

Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project – Article 17

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This is the seventeenth in a series of articles about the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. The previous sixteen articles have appeared in the last sixteen issues of this journal, which until this issue was called the *Journal of Clan Ewing*. They are also available online through links at the project's web site. Discussing the Y-DNA Project requires using some words and abbreviations that will be unfamiliar to beginners. Definitions and explanations of these can be found in the early Y-DNA Articles and elsewhere on the project's web site. Extensively cross-linked results tables, project participant lineages, group relationship diagrams and network diagrams are also available on the project's web site at:

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

Project Co-administrators

We announced in the last article that Karen Avery had agreed to serve as co-Administrator of the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. Her experience and expertise in the conventional genealogy of many Ewing lines are welcome and will really help the project realize its full potential.

Now, we are pleased to announce that Larry Bryant has also agreed to become a co-Administrator and will be attending the FTDNA conference with me next month. Larry's wife, 'Lynn' (Linda Ewing, *Ewing Family Association Member #1070*), is the Ewing connection. She is a relative of project participant TD, who until lately I had been sometimes referring to as 'lonesome old TD,' because he was off on a branch by himself in M222+, unlikely to be related in a genealogic timeframe to any of the other Ewings in the project. Larry and Lynn recruited her uncle, HM, to join the project, and now TD has some company. TD and HM are second cousins once removed, both descended from Jacob Ewing, born 1783, and together constitute Group 3a in the new project group scheme.

The New Project Group Scheme

We have been working for three months on a new way to classify project participants, because the method we began with had become unwieldy and counter-intuitive. We think the new way of doing this is much easier to understand and much more flexible with regard to adding future results, but it has required us to re-write virtually every page on the Y-DNA Project's web site and it has been quite a job. Loosely, the new scheme has five groups, based strictly on the Y-DNA results, which are designated by the numerals 1 through 5. Each of the five groups is subdivided on the basis of conventional genealogy into subgroups of participants who we believe to be closely related to one another. This is not the place to go into any detail; you can read about it on the web site at:

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

or can get a PDF of the same document at:

http://dl.getdropbox.com/u/431003/Results_Intro.pdf.

Obviously, doing such an extensive revision is bound to have introduced mistakes. Please let us know about any you spot so that we can correct them.

Interesting Findings

Relatives of Margaret Ewing Fife. As anyone who has ever taken a serious look at Ewing genealogy has discovered, Margaret Ewing Fife's book, *Ewing in Early America*,¹ is the most comprehensive work on Ewing genealogy available. Her book includes several chapters on her Ewing line, but also chapters on the majority of other known Ewing lines. She wrote the book before there was any Ewing Y-DNA data, and all of her conclusions are based on conventional genealogy. Margaret did not just publish genealogies, she also gave her reasoning and sources, which has been a great boon to subsequent researchers. As with any work in genealogy, her book included a number of mistakes, but the fact that she cited sources and gave her reasoning has allowed others to check and correct her work.

Margaret was the second Chancellor of *Clan Ewing in America* (now *Ewing Family Association*), succeeding Rev. Ellsworth Samuel Ewing, the founder of the organization. Interestingly, neither Margaret nor Ellsworth thought that their Ewing lines were related to one another. Margaret traced her line through William Ewing of Georgia (born 1768) to the man she thought was his great-grandfather, James Ewing of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, born in 1675-80. Ellsworth is a descendant of James Ewing of Inch, a number of whose descendants were among what Ellsworth and others called 'the Cecil County Ewings.' There is no known conventional genealogic connection between these lines.

