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## Ewing Family

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# EWING

(Revised 1992)



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## E W I N G

By BOBBY ANDERSON

Families of Ewings have inhabited this west Kentucky area for as long as there have been counties.

For instance, the **General Ewing** family settled near Adairville in Logan County as the county was being formed. They were instrumental in structuring the early county, and were an early political influence on the area.

In Butler County, **William Ewing** was known to have been in the area before Butler County was formed from Logan and Ohio counties in 1810, being a land owner there.

**James Ewing** was on the first county court in Butler county, when the county was formed in 1810, and helped to select Morgantown as its county seat.

Muhlenberg County's earliest Ewing was probably **John Ewing** who is believed to have died near Skilesville in about 1846.

This narrative of the Ewing family will focus on **John Ewing** and **William Ewing**, whose descendants, James and Alney, leave many descendants in the area today. Included among these are **Bill Ewing** and **Margaret Nell Ewing Mefford**, both of Ebenezer in Muhlenberg County and **Herald Grayson** of the Huntsville area in Butler County, as well as others who will be alluded to as the narrative progresses.

\* \* \*

### THE EARLY EWINGS

Research by Montgomery Vanderpool of "Kin Hunters" shows the early Ewings and related Porters were residents of Coleraine County, Ireland, and that **Nathaniel Ewing** and the related Porters migrated from that country to Pennsylvania. Nathaniel undoubtedly was an ancestor of these Ewings in Butler County -- because of similar given names. Nathaniel migrated to Lancaster, Pa. in 1725, and married Rachel Porter. Chances are some of these families moved on to Virginia, from where they left, coming to Kentucky. William Ewing was apparently one of these.

**William Ewing** and his family, which is known to have included a son, James, settled in Logan County, Ky. sometime prior to 1800 (best guess 1799-1800). He was from Prince Edward County, Va., and had married Florence Porter, though the time and place at this time are not known. What is known is learned from the research of the Ewing - Southerland family, and their entry in the new Butler County history.

The area in which William had settled, was in 1810 made a part of Butler County. This is believed to be near what is today the Davis Crossroads and Sugar Grove areas. It was there he was censused, and there many of the relatives are buried.

The Porters had come to Butler County also from Prince Edward County, Va, and since a granddaughter of William, Sarah A. T. Ewing also married a Porter, it is possible this family was of the same family from which William's wife, Florence Porter, also came.

It has not been established beyond a doubt, but it is believed that the same **James Ewing** which helped form Butler county, was the son of William and Florence. In 1810 they were the only two Ewings censused in Butler County. James was of the right age to be William's son, and they lived on adjoining tracts. Also, in

1811, William was listed on the tax roll with 196 acres in one tract and 58 acres in another. There were two males over 20 in his household, indicating James may have had brothers, these possibly being Samuel and Nathaniel, who were censused later in the area. There were two blacks over 16, seven other blacks (slaves) and five horses on the Ewing farm.

Next to William again was James, who owned no land (probably farming his father's tract), he being the only male over 20 in the family. Women were not listed on the tax rolls at that time. James also owned two horses.

This, with the additional similarity of names, such as James later naming a son William and a daughter Florence, indicated strongly that the elderly William was his father. There is little more that can be said of William and Florence, since census records prior to 1850 did not list children.

William's will, probated in Logan County in 1799 leaves somewhat of a mystery, since census records show him alive in 1810. These records, as well as tax records for 1811, may mean simply that this land still was in William's name, despite his death occurring in 1799. The will ascertains that James was his son. It reads:

"In the name of God, amen, this the first day of June, 1799, William Ewing of Logan County, Kentucky, in his low state of health, being of sound mind and memory, thanks be to Almighty God, therefore calls to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die, to make and ordain this my last will and testament. I recommend my soul to God that gave it and my body to the dust to be buried in Christian-like manner; and give and bequeath, first to my daughter, Mary, my mare colt and I give to my daughter, Sara, my sorrel colt, I give to my son, James Ewing, two colts; and unto my beloved wife, Florence Ewing, my home and plantation with all the rest of my personal estate, such as negroes, cattle and stock of all kind. In the event of her marriage, it is to be sold and divided.

