



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 19, August 2008**



## DNA Update

by James Edgar (Editor) ([jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net))



At the risk of sounding like a bore, I'll repeat my invitation from last issue — if you haven't already become a member of our Edgar Group, go to this site [dna.ancestry.com/welcome.aspx](http://dna.ancestry.com/welcome.aspx). Scroll to the bottom and search in DNA Groups for "Edgar." You can request membership simply by clicking on the yellow button and follow the steps to obtain a MyFamily.com account (it's free and painless).

Re-capping the recent tests, we discovered that the two we thought were still to come were there all along (must be a senior's moment!). They are Norman and Robin — both of whom fall into the group I or I1b. I've lumped together those people into one Haplogroup on the Web site.

Haplogroup results:

**James Edgar** of Thornhill – I

**Norman Edgar** of Dumfries – I

**Robin Edgar** of Moniaive – I1b

**Ian Edgar** of Belfast – I1b

**Leslie Edgar** of Maryport, England – I1b

**Tom Edgar** of Kilkeel – R1b

**Colin Edgar** of Saintfield – R1b

Recognizing that some of these people don't have Internet access, I printed out the results for them and sent them via snail-mail a short letter showing to whom they might be closely related. We received this delightful reply from Jim Edgar of Thornhill last week:

"18th July 2009

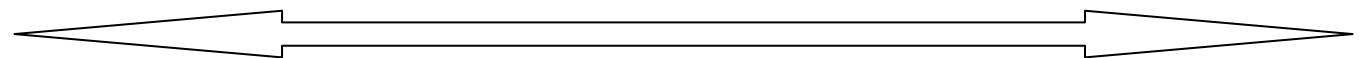
Dear Jim,

Thank you for the DNA samples received this morning. Elspeth and I are amazed at the amount of work that has gone into this project.

We enjoyed your visit and found it very exciting. I can check on the near people named.

Wishing you all the best,

Jim  
(James Edgar)"



Continuing the series by Richard Edgar of Tandragee, NI, the next section is his contribution about the men of Ireland who fought and died in World War One.



## Edgars in the First World War

by *Richard Edgar, Tandragee (edgar888@yahoo.com)*

### Part 3: Ireland

I have been asked many times what sparked my interest in family history. You might well have been asked the same question yourself. Well, I know exactly where and when my interest in family history began — it was when visiting my great grandmother, Margaret Trueman, as a young boy; Margaret lived all of her life in the small village of Laurelvale, four miles outside of the town of Portadown, in Co. Armagh. My grandmother, Sarah-Jane Edgar, lived no more than 100 metres away from her mother, Margaret Trueman, so living in the same small village I would be in both my grannies' houses nearly every day. As a young boy of eight or nine I can remember my fascination with this big bible my granny Trueman had by her bedside, it was a leather-bound family bible that had belonged to her husband, Thomas Trueman. Thomas died two years before I was born. Looking back now he must have had a keen interest in family history as he had faithfully recorded family births, deaths, and marriages in the special section in this bible, just like many of your own ancestors might have done in similar bibles. But a great thing Thomas did as well was keep copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates for everyone, even his own parents and great grandparents. If only one of my Edgar ancestors had been as good at record keeping. Those days of wonderment as a young boy reading the names in that bible planted the seed that has now flourished into my almost obsession with family history.



The picture above shows my great grandparents, Thomas and Margaret Trueman, pictured in the 1950s.

So what has all this to do with Ireland in the First World War? Well, I am getting to that. Thomas Trueman was to see service in both the army and the air force during the war; Thomas enlisted in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, part of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1914, in the town of Portadown. My granny Edgar always told me that her father spent time in military hospital, but she didn't know why, she just said he had trouble walking. I researched Thomas's military records and found that he had been shot in the legs, hence his problems when walking. The army discharged him as unfit for further military service, but rather than go home he volunteered for the Royal Air Force; he had been a cabinet maker in civilian life and as the aeroplanes were made from wood he could continue his war service repairing aircraft in a

workshop. My granny Trueman must have been a hard woman to live with in her younger days if he picked the war over her.



The pictures above show Thomas Trueman in the uniform of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and a copy of the Ulster Covenant he signed in Portadown, 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912.

