

Chancellor's Message

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The Ewington Hotel



In 1996, Frankie and I had lunch at the Ewington Hotel in Glasgow. This is a small 'Victorian Residential Terrace' situated some distance from the City Center, overlooking Queen's park. The Ewington is proud yet, but a little worn and tired. The odd waft of must and creak of floorboard assure the visitor of an authentically nuanced experience of the antique. The Ewington boasts a formal Victorian dining room with heavy draperies and too much furniture. Each table is covered with layers of linen and a bewildering array of dishes and glasses and silver utensils. I would have expected to find the place packed with painstakingly coiffed and powdered old women wearing gloves and having tea, but we had the place mostly to ourselves. We had a more elaborate lunch than we had planned, and ate tidy scoops of haggis with Drambuie sauce from sherbet cups for dessert. Our earnest waiter was an older man with impeccable manners and an exceptional shoeshine. I was finding the whole experience uproariously funny, but somehow restrained myself until he brought our bill.



"Will there be anything else, sir?" he asked.

"The meal was delicious, thank you very much," I said. "But I would very much appreciate it if you would recalculate the bill, taking into account the family discount."

"I beg your pardon, sir," he said, looking at me over the top of his glasses.

"Yes, well, this is the Ewington Hotel and we are Ewings," I answered with as straight a face as I could muster. "Surely there is a discount for members of the family."

"I am terribly sorry, sir, but I know nothing of a family discount," he said uncertainly. "Would you like to speak with the manager?"

"Yes, please, I would like to speak with him, thank you very much."

Before long, the manager came. He was a younger man, still polite, but not in the vaguely unctuous way the waiter had been. "May I be of assistance, sir?" he asked. His nametag revealed that his name was Ewen.

"Please," I said. "We are Ewings visiting from America. We were excited to find the Ewington Hotel, which must be owned by some Ewing relatives of ours, and we feel certain that they offer a discount to members of the family."

"I see," said Mr. Ewen, who somehow refrained from rolling his eyes. "As it happens, this hotel was indeed once owned by two sisters named Ewing, but many years ago they sold it to a hotel chain. We have kept the name, but there are no longer any Ewings involved in the ownership, and I am afraid that there is no family discount."

"I understand completely," I answered gravely, and then added brightly, "But I can see that your name is Ewen, and since Ewing and Ewen are just variant spellings of the same name, you and I must be cousins at some remove. While I cannot expect your company to give us a discount, I can certainly buy a cousin a drink! What will you have?"

At last he realized that I had been having him on. I cannot imagine he found all this as amusing as I did, but he was good humored and graciously thanked me for the offer. He declined the drink, as it was early in the day and he was busy at work.

Travelling and learning about people in other lands is always interesting, but for me it is especially fascinating to find someone named Ewing. *Clan Ewing in America* was originally an organization just for some American Ewings, but to me that meant neglecting a large part of the family. For a long time I have thought it would be good for the *EFA* to recruit more international members. Indeed, this was an important part of the reason we changed the name to the *Ewing Family Association*. I would like to see us making better progress on attracting international members

International Participation in the *EFA*

Several international Ewings have joined the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project.

- John McEwan (JMc: Group 4*) of New Zealand was one of our first participants. He traces his ancestry to a McEwing family on the Isle of Islay.
- Russell Maurice Ewing (RM: Group 4a) lives on Prince Edward Island in Canada. His third-great-grandparents immigrated to Nova Scotia in 1833 from Northern Ireland.
- William Skidmore Ewing (WS: Group 2*) lives in Glasgow but has roots in Northern Ireland.
- John Thor Ewing (JT: Group 2*) lives in Shropshire (in England) and also has roots in Northern Ireland.
- Peter Anthony Ewing (PA: Group 4b) lives in Perthshire, but has roots in Glasgow.
- James McCartney Ewing (JM3: Group 4*) lives in the U.S. and immigrated here long ago, but he was born in Glasgow.
- Robert Gregory Ewing (RG2: Group 1*) is a boy who got tested as a part of a genealogy report in school. Philip Ewing, his dad, was born in southern England, but has roots in Cardross, a village in historic Dumbartonshire that has subsequently become part of Argyll & Bute. Information about this family's heritage appears in an Information Available and Sought item in the November issue of the *Journal*.¹

Sadly, at this moment only RM has joined the *EFA*, though I recently heard that WS intends to do so.

We have recently had some very interesting correspondence with Michael Flynn, an Australian who has researched his Ewin line. He brought to our attention that we have made it unnecessarily difficult and expensive for international Ewings to join the *EFA* because we are not equipped to accept credit cards or other forms of electronic payment. Sending a check from Australia in international funds would cost him roughly double what paying by credit card would cost. This is not just unfair, it's crazy, and we have been begun taking steps to correct it.

¹ Ewing, Philip. Robert Ewing, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (November 2009), pp. 80-87.

