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All contributions are subject to editing. Ewing Family Association does not assume liability for statements of fact or opinion by contributors, but proven errors will be corrected. In addition, the opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of Ewing Family Association or its Officers, Board Members or Activity Coordinators.

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## ***From the Editor***

William E. Riddle, *Journal Editor* (+1 505.988.1092, [Riddle@WmERiddle.com](mailto:Riddle@WmERiddle.com))

### **RIP: Peter 'Pete' Seeger<sup>1</sup> (1919-2014) Champion of Folk Music and Social Change**

Peter 'Pete' Seeger was only locally known as a folk-singer/folk-songwriter/banjo-player prior to becoming, in the 1940s, nationally – and soon thereafter, internationally – known and recognized as a member of the *Weavers* – founded by Pete along with Ronnie Gilbert, Lee Hays and Fred Hellerman. The *Weavers* were pretty much single-handedly responsible for initiating the acoustic folk-music period of the 1950s and 1960s, introducing the world to the music of Woodrow Wilson 'Woody' Guthrie (*This Land is Your Land, Talking Dust Bowl Blues, Deportee, Do Re Mi*, etc.), Huddie 'Lead Belly' Ledbetter (*Goodnight Irene, On a Monday, Midnight Special, Long Island Line*, etc.) and several other gospel/folk-song writers (*We Shall Overcome, Amazing Grace, Ain't Gonna Study War No More, Midnight Special, John Hardy, (Give Me That) Old-Time Religion, Skip to My Lou, Pick a Bale of Cotton, Darling Cory, On Top of Old Smokey, Follow the Drinking Gourd, The Wreck of the John B.*, etc.)



The *Weavers* started to break-up in the late-1950s when Pete left the group because he did not want to participate in recording music for cigarette ads. Pete, and, eventually the other *Weavers*, went on to individual folk-singer careers. Initially dampened during the McCarthy Era, Pete's career blossomed as a prominent singer of protest music in support of international disarmament, civil rights, counterculture and environmental causes.

It's arguably true that 80%-plus of the world's current two- to hundred-year olds – and not just here in the U.S. – have heard Pete perform his songs, or the songs of others, and had their perception of the world, and how to responsibly live in it, positively affected.

Pete is best known as a strident alto/tenor singer, master banjo-player and the writer of songs with catchy, singable tunes with parsimonious, simple, yet insightful and thought-provoking lyrics. His most well-known creations include: *Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)*, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?*, *If I Had a Hammer*, *Abiyoyo*, etc. My personal favorite song in Pete's discography is the little-known *Get Up And Go* (see next page), a rendition of a poem written by an anonymous reporter/editor for a St. Louis newspaper which was collected, adapted, and set to music by Pete.<sup>2</sup> For some reason, this song caught my attention when I was a 'youngster' in my late-twenties. It was one of the first songs I learned to play on my inherited-originally-tenor-and-later-converted-to-five-string banjo.

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<sup>1</sup> [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete\\_Seeger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete_Seeger)

<sup>2</sup> Most sources for this song's lyrics attribute them to Pete Seeger. According to Pete's autobiography, however, he learned that the writer was a mid-western newspaper man. Pete contacted the author to offer him credit and royalties for the song. The newspaper man declined Pete's offer, wishing to remain anonymous. Despite the author's anonymity, it is known that the poem was published in a St Louis newspaper, most likely the *Globe-Democrat*, which is now defunct in the 1950s.

I've continuously returned to it as – believe it or not – a pick-me-up as I have faced and coped with, over the years, 'growing old' with a smile, light heart and positive attitude.

In addition to being a widely-known singer/songwriter/banjo-player, Pete was a punster/jokester/satirist, teacher, writer/poet/story-teller, humanitarian, and anti-war/environmental activist. His general philosophy of and approach to life are revealed – in addition to through his songs' lyrics – in several pithy quotes:

- *Every child should be issued a banjo at birth.*
- *Don't let schoolin' get in the way of your education.*
- *Technology will save us if it doesn't wipe us out first.*
- *Singing with children in the schools has been the most rewarding experience of my life.*

The world has lost one of its finest persons. May Pete rest in peace knowing that he had a very broad international impact, was much enjoyed, and will long be remembered.

### *Wm E. Riddle*

#### **Get Up And Go**

Lyrics by Anonymous. Collected, Adapted and Set to Music by Pete Seeger.

##### *Chorus:*

*How do I know my youth is all spent?  
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.  
But in spite of it all I'm able to grin  
When I think of the places my get up has been.*

##### *First Verse:*

*Old age is golden, or so I've heard said.  
But sometimes I wonder as I crawl into bed.  
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up.*

##### *Second Verse:*

*As sleep dims my vision I say to myself:  
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?  
But though nations are warring and Obama is vexed.  
I'll stick around to see what happens next.*

##### *Third Verse*

*When I was young my slippers were red.  
I could kick up my heels right over my head.  
When I was older my slippers were blue,  
But still I could dance the whole night thru.*

##### *Fourth Verse*

*Now I'm yet older; my slippers are black.  
I huff to the store and I puff my way back.  
But never you laugh. I don't mind at all.  
I'd rather be huffing than not puff at all.*

##### *Fifth Verse:*

*I get up each morning and dust off my wits.  
Open the paper and read the obits.  
If I'm not there I know I'm not dead.  
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.*



# ***Ewing Family Association***

Thirteenth Biennial  
Gathering

*Down the Canal  
into the New Frontier*

Fort Wayne, Indiana  
September 19-21, 2014

*See Pages 78-81  
For Further Information*

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## ***One American Family – Part VIII***

Wallace K. 'Wally' Ewing ([WKEwing@charter.net](mailto:WKEwing@charter.net))

A few years ago I prepared a biographical sketch of my grandmother, Carlotta Parthenia 'Lotta' Walkley.<sup>1</sup> It soon seemed only fair to give her husband Alvin Enoch 'AE' Ewing equal attention. As an offshoot of this work, I prepared an article about their honeymoon at the 1893 Columbian Exposition based on narratives from Lotta's diary.<sup>2</sup> Another spinoff was an article about a 1914 family 'walking adventure' by my father, Burke McKendree Ewing, and his brother, Walkley Bailey Ewing.<sup>3</sup>

Putting together information about the separate and joint lives of AE and Lotta soon showed the need to get as close as possible to the family's beginnings in America. Of course, Carlotta's father, Dr. Wyllys Seamans Walkley, had to be a part of the history. AE's ancestors had to be included as well. And so I kept going farther and farther back to collect and sort out information about the lives and times of my ancestors.

This has resulted in a multi-article series discussing the lives of my parents and their ancestors. This is the eighth article in the series. It concerns my parents 'Buster' – Burke McKendree 'Burke' Ewing (1894-1974) – and 'Jerry' – Marjorie Elizabeth Kelley (1897-1964). The previous seven articles appeared in recent issues of this journal.<sup>4,5,6,7,8,9,10</sup> My story, yet to be completed, will provide a saga of "One American Family."

Although AE and Lotta came from very different backgrounds and were remarkably dissimilar in personalities, their love was enduring and so was their marriage. This is primarily their story, written so that each of the segments can be read and understood separately. However, since one part supplements the others – as in life AE and Lotta complemented each other – reading the parts in sequence perhaps provides a better understanding of their whole story, a sense of their heritage and the balance they maintained for more than fifty years.

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<sup>1</sup> She was born Carlotta Parthenia Walkley, the third daughter of Wyllys Seamans Walkley. When her father decided to go to medical school rather than return to the farm after the Civil War, he 'gave' Carlotta as a foster child to Freeborn Bailey and his wife. Carlotta was about two-and-a-half years old at the time. Her foster parents were generous and loving, and she adopted (not legally) their family name and, after her marriage to Alvin Enoch 'A.E.' Ewing, she referred to herself most often as Carlotta Bailey Ewing.

<sup>2</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. Honeymooners at the 1893 Columbian Exposition, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (November 2011), pp. 18-20

<sup>3</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. The Long Walk of 1914: Grand Haven to Mackinaw City, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (August 2011), pp. 8-16

<sup>4</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part I, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (May 2012), pp. 21-26

<sup>5</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part II, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (August 2012), pp. 16-22

<sup>6</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part III, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (November 2012), pp. 13-21

<sup>7</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part IV, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (February 2013), pp. 17-27

<sup>8</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part V, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (May 2013), pp. 1-33

<sup>9</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part VI, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (August 2013), pp. 9-21

<sup>10</sup> Ewing, Wallace K. One American Family – Part VII, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (November 2013), pp. 1-21

These articles are based primarily on the journals, diaries, and plentiful correspondence that Jerry and Buster, their families, and their friends maintained over the decades.<sup>11</sup> None of these articles would have been possible had it not been for AE's amazing diligence and tireless correspondence. I am thankful that he was such a prolific writer, threw nothing away, and catalogued and indexed everything.

In addition, much credit goes also to my sister Nancy Ann Hank Ewing, whose intensive research and monumental genealogy of the complete Pocahontas James Ewing family<sup>12</sup> is astonishing and irreplaceable. It is sad that Nancy died in 1987 before her work was finished. Had it not been for Barbara (Ewing) Powell's generous commitment to see Nancy's work completed, it would remain a mass of notes and half-finished narratives, inaccessible to most of us.

## **Jerry and Buster: Two for the Road**

My parents were Burke McKendree 'Burke' Ewing (1894-1974) and Marjorie Elizabeth Kelley (1897-1964). Within most of the family they were known as 'Burke' and 'Marj'. However, AE Ewing, following his penchant for giving people nicknames, came to call them 'Buster' and 'Jerry'. These nicknames lasted through AE's life, at least.

## **Marjorie Elizabeth 'Marj' 'Jerry' Kelley**

*I am going to write a diary beginning with the first day of January. I am not going to have it headed with dates because I don't think people find it as interesting. Do you? My name is Elizabeth Barbara Jackson, but they call me Jack for short. ...*

Thus began the first of the entries in my mother's, Marjorie Elizabeth Kelley's, notebook dated and signed by her on June 26, 1913. She had celebrated her sixteenth birthday the previous March 19<sup>th</sup>, and gave her address then as 844 Elm Street in New Haven, Connecticut. This was not Marjorie's earliest journal entry, and it certainly was not her last. She preferred the 'line-a-day' diary, and kept one with only periodic interruptions between January 1, 1931 and the day of her death on February 1, 1964.

When Marjorie was born her family resided at 331 Howard Avenue in New Haven, Connecticut. Her father, Halsey Wolcott Kelley, listed as a salesman on Marjorie's birth certificate, came from a long-standing Connecticut family whose ancestors can be traced back to the late eighteenth century, most of them from the vicinity of either Litchfield or New Haven.

The family of Myra Johnson, Marjorie's mother, goes back more than a century further, primarily in the Windham, Connecticut, area. Myra and Halsey were married in New Haven, Connecticut, on May 6, 1889.

Marjorie had two brothers. One was Halsey Johnson Kelley, born in New Haven on June 21, 1891, two years after Marjorie, who married six years before her and had six children. The last of the three children was Wallace Agnew Kelley, born on January 9, 1899. 'Agnew' was the surname of Marjorie's

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<sup>11</sup> Material taken from primary sources follows as closely as possible the original. I have inserted [bracketed] information for purposes of clarification or elaboration. Misspellings and grammatical errors have been accurately transcribed.

<sup>12</sup> Ewing, Nancy Ann Hank (ed. Barbara (Ewing) Powell). *James Ewing – Pioneer*, Self Published, 1994. Available online at [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document\\_JamesEwingOfPocahontas.html](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document_JamesEwingOfPocahontas.html).

maternal grandmother. Thirty-three years after her birth, I was given my mother's brother's name, Wallace Kelley Ewing.

Halsey and Myra Kelley lived at several addresses in New Haven, including the home of Marjorie's birth. Around 1910 they resided at 83 Pearl Street, near the northern city limits at the time. Marjorie attended New Haven High School, at least through the tenth grade. In her tenth year she studied Latin, English, Geometry, and German, the typical college preparatory curriculum. Either for her English course or for her Latin course, she studied Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, and wrote some questions for study in her notebook. Marjorie graduated from high school in Winthrop in 1915.

Her school notebook was used for a variety of entries. She practiced signing her name, usually with all three names spelled out in full. She also liked to practice writing left-handed, and in later years she was proud to announce that she was ambidextrous. And she wrote verse, including these incomplete stanzas:

*I'm in love with one of the stars  
One of the stars that shine  
Though he isn't a heavenly star  
None of those stars are mine  
I'm in love with one of the stars  
One of the stars, though he's not a ...  
I'm crazy Absolutely  
I wish I could write just as well as ...*

Marjorie found verse was a useful way to express her feelings, at least occasionally. Some forty years later she had this poem published in the Marion, Virginia, newspaper:

*TO AN ERRING HUSBAND  
If you want to keep your spouse  
And progeny intact.  
Get to work on that house  
Before her mind is cracked.  
Civic virtue is very fine  
And it's nice to be a 'Good Joe'.  
But let's not be overblind –  
This patriotism's got to go!  
With a family you are blest [sic]  
And responsibilities grow.  
That list of things for you to do  
Will cost you hard earned dough. ...  
(If she hires it done.)*

*Mrs. Burke Ewing*

Marjorie also started a number of stories in her notebook, similar to the one already cited, but never progressed beyond a few paragraphs.

Marjorie's early years were fairly privileged. Her father owned a flourishing hardware store in New Haven, and both he and Myra came from established, well-to-do families. Following the financial panic of late 1907, the business failed and the family's financial situation declined. In the beginning of a short story dated January 1, 1914, and titled *The Real Diary of a Real Girl*, Marjorie wrote that the father of her imaginary Gail Andrews "lost all his money in some sort of business transaction." At that time the

Kelleys were residing at the Elm Street address in New Haven, but by August 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year Marjorie listed herself as living in a frame bungalow at 184 Somerset Avenue, Winthrop, Massachusetts, across the bay from Boston. Halsey remained in the hardware business, apparently as a salesman. A 1922 picture of him at his desk was taken in what appears to be a wholesale hardware outlet. His job took him on the road quite often, usually to Newton, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; and various places in Connecticut.



**Kelley residence on Somerset Avenue  
in Winthrop as it looked in 2013.**

Despite the family's financial problems, Marjorie was able to take piano lessons, hire a tennis instructor, and enjoy other perquisites of the well-off. She won a cup in tennis competition at about age sixteen, and at around that age she had a wide array of "beaux," going with them to many dances at the *Dream*, the *Highlands*, the yacht club, churches, and other places where young people could socialize.

Marjorie admired her father and had a close relationship with her mother. For many years after her marriage Marjorie wrote to her mother at least twice a week, and her mother responded with the same regularity. Marjorie also had a warm relationship with her younger brother, Wallace, which lasted their lifetimes.



**Marjorie, Halsey, and  
Wallace Kelley (~1902)**

Halsey Johnson Kelley, the first-born of the Kelley children, often was referred to, *sotto voce*, as the 'black sheep' of the family, although no specific information was shared to reveal the cause of his exile. Two snapshots of him, dated 1915, show him mustachioed and pipe in hand, and overall looking rather dapper in tie, sweater, and sport coat. None of Marjorie's children ever met him nor heard much about him, although a diary of Marjorie's from the 1930s gave Halsey's address in New Jersey, indicating they stayed in touch to a limited extent. She visited him on a trip East on May 31, 1939, spending the night with him and his wife, Marion. Halsey and Marion resided in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1940. He was at that time working as a pipe fitter for a ship-building company. He passed away on February 17, 1952, in Camden, New Jersey.

Wallace, on the other hand, was a favorite of the family. He graduated from high school in 1916 and attended Yale for at least two years. When World War

I came along, he enlisted in the Navy, but served only a few months, from September 11, 1918, to December 21<sup>st</sup> the same year. As early as January, 1915 – when he was just sixteen years old – he already had a sweetheart named Barbara Tenney, whom he married in New York City about 1917. She was born in Massachusetts on July 4, 1899.

Wallace and Tenny's one child, a daughter, was named Tenney. Tenney married Thomas Henry Lehman, and they had at least two children: Richard T., born on August 15, 1943, and Daphne Bess, born in Boston on January 22, 1947.

Wallace became an insurance agent, ending his professional career with the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. His office was in Boston. He was an amateur magician, and enjoyed putting on private shows for the family trying to teach his nephew Wally a few tricks. The tricks amazed Wally, and Wally's amazement amused Wallace. Wallace passed away in Boca Raton, Florida, on April 12, 1972, and Barbara died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on August 2, 1995.

The first personal entry in Marjorie's line-a-day diary, given to her the preceding Christmas and which has survived the years is dated January 1, 1915. "It was very nice of her," Marjorie wrote of a present she had received on Christmas Day from a Mrs. Parker, "Just what I wanted." Like many a young girl, Marjorie wrote in her diary of the loves in her life, however fleeting they were. Beginning in early 1915 she had an on and off crush on a Ken. She and Ken saw quite a bit of each other, and on January 8, 1915, she wrote, "Ken loves me," followed by what appears to be a later addition, "- not!" However, Ken and Marjorie saw each other almost daily during the winter and spring of 1915, interspersed with tennis matches and sailing with a Bill. For her September 22<sup>nd</sup> entry she wrote, "Bill here in eve. 'Nut' is no name for Bill. He is an ass." Perhaps it was her experience with Ken and Bill that led her to note in 1916, "What you can't have you always want, and what you can have you never want."



**Marjorie Elizabeth Kelley (~1918)**

Fudge making, walking, and ice skating seemed to be popular teenage activities when Marjorie was growing up, although dancing is mentioned often in her diary, usually at a place called *Dream*. Adjectives used with regularity to describe enjoyable experiences were 'corking', and 'woof'. 'Gosh' was a common expression. Attendance at baseball and basketball games was a part of the young peoples' activities, too, and bowling was a familiar recreation.

Judging from her early diary entries Marjorie was not politically inclined. In January 1915 she wrote that she "[w]ent up to Library for the Suffrage stuff." The right of women to vote was getting closer, but still remained several years in the future [1920]. Another recognition of the outside world in this early diary came in April 1917, when she wrote: "War was declared on Germany sometime in April." Fifteen years later on March 1, 1932, she entered this in her diary: "The Lindbergh baby was kidnapped Tues. Mar 1, 1932."<sup>13</sup> At that time the family lived in Chicago, the focal point of various gangster activities, and her

<sup>13</sup> See [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindbergh\\_kidnapping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindbergh_kidnapping).

youngest son learned to be wary of shiny black automobiles and never, never, *never* to accept candy from strangers.

Both Marjorie and the man she would marry – Burke McKendree Ewing – were firmly Republican in their voting patterns. It was difficult for Marjorie and Burke to experience the succession of Democratic presidential victories in the 1930s and 1940s. Marjorie noted when Roosevelt won his first presidential election on November 8, 1932, and she recorded each of his victories after that. On December 7, 1941, the day of the Japanese surprise raid on Pearl Harbor, she wrote: "Japan & the U.S. are at War!! Japan fired on Honolulu."

Largely, her entries regarding historic events, even FDR's landslides and death, were made without editorial comment. However, on the day Franklin D. Roosevelt died, she acknowledged his death "at 3:35 p.m." on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, exclaiming to all within earshot: "The king is dead! Long live the king!" Unfortunately, from her political vantage point, the 'king' who succeeded Roosevelt was Vice President Harry Truman, another Democrat. Marjorie soon came to distrust and to dislike this new president.

Marjorie was raised an Episcopalian, and she attended church on a regular basis, often "alone" as she wrote in her diary. When she was eighteen, and possibly before, she taught Sunday School. Her mother went at least once to a Christian Science church, a religion that some of Marjorie's children would adhere to in their youth. None of them became Episcopalians.

Marjorie always enjoyed the movies, which probably appealed to the imagination she revealed in her early fiction writings. As early as January 7, 1915, she wrote that she and her mother went to Boston to see a movie at the *Bijou*. She often omitted the names of the movies from her diaries, though a few are mentioned. For instance, in early 1916 she saw *Graft*, which, she said, practicing her high school German, was "Sehr gut." About a month later she mentioned seeing Mary Pickford in *The Foundling*, at another time *Hobson's Choice*, and not long after, *The Rosary*. She often went to the movies with friends, occasionally with her mother, and less often with Wal, her younger brother. She had learned to play bridge by the time she was seventeen, and it became a passion in her adult years. It was a game that her mother also enjoyed.

Evidently Marjorie took care of a child named Warren, although it is not clear whether she was doing it for money or as a helpful neighbor. In the winter and spring of 1915, at least, she wrote that she took care of him on a fairly regular basis. In October of that year she started to take care of two other children, John and Bobbie, at a Mrs. Johnson's, living with the family and returning home on Sundays. On October 7<sup>th</sup> she wrote that she loved the work and "everything," and a month later she was happy to have earned \$24. On January 19<sup>th</sup> she wrote, "Came home for good. Gee but I am glad to be here."

A few weeks later, on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, she started work again, still tending to children, this time girls. At the end of the second day she wrote, "Still working!!"

Marjorie's diary doesn't reveal when the family moved from New Haven to Winthrop, Massachusetts, but judging from a few of her diary entries it appears she was living in Winchester, Massachusetts, by the end of 1915, and perhaps earlier. On January 1, 1916, she specified that the family she was working for had taken up residence at 8 Symmes Road, Winchester, not far from today's Highway 38, and that she was enjoying the same circle of friends she had mentioned the previous year.

By August 1918 she was living with her parents at 60 Orlando Avenue in Winthrop. In Winthrop, Marjorie had a friend with whom she was very close by the name of Kaa Hayes. Kaa lived at 14 Egleton Park, a few houses from the Kelley residence.

Much of her mother's family remained in Windham, Connecticut, and Marjorie often visited them. On one such trip, evidently during the Christmas Holidays in 1916, she met, or became reacquainted with, Harold Leffingwell. "Harold drove me to the station!!" she exclaimed in her New Year's entry for 1917, and the next day she walked to the post office to mail him a letter. Her entries become a bit sparse after that, but in the back of the diary she added this note, dated December 31, 1916: "Harold and I are engaged. For how long I don't know!" Ken, Bill, Arthur, Cameron ("He is a dear!! But oh so conceited!!"), Herbert, and the other flames of the moment went by the wayside.

Perhaps she had an intuition that Harold was not to be the man of her life. On May 15, 1918, she declared, "Met my Burke at East Boston – went [to] an entertainment with Mrs Staples." Two days later Burke called to invite her to the Elks Club that night, presumably for a dance. "Had a great time," she recorded." He missed the last train & staid [sic] all night!" Burke ended up staying the weekend, not leaving until Sunday evening. They became engaged on August 18<sup>th</sup> that year, and the engagement was made public a month later.

Harold, meanwhile, serving with the American Expeditionary Forces, was assigned first to hospital work in England. Later he acted as a medic on the front lines in France, rushing "iodine, bandages, and food up to the boys in the advanced stations," he wrote to Marjorie in late September 1918. The context of a letter he had written to Marjorie on May 8, 1918, makes it clear that she had broken off her engagement to Harold, but when and why it happened is not clear, although years later she told her daughter that she was still engaged to Harold when Burke proposed. In any event, Harold continued to think of her as a friend.

### **Burke McKendree 'Buster' Ewing**

Alvin Enoch 'AE' Ewing, Buster's father, was an attorney and politician of some local fame, originally from Hillsdale, Michigan. His life began in Jackson, Ohio, where his mother was residing with her parents, thanks to the Civil War and her husband's tour of duty with the Army of the Potomac in 1864-65.

Burke McKendree Ewing was born July 30, 1894, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was the first of three children who comprised the family of AE and Carlotta Parthenia 'Lotta' Walkley (Bailey).

When Burke's sister, Doris Isabelle, was born on April 28, 1898, followed by another brother, Walkley Bailey, three years later on June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Ewing family was complete. This family of five remained close knit throughout their lives, talking often with each other about their business ventures, their families, and the Wilderness.

The Wilderness was their refuge, their heaven, their "Paradise enow [Enough]." AE and Lotta bought their first lake shore acreage in early 1910 and immediately had Mr. Stickney of Grand Haven build them a rather rambling, rustic cottage, perhaps fifty feet from the beach. Ten years later they sold most of this thirty-acre site and purchased 199 acres approximately two miles farther south, about four miles from Grand Haven, Michigan. It was in Grand Haven that Lotta's father, Wyllys Walkley, had opened his medical office in 1883. In 1922 Lotta and AE built a more substantial cottage at the Wilderness. They gave their wooded duneland the name 'Wilderness' from Omar Khayam's *Rubiyat*, as translated by Edward Fitzgerald:

*A book of Verses underneath the Bough  
A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread – and Thou  
Beside me singing in the Wilderness –  
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow [enough]!*

A sign with this verse on it was posted at the rear entrance of the new cottage. The Wilderness became part of the Ewing psyche for the generations that followed. The family's Grand Rapids address between 1897 and 1940 was 347 Charles Street, on the northwest corner of Wealthy Avenue and Charles.



**Burke and Doris Hosting  
a Tea Party (~1901)**

As a baby, Burke had blond hair that tended to curl. In the style of the day, he often was photographed in a dress, but by the time he was three or four years old his hair was short and his pants were long. A picture of him appeared in the *Grand Rapids Herald* about 1895/96. He is in overalls, at the back of the house on Charles Street, posing on the edge of a wooden tub with apple in hand. A black, large brimmed hat contrasts vividly with his light-colored hair.

For his second birthday, Burke's parents hosted a party. The invitations, inserted in tiny two-by-three-inch envelopes – perhaps reflective of his size – said:

*Baby Burke At Home  
Thursday July 30  
From 3 To 5*

Pictures of that party show that a fair number of children showed up. Another picture that made it into the newspaper twenty years or more after it was taken referred to the group of boys, with tongue in cheek, as the "east end gang." In this picture, the neighborhood kids are putting on a circus, complete with rifles, cannon, drums, flags, and bearded boys. The article doesn't reveal the theme of the circus, but it looks as if it might have been a Civil War re-enactment.

There were lots of youngsters in the Charles Street neighborhood, and Burke didn't lack for friends. He maintained contact with many of them throughout his life, including such recurring names as Don Baxter, Franklin Wallin, and Maurice Wetzel.

Although Burke would have a much different personality from his father, he also became a letter writer. Burke's first letter of record, written in pencil on the back of a legal document, is dated December 1903:

*Dear grandmother  
Sorry you can not [sic] come to spend the Xmas.  
I went to Jim this morning and had a good time.  
Now I am going down the street to see Xmas presents.*

*Yours truly [sic]  
Burke Ewing*

Probably the letter was written to his grandmother Ewing, and he was "going down the street" to the home of Freeborn and Nellie Bailey, Lotta's foster parents, who had moved from their farm south of Grand Rapids to 698 Wealthy Street, not far from AE's and Lotta's home.

Just after Christmas of that year Burke wrote another letter, this time starting out on his father's typewriter, to his father's brother, John, and his family:

*Dear Uncle John*

*I just heard that you could not fine [sic] who the rattle came from. It came from Maude Hanks and Burke EWING. There was a card that said,*

*Even the Baby enjoys his part*

*Shakeing [sic] its rattle-box bless its heart*

*and on the other side it said*

*From Burke and Maude*

*I have been haveing [sic] a very hard time [with the typewriter] so I thought I would wright [sic] with pensil [sic]*

*I liked my gloves but I lost them, and found them again.*

*I wish Max and the rest a Happy New Year*

*Yours truly*

*John Ewing*

*From*

*Burke Ewing*

Max, Burke's cousin, was born on April 7, 1903.

Burke, Doris, and, to a lesser extent, Walkley, visited their grandmother and grandfather's farm in Woodbridge Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan, regularly in the summertime. Two weeks before his tenth birthday, Burke wrote with great flourish (and colored pencils) to his parents from Woodbridge:

*Dear papa Ditto mama Ditto sister and brother*

*Ca-Sneeze*

*I send a kiss to*

*everyone*

*when I come home cap [?].*

*grandpa mowed 1 half of the clover field and Just think I churned once and 1 half times  
rain rain rain.*

*a crooked hairpin for mamma*

*Ditto Doris*

*A strait hairpin for mamma*

*Doris Ditto*

*Grandpa is going to rake and draw hay today*

*I am having a good-time*

*I hope you are all all right*

*yours truly*

*AE Ewing*

*Mother sister & brother*

At the top of the second page Burke drew a cartoon of a lady with long hair, a hat, and umbrella. When he got older, Burke's cartoons supplemented many of his letters.

About a month later Burke was at his Uncle John's home in Pioneer, Ohio, not far from his grandparents' farm in Woodbridge Township, Michigan. This letter is written in pencil on stationery with the name *J. C. Ewing & Co. Dry Goods Carpets and Shoes Millinery* at the top. Uncle John owned a retail store in Pioneer. Also at the top Burke drew a picture of an alarm clock, looking much like Big Ben, and having the hands pointing to 9:20. Off to the side he added, clarifying any ambiguity "night Aug 10 1904."

*I am at Uncle Johns now*

*We had quite a rain to night [sic] and need more. but not to get yourself wet as I did.*

*I had my hair cut this after noon [sic] by a man who has been a barrber [sic] a year or so and he was so use [sic] to making his cissers [sic] clip that he made me laugh and we spent a[s] much as ¼ our time laughing.*

*The[y] was [sic] thrashing oats in back of the house [Uncle John's] when they got throug[h] they went back to the field to thrash the wheat.*

*Then the storm came up.*

*I got under a wagon, I did not know that the people were hiching [sic] the horses to the wagon and the first thing I knew I was slowly moveing [sic] arond [sic] I got out from under the wagon got on the wagon and by the time I got home I was socking [sic].*

*Dressed dry with love to all*

*B. McK. Ewing*

Burke returned to Woodbridge the next summer. AE wrote a letter to the grandparents, asking if they knew where Burke might be, since no word had been received of his safe arrival. He described his missing son as being "... nearly 11 years of age, about 55 pounds, height about four feet, light hair and blue eyes and a freckled nose ..."

It must have been about this time that Burke wrote the only poem that has survived the test of time:

*Oh Hazel and me  
So gay are we.  
In our gowns of red,  
And in our sleep  
We never peep.  
That is what I said*

*B. McK. E.*

Hazel's identity is unknown.

During the summer when he was fifteen Burke returned to his grandparents' house, who had sold their farm and bought a place in Pioneer, Ohio, in order to be near their son John and his family. He wrote home:

*Dear papa and mamma*

*I hope you received the postal card that I sent you from Jackson [Michigan]. I had another to send but I guess that I lost it. This is Tuesday morning and we expected to go to Pioneer*



**AE and Burke on a bike ride  
in the early 1900s.**

*[Ohio] today but Doris begged that we should stay till Wednesday. I am having a great time. We had a big rain Saturday night and Sunday morning. The swimming hole was so deep that a man could stand on bottom with the water 6 ins. over the top of his hands. Had our Sunday dinner at Uncle Lee's [his grandfather Ewing's brother, who lived nearby]. I went over to Nixons yesterday for dinner. Tell Walkley not to let any boys or girls in the barn or monkeying [sic] around it for that matter and to stay out of my corner and out of the upstairs. Doris is waiting to write so I will close for to day [sic].*

Burke



**Burke at Age Eighteen**

Burke, not an avid student, graduated from Grand Rapids Central High School on June 19, 1914, almost twenty years old. In addition to his formal studies, he built a crystal radio set [wireless], had a paper route, learned to use a camera, and attracted the girls.

He revealed elements of the entrepreneur. In his senior year he made picture postcards of the high school and offered them for sale at five cents each or six for a quarter. His sales volume is not recorded.

For his entire life Burke was a 'camera bug'. His earliest surviving picture album is dated 1913. It contains pictures of life at Fisk Lake, located near Grand Rapids, where canals were being dug; possibly Burke was employed there, although there is no written record to confirm it. The album also includes early pictures of the Old Wilderness, Grand Haven Harbor, and other locations. For those pictures he used a "Premoette 1A 2½" by 4¼" Single Lens" camera.

Burke eventually began using a 35mm camera for slides, and his collection grew to sizeable portions. He often developed his own film, and he was adept at cropping and enlarging. He even made slides from negatives taken in the early 1900s. He had a keen sense of perspective, composition, and color, including shades of white and black.

At the end of July 1914 Walkley and Burke started a long hike, walking along the Lake Michigan beach from the Wilderness to Mackinaw City at the northern tip of the lower peninsula.<sup>14</sup> It took them about four weeks to complete their trek, working to support themselves along the way. They took the train back to Grand Rapids. Burke was attracted to the Lake Michigan shoreline and its wooded dunes from his first introduction to it. In the early years, starting in 1910, there were few people with cottages on the big lake, and no one lived there year around. Except for



**Burke in 1912, ready to set off on one of his famous hikes.**

<sup>14</sup> See Ewing, Wallace K. The Long Walk of 1914: Grand Haven to Mackinaw City, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (August 2011), pp. 8-16.

established resort areas, such as Highland Park in Grand Haven, the beach was a wild and isolated place, and the long hike gave Burke an escape from the worries and concerns of everyday life.

And the lake had its dramatic moments, too. In a letter to Doris, written in the spring of 1916, he relates that he spent a Sunday at the cottage, "cutting scrub and fixing things outside." He drew a picture for his sister of the change in the shoreline on either side of the cottage, the result of a major storm that eroded the sand bank and took many trees with it. "I should like to have seen the storm. It must have been a corker because the beach is strewn way back with big logs," he told her.

From 1914 to the time he enlisted in the Navy, Burke worked at Grand Rapids Refrigerator Company doing "cost work and rod making" for something less than \$20 a week, he later confided to his sister.

## **AE Ewing Family Evolution**

October 1917 was an eventful month for the Ewings. Lotta and Walkley had gone to Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, where she was head mistress at a lumbering camp owned by The Spanish River Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd. During that month, both of AE's parents died, as did Dr. Walkley, Lotta's father. Doris went to Evanston, Illinois.



**Marjorie and Burke in 1918**

About the middle of October 1917 Burke enlisted in the Navy. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> he was sent to Great Lakes Naval Station for his basic training.

Burke's first letter home sounded as if he were enjoying the experience. He had praise for the Red Cross, which "furnished mufflers, sweaters, and ditty bags," and the YMCA which provided stationery, post cards, and stamps, as well as magazines and games. He did lament having to rise from bed so early – 5:00 a.m. – which, he said was "some job" for him. He was vaccinated, assigned sentry duty, had "kitchen detail," drilled with guns, and drank coffee "sans milk and sugar," which was not at all like his mother's, he wrote. He slept in a hammock, which "comes very naturally now" he said. He even went to church at least once with "2 or 3 thousand fellows."

He and the other recruits were outfitted with boots, shoes, three pair of "trousers," three shirts, four "different headgear," twelve handkerchiefs, three pair of heavy socks, and "a short heavy over coat [sic]," probably a pea jacket. His first pay envelope contained \$5 after thirty-six days service; "figure it out," he told his father.

AE visited him at Great Lakes twice within the first three weeks. "I wish we had had our uniforms," he wrote after AE's first visit, "because it adds much to the effect." His mother and sister visited him at least once after that.

Burke's discharge record, not issued officially until 1921, noted that at the time of service he was 5' 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" tall and weighed 151 pounds," though letters of the same time say he weighed between 160 and 165 pounds. When discharged, he had the rank of Radioman First Class. Many years later he received from President Ford a certificate honoring his service in World War I.

During his training at Great Lakes, Burke was one of hundreds of sailors who formed a 'living flag', an event that was repeated fifty years later at Soldier Field in Chicago with 10,000 Navy recruits. The latter display received substantial media attention, coming at the height of the Vietnam war.<sup>15</sup> A newspaper picture of it shows a sailor looking at the formation while holding in his hand a picture of the 1917 'living flag'. Burke added in the margin of the newspaper, "I am in this one – 3<sup>rd</sup> row – Center."

From there Burke went to Boston, joining the 30<sup>th</sup> Company U.S. Navy Radio School at Harvard University, graduating near the top of his class in June 1918. Just prior to his departure from Great Lakes, AE sent him an encouraging letter:

*Heaven bless you and protect you all the way, is the wish of my heart and of all your many friends. You can count absolutely on the deep love of your mother, your sister, your brother, and other relatives not quite so close. We have to center our pride in you, for you are our family soldier boy. The rest of us are too old, too young, or burdened with sex disqualifications. So you are carrying quite a responsibility. I wish you to so adapt yourself to the experience that is and is to be yours that you will come through it a better man in every respect than when you went in, and that is putting it pretty high for there were none better when you commenced.*

Burke replied in kind in early April, acknowledging his parents' twenty-fifth wedding anniversary:

*I am striving to make you have just cause to be proud, to be a worthy compensation, and to live to the ideals you and our ancestors have set for this family.*

Pride in and love of family ran deep and wide in the Ewing household.

