

# DRAFT

Anne Toohey  
Library of Congress  
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James Ewing, Pioneer  
Jackson River, Bath County, Virginia  
Ewing (now Knapp) Creek, Greenbrier (now Pocohontas) County  
Virginia (now West Virginia)

The life of James Ewing, 18th century pioneer of Augusta, Bath and Greenbrier Counties, Virginia and the lives of his descendants, have been well documented by family accounts backed up by primary sources. In James Ewing, Pioneer, Barbara Ewing Powell (who has compiled the work of Nancy Hanks Ewing, who inherited the family papers, but died before finishing her genealogy), Powell documents the life of James Ewing of Greenbrier from the time of James's first land purchases in Bath County, Virginia as well as the lives of his descendants through his first wife, his sons "Indian John" and "Swago" Bill (William), and his daughters Jennie, who married Archibald Clendennin and his other daughters Elizabeth and Susan Jane. Because his daughter, Jennie Ewing Clendennin and his son, Indian John were involved in, but survived, the Clendennin Massacre, and because there was interest in the family by other 19th and 20th century family genealogists, there are many contemporary and near contemporary accounts of the lives of this family. Because much family documentation was generated, we have a good picture of James's life, and that of his descendants, from the time of his arrival in the Shenandoah Valley. But where did he come from? Who were his parents? Who did he marry? These important questions have remained unresolved in this pioneer's family down to the present day. Despite the amount of research done about this family. Barbara Ewing Powell points out that no documentary evidence has been found to prove the origin, parentage or marriage of James Ewing of Greenbrier.

In another recently published genealogy, Ewing in Early America, Margaret Ewing Fife has a chapter about the descendants of John Ewing of Carnshanaugh, which includes James Ewing of Greenbrier as his youngest son. She forms her argument from a family account taken in 1820, and written in 1827. Via this family letter, she is able to add James's second family to the picture. However, unfortunately, even though Fife can correctly name James's first and second wives, and all his children, and although she documents his second family, she does not correctly identify the particulars of James's first family, nor the correct date of his first arrival in Augusta/Bath County, Virginia.

However, a close comparison of family traditions in the James Ewing of Greenbrier family with family traditions in the John Ewing

of Carnshanaugh immigrant family, backed up by the documentation that is extant, seem to show, by preponderance of evidence, that James Ewing of Greenbrier is the youngest son of John of Carnshanaugh.

#### Evidence from a family letter:

An important early family letter provides the bridge that links James Ewing of Greenbrier to the John of Canashanaugh family.

The provenance of this letter is as follows: Samuel Jameson, or "S.S.J." in the letter quoted below, was a grandson of Elizabeth Ewing Jameson. Samuel Jameson was an avid genealogist in his own right. Ephraim O. Jameson states in The Jamesons in America, 1647-1900: Genealogical Records and Memoranda (Boston: Rumford Press, 1901), that Samuel S. Jameson, <sup>or</sup> Burnet, Texas, was seventy-three years old and "an enthusiastic genealogist. For several years he has given much time, money, and patient research to tracing his own branch of the Jameson family back to its early beginnings, covering a period of two hundred and eighty four years." p. 513.

Samuel Jameson's letter quotes an earlier letter, written August 26, 1827, by an earlier family member and historian, Robert Ewing, a cousin of Samuel Jameson's father, John Jameson. Robert Ewing wrote the letter to Aunt Sallie Jameson (a daughter of Elizabeth Ewing Jameson), stating that he interviewed her mother, Elizabeth Ewing Jameson, (daughter Samuel, son of John Ewing Sr., and married to James Jameson) on July 12, 1820. Elizabeth Ewing describes the family of John Ewing (of Carnshanaugh), and she includes James Ewing as one of her uncles (and as youngest son of John Ewing, Sr.):