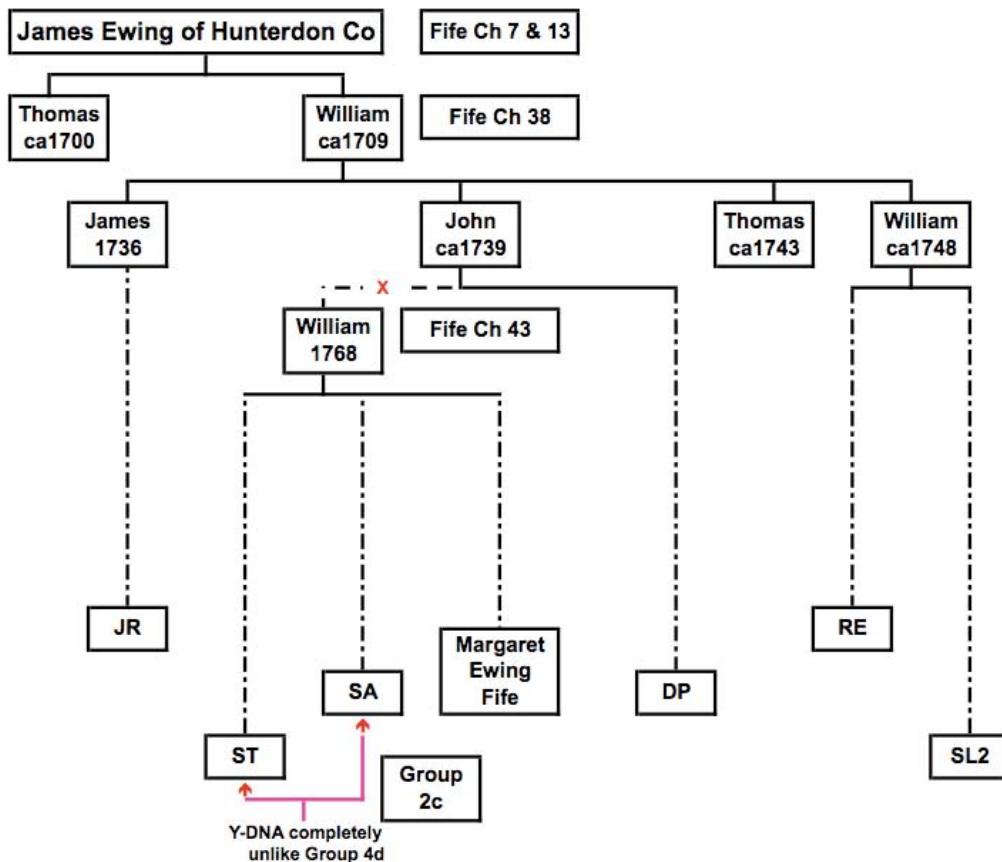
Until recently, we did not have enough men from Margaret's Ewing line participating in the project to say very much about where her line fit in with the other Ewing lines. With the recent substantial increase in the number of project participants, we now have six participants who thought themselves to be descended from James Ewing of Hunterdon County, through three of his grandsons. Three of these participants thought themselves to be descended from his grandson, John (born ca1739), one of them through John's son Thomas (born 1782), and two of them through William (born 1768). Have a look at the diagram on the next page.

JR, DP, RE and SL2 all have very similar Y-DNA Results; indeed, they are identical except that DP has a one-step difference at CDYa. They have independently concluded that they are descended from James Ewing of Hunterdon County, and the Y-DNA testing results are entirely consistent with this possibility. These four men are not in the 'large group of closely related Ewings' in the new Groups 1 and 2. We have put them in Group 4, which is a heterogeneous group of men only very distantly related to the men in Groups 1 and 2 (with a most recent common ancestor several thousand years ago). And because they are known to be related to one another, we have put them in their own subgroup, Group 4d. ST and SA have practically identical results with one another, but they are very different from the four men in Group 4d (at genetic distance 20 or so). SA exactly matches the Group 2 modal and ST differs from him by only one step at one marker. Both of them are in the closely related group and both have DYS 391 = 10, so we have put them in Group 2. And because they are known to be related to one another, we have put them in their own subgroup, Group 2c.

This is a very interesting finding. There is some pretty formidable conventional Ewing genealogy connecting William (born 1768) with James Ewing of Hunterdon, but this finding casts considerable doubt on it. This does not 'prove' that there is no relationship, but if there is, then the four men in Group 4d must be mistaken about their conventional genealogy. The only thing that we can say about the Y-

¹ Fife, Margaret Ewing (ed. James R. McMichael). *Ewing in Early America*, Family History Publishers, Bountiful, Utah, 84101. Available from www.HigginsonBooks.com and online at www.ClanEwing.org.

Group 4d



DNA results with complete confidence is that SA and ST are not related to JR, DP, RE and SL2 within a genealogic time frame, so they cannot all be descendants of James Ewing of Hunterdon or any other historical figure. So who else could William (born 1768) be descended from?

