



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 110, March 2016**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)



Speaking of gifts, my Jodie gave me the BigY test from Family Tree DNA. She figures that I've gone this far, we may as well keep going! Actually, it was in response to this email from the coordinator of the specific DNA marker I1-L69:

Hi James,

Thank you for joining the project.

I have absolutely no doubt about you belonging to A5339 branch. You have the same bunch of mutations the other branch members have. However, I

can't tell who of your group's "cousins" you are closer to.

The branch's history is rather clear. The members are mostly of Norwegian and Scottish origin and the latter ones have ancestors from Hebrides and Highland Scotland. They must be the descendants of Norseman who had been colonising those parts of Scotland for a few hundred years starting from the VIII century.

As far as I understand your ancestor was one of four Edgar brothers from Galloway who migrated to County Down in Ulster.

If you'd like to find your relationship to other members of A5339 branch please order BigY test.

... Attached is a diagram of L69 part of I1 which includes your branch based on BigY results of your "cousins". It is rather developed due to a lot of enthusiasm of the branch members but it is still a long way to go to discover its full structure.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Kirill Prokopyuk (I1-M227)

I1-L69 Project Admin

My response:

Good morning Kirill,

You may be pleased to know that I just ordered the Big Y test. I'm looking forward to being on the leading edge of this research!

I'm not sure about the Galloway connection to Ulster -- we are fairly certain the four Edgars who fought in the Battle of the Boyne with the McKees were I2b1 (the stories sometimes have one Edgar and four McKee brothers). We've done extensive Y-DNA testing in the lands where those Edgars settled following the battle (i.e. Saintfield, Ballynahinch, Dromore, Banbridge, Carryduff, Comber, Benraw) and the results all point to I2b1 ancestors. Not one of my relatives is from those areas. Mine settled at the far southeastern tip of County Down (Kilkeel and Benagh), and I don't know anything about my early heritage beyond my gr-gr-grandfather's birth about 1772. I have a suspicion that they settled the area long before the Battle of the Boyne. Interestingly, there are three different DNA types among the Edgars in that small town of Kilkeel!

I do, though, have genetic connections to the Edgars who built Keithock near Brechin, Scotland -- we have an extensive tree going back to the David Edgar who built that manor house about 1640, but not any earlier. And my DNA matches the owner of the Edgar heirlooms, Steve Edgar of Oakville, Ontario, plus an Edgar living in the USA who descended from the same early progenitor. One of their (and my) relatives was James Edgar, Secretary to James Francis Edward Stuart, the "Old Pretender," who was Bonnie Prince Charlie's father.

I suspect, and what you wrote confirms my suspicions, that the Edgars of Keithock are descendants of the Edgars who owned Wedderlie for several centuries, that there was an NPE away back, perhaps 1000 years ago, when a Viking descendant impregnated an Edgar female (of the house of Dunbar), and she raised the male child as an Edgar. The Dunbars are descended from Crinan, through his son Gospatrick, and his son Gospatrick II (1st Earl of Dunbar), and his son Gospatrick III (2nd Earl of Dunbar), whose fourth son was Edgar, from whom the R1b Edgars descend. Rather extensive testing was carried out recently of Edgars, Dunbars, and Cockburns conducted by Dr. Bruce Cockburn of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, confirming the exact connections.

James

The results of my BigY test should appear sometime toward the end of March, so we'll see then what it brings.

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### Pewter Badges

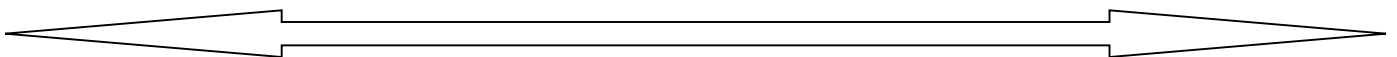
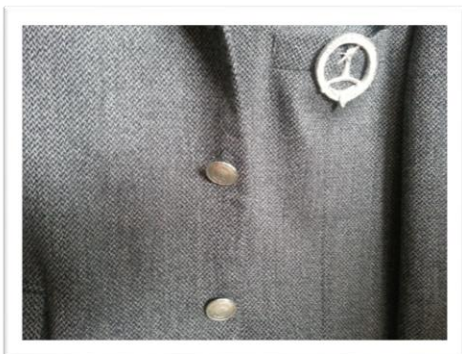
Looking to buy the **Edgar Crest**? At \$18, plus shipping, they make a great gift.

