



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history – No. 24, January 2009**

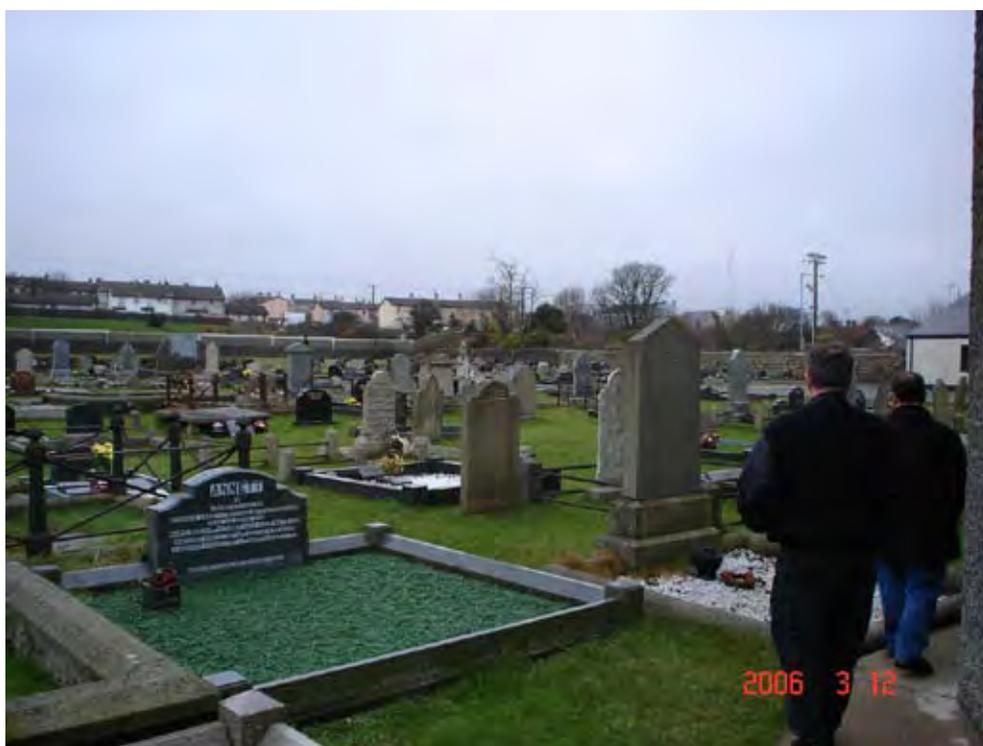


## DNA Update

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



Here we are at the beginning of our fourth year. Who would have thought we would be this far along in that short time? We have 40 testers now, and closing in on 100 members on the Ancestry.com site. Just a few short weeks ago, we got news that **Desmond Edgar** from South Africa is a Haplogroup I, closely related to **John** and **David** Edgar of Kilkeel and Annalong, Northern Ireland, respectively. We found out from **Desmond** and his cousins, **Jim Edgar** of Arkansas, and **Alida Reilly** of South Africa, that their family married **Hannas** and **Annetts** in Ireland; which got me looking back at some photos my brother, **Steve**, took in 2006 at Mourne Presbyterian Church in Kilkeel. Here's the first picture that caught my eye... Notice the **Annett** grave?



(That's myself and Richard Edgar of Tandragee to the right.)

Last week, I contacted Harry James (Jim) Edgar of Kyle, Saskatchewan, and convinced him to get his DNA tested. According to his family records, they came from "Benraw," Co. Down, Northern Ireland. I'm taking a leap of faith and proposing that the name is a corruption of Benagh, where my ancestors originated in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Jim has a sister, Irma, who I have spoken to on the phone; she confirms the family history, giving me details of BMDs and such. It will be fun to see the DNA test results — maybe we've found some new, fairly close cousins!!

