

The Early Ewing Families of Augusta County, Virginia: Part I

William W. Sproul, III (+1 304.645.5332, *Sproul3 at verizon dot net*)

In the early Western Virginia settlement period of the mid-1700s, most of the area from the Blue Ridge to the Mississippi was Augusta County, Virginia. There were at least three early James Ewing settlers in Augusta County plus a Joshua Ewing settler, all with large families using similar names and living in close proximity within this area:

- James Ewing of Monroe County (c1722 – <1800)
lower Greenbrier River area — Indian and Turkey Creeks
- James Ewing of Pocahontas County (1720 – 1801)
upper Greenbrier River — Ewing/Knapp Creek
- Joshua Ewing of Pocahontas County (1734 – 1810)
upper Greenbrier River — Locust Bottom
- Captain James Ewing (c1721 – 1796)
Staunton and Middlebrook areas

I have developed a discussion of these four Ewing families whose overlapping records of the 1700s and early 1800s in the Augusta County area cause so much confusion. Source documentation is identified where available, providing references for further investigations. Only an overview of the Pocahontas James and Joshua Ewing families is included in the manuscript since these families are well-known and have been well-documented previously. The Monroe-county James Ewing family and the Staunton-area Capt. James Ewing family genealogies both are newly developed. The first is presented in this article; the second will be presented in a future *Journal* article. The full manuscript will be available on the web site with transcriptions of reference material.

The James Ewing Family of Indian and Turkey Creeks in Monroe County, West Virginia

James Ewing was an early settler of what is now Monroe County, West Virginia. He is most probably of the Scots-Irish Ewing families of Northern Ireland, but no evidence has been found proving this. He simply appeared, with full family, settling land on the Indian and Turkey Creeks in Monroe County about 1770. That area was in Augusta County or became part of the newly-established Botetourt County (1770), subsequently becoming Greenbrier County (1778), and then Monroe County (1799). The arrival of James Ewing to the Monroe County area was not noted since that area was sparsely populated and beyond most governmental cognizance. The marriage of his daughter Susanna to William Sproul in Augusta County in 1773 is recorded, so the family was in the vicinity by then. His first land record there (Greenbrier County at that time) was in 1787 "by virtue of a certificate in right of settlement," meaning he established occupancy of the land some time prior to June 15, 1782.

His wife's name has not been found. But there were ten children in this James of Monroe family, all well documented in records mostly found in the Monroe County Court House in Union, West Virginia. Using the spelling appearing in the will, these ten children of James Ewing of Monroe County were:

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Oliver Ewing		1823		no heirs, Monroe Co
Susanna (Ewing) Sproull [sic]	c1755	1806	William Sproul, 1773	had heirs
James Ewing	1738	1807		had heirs, Augusta Co, Va
Fanny (Ewin [sic]) Ewing		<1818	_____ Ewing	had heirs
Sidney (Ewing) McNutt	c1761	<1818	Lt. James McNutt, 1781	had heirs, Ohio
Samuel Ewing		1815	Isabella McNutt, 1790	Monroe Co
Joseph Ewing		1822		Monroe Co
John Ewing		<1818	Sarah Davis, 1787	had heirs
William 'Turkey Bill' Ewing		Feb. 1818		no heirs, Monroe Co
Jean (Ewing) Patterson		1830	Matthew Patterson	no heirs

These ten siblings are specifically identified in the will of Oliver¹ (died 1823). The will of William² and estate appraisals of Samuel³ and Joseph⁴ give further information. Primary source documentation

¹ Monroe County, West Virginia, Will Book 2, p.196-198, 17, *Oliver Ewing Will*, written Jan 1818, probated June 1823. Oliver was a son of Settler James Ewing. The transcription is from the original will; spelling has been maintained; punctuation has been added.

My last Will and Testament in Maner and form following that is to say:

1st I Desire that All My Just debts and Funeral Expenses Be Paid Out of My Stock; to Wit Cattle and Horses –

2^{ndly} I give My Nefew Oliver Ewing, Son of My Brother Samuel Ewing My Two Negro boys, Moses and Wilson, to him And his heirs forever –

3^{rdly} I give to My Nees Sidney Ewing, Daughter of My Brother Samuel Ewing, My Negro Girl Named Sue

4^{thly} I give to Fanny Ewin, Daughter of My Brother Joseph Ewing, My Negro Woman Lucy –

5^{thly} I give to Gean Charlton, Daughter of My Sister Fanny Ewing, My Negro Girl, Winney, To them and Their Heirs for Ever With their increase if any the Shout heave –

6^{thly} I give to My Brother William Ewing One dollar Current And lawful Money of the United States –

7^{thly} I give to the Heirs of My Brother James Ewing One dollar Current and lawful Money of the United States –

8^{thly} I give to My Sister Gean Patterson One dollar Current and lawful Money of the United States –

9^{thly} I give to the Heirs of my Sister Fanny Ewing One dollar Current and lawful Money of the United States –

10^{thly} I give to the Heirs of my Sister Susana Sproull One dollar Current and lawful Money of the United States –

11^{thly} I give to My Brother Joseph Ewing One dollar Current and lawful Money of the United States –

