
CHAPTER XXXV

THOMAS EWING (c1700-1741)

**son of James Ewing of Nether Providence twp. Chester Co., Pa.
Married Susanna (Howard) Patterson
had Brig. Genl James and Capt. John to survive them.**

Chapter XIII page 90 traces this man from Hopewell, N.J. to Nether Providence Township, Chester Co., PA during 1732, 1735 and 1735/6 Tax Records there. We showed that he remained in New Jersey a little longer than the others. He obtained no land in Chester Co., PA, but moved on into Lancaster Co., Pa (created 1729). The Chester Co., PA Deed T-227 dated 28 October 1751 (after the mother of above Thomas Ewing had died, as had Thomas) proved that he did not tarry there. The deed states that (this is a repetition):

“Of the original 300 acres acquired by James Ewing in 1727 in Nether Providence twp. Chester Co., Pa 1/3 was conveyed to Peter Dicks assignee of Thomas, son of James Ewing, dated 14 January 1730 by writing obligatory dated 25 Sept 1732.”

Proof is in the will of Peter Dicks where he leaves land to his son acquired “of Thomas Ewing in Nether Providence, Chester Co., PA.”

Although Thomas Ewing was still settling affairs in New Jersey in 1730 and 1732 he was aware he did not want to live in Chester Co., PA. It is believed by biographers that he may have been a Surveyor for he found mistakes in Surveys of Land he bought and was issued a correction/other land for the mistake. We do not know when but he met Susanna Howard, (Mrs. James) Patterson, at some time prior to 3 October 1735, when her husband wrote his will which was probated 11 Nov 1735 and recorded in Will Book A-1-21, Lancaster Co., PA.

To understand the Land Deeds which carry the name Thomas Ewing and Susanna (Howard) Patterson Ewing Connolly it is necessary to name her step children, and children by three husbands.

James Patterson's Will states he is “of the Township of Hempfield”. His first wife was Ann but we do not know her last name. She was the mother of his eldest, James Patterson, Jr. He then married Susanna Howard daughter of Gordon Howard, Sr. (her brother was called Jr.) and Susanna Howard who lived with her through the first two marriages. James Patterson gave eldest son all lands on Conyco (sic) Creek, 300 acres; second son, Thomas Patterson all that land in Conestoga where I now dwell containing 200 acres (lately purchased of James Logan). To each of my daughters Sarah, Susanna and Rebecca £100 when 21. To wife, Susannah all the residue and remainder of my estate ... etc.”

/signed/ James Patterson

witnessed by
James Wright, Jr, Samuel Bethel and Jon Emerson.

Thomas Patterson was only three when his father died. Lancaster Co., PA Deed B 610 dated 9 July 1747 recorded 24 Jan 1748/9 tells a little more of the children of James Patterson. It reads in part:

“Susanna Lowry & husband James and Rebecca Patterson (spinster) all of Lancaster Co., PA to John Connolly for £200 2/3 share of 200 acres in Conestoga Manor Pat'd 21 Nov 1730 by James Patterson, by his will bequeathed to Thomas Patterson now deceased. Widow Susanna rec'd land 3 October 1735 and now since decease of Thomas land is vested in James Lowry (and wife Susanna) Rebecca Patterson and also heirs of Sarah (Patterson) late wife of Benjamin Chambers as heirs of James & Susanna Patterson.”

Deed B 616 dated 13 Feb 1748/9 recorded 25 Feb 1748/9 reads:

Susanna Connolly (heretofore Susanna Ewing) of Manor twp. to John Keyg of Conestoga twp. for £500, 150 acres in Manor township, Lancaster Co., PA bordered by Peter Sholleberger and Edward Smout. Land patented for 300 acres on 21 March to Thomas Ewing and wife Susanna (he is since deceased).