**[Note: the following is a reprint from Bill Edgar's posting on the Web.]**

## **Researching the Surname Edgar**

by Bill Edgar, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ([edgardna@hotmail.com](mailto:edgardna@hotmail.com))

Through DNA, I have a "match" with a relative of Charles Edgar of Benagh, County Down, NI, born 1772, and his sons, James Edgar, born 1805, and Robert Edgar, born 1806, also born in Benagh, Co. Down, NI. They went to Canada about 1820 and after some adventures set up a farm in Lancaster, Ontario, Canada.

A number of Edgars had farms in Benagh, Kilkeel, Drumcrow & Magheramurphy at that time – we need to prove with documentation who was our closest relative. Looking at "Raymond's" 40-shilling freeholders list, you can see from Name of Lives or other Tenures it appears they are all related.

DNA Project information is available at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Select DNA – join DNA Groups – Search Groups "Edgar" – Sign up. It is free. OR Google "Edgarweb" for Edgar information and a direct link to the DNA site.

Contact me on [edgardna@hotmail.com](mailto:edgardna@hotmail.com)

My first documented ancestor is Arthur Edgar born c. 1797. Note the Irish spelling of Arthur is variously Aughtry, Oughtery, Doughtry, or similar. Also, note some records have been found with Eagar, Edger or even an Agar that changed back to Edgar after a generation or two.

Arthur Edgar, born c. 1797, Co. Down, NI, died 7/10/1880 Drummanmore, Co. Down, NI, buried Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel, NI. This church has the Edgar family grave.

Arthur married Elizabeth Thompson about 1830 Co. Down, NI. They had six children, Elizabeth, James, Mary, William, Ann, and Robert. Arthur seems to have obtained the Drummanmore farm property from a person other than an Edgar, perhaps James Malone. The farm continues in Edgar ownership in recent times. It was a mixed farm with a feed crop, potatoes, vegetables, cattle, hens, sheep, and pigs. Soil was fertilised with seaweed harvested within Carlingford Lough from areas set aside for each farm. Thus the farm was self-sufficient for most needs. All the following six children were born at Drummanmore:

- 1 Elizabeth (Eliza) Edgar born c. 1832 died 1916 Drummanmore, never married.
- 2 James Edgar born 1834 died 1906 Drummanmore, married.
- 3 Mary Edgar born 1835, married Joseph Sloan 21/1/1853 in Kilkeel.
- 4 William Edgar born 1840 died 12/11/1912 St. Arnaud, Victoria, Australia, married.
- 5 Ann Edgar born 1837, married James Cooper 9/3/1855 in Kilkeel.
- 6 Robert Edgar born 23/4/1842, died 1912 Kilkeel, never married.

Arthur and Elizabeth's 2<sup>nd</sup> child James Edgar married Jane Fleming about 1860 in Kilkeel.

They had six children William, Robert Henry, Arthur, Thomas, Martha, Elizabeth Jane all born at Drummanmore. James continued to live at and farm the Drummanmore mixed farm.

- 1 William Edgar born c. 1862, said to have gone to the USA abt. 1880 LOST.

- 2 Robert Henry Edgar born c. 1866, married Mary Wilson c. 1884 in Co. Down, then said to have gone to USA 1886 LOST.
- 3 Arthur Edgar born 3/6/1868, died 23/1/1946 Manchester England, said to have married.
- 4 Martha Edgar born c. 1868, married John Baird c. 1886 Kilkeel.
- 5 Elizabeth Jane Edgar born c. 1870, married William Walmsley c. 1890 in Kilkeel.
- 6 Thomas Edgar born 6/7/1880, died 20/3/1953 Drummanmore, married.

James and Jane's 6<sup>th</sup> child Thomas Edgar married Ellen Boyd in 1906 at Kilkeel. They had 12 children Mabel, James, Robert, Henry, Elizabeth Jean, William, Arthur, Gordon, Mary, Martha, Dora, Stanley, who were all born at Drummanmore. Found an entry for Thomas Edgar as "Mate" on Vessel "Aid" aged 21 on 1/7/1898 it was crewed from the Kilkeel area. Thomas also worked the Drummanmore mixed farm.

Arthur and Elizabeth's 4<sup>th</sup> child, William Edgar married Isabella Agnes McMillan on 25/9/1876 at St. Arnaud, Victoria, Australia. They had nine children Robert Arthur, William James, Frederick John, Andrew, Charles Ernest, Angus, Henry Wallace, James Brown, George, all were born in St. Arnaud.