The proceeds over cost go to the Edgar DNA Trust Fund, to help with our DNA quest.

**The order of 50 more badges has arrived, just in time for birthday or anniversary shopping.**

Email me at [james@jamesedgar.ca](mailto:james@jamesedgar.ca)

Pewter buttons also available.



## Picture Time

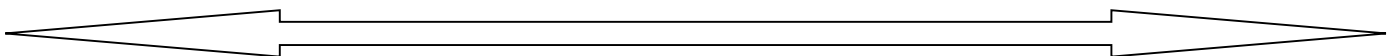
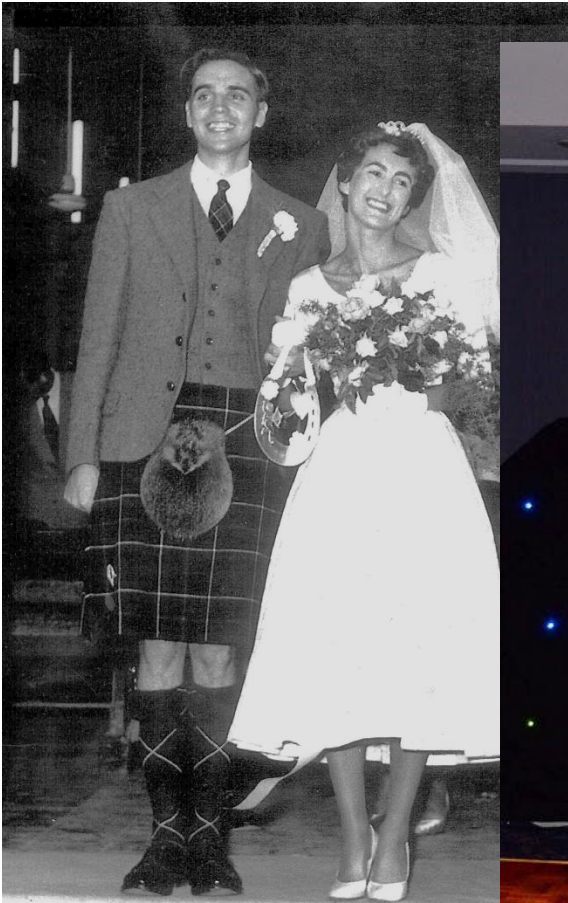
When **David Leslie Edgar** sent these delightful photos, he wrote:

Hello James

Thought you and Jodie would be interested to learn of our Diamond Wedding which was on 11th February. We were married in the Officers Mess in Aden [Yemen] in 1956 at which no relatives were present. Our celebration party, held in Guildford last Saturday, was attended by 120 relatives and close friends, most of whom were Edgars.

David and Margaret Edgar.

[Note the pewter Edgar badge on the sporran!]



## New Baby

Born to **Holly Marie McCroskey** and **Tristan James Edgar**, a happy baby boy, **Nathan James Dale Edgar** in Nacogdoches, Texas, on February 2nd.

6lbs, 8oz, 18 1/2 inches long

Tristan's uncle is **James Andrew Edgar**, who DNA tested a few years ago

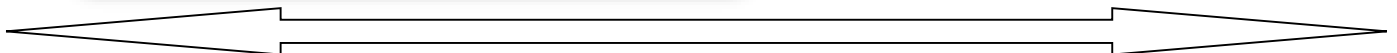


And here's the proud Dad with his new baby:

## More baby pictures



This one is for the 4th birthday party of **Clifton Aiden Hamel**, son of **Renee Edgar**, daughter of **Chuck Edgar**, who I met on Facebook. **Clifton** celebrated his fourth orbit this past February 12.



## Happy birthday, Sarah-Jane Edgar, 102!



From **Richard Edgar** of Tandragee, Northern Ireland

My grandmother, Sarah-Jane Edgar is 102 years old; she was born on 2nd February 1914, the first child of Thomas and Margaret Trueman. Seven months after her birth, her father Thomas left for service in the Great War, so it would be six years before the family was added to; the next child was a brother for Sarah-Jane. Sadly, Thomas would die as a young child, but then along came sisters Anne, Margaret, and Mildred. The happy young family living in the village of Laurelvale. It is here that Sarah-Jane has lived all of her 102 years.

