

Josephus/Joseph M. Ewing and His Descendants

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The subject of this sketch, Joseph (born Josephus) M. Ewing, was born circa 1843, probably either in Cobb County or Paulding County, Georgia, the son of Green Berry Ewing and Rhoda Martin. The Ewing families who migrated to America in the early 18th century probably came primarily from Ireland, but were originally from Scotland. They are therefore part of the massive group of 18th century immigrants to America known as the Scot-Irish.

The story of the Josephus M. Ewing branch of the Ewing family is not one of fame or great prosperity, but is of interest in that the lives of its members are very representative of the average agrarian family in the south from 1845 to the 1940s, and the great movement 'off the farm' by so many thereafter. The migration of these Ewings from rural Georgia to rural Alabama, westward to Texas, and, for some, on to Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, is representative of a pattern followed by countless southerners in search of better and cheaper land, relief from the tyranny of the Reconstruction Era, and perhaps the thrill of adventure.

Josephus M. Ewing's father, Green Berry Ewing, was born about 1802 in Georgia. Most Ewing researchers believe Green Berry Ewing to be the son of one William Ewing who acquired land in Jackson County, Georgia, in 1807 (see Figure 1). The basis for this belief is that after William Ewing apparently died intestate in Newton County, Georgia, circa 1827, Green Berry Ewing appears to be living in 1830 on a tract of land that was formerly William Ewing's homestead. Under the inheritance law at that time, absent a will the estate would have been divided equally amongst the children with the widow having the option of dower or a child's share. A biographical sketch written on the life of Green Berry Ewing's oldest son, Reuben Turner Ewing, in 1893 gives Green Berry's father as Samuel Ewing and states that Green Berry's mother was a Whaley. All known facts considered, the author has yet to see concrete evidence of the identity of Green Berry Ewing's father, although the safest bet would appear to be William Ewing of Marbury Creek.

William Ewing of Marbury Creek bought, in 1807, a hundred acres of land in Jackson County, Georgia, from a Joseph Camp. The land was on Marbury Creek, south of what is now the town of Winder, Georgia. The Camp family from whom William purchased the property was very prominent in this area according to the 1809 tax list of Jackson County. Marbury Creek begins in what is now central Barrow County, Georgia, and flows southward into the Apalachee River. It is sometimes incorrectly referred to as Marburg Creek, perhaps due to errors in the transcribing of early handwriting. Marbury Creek was named for a prominent Georgia family headed by Leonard Marbury who acquired an original 1,150 acre survey along the creek in 1785, and his son, Capt. Horatio Marbury, who acquired a 4,025 acre survey

Atkins, Robert	Ethrington, William	Milsaps, Thomas
Berry, John	Ewing, William	Milsaps, Jacob
Bingham, William	Franklin, Lewis	Milsaps, Reuben
Blatock, Reuben	Grace, Thomas	Morris, Jesse
Camp, Andrew	Hobson, John	Morris, John
Camp, Burwell	Hobson, Nicholas	Morris, Thomas
Camp, Benjamin	Holt, Harmon	Nicols, John
Camp, Thomas	Humphries, Shadrach	Shackelford, John
Camp, Thomas JR	Hyles, Peter	Short, Jonas
Camp, Thomas SR	Jacobs, Elisha	Steed, Green
Camp, Shearwood	McLeod, Malcolm	Sturdivant, Joel
		Thompson, James
		Thompson, Frederick

Figure 1: 1809 Jackson County, Georgia Tax List, page 49

on the creek in the same year. The area was opened to settlement in 1784 after the ceding of the land by the Cherokee Indians in the 1783 Treaty of Augusta. Marbury Creek was dammed in recent years, and a two-hundred-plus acre lake was created. The area now falls in Barrow County and is a state recreational area known as Fort Yargo State Park, Fort Yargo being built in the area during the 1790s to protect the settlers from hostile Indians.

By 1820 the Marbury Creek land fell within the newly formed Walton County. In May of 1823 William Ewing sold the hundred acre tract to Eli Whaley. The deed (see Figure 2) is recorded in the records of Walton County, Georgia, and states that the property was partly bordered by Marbury Creek. In October of 1823, immediately after selling his hundred acre tract on Marbury Creek, William Ewing bought a tract of land from William McCullers in adjacent Newton County, Georgia, in an area which had been recently acquired from the Cherokee Indians.

