

# ***The 2012 Gathering: Down the Ohio and Westward***

On 20-23 September 2012 some forty-five Ewings and Ewing-oriented genealogy researchers gathered at the Quality Inn in Gallipolis, Ohio, to acknowledge the continued migration of the Ewings to the West. In the program were genealogical and historical presentations, caravans to various local historical sites, such as the Battle of Pt. Pleasant, and opportunities for self-guided tours to Ewington and Vinton-area cemeteries, and other venues important to the family's history. As in the past, the research room offered the opportunity to track down family-history data, and there was ample time for reminiscing.



## **Background**

Many Ewings followed the gradual but ineluctable western migration patterns of the nineteenth century. In 1810, descendants of Pocahontas James Ewing left their home on Swago Creek in present-day West Virginia, followed the Kanawha River to the Ohio, and poled their rafts across that wide river to Gallipolis, before settling permanently in various parts of Gallia County and adjacent Jackson County.

Just across the Ohio River from Gallipolis is Point Pleasant, West Virginia, site of a battle that took place on October 10, 1774, a conflict some historians consider the first battle of the Revolutionary War. John 'Indian John' Ewing was the first Ewing to come to Gallia County, and his younger brother, William 'Swago Bill' Ewing, came a little later. Swago Bill Ewing would have remembered the Point Pleasant battle when he crossed the Ohio in 1810 on his way to Raccoon Township, north of Gallipolis. He had participated in the Battle of Point Pleasant thirty-six years earlier, when he was eighteen. Swago Bill spent the rest of his life in and around the small town of Ewington, where he died and was buried in 1822.

These Pocahontas James Ewing descendants, who migrated from the Shenandoah Valley via the Cumberland Gap, were descendants of John Ewing of Carnashannagh. They were joined by descendants of another early Scots-Irish immigrant – James Ewing of Inch – who had first settled in the Upper Chesapeake Bay area and then migrated via Braddock's Road, now known as the National Road, Route 40, to the area around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## **Further Reading**

Several articles provide information about the lives and times of the Ewing settlers of the Gallipolis area. The following articles appeared in previous issues of the *Ewing Family Journal*:

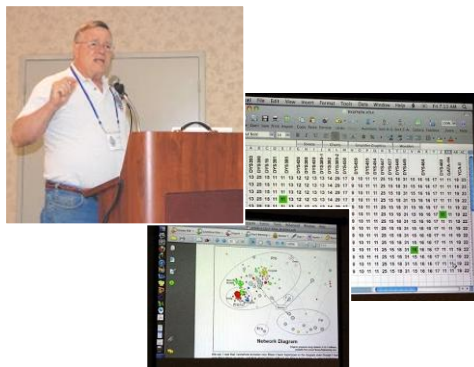
- Ewing, Jane. That Ewing Culture, or Why I'm Going to Gallipolis, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (November 2011), pp. 1-2.
- Ewing, Wallace K. Honeymooners at the 1893 Columbian Exposition, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (November 2011), pp. 18-20 .
- Ewing, Wallace K. The Long Walk of 1914: Grand Haven to Mackinaw City, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (November 2011), pp. 8-16.
- Ewing, Wallace K. . Morgan's Raid, *Ewing Family J.* Vol. 18, No. 1 (February 2012), pp. 61-63.
- Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part I, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (May 2012), pp. 21-26.
- Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part II, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (August 2012), pp. 16-22.

- Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part III, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (November 2012), pp. 13-21.
- McClure, Jean. Birthplaces of Pocahontas James Ewing's Children, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (February 2009), pp. 5-8.
- Riddle, William E. Ann Jeanette (Ewing) Clendenin, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (February 2012), pp. 32-33.
- Riddle, William E. A Brief History of Gallia Co., Gallipolis and Pt. Pleasant, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (February 2012), pp. 59-61.
- Riddle, William E. Clendenin Massacre, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (February 2012), pp. 63-70. Contains reprints of the following previously published articles:
  - James Ewing of Pocahontas, *J. Clan Ewing*, Vol. 1, No. 4 (May 1955), pp.28-32.
  - Ewing, David Neal. Clendenin Massacre, Greenbrier Co., West Virginia, 1793, *J. Clan Ewing*, Vol. 11, No. 4 (May 2005), pp. 15-18.
- Riddle, William E. Early History of the Ohio Country, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (February 2012), pp. 56-58.
- Sproul, William W., III. The Early Ewing Families of Augusta County, Virginia: Part I, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (May 2009), pp 27-29.
- Sproul, William W., III. The Early Ewing Families of Augusta County, Virginia: Parts II to IV, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (May 2010), pp. 16-37.

## Presentations<sup>1</sup>

There were several presentations on Ewing genealogy-related topics:

A status report on the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project<sup>2</sup> by David Neal Ewing. David's presentation included the display of many updates to the project's Results Tables and Network Diagrams which collectively show the genetic and genealogical similarities and differences among the project's participants. David provided copious details about the ways in which these tables and diagrams demonstrate the potential relationships and possible non-relationships among the project's participants.