Shortly after his arrival in Boston, Burke sent the following letter to his parents which was reprinted, edited and paraphrased, in the *Grand Rapids Herald* on February 24, 1918:

*Dear Dad – Well, I'm here! Haven't done any looking around yet, but have just spent 10 minutes studying a map of Boston. Certainly looks hopeless. The 'Y' building is the regulation 'hut,' but they have a canteen in it where nearly everything can be purchased and women and girls to tend to it.*

*I have a dance scheduled for tonight at the Plaza-Copley hotel, and dinner tomorrow somewhere in Lexington. Say! You'll die with all the historic dope they have out here. Churches out in the street and cemetery in the middle of the business section. Must be great to die there. We had dinner at any awfully old church, just naturally turned into a dining room, with Negroes to wait on you. Interesting paintings and busts and windows and tablets galore.*

*They have just as good entertainments for the jackies [sailors] as Chicago, I should judge. But the sailors out here wear real bands on the hats, showing that they are on ships and really at it. the town is just 'lousy' with uniformed men of all descriptions and my right arm is stiff saluting.*

*My address for a month will be U.S. Naval Radio School, Detention Camp, Cambridge, Mass. It's no more 'detention' than the gym floor is 'main deck.'*

*With love  
BURKE M'K. EWING.*

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<sup>15</sup> [www.dailyherald.com/article/20100615/news/306159949](http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20100615/news/306159949)

Not included in the reprint was Burke's observation that all the buildings in Boston were out of plumb: "Every building seems to have a bend or obtuse angle in sight," he wrote, reflecting his keen engineer's eye.

The Navy kept the trainees entertained, and dances seemed to be a favorite means. In mid-March Burke wrote to AE: "Went to a dance last night and got out about midnight. ... Boston girls are pretty strong for Radio 'girls' – this party was all Radio men." The next night, he added, there would be a "Texas Longhorn dance," but he doesn't explain what that was. Burke kept a list of the dances he attended in April and May that year, and they numbered no less than thirty-two in such places as Mattapan, Watertown, Framingham, Brookline, Revere, Jamaica Plains, Brighton, Boston, and Winthrop.

In the same time period, Burke kept a list of his expenses. He started May 3, 1918, with eighty cents. Stamps cost five cents, carfare and pie were a dime each, and a haircut was thirty-five cents, leaving a quarter for the next day. Expenses for camera supplies, stamps, ice cream and carfare were recurring costs throughout the month, although he did send money home on occasion, too.

Burke continued to 'protect', even though he was away from home. In a letter to his father in mid-March Burke wrote, "Love to Doris and tell her never – well, I'd like to meet the guy before I pass any opinions. From my experience, I'd be mighty leary [sic] of any fellow."

On his departure from Cambridge, Burke was put in charge of forty-one other men, given the responsibility of getting them and their personnel files from Cambridge to New London, Connecticut, where he would live at the YMCA and attend Wireless Telephone School. By mid-August he became an instructor, "delivering lectures to the class" he wrote his future fiancée, Marjorie. That change in duties required that he go on "subsistence," which meant that he had to move out of the YMCA, find a room of his own, and cook meals for himself. He settled in at 87 Squires Avenue in New London, perhaps a mile from the downtown area.

In late November Doris stayed with the McLeans in Evanston. Malcolm McLean taught at Northwestern University, and was considered a family friend. Burke joined them for the weekend, and the group attended the Northwestern-Michigan football game, lost by the Wolverines. In early January 1918 both Lotta and Burke's then-current flame, Vera, visited him.

Walkley and Harriet Edwards, also from Grand Rapids, had been seeing each other for about two years. Harriet and Doris were the same age. In addition to sharing a common family, they shared many views, so that the two were almost like sisters.

## **Buster and Jerry's Courtship and Marriage**

As late as early August 1919, Burke was still corresponding with Vera, and in a letter to Doris dated January 1, 1919, he asked about her.

Doris sent Burke a letter for his twenty-fourth birthday, reminding him that:

*[!]In time there will be a girl – a lucky girl – you'll know – she'll know – and she couldn't find a dearer – cleaner man in all Heaven. I have held you and W[alkley] up as ideals – have valued your brotherhood and memories and am mighty – mighty thankful the Lord made me – your Sister.*

Although Burke's letters home don't reveal any serious attachments during his stay out east, his romance with Marjorie continued after meeting her at a dance in East Boston on May 15<sup>th</sup>, a dance, Marjorie wrote later, that she attended "by chance."

In October 1918, Marjorie's father took a position managing an office in New York City, where he and Myra moved toward the end of the month, subletting their house in Winthrop. The same month, Mrs. Oliver Lewis Johnson, Myra's sister-in-law, known to Marjorie as 'Aunt Fan', invited Burke to dinner at their home at 60 Union Street in Norwich, Connecticut, where they wanted to welcome him "to the family circle." He met Marjorie and they spent the weekend there.

The Johnsons had two Buicks and a "Packard 12 [cylinder]" automobile, with a chauffeur, so the two lovers were able to go on motor rides. Burke lamented that because of the chauffeur, he was unable to drive. He wrote his mother that they "rode around the country about 50 miles in the tin Lizzie." Quite a "tin Lizzie!"

In mid-August Burke joined Marjorie at the Johnson home in Windham, Connecticut, for a short vacation. It was there, on August 18<sup>th</sup>, that he proposed to her, even though, as she later said, she was still engaged to Harold Leffingwell. She accepted Burke's proposal.

By mid-August word of his engagement to Marjorie was out. He wrote to AE:

*Am going up to Boston tomorrow and will be with Marj tomorrow night and Sunday. Oh Dad how glad I am that I've found such a dandy girl but I've got to work like the very d— at that to make enough to start in on. She's just a peach and I wish you could meet her right away.*

A week or so later he raved about her again, adding: "You'll like her I'm awfully sure because she's so nice and jolly and kinda fat too." About the same time he asked his mother to send Marjorie a letter of welcome: "I've done all the welcoming I can and she loves you so much from what I've told her of you."

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Burke's future mother-in-law wrote him a kind of welcoming letter:

*Dear Burke*

*It was certainly a great surprise to both Mr Kelley and me when Marjorie told us of her engagement to you, but if it means happiness for you & Marjorie that is all we ask.*

*We feel we know you so slightly that it would be better to wait and talk over things when you come up which I hope will be soon.*

*We send you our best love and feel sure when we know you better you will be very dear to us.*

*Very sincerely,  
Myra J. Kelley*

Marjorie responded to this welcoming letter from Burke's mother:

*September 10, 1918*

*My dear Mrs Ewing:*

*It was such a great pleasure to receive your most delightful letter.*

*Burke came up last week end, and it was so nice to have him with us, as I had not seen him for three weeks. He read me portions of Doris letter which were so funny. Particularly when she asked him if "I danced Jazzy." "if I was a Catholic" – "if I could cook and sew" – if I*

*powdered my nose in public"! I would answer all of them, but I am not a Catholic, which I presume is the question you are most interested in.*

*Burke left his camera here and Mother took some pictures of me – if they are good I will send you some. I would just love to have you send me some pictures of you – in fact of all the family. Will you please?*

*It will be such a great pleasure to have letters from you, because it will almost seem as if I knew you. I do hope I can see you some time very soon. I am so interested in all of Burke's family, particularly so in Harriet and Walkley. When you write to Doris, please tell her, I should so love to have her write to me.*

*I think that I have omitted the one thing that is most important to us all, and that is, that I love Burke.*

*Oh dear me, I almost forgot! I am going to announce our engagement a week from Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup>. I am going to have about fifteen girls to luncheon. Oh! How I wish you all could be here too. I shall write and tell you all about it. I haven't a diamond now, Mrs Ewing, but I love the ring I have, which is a gold radio ring. Burke was very dear and lovely and wanted me to have a diamond but I knew he could not afford one now and I wanted to be fair to him. He is awfully dear isn't he? This is becoming quite a long letter. I do hope you will write again soon.*

*A great deal of love to all.  
Marjorie*

*I am sorry I had to address your letter that way, but I am not sure of Mr Ewings first name! Is it Alvin or Arvin?*

During their brief absences from each other, Buster and Jerry wrote warm and loving letters. Burke's tended to be playful, with drawings to illustrate his dreams of a family sedan, a bungalow, and a baby, along with endearments, many of them embedded in clever ways throughout the letter. Marjorie often spoke of a "funny feeling" she had when she thought of him, and more than once she said she felt "wuzzy." Another common theme was money. Burke's mother had written her future daughter-in-law that he was not much of a saver, and Marjorie should take on that responsibility. Burke sent his fiancée a few dollars now and then for her to put in a savings account for their future.

They were able to meet from time to time in Norwich, Windham, and New York (where they went to the Hippodrome – "a terribly big theatre"). Evidently Marjorie didn't join her parents in New York until early December. It was there that Marjorie went to work for the Federal Reserve Bank, an experience she remembered fondly – especially the feel of brand new, crisp one dollar bills! Perhaps her pay of \$20 per week was distributed in that newly-minted form.

In a letter Burke wrote on January 4, 1919, he told Marj of his attempt to smoke a cigarette:

*I am terribly disappointed! I tried smoking some of Bill's cigs and I cant [sic] make myself believe I like it. Makes my eyes smart and I have to cough and everything. Hasn't made me sick because I haven't smoked enough at a time. Leaves a dirty taste in my mouth too. The only attraction I can imagine would be when sitting around a lonesome campfire or on a canoe trip.*

In a postscript he added that he smoked a cigarette later and felt "rather punk." Years later Burke occasionally would light up a cigarette after dinner, but he always looked a bit awkward with it in his hand. Marjorie was a more serious smoker, but not a heavy one.

Like most young people in love, Marj and Burke had their moments of difficulty. Toward the end of January, written "In the Rest Room" at "12:47" she wrote this to Burke:

*When I woke up this morning, which was very early, I had a feeling that is hard to describe. Just as if I had lost something. Did you ever feel that way? All the way down on the subway – I all but cried – when I arrived at the Bank – I did [cry] just for a minute. I couldn't help it dear, and here I am in the Rest Room – tears splashing down in front of me – I am so sorry we had all that unpleasantness – because I do love you – and I do want you – and I do think we can be happy. I think in a way it is my fault. I think too much of techinnacal [sic] (I guess that is spelled wrong) things, which sometimes is very unnecessary. But we love each other – I know that and it seems as if we ought to find the key to happiness now and forever.*

Slowly their wedding plans fell into place, even without a formal engagement ring. At one time Marjorie thought it would be romantic to be married on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the first anniversary of their meeting, but ultimately they decided the following month would be better. Marjorie's aunts considered Windham a grand and appropriate location for the ceremony, and that is where it occurred. The newlyweds planned to move "out West" to the Grand Haven area, living perhaps in a cottage on Spring Lake or, at one point, a "portable cottage" on the North Shore. They had planned for some time that their first child would be named 'Anne Elizabeth', and that they would call her 'Betty'.

World War I had ended with the Armistice the previous November 11<sup>th</sup>, and that changed Burke's plans. He had signed up for four years, but would end up serving in the Navy less than a year and a half. By February 8, 1919, he was back in Grand Rapids looking for work. Three days after returning he sent this telegram:

*Feb 11 [1919]*

*Miss Marjorie E. Kelley Apartment 55  
3117 Broadway, New York, N.Y.*

*Arrived safely Complete surprize [sic] to family Good trip Missed you*

*Burke*

On February 21<sup>st</sup> Burke took a part-time job with Zenith Products in Spring Lake, but looked for more permanent openings. He wrote to Marjorie that he had five opportunities, including three in Chicago, one of them selling stocks and bonds. It offered "good money," he told Marjorie, "but I don't think I am fitted as a salesman." A fourth possibility was to go to Milwaukee or Minneapolis with an electric lighting company – it paid \$25 a week – but the most interesting prospect to him was working with his childhood friend from the Charles Street neighborhood, Maurice Wetz. Wetz's business included the manufacture of fireworks. As it developed, he and 'Wetz' worked together and roomed together in Spring Lake during the spring of 1919. Wetz would be a friend of both Burke and Marjorie for many years.

Burke and Marjorie were separated from each other for four-and-a-half months, not reuniting until just before the wedding.

AE had been in Mobile, Alabama, on legal business for an extended period of time. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, however, he wrote his letter of welcome – and warning – to "Miss Marjorie Elizabeth Kelley." Unaware that his future daughter-in-law had moved, the letter was sent to New York City, but eventually it ended up in Marjorie's hands. It is a long letter, written in typical AE fashion and with tongue-in-cheek observations:

*The special point I wish to make is that you still have time to recall all invitations if, after reading this letter, you feel so disposed. I have occupied many a spare moment trying to place myself in the position of a young girl of New England becoming the bride of a young and woolly westerner and as such removing herself a thousand miles from her parents and life long [sic] friends to regions unknown to her, to reside among total strangers, and under entirely new conditions. I have made up my mind that it takes a great deal of courage.*

AE went on to compare Marjorie's courage to that of Hawker,<sup>16</sup> who had attempted what Charles Lindbergh wouldn't succeed in doing until 1927. "Of course Hawker failed, and of course you may win, but, like Hawker, you are betting on your last trump." commented AE. Further, AE explained to Marjorie that men are more "earthy" than women, because God used more clay to make them. He wrote: "Wedded happiness depends upon the ability of the twain to adjust their respective elements so that the husband will not be too bad for the wife, or the wife too good for the husband." He continued by exploring Burke's character:

*Far be it from me to run Burke down. He is remarkable considering his parentage on his father's side. He is as good as the best and better than the average young man; but the best man in all the world has, or will develop, failings and shortcomings. Sometimes a fellow is capable of keeping his bad qualities hidden until in some unguarded moment the mask is ripped off. Women ditto. In such a catastrophe, one large soul forgives and forgets; two large souls understand and ignore; no large souls irritate, exasperate and suffer. If Burke is like his mother, there will be at least one large soul in your family, but if he is like his father there will be a great need of two large souls, and personally I don't think two large ones are too many for any family of two.*

AE's praise of Lotta was fulsome, as usual:

*Mrs Ewing is more than just Mrs Ewing; she is wonderful Mrs Ewing. She is unusual in this that she has more brains than she really needs. Any fool of a woman could have lived with me providing I could have lived with her, but mother has stuck it out for over twenty-six years which proves she belongs to the large souled class. Nevertheless, I still insist that she has too many brains. I never yet got over being peeved about it. She ought to have let me have the argument once in a while just to keep me good natured and permit me to retain a little lordly self respect [sic].*

AE detailed Lotta's heritage, noting that Wyllys Walkley and his wife, Ida Skinner, after the conclusion of the Civil War, had one baby girl after another, "bing, bang, bung. Burke's mother was the 'bung.'" After reviewing Lotta's adoption by the Baileys, AE returned to Burke's character:

*The thing which we have noticed about Burke is the quickness with which he can fly into a red hot temper and the swiftness with which he can pass out of it. I have seen him in a 'rage' the like of which I couldn't recover from in six months; he will be whistling the next instant and it is apparently all over. He seems to have the ability of grounding his wires when they become hot.*

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<sup>16</sup> Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Hawker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Hawker)): Harry George Hawker MBE, AFC, (22 January 1889 – 12 July 1921) was an Australian aviation pioneer. He was the chief test pilot for Sopwith and was also involved in the design of many of their aircraft. After World War One he co-founded Hawker Aircraft, the firm that would later be responsible for a long series of successful military aircraft. He died on 12 June 1921 when the aircraft he was to fly in the Aerial Derby crashed at Hendon Aerodrome.

From there AE related Burke's lineage in some detail, and ended with this:

*The real thing I wanted to say to you from the first, and which I nearly forgot, was that we stand ready to adopt you into the family of Ewings and await your coming with open arms and loving hearts.*

AE was unable to attend the wedding ceremony, and used the letter to extend his regrets. As late as early June it didn't appear that Lotta would make the trip either. Her letter to Marjorie was more didactic than AE's, asking her to be "lenient" and "patient." Lotta continued, "We are a very intense and loving lot of people and our coldness is only a blind." It would be interesting to know Marjorie's response to the letters. Burke may have given a hint of her reaction more than a year later when he wrote to Marjorie: "I do hope you will understand it [a recent letter from AE] better than you did the other one last year."

As the wedding day grew close, the two became increasingly impatient. The Sunday before the ceremony, Burke wrote to Marjorie:

*I like my new suit and straw hat very much and hope you will like me in them. Funny thing to hope, isn't it? Of course you will like me more out of them and Lordy goodness but I can hardly wait till next Saturday night!!!!!"*

Marjorie met Burke in Willimantic, Connecticut, on the 12:24 p.m. train on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. They were married two days later at noon. The Grand Rapids newspaper reported:

*The marriage of Miss Marjorie Kelley, daughter of Mr and Mrs Halsey Wolcott Kelley of New York, to Burke McKendree Ewing, son of Mr and Mrs Alvin E. Ewing of this city, took place Saturday afternoon in St. Paul's Church in Wyndham, the ceremony being followed by a reception in the residence of Mr and Mrs Isaac Johnson, which is the ancestral home of the bride's mother.*

*The ceremony was performed by Rev. Walter F. Bourchest and the decorations were mountain laurel. The bride wore a suit of navy blue broadcloth combined with navy blue georgette crepe embroidered in old gold silk. She wore a black hat with a blue plume.*

*Wallace Kelley, brother of the bride, officiated as best man and Mrs Kelley was matron of honor. She wore a handsome gown fashioned from blue ribbon and georgette, the skirt being made in tiny ribbon ruffles and her hat was to match.*

*Among the wedding guests was J. Alden Weir, eminent American artist who is a friend of the bride's family. Mrs A. E. Ewing and son Walkley, of this city, mother and brother of the groom, attended the wedding.*

*Mr and Mrs Ewing will reside in Spring Lake, Mich.*



**A glum Marjorie and a happy Burke on their wedding day.**

Burke and Marjorie boarded the train and spent their first night as a married couple in Springfield, Massachusetts. The next day they continued on to Michigan by way of Albany, arriving in Grand Rapids at 1:00 p.m. on Monday.

After spending the night there, probably with AE and Carlotta, they went on to the family cottage at the Wilderness, a few miles south of Grand Haven. The newlyweds remained there until Friday, and a few days after that they "started in housekeeping" in Dr. Walkley's vacant home at 114 South Fourth Street in Grand Haven. Located near the downtown area, the house had served as Dr Walkley's residence and office until his death in October 1917. The New England girl, who never before had wandered far from home, found herself in the 'wilds' of Michigan, never again to live in the familiar territory of her childhood.

## **Walkley Bailey Ewing**

Burke Ewing's brother Walkley celebrated his eighteenth birthday on the day of the wedding. Less than a year later he was branch manager of the Proudfit Loose Leaf Co., with a factory and main office in Grand Rapids. The vice president of Proudfit, manufacturer and distributor of notebook binders, was William H. Edwards, his wife Harriet Edwards's father. Harriet and Walkley were married on July 31, 1920, at the Old Wilderness.

In the meantime, in March of 1920, the two brothers were trying to work out a business arrangement to their mutual benefit. The date and circumstances of Burke's separation from Wetzel's business isn't specified, but at some point in 1919 he went to work for the Imperial Furniture Company in Grand Rapids. There he did cabinet-room bench work. Apparently he and Marjorie lived in Grand Rapids during that time, first with his parents at 347 Charles Street and later in a rented house that cost them \$50 a month during the summer of 1920. In October of that year they made a \$25 down payment on a \$600 lot in Fulton Park Addition in Grand Rapids. There is no record of the outcome of that intended purchase, but they never built on it.



**Walkley, Harriet, Barbara,  
Elizabeth, and David (1989).**

Evidently Burke did some work on play production in 1919, too. A picture in the Grand Haven Tribune from 1969 shows Burke shaking hands with Jerry Cargill. Cargill's family were summer residents at Highland Park on the Grand Haven shoreline 1910-to-1911, and in 1919 Jerry produced *On Leave* in Grand Haven, which presumably is the show Burke worked on.

## **Buster and Jerry's Married Life**

By July 1920 Burke was working on a commission basis selling insurance for the Michigan Automobile Insurance Exchange, sharing an office in the Houseman Building in downtown Grand Rapids with his father. However, in a letter to Marjorie dated August 11, 1920, he mentions that he and the superintendent at Nachtegall's "had a slight difference" and he "was released from active duty." By August 16<sup>th</sup> he was back with Imperial Furniture.

Just after Harriet and Walkley's wedding, Marjorie took the train to New York for her first visit with her parents and the other relatives since her marriage to Burke. Their honeymoon seemed to continue indefinitely, judging from the love letters. Two days after she left, Burke wrote a "book," consisting of a number of blank pages on which he wrote his letter of the day in the form of a novel. He titled his opus *Girl o' Mine (not a novel – a fact)*. The complete text of Chapter I was "Harold." Chapter II was "Russel,"

to which he added, "I might think of several other chaps but I'm not going to try to." He titled Chapter III "Burke Mck. Ewing," to which he added, "He's the last chap and will be for always." From that point on the book reverted to a more traditional letter form. On her trip Marjorie went from New York to Winthrop, then with her mother to Windham, from there to Norwich, back to New York, and finally home.

As planned, they named their first child Elizabeth Ann Ewing and called her 'Betty'. She was born on March 11, 1921, in Grand Rapids. Five years later, as she started off to school for the first time, the little girl chose to be called 'Ann', since several of her friends were called Betty, and Ann it was ever after.

Shortly after Ann's birth Burke took a job with the Tibbs-Dorsey Manufacturing Company in Oklahoma City, a manufacturer of "Bank & Store Fixtures, Cabinet Work, Etc." The job came up suddenly, Burke wrote. He was put in charge of drafting, detailing, and billing. He left Michigan to explore the Oklahoma City area and find adequate housing. He wrote home on May 22<sup>nd</sup> that the housing situation wasn't especially bright: "The rents are horrible – I am finding \$40 up for two furnished rooms and about \$85 for a 5 room bungalow [sic]." His wife and new daughter joined him within a month or two, after visiting the Kelleys and Johnsons out East.

There, in Oklahoma City, on July 8, 1922, Nancy A (Hank) Ewing was born. Marjorie's mother stayed with them for a month to help out. It was also here that Marjorie later recorded that they moved nine times within Oklahoma City between June 1921 and June 1924, when they left the city.

Burke and Marjorie's letters home were dominated by stories of 'Betty' ('Ann') and Nancy – cuter, more precocious kids never existed. Long distance calls were an occasional luxury, and the growth of commercial radio stations was the focus of many of Burke's January 15, 1923, comments to his parents:

*Listened tonight to the Michigan Union Orchestra playing at WWJ-Detroit and it gives me quite a little thrill to think of you all being so near and yet so far. If we could only send as well as receive. Also listened to Toronto and Schenectady since writing to you last.*

Marjorie made another trip east in May, 1923, taking both daughters with her, and staying with her parents in New York City, where she also saw Doris. Doris, who had become a physical education teacher, was to be married to Vel Chamberlain at the "Little Church Around the Corner" in New York City on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Lotta attended, and Marjorie was the Matron of Honor. Her trip occurred about the same time that Burke had jury duty in Oklahoma to hear a case against a judge. The jury gave the judge ten years in prison, about a hundred years short of what he should have gotten according to Burke.

After visiting Boston and Windham, Marjorie came back from New York by way of Michigan, meeting Burke in Grand Rapids. The four Ewings spent most of their time at the Wilderness cottage, then returned to Oklahoma City on the midnight train from Grand Rapids on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

The next June "Jerry & babies" arrived from Oklahoma to spend a week in Michigan before continuing on to New York. One evening Lotta and AE took the responsibility of looking after them. "Daddy had quite a 'discipline stunt' with them the last night when Jerry was having dinner [with a friend]," Lotta wrote to her son. She continued:

*Father undertook & did handle situation. We had dinner ready but both girls were howling for their mother!! We tried to get them to eat, then Dad just pushed them both in his room & shut the door & told them they could stay there until they stopped crying. He just remarked that they showed their different dispositions in what they did. Betty just yelled & stomped her feet & wouldn't stop crying. Nancy stopped very soon & began entertaining herself with powder puff*

waste basket etc – But as soon as Father opened the door & asked if they wanted supper Nancy's 'No!!' was as emphatic as Betty's extra sob. They stuck it out about an hour or until Jerry returned – absolutely refusing to come out & eat. I admired their 'stick!'

Burke explained to his mother and father the reason for being in Oklahoma, so far from home:

*[T]he only attraction this place has is the job itself – which is a very good field for practical experience – and more so since the new machinery has come. At the present time understand, I have no definite vocation. I am not entirely a draftsman, foreman, salesman, cost accountant, radioman nor anything else; but if I stayed here a while longer, I might be something – have something to put on my letter heads without misrepresenting.*

Marjorie chanted a familiar jingle through the family house for many years, which she might have applied to either of the girls:

*There was a little girl,  
Who had a little curl,  
Right in the middle of her forehead.  
When she was good  
She was very, very good,  
But when she was bad  
She was horrid.*

Burke spent 1924 to 1931 working for the Union Interior Finish Company in Chicago, again doing detailing and billing. Five years of this time he was chief draftsman, and he was put in charge of all special cabinet work and special woodwork.

On February 6, 1972, the *Grand Rapids Press* printed a picture of Burke on a surf board, being towed by a Ford Model T along the beach at the Wilderness in the summer of 1927. Since the beach appears to be at least a hundred feet wide, Lake Michigan's water level must have been quite low, an event that occurred in the mid-1920s. The same



**Burke on a Surfboard in 1927**

article also reprinted a picture from 1912 showing Burke's friends Don Baxter, Franklin Wallin, and Joseph Martin on ice-covered Reeds Lake in Grand Rapids. They are about to scoot across the lake on a propeller-driven vehicle. Burke was fascinated by technology and the devices which were invented throughout the twentieth century. He also preferred to fashion his own prototypes, rather than buy something ready-made.

From the time they moved from Oklahoma City in 1924 until November of that year, Marjorie listed her address simply as "New York." There is no correspondence or diary entry to clarify what that means. A Brunswick newsletter article in 1948 reported that Burke worked as Chief Draftsman for the Specialty Cabinet Shop in Chicago in 1924, and possibly that was another name for Union Interior Finish Company. Was Burke unable to find a new job during that five month period, or were they short of money, or was there a marital problem that caused a temporary separation? We have no answer.

Because her parents lived in a New York apartment at 537 West 149<sup>th</sup> Street, it is likely that Marjorie and the two girls stayed with them. A few entries in Lotta's diary add to the mystery. She noted that on August 14, 1924 "Jerry returned fr[om] N.Y. with babies." Three days later Burke left for La Crosse, Wisconsin. Then, on August 22, Lotta wrote that she was in Grand Rapids "to see Jerry & babies off for La Crosse Wis." There is no other mention of Burke or his family until November 29, 1924, when Jerry headed for Chicago, to reunite with her husband, whatever the cause of their separation.

Burke and Marjorie lived at many addresses in Chicago: 5442 Michigan from November 29, 1924 to February 1, 1925; 9629 Winston from February 1 to April 1; 8500 Elizabeth from April 1 to September; 9907 Prospect from September to April 29, 1926; the Wilderness from April 29 to September 13; 10882 Prospect from September 13 to December; 11049 Church from December to April, 1928; 1505 West 104<sup>th</sup> Street from April to September; 11231 Longwood Drive from September to September, 1930; 2324 West 120<sup>th</sup> Place; in Blue Island (a suburb of Chicago), from September to August 1931; and 9117 Leavitt from August to February 20, 1932.

A third child and first son, Burke McKendree Jr, called 'Mac' by the family, was born in Chicago on May 29, 1925. The proud father's telegram to his parents declared: "Arrived eleven forty Mother well Good trip Eight pounds net Junior." Fourteen years later Mac wrote a paper for school; he reached the required number of words mostly by reviewing the moves his family had made between 1925 and 1939.

On occasion Burke was called upon to look after the two girls. His supervision, Burke wrote home, usually added "a little to their impishness." In the same letter he reported,

*I have maintained for the last few months that the house of my dreams would have a porcelain lined breakfast room for the kids. They sure can make a mess of it. Two rolls of newspapers just came and it is Betty's duty to take off the wrappers and throw them away. Betty is very good about picking things up and helping with the cleaning. She has a little Bissel and a broom and can sweep the dust out from under the stove and into the corner behind the drawing board in the most approved fashion.*

Nancy was famous with her father for saying "NOO-O" very distinctly, and the family knew her for her temper.

In the summer of 1931 Marjorie's mother, her brother Wallace, and his wife, Barbara, came to Grand Haven, staying at the Wilderness cottage for nine days, then going to Chicago. Myra remained a month. She returned for another visit in late August 1933. It was about this time that Burke and Mac were playing baseball. Burke was at bat and got a hit. He stuck the bat under his arm and started for first base, while Mac yelled, "Drop the bat! Drop the bat!" Burke admitted his son knew more about the game than he did.

An intriguing entry in Marjorie's diary is dated September 14, 1931: "Burke didn't come home for dinner – nor did he phone – on one of his rampages -- went somewhere with Reynold Hank." Although Reynold Hank is mentioned many times in her diaries, often as a chess partner with Burke, his last name is never cited, but the mysterious person may have been Reynold Hank . Five days later, after Reynold Hank had been to the house for dinner, Marjorie reported that she and Burke Jr "had a long talk."

Whatever problems she and Burke may have had during their married years, they didn't earn more than a line or two in her diary. On one occasion, however, she did reveal some impatience. The day before Christmas 1946, she wrote: "Burke home at regular time altho he got out at noon. He took Connie out for a couple of drinks!! I love that man."

Some years after that she wrote on their anniversary: "Same old thing – didn't do a darn thing!! Wouldn't even know it was our anniversary." Possibly Burke didn't know what to do on these special occasions, and he did recognize his lapses. He wrote the following note nine years later:

*Christmas Day 1955*

*My dearest:*

*In my heart there are a thousand gifts – but of material gifts under the tree – none.*

*This would be a shock if it were the first time it had happened but by this time you must be quite immune to annual oversight.*

*Of the many possible gifts I believe it would be better for you to make the choice – so I attach a blank check for the purchase of anything your heart desires – and checking account allows. (\$10,000.00 limit!)*

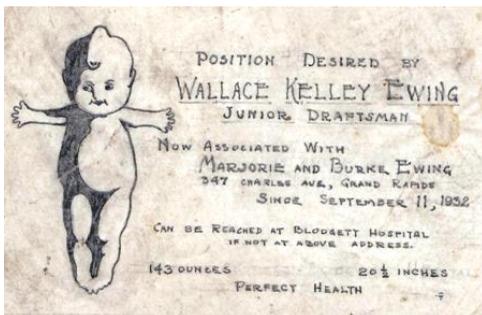
*My love goes with each penny – special love, the Christmas kind.*

*Burke*

The signed, blank check attached to the note was never filled out. Instead "Void" was written across its face. He had made a similar gesture two years before, but of a more modest amount – \$10 in cash – for Marjorie to get "something very personal." Since the \$10 bill isn't attached to this note, perhaps she did spend it.

The Stock Market Crash came in October 1929, changing the nation's economy for many years, although its worst effect wasn't felt for a while. Burke started selling kitchen units for Hines Lumber on October 12<sup>th</sup> that year but, Christmas 1931 was the family's "first hard up Xmas!!" Marjorie noted in her diary. A month later she wrote, "The Morgan Park Bank [in Chicago] closed its door. Out \$100!!"

As the Great Depression heightened, Burke lost his job, and the family moved again to the Wilderness, living in the Ewing cottage, which was not insulated and had no central heat source. The three children attended a one-room school house at Rosy Mound, a couple of miles south of Grand Haven along Lakeshore Drive. In Mac's school paper, he recalled school life then: "I remember quite clearly that one room school house [at Rosy Mound] with eight grades in it. Now the only time I played hooky from school was under funny circumstances. It was quite a distance from school to our cottage [in the Wilderness], about three miles. That day I felt very ambitious, so I thought I'd walk home. I started off having a very nice time, but when I reached our cottage to my utter amazement it was only about two o'clock and I had left when it was noon."



**Wallace Kelley Ewing's Birth Announcement**

In late August or early September Burke and family moved to 347 Charles Street in Grand Rapids, where AE and Lotta shared their home with them as they awaited the birth of their fourth and last child, Wallace Kelley Ewing. Burke created a birth announcement in the form of a 3½" x 5½" blueprint:

This Wallace was named for Marjorie's brother. She was released from the hospital a week later, and was taken to 347 Charles Street in an ambulance. That fall Mac and Nancy attended Henry Street School, the same school their father, Aunt Doris, and Uncle Walkley had attended, while Ann now

was in junior high school. At Henry School, Mac reported, he joined his first club, "a chewing-gum club, formed because one of the members at school gave out some gum. I decided it would be a good idea to have a chewing-gum club if he gave me a piece." By September 20<sup>th</sup>, Marjorie had hired a maid, "which certainly seems like old times," she wrote. Burke started at Macey's Works, as he called it, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on October 18, 1932. The Macey Company manufactured furniture for home and office. Marjorie wrote that they received their "first pay check" on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, presumably from Macey's.

Something happened, and the job did not last. After making ends meet as best they could, occasionally by going to Chicago to buy and sell old gold, Burke on March 29, 1933, took a job with the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company (later known as Brunswick Corporation) in Muskegon, although he later was transferred to Chicago and elsewhere. In the first year he was chief draftsman, and later he was promoted to an advisory capacity. The family moved from 347 Charles on May 28, 1933, to 171 Dale Street in Muskegon, where they stayed until February 1934. By July 1933 Marjorie had hired someone to help out around the house: "Had 35 or 40 answers to my ad for a maid. Got a nice girl." Household help was in and out of the Ewing home for most of the next thirty years. Their next move was to 817 Moulton in North Muskegon, leaving there on May 14<sup>th</sup> of the same year to live in Chicago again. Their first home in Chicago upon their return was 11632 Artesian until May 1935, then 1743 West 100<sup>th</sup> Place from May 27<sup>th</sup> to September 30, 1936, and from there to 11542 Hale Avenue, where they remained until 1940.

Marjorie's mother came to Chicago for a short visit in July 1934, and on June 12, 1936, the family made another trip East to visit Marjorie's family. In 1933 and 1934 the family, including the most recent baby, made several trips to the Century of Progress being held on the Chicago waterfront. Burke went alone just as often, including its last day on October 31, 1934.

Marjorie continued to visit relatives back East. She, Mac, and Wally drove there in June 1936, stopping in Hillsdale to have lunch with Doris, who had returned from her four-year teaching assignment in Turkey and now was a faculty member at Hillsdale College. Marjorie and her charges drove back home toward the end of July. On May 4, 1939, she began another drive from Chicago to Boston, spending the first night in Willoughby, Ohio, the second at Cazenovia, New York, and arriving at Winthrop, a Boston suburb, at 4:15 the next afternoon, a total of 1,016 miles, she wrote with some pride. The occasion was her parents' Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on May 8.

While Marjorie was gone on the 1939 trip, Burke was in charge of the two boys. One Saturday in May he took them to Ogden Dunes, a resort of Lake Michigan not far from Gary, Indiana. The three males intended to spend the day there. Both Mac and his father started off on a long walk, leaving Wally behind. It was cloudy and cool, so Wally nestled into his father's trousers, which Burke had discarded with his other street clothes, allowing him to walk the beach barefoot and in his swimming trunks. After an hour or two both hikers returned, donned their clothes, and started for the car. Unfortunately Wally's wriggling in his father's trousers had worked the car keys out of the pocket, and they were nowhere to be found. After somehow returning home, Burke later went back to the beach, dug down in the sand where they had been, and found the keys. He wrote to Marjorie, "Did I tell you I found keys at Ogden Dunes? Walked right to them. Didn't dig down or I might have found money too!"

In June 1940 Mrs. Kelley again visited her daughter in Michigan, with a side trip to Chicago, and then on July 12<sup>th</sup> Burke, Marjorie, and her mother drove to Boston, spending two nights on the road. On July 25<sup>th</sup> they visited the New York World's Fair. Their total mileage for that trip was 2,800. In June and July 1941, subsequent to Ann's graduation from Ripon College in Wisconsin, Mrs. Kelley visited Marjorie and

her family in Michigan for about three weeks. In July 1944 and again toward the end of April 1945, Marjorie took the train East by herself.

