



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 117, April 2017**

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER



DNA Update

by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)



I thought it would be good to share a bit of the happenings we've seen over the past few months, so I'm putting out a Special Edgar Events. I can't say they'll become regular, but it is good to keep in touch.

I received many, many emails from contacts, friends, and relatives to say how much they enjoyed the newsletters and how they always looked forward to the first of each month—that is especially pleasing.

The DNA Trust Fund is still surprisingly robust, even after supporting a few DNA tests in the last while. Part of the reason for the fund doing so well is because of the pewter badge sales. Each purchase contributes back to the fund, and we've had more than a few badges ordered over the past months.

Now, on to the DNA test results. In the final newsletter in September 2016, I wrote of a test for **John Coburn** of Regina. Interestingly, **John** is the same DNA type as myself (I-253, or I1 in the old naming method). We expected him to be the same as the Dunbar/Cockburn/Edgar matches that have proved the connection between the Wedderlie Edgars and the 2nd Earl of Dunbar. **John Coburn's** matches are interesting because he matches no Edgars, Dunbars, or Cockburns—his matches have surnames like Jansson, Shtrunov, Naatula, and Soini. Pages and pages of them! It's certainly interesting, but it hasn't led us anywhere.

He shared an abbreviated tree with us, as follows:

John Thompson Coburn, Ottawa, 1982 (this is him)
John Hitchman Coburn, Morrisburg, Ontario, 1951
Claude Clifton Coburn, Ottawa??, 1922
George Clifton Coburn, ??, 1890
William Alexander Coburn, ??, 1857
John ?? Coburn, ??, 1824
John ?? Coburn (Cockburn??), Lisburn, Ireland, 1794

So, the family goes back a considerable distance, to the area in Northern Ireland where **SteveUK** and I tramped around and through cemeteries. Still, we don't see any connections to the DNA we were discovering through tests there. The search continues.

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On Boxing Day, 2016 December 26, I received this email.

Hi James, my name is Jarnell Edgar. Firstly, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

I found your newsletters whilst searching the web & have a few questions for you, if you don't mind. I have started the mission to put my family tree together, & I say mission as according to ancestry.uk, my line didn't exist!

I have 5 generations in Australia, then we go back to Berwickshire, Scotland. I have traced the trunk of the tree with male descendants going back to 1754, all born in Berwickshire.

Hit a brick wall with my 5th great grandfather, Robert Edgar. Born 29 Dec 1754, death unknown. Father listed as 'EDGAR', mother unknown. Married to Margaret Rae, born 1755. They had 6 children. James, William, Alexander, John, Thomas, & Isabella.

Apart from mapping in our line, I am doing this research to try & find a link that I'm told we have to the Edgars of Wedderlie. I found a distant cousin who's also been told this but cannot find the link either.

I read in a newsletter that it was either the R1b, or the I1 gene that was linked to Wedderlie ancestors. Did you clarify which it was?

My father is going to do the DNA test from ancestry. Is this a good test to do? Have been told of another Scotland DNA test, is this better? What is a 67 marker test and is this what the ancestry test is?

I have put the trunk of the tree into ancestry under Jarnell Edgar if you'd like the details. Thank you for your time.

Kind regards

JARNELL EDGAR

Jarnell did the Family Finder and mtDNA tests, and his father, **Paul Edgar**, did the 111-marker Y-DNA test.

Before we go too far down that track, let me tell you about **Mrs. Poirot's** (my wife, **Jodie's**) prowess as a researcher. When she saw the name **Margaret Rae** in Jarnell's email, her antennae went up, and she started looking on our database (we have over 28,500 names on our Worldwide Edgar Tree!). She reminded me that we had conversed by email with an **Agnes Marton**, who lives in Saskatchewan, not far from Regina. **Agnes** is also descended from **Robert Edgar** and **Margaret Rae**. I had her email address, and getting her phone number was easy, so I gave her a call to let her know that we were hot on the DNA trail, and we'd keep her posted.