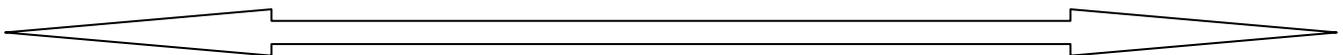
- 1 Robert Arthur Edgar born 29/4/1878 died 10/7/1952 Cheltenham, Vic, Aust. Married
  - 2 William James Edgar born 14/7/1880 died 8/1/1944 Fremantle, West Aust. Married
  - 3 Frederick John Edgar born 1883 died 8/12/1951 Perth, West Aust. Married
  - 4 Andrew Edgar born 1/5/1885 died 1885 St. Arnaud, Vic. Aust.
  - 5 Charles Ernest Edgar born 1886 died 17/5/1907 Boulder West Aust. Not married
  - 6 Angus Edgar born 1891 died 1894 St. Arnaud Vic. Aust.
  - 7 Henry Wallace Edgar born 1894 died 8/4/1944 Sea Lake, Vic. Aust. Married
  - 8 James Brown Edgar born 1896 died 1/2/1897 St. Arnaud, Vic. Aust.
  - 9 George Edgar born 1898 died 11/1/1914 St. Arnaud, Vic. Aust.
- Recent Family Reunions held in St. Arnaud have had all ongoing families represented.

The Edgar DNA project started with the Charles Edgar of Benagh, Co. Down, NI descendent, James Edgar, from Melville, SK, Canada and a descendent of Joseph Edgar of Newry, Co. Down, NI, Steve Edgar from Crewe, England, trying to prove they were related. What was proved was they were in no way related. Now they have over 40 tests from Edgars all over the world. Some like me have documented proof we are related, as well as a DNA test that proves we "match." With Charles's descendent, James, we both "match" by DNA, but do not yet have a documented proof. Others tested are also close to us, but it needs more testing to fill the gaps.

The Edgar project has four separate groups to date and, as more Edgars take the DNA test, the chances of filling the gaps and getting that documentary proof increases.

If you want to join the Edgar DNA for free viewing of the information, go to [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Select DNA – join DNA groups – Search Groups "Edgar" – Sign up. It is free. OR Google "edgarweb" for Edgar information and direct link to DNA site.

Contact me at [edgardna@hotmail.com](mailto:edgardna@hotmail.com)



## **William J. and Marie M. Edgar family**

*Submitted by Willa Stone, daughter ([willastone@hotmail.com](mailto:willastone@hotmail.com))*

[Willa is a cousin of Jim and Desmond Edgar – among others! Ed.]

William J., “Bill,” and Marie met while Bill was mail carrier on the Pine Lodge mail route north of Capitan. In 1939, Bill’s family moved from Duncan, Arizona where they ranched and operated a service station, to Pine Lodge, which they owned and operated. Pine Lodge was a mountain camp and resort area nestled up against East Capitan Mountain, 32 miles north of Capitan and 48 miles west of Roswell. It included café, lodge, cabins, and dormitories where families spent the summer, vacations and weekends.

Bill was born William James Edgar on January 20, 1914 in Lordsburg, New Mexico to James and Clara LaVonia Edgar, where they were engaged in ranching in the Burro Mountains near Silver City. The family later ranched north of Lordsburg; north of Separ; at Rodeo, New Mexico; and near Duncan, Arizona.

In 1941, Bill and Fletcher Hall were drafted into the United States Army, though they went separate ways after boot camp. Bill attended OCS and served five years in the army during World War II, two of which were in western Europe. He was released after the war ended as a major.

Marie lived with her family, Lon and Ruby Merchant, on the family ranch 14 miles north of Capitan. Marie was born Marie Marcella Merchant on May 25, 1913 in Mitchell, Nebraska, where the family was engaged in livestock and farming at the time. Her parents, Lon and Ruby Merchant, moved from Wyoming to New Mexico around 1915 where they were involved with the Merchant family ranch near Carlsbad, the San Simon Ranch. The family lost all but 500 cattle to starvation in the drought of the ‘teens. The remaining 500 were loaded on the train and sold.