1823, 7 May -WALTON Co. GEORGIA DEED BOOK E page 44 reads:

"This indenture made this 7 day of May in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight th Hundred and Twenty Three between William Ewens of the one part and Eli Whaley of the other part, both of the same place, witnesseth that the said Ewens for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars the receipt whereof is here by acknowledged have granted bargained sold and convey unto the said Eli Whaley his heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in st. and Cty aforesaid and on the waters of Marberg's Creek and on the NE side containing one hundred acres more or less being a part of a survey granted to Spratling beginning on a maple on said creek running north 45E to a pine on Evans old line, now McKnights, thence N45W to a post oak thence S45W to a pine thence N70W to Samuel Whaley's fence thence along the fence continuing a straight course until it strikes the said creek from thence down the creek to the beginning corner, to have and to hold the said tract of land together with all and singular the rights members and appurtenances belonging to the same or in any wise appertaining unto the said Eli Whaley his heirs, Exors. and administrators will warrant and forever defend against him his heirs and assigns and against the claim of every other person whatever the titles, in fee simple. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand the day and Date Above."

/signed/ William Ewing [SEAL]

Written signed sealed and delivered in

presents of C.L. GILBERT

Figure 2: Deed recorded in Walton County, Georgia, 1823, for the sale of a hundred acres on Marbury Creek by William Ewing to Eli Whaley.

1827, 20 February- NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, COURT OF ORDINARY -
Administrators and Guardians Bonds (1822-1831).
Recorded 31 October 1827, pages 41 & 42. It reads :

" Know all men by these presents that we, Samuel Patillo and Hannah Ewing, John Byers and Joel Culpepper are held and firmly bound into their Honors, the Justices of the Inferior Court sitting as a Court of Ordinary for said County and their successors in office in the just and full sum of \$1,200 for the payment of sum to the said Justices and their successors. We find ourselves our heirs, executors and Administrators in the whole and for the whole sum jointly and severally and firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 20 Day of February 1827.

The condition of the above obligation is such that if the above, bound Samuel Patillo and Hannah Ewing, Administrator and Administratrix of the goods, chattels and credits of William Ewing, late of this county, deceased, do make a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of the said Samuel Patillo and Hannah Ewing or into the hands or possession of any other person or persons for them and the same as may, do exhibit into said court of ordinary. When they shall be thereunto required and such goods, chattel and credits do well and truly administer according to law and make a just and true account of their actings and doings therein when they shall be thereunto required by the Superior Court or the court of the Ordinary for said County and there the rest of the goods, chattels and credits which shall be found remaining up on the account of the said administration the same being first allowed by the court shall deliver and pay to each person or persons respectively as are entitled to the same by law and if it shall hereafter appear that any last will and testament was made by the said deceased and the same be proved before the court and the executors obtain a certificate of the Probate thereof and the said Samuel Patillo and Hannah Ewing in such case if required under and deliver up the said letters of Administration then this obligation to be void also to remain in full force."

Signed, Sealed and Acknowledged
Samuel Patillo [L.S.]
L. Hopkins, Clerk, C. O.
Hannah ("X" her mark) Ewing [L.S.]
John Byers [L.S.]
Joel Culpepper [L.S.]
Recorded 11th day of October 1827
L. Hopkins D. Clk

1827, 12th March - Newton County - Estate of William Ewing, decd.,
Amounted to \$37 37 ½ and the appraisal was signed Allen x Lenz [his mark]; Henry Lenz; Julius Bailey.

It was certified by S. Sumners, J. P.

Figure 3: 1827 Administrator and Guardian Bond, Estate of William Ewing

In March of 1827, estate papers (see Figure 3) were filed for William Ewing, deceased, whereby the widow Hannah Ewing and Samuel Patillo were named administrators of the estate and were to take an inventory of it. Therefore, it appears that William Ewing died in early 1827. Two additional men were bonded as part of the estate settlement, Joel Culpepper and John Byers.

On the 1830 census of Newton County, Georgia (see Figure 4), Green Berry Ewing is found living with his bride, having married Rhoda Martin by that time. He appears to be living on the tract of land in McCullers district which William Ewing purchased in 1827. This conclusion is based on the listed neighbors and his district of residence in 1830. Listed in the household are one male age 20-25 (which would be Green Berry Ewing), one male 15-20, two males 10-15, and one male 5-10. Also there were one female 40-50, one female 20-30, and one female 15-20. The older female in the house could be Hannah Ewing, the widow of William Ewing. Neighbors include three McCullers families and two Cook families.

SCHEDULE of the white number of Persons within the District attached to

District	Males													Females												
	Under 5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-100	Total					
Green Berry Ewing					1																					
Hannah A. Ewing																										
William C. Ewing																										
James Ewing																										
John Ewing																										
Thomas Ewing																										

Figure 4: 1830 Newton County Census Clip of Green Berry Ewing Family

In the 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery of the Cherokee territory there were two Ewing winners from Newton County, Georgia. One was Hannah Ewing, listed as a resident of 'McCullers', who won land in the 7th District, 2nd Section, Cherokee County, which was then split into smaller counties. She was listed as a widow. The other Ewing winner from Newton County was "James Ewing orphans," listed as residents of 'Bracketts' who won land in the 27th District, Section 2. In 1837 there appears a sale of 160 acres in Walton County, Georgia, by Hannah Ewing to J. Peppers. This land was on Marbury Creek, and the deed specifically says that Hannah Ewing was living in Newton County. Where Hannah Ewing acquired the 160-acre tract is not known and warrants further research.

