

Scotland Research Report
3rd January 1992

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Dear Mr McMichael

Firstly, may I wish you a very happy New Year. I have ducked the wilder parts of the celebrations and finished your report yesterday.

It is obviously a more extensive report than these things usually are; I felt that if it was to be of any interest and use this sort of approach was the only one. You will see that the search has turned up several Williams and the problem, as I feared, has been to eliminate rather than include. With more evidence it may be possible to pitch on one or another as 'your man'. I am confident that if further work in Ireland can narrow the search and confirm the Stirlingshire origins of some of the Ewings, they will be found to come from the branches mentioned here.

I have tried to make the report as clear and interesting as possible and I hope that you find the map, diagrams and illustrations help you to follow the argument; if there is anything which is not clear do not hesitate to get in touch.

I am also enclosing some information from the Lord Lyon's office about Heraldry. You will see that there is a book list etc and application forms. I am sure you will be able to get the books in any big city library.

Once again, my thanks for asking me to undertake this work and my regards to yourself and the Ewings of America.

Yours sincerely

/s/ John G. Harrison, M Sc
Historical and Technical Research

A WEB OF KINSHIP

The Ewing Family
in the Stirling Area in the 17th Century

A Report Prepared for the Ewing Family of America
by John G. Harrison, 1991

This report is intended for private circulation amongst the Ewing family of America. The information in it may be freely used, though it would be appreciated if publications acknowledged the source. The illustrative documents etc should not be published without permission.

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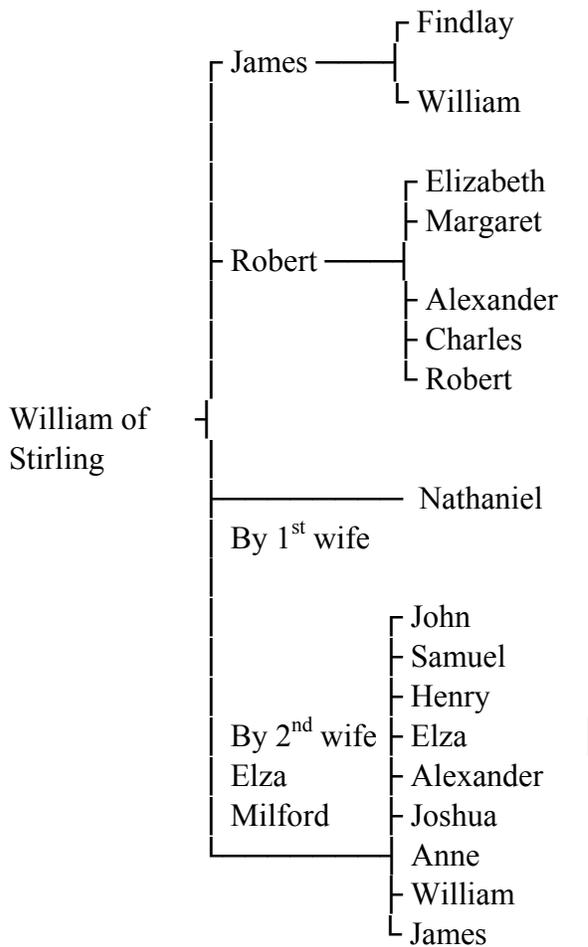


Table showing traditional relationships of William Ewing of Stirling,
based on information supplied by Mr James R McMichael.

[NOTE: May 2005, there was a question in my mind about even showing the above table, but it was decided to show the table. Since 1991 much has been learned about the Ewing family and it is best that you disregard the above information and use the immigrants information as shown on the Clan Ewing web page.]

FOREWORD and SUMMARY

This report presents extensive new information about the Ewving family in the Stirling area in the 17th century, though it has not proved possible to identify with certainty which William Ewing was the forefather of the American family.

But it will be shown that there was an anciently established network of Ewings in the Stirling area by 1600; even where their precise relationships cannot be established there is ample indication that they were aware of kinship. It is also suggested that the name Ewing may be related to names as diverse as Hewingson and Young, as well as to Eweine.

After brief discussions of the Ewings in Ireland and elsewhere in Scotland we turn to general information about the Stirling area and the name Ewing. We then turn to look at the kinship web of the area. The oldest records are of people in Stirling and Logie parishes in the 15th century; more precise information emerges about 1600, and from then on, some lines become more distinct. Each line is presented in a separate section, though links are pointed out. Charts of some of the more complex branches are presented with the text.

The Ewings of Cockspow are the most substantial branch of the family and closely connected with the Earl of Mar and his household in the early 17th century; three generations are elucidated. The Ewings of Raploch are less clear but they include a William who disappears at about the right time. The urban Ewings, such as the Maurice/John line are unlikely progenitors for a William and James's son, William, died as a child.

Leaving the town again we turn to the Denny/ Buckiburn area, where information is more fragmentary but one family is tolerably clear in the 3rd quarter of the 17th century and others emerge too late to be of much use. In St Ninians, from the 1660s, we have the benefit of marriage and baptismal registers, to supplement other sources, though the yield is disappointing.

It is unfortunate that previous writers on the Scots Ewings have not always distinguished between firm information and inference or even guess work, sometimes based on very slight knowledge of 17th century Scotland. I have tried to avoid this by inserting references into my text; a full list of references will be found at the end of the report.

The main difficulty, throughout, has been that we have so little information about William Ewing; this would be less of a problem if either William or Ewing were rare

names. As I feared, the problem has not been to find one William Ewing, but to eliminate irrelevant ones from the enquiry. And that has only been partly possible.

An unforeseen bonus, however, has been the revelation of such an intense family web, covering a wide social range; each cross link in our web, even when it is not of direct genealogical relevance, shows us how an extensive 17th century family worked. It is the family which emerges, rather than a single individual.

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THE EWINGS IN IRELAND

I can add little to what previous writers have said about the Ewings in Ireland, except that the following are recorded in the most recent edition of the IGI for Ireland available to me.

Baptism of Thomas Ewing, son of Findlay and Jane Porter in Londonderry in 1695.
Baptism of Robert Ewing, son of Findlay and Jane Porter, in Londonderry in 1718.
Marriage of Nathaniel Ewing to Rachel Porter in Templemore, Londonderry on 2nd Mar 1721[2].