By April 1940 Burke had another position with Brunswick in Muskegon, and the family moved to that city on May 31<sup>st</sup>, renting a house on Ruddiman Drive in North Muskegon. Then on November 1, 1940, the family moved to 2260 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street in Chicago, and Burke was made Installation Superintendent in January 1941, still with the Brunswick Corporation. A recession just before the United States entered World War II caused Burke to lose his job, and presumably the family was without income for some time. On March 4<sup>th</sup> Marjorie wrote that she and Burke had gone out "selling fans." A week later Burke went alone to Michigan with the same selling mission, but with no record of his success. On April 26<sup>th</sup> Burke, Marjorie, Wally, and Mac moved to the Grand Haven area, first renting a house at 631 Lake Avenue, and then on September 1<sup>st</sup> renting a house on the North Shore, across the Grand River from Grand Haven and fifty feet or so from the Lake Michigan beach, while Burke, worked for the E. H. Sheldon Company in Muskegon. Beginning on May 31, 1942, they lived at 1397 Palmer Boulevard in Muskegon and stayed there until Burke took a job in June with the Firestone Tire Company in Akron, Ohio, a few months later. Prior to that move they sold much of their furniture. Other furniture and boxes of items were stored at the Bredehoff barn on Lakeshore Drive, south of Grand Haven and not far from the Old Wilderness. The barn was not mouse proof, as later evidence proved.

Before moving to Akron in the summer of 1942 Wally and his mother took the train from Muskegon, leaving at 10:55 a.m., July 1<sup>st</sup>, to attend the funeral of Lucretia Johnson Hatch, known to Marjorie as Aunt Lou. At 10:00 that night Marjorie and Wally were able to see Burke when the train stopped briefly in Buffalo. He had started his job in Akron about ten days earlier. The train trip was by coach, so Wally and his mother sat up the full distance, arriving in Willimantic, Connecticut, the next morning, going from there to Windham. Because Aunt Lou had left Marjorie a 1941 four-door Pontiac, she and Burke sold their 1937 Chevrolet four-door sedan before they left Muskegon. She and Wally returned home in the Pontiac, leaving Winthrop at 8:30 a.m. on August 8<sup>th</sup> and arriving in Geneva, New York, at 7:00 that night. Burke, traveling by train from Akron, met his wife and son three hours later. After spending the night in Canandaigua, a bit west of Geneva, the three of them continued in the Pontiac to Akron.

After a brief vacation in the Grand Haven area, they returned to Ohio and moved into a furnished house in Barberton, south of Akron, on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Mac moved in with them, but left on September 17<sup>th</sup> to return to Michigan and live with his sister Nancy, allowing him to finish his high school studies in Muskegon. Burke continued to work as blue-print inspector in the airplane wing of the Firestone factory.

They considered the house in Barberton, a mansion with an extravagant \$100 a month rent, the most they had ever paid for housing. Unfortunately for the three Ewings, it was infested with fleas, and on October 3<sup>rd</sup> the house was fumigated, forcing the occupants out for a day or two. Marjorie's mother, father, and two surviving Johnson aunts, Clara and Sara (usually called Sadie), visited the family at its new home in Barberton for Christmas 1942 and stayed about a month. Born in 1854 and 1859 respectively, the unmarried sisters both lived to their ninety-eighth birthdays.

In the meantime, the three older children had grown up. Ann had left for Ripon College in Wisconsin in 1937, and until her graduation on June 16, 1941, was home only for brief vacations. After graduation her visits were even rarer. Mrs. Kelley came to Grand Haven to join the family in attending Ann's graduation, and stayed for some time afterward. Nancy decided to move back to Muskegon in January, 1941, a year after graduating from Morgan Park High School in Chicago. She and Jim Klecka were married in Bryan, Ohio, on the evening of May 30<sup>th</sup> that year, but didn't tell the family until June 4<sup>th</sup>. Mac graduated, on schedule, from Muskegon High School in June, 1943.

On April 5, 1943, Lotta and AE celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. They lived in Hillsdale then. Burke sent them a letter of congratulations, which started with this paragraph:

*How I wish I had inherited the power of expression and the flow of eloquence from Dad to properly express appropriate feelings on this coming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is an event that calls for wine and feasting but that part will have to be postponed at least temporarily until you have returned to this part of the state. And the flowery speech will have to be made by Walkley as that is well within his power and whatever he says will be my sentiments also.*

## **Later Lives of Buster, Jerry, and Their Children**

By early 1943 Burke, Marjorie, and Wally were back in Michigan, since Burke had gone back to Muskegon to work for the Sheldon Company. He stayed with that company until May 29, 1946. The family of three lived for a while in February at Mrs. Day's Boarding House at 112 Franklin Street in Grand Haven, then on March 2<sup>nd</sup> they were back at 631 Lake, this time buying the house. They sold the Lake Avenue house on November 25, 1944, and moved to Waverly Road in Grand Haven on December 18<sup>th</sup>, where they lived until 1946. On April 1<sup>st</sup> of that year Burke and Marjorie bought for \$6,000 a sixty-one acre farm that included a house, barn, and several sheds on Lincoln Street near Lakeshore Drive in Grand Haven Township.

After tearing down the barn, Burke began to renovate the old farm house, working first on the kitchen. They moved in on June 8 1946, accompanied by Mac, who had returned from the service with the Navy earlier in the spring. They called it the 'farm', a name that stuck with the property even after most of it was sold and long after any crops had been harvested. At one time the Bierman family, previous owners for nearly one hundred years, had raised livestock and grown some crops. Grape arbors and fruit trees remained somewhat productive, although not of high quality. Burke and Marjorie planted some small garden vegetables, and also picked the apples for sauce. Mac and his friend Stacey Spangler hoped to make a living selling apples and pears, but reality didn't match their dream.

Burke returned to the Brunswick Company in Muskegon in 1946, but in a short time he took a job with a company in Chicago, and in October the family, still numbering three members, moved to a housing development in Ogden Dunes, Indiana, on the Lake Michigan shoreline with the skyscrapers of Chicago showing over the horizon. Mac stayed at the farm. Burke and Marjorie, sometimes with Wally, made numerous visits to friends in Morgan Park, the suburb of Chicago they had called home several times, but they also returned to the farm almost every weekend.

Wally went to Camp Hayo-Went-Ha on Torch Lake, near Interlochen, Michigan, in July and August 1945, just as World War II was approaching its final days. On March 19, 1946 – Marjorie's 49<sup>th</sup> birthday – her mother had a stroke and died two days later in Boston. Marjorie, Burke, and Wally left by car for Boston the next day to attend the funeral, which was held on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Ann flew in from Chicago for the occasion, and Burke took the train home later the same afternoon. Ann, Marjorie, Marjorie's father, and Wally left for Grand Haven on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> where they arrived the following Thursday. It isn't recorded how long Mr. Kelley remained, but eventually he returned to Boston.

Sadie and Clara visited their niece in July 1946, staying at the farm in Grand Haven. Their visit was cut short by the accidental death of Marjorie's father, killed in an elevator mishap in Boston. She and the aunts left by train for Boston on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, arriving there the next day about an hour before the funeral service. Marjorie's brother picked up the three women and drove directly to the service. Mr. Kelley was buried in Franklin, Connecticut, with his wife and many others of the Johnson family. It was

on this visit that a new home was found for the aunts, taking them out of the Johnson house in Windham, in which they had lived their entire lives. Marjorie was home in Grand Haven by the following Friday.

On February 3, 1947, Burke returned to the Brunswick Company, first at the Muskegon plant and then, beginning in early October, he was transferred to the Engineering Department in Marion, Virginia. In Marion he, Marjorie, and Wally lived for a while at a rooming house and regularly dined out before renting a house on the western outskirts of Marion toward the end of October. They then moved to another house, this one on College Avenue, in June 1948. Burke left Brunswick in 1949, returning to Chicago in September to work for the Woodwork Corporation. He and Marjorie lived at 9330 Longwood Drive for two years near Morgan Park, a Chicago suburb, while their youngest child, Wally, completed his high school studies at Morgan Park High School. He was the third of the four children to graduate from that school, a rather remarkable outcome considering the variety of places the family lived over the years.

Burke and Marjorie again made weekend trips to Grand Haven, but usually without Wally. Burke had torn down the 'Little White Cottage' he had built some years earlier in the dunes of the Wilderness and moved it piece by piece to a high ridge of land on the Lincoln Street property. He and Marjorie had sold the 'farm' and some of the acreage, and used the re-built cottage as a weekend retreat, and occasionally as something more permanent.

In August 1951 Burke returned once again to the Brunswick Company, this time in Muskegon. They rented a house in Spring Lake until October, when they moved to 2231 Denmark in Muskegon. In April the next year Burke and Marjorie moved from Muskegon to the Everett Brown cottage in the Wilderness. Built in the mid-1930s by Bertha Mason, who died in 1946, the three-story cottage had a spectacular view of the dunes and lake, but was 'rustic' at best. The Browns bought the cottage after Mrs. Mason's death and remodeled it with sufficient flair that it was featured in a home-decor magazine. Everett, an architect, did the design work.

In February 1953 Marjorie talked to Clyde Hendrick, founder and owner of the Hendrick Real Estate Office in Muskegon Heights, and discussed obtaining a realtor's license. After passing the licensing exam she went to work for the company, concentrating primarily on Grand Haven properties. Her commissions in 1953, the only year she claimed income, amounted to \$441.50. In October 1943 she had worked for an unspecified length of time for Art Van Pelt at his boat manufacturing business in Spring Lake. Burke and Marjorie moved to Muskegon on March 1, 1953, and then back to Marion, Virginia, on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, where Burke continued with the Brunswick Corporation, cutting short Marjorie's career in real estate. Her brother Wallace and his wife visited them in Marion in late March 1955.

Burke and Marjorie left on May 1, 1953, for their first trip west. They stopped to see Carlotta and Doris at El Paso, Texas, where Doris was Recreation Director at Biggs Air Force Base, and then continued on to Arizona to visit Mac and his family. They stopped at the Grand Canyon, among other places, before they drove home, arriving in Muskegon on May 16<sup>th</sup>, after a total of 5,240 miles, Marjorie recorded.

Burke's wages rose slowly but steadily through the years. In 1936, the first year for which there is a surviving record, he earned \$2,659, while in 1940 he made just under \$4,200. His annual income then decreased for a few years, before rising to a high of \$5,100 in 1944, sliding back the next few years to under \$5,000, and reaching a career high point in 1950 at \$7,117. He earned \$6,550 in 1955, the last year for which there is a record. Somehow, through most of the years no matter what their income,

Marjorie was able to hire household help to cook, clean house, and look after Wally when he was a child.

Burke had many talents, among them woodworking. In the 1930s, especially, he had a spurt of creative energy and crafted lamps, tables, footstools, and other items of furniture, a few of which have survived use, time, and moves. He was an avid chess player, and in about the same era made an in-laid chess board on a stand, the only handcrafted item remaining in the family. In the spring of 1937 he started to build a small cottage at the south end of the Wilderness, which became the family's vacation spot for the next few years. It had no plumbing or electricity, but was compact, tidy, and convenient – once family members made the quarter-mile hike over hot sand and through the dunes. The closest parking also was a quarter-mile away, which meant all supplies, including heavy chunks of rapidly melting ice for the ice box, had to be carried over the sandy, open gorge, which always seemed hot as the Sahara when the trek was being made. In addition to the ice box, a kerosene stove provided heat for cooking, and kerosene-fueled lamps were used for illumination. An outside chemical toilet took care of those needs, and bathing was as close as Lake Michigan, perhaps a hundred feet away.

In the same decade Burke developed his etching skills and produced a number of pictures on a variety of subjects. He also produced for a number of years his own Christmas cards and note cards. Beginning in the 1950s he started using a system for copying print materials, called the *Dry Diaz Process*. This system required special photographic paper, exposure of the item to the sun, and the use of ammonia. In addition to copying letters, he was able to capture outlines of such things as leaves and ferns, with which to adorn holiday greetings cards, fancy letterhead, maps, and cartoons. He bowled, and he attended travelogues, wrestling matches, and boxing matches with some regularity. He was an occasional golfer, but throughout the years hiking the wooded dunes and shoreline around the Wilderness was undoubtedly his favorite avocation. Announcing to the family he was going for a 'hike', he often disappeared for hours, returning sometimes with a severe sunburn.

The family also frequented Ogden Dunes, Indiana, on the Lake Michigan shoreline, which must have had public access to the beach prior to becoming a year-round residential development. On June 5, 1935, Burke took his first plane trip, flying from Chicago to Cincinnati to Bristol, Tennessee.

Burke had a sharp sense of place and distance, and learned the surveying business from his cousin Morris Buck, who was Surveyor for Ottawa County, Michigan, and the husband of Bernice. Bernice, the daughter of Burt Hatch and "Aunt Addie," Carlotta's sister, formed a close friendship with Marjorie.

Burke also liked to hone his skill in running an automobile down to the last drop of gasoline – or beyond. Marjorie remarked on several occasions that her husband "ran out of gas." In the days before power brakes and power steering Burke enjoyed turning off the car engine and coasting down a mountain side, going as far as possible before restarting the engine.

Burke took great pleasure in singing with the local Barbershop Quartet, and he was a long-time loyal member of the Keyman's Club, sponsored by the Brunswick Company. When Burke retired from Brunswick in June 1960, the Club presented him with a clock and twenty silver dollars.

Marjorie's favorite entertainment, besides attending the movies, was auction bridge, which she had learned as a youngster from her mother. Marjorie spent many afternoons and evenings with her friends playing the game, later using 's method for playing contract bridge as her guide. The afternoon 'bridge party' usually was preceded by lunch or at least dessert. In the mid-1930s she took a class in contract bridge. She was especially pleased when she could write in her diary after an afternoon or evening of playing the game, "I was high." It was not unusual to play for money, and she was likely to record, as

she did on February 19, 1931, "I won \$.75," or a similar amount. Burke was an occasional player, and sometimes the two were partners.

While living in Chicago in the early 1930s, and possibly earlier, Marjorie Sunday School, probably at an Episcopal church. She was an avid reader, as well, and enjoyed novels then in vogue. Interspersed throughout her diary are references to volunteer work at church bazaars and fund raisers. While living in Marion, Burke made her a loom on which to weave practical items, such as purses, which she hoped to sell, although there is no record that she did. Burke and Marjorie went to many movies together, which she usually ranked in her diary as "good" or "not good." However, when they saw *Gone With the Wind* on March 3, 1940, Marjorie reported it was "Very good."

Cats were Marjorie's favorite kind of pet, and many of them were called 'Peaches', the name of a cat she had when a youngster in New Haven. She and Burke did have an occasional dog in their early married years.

In 1946 Burke and Marjorie joined the Spring Lake Country Club, not far from their home in Grand Haven. There Burke could golf and Marjorie played bridge. She also enjoyed the slot machines, especially the nickel slots. In the mid-1950s she sold *Beauty Counselor*, a cosmetics line, and while living in Marion, Virginia, she was a volunteer for the Red Cross blood banks.



**Ann as a WAVE**

World War II was well underway by the time Ann enlisted in the WAVES just before Christmas 1942. She finished her basic training at Smith College in Amherst, Massachusetts, in twenty-one days, completed her officer's training at Radcliffe College on April 2, 1943, and was then commissioned with the rank of Ensign. She was promoted to Lieutenant J.G. in March 1944. Two months later she boarded a B-17 'Flying Fortress' and was flown into Muskegon Airport, a relatively small airport at the time and not accustomed to handling large military bombers. The landing created quite a sensation within the family and the community. In 1953 Ann received a license authorizing her to pilot a single engine airplane.

Mac enlisted in the Navy in July, 1943, and got his basic training at Great Lakes Naval Base in the fall of that year, twenty-seven years after his father had been there. From there he went to San Diego and eventually, like his father, became a radioman.

On May 12, 1944, Nancy's husband, Jim Klecka, left for the Navy, and on September 23<sup>rd</sup> Nancy and son Richard moved to 619½ Franklin Street in Grand Haven, across the street from Wally's school.

In October 1942 Marjorie worked with the Draft Board in Barberton, Ohio. In January 1944 she helped sell war bonds, and later that year she helped wrap Christmas packages for soldiers at Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek. When she and Burke made long trips during the war years, it was necessary for them to obtain extra gasoline coupons; the standard rationed amount, which had gone into effect on January 1, 1942, would not get them far.

Marjorie reported that in February 1943 they were given twenty-eight gallons for the trip from Barberton back to Michigan, where they took up residence once again. On Sunday, June 24, 1945, Mac and Wally joined the Coast Guard in a search for a Japanese balloon that Burke had spotted hung up in a tree while he was hiking along the beach north of the Grand River. The Japanese were releasing balloons at

that time, and they were thought to carry explosives. It turned out this particular balloon had been put up by the United States Weather Service, but the excitement was worth the mistake.

Throughout his life Burke's health generally was outstanding. He seldom was bothered with so much as a head cold. Marjorie had a tendency to contract bronchitis, and occasionally she complained of laryngitis. Heat and humidity bothered her and often made her ill. In later years she was bothered by high blood pressure and high cholesterol. She had a life-long battle against excess weight, and tried a variety of regimens to shed it. In July, 1931, she went on a 'Liquid Diet'. By May 1939, her blood pressure was up to 150. She had her first heart attack at fifteen minutes past midnight on November 19, 1957, although she didn't go to the hospital until 9:00 that morning. The attack was diagnosed as a coronary 'spasm', and she recovered rather quickly, spending three nights in the hospital and then returning home, with the doctor's admonition that she should lose at least twenty pounds, go on a low-fat diet to reduce her cholesterol level, and carry nitroglycerine pills in case of a recurrence.

A few days later Marjorie had an asthma attack, unrelated to the heart problem, and returned to the hospital, where she spent two nights. Because she might be suffering from severe allergies, Burke reported in a letter to the family that they:

*... had to remove all flowers, plants, cactus, African violets etc for 30 days as the Dr. suspects an allergy and is trying to locate it. Marj was in very high spirits this noon having had her best nights rest for some time. They may end up removing me or the trailer – as we hear strange tales about allergies. Had Thanksgiving dinner with Marj at the hospital – and Marj's tray certainly didn't look like one dished out on the farm.*

After a month of recuperation, they went to Florida for the second time. Marjorie returned home tired but glad to be back. A little over a year later she recorded that her blood pressure was 170/100 and that her cholesterol count was up to 295, dangerously high. She also suffered from diabetes.

Like all families, the Ewings had their routines. Monday was washday for Marjorie, and other specific days of the week were for cleaning house, ironing, and running errands, with or without household help. The family's Saturday night supper usually consisted of hamburgers – with Postum as a special treat – and Sunday dinner was at 1:00 p.m., with each family member left to fend for himself or herself for the evening meal. A Sunday ride in the family auto was a special treat, although not uncommon. Marjorie and Burke continued to attend the movies faithfully. In Chicago the large and ornate *Tivoli Theater* seemed to be their favorite place to go. They bought their first television set in August 1950, "a Wilcox & Gay (made in G.R.) fourteen-inch screen – table model – It was installed yesterday so it is still very much of a novelty to us."

Marjorie loved her children, but was ready when the last one left home for college in the fall of 1950. She wrote for an unspecified audience:

*There is nothing so wonderful as having your children all grown and starting all by yourselves again.*

*We have 4 children – the 2 older are girls – the 2 younger are boys. They are, of course, the most wonderful off springs in the world but never the less, life can be wonderful after 50.*

*Five o'clock feedings – childrens [sic] parties—'Mother may I have the car today?' Instead – peace & quiet which is wonderful after 30 years of the other.*

*Fortunately my husband & I enjoy the same things – and how we do enjoy doing them together.*

*We have even gotten to the 'Trailer Bug' Stage. It seems to present a wonderful life to two people who love to travel -- which we hope to do when my husband retires.*

*Every one [sic] has dreams of the future and ours is to be in Florida in the winter & Michigan in the summer.*

*We have 5 wonderful grand children [sic]—3 of whom we have had in our home for short visits many times & thoroughly enjoyed them. But after the visits – we could be alone again.*

*I feel so sorry for the parents who say they are so lonely for their children and miss them so much – They are missing everything if they don't enjoy their 'second honeymoon.'*



**Jim and Nancy Ewing Klecka, with Marjorie and Burke in the center, 1956.**

Their first grandchild, Richard Allen Klecka, was born in Muskegon on Thursday, March 19, 1942 – his grandmother's birthday. Barbara Ann, Richard's sister and the second grandchild, was born in Muskegon on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Nancy and Jim's third and last child was Ronald Edward, who graced the family home on Friday, July 5, 1946.

Mac had moved west, where he completed his bachelor degree at Arizona State University in Tempe. He and Sue Miller were married there on April 7, 1951. Mac and Sue's first child, Deborah, was born in Tempe, Arizona on December 17, 1951, and their second, Burke McKendree III, on November 30, 1953.



**Burke Jr his wife, Sue, and their first born, Debbie.**

In the fall of 1950 Wally began his studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison under a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. He was married for a short time to Shirley Oltman, the wedding ceremony taking place on September 12, 1953, just after he returned from a summer cruise to Europe with the Navy. The marriage ended early the next year. On February 19, 1955, son Wally married the recently-divorced Nancy Lee Kendall Armstrong and provided Marjorie and Burke with two instant grandchildren, Deborah Sue, age four, and Teresa Kay, age one. Two more children arrived within the next few years: Sandra Lee on September 10, 1956, and Kathy Lynn on June 13, 1960. Kathy was the last of Burke and Marjorie's grandchildren. Sandra Lee died on June 8, 2005.

Wally then married Betty Jane (Pickel) Livingston in Grand Haven on August 25, 2006.

In the meantime Ann married Justin McCarthy in Washington DC on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1958. Marjorie, Burke, Nancy, and Jim attended the wedding ceremony. The marriage had a short life. Ann and Justin were divorced after separating in April 1960. Nancy and Jim had separated the previous month that year, and

both remarried, Nancy to Paul Schulze on December 7, 1963. Paul, a music teacher in the Muskegon schools, died of an aneurysm on February 17, 1973, in a hospital in Grand Rapids. Nancy died in Del Mar, California, of emphysema and related complications on November 10, 1987. Paul was born and raised in Burlington, Iowa, not far from Keokuk, where Marjorie and Burke spent some months in the early 1960s. Jim Klecka married Donna Mills on August 17, 1963. Burke and Marjorie's first grandchild was the first to marry. On August 31, 1963, Richard and Beverly Dunk of Muskegon exchanged marriage vows. Marjorie and Burke attended that ceremony, too.

In mid-July 1958, Burke, Marjorie, Wally and his family, and Mac and his family rented a cottage at Manistee, Michigan, for a memorable week-long vacation. Mac, Sue, and their children drove from their home in Tempe, Arizona, and Nancy, Jim, and their children showed up for a one-day visit, too. The vacation included many hikes on the beach and an occasional car ride, including one to Traverse City to enjoy the annual Cherry Festival there.

On June 24, 1959, Burke and Marjorie left Marion, Virginia for the last time. Burke officially retired from Brunswick in July, 1960. The Brunswick newsletter carried this article about Burke:

*Burke Ewing began his retirement from Brunswick this week after 19 years of loyal service with the company, in various positions. During these years, he was employed at Brunswick plants in Marion, Virginia, Muskegon, the Home Office in Chicago, and here in Kalamazoo.*

*During much of his career, Burke has been involved in the development of our architectural products line, and was of great assistance to us in starting production of this line here.*

*We understand Burke's hobbies of photography and touring will occupy some of his new leisure time, as will his new job with a local construction company.*

*Good Luck, Burke – we'll miss you.*



**Burke about the time of his retirement from Brunswick.**

Their retirement income was limited, and Burke held a number of temporary jobs over the next few years, often working out of his country home on Lincoln Street in Grand Haven. Beginning on July 18, 1960, he did some work for Miller Lumber Company, located in Kalamazoo, at the same time he was working for the Brunswick School Equipment Division in that city. He and Marjorie bought a house at 713 Milham in Kalamazoo on May 23, 1961, and sold it not long after. In early October 1961 Burke went to work for B&B Engineering in Grand Haven, and in late March 1962 he was hired by Grand Rapids Millwork to do some drafting. He finished that project on June 27<sup>th</sup> the same year, and in late October he began work for the Sheller Company in Keokuk, Iowa, where they lived in a rented mobile home.

In the meantime, Burke and Marjorie, in August 1959, had started construction of their retirement home, a one-bedroom summer cabin located on the southeast corner of the sixty-one acre farm they had bought in 1946. Rycenga Homes of Grand Haven provided most of the labor and materials for the shell in exchange for drafting Burke did for them, and Burke finished the interior in 1960 and 1961, as time and finances allowed. They moved in after selling their house in Kalamazoo, although at that time the cabin was still very much unfinished and barely livable. They rented another house for the month of June, then lived in a travel trailer in a park in Kalamazoo. Enamored of the nomadic life, in early May

1962, they took out a mortgage of \$3,000 from a Grand Haven bank and evidently used it to buy their first Avalair travel trailer on May 19<sup>th</sup>, a 45' x 10' Nashua model. They had had at least one earlier trailer, which they bought on June 27, 1959, and sold the following June.

They soon joined an organization of Avalair owners, and Burke became active in its leadership. They traveled from Michigan to California to Florida with the freedom of nomads, perhaps reaching the ultimate in a rootless life – although always with the Wilderness and the farm as safe havens to which they could return. One of their favorite spots was Sarasota, Florida, where the Ringling Brothers Circus was headquartered. There they could visit the Circus Museum and watch the circus performers rehearse their acts for the upcoming season. The circus was another of Burke's favorite entertainments, from boyhood on.

Marjorie's health slowly deteriorated. From January 30, 1963, to February 14<sup>th</sup> she was too ill to write in her diary, and her entries were sporadic for a long period after that. On February 24<sup>th</sup> she was admitted to the Keokuk hospital, where she stayed until March 10<sup>th</sup>. Six days later she was back in the hospital. The day after that Burke drove her to Muskegon, arranging a bed in the back of the station wagon. They stopped for emergency treatment in Benton Harbor, finally arriving at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon at half past midnight on March 17<sup>th</sup>. She stayed there until April 1<sup>st</sup> and was treated for "heart failure." Burke, in the meantime, returned to Keokuk to continue his work there. Their granddaughter Barbara was getting her nurse's degree at the University of Michigan, and she made sure her grandmother received appropriate medical care.



**Burke Jr, Nancy, Ann, and Wally in 1969.**

Marjorie's diary suffered from inattention for the next four weeks, and then only brief notations were made. She reentered Hackley Hospital on April 28<sup>th</sup>, staying there until May 22<sup>nd</sup>, when she was moved to her daughter Nancy's house. Burke returned from Keokuk the next day and took Marjorie to the farm, as they tended to call their Lincoln Street acreage. Burke returned to Keokuk, and Marjorie returned to Nancy's, but evidently Marjorie was well enough to stay by herself at least most of the time. As they had done forty-four years earlier, they wrote numerous, vigorous, and loving letters to reach other during the separation. Burke no longer complained of being "teary" when he thought of Marjorie, and she no longer got "woozy," but they were eager and ready to be together again. "Oh Boy!" she wrote him, "Will I be glad to see you – Not just for rides but because I love you and want to be with you – I certainly hope we will never have to be separated again. I hate it."

On June 13<sup>th</sup> she had a "final check up," and seemed to have recovered. Two days later she and Burke returned to Keokuk. By the middle of July her blood pressure was down to 164/90, and her health apparently had stabilized. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> they returned to the farm, a month later they were in Keokuk, and then on October 9<sup>th</sup> they were back at the farm for about a week. Finally, on November 1<sup>st</sup>, they left Keokuk for the last time. Her weight was down to 132 pounds, and two months later it was only 125. The weight loss was a joy to Marjorie. Now she was winning her battle with weight, even as she was losing the larger war.

They retrieved their travel trailer in Keokuk, and from there they visited Burke's mother and sister in El Paso, helping to celebrate Lotta's ninety-third birthday. By November 23<sup>rd</sup> they were in Orlando, Florida.

At the end of January they visited Wallace and Barbara Kelley in Boca Raton. While there, Marjorie died of congestive heart failure early on the morning of February 1, 1964. It had been more than six years since her heart attack, and her blood pressure was more or less under control at 174/86 as late as January 4, 1964. Her last diary entry, on January 29<sup>th</sup> was rather typical for that period: "Cloudy & cooler – Home in A.M." Burke's calendar notation for February 1<sup>st</sup> says simply, "MKE/6:25 AM."

On October 7<sup>th</sup> that year Burke married a life-long family friend, Beatrice Bowman. It was Bea's first marriage. The ceremony took place at 10:00 a.m. at the Methodist Church in Leland, Michigan, one of Bea's favorite places. Burke's daughters Ann and Nancy were in attendance. Since the 1920s Bea had been an employee of the Michigan Children's Aid Society, later known as Child and Family Services, and she had been friends with Carlotta and other family members since that early period. She was a regular visitor at the Wilderness, and was familiar with that environment. Born in December 1901, she was seven years younger than Burke. She retired from her job in the summer of 1964.



**Beatrice Bowman,  
several years before  
she married Burke.**

About 1967 Burke, Walkley, and Doris entered into a partnership to develop a residential sub-division on land across from the Wilderness along Lakeshore Drive and Lincoln Street. Sales were swift, and the large development, called Ewingwood, was headed for success with the first two phases sold out and all profits depending on the sale of the third and final section. However, the state put a hold on all developments in the area, pending the arrival of city water, an event that didn't occur for several years. In the fall of 1973, while Bea and Burke were on the road heading from Texas to Florida, he developed an intestinal blockage. In December he underwent surgery at the Orlando hospital. The prognosis was not promising. The cancer had spread, and despite chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Burke's condition progressively got worse. He fought the inevitable until he could fight no longer. Too weak to talk, he wrote a note to Bea, noting that "The River Styx is very wide..." He then refused all sustenance and died on June 22, 1974, at the Grand Haven Municipal Hospital. The remaining land in Ewingwood was sold in large pieces, and that ended the Ewingwood dream.

Bea stayed in Grand Haven after Burke's death, first living in the cabin on Lincoln Street, then moving into the Williamsburg Apartments in town and finding a renter for the house on Lincoln Street for a short time before she turned it over to some of Burke's descendants. Later she moved to Pilgrim Manor in Grand Rapids, then to the Robbinswood Assisted Living facility in Grand Haven. On May 9, 1987, she had a serious stroke and was transferred to Seville, an adult foster care home not far from town. There she died on January 8, 1992, many years after wondering how – and why – she had managed to survive so long after strong, vigorous Burke had died.

As with so many American families, Burke and Marjorie's descendants scattered in all directions. Ann remained in Washington DC, retiring from her position as medical science writer in 1987. She died there on July 24, 2010. Mac, Sue, and their family had moved from Arizona to La Jolla, California, many years ago, taking both their children with them. Sue passed away in San Diego, California, on April 3, 2001. Their daughter Debbie died ten years later, on March 12, 2011. Mac sold his La Jolla house and moved to Canoga Park, just outside of Los Angeles. Burke III and his wife Sue resided in Los Angeles. Of Nancy's three children, only Richard stayed in the Muskegon area, and in 1997 he and his wife, Bev, moved to Spring Lake. Barbara married Episcopalian minister Ernie Neckerman, and they moved to

California and then to Oregon. Ron, divorced and retired from the Air Force, lived in the Washington DC area before relocating to Maryland.

## **Additional Information**

Several genealogies have been prepared about Pocahontas James Ewing's family and his father, John Ewing of Carnashannagh:

- *Ewing in Early America*, by Margaret (Ewing) Fife, is a basic source of information about many immigrant Ewings.<sup>17</sup>
- My sister's book, *James Ewing – Pioneer*,<sup>18</sup> reports on the life, times and descendants of Pocahontas James Ewing.
- William W. Sproul III's articles<sup>19,20</sup> concern three early James/Joshua Ewing settlers of Augusta County, Virginia, including Pocahontas James Ewing.
- A genealogy of John Ewing of Carnashannagh, prepared by James R. McMichael, is available in the Ewing Genealogy Documentation material provided on the Ewing Family Association's Web Site.<sup>21</sup>



*Wallace K. Ewing's grandfather, A.E Ewing, bequeathed him the family genealogy gene. Some of Wally's earliest memories are of sitting on AEs lap listening to stories of their early Ewing ancestors: Pocahontas James, Swago Bill, and Indian John, among a host of others. AE knew how to tell a story and how to make history personal and exciting for even a five-year old. 'More than seventy years later,' Wally says, 'my pulse still quickens when I read or hear about another Ewing, and if that Ewing is remotely related to me, my heart beats even faster.' A retired teacher, Wally has delved deeply into the history of his hometown as well as his family genealogy. He can be reached by EMail at WKEwing@charter.net.*

### **God Willing and the Creek Don't Rise ...**

... references the Creek Indians and not a body of water. It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is probable that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

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<sup>17</sup> Fife, Margaret (Ewing) (ed. James R. McMichael). *Ewing in Early America*, Family History Publishers (Bountiful, Utah), 2003. Available from [www.HigginsonBooks.com](http://www.HigginsonBooks.com) and online at [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org).

<sup>18</sup> Ewing, Nancy Ann Hank (ed. Barbara (Ewing) Powell). *James Ewing – Pioneer*, Self Published, 1994. Available online at [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document\\_JamesEwingOfPocahontas.html](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document_JamesEwingOfPocahontas.html).

<sup>19</sup> Sproul, William W., III. The Early Ewing Families of Augusta County, Virginia: Part I, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (May 2009), pp 27-29. Available online at [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/documents/Sproul/Sproul\\_Part\\_1.html](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/documents/Sproul/Sproul_Part_1.html).

<sup>20</sup> Sproul, William W., III. The Early Ewing Families of Augusta County, Virginia: Parts II to IV, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (May 2010), pp. 16-37. Available online at [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/documents/Sproul/Sproul\\_Part\\_2.html](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/documents/Sproul/Sproul_Part_2.html).

<sup>21</sup> [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/EGD\\_Project/Document\\_JohnOfCarnashannagh.html](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/EGD_Project/Document_JohnOfCarnashannagh.html)

## **Robert Patterson Correspondence to his Wife Amy Hunter Ewing, Part 4**

David 'Bruce' Frobese (BruceFrobese@gmail.com)

In previous issues of the *Ewing Family Journal*, I wrote about Revolutionary War-period letters between my great<sup>4</sup>-grandmother, Amy Hunter Ewing (1751-1844) – daughter of Maskell Ewing (1721-1796), Greenwich, New Jersey – and her husband, Robert Patterson (1743-1824).<sup>1,2,3</sup> This article continues the series focusing on a letter written from Fort Washington on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1776.

Amy Hunter Ewing opened the September 9, 1776, letter and read a fascinating description of her husband's, Robert Patterson's, daily routine as a Surgeon's Mate while his regiment was camped just below Mount (Fort) Washington, New York. This correspondence, one of thirteen letters sent to Amy from July through September 1776, reveals interesting details about daily existence near the front lines during this very early part of the Revolutionary war. Patterson was serving as a Surgeon's Mate alongside Dr. Thomas Ewing, Amy's brother, in a New Jersey Militia Battalion of General Heard's Brigade.

Patterson's regiment moved north to Fort Washington as the British took Long Island.

*Fort Washington was a fortified position near the north end of Manhattan Island (now part of New York City) and was located at the highest point on the island During George Washington's defense of New York, during the American Revolution, Fort Washington and Fort Lee (on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River) were created both to prevent the British from going up river and to provide a secure escape route.*<sup>4</sup>

For details of their initial encampment see my Part 2 article in the November 2011 issue of the *Ewing Family Journal*<sup>5</sup> containing a transcription and discussion of a September 5, 1776, letter to Amy from Robert at encamped "Camp Washington."

Built on Mount Washington, the highest point on the island of Manhattan, the fort provided a strategic advantage for the American forces. However, General George Washington withdrew most of the troops across the river to New Jersey and left Colonel Robert Magaw in command. In the battle that ensued, British General William Howe ordered the Hessian soldiers under Lieutenant General Wilhelm von Knyphausen, and other British soldiers, totaling around 8,000 men, to capture the fort from the Patriots. They did so on November 16, 1776, taking 2,818 prisoners and a large store of supplies. The British renamed it Fort Mifflin.