Signed:  
William Ewing"

\* \* \*

#### JAMES EWING

Much more is known of James Ewing, though some of it is based on family lore, and is not documented. According to the family, James Ewing married Mary Howard, daughter of James Howard, who died in Logan County in 1808. However, records refer to his wife as "Polly", which is not unusual, since many named Mary were nicknamed Polly. However, it is unmistakable on his plainly written will dated Feb. 5, 1833, that he refers to his wife as "Dolly", which still could be an affectionate name for Mary.

By those deductions available, it would seem that James was born sometime around 1780, and died, according to his will in 1833, though cemetery records claim 1822. However, this does not seem possible and may be a misreading of the tombstone. A Polly Ewing, age 60, died in 1852. This may or may not have been his wife.

James is believed to have had at least five children, possibly six, these either being established by wills or by census records. They were:

● Abney, also listed as Allen and Alney, but plainly Abney in the written will. He was born in 1803, married Florence Stroud and is the ancestor of the above mentioned Ewings from Ebenezer.

● Nathaniel, born circa 1813, and listed in James' will.

● Florence P., born circa 1815, who married William B. Young.

● William, born circa 1818 and married to Sarah Young.

● Mary J., born circa 1832, who married William E. Berry of Berry's Lick. This may not have been a child of James, though possible.

● Sevary (or Savannah) B., born 1820, married William Washington Read (or Reid), the well-known Huntsville tanner and saddle maker.

Of these, we will follow more closely Abney, because of his known descendants in the area, However, each bears a closer look -- as much as available records will permit.

NATHANIEL and his wife, Nancy were married in Logan County on Feb. 15, 1836. Nathaniel and Nancy were in Butler County in the 1850 time frame, and had six children at the time: Susan 11, John 9, Washington 7, Samuel 4, Mary 2 and Beverly, a son, six months old. Neither he nor his children were found in later records.

FLORENCE P. was married in Butler County to William B. Young on March 30, 1837. It is believed they resided in Logan County, but no account of them was later found.

WILLIAM, born in 1818, was listed as 21 years of age in 1850, and was residing in the home of William Berry, his brother-in-law in that census year. On March 3, 1850, he was shown to have married a Sarah Young. However, the records in the 1860 census show he is married to Lucy A., and indicate he was married in the census year. Perhaps Sarah had died, and William remarried. The census shows him with two children, Josiah 10, and Sarah L., 3, in 1860, indicating they were children by the earlier marriage. Later census records do not show him living in the area. Perhaps like many others of the day, the westward migration drew him away from his native area also.

MARY J. believed to have been born around 1832, married William E. Berry, one of the Berrys whose family settled Berry's Lick, possibly the first settlement in Butler County. There is still very much doubt that this is James' child, but a possibility remains.

SEVARY B., found to be Savannah in some records. She married tanner William Washington Read (or Reid) of Huntsville on Oct. 10, 1840, and lived on Reid Hill in Huntsville, at what is now the intersection of Highway 106 and 949. William Washington and Sevary were the parents of four children, two of which have been documented by later records. Their children were Mary M. (1844), Sarah (Sallie) A. (1847), Minerva I. (1849-50) and John C. (1853). No further records are reflected on Mary and John, other than that John was at home with his parents in 1870. However, the other two are well recorded. Sarah, on Dec. 18, 1863, married James Leonard Anderson, a wounded Civil War veteran who had been returned home because of disabilities sustained in the battle of Shiloh. They had one child, Anzonettia, born Oct. 13, 1864, who died June 28, 1866. Less than a year later, Sarah also died on Feb. 22, 1866. Both are buried in the Blaine cemetery near Huntsville. James L. Anderson later moved to Muhlenberg County, remarried and reared a second family, many of whom are still residents of the area. Minerva, on Oct. 14, 1868, also married a Civil War veteran, Harvey Y. Wood of Muhlenberg County. Shortly after their first child, Laura, was born, the Woods moved to Topeka, Kansas. Wood family relative relate that many of their

descendants still live in the area. It is not known when Sevary died, but she was still alive when the 1880 census was taken. William Washington, whose name occurs variously as Reed, Read and Reid, died in 1894, and his tombstone reads "Reid". Both he and Sevary are buried in Blaine cemetery.