12^{thly} I give to the Heirs of My Brother John Ewing One dollar Current and lawful Money of the United States –

13^{thly} I give to the heirs of My Sister Sidney McNutt One dollar Current and lawful Money of the United States –

All the Rest of My Estate of What Nature and kind source[?] It May Be Not herein[?] before Particularly disposed if, I desire May Be Equally Divided Amongst My legaters Herein Before Named to which I give them, their heirs, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns forever –

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint My friends Isaac Hanly and Joseph Ewing, Son of My Brother Samuel Ewing, Executors of this My last Will and testament, hereby revoking All other former Wills or Testaments By Me heretofore Made –

In witness Where of I have hereunto Set My hand and afixed My Seal this Seventh day of January, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighteen –

Sealed, Signed, Published, and declaired as and for the last Will and testament of the above Named Oliver Ewing in the Presence of Us

Andrew Walker
John W Tackitt

Oliver Ewing {seal}

Outside: *Ewing, Oliver Will*
Record Examined
Book No 2 page 198

exists for most of the family listing above, verifying most of the first generation and family structure. Each of these children and their families are addressed in the following sections. The *Summary of References* section on page 36 identifies the nature of all of the sources for the data presented here.

Descendents of James Ewing of Monroe County

Oliver Ewing

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Oliver Ewing ¹		1823 ¹		no heirs, ¹ Monroe Co ¹

The will of Oliver Ewing¹ provides the most complete record of the family of settler James Ewing of Monroe County. This 1818 will identifies the ten children of settler James Ewing of Monroe County. It identifies his four children who were alive in 1818 and which of his children had heirs. Oliver was one of the few of that family that remained in Monroe County, being recorded there in the 1810 Census with himself and one female, both over 45, and again in the 1820 Census, then with a male of eighteen to twenty-six living with them. When he died in 1823, his will was probated in Monroe County and mentions all of his siblings but no wife or direct heirs, so he is presumed to have had no descendents. However, although he had no direct descendents, he did have at least four nephews named Oliver, two being Ewing and two being sons of his sisters, thus rendering records mentioning Oliver sometimes ambiguous. His appraisal lists his estate, valued at \$1,155.12.⁵

Susanna Sproul⁶

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Susanna Ewing ¹	c1755	1806 ⁷	William Sproul, ¹ 1773	had heirs ¹
Jean Sproul ⁸	Feb 24, 1775	1837	John Weir	Raphine, Va
Sidney Sproul ⁸	May 11, 1776	<1817	Joseph Beard	local
Mary Sproul ⁸	Jan 21, 1778	>1825	died single	Locust Grove
Joseph Sproul ⁸	Aug 15, 1779	>1822	Rachael Davis	Stanford, Lincoln Co, Ky

Table continued on next page.

² Monroe County, West Virginia, Will Book 1, p. 379-80 *William Ewing; Will*, 7 Dec 1816, probated 17 Mar 1818. William was a son of Settler James Ewing. His brother, Joseph, appears to have at least one more child born after this will was written. This is a Samuel as evidenced by the family tree cited in footnote 20.

To brother Joseph of same county and his heirs, viz six sons and 2 daughters whose names are as follows in order of age: Robert Ewing, William Ewing, Joseph Ewing, Oliver Ewing, John Ewing, James Ewing, Fanny Ewing, Sidney Ewing

Exec: brother Joseph and Oliver his son

Wit: John Perry, James Ewing, Oliver Ewing

³ Monroe County, West Virginia, Court House Records: *Samuel Ewing 1815 Appraisal*

⁴ Monroe County, West Virginia, Court House Records: *Joseph Ewing 1822 Appraisal*

⁵ Monroe County, West Virginia, Will Book 2, p.208: *Oliver Ewing Appraisal*

Nov 7, 1823 \$1,155.12

⁶ Sproul, William. *Early Western Virginia "Sproul" Families*. Available online at <http://www.sproulfamily.net>

⁷ Airy Knoll Cemetery, Augusta County, Virginia

Gravestone Inscription: *William Sproul & Susannah his wife Died 1806*

⁸ *William and Susanna Sproul Family Bible*

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Oliver Sproul ⁸	Dec 15, 1780	>1825	Mary Davis	Frankfort, Ky
Martha Sproul ⁸	Dec 10, 1782	1859	Robert Hutcheson	Brownsburg, Va
John Sproul ⁸	Mar 28, 1784	1749	Matilda King Scott	Locust Grove
Fanny Sproul ⁸	Jan 29, 1786	1867	Thomas Thompson	Swoope, Va
Samuel Sproul ⁸	Jul 19, 1789	<1817, while finishing education		Locust Grove
Charles Sproul ⁸	Sep 28, 1792	1817	Margaret Humphreys	Frankfort, Ky

William Sproul was a Scots-Irishman from County Donegal who is first recorded in 1754 in the upper Cowpasture River area, not far from where Pocahontas James was located on the Jackson River at that time. Susanna Ewing married William in 1773, establishing the earliest known date by which the James Ewing family was documented in the area. Susanna and William lived at their Locust Grove farm, near Middlebrook, Virginia. The Sproul Family Bible⁸ records the children of Susanna, beginning in 1775. The 1773 marriage of William Sproul was recorded in now-lost Augusta County records cited in Chalkley's *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*⁹ although the name of the bride is not listed. A great deal is known about this family and each of its lines, all well-documented in *Early Western Virginia "Sproul" Families*,⁶ by this author.