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<sup>1</sup> Frobese, David 'Bruce'. Robert Patterson Correspondence to his Wife Amy Hunter Ewing, Part 1, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (February 2011), pp. 1-2

<sup>2</sup> Frobese, David 'Bruce'. Robert Patterson Correspondence to his Wife Amy Hunter Ewing, Part 2, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (November 2011), pp. 21-26

<sup>3</sup> Frobese, David 'Bruce'. Robert Patterson Correspondence to his Wife Amy Hunter Ewing, Part 3, *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (February 2013), pp. 1-7

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Washington\\_\(New\\_York\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Washington_(New_York)))

<sup>5</sup> see footnote 2

**September 9/10, 1776, Letter**

The September 9-10 letter is the epitome of all the wartime letters written by a soldier on the frontlines to a loved one back home during all the wars that have occurred over the last couple of centuries. It covers their daily routine including morning prayers, various amusement activities, what they eat and how it is prepared, and the sounds of battles near them. Patterson also discusses his pay – "18 Dollr [sic] per month" – and laments the fact that "I make out much better in the practice of phisick<sup>6</sup> & with less pain that I did in teaching latin."<sup>7</sup> He eventually did "make out much better", not in the practice of "phisick", but rather in a distinguished career as a professor of Natural Philosophy (Science) at the University of Pennsylvania for more than 30 years.

The letter is shown on the next page. Here is a transcription.

*Mount Washington, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1776*

*My Dearest Amy,*

*In my letter of yesterday I intended to have given you a very particular and circumstantial account of our manner of living and some other matters which may otherwise have no opportunity of knowing but was obliged to break off abruptly by the bearer calling for the letter sooner than I expected.*

*Mr. [Andrew, Jr] Hunter has this day come up from N. York and joined our mess which greatly revives our spirits for we all love his company. We generally rise in the morning about 6 o'clock about which time the Regt. is called together for prayers. Our breakfast in the meanwhile is preparing by our Waiters which is generally Chocolate with a relish of fried [sic] or broiled meat. Breakfast being over the Doctr & I take such medicines in our pockets as we think will be wanted and visit the sick which are kept either in tents appropriate to that purpose or if they have been sick but a short time or their disorder but slight and not likely to be of long continance [sic] in their own tents. This done we return home and spend the rest of the day in various amusements – reading – writing – walking – laughing – talking & we note the Cohansie<sup>8</sup> girls are often the subject of conversation.<sup>9</sup>*

*As tho we are too well bread [sic] to talk much about our wives, I can safely say that mine is seldom ever absent from my thoughts. At dinner we have always beef or pork and sometimes broath [sic] but seldom any other sauce than bread and a good hearty stomach. Our suppers are either cold victuals or chocolate or blackstrobe of which we especially the Doctr consume a*

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<sup>6</sup> This probably means 'physician', but we would, today, likely say "medicine."

<sup>7</sup> From [www.americanrevolution.org/1776](http://www.americanrevolution.org/1776): pay for a Colonel a month ... \$75.00, for a Chaplain ... \$33.33, Surgeon ... \$33.33, Corporal ... \$7.33.

<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cohansey\\_River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cohansey_River)): The Cohansey River is a 30.6-mile-long river in southern New Jersey. The river drains approximately 108 square miles of rural agricultural and forested lowlands on the north shore of Delaware Bay. ... In colonial times the river provided an anchorage for vessels approaching Philadelphia. In 1774, the small port village of Greenwich on the river near its mouth was the scene of an incident similar to the more famous Boston Tea Party in which imported tea was burned as a protest against taxation. The river was also known as the Cesaria River in colonial times

<sup>9</sup> At this spot in the letter, Robert puts a note on the side of the page: "*I have heard Miss Sally Ewing more than once and by more than one called the sweetest prettiest girl in Cumberland County.*" I believe 'Sally' is Sarah Ewing, Amy Hunter (Ewing) Patterson's younger sister who was born in 1756.

My Dear Love  
 Mount Washington Sept. 9th 1776  
 Every letter of yesterday I endeavored to have  
 given you a very particular and circumstantial ac-  
 count of our manner of living and of some other  
 matters which you may therefore have an oppor-  
 tunity of knowing but was obliged to break off abruptly  
 by the hours calling for the letter sooner than I  
 expected. Mr. Hunter has this day come up from  
 New York and spent our night which greatly revives  
 our spirits for we all love his company. We gen-  
 erally rise in the morning about 6 o'clock about  
 which time the Regt is called together for prayers  
 our breakfast in the main is chiefly composed of  
 your wheat which is generally choicest with  
 a relish of yeast orhardt meal. Breakfast being  
 over the Doctor & I take each our several  
 articles as we think will be wanted and every  
 sick article are kept either on hand or prepared  
 to that purpose or if they have been used but a

Page 1

short time or three disorder but stopped and not  
 likely to be long continued in their own tents  
 This done we return home and spend the rest of the day  
 in various amusements reading writing walking  
 laughing talking &c. Now the behavior of the  
 men gives the only sort of conversation & the conversation  
 bread to talk much about our wives I am so fond of  
 that mind is seldom ever absent from my thoughts  
 At dinner we have always beef pease and sometimes  
 broath but seldom any other sauce than broath and  
 a good hearty stonack. Our suppers are either cold  
 victuals or chocolate or black stropes of which are  
 especially the Doctor consumes a good deal. Black  
 stropes is made of about two table spoon fulls of  
 molasses and one of sugar to a pint of spring water  
 into which broath is to be cut and mixed with a spoon  
 This is a good wholesome Diet and supplies the  
 wants of your bodies very well

Page 2

In the evening the Regt is again called together  
 for prayers at which time we generally visit  
 the sick. The officers pay and stations continue  
 from the time of their appointments. The  
 time of my appointments was June 26th  
 My pay 18 Dollars per month. I am somewhat  
 much better in the practice of medicine with  
 less pains than I did in teaching Latin.  
 I believe very few in the Battalion in the  
 least suspect that I am not as skilful  
 a Doctor as any in the Brigade & indeed  
 I begin to be suspected myself that I shall  
 soon acquire a competent knowledge of  
 the profession. Yesterday and today there  
 has been almost a constant cannonade between  
 a battery of ours on Morris neck at New  
 town of Harlem river into the East river  
 and two or three batteries which the evening  
 has thrown up on the opposite shore of

*I have heard of the Regt being more than once a day more than once called  
 the words which I think you are somewhat weary!*

Page 3

Sept 10th  
 — Good morning to you my Dear — I have had a  
 very good night rest. The Doctor Tommy has been  
 very sick all night but is somewhat better this morn-  
 ing. The cannonade began again this morning  
 about day break and yet continues —  
 At 9 o'clock when I received this letter the  
 cannonade is very hot. — I am your  
 Ever tender and most affectionate  
 Robert Patterson

You see this letter is not  
 calculated for the public eye  
 but you may read such parts  
 of it as are found as evidence  
 may think

Mr. Amy Patterson

Page 4

September 9/10, 1776, Letter from Robert Patterson to his Wife, Amy Hunter (Ewing) Patterson

great deal. Blackstrap is made of about two table spoonsfulls [sic] of molasses and one of vinegar to a pint of spring water into which bread is to be cut and supped with a spoon.

This is a good wholesome diet and supplies the want of vegetables very well.

In the evening the Regt. is again called together for prayers at which time we generally visit the sick. The Officers pay and rations commence from the time of their appointment. The time of my appointment was Jun 26<sup>th</sup>. My pay 18 Dollr per month. I make out much better in the practice of phisick<sup>10</sup> & with less pains than I did in teaching latin. I believe very few in the battalion in the least suspect that I am not as skillful a Doctor as any in the Brigade & indeed I begin to persuade myself that I shall soon acquire a competent knowledge at the profession.

Yesterday and today there has been almost a constant cannonade between a battery of ours on Horn's hook at the entrance of Harlem River into the East Sound and two or three batteries which the enemy has thrown up on the opposite shore of Long Island at the distance of not more than half a mile from our battery. The enemy threw sev'l bombs yesterday by which we hear 3 of our men were killed and a platform damaged. We have also heard it asserted by several officers who had a good opportunity of knowing that a 12 pound ball from the enemies battery entered the mussel of one of our guns by which being loaded it was immediatly shot back.

The Doctr & I this afternoon went up to the top of a high hill about a mile from our camp from which we could see the batteries play upon one another very plainly. The distance of the enemy's batteries from the place of observation I compute by my watch to be about 4 miles and an half.

It is now late & I will go to rest. If anything occurs in the morning worth writing before the bearer sets off & I have time you shall have it.

My Dear. I wish you a good night.

Sept 10th

\_\_\_\_\_ Good morning to you My Dear – I have had a very good night's rest – tho Brother Tommy has been very sick all night but is somewhat better this morning – The cannonade began again this morning about daybreak and yet continues \_\_\_\_\_

At 9 o'clock when I subscribe this letter the cannonade is very hot –

From your Ever tender and most affectionate,

Robert Patterson

You see this letter is not calculate for public eye but you may read such parts of it to our friends as prudence may direct \_\_\_\_\_

## Discussion of the Letter's Content

In the second paragraph, Robert first mentions the arrival of Mr. Hunter. This is Andrew Hunter Jr (1752-1823), nephew and namesake of the famous Presbyterian clergyman of Greenwich. The young Hunter was an ordained minister who graduated from Princeton. Amy Hunter (Ewing) Patterson was named for the senior clergyman's wife, Amy Hunter. Amy's parents were extremely fond of their minister and his wife in Greenwich. Thus, Robert naturally would mention the uplifting of spirits when young

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<sup>10</sup> see footnote 6

Chaplain Hunter arrived. It can be safely assumed that Andrew lead the morning and evening prayers along with another Greenwich native, Chaplain Philip Vickers Fithian.<sup>11</sup>

Chaplain Hunter wrote in his diary on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>:<sup>12</sup>

*9 Monday ... about 10 o'clock I marched with our Regt. from N. York towards Mount Washington and carried my Gun, Canteen and Ammunition, we arrived about 2 O'Clock P.M. where I met many of my acquaintances of Col. Newcomb's Regt. and others – Lodged for the first Time in a Tent – Tents were procured for the Regt. but could not be pitched in season, so they were obliged to lye exposed to the Open Air – I thought then of many pleasant Nights I had spent without considering who had provided for me; or that I might be forced to live Harder ... A Cannonade was kept up all Day and as we came along the Road the Balls and Bombs were whizzing about us – we saw two large heaps of balls that had been picked up by our people [which] the enemy had sent into the Camp. We are now got fairly in the spirit of a Soldier's life.*

One of the privileges accorded officers such as Major and Surgeon Thomas Ewing Jr was to select a soldier from the ranks to be a 'waiter'. The waiters prepared the meals so as to free up the officers and some staff to attend to their daily duties. The breakfast of "Chocolate with a relish of fryed [sic] or broiled meat" and the dinner meal of either cold victuals or chocolate or blackstrobe was apparently designed to be efficient on the battlefield with respect to supplies and preparation.

The use of black molasses in blackstrobe is historically an ingredient that many armies have used to feed their troops and covers many centuries and many wars. The term today is 'blackstrap molasses'. It is a thick syrup produced when the sugar plant is processed to make refined sugar for mass consumption and is the highest and most nutritious grade of molasses.

Each day Ewing and Patterson awoke to the sounds of cannons, south and east of them, as the British swept across Long Island, started through New York City, and swept up the East River.

Robert wrote:

*The enemy threw sev'l bombs yesterday by which we hear 3 of our men were killed and a platform damaged. We have also heard it asserted by several officers who had a good opportunity of knowing that a 12 pound ball from the enemies battery entered the mussel of one of our guns by which being loaded it was immediately shot back.*

"Shot back?" might have been Amy's exclamation when she read this letter. It is hard to imagine, but as they say, sometimes real life is stranger than fiction. Or maybe the story was a battlefield concoction for the amusement of the troops. However, I have heard of artillery soldiers in the American Civil War taking enemy cannon balls that land harmlessly, waiting for them to cool down and then firing them back at the enemy.

On Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, Washington expressed his fear of being outflanked again by the enemy. "On every side there is a choice of difficulties," he wrote. And with every decision went the possibility that his army

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<sup>11</sup> Liz Tait, Transcriber. Chaplain Andrew Hunter's Diary, 2006. Edited web version (2007) by Bob McDonald and John K. Robertson. Hereafter referred to as *Hunter Diary*.

<sup>12</sup> McCullough, David. 1776, Simon & Schuster (New York), 2005, p. 207

would not fight. It was a fear that never left him. "Young, inexperienced soldiers who were so greatly outnumbered ought never be drawn into an open conflict," he wrote, continuing:<sup>13</sup>

*At Philadelphia, after days of debate, Congress decided to send a delegation of three--- Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge---to meet with Lord Howe. The three men departed on September 9<sup>th</sup>.<sup>14</sup>*

This was the day that Robert wrote to Amy and finished the letter on September 10<sup>th</sup> with some late "battlefield news" of the cannonade sounds:

*On September 10, advancing British forces crossed from Long Island to occupy Montresor's Island at the mouth of the Harlem River.<sup>15</sup>*

The letter in this article is the last letter of thirteen surviving originals known to the author and in the collection at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania that Amy Ewing received before Robert and his brigade crossed the Hudson River to Fort Lee. My limited research on these exact troop movements at that time tells me that Robert and the doctor were fortunate to be evacuated from Fort Washington before the engagement with the British Army in November 1776. One source for this assertion is the personal diary of none other than Chaplain Andrew Hunter, New Jersey Brigade and Continental Army. Here are a few of Chaplain Hunter's entries for November 1776:<sup>16</sup>

*9 Saturday ... We passed thro' Peck's Kiln a pleasant Town on an Arm of the North River, with a Church – we marched thence to King's Ferry which we crossed as soon as possible in Flat bottomed Boats and Scows. The [Hudson] River here is about 3 miles wide, occasioned by two Coves, one at each Side – Some of the Boats frequently lost their course, by the thickness of Fogs – We were two days before the whole brigade got over.*

*10 Sunday...After we crossed the Ferry, we were ordered to halt for those that were behind – no appearance of Sabbath – we on the West Side of the Hudson River came into Orange County in the State of N York – we found a family of Whigs where we lodged and were kindly entertained – From this to Esopias [New York] about 50 miles.*

New York was burned around September 20, 1776, as the British inched forward toward Fort Washington. Synoptic accounts of the capture of Fort Washington by the British may be found at [www.britishbattles.com/fort-washington.htm](http://www.britishbattles.com/fort-washington.htm). I also suggest that the reader search on the Internet to find a painting by a French artist, Dominic Serres, depicting a British flotilla, led by the Phoenix and Roebuck, defying American guns of Fort Lee and Fort Washington to sail up the Hudson on October 9, 1776.



*David 'Bruce' Frobes earned his bachelor degree from DePauw University. He is attached to the Ewings of Greenwich, New Jersey through Amy Hunter who married Robert Patterson there in May 1774. He recently completed his second on-site trip to Greenwich and Philadelphia to study more about his Ewings and the history of that area. His career included the Air Force and thirty-five years in the investment management and trust administration business. Now retired in Rio Verde, Arizona, Bruce has built his genealogical files to include 3,400 names with the Ewings as a prominent focus of his research. When not searching the past and contributing articles to the Ewing Family Journal, he is an avid golfer in the mountains and the deserts of Arizona. You can reach Bruce by EMail at [BruceFrobes@gmail.com](mailto:BruceFrobes@gmail.com).*

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Hunter Diary

## ***Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing***

Richard C. and Cheryl Lee (Ewing) Jonsson (+1 540.347.3215, [rjonsson@hughes.net](mailto:rjonsson@hughes.net))

Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing – a shoe, saddle, harness maker, and probably a tanner – lived in Barree Township, Bedford and Huntingdon Counties, Pennsylvania. He died circa November 1808 in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. These areas in Pennsylvania are roughly shown in the map of Pennsylvania in 1796 on the following page.

This article addresses the question:

Is this Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing the eldest son of William Ewin, born in 1706 on Inch Island, County Donegal, Ireland, and died in 1774 in Tyrone Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania?

### **Preface**

#### **The Penn Family Proprietors**

On July 30, 1718, William Penn died at his estate in Berkshire, England. His wife Hannah, and sons John, Thomas and Richard took over the management of the Proprietorship of Pennsylvania. According to an quit-rent item in Hoover Publications;<sup>17</sup>

*William Penn offered 200 acres to any settler able to pay immediate quit rent, with 50 additional acres for every servant he brought over, but the recipient was required to improve his land within three years or have it recovered by the proprietor.*

The concept of 'quit rent' was continued until 1779 in Pennsylvania, when it was abolished. Quit rent was a nominal fee to be paid yearly to the Penn family. The fees were difficult to collect as the collection system had its limitations. The Penn family proprietors were given £130,000 in 1779 to compensate for their perceived losses.<sup>18</sup>

Claims by Improvement were still legal and in effect until 1777<sup>19</sup> in accordance with the legal system established by the Penn Proprietors. The system authorized settlers on the Pennsylvania frontier to obtain land by improvement, and free of taxation, for up to three years before being subject to taxation.

#### **Obtaining Land by Improvement**

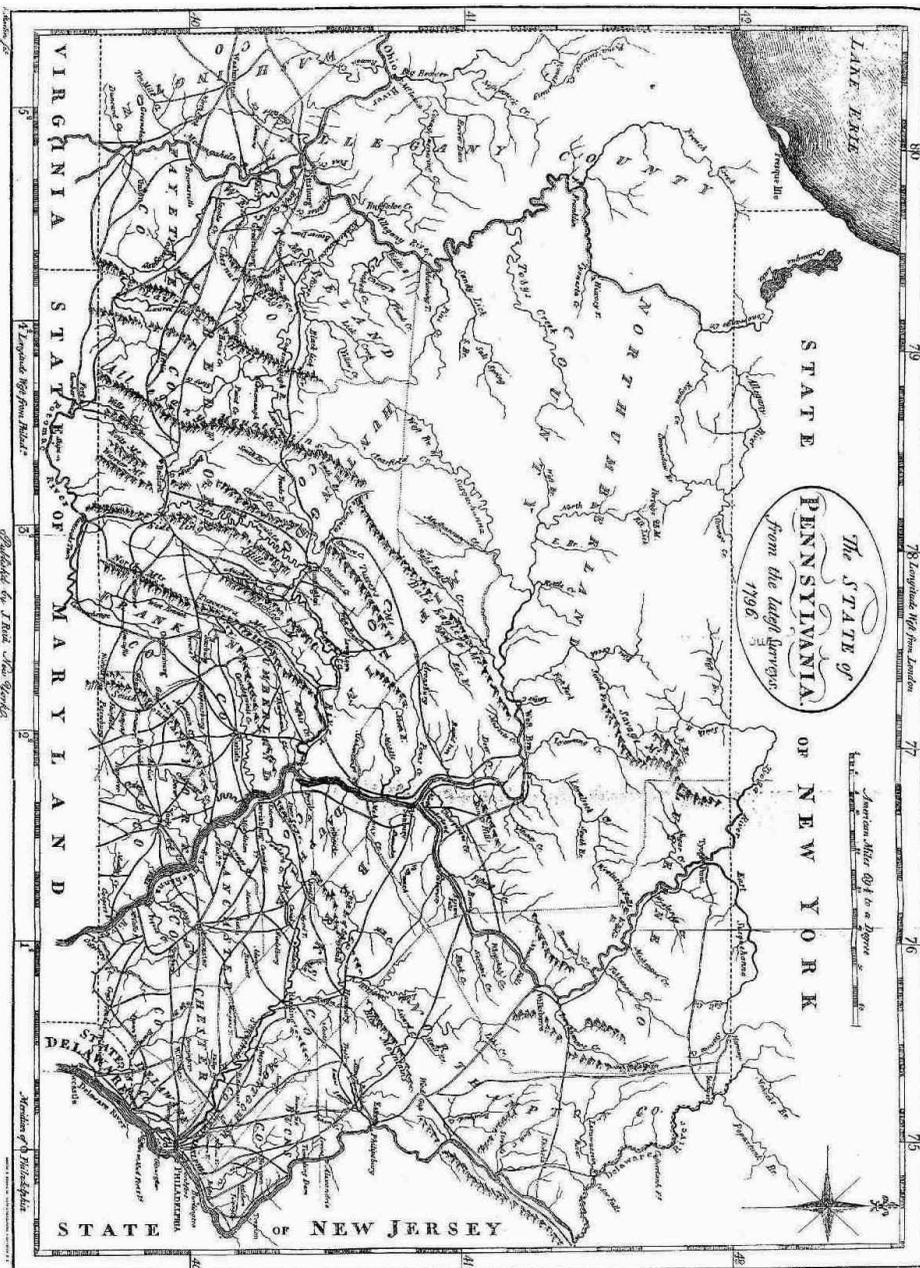
Assessment and taxation appear to appear to have taken place in the fall. Settlers were not taxed if they were obtaining their land using the process of improvement on otherwise unclaimed land. Therefore, conceivably and legally, the settlers could be living on their land for up to three years before the local authorities could tax them. Research underlying this article has taken this practice into consideration when establishing dates of residence, additional to the visibility of a person's name on tax statements.

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<sup>17</sup> Penn, William - Land Improvement Policy – Quit Rent. [www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3459836.html](http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3459836.html)

<sup>18</sup> Quit Rent Concept - [www.PennsylvaniaArchives.Gov](http://www.PennsylvaniaArchives.Gov)

<sup>19</sup> In March 1777 an act was passed, which appointed registers and recorders for the new State. This Act basically ended the acceptance of 'tomahawk claims' and 'improvement claims'. [www.phila.gov/phils/Doc/Invento/exem/htm](http://www.phila.gov/phils/Doc/Invento/exem/htm)



**Pennsylvania in 1796**  
Courtesy of: The University of Texas Library

## **Toboyne Township Split from Tyrone Township in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania**

Toboyne Township was established out of Tyrone Township in 1763. Tyrone and Toboyne were adjacent Townships in 1763 before further reduction took place (see Figure 1 on page 48). Sherman's Creek has its beginning in the hills of Toboyne, and the so-called 'Sherman's Valley' was predominantly in Toboyne Township, but continued into Tyrone Township during the time being considered here. A quick review of the geography shows Germantown, Blain, and Andersonburg as Toboyne township hamlets, and Loysville within Tyrone Township. Centre Presbyterian Church was in Blain, Sherman's Valley.<sup>20</sup>

### **Introduction**

On page 370 in Chapter XXXIX of *Ewings of Early America*<sup>21</sup> Fife states that Samuel Ewing of Tyrone, who died in 1805 in Washington/Allegheny County, Pennsylvania., was the son of a cited William Ewing who died in 1774. However, our research of Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing of Barree Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, who died in 1808, has uncovered strong evidence showing that this Samuel is, in fact, the son of a William Ewin who also died in 1774. The purpose of this article is to present that evidence.

William Ewin wrote his will on November 11, 1774, and died before December 5, 1774. (Appendix A) His will has three important pieces of evidence to support the claim that Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing of Barree (d. 1808) is his eldest son: the equal bequeathment of the Plantation in Barree to his sons, the indication that the sons were already living on that lands, and the gift of two "horse creatures."

Fife's abstract of the will of William of Tyrone (d. 1774) says:<sup>22</sup>

*... that **they** live together upon the place where I now live and use equal industry and enjoy equally the benefits and privileges arising therefrom during the term I was to have it. [My emphasis.]*

The same segment appears in the original Will of William of Tyrone (d. 1774) as follows:

*That the Live together upon the place where I now live & use Equal Industry & enjoy Equality of the Benefits & Privileges arising therefrom during the term I was to have it*

<sup>20</sup> Hain, Henry H. - *History of Perry County, Pennsylvania* – 1922, Hain-Moore Company, Publishers, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Hain*.

<sup>21</sup> Fife, Margaret (Ewing) (ed. James R. McMichael). *Ewing in Early America*, Family History Publishers (Bountiful, Utah), 2003. Available from [www.HigginsonBooks.com](http://www.HigginsonBooks.com) and online at [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org). Hereafter referred to as *Fife*.

<sup>22</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

Which, upon close inspection says:

*that the(y) live together upon the place where the(y) now live & use equal industry & enjoy equally the benefits & privileges arising therefrom during the term I was to have it. [Again, my emphasis.]*

There is a major – very important – difference between the statement by Fife, and the actual, written, original will of William of Tyrone dated 1774. As stated by Fife: "that they live together ... where I now live," implies the sons are living in Tyrone where William wrote his will. However, as is shown in the scan of his will, William wrote, "that the(y) live together ...where the(y) now live," which implies a location elsewhere, which as we will see, is in Barree on the newly purchased Plantation some fifty to sixty miles distant in Bedford County (see Figure 3 on page 59). In addition to William's will, evidence also shows continual interaction between Samuel (d. 1808) and his siblings until the land is sold.

While searching for Cheryl (Ewing) Jonsson's earliest known Ewing ancestor, the findings of which were published in the *Journal of Clan Ewing*<sup>23</sup> we had also found a William Ewin, a Thomas Ewing, and a Samuel Ewing in Tyrone Township, as well as a Samuel Ewing in Toboyne Township. After our previous publication, we continued our search for Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing's father.

We discounted William of Tyrone as a candidate since Fife implied that the sons of William Ewin of Tyrone (Samuel, James, and Alexander) had moved to Washington County by 1786.<sup>24</sup> This information persuaded us that Samuel of Tyrone belonged to William of Tyrone (d. 1774). This left us with the Samuel Ewing of Toboyne Township<sup>25</sup> as a potentially logical ancestor, and it was at this point that our research faltered!

### **Samuel Ewing of Toboyne Township. Cumberland County (d. 1807/1808)**

Our research has shown that this Samuel is seen in the Toboyne 1768 Tax Assessment with forty-five acres, five cleared.<sup>26</sup> He is also seen listed in the 1790 census with "(3M 16+) (2F)" next to William McClintock on Brown's Run, near Blain, in Sherman's Valley, Toboyne Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. (Appendix F)

Further study of Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing of Toboyne, (d. 1807/8) (Appendix F), also showed that he has to be a different Samuel for the following reasons:

- Samuel Ewin of Toboyne presents a parallel path in Toboyne Township, Cumberland County, during the same progression of time to 'our' Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing who is seen in 1776 in Barree, Bedford County, and shown on Barree and West Tax Records from 1777 until 1808.
- There does not appear to be any interaction with James and Alexander of Tyrone or Barree Township, Bedford County.

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<sup>23</sup> Jonsson, Richard C. and Cheryl Lee Ewing. Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing: His Life and Descendants, *J. Clan Ewing*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (October 2008), pp. 24-37. Hereafter referred to as *Jonsson*.

<sup>24</sup> *Fife*, p. 378

<sup>25</sup> Samuel of Toboyne: Fife provided a brief commentary that "Samuel of Tyborn (sic) is cousin to Samuel Ewing (died before 11 October 1793), son of John Ewing (b. 1713)" (*Fife*, Chapter XXXVI, p. 325).

<sup>26</sup> *Perry County People (Prior to 1830)*. In *Source 2646, Cumberland County Tax Rates 1750 - 1770*, p. 170 (Microfilm #B011). Hereafter referred to as *Perry County People*.

Since 2008 we have spent much time researching Ewings in Philadelphia, Chester, Lancaster, and Cumberland Counties in Pennsylvania to find a possible tie to any known Ewing family that might include a 'Free Samuel', with zero success. Since 'our' Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing was located in Barree Township during the mid-1770s, we next decided to concentrate on Ewings having any connection to Barree Township during that period, be they Cumberland or Bedford Counties. We again arrived at the names of William Ewin (d. 1774) and Thomas Ewing (d. 1800). During our research of William Ewing of Tyrone (d. 1774), we re-examined the original will (Appendix A) and realized that not only had he bequeathed his Plantation in Barree to his three sons, but it was "where they now lived." This finding prompted us to take another look at Samuel of Tyrone (d. 1805 in Allegheny County) whom Fife had stated was William's eldest son.

### **Samuel Ewing of Tyrone Township, Cumberland County, Married to Jean/Jane Neal**

According to Fife, Samuel Ewing of Tyrone (d. 1805) was born 1751/1752, possibly in Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>27</sup> He married Jean Neal (b. ~1758) in ~1773/1774. She was the daughter of John and Susanna (Sharp) Neal of Tyrone Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.<sup>28</sup> Fife also notes their children as:

*William Ewing, son of Samuel (d. 1805), born 7 Oct/Nov 1775 in "Sherman's Valley." Six of William's siblings; Mary 1777, Isabella 1779, Jean 1780, Margaret 'Peggy' 1782, Susannah 1784, and Sarah b. 1786 were also born in "Sherman's Valley." Siblings, John ca 1789 and Samuel ca 1791, were probably born in Washington County, Pennsylvania.*

The following data are from the period just before and after William's death until the death of Samuel of Tyrone in 1805:

1774 Samuel of Tyrone. He is the only Ewing in Tyrone. He was probably married.<sup>29</sup> This Samuel seems to be living a life that is separate from James, Alexander, Martha or Jane.

*Note: This Samuel, the "only Ewing in Tyrone," cannot be the son of William (d. 1774), because the statement in the will of William in 1774 (Appendix A) indicates that his three sons – Samuel, James and Alexander – are living together on the Plantation in Barree.*

1775 Samuel Ewing of Tyrone has "50 acres W, 1h, 1c, 10 acres Cleared." <sup>30</sup> Samuel's first child, William, is born in Sherman's Valley.<sup>31,32</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Fife, p.370

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

<sup>29</sup> Fife, p. 368

<sup>30</sup> Sickmon, Richard: Researcher, Hamilton Library, Cumberland County Historical Society, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Sickmon*

<sup>31</sup> Fife, p. 371

<sup>32</sup> Riddle, William E *James Ewing of Inch.* ([www.ewingassociation.org/EGD\\_project/James\\_of\\_Inch](http://www.ewingassociation.org/EGD_project/James_of_Inch)) Hereafter referred to as *Riddle*.



CUMBERLAND COUNTY TOWNSHIPS AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
 Darker lines are present-day county boundaries.

Figure 1: Outline of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, after the Treaty of Albany IN 1754, wherein William Penn– purchased new territory from the Indian Tribes.

Courtesy of: Gillian K. Leach, Pioneer Library, Bedford County, Pennsylvania Historical Society

1775 Margaret Fife mentions that there is only one Ewing in Tyrone.<sup>33</sup>

*Note: Once again, the three sons mentioned in the Will of William are together in Barree on the Plantation.*

1776 Samuel Ewing in Tyrone has "50 acres, Patented, 20 acres cleared."<sup>34,35</sup>

*Note: Samuel of Barree is seen on his land by Alexander McCormick.*

1777 Tax N/A –Samuel's second child, Mary, is born in Sherman's Valley.<sup>36,37</sup>

*Note: Samuel of Barree (d. 1808) is taxed on fifty acres.*

1778 Tax N/A

1779 Samuel Ewing is the only Ewing in Tyrone with no land and the records show "1 c, (married)."<sup>38</sup> He has apparently reduced his holdings in Tyrone. Samuel's third child, Isabella, is born in Sherman's Valley.<sup>39,40</sup>

*Note: Samuel of Barree (d. 1808) is taxed on 50 acres, Improved.*

1780-1786 Four more of Samuel's children are born in Sherman's Valley.<sup>41,42</sup>

1786 Samuel Ewing listed as "Warrantee in Washington County 22 Feb 1786."<sup>43</sup>

1789 Samuel Ewing's son, John, is probably born in Washington County.<sup>44</sup>

1791 Samuel Ewing's son, Samuel, is probably born in Washington County.<sup>45</sup>

1805 Samuel Ewing wrote his will in Moon Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, on October 16, 1804. The will was probated on 24 December 1805.<sup>46</sup>

Research on Samuel Ewing of Tyrone (d. 1805) indicates that he had no residence in Barree, but continued living in Tyrone, and possibly in Toboyne, before moving to Washington County, Pennsylvania.

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<sup>33</sup> *Riddle*, p. 368

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>35</sup> *Sickmon*

<sup>36</sup> *Fife*, p. 371

<sup>37</sup> *Riddle*

<sup>38</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>39</sup> *Fife*, p. 371

<sup>40</sup> *Riddle*

<sup>41</sup> *Fife*, p. 371

<sup>42</sup> *Riddle*

<sup>43</sup> *Fife*, p. 370

<sup>44</sup> *Riddle*

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>46</sup> *Fife*, p. 370

Our research did not uncover any reference to interaction with the underage siblings – James and Alexander – during the early years after William Ewin's death in 1774. At that time Samuel Ewin, the of-age eldest son of William of Tyrone would have been the responsible adult in the family.

## **Discussion**

This portion of this article covers the years 1750 through 1808, and looks closely at the intertwined lives of William Ewin (d. 1774), Thomas Ewing (d. 1800) and William's children – Samuel, James, Alexander, Martha and Jane. We endeavor to expand the knowledge of this period gained through Fife's efforts, and present new information in the hope that it will enhance the overall knowledge of our mutual Ewin/Ewing ancestry.

### **William Ewin (d. 1774)**

William Ewin (d. 1774) was born circa 1706, on Inch Island near Londonderry in Ireland.<sup>47</sup> He arrived during the second wave of immigrants from Ireland between 1725 and 1729 when "the Irish Diaspora became so large that the British Parliament took notice."<sup>48</sup> (Appendix K). William was first seen in 1729 in East Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>49</sup> From the tax structure he apparently was already married when he arrived in this country.<sup>50</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March in 1733, William Ewin received a Grant, signed by Thomas Penn, for 200 acres in the Pennsylvania territory adjoining the Barrens.<sup>51,52,53</sup> This would put William (d.1774) near or into the disputed territory between Pennsylvania and Maryland. He is seen in East Nottingham Township through 1737. According to Fife on page 376, records are nonexistent from 1739 to 1749. William is next seen in the 1750 tax records of Londonderry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>54</sup>

Circa 1750, at the approximate age of forty-four or forty-five, William Ewin married Jane Gordon, daughter of James Gordon and Agness Douglas of Londonderry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>55</sup> Sometime after 1750, and possibly because of the Proprietor's directive of 1755 to direct the Irish away from Lancaster County and into Cumberland County,<sup>56</sup> William decided to remove to Cumberland County.

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<sup>47</sup> Fife, p. 38

<sup>48</sup> Leyburn, James G. *The Scotch-Irish, A Social History*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill 1962. ([homepages.rootsweb.ancstry.com/~mcclell2/homepage/migrate.htm](http://homepages.rootsweb.ancstry.com/~mcclell2/homepage/migrate.htm)) Hereafter referred to as *Leyburn*.

<sup>49</sup> Fife, p. 376

<sup>50</sup> Ibid

<sup>51</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Barrens: "Located along a 20-mile stretch of the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, the State Line Serpentine Barrens, the largest occurrence of Serpentine Barrens in the eastern United States, contains some of the last major remnants of serpentine grassland and savanna in eastern North America." ([www.yelp.com/biz/the-serpentine-barrens-chester-county](http://www.yelp.com/biz/the-serpentine-barrens-chester-county))

<sup>52</sup> Fife, p. 377

<sup>53</sup> See also the Pennsylvania Map on page 44.

<sup>54</sup> Fife, p. 376

<sup>55</sup> Ibid

<sup>56</sup> Hazard, Samuel, Cited in *Hazards Register of Pennsylvania - 1831*, W. F. Geddes Pub., p. 81. Hereafter referred to as *Hazard*.

This trip was an immense undertaking of approximately 150 miles, over rudimentary roads, from lower Chester County through Lancaster County, over the Susquehanna River, through York County, to the Yellow Breeches Creek area near Newville, West Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County (see Figure 2 on page 54).

William apparently was in York County in 1756, as his youngest son, Alexander believes he was born in March of 1756 in York. (Appendix B) Alexander also stated that, "he had lived in Chester." We find that in 1755 through 1757, during the height of the French and Indian War, "most of the settlers in Cumberland were driven off."<sup>57</sup> William Ewin could very well have temporarily returned to Chester County for that duration.

As a family they obviously sustained themselves. William Ewin must have had a trade that did not include the need for land and was of sufficient value to support a family of seven. His trade apparently did not require the moving of a great deal of equipment (e.g. Blacksmith), thus eliminating the need to establish a fixed base.

If we look at the youngest member of the family, daughter Jane, she is underage at the time of William's will. She was born in October 1760,<sup>58</sup> the same year William was seen – without land – in West Pennsboro. Jane Gordon would still have been alive. So Jane Gordon died sometime after October 1760.

When William is shown in Tyrone Township in 1768/69, he would have been about sixty-two years of age with a young family – specifically, Samuel, James, Alexander, Martha, and Jane (and possibly Jane Gordon, his wife).

In the early 1750s William was joined by a young man named Thomas Ewing.