Perhaps also relevant is the marriage of Samuel Ewing to Margaret Lennox, also in Templemore, Londonderry 9th July 1685. There are numerous other Ewing entries in the IGI for this area, from the mid 17th century onward; but the information is quite inadequate for sure identification. None correspond with what we otherwise know; this is not to say they are not relevant, merely that their place in the scheme cannot be ascertained.

Given that Findlay was a father by 1695, he is unlikely to have been born much after 1670 or 1675 at the very latest. In the previous generation, James is likely to have been born by 1650 or 1655 and in a yet earlier one, William by 1635 or 1640 and probably considerably earlier.

Clearly William of Glasgow (if there really was a Glasgowi phase) cannot have emigrated to America with all his family in 1713, since Nathaniel was still in Ireland in 1721. I think this must put the other emigration dates into doubt.

Cousin marriage was common at this period amongst Scots, though perhaps second cousin marriage was preferred; but the term 'cousin' was very wide and the marriage of Findlay to Jane Porter would have made a whole swathe of Porters 'cousins' in popular parlance. In Scotland a full cousin was usually called a 'cousin-german', for distinction from the wide range of 'cousins' who might be 2nd or 3rd removes and perhaps only cousins by marriage.

We have no evidence for the marriages of the earlier generation beyond the suggestion that William's (the younger) second marriage was to Eliza Milford. If so, I would be quite certain that she was Irish; Milford is not found as a surname in 17th century Scotland but is well established in Ireland.

A wide search (Burgess Lists, IGI and Indices of Testaments, General Register of Sasines, General Register of Deeds, Retours, Great Seal etc) has shown no William, living in Scotland, with three sons, James, Robert and William. In the same way, I have searched for a James, father of Findlay, a William father of Nathaniel and so on. All without success. Of course, this does not mean the people did not exist, since the national records are far from complete. Since search at a national level proved futile, I turned to the local level and to Stirling in particular.

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THE EWINGS IN SCOTLAND AND THE STIRLING AREA:

BACKGROUND

Previous writers report the strong family tradition that the Ewing family originated in Scotland and passed through Ireland on their way to America. The genealogies of several of those who travelled to America are known; but on the subject of the Scots Ewings, most records are vague. William Ewing, ancestor of the Irish Ewings, is variously said to originate from Stirling or the Dumbarton area; some writers have him travelling by way of Glasgow or born in Glasgow and returning to Stirling, before emigrating and so on. Unfortunately, most of these writers give no authority for their statements and close reading of their reports indicate that they have worked on little more than assumption. Some, such as the conversation reported between a young William and his aged father; in Tullichewen Castle in the early 18th century, are demonstrably false.

Of the writings I have seen, only the statement by Nathaniel—born in 1772—recorded on page 142 of the book *The Clan Ewing of Scotland*, seems to me to give firm information, rather than assumption. He says, 'My forfathers were originally from Scotland, their seat in that country being on the Forth, not far from Stirling Castle, whence they removed to the north of Ireland about the year—' And he mentions that he believes his great-grandfather was called William. There is more assumption behind the statement on page 147, that James was born in Glasgow in 1650; but the other facts in this summation can be more or less confirmed, so it is well to bear it in mind. It is true that there are many Ewings recorded in 17th century Dumbartonshire and around the southern end of Loch Lomond; there are the well known family of Ewing of Keppoch, recorded in the various Peerages and Baronetages, and the Ewings of Craigton, along with many other people of

the same name. And, of course, there are Ewings in Glasgow, too; some certainly came from the Dumbarton area, some, perhaps from else where. [Burke's Peerage and Baronetage; Burgess Lists for Glasgow; Index of Testaments for Lanarkshire; Index of Testaments for Dumbartonshire] But the suggestion that William Ewing originated there does not appear till the late 19th or even early 20th century. Nathaniel was quite clear that Stirling, not Dumbarton, was the area of origin.

Of course, today, we look at the map and see that Stirling and Loch Lomond are only about 30 miles apart and think there would be no barrier between the two. We should remember that, on 17th century roads, even with a horse, this would be two days travel...and another two days back. Most business at that time was very local indeed; even at the end of the 17th century Stirling had a hinterland only about 10 miles in radius.

In the 1590s Thomas Zoung's father and predecessors were said to have been native tenants of Cornton 'beyond the memory of man' and indeed, there is documentary evidence of them there back to 1480. In 1494 William Ewing, amongst others, was ordered to desist from fishing in the town of Stirling's waters on the Forth and in the mid 16th century people called Ewingson and Hewingson are found living in Stirling itself.

These records all point to the family being long and well established in the Stirling area over many generations. There is no contemporary evidence of any connection being maintained between the Stirling and Durnbarton families, whilst there is ample evidence of the extended kinship group in the Stirling area maintaining many connections. It would have been very difficult indeed to maintain close contact over 30 miles, with very distant relatives.

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Stirling and the area

At a guess, the population of the town was about 2,000-3,000 in 1600, though obviously plague, war and famine could produce great changes. Situated at the lowest practical bridging point and the highest navigable point on the Forth and close to the junction between the agricultural lowlands and pastoral highland, the town was a natural cross-roads.

Though there was a very close relationship between town and country, the town had its own council and a distinct social organisation. The household (a master, his wife, children and servants) was the basic social unit. Burgess men, who had paid sometimes substantial fees to become recognised members of the community, were the dominant force in the town. Burgesses held a monopoly of trading and manufacture; most of the rest of the population were their employees and families. Burgesses can be further

divided into, artisans and merchants, of whom the latter were the more prestigious; the most successful might be the sons of lairds or aspire to purchase a country estate.

The economy was based on domestic manufacture, particularly weaving and the dying of woolen cloth, on cattle and grain trading, shipping, supplying the hinterland etc. Stirling was a market town with an increasing number of fairs for the sale of major items like cattle and horses. It was also an administrative centre; till 1603 the royal court was sometimes in the castle but usually only for a few weeks per year. From the mid 17th century the garrison of the castle, guarding against attack from the more traditional highlands, was a major influence on town life.