There are many other deeds concerning Susanna and her three husbands which can be located and purchased, as I have done, to get the full story of this thrice-wed, nine-times-mother and once step-mother, “SUPERWOMAN”. She married well and knew how to manage a business. James Patterson, Sr. is mentioned many times in the Quarter Sessions Court Proceedings between 1729 and 1735 applying “for a license to trade with the Indians” and between 1729 and 1732 “for a license to keep a public House of Entertainment and to sell rum by the Quart.” Thomas Ewing is shown as being on the Grand Jury numerous times but never applying for Indian or Entertainment Licenses as, James Patterson did.

Thomas Ewing married the widow Susanna (Howard) Patterson probably six weeks after her husband died. She had a step-son about 16 years old, three daughters of varying ages (5-14) and the baby Thomas age 3. James Ewing the eldest of Thomas and Susanna was said to have been born in August of 1736. They had three more sons and Thomas died in September of 1741 or thereabout for that is the date of the Administration of his Estate. I have all those papers but they are enter-twined with those of her third husband John Connolly who died in 1747 and her own. She died in 1753. She learned to write sometime during those years. Her first Administration of Patterson was signed with her initials, of Ewing was a little better script, she signed her own will with her full name Susanna Connolly, Only four of her nine children were still alive!

Thomas and Susanna lived early in their marriage on the land of James Patterson which he willed to his son Thomas Patterson. It was the 200 acre tract on the Susquehanna River containing 200 acres purchased of James Logan.

Thomas Ewing made a purchase of land in Lancaster Co., PA 1 March 1737 purchased of John Ross 200 acres of land which EWING patented on 15 March 1737 see Patent A-8-347. John Ross had purchased a second tract of 230 acre on which he defaulted the Mortgage and Thomas Ewing bought it at a Sheriff's sale on 3 May 1738 as "the highest bidder." Both tracts were originally (600 acres) to John Gardiner by warrant 9 Dec 1716. Gardiner sold 11 April 1726 to John Borton 420 acres. John Borton sold 200 acres to Daniel Clark and 230 acres to his son Joseph Borton who had it patented 29 May 1733. [John Borton and Daniel Clark, both of Evesham, Burlington, West Jersey.] Daniel Clark 23 September 1729 sold 200 acres to John Ross. It is most rewarding to find this history of the land in

- Deed M-388 in Lancaster Co. deed Book dated 31 December 1764, which begins:
"John Ewing, son of Thomas Ewing who died intestate, of the borough of Lancaster to James Ewing, another of the sons, of York Co." and
- Deed 2-85 Lancaster Co., PA dated 22 Nov 1768
"James Ewing and Patience of Hellam twp. York Co., PA to Christian Hershey of Manor twp ... sell some 200 acres and 230 acres."

I cannot stress enough the importance of obtaining copies of Deeds and other Documents to prove what happened to each of these families. The Hershey Chocolate Company occupies some of the land that Thomas Ewing and two of his sons, who lived to maturity, had owned. The connection with Burlington County in West Jersey also tends but does not prove that Thomas Ewing was in the area. It does, however, become the basis for further study which we did years ago to prove who members of this family were.

After Thomas Ewing acquired these lands in Donegal Township he did what all others were doing and applied for more land. His Patent is recorded in PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES Series 3 VOL VIII pages 246-247, It reads, in part:

"By virtue of a Warrant the 17th of November 1738 there was surveyed and laid out on the 21 day of the Same Month unto Thomas Ewing of the County of Lancaster a certain tract of land situate on the East of Swahatawro Creek in Lebanon township in the same county ... by another branch called Quitapehela, etc ... to place of beginning containing four hundred acres."

Further investigation found that on 17 January 1738 Thomas Ewing acquired a Patent and it was recorded 22 January 1738.