Sarah-Jane would grow up proud to say “I’m from Laurelvale” she was educated in Mullavilly school, and true to her Laurelvale roots, she always asks “how is the cricket going?” and “who scored all the runs?” She is like a bar of rock with Laurelvale running through her very core.

In 1938, Sarah-Jane married the love of her life in Mullavilly Parish Church, her husband James Edgar hailed from Aforey, about two miles from Laurelvale. James and Sarah-Jane would have three children, Margaret Elizabeth (Brownlee) known as Loretta, William James (my father) known as Jim, and Olive (Lappin).

Everything seemed rosy in the garden, but tragedy would strike, James Edgar died in 1959, leaving Sarah-Jane a widow with three children. In the days before the state help, Sarah-Jane would hold down three jobs as she worked hard to raise her children. It is often said that “Love never dies”—Sarah-Jane has been a widow for 57 years, yet she speaks about James as if he has just left the room, he will be back in five minutes, if you wait. The fact is, he is still alive in her heart; 57 years apart has not diminished her love for him.



The years that followed would bring much joy with the marriages of her children and the arrival of eight grandchildren, they are in order of birth: Thomas Brownlee, Joyce Brownlee, Richard Edgar, Laurence Edgar, Leeann Brownlee, Andrea Lappin, Colin Lappin, and Ian Lappin. This brood has now grown with the addition of seven great-grandchildren, and two great, great-grandchildren. Sarah-Jane has lived to see four generations that have followed her.

It has been said that “long life is a blessing” but it is a curse at times, as well. Sarah-Jane would lose two of her children in the 1990s, first with the death of her daughter Loretta Brownlee in 1995, then the loss of my father Jim Edgar in 1998. Her strength through all of her life has been her Christian faith, born at a time before television or radio. Sarah-Jane never had a T.V. in her

home, she reads constantly, her favourite book being the Bible. She has read the Bible from cover to cover numerous times, so many times in fact that we have had to get her a number of replacements, as the old ones, worn out, end up falling apart.

Sarah-Jane, her mother, and sisters all lived very close to one another in Laurelvale; she lived in number 2 Laurel Park, her sister Anne in number 5, her sister Mildred in number 15, her sister Margaret in number 16, and her mother (my great-grandmother) in number 24. I can remember as a young boy how they all lived within a 60-seconds walking distance of each other.

Sarah-Jane Edgar is now the last of that generation; her mother and sisters are all gone. She asks about her friends and neighbours, such as the Redpath sisters, Mrs. Purdy, Ivy Harper, Elsie Denison, and many other Laurelvale people, I just don't have the heart to tell her that they are all gone—she forgets that she is over 100 years old, all her friends have long passed away.

We can only imagine the events and experiences Sarah-Jane has witnessed during her life. She was born in a time when there were no cars on the road. The fact is, there were few roads, only dirt tracks. A time when the majority of people would get their water from wells and stand pumps in the street; homes didn't have bathrooms, or electricity, and only very basic heating from open turf fires. Food was basic, and you ate whatever you got. It all sounds like something out of a Dickens novel, but it was reality for the majority of people. We now talk of a decade of centenaries, for Sarah-Jane it is reality; she can remember her father coming home from the Great War, the partition of Ireland, the Irish civil war, the formation of Northern Ireland. I can remember her telling me about the drone of German bombers as they flew over Laurelvale, on their way to bomb Belfast, 75 years ago this year. She told me how the people stood out in the fields around Laurelvale watching the waves of planes pass overhead. She has been witness to a fantastic century and amazing changes politically, socially, and economically.

Luckily for Sarah-Jane, she has strong and loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren; we will all wish her a happy birthday, and enjoy this happy family time together with Sarah-Jane Edgar, the head of our family.

Happy birthday, Granny Edgar.

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## **Angela's Links**

<http://searches.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/tips.html>

[www.rootsireland.ie/2016/02/more-than-51000-new-bmds-for-co-down-catholic-parishes-released](http://www.rootsireland.ie/2016/02/more-than-51000-new-bmds-for-co-down-catholic-parishes-released)