Meanwhile, in my last Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project Article,² I spoke about my thought that if someone could be found to take the initiative, it could be very helpful to working out the deep origins of the several Ewing families if we could find a reasonable number of Ewings in Scotland willing to have their Y-DNA tested. Larry Bryant, co-administrator of the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project, has stepped forward and volunteered to work on recruiting more Scottish participants for the project. He has already arranged for an article about the project to be published in the journal of one Family History Society in Scotland and is working to get it published in several others. Larry and his wife Lynn are planning a trip to Scotland this year, and he hopes to find other ways to encourage participation in the project while he is there.

Thor Ewing is a multi-talented historian in Shropshire, England, who has done a fair amount of research and writing about the origins of Scots Clans in general and of Clan Ewen in particular. You can read about some of this at his web site, *ThorEwing.net/clans* and the web site of the *Clan Ewen Society*, *www.ClanEwen.org*, for which he is Web Master. We have been hoping to foster a closer relationship between the *EFA* and the *Clan Ewen Society*. I have reviewed a very interesting publication of Thor's elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*.³ In it, he points out that there are at least three historically attested Ewing families that are not related to one another. This is undoubtedly part of the explanation for the fact that we have found several genetically unrelated branches of the Ewing family among American Ewings. The question that arises is: Which Ewing Y-DNA cluster corresponds to which of the historically attested families?

Let's have a quick look at what the Y-DNA Project has found out about these six men.

- WS and JT both have roots in Northern Ireland and both are in Ewing Group 2, which is a part of the 'large closely related group of Ewings', many of whom also have roots in Northern Ireland.
- RG2 is interesting, because he has no known connection with Northern Ireland and his earliest known Ewing ancestor was born in 1666 in Cardross, a village on the north shore of the Firth of Clyde not so far from the area at the southern end of Loch Lomond where at least one branch of the ancestral Ewings lived. He is in Group 1, the largest Group and another part of the 'large closely related group of Ewings'.
- The other four men are all in Ewing Group 4, but their Y-DNA results do not suggest that they are closely related to one another.
 - JMc has Y-DNA very different from any other man in the project.
 - RM is in Ewing Group 4a, which consists of seven men who appear to be related, but none of the others know where their immigrant ancestor came from.
 - PA is in Ewing Group 4b, which consists of three men who appear to be related; the other two are known third cousins, but have a brick wall at Charles Alonzo Ewing (born 1836 in Illinois) and do not know where their immigrant ancestor came from.
 - JM3 also has Y-DNA very different from any other man in the project.

² Ewing, David Neal. Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project – Article 20, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (November 2009), pp. 67-69.

³ Ewing, David Neal. Reviews: Book: *New Notes on Clan Ewen* by Thor Ewing, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (February 2010), pp. 37-38.

You will notice that PA and JM3 trace their conventional lineages to Glasgow. In each of these cases, the lineage is known only back to the nineteenth century, after the enormous migration of people from the countryside all over Scotland to the emerging industrial urban centers of Glasgow and Edinburgh in the eighteenth century, so cannot give us much confidence about the ultimate provenance of these branches of the family. Similarly, the earliest known ancestors of WS and JT lived in Northern Ireland and their ancestors returned to Scotland and England about the same time and presumably for some of the same reasons their kinfolk were immigrating to America, and we are in the same boat knowing where their families may have originated in Scotland as we are with most American Ewings. I could extend this discussion by including some American Y-DNA Project participants who have well-documented conventional lineages to specific locations in Scotland, but the bottom line will still be that we need quite a few more participants with conventional genealogies tied to specific locations in Scotland to come to any conclusions. Here's hoping that Larry can turn some up and that more members of the *Clan Ewen Society* in the UK will follow Thor's lead in joining the project.

Credit Cards and Tax Exemptions

Partly because of the difficulty international Ewings have in joining the *EFA*, Martin Ewing volunteered to look into setting us up to take electronic payments. He discovered that it is a little less expensive to do this for organizations that have official 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the IRS as an educational organization. We had been thinking about applying for this for some time, and this was as good an incentive as any to get busy. We held an electronic meeting of the *EFA* Board of Directors, and on January 12th the Board amended the Bylaws to make it clear that the primary purpose of the *EFA* is educational, so that we can qualify for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status as an educational organization. Beth Ewing Toscos has agreed to honcho the application through the IRS process, which we hope to have completed before the gathering this fall. If we succeed, the tax-exempt status should be retroactive to December 2008. Having this tax-exempt status and being able to accept credit cards will be beneficial in many ways. Members will be able to take a deduction for \$5 of their annual dues, and for the entire amount they contribute to libraries or in special gifts to the *EFA*. It will be easier to buy Ewing merchandise on the web site and to pay membership dues and gathering registration fees. And I am hopeful that making it easier for international Ewings to join us will result in more of them doing so. Thank you Martin and Beth for your help on these important projects.

Bridge to the West

I am starting to get excited about ***Bridge to the West***, the eleventh biennial gathering of the *EFA*, which will be held in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, this September. See pages 41-46 for preliminary information about the event as well as event registration and lodging reservation information. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

David Neal Ewing