It was alluded to earlier that James Ewing, the father of these children died in 1833, but that the tombstone reads 1822. In Read cemetery, near Berry's Lick and Davis Crossroads, James is buried, with the date of his birth being Nov. 14, 1876, and his death May 11, 1822. However, the writer feels the aging of the stone may have made the inscription difficult to read, and it was recorded as 1822 rather than 1833. The will of James Ewing, dated Feb. 5, 1833, and executed in the July, 1833 county court of Butler County leaves no doubt about the time of his death. Also the contents of the will leave no doubt that this is the father of the children listed above.

The will, to be found in book one, page 81, reads:

"James Ewing Will, February 5th day, 1833--

"Know ye whom this may concern, that I, James Ewing of the state of Kentucky and county of Butler, doth constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in the name of God, amen.

"Being sound in mind and memory, calling to mind such earthly estates has been pleas (sic) God to bless him with, doth distribute and divide in the manner and form (two wit):

"Item: I give unto my son, Nathaniel D. Ewing, my sorrel mare, Nancy.

"Item 2nd: I give unto my son Abney Ewing, the tract of land he now lives on containing one hundred acres.

"Item 3rd: I give unto my beloved wife Dolly Ewing my Negro woman, Saby, with all household and kitchen furniture, stock of all kinds, except my roan mare, Dot, and the colt that the gray mare is with to raise and school my children during her widowhood or her natural live. If any of the girls should marry, for my wife to give unto them such things as she can spare and keep account of the same. My Doll mare and colt to sold (sic) help pay my debts if necessary. If not, Doll mare to be my daughter, Florence's at the discretion of my wife. The colt to remain with the other part of the stock. But should she marry, all the stock and sury (surrey?) to be sold and equally divided between her and all my children, except William, Abney and Nathaniel.

Item 4th: I give unto my sons William and Nathaniel Ewing, my Negro boy, Ned. But to be my wife's during her widowhood. Also I wish my Negro boy, Andrew, to be sold by my executors as they see cause, the proceeds thereof to go toward paying my just debts. The overplus to be equally divided amongst all my children. It is desired that no sale is to be made if it can be avoided, only what is made by the executors privately and no more than will (be) sufficient to satisfy the debts, all just debts to be paid.

"I constitute and appoint my sons William and Abney Ewing as my executors to my last will and testament, which I acknowledge this to be in testimony whereof I set my hand and seal this day and date above written. (enter line before signed.)

James Ewing (seal)

"Test: M. F. Boyakin  
Benjamin Porter  
Hugh S. Porter  
David Porter

"Butler County, Ky, July county court, 1833.

"This will was proven by the oaths of W. F. Boyakin, Benjamin

Porter, Hugh S. Porter and David Porter and ordered to be recorded. A copy attest.

"B. B. Morrison, Clerk"

\* \* \*

#### ABNEY EWING

Abney Ewing, probably the eldest child of James Ewing, was born circa 1803, and is found in Butler County censuses in 1830, '40, '50 and 1860. His absence from census records after 1860 indicates he may have died prior to the 1870 census. He was 57 in 1860, and would have been considered, in his time, to be an old man in the 1860s. Thus it is believed he died, rather than moved away.

Abney, as spelled in his father's will, was also listed variously as Allen and Alney.

He married Florence Stroud (b. circa 1803-5) in Butler County on April 3, 1828 in the presence of Samuel Ewing. The parents of Florence Stroud are as yet unknown, although Strouds were frequently found in both Butler and Logan counties. Abney and Florence lived their married life in the area encompassing Berry's Lick, Sugar Grove and Davis Crossroads. Neither the dates of their deaths, nor their burial places have been learned. They were the parents of eight known children, possibly nine, as will be explained.

