

FAR-FLUNG FIDDIAN-GREENS

This branch of the family started less than 200 years ago and has produced a small but well scattered and talented group amongst the Green family, that share the distinction of the double barrelled name. The confusion arises because early on not all children in the same family were given the name Fiddian in addition to the name Green and the names were not always hyphenated. Nevertheless the initial impetus must have been to preserve the Fiddian name and perhaps those descendants bearing the Fiddian-Green name wished to keep their surname more distinctive. As the Fiddian family is itself quite small we have tended to want to include the Fiddian-Green branch as part of our own despite the fact that it defies normal convention, initially being a descent through the female line.

William Fiddian born in 1772 in Halesowen, Worcestershire was a successful Brass Founder who had his own business in Great Hampton Street, Birmingham in the early 19th century. In 1795 he married Catherine Showell at Birmingham and they went on to have 11 children in 15 years before Catherine died in 1810. The fourth of these children was Elizabeth Fiddian born in 1801 at Birmingham who being the second daughter probably helped to look after the younger ones following their mother's death. Just around the corner in St Paul's Square, an elegant and desirable location in the Jewellery Quarter of Birmingham a young man called Richard Green was establishing his own business as a Brass Caster. Richard born in 1795 at Birmingham was the fourth of seven children born to a Richard Green and his wife Ann Stevens. The elder Richard had probably not been as successful though he had made a living from making steel buckles and toys, but in any case the younger Richard was a second son and so may have had to start his own business.

He began by dealing in metals and wire, became a general caster and finally a Master Brass Founder, employing seven men by 1851. Back in 1825 he would have known the older William Fiddian as a fellow businessman and the latter would no doubt have approved of him as a suitor for his daughter Elizabeth. Richard Green married Elizabeth Fiddian in 1825 at St Martin's Church in Birmingham and they had nine children in the next 15 years. All three of their sons were christened Fiddian Green (with no hyphen) but only two of the seven daughters were christened with a second name that was a family name, Peart

and Osborn respectively. This suggests that they were trying to preserve the Fiddian name in the male line but whether it was Elizabeth or Richard who pushed the matter we may never know.

It would appear that three branches of Fiddian-Greens might have arisen but the youngest of the brothers Charles Fiddian Green born in 1836 at Birmingham and who was a modeller died at the age of 23 at West Bromwich, Staffordshire leaving no children. The remaining sons were Richard Fiddian Green born in 1829 and Willam Fiddian Green born in 1831 both at Birmingham. Before considering their descendants it is worth noting what happened to the parents of Richard and Elizabeth. Elizabeth's father died in 1842 at Great Hampton Street at the age of 70, having remarried in 1818 his second wife Martha died in 1848. Richard's father Richard died at Studley, Warwickshire in 1835 in his 75th year but we do not know when his wife died. Elizabeth herself died in 1857 at St Paul's Square, Birmingham aged only 56 and Richard died the following year aged 62 in a lunatic asylum at Duddeston Hall in nearby Aston leaving just under £3000 in his will.

Their oldest son became the Rev Richard Fiddian Green, although he started off working as a clerk in his father's business. In 1853 he became a Wesleyan Methodist Minister and remained such for 54 years. This involved quite a bit of moving around the country and so it was that in 1857 he met and married Mary Holmes in Hull, Yorkshire. She died there two years later presumably in child birth and he did not marry again until 1861. His second wife was the daughter of a Wesleyan Minister, Ann ('Annie') Brandreth and they married at Clutton in Somerset. Richard and Annie had five children in four different places around the country, and again there were three sons. This time though three different family names were given to the different boys, so they were Richard Brandreth Green born in 1863 and William Fiddian Green born in 1865 both at Huddersfield, and Charles Albert Leedham Green born in 1867 at York. So again family names from the female line were being preserved. Neither of the girls had family names for their second name.

Richard Brandreth Green was an engine fitter and at some time in his 20s or 30s he emigrated, ending up in Parramatta, a suburb of Sydney in NSW, Australia. In 1911 he married Elizabeth May Shayler there and they had three children, including a Richard Henry Brandreth Green born in 1913 but no Fiddian Greens. The latter Richard and his wife Joyce Nellie Huxley ended up in Wanganui, New Zealand about as far as you can get from England but I don't

know when they went. Charles Albert Leedham Green trained in medicine and became a Consultant Surgeon, practising in the Edgbaston area of Birmingham before retiring to St Columb, Cornwall where he died aged 64. He married Ethel Lascelles Lees in 1899 at West Bromwich and they had three sons all called Leedham-Green (and he and his wife adopted that surname) so starting a new family name. By 1911 Charles must have been doing really well as they had a German governess and four servants.

