

CHAPTER VII

1722 - JAMES EWING OF HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY (MINE!)

James Ewing (c1655-1740) is the second EWING IN EARLY AMERICA that we have been able to document. It is my belief that he and his son, William, are my ancestors. It is, also, my belief that James Ewing's other son, Thomas, went to live in Lancaster County, PA following his short stay in Chester Co., Pennsylvania.

In *EWING FAMILIES* by Rev. Joseph L. Ewing on page 90 under "Appendix A – Other Ewings" he makes the following statement in 1910 but gives no documentation:

"There is a record of a EWING SETTLEMENT at Hopewell, N.J. about 1700. Here lived James Ewing where he reared a large family. His son, William, removed in 1722 to what is now Delaware County, PA James and his son-in-law Robert McClelan founded and built the third Presbyterian church in the state of Pennsylvania."

It has taken me several years to correct and amplify the above statement by Rev. Ewing. Barbara Weir, researcher in Chester Co., PA, was able to identify James Ewing who died in Nether Providence, Chester County, PA in 1740, and whose 1739 will had been given to me by Reid Ewing of Winter Park, Florida, as being from Hopewell township in Old Hunterdon Co., N.J. Deeds in both counties prove that James Ewing bought land in Hopewell in 1722 and, indeed, appears on the tax list there with Robert McClelan who was his son-in-law. In 1727, James Ewing bought land in Nether Providence twp. Chester Co., PA and remains on the tax list there until his death in 1740. His son, William Ewing is with him on the tax list in 1729, 1730. In 1734 for one year William "Huing" is on the tax list of Bethel township which has like Nether Providence become a part of Delaware County after its creation in 1789. William did not remain there, however. He was granted land in West Nantmeal twp. Chester by 1736.

Volume I of SPECIAL DEEDS located in Flemington, N.J. at the office of the County Clerk, Hall of Records there are old Hunterdon County Deeds. One is the following Indenture dated 19 June 1722:

Page 77: "William Trent of Burlington County N.J. sold to James Euen (sic) of Hopewell, weaver ... for and in consideration of the yearly Rent herein after mentioned and ___ hath granted bargained, sold and Confirmed ... give grant, bargain, Sell Convey unto the James Euen now lives bounded ... by John Johnson. Witnesses: William Burge, Moses Dickinson, Dorothy Potter Recorded 20 October 1731. On 19 April 1726 Moses Dickinson swore he saw William Trent sign this indenture." [Moses Dickinson was the Presbyterian minister in Hopewell twp. N.J. at that time.]

Volume I of SPECIAL DEEDS is the following indenture dated 15 October 1727:

Page 80: "James Ewing [Note corrected spelling] of Hopewell, West Jersey to Joseph Reed of Trenton for £95.0.0 which James Ewing had leased from Joseph Reed on 19 June 1722.

"Witnesses: Joseph Gray; Thos. Ewing; Mary Beace. Recorded 20 October 1731. On 8 October 1731 Thomas Ewing testified that he saw James Ewing sign the above deed." [James Ewing made his mark on the deed as he did on his 1739 will in Chester Co., PA.]

A copy of the above two deeds is presented on the next six pages.

From *A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Hopewell* at Pennington, N.J. by Rev. George Hale, D.D. Ashmead Press 1876 there is on page 13 a list of taxpayers in Hopewell twp. Hunterdon Co., N.J. dated 1722. It contains a roll of 138 men, 16 of whom were single.

#24 is James Evanse (sic) with 6 cattle and horses and 200 acres of taxable land.

#25 is Robert Maclelean with 7 cattle and horses and 100 acres of taxable land.

#26 is John Johnson who owned the land bounding that of James Ewing as seen in the 1722 deed above.

In this same HISTORY is an account of the Rev. Moses Dickinson who had witnessed the 1722 deed of James Ewing. He was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Pennington, N.J. and had attended the synod of Philadelphia meeting in 1722, 1724 and 1725. The history does not give us any more about him.