"Genealogical record of the descendants of John Ewing, Senior, of Scotch descent, born in the north of Ireland about the year 1660; married first about 1685. Fought the Irish armies of James II within the walls of Londonderry the 105 days of the year 1690. His eldest son, Alexander Ewing, then a child of four years of age was starved very nearly to death before the siege was raised, but finally lived to old age, but never married. The second child, a daughter named Nancy, married Mr. Houston. The third, Jane (Jean) Ewing, married Mr. Vance. The fourth, Thomas, married Nancy Campbell; had no heirs; died 84 years of age. John Ewing Sr., after losing his first wife, married Miss Jannett McElvaney who bore him five children, vis: 1-John Ewing Jr., who married Sarah Jenkins, who bore him two sons, one a deaf mute and the other named Joshua. John Ewing was assassinated by a serving man. 2-Mary Ewing, married Mr. Collins. 3-William Ewing, married Elizabeth Tharp, and had five sons and three daughters; 1-John, 2-William, 3-Robert, 4-Samuel, 5-Thomas, 6-Elizabeth, 7-Pollie, 8-Jannie; and died at the age of 70. 4-Samuel Ewing, married Margaret (McMichael) (McMeekin) and had twelve

Thomas

children, as follows: 1-Annie, 2-John, 3-Daniel, 4-Margaret, 5-Elizabeth born 1765, 6-Samuel Jr., 7-William, born 1761, 8-Mary, 9-Thomas, 10th, 11th and 12th died. Margaret married Mr. Carr and then Robert Ewing. Mary married Mr. Crawford; Elizabeth married James Jamieson, son of Samuel and Catherine (Cowden) Jamieson. 5-James Ewing, youngest son of John Ewing, Sr. was born in America February 14, 1721 and died in 1801, being 80 years old. He married first Sarah Mays who bore him three children, William, John and Jennie; and he then married Miss Sarah Edwards, by whom he had five children; James Jr., Edward, Mary, Sallie, and Robert. The foregoing history of the tribe of John Ewing Sr., to which I (S.S.J) belong was found in an old letter dated August 26, 1827, written by Robert Ewing, a cousin of my father to Aunt Sallie Jamieson stating he got it ~~from~~ his mother, my grandmother, (Elizabeth Ewing, daughter of Samuel, son of John), on July 12, 1820. I have now in my possession her certificate of membership in the Presbyterian Church at Glasgow, Ky. I have a poetic obituary of my grandfather, James Jamieson, written for my grandmother by her nephew, John Ewing, in 1821. They both died in Indiana in the same year, he in July, she in November, 1821.

Although it would be best to work from that original letter, I have not seen the original document. However, there are at least two published versions of this letter: the version above is in Ewings of Frederick County, Virginia. Another version of it is quoted in the Fife book, which I believe to be somewhat edited, because the family member from whom Fife got the letter stated that it was a copy of a letter she had received from yet another family member, the birth order of the children is labeled instead of implied, (designating that this was the first child, second child, etc., even though the other letter merely gives numbers). However, the important thing is that both versions state the same names of wives and children, and that both letters group the siblings into correct families.

Who was Robert Ewing, the author of this letter? Fife seems to have come to the correct conclusion. She states:

Elizabeth Ewing Jamison wrote the story of these two families. . .She wrote it just before she died and gave it to Robert Ewing--most probably the son of James Ewing, youngest son of John and Jenet McIlvany Ewing. Robert was born in 1762 and took the letter to Sallie Jamison who lived in Ill[inois]. The Jamisons died in Indiana and Robert, son of James, lived in Perry Co. Indiana also! (Fife, p. 68).

Thus, Robert had geographic proximity to his Aunt Elizabeth Ewing Jamison in Perry County, Indiana. He took the letter to Illinois

to his cousin Sallie Jamison (b. 1792, daughter of John and Elizabeth Ewing Jamison, d 23 March, 1877 at 84, unmarried). Family lore says that she loved Robert Ewing who brought her the letter from her mother in 1821, but was not allowed to marry him. Note should be made of the relative proximity of all of the Indiana and Illinois counties mentioned in this account.

Verification that Robert was the son of James Ewing and Sarah Edwards is independently provided in a county history of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, in the biography of Major Francis M. Ewing, who was:

. . .the son of Robert W. and Temperance M. (Cook) Ewing, who were respectively natives of Kentucky and Tennessee. His father was born February 22, 1808, the son of Robert and Elizabeth (Booker) Ewing, both natives of Virginia. Robert Ewing was the son of James and Sarah (Edwards) Ewing. The Ewing family, of which the major is a descendant, fled from Scotland during the time of the persecution of the Protestants by the Catholics. They settled on the Foyle in Ireland, near Londonderry, where they suffered in common with others, all the horrors of the famous siege of that city some ten or twelve years prior to the American revolution [he has the wrong century here, as the persecution took place in the 17th century!]. Three brothers, named James, Alexander and Samuel emigrated and settled in Virginia. Francis M. Ewing is the descendant of the first named James Ewing.