James Ewing

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
James Ewing ¹	1738 ¹⁰	1807 ¹¹		had heirs, ¹ Augusta Co, Va ¹¹
James Ewing Jr.			Mary Hunter, 1795, Rev Arch Scott	
Anne Ewing			Thomas Deverick 1815	
Mary Ewing			George K. Harris 1820, (2 nd) Isaac Johns -> Illinois	
Jane Ewing (?)				
Other Heirs ¹				

This James Ewing is believed to have moved to the Middlebrook, Virginia, area of Augusta County, living near his sister Susanna. There he lived to the age of sixty-nine and was buried in the North Mountain Meeting House Cemetery in 1807. Because this 'North Mountain' James family has been recently identified (previously confused with the Capt. James of Staunton family) and not positively documented to be of the Monroe family, his records are addressed separately in the section *James Ewing of North Mountain Cemetery, Augusta County, Virginia, near Staunton/Middlebrook* on page 31.

Fanny Ewing

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Fanny Ewing ¹		<1818 ¹	_____ Ewing ¹	had heirs ¹ Table continued on next page.

⁹ Chalkley, Lyman. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*. Available online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~chalkley> Additionally, Appendix A contains an abstracted listing solely of [Ewings in Chalkley's Chronicles](#).

¹⁰ North Mountain Cemetery, Augusta County, Virginia

Gravestone Inscription: *In memory of James Ewing who departed this life April 14, 1807, aged 69 years. He was an affectionate husband, an indulgent parent, a good member of society.*

¹¹ Augusta County, Virginia, Will Book: *James Ewing 1806 Appraisal*

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Jean Ewing ¹	1781	1855	Joseph Charlton, 1807 ^{12,13}	Line to Present Available
Oliver Charlton ^{12,13}	1810	1888		
Thomas Charlton ^{12,13}	1812	1888		
Frances Charlton ^{12,13}			single	
James Ewing Charlton ^{12,13}			Wilda Bell Boslee	
Letty Charlton ^{12,13}	1818	>1880		
Jane Charlton ^{12,13}	1820	>1870	single	
Joseph P. Charlton ^{12,13}	1822	1858	Lydia Keeney	
Other Heirs ¹				

Fanny Ewing must have married a Ewing cousin, thus keeping her Ewing name since her brother Oliver's will mentions "I give to Gean Charlton, Daughter of My Sister Fanny Ewing...", and her sister Janet Patterson's 1814 will mentions "to her sister's daughter Janet Ewing now Janet Charlton...." Fanny had other heirs since Oliver's 1818 will mentions "to the Heirs of my Sister Fanny Ewing ...," in addition to the mention of her daughter Gean. While there is little known about Fanny, her daughter Jean in 1807 married Joseph Charlton in 1807. Their family includes a James Ewing Charlton and another Oliver; this family has been documented in detail and referenced to source material by Mary Bess-Boswell in *Descendants of Joseph Perry Charlton*¹² as well as being briefly noted in Oren F. Morton's *History of Monroe County*.¹³

Sidney McNutt

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Sidney Ewing ^{1,14}	c1761	<1818 ¹	Lt. James McNutt, ^{1,14} 1781 ¹⁵	had heirs, ¹ Ohio
James McNutt ¹⁴	c1780	>1833	Mary Laverty	
Joseph McNutt ¹⁴	c1781	>1833		Ohio
John McNutt ¹⁴	c1783	>1833	_____ Rossel	Ohio
(Female) McNutt ¹⁴	1783		James Blair	Illinois
Ewing McNutt ¹⁴	c1787	<1829	Mary _____	Indiana
Samuel H. McNutt ¹⁴	1788	>1833	Mary Susanna Blair, Susanna Jeffries	Indiana
Rhoda Lyle McNutt ¹⁴	1789		Michael Blair, 1833	Illinois
Frances 'Fanny' McNutt ¹⁴	c1800	<1833	Samuel Blair	Illinois
Jane McNutt ¹⁴	1798	>1833	Michael Blair, 1816	Illinois
Oliver McNutt ¹⁴	c1801	1854	Mary Jordan, 1821	Indiana
Nancy McNutt ¹⁴	1803	1860	John Martin Laverty	Iowa

The family of Sidney and Lt. James McNutt are most thoroughly documented and referenced in Laura Cooper's *The McNutt Family of Monroe County, West Virginia*.¹⁴ Married in 1781, they remained in Monroe County for about twenty-five years before migrating to Madison County, Ohio, along with others including Charles and John Ewing. Their children subsequently continued the migration, settling in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.

¹² [Bess-Boswell, Mary. *Descendants of Joseph Perry Charlton*.](#)

¹³ Morton, Oren F. *A History of Monroe County, West Virginia*, Ruebush-Elkins Co., Dayton, Virginia, 1916. Available online at Google Book Search (books.google.com).

