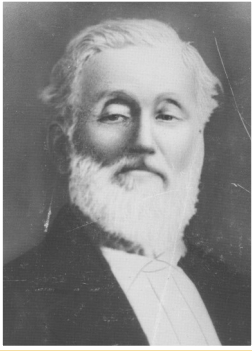


December, 2008



EWING FAMILY NEWS

Descendants of William Alexander Ewing

Six generations later

The family tree continues to grow

Editor's note: This newsletter was written in 2008 and re-created in 2015 for use on the website. During that time-span, we lost the three remaining members of our senior generation. Gloria passed away in 2009, at age 96; Mabel in 2013, at age 99; and Eldon in 2014, at 101.

When William Alexander Ewing died in January, 1910, he was survived by six children and eight grandchildren. Six of his children and five grandchildren had passed on before him. There would be nine more grandchildren born between 1910 and 1920, and the eighty-eight years after that has seen the family tree blossom exponentially into today's living kindred that numbers over 250... and that's just the descendants of Grant, Ira and John Ewing. We don't know how many have descended from their sisters, Laura and Sadie.

Our Senior Generation

The passing of Forrest Ewing leaves only three of William Alexander's grandchildren remaining... one of Grant's daughters and two of Ira's children, all in their 90s. The following is a tribute to our senior generation, including Forrest...



Eldon and Forrest, about 1913



Born on the Ewing homestead in Wells Township, Marshall County, Kansas, the three middle children of Ira and Salome Ewing came into the world consistently — every 22 months — starting with Forrest in July, 1910, followed by Eldon in May, 1912, and then Mabel in March, 1914. As they grew, so did their family, with two more children (Dean and Mary) born after them.

When the family was separated after their mother's death, Forrest lived with the family of Owen Pritchard, a neighbor in the Reserville area. Eldon was shuffled

The Ewing children, about the time they were separated in 1924. Back: Nellie, Frank and Ray. Center: Forrest, Mabel and Eldon. Front: Mary and Dean



Picking corn



**Forrest
and
Opal**



**Forrest, on his
98th birthday,
July, 2008**



**Forrest, Ramah,
Leland, Gale
and Carlisle**

around between three or four families, including the Pritchards, before finally staying with Perry Morton. Mabel's new home was with George Raymond, also in the Reserville area. Fortunately, the Ewing children were able to maintain some contact with each other after the break-up.

Shortly after moving to the Pritchard farm, Forrest was injured when the 22-caliber rifle he was carrying accidentally discharged while he was opening a gate. According to an article in the *Blue Rapids Times*, November 13, 1924, the bullet entered Forrest's right side under the arm and lodged in his shoulder blade. After viewing x-rays, the doctors decided the bullet would not cause him trouble, so left it alone. He carried that slug the rest of his life.

Forrest left the Pritchards when he was about 16, to start farming with his older brother, Frank. Over the next few years he worked with other farmers in the area and in the early 1930s he went to Phillips County, Kansas, to work the corn crop. When dry weather stunted the crop in Kansas, he travelled into Nebraska and Iowa to find work in the fields. Forrest met Opal Thompson in Phillips County and they were married at Gretna, Kansas in 1937. When their son, Leland, was little more than two, Opal was severely burned by a flash-fire while using kerosene to build a fire in the kitchen cookstove. She died the following day, April 9, 1941.

On May 30, 1942, Forrest married Ramah Siegrist Thompson, taking her son, Carlisle, to raise as his own. They added another son a few years later when Gale was born.

Forrest farmed his land east of Phillipsburg until he "retired," then spent a number of years sharpening saws and making wooden items — lamps, furniture, etc. — from native lumber. He remained active and strong up to the day of his vehicle accident last spring, which left him in critical condition for months. He rebounded physically from those injuries in time to celebrate his 98th birthday in July. But the extended period of recovery had taken a lot from him, and he died quietly on November 6, 2008.