**Figure 1 1912 James & Vonia Edgar’s wedding**

After several years of regrouping their financial assets, the family then purchased a ranch 14 miles north of Capitan in 1925, from Pete Etcheverry. Marie lived with her older sister, Dorothy, who worked for Peter Hurd in Roswell so she could take violin lessons. She graduated from Roswell High School, studying violin throughout her entire high school career. After graduation in 1931, she attended the College of Music of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she furthered her studies in piano and violin. She performed many violin solos and enjoyed performing with the Pecos Valley Symphony and other orchestras. After attending the College of Music in Cincinnati, Marie attended the University of New Mexico, graduated, and became an elementary teacher. She taught first grade at both White Oaks and Tinnie for several years.

After meeting the handsome mail carrier and falling in love with him, Marie followed Bill to Camp Bowie, Texas where Bill was stationed, and they were married December 26,

1942. During the war when Bill was overseas, Marie stayed with her older sister, Dorothy, in California, and worked as a clerk for the government.

Upon Bill's release from the army, they returned to his home at Pine Lodge. Shortly after, they joined the Merchant family ranching business north of Capitan, along with her parents, Lon and Ruby Merchant, and her sister and husband, Margie and Grady Eldridge. A daughter, Willa Marie Edgar, born January 5, 1949 completed Bill and Marie's family. I graduated from Capitan High School in 1966 and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces in January 1970, marrying Preston Stone Jr., in December 1969.

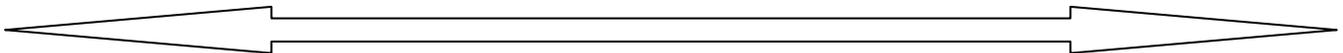
Lon and Ruby divided the ranch between Marie and Bill, and Margie and Grady in 1965, where both families continued with cow-calf operations. Bill was an outstanding and very successful cowman and manager and raised some of the best Hereford cattle in the area.



**Figure 2 c. 1918 James & Vonia,  
and William Edgar**

Bill and Marie were very active in the community and were members of the United Methodist Church in Capitan, where Marie was the pianist for many years. They were also active in "Chuck and Chat," a social group of families that met for once a month to have "chuck" and "chat." Bill served on the Capitan School Board, Lincoln National Forest Advisory Board, Lincoln County Municipal Hospital Board, and Lincoln County Fair Board; was director and chairman of Roswell Production Credit Association, a director of Otero County Electric Cooperative for 12 years, along with serving on the Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation board. Marie was a member of the Round Table club for women and active in school and 4-H activities.

Bill and Marie continued to live at the ranch in their retirement years, and enjoyed their twin grandchildren, Tracey and Troy Stone, born September 1976, until Marie's sudden death at the age of 75, on January 5, 1989. The next fall, Bill chose to move to Villa del Rey, a retirement home in Roswell. He resided there until his death at the age of 84 on December 26, 1998. Both are buried at the Capitan Cemetery, along with Marie's parents, Lon and Ruby Merchant.





Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))

## Edgars from Ipswich

Ipswich is an old port town in Suffolk, northeast of London. There have been records of Edgars living there for some time; in fact, James Edgar (secretary to James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender to the English throne) encouraged his nephew to visit their namesakes in the county. He did not, however, acknowledge any family ties other than the shared name.

This is one branch of the family we have thus far neglected. To my knowledge, we have not had any communication from either Edgars still in the area or Edgars worldwide with origins in Suffolk. With the town being near to the coast, the Edgars that are there could have travelled from anywhere, but my bet is that they are descended from R1a Vikings; it seems most likely simply because of the east-coast location. Has anyone had any contact with Edgars from this area? If so, I'd like their details and might possibly persuade them to do a DNA test and identify them.

There is a mention of them in Richard Edgar's Web site at [www.geocities.com/edgarWebsites/england.htm](http://www.geocities.com/edgarWebsites/england.htm), although there is no speculation as to their origins.

