

CHAPTER XXXXII

A WORD, OR TWO, ABOUT THOSE EARLY EWING WHO ARE LEFT OUT

Robert Ewing who died in Bedford Co., Va. prior to 25 June 1787 and **Charles Ewing** who died in Bedford Co., Va. prior to 24 July 1770 married **Mary Baker** and **Martha Baker**, sisters, daughters of Rev. Caleb Baker and wife, Martha, of Cecil Co., MD and Amelia/Prince Edward Co., VA. I have the wills of the brothers. They are said to have been “cousins” of Nathaniel Ewing and his half-brothers. There is no documentation yet found proving how they were kin.

There is a History Of Logan Co., KY by Coffman re EWING in Logan Co. but to date I have located only excerpts of it. It traces the children of Robert and Mary (Baker) Ewing who went to Logan Co., KY about 1790, and has other information re the burials of some who were thought to be Robert's children. I have wills of most of them. Presley K. Ewing in his book *The Ewing Family with Cognate Branches* traces some of the children of these two men. He devotes only 1½ pages to Charles Ewing and his family, however. I have quite a large file of information on Deeds and Wills of these two. Numerous ones are working on documentation of who these men were and who their wives and children were. Alicia Towster is one of them.

In 1744 there was a Robert Ewing, Jr. who petitioned for the County of Prince Georges, Maryland to be divided into two counties. This would acknowledge the presence of another, older, Robert Ewing. It is found in the BLACK BOOKS of Maryland. We never found anyone else named EWING in early Prince George's nor Frederick Co., MD created 1748 from Prince George's.

I have several Deeds in Virginia showing Robert and Mary were residents of Lunenburg Co., VA, owned land in Augusta Co., Va. and moved to Bedford Co., Va. I have several Deeds showing that Charles and Mary owned land in Prince Edward Co., Va. and, evidently, lived there for a time before selling and going to live in Bedford Co., Va where he died. The parents of Mary and Martha Baker both died in Prince Edward Co., Va. Caleb Baker wrote his will in Amelia Co., Va. in the part that became Prince Edward Co. Martha Baker (Mrs. Caleb) wrote her will in April of 1759 further identifying husbands of their daughters.

William Ewing who was “born in 1749 in County Donegal, Ireland” as per his Revolutionary War Pension Application # S22234. His brother and he appear for the first time in Sadsbury twp., Chester Co. Tax Records in 1774, 1775 and 1776.

William's Application states that he “enlisted in Sadsbury twp. Chester Co., PA at the age of 27, and that he served in General James Ewing's Flying Camp. He states he lived in Franklin Co., PA ten years after the War. He then moved to North Huntington Twp. Westmoreland Co., PA. His will is located there in Book 2 page 414 #1298. He is buried in the Long Run Presbyterian Cemetery two miles west of Irwin, PA. His stone reads “William Ewing, Sr died 17 Nov 1838 at 89 years.” “Ann, wife of William Ewing, Sr. d 25 Sept 1818, 75 y 5m 19d.” William, Sr. had no children and left everything to the children of his brother who was: Alexander Ewing who is also buried in the Long Run Presbyterian Cemetery two miles west of Irwin, PA. His stone reads “Alexander Ewing, Rev. Soldier died 11 Feb 1826, 76 years.” So, he was born about 1750/51. The children of Alexander, obtained from the will of William, Sr. were: niece, Sarah Ewing gets \$200-\$50 on her wedding day; nephew Samuel \$100 should he call for it in 10 years. William's sister, Sarah, had married a Dunlap and was to have \$1.00. Nephew John Ewing gets \$200. Nephew William Ewing, Jr. gets the farm in North Huntington twp. Westmoreland Co., PA.

These men are not sons of Alexander Ewing who died 1799 nor of Alexander Ewing died 1738 nor of Alexander Ewing died 1752. We believe they may have been brothers who came as mercenaries in the later days of the French and Indian War. We find no connection between them and the John Ewing who came with Col. St. Clair to Westmoreland Co. with his son Robert. They were from New Jersey and are subjects of Chapter XXIV.

EWING of Monroe Co., VA

James Ewing died there and named sons and daughters. Sons died and named brothers and sisters. Anne Kimball and I have spent much time and money and energy exploring all the EWING information there, to no avail. This is one of the most baffling groups of EWING thus far. James was there fairly early and his progeny were widespread. We have seen no biography, family information to identify whence they came.