Green Berry Ewing is listed with his family in Cobb County, Georgia, in the 1840 U.S. Census at an age of 30-40 years. In the household with him are a female age 20-30, which would be wife Rhoda, and six children: one male 10-15, two males 5-10, one male under 5, a female 5-10, and a female under 5 years old. The three youngest males are probably sons William, George and Thomas who appear later in the 1850 census. The oldest son is likely Reuben Turner Ewing, who later appears with the family in Alabama, and who was born June 24, 1824, according to a biographical sketch of his life written in

1894. Reuben would have been sixteen when the 1840 census was taken. This sketch also states that Reuben had four brothers and three sisters. The two female children in 1840 are probably daughters Sarah Ewing, born 1833, and Hannah Ewing, born 1839.

In combining all sources it would appear that an accurate list of the children of Green Berry and Rhoda (Martin) Ewing is:

- Reuben T., born 1824; a Confederate Captain and later a member of the Georgia State Legislature
- William, born circa 1831
- Sarah E., born circa 1833
- George, born circa 1835; listed as an invalid in the 1860 census
- James Thomas, born circa 1837; died in the Civil War
- Hannah, born circa 1839
- Mary F., born circa 1841
- Josephus M., born circa 1843; went to Texas
- Rhoda Ann, born circa 1846

By 1850, according to U.S. Census records (see Figure 5), Green Berry Ewing and his family had moved to Paulding County, Georgia, and were living in the 464th Military District. Green Berry Ewing is listed as forty-eight years old and born in Georgia, and his wife Rhoda is listed as thirty-seven years old and born in North Carolina. This census lists the following children in the household of Green Berry Ewing, all born in Georgia: William, age 19; Sarah E., age 17; George, age 15; Thomas E., age 13; Hannah, age 11; Mary, age 9; Josephus, age 7; and Rhoda Ann, age 4.

SCHEDULE I - Free Inhabitants in the 464th Military District, Georgia, in the County of Paulding, 1850
of Georgia enumerated by me, on the 27th day of August, 1850. *John W. Marshall*

Dist.	No. of Family	Name of Head of Family	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth.		Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
								State	Country	
	1	Green Berry Ewing	M	48	W			Georgia		
	2	Rhoda	F	37	W			N. C.		
	3	William	M	19	W	Farmer		Georgia		
	4	Sarah E.	F	17	W			Georgia		
	5	George	M	15	W	Farmer		Georgia		
	6	Thomas E.	M	13	W			Georgia		
	7	Hannah	F	11	W			Georgia		
	8	Mary	F	9	W			Georgia		
	9	Josephus	M	7	W			Georgia		
	10	Rhoda Ann	F	4	W			Georgia		

Figure 5: 1850 U.S. Census of Paulding County, Georgia – Green Berry Ewing and family

By 1860, the Green Berry Ewing family had again migrated, this time to Coosa County, Alabama, where they are listed on the 1860 U.S. Census (see Figure 6) living in the Mount Olive community. Green Berry Ewing is listed as fifty-seven years old and a farmer with a \$400 personal estate value. Oddly, the

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in *Coosa* **in the County of** *Coosa* **State**
of *Ala* **enumerated by me, on the** *13* **day of** *June* **1860.** *H. W. Marshall* Ass't Marshal.
Post Office *At Grove*

1	2	3	4			7	8		9	10	11	12	13
			4	5	6		8	9					
154	157	<i>Green Berry Ewing</i>	52	M		<i>Shoemaker</i>		100					
		<i>Rhoda</i>	47	F									
		<i>George J.</i>	23	M		<i>Invalid</i>							
		<i>James T.</i>	21	M		<i>Shoemaker</i>							
		<i>Hanna E.</i>	19	F									
		<i>Mary F.</i>	17	F									
		<i>Josephus M.</i>	15	M									
		<i>Rhoda</i>	12	F									

Figure 6: 1860 U.S. Census of Coosa County, Alabama – listing for family of Green Berry Ewing

children listed in 1860 are only eight years older than their age in the 1850 census. Wife Rhoda is listed as forty-seven years old and born in North Carolina. Son George is listed as an invalid, age twenty-three. Next is presumably a son, James T., age twenty-one.¹ This may be the same person as the Thomas E. listed in 1850, as Thomas does not appear here and the age is the same if, like his siblings, he is advanced eight years. Since no relationship is listed it is difficult to say with absolute certainty. Other children listed in 1860 are: Hanna E., age 19; Mary F., age 17; Josephus M., age 15; and Rhoda A., age 12. Also in the 1860 census of Coosa County, Alabama, is Reuben Turner Ewing, eldest son of Green Berry Ewing, employed as a shoemaker and boarding with one John H. Blalock.