Their children:

- Mary, born circa 1830. The plethora of Mary Ewings make chasing them in the records very difficult. This may have been the Mary Ewing who married William E. Berry in 1848, rather than one earlier noted as a possible daughter of James Ewing.
- Zimrood, a daughter, circa 1833;
- Sarah C., circa 1835;
- Pleasant David, circa 1837, whose line we will follow later;
- Susan (or Serena) circa 1839;
- James T., circa 1840. He, with Pleasant David were not in their father's household in 1860, but were farm hands for an uncle, William Washington Reid near Huntsville;
- Nathaniel, circa 1841;
- Permelia, circa 1849, died Oct. 28, 1856 at the age of seven, and;
- Thomas, possibly. He was listed in the 1860 census in the Abney Ewing home, but it was noted he was born in 1833. Perhaps he may have been a nephew living in the home. He appeared in no earlier censuses with the Abney Ewing family. This is probably the Thomas who married Elmeaca I. Givens in 1861.

Little else is known of these children except for Pleasant David, whose lineage follows. A search of marriage records failed to yield anything of their later lives.

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#### PLEASANT DAVID EWING

Pleasant David Ewing was the fourth child of Abney and Florence Stroud Ewing. He married Celia J. (Selah) Wester (marriage book reads "Webster" which is in error) in Butler County on Oct. 24, 1867. Celia was the daughter of Greenberry and Mary Wooldridge Wester of the Huntsville-Oak Grove area. She was born Jan. 26, 1844, the eldest of seven children, which included Martha Alene

(Aunt Lene), William E., who married Patience Arndell, Benjamin T., Greenberry, known as Bud, who married Vina Arnold, his twin, Mary E., and George W.

(Note: There is a marriage record for P. D. Ewing and Martha J. Christmas in Butler County 1866, but no family member questioned knows if this was a first marriage for Pleasant David, or if it was another with the same initials. Also, after Pleasant David's death, Celia remarried Claiborne Vaughn, also his second marriage. She is buried beside him in Vaughn cemetery.)

The death date and burial place of Pleasant David Ewing is not known.

Pleasant and Celia were the parents of two children, Louvana and Greenberry, who married Emma Cook. Greenberry and Emma were the forebears of the Ewings of Ebenezer. The families will be documented in succeeding paragraphs. Louvana Ewing's generations are not documented here due to lack of information.

\* \* \*

### GREENBERRY EWING

Greenberry Ewing was born in 1871 and died in 1918. He is buried in Mt. Zion cemetery in Butler County. (Note: Greenberry Ewing's name sometime is spelled as two words, Green Berry, and often it may be found simply listed as the initials, G. B.)

Though the year of death is not documented, his father, Pleasant David Ewing died as a young man, before Greenberry's 10th birthday, this evidenced by the marriage of the widow, Celia. Celia remarried Claiborne Vaughn while still in her child-bearing age. That child, Eliza F. (b&d 1890) is buried beside her in Vaughn cemetery.

Greenberry Ewing married Emma N. Cook in Butler County on Aug. 1, 1891. She was the daughter of Elijah P. and Eliza J. Martin Cook. (See "The Cook Connection" later in this narrative.)

Before Emma's death in 1908, the Ewings were the parents of seven children. They are:

(1) Gertie Adie, born Sept. 22, 1892. She died at the age of five on July 22, 1897, and is buried at Mt. Zion.

(2) Granison William, born Jan. 4, 1895. He died June 2, 1953 and is buried in Russellville.

(3) Mary Arlene, born Sept. 9, 1897, died Jan. 24, 1970 and is buried in Chandler, Ind. She was married to Gurley Baugh. They had no children.