The Administration BOND of Thomas Ewing 15 Sept 1741 by Susanna, The Administration ACCOUNT Estate of Thomas Ewing was located in Lancaster Miscellaneous Book 1740-1760, pages 8-10. It was dated 5 February 1745 and Susanna (Howard) Patterson Ewing was already Mrs. John Connolly. It reads in part:

"Upon motion of Mr. John Ross to this court that Guardians may be appointed over the children of Thomas Ewing, late of Lancaster County dec^d, who dyed Instate, being yet under age, etc. viz: James, William, Samuel and John Ewing and with consent of Susanna Connolly the mother of the said children the Court do appoint the said Susanna Connolly mother of the said children, Gordon Howard of Donegal [proves to be her brother] and Simon Wright of Hempfield township Guardians over the persons of said children and also over Thomas Patterson another son of the said Susanna by James Patterson a former husband, deceased. The Intestates Estate amounting to £1422.13.1 with disbursements of £375.14.1 etc. now in hands of Administratrix the sum £866.19.9 the third part of which being the shares of the widow/Admx. is £288.19.8 and the share of James Ewing the eldest son is £231.3.9 and shares of the other 3 sons is £115.11.10½ and John Connolly who has intermarried with the said Susanna is ordered to give security for the shares of the said children."

Important Note. In Deed B-402 Lancaster Co. dated 8 Feb 1746 John Connolly's 397 acres was given as security for the four sons of Susanna by Thomas Ewing. The sons are listed in the same way as above James, William, Samuel and John Ewing. James Gillespie and John Hart were the securators. The amount was £293. The Deed is quite hard to read. This is the same

land sold to Martin Mansberger and by him to My William Ewing and on which Susanna gave William the money with which to buy it.

“At An ORPHAN'S COURT held at Lancaster the 26th day of March 1745 before Thomas Edwards, Conrad Wiser, Emmanuel Carpenter Samuel Smith and James Whitehill, Esq. Mr. Samuel Blunston, Deputy Register suggested to the court that £130 allowed in above order had not to his memory been exhibited in the Inventory but that the list of Bonds and Notes not having been Lodged with him he referreth to the same. It is considered by the court and ORDERED that the Administratrix [Susanna H.P.E. Connolly] attend this court with the list aforesaid and much further testimony as she can give concerning the said sum and further that the Bonds Articles concerning the 50 pounds to be allowed for the support of Susanna Howard be produced and that the condition and circumstances of the Guardians be Reconsidered. Also a charge of Seven Pounds or thereabouts due to the Meeting House and subscribed by Thomas Ewing.” [Note: Biographer Evans states he made a bequest to the Donegal Meeting House. NOT SO. He had not paid his pledge to the church and neither had Susanna followed up in four years. Samuel Blunston wanted right to be right even tho he was considered a friend of Thomas Ewing.]

“At an ORPHAN'S COURT held at Lancaster the twenty ninth day of March, 1755 before Adam Simon Kuhn, William Jevon and Edward Shippen Esqrs, Justices: ‘James Ewing an orphan and minor son of Thomas Ewing dec^d (being above he age of fourteen years) comes into court and chuses Robert Thompson, esquire together with James Wright guardian over his estate during his minority (in the room of William Hamilton formerly appointed with the said James Wright) and the said Robert Thompson, Esquire and James Wright are appointed Guardian over the Estate of the said James Ewing during his minority accordingly.’”

If James was born August 1736 he will be 21 in August of 1757. He has 2½ years more to go.

John Connolly wrote his will in 1747 and it can be found in Lancaster Co., PA will Book A Vol 1 page 141. Susanna Connolly wrote her will 27 April 1753. It is Recorded in Lancaster Co. Will Book B Vol. 1 page 13, and filed for Probate on 7 July 1753. Briefly it reads (after a beautiful statement of faith):

“Ye house in the borough of Lancaster wherein I now live to be sold by my executors. I bequeath to my son James Ewing the sum of £60; to my son John Ewing the sum of £100; to my son, John Connolly £250 to be paid at age 21 years. If John Connolly should die under 21, his part to be divided, equally between my children James Ewing and John Ewing, my daughter Rebecca Poulson, and my son-in-law James Lowry and her son George Poulson, share and share alike.. To son-in-law James Lowry sum of 7sh 6p, to son- in-law Benjamin Chambers £10. To grandson James Chambers son of Benjamin £10. To daughter Rebecca Poulson ½ interest of money “out to” James Kagey; James Chambers to have other ½. [More to Rebecca and George Poulson]. To son John Connolly 1 silver Tablespoon; Rebecca Large Bible; and all rest to Rebecca. James Wright and Arthur Patterson executors who have full power to sell to Samuel McCrea a tract of 300 acres which I lately sold, conveyed to him it being in York Co., PA they paying the remainder of consideration money. £5 toward , a wall around Graveyard of Donegal Meeting and £3 to repair a fence around Graveyard of St. James Church.