The middle brother William Fiddian Green continued the line and so will receive rather more attention. In 1881 as a sixteen year old he was at school in Weston-super-Mare with his younger brother Charles and for both of them this education was successful. William worked for a firm called Cooper and Nephews Ltd, an animal health business that operated worldwide, and he ended up as Director of the South Africa Company. In 1959 the business became part of the Wellcome Foundation which my wife and I worked in for many years. He must have been in South Africa before 1898 because he married Clara Sophia von Nierkerk Chalmers at Queenstown in that year and they had four children, all Fiddian-Greens and born at Port Elizabeth. This family really do like to preserve family names because the three oldest children were Richard Rawstone Fiddian-Green, William Brandreth Fiddian-Green and Mary Leedham Fiddian-Green (although they have yet to create a triple barrelled name). William senior died in 1942 in hospital a few minutes before his wife arrived and Clara in 1954, both at Port Elizabeth.

Their eldest son Richard Rawstone was born in 1899 and he remained in Africa, like his father becoming a Director of a company, and died in 1976 from heart failure. In 1937 he married Mary Elizabeth Baxter at Capetown and they had four children, again all Fiddian-Greens. The eldest of these and only son is Richard William Fiddian-Green born in 1938 who is the third generation to become a Director. In fact he has been a Director and Treasurer of several Yarn Spinning Mills but in Lachine, Quebec, Canada. He is married and has two children and two grandchildren who are all Fiddian-Greens living in Canada but whose details are private. The oldest of Richard's sisters was Jane Fiddian-Green born in 1940 at Nairobi, Kenya who was a Real Estate Manager but sadly died in 2011 from cancer, her husband Robin Hendry died a month later. The other two sisters are still living.

The other son Dr William Brandreth Fiddian-Green born in 1903 was educated in England at Oxford University and St Mary's Hospital before returning to

Matatiele in South Africa where he worked as a GP until his death in 1969 from a heart attack. He married Dr Isobel Alys Faichnie in 1932 in Southern Rhodesia another doctor who had qualified at Capetown in 1929. They had two sons and it should come as no surprise that the eldest was Charles William Faichnie Fiddian-Green born in 1934 at Mataiele. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford but returned to South Africa where he was a successful businessman, ending up as Chairman of Rennies Group (South Africa). He married twice later in life and I have found no evidence of any children which may have avoided embarrassment as his first wife already had a double barrelled name. He died of cancer in 2004 at Three Falls Farm in the Gauteng Province of South Africa.

The younger son of Dr William Brandreth Fiddian-Green was Dr Richard Guy Fiddian-Green who was born in 1940 at Matatiele and went to university in England. After a year of engineering he switched to medicine and did his early clinical jobs in the UK. Settling on Gastro-intestinal surgery as a career and returning to South Africa for general surgery training he then moved around until finally settling in Boston, USA. Although he had faculty appointments in Groote Schuur and Michigan he was eventually appointed Chair of General Surgery at the University of Massachusetts. Still active in retirement, his latest Tweets were made on the day before his death, from a heart seizure in April 2014. A cause for concern amongst the South African born Fiddian-Greens is that the number one cause of death appears to be heart disease, followed by cancer. He married Prunella Crawshay from Amersham, Buckinghamshire in 1968 at Pretoria in South Africa and they had three daughters in London, but subsequently divorced. This means that there are only two males in this branch of the family to continue the family name.

The other branch of the family arose from the second son of Richard Green and Elizabeth Fiddian, William Fiddian Green born in 1831 at Birmingham. He began work in the family Brass Foundry in St Paul's Square, progressing to a caster of both brass and German silver before he became a Master Brass Founder, eventually employing 25 men and 11 children (although the latter is not very PC these days). A measure of his success is that he left £59,000 in his will which today would be approaching £2 million. He married Ann Maria Sunderland in 1857 at Liverpool and they had their first child Annie in 1860 whilst they were still living in Birmingham. By 1861 they had moved to Handsworth, Staffordshire perhaps because of William's expanding business

and they had another six children there. At no time did they have more than two servants although they could have afforded to. Their next three children were all boys and then they had three more girls.