The immediate locality was too important as a grain growing area for many cattle to be kept. Cornton, Powhouse and Cockspow, important areas for the Ewing family, are flat 'carse' lands, heavy, rich clay, difficult to work but very fertile. 'A link o' the Forth is worth an Earldom in the north' was the saying. And we will see that one Ewing came to own the equivalent of 'a link'. Cattle and sheep were driven from the uplands, where nothing else could be produced. The Buckieburn area is more hilly and here there would have been sheep or cattle, though some grain was probably grown for home use and fodder. Most of the inhabitants of these areas were small tenants, some with a traditional right to inherit their tenancy; rural industry (mainly weaving) became more important later in the century.

Socially, the rural areas were dominated by the landlords. Some of these were lords and earls, the less prestigious were the lairds, a term which might also include a substantial tenant who had sub-tenants. At the beginning of the century by far the most important landlord in this area was the Earl of Mar, a national figure, with a great house in Stirling and extensive holdings in other parts of Scotland, too. But from the 1630s the house of Mar was in political and financial eclipse; from then on the lairds were the dominant figures. John Ewing of Powhouse was typical of many such small lairds in coming from a business and legal background and in improving his estate.

THE NAME EWING IN 16th AND 17th CENTURY STIRLING

I'm afraid we must begin with a complication. It has been suggested that the name Ewing may be related to Ewein (which is certainly true) and McEwan (which is possible). More surprisingly, it is also related to Hewingson and perhaps also to Young.

Yogh and the Zowings

[Editor's note: 'yogh' is written close to the example that is shown. If you had a letter z and placed a 7 overlaying the bottom line of the z that would be a little closer. When I get a scanner hooked up, I will try to get the best example possible.]

The letter 'yogh', written **3** was in common use amongst Scots scribes from an early date and we can think of it as pronounced like a Y. When printing first emerged in Scotland, about 1500, the printers did not have this letter in their cases and so used the letter Z which looked rather like it. In some cases people later assumed that the letter was really a Z and so changed the way they pronounced the word; the Scots name McKenzie was once pronounced McKenyie. The old Scots word for a female sheep or ewe was 'zow', pronounced yow to rhyme with cow.

Even at the end of the 17th century many Scots could not write and, even if they could, most records about them were made by clerks and other professionals; spelling, in any case, was not fixed. A clerk might use one form in the morning and another later in the day. We now think of the names Ewing and Young as quite distinct; and by the end of the 17th century there is no real confusion in the Stirling area. However, at the beginning of that century, though some people are always called Ewing and others always called Zoung (or Zowing, or Zong or Zung or even Zwng!) others tend to change from one to another. Clerks cross out one form and replace it with another; Thomas Ewing is recorded in the Stirling Council Minutes in November 1603 and on the same day, his name is spelled Zoung in the Guildry Minutes.

When I began this research, it soon became clear that, to a very great degree, people called Zoung etc and people called Ewing were found in the same parts of the Stirling area; in Cornton and its surroundings and in Denny and the middle Carron Valley, around Buckieside and Dundaff. And Ewings and Zoungs etc were in frequent contact, in a way characteristic of family relationships in a society where even fairly distant cousins are recognised as relatives.

I would suggest that, in the Stirling area at least, the names Ewing and Zoung are only just becoming distinct in 1600 and that earlier they were indistinguishable. Certainly, some people were entirely consistent. So Robert Zoung, who entered as a burgess and guildbrother of Stirling in 1612 is usually called Zoung till about 1642; after that he is always called Young. He has not changed his name; new clerks in Stirling have dropped the old-fashioned yogh and taken up the new fashioned Y. The family who I will introduce as the Maurice and John Ewings were always called Ewing. But there is a gray area between, till about the 1640s.

Most modern indexers, dealing with manuscript sources, place the Z forms under Y, as Young. I have checked many such entries for Ewing connections and it has further underlined the close

ties between Youngs and Ewings. However, I will report only on those lines which seem to end as Ewings, ignoring those which become Youngs, unless they have some direct bearing on the main Ewing story.

The terminal -son

In the 15th and 16th century I suspect there was another change. In the Cornton area, in 1480, were Michael and William Ewison, in 1492 Thomas Ewyngson and the widow of William Hewyngson and in 1563, Thomas Youngar (or Zoungar). By the 1590s the ancestors of the Youngs are said to have lived there past memory of man. Other people called Ewingson etc can be found in Stirling and the area in the 16th century and before but the name is absent by 1600.

Many families, during this period, dropped a terminal -son from their name. John Dickson became John Dick, John Christieson was sometimes called John Christie and the family called Ritchieson about 1600 have become Ritchie by 1700. Ewingson and Hewyngson are really quite close to Ewing. It cannot be proved but I have little doubt that Michael and William of 1492 are the ancestors of Thomas Young (alias Ewing) in 1600. I haven't found a Zouingson; but one might exist somewhere!

Spelling

Most of my information has been drawn from manuscript sources and I use the original spelling, putting Z for 'yogh'. But where I have consulted printed sources and it has not been possible to check back to the original manuscript, I have copied the printed source. This report will be no less consistent in spelling than were 17th century clerks. But you may still find the same person's name spelt in more than one way.

A final variation is between Ewing and Eweine. Most of the Ewings, as already noted, are always written Ewing. However, the names of William Ewing in Raploch and John Ewing, mason, are sometimes written as Eweine. I do not know how significant this is.

Women and Women's Names

In Scotland, till the fairly recent past, women retained their own name when they married, making it much easier to follow them through life.

Most of the records available to us today are about property and money, which were mainly dealt with by men. Women are often mentioned only incidentally and many women from the past have left no record at all; the single reference to Jonat Ewing,

daughter of John of Powhouse, was found after combing 11 volumes of unindexed manuscript!

Scope of the Report

The rest of this report is confined to the Ewing/Zoung family in the Stirling area; the period covered is roughly from about 1600 to about 1670.

The records available before 1600 are rather patchy, though there are short runs of baptismal and marriage registers for Stirling for the late 16th century, which I have obviously consulted.

After the mid 17th century the urban Stirling Ewings were reduced to a single line, descendants of Maurice. Whichever branch William originated in, it is clear that he was no longer in Stirling by the late 17th century, so I do not report on this period in the town.