“My trusty friends James Wright and Arthur Patterson they or one of them will be so kind as to have my son, John Connolly, put under a proper master for his good and Virtuous Education till he is fit to be put out to business.”

/witnesses/
George Craig (Rev)
Mary Stout
Marjory Test
“MT” her mark

/signed/ Susanna Connolly [SEAL]

The names of James and John Ewing had been transcribed as Erwin by numerous indexes.

The Administration of Susanna's estate is mixed with that of John Connolly and, somewhat, with that of Thomas Ewing. However, we would like to point out a few items that are significant and that tie her Thomas Ewing to MY William Ewing.

- A Bond of Samuel McCrea for 85 payable on the 16th of Nov 1752 and of which 57.3.0 is paid in part
- A Bond of the same for 85 payable on 16 Nov 1753

We explained in the earlier chapters that Samuel McCrea was married to the niece of Thomas Ewing, Elizabeth (McClellan) McCrea who seemed to be a favorite of many.

- A Bond of William Ewing for 57.10 payable the 16 March 1754
- 5 Bonds of William Ewing payable at 100 each % Susanna Connolly and other executors to the estate of John Connolly, dec^d payable in the years following to wit; 1754-1755-1756-1757.
- A Note of Dennis Connolly and James Miller.

Dennis Connolly was mentioned in the will of John Connolly as a friend. Dennis and wife moved to West Pennsboro about the same time that MY William Ewing did. We do not know of the significance.

- To cash paid Edward Early [does not indicate estate. He was the friend of William Ewing in early York Co.]
- To Cash paid Peter Shelleberger* as per receipt . . . £6.0.0
- To Cash paid Wolroye Shelleberger as per rect . . . £0.12.0
- To Cash paid to the Proprietarys for 325 acres of land in Manchester Township York Co. sold by the Exors to Sam^l McKrey (sic McCrea) and for the Patent and sundry expenses in getting the same!

*The Shellebergers were neighbors of Thomas Ewing during one part of his life in Lancaster Co., PA. Richard Peters wrote a letter to John Taylor the Surveyor in Philadelphia on 14 June 1738,

“Sir: By order of the Hon^{ble}, the Proprietor, I have enclosed you a copy of a petition preferred on the 12th inst by Christian Bumgarner, Peter Shallyberger and Valentine Pickill, and am likewise to acquaint you that this day Thomas Ewing brought to the office a draught of land late of James Patterson mentioned in the petition, according to a re-survey thereof made by Mr. Blunston, on the 7th this instant, whereby it appears that the lines run by you contain 500 acres, if Mr. Blunston be right, do contain 302 acres. The charge etc ... but there is a mistake somehow.”

/s/ Richard Peters.

Mr. Taylor made another survey proving Blunston correct and Thomas Ewing was paid £100 (having married the widow of James Patterson) for the deficiency. Thomas Ewing was to have a new Patent and John Taylor was allowed by the Proprietors to take up 200 acres in some other place.

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES 6th Series Volume XIV page 278/9 records the “Petition for a Road” including signatures of 68 persons and the second signature is that of Thomas Ewing (Thoes Ewing). It is dated 15 Dec 1740 and was written to Hon. George Thomas Lt. Gov. of Pennsylvania.

Thomas Ewing is on a list of Provincial Officers for Lancaster Co., PA during the years 1739 and 1740 and are on page 776 of PA. ARCHIVES 2nd Series Volume IX “Provincial Officers 1729-1776” James Ewing is listed in the same series as being from York Co., PA during the years 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774 and 1775.