Forrest's family includes nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Virginia and Eldon,
about 1936



2006 — (standing): Kay, Ron, John,
Barbara and David.
(seated): Gretchen and Eldon

Early
1930s



Eldon Ewing

By the time the Ewing boys were grown, they had all gained a reputation for being hard workers... and some of the best field hands in southern Marshall County. So, when it came time for Eldon to strike out on his own, he was able to find work, in spite of the economic depression that was in progress.

Throughout the early 1930s, Eldon worked for various farmers and was particularly busy in the fall, when the corn was ready to harvest — no machinery, all hand-work. This required a man to walk between two rows of cornstalks, ripping the husks away from the ears of corn, breaking the ears off the stalk and throwing them into the wagon beside him... with a team of horses advancing the wagon on voice command. When the wagon was full, he'd drive it to the barn (or other storage facility) and scoop the ears off, then go pick another load. A hundred bushels is a lot of hand-picked corn, and Eldon saw that or more on many days. When more than one team was working in a field, they'd usually prefer to follow Eldon because they knew his team would be pushing them all around the field if they didn't.

On February 27, 1936, Eldon married Virginia Anderson and over the next three years they added a daughter, Kay, and a son, Ron, to the family. The rest of their children would come along after they moved onto the farm that had historical ties with the Ewings. Located on the southern border of Marshall County in Bigelow Township, the farm had once been owned by Charlie Fea.

Ira Ewing had worked for Charlie Fea and was living on the back side of the farm in 1905 when Ray Ewing was born. Frank Ewing had lived with Charlie and his nephew briefly in the 1920s. Then, in 1943, Eldon and Virginia moved there, bought it a few years later and made it their permanent home. John, Barbara and Dave were all born while the family lived there, and all the kids grew up on the farm that Eldon still owns today.

Virginia passed away in 1988 and Eldon maintained the farm on his own until 1991, when he married Gretchen Gibson. They built a house in Frankfort and Eldon retired from the farm.

Eldon's family now includes nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mabel Fetterman

She was named Mabel A. Ewing at birth, but many know her as Jeanne... the name she preferred to use as an adult.

Mabel stayed with the George Raymond family until she finished high school at Frankfort in 1931. After graduation, she went to nursing school in Kansas City, was an RN for a short time, and eventually chose to get into office work and bookkeeping.

While in Kansas City, she married Deward Sparks and they lived in Richmond, Missouri. After they divorced, Mabel moved to California, where she married Jack Martin in 1945.

Mabel went to work for Standard Oil Company in 1952 while in San Francisco, later transferring to Salt Lake City and then Denver where she retired from the company in the early 1980s. She met and married Winfred Fetterman in Colorado.

After retirement, Mabel returned to Kansas and lived for a while at Agra, near Phillipsburg, before moving to Vero Beach, Florida, in 1985. Completing the round-trip last spring, Mabel moved back to Frankfort, Kansas, where she lives now.



Ira, Mabel, Eldon and Forrest, 1930s



Eldon, Mabel and Forrest celebrated Mabel's 94th birthday, March, 2008

Gloria Zook

Gloria Ewing, daughter of Grant and Margaret (Fincham) Ewing was born in July, 1913, near Blue Rapids, Kansas. Gloria had an older brother, Leonard, and a younger brother, Clair. She also had two step-siblings (Grant's children with his first wife), Lena and Levi. All of her siblings are now gone.



Gloria married Lewis Wentz in 1930 and lived on a ranch southwest of Blue Rapids. They had three children: Duane, Margaret and Betty. Gloria and Lew later divorced and she married Gloyd Zook in 1950. Gloyd passed away in 1998 and was buried in Antioch Cemetery.

When we last visited, Gloria lived in Beatrice, Nebraska, and she indicated that she had eleven grandchildren... that was in 2004. Since then, her address has changed to Wymore, Nebraska, where she had lived for a number of years prior to moving to Beatrice.

Gloria Zook, 2004