(4) Ophas Ernest, known as O. E. or Slim, was born Oct. 13, 1899 and died April 19, 1974. He is buried in Greenville. Mr. Ewing was married Dec. 21, 1921 in Ennis, Ky. to Elizabeth Turner.

(5) Illa Eliza, born March 2, 1902. She married Archie Robert Proctor on Dec. 9, 1920. He died Aug. 16, 1982, and is buried in Hill Haven cemetery in Morgantown, Ky. She now is 90 years old and lives in Evansville, Ind.

(6) Glynn, born March 29, 1904, died Dec. 21, 1922. He is buried at Forest Grove cemetery near Browder.

(7) Lebus Joe, born June 21, 1906, died in Jacksonville, Fla. in 1955. He had two wives, Bonnie Mitchell and Unice Wiley.

Following Emma's death, Greenberry Ewing married Tennie Staples Ferrell, widow of Sam Huston Ferrell. This marriage produced one child, Jennie Mae, who was born May 19, 1912. She is married to Lloyd (Buck) Ashby.

Emma N. Cook Ewing died Aug. 1, 1908, and is buried in Mt. Zion



Cemetery between Quality and Huntsville. Greenberry Ewing died July 7, 1918, and is also buried at Mt. Zion.

\* \* \*

### THE COOK CONNECTION

The Cook family of Butler County is many faceted, and deserves more than a few lines in this Ewing history. However, only the line of Emma N. Cook, wife of Greenberry Ewing, will be traced.

Emma was the daughter of Elijah P. and Eliza J. Martin Cook, the seventh of eight children. Listed in order, they are: Charles, born 1859, who married Mary E. Givens; twins James and George Monroe, born 1861; Margaret, born 1867; Virgil D., born 1868, who with his wife, Amanda, are the parents of Thurston Cook(e) who was in the automobile business in Louisville for many years; Aulthy A., born 1871; Emma, who married Greenberry Ewing; and John M., born 1876.

Elijah P. Cook was born circa 1832, possibly in Butler County, though no listing for his birth was found. He was the son of Elijah and Jane Cook. In 1850, Elijah was 18 and living in the home of James M. Hampton, a blacksmith in Morgantown. Mr. Cook died sometime prior to 1880, although no cemetery marker has been found.

He was a blacksmith and married Eliza Martin in Butler County in April, 1853, the exact date unknown because the marriage license return has been damaged.

His wife, Eliza J. Martin was born July 8, 1838, the daughter of J. Martin. She died Aug. 4, 1910 and is buried at Mt. Zion.

Perhaps descendants of the Cook and Martin families in Butler County, both of which have enriched the county's heritage, will be able to extend the lines of these families.

\* \* \*

### GRANISON WILLIAM EWING

Granison William Ewing, the son of Greenberry and Emma Cook Ewing, was born in Butler County on Jan. 4, 1895. He was married to Ora Elizabeth Knight, who was born Nov. 2, 1892. Mr. Ewing died June 2, 1953. They are buried in Maple Grove cemetery in Russellville.

The children of Granison Ewing are William Theron (Bill) Ewing of Ebenezer; Emma Jane Boggess of Greenville and Ina Mae Christmas of Louisville.

(1) William Theron Ewing was born Feb. 27, 1917 in Butler County. He was married to Glenda Rhea Smith on July 25, 1941 in Greenville. Glenda is the daughter of Lorene Baugh Smith and the late Walter Dennis Smith of Ebenezer. She is also the niece of the late Bunnie Baugh, and a relative of the late genealogist, Edward Manley. Bill and Glenda have three children, Janice Faye, William Rhea and Robert Joel.

Janice Faye Ewing was born Sept. 21, 1943 in Muhlenberg County. She was married twice, first to Alvin Wayne Hall, and next to Dwight Rodgers. She has three children, Alan Wayne Hall, Robert Wesley Hall and Leslie Renee Rodgers.

William Rhea (Billy) Ewing was born Nov. 20, 1944 in Muhlenberg County. He married Frances Geraldine Ewing (no relation) in 1964. They have three children, Marion Keith, William Todd and Dennis

Shawn Ewing.