### **Thomas Ewing (d. 1800)**

The only record found to date regarding Thomas's birthplace is in Africa's *History of Huntingdon County*.<sup>59</sup>

*He came from the south eastern part of the State, but like most of the settlers of the valley, was of Irish descent.*

In his will written October 27, 1797 (See Appendix G), Thomas Ewing lists his son, Alexander, as his eldest.<sup>60</sup> This Alexander is taxed in Barree as a Freeman in the "1780 Bari (sic) Twp Tax and Exoneration Schedule;" therefore he was born circa 1759. (Appendix L) This would put the birth date of Thomas Sr at ~1737/38 (i.e., 1759 minus twenty-one years).

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<sup>57</sup>Schaumann, Merri Lou. *History & Genealogy of Carlisle Cumberland Co. Pennsylvania 1751-1835*, Hamilton Library, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Schaumann*.

<sup>58</sup> *Fife*, p. 375

<sup>59</sup> Africa, J. Simpson. – *History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties*, Pennsylvania, 1883, Publisher, Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – 1883 (Reproduction sponsored by Huntingdon County Historical Society.) Hereafter referred to as *Africa*.

<sup>60</sup> In his Will, Thomas Ewing (d. 1800) also bequeathed "to my daughter, Marthew [sic] one horse." This contradicts Fife's interpretation on page 380 as "son, Mathew, too young."

Based on the mathematics in the previous paragraph we submit that it is entirely possible that a young Thomas Ewing was put-to-trade by someone to learn the trade of William Ewin (d. 1774) who would be his 'patron'. We submit two possible locations:

- The first possibility would be at an approximate age of twelve-to-thirteen in Chester County, which would coincide with the date of 1750 when William (d. 1774) is seen. The second possibility would be with Thomas at a slightly older age – about fourteen or fifteen – in Lancaster County.<sup>61</sup> This would fit a travel path from Chester through Lancaster County where there were Ewings, as well as a major crossing of the Susquehanna River (Wrights Ferry) on the road to York. Similarly, on the western side of the Susquehanna, in York County, there was another group of the Ewing family.<sup>62</sup>

### **Thomas Ewing with William Ewin**

Thomas Ewing apparently traveled with William from Chester County (or possibly Lancaster County), Pennsylvania, from around 1750, to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, where both William and Thomas are seen in 1761 with no land.<sup>63</sup>

They were present in Tyrone in 1768. In 1768 and 1769 William was assessed in Tyrone Township, on 150 acres, fifteen acres cleared, and Thomas was assessed on 200 acres, twelve acres cleared.<sup>64,65,66</sup>

In 1770 an interesting phenomena unfolds. Instead of expanding their land holdings, as most farmers did at that time, both William and Thomas reduced their acreage. Why? There seems to be a plan in the making.

- 1770 William Ewin, but we have no record of taxation.
- 1770 Thomas Ewing is seen in Tyrone Township, but with land down from 200 acres to a hundred acres, "W, 16 acres cleared, 1h, 1c".<sup>67</sup>
- 1771 William Ewin is seen in Tyrone Township with "100 acres, 10 cleared. 1h, 1c." <sup>68</sup> William either reduced his holdings, or has given them up to take over the hundred acres of land that Thomas had held in 1770.
- 1771 Thomas (now with a family), who had been somehow 'bound' to William during his peregrination from Chester County, through Lancaster, and is shown as a "Renter" to William in Tyrone Township.<sup>69</sup> It appears that Thomas has consolidated his resources.

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<sup>61</sup> Lancaster, Pennsylvania: There is a reference to Lancaster and Alexander, son of Thomas Ewing (d. 1800) in Africa's *History of Huntingdon County*. Africa states "... in 1809 he [Alexander] went to Lancaster to procure a large Bible..." (*Africa*, p. 270)

<sup>62</sup> *Fife*, pp. 324-325

<sup>63</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>64</sup> Leach, Gillian K. – Researcher, Pioneer Historical Society, Bedford Co, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Leach*.

<sup>65</sup> *Sickmon*

<sup>66</sup> *Perry County People*

<sup>67</sup> *Leach*

<sup>68</sup> *Fife*, pp. 368, 380

Bottom line: the combined holdings of William and Thomas were reduced from 350 acres to a hundred acres in one year!

- 1771 This was the year of the transfer of Barree Township from the jurisdiction of Cumberland County to that of newly formed Bedford County.
- 1772 William was in Tyrone Township with "100 acres, 15 acres cleared, 2h, 1c." <sup>70</sup> However, Thomas is not seen in Cumberland County.
- 1772 Either in late 1771, when he was listed as a "Renter," <sup>71</sup> or early in 1772, Thomas apparently moved to the territory of Barree District, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, on the head waters of Shavers Creek.

In 1772 it appears that Thomas acquired a hundred acres by Improvement in Barree Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Independent research shows he was taxed in 1773 on a hundred acres.<sup>72</sup> The 1779 Barree, Bedford County, Tax Statement shows Thomas Ewing as having a hundred acres by Improvement and 200 acres, warranted. (1779 Barree Tax Assessment).

- 1773 William was taxed in Tyrone Township with '100 acres, 20 cleared.'" <sup>73</sup>
- 1773 William bought a Plantation of 159 acres in Barree Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, on November 13, 1773, from James and Martha Robb near where Thomas had settled.<sup>74</sup>
- 1773 The Plan unfolds. It appears that both William and Thomas had made plans to move to Barree Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.
- 1774 There is no evidence that William went to Barree in 1774, yet in his will he wrote of "enjoying the benefit and privilege" of owning the land. In November 1774, a year after purchasing the Plantation in Barree, William was writing his will (Appendix A) in Tyrone Township.<sup>75</sup>
- 1774 In his Last Will and Testament, dated November 11, 1774 (and probated on December 5, 1774), William declared himself as "William of Tyrone." William's self-identification was probably made to distinguish himself from other regional Williams, namely, a William Ewing who had warranted a hundred acres in Toboyne in 1767, and a William Ewing living in West Pennsboro, Cumberland County.

<sup>69</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid*

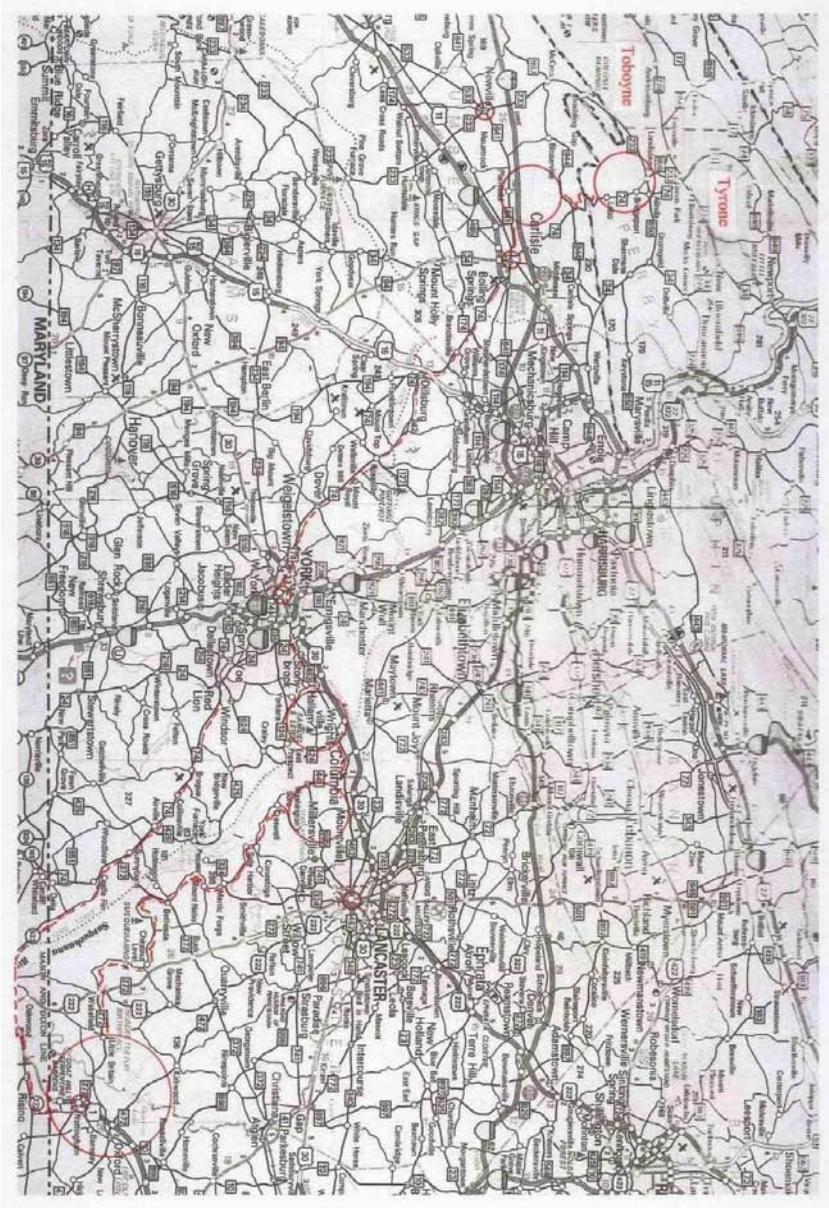
<sup>71</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>72</sup> *Leach*

<sup>73</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>74</sup> Plantation: The data show that Thomas Ewing moved to Barree Township first, and obtained his first hundred acres by the medium of Improvement. William purchased the "Plantation" subsequent to that move, in contrast to Fife's conjecture that "Thomas bought land near to the land that William had purchased" (*Fife*, p. 380).

<sup>75</sup> Jane Gordon, the wife of William Ewin (d. 1774) is not mentioned in the will. It is presumed that she had died prior to the date of the will.



**Figure 2: William Ewin's perceived route of travel with optional routes either side of the Susquehanna River. Circa 1750 (Londonderry, Chester, Pennsylvania) to 1761 (West Pennsboro, Cumberland, Pennsylvania) and 1768 (Tyrone, Cumberland, Pennsylvania)**

In his Will (Appendix A), William referenced his eldest son Samuel, and then younger sons – James and Alexander – and his two daughters – Martha and Jane. All but Samuel were under-age. The Executors were John Gordon (brother to his father-in-law, James Gordon), and John Ross.

Thomas Ewing, who had been with William for several years, was not mentioned in William's 1774 will. This is most interesting because Fife had considered Thomas to be a son of William.<sup>76</sup> If Thomas were a son of William by any wife, he would have been acknowledged as the eldest son, especially since Thomas was still living. Based on this finding, we submit that Thomas was not William's son.

### **The Legacy of the Last Will and Testament of William Ewin of Tyrone (d. 1744)**

The focus of this article now shifts to what we believe is the legacy of the will of William Ewin of Tyrone who died in 1774, and to Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing of Barree (d. 1808) whom our research shows to be the eldest son of William of Tyrone (d. 1774).

From the will of William of Tyrone (d. 1774) (Appendix A) we find:

*Viz: First I instruct & [uphold?] that all my debts & funeral charges be justly and immediately paid.*

*Secondly, I bequeath unto my eldest son Sam'l the two horse creatures which he claims are his.*

*Thirdly, I bequeath unto my second son, James, one two year old colt*

*Fourthly, I bequeath unto my third son, Alex'r my saddle mare*

*Fifthly, I bequeath unto my eldest daughter, Martha, the sum of twenty pounds current money to be paid to her when she comes to the age of eighteen years*

*Sixthly, I bequeath unto my youngest daughter, Jane, the like sum of twenty pounds when she comes to the age of eighteen years*

*Seventhly, I will & order that all my estate, whether real or personal exclusive of the above bequeathments to my three sons be pris'd [sic] immediately after my decease & equally divided between them accordingly to the Prisement [sic]. Each of the three to bear an equal part in paying all just debts & demands against my estate as well as the above bequeathments to my two daughters & that the[y] live together upon the place where the[y] now live & use equal industry & enjoy equally the benefits & privileges arising thereupon during the term I was to have it.<sup>77</sup>*

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<sup>76</sup> Fife, pp. 376, 380

<sup>77</sup> "during the term I was to have it:" We puzzled over this statement, and then a conversation was recalled with Linda Gilmore, a Researcher in Garvagh, County Derry, Ireland. She had been asked why the older sons left their homes. What happened to the concept of primogeniture? Her response: "They didn't own anything to give except household utensils. In most cases the land belonged to a distant landlord. The older sons left and the lease was usually picked up by the youngest son." In our case, William was a younger son. His time of departure was a period when leases were ending, and "rack renting" was in full swing (Appendix K). We submit that William was simply recounting the "enjoyment and privilege" of ownership of land, and the opportunity to leave the land to his sons, an opportunity he had not had.

William had purchased a Plantation in November 1773 in Barree, Bedford County, which he had owned for a year when he wrote his Last Will and Testament in November 1774. Fife states "Someone had surely worked on this land for it to bring only £70 in 1773 and £500 in 1779."<sup>78</sup> As seen from William's will his sons were living and working on this frontier Plantation in Barree District. (Appendix A) Through his will William had bound his sons together by bequeathing them the Plantation on an "equal" basis. They were mutually tied to the Plantation until 1779 when the land was sold to Jacob Myers. (Appendix D)

We have no wish to postulate fraternal dynamics, but after William's death in December 1774 it appears that the sons had other desires and plans, and co-owning the Plantation, as their father had wished, was not one of them. As will be seen, the coincidences of events during the next few years, from 1775 through 1779, are most interesting.

In addition to the land and its location, William bequeaths Samuel "the two horse creatures [probably 'work horses'<sup>79</sup>] he claims are his." Samuel would have needed the horse creatures to work on the Plantation, to navigate the trails –there being no roads – and to pursue his trade as a tanner and leather-worker. The navigation of trails was clearly stated by Thomas's (d. 1800) son, William, in an 1845 statement to James Adams, when William was age eighty and James was writing an account of Huntingdon County covering this period.

*My father removed to this County before the Revolutionary War, found the country a wilderness [sic]. ... At that time there were no roads; had to pack on horses or carry on our backs everything into the country; trails were made through the woods by blazing the trees so that a horse and pack could barely get through. ... After the war I recollect my father packing wheat to Huntingdon 14 miles on horses and have known him to send off 400 bushels in one year; We then had no roads for wagons.*

### **Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing of Barree, Bedford County (d. 1808) Before and After the Death of William Ewin (d. 1774)**

This article now looks at the immediate family of William Ewin (d. 1774), the dispersion of his family after his death at the end of 1774, and the activities of the family during the five years following his death.

The earliest known American ancestor for the family of Cheryl Lee (Ewing) Jonsson is Samuel Ewen/Ewing of Barree and West Townships, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. In previous research, published in the *Journal of Clan Ewing*,<sup>80</sup> it was reported that there was a Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing in Barree Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, in 1776. This Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing (d. 1808) resided adjacent to Thomas Ewing (d. 1800) who had traveled for several years with the family of William Ewin (d. 1774). Our current research has uncovered convincing evidence showing that this Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing is the son of William Ewin (d. 1774).

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<sup>78</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>79</sup> Horse Creatures: In the will of James Ewing (1720/5-1776) Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (*Fife*, p. 327) we find a similar phrase; "I give and bequeath to my said son, William, my gray mare and ... John my light gray stallion colt. Nevertheless they shall keep them, the horse creatures, for to work on the place, and my said two sons shall work together on the Plantation..."

<sup>80</sup> *Jonsson*

Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing (d. 1808), was born circa 1751/1752, possibly in Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>81,82</sup> He married Sarah \_\_\_ before 1774. Samuel and Sarah had the following children: Sarah Jr, Martha, Samuel Jr, Catherine, James, and Mary. (Appendix J)

- In 1774 Samuel and his two brothers, James and Alexander, (and possibly his underage sister, Martha) were living on the Plantation which William (d. 1774) has just bequeathed to them in his will, complete with admonitions to live together there and to jointly enjoy the fruits of land ownership. (See Appendix A.)
- They were still there in 1775, but in 1776 we see new directions for the three sons who are discussed individually.
- Although Samuel inherited the Plantation along with his brothers, during 1775 he obtained his own land adjacent to the lands of Thomas Ewing and Alexander McCormick in Barree Township, Bedford County, by the mechanism of improvement.
- Samuel Ewin was seen in 1776 by his neighbor Alexander McCormick, who, according to William Henry Egle,<sup>83</sup> had settled in Barree Township in 1776. This places Samuel on his fifty acres (by Improvement) in Barree, Bedford County, at least by 1775. Samuel's land is referenced by the McCormicks in an 1815 Deed (Appendix J) as having been settled before 1777, according to law. (See "Obtaining Land by Improvement" on page 43.)
- In 1777 Samuel was taxed on "50 acres, 2h, 1c." <sup>84</sup> In 1777 he also was signatory to a petition with seventeen other freeholders requesting a justice of the peace (*Morgan* and Appendix C)
- In 1778 Samuel enlisted in the Military as a Private along with his brother, James, who enlisted as a Lieutenant.<sup>85</sup> (Appendix B)
- In 1779 the Plantation was sold. (Appendix D)
- In 1779 Samuel was taxed in Barree on "50 acres, 2h, 2c." <sup>86</sup>
- In 1779 Samuel takes a replacement recruit, Thomas Tull, to Col. Stewart at the Carlisle Barracks, and his brother, Alexander, is discharged from the Military.<sup>87</sup>
- In 1779 Alexander apparently returned to Barree with Samuel in about October/November, nine months after enlisting.<sup>88</sup> Research shows that Alexander was listed in Barree as a Freeman in 1779. (Jackson, Raymond – Bedford).  

*Note: this is a most important item of evidence; see Alexander Ewin on page 60 of this article.*
- In 1780 Samuel is seen in a listing of Taxpayers in Barree, Bedford County.<sup>89</sup> (Appendix L)

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<sup>81</sup> *Fife*, p. 370

<sup>82</sup> However, there is a possibility he was born earlier. See *Postscript* on page 69.

<sup>83</sup> Egle, William Henry. *1876 History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*. Pennsylvania Archives: Third Series; (1894), State Printer, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Egle*.

<sup>84</sup> *Improved Land as Shown in the Bedford Tax Assessment of 1779*. Hereafter referred to as *Assessment*.

<sup>85</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>86</sup> *Leach*

<sup>87</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid*

- In 1781 Samuel (d. 1808) was taxed in Barree, Bedford County, with fifty acres.<sup>90</sup>In 1783 Samuel is absent from his land in Bedford at tax time. 1783 also appears to be the time his siblings – James, Alexander, and Martha – are preparing for their move from Cumberland County to Washington County.
- In 1787 Barree, Bedford County, became Barree, Huntingdon County.<sup>91</sup>
- In 1788 the first assessment of Huntingdon County shows Samuel Ewing with "50 acres Imp. 2h 2h.c."<sup>92</sup>
- By 1795 there were two Samuels in Barree: Samuel (d. 1808)<sup>93</sup> and his son, Samuel Jr, who died after June 15, 1826, in Muskingum, Ohio.<sup>94</sup>
- By 1796 there is a third Samuel shown in Barree. This would be Samuel Ewing (Irish)<sup>95</sup> who married Nancy Cotton on May 3, 1796.<sup>96</sup>
- In 1797 Samuel of Barree is listed in an Huntingdon County tax assessment as an s-maker (shoe, saddle, harness maker and probably a tanner).
- In the Special Tax Assessment of 1798 (also called the Federal Direct Tax or Window Tax), Samuel Ewin ("2 buildings, 50 acres, Barree Twp, Huntingdon County") was noted as living next door to Alexander McCormick.<sup>97</sup>
- In 1798/1799 Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing, while endeavoring to expand his fifty acres, apparently intruded upon Thomas Ewing's holdings, resulting in a Trespass Suit. (Appendix H)

## **James Ewin**

James Ewin was born circa 1755, probably in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and was about nineteen when his father died. Based upon the statement in the 1774 will of his father, William, James and his brothers were living on the Plantation during 1774 and 1775 in Barree, Bedford County. However in 1776 we see that both James and Alexander had chosen to leave – one back to Tyrone and one into the military (see *Alexander Ewin* on page 60), leaving Samuel and probably his sister, *Martha Ewin* (see page 62), in Barree.

<sup>89</sup> Stemmons, John D. and E. Dianne. *The Ewing name in Pennsylvania as of 1780*, Pioneer Historical Society, Bedford, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Stemmons*.

<sup>90</sup> *Leach*

<sup>91</sup> *Africa*, p. 48

<sup>92</sup> *Africa*, p. 210

<sup>93</sup> Haught, Alberta Y.: Genealogical Service of Huntingdon County Historical Society, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Haught*.

<sup>94</sup> Burkholder, Ruth. *Data from Muskingum and Fairfield Counties, Ohio*, RMB -Services, Stouffville, Ontario, Canada Hereafter referred to as *Burkholder*.

<sup>95</sup> Samuel Ewing (Irish): Samuel Ewing, born February 2, 1771, in Donegal, Ireland, arrived in Barree and West about the age of eighteen. This Samuel removed with his father-in-law, John Cotton, to Beaver County, Pennsylvania. This makes him one of the Samuels in the region. He is Judith Warth's ancestor.

<sup>96</sup> *Africa*, p. 56

<sup>97</sup> Morgan, Georgia (Ewing). *Penn Family – Proprietor Continuation*. ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Penn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Penn)). Hereafter referred to as *Morgan*.

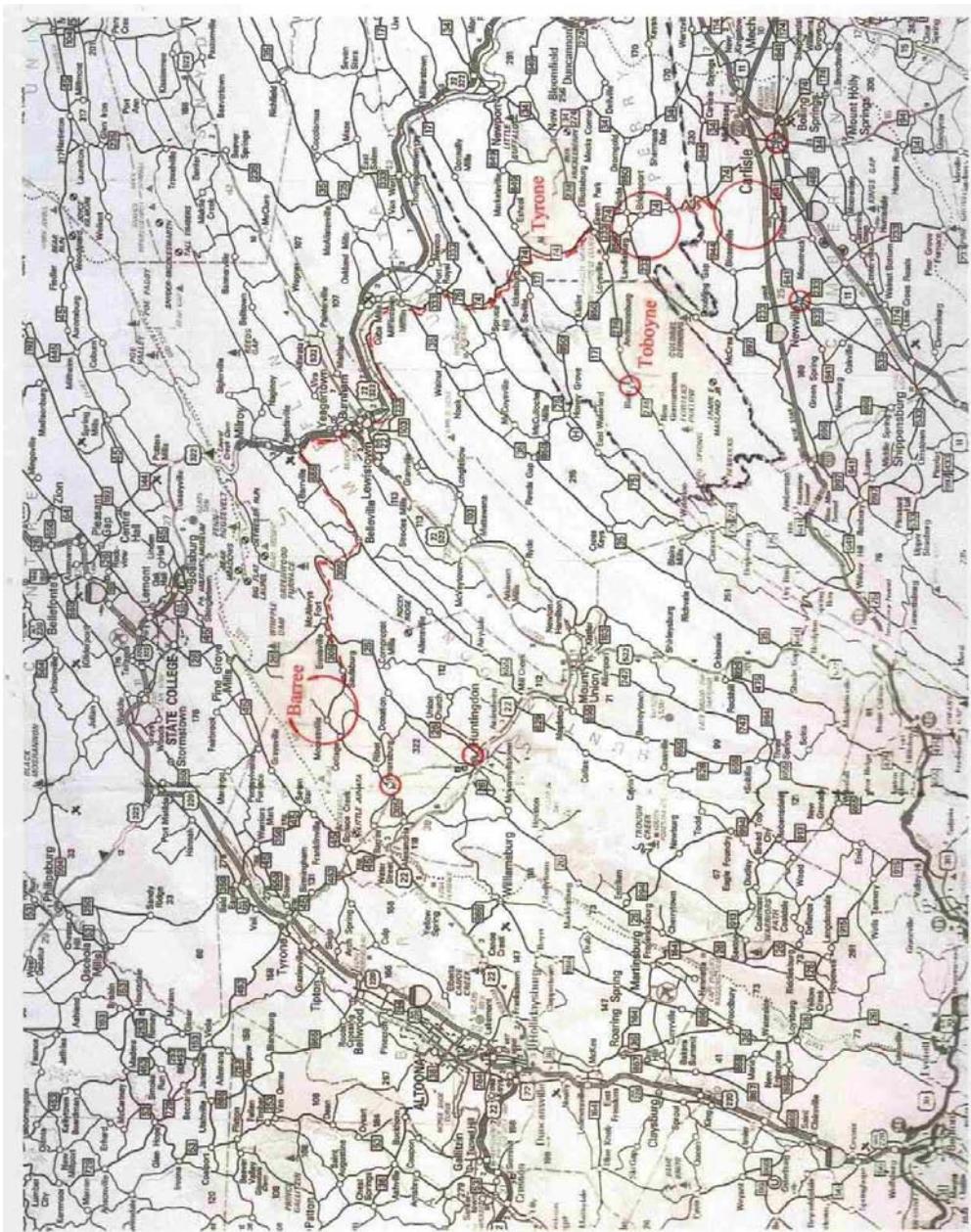


Figure 3: Samuel Ewin/Ewen's perceived route of travel circa 1774 from Tyrone, Cumberland to Barree Township, Bedford County.

- In 1776 James Ewin becomes of age. We see James Ewin making a payment of 12 shillings, 6 pence on uncultivated land in 1776 – presumably the Plantation – before removing to Tyrone where he is assessed as a Freeman.<sup>98,99</sup>
- In 1776 Samuel Ewin is also seen in Barree Township, Bedford, which supports the premise that the brothers were in Barree.
- We then see that both James and Samuel joined the military in 1778: James as a Lieutenant, and Samuel as a Private.<sup>100</sup> (Appendix B) Of interest is that their brother, Alexander, was not in the military during the period of time that James and Samuel served; see *Alexander Ewin* on page 60.
- In 1779 James Ewin obtained signatures on an indenture from his brothers by March.<sup>101</sup> and engineered the sale of the Plantation in Barree to Jacob Myers. (Appendix D)
- After the sale of the Plantation in April 1779, James remained in Barree. We see that he personally requested the recording of the Deed of Sale in Barree, Bedford, on July 19<sup>th</sup>. (Appendix D). It is probable that James watched over the family until the return of Samuel and Alexander from the Carlisle Barracks about October of that year.
- After 1779, and the sale of the property, we see major changes in the lives of James, Alexander, and Martha.
- In 1780 it seems that James, and possibly Martha (see *Martha Ewin* on page 62), may have returned to Tyrone with Alexander (see *Alexander Ewin* on page 60).
- In 1784 James is recognized in the Will of James Gordon, his grandfather, with a bequest.<sup>102</sup>
- James moved to Washington County, married Jane/Jean McLaughlin – daughter of Elizabeth and William McLaughlin of Cecil Township, Washington County – and their first child was born in 1785<sup>103</sup>
- James was issued a warrant on April 5, 1786, in Washington County.<sup>104</sup>

## **Alexander Ewin**

Alexander Ewin, youngest son of William Ewin of Tyrone, believed he was born on March 1, 1756, in York County, Pennsylvania.<sup>105</sup> He was about eighteen when his father died.

- Alexander was probably apprenticed as a weaver; we find his trade noted in a 1781 Deed in Tyrone.

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<sup>98</sup> Jackson, Raymond: Researcher, Pioneer Historical Society, Bedford Co, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Jackson*.

<sup>99</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>100</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>101</sup> Alexander joined the military in "late Jan/early Feb." of 1779, so his signature would have been obtained before he enlisted.

<sup>102</sup> *Fife*, p. 380

<sup>103</sup> *Fife*, pp. 371-373

<sup>104</sup> *Fife*, p. 370

<sup>105</sup> *Fife*, p. 373

- Before July 1776 Alexander, at age twenty, enlisted in a Toboynne Regiment, volunteering under Capt. Thomas Clark in Sherman's Valley.<sup>106</sup> (Appendix B)
- In 1777 at age twenty-one he volunteered again under Capt. James Power.
- In 1778, Alexander was not in the military, but his brothers Samuel and James had enlisted. Alexander presumably was in Barree as the elder, male member of the family, awaiting the return of Samuel and James.
- In January/February of 1779 Alexander enlisted in Col. Walter Stewart's regiment. After "lying in the Barracks near Carlisle until July" he purchased a servant named Thomas Tull whom his brother, Samuel, took to Col. Stewart and who, in turn, gave Alexander a discharge. Alexander indicated he had been in the service about nine months.<sup>107</sup>

Nine months from January/February is October and the beginning of winter in that region. On leaving Carlisle, Alexander did not stop in Tyrone, approximately fifteen miles from Carlisle, where Samuel Ewing of Tyrone (d. 1805) lived, but rather, continued on to Barree, Bedford,<sup>108</sup> where his brother Samuel Ewin of Barree, Bedford County, lived.

- It seems that Alexander spent the winter of 1779 in Barree, as independent research shows him listed in Barree as a Freeman at tax time.<sup>109</sup>
- In 1780, at age 24, Alexander removed to Tyrone where he was again assessed as a Freeman.<sup>110</sup>
- In 1781 Alexander Ewin then purchased property in Tyrone.<sup>111</sup> (Appendix E)
- In 1781 Alexander married Mary \_?\_<sup>112</sup> and their first child was born in August 1782.<sup>113</sup>
- On February 15, 1786 Alexander was issued a Warrant in Washington County.<sup>114</sup>

## **William Ewin's Daughters**

According to William's will, his daughters, Martha and Jane, were underage (less than eighteen), and probably not at all prepared to fend for themselves. It is likely that Martha, age sixteen, went with her

<sup>106</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>108</sup> The distance from the center of Tyrone, Cumberland (Loysville) to Barree and West Township, Bedford County (Mooresville now Huntingdon County), is fifty-five-to-sixty miles; probably at least a two-day journey. This is an extremely important piece of evidence, because Fife assumes the Samuel of Tyrone to be his brother, a son of William of Tyrone. However, it appears that Samuel Ewin of Barree is Alexander's brother.

<sup>109</sup> *Jackson*

<sup>110</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>111</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>112</sup> Alexander Ewing's wife, Mary, was noted as Mary Ann Anderson, of Cecil, Maryland, with no parents listed in a Williamson family tree on *Ancestry.com*. We have not pursued this information, yet there were several Andersons in Barree during this period: Samuel and James Anderson; James Anderson Jr – 1779 -1782, and beyond; Thomas Anderson 1779. There was a Dr. John Anderson (1770-1840) in Bedford, graduate of Dickinson University and the Pennsylvania Medical School. There was also a presumed presence of an Anderson in Toboynne, Cumberland County, from the name of the hamlet "Andersonburg."

<sup>113</sup> *Fife*, p. 374

<sup>114</sup> *Fife*, p. 370

brothers to Barree and that Jane, age fourteen, the younger daughter, went to live with her grandparents, James Gordon and Agness Douglas, in West Pennsboro.

### **Martha Ewin**

Martha Ewin, born circa 1758 and the elder of the two sisters, was about sixteen when her father died and not of age. Being underage, her brother, Samuel Ewin, the of-age head of the household, was responsible for her.

- Martha probably went with her of-age brother, Samuel, on the new venture in Barree. Martha was still underage in 1775 when she and her brothers were planning for their future.
- In 1776 Martha turned eighteen. However, since James has removed to Tyrone and Alexander has enlisted in the Military, she was probably still with Samuel and Sarah.
- Between 1777 and 1779 Martha more than likely remained with her family in Barree.
- Then, in 1780 Martha probably removed to Tyrone with Alexander, and possibly James, returning to where she had grown up and back with the people she knew.
- It is an interesting coincidence that a little over a year after her return, on January 15, 1782, Martha, who was invisible for several years, married a Robert Wilson<sup>115</sup> in the Centre Valley Church in Blain, Toboyne Township, Cumberland County, with Dr. Linn officiating. Dr. Linn is referenced as the pastor of the Centre Valley Church in Sherman's Valley.<sup>116</sup> Robert Wilson is likely the son of one of two Wilson families in Toboyne, Sherman's Valley.<sup>98</sup>
- It appears that Robert and Martha (Ewin) Wilson migrated to Cecil Township, Washington County, where a Robert Wilson is seen.<sup>117</sup>

### **Jane Ewin**

Jane/Jean Ewin, born October 1760, was the younger daughter and was about age fourteen at the death of her father, William. It would seem that her father, recognizing that his younger daughter probably needed a mature female figure, had made prior arrangements for her, because we see that Jane Ewin went to Pennsboro to the home of her grandparents, James and Agness Gordon, or possibly to the home of her mother's uncle, John Gordon. This observation is based on her personal activity, church activity, and subsequent marriage.

- In 1782 Jane Ewin and William Lindsay [sic] were witness to John Gordon's will.<sup>118</sup>
- Jane was included in the 1784 will of James Gordon, her grandfather.<sup>119</sup> She had no doubt been part of his household.
- On March 27, 1787, Jane married William Lindsay [sic] in the Carlisle Presbyterian Church, Neville, Pennsylvania, reasonably close to where the Gordon family lived.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> *Fife*, p. 375

<sup>116</sup> *Hain*

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>118</sup> *Fife*, p. 375

<sup>119</sup> *Fife*, p. 380

<sup>120</sup> *Fife*, p. 375

- In the 1788 church census Jane Ewin is seen in attendance at the Big Spring Presbyterian Church.<sup>121</sup>
- In 1802 Jane was received as a member of the Big Spring Presbyterian Church where William Lindsay [sic] was an elder.<sup>122</sup>
- Jane (Ewin) Lindsay died May 4, 1837 in West Pennsboro, Cumberland.<sup>123</sup>

## Summary of Conclusive Evidence

The evidence shows that a relationship in Barree, Bedford County, existed from 1771/1772 onward, when William Ewin and Thomas Ewing consolidated their properties preparatory for a move from Tyrone Township to Barree Township.

- Thomas Ewing was in Barree, 'exempt' from tax in 1772 according to law. Thomas was taxed in 1773 on a hundred acres of land obtained by the improvement process.
- Then William Ewin bought a Plantation near Thomas Ewing on November 13, 1773. (Appendix D)

William Ewin wrote his Last Will and Testament (Appendix A) in 1774 which included the poignant and telling statement:

*Each of the three [sons] to bear an equal part in paying all just debts & demands against my estate as well as the above bequeathments to my two daughters & that the[y] live together upon the place where the[y]] now live & use equal industry & enjoy equally the benefits & privileges arising thereupon during the term I was to have it.*

Based on William's statement, Samuel Ewin (d. 1808), James Ewin, Alexander Ewin and probably, Martha Ewin, had moved to the Shaver's Creek area, and were living on the Barree Plantation in Bedford County in 1774 when the will was written.

Samuel Ewin was bequeathed two 'horse creatures' in 1774.

- The need for work/pack horses is supported by Thomas Ewing Sr's son, William Ewing's, discourse: "no roads for wagons and trails for horses only."<sup>124</sup> Samuel would have needed the horses to work on the Plantation, and to pursue his trade as a tanner and leatherworker in the Barree and West Tax Assessment.<sup>125</sup>
- The possession of two horses is reflected in the majority of Samuel's tax assessments until the 1800 Barree and West Tax Assessment.

In 1775 it appears William's sons, who had been working on the Plantation for the better part of a year after William's death in December 1774 decided that they had no desire to co-own the Plantation as their father had wished. By 1776 this was evident as they begin to follow individual paths. However, the

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<sup>121</sup> Ibid

<sup>122</sup> Ibid

<sup>123</sup> Ibid

<sup>124</sup> Adams, Joseph. *Verbal submission of William Ewing, aged 80 years: An Account of Huntingdon, Co, PA – 1853*. Published by Historical Society of Pennsylvania, November 1853. Hereafter referred to as Adams. ([www.huntingdonhistoryresearchcollectionnetwork.net/?\\_id=274](http://www.huntingdonhistoryresearchcollectionnetwork.net/?_id=274))

<sup>125</sup> *Barree and West Tax 1797*

evidence also shows a continuing contact between Samuel of Barree with his siblings during the early years after William's death, until James, Alexander and Martha remove to Allegheny County.