¹⁴ [Cooper, Laura. *The McNutt Family of Monroe County, West Virginia*. Available online at \[www.mcnuttfamily.org\]\(http://www.mcnuttfamily.org\)](#)

¹⁵ Greenbrier County, West Virginia, Marriage Record: 1781 Sidney Ewing & James McNutt

Samuel Ewing

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Samuel Ewing ^{1,14}		1815 ³	Isabella McNutt, ¹⁴ 1790 ¹⁶	Monroe Co ³
Joseph Ewing ¹		>1847	Martha _____ ¹⁷	
Sidney Ewing ¹	1791	c1855 ^{18,19}	_____ Alford	Lewis Co, Mo
Oliver Ewing ¹	1796	1886	Mary 'Polly' Legg ¹³	Lewis Co, Mo
Thomas B. Ewing ²⁰	1835	1886	Mary E. Jones	
Charles Ewing ²⁰	1864	1953	Mary Graham	
Robert Ewing ²¹				
John Ewing ²¹	1797	1842	Isabelle Berry Matthews, ¹⁴ 1829	Lewis Co, Mo
Susan Jane Ewing ²⁰	1831	1860	John Mell Howell	
Joseph Howell ²⁰	1852	1916	Mary C. Shouse	

Samuel remained in Monroe County and, in 1790, married Isabella McNutt, sister of Lt. James McNutt who in 1781 had married Samuel's sister Sidney. This family of Samuel and Isabella is also well-documented and referenced in Laura Cooper's *The McNutt Family of Monroe County, West Virginia*.¹⁴ They had at least five children: Joseph, Sidney, and Oliver, mentioned in Oliver's 1818 will, and Robert and John, mentioned in an 1820 deed as "sons of Samuel, dec'd." At least three of these children migrated to Lewis County, Missouri. The children of Oliver and John have been identified through an old handwritten family tree²⁰ of uncertain origin provided by Dr. Wallace Ewing. This tree depicts four lines of the Monroe Ewing family that went to Lewis County, Missouri. These are the lines of Oliver and John, sons of Samuel, and William and Samuel, sons of Joseph.

Joseph Ewing

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Joseph Ewing ¹		1822 ⁴		Monroe Co ⁴
Sidney Ewing ²	c1789		William Nelson, ²² 1818 ²³	
Margaret Nelson				

Table continued on next page.

¹⁶ Greenbrier County, West Virginia, Court House Records: *Marriage Bonds and Consents* [Currently held by Greenbrier Historical Society.]

¹⁷ Monroe County, West Virginia, Order Book A: *1813 Sale from Joseph and Martha Ewing to John McNutt*

¹⁸ Census 1850

¹⁹ Census 1860

²⁰ [Handwritten family tree of Monroe Ewings in Lewis County, Missouri. From Dr. Wallace Ewing's papers.](#)

²¹ Monroe County, West Virginia, Deed Book G: 1820 Deeds note John and Robert as sons of Samuel Ewing, dec'd.

²² Monroe County, West Virginia, Will Book 1: *Oliver Ewing 1847 Will*. Oliver was a son of Joseph who was a son of Settler James.

Devisees:

1st to sisters, Frances Ewing and Sidney Nelson; after their death to the children of brothers Joseph and John Ewing.

2nd to sister Frances Ewing (Margaret M. Nelson d/o Sidney is to have foal)

Executor Wm Nelson.

Wit: Wm M. Nelson, Wm F. Nelson

²³ Monroe County, West Virginia, Marriage Bonds

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Frances 'Fanny' Ewing ^{1,2,22}	1790 ²⁴	c1865 ²⁵		Monroe Co
James Ewing ²	c1792	1833 ²⁶	Elizabeth Massy, 1797 ¹⁶	
John Ewing ^{2,22}	1793 ²⁴	c1865 ²⁵		Monroe Co
Oliver Ewing ²	c1799	1847 ²²		Monroe Co ²²
Joseph Ewing ^{2,22}	c1805			
William Ewing ²	1811	1849 Mo.	Elizabeth Creacy	Lewis Co, Mo
Benjamin F. Ewing ²⁰	1845	1933 Ill.	Anna Eliza Herring	
Ella Katherine Ewing ²⁰	1872	1912 Mo.		'Giantess' (8' 4" tall)
George Henry Ewing ²⁰	1849		Caroline Martin	
Florence Eva Ewing ²⁰			____ Schofield	
Samuel J. Ewing ²⁰	1850		Nancy Mell	
John D. Ewing ²⁰	c1890		Elizabeth _____	
Robert Ewing ²		1826 ²⁷		Monroe Co ²⁷
Samuel Ewing ²⁰	1819	<1847 ²²	Jane _____	Lewis Co, Mo

Most of the children of Joseph seem to have remained in Monroe County although William and Samuel migrated to Lewis County, Missouri, probably with their cousins of Samuel's line. The 1847 will of Oliver,²² son of Joseph, reiterated the names of five of that family but adds little additional information. Census data indicates that the siblings Fanny and John lived together in Monroe County until they died about 1865. They were the last of the Ewing family found in Monroe County in the 1800s.

