

## **Notes Toward a History of the Ewing Family Association**

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For several years I have been intending to prepare a history of *Clan Ewing in America* and the *Ewing Family Association*. At the 2008 Gathering in Winchester, Virginia I recorded some stories from long-time members about the early gatherings and the organization of *Clan Ewing in America*. I think including those in the history would make for some more interesting reading, but I have not done that, yet. These 'notes' focus on how and when the name 'Clan Ewing in America' was chosen, and on the gradual evolution from a single-family organization to the more inclusive surname interest society that we have become. These notes cover the period up to the death of Reverend Samuel Ellsworth Ewing, the organization's founder, in August 1995 and the formal incorporation of *Clan Ewing in America* a month later.

### **Sources of Information**

The organization that became the *Ewing Family Association* in 2008 grew out of the hobby of Reverend Ellsworth Samuel Ewing (1908-1995). Ellsworth traveled around the U.S. meeting with Ewings he thought to be the descendants of William Ewing of Stirling, born about 1625. He often stayed in their homes and gradually built an informal network of folks who shared his interest in Ewing genealogy and family history. He made a lot of friends, who made friends with one another. Ellsworth's papers are in the Ewing Family Archives, which are presently housed at the Cecil County Historical Society in Elkton, Maryland and are brought to each gathering of the *Ewing Family Association* for the convenience of members wishing to do research. I am preparing this history in Albuquerque, between gatherings, so I am unable to examine Ellsworth's papers, which may include some letters earlier than those I have ready access to.

The early part of this history is based on documents given to me by James R. McMichael prior to his death in March 2009, 'extracts' from the *Journals* from November 1994 to November 1998 that Jim Emailed to me in June 2008 consisting mainly of messages from the Chairs and Chancellors during those years,<sup>1</sup> documents given to me by Doralyn and Robert Hunter Johnson in July 2008 prior to Bob's death, a *Review of Clan Ewing Reunions* prepared by Eleanor Ewing Swineford in August 2008, and a DVD version of a videotape David C. Ewing made of Ellsworth's talk at the first Ewing Family Gathering on October 14, 1988.<sup>2</sup> Jim McMichael's papers include a complete set of 'Dear Cousins' letters from December 1988 through December 1996 and private correspondence with Ellsworth and other organizers between June 15, 1988 and April 2, 1994. Bob Johnson's papers include information on the gatherings the Johnsons attended beginning in 1993 and include lists of members attending.

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<sup>1</sup> [dl.dropbox.com/u/431003/Journal extracts Nov 1994 - Nov 1998.pdf](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/431003/Journal%20extracts%20Nov%201994%20-%20Nov%201998.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> You can see this at [dl.dropbox.com/u/431003/Ellsworth\\_Ewing\\_video.mp4](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/431003/Ellsworth_Ewing_video.mp4)

## The First Gathering

The earliest document I have examined is the June 15, 1988 letter from Ellsworth to "Cousin James" McMichael inviting him to a family 'Get-Together' in October 1988 at Mont Clair Farm, the home of Rebecca and N. Mark Ewing in Vincennes, Indiana. Mark is the great-great-grandson of Nathaniel Ewing, the original homesteader of Mont Clair farm.<sup>3</sup> This letter has no masthead or formal letterhead, but has a stamped crest labeled 'Ewing Family Arms' that is similar in design to the one appearing presently on the *Ewing Family Association* homepage. The word 'clan' is not mentioned in the letter, and it does not appear prominently in the talk he gave at the gathering. He did use the word a time or two in the talk, apparently interchangeably with 'family'. Ellsworth did not believe the Ewing family he was interested in to be descended from Clan Ewen of Otter or any other Highland Clan, but rather followed E. W. R. Ewing<sup>4</sup> in believing that the Ewings originated among Brythonic Celts of the Scottish Lowlands he referred to as Britons.<sup>5</sup> Let me quote from an audiotape<sup>6</sup> made by Ellsworth:



**Mont Clair, the Ewing family farm on Monroe City Road.**

[From an article in the *Vincennes Sun Commercial*, 19 March 2009]

The Ewing name is from the lowland Celtic Scots, not the highland Pict-Caledonian Teutonic peoples. ... Our family traces its name back to Glasgow and Loch Lomond more than a thousand years ago. But we are not related to the clan Ewen or McEwen of Otter, of the highlands. They rose in the late 1200's, 1300's and faded out in the 1400's or early 1500's and were absorbed by the Campbells. ... We have little in common racially with the highlanders who were Picts and Caledonians of Teutonic stock.