The years 1912 to 1914 in Ulster were the years of resistance to the “Home Rule” bill; this was a planned act of parliament that would in the eyes of the people of Ulster be the beginning of the end of the United Kingdom, it would see a government formed in Dublin to rule over Ireland. The people of Ulster were then and still are the most British of the British; they were not going to sit back while their British identity was taken away from them. A referendum was held and when the votes were counted the island of Ireland was split, the bottom half voted for the bill and the top half voted against the Home Rule bill, and the government in London didn’t know what to do. A similar referendum was held in Canada a few years back on whether Quebec should remain part of Canada. Rumours began to circulate that the British Government may try to force the people of the Ulster to accept the Home Rule bill. Also at this time groups of home-rule supporters in the south of Ireland began to arm themselves — Ireland was now on the brink of civil war. In Ulster the Pro-Union politicians, backed by the Orange Order, began to organise the people of the north in resistance to the home-rule bill and in readiness to defend their country if civil war ever came; 100,000 men came forward to form the Ulster Volunteer Force, this would later become the backbone of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division in the First World War. Also, almost all of the electorate of Ulster, some 600,000 men and women, signed the “Solemn League and Covenant,” pledging their allegiance to God and the King, and demonstrating their resistance to the home-rule bill. If your Edgar ancestor was living in Ireland on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912 (Ulster Day), they most probably signed the Covenant. You can view their signatures online at: [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)

The Covenant and the Ulster Volunteer Force would help forge the identity of the Ulster Soldier in the war, their cry would be “No surrender” and their motto “For God and Ulster” — they did not trust the British government, they trusted only God and their fellow Ulstermen.

On the outbreak of war in August 1914, the Ulster Unionist Council offered the men of the Ulster Volunteer Force to the British Government; in September 1914 the first of many sons of Ulster headed off to war, and one of them was Thomas Trueman. As a result of the great sacrifice shown by the men of Ulster in the Great War, the British government never imposed the Home Rule bill on Ulster. In the end the government did the only thing they could do, which was to divide Ireland; in 1920 the Irish Free State was formed under the Home Rule bill with its government in Dublin. In the north nothing changed, Northern Ireland remained British, as were the wishes of its people.

I have given you a brief history of Northern Ireland; as this is very important to know when you look at the events of the First World War and how it is viewed in Ireland. In the north the men who fought are viewed as heroes, the men who secured our freedom, in the south, as a whole, they are not remembered at all — many thousands of Irishmen from the south would die, but the myth in the south is they died in service for Britain not for Ireland, so they are rarely remembered.

Men from all parts of Ireland would see service right throughout the war, many served in English, Scottish, Canadian, and Australian regiments, but the vast majority of them served in one of the three Irish military divisions during the First World War. These divisions were:

- 10<sup>th</sup> Irish Division; men from all parts of Ireland served in this division seeing active service in Gallipoli and Palestine. The division would suffer losses of 9,363 men.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division; recruited mainly from southern Ireland, this division would see service in both Belgium and France, suffering losses of 28,398 men.
- 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division; raised in Northern Ireland this division would see service in both Belgium and France, suffering losses of 32,186 men.

The fact that Edgar is a Northern name is reflected in the divisions in which the men served; I have never found an Edgar who served in the 16<sup>th</sup> Division.

There are two main battlefield monuments to the men from Ireland who fought in the First World War, these are:

- The Ulster Memorial Tower: This was the first battlefield memorial built on the fields of the Somme. Paid for by the people of Northern Ireland, it stands as a memorial to the men of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division who fought in the Great War and who attacked on the site of this memorial on first day of the Battle of the Somme, losing almost 6,000 men in the advance.
- The Island of Ireland Peace Park: A cross-community group from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland built this in Belgium in the 1990s; it marks the spot where the men of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster and 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Divisions fought side by side during the Battle of Messines Ridge. This monument stands as a memorial to all the men from the Island of Ireland wherever they fought.





The picture on the left shows the Ulster Memorial Tower on the Somme in France, the picture on the right is of me, Richard Edgar, before the memorial service on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008. Note: I took the picture on the left four years ago and the building has since been sand blasted, which is why it is so much cleaner looking now.

The Ulster Memorial Tower is a copy of Helen's Tower, which stands in the Clondeboye Estate in Co. Down. It was in the grounds of this estate that the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division trained before leaving for France, the tower in the estate would have been one of the last memories the men would have had of home.

