arthur **Atkinson**.

This completes the ancestry for all 81 of the individuals with Fiddian as a middle name who can be traced back to the two Fiddian brothers, William and Richard from Halesowen. We may never know if this was a carefully orchestrated plan or merely that the family in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were rather happy to perpetuate their unusual name of Fiddian.