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Bridge to the West

Eleventh Gathering of the *Ewing Family Association*

**Summit Inn, Uniontown, Pennsylvania
23-26 September 2010**

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The eleventh gathering of *the Ewing Family Association* will be held at the elegant, historic *Summit Inn* in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in the Fall of 2010. Pittsburgh lies at the confluence of three rivers: the Allegheny, the Monongahela and the Ohio. Pittsburgh is popularly known as the *City of Bridges* because of the dozen-plus bridges that span the rivers to link the city's neighborhoods.

Ewing-genealogy speaking, the Pittsburgh area was both a target for Ewings migrating to the frontier in the mid-to-late-1770s and a doorway — a bridge — for many Ewings who used their Pittsburgh-area relatives as stepping-stones to Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and other farther-west parts of America.

The earliest migrants to the Pittsburgh area, around 1730, were trappers and traders who came to the area during the time that the French claimed sovereignty. There is only anecdotal evidence that Ewings were among them. After the 1763 end of the French and Indian War, the British were responsible for the land west of the Allegheny Mountains. American Indians resisted this change from one foreign 'conqueror' nation to another — from the French to the British — leading to Pontiac's Rebellion during the first three-quarters of 1763.

With the settling of Pontiac's Rebellion, two things were true. For one, settlement was a bit safer. For two, the British decided that settlement was still so dangerous that they could not (because of severely diminished resources) assure safety and declared that settlement was prohibited in the 'Indian Land' lying west of the Alleghenies. It was not until 1769 that this land was officially opened for settlement.

Many of the Scots-Irish in the Upper Chesapeake Bay area were of a somewhat different mind. They had supported the British in the French and Indian War, they had received little (hardly any) compensation for this support, and they had (in their mind) won the western areas as the spoils of war. Net sum: they felt they had the right to settle this area. As a result, Ewings (among many others) settled the Redstone and Uniontown areas in (now) Fayette County, southeast of Pittsburgh, in the early-to-mid-1760s. Soon afterward, several descendants of James Ewing of Inch settled the (now) Robinson and Collier Township areas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, starting around 1770.

Many cousins, nephews, etc. followed their relatives to the Pittsburgh area. Some settled and stayed. Some moved on further west, accompanied by Pittsburgh relatives who found the opportunities in the Pittsburgh area to be limited and went west to better their lives. The 'followers' left genealogical records which have survived in the Pittsburgh area's Census Records and its Will, Land Transfer, Church, etc. records.

Please **plan ahead** and look to the 2010 Gathering in the Uniontown, Pennsylvania, area as a way to discover new information, and confirm your suppositions, about your late-1770 and early-1800 ancestors.