After 1860 the family moved again, this time to Cherokee County, Alabama. By 1864 three sons of Green Berry Ewing had enlisted in the army of the Confederate States of America, joining up with the 48th Alabama Infantry, Company H, from Cherokee County, Alabama. This unit was known as 'The Cherokee Grays'. The three brothers may be found on muster and other records as James T. Ewing, Joseph M. Ewing, and R. T. Ewing. James T. Ewing is noted to have been killed in battle during the war. Joseph M. Ewing enlisted in the unit in 1864 at Cedar Bluff, Alabama, when he would have been in his late teens. At some point between the time the U.S. Census was taken in 1860 and when it was taken in 1870, Green Berry Ewing died. An 1894 biographical sketch of his son, Reuben Turner Ewing, states that Green Berry Ewing moved again in the 1860s to Colbert County, Alabama, where he died in 1869. Green Berry Ewing's widow, Rhoda (Martin) Ewing, must have returned immediately to the home of her son Reuben, for she is listed with his family in 1870 in the U.S. Census.

Reuben Turner Ewing (see Figure 7) served in the Confederacy during much of the war and obtained the rank of Captain, initially enlisting in the 7th Alabama Infantry, Company C. He fought as a volunteer in the Battle of Shiloh. He returned home after being wounded at Second Manassas and then rejoined the 48th Alabama as a private until the close of the war. He was at the surrender of Appomattox in 1865.

¹¹ This James T. Ewing enlisted in the 48th Alabama infantry in the Civil War and was killed in action.

Most probably his little brother, Josephus M. Ewing, was with him because they were part of the same unit. It can be safely assumed that the older and more experienced brother, Reuben, would have guided his teenage brother in many scrapes as the 48th Alabama saw action.

According to Edith Ewing, granddaughter of Josephus M. Ewing, there were many tales told around the fireplace in her family about the difficulties encountered during the Civil War and especially afterward during the Reconstruction Era and the occupation of towns by Federal troops. There were many cruelties suffered by those who had been loyal to the Confederacy which have managed to escape written history.

Up the road running northeast out of Cedar Bluff in Cherokee County, Alabama, and across the Georgia state line, is the town of Rome, county seat of Floyd County, Georgia. In Rome there lived a landowner and farmer by the name of Allen Bolt, who was born about 1817 in Laurens County, South Carolina. He was the son of Isham Bolt and grandson of Abraham Bolt, a patriot soldier during the Revolutionary War. Among Allen and Elizabeth Bolt's numerous children was a young woman by the name of Jane who must have caught the eye of Joseph M. Ewing either during the course of the Civil War or during a visit to Rome afterwards, for, in 1866 at about age seventeen, she married Joseph M. Ewing in Floyd County, Georgia. Jane was listed as eleven years old on the 1860 census of Floyd County, Georgia, which would indicate her birth year as about 1849.

By 1871, Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing had migrated to Texas, where their eldest son James was born on March 12, 1871. This date was obtained from the Bible which belonged to Jane (Bolt) Ewing (see Figure 8), now in the possession of the author. The Bible lists the next child as Albert Ewing, born June 11, 1876. Next was son Edward Ewing, the author's grandfather, born on January 18, 1878. According to the U.S. Census of 1880, the fourth child was Emma Ewing, born in 1879. Emma is not listed in the Bible and is not on any further census records. It is presumed she died as at birth and was just never entered into the Bible.

As of 1880 Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing were residing in Hill County, Texas. Joseph M. Ewing listed his birthplace as Alabama in the 1880 census. He would have moved to Alabama with his parents as a small child from Georgia and probably did not realize that he was born in Georgia. He cites Georgia as his birthplace in the 1900 census, perhaps a clue that he may have been in contact with his Alabama kinfolk sometime between 1880 and 1900. Their daughter Cora Beatrice Ewing was born on June 20, 1883. On December 31, 1884, twin sons were born, William Lee and John Ewing. The youngest child, Mary Ewing, was born on April 16th but the year is illegible. It would appear she was born between 1885 and 1892.

According to the Bible, Jane (Bolt) Ewing died on July 17, 1893. Joseph M. Ewing then married a second time to Martha Thompson, the marriage certificate being issued in Navarro County in 1893. There were no children from this second marriage. The family affectionately referred to Joseph's second wife as 'Aunt Martha'.



Figure 7: Captain Reuben Turner Ewing, Cherokee County, Alabama. He served the Confederacy for much of the war, was wounded at Second Manassas, later rejoined the 48th Alabama Cherokee Grays as a private along with his brothers James T. Ewing and Josephus M. Ewing, and was at Appomattox at the close of the war.