After reading the text and the transcript of the fortunes of the Edgar family that were living there in the early and mid 1600s, it struck me as to how fortunate we are in our current society. In days gone by, proper contraception was not available and the normal method of birth control was death! In many families, boys and girls were not 'officially' recognised until they made it to 5 or 6 years of age. In fact, they didn't really differentiate clothing the sexes until then. Bearing in mind that some of the events took place during the English Civil war, it was still a pretty dodgy time to be born. (Families as a norm had a child every year or so. The infant mortality rate was so high that the population of England did not multiply very quickly. It wasn't until Victorian times, and medicine had advanced enough to reduce the mortality rate, that the population boom began to show. The same numbers of children were being born, but now they survived. There are stories of Victorian grandparents having 60 or 70 grandchildren. The only other control over the population was a low life expectancy. The large families had little prospect of prospering in the U.K. so they sought a life elsewhere in Australia, Canada, South Africa, with the U.S.A. being favourite.)

Detailed below is an abridged version of Richard's Web site.

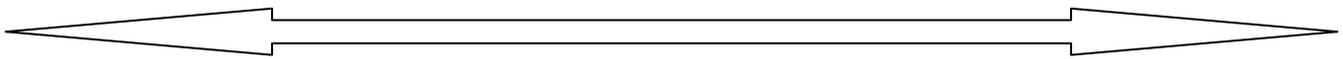
[1][2] This register, coming to my this 7th day of December 1734, is a transcript of my mother, Mrs. Mary Edgar, widow of Thomas Edgar, my father.

“Mary Powle, my wife, was born 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 1590

(1) Philip Edgar, eldest child, 29th July 1636 died of a dropsy, 21 June 1654 ...aged 18

(2) Thomas, 2nd son born 1st October 1638, died of a consumption 25 May 1641...aged 3

- (3) Mary Edgar, born Sept. 19 1641, died of the rickets, May 24 1643 ....aged 2
- (4) Elisabeth Edgar born Wednesday Feb. 15 1642, died of a consumption 19 June 1659...aged 17
- (5) Thomas Edgar, born 13 March 1646, died 6 Dec 1677, of small-pox.....aged 31
- (6) Robert Edgar, born 27th April 1650, died of small-pox 30 of June.1650.....aged 2 months
- (7) Devereux Edgar, born Oct 20th 1651 and by the blessing of Almighty God, is the transcriber of these births and burials, without the assistance of any artificial optics, being in the 84th year of my age.....[84 WAS A REMARKABLE AGE!]
- (8) Mary Edgar, born 21 May 1654, died of a looseness and vomiting 17 April 1661.
- (9) Katherine Edgar born 8th of June 1656, died 10 November 17 18, aged 63,
- (10) Frances Edgar, born 23rd August 1659, The said Frances was cut for the stone in the bladder 24 Dec 1667 by Mr. Robert Gouling, surgeon. The stone when taken from her weighed one ounce and half. She was eight years and four months when cut, and lived after cutting in good health without pain or any stoppage or difficulty of urine. Frances died single, 6th April 1725, aged 76. [OPERATED ON WITHOUT ANAESTHESIA OR STERILE CONDITIONS—AND LIVED!!]
- If you read the full transcript, it is evident from the wording that the early demise of the family members was nothing of note; it was what happened, nothing remarkable.
- No doubt, the church mentioned will have more details.



## Edgars in Georgia

*by Frankie Sawyer (docnhim@infionline.net)*

One of the clues we look for when chasing our elusive ancestors is the reuse of given names. In my Edgar lineage, there is a Hugh Edgar in at least three successive generations, and one older Hugh Edgar who may very well be included although the connection is not documented.

My great-great grandfather John T. Edgar (hereinafter referred to as Grandpa John T.) had a brother named Hugh and he is my great-great-granduncle (hereinafter referred to as Uncle Hugh). These two men were first found in Walton County, Georgia, in the 1830s.