In the first half of the century, however, searchable records for the rural area are almost entirely confined to the land-owning elite and the small minority who left testaments; the second half of the century brings lower status people into the records in greater numbers, particularly through the IGI for St Ninians, and I therefore report on these. They help to illustrate what was going on earlier amongst the tenants and lease-holders.

Search of the Sheriff Court records for Stirlingshire would certainly have increased the coverage of the early 17th century rural area; however, there are dozens of large, unindexed manuscript volumes and literally hundreds of boxes of unsorted material. Random search is simply unrealistic.

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A web of kinship

In the summer of 1606 Stirling was struck by plague and over 600 people died (the pre-plague population may have been 2- 3,000). On 26th September Marion Zung, spouse of Thomas Chalmers, maltman, lay dying in one of the luges or huts which had been built outside the town for the sick and she dictated her last wishes to William Zoung, notary. She was owed money for the rent of Southfield by Thomas Ewing, servitor to the Earl of Mar; she owed money to two people called Zoung in the Buckieside area and she appointed Thomas Zoung, merchant of Stirling, her brother, as one of her executors; this last Thomas may be the same person as Thomas Ewing, the servitor. She died before the end of the month. In this single document almost every main strand of the Ewing/Zoung family in east- central Scotland is represented. The tragedy in the hut was at the centre of a web of kinship which we will now explore.

THE FAMILY OF EWING OF COCKSPOW

1. Alexander Paterson = Grissal Colville

2. Janet Paterson = Thomas Ewing

3. John Ewing = Marie Elphinstone

4. Janet Ewing - Robert Forrest

3. James Ewing = Margaret Prymrose

4. James Ewing

4. Robert Ewing

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A WEB OF KINSHIP: EWINGS IN 17th CENTURY STIRLINGSHIRE

Ewings in Logie Parish about 1600

In the 16th and early 17th century, Ewing and the related names occur frequently in the Stirling area, mainly in the carselands of the parish of Logie (in Cambuskenneth, Cornton, Craigmill, Powis and Westgrange.) It has not been possible to establish the precise relationships between them all but numerous business contacts plus their close proximity, suggest that they were related and long established in the area.

Much of this land belonged to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth till the Reformation and thereafter the Erskines of Mar were its feudal superiors and the close connection between Ewings and Erskines will soon be seen.

One of these lines surely gave rise to John Ewing of Cockspow and it will be dealt with at more length below. The Ewings etc in Cornton have already been mentioned and their links with the town of Stirling are clear; but other rural Ewings cannot be fixed firmly into a family tree.

John Ewin and his son Robert are mentioned as fishermen and poor tenants of the Abbey of Cambuskenneth as early as 1531 [Charters].

William Ewing, tailor in Craigmyle was a witness in the case against John Hart for the slaughter of John Christie in Cambus in 1634. [See Stair Society, Selected Justiciary

Cases.] John and Robert Ewings were amongst the tenants of the lands of Powhouse when John of Powhouse was confirmed in the lands.[B66/1/12 October 1623]

David Ewing in Westgrange (his name is sometimes given as Eweine etc) is mentioned as a witness several times from the 1580s to about 1605. His connections, as well as his possession of Westgrange, indicate a substantial man. In 1596 an instrument of sasine by David in favour of his eldest son and heir, Thomas, of land on the south side of the high street of Stirling, is recorded. [SB1/11/1/27 9th March 1596] It is unfortunate that I can find no more about either David or his son, Thomas and the line may have died out; Thomas could have been the witness to Marion Zoung's testament in 1605 and could, of course, have been Thomas, later of Powis. Either or both could have had a son, William.

Ewing of Cockspow

Thomas Ewing, who was to become Ewing of Cockspow, was surely part of this rural network. He is probably the Thomas Ewein, notary, who witnessed the baptism of Alexander Paterson, son of Duncan and of Jonet Cossar in 1590; in December 1588 David Ewein of West Grange had witnessed that of their older child, Jonet. But Thomas is first definitely recorded in 1603, when, as servitor to Annabel, Countess of Mar, he gave security for a debt of 200 merks for Captain Patrick Herring. [see B66/16/1 Sept 1603] In many subsequent documents he is referred to as servitor to either the countess or the earl and he appears on a list of the earl's household, dated 1617, where he has a 'man' that is, a servant of his own. His name is the fifth one down in the middle block of the left hand column [GD124/17/4]

On 14th November 1603 Thomas Ewing became a merchant burghess of Stirling, his entry fee was reduced as he was the son in law of Alexander Paterson, who was also a merchant burghess; in the corresponding entry to the merchant guild, his name is spelt Zoung. Joining the guild did not necessarily mean that he wished to trade as a merchant; for on the same day Thomas was appointed Procurator Fiscal of the burgh, the equivalent of the District Attorney. This suggests that his role in the Mar household was likely to be that of steward or 'man of business', though it is not true that a servitor is a sort of sheriff, as suggested in the Clan Ewing book.

On 28th Nov 1605 Thomas Ewing made payment for carrying the corpse of Grissell Colville, his mother in law through the church of Stirling for burial in Paterson's Aisle, one of the most prestigious burial sites in early 17th century Stirling. When, in 1606, Marion Zung, spouse of Thomas Chalmers, maltman of Stirling, died of plague in her hut outside the town, Thomas, her brother is mentioned and so is Thomas, servitor to the earl of Mar, who could be the same person; Thomas the servitor owed her £37 for her lands of Southfield. By 1607 Thomas the servitor was part owner of the lands of Southfield and whilst I can find no confirmation--this was a very disturbed time and record keeping may not have been quite up to scratch--it seems very likely that he inherited them from his sister. For the next few years Thomas is either -referred to as servitor to the earl or as as Portioner of Southfield, meaning he owned a portion of it; it was really only a field or

two in what is now the southern suburbs of Stirling. He would have rented it out to generate income.

He is also sometimes now known as Thomas Ewing of Powis or Powhouse; this was a much more substantial property; we later learn that there was a large house, garden, orchard etc there; he bought it from David Balfour in 1607, perhaps taking it in settlement of debts. [Menzie's Fergusson].

As early as 1608 Thomas had also acquired rights to the lands of Cockspow, a small estate near modern Fallin on the south bank of the Forth below Stirling and separate by a few miles from the other main areas where Ewings lived. In older documents it is called Cuikispow; a pow is a slow moving stream (as in Powis and the numerous Pow Burns in the area) and the whole means 'the cook's stream'. Till the reformation in 1560 these lands belonged to Cambuskenneth Abbey; then, like Powis, they became the property of the Earls of Mar, re-confirming the Ewing connection with the earls.