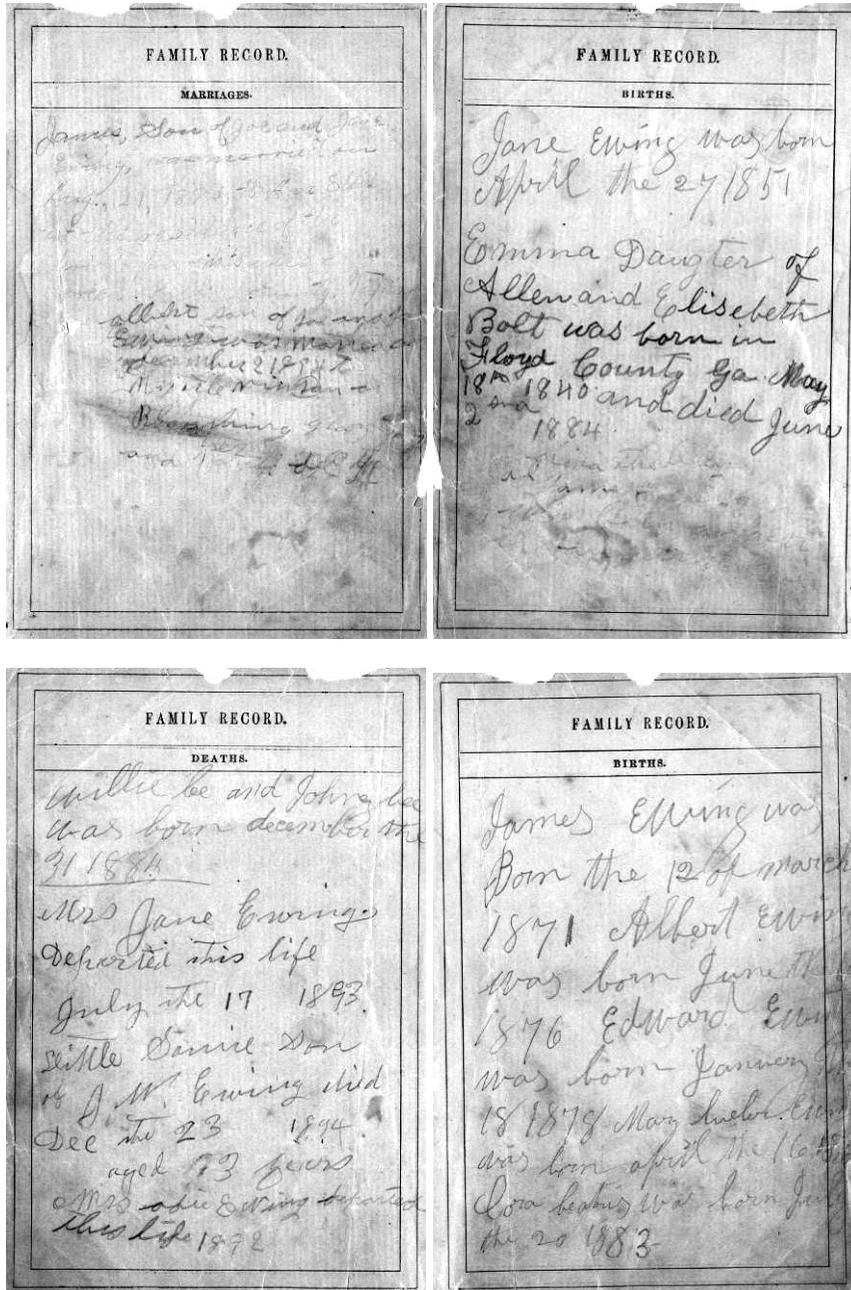


Figure 8: Pages from the Bible of Jane (Bolt) Ewing (1849-1893)

As of the U.S. Census of 1900, Joseph M. Ewing and his second wife Martha were living just south of Blooming Grove, Texas, in western Navarro County. In this census, Joseph listed his birthplace as Georgia and stated that he was born in April of 1846. He was likely not certain of his year of birth, a very common happening. It took years before Joseph's son Edward finally discovered the correct year of his own birth after finding his mother's Bible.

Son Edward, daughter Cora, and the twin sons Will and John were living in the same household. The 1900 census is the last written record known to exist of Joseph M. Ewing. Since he is not listed in the census of 1910, it appears that Joseph was deceased by that time. No death certificate was found on file at the Navarro County courthouse. Granddaughter Janie (Ewing) Barton, who was born in 1906, remembered attending the funeral of her grandfather at White Church Cemetery, Blooming Grove, Texas, and felt that she was about six years old when he died, which would put his death date about 1912. Family tradition holds that he was buried beneath the large oak tree on the western side of the cemetery, near the graves of Ed and Ina Ewing. If there was a marker laid, it went missing or was destroyed during the years when White Church Cemetery was overgrown and almost abandoned. A new marker for Joseph M. Ewing was recently placed beneath the tree by Gwen Waldrop, a great-granddaughter.