In the grounds of the Ulster Tower stands the Orange Memorial; this commemorates the 300,000 Orangemen and women worldwide who served during the war. Also in the grounds of the Ulster Tower is the memorial stone to the men of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division who were awarded Victoria Crosses in the First World War.



The picture on the left is the Peace Tower in the Island of Ireland Peace Park, Messines, Belgium. Stone from every county in Ireland was used to build this Irish Round Tower; the floor inside the tower has the bronze map of Ireland pictured on the right. At 11 o'clock, on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, the hour the war ended, light from a slit window in the tower shines on Ireland.



The two pictures above show members of Portadown Friends of the Somme Association during commemoration services at Ancre British Cemetery on the left and at one of the battle markers of the 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division in the village of Messines.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 at the Somme, the 600 men of the 9<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Fusiliers attacked the German lines in the Ancre Valley, 250 metres to their right, 10,000 men of the Ulster Division were advancing out of Theipval Wood, 250 metres to their left, the men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment were attacking at Beaumont Hamel. Approximately 520 men of the 9<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Fusiliers from Co. Armagh fell in this small valley, 80 of them came from the town of Portadown. This was my great grandfather's battalion — these were his comrades. In the photo above at right, Bobby Hoy is holding the Battle Standard of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, while a piper from the Royal Irish Regiment plays a lament.

At Messines, we remembered all the men of Ireland who fought, in particular the men of the 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division from southern Ireland.

### **Edgars from Ireland lost in the First World War:**

Lieutenant John Hammond Edgar  
Durham Light Infantry 9th Battalion  
From Belfast  
Died of wounds France 24th February 1916  
Cemetery: Railway Dugouts Burial Ground: Grave: I.M. 27

Pte 3537 Thomas William Gallamore Edgar  
Irish Guards 1st Battalion  
From Dromore, Co. Down  
Son of Elizabeth Edgar and the late Joseph Edgar (Chemist)  
7 Princess Terrace, Cregagh Rd, Belfast  
Killed in action France, 1st November 1914, Age 21  
Ypres, Menin Gate Memorial: Panel 11

Guardsman 20583 Hamilton Edgar  
Grenadier Guards 2nd Battalion  
From Killyleagh, Co. Down  
Son of Hamilton Edgar and husband of Ellen Edgar  
Served in the Sudan and South African Campaigns  
Killed in action France, 6th April 1915, Age 45  
Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Guinchy, Pas de Calais, Grave: I.F. 19

Rifleman 44150 Thomas Edgar  
Royal Irish Rifles 2nd Battalion  
Born Lambeth, Surrey  
Killed in action France, 22nd October 1918

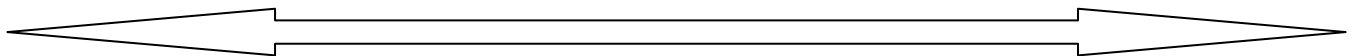
Rifleman 11141 James Edgar  
Royal Irish Rifles, 6th Battalion  
From Strabane, Co. Tyrone  
Husband of Isabella Edgar, 6 Disraeli Street, Belfast  
Killed in action Gallipoli, 11th August 1915  
Helles Memorial, Turkey, Panel 177 and 178

Rifleman 10624 Thomas Edgar  
Royal Irish Rifles, 6th Battalion  
From Armagh  
Killed in action Gallipoli, 11th August 1915  
Helles Memorial, Turkey, Panel 177 and 178

Pte 49580 Harold Edgar  
Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers  
Son of Mrs E.J. Edgar, 42 Rigby Street, Salford, Manchester  
Killed in action, 20th October 1918, Age 20  
Harelebeke, New British Cemetery, Belgium, Grave: VIII C5

Bombardier 107687 Samuel Wesley Edgar  
Royal Field Artillery  
From Monaghan, Ireland  
Husband of Eva Maud Edgar, 94 Petherton Rd, Canonbury, London  
Also served in South African Campaign  
Died of wounds France, 16th October 1918  
Delsaux Farm Cemetery, Beugny, Pas de Calais, Grave: I.G. 25