On 6th May 1617 Thomas Ewing of Cockspow was one of a jury enpanelled to determine a matter of land ownership in the Earldom of Menteith. [Retours] That he is called 'of Cockspow' rather than 'in Cockspow' indicates that he was at least a substantial tenant, though the exact nature of his tenure is not clear and was later disputed. The other jurors are all substantial men. On 21st Aug 1620 Thomas Ewing of Cockspow made an assignation of moneys to Norman Blackadder in respect of his escheated estate; this seems to be a 'rescue deal' and it is unclear from the extensive legal verbiage what the real benefits to each were. [CRA, SB1/11/1/ 60] The curious flourish of his signature is interesting as a remnant of his lawyer's 'sign manual' or official signature. Thomas died later that year.

In 1623 John Ewing was served heir of Thomas's real estate, though what that was is not specified. [Retours] John was almost always called 'of Cockspow' but for a time, like his father, he was also sometimes called servitor to the earl.

John had a brother James, who was married to Margaret Prymrose and they had at least two sons, James and Robert, baptised in Dunfermeline in 1641 and 1643 respectively. [SRO, RS1/ 26 f. 100 & IGI] This James (the elder) had some title to some of the family lands jointly with John. [B66/1/12, February 1627 pasim] John's wife Marie Elphinstone, was probably a relative of the Elphinstone barons of Airth, which is not far from Cockspow; she had certain rights in the lands of Powis. [B66/1/12 October 1623]

In 1623 John Ewing of Cockspow and John Stirling younger of Craigharnock borrowed 1050 merks from John Russell, merchant of Stirling; a witness to the agreement, recorded in the Burgh Register of Deeds in June 1628, was his brother James Ewing. In August 1624 John Ewing 'of Cockspow, styled for the time of Powhouse' borrowed 300 merks from John Maisson, cordiner in Stirling, secured on some house property he owned in the town. In 1635, the debt remaining unpaid, John Ewing made over the property to Christopher Russall, merchant in Stirling, who had paid the original debt. On this occas

ion James Ewing, merchant in Stirling, was a witness; this is NOT James the brother.
[Burgh Register of Deeds]

In 1625 John Ewing of Powhouse, son and heir of the late Thomas, sold a tenement of land in the Mary Wynd of Stirling to Andrew Zoung, son of the late Thomas, portioner of Cornton; the property had come to him from his father, who had aquired it by his marriage contract with Jonet Paterson (John's mother) from Alexander Paterson in Cockspow (John's grandfather).

In 1627 John sold his rights in Powis. In 1631 John sold his right to collect the tiend sheaves of Easter Corsepatrick in the parish of St Ninians, which was his as heir of his mother, the late Janet Paterson, eldest daughter of the late Alexander Paterson, sometime in Easter Corsepatrick and of the late Grissal Colville, his spouse. [CRA Murray of Polmaise; box 41].

On 4th July 1633, during the visit of Charles I to Stirling, John Ewing of Cuikispow was amongst the national and local dignitaries who were made honorary guildbrethren of Stirling.

The Ewings of Cockspow had other contacts with the Ewings of Stirling. John Ewing of Cockspow owed money to James Ewing merchant of Stirling, when James died in 1654 and Agnes Miller, widow of James Ewing was also owed £20 by John Youing of Cockspow when she died in 1672.

There is a separate notice about this James.

An entry in the St Ninians kirk session minutes for 1655 refers to a dispute first aired in 1639 and still unresolved, between John Ewing of Cockspow and the laird of Touch with regard to their rights to a seat in the kirk.

A Judicial Act by Jonet Ewing, dated 17th March 1656, recorded in the Stirling Burgh Court Books completes our knowledge of this branch. Jonet, daughter of John of Cockspow and of Marie Elphinstone his spouse, and herself spouse of Robert Forrest, agreed to the appointment of arbitrators to settle the dispute between herself, her husband and father on the one side and Sir Charles Erskine of Alva on the other, a dispute which arose from the original terms of the Ewing holding of Cockspow, granted to the late Thomas by the Earl of Mar in 1608; since then the Earl's rights had been aquired by his relative, Erskine of Alva, who now wished to reclaim the estate, though it had been much improved meanwhile by the Ewings.

This fascinating document, of which I enclose a copy, has been cancelled since agreement had been reached and on 16th October 1656 the Court Books record Lady Alva's agreement to her husband's disposition of the lands of Cockspow, within the barony of Cambuskenneth; my assumption is that an agreement had been reached leaving Cockspow in Ewing hands.

On 2nd March 1681 John Forrester, son of George Forrester in Airth, was granted a charter under the Great Seal of the lands of Cockspow, formerly possessed by Thomas Ewing and his son John, who was now dead. John Forrester had already been granted a similar charter of the lands of Halls of Airth and of Kinaird in 1678. The Forrester family continued in possession of Cockspow till about the mid 18th century, when it was merged with the larger Polmaise estate. At this time, the names Forrest and Forrester are the same and Cockspow probably passed to them through Jonet Ewing and her husband, Robert Forrest. We might guess that George was their son or otherwise the heir of Robert.

Jonet Ewing, in making a judicial renunciation of her rights to Cockspow, obviously had a property right in it and the terms make it very unlikely that she had any living brothers or sisters at this time. So William is very unlikely to have been a son of John. It is possible that he was a son of Thomas or of James.

[In 1622 there is recorded in the Stirling Burgh Court Books, a contract of marriage between Margaret Zoung, daughter of Thomas (merchant of Stirling) and of Grizzall Lawrie, his spouse; she was to marry Norman Blackadder, son of the Norrnan rescued by the above deal and part of the property assigned to the couple was the rent of a house possessed by Christopher Russall in Stirling, which may be the one mentioned above with a more definite Ewing connection. Thomas Zoung, merchant and Thomas Ewing of Cockspow are not the same person; but like other Zoungs and Ewings, they moved in the same circles.]