Robert Joel (Bobby) Ewing was born Dec. 19, 1948. He married Debbie Jean Fleming, and following her death, married Linda Harris Newman. They have three children, Candace Elaine, Sarah Lorene and Robert Joel II.

\* \* \*

(2) Emma Jane Ewing, born July 20, 1920 in Butler County, married John Rhea Boggess of Greenville on Jan. 31, 1942. For many years they operated Boggess TV and Appliance Co. in Greenville. He was the son of Finis Y. Boggess and Alma Tooley Boggess. They have three children, John Ewing Boggess, David Rhea Boggess and Ina Ruth Boggess Somers.

John Ewing Boggess was born in Muhlenberg County on March 8, 1943. He married Deborah Coots in 1966. They have two children, Sarena Gay and Katrina Joy. John Ewing and Deborah were divorced, and he married Charlene Purgerson in 1992.

David Rhea Boggess was born Dec. 12, 1944 in Greenville. His first marriage was to Linda Yarbrough. He presently is married to Kaye Moore, daughter of William and Eva Mae Evitts Moore. David has four children, Jenni Ruth, David Rhea, Jr., Jonathan Rheany and Mitzi Nicole.

Ina Ruth Boggess was born May 19, 1949. She is married to Lee Somers. They have two children, Natasha Lee and Ryan Micah.

\* \* \*

(3) Ina Mae Ewing was born in Butler County and is married to Arthur Christmas, son of Luke and Mandy Andrews Christmas also of Butler County. The Christmases have three children, Arthur Ewing, who is a minister in Evansville, Ind.; Sheila and Byron. Arthur and Ina Mae retired in Louisville and have moved to Evansville, Ind. to be near their son.

Arthur Ewing Christmas married Dixie Dennis. They have two children, Amanda and Amy. Arthur Ewing is pastor of the North Park Baptist Church in Evansville.

Sheila Christmas married Mike Moore. They have two children, Jennifer and Elizabeth.

Byron Christmas is married to Sonja Kirby. They have two children, Elissa and Scott.

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#### OPHAS E. (Slim) EWING

Ophas Ernest Ewing was born in Butler County on Oct. 13, 1899, the son of Greenberry and Emma N. Cook Ewing. His mother died in 1908 when he was less than nine years old. He was taken into the home of an uncle, Virge Cook, to be reared.

On Dec. 24, 1921, he married Elizabeth Turner in Ennis, Ky. She was the daughter of Phylander Franklin Turner and Lucy Knight, born Sept. 4, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing lived many years in Beech Creek and Beechmont. They were the parents of two children, Margaret Nell and Wayne Turner.

Mr. Ewing died April 19, 1974 and Mrs. Ewing Jan. 2, 1989. They are buried in Evergreen cemetery in Greenville.

(1) Margaret Nell Ewing was born at Beech Creek on Sept. 7, 1924. She married Calvin W. (C. W.) Mefford of Beech Creek on

Dec. 10, 1944. He is the son of the late Raymond and Dulcie Grubb Mefford of Beech Creek. They have three children, **Connie**, **Steve** and **Billy Wayne**. C. W. and Margaret Nell have lived for many years in Ebenezer.

**Constance Marie (Connie) Mefford** was born Dec. 2, 1947, and married **Thomas Neathamer, Jr.** of Drakesboro, son of **Thomas and Hope Jones Neathamer** on Dec. 31, 1965. Both are school teachers. Their children are **Margaret Elizabeth**, who married **William Brian Mohon** and **William Thomas Neathamer III**.

**Steven Wesley Mefford** was born Aug. 21, 1951 and married **Vickie Gail Johnson** of Drakesboro on March 31, 1972. Their children are **Christa Lee** and **Seth Wesley Mefford**.

**Billy Wayne Mefford** was born March 14, 1953. He married **Angela Denise Fulcher** of Drakesboro on June 29, 1975. Their children are **Leah Nicole** and **Adam Wayne Mefford**.

