

CHAPTER XXXIV

William Ewing and Jane (Robertson) Ewing (My Ancestors)

Their move from West Nantmel twp. to Newberry twp. York Co., PA (ca 1750-1762)

[Not half-brother to Nathaniel of Cecil Co., Md]

In Chapters VII and XIII, we wrote about my ancestor James Ewing, born c1675-80; wrote his will in Nether Providence township, Chester Co., PA in 1739 and died there in 1740. He had moved in 1727 from Hopewell township in Hunterdon Co., N.J. His will named daughters shown in that chapter and sons which included the above William Ewing who had married Jane Robertson prior to 1734. The will also mentioned James Ewing, son of William Ewing. We learned that wife, Jane Robertson, was a sister to Matthew Robertson. In Chapter XIII we gave some information about that family at the end of that chapter.

Starting on page 97 in Chapter XIII we traced some of the Court Quarter Sessions Records, Caveat Records, Grants and Surveys in Chester Co., PA.

Like all Scots-Irish people William Ewing had the impulse to “move on” as the land was supposed to “wear out” after a time of tilling. He evidently was a good yeoman for as you will see he sold his land acquired in 1734 at a rather good price. I believe by the time he applied for land in York Co., PA, he and Jane had all the children they would have. Some of his neighbors in West Nantmel were giving trouble and land “west of Susquehanna” had opened up so he made application for it. He may have become interested in the land there because of John Connolly the third husband of his brother Thomas Ewing's second wife, (Susanna (Howard) Patterson Ewing Connolly) owned many patents to what became York Co., PA land. His nephew, James Ewing, who became Brig. Genl in the Revolutionary War, came to York to live.

We are listing, chronologically, as we are wont to do, what we found about William Ewing in York Co., PA created in August 1749.

- 1749, 8 November Lancaster Co., PA Warrantee #146 was issued to William Ewing “in Lancaster Co., PA for 200 acres of land” and
- 1749, 8 November York Co., PA Warrantee #1 was issued to William Ewing “in York Co., PA for 200 acres of land.”

It was the same land as will be proven by the sales see below. The land was surveyed in York Co., PA, for 215 acres Survey. C-60-72. I have copies of Warrantee and Survey. We believe that he may have stayed with his nephew Samuel McCree and brother-in-law John Calhoun (aka Cohoon) in Manchester twp. York Co., or sent his sons to occupy “Lancaster and York Co.” descriptions. For a petition was signed in April of 1751 recorded in the Court of Quarter Sessions in York Co. by Samuel McCree and John Cohoon (Calhoun) re a road from Lowe's Ferry toward Shippenstown in Cumberland Co., PA needed to be completed.” It went past the Manchester twp. property of Samuel McCree where the Calhouns (his aunt and uncle by marriage) were perhaps with them at the time. This is discussed more fully in Chapter XXXV re Thomas Ewing older brother to William Ewing.

- 1750, 24 April York Co., PA Court of Quarter Sessions states that
“Several inhabitants of Manchester & Newberry townships and places adjacent want a road by Conoly's mill to Yorktown.”
Two of the signers are Baltzer Kratzner and Martin Mansberger from whom William Ewing bought land as we will see. William is not yet living there which will explain how he can still be involved in a court case in West Nantmel twp. Chester Co., PA.
- 1750, 5 May York Co., PA Deed Book A page 14:
“William Ewing of Manchester twp. York Co., purchased of Martin and Barbara Mansberger 397 acres of land with saw and grist mill located on the waters of Little Conewago Creek. Mansberger had purchased from John and Susana Connolly on 28 January 1747. John Connolly having obtained a Patent to this land in 1744 had given mortgage to Mansberger [and died in 1747]. The cost was £700. and the description is quite Lengthy. It was witnessed by Andrew Peterson, George Mendenhall, Baltzer Spangler, Geo. Stevenson on 8 May 1750. Recorder of Deeds recorded it. [Note: Townships were slow to define boundaries that soon after formation of the County.]
- 1750, 7 May York Co., PA Deed book A page 16:
“William and Jean Ewing of Manchester twp. York Co. of the one part and Susanna Connolly, John Hart and Thomas Doyle surviving executors of the Will of John Connolly late of Lancaster Co. Gentleman, dec^d, in consideration of the sum of £700 paid to William Ewing and his wife Jean ... to be repaid at the rate of £100 yearly every 16th of April until 1757. The land being mortgaged is the same as the one above sold to Ewing by Mansberger. It was witnessed by Hance Hamilton and Andr^w Peterson. It was signed by William Ewing with a Seal beside the name and a space left for Jean/Jane but no signature. The seal is there as if the name had been written and faded. Very Curious!!!