History of Vanderburgh Co., Indiana 79-129464

Notice the similarity of family traditions reported in this version and in the Elizabeth letter about where the Ewing family was from, and why they came to America.

#### **Evidence from vital and land records:**

John Ewing, the first ancestor known in this family, was of Carnshanagh, parish of Fahan, Donegal County, Ireland. In the Magee Library, Londonderry, may be found the Burt Book, which is a record kept by the Rev. A. Ferguson, minister of the Presbyterian Congregation at Burt, County Donegal from 1685 to 1718. (Ewings of Frederick Co., p. 5):

Entries pertaining to John Ewing are:

Baptized July 1, 1694, Jean, dau to John Ewing in Carnshanagh

Baptized Oct. 14, 1703, John, son to John Ewing in Carnshanagh

Baptized Jan. 20, 1706, Mary dau. to John Ewing in Carnshanagh

The Mormon Temple Library in Salt Lake City has a record form Templemore, Londonderry, Ireland of a John Ewing born about 1660 who married December 3, 1685, a Jennet Wilson born about 1664. This was probably the same John Ewing and his first wife, the mother of Alexander, Nancy, Jean and Thomas.

John and his second wife Janet were the parents of John, Mary, William, Samuel and James. In 1729, John immigrated to Pennsylvania with several of his children and their families. They settled in Nottingham Township, Chester County, near Octoraro Creek. This area is just above the Maryland, Pennsylvania line. (Ewings of Frederick Co., p. 6). John may have been in the American colonies before 1729, as Elizabeth states that his youngest son James was born in 1721. John Jr. and William Ewing, sons of John Ewing Sr. of Carnshanaugh, were on the tax records first in 1729, both in Nottingham. John went to London Brittn (Little Britain) in 1732. William was last on the tax list in 1735. The Ewing name in Chester County, Pennsylvania records is spelled "Huin". (McClure, Journal of Clan Ewing, Volume 1, August 1995, p. 25). John Ewing probably died in Chester Co, Pa. We know that the families of William and Samuel moved down into Frederick Co., Virginia, with Samuel's family later moving on to Ky. (Ewings of Frederick Co., p. 10. In addition, several of John's other sons and daughters also migrated to Frederick County, Virginia: Alexander (never married); Jane (Jean), married Andrew Vance. His son John died young, and James migrated to Bath County, Virginia, and eventually to Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

The immigrant, John Ewing Sr. (of Carnshanaugh) and his family originally settled in Pennsylvania, in East and West Nottingham, and the grown men appeared in land and tax records there for a time, (see Fife). However, by 1737, John's sons were beginning to move south from Pennsylvania, along the Pennsylvania Wagon Road, into the Valley of Virginia. This was a typical migration pattern for the Scotch Irish, who tended to immigrate to Pennsylvania because of its religious tolerance, but who tended to move west and south in order to acquire land on the frontier.

According to the Vanderburgh County History, Alexander, the eldest son by John's first wife, and Samuel, John's son by his second wife migrated to Virginia with their brother James (however, as with many family legends, while it may establish family relationships, yet the brothers may not all have moved to Virginia at the same time). Fife finds that Alexander lent his brother John's widow money in 1736 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. On 30 May, 1755, he sued the widow, Sarah Jenkins Ewing (now married to Peter Mather) for the money. Alexander apparently moved to Frederick County before 1762, as a Northern Neck warrant states that "Ewin being dead, it is supposed Jane Vance is heir at law." Jane Vance was his sister, and next living sibling. He may or may not have moved to Frederick before his law suit against Sarah Jenkins Ewing and Peter Mather: families

traveled between Virginia and Pennsylvania more often than one would think in the eighteenth century for legal, religious and other family reasons.

It is well documented that John's son, William bought land in Frederick County, Virginia in 1737 (See Ewings of Frederick County, Virginia and Fife). According to Ewings of Frederick County, Samuel also moved to Frederick County:

Families of William and Samuel, sons of John the immigrant, moved from Nottingham Township, Chester Co., Pa, down into Frederick Co., Virginia, with Samuel's family later moving on to Kentucky.