Ellsworth Ewing was interested in one specific group of Ewing families whose ancestors immigrated to America before the Revolutionary War and were all thought to be descended from one William Ewing of Stirling. I do not have a copy of Jim's response to Ellsworth's June 1988 invitation, but the next

<sup>3</sup> For further information about the Mont Clair farm and the Nathaniel Ewing homestead see:

- Nathaniel Ewing Homestead, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 15, No. 3 (August 2009), pp. 15-7
- [tinyurl.com/3vcja34](http://tinyurl.com/3vcja34)
- [www.flickr.com/photos/historic-landmarks-foundation-indiana/4904203701/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/historic-landmarks-foundation-indiana/4904203701/in/photostream)
- [www.flickr.com/photos/historic-landmarks-foundation-indiana/4904204187/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/historic-landmarks-foundation-indiana/4904204187/in/photostream)

<sup>4</sup> Ewing, Elbert William R. *Clan Ewing of Scotland*, Corben Publishing Co. (Ballston, Virginia), 1922. Available for purchase from [www.HigginsonBooks.com](http://www.HigginsonBooks.com) and online at [www.ClanEwing.org/books/EwingEWR/index\\_ewr.htm](http://www.ClanEwing.org/books/EwingEWR/index_ewr.htm)

<sup>5</sup> This was spelled 'Britins' in the unattributed transcription I found in Jim McMichael's papers of Ellsworth's audio tape, but this includes many misspellings Ellsworth would not have made (for example, Glasgow for Glasgown and Lochomand for Loch Lomond), so I have taken the liberty of correcting the spelling in my quote here.

<sup>6</sup> I am not sure when or where this tape was made, but I think it is probably the tape offered for sale in his December 8, 1988 Dear Cousins letter. I suspect that it is what Ellsworth is referring to at the beginning of his videotaped talk at Vincennes, when he jokes "This was all supposed to have been recorded, and I left it at home on the dining room table. She's to blame for that (pointing to his wife, Dorothy)." You can hear the tape at:

[dl.dropbox.com/u/431003/Ellsworth\\_Ewing\\_audiotape.mp3](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/431003/Ellsworth_Ewing_audiotape.mp3).

document in Jim's papers is an undated letter from Ellsworth to Jim answering it. Ellsworth begins "Your response to the call for members of the various families of Clan Ewing (who have their origin back in 1620 with William Ewing of Stirling) to get together, has been most encouraging." He goes on to speak about the cost of the meeting, which was to be \$75 per person for the program and three meals, plus lodging. A block of rooms at the Holiday Inn was reserved for \$37.70 per room per night, regardless of how many people stayed in a room. Evidently, Jim sent him some genealogical material on his own Ewing line<sup>7</sup> because Ellsworth wrote on September 10, 1988:

Dear Cousin James: It is delightful to find new relatives ... [he speaks of how Jim's line is connected with William Ewing of Stirling] ... You really should come. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time the various branches have gotten together – and who knows when it will happen again.

He goes on to answer some questions that Jim seems to have asked.

#3 – Sure, I'll be glad to let you know of any Re-unions I hear of. There was one in Lansing, Mich[igan] last Sunday but I haven't found a tie-in with them yet.

I take this to mean that Ellsworth was aware of other Ewing families, but his interest in them was only to see whether he could find a 'tie-in' with William Ewing of Stirling; that is, to prove that they were actual genealogical relatives of this specific Ewing family.

Ellsworth made his talk at the first Ewing Family Gathering in front of hand-drawn wall charts he had prepared for what he took to be each of the descendants of William Ewing of Stirling that had immigrated to America before the Revolutionary War. He began by asking representatives of each of these branches of the family to rise and say a little about the history of their branch of the family.<sup>8</sup>

Ellsworth wrote a letter on December 8, 1988 with the salutation "Dear Cousins" and no letterhead. In it, he reports on the family gathering that had taken place in Vincennes, Indiana that October. He reported that 67 people attended the gathering, representing seven of the fifteen family groups he thought to be branches of this family. He raises the question of what the "Group" should name itself. He asks for suggestions and lists the alternatives that were suggested at the first gathering, which were:

- *Clan Ewing*
- *American Clan Ewing*
- *The Ewing Association*

He asks for people to send a \$50 fee, for which they would receive "A Ewing Family Certificate, properly embossed with the Ewing Coat-of-Arms and stamped with an official seal." He also offers for sale a number of items, including an Audio Cassette of *History of Ewing Family* (or a 9-page "manuscript," which I take to mean a transcript of the tape, a copy of which was also in Jim McMichael's papers), and copies of his twelve Ewing Family Charts for \$75 plus postage.

Ellsworth wrote another Dear Cousins letter on March 24, 1989 in which he spoke of beginning to organize a second 'Reunion' in Cecil Co., Maryland to be held sometime in 1990. He speaks again of membership certificates, and asks what people want it to say: *Clan Ewing of America*, *The Ewing Clan*

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<sup>7</sup> McMichael, James R. *Alexander Ewing (1676/7-1738) and Descendants*, Family History Publishers (Bountiful, Utah), 1999. Available online at:  
[www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/EwingAlexander/index\\_Book\\_JimMcMic.html](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/EwingAlexander/index_Book_JimMcMic.html).

<sup>8</sup> You can see a video of this at the link in footnote 6 above.

of America or something else.<sup>9</sup> He notes that only eleven people who were at the Vincennes gathering had sent in their \$50 dues payment. He speaks of "the video my brother took of the Vincennes Get-together." Since David C. Ewing is not his brother, I assume this means that Ellsworth's brother Harold also made a videotape, but I have not seen a copy of that.