Many folks may find this next bit confusing, but it is important to understand because it illustrates that Y-DNA similarities and differences cannot be translated into exact dates or relationships. SA exactly matches RC in Group 2b and JM2 in Group 2*. At first, it is tempting to say that this 'proves' SA is most closely related to these men. It does prove that they are related, but the definition of 'closely' bears some discussion. Mutations are infrequent and they happen at random. This means that some tenth great-grandsons are going to have exactly the same Y-DNA as their tenth great-grandfathers and some of them are going to differ from their tenth great-grandfathers at a few markers. Indeed, although father and son almost always have identical Y-DNA, sometimes they differ at a marker or two — after all, mutations do happen. Exactly matching a modal is rather like exactly matching one's tenth great-

grandfather, and it does not prove much. Better evidence of a close relationship is finding a subgroup of men who match closely and share an 'off-modal' marker — particularly one with an unusual value. We do not have this situation with SA and ST. They are probably not especially closely related to the men in Group 2a, who all have CDYa = 35, but otherwise they are as likely to be closely related to any of the men in Group 2. Determining which of them is the closest remains a matter for conventional genealogy.

DYS 390 = 26. We have found a subgroup of men who share $DYS\ 390 = 26$, which is exactly the sort of 'off-modal' marker I was just speaking about. Most of the men in haplogroup R1b1b2c have $DYS\ 390 = 24$, and most men in the M222+ (Ui Neil) subclade have $DYS\ 390 = 25$. All but seven of the M222+ Ewing men (Groups 1, 2 and 3) also have $DYS\ 390 = 25$. Three of them have a back mutation to $DYS\ 390 = 24$, and that may bear some further investigation, but I have not been able to make anything of it, yet. Here, I am speaking about the fact that four men in Group 1 have $DYS\ 390 = 26$.² Now, it is possible that some or all of these men may have ended up with this value because of coincidental, 'parallel' mutations, but we must consider that some or all of them may have inherited this mutation from a common ancestor more recent than the common ancestor of all the Ewings in Group 1.

Three of these men, MS, TF and DL, are in Group 1*. Subgroups designated with the asterisk consist of men who are reasonably close matches to the Group 1 modal, but do not know their conventional genealogic connection with any of the other men in the project. The fourth man with $DYS\ 390 = 26$ is HB in Group 1b, which consists of the descendants of James Ewing of Inch. Now, we know that James Ewing of Inch did not have this mutation, because none of his six other descendants on whom we have Y-DNA results have it. But HB is the only project participant descended from James Ewing of Inch's son John (born 1698/99), so we do not know where the mutation took place in the six generations between him and HB.

HB is genetic distance four from the overall Ewing modal, which is the same as the Group 1b modal, so he is somewhat of a genetic outlier and we could raise questions about whether there might be a mistake in his conventional genealogy. But it has been arrived at by some pretty salty genealogists who have stayed put in Cecil County, and the Y-DNA results are not frankly inconsistent with the conventional genealogy, so we are assuming that it is correct. Our next thought is to consider whether the other $DYS\ 390 = 26$ men could be descended from John (born 1698/99).

MS is genetic distance five from the Ewing modal, and the only off-modal marker he shares with HB is $DYS\ 390 = 26$. This means that MS and HB are genetic distance seven from one another — quite a stretch to adduce John (born 1698/99) as a common ancestor, which would make them fifth cousins, more or less. The chance that fifth cousins will be at genetic distance seven or more is only about 2.5% — not impossible, but not likely. Most often (about 73% of the time), they would be at genetic distance two or less. Still, his most remote Ewing ancestor that MS knows for sure is his third great-grandfather, Nobel Ewing born ca1786 in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, and it is certainly not impossible that a descendant of John (born 1698/99) could not have made it up there from Cecil County in a couple of generations.

DF and TL also share the off-modal marker $DYS\ 570 = 18$ with HB, and neither of them has HB's $DYS\ 607 = 15$. TF is the only one of these men who has $DYS\ 439 = 14$, so that is not too informative. Finally,

² The two men in Group 5b also have $DYS\ 390 = 26$, but they differ at so many other markers from the four men we are speaking about that we can conclude with full confidence that this is the result of parallel mutations.