On 4 July 1776 a Military Convention representing 53 Battalions of the Associators met at Lancaster to choose 2 Brigadier Generals and James Ewing was elected Second Brigadier. Three Brigades became what was called “The Flying Camp”. On 7 Nov 1782 he was elected Vice President of Pennsylvania, in 1790 a Senator from York Co., PA serving from 1795 to 1800. “Dr. John Connolly” the half-brother to General Ewing associated with Lord Dunmore and his “War” was arrested but paroled to General James Ewing. There are letters in the PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES which tell of their association. Dr. Connolly wrote in one letter “How is my broter, John Ewing.” It proved to us that John (the other Ewing son of Susanna to live to adulthood) was still alive in 1800. We have found no Administration Bond nor intestate papers on him.

James Ewing began early in the Military. We were looking for the son of MY William Ewing, James, also born in 1736 and thought we had found him in his County of York in 1758. In PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES- 5th Series Volume 1 pages 130-131. We found that the Third Battalion of Officers and Soldiers showed “James Ewing commissioned Lieutenant on 10 May 1758” when Robert McPherson moved to Captain. In the same Document page 184 states “James Ewing made Adjutant on 7 June 1758” still under Capt. McPherson. On page 202 is a letter from George Stevenson (a man of many positions in York Co., PA) wrote to “Mr. Peters” telling him of the names of the Officers in York Co. that the “Bearer” [of the letter] “Mr. Lt. Ewing goes to buy cloathing for Capt. McPherson's company ... you will aid the bearer with ye good Council when 'tis necessary..”

George Stevenson was the Recorder of deeds when William Ewing bought his land in York in 1741 and sold Stevenson one of his Warrantees for £5. Lieut. William Ewing we found there in York Co., PA (See Chapter IX) was not MY WILLIAM but the 'soldier-preacher' we proved in Chapter IX. That William Ewing became Adjutant in the same Battalion on 30 May 1759. See page 195 same Series, volume.

The biographer, Samuel Evans, writing of "The Ewing Family of Lancaster and York in *Historical Register* "Notes and Queries" in 1884 Vol II. at Harrisburg stated that "he (James Ewing) marched with the Provincial Scouts of Braddock's Army and participated in the disastrous battle near Fort Dusquesne." I had not found the proof of that, however. He was without doubt a good soldier!

To find the children of Thomas Ewing and Susanna Howard we put all the foregoing information together and believe we have the correct information on them. The John Connolly Deed and the Administration Bond of Thomas show sons, only, named James Ewing, William Ewing, Samuel Ewing and John Ewing in 1747. They are the same ones shown on the 1741 Administration Bond of Thomas Ewing. The 1751 Deed T-227 in Chester Co. shows only James Ewing, Samuel Ewing and John Ewing. The 1753 Will of Susanna (Howard) Patterson Ewing Connolly names only James and John with last name Ewing. Because they are all born between Aug 1736 and Sept 1741 it is not difficult to establish their ages and times of death.

II. **Thomas Ewing** b ca 1700 in possibly Scotland but more probably in Ireland. [See page 96.] He married about December 1735 **Susanna (Howard) Patterson** the widow of James Patterson who, already, had a step-son (Jr) three daughters and a son, Thomas Patterson. James Patterson had died in November of 1735. Thomas Ewing, as far as we can tell, had no children by his first wife. He died 9 Sept, 1741. She was born ca 1715 and died, young, prior to 7 July 1753. They had:

