



EDGAR

REVIEW

Researching and sharing Edgar family history No 2 Sept 2006



Many thanks for all your positive comments about the first issue and thanks for the contributions received so far, but please keep sending them in, the more the merrier!

I have had some genealogy success in the UK with a web site called Genes Reunited. This is a site where you publish your known family tree and then the computer searches a massive database of all the other family trees and finds matches, it Emails you and the other person to check on details and then you contact each other for collaboration. It hasn't

www.genesreunited.com/genesreunited.asp?wci=genesmain

done me any good so far on my Edgar roots but has turned up a complete new family in Stockport, England for my Coups' and Schofield relations (whom I didn't know I had!) It has about 1000 Edgars on it, so far, from all over, who knows — they might match your family! The annual subscription is £10 UK (approx \$15 US), very good value for money and it also allows you to share your family trees with others. You can log on without paying to have a look. The Web site is detailed below.

We do need more DNA samples to verify and research what we know. The DNA test is a simple cheek swab, sent to Relative Genetics in Salt Lake City. It costs \$195 US and is

paid directly to them. I am the project coordinator and will make the arrangements for the kit to be sent to you.

DNA Research and Known History

History so far.

We know that some Edgars are definitely related to Cospatrick's son, Edgar, in 1250. The proof of this is John Edgar in Toronto (calls himself Steve) and his accurate family tree, this tree traces his line back. Our original concept was to find how all the other Edgars fitted into this known history as we assumed that all Edgars shared this common ancestry.

The DNA research, so far, proves this theory to be wrong, a disappointment in a way, but an exciting opening in another. (I think we were all a bit optimistic in this original expectation as it would have been fairly unique in the annals of genealogical research!) The history is that these Edgars originated in the Lammermuir Hills area, south of Edinburgh in Scotland. They set up home at Wedderlie, near Berwick on Tweed, moved to Nithsdale in Dumfries and Galloway, SE Scotland. There is some confusion in Dumfries and Galloway as to some Edgars that may have been already there. The research I have done is not clear, there may well have been Edgars already settled there. Possibly descendants from King Edgar?

Edgar is a forename. In the days when surnames were being invented, the suffix 'son' was often used, Jameson, Williamson, etc. Other names were taken from professions, Smiths, Cartwrights, etc. Very often the suffix was dropped, Williams, Jones, etc. Edgarsson is a bit of a mouthful! The 'son' may well have dropped. Also in the equation are regional dialects and illiteracy. I personally experienced this in Ireland. We asked an Ulsterman to give us directions to Jacky Edgar's house, he pronounced it 'Odger'! I didn't think much on this at the time until I was taking to a customer in England whose name was Odger and would you believe it, came from Ireland! Imagine, way back in time, an illiterate person talking to a scribe to record some detail. Scribes were travellers and may well have 'mis-heard' the name. Adair, Eggar, Odger, Edgers were all thought to derive from Edgar...perhaps it's the other way round !!!!

Some Edgars of old.

Richard Edgar was a witness to the marriage of Robert the Bruce.

Robert the Bruce's brother conquered Ireland with the aid of Richard Edgar's brother/cousin King Edgar

So, given the above, let's look at the DNA results

Below is a table taken from the Relative Genetics Web site of the results of the DNA tests so far

Name	Haplogroup
Robert Allen Edgar	I1c
Ellen Walker	I1c
James Edgar (Melville)	I1a
John Edgar (Toronto)	I1a
Gwen Edgar	R1b
Steve Edgar (UK)	E3b

I1a. The DNA on John in Toronto is Group I1a, which shows an origin based in Northern Norway. This pretty much matches in with what we know and would expect from the descent from Crinan in 1000AD. His direct male ancestors could well have been Vikings/Norsemen in origin. Also matching into this is James Edgar and his family in Western Canada



Haplogroup I1a origins

I1c. The DNA results from Robert Allen and Ellen Edgar prove that they are related at some time in the past. Their origin is Saxony in N. Europe, home of the Saxons and Vikings. This also fits in with the Edgar history, but they are of a different line than John and James. There is a story I heard that some Edgars came from Hannover I think (I know it was a N German town). I always thought that these were Edgars settled in Germany and then migrating out. Could it be their origin?