The eldest son was William Frank Green born in 1862, so they had forgotten to use the new family name, and he worked as a metal merchant. Marrying Jessie Griffith in 1890 they had three children all with a middle name that was a family name (Hope, Moulton and Barnham), but just not Fiddian so we can leave this line. The youngest son was Richard Fiddian Green born in 1867, who like his brother William was a metal merchant, but he ended up as a Director of the Metal Company. He married Thirza Jane Connor at Ealing in 1892 and they had four children, three boys and a girl, requiring three servants to cope. But Richard forgot the plan as well or Thirza had other ideas because the two oldest boys were christened Connor Green and the youngest just plain Green and so we must leave this line as well.

The middle son of William Fiddian Green was Charles Fiddian-Green born in 1864 and he was the most successful of the three. He began as an apprentice brass caster then became a metal merchant like his brothers, but he ended up as Managing Director of the Metal Company. He married Sarah Ellen Wilcock who came from Stalybridge, Cheshire in 1893 at Audenshaw near Ashton-under-Lyne and although they only had two children required four servants including a Governess and a Housekeeper to look after everything. Fortunately they decided against using Sarah's surname and used Fiddian instead for their only son, but they liked the name so much and must have wanted to make up for lost opportunities because they used it twice. Yes, he was called Charles Anderson Fiddian Fiddian-Green (look in Wikipedia if you don't believe me) and he was born in 1898. They also had a daughter Evelyn Hope Fiddian-Green born in 1904 who married Reginald Young Turnbull Kendall (enough said!). During WW1 Charles was a Lieutenant Colonel serving in France and he died in 1927 at Tamworth in Staffordshire aged only 63, whilst Sarah lived almost 30 years longer.

Charles Anderson Fiddian Fiddian-Green was an English cricketer, an opening batsman who played 107 first-class matches between the wars for Cambridge University as well as Warwickshire and Worcestershire counties. Because of WW1 he didn't go to Cambridge University until 1920 at the age of 21 and so he would have played cricket alongside one or more of the Assheton brothers who captained the team from 1921-3. He twice exceeded 1000 first-class runs in

a season and had four centuries in all but his cricket was somewhat curtailed when he was made a master and then head of cricket at Malvern College in Worcestershire. In 1924 he married Marjorie Agnes Haywood-Farmer at Tamworth, Staffordshire but dodged a bullet by calling all his children Fiddian-Green. He died at Malvern in 1976 aged 77 but Marjorie continued to live there until 1993.

Their three children were all boys and would all end up in the Royal Navy. The youngest was Richard Anderson Fiddian-Green born in 1933 at Upton-upon-Severn. He was an acting Sub-Lieutenant in the Navy when he died at the age of only 21. The oldest was Charles Edward Fiddian-Green born in 1926 at Upton who reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Navy. He married twice, having three children from his first marriage and one from the second. All four children are Fiddian-Greens and the oldest is a male who went to Cambridge University and is now working in Zurich, Switzerland. They all appear to be successful in their chosen careers but I don't know if they have had any children. In any case as they are all living I will say no more.

The final brother was John Haywood Fiddian-Green (who could so easily have been John Haywood-Farmer Fiddian-Green) who was born at Upton in 1929. He rose to the rank of Commander in the Navy and died in 1994 at Taunton Deane in Somerset aged only 65. In 1960 he married Jean Brown at Westminster in London and they had two children. The youngest of these who is still alive has been married twice and had a child from each marriage, but as she was a daughter they are not Fiddian-Greens although they do have interesting surnames. Her older brother is also still alive but as he is in the public eye I feel I can reveal something about him.

He is of course Nicholas Haywood Fiddian-Green born in 1963, known as Nic, who is a British Sculptor specialising in models of horse's heads. Educated at Eton and Chelsea College of Arts he was inspired by a horse's head he saw on a visit to the British Museum as a student. Many of Nic's sculptures are cast in bronze which is remarkable given that his 1, 2 and 3x great-grandfathers all made a living from casting brass. He survived an episode of leukaemia in 2006 after undergoing six months of chemotherapy. Nic lives with Henrietta on the Surrey Downs who is also keen on horses but prefers to ride them instead. They have four children, two sons and two daughters who are all Fiddian-Greens, so like the other branch of the family they have only two males to continue the family name.

This brings us to the end of the story so far for this relatively young family of Fiddian-Greens. As can be seen they have been a very successful family in a range of chosen careers. Sadly they were not consistent in adopting the name Fiddian-Green and so the family has not grown as much as it might have. At the present time there are just four young male members of the family to continue the line. Perhaps what is most remarkable about the family so far is that they have already settled in four of the six habitable continents, leaving only Asia and South America still to conquer.

Paul Fiddian – March 2015