A. **James Ewing** born August 1736 in Lancaster Co., PA and wrote his Will 13 May 1803, added an undated Codicil, and it was probated 25 March 1806. It is reported he died 1 March 1806. He was a "Gentleman" of Hellam twp. also Brigadier General. His executors were William Barber and Samuel Bethel. "Grandson James Ewing Mifflin son of deceased daughter Eleanor and John Mifflin." They were living in Cecil Co. MD. in West Nottingham Hundred on 5 January 1805 when James Ewing held a mortgage for £1725 on LEWDEN'S RESERVE containing 145 acres. See Cecil Co., MD Deed Book mort. JS Vol 1page 16 and JS Vol 1page 20. John Mifflin and James Ewing of Hellam twp. York Co. were both called "Gentlemen." James Ewing's Will also mentioned children of half-brother John Connolly and nephew General James Chambers (son of Benjamin Chambers). The Account was filed 10 January 1812 amounting to £ 3,160.18.4½. There are too many Lancaster Co. and York Co. deeds tracing this family to even list here. They can be furnished upon request, found in either of the Counties in Index to Deeds. However, I have most of the copies. James married **Patience Wright** on 20 August 1760 in St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster Co., Pa. She was a daughter of John Wright, Sr. and Eleanor Wright. We do not have the date of death of Patience (Wright) Ewing sometime before James' Will. They had:

1. **Eleanor Ewing** b ca 1763/4 married 5 May 1790 **John Mifflin** in St. James Episcopal Church. It is believed he was a brother to Thomas Mifflin Governor of Pennsylvania 1788-1790 and 1790-1799. Eleanor and John lived for awhile in Cecil Co., MD. He is called "Dr. of Physic" in one commentary we have not proved. He was called "Gentleman" in Deeds. Both died prior to 1805 Will. They had 1 son:

a. **James Ewing Mifflin** b ca 1792. In York Co. Deed 3G page 269 he is of Columbia, Lancaster Co. 24 March 1817, "yeoman". In 1822 he is of the County of York and is called "Gentleman". He married his cousin **Susan E. Houston** daughter of James Houston, son of Dr. John and Susanna (Wright) Houston. Susanna was a sister of Patience Wright. So James Mifflin Ewing and Susan were 2nd cousins!

B. **William Ewing** born ca December 1737 and died prior to 1751.

C. **Samuel Ewing** born ca April 1739 and died prior to May 1753.

D. **John Ewing** born ca August 1740 and died after 1800. He lived most of his life in Lancaster Co., PA. There are numerous deeds there concerning him, his brother James Ewing and his father and step-father's lands. York Co., Pa tax lists found in PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES Series 3 Volume XXI show John Ewing in Hellam twp. the first time in 1779 as "single". His Services in the Revolutionary War are listed in PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES Series 6 Volume II page 600; in numerous other Volumes re the Revolutionary War. Some are:

John Ewing of Hellam township, York Co. Captain of the sixth Company of the First Pennsylvania Regiment of the FLYING CAMP which Michael Swope was Colonel. James Ewing, was the Brig Gen. and John Ewing was at Fort Lee when Fort Washington fell.

John Ewing was listed on Oct 1, 1777 as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2nd Battalion of York Co. Militia and in returns dated 5 April 1778, 11 April 1778. 17 April 1778, and 5 April 1779.

John Ewing served in the Militia in Hellam township in 1780 and 1781. He is listed as private in the sixth (Capt. Jacob Comfort) Company, third Battalion, York Co. Militia according to an undated return; one dated 1780 and one dated 1781. In f 1785 "John Ewing is listed as 'sick'.

John Ewing of Hellam twp. York Co. in Capt. Comfort's Co. is not listed again. However, he is in the letters of John Connolly to Brig. General James Ewing dated 1800, also a part of PA. ARCHIVES.

York Co. Historical Society has put together in their , Volume XXVIII, pages 47-75 "Evidences of the EWING FAMILIES OF YORK CO." before the year 1850. "It is called Genealogical Reports and has been most helpful. They thought enough of John Ewing of Hellam to add the above.

They thought enough of Brigadier General James Ewing to add a full paragraph about him and I copy some of it here:

"General Ewing's Brigade was in the Campaign of 1776-1777 in New York and New Jersey, being of the troops at the evacuation of Fort Lee, 21 November 1776 and attempting to cross the Delaware 25 December 1776 and acting as a reserve at the battle of Princeton."