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Ewing Family Association

1330 Vaughn Court
Aurora, Illinois 60504

www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org

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DC.Ewing@frontier.com

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rkt88ll@earthlink.net

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Ewing@alum.mit.edu

Wallace K. Ewing

Immediate Past Chancellor, ex officio

WKEwing1@gmail.com

Walter E. 'Major' Ewing

Wallygator57@hotmail.com

ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

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DC.Ewing@frontier.com

Genealogist

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BKAvery2@comcast.net

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WKEwing1@gmail.com

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Thor@ThorEwing.net

Y-DNA Project

David Neal Ewing

DavidEwing93@gmail.com

D.G. Ewing

dq@dgewing.com



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Amy Hunter Ewing (Patterson) – Part 14

Her Famous Friends in Philadelphia from 1779 to 1844

David 'Bruce' Frobes (brucefrobes@gmail.com)



Amy Hunter Ewing Patterson
(20 Jan 1751 - 4 May 1866)
Charles Willson Peale 1797

Introduction

Part 14 continues the story of famous, interesting, and historic people in Amy's life (January 20, 1751-May 24, 1844). Some of these people had EWING for a last name, some were Amy's immediate family, others married into Amy's family, and some worked for the US Mint in Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia was the center of invention and industrial progress in the 1830s and 1840s and the Ewing/Patterson clan participated in this wonderful time in America.

This chapter centers on Amy and her family's experiences during the period of the late 1830s and the early 1840s in Philadelphia some 60 plus years after the Declaration of Independence was signed. We focus on Amy's family and her relatives who participated in the early days of further inventions and major "industrial" growth in Pennsylvania around 1838 into the 1840s.

Old Pine Church, Philadelphia, Whose Pastor Inspired John Adams to Plead for Independence

In Part 13, we described the return of Robert Maskell Patterson (RMP) and his family to Philadelphia from the University of Virginia to assume the duties of Director of the US Mint in the summer 1835. Upon further research I have discovered that when RMP was a boy, he attended the Old Pine Church with his family. Old Pine became known as the "Church of the Patriots." His father, Robert Patterson, was an elder in that church for over 50 years. Reverend George Duffield D.D., who was pastor from 1772 to 1790, was a prominent figure during the Revolutionary War and during the 1780s as the United States were formed. He also served as a chaplain of the Continental Congress.

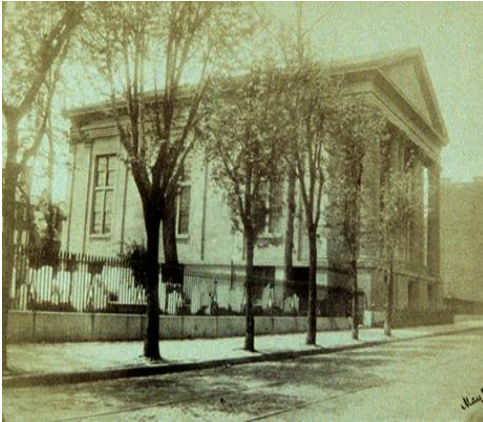
"John Adams, who was a delegate to the Continental Congress, regularly attended Old Pine Church when he was in Philadelphia. On May 17, 1776, after listening to a sermon in which Dr. Duffield likened the conduct of George III to the Americans to Pharaoh to the Israelites, and concluded that God intended the liberation of the Americans, as He had intended that of the Israelites."¹ Adams wrote to his wife "I feel an awe upon my mind, which is not easily described. Great Britain has at last driven America to the last step, complete separation from her; a total, absolute independence...."² Adams went on to be elected the second president of the United States and also was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.



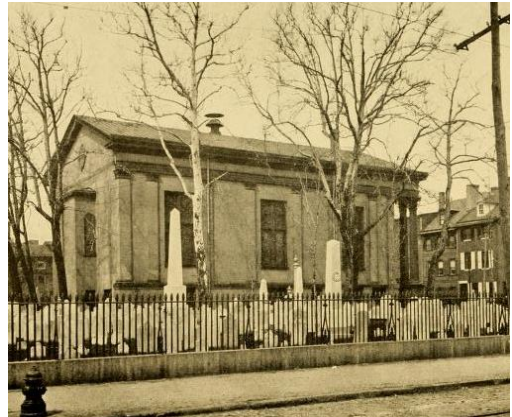
Rev. George Duffield, DD
Public Doman

¹ Historic Shrines of America, John T. Faris, p. 159-162.

² Ibid.



Old Pine Church, Philadelphia
Public Domain



Another view of Old Pine Church in Philadelphia

History of Old Pine Street, by Hughes Oliphant
Gibbons published in 1905

RMP was born March 23, 1787, in Philadelphia. He was baptized by Rev. Duffield at that time with his parents, Amy Hunter Ewing and Robert Patterson looking on. As he grew up, the government of the United States of America was situated in Philadelphia as the nation's capital until 1798 when he was 11 years old.

Over that decade, the following were known to be parishioners at Old Pine Church: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and occasionally, President George Washington. So, Maskell Ewing's (1721-1796) and Mary Padgett's (1725-1798) grandson, RMP, sat with his mom, Amy, and dad Robert, and his siblings in the same pews with some of America's founders and important men while our national government grew in Philadelphia during the 1790s. "Old Pine is now the only remaining Presbyterian building in Philadelphia from before the American Revolutionary War."³ The Ewing/Patterson families in Philadelphia attended Old Pine Church for over 100 years.

Daguerreotype Photography Invented

During this time, a Frenchman by the name of Louis-Jacques-Mande' Daguerre (1787-1851) produced some astonishingly precise pictures in France. However, neither Daguerre's microscopic nor his telescopic daguerreotypes survive. On March 8, 1839, Daguerre's laboratory burned to the ground, destroying the inventor's written records and the bulk of his early experimental works...fewer than 25 securely-attributed photographs by Daguerre survive. The first account of the process reached America by the slow and uncertain methods of communication of the day. "And when the news arrived it was published, only to be received by everyone with suspicion and ridicule; and the whole matter was set down by scientist and scholar as another hoax, similar to the one sprung upon the scientific world a few years before in connection with Herschel's great telescope."⁴ But later that year, Amy, and her family learned of this new photographic process first hand when one of the employees of the US Mint in Philadelphia used Daguerre's invention to capture a picture of a building adjacent to the Mint.

³ Historic Shrines of America, John T. Faris, p. 159-162.

⁴ Philadelphia's Share in the Development of Photography, Julius Sachse, Franklin Institute, December 16, 1892.



Joseph Saxton
Public Domain

First Photograph in America Taken in Philadelphia in 1839

It was from a window in the US Mint building, at the corner of Chestnut and Juniper streets, from which a Mint employee, Joseph Saxton, took the picture. He used the Daguerreotype idea, and it depicts Central High School and the State Arsenal, which then stood upon the site. He peered out of an upper window at the US Mint and captured an image of two partially blurred buildings. The exposed photograph taken on October 16, 1839, is claimed to be the oldest photograph taken in the US.

On the next day, Saxton succeeded in making several other pictures of different buildings, all of which were taken from the same window. I would assume that Amy's son, my 3rd Great Grandfather, Robert Maskell Patterson (1787-1854) (RMP), the U.S. Mint Director at the time and Saxton's boss, was probably at work that day and was one of the first Americans to view the photographer's results. I also try to imagine RMP relating what he witnessed that day to his mother, Amy, and to his family on his next Sunday visit to her home. It was truly a magical moment in the history of photography.



First Photo Taken in the U.S., 1839
Public Domain

"Using a cigar box, a burning glass lens, and a light-sensitive silver-coated metallic plate, Saxton created the oldest extant photograph in the United States. To capture the image, he had to expose the plate for 10 minutes which required the stillness only inanimate objects can provide. Saxton was a prolific American inventor and a founding member of the National Academy of Sciences.

When Saxton read the account as published, it seemed so clear and feasible, that he at once concluded to try the process according to directions set forth in the newspaper. At the US Mint, Director Patterson asked him to construct standard

weights, balances, and measures that could be used nationwide. Prior to his work at the Mint, "Saxton" was employed at the Adelaide Gallery of Practical Science in England. During his time with the gallery, Saxton invented the magneto-electric machine, an apparatus for measuring the velocity of vessels, a device for measuring the height of water in a steam boiler, the riflescope and the fountain pen. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society having been elected at the same time as Daniel Webster from Massachusetts in October of 1837. In 1843, Saxton received the Scott Medal of the Franklin Institute of which RMP was a founding member."⁵

In a speech before the Franklin Institute in December 1892, the speaker, Mr. Julius F. Sachse, told his audience about a conversation with Mr. Cornelius. "Mr. Saxton, who was then connected with the United States Mint, had the opportunity of receiving early notice of the manner in which Daguerre was operating. He soon produced a picture from the second story of the Mint – a view of chimneys and tops of houses. He was anxious to continue the experiment and called upon me to prepare some plated metal to experiment with."⁶

⁵ Philadelphia's Share in the Development of Photography, Juluis Sachse, Franklin Institute, December 16, 1892.

⁶ Ibid.

First “Selfie” in Philadelphia – October 1839

Another photographic first in America occurred in Philadelphia in October 1839 when Robert Cornelius, born in 1809 in Philadelphia, took a “selfie.” This is the oldest known photograph of a human in America. Robert showed interests in chemistry since his younger years and joined his father in the business of silver plate production and metal polishing. Now there is a direct correlation between Robert and Joseph Saxton who took the photo (right). Saxton asked Robert to produce a silver plating for his daguerreotype, and this was the spark that started Robert’s interest in photography.

Daguerrotype was the first photographic process for the public and the most commonly used for nearly the next 20 years since its invention. In the period from 1841 to 1843, Robert started to operate two of the first photographic studios in the United States. As the popularity of photography grew, and more photography studios were opened, Cornelius closed his studios. It is uncertain whether he lost interest in photography, or became money driven, realizing he could earn more by working with his family gas and lighting company. In the self-portrait, Robert’s image appears off center, showing a man with tousled hair and his arms crossed, looking at the camera with uncertainty.



Robert Cornelius
Public Domain

“With pleasure I complied with his request. It was our business to make a great variety of articles of plated metal. Very soon afterwards, I made in the factory a tin box, and bought from McAllister, 48 Chestnut Street, a lens about two inches in diameter, such as was for opera purposes. With these instruments I made the first likeness of myself and another of some of my children, in the open yard of my dwelling, sunlight bright upon us, and I am fully of the impression that I was the first to obtain a likeness of the human face.”⁷



I have not been able to find “daguerreotype photographs” of Amy or any of her family during this period if they ever existed. However, recorded history tells us that RMP was directly involved as this photographic discovery was being utilized in Philadelphia during the fall of 1839.

The minutes of the American Philosophical Society meeting of December 6, 1839 reads: “Dr. Patterson laid before the Society a specimen of the Daguerreotype, by Mr. Robert Cornelius, of Philadelphia.”⁸ RMP, at this point in his APS membership, since 1810, was the Vice President of the Society.

Again, only a guess, but I would bet that Amy and her family had a chance to view Cornelius’ daguerreotype specimen before or after that meeting.



**The Second ‘Selfie’ of
Robert Cornelius**

⁷ American Philosophical Society proceedings, December 6, 1839.

⁸ Ibid.



**Dr. Paul Beck
Goddard**

There was another Philadelphian that participated in the early experiments with the daguerreotype process.

Paul Beck Goddard, of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania along with Cornelius, experimented with improving its chemical processes. "Dr. Goddard's initial experiments were with chlorine, bromine, and iodine. However, he learned that plate action could be accelerated significantly by combining bromine with iodine on the plate, which Cornelius realized substantially increased the commercial value of the Louis Jacques-Mande Daguerre's brainchild."⁹

Dr. Goddard succeeded in producing the world's first instantaneous views in the open air.

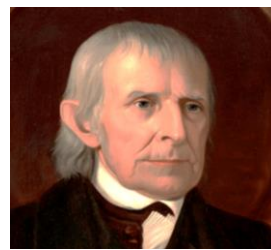
Adam Eckfeldt, 47-Year Career and Friendship with Amy's Family

Earlier in the year 1839, Adam Eckfeldt retired after 46 years of service with the US Mint. He had worked beside members of Amy's family for 34 of those years. But before Robert Patterson, Amy's husband, became Director of the Mint in 1805, Adam had an historic role when the US Mint first opened in Philadelphia in 1792.

"Eckfeldt's father owned a large smithy and involved himself in early attempts at American coinage. Adam built early presses for the Mint, engraved some of its early dies, and was responsible for the designs of early American copper coinage, as well as the 1792 half disme which some authorities consider the first United States coin."¹⁰ Disme is a French word pronounced "deem." Thus, the Half Disme is properly pronounced "half deem."

Even after his 1839 retirement, Eckfeldt continued to perform the duties of chief coiner. He performed the duties "without pay until a few days before his death on February 6, 1852."¹¹ As witnessed by other US Mint employees in late 1839, Eckfeldt personally saw the daguerreotype efforts of Saxton and Cornelius. Also, "his son Jacob Reese Eckfeldt, one of Adam's sons, was 40 years (1832-1872) Assayer of the United States Mint."¹²

Jacob R. Eckfeldt was the Assayer when William Ewing DuBois (WEB), one of Amy's grandsons, started working at the Mint. And one of Jacob's sisters, Susanna Eckfeldt (1810-1890), married WEB in October 1841. WEB was employed at the US Mint from 1833 until his death in 1881, thus completing nearly 48 years of Mint service. WEB is my first cousin 4X removed.



Adam Eckfeldt



**U.S. Mint Building, Philadelphia
Completed in 1833**

⁹ 2002 Historic Camera.

¹⁰ Adam Eckfeldt, Wikipedia.

¹¹ Ibid.

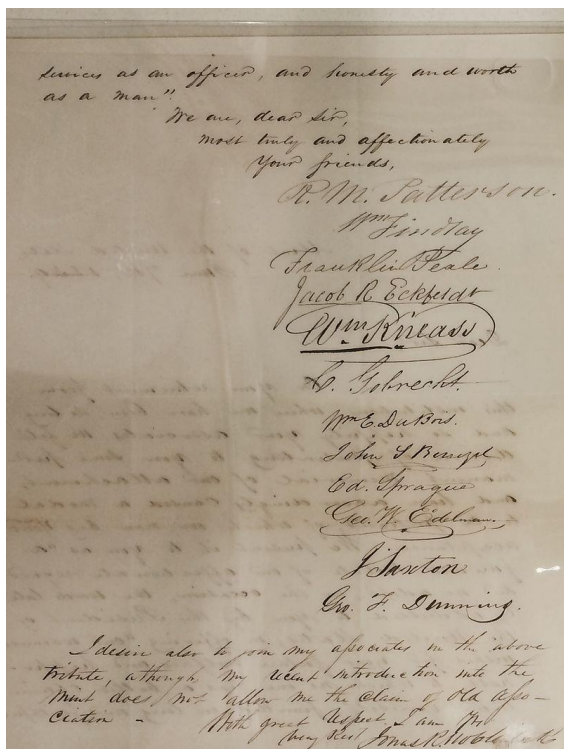
¹² Ibid.



Gold coin presented to
Adam Eckfeldt at his retirement
in 1839

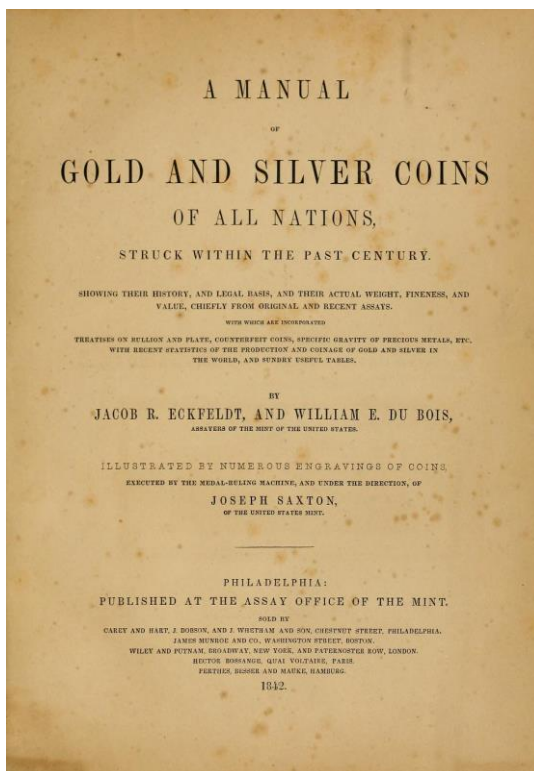


Eckfeldt Retirement Medal



Signature page from letter presented to Eckfeldt at
his retirement in 1838.

Signed by R. M. Patterson, Peale,
Jacob Eckfeldt, Christian Gobrecht, and
other Mint officers and employees, including
James Saxton



A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations
Prepared by Jacob R. Eckfeldt and
William Ewing DuBois in 1842

1840 . . . Where are Maskell Ewing's (1721-1796) Descendants?

All of Maskell Ewing's (1721-1796) children are deceased by 1840 except Amy Hunter Ewing (Patterson) (1751-1844). Amy and Robert Patterson had eight children. Maskell and Mary Padgett Ewing lived long enough to know about eight grandchildren from the Ewing/Patterson family. They are as follows:

1. Thomas Ewing Patterson (1775-1776)
2. Mary Padgett Patterson (1779-1856)
3. Martha Patterson (1779-1856)
4. William Ewing Patterson (1782-1814)
5. Emma Patterson (1784-unknown date but alive in 1840)
6. Robert Maskell Patterson (1787-1854)
7. Susanna A. Patterson (1790-1795)
8. Elizabeth Matilda Patterson (1794-1880)

In 1840, there were living from the Ewing/Patterson family (as far as I have been able to trace) 15 great-grandchildren descended from Maskell Ewing as follows:

1. Elizabeth Seeley Moore (1812-1886)
2. Samuel DuBois (1808-1889)
3. William Ewing DuBois (1810-1881)
4. Mary Patterson (1801-1880)
5. Nancy Patterson (1804-1878)
6. Ellen Patterson (1806-1886)
7. Elizabeth Leiper Patterson (1815-1844)
8. Thomas Leiper Patterson (1816-1905)
9. Mary Gray Patterson (1822-1905)
10. Helen Hamilton Patterson (1825-1919)
11. Emma Ewing Harris (1821-1903)
12. Robert P. Harris (1822-1899)
13. Mary Fisher Harris (1826-1853)
14. Matilda M. Harris (1829-1903)
15. William Harris (1831-1885)

Not all of the above lived in Philadelphia at the same time, but most were close enough to Philadelphia to visit Grandma Amy in the latter years of her life.