## The Second Gathering

Ellsworth's next Dear Cousins letter was written August 1, 1989. He begins, "May, June and July have been filled with a lot of news of interest to the Family, 'Clan Ewing of America.'" He speaks of his trip with Dorothy to Scotland that summer and of preparations for the gathering proposed for Cecil Co..

In his next Dear Cousins letter, written October 24, 1989, he speaks of a scouting trip with Dorothy to Cecil Co. in which he discovered that the group could be accommodated at a Boy Scout camp about ten miles from North East, Maryland, where a bed and meals for four days could be had for under \$50 per person, so that he thought the total "Reunion cost" could be around \$100 per person.

In a letter to Jim dated December 6, 1989, Ellsworth says:

I am finishing up a task I undertook several years ago – to make visible and understandable the Ewing relationship tracing back to Baron William Ewing of Stirling. I now have 11 charts of the 15 emigrants to this country, with about 4500 names. I originally did these by hand, but though I went through 4 editions they still were far from clear and one could easily become confused. So I am reducing them to type-set and they are much clearer and cleaner.

Another Dear Cousins letter was written January 20, 1990 (but may have gone only to the folks in Jim McMichael's line, descended from the immigrant Alexander Ewing) and says in part:

... I have been hunting for you for four years. At that time I undertook, for the family, to chart all of the descendants of the fifteen refugees from Londonderry, Ireland, that were the grandchildren of William Ewing of Stirling, who fled from Scotland to escape the persecution of the English. ...

His next Dear Cousins letter was written March 1, 1990 and included details of the "Reunion" planned for September in Cecil Co., Maryland. He also unilaterally lowered the annual dues to \$25. Ellsworth sent back-to-back Dear Cousins letters on June 25 and July 6, 1990. The June letter contained a detailed description of the accommodations and program for the "Gathering of the Clan" scheduled for September 1990, and the July letter was a last call for those planning to attend.

A letter from Ellsworth to Jim dated July 20, 1990 says:

... You will be getting a letter with information relative to the 'Gathering of the Clan' by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August ... I sent the Charts, indices, and brief history of the family off to the printer yesterday ... so now I'm trying to catch up on correspondence with the Family.

Plainly, Ellsworth is using the words 'clan' and 'family' interchangeably; and, by 'Family' he means a specific family with one common ancestor – William Ewing of Stirling.

The second "Ewing Reunion" was held September 27<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>, 1990 at Rodney Boy Scout Reservation, about ten miles from North East, Maryland. The cost ended up being \$125 per person, but

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<sup>9</sup> Roger L. Ewing tells me that his membership certificate from this period says "Clan Ewing of America."

this required attendees to bring their own bedding and most of the accommodations were dormitory-style with many people camped out in the same room. A list of attendants at the 1990 Ewing Gathering sent by Ellsworth to Jim McMichael on November 6, 1990 includes 101 names. Ellsworth's November 7, 1990 Dear Cousins letter speaks of "the William Ewing Clan in North America." He talks about what fun everyone had, in part because of the rustic nature of the accommodations. He also spoke of appointing Jim McMichael to work with John Harrison, a professional researcher in Scotland, and asked for contributions to a Research Fund to pay for that. He announced that Joe Glick of Media, Pennsylvania, had volunteered to begin assembling family stories.

In his November 6, 1990 letter to Jim, Ellsworth also said, "I am thinking about whether I ought to replace my 2-slot 5¼ inch disk 640 k computer with a hard disk 200 or 300 mk one in order to use a Roots III and Roots-Writer program to preserve information that I have on the shelf here but could not put on the charts." In the same letter he speaks of a Research Fund and of corresponding with John Harrison in Scotland. Jim's May 7, 1991 letter to Ellsworth speaks of having received \$830 in donations for research and of having sent \$600 of it to Harrison.

Ellsworth continued to think about interacting with other Ewing groups and, in a December 6, 1990 letter to Jim he says "I am compiling the centers of a number of Ewing family reunions that should be put into a network." Still, he was very clear that he wanted to distinguish 'his' Ewings from the others. In his August 25, 1991 Dear Cousins letter he says, "The Ewing crest and buckle are very distinctive and carry back many centuries—and have nothing in common with the McEwin, Ewin or Highland Ewings..."

Ellsworth's January 21, 1991 Dear Cousins letter asks about where folks think the next 'Gathering of the Clan' should take place. He talks about his feeling that more time should be spent at gatherings sharing stories of our ancestors and less doing tours and such, and he mentions that Joe Glick has organized an editorial committee for "a Ewing Journal or Quarterly," which is supposed to collect and publish such stories. As near as I can determine, nothing ever came of that. He also says:

There will be many Reunions to be held in various parts of the country. ... Most every mail has brought in enquiries about the Ewing Family, people seeking relationships, and many have been found to be part of our Family. ... Any of you that do not have the Certificate of Membership in the Ewing Clan in America and want one, get in touch with me by sending your dues along.