Ewings of Frederick Co., p. 10

1796  
However, Samuel must have moved much later than William, and it does not seem likely that he resided in Virginia very long, if at all. He still owned land and registered births of children in Pennsylvania until at least 1787, when he released land to Abraham Hillis, who had married his daughter. Two of his younger sons, William and Thomas, were married in Mercer County in 1790. He died in 1798 in Mercer County, Kentucky. In addition, Elizabeth was Samuel's daughter, but she may not have moved down to Frederick County at any early date, because the Jameson genealogy states that she married John Jameson, and they lived in Little Britain, Chester County, Pennsylvania, until they later moved to Kentucky and Indiana, where John and Elizabeth died in old age in 1821. The Jameson genealogy also states that James Jameson and Elizabeth Ewing Jameson moved to Virginia, and thence to Kentucky in 1798, and thence to Perry County, Indiana in 1820. In assessing the reliability of Elizabeth's information about her family, it would be interesting to know where in Virginia she lived or visited on her way from Little Britain, Pennsylvania to Kentucky in the late eighteenth century.

However, the families of brothers Samuel and William Ewing obviously kept in touch, since one of his daughters married one of his sons: after the death of her first husband, John Carr, Margaret Ewing, daughter of Samuel (son of John (1)), married her cousin, Robert Ewing of Frederick Co. on March 3, 1790, and died at Winchester June 18, 1815.

Ewings of Frederick Co., p.10

Also, Samuel's daughter Elizabeth reported all of the children of William in her conversation with Robert Ewing in 1820.

In addition, several relatives of James also ended up in the Greenbrier, West Virginia area. Joshua eventually moved to Greenbrier County, West Virginia near his uncle James Ewing, only a few years older than him in age. (William was appointed guardian of his brother John's sons Joshua and Thomas upon John's death in 1735. Thomas was a deaf mute, who remained with John's widow, ----. (Fife,--). William's sons John and William also ended up in Greenbrier County with their cousin Joshua, Uncle James, and his



family "Indian John", "Swago Bill" and others. A John Jameson held land on the Jackson River in 1760 adjoining James Ewing (and Samuel's daughter Elizabeth married a John Jameson). There are numerous other family intermarriages reported by Jean McClure in her article. (McClure, Journal of Clan Ewing, Vol. I, August 1995, p. 24-28, passim).

#### 1. Bath County:

James Ewing, pioneer of Greenbrier County, West Virginia was born in 1721: He died in 1801. He did not leave a will, but his estate was inventoried, and the inventory was filed in the Bath County Courthouse, and was dated 14 July, 1801. Powell says that he was about 79 years of age, which is a probably a guess (highly accurate as it turns out) based on the birth of his first child, Jennie Ann around 1740. There are an elaborate set of age assumptions that can be made in the James Ewing of Greenbrier family because of the accounts of the Clenndennin Massacre, which give the ages of Jennie's daughter, Jane, who was four years old in 1763, and the age of her visiting brother, Indian John, who was 16.

James Ewing of Greenbrier, the youngest son of John, reported in the Elizabeth letter to have been born in 1720, may have moved to the Valley of Virginia around 1740. He would have been 19 in 1740 or 20 in 1741, which would explain why he would be likely to be seeking land. Land records show that James of Greenbrier, the youngest son of John, begins to appear in Augusta County land records in 1742. It is possible that his appearance in Augusta County in the 1740's, just at the time that the area around Staunton was being settled by many new Scotch Irish immigrants, brought over by such land speculators as John Lewis, led to the stories that he immigrated to Augusta County from Ireland around that time (see Powell book, quoting the memory book of Indian John). However, James may have migrated from Pennsylvania, rather than immigrating from Ireland in 1740. If he was born in America in 1720 as Elizabeth states, it would make quite a bit of sense that he migrated from Pennsylvania down the Valley (like so many other Pennsylvania Scotch Irish), following the earlier migration of his brother William, and even passing through Stephensburg, (below Winchester), where his brother William had settled several years earlier. It also makes sense that after a time, he might have continued on down the valley to Bath County, where land was just being settled and was easier to acquire.