\* \* \*

(2) **Wayne Turner Ewing** was born in Beech Creek on Dec. 1, 1933. He was married on June 3, 1960 to **Jane Bruce Gray** of Central City, daughter of **Elza Thomas and Geneva Pasco Gray**. **Wayne**, also known as **Slim**, was a basketball coach in **Muhlenberg County**, before joining **Peabody Coal Co.**, where he rose through the ranks to become president of that organization. He and **Jane** currently live in **Belleville, Ill.** They have two children, **Allyson Gray** and **Sally Elizabeth**. **Allyson** lives in **Slidell, La.**, and has two children, **Mitchell** and **Amanda**. **Sally** resides in **Belleville** and has one child, **Elyse**.

\* \* \*

#### ILLA ELIZA EWING

**Illa Eliza Ewing** was born to **Greenberry and Emma Ewing** on March 2, 1902 in **Butler County**. She married **Archie Robert Proctor** on Dec. 9, 1920. **Archie** was born July 5, 1902 in **Butler County**. He died Aug. 16, 1982 and is buried in **Hill Haven cemetery** in **Morgantown**. **Archie and Illa** had one child, **Ernest Lee**, who was born Oct. 18, 1921. He died June 4, 1982 and is buried in **Evansville**. **Ernest Lee** was married to **Edna Piper**, who later married **Ansley Cartwright**. **Ernest Lee** had two children, **Debbie** and **Steven**, and two grandchildren, **Krista Jo** and **Joshua Proctor**. **Illa Eliza** now lives in **Evansville, Ind.**

\* \* \*

#### LEBUS JOE EWING

Born June 21, 1906 in **Butler County**, **Lebus Joe Ewing** was married twice. He married **Bonnie Mitchell** in 1935, and had three children, **Kenneth**, **Robbie** and **Joel**. His second marriage was to **Unice Wiley**. They had three children, **Jake**, **Dickie** and **Betty**. **Lebus Joe** died in 1955 and is buried in **Jacksonville, Fla.**

\* \* \*

#### JENNIE MAY EWING

**Jennie May Ewing** is the daughter of **Greenberry Ewing** by his second wife, **Tennie Staples Ferrell Ewing**. She was born May 19, 1912 in **Butler County**. She is married to **Loyd (Buck) Ashby**. They have one child, **Betty Sue Hayes**.

### OTHER EWINGS

There are many other Ewing families in Butler and Muhlenberg counties -- some related, others not. One of the most interesting is the family of Levi W. M. Ewing, who was born in December of 1838 -- perhaps in Muhlenberg, Butler or Logan counties. If he is related to the Ewings of the earlier paragraphs, it has never been established, but perhaps the kinship begins prior to the Ewings coming to Kentucky -- or in their earlier years here.

Levi is first noted in the Muhlenberg County court records in the June, 1847 county court minutes (Volume 10, No. 1, Page 264). In that passage, he is referred to in this manner: "Levi Ewing, orphan of John Ewing, deceased, was bound to George Mefford until he arrives at the age of 21, the said Levi being eight years old in December of 1846."

By this we know his father was John Ewing, who died prior to 1847. From a 1952 writing by Edward Manley in the Green River Republican in Morgantown, Ky., we learn the mother of Levi Ewing. She was Catherine Mefford. Although no marriage license has been found, we can depend on the writings of Manley to preserve this information. One thing he did not give us was the time of death of Catherine, but it is felt it was before 1847, when Levi was orphaned by the death of John Ewing.

Catherine Mefford was the daughter of John and Mary Lemon Mefford. John Mefford operated a powder mill on Red River in Logan County in the early days of that county. The Meffords and Ewings had come from Virginia together, or near the same time and helped settle early Logan County.

Mary Lemon was the daughter of George and Mary McDonald Lemon, while John Mefford was the son of Casper Mefford (Meffert) and Mary Seigler. Casper, who had fought in the Revolutionary War, with his son, John, in his command, died in 1816 in Rockingham County, Va. John and his two son, George and Jacob, brought their families to Logan County, where they claimed land as a result of his war service. John also applied in Logan County for his pension in 1840.