- In 1775 Samuel Ewin, decided to stake out his fifty acres through improvement in his own right in Barree. This land was near the Plantation purchased by his father, William Ewing, and adjacent to Thomas Ewing who had traveled with William. It was also bordered by land owned by Alexander McCormick. (Appendix J).
- Samuel used the same method as Thomas to obtain his fifty acres of land by improvement, and was also exempt from tax while he improved his property. He was seen on his land in 1776 by his neighbor, Alexander McCormick. Alexander McCormick settled in Barree in 1776.<sup>126</sup>
- James was in Barree until he came of-age in 1776, when he paid the tax on uncultivated land – the Plantation<sup>127</sup> – and then left for Tyrone where he was assessed as a Freeman at tax time.<sup>128</sup> (Appendix B)
- A twenty-year-old Alexander was in Barree until 1776 when he first enlisted in the military "before July."<sup>129</sup>
- Samuel was taxed on "50 acres, 2h, 1c in 1777" as a married adult. The land, adjacent to the land of Alexander McCormick, was listed as improved with two buildings. (According to a note on a *Federal Direct Tax or Window Tax* document of 1798 by Georgia (Ewing) Morgan<sup>130</sup>).
- In 1777 Samuel Ewin signed a Barree petition as a Freeholder.<sup>131</sup>
- Samuel and James enlisted in the Military in 1778. James as a Lieutenant and Samuel as a Private.<sup>132</sup> (Appendix B)
- In 1778, a twenty-two-year-old Alexander was not in the military while Samuel and James served.
- In late January/early-February 1779, a twenty-three-year-old Alexander re-enlisted (after Samuel and James return from Military service), and reported that he was "lying in the barracks near Carlisle until July."<sup>133</sup> (Appendix B)
- Samuel took a replacement recruit to Carlisle after July, and Alexander was discharged in October/November, "in service at least 9 months."<sup>134</sup> (Appendix B)
- After his discharge in 1779, Alexander did not stop in Tyrone, but came back to Barree for the winter, where he was assessed as a Freeman.<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>126</sup> *Egle*.

<sup>127</sup> *Jackson*

<sup>128</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>129</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>130</sup> *Morgan*

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>132</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>135</sup> *Jackson*

- Before March 1779, a twenty-four-year-old James obtained a signed indenture from his brothers (including Alexander, who signed up in the Military in late January/early-February), enabling James to act on their behalf. (Appendix D).
- In April 1779, James engineered the sale of the property to Jacob Myers. (Appendix D)
- In July 1779, James requested the deed to be recorded in Bedford. (Appendix D)
- In 1780, after the sale of the Plantation, it appears that James, Alexander, and Martha left for Tyrone. The after-effects of that move are most interesting.
- In 1780, Alexander is assessed as a Freeman in Tyrone.<sup>136</sup>
- In 1781 Alexander, a "Weaver," buys land, and marries Mary \_?\_.<sup>137,138</sup>
- In 1782, Alexander's first child is born in Tyrone.<sup>139</sup>
- Martha is married to Robert Wilson in January 1782 at Centre Presbyterian Church, Sherman's Valley, Toboyne, by Dr. Linn.<sup>140,141</sup>
- It appears that sometime in 1783/84 the trio removed to Washington County, Pennsylvania.
- In the Barree, Bedford County, Tax List of 1783, Samuel was recorded as absent from his land (But he was again present in 1784). It is entirely possible that the absence was directly related to the pending departure from Tyrone of James, Alexander, and Martha to Washington County where they are recorded in 1784 and 1786.<sup>142</sup>
- In 1784 James marries a Jane/Jean McLaughlin, daughter of Elizabeth and William McLaughlin, residents of Washington County. James and Jane/Jean have their first child in 1785.<sup>143</sup>
- In 1786 both James and Alexander receive warrants in Washington County.<sup>144</sup>
- Samuel did not remove to western Pennsylvania but stayed in Barree, Bedford County, until his death in 1808 on the property obtained in 1775 adjacent to Thomas Ewing's property, and near where his father, William Ewin (d. 1774), had purchased the Plantation.
- A portion of Samuel's land was bought and sold in 1815 by Robert McCormick. This was after Samuel's wife Sarah's death in 1810. At the time of sale the deed stated that "Samuel owned the land before 1777, according to law." (Appendix J)

Based on this extensive evidence and the familial interaction shown in this article, our conclusion is that Samuel of Barree (d. 1808), was the oldest son of William Ewin of Tyrone (d. 1774).

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<sup>136</sup> *Fife*, p. 368

<sup>137</sup> *Fife*, p. 369

<sup>138</sup> Flower, Lenore E. *Letter to Harrison Ewing, Esquire, Ohio. Sent Nov 26, 1949*, Pennsylvania Archives - Hamilton Library, Cumberland County Historical Society, Pennsylvania. Hereafter referred to as *Flower*. (Copy provided by Richard Sickmon from the Carlisle Library in Pennsylvania.)

<sup>139</sup> *Fife*, p. 374

<sup>140</sup> *Fife*, p. 375

<sup>141</sup> *Hain*

<sup>142</sup> *Fife*, pp. 370, 375

<sup>143</sup> *Fife*, p. 373

<sup>144</sup> *Fife*, p. 379

**Table of Events and Family Interactions**

- 1768 Fact: First reference to Ewing in Tyrone, Cumberland County. (*Fife*, p. 368)  
 Fact: William taxed in Tyrone; "150 acres, 15 cleared." (*Sickmon*)  
 Fact: Thomas taxed in Tyrone "200 acres, 12 cleared, 1h 1c." (*Sickmon*)
- 1769 Fact: William taxed on "100 acres, 17 cleared;" "also Thomas." (*Fife*, p. 368)  
 Fact: Thomas taxed on "200 acres, W, 16 acres cleared 1h 1c." (*Sickmon*)
- 1770 Question w.r.t. William: No tax data found. What taxes did he pay?  
 Fact: Thomas taxed in Tyrone on "100 acres, W, 1h 1c." (*Sickmon*)
- 1771 Fact: William taxed in Tyrone on "100 acres, 10 cleared;" Thomas "Renter." (*Fife*, p. 368)  
 Fact: Consolidation of William's and Thomas's properties. (See *Thomas Ewing with William Ewin* on page 52.)
- 1772 Fact: William taxed in Tyrone on "100 acres, 15 cleared, 2h 1c." (*Fife*, p. 368)  
 Fact: Thomas not seen in Cumberland.  
 Improvement Fact: Thomas in Barree, Bedford County. Exempt from tax on "100 acres Improved." (1779 Barree Twp, Bedford County Tax Assessment in *Jackson*)
- 1773 Fact: William buys a "Plantation" in Barree. (Appendix D)  
 Fact: William taxed in Tyrone on "100 acres, 20 cleared, 1h 2c." (*Fife*, p. 368)  
 Fact: Thomas taxed on "100 acre in Barree, Bedford;" (Referenced as "improved" in 1779 Bedford Assessment.)
- 1774 Fact: Where "they now live" in William's Will implies the sons – Samuel, James, and Alexander – are on the newly purchased Plantation. (Appendix A).  
 Fact: Son, Samuel "of Age." All other siblings are under-age. (Appendix A).  
 Fact: Father, William dies in December. (Appendix A)  
 Fact: Thomas taxed 3.2 in Bedford. (Appendix A)  
 Fact: Samuel of Tyrone (d. 1805) is the only Ewing in Tyrone. (*Fife*, p. 368) This supports the evidence of Samuel (d. 1808) being in Barree with his brothers, according to the 1774 Will.
- 1775 Fact: William's sons – Samuel, James, Alexander – are in Barree, living on the Plantation. (Appendix A – "where they now live")  
 Fact: Daughter Jane is in Pennsboro with her grandparents or her great-uncle. (See *Jane Ewin* on page 62 and *Fife*, p. 375.)  
 Probability: Daughter Martha, underage, is with of-age Samuel and her brothers.  
 Probability: Samuel of Barree starts to blaze his fifty acres in the improvement process.  
 Fact: Samuel of Barree's son, Samuel Jr, is born. He is aged under sixteen in the 1790 Census.  
 Fact: Samuel of Tyrone (d. 1805) is the only Ewing in Tyrone. (*Fife*, p. 368)  
 Fact: Samuel of Tyrone taxed on "50 acres W, 10 acres cleared, 1c." (*Sickmon*)  
 Fact: William, son of Samuel of Tyrone (d. 1805) born in Sherman's Valley, 7th October/November. (*Fife*, p 371).
- 1776 Fact: Samuel of Barree is seen (1798 Federal Direct Tax or Window Tax in *Morgan*) on his land next to Alexander McCormick who settled in the area in 1776.<sup>145</sup> Samuel's land was also adjacent to Thomas Ewing in Barree. (Appendix H)  
 Fact; James Ewin, now of-age, pays tax on "uncultivated" property in Barree. (*Jackson*)  
 Fact: James Ewin returns to Tyrone and is assessed as a Freeman. (*Fife*, p.368)  
 Fact: Alexander enlists in the Military by July. (*Fife*, p. 369)  
 Fact: Martha turns eighteen (b. ~1758). (*Fife*, p. 375)  
 Probability: Martha is with Samuel and Sarah in Barree. [Note: Samuel's second daughter is named Martha.]  
 Fact: Samuel of Tyrone (d. 1805) has "50 acres Patented." (*Sickmon*)

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<sup>145</sup> *Egle*

- 1777 Fact: Samuel is assessed on "50 acres 2h, 1c" in Barree. (1779 Barree Township, Bedford County Tax Assessment in *Jackson*)  
 Fact: Samuel is found in Barree as Freeholder on a Petition. (*Morgan*)  
 Question: Where is James?  
 Fact: Alexander Ewin enlists in the Military a second time in September. (Fife, p. 369).  
 Question: Samuel in Tyrone: No tax data found. What taxes did he pay?
- 1778 Fact: Samuel of Barree enlists as a Private. (Fife, p. 369 and Appendix B)  
 Fact: James enlists as a Lieutenant. (Fife, p. 369 and Appendix B)  
 Fact: Alexander is out of the military while his brothers are enlisted. (See *Alexander Ewin* on page 60 and Appendix B.)  
 Probability: Alexander and Martha are in Barree with Samuel's wife Sarah and the children.  
 Fact: Jane turns eighteen; she was born in 1760. (Fife, p. 375)  
 Question w.r.t. Samuel of Tyrone: No tax data found. What taxes did he pay?  
 Question w.r.t. Samuel of Barree: No tax data found. What taxes did he pay?
- 1779 Fact: Samuel of Barree assessed on "50 acres, Improved Land." (Barree, Bedford, Assessment in *Jackson*)  
 Fact: Alexander enlists for the third time in January/February. (Fife, p.369)  
 Fact: Alexander "lying in the barracks near Carlisle." (Fife, p.369)  
 Fact: Alexander contacts his brother, Samuel of Barree. (See *Alexander Ewin* on page 60 and Appendix B.)  
 Fact: Samuel takes recruit replacement for Alexander to Carlisle Barracks and Alexander is discharged. (Fife, p.369)  
 Fact: Alexander is discharged and states that "he has been in no less than 9 months." (Fife, p.369). This makes it about October/November.  
 Fact: Alexander travels with his brother, Samuel, to Barree for the winter where Samuel lives. (1779, Assessed as Freeman in Barree in *Jackson*)  
 Fact: Alexander (b. 1756) is assessed as a Freeman in Barree. (*Sickmon*)  
 Fact: James obtained signed debenture from brothers dated March 24th. (Appendix D)  
 Fact: James sells Barree Plantation to Jacob Myers in April. (Appendix D)  
 Fact: James remains in Barree and records the sale on July 19th. (Appendix D)  
 Probability: James apparently remains with the Barree family until Samuel and Alexander return from Carlisle.  
 Probability: Martha is with Samuel and Sarah in Barree.  
 Fact: Thomas in Barree is taxed on "300 acres – 100 Improved, 200 W." (1779 Barree, Bedford County Tax Assessment in *Jackson*)  
 Fact: Jacob Myers is assessed on 169 acres in Barree. (1779 Barree, Bedford County Tax Assessment in *Jackson*)  
 Fact: Samuel of Tyrone is listed as "no land – married." (Fife, p. 368)
- 1780 Fact: Samuel is shown in Barree, Bedford County, with fifty acres. (*Leach*)  
 Fact: Samuel Ewin assessed for special tax "to raise additional supplies for ... war."<sup>146</sup>  
 Fact: Alexander goes back to Tyrone where he is assessed as a Freeman. (Fife, p. 368)  
 Probability: Martha and James return to Tyrone with Alexander.
- 1781 Fact: Samuel is assessed for fifty acres in Barree, Bedford County. (Bedford Special Tax and *Leach*)  
 Fact: Alexander (*Weaver*) buys property in Tyrone. (*Flower*)  
 Fact: Alexander marries Mary \_?\_. They have a child in 1782.  
 Theory: James possibly goes to Pennsboro to be with Jane and her grandparents. Rationale: he receives £5 in his grandfather's 1784 Will. (Fife, p.380)  
 Probability: Martha is with Alexander.
- 1782 Fact: Samuel Ewin taxed on fifty acres in Barree. (*Burkholder*)  
 Fact: Thomas taxed on 200 acres. (*Jackson*)

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<sup>146</sup> Smith, Larry D. *Mother Bedford*. Hereafter referred to as *Smith*. ([www.MotherBedford.com/Irish.htm](http://www.MotherBedford.com/Irish.htm))

- Fact: Son William is born to Alexander and his wife, Mary. (*Fife*, p. 369 & 374)
- Fact: Martha marries Robert Wilson in Blain on January 15<sup>th</sup> at Centre Valley Church, Sherman's Valley. (*Fife*, p. 375 and *Hain*)
- Fact: Jane is witness to the will of John Gordon. (*Fife*, p. 375)
- Theory: James is at his grandparents.
- Question w.r.t. Alexander: No tax data found. What taxes did he pay?
- 1783 Fact: Samuel land in Barree, Bedford County, valued at £32.10. (*Jackson*)
- Fact: Thomas land in Barree, Bedford County, valued at £1.9. (*Jackson*)
- Fact: In the fall, at tax time, Samuel is assessed as absent from his property in Barree. (Barree Tax Schedule)
- Theory: This absence could be the time of a farewell meeting of the siblings before James, Alexander, and Martha removed to Washington County, Pennsylvania.
- 1784 Fact: Samuel taxed in Barree, Bedford County, on "50 acres, 2h, 1c." (*Leach*)
- Fact: Thomas taxed on 200 acres in Barree, Bedford County. (*Leach*)
- Fact: Alexander, son of Thomas (d. 1800) listed as Freeman. (*1779 Barree, Bedford County Tax Assessment in Leach*)
- Fact: James Gordon, grandfather, writes his will and leaves £5 to James. (*Fife*, p.380)
- Fact: James Gordon, grandfather, writes his will and leaves £20 to Jane. (*Fife*, p.380)
- Fact: James is now married and has a first child in 1785. (*Fife*, p.373)
- Probability: James Ewin, Alexander Ewin and (Ewin) Wilson were en-route to Washington County.
- 1785 Fact: Samuel Ewen, Taxable citizens in Barree Township. (Barree Township, Bedford County, List of Taxable Citizens in Smith)
- Fact: James's first child is born in Washington County. (*Fife*, p. 373)
- 1786 Question w.r.t. Samuel Ewing of Barree: No tax data found. What taxes did he pay?
- Fact: James is warrantee in Washington County, Pennsylvania. (*Fife*, p. 370)
- Fact: Alexander is warrantee in Washington County, Pennsylvania. (*Fife*, p. 370)
- Fact: Martha (Ewing) Wilson lived in Washington County, Pennsylvania. (*Fife*, p. 375)
- Fact: Samuel of Tyrone is warrantee in Washington County, Pennsylvania. (*Fife*, p. 370)
- 1787 Fact: Jane is married to William Lindsay [sic] in Carlisle Presbyterian (*Fife*, p. 375).
- Question w.r.t. Samuel Ewin of Barree: No tax data found. What taxes did he pay?
- Fact: Barree Township moved from Bedford County to Huntingdon County. (*Africa*, p. 210)
- 1788 Fact: Samuel taxed for "50 acres, Improved, 2h, 1c" according to First Barree Assessment in Huntingdon County. (*Africa*, p. 210)
- Fact: Jane seen in attendance at the Big Spring Presbyterian Church, Newville, Pennsylvania. (*Fife*, p. 375).
- 1789 Fact: Samuel taxed on "50 acres Imp, and two buildings" in Barree. This property was adjacent to Alexander McCormick's property. (Special tax assessment – *Morgan*)
- 1790 Fact: Samuel of Barree is shown in the Bedford County Census. (U.S. 1790 Census)
- Fact: Samuel of Barree is taxed on "50 acres Improved, 2h. 2h.c." (*Burkholder*)
- 1799 Fact: Altercation between Samuel and Thomas. Thomas brings a suit as Samuel endeavors to expand his holdings and apparently trespasses on Thomas's land. (Appendix H)
- 1791-1808 Fact: Samuel is taxed in Barree and West Townships in Bedford/Huntingdon Counties until his death. (*Haught and Leach*)

## Potential Topics for Further Study

- Fife indicated that "Samuel of Tyborn [sic], Cumberland County, is a cousin to Samuel, son of John Ewing (d. 1713), son of Alexander Ewin (b. 1693)." <sup>147</sup> William Ewin (b. 1706) cited in this

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<sup>147</sup> *Fife*, p. 325

article is a brother to Alexander. Therefore Samuel of Tyborn/Toboyne is a nephew to William. To whom does this Samuel of Toboyne belong genealogically?

- There is limited information between 1750 when William Ewin is seen in Londonderry Township, Chester County (other than son, Alexander b. 1756), and when he is seen in 1761 in West Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County. Possibly a search for John and James Gordon, and their travel from Chester to West Pennsboro, would shed some light.
- Who is Samuel of Barree's (d. 1808) wife, Sarah? Who is Samuel Jr's (d. ~1826) wife, Elizabeth? There is a clue when the grandson of Samuel of Barree, Martin R. Ewing, is shown as Martin Ricketts Ewing in an application to the Sons of the American Revolution.<sup>148</sup>
- William's youngest daughter, Jane, apparently spent her life in Pennsboro after her father's death with her grandparents. Did she first live with her great-uncle, John Gordon? John Gordon died before Jane's grandfather, James Gordon, and Jane Ewing was a witness to John Gordon's will dated October 4, 1784, along with a William Lindsey. Did she then move to her grandparents', James's and Agness's, home? James Gordon recognized her in his will, leaving her £20.
- Was James living with his grandparents from 1781 to 1783? James Gordon identifies him in his 1784 will and leaves James £5. He is the only son of William Ewin (d. 1774) and Jane (Jean) Gordon mentioned in the will of James Gordon.

## Postscript

This article has its foundation in Fife's *Ewings in Early America*, Chapter XXXIX,<sup>149</sup> used both explicitly (e.g. tax records), and implicitly (e.g. deductions and improvement data). We feel that Samuel Ewin of Barree has been proven to be the eldest son of William Ewin (died 1774).

To arrive at a birth year for this Samuel, we decided to view the evidence from a slightly different angle, namely using data from a later time and a bit of mathematics. This is another item that could be further studied.

- In the census of 1790, Samuel Ewin of Barree was listed as "1M+16, 2M-16, and 5F." This would be Samuel Sr, Samuel Jr, James, Sarah Sr, Sarah Jr, Martha, Catherine, and Mary. The sequence of names is shown in an 1815 document that lists Samuel Jr as the third child.
- So – if we take Samuel Jr in 1790 as less than sixteen (or fifteen) and assume two children before him we arrive at:
  - 1790 Fifteen years (Samuel Jr) – four years (two children) = 1771 minus one (accounting for marriage and conception) indicates 1770 as the date of Samuel Sr's marriage.
  - 1770 Twenty-one years indicates 1749 as an approximate birth date for Samuel, son of William.
- In 1794 we see Samuel Jr (son of Samuel of Barree) taxed for the first time with "1h & 1c." Using the same approach:
  - 1794 Twenty-one years indicates 1773 as the birth-year for Samuel Jr

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<sup>148</sup> SAR #52611, Vol. 264

<sup>149</sup> *Fife*, Chapter XXXIX

1773 Four years (two children) minus twenty-one years gives 1748 as an approximate birth-year for Samuel, son of William.

Given all of this, we end up with a birth-date range for Samuel Ewin, son of William Ewin (d. 1774), between 1748 and 1749, both a tad bit earlier than the record on page 376 in Fife.

Among the possibilities for resolving this contradiction are:

1. William perhaps married Jane Gordon earlier than Fife's estimate.
2. Deciding whether or not Samuel (d. 1808) was a child by a previous wife as raised as a possibility by Fife.<sup>150</sup>
3. Our mathematics might be more finely tuned.

Our future work will consider these three clarification possibilities.

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- Pennsylvania Researchers who provided much detail over the years: Alberta Y. Haught, Huntingdon County; Gillian K. Leach, Bedford County; Karen Higgins, Chester County; Raymond Jackson, Bedford County; Jill Martin, Perry County; Richard Sickmon, Cumberland County.

Early recorders and publishers of relevant histories: Joseph Adams, J. Simpson Africa, William Henry Egle, Henry H. Hain, Samuel Hazard, and James G. Leyburn.

## Appendices

**Note: The Appendices are available online at:**

***[dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA\\_Info/JonssonAppendices.doc](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA_Info/JonssonAppendices.doc)***

- A William Ewin – Last Will and Testament (1774)
- B Military Service of the sons of William Ewin
- C Freeholder's Petition of Barree Township to Bedford County
- D James Ewin (b. circa 1754) – Sale of property in Barree, Bedford (1779)
- E Flower, Lenore E. – Excerpts from 1949 Letter
- F Ewings in Toboyne Township, Cumberland Co
- G Thomas Ewing (d. circa 1800) - Last Will and Testament
- H Release: Samuel Ewen to Thomas Ewing – 1799
- I Samuel Ewin/Ewen/Ewing (d. 1808) – Letter of Administration
- J Sale of Samuel's property – 1815
- K Irish Migration
- L 1780/1781 Barree Tax Schedule

*Cheryl Lee (Ewing) Jonsson is a great<sup>4</sup>-granddaughter of Samuel Ewing (c1743-1808) of Eastern and Central Pennsylvania. Born in California, where she completed her high-school education, she has visited almost all of our states including Hawaii. Cheryl has traveled extensively over much of the world, and lived in Taiwan for a decade. She received her M.S. in Human Resources and Training from Leicester University, U.K. For the past twenty years Cheryl has dedicated her small business, Pentar Corp, to the teaching of personal computer applications to clients at several Departments of Rehabilitation within the Commonwealth of Virginia, and at the VA Hospital in West Virginia. Tracing the trail of her Ewing family was one of her major delights. Richard. C. Jonsson is an engineer out of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Rochester, New York. He was born, raised and schooled in northern India. He joined IBM after graduating from RIT and has had management assignments in the U.S., U.K., France, and India, with short assignments in Australia, Canada, and Japan. Richard. and Cheryl have twice been to Northern Ireland to absorb its history. Both Cheryl and Richard. have recently driven the length of Donegal (old Raphoe), Ireland, including the circumference of Inch Island, in order to visualize that portion of Cheryl's heritage.*



## ***Ewing Digital Library***

This section of the *Ewing Family Journal* provides various genealogical tidbits – obituaries, will abstracts and transcriptions, abstracts and transcriptions of other primary-research documents (deeds, administration papers, guardianship papers, etc.), newspaper articles, etc. After publication in the *Journal* these tidbits are posted to the Ewing Family Association (EFA) Web Site. The long-range intent is to gradually create an online repository, hosted on the EFA Web Site, of genealogical data and/or anthropological or sociological information regarding the lives and times of Ewing ancestors.

Most of these items have been contributed by EFA members and others. Some have been extracted from various sources including: *Rootsweb*, the EFA's Forum<sup>1</sup> and dialogues resulting from messages to this *Journal's* Editor, the EFA's Genealogist and other EFA members.

Some information is presented with no analytic commentary; some has been rather extensively analyzed. Sometimes, the information is annotated with various comments and data. In no cases has the Editor – or others – verified the information presented here.

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### **Bard-Sennachies<sup>2</sup> of the Campbells**

Thor Ewing ([thor@historicalarts.co.uk](mailto:thor@historicalarts.co.uk))

It strikes as curious that there are two Ewing nominees in the British Comic Awards shortlist at:

[www.digitalspy.co.uk/comics/news/a518303/british-comic-awards-shortlist-unveiled-decie-medway-greenberg.html](http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/comics/news/a518303/british-comic-awards-shortlist-unveiled-decie-medway-greenberg.html)

Is this a family talent?

Response by Martin S. Ewing ([Martin.S.Ewing@gmail.com](mailto:Martin.S.Ewing@gmail.com))

Reading R. S. T. MacEwen's *History of the Clan Ewen*, I see that we (if we align with the MacEwens) were said to be hereditary Bard-Sennachies of the Campbells after the "men of Otter [were] broken up as a clan." This may have nothing to do with 'Ewings', but I take it as license to be active in the creative and scholarly arts – or at least to tell a good tale!

Response by Thor Ewing

Ah, Martin, I suspect you knew that in the end I wouldn't be able to resist a serious answer to your light-hearted comment. ... So, yes, the MacEwen bards worked originally for the MacDougalls and later for the Campbells, but there is almost certainly no link with the Ewings.

Instead, these MacEwens are thought to have been of the MacDougall clan. So says Black's book of Scottish surnames, and although Alastair Campbell of Airds suggested they might have been Irish because they used Irish-style Gaelic, Thomas Ashby McCown has pointed out that this would have been natural for educated Gaelic-speakers in the realms of the MacDonald Lords of the Isles. He writes:

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<sup>1</sup> [groups.google.com/group/EwingFamilyAssociation](http://groups.google.com/group/EwingFamilyAssociation)

<sup>2</sup> Bard: One of an ancient Celtic order of minstrel poets who composed and recited verses celebrating the legendary exploits of chieftains and heroes.

Sennachie: a professional storyteller of family genealogy, history, and legend.

*They have a strong MacDougall connection. They lived in Lorn, were significant late medieval Gaelic poets and were bard-sennachies to both the MacDougalls and the Campbells. MacEwans are regarded as a sept, or associated family, to both Clan MacDougall and Clan Campbell.*

Derick Thomson, one of the most important Gaelic scholars and poets of the second half of the twentieth century, writes of the MacEwen family:

*They are designated as a bardic family in 1558, when Colin Campbell of Glenorchy granted a charter to Eugenius McDuncane McCarme and to his son Arnaldus or Arnoldus and his heirs male after him who act as Joculatores ('wlgariter Rymouris') giving them the two merklands<sup>3</sup> of Barmullocht in the lordship of Lorne. Over two centuries later (1779)*

Donald MacNicol records the following tradition about the MacEwens:

*The MacEwens had free lands in Lorn in Argyleshire, for acting as Bards to the family of Argyle, to that of Bredalbane, and likewise to Sir John MacDougal of Dunolly, in 1572. The two last of the race were Airne and his son Neil.*

*A member of the family composed a lament for a John of Lorn, Chief of Clan MacDougall, that was reproduced in the Book of the Dean of Lismore, the oldest known anthology of Scottish Gaelic poetry. [The poem has incorrectly been identified as a lament for Iain Ciar, who lived a century after the Book of the Dean of Lismore was written.] Members of this family may have been responsible for translating Calvin's Catechism in 1631, and some poems included therein, and the Shorter Catechism in 1652.*

This is potentially a separate MacDougall origin for the MacEwen name to the one which I described in my article *Investigations into MacEwan as a MacDougall Sept*.<sup>4</sup>

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## **Archibald Ewing (1812-1875)**

Larry E. Ewing ([rkt88ll@earthlink.net](mailto:rkt88ll@earthlink.net))

The following is a trace back in my family's six generations. I happen to be very fortunate to be the recipient of A. E. Ewing's early research as well as recent research from the late Frank Ewing of Bremerton, Washington.

I have substantial information<sup>5</sup> on my Ewing grandparents, who they married, when and where as well as their children and most of their important dates. My grandfather Erle only had two children with his wife Maude DePartee, a son and daughter, but Erle was one of nine boys and one girl all who came to

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<sup>3</sup> Merkland: A markland or merkland is an old Scottish unit of land measurement. There was some local variation in the equivalences, for example, in some places eight ouncelands were equal to one markland, but in others, such as Islay, a markland was twelve ouncelands. The markland derived its name from the old coin the Merk Scots (cognate with German mark and various other European coinages), which was the annual rent paid on it, and so it was calculated by this, rather than its actual area. Originally a Scots mark or merk was 13s 4d (160 pence), but the Scottish coinage depreciated against the English, and by the 18<sup>th</sup> century a Scots merk was worth only 13½ sterling – one-twelfth of its original value. Although such coins were abolished by the Acts of Union 1707, some stayed in circulation for decades, and the names themselves remained in common use for centuries.

<sup>4</sup> [thorewing.net/articles/somerled](http://thorewing.net/articles/somerled)

<sup>5</sup> My information is from a master list compiled mostly by the late Frank Eliza Ewing of Bremerton, Washington, in the form of a Family Tree Maker genealogy and a Ewing Bible logged by my grandmother Maude DePartee through her life to 1953.

maturity in the Northwest around Lewiston, Idaho, about 1900-1910. Erle's grandfather had nine boys all born in Iowa and his great-grandfather had thirteen children, of which ten were boys, born in Virginia, Bath County / Stony Creek, now Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

This heritage has now reached 'Indian John' Ewing who had ten children in the same area.

### **Me: Lawrence E. Ewing**

I was born on August 18, 1941, in San Francisco, California.

### **My Father: Lawrence Isaiah Ewing**

Lawrence Isaiah Ewing was born March 31, 1912, in Walla Walla, Washington. He married Mary G. Dezso in Seattle, Washington, on February 4, 1934.

### **My Grandfather: Erle Edward Ewing**

Lawrence Isaiah's father was Erle Edward Ewing born October 22, 1889, in Mason City, Nebraska. Erle was a U.S. government meat inspector for his last ~thirty years of work. He moved from Seattle in ~1932 to South San Francisco and wrote his son Lawrence, telling him there was work in the Bay Area. Jobs were scarce as this was during the Great Depression. Lawrence, recently married to Mary Dezso, responded and moved also from Seattle to South San Francisco. This is how I became a California native.

Erle Edward was just in his teens and all of his older brothers helped build the family owned Commercial Hotel in Stites, Idaho and learned the trades. Erle Edward later built his own home in 1915 in Walla Walla when his two children were three- and five-years old. Erle Edward later built a house in San Bruno, California, in the 1940s at 8 Buena Vista Ave. Erle Edward rebuilt another home on the next lot and bought a fixer-upper – which his son Lawrence later occupied – at 549 Acacia Avenue, San Bruno, California. Just before he retired, Erle Edward bought another fixer-upper in Forestville, California, and then another in Santa Rosa, California, on Griffin Avenue where he lived out his life.

### **My Great-Grandfather: Isaiah Ewing**

Erle Edward's father Isaiah was born in Bonaparte Iowa. At age twenty-one he married Amelia Zimmerman in Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1870. They proceeded to have ten children: Lena Addie (b. June 4, 1876), Harry Lewis (b. October 11, 1878), Frank Henry (b. February 6, 1880), Marion (b. July 15, July 1881), George Arch (b. February 3, 1882). The preceding five children were all born in Des Moines, Iowa. The next five children were born in Mason City, Nebraska: Elmer Taylor (b. May 3, 1885), Dwight Weaver (b. February 19, 1887), Erle Edward (b. October 22, 1889), Omer Kem ( b. January 10, 1891) and Isaiah Wessley ( b. November 1892 but lived only a few weeks).

Isaiah was listed as a shoemaker/tailor in an 1880 census in Nebraska. For reasons unknown he and the entire family moved to Stites, Idaho, in 1901. He was fifty-two, and three of his children were over twenty and his daughter Lena was married. They all went and soon after arriving they built the Commercial Hotel of which Isaiah was Proprietor.

Another of Isaiah's sons – Omar Kem Ewing – was drafted into the Army in 1917 and killed in France where he was buried in 1918.

Isaiah and his wife were President and Vice-President of the Bank of Stites in 1920. Later that decade they experienced financial problems and – according to Frank's son, Frank Eliza Ewing of Bremerton, Washington –lost the hotel.

### **My Great<sup>2</sup>-Grandfather: Archibald Ewing**

Isaiah's father, Archibald, was the eighth child of thirteen born to John Smith Ewing and his wife Rebecca Cackley who married in 1801. All their children were born in the Bath County / Stony Creek area of Virginia, now Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

According to information on the Ewing family Association's (EFA's) Web Site, Archibald, along with his younger brother Andrew, left the family home in Logan County, Ohio, after his father died. In John's will he asked that all unmarried children stay with their mother until her death and should receive the home and his estate when his wife died.

If not, \$5 was the inheritance and Archibald and Andrew took the latter. They traveled from home to Bonaparte, Iowa, where they had cousins. Archibald was twenty-six and his brother Andrew was twenty. Andrew soon married Mary Daily and headed west toward California about 1850. Andrew, by 1877, had become a state representative in Sacramento and also purchased land in and around Newman, California, where descendants (e.g., Barbara Ewing Powell) of him live to this day.

Archibald stayed in Bonaparte, Iowa, and married Catherine Myers on September 28, 1843. She was born September 8, 1825, in Gallipolis, Ohio. They bore and raised all of their nine children in Bonaparte. First born was John about 1845. Following him were: Jacob (b. July 1, 1847), Isaiah (b. April 7, 1849), Andrew Jr. (b. ~1852), George Washington (b. ~1861), Thomas (b. September 3, 1862), Samuel (b. ~1863), 'Our Babe' (b. July), and Archibald Jr (b. ~1866).

I have found evidence that the child called 'Our Babe' lived only one month, died August 12, 1864, and is buried in Bonaparte Cemetery, Van Buren County, Iowa.

I do not know when and where Archibald died, but I would venture to say he might also be buried in Bonaparte Cemetery although records to this effect have not been found.

### **My Great<sup>3</sup>-Grandfather: John Smith Ewing**

John Smith Ewing was Archibald's father. He married Rebecca Cackley in Bath County, Virginia, in 1801 and together they had thirteen children all born in the Stony Creek area of Virginia now Pocahontas County, West Virginia: William (b. June 15, 1802), John (b. September 20, 1803), James (b. December 27, 1804), Mary Elizabeth (b. July 8, 1806), Valentine (b. October 31, 1807), Anna (b. ~1810), Chapman (b. May 11, 1811), Archibald (b. November 17, 1812), Thomas (b. October 26, 1814), Andrew (b. August 17, 1818), Benjamin (b. November 13, 1819), and Edmonson (b. May 14, 1824)

### **My Great<sup>4</sup>-Grandfather: John 'Indian John' Ewing**

John Smith's father was known as 'Indian John' Ewing. He was born in Orange County, Virginia, in 1747 to a James 'Pocahontas James' and Sarah Ewing.

Indian John and his brother William 'Swago Bill' Ewing set up home sites in Bath County, West Virginia. Indian John married at age twenty-six a fourteen-year-old Irish emigrant, Ann Smith in 1774. They had ten children in that area. His gravesite is located in Vinton, Ohio.

Indian John's father – James 'Pocahontas James' Ewing – is thought to be the second son of John Ewing of Carnashannagh, Ireland, from his second wife Janett McElvaney.

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## **Pocahontas James Ewing Powder Horn**

Eric Ewing (*thehighwaymen123@gmail.com*)

An acquaintance of mine makes powder horn reproductions and we did an exchange of services. Inspired by excerpts of the story of Pocahontas James Ewing using typical 18<sup>th</sup> century backcountry folk art motifs he designed and made this powder horn for me. It depicts the story of Pocahontas James Ewing shooting the outlaw Shockley, and has the following rhyme: "If You Crave Horn and Rifle Fine But Take Not These For They Are Mine."



Did you know that a large group  
of baboons is called a congress?



That explains a lot now, doesn't it!

## 2014 Gathering

### Preliminary Information

The Ewing Family Association's (EFA's) 13<sup>th</sup> biennial gathering will be held 19-21 September 2014 in Fort Wayne, Indiana ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Wayne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Wayne)). Our primary venue will be the Allen County Public Library (ACPL), giving attendees the opportunity to: explore the ACPL's vast Genealogy Center<sup>1</sup> and use its extensive computerized resources including its PERSI periodicals index;<sup>2</sup> access the EFA Collection which has recently been established at the Genealogy Center and comprises some of the EFA Archives previously held at the Historical Society of Cecil County in Elkton, Maryland, as well as family pictures and memorabilia donated by Wallace K. Ewing; learn about how the EFA Collection is being handled by the Genealogy Center; and possibly visit the Center's prestigious Lincoln Collection housing memorabilia and a number of original documents signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

Overlapping the gathering will be Fort Wayne's annual Johnny Appleseed Festival.<sup>3</sup> The Fort Wayne area also offers several other opportunities for excursions or journeys back in time, for example to the Old Fort<sup>4</sup> with its Military Encampment and Trappers and Traders Living History areas.