An analysis of the children of Pocahontas James Ewing by Wallace K. Ewing. Wally's ancestors include John 'Indian John' Ewing (1747-1824) and William 'Swago Bill' Ewing (756-1822) who jointly settled the Gallia County area. Indian John and Swago Bill were sons of James 'Pocahontas James' Ewing (1721-1801). Wally provided a Research Room display with primary information about these Ewings and his presentation covered their descendants.



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<sup>1</sup> The images in the remainder of this item are courtesy of David Neal Ewing, Martin S. Ewing, Daniel C. Ewing and Carol Bauman. A few images have also been taken from various web sites, for example, the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center's web site, [www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx](http://www.genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx). The images included here are a small sampling of those posted on the EFA Web Site at [tinyurl.com/Gathering-2012-Photos](http://tinyurl.com/Gathering-2012-Photos).

<sup>2</sup> [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/genealogy-and-history/y-dna-project](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/genealogy-and-history/y-dna-project)

A discussion of the value and techniques of tombstone rubbing by Jane and Wallace K. Ewing. Rubbings from tombstones or grave markers are of great interest, partly because they offer valuable genealogical information about ones ancestors. This presentation explored a genealogist's quandary as to whether to rub or not to rub a tombstone. Rubbing a tombstone is not always a good practice. The question is: "Will rubbing a stone contribute to spoiling it?" The presentation discussed ways genealogists can feel confident that they have not caused damage.



Henny Evans, from the Gallia County Genealogical Society, provided an introductory presentation on the history of Gallipolis at Thursday afternoon's opening session.



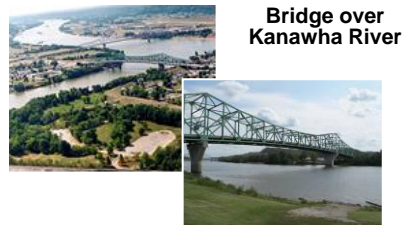
## Activities

Gathering attendees explored the gathering's venue and its myths:

### Point Pleasant, West Virginia

[from the Gallipolis Daily Tribune ([www.mydailytribune.com](http://www.mydailytribune.com))]

Pt Pleasant is a city in Mason County, West Virginia, at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha rivers. It is the county seat of Mason County and the principal city of the Pt. Pleasant Micropolitan Statistical Area.



Bridge over Kanawha River

### Gallipolis, Ohio

[from Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallipolis,\\_Ohio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallipolis,_Ohio))]

Gallipolis is one of the fifteen townships in Gallia County. It's located in southeast Ohio on the Ohio River. Gallipolis is the second-largest community in the Pt. Pleasant Micropolitan Statistical Area, which includes all of Gallia County, Ohio, and Mason County, West Virginia.



Downtown Gallipolis

## Mothman

[from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mothman\\_Festival#Mothman\\_Festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mothman_Festival#Mothman_Festival)]

The annual Mothman Festival was held in Point Pleasant the week prior to the gathering. Its effect held over and attendees enjoyed the influence. This festival reflects a regional myth:

*On Nov. 15, 1966, two young couples from Point Pleasant, Roger and Linda Scarberry, and Steve and Mary Mallette told police they saw a large white creature whose eyes "glowed red" when the car headlights picked it up. They described it as a "flying man with ten foot wings" following their car while they were driving in an area of town known as 'the TNT area', the site of a former World War II munitions plant.*

*During the next few days, other people reported similar sightings. Two volunteer firemen who sighted it said it was a "large bird with red eyes". Mason County Sheriff George Johnson commented that he believed the sightings were due to an unusually large heron he termed a 'shitepoke'. Contractor Newell Partridge told Johnson that when he aimed a flashlight at a creature in a nearby field its eyes glowed "like bicycle reflectors", and blamed buzzing noises from his television set and the disappearance of his German Shepherd dog on the creature. Wildlife biologist Dr. Robert L. Smith at West Virginia University told reporters that descriptions and sightings all fit the Sandhill Crane, a large American crane almost as high as a man with a seven foot wingspan featuring circles of reddish coloring around the eyes, and that the bird may have wandered out of its migration route.*

*There were no Mothman reports in the immediate aftermath of the December 15, 1967 collapse of the Silver Bridge and the death of 46 people, giving rise to legends that the Mothman sightings and the bridge collapse were connected.*



Attendees also explored many sites in the area:

### Riverfront Murals

[from the Gallipolis Daily Tribune ([www.mydailytribune.com](http://www.mydailytribune.com))]

The Shawnee Village murals were officially dedicated in the fall of 2011. The murals, which were painted by artist Robert Dafford, are 260 feet long and approximately fifteen feet high. A special paint, imported from Germany, was used for the murals in order to enable moisture that is wicked up through the foundation of the floodwall to escape through the painting without damage.

For further information, visit [tinyurl.com/PtPleasantMurals](http://tinyurl.com/PtPleasantMurals).