The Ewings in Raploch

Raploch is now a modern housing estate on the north-western outskirts of Stirling but in the 17th century it was agricultural land of which the Earls of Mar were superiors. Though on the south side of the Forth, it is still close to Cornton, Powis and so on. This line must have rented some ground there from the earl; it is doubtful if it would be enough to live on and what is recorded about them concerns some property in Castlehill, part of suburban Stirling lying between the town itself and the castle, an area which was being more densely settled in the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

On 14th November 1612 William Ewing in Raploch and his wife Jonet Henderson or Henryson, were given sasine (formal legal title) to some land in the Castlehill area of Stirling. It is described as
on the East of the Park Dyke [wall], now called Haining Dyke, Between the King's Gate [road], leading to the Port [gate] of the said dyke on the North, the common bray [slope] on the South and the old Barn of Umquhil [latej Patrick Lundye, alias Porter and the nook of the Yard of Umquhil Jon McKie and three great stones, lying in the King's Gate on the East.

This can be roughly identified as the site of the house seen on the left of the illustration, which is from an engraving made about 1672, though I would not suggest that the illustration is .of the actual house.

William appears in the records a number of times in the following years. In 1614 Jonat Cowan, spouse of Andrew Nielson in Castlehill agreed to her husband's sale of another plot of land in Castlehill to William, which seems to have been their security for a debt of 300 merks; later it is recorded that the property was, in fact, leased back to Nielson and his wife. [B66/16/2 folio 235 & 866/16/4 f. 95]

In 1616 Robert and John Thomsons were obliged to flit from the 2 laigh houses pertaining heritably to William Ewing in Raploch and lying in the Castlehill.[Court Book B66/16/3. folio 180 30th July 1616] William is later recorded as also owning property in the Mary Wynd, selling a gray hauling horse and doing other business characteristic of modest prosperity. He was also equal proprietor with Malcolm and John Christiesons in Cornton and Thomas Christison in Spittal of a tenement, house and yard in the town, a situation most likely to arise from their being related by marriage and implying that William was fairly closely related to the Cornton family. [B66/16/5 f. 48 21st Feb 1623]

Some references are to William Eweine in Raploch, who is obviously the same person. In May 1622 William Eweine and Robert Cunningham in Raploch appeared before the kirk session as a result of a dispute; in June 1622 William was fined £10 for taking too much from the guests at the marriage of his daughter Jane to Andrew Jaffray in Canglour. One reference, in 1624 is to 'William Eweine in Raploch' and the witnesses include Thomas Eweine, his son [B66/16/5 f. 213 Dated March 1624; registered Jan 1625]

In 1629, William Ewing, eldest lawful son of William in Raploch was served heir to his late father in the lands aquired in 1612. [B66/16/7 date 26th June 1629] And on 9th October 1629 the young William resigned this property for new sasine to be given to Thomas Ewing in Raploch, his heir and assign, presumably his brother Thomas.

No more is heard of this William in Stirling except that the house is referred to in the session minutes each year as the limits of one of the beats patrolled by the elders of the Fourth Quarter as 'the house of William Ewing in Castlehill', till 1643. By 1647 the corresponding entry is to the house of James Dae. I have searched for a deed of sale etc but found nothing. I am tempted to suggest that William sold his property to his brother because he was about to leave the area, though we cannot prove it; William could be 'our man, he is my most likely candidate.

The Maurice and Jon Ewing line

This line were already established as burgesses of Stirling before 1600 and use these christian names regularly. As burgesses they are necessarily people of some standing; but they were never outstanding. Most of the men were weavers, the lowest status artisans in the town but still small-scale employers, with some house property and so on. They are only humble compared with landowners and merchants.

Maurice Ewing, a weaver, the oldest definite member of this line, had entered as burgess in July 1595, paying the rate for men who had no close family connection with the burgess system. [Council Record] He died in November 1614, when he was in extreme old age. His testament was given up by his son, John, also a weaver; but is otherwise without useful information. Maurice was married to Janet Dougal and had at least one other child, Janet who married Alexander Benny, in terms of a marriage contract recorded in the Burgh Court Book in 1599.

This son John was admitted weaver, burgess in 1607 and was married to Janet Thomson; both were still alive in 1623. Their eldest son was another John, admitted weaver, burgess in 1628, their second son James, admitted weaver, burgess in 1629.

John the younger seems to have married twice; by the first marriage he had two sons, Maurice and Thomas, and probably two daughters, Margaret and Janet. By his second marriage to Christian Johnstone, he had at least one son, John.

A Duncan Ewing, admitted weaver, burgess in 1642 was either a son of the oldest or the middle John; he is recorded intermittently up to 1642. Margaret, Janet and their father John all died in about 1645, which was a plague year in Stirling; since James and Duncan also disappear about this time and have no recorded descendants, they may have suffered the same fate.

Christian Johnstone, the widow, was soon involved in a bitter dispute on behalf of herself and her own young son, John, against the two adult sons of the earlier marriage. [Register of Deeds and Court Book, 1646 passim] The three male survivors of this branch have only three recorded descendants; Thomas's only son, John was admitted burgess in 1685. John, the son and heir of the late Maurice, was confirmed in some lands in Chapelcroft in April 1650 but is not heard of again and another son, Thomas, was admitted burgess in 1675, when his elder brother seems to have been dead. John, the son of John and Christian Johnstone, was admitted in 1648, though I can find no sign of any descendants nor even records of his business deals despite a search of the records till well into the 1660s. He may have died shortly after his admission. It is unlikely that any William can have sprung from this rather well documented branch.

Maurice Ewing = Jonat Dougal

1. John Ewing = Jonat Thomson
2. James Ewing
2. John Ewing (the younger, weaver) = 1st ?
 3. Thomas Ewing
 3. Maurice Ewing
 3. Margaret Ewing
 3. Janet Ewing

John Ewing (the younger, weaver) = 2nd Christian Johnstone

3. John Ewing
3. Agnes Ewing = Thomas Cudbert

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James Ewing, merchant

James Ewing, merchant, was admitted burgess and guildbrother on 10th October 1631, paying a reduced rate as he was presently to be married to Agnes Miller, a guildbrother's daughter. He had been a Witness to at least one deal in Stirling by John of Cockspow.