Arrangements for hotel accommodation have been made with the Best Western Luxbury Inn in Fort Wayne.<sup>5</sup> The Luxbury Inn offers a complimentary hot breakfast, free WiFi, business and fitness centers, an elevator and meeting rooms. Although the majority of day-time meetings will occur in the ACPL's meeting facilities, informal meetings will be held at the Luxbury Inn. Room prices will be \$75 plus tax per night.

A very preliminary agenda appears on the following page. It is subject to change as arrangements are nailed down. More definite information will be provided in future issues of the *Ewing Family Journal*. If you have questions or special concerns, please contact Beth Toscos at [MBToscos@comcast.net](mailto:MBToscos@comcast.net) or Dan Ewing at [DC.Ewing@frontier.com](mailto:DC.Ewing@frontier.com).



**Ft. Wayne, Indiana**



**Allen County  
Public Library**



**Genealogy Center**



**Johnny Appleseed Festival**



**Old Fort**

<sup>1</sup> [genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx](http://genealogycenter.org/Home.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> For more information about PERSI, see the *Journal Gazette* article recently reprinted in a previous issue of the *Ewing Family Journal* (Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 35-36).

<sup>3</sup> [www.johnnyappleseedfest.com](http://www.johnnyappleseedfest.com)

<sup>4</sup> [oldfortwayne.org](http://oldfortwayne.org)

<sup>5</sup> [www.roomstays.com/hotel/641885](http://www.roomstays.com/hotel/641885)

## Tentative Agenda

### Thursday, 18 September 2014

No formal meeting arrangements, but informal meetings and discussions among EFA members at Best Western and ACPL.

Dinner on Your Own There are many excellent restaurants and fast-food establishments in the immediate vicinity of the Best Western Hotel and along the U. S. 24 corridor that leads into downtown Fort Wayne. Information about the options will be available at the check-in desk at the Best Western Luxbury Inn.

### Friday, 19 September 2014

Continental Breakfast at the Best Western Hotel

- 8:30 Registration Begins at the Allen County Public Library (ACPL)
- 9:00 Greeting and Initial Meeting at the ACPL
- 9:15 Introduction To and Tour Through the ACPL Genealogy Center with Library Staff.
- 12:15 Box Lunch
- 13:30 Presentation by Cass County Historical Soc.: *Ewings and the Fur Trade*
- 15:00 Presentation by Wabash & Erie Canal Soc.: *Erie Canal Economic Impact During the mid-19th Century*
- 17:30 Dinner at J. K. O'Donnell's Irish Pub
- 19:30 Return to Best Western Hotel's meeting rooms for informal activities.

### Saturday, 20 September 2014

Continental Breakfast at the Best Western Hotel

- 9:00 Plenary Meeting at the ACPL Public Meeting Rooms
- 9:15 Committee Reports
  - o Archives (Mary Gosline and Beth Toscos)
  - o Clanship Committee (David Neal Ewing and Beth Toscos)
  - o EFA Bylaws Amendment Committee (William E. Riddle)
  - o Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project (David Neal Ewing)
- 12:00 Lunch on Your Own
 

*No activities are planned for the afternoon, allowing for: informal discussions, excursions to sites around Fort Wayne (Johnny Appleseed Festival, the new Parkview Field complex, the beautifully renovated Embassy Theater, Fort Wayne's extensive bike and walking trails, etc.), or continuing personal genealogy research at the ACPL Genealogy Center.*
- 18:00 Banquet at the Landmark Convention Centre
- 19:30 Keynote Presentation by Michael Galbraith, Executive Director of the Architecture and Community Heritage Organization: *Ewing Family in Fort Wayne*
- 20:30 *Rocky Creek* (A musical group offering entertaining Scottish and Irish songs.)
- 21:30 EFA General Meeting

### Sunday, 21 September 2014

Continental Breakfast at the Best Western Hotel

- 11:00 Official Adjournment of the 2014 Gathering
 

*This day may be used for additional informal discussions, personal genealogical research at the ACPL Genealogy Center, merchandise purchases, farewells, etc.*

**Ewing Family Association Thirteenth Biennial Gathering**

Fort Wayne, Indiana  
September 19-21, 2014

**Registration Form**

*Down the Canal  
into the New Frontier*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Your email address will be used to confirm your registration and to send you news about the 2014 Gathering. If you do not have an email address or prefer not to use it, please enter 'none'.*

Phone Number (including area code): ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Preferred Name for ID Badge</u>	<u>First Timer?</u>	<u>EFA Member?</u>	<u>Fee</u>
_____	Y / N	Y / N	\$ _____
_____	Y / N	Y / N	\$ _____
_____	Y / N	Y / N	\$ _____
		Total Fee	\$ _____

***Fee Schedule***

Adults: \$180 if paid before August 15, 2014. \$200 on or after August 15, 2014.

Children (under 12): \$100 if paid before August 15, 2014. \$110 on or after August 15.

Earliest Known Ewing Ancestor (to appear on your ID badge): \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation policy:** Cancellations received prior to August 15, 2014 are subject to a \$25 per person processing fee. Cancellations on or after that date are subject to a charge of 50% of the total fee.

**Send a check for the Total Fee, made payable to 'Ewing Family 2014 Gathering', with completed registration form to Lynn Coughlin, EFA Treasurer, 1330 Vaughn Court, Aurora, IL 60504**

Questions about the Gathering? EMail or Call Beth Toscos  
EMail: [mbs@comcast.net](mailto:mbs@comcast.net) ... Voice: + 1 260.432.4538

# Ewing Family Association Thirteenth Biennial Gathering

Fort Wayne, Indiana 19-21 September 2014



## Lodging Information

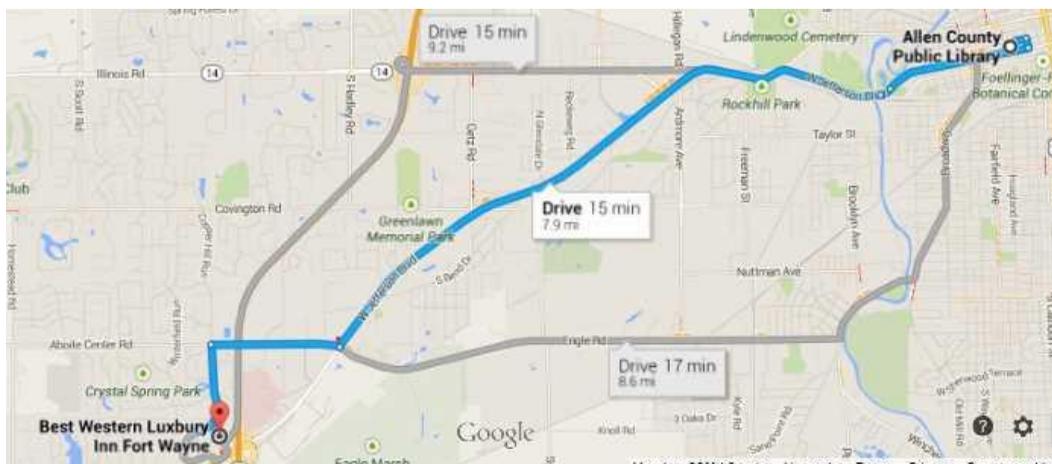
The Best Western Luxbury Inn, our venue for the 2014 Gathering, has reserved a block of rooms for the Ewing Family Association. Since Fort Wayne in the autumn is a very busy place, we recommend that you consider making your lodging reservation early. For our special EFA Gathering rate, reference the Ewing Family Association when you call to make your reservation.



Best Western Luxbury Inn  
5501 Coventry Lane  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

(800) 223-5615

The room rate is \$74.99 plus tax. Pets are welcome for an additional fee of \$20 (two pets maximum per room). Each guest room features a 37" flat-screen TV, free WiFi, refrigerator/microwave, iron/ironing board, hair dryer, coffee/tea maker and free local and toll-free calls. There is a complimentary, hot, deluxe breakfast, both business and fitness centers, guest laundry facilities, an interior corridor and elevator and meeting room facilities that the Ewing Family Association will use when are not held at the ACPL.



## ***Chancellor's Message***

Wallace K. 'Wally' Ewing ([WKEwing@charter.net](mailto:WKEwing@charter.net))

Each fall for the past five years or so, Jane and I have spent several weeks enjoying the sun and the people of Salida, Colorado. We liked the experience so much, we decided to extend our stay to six months. It was a good choice.

We drove the 1,300 miles from our hometown of Grand Haven, Michigan, in excellent November weather, and as usual the sun has prevailed through most of our weeks in Salida. But it wasn't just the climate we relished, it was the people we met, their friendliness and openness. Among those gracious people was Lisa Marvel, owner of the *Book Haven*, Salida's major bookstore. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, she graciously included me with three other authors to talk about our books. A nourishing hot meal was served buffet-style to the forty or so guests who reserved space for the evening, and they learned a bit about the four authors and their books. Members of the audience purchased books, including my *Home to Trench*, *the Civil War Letters of Mack and Nan Ewing*, and *Genius Denied, the Life and Death of Max Ewing*.

Writing about the Ewing family has become a cottage industry for me. My ancestors led interesting lives and they thoughtfully left good records behind, records such as letters and journals that eventually were put in my care. I thought the lives of my ancestors should be shared, and I am happy that a number of people have agreed with my enthusiasm, even in this small southern Colorado town called Salida.

A month after the book signing, Ms Marvel invited me back to her shop to present a full program on my family's Civil War letters. Interest in the Civil War remains high, and twenty guests showed up to hear details about life at home and on the front and the life-long romance between Mack and Nan Ewing.

A few days ago, Jane and I took a walk along the pedestrian/bike path that used to be a railroad bed, leading to the northwest out of Salida. On our way we saw a sign that read, "This trail section adopted by the Ewing family" (see picture to the right). I haven't found out which Ewing family took on the task of keeping the trail clean (and there are three Ewing families who claim the Salida area as their home), but I will. It's fun and informative to search out Ewings wherever I am and to talk about their heritage, as well as mine.

And who knows? Perhaps I will round up a new member or two for the Ewing Family Association.

*Wally Ewing*



**That Part of the Salida Pedestrian Trail  
'Adopted' by the Ewing Family**

## Membership News

Jill (Ewing) Spittler, Membership Coordinator (+1 330.464.6378, [JEwingSpit@aol.com](mailto:JEwingSpit@aol.com)) and Jane (Ewing) Weippert, New Member Coordinator (+1 419.399.2073, [JaneWeippert@windstream.net](mailto:JaneWeippert@windstream.net))

### New EFA Members ... Welcome Aboard!

**Paul W. Porter** (Member #1165) and his wife **Donna J.** live in Denver, Colorado, and can be contacted at [DonnaJPorter@juno.com](mailto:DonnaJPorter@juno.com). He reports:

I have been working trying to find the parents of my great<sup>3</sup>-grandfather Robert Porter who married Mary Thomas and I think it might be the Andrew Porter who married into the Ewing Family.

Response by Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist ([BKAvery2@comcast.net](mailto:BKAvery2@comcast.net))

We know that some members of the Porter family came to America at the same time as Ewing folks, about 1727. They settled in Cecil County, Maryland. I look forward to working with you. Hopefully other Members will also contact you.



**Jill Spittler**



**Jane Weippert**

**Carol A. Szelogowski**<sup>1</sup> (Member #1164) and her spouse **Mark** live in Essexville, Michigan, and can be contacted at [cas1571@juno.com](mailto:cas1571@juno.com). She reports:

I am a descendant of John and Lucy (Williams) Ewing. Their son George Samuel is my great-great-grandfather. Lyman Otis Ewing is my great-grandfather. Earl Ewing is my grandfather. Franklin William Ewing is my father. My problem is with Lucy's family.

### Passings

With sincere and heartfelt condolences to their family and friends, we note the passing of the following:

**Cheryl Lee (Ewing) Jonsson** (1944-2114)

Richard C. Jonsson ([rjonsson@hughes.net](mailto:rjonsson@hughes.net))

*Cheryl Lee Ewing Jonsson, age 70, a longtime resident of Warrenton, Virginia, passed away on January 26, 2014. She was the daughter of Roy Virgil Ewing and Leila Westphal of Burbank, California. Cheryl was the owner of PENTAR CORP, a local business devoted to computer training for the disabled. Throughout her life Cheryl traveled extensively, and touched the lives of many with her skills. She is survived by her loving husband, Richard. Childs Jonsson; sons, David W. Russell of Haymarket, Virginia and Scott C. Russell of Milwaukie, Oregon; two sisters, Nancy E. Tiscareno, in California, and Debra L. Dickerson, in Texas, and six grandchildren. A Memorial Service to celebrate her life will be held on February 15, 2014, at 11:00 A.M. at the Park Valley Church in Haymarket, Virginia.*



<sup>1</sup> From Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist ([BKAvery2@comcast.net](mailto:BKAvery2@comcast.net)): Carol is of the Ashford, Connecticut, Ewing line. She is a fourth cousin to Beth (Ewing) Toscos, Jane (Ewing) Weippert, and me. She and I have worked together in the past. Earl Norman Ewing is her uncle; he is participant EN in the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project's Group 2b.

**Frank Marion Ewing<sup>2</sup> (1915-2013)**

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=167032037](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=167032037)

FRANK M. EWING Naples, Florida Frank M. Ewing of Naples, Florida died on September 16, 2013. He was born in Albany, Georgia April 24, 1915 the son of Frank M. and Alpharetta (Tucker) Ewing. A 1936 Sereno Gaylord Scholar graduate of Yale, he was Chairman & President of Frank M. Ewing Co., Inc., Chevy Chase, Maryland 1946-Present; Lumber Distribution Co., [P]etersburg, Virginia 1942-1957; President of Ewing Lumber & Millwork, Beltsville, Maryland 1958-1971; Chairman, Board of Directors, Kettler Brothers, Inc. 1965-1988 and the developer of Beltsville Industrial Center, 1950-1989. He was the President of The Frank M. Ewing Foundation which he founded in 1994 as a charitable organization supporting philanthropic endeavors throughout the country. He served on the Board of Directors of Washington Mutual Investors Fund; the Industry Advisory Committee WPB, 1942-1946; the Industry Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Commerce, 1947-1950 and Assistant Secretary of Defense 1955-1956 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He also served on the Board of Directors of Martin Marietta Corporation during the development of [the] Titan rocket that carried Voyager I into space. He was on the Board of Directors of Children's Hospital and the National Rehabilitation Hospital. Mr. Ewing was a 32B0 KCCH in the Valley of Washington Orient of District of Columbia, Burning Tree Club, Chevy Chase Club, The Metropolitan Club, St. Andrew's Royal and Ancient Golf Club in Scotland and Tryall Club in Jamaica. Mr. Ewing was predeceased by his brothers Richard Ewing, Robert Ewing and sister Sara Ewing Grote. He was also predeceased by daughter Tucker Ewing Mace and his former wife Marilyn Petrie Ewing. Mr. Ewing is survived by his wife of fourteen years, Judith H. Ewing; and her daughter Sara (Greg) Viets Hainsworth and two grandchildren. He is survived by children Peg Atherton, Frances Tennery and Andrew Ewing. He is survived by adopted children Wayne Ewing and Kathleen Ewing. He is survived by stepchildren Conner (Marilyn), Court (Avelina) and William (Kathie) Petrie and Elizabeth (Steve) Robinson. He had nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren Arrangements were provided by The Beachwood Society of Naples, Florida. No funeral services are planned. Donations of condolence may be made to The Frank M. Ewing Foundation, Le Parc 501, 4951 Gulf Shore Boulevard North, Naples, FL or the charity of your choice.

**Jacquelyn Randolph (Knapp) Ewing (1923-2013)**

*Washington Post* January 5, 2014



EWING JACQUELYN RANDOLPH EWING (nee KNAPP) On December 30, 2013, of Potomac, MD. Daughter of Captain John Harrison Knapp, USN and Frances Maitland Marshall, and granddaughter of Brigadier General William L. Marshall, former Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacquelyn was born on June 1, 1923, in Washington, DC. She spent her childhood between Washington, DC and Vallejo and Los Angeles, CA, where her father was stationed with the US Navy. Jacque worked as an Administrative Assistant at the U.S. State Department in

<sup>2</sup> From Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (BK Avery2@comcast.net): Frank M. Ewing was the brother-in-law of Jacquelyn Randolph Knapp (1915-2013) who married Frank's brother Richard Tucker Ewing.

*Washington, DC until her marriage to Richard Tucker Ewing, State Department Foreign Service Officer, on April 26, 1947. Together they were stationed in Bern, Switzerland; Taipei, Taiwan; and Rangoon, Burma. They settled at Chance Farm in Rockville, MD, and retired to Red Hall in Dunkirk, MD, where her husband died on April 16, 1998. Jacque then moved to Sumner Village in Bethesda, MD. She spent her last two years at Emeritus of Potomac, MD. Jacque was an active volunteer in many community organizations in the DC area as well as diplomatic posts abroad. In addition, she served on the Women's Board of Columbia Hospital and for over 60 years was a member of the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (District of Columbia Society) and the Sulgrave Club. Jacquelyn is survived by her six children: Maitland Marshall Lammert of St. Louis, MO; Sara Ewing Davis of Falls Church, VA; Richard Tucker Ewing, Jr. of Bethesda, MD; Elizabeth Harrison Ewing of Arlington, VA; Alpharetta Tucker Ewing of New York, NY; and John Randolph Ewing of Dubai, UAE. She has nine grandchildren: Richard Tucker Ewing Lammert, Meredith Pierce Lammert, Shrinivas, Elizabeth Maitland Davis, William Christopher Marshall Davis, Jane Tucker Randolph Ewing, John Taylor Harrison Ewing, Mark Uttrup Ewing, Emma Uttrup Ewing, and Lilia Meilan Poteat. A memorial service will be held on February 1, 2014 at 11 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church of McLean, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jacquelyn's name to the Richard T. Ewing, Sr. Scholarship Fund at Norwood School, 8821 River Road, Bethesda, MD, 20817 or to the Alzheimer's Association (P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011) by making a donation to the Jacquelyn R. Ewing Memorial Fund on the tribute page at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or by calling 1-800-272-3900.*

## **Archives News**

**Beth (Ewing) Toscos (+1 260.432.4538, [MBToscos@comcast.net](mailto:MBToscos@comcast.net))**

Daniel C. Ewing – fellow Archive Committee member – and I have been working on former Ewing Family Association Genealogist Jim McMichael's research and Ewing Family Association (EFA) documents since mid-year 2013. Jim's collection is quite extensive and his materials fall into several categories. These include Ewing family genealogies, some of which are very detailed while others are brief or incomplete, particularly where an immigrant ancestor has not been identified. In addition, there is research for numerous collateral lines for the Ewing family (e.g., Porter, Gillespie and Breeding).



The initial delivery of the James R. McMichael Collection within the EFA's Archives has been made to the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) for digitization. This consists of 1795 pages of information regarding Ewing family lines beginning with John of Carnashannagh, 1187 copies of Deeds and Wills and 32 books. While this forms the core of the McMichael Collection, there are many more items that will find their way to the ACPL for digitization.

The Archive Committee will review additional materials that consist of research of collateral family lines, Scottish and Irish research documents and general Association documents which we might wish to have digitized, and which we will certainly want to archive with the main body of stored materials.

Future contributors to the EFA Archives will wish to examine the finished digitization of Jim's collection to determine if they would like to have their research committed to this form of electronic record. A presentation by ACPL staff along with a working session will take place at the ACPL during this year's

Thirteenth Biennial Gathering in Fort Wayne. A three-hour session on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, will acquaint Ewing researchers with both the physical and digital repository for our Archives at the ACPL.

## ***Summary of EFA Finances for 2013***

**Linda (Ewing) Coughlin, Treasurer (+1 630.898.5627, [LLCoughlin@comcast.net](mailto:LLCoughlin@comcast.net))**



The Ewing Family Association's (EFA's) 2013 revenue from regular operations of \$6,130.00 was derived from membership dues, library membership support, gift membership donations, and merchandise sales. 2013 operating expenses for quarterly *Ewing Family Journal* printing & mailing, the EFA Web Site, office supplies, postage, professional fees and liability insurance were \$6,185.53, resulting in a net loss for regular operations of \$55.53.

The EFA also received designated contributions in 2013 of \$545 for the Special Operations Fund, \$150 for the Research Fund, \$2,870 for the Pocahontas James Ewing Memorial Fund and \$100 for maintenance of the Ewing Cemetery in Stephens City, Virginia. During the year \$506.38 was spent from the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project, and \$100 for maintenance of the Ewing Cemetery in Stephens City, Virginia. \$1,021.34 was transferred from the Special Operations Fund to the Research Fund as designated by the EFA Board of Directors.

Total equity on December 31, 2013, was \$22,093.32 compared to \$19,090.23 on 31 December 2012 due primarily to the donations made for the Pocahontas James Ewing Memorial for which we have not yet received an invoice.

The 2013 end-of-year balances were:

Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project	\$	58.62
Research		1,254.05
EGD Project		345.00
Special Operations		5,675.33
Pocahontas James Ewing Memorial		2,870.00
Regular Operations		<u>11,890.32</u>
Total Equity	\$	22,093.32

Please contact the EFA Treasurer, Linda Coughlin, with any questions or to receive additional information related to EFA's 2013 profit-and-loss or end-of-year balances.

## ***A Chief for Clan Ewen?***

**David Neal Ewing, Activity Coordinator, Clanship (+1 505.764.8704, [DavidEwing93@gmail.com](mailto:DavidEwing93@gmail.com))**



## **The Need for a Clan Ewen Commander/Chief**

In the last issue of the *Ewing Family Journal* I published an message<sup>1</sup> about the forthcoming *derbhfine* or Family Convention that is to be convened under the

<sup>1</sup> *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (November 2013), p. 79

auspices of the Lord Lyon in Scotland this June. As I explained in that article, the Clan Ewen Society has been lobbying for the appointment of a Commander/Chief over a sort of pan-Ewen clan. The position of the Ewing Family Association (EFA) is not to oppose this (provided at least that any such pan-Ewen clan not stake a claim of descent from Clan Ewen of Otter) and to do our utmost to maintain a cordial relationship with the Clan Ewen Society. But unless the Lord Lyon is very much more forward thinking than we imagine, we doubt that he will allow this because of rather clear historical evidence that most McEwan lines actually originated in other clans.

Whatever the Lord Lyon may decide, we are clear because of historical evidence reaching back at least to the sixteenth century that a Clan Ewing existed independently of any association with other family groups bearing related surnames. Thor Ewing has argued that Clan Ewing is directly descended from Clan Ewen of Otter. His evidence is mostly circumstantial and is not universally accepted, but many of us find it persuasive. We do not know exactly how the discussion at the *derbhfine* will proceed, but one possible outcome is that The Lord Lyon will formally acknowledge Clan Ewing as such. In that event, a Commander/Chief<sup>2</sup> would be appointed to represent and further organize the Clan.

## **Who Should be Commander/Chief?**

The Lord Lyon web site offers this advice:<sup>3</sup>

There are a number of circumstances in which it would seem appropriate to hold a Family Convention:

- (1) Where a blood link to a past Chief or Head of Name is likely but is not conclusively proven and it is wished to propose a particular person in that situation to be recognised as Chief.
- (2) Where the main line of descent from a past Chief has died out and it is wished to recognise the Representer of a cadet line as Chief.
- (3) Where neither blood link to a past Chief nor Representer of a cadet line can be identified but it is wished to propose a particular person of the surname as Commander. It is generally desirable that such a Commander should live in Scotland.

It should be noted that the Lord Lyon is unlikely to recognise a person recommended by a Family Convention as Chief or Head of a Family or Name, unless that recommendation is unopposed or, at the very least, has been approved by a substantial majority of the Family Convention.

It is my understanding that a Scottish armiger of the name is generally preferred, or at least a landowner resident in Scotland. The candidate put forward by the Clan Ewen Society is a Scottish armiger, Sir John McEwen, but we think he has no connection with Clan Ewing. If Clan Ewing is to be recognized independently from the other Ewen lines, we need to be able to propose a Ewing candidate for

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<sup>2</sup> Having a Commander is an interim step in the process of choosing a Chief for the clan, which would take a period of years. The wording on the Lyon Court website indicates that it might be possible to skip the Commander stage and go straight to having a Chief. It's entirely up to Lyon Court as to how they interpret their own guidance. In addition there will be a new Lord Lyon in June, and we don't know yet who it will be. In light of this, this item talks in terms of Commander/Chief.

<sup>3</sup> [www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/656.html](http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/656.html)

commander. I inquired some time ago whether Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing might be interested in this role, but he was not. So who?

Thor Ewing lives in England. He is a member of both the Clan Ewen Society and the EFA, and he is a participant in the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project (participant JT in Group 2\*). Based on DNA, we can see that he is a member of the same paternal line as Sir Archie (participant AD in the Project's Group 2e), and both are members of what I have often called "the large group of closely related Ewings" (the Project's Groups 1 and 2).

Thor is passionately interested in Clan history and traditions, and he is certainly the Ewing most knowledgeable about these matters. After Sir Archie declined to be considered, and after Thor failed to find another suitable candidate in Scotland, I asked Thor whether he might be interested in the post himself. He was flattered to be considered, but did not immediately accept and has subsequently given this a lot of thought. At last, he has decided that he would welcome this opportunity to serve the Clan, and he has written an item explaining this, which appears immediately following my remarks.

## **My Nomination: Thor Ewing**

I hereby nominate Thor Ewing as Commander/Chief of Clan Ewing.

The positions of Clan Chief or Commander are not elected positions. Though many members of the EFA are members of Clan Ewing, it existed long before Rev. Ellsworth Samuel Ewing founded Clan Ewing in America and is entirely independent of it. Nothing in the EFA bylaws pertains to Clan Ewing and a Chief or Commander of Clan Ewing and Clan Ewen has no official authority over any business of the EFA.

The EFA cannot choose a Commander/Chief for Clan Ewing. But we can suggest a candidate and make a recommendation to the Lord Lyon. We have no process in place to make a decision of this kind, but I should think it would fall within the purview of the EFA Board of Directors to make the recommendation.

Accordingly, I hereby nominate Thor Ewing for the position and call on Wally Ewing, Chair of the EFA Board of Directors, to convene a special meeting of the Board of Directors to make a final decision about this. I further suggest that he hold on doing this until there has been a period during which Members can provide their thoughts and suggestions. So, I call on EFA Members to give Wally – after reading the following material from Thor – their thoughts and suggestions ([WKEwing@charter.net](mailto:WKEwing@charter.net), +1 616.846.7773) before the end of March 2014.

## **The Much-discussed, Old "Name Controversy"**

Please remember that this discussion is not about what name we use for the EFA. Many of our members are members of a so-far 'unofficial' Clan Ewen or Clan Ewing of Scotland. The decision of the Lord Lyon could make Clan Ewing or Clan Ewen of Lennox official or it could become officially amalgamated into a name-based Clan Ewen or Clan MacEwan of Scotland. Of course, if we do not like what the Lord Lyon decides, we can ignore him and say or do what we please. And regardless of what the Lord Lyon decides, we can use whatever name we prefer for the EFA.

## ***Clanship, Chiefship and the Ewings?***

Thor Ewing ([thor@historicalarts.co.uk](mailto:thor@historicalarts.co.uk))

Most readers will be aware that this June will see what has been called a 'Family Convention' – a *derbhfine* – for all families of the surnames Ewen, MacEwen or Ewing. This convention will be supervised by an officer of Lyon Court, Scotland's court of heraldry, which is internationally recognised as the official body of record with regard to clans and families of Scottish descent.



Clanship doesn't interest everyone in the Ewing Family Association (EFA) – there's no reason why it should. But it is an inherent part of our family heritage and, for many of us it lies at the heart of our interest. For me personally, the clan is the point of connection not only with our history and heritage, but with the extended family of Ewings – the Ewing diaspora – which exists throughout the world.

I know some people feel that this might be a specifically Scottish matter, which should be handled only by Scots. We belong to a Scottish family, because our family originates in Scotland. You don't have to be Scottish yourself to be a part of the family. This Family Convention is about your family, and it's your convention!

The EFA has appointed a committee to represent the organisation at this event. All committee members are agreed on certain principles which have been discussed at meetings of the EFA and in this *Journal*. Beyond that, each of us probably sees things slightly differently, so although I'm a member of the committee, I should note that this article reflects my personal views alone.

The Family Convention was set up at the behest of the Clan Ewen Society with the apparent aim of appointing a Chief or Commander (see below) for a single clan encompassing all Ewens, MacEwens and Ewings. From historical evidence, it is clear that no such clan has ever existed, and Lyon Court has already indicated in correspondence with the Clan Ewen Society that the Ewings could qualify as a clan in their own right.

In previous articles I have shown how, whilst the modern MacEwens are descended from a variety of clans and families, we as Ewings are descended from one particular clan which was located in the area of Loch Lomond in sixteenth century Scotland. There can be little doubt that this Ewing clan was identical with the earlier Clan Ewen of Otter, which occupied a territory in Argyll. In six years of research, ours is the only clan I have discovered which could fairly claim to represent Clan Ewen of Otter. This is the version of Ewing history which was passed down in the family through the generations, and as far as I can see, it is the only version which makes sense.

In this material, I want to look at what all this history means for the Family Convention, and what I think we should be aiming to achieve through the meeting for the future of Clan Ewing.

### **What is a Clan?**

The Gaelic word 'clann' means 'children', and the idea of family lies at the heart of clanship. In everyday speech, we might use the word 'clan' to talk about our own children and grandchildren, or about any tight-knit group. But there's another meaning of the word 'clan', which is also recognised throughout the English-speaking world, even if it's not always completely understood.

Around the time of William Wallace, Scotland was in crisis. With no agreement over who should be king, people clustered in family groups around local lords for the sake of law and protection. This was when Clan Ewen of Otter among other clans first came into being. In modern times, the pressing need which created the clans might have long since disappeared, but the kinship groups they forged are still recognisable in the surnames of Scotland, and each has its own unique history and heritage which are still prized by descendants of the clansmen of old.

The definition of the clans in this sense is a question for the Court of Lord Lyon. As a court of law, Lyon Court works according to established precedent. The case which is always referred to for the definition of a clan is *MacLean of Ardgour v. MacLean*. According to all evidence submitted in this case, the term 'clan' is identical in meaning with the term 'family', and this is the definition which is accepted by Lyon Court. This sort of clan is recognised as a "noble incorporation" in Scottish law (in the same way that a business corporation, a limited company or even a nation state is), and it has its own rights (albeit rather limited and ill-defined) and its own essential structure.

The definition of clan or family is wide enough to allow kinship either by blood or by 'pretence of blood'. Long ago, people who lacked any other support could beg the protection of a local clan chief and, if he accepted them, they could be adopted into his family or clan. The clan often included anyone who lived on the clan's lands. By adopting the clan's identity, tenants became 'children' of the clan alongside the original family. In this way, an impersonal financial relationship was transformed into a bond of family loyalty.

By this official definition, our clan or family includes all Ewings wherever they may live, those who have remained in Scotland and also those who have found homes in new continents. The clan doesn't stop at national borders. It links family members all over the world in a single body that already existed long before they were scattered across the countries of the world. Our clan was here before the birth of either the United States or the United Kingdom. Thus, in 2009 the *International Clan Convention and Gathering* in Edinburgh emphasised the idea of the clans as international bodies, stretching beyond Scotland into a Scottish diaspora.

Recognising our family as a clan represents our continuing tradition, it symbolises the link between our past and our future. For me, it also embodies the common bond that unites us all as Ewings, and gives substance to a kinship that might otherwise be brushed aside and forgotten. Yes, it's true that you or I could pursue an interest in Ewing history as individuals, or through societies such as the EFA. But it's the clan which embodies that within itself. That's why it matters to me that we should get it right.

## **But Aren't We Already Part of Another Bigger Clan?**

Many Ewings believe that we are part of a much wider clan incorporating all MacEwens and that, as it is the MacEwens who preserve the older form of the name, they should have precedence. This is simply untrue.

Many other Ewings believe that we have been a part of Clan MacLachlan since the last records of Clan Ewen of Otter in 1493. Again, this is simply untrue.

There's no point getting hot-under-the-collar about this, and I'm aware that Ewings have often found interest and fulfilment through these adopted clan identities. However, both of these versions of Ewing history are wrong, and – what seems more serious to me – they continue to mislead Ewings investigating their roots today.

I well remember my own bafflement when, as a child, I discovered that we were considered to be part of Clan MacLachlan, and at the same time reading about MacEwens as the supposed representatives of our own ancestral clan. It was as if we had somehow fallen through a gap in the clan system.

A similar feeling of confusion and exclusion with regard to the clans might explain why it has been so hard to motivate Scottish Ewings to engage with Ewing history. There is a widespread sense of disenfranchisement. Caught between the competing claims of MacEwens on the one hand and MacLachlans on the other, many Ewings have either given up or have adopted one of these other clans. As a result, many Ewings now believe we are a part of Clan MacLachlan, while others believe equally firmly that we belong with the MacEwens. This mess cannot be cleared up unless we are recognised as a clan in our own right.

Seeking official recognition for the Ewing clan is not about creating something new, but about reclaiming something ancient which belongs to us all. There is no reason to believe that we have ever owed allegiance to either MacEwens or MacLachlans. If MacEwens want clanship with us (and there are probably some MacEwens who are indeed descended from our clan), they are welcome to do so as part of Clan Ewing. In 1566, our own clan was granted arms by Mary Queen of Scots in the name of Ewing, and I believe it would be a betrayal of that heritage to allow the appointment of someone from another clan as our Chief or Commander.

NOTE: I am currently working towards finding a solution for any MacEwens who do not join us. I am now very hopeful that Andrew McEwen of Muckley will be recognised as chieftain of the MacEwens of Clan MacDougall under the *Reviresco Oak* badge (which has been used by his family for generations). His appointment as chieftain would simply recognise the traditional position of his family at the head of their sept, and would not involve the creation of any new clans. I believe that many MacEwens attached to the *Reviresco Oak* badge would readily accept him as their chieftain. He claims descent from the earliest MacEwen armiger and as such I believe he would automatically be recognised as "Chief of the name and arms of MacEwen by Lyon Court. Ultimately, I believe that everyone is better served by a clan system that acknowledges historical reality and puts them in touch with their real roots.

## **What is a Chief or Commander?**

Long ago, the Chief ruled the clan, or at least so they say. With the breakdown of royal authority in medieval Scotland, people turned to their clan for law and order. As you might expect from a family group, everyone looked out for each other (allowing of course for the occasional family row). The Chief was chosen by the clan itself, according to a system called tanistry<sup>1</sup> from among the male descendants of earlier Chiefs. As representative of the founder, the Chief was the father of the clan and was expected to resolve internal disputes and to lead the clan into battle. In theory, he had power of life and death over his followers, but in reality all decisions were taken by a committee of clan elders with the Chief as chairman. It was always a symbolic function but it included some practical duties.

Nowadays, chiefship is basically an honorary position. The Chief is the representative of the name, but he or she has no real power. One public role of the Chief is as a spokesperson on clan history. Many Chiefs try to attend Highland Games and other such events (sometimes including events in the U.S. and Canada), and some host a regular clan gathering in Scotland (often as part of a designated Highland Games). A Chief also can represent the clan at official gatherings in Scotland, such as the

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanist)): Tanistry: a Gaelic system for passing on titles and lands.

recent memorial service for the Battle of Flodden or the upcoming celebrations for the Battle of Bannockburn. Some Chiefs are very effective as figureheads for their clans, while others are not.

Chiefship is still conferred by the clan and not by any court, but recognition by the Court of Lord Lyon is an important mark of legitimacy. Chiefship usually passes to the Chief's heraldic heir, although it has been suggested that a modern version of tanistry might be introduced. In some cases, if the direct line of Chiefs has been lost, Lyon Court will agree to recognise a Commander as provisional Chief for a period of years.

## **Do We Need a Chief?**

When I first got interested in the Ewings as a clan, I liked the fact that we did not have a Chief. I felt in some way it made us extra-independent, as if we had uniquely done away with the meaningless superfluities which other clans invest in so deeply. I don't think that any more, but I'll admit that it isn't easy to explain exactly why. Perhaps part of it is just a matter of absorbing the atmosphere of the clans, and coming to understand the appeal of the traditional symbols of clanship.