The familial relationship of the Missouri 'Giantess' Ella Katherine Ewing is based on a handwritten family tree,²⁰ of uncertain origin and provided by Dr. Wallace Ewing. This tree — Appendix C in the version of this article available online at the *Ewing Family Association* web site, www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org — depicts four lines of the Monroe Ewing family that went to Lewis County, Missouri. Ella's grandfather was William Ewing, shown here as a son of Joseph. It was believed by an Ewing historian, Nancy Hanks Ewing,²⁸ that Ella's grandfather was another William, son of Oliver. But there is strong evidence in Oliver's 1818 will that he had no children, since he named all nine of his siblings and many of his nephews and nieces, but made no mention of a wife or children of his own. The 1810 Census of Monroe County does list Oliver with a female of equal age (wife, presumably) but no other household members. Thus Ella's grandfather is shown in Joseph's line.

John Ewing

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
John Ewing ¹		<1818 ¹	Sarah Davis, 1787 ²⁹	had heirs ¹

²⁴ Census, 1850

²⁵ Census, 1860

²⁶ Monroe County, West Virginia, Court House Records: *James Ewing 1833 Appraisal/Sale*

²⁷ Monroe County, West Virginia, Court House Records: *Robert Ewing 1826 Sale/Settlement*

²⁸ Ewing, Nancy Hanks (ed. Barbara Ewing Powell). *James Ewing – Pioneer*. Available online at www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document_JamesEwingOfPocahontas.html.

²⁹ Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), *First Marriage Records of Augusta Co, Va. 1784-1813 [Rev Archibald Scott, minister of North Mountain Meeting House]*

Almost nothing is known about this John Ewing. He has not been proven to be the John Ewing who was married to Sarah Davis in 1787 by Rev. Archibald Scott. Rev. Scott was the minister of the North Mountain Meeting House and minister to John's brother James who was buried there as well as father-in-law to one of his sister Susanna's children.

William Ewing

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
William ¹ 'Turkey Bill' ²⁸ Ewing		Feb. 1818 ²		no heirs, ^{1,2} Monroe Co ²

Almost nothing is known about this William Ewing. His will, written in 1816, further identifies the eight children of Joseph in order of age.

Jean Patterson

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Jean (Ewing) Patterson ¹		1814 ³⁰	Matthew Patterson ^{1,13}	Monroe Co, no heirs

James Ewing of North Mountain Cemetery, Augusta County, Virginia, near Staunton/Middlebrook

While the James Ewing, son of the Monroe County James Ewing settler, is believed to be the James buried in the North Mountain Meeting House Cemetery, the evidence of this is circumstantial and not altogether clear. Here is information concerning North Mountain James.

First, the gravesite:

James Ewing Gravestone – North Mountain Cemetery

James Ewing 1738-1807

*In memory of
James Ewing
who departed this life
April 14, 1807
aged 69 years.
He was an affectionate husband,
an indulgent parent,
a good member of society.*



This gravestone identifies a James Ewing in the Middlebrook area who is probably the brother of Susanna Ewing who lived nearby and is of the Monroe Ewing family. The North Mountain Meeting House was one of the early Presbyterian meeting houses located about five miles southwest of Staunton, Virginia, along Route 252 and predecessor to today's Bethel Presbyterian Church. Susanna

³⁰ Monroe County, West Virginia, Court House Records: *Jean Patterson 1814 Will*

married William Sproul — whose first wife had recently died — in 1773 and came to live near Middlebrook, some ten miles southwest of Staunton, Virginia. James appears to have come to this area a few years later. There are no records suggesting that James remained in the Monroe County area, and his brother Oliver's will, written in 1818, mentions "the heirs of brother James Ewing," indicating both that he was dead and that he had heirs. This James is first mentioned in the Middlebrook area in William McPheeter's 1881 List of Tithables. That list also includes Capt. James Ewing of Staunton who had land and lived near Middlebrook.

While no deeds of this James Ewing seem to have been recorded, the Augusta County Land Book from 1792 to 1816, for land tax purposes, lists two parcels of 146 and 150 acres for this James, identified because after 1807 the listing changed to James Ewing "heirs." This would not be confused with land of Capt. James as both he and his son James Jr. died in the late 1790s, and that land went to his son Joseph. In 1816, this listing was changed to the name of Jane Ewing. The Jane of the Capt. James family had died in 1794, so this may be presumed to be a daughter of North Mountain James. No will for this James has been found, but his estate appraisers met at his dwelling and noted "a mare sold by James Ewing jun," thus defining yet another James Ewing! This is fortuitous since having just discovered that the other three local James were dead, one wondered how there could still be a James in the subsequent records.

Both Susanna (Ewing) Sproul and North Mountain James would have attended the North Mountain Meeting House. James was buried there indicating his association. It was the closest meeting house for Susanna and one of her children married the daughter of Archibald Scott, the minister there who also performed the marriage of James Jr. to Mary Hunter in 1795. North Mountain was also the meeting house of the Capt. James Ewing family, although they all were buried at the nearby Glebe Burying Grounds.