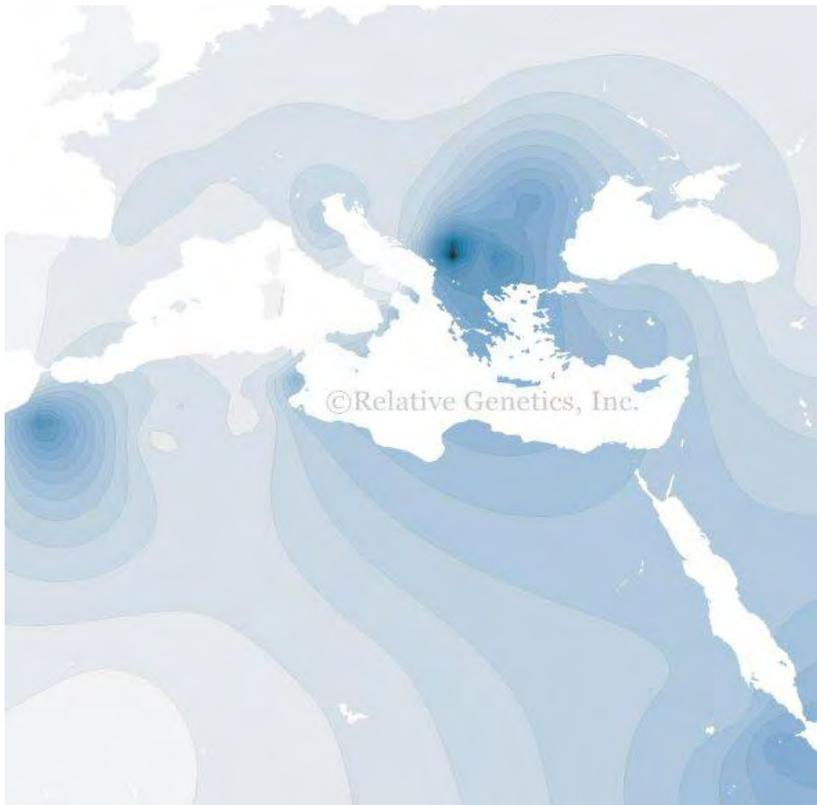
Haplogroup I1c origins

R1b. The DNA from Gwen Edgar's family shows a Celtic origin. This again fits in with what we know and expect of the Edgar origins and stories, but shows an entirely different line. The Celts were among the original settlers in Europe. They are now the direct ancestors of the Welsh, Irish, Basques, and Pictish Scots. How this fits in with the Edgars as a whole I don't know.



Haplogroup R1b origins

E3b. So far so good. This all fits with what we would expect given that the British race is a mixture of Viking, Saxon, and Celtish origin. Then we come to my own roots. Macedonia in N Greece!! How does this tie in? I am completely stuck for the answer. Jame's "helpful" comment that perhaps my ancestor had a Kebab shop on Hadrian's Wall bears some truth in reality



Haplogroup E3b origins

Story No 4, The Family of Charles Edgar in County Down (cont'd from Vol. 1)

After a whirlwind trip to England, Ireland, and Scotland in 2005 to see what there was to help find out about my ancestors in Newry, I decided to return in 2006 to spend more time in Ireland, really dig in and look more carefully. According to my information, my gr-gr-grandfather Charles Edgar married Susan Cummings there in 1799. So was that Newry Parish or the town of Newry? Did they live in Kilkeel and get married in Newry, or Newry Parish somewhere? Who knows?

In 2005 we (our beloved Editor Steve Edgar (UK) of Crewe, Cheshire and me) concluded that the cemetery in Newry where our ancestors were possibly buried was paved over and is now a health services office car park! You can imagine our disappointment.

Well, we thought, we can go to PRONI (Public Record Office of Northern Ireland) in Belfast. Surely PRONI will have records of who was buried in the paved-over car park. After an afternoon of searching, we came away somewhat disappointed. We found no

records of who might have been buried in Newry – none! In snooping around at PRONI, I did find one crusty record of a Sgt. James Edgar (age 24) and Pte. Robert Edgar (19) listed in the 1824 yeomanry roster for Kilkeel. I thought this might be my gr-grandfather James and his brother Robert. The names certainly fit, and so does the era. Are they “mine?” Who knows?? There being no other way of determining to whom the record refers, it's just guesswork.

Early March 2006 found me in Vancouver, B.C., meeting up with my brother, Steve (KAM). Yes, that's right, another Steve Edgar. We flew to Heathrow and visited friends in Essex for a couple of days, then flew to Belfast to meet up with Steve Edgar (UK). You think this gets confusing – you should have seen the looks on the faces of some people when we introduced ourselves. “Hi, I'm Steve Edgar.” And then, “Hi, I'm Steve Edgar!” then I piped up with “Hi, I'm James Edgar.” We had a lot of fun doing that for the eight days we were in Ireland.