Ellsworth's April 10, 1991 Dear Cousins letter encourages folks to organize branch-specific reunions, for example, an "all-Nathaniel Gathering," and perhaps also some regional gatherings for members living close to one another. He also suggests:

Why not have a 'gathering' of all the Ewings in your county or state regardless of whether they have found a tie-in yet or not? You just might turn up some new relatives.

He proposes holding the 1993 "Gathering of the Clan" in Austin, Texas and perhaps arranging for the use of dormitories at the University of Texas there to help keep costs to attendees at a minimum, and a 1995 gathering at Princeton University to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "First Landing of the Ewing Clan in America." He also complains that only forty people have paid their 1991 dues.

### **Formal Organization Begins Taking Shape**

Jim McMichael apparently first began corresponding with Ellsworth in 1988 and quickly became a central figure in the organization. He served in several capacities through the years – he was one of the principal movers in organizing *Clan Ewing in America* and was elected to the first three-member

Executive Council and served as its Treasurer. He founded the *Journal of Clan Ewing* in 1994 and served as editor until 2002. He was a Board Member, Clan Genealogist, Chair of the Ewing Genealogy Documentation Project, tireless researcher and friend. When Chancellor George W. Ewing awarded Jim a plaque for distinguished service at the 2006 gathering, he referred to him as 'Mr. Clan Ewing'. The *Ewing Family Association* would not exist today if not for the efforts of Ellsworth and Jim McMichael.

Jim was instrumental in helping formalize the structure of the organization. On August 19, 1991 he sent a letter with the salutation "Dear Ewing Clan of America Member," which was sent to 38 members who had contributed to the Research Fund. It consisted mainly of a report on the professional research that had been done in Scotland by John Harrison. It was very clear at this point that the focus was still exclusively on the descendants of William Ewing of Stirling:

Hopefully, enough information can be obtained to prove how the Ewing immigrants were related. There must be more than the three known children, James, Robert and William, of William Ewing of Stirling.

In Ellsworth's September 3, 1991 Dear Cousins letter he talks about places significant in American Ewing history and which of them might be good places for gatherings. He also asks for financial support – to buy a bigger computer capable of holding the Ewing data he has accumulated ("a 40mb hard disk computer and accessories that will cost \$1700 to \$2000"), to help him recoup the \$5400 printing bill for his charts (he needed to sell seventeen more sets – I wonder if he ever did?) and to pay ongoing operational expenditures, mainly postage.

On September 9, 1991, Jim sent a letter to twelve leading members<sup>10</sup> with some of his thoughts. He had two main objectives. One was to prepare an organizational structure and slate of officers to present to the members at the 1993 gathering, and the other was to "get set-up to start putting out a ... newsletter after the 1993 Clan gathering." He suggested that only people with the surname Ewing be considered as officers so that "the name Ewing should be dominant in the organization." He suggested that a good name for the journal would be *Ewing Clan of America Quarterly*. The entire letter runs to four typewritten pages. He asks for responses by October 4, 1991.

He received "five letters and a phone call." His papers include detailed letters he received from William S. Ewing, Joseph H. Ewing, Coleman C. Ewing, Joseph Neff Ewing, Jr., Ellsworth Ewing and what appear to be notes taken during a phone call from Hazel Daro. I do not know who wrote the fifth letter. William S. Ewing raises this question:

Clan – a decision has to be made as to who we exclude and who we except. Do we include only the descendants of the early Ewings that were sons of William? If a Ewing ancestor emigrates from ?? in 1850, are they automatically included? If so or not, how do we handle the research and newsletter publication? Are we interested in just the original dozen or so? Just some thoughts.

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<sup>10</sup> They were: Ellsworth Ewing; his brother Harold W. Ewing; Coleman Ewing of Littleton, Colorado; Elizabeth Ewing of Prospect, Kentucky; Evelyn Ewing of Mustang, Oklahoma; Joseph Neff Ewing, Jr., of Malvern, Pennsylvania; Joe H. Ewing of Wheaton, Maryland; Joe O. Ewing of Loudonville, Ohio; Dr. William Steele Ewing of Plano, Texas; Nathaniel Ewing Adam of Huntington, California; Hazel Ewing Daro of Fairbanks, Arkansas; and Ramona McNeely of Burkburnet, Texas.

Ellsworth responded in part:

I agree wholeheartedly with this idea of the Ewing name among the officers, like the President, being prominent – though not totally exclusive. ... I think the name should be 'Clan Ewing (in America)'.

As near as I can tell, this is the first time anyone used the exact phrase 'Clan Ewing in America'. I do not know what Ellsworth meant by enclosing 'in' in parentheses.

Joseph H. Ewing responded in part:

As to getting up a slate of potential officers in advance of the next gathering, I think it's not a bad idea. I doubt that there are half a dozen members of Clan Ewing who would have given any thought to becoming an 'officer.' However, assuming that there is general agreement at the next gathering on the slate of officers chosen by the inner circle, there still should be a real opportunity for some 'council members' or 'officers' to be nominated from the floor, so as to defeat any possible appearance that everything was arranged in a 'smoke filled room.