Evidence from land records to establish James in Bath and later in Greenbrier County, Virginia have been described by Powell. Included below are substantiations from several county histories. James can first be established in Bath County, Virginia in 1745: The History of Pocohontas County (p. 279) reports that James Ewing was an early settler of Bath County, Virginia on the Jackson River at Muddy Run, where a survey was made for him in April 1745 for 254 acres. Early pioneers seldom chose tracts of less than 200 acres, proving that they were from a substantial class of men. (Annals of Bath County, p. 18). Names on the survey

around the same time are: William Jackson, Adam Dickerson, James Ewing, William Jameison, and Archibald Elliot. (Annals of Bath Co., p 16-17). The surveys in the Lewis grant were patented by the first occupants, or by their successors. (Annals of Bath Co., p. 25). The first deeds for the Lewis grants were issued mainly in April and July, 1745 in Orange County, Virginia. ("Indian John" reports that he was born in Orange County in 1747. There has been some family disagreement about whether this was Orange County, Va. or N.C., and how this was remembered or recorded by John in his memory book. I think that these land records speak to the Orange Co., Va. side, since James was known to be either in Bath or Greenbrier Counties both before and after his birth. In addition, Orange County, North Carolina was not formed until ----, while Augusta County, Virginia was formed from part of Orange County Virginia in ----). The survey for James Ewing for 254 acres on the Jackson River at Muddy River was issued by patent in 1760 to Archibald Armstrong. (Annals of Bath Co., p. 27-29).

James Ewing acquired more land the next year, on April 1746, on the Lewis Survey at the Cowpasture on Jackson's River in Bath County. (Annals of Bath County, p. 16-17). Annals of Bath County explains that not all the original claimants were actual settlers on the Lewis survey, but lived on the Beverley or Bordon grants and took lands here for speculation for their sons. This seems to be the case with the Crockett, Davis, Donally, Miller and Preston families. (Annals of Bath Co. p. 169). However, many of James Ewing's neighbors on the Jackson River were those who later appear as his neighbors in Pocohontas County. Archibald Clendennin, for instance, lived near James in Bath County, Virginia. Archibald Clendennin Jr. married James's daughter, Jeanet Ann. Archibald Sr. had 360 acres surveyed for him in today's Greenbrier Co. near Lewisburg, West Va. After Archibald Sr's death in 1760, the land went to Archibald Jr., who lived there with his wife, Jennie Ann Ewing Clendennin. This was the location of the Clendennin Massacre. (History of Pocohontas County, p. 279).

Also, Mays and Edwards are surnames of families known to have lived in the Cowpasture/Jackson River settlement west of Staunton, Virginia, at the same time that James Ewing lived there. In March, 1746, a survey was done by Thomas and Andrew Lewis in the vicinity of Griffith Knob near the Cowpasture River for James Mayse. (Annals of Bath, p. 15-16). In the Lewis grant was also done a survey for Edwards. (Annals of Bath, p. 25. It is interesting that families by the same family names as James of Greenbrier's first and second wives both lived in Bath County at the same time as James did, providing another speculative link to the Elizabeth letter (however, this should be further researched).

#### B. Greenbrier Company/Pocohontas County

James seems to have moved west from Jackson River, Bath County to Knapps (Ewings Creek), West Virginia before 1751. His two holdings were probably only about twelve miles apart (see current map). According to the county history of Pocohontas County, West



Virginia, "James Ewing built a cabin, brought his family, cleared the land, planted crops and left progeny there." (History of Pocohontas Co., p. 279), and this is verified in further detail in Powell/Hanks book.

That James Ewing was an early settler on land surveyed by the Greenbrier Company in what is now Pocohontas County is made clear in the survey for the Greenbrier Company, made by Thomas Lewis, brother of the noted Andrew Lewis, on October 5, 1751: the first call of that survey was "from the bank of Ewing's Creek." (Ewing's Creek is now Knapps Creek in Pocohontas County near Marlinton, West Virginia). Another call of this survey was "over the top of Ewing's house." James Ewing appears to have been one of the first permanent settlers in that part of the Greenbrier River County, and was there before the Greenbrier survey (as evidenced by his house being there when the land was formally surveyed). (History of Pocohontas County, p. 279).

James Ewing also had 370 acres surveyed for him October 22, 1751, at Locust Bottoms, but he never occupied those lands. Locust Creek was later settled by another Ewing, Joshua, but according to History of Pocohontas Co., p. 279, "it is not known if he was a relative." However, this was probably the Joshua, son of John Ewing and Sarah Jenkins Ewing. This would make him a nephew to James Ewing, but since James would have been a young boy when Joshua was born, they would have been very close in age. (McClure, Journal of Clan Ewing, Volume 1, August 1995, p. 26).

