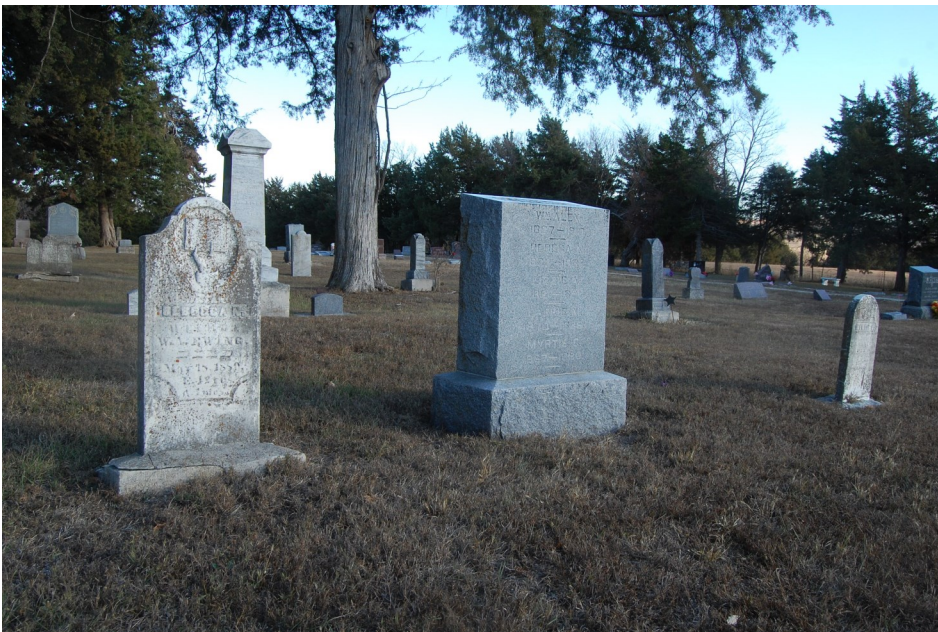


EWING FAMILY NEWS

Descendants of William Alexander Ewing

The family of Great-Grandmother, Rebecca (Marshall) Ewing



The family plot of William Alexander Ewing in Antioch cemetery

Near the center of Antioch Cemetery in Marshall County, Kansas, stands a group of three markers that identify the family plot of William Alexander Ewing. Shown in the photo at left, the older headstones at both sides bear dates of 1880 and are memorials to Rebecca (Marshall) Ewing, wife of William Alexander Ewing, and their daughter, Myrtie. They died a week apart from common diseases, just ten years after the family homesteaded in Kansas. The larger monument in the center was placed in the 1950s to recognize additional family members that had been buried in the plot without markers over the years.

Family research years ago was not able to find much information about Rebecca's family. With only her birth year of 1838 and maiden name of "Marshall," attempts to find her family in Pennsylvania census data ended with more questions than information. The 1840 federal census data did not provide names of family members...only the head of the household was listed and other family members were simply shown as tick marks in columns for gender and age groups, so Rebecca was not recognizable there.

The 1850 census records were the first to identified all family members along with their ages, but we didn't have her parents' names and most of the "Rebecca Marshall" entries for Perry and surrounding counties in Pennsylvania, were not the right age to be our ancestor. However, there was a 12-year-old Rebecca Marshall living with a McMillan family in Madison Township, Perry County. On the same page of the data was another family housing a Marshall child and a third household that was headed by Sarah Marshall who had two small children. It looked like a Marshall family had been split up, but no other information could be found that explained the situation. There was nothing at that time to confirm that the Rebecca Marshall in the census data was our great-grandmother.



Rebecca (Marshall) Ewing's marker in Antioch cemetery.

A recent break-through

One of our cousins in California, Patty Russell (daughter of [Clair and Evelyn Ewing](#)), recently enlisted the help of researchers in Perry County, Pennsylvania, to find additional information about the Marshall family. Items that Patty has shared provide much more detail about Rebecca and her family.

Our Rebecca Marshall was the oldest daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Sweger) Marshall...Sarah's maiden name was spelled various other ways in some documents. Rebecca was born in 1838 and had four younger siblings: Margaret, Thomas, Robert and Sarah Ellen.

Joseph Marshall died when Rebecca was only ten years old, leaving the family to fend for themselves. As was often the case in 1848, a widow with children might not be able to provide for her family. As a result, children were often farmed out to other families, especially those who were old enough to help their foster families with chores. That's why the 1850 census showed Sarah Marshall with two of her younger children, and the rest of the family living with other families.

More about Joseph Marshall

Rebecca's father was the fourth generation of his family to bear the name of "Joseph," handed down from his father, grandfather and his great-grandfather. The Marshall family had been in Pennsylvania since the 1700s as the great-grandfather's will that was dated July 22, 1785, left his land in Rye Township, Cumberland County, to his two oldest sons, Michael

and Joseph (the second). He also had sons named John and David and daughters named Catharine, Elener, Jean and Mary. Joseph (the second) had been born about 1755 and married Mary White. Of course, their first son was named Joseph.

The third Joseph Marshall, born about 1796, married Eleanor McCown and their first son was Joseph (Rebecca's father), born 1815. Information that we currently have does not indicate if all four of the generations (of Josephs) also shared the same middle name.