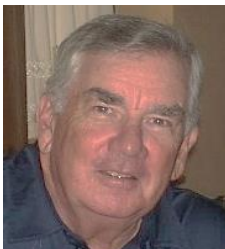
My family is looking forward to the re-scheduled Ewing Family Gathering in Greenwich, New Jersey, and Philadelphia in June 2022.



**Maskell Ewing
(1721 – 1796)**



**Mary Padgett
(1725 – 1798)**



David 'Bruce' Frobes earned his bachelor degree from DePauw University. He is attached to the Ewings of Greenwich, New Jersey through Amy Hunter who married Robert Patterson there in May 1774. He has made several on-site trips to Greenwich, New Jersey, and Philadelphia to study more about his Ewings and the history of that area. His career included the Air Force and 35 years in the investment management and trust administration business. Now retired in Rio Verde, Arizona, Bruce has built his genealogical files to include 3,800 names with the Ewings as a prominent focus of his research. When not searching the past and contributing articles to the Ewing Family Journal, he is an avid golfer in the mountains and the deserts of Arizona. You can reach Bruce via email at BruceFrobes@gmail.com.

Ewing Sarcoma: An Eponym Window to History **(James R. Ewing)**

By: Timothy P. Cripe, "Ewing Sarcoma: An Eponym Window to History", *Sarcoma*, vol. 2011, Article ID 457532, 4 pages, 2011.

Abstract

Ewing sarcoma was named after James R. Ewing, an eminent American pathologist at Cornell who described the first cases in 1921. Although he is best remembered for this singular achievement, Ewing's contributions to the study of cancer were far more profound and influential. He essentially launched oncology as a discipline with the publication of his seminal textbook and founded the major American cancer societies that exist today. His vision of comprehensive cancer centers still drives our research infrastructure. Since his initial report, these organizations have helped us achieve numerous milestones in understanding and treating patients with Ewing sarcoma.



James R. Ewing
1866-1943

Time Magazine - Wikipedia

1. Introduction

There are thousands of medical eponyms, and keeping track of even a small number is a constant challenge for medical students. At first, such esoteric labels for disease processes or syndromes seem arcane, especially when the underlying molecular defects or mechanisms are known, making much more precise descriptors readily available. But attaching a person's name to a disease or therapy provides a point-of-entry for historical discovery, which may lead to important insights and perspectives that would not otherwise be apparent. The risk of using an eponym, of course, is a reductionist tunnel-vision; one tends to think the person made a singular contribution to medicine. In reality, most historical figures had a far greater impact on their field than a simple eponym would imply. Such is certainly the case with James R. Ewing, who was a pioneer in the field of cancer research, and whose vision continues to steer our cancer research enterprise nearly a century later.

2. James Ewing: From Modest Beginnings to Legendary Professor

James Ewing's biography has been recounted in several publications [1–3], but some of the highlights are worth retelling. He was one of five children of a judge, born in Pittsburgh on Christmas Day in 1866. At age 14, he suffered from osteomyelitis of his femur after he was injured while ice skating [2] and was bedridden for months. He occupied much of this time being tutored and entering contests, and in a turn of events that may have influenced his career choice, he won a microscope in one contest for his word play on "Constantinople." Shortly after completing his medical training, he married Catherine Halsted at the turn of the century, and within two years became a father. Unfortunately, his wife and unborn second son died during childbirth in 1903, and he remained a widower the rest of his life. His resulting personal reclusivity may have contributed to his professional productivity, as his seminal cancer textbook took 10 years to write "including holidays, nights and weekends" [3].

By all accounts, James Ewing was an academic giant. He assembled an impressive curriculum vitae, first studying as an undergraduate at Amherst College and then completing his medical training at the prestigious New York College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1891. After a brief stint at the Western

Pennsylvania hospital, he did his internship at the Roosevelt Hospital and Sloane Maternity, where he cultivated his interest in anatomic pathology. He volunteered for a year as a contract surgeon to the US army, then in 1899 he managed to land the very first professorship of pathology at the recently minted Medical College of Cornell University in New York City. He published his first textbook only two years later, *Clinical Pathology of Blood: A Treatise on the General Principles and Special Applications of Hematology*. He remained in his position at Cornell for 33 years.

As a young professor, Ewing began to study cancer in animals, such as canine lymphosarcoma, and he quickly became a noted spokesman for cancer research and an avid fundraiser. He established the P. Huntington Fund for Cancer Research in 1902, cofounded the American Association for Cancer Research in 1907, and founded the American Society for the Control of Cancer, now the American Cancer Society, in 1913. In addition, he founded the Journal for Cancer Research and teamed with philanthropist James Douglas to create Memorial Hospital of New York, where he later became its first director of research. In his leadership position, Ewing guided the institution's evolution into the nation's first cancer center, now known as Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Ewing's most influential academic contribution was his 1919 cancer textbook, *Neoplastic Disease: A Textbook on Tumors*, of which he was the sole author. This comprehensive treatise on cancer spanned early cancer history to modern biologic theory to detailed pathologic descriptions and classifications of all known cancer types. With this publication, Ewing essentially founded oncology as a medical subspecialty. In 1931, Ewing's broad contribution to the cancer field was recognized by Time magazine, which featured a sketch of his visage on the cover, calling him "Cancer Man Ewing" [3].

Despite his intensive work schedule, a limp from hip ankylosis, and a nagging facial neuralgia, Ewing managed to maintain his interest in sports, playing tennis on weekends and taking in professional baseball games. Although his adulthood was spent in New York, he remained an ardent fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates and is said to have once skipped one of his own lectures when they were in town to play the New York Giants (then a baseball team). According to accounts, three of his students were also truant and spotted him at the game [3]. Skipping his classes was probably a rare event, as he was said to be "beloved by students and colleagues; a physician of the highest ideals" [3].

Ironically, the Cancer Man died of bladder cancer in 1943 at the age of 76, and at autopsy was also found to have low-grade prostate cancer [1]. His life's impact was evident at his funeral, which was attended by over a thousand people. Ewing shed a bright light on cancer, bringing it into the public eye long before it became a national priority. His vision of establishing six \$10 million cancer centers throughout the United States was a blueprint for the current network of National Cancer Institute designated cancer centers, which now number 65 and approach \$300 million in core funding. As an Amherst alumnus, James Ewing certainly fulfilled the College's motto, *Terras Irradiant*, meaning "Let them give light to the world."

3. Diffuse Endothelioma Tumor

In 1921, two years after he published the first edition of his cancer textbook, Dr. Ewing reported in the Proceedings of the New York Pathological Society several cases of a new bone cancer he called "diffuse endothelioma of bone," which ultimately became his eponym [4]. In his paper, he described a 14-year-old girl who developed a tumor of the radius that was thought to be an osteosarcoma, which was already well known to clinicians and was usually treated by amputation. Although radiotherapy was increasingly being used for other cancers, osteosarcoma was known to be radioresistant. For reasons not known, this particular patient was given therapies other than amputation, including eight injections of Coley's toxin. That treatment was derived from bacterial erysipelas cultures and used by William Coley via direct intratumoral injection to induce an inflammatory response to the toxin and the tumor [5]. After these injections failed to improve the tumor, she was treated at Memorial Hospital with 12,760 mCi-hr of radium

every two weeks for three doses, and surprisingly experienced a complete response by examination and plain films. The effect of radiotherapy suggested at least to some clinicians that the tumor was distinct from osteosarcoma. After the tumor unfortunately recurred, the “conflict of opinion” prompted a biopsy to settle the issue. The pathology was indeed different from osteosarcoma, and Ewing used the vague term “round cell sarcoma.” He thought the cells looked like blood vessels of the bone, and thus termed it “endothelioma of bone.”

In his report, Ewing recounted six other similar cases he had seen in the prior four months. The patients were 14–19 years old, and the primary tumor sites were the tibia, ulna, ischium, skull, and scapula. He described the tumors as slow growing, vascular, and fluctuating in size. On radiographs, he distinguished his series from osteosarcoma: “A large portion or the whole of the shaft is involved, but the ends are generally spared, contrary to the rule with osteogenic sarcoma. The shaft is slightly widened, but the main alteration is a gradual diffuse fading of the bone structure. Bone production has been entirely absent... The radiograph is therefore rather specific.” Based on Ewing’s publication, a few years later the noted Boston surgeon, Ernest Codman, referred to this new entity as Ewing sarcoma.

Interestingly, many of the features noted by Ewing in his original report of only a few cases nearly 90 years ago have withstood the test of time. Ewing sarcoma occurs most commonly in adolescents, may appear in flat as well as long bones, most often in the diaphysis rather than the epiphysis, and radiation is a primary treatment modality. Of note, in an ironic crisscrossing of eponyms, Ewing sarcoma is one of the main differential diagnoses of Codman’s triangle, the periosteal elevation visible on plain films that often results from a bone tumor.

4. Ewing Sarcoma: Historical Milestones

In the first 40 years after Ewing’s initial description, advances in our understanding of Ewing sarcoma were limited to descriptive isolated case and series reports, which better defined the clinical spectrum of Ewing sarcoma (Figure 1). Surgery and radiation were the only means of therapy until the 1960s, when Ewing sarcoma was among the first solid tumors found to be responsive to chemotherapy including vincristine, daunomycin, and actinomycin D [8–11]. Identification of the activity of ifosfamide and etoposide as single agents each followed over the next two decades [12, 13], though their combination (IE in Figure 1) took another decade to be proven useful [14]. Genetic diagnosis became possible with the identification of a characteristic chromosomal translocation in the 1980s [15, 16], and the mechanism of tumorigenesis began to be elucidated with the cloning of the breakpoint, identifying the EWS-FLI1 fusion early the next decade [17].

These studies also later enabled the consolidation of other tumors, such as the clinically similar but histologically distinct primitive neuroectodermal tumor, into a common tumor family [18]. Preclinical studies were better enabled in the 1980s by the development of a xenograft model [19]. With the increased availability of MRI in the 1980s [20] and FDG-PET in the 1990s [21], new imaging modalities led the way to improved staging, refined surgical approaches including limb salvage [22], and valuable tumor response data [23]. High-dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue was also pioneered for Ewing sarcoma in the 1990s [24], but after 20 years of use in selected circumstances its utility is still uncertain [25]. Chemotherapy for Ewing sarcoma was further refined in the early 2000s with landmark clinical trials demonstrating that five drugs were better than three [26] and that interval compression (every two-week cycles) was superior to conventional timing (every three-week cycles) [27, 28].

As a further illustration of Dr. Ewing’s long-lasting impact, the organizations he founded played roles in each these milestones, as some of the work was funded by the American Cancer Society, reported at meetings of the American Association for Cancer Research, and performed at the Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and other such centers he envisioned.

As we enter the last decade leading toward the century anniversary of his initial case description, further advances are likely to result from targeted molecular approaches that are being intensively studied, such as disrupting the activity of EWS-FLI1 [29] and inhibiting other cell signaling and angiogenic pathways [30].

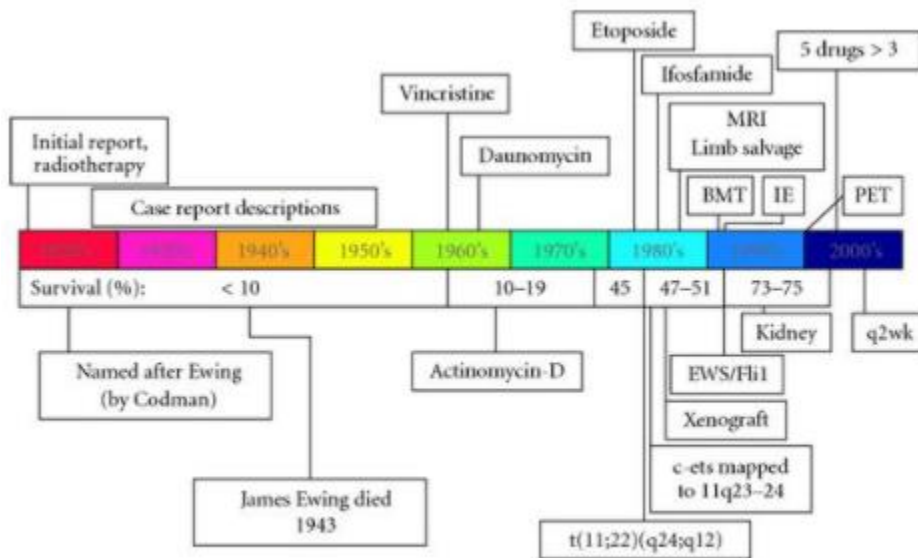


Figure 1

Timeline of historical milestones for Ewing sarcoma. See text for details. Survival data for children diagnosed at age <15 years old are from Rosen et al. [6] and from the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results 9 registries as summarized in the work of Smith et al. [7].

5. Conclusions

While best remembered by his eponym, James Ewing changed the landscape of cancer care and research by single-handedly penning the first comprehensive textbook on cancer and founding what is now the largest charitable organization in the world that supports cancer research, the largest cancer research society in the world, and the largest cancer center in the United States. His vision of comprehensive cancer centers throughout the country, which would bring together diverse experts to study cancer, remains the guiding principle of our nation's cancer research infrastructure.

Yet the story of Ewing sarcoma illustrates the slow pace of medical advancement, at least as it occurred in the 20th century. At the time of James Ewing's death, 20 years after he first identified Ewing sarcoma, little progress had been made. It was another 20 years before chemotherapy was used, and another 20+ years before the EWS-FLI1 translocation gave insight into its biology, and yet another 20 years before significant improvements in chemotherapy were realized. Remarkably, his initial description of a new sarcoma has been durable, and the survival of patients today has significantly improved over the past 90 years due to numerous diagnostic, genetic, surgical, radiotherapeutic, and medical advances made possible in part through his organizational efforts. Hopefully such milestones will continue to be realized, perhaps even at a brisker pace, until the day when all patients diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma are curable.

Acknowledgments

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The Ewings of Gwinnett

Stewart Ewing (Stewartewing@protonmail.com)

Some of you may remember that back in the 1990s I had a website devoted to stories and family history. Then after a long absence, I clawed my way back into the game and introduced my new site www.EwingsOfGwinnett.org in January 2017. So, where did I go?

A couple of decades ago, benefitting from research by Margaret Ewing Fife, I was nearly finished with my direct Ewing family lineage all the way back to the late 1600s in Scotland when it came to my attention that new DNA evidence proved that my William Ewing (b. 1768 or 1770) who purchased land in Jackson County, Georgia, sometime just before 1802, and somewhere along the way married Hannah Whaley, was in fact NOT related to the John Ewing of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. This is the William Ewing who brought forth the Ewings of Gwinnett County, Georgia, as well as other branches, notably the Green Berry Ewing family who continued west as Native American land was made available.

For many years, Ewing branches all across the country followed and counted on the amazing work of Margaret Ewing Fife, who without the benefit of technology traveled all over the country to unravel the numerous Ewing lines in America with a great amount of success. Mrs. Fife's work provided momentum for many Ewing family groups to gain a firm and accurate understanding of their history and lineage. However, as well researched as her own family was, yDNA technology revealed a fatal flaw in Margaret's association of my William (m. Hannah Whaley) with John Ewing of Cumberland County, casting doubt on all prior assumptions concerning my known lineage before 1768.

At this point, I must pause and give a little background about myself. I'm a businessman, avid historian, and amateur genealogist. I am the son of Thomas H. Ewing of Gwinnett County, noted researcher of many families in the Gwinnett County area, including Ewing, Aderhold, Brownlee, Peeples, Snell, and others. He was also past volunteer at the Gwinnett County Historical Society, past President of the Snellville Historical Society, author of numerous articles in genealogical and historical publications over the years, and author of "Snellville Consolidated School," a history of one of the first schools in Georgia to unite one-room school houses into a single school. He was the source for much of Margaret Ewing Fife's research on the family from William Ewing (b 1768 or 1770) forward. I give a lot of credit to my father for giving me the history and genealogy "bug."

I have been working family history off and on for about 30 years, particularly through the 1990s when I took a number of road trips to follow Margaret's tracks. It was amazing to be browsing through some dusty old source document in some old obscure library in the middle of nowhere Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, or New Jersey, and suddenly run across one of her business cards. That still happens to this day, in fact. My expertise has always been researching the backdrop of history surrounding the family in our lineage, which provides much-needed color and interest to what would otherwise be just a mundane list of names, dates, and places. I put a great deal of work into this and was on the cusp of writing a companion book to Margaret's work, "Ewing in Early America," which would tell a real and true story of our family from the old country through the 20th century with the backdrop of history.

With all the work my father and I had done, you can imagine the let-down when the yDNA evidence derailed us. I was off track for about 10 years, with numerous other personal and professional challenges preventing me from being in the game, from my wife working through and surviving cancer, to achieving my Master's Degree, to getting two daughters through high school and college and other activities, to just life in general.

A few years ago, there was an article in the Ewing Family Journal (formerly Clan Ewing), which mentioned very vaguely some possible linkage between our William Ewing and another known family of Ewings. I

had previously performed a 37-marker test through www.Familytreedna.com and it pointed to families at least close to the Cecil County folks, so I upgraded to the 67-marker yDNA and mitochondrial from Familytreedna.com supported by the Ewing Family Association and the Ewing DNA project. This upgrade confirmed my William Ewing was directly linked to the family of Captain Patrick Ewing of the American Revolution period in Cecil County, Maryland.

After numerous trips to Maryland and Pennsylvania in the past few years, as well as the Colombia Theological Seminary Library, Georgia State Archives, and numerous historical societies and courthouses in Georgia and the mid-Atlantic, I have been able to pretty much complete the story of my William. While I haven't yet found all the details, I know he was born in Cecil County, Maryland, the son of Captain Patrick Ewing of Revolutionary War fame, moved to Georgia around 1801, married Hannah Whaley about the same time, and after living in Jackson County and Gwinnett County, he likely met his demise in Newton County, Georgia.