The fact that there were four James Ewings living here within a few miles of each other in the Staunton/Middlebrook area creates confusion in the records until each died:

Capt. James Ewing	d. 1796
James Ewing Jr. (son of Capt. James)	d. 1799
James Ewing (North Mountain James)	d. 1807
James Ewing Jr. (son of North Mountain James)	d. after 1820

Year	Records Related to North Mountain James	
1773	Sprowl, William and _____, June 23, 1773 license only. This is presumed to be the marriage license of William and Susanna Ewing of the Monroe James Ewing family. They lived at Locust Grove Farm, near Middlebrook, Virginia.	Ch*
1781	Tithables, 1781; William McPheeter's List, including: Wm. Sprowl, James Ewing, James Sprowl, Alex. Sprowl, James Ewing. One of these James's is probably Capt. James and other is probably North Mountain James.	Ch*
1795	Augusta County Marriage Bond, 15 Dec 1795, Bondsmen James Ewing and William Patterson, Marriage of James Ewing and Mary Hunter. William Patterson was Mary's guardian.	c*
1795	DAR, Col. Thomas Hughart Chapter, First Marriage Record of Augusta County, Va., 1785-1813: James Ewing to Mary Hunter, Rev. Archibald Scott	

Table continued on next page.

1792-1816	Augusta County Land Book, District 1: James Ewing listed for 145/146 acres and 150 acres for 1792 thru 1807. Thereafter same land listed as "James Ewing heirs," until 1816 when same acreage listed as Jane Ewing.	c*
1807	James Ewing Gravestone – North Mountain Cemetery James Ewing 1738-1807 - In memory of James Ewing who departed this life April 14, 1807 aged 69 years. He was an affectionate husband, an indulgent parent, a good member of society	p*
1808	Augusta Co - Will Book 10 1805-1811, p.199-201: Appraisal of estate of James Ewing, decd. April 1808. Total value \$468 Agreeably to an Order of Augusta County to appraise the Estate of James Ewing deceased, We the subscribers met at the late dwelling of the said Ewing and after being duly sworn made the appraisement hereunto annexed, Vizt. inc: a mare sold by James Ewing jun. Given under Our hands this 6th day of April 1808: Jacob Swoope, Robert Hanna, William McCutchen	
1814-1816	Augusta County Land Book, District 1 – James Ewing listed for 172 acres. This was probably James Jr., son of North Mountain James	c*
1815	Augusta County Marriage Bond, 9 April 1815, Bondsmen James Ewing and Thomas Deverick, Marriage of Anne Ewing and Thomas Deverick	c*
1818	Monroe County Will Book 2, p.196-98: Oliver Ewing Will, 17 Jan 1818, probated Jun 1823. Including bequest to "heirs of brother James Ewing."	c*
1820	Augusta County Marriage Bond, 19 June 1820, Bondsmen James Ewing and George Harris, Marriage of Mary Ewing [daughter of James Ewing of Augusta County] and George K. Harris	c*

*Ch - Chalkley's Chronicles

*c - copy available

*p - photo available

North Mountain James Ewing Family

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
James Ewing	1738	1807		buried in North Mountain Meeting House Cemetery, Middlebrook, VA
James Ewing Jr.			Mary Hunter 1795, Rev. Arch Scott	
Anne Ewing			Thomas Deverick, 1815	
Mary Ewing			George K. Harris 1820, (2 nd) Isaac Johns -> Illinois	
Jane Ewing (?)				

Other Heirs

Descendents of James Ewing of Monroe County - Summary

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Oliver Ewing ¹	1823 ¹		no heirs ¹ , Monroe Co ¹	
Susanna Ewing ¹	c1755	1806 ⁷	William Sproul, ¹ 1773	had heirs ¹
Jean Sproul ⁸	Feb 24, 1775	1837	John Weir	Raphine, Va
Sidney Sproul ⁸	May 11, 1776	<1817	Joseph Beard	local
Mary Sproul ⁸	Jan 21, 1778	>1825	died single	Locust Grove

Table continued on next page.