From about 1805 to 1832, Georgia had a lottery system whereby Indian territories were reallocated to “incomers” through the lottery system. Requirements (in part) for participation in these lotteries were as follows:

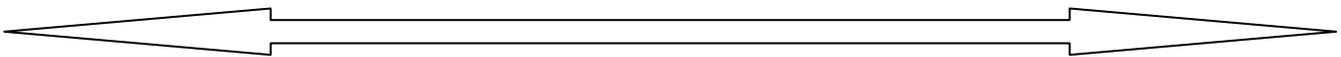
1. A male must be at least 21 years of age
2. Three years of Georgia residency required
3. A widow with minor children
4. Orphans of qualified participants

Grandpa John T. won 40 acres in the 1832 Gold Lottery, and Uncle Hugh won 160 acres. Grandpa apparently needed more acreage to support his large family so he left Georgia for cheap lands in Alabama. Uncle Hugh stayed in Walton County and did quite well as the following “Inventory and Appraisement” of his estate shows. Having been to Scotland, Ireland, and England several times the entries that caught my attention were the sheep and usage of their products:

Rifle Gun	\$12.00	1 iron wedges and iron	2.00
3 axes	4.00	2 gearlings (yearlings ?)	20.00
3 shovels and spade	2.50	1 sorrel mare	50.00
1 mattox	1.50	1 col	30.00
3 hoes	1.50	1 lot and caden	9.00
1 grind stone	5.00	1 lot of oats at 1.5 (.15?)	5.24
1 barrel	1.00	25 bu. Corn	18.75
1 cross cut saw	4.00	31 bushels of good corn	54.25
1 two horse wagon and harness	50.00	11 head of sheep	16.50
1 buggy and harness	40.00	6 head of hogs	18.00
3 plow stock	4.00	1 pr sheep shears	.75
1 lot plow gear	2.00	1 barrel	.50
2 saddles	10.00	10 bu oats	7.50
1 lot of seed cotton at 7 cents lb.	24.36	1 sheep skin	.75
1 box	1.00	1 plow stock and singletree	1.40
1 sithe and cradle	4.00	The home place - 100 acres	100.00
1 plow hoes and heel scres	1.25	The Pop place - 186 acres	372.00

Dated November 17, 1866 (spelling, etc. as it appears on the document)

The possessions of Uncle Hugh look small compared to today's farm values, but they weren't bad for second- or third-generation immigrants.



## Colonial America Close to Home

by G.C. Edgar, Early, Texas (gcedgar@verizon.net)

We've all read about life in Colonial America and it has never meant much to me except it is interesting reading. Recently, however, that all changed when I acquired copies of several documents filed for probate proceedings.

They are the inventory and appraisal of the personal estate of my fourth gr-grandfather, James Edgar, who died in 1812 in Bedford County, VA. There are also copies of income and expense accounting worksheets prepared by the executors of his estate.

James's real property was referred to as a "plantation," so he must have been a farmer, and, indeed, the inventory seems to confirm this conclusion.

For example, he owned four horses and a yoke of oxen, one "waggon and hind gear." Several head of cattle are listed and appraised, as well as "1 buffaloe cow" valued at pounds 2.14.0. The appraiser uses the word "pided" to describe several of the cows - like "1 pided cow & bell." I haven't heard anyone use this word for some years now. Apparently, it means "spotted." [As in "Pied Piper" - not necessarily spotted, but of two colours. Ed.] Many years ago when I was just a kid, I heard some older folks describe horses as what I thought was "pie eyed." I always wondered what made a horse pie eyed. [This might mean "very drunk"! Ed.]

So, after reading all the various documents several times, one of the first questions that came to mind was "How did these folks travel?" There were no carriages listed except for the *"waggon and hind gear."* There were saddles, bridles, etc. included in the inventory. Perhaps their travel was very limited. Perhaps there were no roads and all their travel was by horse and saddle.

There were 12 head of sheep and a *"loom & warping barr/bass."* My conclusion is that they used the wool from the sheep to make their own clothes, rugs, curtains, etc. They didn't make their own shoes - *"Cash paid for making shoes 0.8.0."* That's not too bad for a good pair of custom-made shoes.