As for the history of my family, I've now been able to take us from a little farm on Webb Gin House Road, Gwinnett County, Georgia in the 1950s back to colonial times in Cecil County, Maryland, then back through their likely 1727 arrival in New Castle, Delaware to Londonderry and Coleraine in Northern Ireland in the late 1600s. Most of my research is conventional, and I'm always pushing to prove my research through primary source documents. But, in this case where there were clear gaps in the records, yDNA testing came through and got me back on track.

However, this story is not yet complete as I have now expanded my Familytreedna.com kit to the BIG-Y test to hopefully give me another bump in direction. My plan is to solidify our history in Northern Ireland, with the hope of proving us back to Scotland. You may keep track of my progress at EwingsOfGwinnett.org, but in the meantime, I encourage you to take advantage of the potential of yDNA testing, especially BIG-Y through Familytreedna.com. Join the Ewing DNA project and take part in the completion of our story!



**Newton County, Georgia, family graveyard
believed to be the final resting place of William
Ewing, son of Captain Patrick Ewing.**



Stewart Ewing earned his MBA, BS in Computer Science, and minor in History from Kennesaw State University in Marietta, GA. He is attached to the Joshua Ewing line in Colonial Cecil County, MD. A Technical Accounts Manager at IBM, Stewart also has been an avid genealogical researcher for about 30 years, with a life-long passion for American and European History. The scope of his genealogical work and contact info can be found on the aforementioned website. He currently resides in Cumming, GA.

Commander's Comments

John Thor Ewing (thor@thorewing.net)



Dear clansfolk and cousins,

As I write this, the leaves outside are turning from green to brown as another year draws to a close. Like the year before, this last year has been shaped by the pandemic, but I look forward to 2022 with some hope that we will, as everyone has been saying, finally return to normal. So I'm pleased to hear the EFA is beginning to plan for the possibility of a new Gathering in Philadelphia next June, which will be the first since we met in Nashville in 2018.

I usually add a comment about the current state of tartan. This year new cloth is currently being woven, which makes it unlikely that there will be more products available in time for Christmas than what is currently in stock, which are neck ties, ladies' sashes, tam o'shanters and scarves. All of these, including the scarves, are woven by Lochcarron in worsted tartan with a smooth, hard finish.

Wishing you all the best for the coming season,

AUDACITER!

Chancellor's Letter

Beth Ewing Toscos, EFA Chancellor (mbtoscos@comcast.net)



Greetings to all Ewing Family Association members. Although the past year-and-a-half has been very trying, and in some cases distressing, we are planning to hold our 17th Biennial Ewing Family Gathering in Philadelphia, PA and Greenwich, NJ during the summer of 2022. More information will be forthcoming in the February 2022 Newsletter and the May 2022 Ewing Family Journal. You will also find information online at www.ewingfamilyassociation.org as soon as we have re-confirmed our dates with the Holiday Inn Philadelphia South-Swedesboro (Reservations for Ewing Family Gathering: 877-784-5889) and the Museum of the American Revolution.

This issue of the Ewing Family Journal brings information about the beginning of a new and exciting DNA project spearheaded by DG Ewing. The science now allows us to take a much closer look at individual family lines among the Ewing men. DG and David Neal Ewing explain what is happening starting on page 47.

We hope you find this Holiday Season much more congenial than last year. Enjoy your families and say a prayer of thanksgiving that the pandemic appears to be waning.

Audaciter!

New EFA Members – Welcome to the Family!

Sarah Ewing, member #1311, and her spouse, T. Gilbert reside in San Diego, CA. She can be contacted at SEwing12@outlook.com. Sarah's Ewing family connection is as follows. Read more on pages 46-47.

Father: James Walter Ewing - Age 90 - Phoenix, AZ
Grandfather: Raymond Hood Ewing - Staples, MN
Great Grandfather: James Ewing - WI - fought for the North in Civil War and survived
First to America: Isaac Ewing from Ireland

William Raiford Ewing, III is member #1312. He and his wife, Cheri, make their home in Escondido, CA. You may reach him via email at: rayewingiii@gmail.com. His is connected to a Maryland / North Carolina branch:

Grandfather: William Raiford Ewing born - 10/8/1894 - Dillon, SC
Great Grandfather: Dr. Joseph Preston Ewing

David Jason Ewing, member #1313, and his spouse, Wendy Goodman-Ewing, live in Augusta, GA. His email address is: David_J_Ewing_1974@outlook.com. These are David's family connections:

David Jason Ewing (self) - born 11/7/1974
Jeremy Robert Ewing (brother) - born 11/20/1978
Rhiannon Rennee Ewing (sister) - born 10/5/1981
Tamera Ewing (mother) - born 11/15/1954
Gary Eugene Ewing (father) - deceased
Ilene Ewing (father's mother)
Robert Ewing (father's father)

Vickie D. Ewing Sipes became member #1314 in June. She and her husband, Virgil Clinton Sipes, reside in Sheridan, AR. Contact Vickie at vdsipes@yahoo.com. Her ancestor is Joshua (c1704 - 1753).

Barbara Ellen Taylor Nelson, member #1315, and her spouse, J. Andrew Nelson, make their home in Sun Prairie, WI. You may contact her at benjan310@gmail.com. Barbara's Ewing connection is a maternal link based in Southwestern PA, starting with Henry Ewing to Moses Ewing to James Clark Ewing to Sophia Ewing Verner to John Perry Verner to Nellie Sophie Verner Snarey to Evelyn Irene Snarey Taylor (former EFA member 878 (2001 - 2009), now deceased) to Barbara Ellen Taylor Nelson.

Beverly Ewing Sowers became EFA member #1316 in July. She lives in Emporia, VA, and may be reached at this email address: BeverlyEwingDagger@verizon.net. Based on information from her father's membership with the EFA, Beverly's earliest known relative is John (1648 - 1745).

Dustin Wayne Ewing, who is member #1317, resides in Frankfort, KY, with his wife, Ashley. He can be contacted via email at EwingDustin525@gmail.com. Following are his family connections:

Mother: Lisa C. Ewing
Uncle: Michael E. Ewing (Mother's Brother)
Cousins: Chad M. Ewing & Michael Andrew Ewing (Andy)
Grandfather: Thomas Edward Ewing (Butch)
Grandmother: Joan C. Ewing (Maiden Name: Ogburn)
Great Grandfather: Ennis Ewing of Covington, KY

And . . . A heartfelt *WELCOME BACK* to:

Member #1014 - **Jeffrey Scott Ewing**, from Birmingham, MI. You may reach him at jse1582@comcast.net. His earliest known ancestor is Swago Bill Ewing.

Member #1180 - **Rebecca Hockaday**, who can be reached at RHocky@hotmail.com.

Member #1214 – **Lee A. Ewing**, who resides in Frankfort, MI. Contact him at leeaewing@aol.com.

Passings

With sincere condolences to their families and friends, we honor the passing of:

Roberta L. (Ewing) Marks (1936-2021)

Courtesy of Redmon Funeral Home, Ohio



Roberta Marks passed away on April 13, 2021 after a courageous battle against Pulmonary Fibrosis. She was predeceased by her parents, Louise Raymunda Leppek Ewing and Dr. Robert Thornton Ewing, her sister, Rachel Corrigan, and her brother James Ewing.

Roberta is survived by her husband of 32 years, Stanley, step-sons and step-daughters, Steven and Jeannine Marks, Dr. Neal and Pamela Marks, grandchildren, Jordan, Samantha, Wyatt, Mackenna and Brady, nieces, Christine (Adolfo Rafael Galicia Rocha) Corrigan, Sharon (Allen) Stevens, nephew, Robert Corrigan, brother-in-law, Daniel Corrigan, sister-in-law, Rita Marks, and best friends, Evelyn and

Richard Eshelman.

Roberta was born and raised in Monroe, MI and graduated from the University of Michigan where she also received a Master's Degree in Music. She taught music to thousands of elementary school kids throughout a 30+ year teaching career at Cuyahoga Falls City School System. She was an avid musician and accomplished in many instruments.

Stanley and Roberta were married in 1988 creating a base and infrastructure for the family that would give lifelong memories for all that would be touched. They would travel the world together while Roberta would proudly put together elaborate and meticulous photo books documenting their trips. She especially loved the trips that included her grandchildren who affectionately called her "Grandma Birdie".

She never met a person she did not like, never forgot a birthday or anniversary, and was generous and caring to so many people. She loved to volunteer her time and expertise to Arizona Musicfest in Scottsdale, AZ where she and Stanley spent the winter months for the past 30 years. She also was a benefactor and volunteer to many Akron area organizations such as Stewart's Caring Place, The Akron Marathon, Good Neighbors, Summa Hospital, and Akron Children's Hospital. She will be missed.

Ewing Cemeteries

The Ewing Family Cemetery (Circa 1750), Stephens City, VA

Bill Ewing (bmewing99@yahoo.com)

I am not a member of the Ewing Family Association, however, I was one of the organizers of the Clan's 2008 gathering held in Winchester, VA. One of the activities at the gathering was a tour of the Circa 1750 Ewing Family Cemetery located in Stephens City, VA (8 miles South of Winchester and where the early Ewings to the Valley settled). I had requests from several of the Clan members that have some of their close descendants buried there for me to keep them informed of activities or improvements to the cemetery.

Many improvements have been made to the cemetery in recent years so I have prepared a brief update for the Clan Members. I believe it will also be of interest to other members that are not aware of the cemetery and the burials located there.

Regards and Thanks,

Bill Ewing

For those of the Ewing Clan that have shown an interest in the Ewing Family Cemetery (Circa 1750) located in Stephens City, VA, following is a short update of its status. At the time of the Clan's visit in 2008, the cemetery was located in an open pasture field with access somewhat difficult. Cattle had grazed on the pasture damaging and destroying many of the head stones – many to the point they were not legible enough to identify the person buried. At that time, there was very little interest in the cemetery. It just existed with only a few of the local family members even knowing it was there.

In 1986, my sister-in-law, Evelyn Jones Ewing, along with her husband, James Earl Ewing, Jr., compiled and published the book "The Ewings of Frederick County, Virginia." In their work and research, they brought renewed life to the cemetery. It was their work and effort that encouraged several members of the family to begin restoring and preserving the cemetery.

The family acquired possession and right-of-way from the property owner and started preservation by installing a fence around the grave sites. Head stones were gathered up and identified where possible. Since the Clan's meeting here in 2008, new head stones have been purchased and installed on all graves that could be identified. The old stones are being saved and placed in the future landscaping. Several attendees of the 2008 gathering made contributions which helped in making the head stone purchase and installation possible. Many thanks.



**John Ewing of Carnashannagh
(William Ewing's Father)
Oldest Burial in the Cemetery**

**Cemetery, About 2012****Cemetery, Spring 2021**

In the past three or so years, a lot has taken place. The old Ewing farm where the cemetery is located has been sold to a developer and is now developed with many homes. We were able to acquire conditions within the development site plans and proffers to ensure the continued preservation of the cemetery. We were also able to gain other concessions that included the developer installing a nice metal fence along with a limited number of tree plantings. There is now a public paved street and plenty of parking in front of the cemetery providing good access. The cemetery is now owned by the Ewing Family, however, it is located on part of the open space that the Homeowners Association will be responsible for maintaining.

Within the next month, we would like to do some additional landscaping inside and around the outside of the fence. We are in the process of soliciting funding to accomplish this, so if anyone would like to contribute, we would certainly appreciate it. The amount of landscaping done will depend on the amount of funds we receive.

I am attaching some pictures of what the cemetery looked like before (above) and how it looks now (left). If you were here in 2008 and saw the 'before' condition, you can now see the great improvements that have been made. The additional landscaping should make the cemetery very attractive for visitors and neighbors.

One other note of interest: This past spring, the Sons of the American Revolution honored William Ewing for his participation in the Revolutionary War with a grave marker ceremony (next page). It was a really nice ceremony and enjoyed by family members and

several of the families living next to the cemetery. We were told that there might be another one or two family members buried there that also qualify for this honor. If so, The Sons of The American Revolution will return and honor them.

Identified Burials in the Ewing Family Cemetery

John Ewing of Carnashannagh Died Circa 1745

William Ewing Died 12/27/1781 Age 70

Samuel Ewing Died 8/24/1789 Age 80

Robert Ewing Died 10/7/1826 Age 65

Joshua Ewing Died 7/24/1824 Age 26

Margaret Ewing Died 6/18/1815 Age 62

Elizabeth Ewing Died 5/17/1816 Age 86

Elizabeth McGinnis Died 12/7/1820 Age 57

Mary McBean Died 9/17/1825 Age 60

Elizabeth Nelson Died 12/25/1856 Age 63 Wife of Moses Nelson

Mary Nelson Died 11/13/1834 Age 26 Days Daughter of Elizabeth

Sarah M Nelson Died 12/7/1831 Age 16 Days Daughter of Elizabeth

There are quite a number more buried in the cemetery. As an example, I'm almost certain that Moses Nelson is buried there since his wife and two daughters are buried there.

If you have an interest in the cemetery, please forward your email address and I will provide future improvements and activities taking place. Also, if you have questions or would like additional information you can reach me by email bmewing99@yahoo.com or at the following address:

Bill M Ewing
400 Clocktower Ridge Drive, Apt. 140
Winchester, VA 22603



**William Ewing's Sons of the American Revolution
Patriot Marker**

William Ewing of Rockingham, Clerk Andrew Ewing, and the Restoration of William and Margaret Love Ewing Cemetery, Nashville, TN

Jean Carter Wilson (genealogy@jeandy.com)

Recently, it came to the attention of a group of local Nashville preservationists (of which I am a part) that the cemetery containing remains of the family of some of Nashville's founding pioneers has fallen into disrepair. This burial ground contains the remains of William Ewing and his wife and children. William Ewing was a son of "Clerk" Andrew Ewing, who served our city from its earliest days for more than 30 years, working in a number of capacities to advance its interests. By the age of 18, William Ewing risked his life on a daily basis as one of the members of Nashville's first militia; his brother and nephew were the city's second and third clerks. Descendants of "Clerk Andrew" served Nashville as members of Congress, Mayors, and Councilmembers for more than 100 years. The William Ewing Cemetery is located on a portion of the original preemption land grant of 640 acres deeded to Andrew Ewing by the North Carolina legislature on February 28, 1786. It is one of many plots of land associated with the Ewing family due to the exemplary service many of our name provided the state of Tennessee in its infancy.

Portions of the 640-acre grant owned by Andrew Ewing stayed in his family for more than 120 years. In a succession I will outline below, a large section of the property eventually came into the possession of the state of Tennessee which houses a facility there called Ellington Agricultural Center. Since walking trails at the Agricultural Center grounds are a popular spot for local families to walk and explore, management recently erected a map display, which includes the old cemetery and its eponymous Cemetery Loop Trail. The public is actively encouraged to visit the stones, which led to a proposition by our group that Agricultural Center leadership should contribute funds to help us preserve them. However, no backing is available and our group is left with the necessity to raise the needed funds. Moneys are required to preserve the stones and to maintain the grounds. We have reason to believe a grant from a well-known national nonprofit historic preservationist organization remains a strong possibility, but in order to secure it, we need to obtain funding which the nonprofit will match.

It is the hope of our group that Ewing family members will consider a contribution to help us preserve this valued local resource. Physical presence of Ewing family monuments and markers help keep the contributions of those of our name fresh in the minds of the public. Once gone, these markers are difficult to replace and lack the look and feel of the originals. Any contribution is greatly appreciated and should be directed to the **Metro Nashville Historical Commission Foundation, 3000 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37204.**

- Please write "William and Margaret Ewing Cemetery" on the subject line of the check.
- **Contributions may also be made via Paypal at www.nashvillemhcf.org.** Click Donate at the top of the page, then use this donation for other specified in comments. Type "William and Margaret Ewing Cemetery" in the space provided.

Interestingly, the office of the Metro Historical Commission Foundation is located very near property Andrew Ewing purchased from Samuel Bell in 1800.¹³ Ewing and his son Nathan, who succeeded his father as Davidson County Clerk, were originally buried near the intersection of Granny White Pike and Woodmont Boulevard prior to their removal to Nashville's historic City Cemetery.¹⁴

¹³ Fletch Coke, "Andrew Ewing," last modified 2017, accessed Oct 4, 2021. <http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org/ewing-andrew-info.html>

¹⁴ "The E.T. Noel Home," Battle of Nashville Trust, accessed Oct 6, 2021.

<https://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Granny-White-Pike-Noel-Place-Idelwild.pdf>

In the interest of providing some context for those who might help us with contributions, I have undertaken some research on the family of Andrew Ewing and the role he played in establishing the city of Nashville. Andrew Ewing was with James Robertson, our city's founder, "from the beginning... woke in counsel, excellent in working, a scholar, a penman, reliable as a friend, determined as a patriot – the man to whom we are indebted for more information of those interesting and eventful times than to any other."¹⁵ Ewing was elected clerk of the Tribunal of Notables created in the Cumberland Compact, the first government document ever established in middle Tennessee, well before the creation of Davidson County or the city of Nashville. Obviously, Ewing was well educated and of good stock; his brother Henry also became clerk of Rockingham County, Virginia, helping to secure the positions of the westernmost settlements of that state.¹⁶

The role of clerk in municipal and county government is in many ways crucially important. Since the earliest days of the United States, clerks have performed important tasks such as licensing marriages and businesses and have kept records without which the day-to-day business of civic organizations could not be completed. Pioneers of the field such as Andrew Ewing kept literal transcriptions of city meetings, court cases, stock marks, guardianship records, and other matters which would be handled by multiple divisions of government today.