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
Joseph Sproul ⁸	Aug 15, 1779	>1822	Rachael Davis	Stanford, Lincoln Co, Ky
Oliver Sproul ⁸	Dec 15, 1780	>1825	Mary Davis	Frankfort, Ky
Martha Sproul ⁸	Dec 10, 1782	1859	Robert Hutcheson	Brownsburg, Va
John Sproul ⁸	Mar 28, 1784	1749	Matilda King Scott	Locust Grove
Fanny Sproul ⁸	Jan 29, 1786	1867	Thomas Thompson	Swoope, Va
Samuel Sproul ⁸	Jul 19, 1789	<1817, while finishing education		Locust Grove
Charles Sproul ⁸	Sep 28, 1792	1817	Margaret Humphreys	Frankfort, Ky
James Ewing ¹	1738 ¹⁰	1807 ¹¹		had heirs, ¹ Augusta Co, Va ¹¹
James Ewing Jr.			Mary Hunter, 1795, Rev Arch Scott	
Anne Ewing			Thomas Deverick 1815	
Mary Ewing			George K. Harris 1820, (2 nd) Isaac Johns -> Illinois	
Jane Ewing (?)				
Other Heirs ¹				
Fanny Ewing ¹		<1818 ¹	_____ Ewing ¹	had heirs ¹
Jean Ewing ¹	1781	1855	Joseph Charlton, 1807 ^{12,13}	Line to Present Available
Oliver Charlton ^{12,13}	1810	1888		
Thomas Charlton ^{12,13}	1812	1888		
Frances Charlton ^{12,13}			single	
James Ewing Charlton ^{12,13}			Wilda Bell Boslee	
Letty Charlton ^{12,13}	1818	>1880		
Jane Charlton ^{12,13}	1820	>1870	single	
Joseph P. Charlton ^{12,13}	1822	1858	Lydia Keeney	
Other Heirs ¹				
Sidney Ewing ^{1,14}	c1761	<1818 ¹	Lt. James McNutt, ^{1,14} 1781 ¹⁵	had heirs, ¹ Ohio
James McNutt ¹⁴	c1780	>1833	Mary Laverty	
Joseph McNutt ¹⁴	c1781	>1833		Ohio
John McNutt ¹⁴	c1783	>1833	_____ Rossel	Ohio
(Female) McNutt ¹⁴	1783		James Blair	Illinois
Ewing McNutt ¹⁴	c1787	<1829	Mary _____	Indiana
Samuel H. McNutt ¹⁴	1788	>1833	Mary Susanna Blair, (2 nd) Susanna Jeffries	Indiana
Rhoda Lyle McNutt ¹⁴	1789		Michael Blair, 1833	Illinois
Frances 'Fanny' McNutt ¹⁴	c1800	<1833	Samuel Blair	Illinois
Jane McNutt ¹⁴	1798	>1833	Michael Blair, 1816	Illinois
Oliver McNutt ¹⁴	c1801	1854	Mary Jordan, 1821	Indiana
Nancy McNutt ¹⁴	1803	1860	John Martin Laverty	Iowa
Samuel Ewing ^{1,14}		1815 ³	Isabella McNutt, ¹⁴ 1790 ¹⁶	Monroe Co ³
Joseph Ewing ¹		>1847	Martha _____ ¹⁷	
Sidney Ewing ¹	1791	c1855 ^{18,19}	_____ Alford	Lewis Co, Mo
Oliver Ewing ¹	1796	1886	Mary 'Polly' Legg ¹³	Lewis Co, Mo
Thomas B. Ewing ²⁰	1835	1886	Mary E. Jones	
Charles Ewing ²⁰	1864	1953	Mary Graham	
Robert Ewing ²¹				
John Ewing ²¹	1797	1842	Isabelle Berry Matthews, ¹⁴ 1829	Lewis Co, Mo
Susan Jane Ewing ²⁰	1831	1860	John Mell Howell	
Joseph Howell ²⁰	1852	1916	Mary C. Shouse	
Joseph Ewing ¹		1822 ⁴		Monroe Co ⁴
Sidney Ewing ²	c1789		William Nelson, ²² 1818 ²³	
Margaret Nelson				
Frances 'Fanny' Ewing ^{1,2,22}	1790 ²⁴	c1865 ²⁵		Monroe Co

Table continued on next page.

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>	<u>married</u>	<u>notes</u>
James Ewing ²	c1792	1833 ²⁶	Elizabeth Massy, 1797 ¹⁶	
John Ewing ^{2,22}	1793 ²⁴	c1865 ²⁵		Monroe Co
Oliver Ewing ²	c1799	1847 ²²	Monroe Co ²²	
Joseph Ewing ^{2,22}	c1805			
William Ewing ²	1811	1849 Mo.	Elizabeth Creacy	Lewis Co, Mo
Benjamin F. Ewing ²⁰	1845	1933 Ill.	Anna Eliza Herring	
Ella Katherine Ewing ²⁰		1872	1912 Mo.	'Giantess' (8' 4" tall)
George Henry Ewing ²⁰	1849		Caroline Martin	
Florence Eva Ewing ²⁰			Schofield	
Samuel J. Ewing ²⁰	1850		Nancy Mell	
John D. Ewing ²⁰	c1890		Elizabeth _____	
Robert Ewing ²		1826 ²⁷	Monroe Co ²⁷	
Samuel Ewing ²⁰	1819	<1847 ²²	Jane	Lewis Co, Mo
John Ewing ¹		<1818 ¹	Sarah Davis, 1787 ²⁹	had heirs ¹
William ¹ 'Turkey Bill' ²⁹ Ewing		Feb. 1818 ²	no heirs ^{1,2} , Monroe Co ²	
Jean (Ewing) Patterson ¹	1814 ³⁰	Matthew Patterson ^{1,13}		Monroe Co, no heirs

Land of Settler James Ewing of Monroe County

The Monroe County settled by James Ewing prior to 1782 was not formally recorded and granted to him by the Commonwealth of Virginia until 1787. At that time, the land was part of Greenbrier County. This land is readily found at the junction of the Indian and Turkey creeks about three miles south of Union, county seat of Monroe County, along Route 219 and a little above the old Indian Creek covered bridge.