The suggestion of "Ewing Clan of America Quarterly" is probably not the best. Using the word Quarterly locks the editor into a deadline four times a year; and of course it is "Clan Ewing in America."

I agree with your proposal that we advertise in the Genealogical Helper magazine and other genealogical magazines, reaching out everywhere to draw more Ewings into our clan. But this raises a point on which I am unsure. Is every one with the name "Ewing" a potential member or are we an organization only of the Ewings who can trace their ancestry to Castle Sterling? I seem to recall that Ellsworth made this point during the past year, making a distinction between 'Highlanders' and 'Lowlanders' or something like that.

Coleman C. Ewing shared several thoughts on non-profit corporations, and though he did not express a preference for a name for the organization, he did comment:

I am sending the timeline chart on the Ewing's located in Burt parish Ireland. ... You can see that the connections I am referring to are there, but not the William and his kids that we are looking for. As I said on the phone, without hard evidence on William, the next best thing is to build the best case we can using one of the other people that came to this country to pin down a location in Ireland.

Joseph Neff Ewing, Jr., addresses the issue of non-profit corporation status, including mentioning 501(c)(6)<sup>11</sup> fraternal organizations, which do not have to pay income tax, but donations to these organizations are not tax-deductible. He does not comment about membership requirements or mention any thoughts about what the name of the organization should be.

On January 27, 1992 Jim sent another letter to the same twelve addressees as his September 9, 1991 letter. He says, in part:

The more I talk about this subject and the future of the organization, and your comments, I am inclined to believe that we are going to need someone to represent each of the 12 groups [that

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<sup>11</sup> I have a hard time keeping all these designations straight. I think that 501(c)(6) is for "Business league" and civic organizations, and that fraternal organizations are under 501(c)(7), but that doesn't make any substantive difference in this discussion.

is, the groups descended from the twelve American immigrants supposed to have been descended from William Ewing of Stirling]

He also now suggests that the Newsletter be named "Clan Ewing in America: New and Histories of Families Printed Periodically." He also says this about membership:

Clan membership. This item generated some good comments. ... <sup>[12]</sup> ... Does a person have to descend from one of the twelve, or descend from William, to be a member? Now, let's assume you answered yes to [this] question. In 1997 it is proven without a doubt that one of the twelve does not descend from William. What do you do with those 25, 50 or 100 members? Ah, maybe one of them has donated \$10,000 to a trust fund? Can you be a member if your Ewing line goes back to Ireland or Scotland? Can you be a member if your Ewing line goes back to England? Who is in and who is out? Those are some very important questions that have to be dealt with before getting into a formal organization and trying to attract new members. ... Whatever happens, I believe a small group of people will end up doing all the work. Hopefully as many as 10 or 12. More would be better.

Jim included a questionnaire with this letter and also sent a copy of the questionnaire to all members who had contributed to the Research Fund. The questionnaire consisted of questions about what information members might be willing to share, what they think about documentation standards, and such. He did not ask in the questionnaire for input on membership requirements or a name for the organization.

A letter from Ellsworth to Jim dated February 17, 1992, says in part:

As to membership, the guide lines so far have been that ancestry goes back to one of the 15 (not 12) – but associated with us but not tied-in, some whose line goes back to a point that is presumptive of possible tie-in. Other lines back to Ireland, such as Russell Ewing's in Cecil Co., whose ancestor came over in 1795, have not been considered for membership. His line may have been part of the Family that were left behind when ours migrated but we, and they, don't know. And those that have come from England have shown no tie – nor have the Eastern Shore McEwings and Ewings that are Highlanders. They may have intermarried with our Family but who knows?" (This last group has a few who are peeved at us for not accepting them as members, but I can't help that.) The Highlanders and McEwings have definitely been shown to not be Celtic as we are. As to advertizing for membership – I would not be favorable. We are not interested in numbers – but in relationships.

Ellsworth's March 24, 1992 Dear Cousins letter talks about his work in putting his Ewing data into "your" new computer, so I guess some folks must have responded to his request for funds to buy a computer. He also talks about the gathering planned for San Antonio, Texas and the fact that this one is expected to cost \$350 per person. He also says, in part:

... There are several Ewing lines that are probably tied in – but also there are a number of Ewing Families out there that have no evidence of ties to us, especially those associated with the Highland Clan of McEwing of Otter. It is sometimes embarrassing to have to disassociate ourselves from them.

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<sup>12</sup> I have left out a discussion of paying vs. non-paying members and the possibility of creating several levels of membership, ranging from \$25 for an Individual/Family membership to \$2500 for a "Senior Fellow" membership.



A letter from Jim to Ellsworth dated August 13, 1992, says, in part:

For some time I have felt that the Ewing Clan should allow any Ewing to be a member and attend the gatherings but the genealogy records would not be include with your charts. At some time in the future that person or group of people might be able to prove a connection to one of the people on your charts.

