

The 2012 Gathering: Down the Ohio and Westward

The next gathering of the *Ewing Family Association (EFA)* will be held in Gallipolis, Ohio 20-23 September, 2012.

Over the years, *EFA* Gatherings have been held in locations pertinent to the arrival of Ewings from 'across the pond' and their subsequent migrations to the west as various pressures made this desirable and necessary and as allowed by the French, then British and then Americans.

The 2nd Gathering in 1960 and later the 2004's 8th Gathering (*Where the Journey Began*) focused on the immigration of Ewings to the Cecil Co., Maryland area. The 4th Gathering concerned immigrations to southeastern Pennsylvania, chiefly into the current-day Chester and Adams Counties in Pennsylvania. Migrations to Missouri were the focus of the 7th Gathering (*Across the Wide Missouri*) in 2002, and migrations to Indiana were the focus of the 9th Gathering (*Making Connections*) in 2006. Early 1700 immigrations to the Shenandoah Valley were the focus of the 10th Gathering (*Echoes of the Shenandoah*) in 2008. In 2010, the 11th Gathering (*Bridge to the West*) focused on migrations from the Shenandoah Valley across the Cumberland Gap and from the Upper Chesapeake Bay area along Braddock's Road (now known as the National Highway, Route 40) to the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area.

The 12th Gathering continues to track the westward migration of the Scots-Irish in general and Ewings in particular, this time along the Ohio River, first to lands south of the Ohio and then to lands north of the Ohio.

That Ewing Culture, or Why I'm Going to Gallipolis¹

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You don't have to be born into a clan to join one. I'm going to Gallipolis, Ohio in 2012 to be part of the Ewing brotherhood, even if Ewing isn't in my blood. I can't claim to be of Scottish descent, but I do have English ancestors. I belong to the Ewings, though, through the backdoor method. Five years ago I married Wallace K. Ewing and changed my last name from 'Livingston' to 'Ewing'. From then on I wanted to associate myself with kilts, bagpipes, and tartans and be linked to a clan.

I was introduced to Ewing ancestors and more lively family members when I accompanied Wally to the *Ewing Family Association* gathering in Ft Wayne, Indiana in 2006.² We gathered in the county building to admire portraits and hear legends of aristocratic ancestors who held court there. We visited a cemetery to view impressive monuments commemorating distinguished local Ewings, long dead.

¹ Gallipolis (from Wikipedia): a chartered village in the U.S. state of Ohio and the county seat of Gallia County. The municipality is located in Southeast Ohio on the Ohio River.

² www.ewingfamilyAssociation.org/2006_Gathering/Document_2006_Report.html

In 2008, my connection deepened when I attended the gathering in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia³ where we marveled at a restored family cemetery and paid homage to those buried there. I attended David Neal Ewing's presentation on the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project,⁴ prepared to be confused, but intrigued by how his project might connect various threads of family members.

In 2010 yet another *Ewing Family Association* gathering,⁵ this one in Uniontown, Pennsylvania took me deeper into birth, marriage and death records, artifacts, portraits, journals, and Bibles, centuries old. J. David Ewing told anecdotes about his forebears from the Uniontown area, and Thor Ewing, our keynote speaker from England, gave a narrative on how the Ewing/MacEwen families survived through the centuries in Scotland. I was becoming somewhat familiar with Ewing genealogy and feeling comfortable being a quasi-Ewing.



Downtown Gallipolis has maintained much of its original character.
(from Wikipedia:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallipolis,_Ohio)

Last year, on a pilgrimage to visit MacEwen castle in Kilfinan, Scotland,⁶ Wally and I traveled two hours west of Glasgow, ferrying from loch to loch, hiking lonely trails into the Highlands, crossing through sheep folds, and climbing bluffs to find and explore the castle ruins. Surely, this gives me some Scottish rites, doesn't it?

Last May, Wally and I visited a historic city in Ohio named Gallipolis (pronounced 'Gallapolice' and meaning 'City of the Gauls'), wandering around to locate historically interesting sites for the *EFA's* 2012 Gathering. We met historians and genealogists, and explored battlegrounds and century-old structures significant to Ewings. The area was once home to many Ewings and a stopping point for others in their migration to the Midwest and West.

In the fall of 2012, I will be an active participant in the Twelfth Gathering of the *Ewing Family Association* in Gallipolis. I don't pretend to be a historian or genealogist, and I am not an Ewing by birth. But I am an Ewing in spirit and no longer feel like an outsider.



Jane Ewing earned her bachelor degree from Western Michigan University and master degree from Wright State University in Ohio. She has been a lettering artist for the past twenty-five years, exploring traditional and abstract calligraphy. Her work has been published in Letter Arts Review and accepted by the Smithsonian Institution and juried exhibitions.

³ www.ewingfamilyAssociation.org/2008_Gathering/index_Project_Gather_2008.html

⁴ www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/DNA_Project/index_Y-DNA.html

⁵ www.ewingfamilyAssociation.org/2010_Gathering/index_Project_Gather_2010.html

⁶ www.ewingfamilyAssociation.org/documents/Ewing_Wally/101603_Reprint_Ewing_Wally.pdf

Index for this Article

Ewing

David Neal2
J. David.....2

Jane 1, 2
Thor.....2

Wallace K. 'Wally'
..... 1, 2

Livingston

Jane.....1
MacEwen.....2