1787	James Ewing, Sr. and Francis McNutt adj. Wm Shanks and Alex. Clark "by virtue of a certificate in right of settlement [meaning they were there prior to 15 June 1782] and in consideration of the ancient composition of two pounds sterling." Dated 9 May 1787... in the County of Greenbrier on the waters of Indian Creek ... and on the bank of Turkey Creek, 380 acres (copy available)	Indian and Turkey Creeks	Greenbrier
------	--	--------------------------	------------

Prior land grants of others recognized his land as being adjacent:

1785	Alexander Clark: adj. lands of James Ewing, 330 acres	Indian Creek	Greenbrier
1785	Francis McNutt: adj. land of Samuel Ewing, 250 acres	Indian Creek	Greenbrier

There were numerous land transactions by the family, recorded in Greenbrier and then Monroe counties.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ewing</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>County</u>
1785	Samuel	Indian	350	1	74	Greenbrier
1787	James, Sr. et al.	Indian Creek	380	1	268	Greenbrier
1795	William and Joseph	Swoopes Knob	170	3	180	Greenbrier
1796	William	County Line	170	3	198	Greenbrier
1801	William	Swoopes Knob	210	1	10	Monroe
1822	Joseph	Turkey	32	1	358	Monroe

Additional Records of James Ewing of Monroe County

There are hundreds of records of the Monroe James Ewing family in the libraries and court houses of Augusta, Botetourt, Greenbrier and Monroe counties. Most of these await investigation, correlation, and analysis. While Chalkley's *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*⁹ seems to note items relating to Monroe James in 1779, there is a great deal of ambiguity in many of the references to 'James Ewing.' [Appendix A lists all Ewing items of Chalkley's *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*](#) in MS-Word format and is sortable by several keys. Many of the Augusta County records refer to Capt. James and North Mountain James. Greenbrier records may refer to either Pocahontas or Monroe James. And the strays such as those from the Frederick County William Ewing family occasionally further confuse the records. Greenbrier County surveys in the (now) Monroe County area note James and Samuel as early as 1780.

To support further investigation, [Appendix B contains a listing of several hundred references thought to pertain to the Monroe James Ewing family.](#) Also the records of Botetourt County from 1770 to 1778 and Greenbrier County from 1778 to 1799 contain a wealth of undiscovered information on this family.

Summary of References

Primary Sources from Monroe County , West Virginia, Court House Records:

- ¹ Oliver Ewing 1818 Will
- ² William Ewing 1816 Will
- ³ Samuel Ewing 1815 Appraisal
- ⁴ Joseph Ewing 1822 Appraisal
- ⁵ Oliver Ewing 1823 Appraisal
- ²² Oliver Ewing 1847 Will
- ²⁶ James Ewing 1833 Appraisal/Sale
- ²⁷ Robert Ewing 1826 Sale/Settlement

Other Primary Sources:

- ⁷ Airy Knoll Cemetery Gravestone for William Sproul and Susanna, His Wife
- ⁸ William and Susanna Sproul Family Bible
- ¹⁰ North Mountain Meeting House Cemetery Gravestone for James Ewing
- ¹¹ James Ewing 1806 Appraisal (Augusta County)
- ¹⁵ Sidney Ewing) and James McNutt 1781 Marriage Record (Greenbrier County)
- ¹⁶ Marriage Bonds and Consents (Greenbrier County)
- ¹⁷ 1813 Sale from Joseph and Martha Ewing to John McNutt (Monroe County)
- ²¹ 1820 Deeds Noting John and Robert as sons of Samuel Ewing dec'd (Monroe County)
- ²³ Marriage Bonds (Monroe County)
- ³⁰ Jean Patterson) Patterson 1814 Will (Monroe County)

Secondary documentation sources:

- ⁹ Chalkley, Lyman. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia* (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~chalkley)

- ¹³ Morton, Oren F. *A History of Monroe County, West Virginia* (books.google.com)
- ²⁰ Handwritten family tree of Monroe Ewings in Lewis County, Missouri (www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org)
- ²⁸ Ewing, Nancy Hanks (ed. Barbara Ewing Powell). *James Ewing – Pioneer* (www.EwingFamilyAssociation.org/books/Document_JamesEwingOfPocahontas.html)
- ²⁹ DAR, *First Marriage Records of Augusta Co, Va. 1784-1813*

Full family-line genealogical documentation:

- ⁶ Sproul, William. *Early Western Virginia "Sproul" Families* (<http://www.sproulfamily.net>)
- ¹² Bess-Boswell, Mary. *Descendants of Joseph Perry Charlton* [Appx D - Joseph Perry Charlton - Boswell.pdf](#)
- ¹⁴ Cooper, Laura. *The McNutt Family of Monroe County, West Virginia* (<http://www.mcnuttfamily.org>)

Bill Sproul did not know he was a Ewing descendent until a few years ago when, while researching the Sproul family, he found that his great-great-great-great-grandfather was a James Ewing who settled Monroe County, West Virginia. James' daughter Susanna married the Scots-Irish settler William Sproul, originally from County Donegal, Ireland. Susanna and William built the family's homestead in the Shenandoah Valley in Augusta County, Virginia. Now, Bill is retired from a career in aerospace systems development and living in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia, near the land and records of several early Ewing settlers.