By the end of 1754, Andrew and Thomas Lewis had surveyed more than 50,000 acres in the Greenbrier Valley. J.T. McAllister, in a Department of Archives Report, 1914, says that most of the settlers, numbering some 50 families, who had taken up lands by 1753, resided on Anthony's Creek, Howard's Creek, Spring Lick Creek, Muddy Creek, Knapp's (eq. Ewing's) Creek, in the locality known as the Sinks, and along the Greenbrier itself. Among these pioneers, says McAllister, were the families of John Keeney, James Burnsides, Thomas Campbell, Samuel Carroll, Archibald Clendennin, Andrew Lewis, George Frederick and John See, Matthias and Felty Yocum, Lemuel Howard, James Ewing, Patrick Davis, William Renick and John and Robert Fulton. (History of Pocohontas Co., p. 279).

Archibald Clendennin, Jr. married Jeanet Ann, daughter of James Ewing. Archibald Clendennin Sr., father of Archibald Jr., had 360 acres surveyed in what is now Greenbrier County, West Virginia, near Lewisburg. After Archibald Sr.'s death in 1760, the land went to Archibald Jr. who married Jeanet Ann Ewing. Archibald Jr. and Jeanet Ann settled on this land, and began to raise a family. Archibald Jr. was killed, and Jeanet Ann and her daughter Jane and her brother John were captured on July 15, 1763, the date of the Clendennin Massacre. (History of Pocohontas Co., p. 279). (This massacre is described in the photocopied articles, attached as an appendix) \* \* \* \*

After the Clendennin massacre, the Greenbrier Valley was

devoid of population until 1769. No doubt, James Ewing and his family fled to the old settlement on the Jackson River. (History of Pocohontas Co., p. 279).

There had been an earlier Indian incursion in 1755 when the Indians descended on small Fort Greenbrier at Marlinton, which had set settlers flying. No doubt, James flew too; otherwise his son William, born Dec. 24, 1756 might have had the honor of being the first white child born in the present confines of Pocohontas Co. (History of Pocohontas Co., p. 279).

In 1770, James Ewing was back in Greenbrier County. That was the year he turned over his claim on Ewing's Creek near Frost to Moses Moore for one steel trap and 2 pounds sterling. This is the last transaction or knowledge involving James (in Pocohontas Co.) (History of Pocohontas Co., p. 279).

#### Who Did James Ewing of Greenbrier marry?

There is a tradition that the James of Greenbrier was married to Margaret Sergeant. This tradition has been picked up by various Ewing family genealogists. On the basis of this tradition, Donald Brown Ewing wrote the genealogy of the Greenbrier James Ewing family, Our Ewings in America, 1740-1966: James and Margaret Sergeant Ewing of Pocohontas and Greenbrier Counties, Virginia; [Indian] John and Ann Smith Ewing of Greenbrier County, Virginia and Ewington, Ohio; William [Swago] and Mary McNeill Ewing of Greenbrier County, Virginia. . . Donald Brown Ewing states that "In 1740, James emigrated from Ireland to the state of Virginia, where he soon met and married Margaret Sergeant. The wedding took place in Stoverston, Virginia most probably in the year 1741, for their oldest child appears to have been born in 1742. Margaret was also born in Ireland of Scottish parents. She is said to have lived to be 100 years old. They went to live in the wild hilly country of Pocahontas County, Virginia, later a part of West Virginia." (p. 8). Of James, he says: "James was born of Scottish parents in Londonderry in 1720...perhaps James was the grandson of one of the six stalwart Ewing brothers." (p. 8). IGI records of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church) report the marriage of James Ewing to Margaret Sergeant in Stoverton, Virginia in 1740. (It would be worth checking their source, although since the Ewing genealogy by Donald Brown Ewing is at the (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake, Utah, it may well be the source of the IGI record).