Alexander Ewing who married **Charlotte Griffith** have been another source of much study, speculation and frustration to me and those who have tried to trace this man. They were said to have married in 1795 in Big Tree, Genessee, N.Y having established a trading post in Buffalo, N.Y. moving to various places including Monroe, Mi; Piqua, Miami Co., Ohio; Troy, Miami Co., Ohio; and died 1 Jan 1827 in Fort Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana. His father was said to have also been named Alexander Ewing but his place of birth, to this father, was never given. His daughter said “Alexander and Charlotte were born in NY. Records in Cumberland Co., PA state Alexander Ewing married Charlotte Griffith in 1795. The names of their children do not match those of the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Alexander, and the former Cumberland Co. Alexander Ewing and

Charlotte Griffith Ewing died in West twp. Huntington Co., PA. His father was one Thomas Ewing thought to be a grandson of the Alexander Ewing died 1752.

James Ewing who married **Margaret Sargent** in Stoverstown, VA.

Another source says they married in Bland Co., Va. in 1741. E.W.R. Ewing gives an entire chapter to this man and his children. It bears close scrutiny. The children listed there can, for the most part, be rather easily traced after about 1825. Donald Brown Ewing has written a book about this family. Helen Blumhagen, a descendant of William "Swago Bill" Ewing, has also written a book. I have not had access to either of them. Except for some corrections that need to be made to E.W.R Ewing's *CLAN EWING OF SCOTLAND* regarding this family, which are fairly minor, I have found nothing spectacular to add. I have been unable to determine from whence he came, nor when he got to Virginia that early in the 18th Century. Anne Kimball and I have spent long hours tracing James Ewing and his children. But, our findings do not warrant a Chapter on this family.

It seems best to leave the above paragraph as it was in the original book. However, many know that the wife of James Ewing is not Margaret Sargent. About 60 years or so ago, a family researcher made a mistake in passing on information that he had received from someone else that identified the wife of James Ewing. He tried to recall his error, but as in many cases, the error continues to be used over and over and the truth is not accepted.

Recently, I received a copy of a 1939 letter from A. E. Ewing to R. O. McNiel and I think that the confession made by A. E. Ewing should be published. For those that are descendants of James Ewing, I hope the information in the following letter will be of some benefit to you. The emphases has been added. It is really important to get bad information corrected. A portion of the letter follows and it was published in the February 2000 Journal of Clan Ewing in America:

Grand Rapids, Mich.
Sept 14, 1939
R.O. McNiel
Roanoke, VA

"NO, we have never found (to my later satisfaction, at least) who the Irish girl was who became the wife of James Ewing, the father of Swago Bill. Years ago, when I was still a greenhorn in the family history business, Dr. Gilbert A. Ewing of Jackson announced that the Irish girl's name was Margaret Sargent. I accepted the statement, and had it so **published** in the Ewing sketch in Prince's history. The doctor also announced that our James Ewing was a captain in the Revolution and received a grant of lands for his services. We went so far as to obtain from Richmond a copy of the grant (which I still have buried away somewhere in the attic) and it ran to James Ewing and a McNutt (James I think). The land described was on Indian Creek in Greenbrier County.

"Years after we had swallowed the error I came to know that Indian Creek is in present Monroe County, West Virginia (formerly Greenbrier) and that there was a family of Ewings and a family of McNutts living there. The Ewing family was, however, no relation of ours. There is a good 40 or 50 miles between the Swago and Indian Creeks, and we have not even a tradition that any of our Ewings ever lived on Indian. Moreover, the James Ewing of Indian Creek is accounted for as from the Staunton County, or farther east. **So, 'Captain James Ewing' was eliminated from our records.** There was another James Ewing from Prince Edward County. It is possible that some other James Ewing than ours married Margaret Sargent. I have never been able to find the name Sargent on any Virginia list. My grandfather did not know her name. Time and again I directed our conversation toward his grandfather James. When was he born---whom did he marry---where was he born---when did he come to Virginia---whom did he marry---was he in the Revolution---when and where did he die---the sum total of his answers was, "He come to Virginy in an arly day, a young man from the north of Ireland and soon after married an Irish girl."

"Grandfather could have loaded me up with a great story had he been a 'romancer.' He would not go an inch beyond what he knew or believed to be true. James died as we know now five years before Grandfather was born (Enoch was born in 1799). Necessarily, all grandfather knew about him was what he had learned from family talk. He knew his Uncle John (Indian John) personally, as both John and William settled on the Little Raccoon in Gallia County, Ohio, only a few miles apart. Indian John Ewing was renowned for his prodigious memory, and it is very likely that grandfather learned much from his uncle, especially the story of the Clendennin Massacre in 1763. Grandfather had the names of his uncle and aunts at his tongue's end, and also knew whom they married. He knew the birth dates of his own father and mother and mentioned that his father was double the age of Mary McNeill when he married her. Records I have since found verify his statements to the dot. He did not pretend to know much about the movements of the Ewings up to the time they appeared on Swago."....

A. E. Ewing