Trying to restrict membership in the organization to proven descendants of William Ewing of Stirling was becoming problematic. Ellsworth wanted to restrict membership to just this family, but he wanted to include Ewings who were probably related and couldn't prove it, yet. He often spoke of looking for 'tie-ins'. Further, some members were beginning to question the references for some of the genealogy Ellsworth had accepted, but it seems not to have occurred to Ellsworth to think about what he would do if at sometime in the future a line he had included in the William of Stirling family was proven *not* to be related. Would he ask members of that line to surrender their membership in *Clan Ewing in America*?

Ellsworth published a Dear Cousins letter on January 10, 1993 with a letterhead saying "Ewing Family Newsletter" and showing a crest labeled simply "Ewing" in which he speaks about his progress in setting up the 1993 "Gathering of the Ewing Clan in America" scheduled for June in San Antonio, Texas. His April 1993 Dear Cousins letter had a different letterhead, this one saying "Descendants of William Ewing of Stirling, Ewing Family Newsletter" and it had the same crest as in the January newsletter.

### **The Third Gathering**

The third gathering was held June 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 1993 at the Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas.<sup>13</sup> S. Finley Ewing and his sister Carolee Youngblood helped Ellsworth organize this gathering. Rates for the gathering were now down to \$175 per person, half-rate for children under sixteen, which included meals and lodging in dormitory rooms at the College.

One of the events at the gathering was to have been a Texas Boar Roast. Ellsworth reports in his August 4, 1993 Dear Cousins letter:

Also memorable was the unfortunate spoiling of what would have been an outstanding evening at the Home Ranch of Carolee and Hull Youngblood. There was to have been a Texas boar roast (begun the day before) as well as local fiddlers and "rope artists", one of whom must not have been more than 10 years old. It was to have been an outstanding Texan evening. But the rain came just as we arrived. It was a Texas downpour and since we had crossed half a dozen bridgeless streams to get to the Ranch, we were advised to get back to the Highway. It is indeed a night that will be remembered!

A visit to the Alamo to dedicate a plaque to James Lee Ewing, who died at the Alamo, worked out better.

At this gathering, Ellsworth announced that both he and Dorothy were having health problems. Jim McMichael, Joe Neff Ewing, Robert Hunter Johnson and others were aware that Ellsworth was terminally ill and had discussed with him how to keep the organization going into the future. It is at this meeting that *Clan Ewing in America* was officially organized and named. The documents given to me by Bob Johnson include a copy of an undated, unattributed *Memo: To the Ewing Family Gathering* (that I

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<sup>13</sup> Ellsworth produced a list of the 168 people who attended this gathering, with a cover page saying "1993 Gathering of the Descendants of William Ewing of Stirling."

am pretty sure was prepared by Jim McMichael, but I am not positive). It begins with the sentence "It is good that the descendants of William of Stirling can gather for fellowship and sharing this year!!" It goes on to thank Rev. and Mrs. Ellsworth for their efforts and outlines a suggested structure for the organization, consisting of:

1. Family Council: Each of the thirteen branches of the Ewing family select a representative and an alternate to represent their branch on a Ewing Family Council. The EFC meet annually for planning and administrating business relating [to] the Ewing family.
2. Executive: Three persons, selected by the Family Council, will serve with the Chancellor in decision among [sic, must have intended 'making'] and planning in the interim between Family Council meetings and the Family Gathering.
3. Treasurer: One of the Executive Committee will serve as treasurer.
4. Ewing Family Chancellor: At each Family Gathering an administrator should be designated to be known as the Ewing Family Chancellor. Ewing Family Chancellor Emeritus: That in light of his commitment to the Ewing Family genealogy; the research in family history; visiting original family sites in Scotland, England, Ireland and the United States; the development of numerous genealogical charts; the charting [of] more than thirteen thousand records; the collections of voluminous anecdotal material; the enriching of our family relation through bringing the families together at Vincennes[, Indiana], Cecil Co., Maryland and now in San Antonio; and for service far beyond our ability to list WE RECOMMEND that Ellsworth Samuel Ewing be declared Chancellor Emeritus of the Ewing Family!!<sup>14</sup>

Jim asks for everyone to contribute their ideas and speaks in this letter of one of his recurring themes:

I believe, and I think some of you indicated the same, that each line for a family branch is going to have to be maintained by one person. Then a central source can also be maintained.

Ellsworth's August 4, 1993 Dear Cousins letter has no letterhead. In it can be seen that his attitude toward who should be allowed to join the organization was softening. He reports on the San Antonio gathering and says, in part:

... We are finding many reunions, in different parts of the country, usually first cousins and aunts and uncles. Hence the Gathering of Reunions should constitute a Gathering of the Clan, shouldn't it? ... I don't know about you, but I have many times been confused over dates and relationships so that I am no longer dogmatic, insistent upon proven relationships before I will shake hands with another Ewing. So I think we should be outgoing, receptive and generous in

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<sup>14</sup> I do not have copies of the minutes of the meeting where these issues were decided, but it appears that the structure recommended in the Memo quoted above was adopted. On June 18, 1993 Jim McMichael sent a letter with the letterhead "Clan Ewing in America," showing him as Treasurer and his address as Texas, to "Family Council, Clan Ewing in America." He comments that he has enclosed a copy of the "January 1991" letter (this was actually from January 1992) discussed above. He also enclosed a copy of the names and addresses of the people that attended the meeting of the family branch representatives (Family Council), which included 13 names. This list included representatives of lines descended from Nathaniel, John, Joshua, Henry, Alexander and William (A). Interestingly, it also included Jill Ewing Spitler, who represented the "Orphan Group," presumably referring to Ewings who had not been able to connect their lines to any in Ellsworth's charts, perhaps an early effort at becoming at least somewhat more inclusive.

any case of Genealogical correctness. Our value as an organization is the warm, outgoing sense of fellowship, acceptance, love and support we have for each other.

