

Enoch Green (Foster?)

The first reference to Enoch Green appears in the household (#65, Lee's Precinct #6 and Casey Creek Precinct #4) of George Foster (says age 66 but should be 76) and Mary E. "Polly" Foster (59) in the 1880 Federal Census for Lee's Precinct #6, Casey County, Kentucky. In that household appears an eight year old white boy named Enoch Green (born about **1872**) who is designated as "granson." Enoch's birthplace is shown as Kentucky and the birthplaces of both his father **and his mother** are shown as North Carolina.

George and Polly are shown to have been born in North Carolina, and they each reported that both their parents had been born in North Carolina

In that household also appears a 39 year old (i.e., born about 1841) white woman named Jane Mason who is unrelated (to the head of the household) and who is shown as "housekeeping." Jane reported that she had been born in Kentucky and that both her parents had been born in Kentucky.¹

Enoch is shown as having attended school within the last year, but no one in the household was able to either read or write.

We first assumed that the designation of Enoch Green as a grandson was a mistaken assumption by the census taker, and as mistaken as George's age. But, could Enoch Green actually be a grandson who may have later assumed the correct name of Enoch Foster? Or could "Enoch Green" have been a so called "double first name?"

Also, consider that Enoch might have been a step-grandson.

¹ Jane Adeline Cole (born about 1849) married Alexander C. Mason in Casey County on February 2, 1865. Private Alexander C. Mason of Casey County, KY., served in Company "C" of the 8th Kentucky Cavalry (US). He was born February 19, 1842, to William Mason of Virginia and Jane Allen of Kentucky. He enrolled on July 28, 1862; Mustered in on September 8, 1862 at Russellville, Kentucky for 1 year;. Mustered out at Lebanon, KY September 17, 1863. He died on April 27, 1911, and is buried in the Fair Cemetery at Walnut Hill, Liberty, Casey County, Kentucky. (Source: Judy Shamp & page 213 of Adjutant General's Report Roll of Co "C" Eighth KY Volunteer Cavalry).

Viney Jane Thompson married John B. Mason in Casey County on September 18, 1868.

May J. Daniel married William Mason in Casey County on April 23, 1876.

George and Polly Foster are known to have had four children, all of whom were born in North Carolina. **William Lowery Foster** was born May 20, 1843, and married Mary Elizabeth “Molly” Justice (b. 1846) in Caldwell County, North Carolina, on September 12, 1866. They had nine children, born in 1867, 1871, 1873, 1874, 1878, 1880, 1883, 1886 and 1889, so they seem to have gotten along and William seems to have been virile. William had come to Casey County, Kentucky, from North Carolina in late 1866 or early 1867. That William Lowery Foster could have had a child out of wedlock in 1872 is possible.

George and Polly’s second child was Mary S. Foster, born October 29, 1846. She married Thomas Benton “Bennet” Payne (b. 1841) in Lawrenceburg, Anderson County, Kentucky, on February 26, 1867. They had five children, born in 1870, 1875, 1878, 1879, and 1887. Had Mary been the mother of Enoch, then Enoch should have been named Payne or Foster, not Green. It would have been highly unusual for a married woman to have a child by a man other than her husband and to name the child after the true father; in fact, the presumption of paternity by the husband was virtually irrefutable at that time.

George and Polly’s third child, George Thomas “Tom” Foster, was born about 1849. He married Clemenza Ann Combs (b. 1851) on November 16, 1869, in Casey County, Kentucky. They had eleven children born between 1871 and 1885. Tom could have had a child out of wedlock in 1872.

George and Polly’s fourth and youngest child, Sarah Elizabeth Foster, was born on June 10, 1851. She married Thomas Newton Justice (b. 1842) in 1866 at Lenoir, Caldwell County, North Carolina. They had eight children born between 1867 and 1886. Again, it would have been highly unusual for a married woman to have a child by a man other than her husband and to name the child after the true father.

Since the relationships shown in the Census are between the named person and the head of household, it is possible that Jane Mason may have been the mother of Enoch Green. I totally lack good information about Jane Mason.

In 1850 there were a surprising number of individuals with the surname Green in Watauga County, North Carolina. We count about 40 households of Greens or containing at least one Green.

In 1870 there was one family in Casey County named Green. They were at Powers Store on Rolling Fork, Casey County, Kentucky, where some of the Fosters had first settled after coming to Casey County. They were David Green (42), Elizabeth Green (36), Milton Green (15), **Janie Green (13)**, Sarah Green (10), Ellen Green (9), David Green (6),

and Lucinda Green (1). Janie could have had a child at 15 but would have been only 23 in 1880, not 39, and that is an error not likely to have been made.

In 1870 there were ten white women named “Jane” living in Casey County who had been born between 1835 and 1845. Six were living with apparent husbands, but four had no apparent husband. None were, of course, named Green. The women were Jane Johnson (1835), Jane Elliot (1835), Jane Wheeler (1836; single and living alone on Rolling Fork) and Jane Edwards (1840). Keep in mind that Jane called herself a “Mason” only two years later; quickie marriage and divorce.

Our research is hampered by the lack of a census for 1890.

After 1880, I am unable to identify Enoch Green in the Censuses. Assuming that he was in Kentucky, in 1900 there were two Enoch Greens: Enoch Green (25, born August 1874) living in Johnson County with wife “Marget” (21), and children Elva (4), Nolia (2) and Estel (1); and, Enoch C. Green (born April 1868) living in Lawrence County with children Rosa E. (4) and Taris (1).

There were no Enoch Fosters found in Kentucky in 1900.

In 1910, and subsequently, the same two Enoch Greens shown above were still living in the counties shown. No other Enoch Greens appear. ²

² In 1910, an “Enorb” (surely Enoch) R. Foster is found in District 2, Washington County, Kentucky. He was a white male born about **1883**. He is living with his wife, Lillie (21) and children Lottie E. (4) and Marguerite (1). Note that this Enoch Foster would have been ten years younger than Enoch Green. He reported having been born in Kentucky and his parents having both been born in Kentucky.

In 1920, Enoch R. Foster (36; hence about **1884**) appears in Raywick Precinct, Marion County, Kentucky, with wife Lillie (30) and children Eva L. (14), Marguerite (11), Francis A. (9), Marshall (7), Pauline (5-1/2), Alberta V. (3-1/2) and Dorothy (1-1/2). They may have lived next to a Joe Foster (62). This Enoch Foster listed having been born in Kentucky and his parents having been born in Kentucky.

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Where then did our Enoch Green go? Who were his parents. Answering these questions may just take looking and looking and looking.

Another mystery is that in 1870, an eleven year old white boy appeared in the George and Polly household. He was named Robert L. Foster and designated as nephew. I believe that I have located him as a son of Levi Foster (thus giving me a tie between George and Levi as possible brothers) and traced him to the northwest and Canada.

More work is definitely required to unravel these mysteries.

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