Born March 15, 1740, Andrew Ewing was the second of five children born to William Ewing, commonly known among Ewing family researchers as "William of Rockingham (County, Virginia)." The identity of Andrew Ewing's mother is somewhat uncertain as I will explain. Accounts of the history of this branch of the family have been subject to much speculation. Based chiefly on oral tradition and the use of a coat of arms which bears resemblance to that of the Baron Craigtoun, some descendants of William of Rockingham have maintained this line descends from the Scottish barony seated near Loch Lomond, and as such, was entitled to residence on property associated with royalty.¹⁷

Another tradition states that William Ewing came from Ulster, Ireland. As Elbert William R. Ewing recorded in *Clan Ewing of Scotland*, after having interviewed several family descendants living in the 1920s: "Remembering that this William undoubtedly had close relations in Ulster, and that at that day much of the immigrant movement was from Scotland to the Province of Ulster; and out of Ulster, Londonderry being an important port, to America, I am satisfied that this young man came to America direct from some point in north Ireland."¹⁸

Stranger tales abound, such as a recent, widely published book which indicates William Ewing of Rockingham was the ancestor of U.S. Vice President Adlai Ewing Stevenson and the uncle of Cumberland Presbyterian Church co-founder Finis Ewing. (This error is likely due to confusion between William of Rockingham and William Ewing son of Joshua Ewing, later of the Cecil County, Maryland Ewings. Cecil County is also the ancestral home of "Devil Alexander" Ewing, an aide de camp to Gen. Nathanael Greene who came to Nashville about 1787 and built Woodlon Hall in what's now the Whites Creek area.)

In contrast to researchers of the 18th and 19th centuries, Ewing students now have access to wide ranging, inexpensive DNA testing. We now know descendants of William Ewing of Rockingham belong to the Y-

¹⁵ A.W. Putnam. *History of Middle Tennessee: Or, Life and Times of Gen. James Robertson*. (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Society, 1859), page 161.

¹⁶ Katherine Waits Ewing, *Clerk Andrew Ewing: His Book, Part 1*. (Nashville: printed by the author, 1942), page 18. Tennessee State Library and Archives call number CS 71.E942.

¹⁷ Katherine Waits Ewing, *Clerk Andrew Ewing: His Book, Part 2*. (Nashville: printed by the author, 1942), page 6. Tennessee State Library and Archives call number CS 71.E942.

¹⁸ Elbert William R. Ewing, *Clan Ewing of Scotland: Early History and Contribution to America*. (Arlington, VA: Cobden Publishing Company, 1922), page 256.

DNA Project of the Ewing Family Association's Group 5, i.e. Y-DNA type I.¹⁹ This branch is separate from the main Ewing "uncles, brothers and cousins" group who shared a common ancestor sometime in the 1500s. Although DNA information does disprove certain of the family myths surrounding the line of William Ewing of Rockingham, it in no way countermands the likelihood, given other associations and especially the frequency of cousin marriages before the modern age, that the William of Rockingham line is related to its Ewing cousins by recent genetic ties. For instance, relationships through female lines would leave no Y-DNA traces and scant documentation.

Accounts also differ as to what year William Ewing of Rockingham departed for America. In any event one may reasonably assume a pattern of disembarkation in Philadelphia, then migration further into the interior of the state as was common to thousands of Scots-Irish immigrants. Margaret Fife states in *Ewing in Early America* the first confirmed record of William of Rockingham, a signature as William Ewings on the "Petition of some of inhabitants of West of Sadsbury Township in Chester Co., PA," August 27, 1728. Evidence this is the correct William Ewing despite the spelling of his surname is found in another signature on the document, that of Thomas Shannon, whose signature on his 1737 will strongly indicates his status as the father of William Ewing's wife Ann.²⁰

(Ann Shannon may have been William Ewing's second wife. Fife makes a compelling case that William Ewing married and possibly immigrated with an Eliza Milford who died sometime around 1740, making her the mother of Clerk Andrew Ewing. Fife's evidence includes an 1807 letter from Eliza Milford Ewing, daughter of William Ewing and Margaret Love whose cemetery we are working to restore.²¹ However, Andrew Ewing would have been raised from childhood largely by Ann Shannon and likely held her in high regard, rendering the argument somewhat moot from a practical standpoint.)

In November 1761, William Ewing purchased more than 700 acres on Linvel Creek in Augusta County, Virginia, on what was then the outmost edge of European settlement.²² The property was located in the portion of Augusta which would later become subdivided into Rockingham County. On it Ewing built a stone home called "The Grove," which later burned and was replaced by a brick grand mansion and other successive structures. (Almost unbelievably, family members lived on the property for two centuries after the deaths of William Ewing in 1796 and his wife Ann in 1801. A home built in 1822 on the site of "The Grove" by William of Rockingham's grandson – also named William Ewing by John Ewing and Phoebe Davisson – was put on the market in 2004 by family descendants; its current status is uncertain.)²³

Interestingly, despite many pieces of evidence indicating William Ewing of Rockingham held strongly to Scottish traditions as well as the Presbyterian faith, there is no reliable information as to why his five children appear to have been brought up as adherents to the Religious Society of Friends. (This fact is self-evident to judge from the part of the inscription reading "Raised in the Quaker faith" placed on Andrew Ewing's burial crypt at City Cemetery in 1935.)²⁴ There are no reliable records, for instance, for Shannons or Ewings in Quaker meeting minutes dating to the dates and locations in question; although, of course the records might be lost. One educated guess might be the influence of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania and late adopter of Quaker ideology. Another might be the appearance in records of William of Rockingham's testimony against Alexander Miller, a former Presbyterian minister, for providing

¹⁹ Y-DNA Project of the Ewing Family Association, modified April 22, 2017. <https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/results-tables/discussions-tables>

²⁰ Margaret Fife, *Ewing in Early America*. Edited by James R. McMichael. (Bountiful, UT: Family History Publishers, 2003), chapter 32, page 275. https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/books/Document_Fife.html

²¹ Fife, *Ewing in Early America*, chapter 32, page 293.

²² *Augusta County Deed Book 10, 1761 – 1762*. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Augusta County deed book microfilm roll 6, page 123.

²³ "Ewing's Descendants Lived in House for 170-Plus Years," *Harrisonburg, VA Daily News Record*, Sep 23, 2004.

²⁴ "Ewing Descendants Unveil Marker," *Nashville Banner*, May 2, 1935.

intelligence to the Loyalist cause – only two weeks after the Declaration of Independence.²⁵ Relationships with local Presbyterians may have somehow fallen into conflict due to this or other turmoil surrounding the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

Quaker beliefs may explain why neither Andrew Ewing nor his two brothers saw active service in either the French and Indian War or the Revolutionary War, despite their ages at the latter part of the former making the older two brothers, at least, prime candidates for recruitment. (Descendants of Andrew Ewing are eligible for membership in the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution by dint of his service to early Nashville, much of which can be said to have consisted of resistance to foreign interference in American affairs as we will see.)

It has been claimed as evidence of Quaker sensibilities that Andrew signed a 1753 petition in Augusta County asking for an end to the sale of rum and liquor. However, proponents of this theory do not take into account Andrew Ewing's birthdate. It is unlikely a 13-year-old would be in a position to lend his name to such a document.

On Dec. 11, 1760, Andrew married Susanna Shannon, almost certainly a relative of Ann Shannon. Generations of same-named men and women who lived at the same times in the same places frustrate efforts to determine this relationship for certain. To add to the confusion, Susanna Shannon was likely also the daughter of a Thomas Shannon, said to have died in Amherst County around 1772.²⁶ In October of 1769, Ewing was deeded his father's original land purchase on Linvel Creek. By 1779, Andrew and Susanna had six young children. At some point that year, Andrew made the difficult decision to improve his family's fortunes via the long trip westward over the Appalachians to the area which would become the Cumberland settlements.

In the absence of hard facts, in my estimation there is a likely narrative for how Andrew Ewing became involved with James Robertson's 1779 drive to settle French Lick, as Nashville was first known due to its status as trading spot for French explorers and the existence of a natural saline deposit. First, one should consider the relative remoteness of Rockingham County at that time. Most settlers of European descent living on the borderlands would have come to know one another by necessity, and many were related by blood or marriage. They also would likely have come in contact with explorers looking to settle new lands. In 1769, Daniel Boone and a group including James Robertson²⁷ set out to explore the Kentucky territory about the same time as a longhunter expedition comprised partly of Rockingham Countians, led by Kasper Mansker and Abraham Bledsoe, departed for French Lick. Multiple records establish that members of these diverse exploration parties were already acquainted with one another. Reports of the expeditions circulated in the community upon the travelers' return: "Upon the return of Mansco (sic) in 1771 from his voyage down the river, the fame of the Cumberland lands, and of their fertility...the abundance of buffaloes, deer, and game of all sorts, was diffused through all the frontier settlements."²⁸

Andrew Ewing would have been aware of Robertson's 1772 negotiations with the Cherokee in the establishment of the Watauga settlement, and likely would have known of the period in 1774 during which Robertson was assigned to supervise the completion of Fort Culbertson in modern Summers County, West Virginia about 150 miles from Linvel Creek. Frontier forts had been authorized by the Virginia legislature in 1756, but the need became urgent as hostilities broke out between Native American people

²⁵ Elbert Ewing, page 260.

²⁶ Presley Kittredge Ewing and Mary E. Williams Ewing, *The Ewing Genealogy with Cognate Branches: A Survey of the Ewings and Their Kin in America*. (Houston: Hercules Printing Company, 1919), page 25.

²⁷ Neil C. Pennywitt, "Robertson, James," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, ed. William S. Powell (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1994). <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/robertson-james>

²⁸ Doug Drake, Jack Masters and Bill Puryear, *Founding of the Cumberland Settlements: The First Atlas, 1779-1804*. (Gallatin, TN: Warioto Press, 2009), page 19.

and Europeans, culminating in the Battle of Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774.²⁹ This author's fourth great grandfather General Robert Ewing, along with several other Ewings and 20 Wataugans including then-Sergeant James Robertson fought at Point Pleasant, potentially creating another avenue for Robertson-Ewing acquaintance. (Gen. Ewing's father, Judge Robert Ewing of New London, was a figure with whom both the Rockingham Ewings and Robertson might reasonably have been acquainted. In 1787, Robertson wrote a warm letter to Kentucky's first Governor, Isaac Shelby, praising the character of the younger Robert Ewing in a manner which seems to indicate more than a passing familiarity.³⁰ Judge Ewing, who also served as the clerk of Bedford County, Virginia, for many years, is often referred to as Robert Ewing "of Otter" after the Bedford Peaks of Otter thought by many to have been named for Ewing ancestral lands in Scotland. Robert "of Otter" and William Ewing might also have come to know one another by virtue of mutual Ewing contacts in Chester County, Pennsylvania; documentary evidence shows, and DNA does not rule out, that Robert Ewing was likely closely related to the Cecil County Ewings, who first settled in Chester.)³¹

Thirdly, and most importantly, the Ewing family has since its arrival in America shown a proclivity to obtain a crucial resource – land. Andrew Ewing would have been aware of the Sycamore Shoals treaty in 1775 in which Cherokee leaders deeded Richard Henderson's Transylvania Company, of which James Robertson was a principal, hundreds of thousands of acres comprising modern Kentucky and much of Tennessee. As A.W. Putnam recounts in his exhaustive *History of Middle Tennessee: Or, Life and Times of Gen. James Robertson*: "The extensive purchase made by the Henderson Associates and the further reports made by hunters and agents of the large land company as to the country beyond the mountains, and the very favorable terms upon which large tracts – a thousand acres – would probably be granted, were attracting unusual attention."³²

In 1778, the Virginia Legislature stripped the Transylvania Company's title to the northern portion of the claim.³³ That same year, the first director of the land office for territory that would soon become the state of Kentucky was installed – Baker Ewing, another son of Judge Robert Ewing "of Otter."³⁴ The State of Virginia ruling did not invalidate the southern portion of the Transylvania purchase, however. Andrew Ewing accompanied James Robertson to French Lick to get in on the ground floor, so to speak, of the permanent settlement of the newly habitable lands and the wealth of resources they contained.

Many Europeans reached what is now modern Middle Tennessee in the colonial era and prior, beginning with the expedition of the Spanish conquistador Hernando DeSoto in the early 1500s. French fur traders engaged in commerce at the Bluffs of the Cumberland beginning with Martin Chenier in 1689.³⁵ In 1766, a team led by Captain James Smith of Pennsylvania passed through the Cumberland Gap to hunt along the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers; its members are said to have "found no vestige of any white man."³⁶ By the early 1770s, hunting had given way to a more pointed approach with a view towards permanent settlement of the area. By 1776, Thomas Sharpe Spencer and his associates had erected a few rudimentary cabins at French Lick. With the arrival of Robertson's party in 1779, the die would be

²⁹ Roy Bird Cook, "Virginia Frontier Defenses 1719-1795." *West Virginia History* 5, no. 2 (January 1940): pages 119 - 130. http://archive.wvculture.org/history/journal_vwh/vwh1-2-4.html

³⁰ *The Tennessee and King's Mountain Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts, Calendar series volume 3*. Editors Edward Bennett, Ruth Hardaker, Anne Gregorie, Isabel Thompson. (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1929), page 210.

³¹ Alicia Ewing Towster, "Charles and Robert Ewing: Part I – Introduction." *Ewing Family Journal* 20, no. 2 (May 2014): page 15.

³² Putnam, page 61.

³³ Louise Littleton Davis, *More Tales of Tennessee*. (Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Company, 1978), page 24.

³⁴ Boutwell Dunlap, "Augusta County, Virginia in the History of the United States." *The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society* 16, no. 47 (May 1918): page 113.

³⁵ Betsy Phillips, "Martin Chartier, Nashville's First White Person," Nashville Scene, last modified Sep 12, 2016.

https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/pithinthewind/martin-chartier-nashvilles-first-white-person/article_26ec0ff2-5365-533e-bc30-1c823c264849.html

³⁶ Philip Hamer, *Tennessee: A History, 1673-1932*. (New York: The American Historical Society, 1933), page 65.

cast in establishment of what would be soon be known as the city of Nashville, although the early settlement nearly foundered.

Upon arrival at French Lick around Christmas Day after many weeks of travel on foot or horseback, members of Robertson's party began to select land holdings and to clear them of the abundant brush which then covered the area. Living quarters were erected and individuals began to lay in provisions they grew or caught. In April 1780, the river flotilla captained by John Donelson arrived, and with it many of the family members of the overland group. Shortly it was decided that for the safety of all, eight forts should be erected. Fort Nashborough – named for General Francis Nash who perished in the October 4, 1777 Battle of Germantown – would be the primary on the bluff at the top of what was then a natural spring on the bank of the Cumberland River.

Although the current Davidson County Clerk's website states the office of Court Clerk was established in May 1780 by the Cumberland Compact,³⁷ the document drafted by Richard Henderson and signed by 256 original Middle Tennessee settlers calling for a representative form of civil government, this isn't strictly true since Davidson County had not yet been created in 1780. The Cumberland Compact established a "Tribunal of Notables," a 12-person committee elected by the eight forts for the purposes of law enforcement and land claims. Andrew Ewing, a signer of the Cumberland Compact, was one of those elected to the Tribunal of Notables via the three votes from Fort Nashborough and was selected its clerk.³⁸ Others who voted included settlements as far away as Stone's River and Fort Union, in modern Montgomery County.³⁹

Ewing appears to have played an active part in some of the documents he transcribed. In 1782, a council was held to decide whether the settlement at Fort Nashborough would remain viable as many of the residents had fled or succumbed to illness or attacks by Native people, some of whom were understandably set to defend their ancestral lands despite treaties signed by those they felt didn't speak for them. The proceedings were recorded in a document entitled *Remonstrance to Breaking up the Settlement*. "The 'Remonstrance' to breaking up the settlements is in the hand-writing of Andrew Ewin (sic); and from some imperfect drafts and the completed copy, we infer that there was much deliberation in that 'council of the stationers.'"⁴⁰

The Cumberland Compact also established a Cumberland Association, which mostly lay dormant until January 1783 at which point Andrew Ewing was made its Clerk as well.⁴¹ Later that year, the North Carolina Legislature extinguished the Transylvania Company's land claims via the creation of Davidson County, named for Revolutionary General William Lee Davidson, who died in the 1781 Battle of Cowan's Ford; several of his family members married Ewings. (Robertson was eventually able to have rights to most of the Transylvania lands held by individuals restored by North Carolina.)⁴² In his third appointment, Andrew Ewing was named Davidson County's first Clerk of Court on October 6, 1783.⁴³

Consequently, Andrew Ewing was natural fit for the role of Nashville's first clerk when the town which sprang up around the fort on the bluffs was officially incorporated by the Legislature and its name changed to Nashville in April 1784. Through other portions of the act incorporating Nashville, several people were appointed directors and trustees of the town. These were instructed to collect a fee of four pounds sterling from each subscriber purchasing property there for the purpose of building a courthouse, prison, and stocks, and to deliver that amount to Andrew Ewing and two others – one of whom was this author's fifth

³⁷ <https://www.nashvilleclerk.com/about/history>, accessed Oct 6, 2021.

³⁸ Anita S. Goodstein, "Leadership on the Nashville Frontier." *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 35, no. 2 (Summer 1976): page 177.

³⁹ Drake, Masters and Puryear, page 24.

⁴⁰ Putnam, page 161.

⁴¹ Richard Carlton Fulcher, *1770-1790 Census of the Cumberland Settlements*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1987), page 35.

⁴² Drake, Masters and Puryear, page 20.

⁴³ Lizzie P. Elliott, *Early History of Nashville*. (Nashville: Ambrose Printing Company, 1911), page 208.

great grandfather, Ephraim McLean, father-in-law of General Robert Ewing. McLean, whose wife was a first cousin of General Davidson, and who had represented Burke County on North Carolina's western flank to the Legislature at its inception, and Robert Ewing, who arrived in Nashville shortly before its incorporation, both represented Nashville to the North Carolina Legislature prior to Tennessee statehood.⁴⁴

Upon his appointment as City Clerk, Andrew Ewing set a high bar in recording the proceedings of virtually all county affairs, in the words of esteemed researcher Katherine Waits Ewing, whose 800 pages of independent research on the family of Andrew Ewing reside in the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

"To Clerk Andrew fell the task of recording in the Minute Books of the County Court the election of county officers, their Bonds and Securities; Licenses for establishing and maintaining ferries and ordinaries, with rates to be charged for respective services; Tax Lists of all male white inhabitants; names of persons fined and/or imprisoned for misdemeanors or offenses, with the amounts of fine or terms of incarceration; the record of all "Stock Marks" or cattle brands; lawsuits for the recovery of money, property or a good name; records showing that Wills had been probated and recorded in the Will Books, Executors had qualified and Letters testamentary issued; records showing that decedents had left no wills, Administrators had been appointed and letters of administration issued; appointment of Guardians to orphaned children; records showing that every instrument had been registered in the Deed Books, repository of Land Transfers, Powers of Attorney, Releases, Agreements between owner and tenant, etc."⁴⁵ Andrew Ewing likely worked 12-hour days, much of the time by coal oil lamp, in the service of our city for more than 30 years until his death.