**Warrantee #146 Issued to
William Ewing in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
for 200 acres of land 8 Nov 1747
Same Warrantee #1 issued to
William Ewing in York County, Pennsylvania
for 200 acres of land 8 Nov 1749**

To view this page, click [HERE](#).

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**Described in York County Deed Book A page 14, 5 May 1750
William Ewing purchased of Martin Mansgberger land of John Connolly.**

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A note in the margin states, briefly: James Wright one of the executors of the Will of Susanna Connolly one of the Mortgagees do hereby acknowledge to have received of William Ewing the Mortgagor the ... full sum and payment etc. dated 20 Feb 1762. signed, James Wright.

- 1750, West Nantmel Tax, Chester Co., PA.
William Ewing is there for the last time. Although he sold his land etc to William Dunwoody that year it was signed after June. William and Jean did not sign until 21 April 1751.
- 1751, April Court of Quarter Sessions
“Petition of Joshua Lowe and inhabitants of Manchester twp. re a road from Lowe's Ferry toward Shippensburg, want it opened. /signed/ by Samuel McCree, John Cohoon and Joshua Lowe. [This is the nephew and brother-in-law of William Ewing.]
- 1751, 15 October York Co., PA Wills. Will of Edward Early:
“I, Edward Early of Newberry twp. York Co. make ordain and constitute my well bloved friends William Ewing and Jacob Wogan as Executors.” It was probated 26 March 1752 but William Ewing did not serve as Executor. [The most interesting thing about it is that the inventory states “there is in ye hands of Croghan and his partner twenty three POUNDS OR BETWEEN £20 and £25. George Croghan was said I to have “raised or help raise” John Connolly Jr. the son of Susanna (Howard) Patterson Ewing Connolly after she died in 1753. John, Jr. was born ca 1744/5. Edward Early is on the Administration account of Susanna [H.P.E.] Connolly.
- 1752/3, York Co., PA Court of Quarter Sessions:
“William Ewing is listed as Constable of the Township of Newberry.”
- 1753/4, York Co., PA Court of Quarter Sessions:
William Ewing is, again, listed as Constable of the Township of Newberry. [Note: It is believed this is the October Court.]
- 1753, 30 October York Co., PA Court of Quarter Sessions “Grandjuryman # 3 is William Ewing.”
- 1753/4 York Co., Pa Court of Quarter sessions (no mo/day)
“William Ewing tenet in £10 for continuing at this court and I not depart without leave to give evidence etc. (in the case of John and Jane Campbell to answer a Bill of Indictment against them. Many were on the list with varying £ amounts).
- 1754 27 April York Co., PA Court of Quarter Sessions
“William Ewing was a juryman at the trial of Henry Donnolly and was acquitted by the jury.”
- 1754, October Session of Court of Quarter Sessions
“William Ewing was a member of the jury at the trial of Robert Laughlin.”
- 1754, May Term of Court of Quarter Sessions Chester Co., PA
“The final entry re the 1 December 1750/51 plea of trespass by Joseph Phipps, Jr. against William Ewing” simply states: ENDED, says Ross. [ROSS was the lawyer for Phipps, Jr. No fi;fa charges were indicated, if none, then Ewing was not guilty. This shows how far apart people were and how long court cases and, yes, deeds took to be recorded.]
- 1755, 14 March York Co., PA Land Records
“William Ewing received a Warrantee of 200 acres of land in Newberry township.” [When it was surveyed it was found to contain 234¾ acres. It joined the 397 acres which he had purchased on 5 May 1750 from Martin Mansberger of John Connolly's Patent of 1744.]
- 1756 (no month/day) “Newspaper Clipping” from the *Miscellaneous Records of Lancaster County Pennsylvania* page 1 reads: “Residents in Drumore Township 1756: ‘The following were reported to have moved across the Susquehanna in or about 1756: Arthur McConnell, Eliza Wilson, William Patterson, William Ewing, Lowdyick Leard, Thomas Shireley, John Martin and Robert McClung.’”

This would not be important if we had not found the following as recorded by Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, on page 971 in their *HISTORY OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA* Everts and Peck, Philadelphia, PA 1883: They list the “residents of Drumore Township” as a notation reading:

“The following named persons living in the back settlements fled from the Indians, and probably crossed the Susquehanna at McCall's Ferry: Arthur, McConnell, Eliza Wilson, William Patterson, William Ewing, Lowdywick Leard, Thomas Shireley, John Martin and Robert McClung.

No tax Records exist of Lancaster Co., Pa from its formation until the year 1750. We cannot tell where these folk were from.