There is little known other than the above facts about the life of Joseph M. Ewing. There are virtually no stories passed down in the family about his military service or his childhood years. From the time he arrived in Texas, about 1870, until his death, circa 1910, he appears to have lived the life of a tenant farmer, moving around Hill and Navarro Counties in North Central Texas, simply trying to eke out a living from the land. He did, however, leave a legacy of numerous Ewing descendants (see Figure 9) who are proud to be members of a great family, and who are capable of throwing some of the finest family reunions this author has ever had the pleasure of attending.



Figure 9: Ewing Family Reunion, children and grandchildren of Ed and Ina (Shettlesworth) Ewing, circa 1950s, Corsicana, Texas. John B. Ewing, son of Josephus M. Ewing, is pictured at far left.

The lives of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing's children varied greatly. Some were adventurers and risk takers, some horse traders, but most were tenant farmers, living off land owned by others in very common sharecropping arrangements. All were a southern, 'salt of the earth' people who loved greatly a good family gathering and an excellent meal.



Figure 10: James Ewing, son of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing

According to the Jane (Bolt) Ewing Bible, James Ewing (see Figure 10) – the eldest son of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing – was born on March 12, 1871. His middle initial is variously listed as either T. or W., and he may have had two middle names, which was common within the Ewing family. He was probably named after his uncle James who was killed in action in the service of the Confederacy during the Civil War. In 1880, James was living with his parents in Hill County, Texas.

On August 21, 1890, according to the Jane (Bolt) Ewing Bible, James Ewing married Ava Ellis. This couple had a son, Sammie, who was born in 1891, but who died three years later in 1894.

In 1896, James Ewing married a second time to Mary <unknown>. By 1898, James and Mary Ewing had picked up stakes and gone to the Oklahoma Indian Territory, where their daughter Alma Ewing was born in that year, followed by Anna in 1900, Effie in 1903, and Nellie in 1909. Sometime in 1909 or 1910, this adventurous family of Ewings moved again, this time to Yellowstone County, Montana, where they are found in the 1910 U.S. Census.

There was a fellow living in their household in 1910 who is listed as a cousin, named Tom McDonnell, in his mid-forties and born in Texas. It has not been determined exactly how this fellow ties into the family.

By 1914, James and Mary Ewing had moved again, to Pima County, Arizona, where daughter Eula Lee (see Figure 11) was born that year. Their daughter Jewel was born in Arizona in 1917. The 1920 U.S. Census cites this family as living in Tucson, Arizona, on East Speedway Street. By 1930, the family was living in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. At this point they were in contact with the Ewings who remained in Navarro County, Texas, for there is evidence of correspondence, photographs, etc. exchanged among the families.



Figure 11: Eula Lee Ewing, daughter of James Ewing, granddaughter of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing

According to the Jane (Bolt) Ewing Bible, Jane and Joseph Ewing had a son named Albert 'Bud' Ewing, born on June 11, 1876. Albert is listed as four years old in the 1880 census, living with his parents in Hill County, Texas. In December 1894, he married fifteen-year old Cora Myrtle Vinson (born in 1879 in Tennessee and died in 1938 in Dallas, Texas) in Navarro County, Texas. As of 1900, Cora Myrtle and her mother were living in Limestone County, Texas, south of Navarro County, and Albert is not with them, although Cora Myrtle is listed as being married. Vinson family records say that Albert Ewing died on August 10, 1907, in Oklahoma. At some point he went to prison having been convicted in a horse deal gone bad. Vinson records show that he is buried in the Chatfield Cemetery in Navarro County, Texas. Albert and Cora Myrtle had three children. The eldest, Ethel, was born in Chatfield, Navarro County, Texas, on June 26, 1901, and died on July 1, 1902. Son Vernon Hershel Ewing was born on April 5, 1903, and died October 23 1946, having married Nita Bearder and left numerous children. Albert and Cora Myrtle's youngest child was Hazel Fonciel Ewing (see Figure 12), born September 25, 1906, and

died on March 31, 1990 in Dallas, Texas. Hazel Fonciel was married three times, first to Frank William Kugler, then to Joe Brown, and then to John Willis. Fonciel had at least one child, a daughter named Alvina Kugler, born circa 1930.



Figure 13: Ed Ewing at about age 18 (photo circa 1900)

Edward Ewing (see Figure 13), a son of Joseph and Jane (Bolt) Ewing and the author's grandfather, was born on January 18, 1878. Family tradition holds that he was born in or near Meridian, Texas, which is in Bosque County. Bosque lies just west of Hill County, which is where the family was living when the 1880 census was taken.

According to family tradition the family at some point moved to the Oklahoma Indian Territory, and it is said that they lived in a cave and had quite a hard time. It is not certain what years were spent in Oklahoma, but Ed's older brother,

James, was there with his young family in 1898, because his daughter, Alma, was born there. Perhaps Joseph and Martha Ewing were there in 1898 with their family as well. In any event, they were back in Texas by 1900, living in western Navarro County.