In 1784, partly in an attempt to regain its land holdings in Florida, the country of Spain began to fund Native American attacks on frontier towns, particularly Nashville and the area around the original Watauga settlement, which at the time was considering independence as the State of Franklin. Largely through the efforts of Alexander McGillivray, a Creek chief of mixed European and Native ancestry, the Spanish signed the Treaty of Pensacola with the Upper Muscogee and the Lower Cherokee on May 30, 1784.⁴⁶ On June 22, 1784, the Treaty of Mobile was signed with the Choctaw and the Alabama. In the summer of 1785, Spain, which held the Louisiana Territory comprising what are now several U.S. states, closed the Mississippi River to American traffic and sponsored a meeting of more than a dozen Native tribes to reinforce its support for continued warfare.⁴⁷ By 1786, the attacks of the Muscogee, in particular, were so successful that James Robertson, Daniel Smith, and Anthony Bledsoe joined secret negotiations with Esteban Rodríguez Miró, the Spanish governor of the Louisiana Territory, to discuss the delivery of the Cumberland settlements to Spain. The effort went so far as the establishment of a court system encompassing modern Middle Tennessee, named for Miró.⁴⁸

In 1788, Robertson decided to take matters into his own hands and drafted a letter to McGillivray in a request to end the hostilities. To contend with the existential threat to the young Nashville settlement, Robertson sent two of his most trusted advisors to deliver the letter: Sergeant John Hoggatt, late of the Continental Army's 3rd Georgia Battalion – and Andrew Ewing.⁴⁹

⁴⁴ R.D.W. Connor, Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission. *A Manual of North Carolina*. (Raleigh, NC: E.M. Uzzell and Company State Printers, 1913), page 586.

⁴⁵ Katherine Waits Ewing, *Andrew Ewing: His Book, Part 1*, page 46.

⁴⁶ Jack D. L. Holmes, "Spanish Treaties with West Florida Indians 1784-1802," *The Florida Historical Quarterly* 48, no. 2 (Oct 1969): page 140.

⁴⁷ John P. Brown, *Old Frontiers: The Story of the Cherokee Indians from Earliest Times to the Date of Their Removal to the West*, 1838. (Kingsport, TN: Southern Publishers, 1938), page 245.

⁴⁸ Bill Carey, "Remembering the Mero District," *Tennessee Magazine*, June 2021. Accessed Oct 5, 2021.

<https://www.tnsmagazine.org/remembering-the-mero-district/>

⁴⁹ Putnam, page 449.

Only five days after McGillivray's reply promising peace, Indian warriors killed Col. Anthony Bledsoe. (An important member of Nashville's founding leadership, Bledsoe was the son of explorer Abraham Bledsoe; modern Bledsoe County, Tennessee is named for him.) Robertson consulted Hoggatt and Ewing on how to proceed with his response. Putnam reports the event thusly: "After due deliberation it was agreed that Andrew Ewing, late 'Plenipotentiary to the Creek Nation,' should, as 'Secretary of State to the small Estates on Cumberland,' draw up the important document."⁵⁰

The letter drafted by Ewing is notable in its sly flattery of McGillivray's ego and low-key management of not only the Bledsoe matter, but others such as the death of Robertson's 12-year old son at the hands of the Creek in March 1787. Robertson even offered gifts – a gun and a Nashville city lot deeded to McGillivray. Nothing is known of McGillivray's response, but in 1789, commissioners appointed by the U.S. government were able to mollify McGillivray through a \$100,000 payment for his lands – almost \$5 million in modern currency – along with a payment of what would now be roughly \$58,000 a year to the Creek nation.⁵¹ However, Native conflict with European settlers continued well into Tennessee's statehood in 1796.

On February 3, 1797, Andrew Ewing ceded to his son William a portion of Andrew's own grant entered 1786 by the North Carolina legislature: "640 acres on West Fork of Mill Creek (now Sevenmile Creek), Davidson County, North Carolina." The 250 acres provided appears to have been a wedding gift to William, who according to family records had married Margaret Love, daughter of Joseph Love of White's Creek, on May 26, 1795.⁵² (Margaret Love's father may be the same Joseph Love who served under Gen. Nathanael Greene at Guilford Courthouse; records are so far not definitive. Love may also have had a relationship to Col. Robert Love, one of the commissioners who ran the North Carolina-Tennessee boundary in 1821.)⁵³

Having been born in Rockingham County in 1771, by the time of his adulthood William Ewing, son of Andrew Ewing and Susanna Shannon, was closely identified with a group of lookouts, or scouts, against Indian agents. William and young men from families surnamed Castleman, Buchanan, Rains, and others received as payment a quantity of corn allotted by the Davidson County Court. "Scout" William is said to have regaled his descendants with tales such as early days of scarcity at Fort Nashborough, and events like the Native American attack on Buchanan's Station in September 1792. About 20 men in the blockhouse allegedly defeated 250 Indians; the fort in question survived into the lifetime of William Ewing's grandson who recounted details to Katherine Waits Ewing in the 1940s.⁵⁴

William Ewing and Margaret Love lived on the Sevenmile Creek property for more than 40 years. In 1841, part of their land was transferred to "Scout" William's son, also named William: "For \$1500 the northern half of the 250-acre tract on Mill Creek, where said William has and does reside."⁵⁵ The second half of the property was transferred to William via "Scout" William's will on April 10, 1843.⁵⁶ In 1871, the land began to pass through the descendants of "Scout" William's nephew Pleasant Andrew Smith.⁵⁷

⁵⁰ Putnam, page 449.

⁵¹ Putnam, page 459.

⁵² *Davidson County Deed Books Vols. D-F: 1796-1805*. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Davidson County deed book microfilm roll 2, deed book D, page 110.

⁵³ Dunlap, "Augusta County," page 118.

⁵⁴ Katherine Waits Ewing, *Clerk Andrew Ewing: His Book, Part 1*, page 311

⁵⁵ *Davidson County Deed Books Vols. 5-6: 1842-1844*. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Davidson County deed book microfilm roll 12, deed book 6, page 56.

⁵⁶ *Davidson County Wills, Inventories and Settlements, 1840-1846*. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Davidson County wills and settlements microfilm roll 431, will book 13, page 369.

⁵⁷ *Davidson County Wills, Inventories and Settlements, 1880-1883*. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Davidson County wills and settlements microfilm roll 439, will book 26, page 32.

By 1897, the original land grant was subject to subdivision by a series of local court actions, described by Nashville historian Bill Taylor as “The survey map that will be drawn in 1897 in the case of P. A. Smith vs W. E. Smith.”⁵⁸

By 1909, the Caldwell family had purchased the portion of the “Scout” William Ewing land which now contains the cemetery and chose to honor those buried in a marker erected about 1929:

“Perhaps in this Neglected Spot is Laid
Some heart once pregnant with Celestial Fire;
Hands that the Rod of Empire might have Swayed
Or waked to Ecstasy the Living lyre.”⁵⁹

Around the same time, Rogers Caldwell erected a manor, “Brentwood House,” styled on the Hermitage built by President Andrew Jackson. During the Great Depression, Caldwell fell upon financial hardship, and by the late 1950s, the property had come into the custody of the State of Tennessee which used it as offices before developing the Agriculture Center.⁶⁰

The BillionGraves page for the William and Margaret Love Ewing Family Cemetery lists a total of 36 memorials,⁶¹ most – but not all – of whom were directly connected to the Ewings. The memorial inscription for Albert Phillips Fields reads: “For thirty years faithful stud groom at Brentwood Hall.” Bill Taylor believes and provides considerable evidence for the suggestion that enslaved persons may be buried at the cemetery (an architectural survey is in the works with technology which may answer questions regarding unmarked graves.) We have just learned an ornamental fence may be erected around the property with the capacity for enlargement as more burials are uncovered.

Taylor’s photographs of and research on the graves located in the cemetery are outstanding. The following is an excerpt from a paper he recently self-published about the site.



Jean Carter Wilson (genealogy@jeandy.com) is the fourth great-granddaughter of Brigadier General Robert Ewing II. She is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution Gen. William Lee Davidson Chapter of which she is an officer and divides her time between Nashville, Tennessee and Trigg County, Kentucky. Her hobbies include antiques, fiber arts, and historical re-enactment.

⁵⁸ Bill Taylor, “William Ewing Cemetery Chronological Notes,” self published, August 2021, page 3.

⁵⁹ Katherine Waits Ewing, *Clerk Andrew Ewing: His Book, Part 2*, page 324.

⁶⁰ Kayla Walden, “A Look at the History Behind the Ellington Ag Center,” last modified March 2019. Accessed Oct 5, 2021.

<https://farmflavor.com/tennessee/tennessee-farm-to-table/a-look-at-the-history-behind-the-ellington-ag-center/>

⁶¹ <https://billiongraves.com/cemetery/William-Ewing-Cemetery/329903>, accessed October 7, 2021.

Photographs and Descriptions of Burials at William and Margaret Love Ewing Cemetery

Bill Taylor

Editor's Note: All photos and text are as they were provided.



The Cemetery as it appears today.

November 24, 1845 - Death of William Ewing – William Ewing is the patron of the family cemetery. William was the son of Andrew Ewing who originally owned the land surrounding the cemetery. William's wife Margaret Love died 23 years earlier in 1822. One of their sons, William Love Ewing would go on to own the land where the cemetery is and would buy back much of the surrounding land that was his Grandfather's.

On the headstone his name is engraved as William Ewing sen. William might have been considered William senior since he had a son William Love Ewing, but I haven't seen evidence of a son that was just William Ewing. I also haven't seen any evidence of William Ewing the elder having a middle name. The son William Love Ewing got his middle name from his mother Margaret Love.

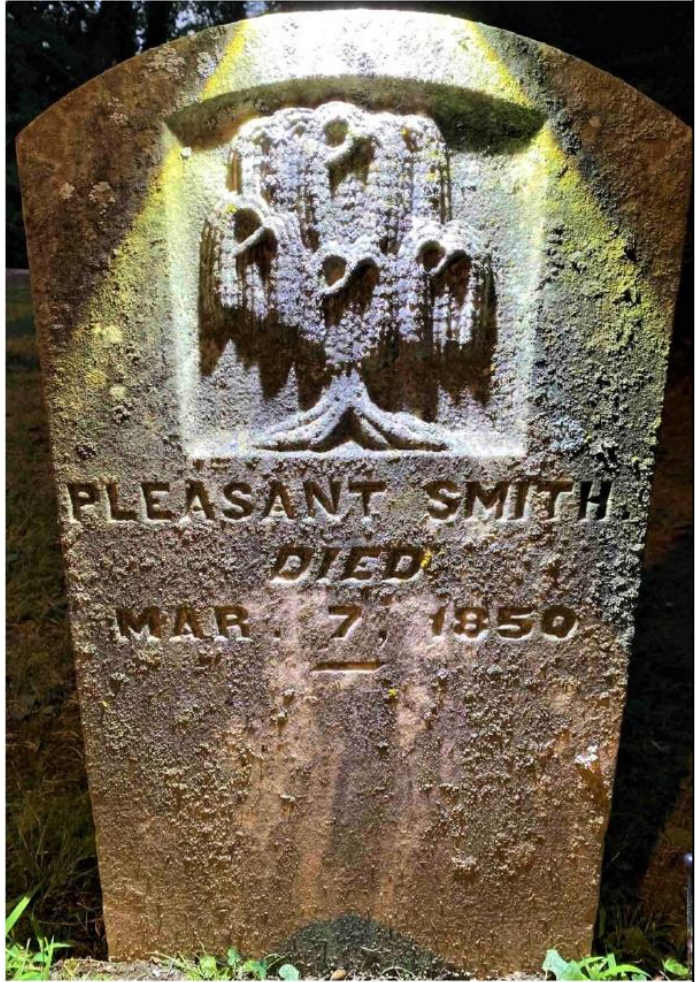


**1822 - Death of Margaret Love
wife of William Ewing.**

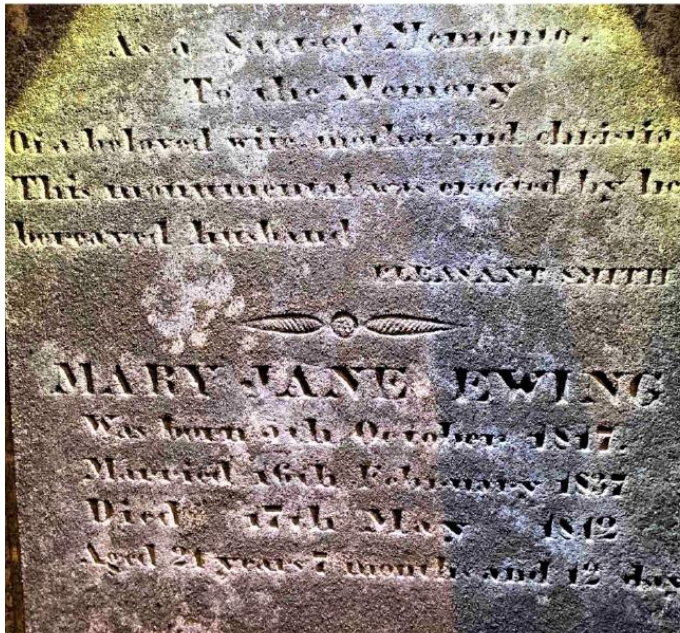
Margaret L. is buried in the cemetery, her headstone is the one partly consumed by the tree. On the headstone she is referred to as Consort of Wm Ewing.



March 17, 1850 – Death of Pleasant Smith - Pleasant Smith (?-1850) was the husband of Mary Jane Ewing (1817-1842), sister of William Ewing (1771-1845). Pleasant and Mary Jane had two sons and may have had a daughter. The sons William C. Smith (1839-1880) and especially Pleasant Andrew Smith (1841-1912) played an important role in the acquisition and transfer of the lands of the Ewing family. Pleasant, Mary Jane, Pleasant A. and William C. are all buried in the cemetery. There is some evidence in Ancestry.com that there is a daughter named Susan. She does not have a visible headstone in the cemetery.



May 17, 1842 – Death of Mary Jane Ewing – Mary Jane Ewing (1817-1842) was the wife of Pleasant Smith (?-1850). She was the eldest daughter of William Ewing (1771-1845). More information about the family is in the notes on Pleasant's death. Mary Jane is buried in the cemetery and has an above-ground crypt. The crypt and inscription is one of the most elaborate in the cemetery. The crypt is currently in poor condition and somewhat unstable. If you visit the cemetery do not lean on the crypt.



As a sacred momento.

To the Memory

Of a beloved wife, mother and christian.

This memorial was erected by her bereaved husband

Pleasant Smith

Mary Jane Ewing

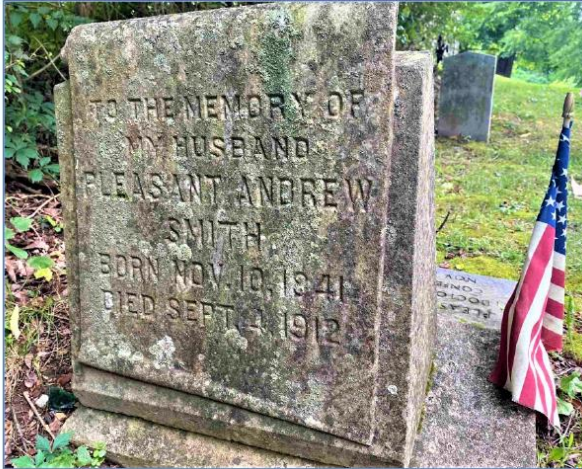
Was born 5th October 1817

Married 16th February 1837

Died 17th May 1842

Aged 21 years 7 months and 12 days

September 4, 1912 - Death of Pleasant Andrew Smith – Pleasant A. Smith (1841-1912) was the husband of Martha T. Hamilton (1846-1920). Her inscription...



TO THE MEMORY OF
MY HUSBAND
PLEASANT ANDREW
SMITH
BORN NOV. 10, 1841
DIED SEPT. 4, 1912

Pleasant A. Smith was buried in the cemetery even though the surrounding land had already been sold to James E. Caldwell.

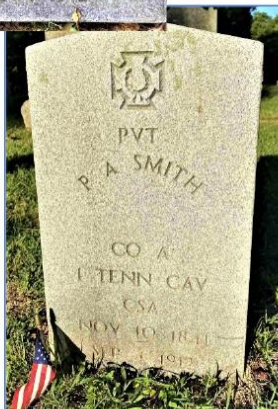


He had two military markers in the cemetery:



PLEASANT ANDREW SMITH
DOCTOR CO G 9 TENN CAV
CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY
NOV 10 1841 SEP 4 1912

PVT
P A SMITH
CO A
1 TENN CAV
CSA
NOV 10 1841
SEP 4 1912



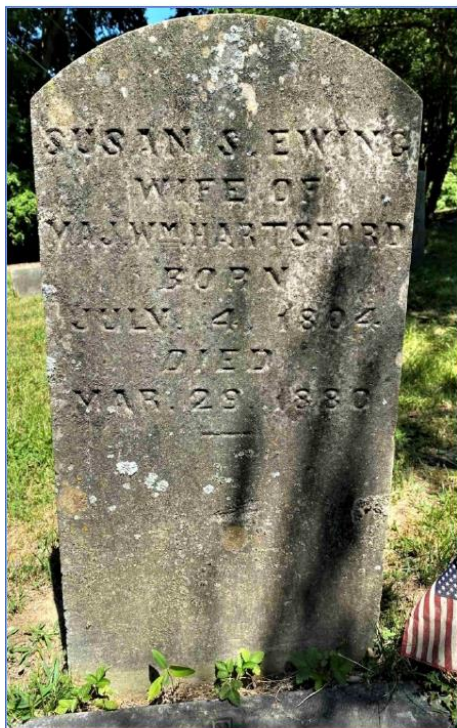
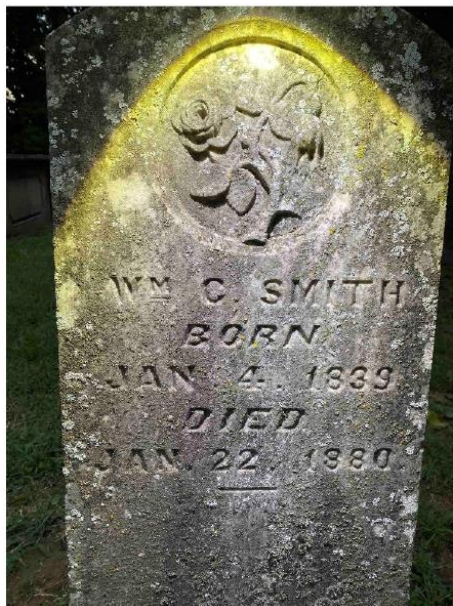
He was the son of Pleasant Smith (?-1850) and Mary Jane Ewing (1817-1842). He is the nephew of William L. Ewing. Pleasant A. was an important player in the story of the Ewing lands. His immediate family were the last relatives of the Ewing's to own large amounts of the original lands of Andrew Ewing (1740-1813) on the west fork of the waters of Mill Creek.