At this early time Hunterdon Co., N.J. embraced the five townships of Hanover, Amwell, Maidenhead, Trenton and Hopewell. Hunterdon County was set off from Burlington County on 11 March 1713/14 according to John P. Snyder's 1969 *Story of New Jersey Civil Boundaries*. The "Upper part of the western division of the province of New Jersey lying northwards of or situate above the brook called Assanpink." The erection of Morris County from Hunterdon on 15 March 1738/9 was the only boundary change for almost 125 years.

**Volume 1 of Special Deeds for Hunterdon County
Located at Office of County Clerk, Flemington, NJ
Page 77, Dated 19 June 1722**

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**Volume 1 of Special Deeds for Hunterdon County
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On page 12 of *A History of the First Presbyterian Church* of Hopewell is an account of the “alleged prejudice” in the courts by a jury of twelve Quakers who gave their verdict for the plaintiffs (probably tax collectors for the King). These were ejection suits for nonpayment of taxes. The trials were “the great event of that period to the early settlers of this township and kept the minds of the people in a state of agitation and distressing embarrassment. But, the majority of them remained on the farms which they had originally settled....”

Thomas Ewing who witnesses the 1727 sale of land by James Ewing to Joseph Reed, of Trenton, is one of the many defendants in the Hunterdon Co., N.J. Court of Common Pleas from about 1730-1732 (we have not determined what tax he was guilty of not paying ... he may have taken over some of his father, James Ewing's, land.) From the Court of Common Pleas Records:

- Volume III page 194, 1730, Andrew Smith against Thomas Ewings defendant [#4666] “case of £20, attorney for the plaintiff was Cather.”
- Volume III page 281 Dom. Rex [i.e. THE KING] against Thomas Ewing [#733] “The defendant acknowledges himself to be in the debt of our Sovereign Lord the King in the sume of £20 to be present cupied next term ... to be Oct 29, 1731.” [The next court was 9 days after the final recording of the sale of James Ewing's Hopewell land.]
- Volume III page 384 [#1526] ... 29 October 1731. DOM. REX against Thomas Ewings. “The defendant being called upon his recognizance and appears ordered by the court that he be discharged from his recognizance.” No attorney is listed. [A Robert Naylor appeared in the same court on the same day and he, too, owed the King. One had been a resident of Upper Darby twp. Chester Co., in 1693. One of his descendants married the daughter of William Ewing, according to the Naylor Genealogy.]
- Volume III page 388 Dom. Rex against Thomas Ewings “The defendant being called upon his recognizance and appears and ordered by the court that he be discharged from the same.” Date is still 1731. This is the last entry regarding the £20 tax owed by Thomas Ewing.

From the Court of Common Pleas Records of Hunterdon Co., N.J., we find Thomas Ewing is a Plaintiff in a suit dated from 2 March 1735:

- Volume V page 70a November, 1737 Thomas Ewings plaintiff against Jonathan Pearson.
- Volume V page 82 May term, Docket dated March 1738 Thomas Ewing Plaintiff against William Pearson: “See warrant attached copy bond, affixed and filed.” Attorney for the plaintiff was Philip Kinsey doubtless the same one who began, about 1720, to defend tax evaders.
- Volume V page 91a May Term, “M to M 1738” Thomas Ewing plaintiff against William Pearson: “Judgement Enked for want of a plea.” Kinsey attorney for Ewing.
- Volume V page 95 August Term Docket 1738. June 5, 1738: Thomas Ewing against William Pearson. ffi:ffa Debt Sum due £9:11. Interest from 2 March 1735 till paid. Costs tax £3:17:- Attorney Kinsey.
- Volume V page 105 October term 1738 Docket ... August 16, 1738. “Debt sume due £19.17.0. Interest from 2 March 1735 until paid. Costs taxed £3.17.0 Costs of at. 0.11.3 [cost of attorney?] Attorney is still Kinsey.

This is the last entry for anyone named Ewing in Hunterdon until 1785.

SEE CHAPTER XIII for a continuation of this James Ewing Family.

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