In 1904, Ed Ewing married Ina Shettlesworth (see Figure 14). Ina was the daughter of Confederate veteran George Washington Shettlesworth and Nancy 'the 14th Black, so named because she was the fourteenth of fourteen children. G. W. Shettlesworth was from Pontotoc County, Mississippi, and was the son of David Shettlesworth. G. W. brought his family to Texas by train about 1903, stayed about one year, and went directly back to the flat woods of Pontotoc County. During the one year or so the Shettlesworth family was in Navarro County, Texas, Ina Shettlesworth met Ed Ewing and they were married at the Methodist Church in Blooming Grove, Texas.

To Ed and Ina Ewing were born eleven children of whom nine lived to maturity. Twins Clovis and Bessie Ewing died as babies and are buried at White Church Cemetery in Blooming Grove. The other children were:

- Lewis Talton Ewing (1905-1991); m. Lou Etta Melton; children Eljuan and Verlon
- Janie Ewing (1906-1992); m. A. W. Barton; children Charles, W. J., Tommy and Gwen
- Edna Ewing (1908-1930s); m. Clarence Carter; children Leonard C. and Junior (see Figure 15)



Figure 12: Hazel Fonciel Ewing, daughter of Albert and Myrtle (Vinson) Ewing; granddaughter of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing

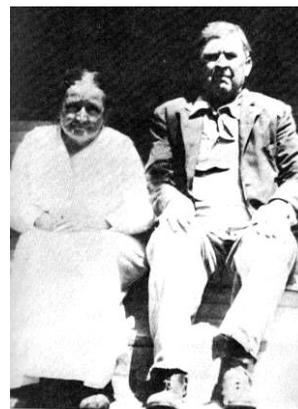


Figure 14: Ed Ewing and wife Ina Shettlesworth (photo circa 1940)



Figure 15: Seated at right in the dark coat is Edna (Ewing) Carter, daughter of Ed and Ina (Shettlesworth) Ewing. The two children are LC and Junior Carter.

- Evie Beatrice Ewing (1912-1988); m. Sidney Featherston; children Joe, Modon, Eddie, Robert, Sue, Louise and Carolyn
- Annie May Ewing (1914-1996); m. Eugene Sisson; children Shirley and Bud
- Ruby Ewing (1915-); m. Hubert 'Bunk' Harris; child Rosie Lee
- Ruth Ewing (1917-??); m. Roy Cantrell; children Charles, Helen, Gelene, Doris and Teresa
- Edgar Earl 'Buster' Ewing (1/14/1919-9/18/1993); m. Bertha Sims; children Ronald and Donald
- Edith Elizabeth Ewing (1922-2001); m. Thomas Edgar Campbell; children Marie, Elaine and Tim (the author)

The author had the pleasure of personally knowing almost all of the children of Ed and Ina Ewing (see Figure 16), and as a child listened intently to many tales of their childhood. All of them grew up in the cotton-driven economy of rural Navarro County, Texas, and all of them did their duty in the cotton fields as children and teenagers to help their family make a living. When the Great Depression hit in 1929 and the local banks in Blooming Grove failed, Ed Ewing lost what money he had saved. Edith Elizabeth (Ewing) Campbell remembered her father sitting on the steps of their home and crying, the only time in her life she ever saw him cry. She also remembered the long, sultry Texas summers spent in the cotton fields during the Great Depression



7 of the children of Ed Ewing and Ina Shettlesworth, circa 1965. Left to Right are Edith Ewing Campbell, Ruth Ewing Cantrell, Edgar Earl "Buster" Ewing, Ruby Ewing Harris, Annie May Ewing Sisson, Janie Ewing Barton, and Lewis Tulton Ewing. A feast was prepared every time these folks gathered together.

Figure 16: A typical 1960s Ewing family reunion. Children of Ed and Ina (Shettlesworth) Ewing. Photo taken at home of Tom and Edith (Ewing) Campbell, Blooming Grove, Texas, circa 1965.

and that every once in awhile, while hoeing the tall cotton rows, someone would come across a watermelon growing on a wild vine, and the family would take a break and enjoy the watermelon.

Jugs of cold 'switchell' were used to keep the family hydrated. This concoction was made by mixing a base of equal parts of honey and vinegar, then adding water to the base to arrive at whatever strength was palatable to the maker. This recipe is perhaps as old as the cotton industry itself. Long sacks were carried and drug behind the pickers and were weighed at the end of the day.

The family also raised a garden every year from which canings were made to provide vegetables through the winters and spent many hours gathering other wild growing berries and nuts such as native pecans and walnuts.

Christmas was by far a favorite time of year. The children were treated with apples and oranges, ribbon candy, and perhaps one toy each. The Christmas tree consisted of a wild cedar cut fresh a few days before Christmas day, placed in the living room, and decorated by stringing thread through popcorn and wrapping it around the tree. As the old adage says, "tough times don't last, tough people do."

