



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 37, February 2010**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (Editor) (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

Two things:

1. Stewart Eggo has his DNA test kit on its way to him in Dundee, Scotland. If you recall from newsletter No. 34 in November 2009, we discovered a family of Edgars in Scotland whose name had morphed from Edgar to Eggo to Eggie and back to Edgar! We're hoping that Stewart's DNA test results will connect some of us with his family. He could be the link that connects my Northern Ireland family to Scotland!!

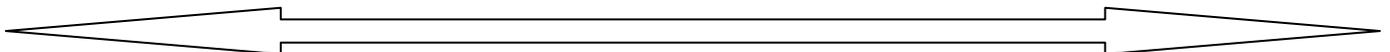
2. Tony Edgar of Chilliwack, B.C., Canada, contacted me on Sunday, January 24. Backing up a little, Tony's daughter, Lea, wrote me last October enquiring about the Edgar DNA project. She had found my Web site and had read some of our newsletters, so she was curious about the ins and outs of testing and what to expect of the results because she wanted to get her Dad the DNA test as a Christmas gift. That's what prompted Tony's email last Sunday morning. That one short message unleashed an entire torrent of activity in our house, because in it Tony gave his pedigree in a rough form. (Little did we know that he and Lea already had trees posted on the Web in a couple of places.) My wife Jodie (a.k.a. Mrs. Poirot) got to work finding dates and more relatives for Tony. It was a good exercise, because we re-confirmed their own research results.

Tony said that his family were from London, England, and they are, for the most part — almost all of the children from the mid-1800s onward were baptised in Stepney. But then we found that his great-great-grandfather, John Edgar, was born in Suffolk. Well, that struck like a thunderbolt! Suffolk is home to a branch of the Edgars for whom we have little information that could connect them to our DNA results. We've tried to find a living Edgar from there who could get a DNA test done, if for no other reason than to discover the Haplogroup.

When I say "we," I refer to SteveUK, Robin (Edgar) Hagedorn of Adelaide, Australia, Sharon (Edgar) Bunek of Wayne, Michigan, Bill Edgar of Melbourne, Australia, and me. Robin has been hot on the trail of Edgar, Agur, Agar, or Adgars in Suffolk for a few years already. Her most recent effort in the past couple of weeks was a mailout of cards to addresses selected from the Suffolk phone directory, of which she has yet to receive a reply.

The bottom line is, Tony has ordered the DNA test from Ancestry.com and we're breathlessly awaiting the results. We're going to be right out of breath, if we keep this up for much longer!

Anyone care to wager on the outcome of these two pending test results??



OUT OF IRELAND II



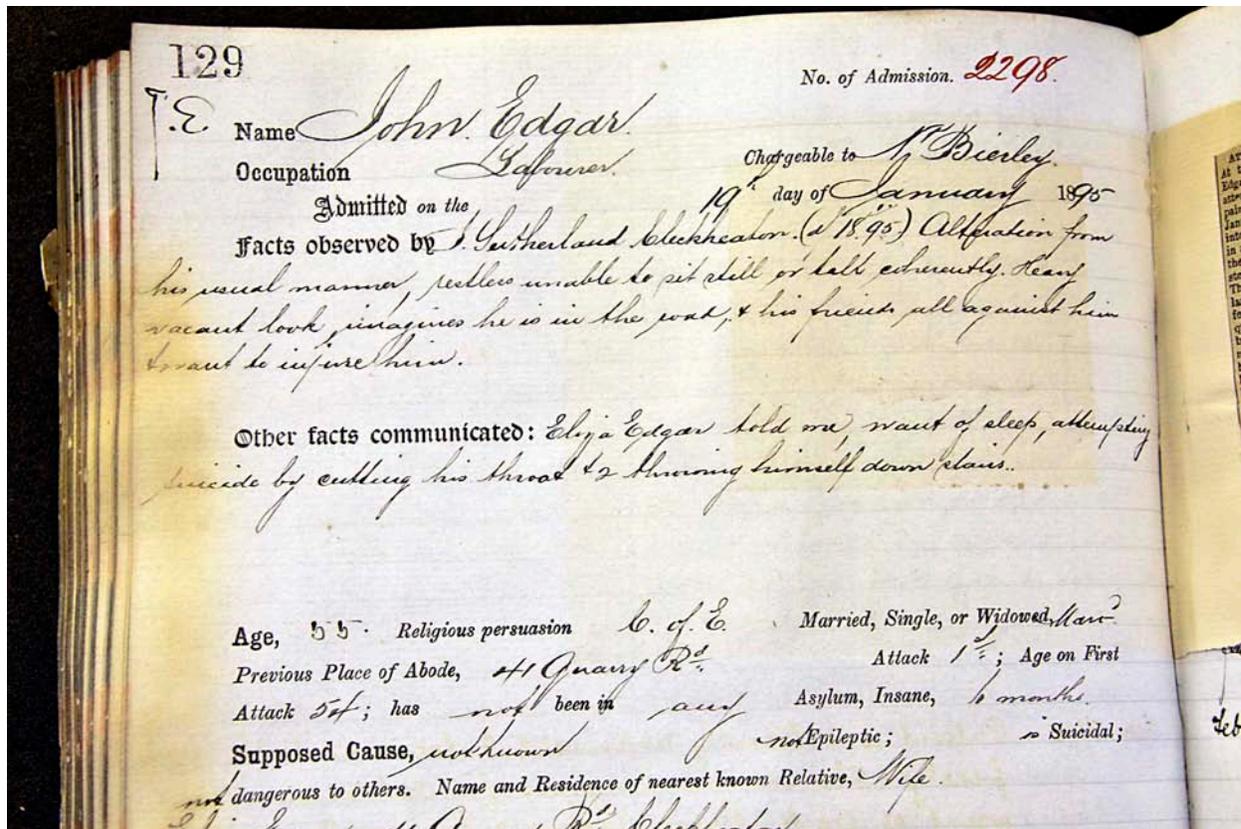
by Floss Wingrave (flosswingrave@hotmail.com)