Interestingly, the son of **Robert** and **Margaret Edgar**, **James Edgar**, was born just northeast of Wedderlie in Longformacus. Because of this, I was positive that we had another Dunbar/Edgar connection, and the DNA test would prove it.

After a couple of months, we got **Paul's** results. He doesn't match even one Edgar!

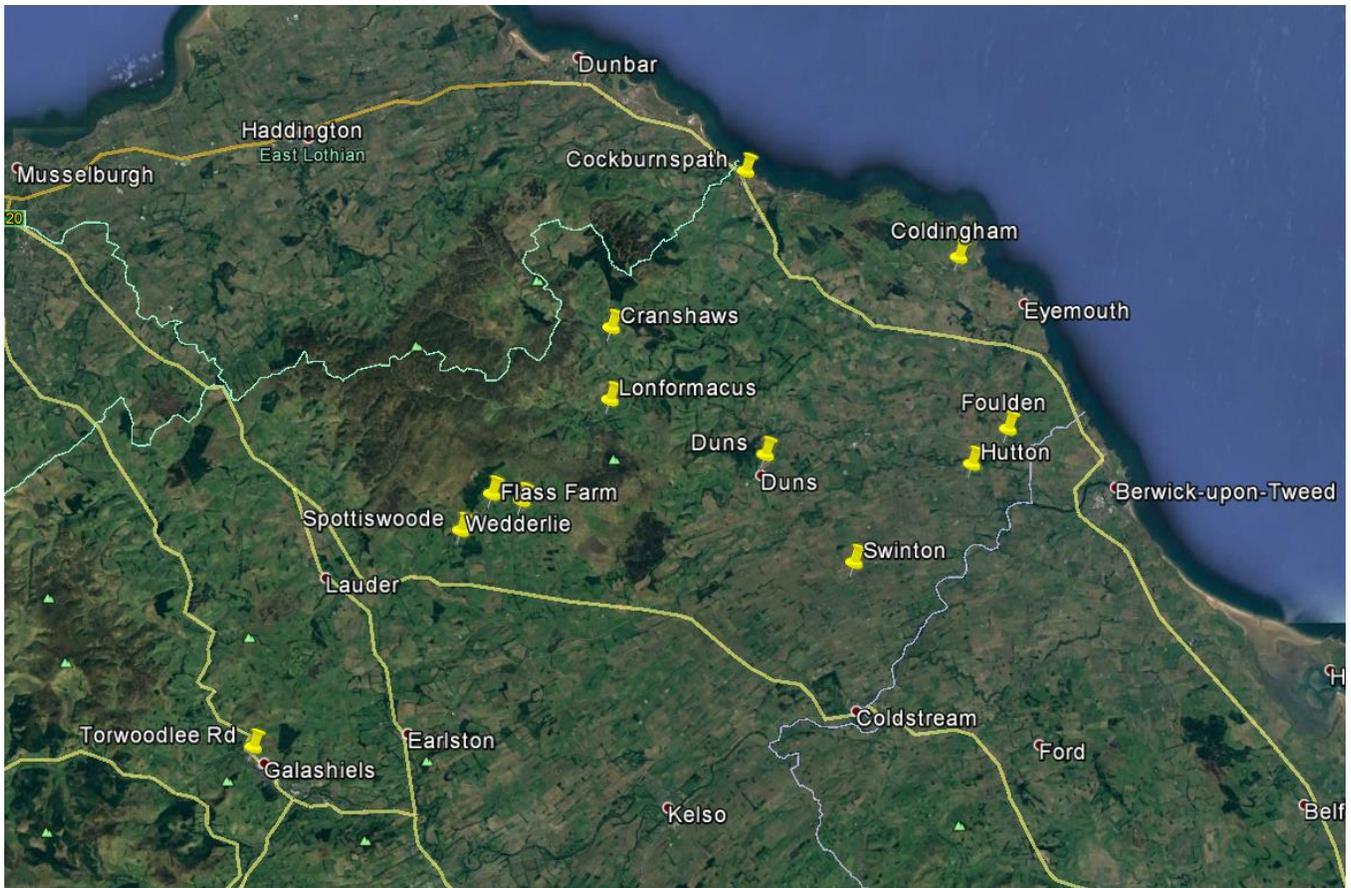
Were we disappointed? That's putting it mildly!!