The Burgh Register of Deeds vol. 4, f. 95 records a receipt by James and Agnes in favour of Jonet Archibald, Agnes's mother and widow of John Millar, for £400 due by their marriage contract dated September 1631.

James died in 1654, when his widow, Agnes Millar, gave up his testament. He was owed money by John Ewing of Cockspow, as well as by Thomas Ewing, sometime portioner in Cornton, now in Linlithgow. In 1634 the couple had been vested in a house in Stirling by Jonet Archibald, presumably as part of their marriage agreement; in May 1641 they transferred this property to William, their son, who must have been a child at the time. [B66/1/14 25th May 1641] In 1652 the rights to this property were transferred to Alexander, a child and now their eldest son, as William was dead, perhaps yet another plague victim. [B66/1/19 f. 18] At the time of James's death the couple had 3 children, Alexander, Katherine and Isobel. Alexander, his only son, became a merchant himself on 20th June 1670.

Agnes Millar died in June 1672 and she too was owed money by John of Cockspow and by Thomas in Linlithgow; at this time these appear, in fact, to be regular annual payments. The only record of this James's other business dealings I have found is a claim against him, lodged in 1647, for money owing from a boat which James operated on behalf of Duncan Nairne and a group of others in 1642.

The recurring connection with John of Cockspow suggests a family relationship but what that it is unclear, though it is obvious that he is not John's brother James.

Some loose ends in Stirling

Unconnectable fragments are an inevitable problem at such an early period. Particularly frustrating is a record of 1603 when sasine was given to William Ewing, weaver and his wife Marion Stewart of the east half of a tenement in Castlehill, on resignation by Alexander Lawrie. I have found no other record of this William; he may have left the area but it is quite possible that this is William of Raploch and his first wife or even Willam of Raploch's parents. [B66/1/8 f 81-82]

The early Stirling baptismal and marriage registers are particularly frustrating. Michell Ewein, mason, is referred to several times; his daughter Jonet married in 1590, another, Margaret married John Brown (mason) in 1589. But of sons there is no record. John Ewein, mason and surely a relative, is mentioned several times from 1587, when he was a witness; but it is unclear if he is the John Ewein, married to Margaret Schaw, whose daughter Margaret was baptised in June 1598 or the John Ewein, married to Helen Cunningham, whose daughters Agnes and Barbara were baptised in 1589 and 1590. Some of these daughters can be traced later but, once again, there is no record of sons; it is tantalising that William in Raploch acquired his Castlehill land from a Cunningham and it could all have been part of a family settlement.

A William Zowing, son of the late William Zowing, mason, was fined for infringing the guild privileges in July 1607 and is not heard of again.

A Thomas Zoung, merchant, is mentioned intermittently about 1600 and it has been said that he might be the son of David Ewing of Westgrange. So far as I can trace this Thomas he is always called Zoung or Young. He was married to Grissal Lawrie, had at least two children, Alexander and Margaret; it is interesting that Margaret was married to Norman Blackadder and that it was this couple who were 'rescued' by Ewing of Cockspow.

In 1604 George Ewing, weaver and son of a burgher, was himself admitted burgher and nothing more is heard of him. He looks another likely plague victim.

There were several other minor Ewing lines of burghers, such as the four who were tailors. But either the information about them is too fragmentary to be useful or they can be conclusively ruled out of our search, for example because we know they died without surviving children.

? Ewing

- 1 William Ewing
- 1. Alexander Ewing
 - 2. Jean Ewing
 - 2. Marion Ewing
- 1. John Ewing
- 2. John Ewing
 - 1. Thomas Ewing
 - 2. Marion Ewing = Duncan Young
 - 2. Christian Ewing
 - 2. Jean Ewing
 - 2. John Ewing

The Buckieburn and Carron Valley

The Buckieburn rises in the hills near Dundaff in the upper Carron Valley, flows into the River Carron and so down between Denny and Dunipace and into the Forth. Ewings, Zoungs and so on are found all the way down the valley and in other nearby areas in the parishes of Dunipace and St Ninians, from the late 16th century onward. The names are often confused in this area. The testament of Thomas Ewing at Denovan Mill, who died in 1667, records his son as being called John Young; he also had a son in law called Duncan Young; the spelling Euing is also found.

Early records are all to 'Zoungs'. The late 16th century baptismal and marriage registers for Stirling mention Robert Zwng in Buckieside John Zwng, son of John in Stennie Inch (?modern Stoneyinch), Margaret Zwng, wife of Arthur Car in Hill of Dundaff, and William Zwng in Dundaff, mainly as witnesses or baptismal sponsors. By the time of Marion Zung's death of plague in 1606 Robert in Buckieside was dead though Marion's testament refers to Agnes, his daughter, and to a John Zung in Burnhouse. In 1612 Robert Zewing or Zoung became a merchant burges of Stirling; he was the son of Robert in Buckieside, had life long connections with other Youngs in this area and with various Ewings in Stirling and area. There were Zoungs in Barnego and both Zoungs and Ewings in Burnhouse. It is impossible to fit everyone into a system. However, the following relationships are reasonably firmly established and are based on study of the testaments in the Commissariat Records.

Alexander Ewing in Larbert died before July 1657. He had had three brothers; John was already dead and had a son, still alive, also John. Thomas was the miller at Denovan Mill (see below). William, who survived him, is singled out as his 'brother german' or full brother, implying that perhaps the others were only half brothers. In any case, the parents names are not known. Alexander's only recorded offspring are Jean and Marion.

Thomas at Denovan Mill died in 1667. His daughter Marion was married to Duncan Young (he died at Dougchirge, Dunipace by 1673; they had three children, Duncan, Margaret and Marion).

The miller's daughter Christian was dead without issue by 1685, survived by her sister, Jean. His son John (called John Young in 1667) is surely the John Ewing in East Borland, who owed Christian 100 merks by a bond dated 1668 when she died; this was the legacy her father had left her and which it would have been quite normal for a brother to keep, paying out the interest annually.

Of William, the full brother, nothing else is recorded except that he lived in Larbert and was Alexander's executor in 1657; he could, of course, have left the area and gone to Ireland.