Donald Brown Ewing, born in the 1880's, is a descendant of James Ewing of Greenbrier County, West Virginia through his son William Swago Ewing: Donald Brown Ewing (188?)<sup>6</sup>, Robert Brown Ewing (1860)<sup>5</sup>, John R. Ewing (1832)<sup>4</sup>, George Ewing (1807)<sup>3</sup>, William "Swago" Ewing (1756)<sup>2</sup>, James Ewing (c. 1720)<sup>1</sup>. However, Donald Brown Ewing cites neither documents, nor documentable family tradition to support the marriage of James Ewing to Margaret

Sergeant. Also, some descendants of James now discount this family tradition:

"The name of James wife is not known. It was once thought to be, and widely published as, Margaret Sergeant, but no one seems to know where that came from and there are no records to back it up. Most family historians discount it as fact today." Hist of Pocohontas Co., W.Va., p. 279).

Family papers of the 19th century family genealogist A.E. Ewing, show that A.E. Ewing originally proposed this theory about James's wife, but later, himself, discounted it as a mix-up stemming from the Nathaniel Ewing family in which Nathaniel's son Dr. John Ewing married----Sergeant.

In various accounts of the Clendennin Massacre and other family accounts, it is speculated that James Ewing's first child, Jeanet Ann Ewing, must have been born about 1740. None of the surveys done in the Lewis grant were completed until 1746. Therefore, perhaps the Mays and even perhaps the Edwards, families known to have lived in the Cowpasture/Jackson River settlement west of Staunton, Virginia, at the same time that James Ewing lived there, may have moved with him to the Jackson River. It would not be unusual that a number of these families knew each other before they moved to the Lewis grant from some other locality. I must admit, I have sometimes secretly speculated whether Jennie Ann could have been from an earlier marriage because there seems to be an age gap in some of the charts between her and Indian John-- This could be explained by the births of Elizabeth and Susan Jane which could have taken place in between. However, it seems more likely that Elizabeth and Susan Jane were born between Indian John and Swago Bill. In the Elizabeth letter, however, these five children of James are named together as a family--in this case, as a family of the first wife, Sarah Mays. Therefore, unless James was married to a Margaret Sergeant before his "first" marriage to Sarah Mays, as reported in the Elizabeth letter, then I think the tradition that his first wife was Sarah Mays is better documented. In the absence of other documentary proof, either in favor of his marriage to Margaret, or in support of his marriage to Sarah Mays, the following argument can be made about the marriage to Sarah Mays: 1. His niece reported it in 1820. 2. The Mays are a known family in the valley of Virginia.

Another family tradition, naming, may help tie James to the John of Carnshanaugh family. Ewings are famous for using the same given names over and over again. This is not unusual, and often confuses the genealogist when he/she is looking for individuals. However, it may aid the genealogist in speculating which families are related. In the family of John Ewing the immigrant, there is one female naming pattern which may help further establish whether James Ewing was descended from the immigrant John. The name Janet is not usual in other Ewing families.

John Ewing married twice, both times to women with the given name Janet: Jennet Wilson in 1664, and Janet McElvaney second. James and Jennet Wilson Ewing had a daughter Jean. James and Jeanet McElvaney Ewing did not have any daughters named Janet (there was only one daughter named Mary). However, two of John's three sons, William and James of Greenbrier had daughters named Janet after their grandmother: William and Elizabeth Tharp Ewing had Jannie (Janet, Jane). James and Sarah Mays Ewing had Jeanet Ann (Jennie, Annie). Also, Samuel and Margaret McMichael (McMeekin) had a daughter named Annie or Anna. James of Greenbrier's daughter was sometime called Annie. James's daughter, Jeanet Ewing Clendennin had a daughter named Jane. His son "Indian" John had a daughter named Janet (who married Levi Howell) who was named for her Aunt Jeanet Ann Ewing. (Pocohantas, p. 280)

Finally, in the Ellsworth Ewing chart for John, Ellsworth documents the family as reported in the 1820 report by Elizabeth Ewing Jamieson, including James, married to Sarah Mays, with children Jennie, John and William. In the absence of further proof, the Greenbrier James family, connected in the Ellsworth charts to James of Prince Edward County, Va. belongs on the John chart under his son James.

#### **The Life of James Ewing: A Theoretical Outline:**

James Ewing, youngest son of John Ewing, Sr. was born in America February 14, 1721 and died in 1801, being 80 years old. He married first Sarah Mays who bore him three children, William, John and Jennie (Elizabeth letter). Hanks/Powell add two other daughters, Elizabeth, who married a Daugherty, and Susan Jane, who married Moses Moore in 1786, but soon parted.