In 2005 SteveUK and I stayed at a hostel in Armagh, but this time we decided to find something a little closer. Des and Margaret Campbell run the most delightful accommodation named Barratoore in Mullaghbawn, just outside Newry. They treated us as if we were part of their family. Great folks! And a great B&B!!

We asked Margaret to direct us to a pub having traditional Irish music. She not only gave us directions, but drove us right to the place. It wasn't far and the walk home in the rain would do the three of us good (if you know what I mean). The music was utterly fantastic – just four locals on pipes, flutes, guitar, and banjo. They made the place rock, I'll tell you! There's nothing like hearing Duelling Banjos played on Uilleann pipes against a banjo and guitar, with a tin whistle adding a very traditional backdrop. I've read that "the best way to experience Irish music is in the atmosphere of a pub where the Guinness is flowing and the „Craic is 90’." Well, we did it that night.

The two Steves and I toured around Newry, Kilkeel, Annalong, Newcastle, Benagh Road, Bessbrook, Kingsmill, Camlough, and Keggall (not necessarily in that order). We actually started knocking on doors and meeting other Edgars face to face. Richard Edgar of Tandragee joined us for the day on March 12 and on Benagh Road, we stopped into Eileen's Corner Shop and spoke to Mr. Lavery, who told us that Jacky Edgar lived just five doors away to the south. Jacky Edgar's was our next stop! He wasn't there at the time but we spoke to his wife, Delma, and arranged to come by later when Jacky would be home. I have an old ledger (1854) that

was my gr-grandfather's and on page 14 I came across this note, written crosswise on the page (see figure): "James Edgar, John Edgar, Esq. Banaugh Townland Nr Killkeel I don't know who wrote it, as the Edgar children (my grandfather and his siblings) used the book as a writing primer, copying and practicing their writing skills. It was that entry giving me the clue that there might be Edgars on Benagh Road, near Kilkeel. I suspect that Jacky is related in a direct way through his gr-gr-grandfather and mine. Those two Edgars could have been brothers or cousins.

Later that same evening, we drove back to Jacky's and met him, and over cookies and tea had a few words with Jacky, his wife Delma, and their son Nigel. We found out that Nigel's son is named Steve Edgar. Oh no! Not another one!!

We took down some notes on Jacky's pedigree, going back to his gr-grandfather. Jacky is actually William John Edgar; his father is William Edgar; grandfather is Thomas Edgar; gr-grandfather is Arthur Edgar.

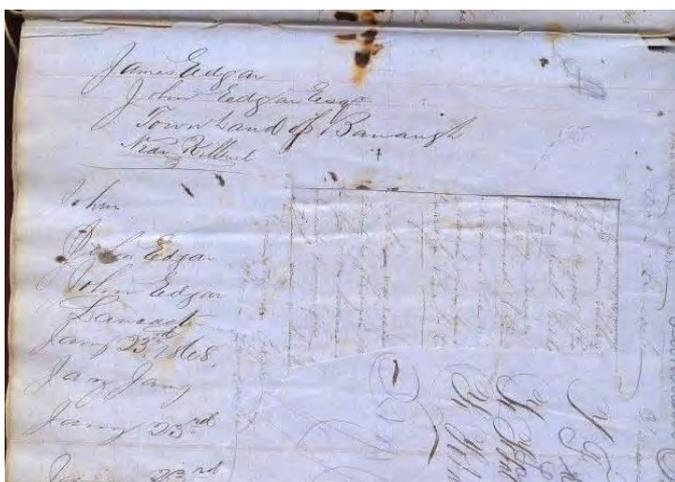
There's a list of Edgars living in Kilkeel found on Ros Davies' Co. Down Genealogy Research Web site (*see appendix*).

We continue to peer into the past, trying to connect the Charles Edgar there to my gr-gr-grandfather. I think he's the same one, if my supposition is correct – that Benagh was their home before they came to Canada in the middle 1820s. Jacky and Nigel will be sick of hearing my voice on the phone – I need more information to link our family to theirs. Of course, the definitive test is the DNA analysis. That would prove a connection between Jacky's family and mine.

Incidentally, the DNA analysis has been completed for SteveUK and me – we're definitely not related. In any way! That's alright, I like him still and continue to call him "Cuz."

Still looking and poking.

James Edgar
Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada



So, a continuation of James' story brings us right up to date. The Edgar name is very strong in areas of N Ireland, in Portadown there is an Edgarstown!



