

ROBERT GREEN

(b.1815; d.1887)

8 January 2020

Judith Devine

Robert Green (1815 – 1887) was born on 10 April 1815, the child of William Green, a dyer and his wife, Alice. Robert was baptised on 17 May 1816 at St. Peter's Church in Leeds City Centre (1). The family lived in The Bank area of Leeds. This area was close to the city centre between York Road and the River Aire, known as a rough area of the city which was densely populated and prone to regular outbreaks of diseases such as cholera. Robert later had two brothers and a sister (2).

Up until the age of 23, nothing is known of Robert but at some stage he moved to the Halifax area to work as a dyer in a factory (3). In June 1838 Robert married Ann Blackburn in the Parish Church at Halifax, West Yorkshire (3). Robert's occupation is given as dyer and Ann's as a factory girl, her father William Blackburn worked as a spinner. Ann was under 21 when they married (3) and born in Sowerby, a nearby town (4). Robert and Ann did not sign their names for the register but made their mark. Both lived in Northowram, a village in Calderdale near Halifax. Their first child, Elizabeth was born in 1840 and baptised on 27 September 1840 at their local church, St. John the Baptist in Halifax (5).

In the 1841 census, the family were recorded as living in the Charlestown area of Halifax. There were many mills in the area and Robert continued to work as a dyer (6). Halifax at the time was known as the centre of England's woollen manufacture. Dyers like Robert were employed in textile mills to colour the fabric prior to weaving.

The Green family continued living in Northowram and two more children were baptised at St John the Baptist Church in Halifax on 6 October 1844, a son William and a daughter, Eliza Ann, although their exact dates of birth are not known (7, 8). William's death is recorded in Halifax, aged 1, and his funeral was held on December 7, 1845 (8). In October 1846 they had another son, Samuel, who was baptised on April 3, 1847 at the same church in Halifax (9).

Between 1846 and 1850 the family moved to Leeds and their son, James Blackburn Green, was born there on 18 April 1850 but not baptised until 1855, along with two of his siblings (10). In the 1851 census the Green family and their four children were living at Gratton Street, Kirkstall Road, Leeds (4). Robert and Ann had four more children, Squire in 1852, Alice in 1855, Robert in 1857 (10) and Mary in 1862 (12). There are no further records for Alice, who is not included in the 1861 census, so is presumed to have died sometime before 1861.

In March 1860, Robert's eldest daughter Elizabeth married Robert Waddington, a labourer who was 9 years older than her. Elizabeth was not able to sign her name for the register suggesting that she was unable to write. Robert is still listed as working as a dyer. In the 1861 census, the family had moved to Peterhead Street in Burley, Leeds. Eliza Anne, Samuel and James were all working at a local mill, this may have been the same mill as their father as families often worked at the same mill (11).

In the 1871 census, the family lived on Burley Road and had four children still at home. The house still stands and is above retail premises. James (20), Squire (18) and Robert (14) were working as dyers in the mills like their father. Mary, aged 9, is still at school (12).

In 1878, Robert's wife Ann died. She was recorded as living on Marsh Lane, Leeds and, on 27 July, was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery (13).

Robert died on 23 July 1887, the cause being 'fits'. His address at that time was Thornton Street, Leeds. He was buried three days later in the Leeds General Cemetery, Woodhouse (14).

Reference List

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11. Robert Green (1861) Census return for Peterhead Street, Burley, Headingley, Leeds, District 05, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG9/3355 Folio 81, p13, schedule 63 (1861). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 12/11/2019)
12. Robert Green (1871) Census return for Burley Road, West Leeds, Leeds, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG10/4563 Folio 11, p16, schedule 90. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 12/11/2019)

13. Ann Green (1878) Leeds, England , Beckett Street Cemetery 1845-1987 for Ann Green No 444,27 LC/CEM (B) 1/3 Nos 38169-58080 1873-1889 Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 6/01/2020); Person Identity Number 44331, Grave 6667 (www.beckettstreetcemetery.org.uk)

14. Robert Green (1881), Census return for the District Leeds Union Workhouse, North Leeds Subdistrict, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG 11/4524, folio 101, p7, no 3 (1881) Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 12/11/2019)

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