One by one the children of Ed and Ina Ewing grew up and married, with most of them moving 'off the farm' and into town.

Returning the children of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing (and siblings of Ed Ewing): Their fourth child was Emma Ewing, born circa 1879. She was one-year old when the 1880 census was taken, and that is the last known record of her. Cora Beatrice Ewing (see Figure 17) was born on July 20, 1883. In 1900 she was living in Navarro County, Texas, with her parents at age sixteen. In 1904 she married George W. Hollifield. In 1906 their son Otto was born in Texas, and in 1907 their daughter Lola was born in Oklahoma. Their daughter Viola was born in Texas in 1908. In 1910 the Hollifields were living in Navarro County, Texas. In 1913 their son Otis Tillman Hollifield was born in Texas, and in 1917 their son Alton S. Hollifield was born in Texas. As of 1920, the Hollifields were living in or near Malakoff, Texas, in Henderson County. As of 1930, they were back in Navarro County, Texas. The Hollifields moved to New Mexico in their later years.

Mary Ewing, child of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing, was born on April 16th but her birth year is not known as the family Bible is illegible. She married Virgil Henry Fuller (1878-1942). In the 1910 census, Virgil Fuller is listed in Ellis County, Texas, aged thirty-one with three sons: Jessie, 9; Homer, 8; and Olen, 5. Mary is not listed with them and may have died between 1905 and 1910. Olen Fuller lived in Blooming Grove and attended Central Baptist Church there. His 1985 obituary lists two brothers, Jess Fuller of Ennis and Homer Fuller (1902-1989) of Blooming Grove.



Figure 17: Cora Beatrice (Ewing) Hollifield (seated), daughter of Joseph and Jane (Bolt) Ewing. This photo is believed to have been taken in New Mexico.

Twin sons – William Lee Ewing (1884-??) and John B. Ewing (1884-1964) (see Figure 9) – were born to Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing on December 31, 1884. Both are listed in the 1900 U.S. Census for Navarro County, Texas, as fourteen years old and living in the household of Joseph Ewing and his

second wife Martha. John B. Ewing's gravestone states that he was born on December 28, 1885. However, the date of December 31, 1884, is recorded in the family Bible. The Bible was misplaced or lost for many years and so most of the children of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing did not know for sure when they were born for much of their life.

Will Ewing, son of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing, married Dannie M. <unknown> in 1905. In 1913 their son Wayne G. Ewing was born in Oklahoma. In 1916 their son Sterling Ewing was born in Texas. In 1920 their daughter Helen was born in Oklahoma. As of 1920, Will and Dannie Ewing owned a home in Elk, Oklahoma, although their occupation is listed as sharecroppers. In 1926 their son Robert L. Ewing was born in Texas, and in 1927 their daughter Betty Ewing was born in Texas. As of 1930, Will and Dannie Ewing were living in Hill County, Texas, next to land owned by Jefferson Cowan. This Ewing family moved to New Mexico sometime after 1930. As of several years ago, there were descendants of this family living in Las Cruces, New Mexico.



Figure 18: John B. Ewing and wife Cannie (Hollifield) Ewing

John B. Ewing, son of Joseph M. and Jane (Bolt) Ewing and twin brother of Will Ewing, was living with his father and stepmother in 1900 in Navarro County. By 1910, his father was deceased and he is found in census records living with his older brother, Ed Ewing. Sometime around 1911, he married Cannie Hollifield (see Figure 18), and their first son, Leroy, was born on August 14, 1912. In 1914 a daughter, Leona, was born. On January 23, 1923 another son, Homer, was born. This family of Ewings stayed in the Blooming Grove, Texas, area and the author was well acquainted with both Leroy and Homer Ewing.

The descendants of Josephus M. Ewing are today scattered from Texas to Arizona to California to Alaska and beyond. Only a handful remain in western Navarro County, Texas, where so many of the family toiled cotton fields, factories, and construction sites, established their homes, raised their children, and offered up their prayers for some fifty-plus years. Whether near or far, this Ewing family may be proud of its extensive and great heritage.

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Tim Campbell started down the genealogy 'garden path' when he was a freshman in college about thirty years ago. He sold his public-accountant practice in 1999 to devote full attention to his side business which had grown dramatically, this being a staffing company called Top Notch Personnel. He is a local historian and has written several articles of local historical interest. He uses the pen name 'T. Edgar Campbell' as his great-uncle Edgar was a well-known school teacher in the days of one-room schoolhouses. Tim and his wife, Diana (Owen), have three children – Amy (Campbell) Callaway, Alyssa Grace and Austin – and two grandchildren – Thomas and Ainsley Callaway. He may be contacted by eMail at tim at TopNotchPersonnel dot com and by snailMail at PO Box 293, Blooming Grove, Texas 76626.