We don't have anything that tells us about the life of Joseph (#4, Rebecca's father) or how he died on October 15, 1848, but he apparently didn't leave much for his family, which probably led to some of his children being doled out to other families. His wife, Sarah (Rebecca's mother), remarried in 1853 to Jonathan Seager and they later had two children, John (b. 1854) and Adaline (b. 1857). In her will written June 1, 1889, Sarah (Marshall) Seager left her personal property to her youngest children and their children. Sarah's grave marker indicates that she died January 18, 1892. She was buried beside Joseph Marshall (#4) at the Emory Chapel (Methodist Church) cemetery in Madison Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania.

Rebecca (Marshall) Ewing

A short paragraph in the *Perry Freeman* newspaper from Bloomfield, PA, states that Rebecca Marshall and William A. Ewing were married January 23, 1855, at the German Reformed parsonage in Landisburg, PA,

with the Reverend C.H. Leinbach officiating. It also states that they both lived in Madison Township, Perry County, at that time. She would have been about 17 when they married, and he nearly 28.

Not long after they married, William and Rebecca left their home state of Pennsylvania, along with William's parents and siblings. The entire family re-established itself in Boone County, Illinois, near the small town of Cherry Valley, and would remain there for the next decade and a half.

Eight children were born to William and Rebecca while they lived in Illinois. Information about the children is limited to what was found in census and cemetery records. Childhood diseases that were so prevalent in the 1800s claimed three of the first four children in the family. George, the first-born, died in 1860 at age 5; Levi, the second child, died in 1861 at age 4; and the fourth-born, Cassius, also died in 1861 before reaching his first birthday. All three children were buried in the Cherry Valley cemetery, near the Ewing home in Illinois.

Five of the first eight children were still living when the Ewing family migrated with the Sabin family to Kansas in 1870, homesteading in Marshall County. More information about the trip to Kansas is available on our website at [this link](#).

Four more children were born into the family after they settled in Kansas. Caroline (Carrie), was born in 1871; Sarah (Sadie) in 1873; Ira in 1875; and John in 1878. But just two years after John was born, tragedy struck the Ewing family. A short blurb in the Irving, Kansas, newspaper dated May 14, 1880, indicated that a 14-year-old daughter of William Ewing (Mertie) had died of typhoid and that her mother was also very ill and not expected to live.

Rebecca was described as being in the final stages of "consumption," a term that had originally been used to identify tuberculosis, but became widely used by most people to describe any and all lung infections, including flu, the common cold, and pneumonia. Rebecca died on May 18, 1880, just a week after Mertie. Both



The children of William and Rebecca Ewing

	<u>Born (year/place)</u>	<u>Died (year/place)</u>
George	1855 Illinois	1860 Illinois
Levi	1856 Illinois	1861 Illinois
Elizabeth	1859 Illinois	1891 Illinois
Cassius	1860 Illinois	1860 Illinois
Laura	1863 Illinois	1937 Nebraska
Anna	1865 Illinois	1942 Nebraska
Myrtle	1866 Illinois	1880 Kansas
Grant	1868 Illinois	1943 Kansas
Caroline	1871 Kansas	1886 Kansas
Sarah (Sadie)	1873 Kansas	1950 Idaho
Ira	1875 Kansas	1941 Kansas
John	1878 Kansas	1949 Kansas

were interred at Antioch cemetery, marked by the two older headstones on the Ewing family plot.

Rebecca (Marshall) Ewing had borne twelve children in her 25 years as a wife and mother. Outside the family, who dearly appreciated her, she had received no recognition for her accomplishments, not even an obituary in the local paper. Years later, Grant Ewing would write in his published column, "[Notes by the Wayside](#)," that his mother's funeral was attended by the chief of the Otoe tribe and his family, who had befriended Rebecca and

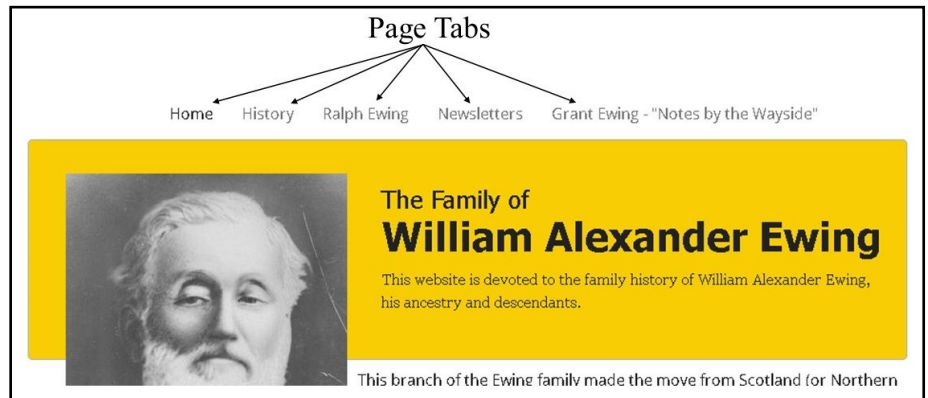
William over the years when passing by the Ewing homestead on many visits to the Pottawatomie reservation further southeast.

Unfortunately, we have no photographic images of grandmother Rebecca, so her physical appearance must be imagined. But, thanks to the information shared by cousin Patty Russell, we know more about her early life and her Marshall family heritage. Grandmother Rebecca's contribution to our branch of the Ewing family can certainly be appreciated by all of us.

A note about our family website

For those who have not visited the website, there is a lot of family information to be found at williamalexanderewing.info

Established six years ago, our family website features five pages of information, photos, maps, and more. Click on the page tabs at the top of any page to navigate the site, and also click blue buttons on any page that will link you to additional items.



Merry Christmas
wishing you a very
merry Christmas
and a happy
New Year
- Butch Ewing