2nd Lieutenant S.W. Edgar  
London Regiment







After receiving Richard's interesting piece, Jodie and I thought we could try to research the family of one of the men named above, to find about him and his ancestors. There is much available information out there, if you know where to look. Jodie (who SteveUK nicknamed "Mrs. Poirot") has a worldwide subscription to Ancestry.com. With that we can find details from the British Census records from 1841 to 1901, most of the US Census records to 1930, the Canadian Census records from 1851 to 1911, plus Births, Marriages, and Deaths (BMDs) for Britain and Ontario. FreeBMD, the IGI (International Genealogical Index), and Find My Past are further resources for the serious researcher. Links to these sites:

[www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

[www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp)

[www.findmypast.com/home.jsp](http://www.findmypast.com/home.jsp)

The person we chose to research was Harold Edgar, who died 20 October 1918 in Belgium, aged 20 years.

Below is an Outline Descendant Tree of Harold's father, showing much of what we discovered in our research, ending with Harold as the final entry. In fact, we started with Harold and worked backwards, so all that you see here is what we found in two days. The way we did it continues below the tree.

## Descendants of John Edgar

- 1 John Edgar b: Abt. 1857 in Newry, Ireland d: Bef. 1918
  - ... +Eliza Jane Paul b: Abt. 1857 in Newry, Ireland m: Abt. Dec 1875 in Manchester, LAN, England d: Aft. 1918
  - 2 Joseph William Edgar b: Abt. Dec 1877 in Manchester, LAN, England d: Abt. Jun 1888 in Manchester, LAN, England
  - 2 Anne Eliza Edgar b: Abt. Dec 1879 in Hull, YKS, England d: Abt. Jun 1919 in Chorlton, LAN, England
    - ..... +[1] John Willie Seaborn b: Abt. Jun 1880 in Ashton, LAN, England m: Abt. Sep 1906 in Manchester, LAN, England d: 07 Jan 1942 in Manchester, LAN, England
      - Father: William Seaborn Mother: Elizabeth Bridgewater
  - ... 3 John Edgar Seaborn b: Abt. Mar 1908 in Manchester, LAN, England
  - ... 3 Anne Eliza Seaborn b: Abt. Dec 1909 in Manchester, LAN, England
  - ... 3 Henry E. Seaborn b: Abt. Jun 1916 in Manchester, LAN, England
  - ... 3 William Seaborn b: Abt. Sep 1917 in Manchester, LAN, England
  - 2 John Edgar b: Abt. 1884 in Manchester, LAN, England d: Aft. 1891
  - 2 Florence Edgar b: Abt. 1885 in Manchester, LAN, England d: Aft. 1901
  - 2 Robert Francis Edgar b: Abt. Sep 1887 in Manchester, LAN, England d: Aft. 1901
  - 2 Joseph William Edgar b: Abt. Mar 1892 in Manchester, LAN, England d: Aft. 1901
  - 2 Catherine Edgar b: Abt. Jun 1895 in Manchester, LAN, England d: Aft. 1921
    - ..... +[1] John Willie Seaborn b: Abt. Jun 1880 in Ashton, LAN, England m: Abt. Sep 1921 in Manchester, LAN, England d: 07 Jan 1942 in Manchester, LAN, England
      - Father: William Seaborn Mother: Elizabeth Bridgewater
  - ... 3 Harold E. Seaborn b: Abt. Mar 1922 in Manchester, LAN, England

... 3 Florence M. Seaborn b: Abt. Dec 1923 in Manchester, LAN, England  
... 3 Leonard E. Seaborn b: Abt. Mar 1928 in Manchester, LAN, England  
2 Harold Edgar b: Abt. Dec 1898 in Manchester, LAN, England d: 20 Oct 1918 in  
Belgium

(As information, where we show a birthdate as “Abt.” it means we don’t have the exact date; a death date shown, for example, as “Aft. 1901” means that the name was found on the 1901 Census.)

In our research, to start with, we looked on the FreeBMD for the quarter and district in which Harold’s birth was registered — “Abt. Dec 1898” means he was registered in the December Quarter of 1898 in Salford (Manchester). His exact birthdate is not known, but we could get it, were we to order his birth certificate. We then went to Ancestry.com and looked for Harold on the British 1901 Census. We found him living with his parents, John and Eliza Jane Edgar.