HB has the off-modal CDYa = 36; here, TF matches the Ewing modal at 37 and DL has 38 — but remember that CDY markers are relatively rapidly mutating so we have to be a little leery of them. So HB is genetic distance three from each of these two men, which proves nothing, but is comfortably consistent with them having a relationship with HB on the order of fifth cousins, especially in view of the fact that they share two off-modal markers with him. TF's earliest known Ewing ancestor is James Ewing, who was born in 1793 in Maryland and died in 1881 in Cecil County; DF's earliest known Ewing ancestor is Thomas Ewing of Maine (1811-1883). To me, with the geographic proximity and the matching unusual off-modal Y-DNA marker, it is hard to imagine that TF is not related to HB, and this is certainly a good place for him to focus his research. Maine is quite a way from Cecil County, but DF's ancestor had to come from somewhere and it is not impossible that he came from there. The Y-DNA results are not conclusive, but are highly suggestive, and they should guide a program for further conventional research.

Group 3b. Elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal* (page 19), Eddie Lee Ewing (EL) tells his story of finding a match for his unusual haplotype among Ewings, and the two of them now constitute Group 3b.

R1b Ancestors

Emerging evidence suggests that our R1b ancestors were not in the Iberian Refugium during the last Glacial Maximum. Though the full explanation of the evidence and logic is 'off-topic' enough that I do not want to go into it in any detail here, I feel obligated to mention that a good bit the information in Y-DNA Article 12³ on the antiquity of haplogroup R1b in Europe and who it was that survived the last Glacial Maximum in the Iberian Refugium turns out probably to be false. What I said then was pretty much the consensus thinking of the time, but things have moved rapidly in DNA studies since then and the wind has shifted. It is now thought that haplogroup I was present in Europe before the last Glacial Maximum, but that haplogroup R was not, and that haplogroup R probably came into Europe from Asia Minor during the Neolithic spread of farming into Europe.

What is more, a new SNP marker has been discovered that is widespread in Britain and northern Europe, but is not much found in Spain, and this calls into question some of the thinking that Britain was settled by Mesolithic migrants along the coastal route from Spain, and suggests rather that Britain was settled mostly by people moving westward from continental Europe. These debates are far from settled, and new discoveries are being made every day.⁴

As more and more DNA testing is done, more SNPs are being discovered, and Y-DNA phylogeny is being worked out in finer detail. In general, it appears that the branch points of haplogroup R subclades are much more recent than had been previously thought. Meanwhile, every time a new SNP upstream

³ Ewing, David Neal. Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project: Article 12. *J. Clan Ewing*, Vol. 13, No. 4 (November 2007), pp. 32-54. And online at

www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/DNA_Project/DNA_Articles/Document_YDNA_12.html.

⁴ An interesting explanation of Spencer Wells' discoveries up to 2002 is provided by his book *The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey*. The book led to a National Geographic documentary, described at :

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/12/12_12_021213_journeyofman.html

which is periodically re-broadcast on the National Geographic Channel. Of additional interest in the documentary is a segment that details the Y-DNA testing process. The documentary is also available via Netflix.

of M222+ is discovered, the official name of this subclade changes, to the point that I have ceased trying to keep up with it. I could handle R1b1c7, but as of November 7, 2008, the name for the very same group had become R1b1b2a1b6b, but I had given up trying to stay up with the changes about four iterations ago. To read what David Wilson has recently said about this, go to:

<http://dl.getdropbox.com/u/431003/WilsonNomenclature.pdf>.

To Join or Get More Information

If you are ready to join the project, go to www.FamilyTreeDNA.com/surname_join.aspx?code=M44915. Participation by Ewing women is welcome; they can get valuable genealogic information by persuading a male relative to submit a specimen. For more information, visit the project's web site⁵ and the FTDNA web site.⁶ If you have questions, call me at +1 505.764.8704, in the evening, or EMail me at davidewing93@gmail.com.

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 2004-2006. 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.

Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project Participants Sought

Tammy Mitchell (*info at DowntownInteractive dot com*) is seeking help in supporting the Y-DNA testing of a male in her Canadian Ewing family that she feels is possibly related to participant JM2 in the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. Jane Gilbert (*hokiejane at yahoo dot com*) has a standing offer to pay for Y-DNA testing of men who can satisfy her that they are descended from James Ewing of Inch through his son John born 1698/99. William E. Riddle (*Riddle at WmERiddle dot com*) is similarly willing to support the Y-DNA testing of descendants of James Ewing of Inch's grandson Squire James (a son of Alexander) who married Mary McKown.

⁵ www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/DNA_Project/index_Y-DNA.html

⁶ www.FamilyTreeDNA.com/public/Ewing