Jennie Ann Ewing was born around 1740, and no later than 1742. There are an elaborate set of age assumptions that can be made in the James Ewing of Greenbrier family because of the accounts of the Clendennin Massacre, which give the ages of Jennie's daughter, Jane, who was four years old in 1763, and the age of her visiting brother, Indian John, who was 16. Jennie was probably about 17 to 19 years of age when her first child Jane was born. James was probably about 19 to 21 years of age when Jennie Ann was born.

There was a long gap in births before the birth of Indian John in 1747 (this can be dated fairly accurately because John was said to be 16 in 1763 at the time of the Clendennin Massacre). Perhaps there were other children who died. Perhaps James did have a third wife (his first, "Margaret Sargeant"). Perhaps Elizabeth and Susan Jane were born in that gap, but that does not seem as likely as that they were born in the gap between John and William.

William "Swago Bill" Ewing was born in 1756. It seems likely that Elizabeth who married a Daugherty and Susan Jane were born about 1750 and 1753: these are just guesses, but will be used to determine ages for the rest of this theoretical outline.

James Ewing's wife, Sarah Mays, must have died between 1756 (William is the last born child named in James and Sarah Mays Ewing's family) and 1760. There is an Augusta Marriage Bond (see photocopy from printed book) for a James Ewing and illegible in 1761. The illegible must have been Sarah Edwards. James and his second wife Sarah Edwards had five children (Elizabeth letter): James Jr., Edward, Sallie (Sarah?), Mary and Robert. These children seem to have been born between 1761 or 1762 and about 1770. James Jr. may have been the first child. But one thing we do know is that Edward Ewing enlisted in the American troops in the American Revolution under Col. (S.) A. Buford in April, 1779. He died at the defeat at Waxsaws on 28 May, 1780. Buford says he served three years (perhaps more than one enlistment?). In any case, his death at an early age makes it easy to estimate that to be old enough to serve, he had to have been born in the early 1760's (Fife).

In 1761 when James married for the second time, the children of his first marriage would have been the following ages: Jeanet Ann, 19, and married several years to Archibald Clenneddennin; John, 14; Elizabeth, 11; Susan Jane, 8; and William, 5. Two years later when the Clenneddennin Massacre occurred, it would not be surprising that John, 16, was staying with his sister. For one thing, he was nearly grown. For another, there were one or two new babies in James and Sarah Edwards Ewings house, as well as Jeanet's and John's younger siblings. In 1765, when John came home from captivity with Jeanet's daughter Jane, she seems to have been living with her father again. That is, Jeanet fled from the Greenbrier like most of the settlers to the earlier settlement on the Jackson River, only about 15 or so miles away. And in 1770, James traded his property on Ewing --Knapp--Creek for money and a steel trap. I doubt he lived in Greenbrier after his new marriage. Perhaps this would account for his trading his property for such small amounts of money/and traps.

In 1771, Sarah Edwards may have died, if the Boutetourt County record, a bond, vs. James Ewing because his children were not bound out by law, regards this James Ewing (Bath and Botetourt County, as well as Bath and Greenbrier and Greenbrier and Pocohontas Counties, all had shifting borders at this time). James Ewing's son, James Ewing, Jr., who inherited Edward Ewing's property after he was killed at Waxsaws, was from Botetourt County, which may indicate that the entire second family settled there. The fact that James's children were bound out means that James Ewing's wife was deceased, and that James could not care for all his children. How old were the children in 1771: Elizabeth would have been 21 (but may already have been married to a Daugherty); Susan Jane would have been 18; William, 15, and as Powell pointed out, he must have left home right around this time; and there were the 5 children of Sarah Edwards Ewing who were all under the age of 10. If Susan Jane was an unmarried young woman of around 21, perhaps she just could not cope with 5 children under the age of 10 all by herself (also Susan Jane's date of birth is just a guess, and she could have been younger).



The inventory of James Ewing was filed in Bath County in 1801. He was 80 years of age when he died. James, who had been a landowner, who had built at least two cabins, did not own much property when he died: a horse, a gun, a saddle, some clothing and blankets. By the time James died, his children were grown up and perhaps he had already disbursed his land and other property to them. This inventory also suggests that his wife pre-deceased him, and that he was no longer maintaining a home.