To make sure we had included all of the family, we looked at the age of the eldest child and then went to the nearest census. One thing that popped right out at us was both John and Eliza were from Newry! [Newry, you may recall, is where Steve Edgar of Crewe and I came together in the spring of 2005, searching for a connection to our two families. We never found one, of course, because we aren’t related — that was before our DNA tests!] John & Eliza first appear as a married couple on the 1881 Census. Looking again on the FreeBMD for their marriage, we found in the December Quarter of 1875 in Salford, John Edgar and Eliza Jane Paul. To confirm, the marriage certificate could be ordered, which would also give the parents’ names for both the bride and the groom.

Looking at Harold’s siblings, we discovered that his sister, Anne Eliza Edgar, married John Willie Seaborn in 1906. Anne Eliza Seaborn died in 1919, and John Willie Seaborn married her sister, Catherine, in 1921. After 1912, the FreeBMD birth records include the mother’s maiden name, which made it easier to find the Seaborn children.

Then, we decided to look on Ancestry.com to see if anyone else had submitted a tree on this family, and we found someone in Australia who is associated by marriage to this Seaborn branch. We emailed him, and he quickly replied with a promise of an address for an Edgar descendant living in England, who he claims has done considerable research on this branch.

Referring to a Census Analysis shared with us some time ago by Steve Edgar (of Crewe), we found he had earlier seen some of this family on the British 1901 Census and he had considered them as “his” relatives — at least he had raised a question mark, or, as he likes to say, “he found the smoking gun.”

Steve has all sorts of clues to connect his family to this one — John & Eliza named their firstborn Joseph William. Steve’s family names include both Joseph and William, plus his family moved from Newry to Salford in the late 1800s. The coincidences are starting to mount up.

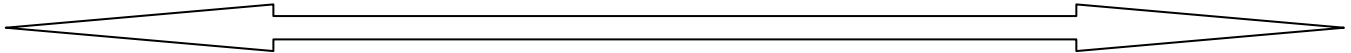
And now we wait for a reply from Australia. If our hunches prove correct, Harold Edgar, who was killed at age 20 in Belgium in 1918, could well be Steve’s distant cousin!

And, that result is exactly what Richard was hoping for when he submitted these articles. In the words of his email response, “This connection with Steve’s family is great. This is exactly reason I have written this, out there are these men’s families, if we can only link them up. This is also

the reason I posted the pictures of the names on memorials, these are members of some Edgar families, these people may never have seen their name on the memorial, hopefully it sparks in someone's mind and, just as James has done here, they spot the link.

I am so pleased this piece has already started debate and created links, and it hasn't even made the Edgar Events yet.

Richard"



## More DNA stuff

by James Edgar (Editor) ([jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net))

A couple of weeks ago, I was contacted by **Debra Dunbar**, who has found a plausible link between one of our DNA test results (**James Edgar** of Glasgow) and her Dunbar family — their comparison to the Dunbar DNA is uncanny — almost a 100% match! (More on this later.) What Debra had to say was that there were ten Edgars on the site FamilyTreeDNA who apparently had no family group or a group administrator. I contacted the company in Houston, Texas, and explained that I was interested in becoming the administrator for a family group, and before the hour was out, I was just that! I was speaking with **Max Blankfeld**, Vice-President, Operations and Marketing, and he arranged for setting up the group, emailing the ten Edgars advising of my newfound status, and sending me a DNA test kit. I decided to re-test using their facilities, to show that I was serious about being the group administrator.

As it turns out, there aren't ten people, but only four. The others were females with the Edgar surname or had entered "Edgar," even though it wasn't their maiden name.

Max Blankfeld emailed the people, but I have yet to get a response from any of them. So, for now, I'm the administrator of a group of one! One thing we do know is that all four are Haplogroup R1b, the Celtic line of Edgars.

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Getting back to Debra Dunbar's query — she has contacted James Edgar of Glasgow and Colin Edgar of Saintfield, both of whom are in Haplogroup R1b. We were very surprised when we got back the results from Colin Edgar in May that showed him related to James Edgar by only one generation. (We still haven't figured out the connection, yet. But we're working on it!) Even more surprising was the discovery by Debra that both James and Colin show a very close match with the Chieftain of Clan Dunbar, which could strengthen the connection between the Dunbar and Edgar clans, given that at least one branch of the Edgars claims descendancy from King Crinan of Scotland, as do the Dunbars. Fascinating stuff; it will be even more interesting to see where this all leads!!