And also (Ellsworth referring to himself in the third person):

Clan Ewing in America, a creation of the developing interest of Ellsworth Samuel Ewing, was finally authorized to become a legal entity. It will relieve him of a great deal of personal responsibility to shift this burden over to an administrative board. Such a board was elected at the Gathering consisting of two representatives from each ancestral family. Joe Neff Ewing was chosen Chair and selected to call the administrative board together as needed.

The last Dear Cousins letter I have that was written by Ellsworth is dated December 11, 1993. Mainly, he speaks of his health and of how glad he is that an "Administrative committee" was elected in San Antonio, this time speaking of Joe Neff Ewing as President and of himself as Chancellor Emeritus.

Jim McMichael sent a letter dated April 2, 1994 to "All Family Line Representatives and Alternates, Clan Ewing in America." This letter is on *Clan Ewing in America* letterhead, using Jim's address, and showing the names of the Chancellor Emeritus and the Executive Council. He attached the following information, which he planned to include in future newsletters:

**Chancellor Emeritus:** Rev. Ellsworth Samuel Ewing

**Executive Council:** Joseph Neff Ewing, Jr., Chairman, Robert Hunter Johnson, James R. McMichael

**Treasurer:** James R. McMichael

**Membership:** Please write to Clan Ewing in America, at the above address. [Jim's address in The Woodlands, Texas.]

Clan Ewing in America was organized to foster interest in the Ewing Family; to promote gatherings of the Clan; to publish a newsletter periodically with information that is of a biographical, genealogical, and historical nature; to encourage research identifying the relationship among the many different Ewing families in America; and to share our research finds with others.

**Clan Ewing Council:**

<u>Immigrant</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Alexander (A)	None
Alexander (1677-1738/9)	James R. McMichael
Charles	Alicia Ewing Towster
Findley	Guy Ewing
Henry	Joey Ewing Glick
James	None
John	Coleman C. Ewing Roy C. McClure
Joshua	Hazel Daro Juanita Atteberry
Nathaniel	Joseph Neff Ewing, Jr. Nathaniel Ewing Adam

Robert	Alicia Ewing Towster
Samuel	Rev. Dr. Harold W. Ewing
William (A)	Vickie Ewing Montgomery Janey Smith Patsy Luna William M. Ewing
William (B)	None
OTHER:*	Jill Ewing Spittler
* Immigrant not known.	Robert H. Johnson

The letter speaks mostly about how to maintain genealogical records and respond to queries. Jim mentions that only 30% of the people on the mailing list had paid dues and discussed sending the "Journal" just to members who had paid dues, but to continue sending "Bulletins" or "Newsletters" promoting gatherings, etc., to everyone. He also talks about having met with Ellsworth and the other two members of the Executive Council at Ellsworth's home in Indiana, and says that they "got a lot accomplished," but he doesn't give much in the way of details.

On April 4, 1994 Jim sent a letter to Ellsworth in which he thanks Ellsworth for meeting with him, Bob Johnson and Joe Neff Ewing. He speaks of planning to send out newsletters May 1, August 1 and November 1, and he asks for a family sheet for each immigrant.

### **The Decision to Open Membership to Other Families**

Joe Neff Ewing, Jr. reports in his Message from the Chair in the November 1994 *Journal* that a meeting of the Clan Council was held in Malvern, Pennsylvania the weekend of September 23-25. The most important decision made at this meeting was:

... membership in the Clan will be open to all descendants, male or female, of anyone named Ewing (or one of the name's many forms, such as Ewen, Ewin, or even Eugenius) and to the spouses of all such descendants. Any such person who has a current address on file with the Clan Treasurer will be considered a member. ...all of us are involved in the Clan because we are interested in learning more about our Ewing ancestors and in meeting more of their descendants. Therefore, the various family lines form the heart of our organization. Ideally, we would have one family group for each Ewing immigrant. However, there are many of us who have built impressively bushy family trees but cannot tie them to an immigrant; in fact many cannot find the branches back further than the middle of the nineteenth century. We welcome all the trees and bushes, whether they tie back to an immigrant who descended from William of Stirling, to another Ewing immigrant, or not to an immigrant at all. The hope is that by exchanging information with each other we will be able to unite more and more of those bushes into new immigrant trees or tie them into one of the ones already in our data bank.