"How can that be?" we asked. I think the answer is that there was an NPE (non-paternal event), meaning we don't know who the father is. Somewhere back in time, and it could be the very distant past, there was an Edgar woman, likely descended from the Wedderlie stock, who gave birth to a male, and he was raised with the Edgar surname—only the name, not the DNA.

So, **Jarnell** and **Paul** may not fit the part we cast for them, but they're still Edgars and nobody can take that away from them. I say, in the absence of proof otherwise, they're descended from the Wedderlie line, through the female who gave birth to the son by a father with no name.

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The next DNA test was for a **Dr. James Edgar** in Manchester, Cheshire, England. His family line goes back to Cranshaws, another village just north of Wedderlie, and not far from Longformacus. Here's a map showing a yellow pin for all the DNA tests we've done with roots to the Berwickshire area (pronounced **Bear**-ick-shear). Notice the town names to the north—Dunbar & Cockburnspath. Those are sure giveaways that we're in Dunbar and Cockburn country.



This is the letter I received from **Dr. James Edgar** on January 13:

Hi James,

I've just come across your archive of "Edgar Events" newsletters. It looks like you have done an impressive amount of research over the last decade! (Thank you for making all these newsletters available.)

I'm another James Edgar, and doubtless we are very distant cousins of some description. My branch of the family have lived around the Manchester (England) area since an ancestor moved here from Scotland in the 1850s. I can trace our Edgar line back to Peter Edgar and Elisabeth Shiel who married in Cranshaws, Berwickshire, Scotland in 1774.

My father and I have done the Ancestry.com DNA test. Most of the interesting matches so far have been for other branches of the tree, but I have been touch with a lady in New Zealand descended from the same Edgar family. (Alison, Peter's granddaughter, married an Alexander King and they emigrated to New Zealand.)

Reading your last newsletter, #116, I see that you say you've got what sounds like a very interesting database of Edgar information, and that you welcome enquiries.

Can you tell me if you have any information relevant to our branch of the Edgar family?

Thanks,
James

Through the DNA Trust Fund, we ordered a Y-67 test for **James** (he donated back to the fund, which is a nice way to keep it going).

During the interval, while we awaited the test results, I've also had a running email exchange with a cousin of **Dr. James** named **Jocelyn Prvanov**. She and her husband are the ones who live in New Zealand; she's also descended from the Edgars of Cranshaws.

Again, as it turns out, we had **James** and **Jocelyn's** tree on our computer. Some of the family came to Canada and lived in the Toronto area. I can't explain exactly why **Mrs. Poirot** researched this particular family, but I suspect it was because **Kenneth Vincent Edgar** of Toronto, another descendant from these Cranshaw Edgars, fought and died in the Great War with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).

We now have the results for **James's** test, and it looks like this, one of five pages:

Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup
2	Mr. Robert Cockburn	Y-DNA111	James Cockburn, b. c1640, Haddington, East Loth.	R-S5750
2	Mr. Robert James Cockburn	Y-DNA111	James Cockburn, b. c1640, Haddington, East Loth.	R-M269
2	Mr. Sidney G. Dunbar	Y-DNA111	Robert Dunbar, b. c1634 Scotland	R-M269
2	Charles Howard Dunbar	Y-DNA111	Samuel Dunbar, b.c. 1735	R-U106
2	Mr. Patrick R. L. Dunbar	Y-DNA111	Robert Dunbar, b.c. 1787, Forres, Moray, Scotland	R-S5750
2	James H. Dunbar	Y-DNA67		R-M269
3	C. Gillispie	Y-DNA67 FF	John GW Gillespie1823 VA/TN>Finley b1853 FL S5750+	R-S5750
3	Mr. Thomas Austin Dunbar	Y-DNA67		R-M269
3	Mr. Daniel Lambert Dunbar	Y-DNA67	Robert Dunbar, b. c1634 Scotland	R-M269
3	Daniel G. Dunbar, II	Y-DNA67	Robert Dunbar & Rose, Hingham MA 1693	R-M269
3	Mr. A. T. Cockburn	Y-DNA111	Sir Alexander de Cokburne, Brn. of Langton, c1310	R-S5750
3	Richard Dunbar	Y-DNA67		R-M269
3	Jeffrey Michael Harlan	Y-DNA111 FF		R-S5750
3	David Artus Lawson	Y-DNA67	James Lawson b. 1763 and d. 1830 Delaware	R-S5750
3	Mr. Thomas Jerry Dunbar	Y-DNA67		R-M269
3	Dunbar		Dunbar	R-M269
3	Mr. Dunbar			R-M269
4	William Paris Langley	Y-DNA111 FF	William Langley, b.1825-27 d. 1894	R-M269
4	Dr. Malcolm Robert Fraser	Y-DNA111	Charles Earle. bc1754 Ayr, Scotland	R-M269
4	Mr. Craig Dunbar	Y-DNA67		R-S5750
4	Mr. T Dunbar	Y-DNA67	Robert Dunbar, 1630-1693	R-M269
4	Mr. M. Cockburn	Y-DNA111	James Cokburne, b. c1565 Edinburgh area?	R-L257
4	Dr. B. Cockburn	Y-DNA111	James Cockburn b. c1800	R-M269
4	Mr. Andrew R Dunbar	Y-DNA67	James Dunbar b. 1730 d. 1783	R-M269
4	Mr. Donald Stanley Dunbar Ph.D.	Y-DNA111 FF	Mr. Samuel Dunbar, b. 1735	R-S5750

Of the Edgars who have tested with FTDNA, we know **Dr. James** has at least two connections—**Andrew N.L. Edgar**, and **Raymond Croxford**. Most of the others are Dunbars and Cockburns, as you can see in the foregoing clip. However, of all the tests we did prior to using FTDNA, there are numerous other Edgars who were tested at Ancestry.com that **Dr. James** would match—**Bill “The Pilot” Edgar** of Dundee; **Colin Edgar** of Carryduff, Northern Ireland; **Jim Edgar** of Glasgow; **William Edgar** of Edinburgh; **Winston Edgar** of London; and **Harry Edgar** of Edinburgh. How do we know this? They all match the Dunbar DNA provided by **Debra (Dunbar) Nowell**, in the first line.

Here’s a little snip of their DNA—notice that they all match!

Haplotype Dunbar	Debra Dunbar	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
James Paterson Edgar	Glasgow Scot	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
Colin Stuart Edgar	Belfast N Ire	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
Harry Alexander Edgar	Edinburgh Scot	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
Bill “The Pilot” Edgar	Dundee, Scot	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
William Edgar	Edinburgh, Scot	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
Winston Edgar	London, Eng	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13

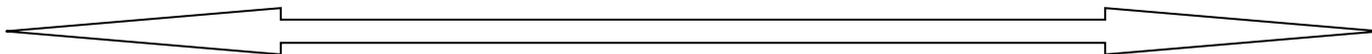
Now have a look at the results from FTDNA for **Andrew N.L. Edgar**, **Dr. James Edgar**, and **Raymond Croxford**’s DNA for comparison:

Andrew N.L. Edgar	Battle, England	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
Dr. James A. Edgar	Manchester, England	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13
Raymond Croxford	Cape Town, Sth Africa	R1b	13	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13

The only person with even one marker different is Raymond Croxford—in the first column, he has a 13, where all the others have 14. Which means that his line had a mutation sometime in the past, while the others didn’t.

Of course, there are differences in the DNA, otherwise they might all have the same father! The point is, there are enough similarities to say that they are all descended from a common ancestor.

Until next time...



Pewter Badges

I have 40 **Edgar Crests** left, and will continue to take orders. At \$18, plus shipping, they make a great gift.

Email me at james@jamesedgar.ca

A few pewter buttons are also available.