January 22, 1880 - Death of William C. Smith – William C. Smith is the brother of Pleasant A. Smith, who are nephews of William L. Ewing. There is some evidence in Ancestry.com that he was married to Mary E. Evans on December 18, 1860.

In the codicil of William L. Ewing's will;
*"...my nephew W C Smith who is now dead
 and whereas he died leaving an only child
 name Monnie E. Smith who is now about
 Eighteen years of age and is deformed..."*.

In the will, after the death of William C. 400 acres of White's Creek land is given to his brother Pleasant A. Smith in trust to care for the daughter. When the daughter dies the land is to be sold and the proceeds given to Pleasant A.'s children.

William C. Smith Is buried in the cemetery, as are Pleasant A. Smith And William L. Ewing.



March 29, 1880 – Death of Susan S. Ewing – Susan S. Ewing was the wife of William Hartsfield who died in 1868. She was the daughter of William Ewing and sister of William L. Ewing. All four are buried in the cemetery.

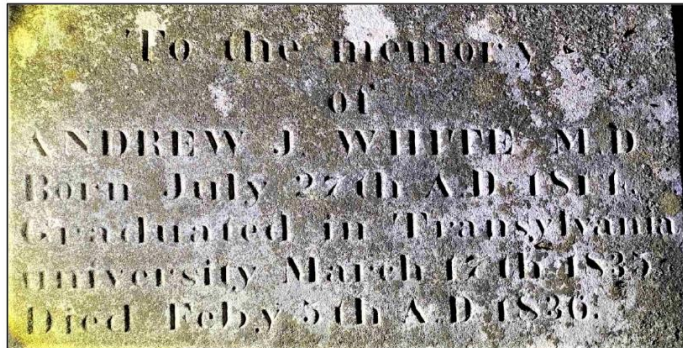
Susan's headstone in the cemetery is a curiosity, it reads:

*Susan S. Ewing
 Wife of
 Maj. Wm. **Hartsford**
 Born
 July 4, 1804
 Died
 Mar. 29, 1880*

This is almost certainly the headstone of Susan S. Ewing the wife of William **Hartsfield not Hartsford**. One of William Hartsfield's military flat markers lies at the base of her headstone. If this was a typo, neither Susan, William H., their daughter Prudilla or her husband W. A. Dunkling would have been alive to fix it. (See the 1873 deed)

February 5, 1836 – Death of Dr. Andrew J. White (1814-1836) - I'm including Andrew J. White in these notes because his grave is in the William Ewing Cemetery. Also he was probably the first husband of Margaret A. Ewing (1815-1855?). Margaret was the daughter of William Ewing (1771-1845) and sister of William L. Ewing (1809-1880). She is mentioned in the will of her brother Milton P. Ewing as "Mrs. Margaret White". See the will of Dr. Milton P. Ewing in 1837.

Also, Andrew J.'s grave has an interesting piece of information... Transylvania University.



*To the memory
of
ANDREW J. WHITE M.D.
Born July 27th A.D. 1814
Graduated in Transylvania
university March 17th 1835
Died Feby 5th A.D. 1836.*

Transylvania was a distinguished private university in Lexington Kentucky, one of the first medical schools "in the West". Apparently it was important enough to put on his grave.



Bill Taylor is a fourth generation Tennessean who grew up the son of a minister and a teacher. In Bill's own words: "I became fascinated with our family genealogy when helping my mother enter our family tree in a computer program. I came across the William Ewing family cemetery and was surprised there was little data available online, so I started doing my own studying. I was curious about how the land went from the Ewings' possession to be surrounded by a branch of the Tennessee State Government. As I learned about the land and the family it became clear to me that the family buried in this land deserves a cemetery that is whole, not disintegrating."



Celebratory Poem

Steven C. Ewing (aquamv@gmail.com)

Clan Song

Raise your voices
in sweet greeting
Raise your spirit
to our name
Raise your mind
to noble meaning
Raise your heart in
highland strains

Sing in memory
of our family
scattered ore
the briny seas
Sing the song
of lovely Scotland
where we'd all so
long to be

Bless the hills and
lochs and mountains
Bless the forests
and the glens
Bless the honor
of our homeland
Bless its soul
my bonnie friend

Let the magic
of our legends
Let the dreams that
we all share
Bind our spirits to
each other
Lift this song high
in the air

The song of distant
dim horizons
The song of ancient
family bonds
The song of clans and
trust of kinship
Sing it clearly
sing it strong

May our family name
of Ewing
Forever be so
surely blessed
May it share it's long
lived story
May all the clans
truly attest

May they hold us up
as equal
May we share a vote
with pride
May our history and
its meaning
Ride together side
by side

May our chief with
humble wisdom
bravely shine the
light of truth
May he represent
our honor
as he gains us
what we're due

May the best of us
be blest
as equal to
the very least
May the heart of the
true kindred
be revealed to
all we meet

May the future rise
before us
for we've chosen
the straight track
The road we're on
leads us homeward
there'll be no cause for
turning back

*Steven C. Ewing
September 2014*



Steve Ewing is a dock builder living in Edgartown with his wife, Claudia. They have two grown sons, Niko and Arno. They are also proud grandparents of 5 new Ewings in the last 4 years. Steve is the Town of Edgartown's first poet laureate, and has published his second book of poetry titled, "Waterfront Poems, Vineyard Seasons."

155th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games



Photo at the Clan Ewing tent during the 155th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games on Labor Day Weekend - September 4-5, 2021 - at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, California.

Left to right are:

Jeff Ewing, Rick Sanne, Terri Sanne, and Larry Ewing

Information Exchange

This section of the *Ewing Family Journal* provides members with transcripts of dialogues initiated by queries or offers of information sent to the EFA Genealogist, the *Ewing Family Journal's* Editor, the following websites, and others. Including these items here is intended to entice others to join the dialogues and help respond to the queries or amplify the provided information.

Ewing-related requests for information and offers of information are often posted to various Internet web sites including:

- EFA's Forum at groups.google.com/group/EwingFamilyAssociation,
- EFA's Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/ewing.family.association,
- Ewing Family Genealogy Forum at genforum.genealogy.com/ewing, and
- Rootsweb's Ewing Message Board at boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.ewing/mb.ashx.

Readers should periodically view and search these sites to find queries and offered information related to their Ewing-related genealogy research.

Francis Marion Ewing

Message from Chris Hanson (chris.hanson@kw.com)

Can you help me confirm that my 2nd great grandfather, Francis Marion Ewing, was the son of James M Ewing and Mary P McKenney? I see that George Ewing wrote an article that listed Francis M as a son, but other searches on your website don't list Francis as one of the sons of James M Ewing.

I have a handwritten journal that was passed down to me with dates that I have typed up. I could send photos of the journal if it is helpful, but I have attached the transcribed version for you (see next page). With Francis Marion Ewing, we have 7 generations of his descendants that were born in Oregon so there is an Oregon branch. I appreciate your help!

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

Thanks for your query and for sharing such great information with which to work. I found your family tree online at one time which also helps.

I'm going to include what I had written a short while ago as I was researching your possible Ewing lineage. The reason I will include it is because of the link to another family named Hanson. Is it just a coincidence or possibly a link? Always adding confusion is the fact that there were many, many same-named people!

Do you have proof that your Francis Marion Ewing was born in Pendleton County, Kentucky? The reason I ask is because there are at least two Francis Marion Ewing men born in Kentucky about 1825-7. I think it is very possible that records of the two may be mixed up. Have you followed the census records very closely? It is easy to separate the lines with that information. Of course, your line settled in Oregon about 1851. The other line went from Kentucky to Georgia.

There is one Francis Marion Ewing, born c. 1827, who served in the Confederacy on the Navy Ship 'Jackson Station.' Francis married Sarah Ann Bell and had Fannie, Francis, and Blanche. In the 1860 Monroe County, Georgia census, I don't find Francis in the census, but his wife, Sarah/Sally, is living with her probable mother, brother, and her three children - Fannie, Francis, and Blanche. Now the interesting find in this census is that the George W. Hanson family is listed just prior to Sarah. That Hanson family consists of parents and eight children. In the 1870 census, Francis was 43, a teacher in a jail and living with the Doll Family in Holley Springs, Marshall County, Mississippi. (His family was not with him.) I think he died in 1889 in Mississippi. Sarah was still living in Monroe County, Georgia, when the 1900 census was taken there.

To add further confusion, we have men who have tested and are part of our Ewing Y-DNA Project at FTDNA, and they fall into different groups.

Let me know if I need to continue the research on your line. Do you know if there might be living Ewing males who could join the Ewing Y-DNA Project?


Relationship: Christopher Haldor Hanson to Francis Marion Ewing

Francis Marion Ewing is the 2nd great grandfather of Christopher Haldor Hanson


2nd great grandfather

 Francis Marion Ewing b: Oct 25, 1825 Pendleton County, Kentucky. d: Jan 27, 1893 Albany, Oregon, Benton Co., USA	 Elizabeth Merrill b: Jun 28, 1833 New York d: Jan 19, 1898
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Great grandfather

 Charles William Ewing b: Apr 28, 1858 Oregon Territory, USA d: Oct 10, 1931 Cottage Grove, Lane, Oregon, USA


Paternal grandmother

 Velma Gwendolyn Ewing b: Apr 30, 1911 London, Lane, Oregon, USA d: Sep 11, 2001 Vancouver, Washington, USA

Father

 Carl Haldor Hanson b: Sep 22, 1937 Albany, Alameda, California, USA d: Oct 27, 2014

Self

 Christopher Haldor Hanson b: Apr 07, 1960 Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA d:

Response from Chris Hanson (chris.hanson@kw.com)

Karen, thank you! I am certain that I am a descendant of Francis Marion T Ewing, aka, Francis MT Ewing & Francis Ewing. I am also sure that he was born on October 25, 1825, and died Jan 27, 1893 at 4 a.m. I have this from a family birth and death journal that I believe was started with Deborah Ewing (Francis' wife).

I am not related to George W. Hanson, and I am not related to the Francis Marion Ewing that was in the Navy, Mississippi, and Georgia.

Everything adds up that my Francis Marion T Ewing was born on Oct 25, 1825. Data points:

1. My old family record. Francis M Ewing Sen, passed to spirit life Jan 27, 1893, 4 o'clock, A.M. aged 67 years. Sixty-seven years from DOD supports birth year of 1825.
2. State of Oregon donation land claims state Francis M T Ewing., Washington County. Born 1825, Kentucky, Arrived in Oregon Feb 1851. Settled claim Sept 1851. Married Deborah 1851.
3. The 1870 Census shows Francis Marion Ewing age 44 and place of birth Kentucky. Forty-four in 1870 supports birth year of 1825.

I believe that my Francis Marion Ewing was son of James M Ewing and Mary R. McKinney. They were married in Pendleton County, Kentucky. It would be great if you could help prove this.

I have done my DNA and have been matched to two Ewing men:

- Nick Ewing 3rd cousin. We have the same great-grandfather, Charles Ewing (Oregon) son of the Oregon Francis Marion Ewing.
- Dennis J (Joe) Ewing. 2nd Cousin. We also were connected to the same Charles Ewing, son of Francis Marion Ewing.

Perhaps you know about these two Ewings that have DNA on record? Given that I have a genetic connection to them, would this qualify me to participate on the Y-DNA project? Or, at the least seems like it would allow you to verify that I am a descendant of James M Ewing and Mary R. McKinney?

Thanks again for all of your help.

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

Thanks for the confirmation of your line. Also thanks of the note of two Ewing males of your line. Am I correct in thinking you all tested on Ancestry? I found the tree there for Nick Ewing and added it to my Ewing database. If you are in touch with him, please ask him if he tested with FamilyTreeDNA on the 'Y' chromosome. I don't think he is a member of our Ewing Family Y-DNA Project there. If he tested there, he can easily connect his DNA findings into the Ewing group. We are all very excited for continuing major work with men upgrading to the Big Y-700. The following link is the initial place to learn about our group:

<https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/genealogy-and-history/y-dna-project>.

Follow the link (at the bottom of that page): <https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/join-dna-project>

Your personal Y-DNA is through your paternal lines, and you should join the Hanson Y-DNA Project if one exists.

Alexander Ewing of Ashford, CT

Message from Ewing Philbin (ewing.philbin@gmail.com)

My name is Ewing Philbin, and my great grandmother, Jessie Holladay Philbin, was the granddaughter of George Washington Ewing of the Fort Wayne Ewings. My wife, Bonney, and I are members of the Ewing Family Association.

Recently, I had an ankle surgery and have spent much of my recovery time getting much more involved in genealogy research! I've been building my first tree on Ancestry.

I'm stumbling a bit with George Washington Ewing's immediate forebears. Can you possibly help? I'm aware his father is Col. Alexander Ewing - 2nd or 3rd? And his grandfather is Nathaniel. Can you please provide their dates? I did see the tree that Beth Ewing Toscos did in 2013. Have there been updates to that tree? What is a bit confusing is that some trees I've seen seem to contradict GW Ewing's written family history. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated!

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

Yes I can help! My genealogy program says you and I are 6th cousins, once removed [6C1R]. My Mother was a Ewing. I was born in Fort Wayne and many of my direct line still live in that area. It's great you are building a tree on Ancestry. It will be great to have the correct information on additional on-line trees. If you haven't yet tested your DNA there, I recommend that you do. Amazingly I have over 64,000 4th or closer cousins!

I am very confident of my records since my cousins (Beth Ewing Toscos and her sister, Jane Ewing Weippert) and I spent three days going through each and every record the town of Ashford, CT holds. I also looked at everything I could find in the Mormon records. I know you have recently learned that the Ewing Family Association and our Ewing Y-DNA Project also confirms. The paper trail shows I have a personal DNA match to several other living folks who also stem from the Ashford line.

Currently, there are new and important things being shown in the Y-DNA project as many men are updating/refining their matches. The results are showing things we likely would never know otherwise. Unfortunately, it cannot tell us the names of the earliest ancestors. For our earliest ancestor, Alexander was likely born 1660 - 1670. We believe he is the man who purchased land, first in Massachusetts, and then on May 8, 1718, took out a 30 year mortgage for land in Ashford. There is a Release of Mortgage, dated December 12, 1747.

Somehow the Ewings of Fort Wayne records do have some errors. The main one is the fact that the date of birth for Colonel Alexander (IV) was thought to be 1763, but Ashford records show 1768. Even his gravestone at Lindenwood Cemetery is incorrect. The Revolutionary War records are probably for his Father's service (Alexander, III 1732-c. 1801).

My 3rd great grandfather, John Ewing, II (1769 - c. 1813), his wife, Lucy, and their several small children moved to Fort Wayne 1807-1808. They moved to Erie Co., Ohio, just prior to the War of 1812 reaching Fort Wayne. John died before 1815, as his wife remarried then.

We don't have a Nathaniel Ewing in our direct lineage, but I personally think that Nathaniel born Londonderry, Ireland, c. 1693 is likely closely related to our Alexander I or II. We have much information and many descendants of Nathaniel who settled in Cecil County, Maryland about 1725.

You will need to excuse the condition of my file - it is a work in progress and it helps me tremendously as I work to include tidbits here and there. It's definitely not ready for publication! You will be able to use the lineage information to add to your tree. Let me know if you have any questions.

Response from Ewing Philbin (ewing.philbin@gmail.com)

This is fascinating, Karen. Thank you! I've just finished a bit of cursory research on the Wabash Valley and its history. I've never been to the area, but I'm excited to visit soon and will be sure to visit Ft Wayne. As you know, GW Ewing founded the town of Logansport. I'm curious to research his involvement, if any, in the Wabash & Erie Canal.

Last week, I read with considerable interest about your Ashford research project with Beth (2013?). Great stuff. In fact, that is what prompted me to contact you and Beth.

Last week, I got back my test results from Family Tree. DG Ewing suggested that I do the test. I must confess that I know little about genetics so can't make heads or tails of it. But I did authorize the Family Association to access it to review and use the data for its Y-DNA Project. Any help or guidance would be most appreciated!

Thank you again for sharing your excellent research.

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

If you would like to have all my records for your family beginning with George Washington Ewing (1804-1866), I would be happy to prepare a Genealogy Report that includes all my research and sources. A report including four generations is twelve pages long.

Response from Ewing Philbin (ewing.philbin@gmail.com)

I'd love that, Karen! Many thanks. Is there a charge for that service?

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

I am happy to share and of course there is no charge! Just a labor of love. If you find errors or would like to share something new for my records, I welcome it.

Joseph Ewing (1838-1898)

Message from Thomas John Ewing (t.ewing52@gmail.com)

Based on the limited research I've done so far, I believe the oldest Ewing ancestor I have is Peter Ewing of Ayr, Scotland who married Margaret Galloway on July 30, 1836. I haven't been able to find a birth or death date for Peter Ewing, so I've been unable to trace any further. I do believe I have the right birth and death dates for Peter's Son, Joseph Ewing (1838-1898). I believe Joseph is my paternal great-great-great-grandfather, as he settled in the Pittsburgh, PA area, which is where my paternal grandfathers all have been born and lived up until my father moved from the area.

I was hoping that the EFA could help me verify that I was on the right track with my research and if you had any leads on who Peter Ewing's father was or any insights into what other regions of Scotland my genealogy might trace back to.