In his next Message from the Chair in the February 1995 issue of the *Journal*, Joe speaks about plans for the 1995 gathering in Malvern, Pennsylvania and of plans to incorporate the Clan, "to establish its structure and make it easier to deal with the Postal Service, banks and other organizations."

In his May 1995 Message from the Chair, Joe speaks mostly of plans for the upcoming Gathering and says "Clan Ewing in America has been incorporated as a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, and at the Gathering we will be considering a set of bylaws for its organization and operation."

In his August 1995 Message from the Chair, Joe speaks about the upcoming Gathering in Malvern, which would cost \$150 per person plus lodging – a block of rooms is reserved at *The Desmond* for \$69 plus tax per day for single or double occupancy. He also reports:

Clan Ewing has received approval from the IRS for a 501(c)(7)<sup>15</sup> tax-exempt status, which means that if we should be so lucky as to end a year with a surplus we will not be taxed on it. Unfortunately, an organization such as this cannot be eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. Family organizations such as ours have been held to be more in the nature of a social club than a charitable or educational institution.

Ellsworth died at age 87, on August 17, 1995 at his home in Madison, Indiana.

### **Formal Incorporation of *Clan Ewing in America* at the Fourth Gathering**

Peggy and Joe Neff Ewing planned and organized the fourth gathering of Clan Ewing near their home in Malvern, Pennsylvania, September 28 - October 1, 1995. Seventy-two persons attended, twelve of whom were in 'Unknown' lines; that is, their immigrant ancestors were unknown. Bylaws were adopted on September 28, 1995 and *Clan Ewing in America* was formally incorporated. Margaret Ewing Fife was elected Chancellor and all members of the Clan Council were re-elected (with the addition of Barbara McGuinness). Now that *Clan Ewing in America* was incorporated, the three-member Executive Committee, the Chancellor and immediate past Chancellor became its Board of Directors. Joe was Chair, Bob Johnson was Secretary and Jim McMichael was Treasurer.



*David Neal Ewing has been a member of the Ewing Family Association since 1996 and has served as its Chancellor since 2006. He previously served as Chair of its Board of Directors from 2004 to 2006. He is also Administrator of the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project, which he founded in 2004, and he is a regular contributor to the Ewing Family Journal. Dr. Ewing has a private practice in clinical geriatric neuropsychiatry in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He received his M.D. degree from the University of New Mexico and did his residency training at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

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<sup>15</sup> A 501(c)(7) organization is a non-profit social and recreational (fraternal) organization.

	Date / Theme	Place	Organizers	Number	Cost
1 <sup>st</sup>	14-16 Oct 1988	Mont Clair Farm Vincennes, IN	N. Mark and Rebecca Ewing; Ellsworth S. Ewing		\$75 per person incl. meals, plus \$38/day for room at Holiday Inn
2 <sup>nd</sup>	27-30 Sep 1990	Camp Rodney Boy Scout Camp North East, MD	Ellsworth S. Ewing		\$125 per person all inclusive, 'bring your own bedding'
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10-13 Jun 1993	Incarate Word College San Antonio, TX	Ellsworth S. Ewing; S. Finley Ewing; Carolee Youngblood	168	\$175 per person incl. meals and dormitory lodging
4 <sup>th</sup>	28 Sep – 1 Oct 1995	Desmond Hotel Malvern, PA	Joseph Neff and Peggy Ewing	72	\$150 per person incl. meals, plus \$78/day for room
5 <sup>th</sup>	24-29 Jun 1998	Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel Nashville, TN	Joseph Neff Ewing; Jim and Lynn McMichael	86	\$150 per person incl. meals, plus room
6 <sup>th</sup>	21-24 Sep 2000	Best Western Hotel Lancaster, OH	Jill (Ewing) Spitzer	86	
7 <sup>th</sup>	10-13 Oct 2002 <i>Across the Wide Missouri</i>	Columbia, MO	Roy C. and Jean McClure	51	
8 <sup>th</sup>	30 Sep -3 Oct 2004 <i>Where the Journey Began</i>	Crystal Inn North East, MD	Esther (Ewing) Johnson; George W. Ewing	106	\$150 per person incl. meals, plus \$68/day for dbl room
9 <sup>th</sup>	21-24 Sep 2006 <i>Making Connections</i>	Don Hall's Guesthouse Ft Wayne, IN	Beth (Ewing) Toscos; David N. Ewing	81	\$175 per person incl. meals, plus \$66/day for dbl room
10 <sup>th</sup>	18-21 Sep 2008 <i>Echoes of the Shenandoah</i>	Hampton Inn Winchester, VA	Mary (Ewing) Gosline	99	\$200 per person incl. meals, plus \$70/day for dbl room
11 <sup>th</sup>	23-36 Sep 2010 <i>Bridge to the West</i>	Summit Inn Uniontown, PA	William Ewing Riddle; J. David Ewing	58	\$225 per person incl. meals, plus \$111/day for dbl room
12 <sup>th</sup>	20-23 Sep 2012 <i>Down the Ohio and Westward</i>	Quality Inn Gallipolis, OH	Wallace K. and Jane Ewing		

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