Referring back to my article in last month's issue No. 36, I have received some more information about my (GG) grandfather John Edgar (b. 1840 Newry). A researcher into the asylums in Yorkshire has been in touch and sent me the health-care records for John, who was apparently admitted and died in the Highroyds Asylum in February 1895.

I have attached all the records and the newspaper article which make quite sad but interesting reading. It is interesting to note on one of the records that John's father, Robert, probably died of consumption (phthisis). Some of the writing is quite hard to read, but the chap who sent it has transcribed it for me, so I have included that too. Reading between the lines, it would appear the John may have lost his job and maybe tried his hand at betting on the horses and lost, and the family were upset with him. There is a mention of a brother but, as I know he only had a sister Jane, I am wondering who he could have classed as a brother.

I am on the search at the moment to see if I can find other family members that came over [from Ireland] with him. I have traced his wife, Elizabeth Keenan's side, and found a brother and sister in Cleckheaton but no Irish Edgar's in the near area.

Here are the original documents and the transcription:



Name: John Edgar
Occupation: Labourer
Chargeable to: N. Bierley

Admitted on the 19th day of January 1895

Alteration from his usual manner, restless unable to sit still or talk coherently. Heavy vacant look, imagines he is in the war and his friends are all against him and out to injure him.

Other facts communicated: Eliza Edgar told me want of sleep, attempting suicide by cutting his throat and throwing himself down stairs.

Age: 55 years

Religious Persuasion

Married

Previous Place of Abode: 41 Quarry Road

Age on first attack: 54

Has not been in any asylum

Supposed cause unknown:

Insane: 10mths

Not dangerous to others

Name and Residence of nearest relative: Wife, Eliza Edgar, 41 Quarry Rd, Cleckheaton.

Age, 55. Religious persuasion *C. of E.* Married, Single, or Widowed, *Mar.*
Previous Place of Abode, *41 Quarry Rd.* Attack *1st*; Age on First
Attack *54*; has *not* been in *any* Asylum, Insane, *10 months*.
Supposed Cause, *unknown* of *epileptic*; *no* Suicidal;
dangerous to others. Name and Residence of nearest known Relative, *Wife*.
Eliza Edgar, 41 Quarry Rd., Cleckheaton.
History: *Dr. H. Cusson.* Relieving Officer.
Has Children; read write; Relatives similarly affected;
tear clothes; break windows; attentive to the calls of nature;
Bodily disease *Typhoid fever at 24 yrs. - 3 years ago. Head injured*
Domestic trouble *None since brother died* Starvation
Business anxieties Love affairs
Religious excitement Syphilis
Fright Overwork *Yes.*
Intemperance *not that he drank but was a gambler* Old Age
Accident or Injury Puberty
Fever

Bodily Disease: Typhoid fever at 24 years. 3 years ago, said he has never been well since.

Feb 1st 1895: Patient is extremely depressed and does not talk very freely. The reason he gives for depression is want of work, horse racing and persecutions by his children. Does not take his food well and says he is full up and cannot get anything into him.

Feb 14th 1895: No improvement in mental condition, very little information can be got from him. With difficulty persuaded to take his food. Is very thin and wasted. Urine is clear and high coloured and contains a faint trace of albumen. Tongue dry, cracked and brown colored. Lips and gums covered with sores.