Just to prove it, here we are, myself, James from Saskatchewan, and Steve Edgar from Kamloops.

We're hoping the above may stimulate the memories of other Edgars who might share part of the same history. If you send your history, I will publish it and send it worldwide. If you know of other Edgars who you would like to copy, please do so. Better still, send me their address and I will e-mail the next copy directly.

Your feedback and reaction will be invaluable for future newsletters, please e-mail your comments and, most importantly, your family stories.

Web sites of interest

<http://www.geocities.com/edgarwebsites/> Richard Edgar's Irish Web site

<http://jameswd.sasktelwebsite.net/> James Edgar's family history Web site

<http://www.clanedgar.com/> Clan Edgar homepage, based in Toronto.

<http://www.relativegenetics.com/relativegenetics> Homepage of our DNA Lab. in Salt Lake City

Contacts

Bob Edgar, Monmouth, Oregon. - Origins Idaho, Nebraska.Ontario Canada Nithsdale. Common ancestry with some Edgars in Utah USA through Robert Edgar 1814-1904

Colin Edgar, N. Texas USA - Origins: Texas circa 1845 possibly England or Scotland.

G.C. Edgar - Texas, USA. - Origins Arkansas and Tennessee, USA.
Gwen Edgar - Victoria Australia - Origins Glasgow Scotland – Belfast, Ireland.
James Somerville Edgar - Melville, Canada - Origins. Kilkeel, Co. Down, N. Ireland.
Mary and Ron - USA - Origins Jacob Edgar, NJ/PA, 1796-1870, further back unknown.
Richard Edgar - Portadown, N. Ireland. - Origins Co. Armagh, N. Ireland
Steve Edgar (KAM) - Kamloops, B.C., Canada - Origins. Kilkeel, Co. Down, N. Ireland.
Steve Edgar (UK) - Crewe, England - Origins Salford, Lancs, and Newry Co. Down N Ireland.

APPENDIX 1

Edgars in Kilkeel area

In addition to Arthur Edgar of Annahilt who shows as the “husband of Agnes Gillespie; father of William b. 10 Mar 1865,” we have these records, all from Kilkeel parish, except as noted:

Mrs. Edgar - of Aughnaloopty townland in 1886

Charles Edgar - a farmer in Benagh in 1803

D.A. Edgar - in 1715, leased Aughnaloopty townland with James Edgar

Doughtry Edgar - a landlord in Mourne area c. 1816

Miss Ellen Edgar - mother of Robert Alexander b. 23 Dec 1873

J. Edgar - farmer in Benagh Upper & Ballyardle in 1886

James Edgar (junior and senior) - in 1715, leased Aughnaloopty townland with D.A. Edgar

James Edgar - husband of Jane Fleming ; father of Arthur b. 3 Jun 1868

John Edgar - a farmer in Benagh in 1803

John Edgar - of Drumcrow; executor in the will of David Kinney in 1831

John Edgar - of Aughnaloopty; will probated in 1832

John Edgar - will probated 1832; executor was John Edgar of Drumcrow

John Edgar - husband of Jane Baird; father of twins, Jeremiah Seed & Alexander Dudgeon b. 31 Aug 1868 & Robert b. 10 Dec 1870

John Edgar - son of William Edgar; married Eliza Knox 29 Nov 1849 ; father of George Lewis Edgar b. 3 Feb 1871

John Edgar - a farmer in Kilkeel in 1876 & 1886

Margaret Edgar - wife of James Hall; mother of John b. 1865 & Margaret Jane b. 1868 & John b. 1870

Oughtry Edgar - (Newry parish) of Benagh; will probated 1816

Robert Edgar - a farmer in Benagh in 1803

Samuel Edgar - named on a freehold leased of Neil Sloan of Tullyframe & James Smith & Owen Sloan & Thomas Sloan & John Sloan of Tullyframe & Michael Sloan & James Young of Moneydarraghmore as having a life interest c. 1816

Capt. T. Edgar - skipper of 'Children's Friend' c. 1913

William Edgar - in 1715, leased 1/2 of Benagh & Lisnagowan townlands with William Orr

William Edgar - of Benagh; a freehold farmer in 1782

William Edgar - a farmer in Drumcro in 1803

William Edgar - named on a freehold leased of Neil Sloan of Tullyframe & James Young of Moneydarraghmore & William Sloan of Kilkeel as having a life interest c. 1816

William Edgar - (Newry or Kilkeel parish) of Benagh; will written on same paper as Margaret Kennen & dated 1802