According to Manley's writings, John's daughter, Catherine, was with the Ewing family of the Red River area at this time. Why she was living with them is not known -- though she and John Ewing could have been married at the time. It was these Ewings who laid out the town of Adairville -- and were instrumental in the history of early Logan County.

Without going into a long and detailed history of the Mefford family, it can be said that a part of that family moved into Muhlenberg County from Logan and established themselves in the Green and lower Mud River areas. They also later moved into Butler County, by way of Rochester. It was Jacob's son, George, who first appeared in Muhlenberg County in 1830, and it was George, if you recall, who took in the young orphan, Levy Ewing, in 1847.

One last note on the Meffords. The Revolutionary War soldier, Casper Mefford, was the son of German immigrants. His father, Andreas Meffert (note the spelling) married Magdalene Hoas, and died in Chester County, Pa. in 1760. Andreas Meffert's parents were John Conrad Meffert (1666-1731) and Anna Maria Koch, while John Conrad's parents were Hans Henrich Meffert (1634-1704) and Anna Margarethe Emmel of Prussia. This is the same line of Meffords which produced C. W. Mefford of Drakesboro, who married

Margaret Nell Ewing in the earlier portion of the Ewing story

Levi Ewing, the son of John and Catherine Mefford Ewing, married **Mary A. Latham** on Sept. 26, 1862 in Muhlenberg County. She was the daughter of James M. and Mary Grumley Latham, of Todd County, who resettled in Muhlenberg County in later years. Mary A. Latham was born circa 1841. The times of their deaths are not documented, but Herald Grayson, a great-grandson of Levi, believes he is buried in Rumsey in McLean County.

In 1850, Levi was listed in the George Mefford home in the Paradise area of Muhlenberg County. While there is no listing for him in census records for 1860 -- but in 1870 and 1880, Levi is easily found in Butler County with his family. They were, oddly enough, living in the same community, near Huntsville, Quality and Silver City, with Pleasant David Ewing, though no relationship between the two has been found.

Children of Levi and Mary include: **John M., Alice, Judge Bailess, Charles A., James C., Levi H., Rufus M., Mary Columbus** and **Henry T. John**, the oldest, was born circa 1865 and Henry, the youngest, in 1879-80.

**Judge Bailess Ewing**, born Feb. 12, 1868, the third child of Levi, married Mary A. Vaughn, daughter of Lemuel and Marget O. Cheatham Vaughn of the Huntsville area. Mary was born Sept, 7, 1872. Judge died April 26, 1923 and Mary on Jan. 8, 1958. They are buried in Vaughn cemetery, east of Huntsville. A daughter, Nina Pearl Ewing first married Merriman Porter, and after his death, married Raymond Grayson. To this marriage were born six children, three of whom survive. Herald lives with his wife, Betty on the old Grayson farm between Huntsville and Gus; Maurice lives in Russellville; and Wayne in Memphis, Tenn.

Another of Levi's children, **Mary Columbus**, known as Lum, married Henry Cartwright of Butler County. Among their children was Seva Cartwright, who married Claude Andrews of Butler County. Seva died in recent years in Madisonville, where she lived with a daughter. Mary Columbus was born in 1867 and died in 1905. She is buried in the Gardner (Cooper Hollow) cemetery near Silver City in Butler County.

**James M. Ewing** died in 1955 and is buried at Central City.

Probably many other descendants of Levi Ewing live in the area. No concerted effort has yet been made to document this family. The writer would welcome additional information on this and other Ewing families.

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Information, other than from public records, was submitted by Margaret Nell Ewing Mefford, Glenda and Bill Ewing, Emma Boggess, Herald Grayson and others. Computer-generated copies may be obtained from the writer, 7965 Ridgewood Road, Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072. They will be sent postpaid, for \$5 per copy.