Here's a good one — *"1 fro"* valued at pounds 0.3.0. According to information from the Internet, a fro was a tool used to make house shingles.

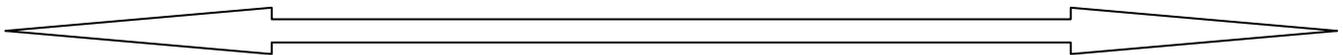
One estate expense is of particular interest, recorded as *"Cash paid the cryer, for crying —."* And, I simply cannot make out the last word. The amount was pounds 2.11.0. There was an estate auction because another item is for *"Cash paid printer for advertizing day of sale."* Was the cryer what we know as an auctioneer?

A casket didn't cost much back then. Of course, it was probably just a plain pine box with rope handles. *"Cash paid for tobacco note & making coffin 1.19.0."*

Sadly, these records are not available in many courthouses because of destruction over the years, but if they are I would encourage anyone researching their family history to acquire them. It's not all that expensive. The local historical society for Bedford County copied the records and mailed them for \$20.00. There was no research involved because the books and page numbers were already known, thanks to another researcher who copied the indices.

GCE

Note: The foregoing (and this) is in a new font called "**Hypatia**" from Adobe. Let me know if you like it. Ed.



Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))

## Mail Shots

For a couple of years now I have been sending ten mail shots out to Edgars every six months or so to a specific area of my interest; the usual result has been nothing. Mail shots are notoriously bad at getting responses as they are usually considered "junk mail," but, glad to report, I have had a couple of "hits" from the last two sent out.

Number 1 was Dr. Bill from Yorkshire, who kindly sent me a very comprehensive family tree dating into the 1700s. The origin of his family is Roughfirth in Galloway, one of the areas we are interested in as this is potentially the source of the Sanquhar Edgars. The

tree was so good we offered a DNA test, which Dr. Bill happily took up. The results showed good matches to Edgars still in the area and to others worldwide. This was a good contact and has proved worthwhile.

Number 2 happened on the 6th of December. I had a phone call from Brian Edgar as a result of the previous Monday's mail shot. Brian's family are from West Yorkshire where I was looking for the family of my g-grandfather's uncle. After the call, I consulted my database and things did not quite gel, the dates didn't fit, but the names did — odd!

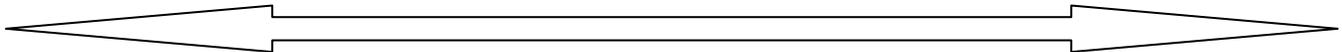
I called Brian again on Sunday morning with a barrage of questions, who was, when was, etc., etc., and then I mentioned the name Lilly Edgar b. 1899. Yes, he knew Lilly; she was his aunt! This clinched it! He was a relation but the connection was farther back than I had thought. Our common ancestor was Joseph Edgar b. 1785 in Newry. Brian's ancestor was Robert Edgar, son of Joseph, who had died in January 1840, six months before the birth of John in June that year. John married and moved to Liverpool, and then on to Cleckheaton in W. Yorkshire.

Brian had no idea of his Irish connections and had assumed that his ancestor was King Edgar, which is a possible, but will need some research to verify. I spent a good half hour bewildering poor old Brian on as much detail as I could about his family in the UK and in the USA. I think I left him a bit bemused.

They say it is a small world, but it certainly shrank that morning when he told me his daughter had a business in Stockport less than half a mile from where my sister lives! In fact, Brian has been driving past my old house for a number of years.

Anyway, to the point: Mail Shots. Pick a location and go for it — it worked for me!!

Let me know how you get on.



[And, SteveUK continues...]

## **Fame at last (well almost!)**

As you may well know, in the past I had a large family that lost contact with each other over the years and I have been searching the records trying to tie them back together. Mrs Poirot, (James' wife, Jodie) has an uncanny knack of digging out your ancestors (metaphorically not literally!!). A while back, she discovered a connection to the Seaborns and the Andersons. These males married into my Edgar family, and I now have contact with Chris Seaborn in Australia and Jean Greatorex (*née* Seaborn) in Lancashire.