John Ewing in the North side of Dundaff died in 1686. He had two daughters, called Margaret and Agnes, described as his nearest of kin and who were his executors. But his testament also refers to a debt, owed to him by his eldest, lawful son, William. Ordinarily, an eldest son would have been nearest of kin and have registered the testament so this is anomalous. Once again, we have no means of knowing where this William was nor how long he had owed his father £300 – these are £s Scots, worth only one twelfth part of a £ Sterling but this was still a substantial sum. If the son had been absent for many yeacs, then he could be 'our man' though it seems unlikely.

It is possible that this John is the miller's son and the same as John in Dennygrinnes, whose wife, Agnes Balloch, died in 1679. If we will allow him three macriages, he could also be the John Ewing in the South side of Dundaff, whose wife Jonat Scot, died before February 1686 when he survived her. But we cannot be sure.

Others in this area, who were alive early enough in the century to be of interest, are

- 1) George Ewing in Dunipace, likely to be a connection of the four brothers, who was already dead when his daughter, Marion, died in 1663.
- 2) There was a family of Ewings in Bogton of Falkirk. Malcolm died in 1663 (his children were Malcolm, and Janet). Agnes, Malcolm's sister, died in 1672 and no marriage or descendants are recorded. Alexander, brother to both, died in 1681 and his widowi, Isobel Young, survived him; again, there is no record of children, nor information about parents, though the further marriage with a Young is suggestive.

Ewings in St Ninians Parish

The large parish of St Ninians almost surrounds the town of Stirling. To the east, near the river, it is low lying carse; further west are low, hilly areas, rising to moorland; the southern border of the parish is close to the Buckieburn/Denny area. Records of Ewings in the parish are few in the first half of the 17th century; we saw that William Ewing in Raploch's daughter married a Jaffray from Canglour and Cockspow is in St Ninians, though there is no sign of any Ewings except the lairds living there.

Nearer to Cockspow is Carnock, where Alexander died in 1665 and was survived by his wife, Margaret Cowane, though there is no record of any children.

In the period 1660 to 1664 we find William Ewing in Burghmeadow and Thomas in Longrack listed as fishers on the river. [GD124/6/98/1]; they were not full time fishers, but agricultural tenants who supplemented their farming income by netting salmon.

Thomas may be the Thomas married to Euphan Hendry who had three recorded children, William, baptised 30th July 1665; Thomas, baptised 25th February 1672 and Robert, baptised 14th December 1673. [IGI] This William is too late to be 'our man'; he was still alive, aged 19, in 1684, when he entered into an agreement for the maintenance of his younger brothers, following his parents' deaths; his mother had died earlier and his father had remarried Agnes Thomson, by whom he had two Ewings further children, Alexander and Charles. [SRO Register of Deeds, DUR LXXII, Registered 1690. Contract dated 19th Dec 1684]

William, the fisher, appears to be the William, married to Isobel Lawdian, whose children Agnes and William were baptised in 1666 and 1676 respectively. [IGI] Once again, we are too late for this to be our man, if he is still in the Stirling area so late as this.

It is very probable that they are closely related, living as they do so close together and sharing their occupations. The elder Thomas is later described as a weaver and the younger generation were mainly weavers in Ballnockburn, a growing industrial village in the late 17th and early 18th century and some of them worked for Stirling weavers as well.

WAYS FORWARD

We have seen that the Ewings and their allies were present in some strength in the Stirling area in the 17th century and this indicates, even if there were no other evidence, that they had been here for a long time. The difficulty in identifying the specific William who emigrated to Ireland is that we have so little information about him. Without doubt, the best way forward is to undertake more work in Ireland.

It might be that a William can be identified there who clearly corresponds to one of those mentioned in this report; that might justify more work on the Stirlingshire records. It would be possible to search his probable connections – likely landlords, cousins, neighbours etc, who might reveal something about his antecedents.

It also remains possible that something new may turn up in the course of other searches. A constant problem with searches of 17th century material is that it is usually unindexed except for the marginal notes, such as those seen beside the document facing page 11. These name principals only; in the case of property sales, for example, they name the purchaser and so are useless in a search for vendors. If anything does turn up in the course of my own work, I will certainly be in touch.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Ewing family of America

Mr James R McMichael and Mr Elsworth S Ewing both supplied information from earlier publications about the Ewing family in Ireland and America and about the various family traditions; I am grateful to them.

Published Genealogical Lists etc

- Burkes Peerage-and Baronetage
- Indices of Testaments for all the Scottish Commissariots, together with the addenda available in the SRO
- Burgess Lists etc. for Stirling, Dumbarton and Glasgow International Genealogical Index for Ireland, Stirlingshire, Dumbartonshire and Lanarkshire
- The Register of Retours to 1700
- Emigrant lists

- Lists of Baptisms (1587-1592) & Marriages (1585-1595) for Stirling published in The Scottish Antiquary
- The published records of the Burgh of Stirling and the parish history of Logie by R Menzies Fergusson

Manuscript Sources in the Scottish Record Office [SRO]

- Ewing Testaments; the testaments of all Ewings in the Stirling Commissariat index up to the end of the 17th century have been checked, along with many of the Youngs and others with whom they are known to have had dealings; this supplemented my own extensive notes from other testaments, for example, all Russells had been previously checked for my own searches.
- Mar and Kellie Papers, GD124; the index of this extensive collection has been scanned and a number of documents consulted, though an exhaustive search is almost impossible. The 'Household Bill' illustrated opposite page 9 was checked because it was known that Thomas was one of the household, but William and Thomas, fishers on the river in the 1660s, were found by chance when looking for something else.
- Stirling Burgh Records, The entire index for the B66 series has been scanned for indexed references to Ewings; in addition all the Protocol Books from the late 16th to the mid 17th centuries have been checked by scanning the rubrics. [See also below under CRA]
- Typescript indices for the General Register of Sasines and General Register of Deeds have been checked.

Manuscript Sources in Central Region Archives [CRA]

- The marginal rubrics of Burgh Register of Deeds have been searched from its inception in 1628 to the end of the 17th century; the Burgh Court Book from 1592 to the mid century and the Council Record from 1598 to the mid century; in each case the search was a supplement to my earlier notes, which already cover the latter part of the century fully.
- The Murray of Polmaise papers index was fully checked but the copious unindexed material was only skimmed.

Some material was found incidentally amongst other collections such as Cowane's Hospital and Stirling Burgh collections.