- 1758, 8 August-York Co., PA Deed Book A page 305

“William Ewing of Newberry township, yeoman, to George Stevenson of York County, Esquire: for £5: a tract of land in (now) Dover Township, granted to William Ewing by warrant from the Honorable the Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania, on March 14, 1755. See above - it contained 234¾ acres.

No wife releases a dower right. Could this mean that Jean/Jane has died? There is no way to tell when for this is the first opportunity for a wife's signature.

- 1758, 8 August-York Co., PA Deed Book A page 307
“William Ewing of Newberry Township, yeoman: to Thomas Ramsey for £35, 200 acres being the tract of land in, (now) Dover Township granted by warrant by the Honorable Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania to William Ewing, November 8, 1749. See above: it had 215 acres and William was described as being “of Lancaster Co., PA and of York Co., PA.” [No wife released dower right. Both deeds made the same day.]
- 1761, 9 May -York Co., PA Deed Book A page 509
“William Ewing of Newberry Township, yeoman, sold to James Love for £800, 397 acres of land containing a Grist and Saw Mill he had purchased from Martin Mansberger on 5 May 1740 of a Patent acquired by John Connolly in 1744. [Again no wife released a dower. If William remarried then she, too, has died.]
- 1762, 21 May -York Co. Caveat Book #1 page 161
“#20 Jacob Horse against William Ewing above date in York Co.”
- 1762, 21 May -York Co., PA Caveat Book #2 page 261 Land Office Records:
“Jacob Horse enters a Caveat against the acceptance of a Survey or a Patent being granted to William Ewing in right of John Connolly for a tract joining Baltzer Kratzer and Hans Rossett in Dover Township which said land was by warrant the 28 October 1754 granted to Jacob Horse. William Peters see'y.

“To John Luckens, S.G. [Surveyor General] Judgement was given to Horse.”

William Ewing, yeoman, of West Nantmel-Chester Co. yeoman of Newberry Township-York Co., now has no land in York Co., Pa. He has purchased land in West Pennsboro Township in Cumberland Co., PA. I have copies of all his land-purchases and Warrants and most of the Surveys of them. See Chapter XXXVIII will outline, fully, his family, et.al there. Chapter XXXV is about his brother, Thomas, who died young. (Do read it!)

The distance that William Ewing and family moved from West Nantmel Township in Chester Co., PA to Newberry Township in York Co., PA is only about 40 miles apart. Back then it was years apart in development. William Ewing, yeoman, as he was described in both Townships and Deeds there, again, wanted to “move on.”

We now find him purchasing land in 1761 and he is, already, on the tax Rolls in his new location. How long he had been there prior to purchase, as before, we cannot tell for sure. The move from the Conowingo Creek to Yellow Breeches Creek in Cumberland Co. was not much in miles but, evidently, there were people or lands there that were more significant to William Ewing.

At this time in his life, William Ewing, yeoman, and Jane/Jean, his wife have produced the following Children. Of these we are sure and will prove it, further, in the Chapter XXXVIII mentioned above.

III. William Ewing:

- A. **James Ewing** born 1735/6 in West Nantmel twp. Chester Co., PA and was mentioned by his grandfather in his 1739 will. By the time his father etc. moved to Cumberland Co. he was 25 years old. It is possible he had already been living on the land to be purchased prior to that time. He married **Jane Leeper**. Knowledge of their descendants is growing almost daily.
- B. **John Ewing** born c 1739 in West Nantmel twp. Chester Co., PA possibly the reason his grandfather did not mention him, However, the grandfather, James Ewing, had many grandchildren he did not mention. This man is MY ANCESTOR. Some of his children came to Georgia with those of his brother, James, and his wife.
- C. **Elizabeth Ewing** b c 1741 married in 1760 **James Naylor** “of East Pennsboro township” in Cumberland Co., PA. James Naylor “of Cumberland Co., PA” purchased of Peter Stout on July 3, 1762 land in Newberry Township, York Co. It was near the Yellow Breeches Creek. This family spread to Ohio, some finally, in Wooster, Ohio with others we cannot, yet, claim kin.
- D. **Thomas Ewing** b c 1743 married **Marianne Leeper**, moved frequently died in Ohio. and left a Will that helped us trace his children.
- E. **William Ewing** b c 1748 married **Jane McBride**. The story of their children has been told by Reid Ewing of Winter Park, FL in his *AUDACITER* and by Robert H. Ewing now deceased of Dublin, Ohio in his *WILLIAM EWING-JOANNA THURSTON FAMILY*.

We have reason to believe that there were, probably, two more daughters born to this couple. We do not have all the data to prove.

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