**Murals, Daniel Boone Cabin Mural,  
Murder of Chief Cornstalk Mural**

### Tu-Endie-Wei State Park: Pt Pleasant Battle Monument

[from the WV State Parks Official Site ([www.tu-endie-weistatepark.com](http://www.tu-endie-weistatepark.com))]

At the junction of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers stands this monument which commemorates the frontiersmen who fought and died at the Battle of Point Pleasant. This battle was fought with Chief Cornstalk on October 10, 1774, and is recognized as the decisive engagement in a proactive series of Indian wars. The name 'Tu-Endie-Wei' is a Wyandot word meaning 'point between two waters'. The Pt. Pleasant Battlefield Monument was erected on October 10, 1909, as a tribute to a battle fought on this same date in 1774.



**Commemorative Obelisk,  
Frontiersman Statue,  
Chief Cornstalk Monument**

## Ewington Academy

[from Old McIntyre Park District Historical Marker]

The Ewington Citizen's Literary Institute purchased this site and sponsored the construction of Ewington Academy which opened in 1859. The building, designed by George Ewing, was financed by popular subscription with much labor and material donated. It provided high school level education to approximately 60 students each year. It ceased operation as an academy in 1901 and then served as an elementary school until about 1947.



## Our House Tavern

[from The Ohio Historical Society ([ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/se10](http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/se10))]

Our House – a three-story brick tavern in the Federal style – was built in Gallipolis by Henry Cushing in 1819. The tavern boasted, in addition to its taproom, dining room, and other usual facilities, a large ballroom for social functions. On May 22, 1825, General Lafayette visited Gallipolis and was entertained at the tavern. Gallipolis still celebrates Lafayette's visit with a ceremony each spring. The Cushing family owned and operated Our House until 1865. The restored tavern and inn contains period furnishings and offers a display of early Americana. Visitors today will step back in time to when proprietor Henry Cushing invited weary travelers to stay at his inn.



**Back Garden, Entry, Kitchen,  
Writing Table, The Proprietor**



## Wing Haven

Carol Bauman and her spouse, Lee, provided the opportunity to visit the nearby Wing Haven 'homestead' in nearby Vinton, Ohio. Carol and Lee have established this venue because, according to Carol:

*In 1998 my love of the family lore influenced a preservation project. At first, from afar in California, I tried to buy Swago Bill's land parcel in Ewington but it got away from me. So I came to Ohio to look for and purchase something else.*

*Knowing that the Ewington Methodist Church was already torn down, I hoped to buy, and did, the old closed Methodist Church and parsonage in Vinton. To me it was as much a part of my heritage as anything in Ewington. Lee and I began restoring both as a labor of love and the story grew.*

*We now own the whole block of homes and have restored the street to its original footprint. It is the only block of homes in Vinton restored to its past – a real piece of Americana. A counseling service and retreat campus are the result of our efforts. Lee and I live in the parsonage.*



**Carol and Lee Bauman,  
Wing Haven Panorama,  
Inside the Church**

## Ewing Tombstones

Many of John of Carnashannagh's descendants are buried in the vicinity of Gallipolis, Ohio. Carol and Lee Bauman provided a tour to their burial sites.



**Finding the Graves,  
Swago Bill Ewing Stone,  
Mary (McNeill) Ewing Stone**



## Lowe Hotel Dinner

Friday night's dinner was held at the Lowe Hotel in Point Pleasant, located in the heart of the town's Historic District. Originally named the Spencer Hotel, this grand structure was built in 1901. The hotel was bought by the Lowe family in 1929 following the stock market crash. The new owners gave the hotel their family name. Ruth and Rush Finley, who purchased the business and real estate in 1990, hosted our Friday-night dinner.



Lowe Hotel, 'Ewing Barristers',  
'Ewing Standups',  
One of Many Dinner Tables

## Banquet

The event's banquet was held at the Quality Inn in Gallipolis, the gathering's venue.

The *Renaissance Singers* performed at the banquet. The ensemble's home is Chillicothe, Ohio. Barb Nowlin, Director, put together a program featuring songs from Scotland and Ireland. The ensemble included Barbara (Ewing) Seigneur (the third person in the second row), a great<sup>6</sup>-granddaughter of Alexander Ewing, born about 1708.

Curt Witcher (Manager, Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana) talked about the ways in which his department preserves genealogical documents.



Quality Inn,  
'An Army Travels On Its Stomach',  
*Renaissance Singers*, Curt Witcher

## Newbies, Oldies and Friends

Many long-time members of the Ewing Family Association attended the gathering. Attendees also included several new members and several 'friends' related to the Association's old/new members.



Karen and Bob Avery



Leslie Bagwell



Carol Bauman



Linda Bozzelli



Lynn Coughlin



Bill Ewing



Daniel C. Ewing



David and Frankie Ewing



Joe Neff Ewing Jr.



Thomas Ewing



Wally and Jane Ewing



Bette Fox



Mary Gosline



Esther Johnson



Ann-Adèle Lloyd



Barb McGuinness



Jill Spittler



Jane Weippert



Sandra Rice



Beverly Donato and Roger Settemire

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