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

I have been unable to figure out your lineage in America from the information you shared. I suspect a solid connection could be made if I knew others from your lineage (names, vital dates and surname

of spouse). It would be helpful to follow your Joseph in the census, but there again, I was not able to determine which Joseph was yours.

Have you looked in the resource pages on the EFA website? Using the search capability, start here:

<https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/genealogy-and-history/sw-pennsylvania-ewings>

Also see here: <https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/resources/books>

There is a good possibility that a man from your lineage is already in the Ewing Family Y-DNA Project. If not, you should consider joining the project at FamilyTreeDNA.com.

<https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/genealogy-and-history/y-dna-project>

Please let me know if I can do further research for your lineage.

James Walter Ewing

Message from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

Hi Sarah,

As EFA Genealogist, I've been looking at your lineage and think I can possibly help you. Can you give me more details? Maiden name of spouses, locations where each generation lived, and any vital dates you might have would be very helpful.

Have you had your Father do a DNA test? We test men at FamilyTreeDNA.com on their Y chromosome. You should test at least 37 markers. More if you are able. Please find the link to join the project here: <https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/genealogy-and-history/y-dna-project>.

I would be happy to help you if you decide to do the test or have any questions. Welcome to the EFA!

Response from Sarah Ewing (SEwing12@outlook.com)

I am so sorry to have missed your emails. I would love to help you by giving you information about my family. I have an Ancestry.com account and did the DNA test as did my father who is 90 years old. My sister lives in New York now and she has two biological children. I have their DNA as well.

I also have my Grandmother's folders that she worked hard on way back in the 1970s. She contacted all of her known relatives to send her family information, and she compiled a history with stories and some photos. She only had an old typewriter and did this during the long winter in Minnesota. I have not loaded all of her work into Ancestry as yet. It has been fun to read. There are likely some embellishments as my Grandmother was a writer and a Minister.

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (bkavery2@comcast.net)

It sounds like you have some very special items from your grandmother's labors. You are so blessed and I am jealous! As we work together, I am including copies of our correspondence with our Chancellor (Beth Toscos) and Journal Editor (Denise Ewing). It looks like you will be able to share a great story for all our other EFA members to enjoy. Our next full Journal will be published in May, 2022 so we have plenty of time!

Response from Sarah Ewing (SEwing12@outlook.com)

Thanks for your email. I hope you are enjoying your time in Indiana. I have roots in Indiana on both sides of my family. I've not spent much time there because most of them migrated to Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and my grandparents on my mother's side lived in Topeka, Kansas during my childhood. The Ewing side migrated to Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Missouri. My Ewing grandparents lived in West Allis and Roberts, Wisconsin, before settling in Staples, Minnesota, where I spent many summers.

I passed along the last newsletter to my father, James Walter Ewing. He lives in Phoenix, Arizona now and is 90 years old. I'm happy to say that as of today he is very healthy and active. His memory is amazing. I have hours of video talking with him about his life from 1931 to the present. I did this primarily for our family. I ordered the DNA kit for him from Family Tree DNA. He should be getting it this week. I'm excited to learn more about our ancestors going back to Ireland and Scotland. My Dad and his wife, Ellen, traveled to Ireland for a vacation about 10 years ago. My Dad said he had a brief time in a library and looked up the Ewing name in their archives. He was amazed to see so many Ewings! He didn't have a lot of time to spend in the library, but he is very interested to know more history about our ancestors.

I am on Ancestry.com and have a tree which includes my mother's side as well. I need to update it with all of the information I got from my grandmother Ewing's archives. I'd love to connect the information.

Y-DNA Project

Successes and Disappointments of the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project

David Neal Ewing (davidewing93@gmail.com)⁶²

This article discusses some successes and disappointments in the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. It speaks about what can and cannot be learned by Y-DNA STR testing, gives examples of some of the things that have been learned in the project and gives some examples of how we have been misled by some findings in the project. Another article in this issue of the *Ewing Family Journal* introduces the Ewing Family Association Brick Wall Project, which will be far more effective in helping participants break through brick walls in their genealogy research than the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project.

⁶² David Neal Ewing has been a member of what became the Ewing Family Association since 1996, but the first gathering that he and Frankie attended was the 8th gathering of Clan Ewing in America at North East, Cecil County, Maryland, during the first few days of October 2004. David's mother's maiden name was Rice. He had been fascinated to learn about the Y-DNA project of the Edmund Rice (1638) Association and suggested that the EFA start its own Y-DNA Project. Not only did many members think this was a good idea, but to his astonishment and horror they drafted David to serve as Chair of the EFA Board of Directors, which he agreed to do only after being assured that the Chancellor actually did all the work and Chair of the Board of Directors was a strictly ceremonial position, not realizing that he was doomed to become Chancellor two years later and to serve in that capacity for six more years. David started the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project by ordering a testing kit for himself from FamilyTreeDNA a few days after the 2004 gathering.

At the inception of the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project the only game in town for Y-DNA testing was STR (short tandem repeat) testing. Our initial goal was to recruit 100 Ewing men for testing. Now, nearly 17 years later, we have 350 participants, of whom 207 are paternal line Ewings. Of these, 129 are in what we have come to call “the large group of closely related Ewings” (LGCRE). By this we mean to say that their 37-marker Y-STR results are consistent with their having a common paternal line ancestor whose name was Ewing and lived on the order of 400-500 years ago, almost certainly somewhere in SW Scotland. This may be the most remarkable discovery of the project up to now.

This discovery, and most of the others resulting from STR testing in the project, depends on the fact that it is easy to distinguish STR clusters in groups of men that are *not at all* closely related in the paternal line within anything like a genealogical time frame. We now understand that STR testing is very good for identifying lines that are distantly related, but it is not very useful for distinguishing more closely related family lines.⁶³

All of the men now living have a common paternal line ancestor who lived something like two or three hundred thousand years ago in Africa.⁶⁴ He is sometimes called “Y-Adam” or referred to as the “Y-MRCA” (Y-most recent common ancestor). Y-Haplogroups are defined on the basis of the presence of specific SNPs, but members of haplogroups have similar STR patterns that tend to fall within a range of their modal value.⁶⁵ The Y-Haplogroup most frequently found in Western Europe is R1b1, which is defined by the SNP R-M269.⁶⁶ Generally speaking, men in this haplogroup have 37-marker STR haplotypes within genetic distance 20 or so of the haplogroup modal. Haplogroup I is another haplogroup that is found in Europe and elsewhere. Haplogroups R and I diverged maybe 40,000 years ago, and members of Haplogroup I have 37-marker STR haplotypes on the order of genetic distance 50 from individuals in Haplogroup R. One branch of Haplogroup R1b1 is defined by the SNP R-M222.⁶⁷ Many men whose roots lie in the counties of Northwest Ireland, Ulster, and Lowland Scotland, including those in the LGCRE, are members of this branch. Generally speaking, these men have 37-marker STR haplotypes within genetic distance 10 or so of the branch modal. We have defined the LGCRE as consisting of men whose 37-marker STR haplotypes lie within genetic distance 5 of the group modal. So far, we have found that all of the men in the LGCRE who have been tested for it have the SNP FGC19865, and it has not been found in any men who are not in the LGCRE. We think this will end up being a reliable SNP marker, the “gold standard” for membership in the LGCRE.

Please notice that I said “generally speaking” a couple of times in the preceding paragraph. This is not the place for an overly technical discussion of the reasons for this, but basically it is because though Y-STR values are mostly inherited unchanged in the paternal line, they are subject to a significant degree of random variation to the extent that sometimes values match or fail to match by coincidence rather than by heredity. This is not apt to cause too much confusion when the genetic distances between groups are great, but it makes it impossible to reliably distinguish very closely-related lines.

The best way to get an idea of the relative genetic distances between these various Haplogroups and their branches is to have a look at Network Diagram: Overview on our website.⁶⁸ In this diagram, the

⁶³ A more detailed discussion of this issue is in my Y-DNA Project Article 18, which can be downloaded from our website at https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/DNA_Project/DNA_Articles/DNA_Articles/090415%20CEJ%20Y-DNA_WebSite.pdf

⁶⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Y-chromosomal_Adam

⁶⁵ A pdf of my article explaining the concept of “modal haplotype” is available in my DropBox at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/h9gjp5z3ui20298/ModalHaplotypesDiscussion.pdf?dl=0>

⁶⁶ [https://isogg.org/wiki/Haplogroup_R1b_\(Y-DNA\)](https://isogg.org/wiki/Haplogroup_R1b_(Y-DNA))

⁶⁷ https://isogg.org/wiki/NW_Irish

⁶⁸ A pdf of the diagram is available at <https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/diagrams/network-diagrams>

lengths of the lines separating groups and individuals are proportional to the genetic distance between them. You can see that the men in the LGCRE (Groups 1 & 2 in the lower right hand corner) are all stacked up on top of one another. If you wanted to actually see what is going on there, you would have to look at Network Diagram: Detail, which is also available at the same link. Group 3 consists of Ewing men who are in R-M222 but *not* in the LGCRE. Don't be deceived by the fact that the line connecting them to Groups 1 & 2 is folded so as to make them appear closer than they actually are--genetic distance is proportional to the distance along the lines, not between the colored spots. Ewing Group 4 consists of men who are in Haplogroup R1b1 but *not* in the R-M222 branch. You can see some small clusters within Group 4, but the men in the group are not nearly as closely related to one another as the men in the LGCRE. Finally, the men in Group 5 on this diagram are all in Haplogroup I, in two very distantly-related branches. Ewing Group 5 consists of all Ewing men tested who are *not* in Haplogroup R1b1. Since this diagram was prepared, we have found members of other haplogroups, but we would have to get a much bigger piece of paper to add them to this diagram because they are at an even greater genetic distance from Haplogroup R than Haplogroup I is. The point of looking at this diagram is to notice that though it is pretty easy to see the separation between groups, it is very hard to see the separation between individuals in the LGCRE.

We hoped that with enough participation we could correlate Y-DNA results with conventional genealogies and discover genetic markers to identify specific branches of the Ewing families. Although Y-DNA analysis has resulted in some very interesting findings of genealogical significance, we have not been able to identify the sort of family line "markers" we had hoped would be possible. Specifically, though it is interesting that we can identify members of the LGCRE by using Y-DNA STR results, we have not been able to reliably distinguish among its many branches. Members of the LGCRE are so closely related that coincidental STR mutations often obscure relatedness or suggest that it may be closer or more distant than it actually is. We will be able to distinguish many Ewing family lines in the LGCRE with SNP testing in the Big-Y, as is discussed in the article introducing the EFA Brick Wall Project.

Things We Have Discovered Using STR Testing

It is quite easy, using even only STR data, to distinguish family lines that are not at all closely related to one another. We have discovered several genetic clusters of Ewing project participants who are not in the LGCRE, and when STR results match one of these, they give really useful genealogical information. Even so, we cannot identify specific family branches within these clusters. Here are some examples:

1. Maybe the best example is our Group 5a, which is composed of the descendants of William Ewing of Rockingham County, Virginia, b ca 1696. The Rev. Samuel Ellsworth Ewing is generally credited with founding *Clan Ewing in America*. His idea was that it was to be an organization of those descendants of one William Ewing of Stirling b. 1625 that had immigrated to the American Colonies before the Revolutionary War, and he created a huge collection of genealogic charts purporting to show their lines of descent. These showed William Ewing b 1694 near Loch Lomond and d 1796 in Rockingham County, VA, as the grandson of William Ewing of Stirling. William Ewing of Rockingham's 5th great grandson, Milam Myrl Ewing was one of the original members of the organization. You can imagine how surprised his son, William Myrl Ewing (**WM**), was to discover that his Y-DNA was nothing like that of the other Ewings who thought themselves descended from William of Stirling. Originally, FTDNA predicted **WM** to be in Haplogroup G, which is rather rare in the British Isles and is now found most frequently in Georgia, a country in Central Asia. He and his wife made an uproariously funny videotape in which he argued that he was actually a member of the "ANDY tribe" (ANDY is Y-DNA backwards) and performed a stomp dance

while wearing an enormous Plains war bonnet.⁶⁹ As it turned out, in fact our Group 5a is in a branch of Haplogroup I that seems to have been present in Britain since long before the arrival of the Celts, not to mention the Anglo Saxons and Danes. In spite of the fact that there is no biological relationship in the paternal line with the LGCRE, it seems all but certain that they were members of the same clan.

2. Another example is our Group 4d, which is composed of the descendants of James Ewing of Hunterdon County, NJ, b ca 1675-80. Margaret Ewing Fife thought that her ancestor, William Ewing of Georgia b 1768, was descended from this man. But we have four project participants descended from William Ewing of Georgia and five participants descended in other lines from James Ewing of Hunterdon, and their results are strikingly different. The descendants of William Ewing of Georgia have an STR pattern that places them clearly in our Group 2, but doesn't distinguish them from other members of the LGCRE. The descendants of James Ewing of Hunterdon have virtually identical STR patterns with one another (only 2 one-step differences among 5 men). We can tell any Ewing man who matches these results in the future with a high degree of confidence that he is a member of this family. Interestingly, Ellsworth had thought Margaret not to be descended from William Ewing of Stirling and opposed admitting her as a member of the organization, even though she was already recognized as one of the pre-eminent Ewing genealogists of the day. After he died, she became a member and was elected as its second Chancellor, but then she died before we discovered conclusive DNA evidence that she was in fact a member of the LGCRE, to which most of the Ewings in Ellsworth's charts belonged. [Note that we are hoping some Big-Y results that are presently pending will establish to which of the other Ewing lines William of Georgia belongs.]
3. A third example includes some very interesting discoveries as we analyzed the DNA results of Group 2a, sometimes called the "Cecil County (MD) Ewings," though there were other Ewings in Cecil County that we think are not in this group. They are descended from a man we know only as "we think his name was William" or simply "William?," from Londonderry, who Ellsworth Ewing's charts show as the son of William of Stirling. With his first wife, he had only one son, Nathaniel. He married a second time and had several children with his second wife. We have tested participants who thought themselves to be descended from five of them and one descendent of Nathaniel. Two participants are descendants of the eldest son of the second wife, but their Y-DNA is nothing like the other men in this Group and they are clearly not in the LGCRE. We have speculated that this may be because William(?)'s second wife may have been a widow and already had a son that he adopted when they married. We also have a participant (**JD**) who thought he was descended from their son Samuel b ca 1705, but again his Y-DNA was completely unlike the other men in this family and was in a branch of Haplogroup I more typical of Scandinavia. We have subsequently found a couple of men with the surname Ewen who match his haplotype closely enough that we think there may be a paternal line relationship between them, but proof will require some SNP testing or as yet undiscovered genealogic documentation.
4. Some individual project participants have been able to use their STR results in conjunction with family stories and rigorous conventional genealogic research to solve genealogical puzzles.

⁶⁹ There is a link to this video on our web site: <https://youtu.be/yvWCyMFheOY>

- a. Our participant **TNS**⁷⁰ asked us if testing could help him verify a family story that the biological father of his second great grandfather had actually been a doctor named Ewing in the town in Georgia where his parents lived. **TNS**'s STR results exactly matched those of **WW**, a project participant in Group 2a, and conventional genealogy showed that **WW** had a common ancestor with the doctor in question. Now, an exact STR match is not enough to establish paternity, or even to prove that two men are in the same family line, but in a case like this, STR matching is strong enough to confirm the family story.
 - b. Our participant **CAK** is an African-American man whose 3rd great grandmother was an enslaved woman living in North Carolina. His family had thought that the biological father of his 2nd great grandfather had been the white man who owned her, partly because he had taken his surname. **CAK** had STR testing done and was confused to learn that his results did not at all resemble any of those of any man who had the surname of the slave owner but they exactly matched those of one of our Ewing project participants, as it happens not a member of the LGCRE. By itself, this proves nothing, but **CAK** is an exceptionally capable and persistent genealogist, and he was able to determine by using census and land records that the earliest known ancestor of the Ewing man he matched had lived on a farm neighboring the plantation where his 3rd great grandmother was living when his 2nd great grandfather was conceived. The convergence of DNA and conventional genealogic evidence was sufficient for him to conclusively identify his biological 3rd great grandfather.
5. Though, in general, we have not been able to find STR values that can be used as branch markers within the LGCRE, we thought we had one exception. This is that the unusual STR value YCAII=19/22 appeared in only and all of the descendants of James Ewing of Pocahontas County, Virginia, that we had tested...until **EKM** joined the project. He knew that his biological father was a Ewing, but he had been adopted by his mother's second husband in early childhood and he knew little of his Ewing genealogy. We would like to have been able to tell him with confidence that he is descended from Pocahontas James, but we cannot. He differs from the known descendants of Pocahontas James at three other markers, which is more than they differ from one another. This casts some doubt on his connection with them but is not a deal-breaker. The problem is that this YCAII marker could have appeared in his line by coincidence. What is more, though our charts have always shown Pocahontas James as a son of John Ewing of Carnashannagh, there is no good conventional genealogic evidence that this is true. Some of the descendants of Pocahontas James do not believe it is true and none of the other descendants of John of Carnashannagh have the marker. STR evidence alone simply will not allow us to make the call.

How We Have Been Misled by STR Testing

Early on in the project, we noticed that about 2/3 of the members of the LGCRE had DYS391=11 (which is also the R-M222 modal) and that the rest had DYS391=10. By itself, that didn't mean much--different values at different markers are scattered all over the chart. But then we noticed that among men who had their conventional genealogies worked out, those in the same family branch always had the same value at DYS391 as one another. The modal value for the entire R-M222 haplogroup at DYS391 is 11. We thought we had discovered a marker (the change from 11 to 10 at DYS391) for a main branch of the Ewing family that had separated not long after the common ancestor lived. Jim McMichael even began

⁷⁰ <https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/documents/Smith/smith.html>

to speculate that the Ewings in Londonderry had DYS391=10 while those in Donegal had DYS391=11. When one participant turned up who did not match the others in his conventional genealogic branch at this marker (**GR** in Group 1b has DYS391=10), we explained this as a parallel (coincidental) mutation and didn't make anything of it. Pretty nifty, eh?