The Saltire

by Frankie Sawyer (docnhim@infionline.net)

The following paragraphs are borrowed from the publication *The Highlander*. I found it quite interesting and thought provoking, and thought some of you might feel the same way.

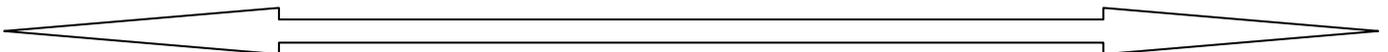
“The saltire, the oldest flag in the British Commonwealth, has its origin in a battle which took place at Athelstaneford in East Lothian, some 20 miles east of Edinburgh in the mid-eighth century at the site of the village. Saxon King Athelstan was at the head of a large army when he met a force of Scots/Picts led by King Angus.

“Seeing he was outnumbered, Angus prayed to St. Andrew, and just before the armies clashed, a saltire appeared, created by clouds, which formed a cross against the blue sky. Angus realized this represented the cross on which St. Andrew had been crucified and took it as a sign that his forces would be victorious. With renewed heart, Angus and his men took to battle and a great victory followed.”

And so, dear cousins, our Scottish Edgar ancestors have the beautiful blue and white saltire, and may it forever wave!



Credit: Shutterstock



Book Review



by Peter Edgar, Canberra, Australia (peter.edgar@internode.on.net)

I'm now getting to the end of Stephen Oppenheimer's book, *The Origins of the British*, and it is a very fine work of scholarship, taking into account history, archaeology, language, and culture, as well as DNA. He says that the Ice Age pushed all human types out of the UK. European humans sought refuge in Iberia, in the Balkans, and north of the Black Sea.

As the ice receded, the first humans to move north were the Iberian/Basque lot (from about 15,000 years ago), hunter/gatherer Mesolithic (middle Stone Age) peoples (R1b) who moved up the Atlantic coast when the UK was still joined to the mainland. They continued this progress for thousands of years moving right into Europe where they still remain at high levels. This stock still makes up almost 90 percent of Ireland and Wales. It would appear that they were reinforced from the Middle East via the Mediterranean.

As the Mesolithic became the Neolithic, (from about 5,000 years ago), this stream of people from the Mediterranean continued, but some who had sheltered in the Balkans, including the E3b, joined it. They brought farming. At a certain point, the Celtic language emerged along this route and spread from Iberia right into Europe as far as Italy.

Again in the Neolithic, some of those sheltering in the Balkans (including the I1, I2) moved north up the Danube into northern Germany and southern Denmark. From here they moved into Britain from the east, Saxons to the south and Angles to East Anglia and then north and westwards to the Welsh border. (Oppenheimer placed my Y forbears in the Southern Denmark move to East Anglia, etc.). All this happened long before the "Anglo-Saxon invasions" of the 5th century. Oppenheimer suggests that these people were already speaking a Germanic proto English. That is, he says that the "English" were already different from the "Celts" long before the theorized wipe-out of the "Celts" by the "Anglo-Saxons."

An advent of Anglo-Saxons did happen, but according to Oppenheimer it had relatively little genetic impact. The Angles were really joining their relatives already in Britain. Thus strengthened, they made a push about AD 600 across to the west (including Dumfries I noted). By about AD 700, the Angles controlled a large part of the UK from about Edinburgh in the north and Dumfries and the Welsh Border in the west down to Suffolk.

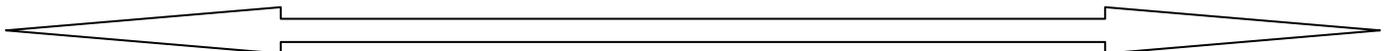
Around this time the Vikings from Norway and Denmark raided but again their impact was slight genetically.

One item of interest for our R1bs is that Oppenheimer separates out about 18 (I think) different subgroups for them, showing in detail which part of Scotland, Ireland, etc. they came from. It would be interesting to find out the R1b subgroups.

As I recall it, Steve UK has been reclassified as E1b1, and I presume that that may give a clue as to how his Y forbears made their way to the UK.

In my own case, the Edgar name may not go back far, but certainly my Y forbears came from "gar gar" land.

Peter



Pewter Badges Update



by James Edgar (Editor) (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

I have heard from Mark Wells, who is creating the pewter badges for us — I am waiting for the prototype to arrive by postal mail. I will keep those who placed orders up to date as to the state of affairs. We should see results and orders filled very soon. He'll then begin to fashion a button mould.

Photo time...



A wintry scene from the Regional Park near where I live in Melville, Saskatchewan