Along with a Christmas card, Jean sent me some copy photographs of our relations, one of which was Joseph William Edgar. Joseph William was a cousin to my great-grandfather, Joseph Edgar. It turns out that he was a Music Hall entertainer for 30 years (Vaudeville is the U.S. equivalent). He was apparently a “straight man” for Charlie Chaplin at one time. I suspect that this would have been in the early 1900s before Chaplin rose to fame. The comments on the photograph state that he also went to America. He obviously “missed the boat” when it came to being as famous as Chaplin is, but managed to stay in show business for 30 years. The photograph shows him in his dinner suit; it may well have been a publicity shot. The second photograph shows him as a window cleaner, taken from a local newspaper when someone broke into the local council depot and painted “George Formby & Co” on the side of his cart. George Formby was a Lancastrian comedian who had a hit song with “When I’m cleaning windows” in the 1930s and ’40s (hear his music at [www.georgeformby.co.uk/audio/tracks.html](http://www.georgeformby.co.uk/audio/tracks.html)).

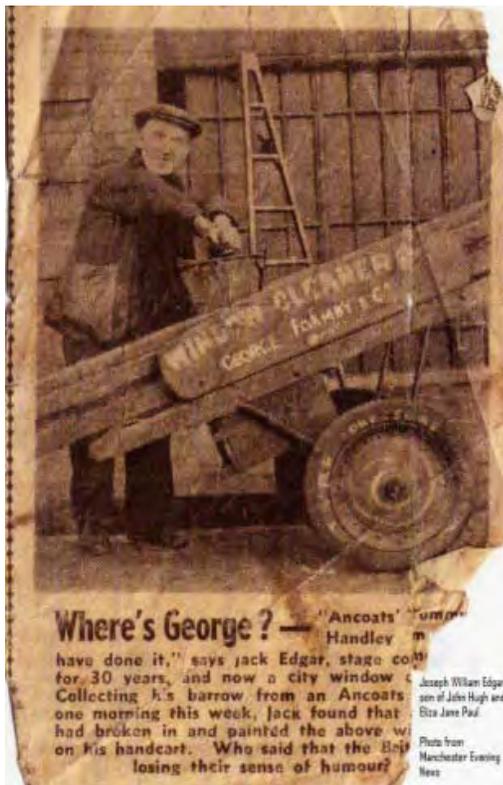


**Figure 3** The caption reads “Joseph William Edgar. I have a letter somewhere from an agent asking Uncle Joe about his days with Charlie Chaplin as a straight man. He also played the accordion brilliantly. He was in America and was also in World War I – perhaps he was gassed because I always remember him carrying “Victory V” cough sweets in a tin with him. A very gentle, kind man. His son, William, died about age 34 – a tragedy for then. Brian Edgar.

George Formby had one of those voices that could strip wallpaper from a wall, but he helped us get through the war. When my wife describes him, she

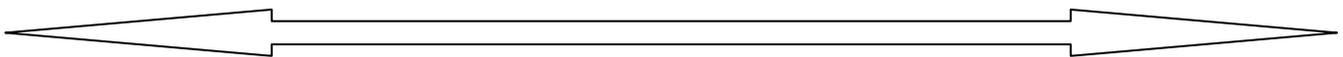
says - “he had a face like a shaved monkey looking in the back of a spoon.” Formby was also a film star, but not like

George Raft or James Cagney in any way, shape, or form!



I have had a search on the internet and I can’t find any details of Joseph William Edgar at all. The 2nd photograph mentions his nickname as “Jack”; again, a search of “Jack Edgar” leads nowhere. He must have had a stage name. I wonder what that was and how it could be researched? Any ideas will be gratefully received.

I never cease to be amazed at what I discover.



[And now, a couple of shots of my own from previous trips to the UK. Ed.]



**Figure 4** James & Steve at one of our favourite “haunts.” Photo by Steve Edgar of Kamloops, B.C.



**Figure 5** A nice view from Armagh, following a pleasant shower. Maybe that proverbial “pot of gold” is lurking somewhere over there!