Well, now we have begun to get SNP results in the Big-Y, and we have found that this distinction simply does not hold up. I had thought based on the work of Margaret Ewing Fife that my earliest known paternal line ancestor was James Ewing of Inch, the progenitor of Group 1b. SNP results have proven that this cannot be so. I am not sure where the mistake was made in my genealogy, but I have very good conventional genealogy back to John Ewing b ca 1760 in Pennsylvania, m Margaret Townsley, who I had thought was the great-great-grandson of James Ewing of Inch. (DG always calls this man John of Hamilton because he lived for a time in Hamilton County, OH.) Now I and two other men descended from John and Margaret Townsley Ewing have had Big-Y testing, and we share several unique SNPs, which unequivocally proves that we are more closely related to one another than we are to any of the other men that have been tested. One of us has the STR DYS391=10, which had us initially assigning him to Group 2, and the other two of us have DYS391=11, which put us in Group 1. But clearly, since our paternal line common ancestor lived 200 years ago, we cannot have different paternal line common ancestors 400 years ago. In this case, DYS391=10 turned up by coincidence, we have found other examples of this, and we can no longer put any faith in what we once thought was an important distinction. We should probably rework all of our tables, reports, diagrams, and articles that reflect what we now recognize is a bogus distinction, but that would be a monumental task and really wouldn't add to our understanding. Maybe we could get away with speaking about "Group 1&2" as if "1&2" were just some kind of new number we have invented, or forgetting about numbers and saying LGCRE, as we already sometimes do. If anyone has a better idea, please let us know.

The Bottom Line

The Y-STR37 test can identify whether a man is in the LGCRE, but if a man is in the LGCRE, it does not give additional information of genealogical interest. We have not found that the Y-STR67 or Y-STR111 tests are any more helpful. If a Ewing man is *not* in the LGCRE, the Y-STR37 may identify him as a member of one of the smaller clusters of Ewing men, but this has not been the case for most of them. And even if when it has been, this test cannot be expected to be helpful in identifying a specific family line within the cluster.

If a man knows or strongly suspects that he is in the LGCRE on the basis of his conventional genealogy, or if he has already had STR testing and wants reliable information about his specific family line, he should order the Big-Y. So far, the Big-Y is less likely to be helpful for members in Groups 3, 4 and 5 but as the number of Big-Y testers increase in those groups we would expect the same type of revealing results as we have discovered in the LGCRE^{71 72}

⁷¹ By the way, the full name of the Big-Y is "the Big-Y-700." This is because the Big-Y tests 700 STRs, (including all of those in the FTDNA STR panels) in addition to testing millions of SNPs. We haven't paid much attention to these, but they are available to anyone who has had the Big-Y and wants to compare his STRs with those of a man who has had only STR testing.

⁷² An example of this is our Group 5b, which consists of 5 men with very nearly identical Y-STR37 panels who do not know of any conventional genealogical connection. Two of them have the surname Ewing, two have the surname Ewen and one has the surname Parks. Always we consider that sharing a surname suggests a relationship in a genealogic timeframe, and this would also apply to orthographic variants like Ewing and Ewen. As we have seen many times it is also possible for men of completely different surnames to have a close biological relationship explaining their similar STR results, but perhaps it is somewhat more likely in these cases that the similarity is coincidental. Comparison of Big-Y results in this group would answer questions about whether and how closely the men in this group are related.

The Ewing Family Association Brick Wall Project: A New Chapter for the Ewing DNA Project

D.G. Ewing (dg@dgewing.com)

David Neal Ewing (davidewing93@gmail.com)

This article introduces the Ewing Family Association Brick Wall Project (BWP), which will be far more effective in helping participants break through brick walls in their genealogy research than the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project has been. The BWP will completely revolutionize and much expand upon the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. Because he has an extensive background in data analysis, DG Ewing volunteered to become a co-administrator of the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project when he joined the project in 2016.

Recently genetic genealogy has been moving progressively toward SNP testing, both Y-SNP testing and the SNP testing of autosomal DNA. Y-SNP testing can give far more reliable information about the paternal line than is possible with the Y-STR testing upon which the project originally relied. And autosomal DNA testing can be used with both women and men participants and gives information about all family lines, not just the strictly paternal line as both Y-STR and Y-SNP testing do. But perhaps the main strength of the BWP will prove to be a system DG has devised to systematically correlate information from all three kinds of genetic testing with conventional genealogy. This is the Most Distant Known Ewing Ancestor Project (MKDEA). DG has created a Brick Wall Project with three arms:

1. Y-DNA (yDNA) SNP testing and analysis, primarily using the FTDNA Big-Y test
2. Autosomal DNA (atDNA) testing from any of the several labs and shared at Gedmatch.com
3. The Most Distant Known Ewing Ancestor (MDKEA) Project

We will discuss these arms of the BWP in more detail below. All of them require not only participation by members of the EFA and others interested in their Ewing ancestry by having their DNA tested, but also require a tremendous amount of work in data collection and analysis and maintaining a website and online database. David Neal Ewing is old and tired and pretty nearly at the limits of his energy and understanding dealing with the original STR testing. DG could really use some help with each of the other arms of the project. Analyzing Y-SNP data requires a fair amount of technical sophistication and detailed knowledge about the vagaries of this kind of testing, but anyone who knows or wants to learn how to do this would be welcome to participate. There is a bit of a learning curve involved in interpreting atDNA testing, but this involves mostly conventional genealogy research, logic, and only a little technical and scientific detail. The MDKEA involves mainly understanding and tabulating conventional Ewing genealogical data on a new website dedicated to the task.

The Promise of SNP Testing and the Big-Y⁷³

In STR testing, we test relatively few markers that have a relatively high rate of mutation. In SNP testing, we test an enormous number of markers that have an extremely low rate of mutation. SNPs are several orders of magnitude less likely to mutate than STRs. The importance of this is that the likelihood of a specific SNP mutating is so excruciatingly small that there is a negligible possibility that a mutation will occur again by coincidence, or that once mutated, an SNP will revert to its previous state; that is, we do not have to worry about parallel or back mutations. When testing 37 STR markers, we expect to find one

⁷³ Various vendors test Y-SNPs, but our project has come to rely on Family Tree DNA and its product, the Big-Y, which tests millions of nucleotides and 700 different STRs. We have focused on the SNP results of the Big-Y.

mutation every several generations.⁷⁴ But with the Big Y, we test millions of nucleotides, and even though the rate of mutation is very much slower, we expect to find a mutation or two pretty much every generation. Once a nucleotide mutates, it will be passed to all subsequent generations with virtually 100% fidelity. If two men are found to have the same mutation, they can be sure that this is because they both inherited it from the same ancestor. So ALL men in Haplogroup R1b1 have the SNP R-M269. ALL men in the "NW Irish" branch of R1b1 have the SNP R-M222. So far, we have found that ALL the men in the large group of closely related Ewings (LGCRe) have the SNP FGC19865, which we believe will serve as a definitive branch marker for the men in this group.

Though we can be sure that two men who have the same Y-SNP have a common paternal line ancestor, we cannot tell how many generations ago that may have been without more information. We can figure out the order in which SNPs occurred by correlating their appearance with conventional genealogy. Once we have enough participation, we should be able to identify specific SNPs that identify known genealogical branches of the family.⁷⁵

Autosomal DNA Testing and the atDNA Ancestor Project at GEDmatch.com

DNA testing is not confined to the Y-chromosome. Autosomal DNA (atDNA) testing is another example of SNP testing that has become very useful and popular for knocking down brick walls. The term "autosomal" refers to all of the chromosomes that are *not* sex chromosomes; that is, the 22 pairs of human chromosomes that are neither X nor Y chromosomes (though the laboratories doing atDNA testing also do some testing on the X chromosome). This has two main benefits for genetic genealogy. One is that this kind of DNA testing can be done on both women and men. The other is that atDNA contains genealogical information for essentially *all* of a participant's family lines--not just the strict paternal line that is passed down through the Y-chromosome. What's not to love about that? The challenge for genetic genealogy with atDNA testing is that when sperm and egg are formed a phenomenon called "recombination" or "crossing over" takes place. Each of our cells (except gametes--the sperm and egg) contains two copies of each autosomal chromosome, one that we received from our father and one that we received from our mother. As gametes are formed, a process known as "crossing over" or "recombination" takes place. In this process, each chromosome pair undergoes a random exchange of genetic material, such that the resulting gamete contains a mixture of the genetic material from the members of each chromosome pair. As a result none of the chromosomes in gametes is identical to any of the chromosomes in the person that produced them. Each of your parents contributes what will become one member of each pair of your autosomal chromosomes, but what they contribute is itself a mixture of the genetic material they received from their parents. Each sperm and egg that is produced is unique.

⁷⁴ There is a detailed discussion of this issue in David Neal Ewing's Y-DNA Project Article 18, which can be downloaded from our website at https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/DNA_Project/DNA_Articles/DNA_Articles/090415%20CEJ%20Y-DNA_WebSite.pdf

⁷⁵ Ewing Group 1k consists of three men who are descended from three different sons of John Ewing (c1760–1803) and Margaret Townsley. They all have FGC19863. They also all have four other SNPs that have not been found in any other man (whether Ewing or otherwise) who has had Big-Y testing. We cannot tell whether these occurred in John Ewing or in one or more of his ancestors, or in what order, except that they must have occurred in generations after the Ewing man who first had FGC19863. We know that they did not occur in generations after John Ewing, because he is the most recent common ancestor of the three men in Group 1k and all of them have all four of these. **DN** (David Neal Ewing) also has a "private variant" 10142074. (We use the term "private variant" to refer to mutations that have been found in only one man. Once the same mutation is found in another man, we call it a SNP. Go figure.) Because the two other men in Group 1k do not have this, we know that John Ewing did not have it, and therefore that it occurred either in his son John Ewing of Xenia, or his grandson William Ewing, or his great grandson Fred Ewing, or in his great-great-grandson Stan Ewing, or in his 3rd great grandson David Ewing, who is **DN**, himself. We could find out whether it occurred in **DN** by testing his brother for it, because if he has it, it must have occurred in their father, Stan Ewing, or before. In any case, if Big-Y testing turns up another man with 10142074, **DN** will know he is a close relative--probably descended from his great grandfather's brother, Silas R. Ewing (1836-1910), because as far as he knows he is the only man in this line who had sons. **RB2**, another man in Group 1k, has two private variants that have not been found in any other man who has had Big-Y testing. The same logic can be applied to this result as was outlined for **DN**. No private variants were found in the third man in Group 1k (**DE**).

When a unique sperm cell and a unique egg join, they form a unique individual. This is why we do not look exactly like either of our parents, any of our siblings, or any other human being on earth.

Though we receive 50% of our DNA from our father and 50% from our mother, none of our chromosomes is exactly like any of those of either parent.⁷⁶ And none of the chromosomes of either of our parents is exactly like any of those of either of their parents. Our atDNA ends up being a mixture of fragments of atDNA from several of our ancestors, and though it can be possible, it is not so easy to determine which specific ancestor contributed which specific bit of DNA.

It is not so easy, but it is not entirely impossible to determine which specific ancestor contributed which specific bit of DNA. By comparing atDNA tests of several relatives in different family lines (such as cousins on our mother's side with cousins on our father's side, or more distant relations for whom we know the conventional genealogy) and using a process called "triangulation," we can sometimes identify the source of a specific fragment of atDNA a few generations back. Successful triangulation requires a rigorously systematic approach and creating a "chromosome map" to keep track of where specific fragments of atDNA on specific chromosomes have come from. As you might expect, this becomes more difficult the further back in time one tries to go, but it is possible to go far enough back to break through genealogic brick walls that we have encountered five or six generations back. DG Ewing has been able to move his paternal line brick wall back four generations by using this method, and he believes it will be possible to identify the source of atDNA fragments even several generations beyond that.

As with all testing for genetic genealogy, the value of test results depends on being able to correlate them with conventional genealogy. We recommend doing atDNA testing with Ancestry.com because it has the largest database of people who have taken the test. And we recommend that regardless of what vendor has done the test, participants upload their results to GEDmatch.com, which they can do at no charge.⁷⁷ DG has a paid subscription to GEDmatch that allows him to use sophisticated analytical tools to compare results for everyone who is participating in the Ewing project there. We tripled the number of participants in our atDNA Ancestor Project at GEDmatch.com within the first week of launching the project, and we expect over 200 participants by the time this article is published.

The Most Distant Known Ewing Ancestor (MDKEA) Project

This arm of the EFT Brick Wall Project has grown out of the personal research of DG Ewing. He was applying the triangulation method mentioned above to the atDNA test results of members of his own family lines. Doing this successfully requires one to know and keep track of exactly which ancestors he has in common with the relatives for whom he has atDNA results. Five generations back we have 32 3rd great grandparents, so this can quickly get pretty confusing. What's more, the fact that given names are so often repeated in succeeding generations of families makes it hard to know and remember who in the dickens we are talking about when we say, "William Ewing."

DG's first step was to assign every individual in his database a unique personal ID number. This is not a new idea; most genealogy programs allow one to assign personal ID numbers in a systematic way. DG's new idea is to create a database of Ewing ancestors for the BWP and assign standardized ID numbers that everyone doing research in the project will use to minimize confusion. He has begun collecting and entering data in a database on "Most Distant Known Ewing Ancestors." One source of this has been the

⁷⁶ What is more, though the chromosomes we receive from each parent are a combination only of bits they received from their parents, testing laboratories do not report results on each pair of chromosomes separately and rather report all of the SNPs found on both of them. This is called "unphased" DNA reporting.

⁷⁷ MyHeritage is another atDNA testing vendor which has a growing database and some unique analytic tools. Ones results can also be uploaded to this database for a small charge, which will allow comparison of results with people who have tested at MyHeritage and have not uploaded their results to GEDmatch.

lineages provided by about 200 of the participants in the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. Another is his personal research. So far, he has identified over 350 persons with the surname Ewing for whom no parents have been identified—he calls these “terminal” or “orphaned” Ewings, which just means that their parents are so far unknown—and he has created a detailed database that will serve as a standard repository for MDKEAs. Each individual will be identified with a unique personal ID number. This is “phase 1” of the MDKEA project. The database will be posted online in a format that will permit participants to edit information there.⁷⁸ Their contributions will constitute “phase 2” of the project and the number of MDKEAs will gradually grow.

Further, the dedicated Ewing website will provide a forum to vet and exchange genealogic information that can also be coupled with DNA results and evidence. A formal launch of the website will be announced in all of our social media outlets. He expects that the website will “go live” before Valentine’s Day 2022 and a beta version will go live in 8-10 weeks. He is looking for beta users to flush out any issues before going live. If you are interested, please contact him at dg@dgewing.com.

Summary Recommendations

1. We recommend Big-Y testing for obtaining maximal information about ones paternal Ewing line. The Big-Y has the potential for providing information about specific family lines; however,
2. Ewings that are *not* in the LGCRE (ask if you are not sure about this) may not immediately get genealogically useful information until enough men in this group have had Big-Y testing to provide a sufficient basis for comparison. Ewings *not* in the LGCRE should consult with one of the Ewing project administrators before ordering the Big-Y.
3. Anyone interested in genealogy should get atDNA testing on themselves, and
 - a. Get atDNA testing on as many of their parents and grandparents as possible, and the siblings of their parents and grandparents, and their cousins in lines of special interest. The results for each of these relatives will have different mixtures of fragments of DNA from one’s ancestral lines, and these will provide clues about where they originated.
 - b. Upload all of these results to GEDmatch.com.
 - c. Begin making a chromosome map to keep track of where specific chromosome fragments have come from.
4. All Ewings (through both paternal and maternal lines) should provide well-documented information as to the identity of their most distant known Ewing ancestor to the MDKEA Project. A website is being developed to facilitate this effort.
5. Volunteer to become a Brick Wall Envoy by becoming:
 - a. A Beta User
 - b. atDNA admin
 - c. yDNA admin
 - d. MDKEA admin
 - e. Website admin
 - f. All of the above

⁷⁸ Note that because atDNA also derives from female ancestors, a MDEKA with two wives will create two MDKEA records.



David Neal Ewing has been a member of Clan Ewing in America since 1996 and served as its Chancellor from 2006-2012. 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. 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.



DG Ewing Sr. is a retired executive of a Fortune 100 aerospace company with 40 years of extensive experience in Industrial Engineering, Planning, and Program Management. In his last position as Vice President LPD Program, he was responsible for the profit and loss of the \$10B+ LPD Program. The sales of this program exceeded the sales of nearly 75% of all the companies in the S&P 600.

DG has attended eight colleges and universities in six different states and completed Harvard's EMBA Exec Dev Program in 1988. He is currently enrolled in Boston University's Financial Planning Program and recently completed Auburn/ACES's Master Gardeners Program.

DG is a husband of 47 years, father of 3 and grandfather of four granddaughters. He was born and raised on a SW Missouri farm and entered the US Army during the Viet Nam conflict. During his 12-year military service, he was stationed as a member of the Military Attaché Group at several European Embassies including what was then Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

DG enjoys golf, gardening, bread making, BBQ, book collecting, and boating. He is an accomplished artist/teacher (oil painter), a former pilot, an avid cyclist, and terrible golfer. He recently rode his recumbent tricycle from Mobile, AL to Springfield, MO (31-day trip), to bring awareness of the stigma associated with mental illness. He is a member of the Episcopal Church and volunteers and supports several community and national non-profit organization.

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Ewing Family Association
1330 Vaughn Court
Aurora, IL 60504

The Ewing Family Association fosters interest in the Ewing family; promotes gatherings of its members; publishes a journal with biographical, genealogical, and historical information; encourages identifying the relationships among Ewing families; and encourages genealogical research and the sharing of results.

Membership is open to all persons with the surname of Ewing or who are descended from anyone with that surname; to anyone who is, or has been, the spouse of such a person; and to anyone who otherwise supports the organization's purposes. To join, send a membership form to Ewing Family Association, 1330 Vaughn Court, Aurora, IL 60504.

Forms are available at
www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org.
Annual dues are \$30.00. Membership includes the semi-annual Ewing Family Journal.

Publication of the Ewing Family Journal began in 1994. Through 2008, the publication was titled Journal of Clan Ewing. The first two issues were published in August and November 1994. They were not designated with a Volume and Number. The February 1995 issue was designated as Vol. 1, No. 4, as it was the third issue of the Journal. The Journal is currently published semi-annually in May and November.

We welcome contributions to the Journal from Ewing Family Association members and others.