

I WAS BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE!

I discovered yesterday that my 3rd great grandmother, Mary GREEN, was not the Mary GREEN I thought she was...and I have received another lesson in assumption.

I originally thought that she was the following:

*Mary Green b. 9th March, 1828, c. 27th April, 1828 Farnworth, Deane by Bolton.
Father William Green, Mother Betty Chadwick.*

This baptism transcription was sent to me by a fellow genealogist many years ago and I thought nothing of it. I was grateful that she sent me this and assumed that I had got the correct Mary with the correct parents. I wish I had remembered that you never assume anything when it comes to researching your family tree.

Yesterday, I was checking out the Lancashire parish registers yesterday at the [Family Search](#) web site. I was going along just fine, finding records and adding them to my genealogy program when I went off on a tangent (as one does) and started to check the census records for Mary.

I have no idea why I felt the urge to do this (divine intervention maybe?) but after checking the census records I had saved to my family tree at [Ancestry.co.uk](#) it began to dawn on me that the Mary GREEN who I thought was the daughter of William GREEN and Betty CHADWICK was not my Mary GREEN. Why I didn't see this before I don't know but there it was as large as life.

This Mary GREEN was listed as being unmarried in 1851 and 1861. Alarm bells went off there because my Mary GREEN married William ALLEN in 1848 and she was with him in 1851 and 1861.

I knew I had got her father's name, William, from the marriage certificate but on searching the certificates I brought with me from Canada (those of you who know me know I lived in Canada for 28 years and returned to England in 2009) I couldn't find that particular one so I must have left behind. I did remember that my Mary's father's occupation was a Vitriol Maker and that I had asked the [Lancs gen mailing list](#) what this was. Voila! Check the list archives! I did and I found I had posted the certificate details to the list:

10 Sept 1848

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Bridge Street, Little Bolton

William Allen age 23 Bachelor, Tailor, King Street, Farnworth

Father James Allen - Green Grocer

Mary Green age 22 Spinster-Works in a Cotton Factory?, of "Near Smith's Bleach

Works Great Lever

Father William Green - Vitriol Maker

Witnesses - Alice Green / Job Allen

Thank goodness for the archives. My certificate is 4,000 miles away but the archives are at the tip of my fingers. :)

Another thing I had not picked up on until today was my Mary gave her birth place as Great Lever in just about all of the census entries she was listed on with her husband William ALLEN. I also had not noticed that this other William GREEN's occupation was a Weaver. (Slaps my forehead with frustration)

So the only other option I had was to check the 1841 census for a Mary GREEN born in Great Lever with a father who was a Vitriol Maker. It didn't take me long to find this:

Great Lever Works

William Green 50 Vitriol M Y

Ann Green 43 Y

John Green 15 Y

*Mary Green 15 Y **

Alice Green 10 Y

Thomas Green 8 Y

Samuel Green 5 Y

Joseph Green 3 Y

AND

a possible baptism:

Record title: England and Wales, Non-Conformist Record Indexes (RG4-8)

name: Mary Ann Green

event type: Baptism

christening date: 22 Apr 1826

christening place: Farnworth, Lancashire

father's name: William Green

mother's name: Ann Green

record set: RG4_0820

My Mary was married at the Methodist church in Little Bolton so seeing this baptism in the non-conformist records looks like it could be the right one BUT until I prove otherwise I am not adding this baptism to my data - I'm not assuming this one is mine.

I have checked the Ringley Parish Register from 1813 – 1834 and cannot find Mary's baptism although many of her brothers and sisters were baptized there. Why does this happen? I have other ancestors whose baptism cannot be found in the place where their siblings were baptized.

The Great Lever records that are online at Family Search are too late to check for Mary's baptism so I'm going to check Farnworth now and hope she's in there. If not, could she be the one above (even though this Mary has a middle name Ann) and, if she is, why is she the only one baptized in a non-conformist church?

I have been researching my family history for well over 35 years now and I can't believe I hadn't noticed this before.

Take care,

Jayne

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