There is an assumption in Scottish law that a clan should have a Chief as 'head of the family'. Clans and Chiefs go hand in hand. Just as according to law a limited company must have a director, so a clan must have a Chief. Indeed without a Chief, a clan has no legal status, and so it's quite possible that Lyon Court will expect us to come up with a candidate for chiefship if we want to assert our status as a clan. Although in some cases the chiefship might have fallen vacant, that does not change the structure of the clan. The position already exists.

As Ewings, we are just one clan among many others, and we don't have the option to redefine the clan system for everyone else. But I think there are also straightforward practical advantages to embracing the accepted structure of the clan, and appointing a Chief.

In several of my previous articles in the *Ewing Family Journal*, I have tried to put readers in touch with the evidence for our history. *Journal* readers have seen for themselves that the evidence of history shows Clan Ewing as an independent Scottish clan. But although the readership of the *Ewing Family Journal* is fairly large for this sort of journal, it's still tiny as a proportion of Ewings worldwide. The readership here in Britain is vanishingly small.

That means that most Ewings still accept the old view that they belong somewhere betwixt and between Clan MacLachlan and Clan MacEwen. Official recognition of our clan would go a long way towards resolving this problem, but in order to have a distinct voice to speak for who we are, I believe we need a Chief. When outsiders want the lowdown on a clan, the Chief is often the first person they go to for answers. As representative of the clan, the Chief is also the voice of the clan.

Euan MacLachlan, the Chief of Clan MacLachlan, has given his assurance that Ewings will always be welcome in his clan, and I imagine that any prospective Clan MacEwen Chief would also hold the door open to Ewings. I welcome such a spirit of inclusion; it's what I would hope for from any Chief. But without a Chief to tell our own story, Ewings will continue to believe that they belong in another clan.

As you might imagine, a vacant chiefship can also be an open invitation to anyone who fancies himself as Chief, and can sometimes attract unwanted claimants and pretenders, stirring up a spirit of controversy and animosity within the clan, as happened recently in Clan Robertson.

Although the role of Chief might appear archaic, that's because the idea of the clan itself is an ancient institution, and comes with certain fittings and fixtures as standard. The old clan is like an old castle. It

might sometimes seem quaint, and it's not quite what we'd have made if we were building it today, but we take it as it is because it embodies our history and heritage. And I think this old castle is a better home for the ghosts of our ancestors than any new bungalow we might try to build in its place.

A Ewing Chief will provide a focal point for the revival and resurgence of Clan Ewing. So along with our own tartan (which I'm working on), I now see our own Chief as a goal to achieve.

## **How Will This Affect the EFA?**

As Ewings, you will have no obligations or responsibilities either towards the Chief or to the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and the EFA will have no such responsibilities as an organisation either. Recognition of the Ewing family's status as a clan and the appointment of a Chief or Commander will have no constitutional effect upon the EFA, which will continue to provide a practical way for us all to stay in touch just as it does today.

The development of the Ewing Family's identity as a clan might indeed broaden the appeal of the EFA and attract new members, but in other respects the society will carry on as before. The EFA will continue to be governed according to the same rules and procedures as now. The clan itself is divorced from the nitty-gritty of ordinary affairs, which is why there is simply a figurehead role for the Chief. So in the modern world, every clan needs a separate organisation to represent it.

There's a long tradition of such Clan or Family Societies, beginning with the establishment of the Buchanan Society in 1725. Today almost every clan has its own society. Sometimes their primary purpose is educational; sometimes they have a role as charities helping to support poorer clansfolk; sometimes they are simply a way for people to meet up and keep in touch. The EFA is among the newest of these societies, but it represents a clan which is as venerable as any.

## **Who Should be Chief?**

It would make sense for our modern Chiefs to come from the same line as our ancient Chiefs if possible. Indeed, in its advice on holding a Family Convention, Lyon Court refers to cases "[w]here a blood link to a past Chief or Head of Name is likely but is not conclusively proven and it is wished to propose a particular person in that situation to be recognised as Chief."

In the case of the Ewings, it seems likely that the whole family identified by Y-DNA as a 'closely-related group' of Ewings is descended from the chiefly line of the clan. That is to say, this group is probably directly descended from the first Chief, the original Ewen of Otter from whom we take our name. Some of us might be descended from younger sons who never held the chiefship, perhaps some of us are descended from Ewen's unknown brothers, but we all clearly originate in a single agnatic<sup>2</sup> line.

I certainly don't mean to suggest that the Ewings who make up the closely-related group are in any way 'more Ewing' than those who are not. Every clan includes a number of different agnatic lines, many of which must have been part of the clan from the very start. These lines probably intermarried but even if they didn't, the clan is made up of all the strands of the family, not just the chiefly line. Ewings who are not related by blood but whose ancestors have adopted the name in more recent times are also a part of the clan. Within the clan, we're all equal. However, if we're right that the closely-related group is

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<sup>2</sup> agnatic: a relative whose connection is traceable exclusively through males

descended from the old Ewing Chiefs, I think anyone from this group could reasonably claim the chiefship.

We've tried various approaches to choosing a candidate for chiefship. My first thought, as I explained in an article for the *Ewing Family Journal* back in 2010,<sup>3</sup> was to find the person with the best claim to direct descent from Thomas Ewing, born 1690. I felt that this line was more likely than most to be directly descended from the last Ewing Chief. Unfortunately, I never managed to trace the direct heir to this lineage, but it might have been too tenuous a claim even if I had succeeded.

David Neal Ewing then contacted Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing Ballikinrain and Lennoxbank, whose family is well-known in Scotland. He was persuaded to take part in the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project (he is part of the 'closely-related group'), but he was not greatly interested in family history and was not in the least interested in the role of Chief. At around the same time, I also contacted Fergus Ewing MSP, but received no response. Whilst I might have pursued this further, it became clear that as an active politician his appointment might prove to be politically divisive.

It turns out that there are not so many obvious candidates for Chief, and we'd run through them.

However, in the course of discussions as to who might take up the chiefship, my own name had twice been put forward. Of course I was very flattered, and it was gratifying to know that I might provide some sort of safety net. On reflection, I also realised that I could bring a combination of unique skills and commitment to this job, which might be just the qualities it needs.

## **Why Me?**

If a modern Chief is the spokesman for his clan, then this is a role which, through my work on the history of the clan, I have already begun to take on. Over the last few years, I have uncovered many aspects of the lost history of our clan, and I've worked hard to put the Ewings back on the clan map of Scotland. I have already submitted written evidence to the Family Convention presenting the case for Clan Ewing's descent from Clan Ewen of Otter, and I have also submitted a reply to the submission made on behalf of the Clan Ewen Society.

Through this ongoing work, I have taken on many of the tasks of chiefship already. Whoever is made Chief, I'll still be a Ewing clansman and I still intend to work on behalf of the clan, but it would undoubtedly make my task easier if I could speak as its Chief. Whoever is appointed to be Commander or Chief of Clan Ewing, it's likely to be my research that informs whatever he or she has to say about our family. I'd hate to see this done badly. After all, there has been quite enough confusion over our history already.

Without the official recognition a chiefship can confer, it's always going to be an uphill struggle. No matter how well-founded my arguments, no matter how certain my history, it will cut no ice with the Clan Ewen Society or with the Clan MacLachlan Society unless our history is backed by the authority of a Chief. And unless there is an official spokesman for the Ewing clan, then Ewings will continue to be hoodwinked into offering allegiance to other clans. The mere presence of a Ewing Chief will proclaim our independent identity more clearly than screeds of learned arguments ever could.

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<sup>3</sup> Ewing, Thor. Who Were the Ewings?. *Ewing Family J.*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (February 2010), pp. 1-9

Most clans might opt for a member of an established aristocratic line, or for a military commander or a captain of industry. I am none of those things, but I am committed to our clan. If I had chosen one of those careers, it's very unlikely that I'd have been able to reveal our real history as I have. And without this new understanding of our clan history, it's possible that we would have accepted a place in another clan, and Clan Ewing might have slipped out of existence. By choosing me, you'd be choosing someone who doesn't see the chiefship as simply another personal decoration, but as an essential step to ensure the future of the clan.

I hope to develop our links with our kindred clans in a spirit of cooperation, but to avoid the confusion of split loyalties which has arisen between the competing claims of MacLachlans and MacEwens. However, I believe that there may still be a good deal of work ahead, and I relish the thought of taking on this challenge.

I believe that the clan's future can only be secured by appointing a Commander and, eventually, Chief.

It's a job I know I can do, and one I'd be honoured to accept on behalf of Clan Ewing. I have to confess, I'm more comfortable writing on strictly historical matters than making an appeal for personal support. But I want to know that I would have your support if I took this role.

Please get in touch to let me know your thoughts.

Audaciter!

## ***Merchandise Coordinator's Message***

Virginia Ewing Okie, Merchandise Coordinator ([VMiniOkie@gmail.com](mailto:VMiniOkie@gmail.com))

Limited supplies of the following Ewing-oriented Merchandise are available:



Golf  
Shirts



T-Shirts



Sweat  
Shirts



Tote  
Bags



Caps

Please contact me at [VMiniOkie@gmail.com](mailto:VMiniOkie@gmail.com) to find out about available sizes and their reduced Holiday pricing.

*Virginia Okie*

## ***Bylaws Amendment Committee: Status Report***

**William E. Riddle (+1 505.988.1092, [Riddle@WmERiddle.com](mailto:Riddle@WmERiddle.com))**

At its meeting on 23 September 2012, The Ewing Family Association's (EFA's) Board of Directors (BoD) reconstituted the Bylaws Amendment Committee (BAC) with me as the committee's Chair and an assignment to rewrite the EFA Bylaws. This continues the Bylaws Amendment activity that was initiated in the spring of 2012 – occasioned by moving from Pennsylvania to Colorado as the state in which the Association is incorporated – and reported on at the General Meeting during the Gallipolis Gathering.<sup>1</sup> The BoD specified that the committee members should be the members of the then-current BoD and the current EFA Activity Coordinators.



### **Scope and Mandate**

The purpose of this activity is to help the BoD and Membership efficiently update the EFA's Bylaws by identifying needed changes and suggesting specific changes to the specifications of the Association's policies which appear in its Bylaws document. Many changes will serve to correct errors, make the Bylaws reflect the policies and procedures currently used to govern the Association and manage its activities, and make the Bylaws conform to the New Mexico Statutes for Non-profit Organizations (NM Statutes). Some changes will serve to remove inconsistencies and clarify ambiguities.

In the course of its deliberations the committee will encounter a few issues that concern the EFA's policies. The committee will identify these policy-related issues, develop pro/con arguments and present them to the BoD for resolution. The committee is not empowered to resolve these issues; in fact, according to the current EFA Bylaws, the committee is prohibited from resolving the issues.

The committee's mandate is to suggest to the BoD and membership ways to: 1) correct errors and internal inconsistencies in the current Bylaws; 2) clarify ambiguities in the current Bylaws, 2) make the Bylaws reflect the policies and management procedures that the Association has evolved over the past four-or-so years, 3) make the Bylaws conform to the NM Statutes, and ) identify issues that need BoD attention, present them (accompanied by pro/con arguments) to the BoD for resolution, and 5) re-write the Bylaws to reflect all the changes resulting from these considerations. In addition the BoD has specified that the BAC obtain a legal review of the proposed rewrite of the Bylaws and appropriately respond to any suggestions stemming from this review.

### **Getting from 'Here' to 'There'**

The BAC has finished its identification of problems, ambiguities and issues and developed recommendations to pass on to the BoD about how to solve the problems, resolve the ambiguities and address the issues. This has led to a proposed new version of the Bylaws which is currently being reviewed by the BAC and the committee's legal counsel before forwarding it to the BoD.

Once this BAC and legal-counsel reviews are concluded, Word and PDF versions of the record of the committee's deliberations and conclusions will be available online at:

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<sup>1</sup> The report is included in the minutes of the General Meeting, published on pages 36-37 in this *Journal's* Vol. 18, No. 4 (November 2012) issue.

- [dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA\\_Bylaws/ProblemsIssuesDiscussion.docx](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA_Bylaws/ProblemsIssuesDiscussion.docx), and
- [dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA\\_Bylaws/ProblemsIssuesDiscussion.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA_Bylaws/ProblemsIssuesDiscussion.pdf)

The proposed new Bylaws will then be sent to the BoD for consideration. Word and PDF versions of this proposed new version will then be available online at:

- [dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA\\_Bylaws/ProposedNewVersion.docx](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA_Bylaws/ProposedNewVersion.docx), and
- [dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA\\_Bylaws/ProposedNewVersion.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/447781/EFA_Bylaws/ProposedNewVersion.pdf).

Members are invited to review the proposed new Bylaws version and send their comments and suggestions to the BoD (via EMail to Wallace K. Ewing, BoD Chair, at [WKEwing@charter.net](mailto:WKEwing@charter.net)) with a cc: to me at [Riddle@WmERiddle.com](mailto:Riddle@WmERiddle.com).

The back and forth tuning of the proposed new version of the Bylaws will eventually lead to a new version of the Bylaws approved by the current BoD. That new version will be presented to the Membership for confirmation at the Association's next Member Meeting during the 2014 Gathering in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

## **Information Exchange**

This section of the *Ewing Family Journal* provides members with transcripts of dialogues initiated by queries or offers of information sent to the EFA Genealogist, the *Journal's* Editor and others. Including these items here is intended to entice others to join the dialogues and help respond to the queries or amplify the provided information.

Ewing-related requests for information and offers of information are often posted to various Internet web sites including:

- EFA's Forum at [groups.google.com/group/EwingFamilyAssociation](https://groups.google.com/group/EwingFamilyAssociation),
- EFA's Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/ewing.family.association](https://www.facebook.com/ewing.family.association),
- Ewing Family Genealogy Forum at [genforum.genealogy.com/ewing](https://genforum.genealogy.com/ewing), and
- Rootsweb's Ewing Message Board at [boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.ewing/mb.ashx](https://boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.ewing/mb.ashx).

Readers should periodically view and search these sites to find queries and offered information related to their Ewing-related genealogy research.

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### **Joseph Duncan McEwen**

Felicia Walker ([023felicia1988@gmail.com](mailto:023felicia1988@gmail.com)) posted to [clanewen@googlegroups.com](mailto:clanewen@googlegroups.com)

I'm looking for information about my family history my great-grandfather's name was Joseph Duncan McEwen. He passed away in 1946. I would like to know if anyone knows of him, and if you could tell me anything at all. He married a woman named Elizabeth Janet Bird from my understanding and had my grandmother, Helen Agnus McEwen, and my great-aunts of which I've only met one, Olive. I would also like information on Clan Ewen, please. Thank you in advance

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## **Kincardineshire/Aberdeenshire Ewans**

Callum Ewan ([callum.ewan@gmail.com](mailto:callum.ewan@gmail.com))

I found your site ([clanewen@googlegroups.com](mailto:clanewen@googlegroups.com)) recently when I began trying to look into my family history. The web sites I am using are lacking in information pre-1811 and I was wondering if anyone here would know anything about the Kincardineshire/Aberdeenshire (Mostly around Benholm and St. Cyrus) Ewans. My family tree so far can be found by searching for Callum\_ewan. Anything would be greatly appreciated.

Response from Thor Ewing ([thor.audaciter@gmail.com](mailto:thor.audaciter@gmail.com))

There's often a problem tying up more recent genealogies with earlier histories. I know there were Ewyne families in the Kincardineshire/Angus/Aberdeenshire area in the 1500s if not before. The only clue so far about the origin of the surname Ewyne / Ewan / Ewen / Ewens families in the eastern Lowlands comes from the sixteenth-century armorial seal of Thome Euyn, which seems to resemble heraldry for English and Welsh families named Ewens and Evans. I have posted about this in the Clan Ewen forum at [is.gd/rSK29Q](http://is.gd/rSK29Q); perhaps you've already read this?

Of course, it doesn't necessarily follow that all these families share a common ancestry, but in the absence of other evidence it's the most straightforward interpretation.

Response from Callum Ewan

I wasn't expecting to find that there were Ewens in the area from the 1500s! That's very interesting. The post you linked was great too, thanks. I will read into it more and let you know how I get on.

---

## **Andrew Ewing and the Buttercup Dairy Company**

Information from Bill Scott ([williamscott@gmail.com](mailto:williamscott@gmail.com))

I thought you might be interested in the new web site on the Buttercup and Andrew Ewing. It now includes a blog which I will use to post regular information about Andrew and the Buttercup ([www.buttercupdairycompany.co.uk](http://www.buttercupdairycompany.co.uk)).

The Andrew/Buttercup story has really taken off in Corstorphine, where Andrew lived for thirty-five years, and a new City Park (to be named the *Buttercup Farm Park*) is currently being built on the site of the old Buttercup Poultry Farm. This is a link to an article I wrote on the subject for the Edinburgh Reporter. [www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2013/04/memories-of-buttercup-poultry-farm](http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2013/04/memories-of-buttercup-poultry-farm).

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## **Ann (Homer) Ewing**

Julian Homer ([julianhomer@hotmail.com](mailto:julianhomer@hotmail.com))

I have recently started to research my family connections through the Ewing line. My mother, Ann (Ewing) Homer, was the daughter of William Ewing and Beatrice (Deniston) Ewing. Her father was, in turn, the son of Robert Ewing (1860 - 1931) born in Wigtonshire, Scotland. He was married three times and was a draper by trade. Much of this information I have been able to gather from census reports using [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk).

However, I just cannot seem to get any further back without having to pay for searches at the *ScotlandsPeople* website.

I recently read Thor Ewing's very informative Web Site article and then found you guys, the EFA Forum (*EwingFamilyAssociation@googlegroups.com*). Is there anyone that might be able to help me in my search? Any information would be greatly received.

---

## **Archibald Ewing (1812-1875)**

Larry E. Ewing (*rkt88ll@earthlink.net*)

On pages 74-77 is a six-generation trace-back in my family's heritage. I happen to be very fortunate to be the recipient of A. E. Ewing's early research as well as recent research from the late Frank Ewing of Bremerton, Washington.

My point here is to note that there has to be a bunch of Ewings out there who are related to me as cousins and distant cousins. Where are you?

Where I'm weakest with respect to my genealogy research is knowledge about Archibald Ewing, my great<sup>2</sup>-grandfather who spent most of his adult life in Bonaparte, Iowa, in the mid- to late-1800s

Please read the trace-back on pages 74-77 and contact me if you think we are related in any way or you have any information about Archibald Ewing (1812-1875), his ancestors, or his descendants.

---

## **Ernest Dewayne Ewing**

Amos Carr Jr (*ezchibo@hotmail.com*)

I am looking into the genealogy of my maternal grandfather in hopes of finding out what African ethnic group his kinfolks were from and possibly where in Africa they came from. My grandfather Ernest Dewayne Ewing was born about January 22, 1907, in Mississippi to Jake and Mattie Ewing. They were farmers by occupation. He died on November 2, 1973, in Chicago Illinois. This is all I know about him. My mother, Bobbie Jean Ewing, died in June 1986.

Response by Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (*BKAvery2@comcast.net*)

I would be delighted to try to help you discover your Ewing heritage and think I have found your family in the 1920, 1930, and 1940 census.

The following information for 1910 is only a possibility. In the 1910 census where Ernest, about two or three years old, should have been with his parents, it is possible that his parents were listed as John W., twenty-seven and wife, Hattie, twenty-six. Others in the family group were brother, Johnnie, six; May, five; and Robert, eleven-months old. All are listed as mulatto and born in Alabama. Also living in the household was Josie Taylor, age nineteen, listed as step-daughter. This census says John W. had been married prior to Hattie. The record was dated April 20, 1910, in Madison County, Hazel Green Precinct, Alabama. Are any of these names familiar to you?

The 1920 census shows Ernest, age twelve, a stepson, living with Thomas Bell, seventy-three; Mira Bell, twenty-seven; Sallie Bell, twenty-three, and three young children with surname of Gee. This is from DeSoto County, Beat 2, Mississippi.

At age twenty-one, Ernest was boarding with widow Emma Bowie and her four children in 1930 Bolivar County, Beat 2, Mississippi.

The 1940 Washington County, Mississippi, Census shows Ernest, age twenty-nine, with a fifth-grade education. It also shows his wife, Ludella, age thirty-one, and children: Annie, age nine; James, age seven; and Otto, age four, a probable brother. Willie and family live near. It appears that Willie Sr, was born about 1914. His wife was Elizabeth. They had Willie Jr., c1933; Fred, c1934; Corrine, c1936, and Robert L., c1938.

Since you know the date and place of your grandfather's death, it would be good to obtain a copy of it. Hopefully it would give more information about his parents.

If you have a living male Ewing of your line, you should consider having him join the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. I am forwarding a copy of our correspondence to the Project Administrator, Dr. David N. Ewing. He will be able to tell you which tests could help lead to your African ancestors.

Response by Amos Carr Jr

This appears to be my grandfather. I know for a fact that he was living with Emma Bowie; my aunt told me about her. I also know he had several brothers and I do remember my aunt telling me he had a brother named Willie. His mother was named Hattie. According to my grandfather's death certificate his father's name was Jake. So John may have been a step father or so, don't know. But the other information is pretty much in line with the stories my aunt told me about him.

Comments from David Neal Ewing (*DavidEwing93@gmail.com*)

Karen Avery has referred your inquiry to me because I am the Administrator of the Ewing Family Association's Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. Thank you for writing. We always like to hear from fellow Ewings and are anxious to be as helpful as we can.

Our project studies Y-DNA, which is passed only in the strict paternal line, so for us to give you any information about your paternal ancestry based on Y-DNA, we would need a sample from one of your male paternal line relatives. It sounds like that will not be possible. Also, though we very much welcome and encourage the participation of Ewings of all ethnic groups, so far we have only one African-American Ewing man in the project, so we do not have a big data set for comparison. As it happens, his Y-DNA is characteristic of that arising in West Africa, which is not surprising because that is where most Africans who came to the New World originated. Of course, many African-Americans also have European ancestors, and if we tested many African-American Ewing men, undoubtedly we would find some of them who are biological cousins in the paternal line of some of the European-American Ewing men we do have a fair amount of data on.

Our African-American Y-DNA project participant also joined Family Tree DNA's African Group Project, which has administrators who are expert in analyzing African Y-DNA. You can get contact information and learn about this at [www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=African](http://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=African). They could use your Y-DNA, but of course that would give you information about your Carr ancestors rather than your Ewing ancestors. And maybe they can give you some advice, whether or not you should join the project.

One can also get tested for "autosomal DNA." The autosomes are all of the chromosomes except the sex chromosomes. They contain a mixture of DNA from all of your ancestors, both

male and female, in all of your lines. Family Tree DNA also offers this kind of testing. You can learn about this at [www.familytreedna.com/landing/family-finder.aspx](http://www.familytreedna.com/landing/family-finder.aspx). And another company that does autosomal DNA testing is *23 and Me*. You can read about that at [www.23andme.com/ancestry](http://www.23andme.com/ancestry). I am not expert in interpreting this kind of DNA test.

I hope this has been helpful. I have an idea that the Group Administrator of the African Project at FTDNA might be able to give you more and better advice than I on the subject.

---

## **James Ewing, Born ~1725, and Wife Sabina**

Lee Ewing to [EWING-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:EWING-L@rootsweb.com)

I am searching for information on my ancestor. James Ewing. This James was born approximately 1720-1725. He married Sabina Mary/Maria Shelleberger (from Germany) and had two sons, John S. and William both born in 1762. James was married on December 13, 1759. (Stoever Records & Spellings were off a bit.) He died on May 1, 1776, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. I have found some information through researching the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. James's Group was 1c (Formerly Group 7). I have not contributed my Y-DNA as of yet but plan on doing it when I have some extra money.

There is some speculation that Sabina was a widow of a George Shelleberger. I have also found speculation that James was a brother of a William and a John Ewing who left Scotland and fought in wars in Germany. Again this is speculation and I am looking for additional information on James.

If anyone has any insight into this and Sabina, I would greatly appreciate it.

Response by Jill (Ewing) Spittler

This is my family also but I have nothing new to add. I just wish we could find some answers. My EMail address is [JEwingSpit@aol.com](mailto:JEwingSpit@aol.com) if you care to check in with me.

---

## **James Ewing of Green Hill Stock Farm**

Query by EmmaWA to the EFA Forum ([groups.google.com/group/EwingFamilyAssociation](http://groups.google.com/group/EwingFamilyAssociation))

I've recently found a map of the Taylor Creek area in Hardin County, Ohio, made in 1879. James Ewing owned a large farm in that area.

James arrived in the U.S. from Ireland in 1848. He married Matilda Glosgow after that time. Her family arrived in Ohio in 1849. I've traced her family from that point until the early 1900s.

James and Matilda had the following children: Mary, James, William G., Robert, Matilda, Joseph and Benjamin. All of the children were born in Ohio. I can trace James and Matilda and some of their children through the 1930 Census.

I'd really like to know more about James's family and where he was in 1850.

Response by D. Ewing ([daewing@gmail.com](mailto:daewing@gmail.com))

I realize this is an old post, but I'd love to see the map you have and learn more about James Ewing. I can tell you that in 1850 a James S. Ewing was born. I don't know if he was the son of the James Ewing you mention but the timing and location seems right. James S. Ewing was born in 1850 and died in 1926 and is buried in Ada, Hardin County, Ohio

Spouse: Ella L. (Singleton) Ewing (1858-1930)

Children:

- Millard G. Ewing (1880-1962)
- Myrton John Ewing (1885-1945)
- Margie L. (Ewing) Kent (1888-1967)
- M. Lucile (Ewing) McKinney (1895-1958)
- Malcolm William Ewing (1987-1973)
- Martha (Ewing) Landfair (1900-1969)

Ella was originally from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, but I am unable to see for sure where James S. is from. I know there were a large number of Ewings in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, so it seems logical that is where they met or the father originally settled.

I've also found a book on the history of Hardin County, Ohio, that mentions a John A. Ewing (b. 1857 also from Lancaster, Pennsylvania) and his father was John S. Ewing (Lancaster, Pennsylvania). (See: [tinyurl.com/HardinCountyOhio](http://tinyurl.com/HardinCountyOhio).)

I'm almost convinced that James S. Ewing (1850-1926) is either the brother of John A. Ewing (1857), son of John S. Ewing (Lancaster) or is the son of the James/Matilda that you mention. If anyone else has any insight, I would appreciate it.

## **Jannet Hannay/Hanna Ewing**

Janet Waite ([jbw325@msn.com](mailto:jbw325@msn.com))

My ancestral Ewing family had a son who married a Jannet Hannay \_\_?\_ which later became Jannet Hanna \_\_?\_. She was born in Scotland in 1834 and emigrated to a suburb of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1848 with her parents and four brothers. Her parents had three or four more sons in America. I was named for Jannet Hanna Ewing.

## **Levi Curtis Ewing**

Query from Henry Evans ([hcevans1775@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hcevans1775@sbcglobal.net))

Karen,

I'm not sure if you were in Gallipolis for the 2013 Gathering, but I did a short presentation for the attendees at the Holiday Inn.

Anyway, I am contacting you as the President of the Gallia County Genealogical Society. We are working on a Civil War project and I have a question about Levi Curtis Ewing (1841-1908) who died in Jackson County, Ohio. Nancy Hank Ewing's book says he ran away, was court martialled, etc.

I just wondered if you could shed any light on this information.

Response by Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist ([BKAvery2@comcast.net](mailto:BKAvery2@comcast.net))

I was in Gallipolis and enjoyed your presentation.

Unfortunately, I have no knowledge of Levi other than his vital (birth/marriage/death/burial) information. Because we have several Ewing Family Association (EFA) members who descend from these lines, I suggest we post your query in the *Ewing Family Journal*.

Message from Karen Avery to Becky (*teddybear3029@yahoo.com*)

A question has come up from Henny Evans, the President of the Gallia County Genealogical Society, about Levi Curtis Ewing and his Civil War records. They are looking for the official records but have been unable to locate them.

Henny says that Nancy Hank Ewing's book says Levi ran away, was court-martialed, etc. Nancy's' book gives details and cites his sentence and so forth.

From your EMail dated April 29, 2012, I've reviewed your attached .PDF regarding Levi's three marriages. I think I now have my records straight on Levi, his marriages and the other marriages of each wife.

If you can shed any light on the information about the Civil War records of Levi, it would be most appreciated.

---

## **Samuel Ewing of Little Britain Lancaster Pennsylvania**

Query from Linda Ewing (*redd\_X\_4@yahoo.com*)

I am wondering about my Ewing Genealogy. I live in Utah and have some information about my ancestry, but it is very limited.

Samuel Ewing is the furthest back I can find. He was married to Ester Shaffer. I don't have his birthday but he was married on April 17, 1828. Their children were Rachel, William, John, Samuel, Anderson, Matilda, James, and Adeline. The death year for Samuel is 1805. Any help you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

Response from Karen Avery, EFA Genealogist (*BKAvery2@comcast.net*)

Thanks for your query on your Ewing lineage. There is more known about Samuel and his wife, Ester (Shaffer) Ewing. My records show that Samuel was born 8-12-1789, but I do not have his exact date of death, but believe it was sometime between 1855 and 1860. Ester also born 9-8-1804 in Little Britain Township. She died 8-2-1847 near Fort Laramie, Wyoming. Samuel also married Ann Whitfield and Susannah Behunin Smith.

We have several members who work on these lines and have also joined the Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project. If you have a male Ewing of your line, you need to consider having one join this Project. Your Ewing father, brother, uncle, cousin or nephew would be a candidate for the test.

We invite you to join the Ewing Family Association (EFA) and receive our quarterly journal. The cost is only \$25 per calendar year. If you do research in Salt Lake City, you would be able to view previously published issues there. Through 2008, it was published as *Journal of Clan Ewing*. Since that time it is now called the *Ewing Family Journal*.

Please take another look at the EFA website and specifically look at the book by Margaret Ewing Fife, *Ewing in Early America*, Chapter XXII.

[www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document\\_Fife.html](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document_Fife.html).

Please share your line of descent from Samuel and Ester bring our records up to date.

---

## **Sarah D. Ewing**

Linda Ellinger ([ellin001@umn.edu](mailto:ellin001@umn.edu)) posted to [EwingFamilyAssociation@googlegroups.com](mailto:EwingFamilyAssociation@googlegroups.com)

I am stuck on identifying the parents of Sarah D. Ewing, who was my great<sup>3</sup>-grandmother. She was probably born 1810-12, likely in Kentucky but possibly Virginia. She married Samuel W. McGaughey in Alabama in 1826. Most genealogies show her father as Charles Ewing, but it's not clear which Charles, and there is no documentation that I can find that lists a daughter Sarah for the Charles Ewing in Bedford or Rockingham County Virginia. FYI, most of Sarah and Samuel's children were born in Leake County, Mississippi; she then moved to Texas with my great-grandfather, Charles Monroe McGaughey. She died there in 1885. I sense I am missing something obvious in my quest for her parents. Can someone help me identify them?

---

## **Ewings, Porters, Motherals, etc. around Burt and Inch, Ireland**

Michelle (Motheral) Wayman ([dustyrebel@aol.com](mailto:dustyrebel@aol.com))

My maiden name is Motheral. Many various names involved including Motherwell, etc. I am pretty positive that these two families were aligned. My history goes way back but I have found the Ewings, Porters, Motherals, etc. from around Burt and Inch, Ireland, etc. I cannot do EMail from your web site; please contact me. I have worked with Boyd Gray in the area and I really want to find out more about this connection. In addition, my records go back to the same area in Scotland as well as in Pennsylvania.

---

## **Upcoming Ewing-related Books**

From the EFA Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/ewing.family.association](http://www.facebook.com/ewing.family.association))

### **Post by Dr. Cathy Mower**

I just wanted to let you know that I have written a children's book titled *Young Thomas Ewing and the Coonskin Library*. The illustrator is finishing up now and it should be available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in late summer or early fall.

### **Subsequent Post by Marilyn Pavlovsky**

I'm so sorry I missed the reunion. I am an author who now lives in Georgia but was home last summer when the pastor at the Ewington Church asked me if I was going to be there to help with your gathering. He knew that I came from the Ewing family.

My name is Marilyn Pavlovsky, but my maiden name is Marilyn Dodrill. I am the daughter of Rev. Darrell George Dodrill who was not only a descendant of William 'Swago Bill' Ewing, but also of John 'Indian John' Ewing, strange as that may sound. I was raised in Ewington, Ohio. Daddy at one time owned a good bit of that tiny little town. He had a furniture store, bottle-gas business and a service station.

The way that I am connected to both of those pioneers is that my great-grandparents were third cousins. History writers (I believe it was Nancy Ann Hank Ewing who stayed in contact with my aunt) have said they probably did not know that, but I somehow wonder how they did not in that small community. Daddy said that, when he was a child, the family gathered for dinners, etc. at the Ewing home in Ewington. We have a picture of Sarah standing outside the

back door. Elizabeth (Ewing) Dodrill would have been my great whatever grandmother. Then my great-grandmother was of the Holcomb connection.

Anyway, I do not know if anyone told you guys but there are still several of us around there. My sister, two brothers, and their families live there. My daughter was once the director of the Chamber of Commerce in Gallipolis and that is where she lives today. My dad's sister married a Twyman and she was the postmaster of Ewington when there was a post-office. Her grandson lives just the other side of the church and the property coming in behind the church and the hill is theirs. There are some Holcombs who live directly across from the church.

I would have loved to have been at the recent gathering; please let me know the next time you gather. I was particularly glad to see the pictures in front of the legion hall. It is so much a big part of my childhood.

## ***Upcoming Events***

**Events in Scotland:** An exceptional source of information about genealogy-related happenings in Scotland is Visit Scotland ([www.ancestralscotland.com](http://www.ancestralscotland.com)). They periodically distribute a newsletter by EMail; you can sign-up for their EMail mailing list by making a request via their web site:

[www.americanancestors.org/home.html](http://www.americanancestors.org/home.html).

**2014 September 4-14:** Forth Bridges Festival, Firth of Forth, Scotland. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Forth Road Bridge, one of Scotland's most iconic landmarks, at the Forth Bridges Festival. There will be an exciting programme of events on the banks of the Firth of Forth including a stunning torchlight procession, a world record attempt for the 'largest sit down lunch' and a spectacular fireworks display and light show. You can also buy a ticket to make the breathtaking trip to the top of the Forth Road Bridge for one of the best views in Scotland. Additional information available at [tinyurl.com/FortBridges](http://tinyurl.com/FortBridges).

**2014 September 19-21:** Thirteenth Ewing Family Association Gathering, Fort Wayne, Indiana. (See pages 78-81 in this issue of the *Ewing Family Journal* for further information.)

**2014 June 6:** Clan Ewen Family Convention, or *Derbhfine*

From John McEwen ([clanewen@googlegroups.com](mailto:clanewen@googlegroups.com)):

*The Lord Lyon has announced this Family Convention, or Derbhfine, to recognize a Commander of our Clan. His full message can be seen on the Internet at [www.lyon-court.com](http://www.lyon-court.com).*

### **Back in 1955**

"There is no sense going on short trips anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$2.00 a night to stay in a hotel."



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# Ewing Family Association Thirteenth Biennial Gathering

*Down the Canal  
into the New Frontier*

Fort Wayne, Indiana  
September 19-21, 2014

*See Pages 78-81  
For Further Information*



Ewing Family Association  
1330 Vaughn Court, Aurora, Illinois 60504

The **Ewing Family Association** fosters interest in the Ewing family; promotes gatherings of its members; publishes a journal with biographical, genealogical and historical information; encourages identifying the relationships among Ewing families; and encourages genealogical research and the sharing of results.

Membership is open to all persons with the surname of Ewing or who are descended from anyone with that surname; to anyone who is, or has been, the spouse of such a person; and to anyone who otherwise supports the organization's purposes. To join, send a membership form to Ewing Family Association, 1330 Vaughn Court, Aurora, Illinois 60504

Forms are available at [www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org](http://www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org). Annual dues are \$25.00. Membership includes the quarterly *Ewing Family Journal*.

Publication of the ***Ewing Family Journal*** began in 1994. Through 2008, the publication was titled *Journal of Clan Ewing*. The first two issues were published in August and November 1994. They were not designated with a Volume and Number. The February 1995 issue was designated as Vol. 1, No. 4, as it was the third issue of the *Journal*. The *Journal* is currently published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

We welcome contributions to the *Journal* from Ewing Family Association members and others. Electronic copy is preferred and should be sent to the Editor at [Riddle@WmERiddle.com](mailto:Riddle@WmERiddle.com). Hardcopy submissions should be sent to William E. Riddle, 500 Rodeo Road #823, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505. If you would like to discuss a potential submission, please call William E. Riddle at +1 505.988.1092.