*by Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe (steven-edgar@sky.com)*



As a lot of the DNA project members have roots in Ireland and southwest Scotland I thought it would be useful to know a little about how the Edgars and the other Protestant families got into Northern Ireland in the first place. This should help explain the background to the sectarian differences that the north has experienced over the past 400 years. See [www.ulsterancestry.com/ulster-scots-2.html](http://www.ulsterancestry.com/ulster-scots-2.html)

## **The Ulster Plantations, part one**

There were nine counties in the province of Ulster at the time of the Plantation. Of those counties, two were to be settled entirely by Scots, two mostly by English, and two mixed. The remaining three counties were not part of the 1610 Plantation scheme, but they had already been settled by both the English and Scots. King James specifically excluded Highlander Scots from the colonization scheme; he believed that they would simply team up with the native Irish to cause discord and unrest. The Scottish settlements succeeded very well, but most of the areas settled by the English failed for one reason or another. Many of the English settlers, having been farmers in their homeland, left Ireland because of the poorer farmlands they found there. The climate was not to their liking either. In many cases, the individuals who had been set up as landlords and had the responsibility of attracting and gaining the actual settlers went about that task only half-heartedly. As time went on, the majority of the settlers of the Ulster Plantation were Scots. Even the native Irish, who had been expelled from the region, gained in numbers over the English when they were enticed to take the place of those Englishmen who left. The Lowland Scots were not discouraged like the English because they found much better farmland than they had left in Scotland. The Lowland Scots were also enticed by, and more satisfied with, the fact that they could build permanent homes without the constant fear of having them destroyed by the Highlanders and the English.

Another thing greatly contributed to the success of the Scottish portion of the Plantation. At the time of the Plantation of Ulster, Scotland was experiencing the Reformation and Presbyterianism was established as her official faith. There was a tremendous surge of religious fervour throughout the Lowlands. King James instituted a series of ecclesiastical reforms, which included the change from the Presbyterian to the Episcopal form of church government. Many of the Presbyterian ministers were in favour of the migration to Ireland in order to elude what they felt was a return to Catholicism. Their presence in the Ulster Plantation was an encouragement to the rest of the settlers.

The Ulster Plantation prospered despite some years of drought and poor crops and the occasional native Irish confrontations with the settlers. Historians have estimated that the population of Ulster was approximately 50,000 by the year 1620 and nearly 100,00 by 1640.

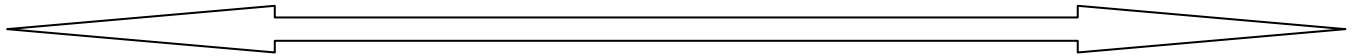
A significant turn of events came about in the year 1641. The displaced native Irish staged a rebellion against the Ulster Plantation, which developed into a war that lasted eight years. There were a number of causes for the rebellion, the primary one being that the Irish had simply reached the limit to what they would take from the intruding settlers. As the settlement flourished, the settlers' needs demanded more land, to which they helped themselves. They cleared woods and drained marshes so that the settlement could expand. The Irish became more and more embittered about being pushed away from their ancestral homes. They also were growing jealous of the prosperity of the settlers who had begun to establish industries such as wool and linen manufacture, while they remained poor. The missionaries who had originally carried the Christian religion to the Irish had converted the native Irish peoples to Catholicism; the fact that the majority of the Ulster settlers were Protestant had the effect of alienating the two groups. The final straw that broke the peace came in the form of rumours of an invasion to be carried out by the Scots and aimed at ridding Ireland of all its Catholics. Whether true or not, the rumours enraged the Irish and

they decided that they needed to strike first instead of waiting for the Scottish army to arrive on Irish shores.

In October, 1641 an Irish army of over 9,000 troops attacked the settlements in Ulster. The attack was sudden and caught the settlers off guard. The English settlers, who had taken up residence in the central region of the province, suffered the most in this attack. Many of them were immediately killed or driven from their homes and their property was seized by the Irish. Roughly 2,000 people were killed in the initial raid, a figure that would be exaggerated in the reports sent to England. The Scots had a bit more time to prepare their defences by the time the Irish army reached their settlements. During the course of the war, which lasted about 9 years, nearly 15,000 people died.

More next month

Steve Edgar



And one final photo – this is the fountain on High Street, commemorating the introduction of water to Dumfries, Scotland, in 1851.

