



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 42, July 2010**



DNA Update

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



Not much to report DNA-wise this month. So, instead, I'll dedicate this issue to the late **Douglas Adams**, author of *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*. If you haven't read it and others in the series (a "trilogy" of five books), then do so. If you have read it, then you know that the Ultimate Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything is "42." The question is still unknown.

This narration from the radio series, first broadcast in 1978, gives us the flavour of Adams' rare humour: There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable.

There is another theory which states that this has already happened.

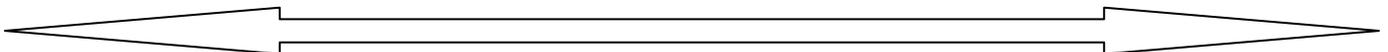


The words DONT PANIC, in large, friendly letters on the cover of HHGTTG, are sage counsel. **Arthur C. Clarke** once said that **Douglas Adams'** use of "don't panic" was perhaps the best advice that could be given to humanity.

A worldwide cult following of Adams' works celebrates the activities of **Arthur Dent**, as he shuffles across the Galaxy in his housecoat, with his omnipresent towel ("...any man who can hitch the length and breadth of the galaxy, rough it, slum it, struggle against terrible odds, win through, and still knows where his towel is, is clearly a man to be reckoned with.")

Dent's good friend and companion throughout the series is **Ford Prefect**, who is actually an alien from a small planet somewhere near the star Betelgeuse. From Wikipedia: "Although Ford had taken great care to blend into Earth society, he had skimped a bit on his preparatory research, and thought that the name Ford Prefect would be nicely inconspicuous. Adams later clarified in an interview that Ford had simply mistaken the dominant life form. The Ford Prefect was, in fact, a British car manufactured in the 1950s."

You would do well to explore the books and the movies based on Douglas Adams' stories – great reading and highly entertaining!



Steven John Edgar of Oakville, Ontario, whom we lovingly named “SteveTO,” and recently returned from a jaunt to Europe, has a famous great-great-grandfather, **Sir James David Edgar PC KCMG MP**. **Sir James** was a Member of Parliament for several sessions in the late 1800s, ending his career as Speaker of the House of Commons.



Sir James David Edgar

The initials following his name refer to the Canadian **Privy Council, The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George** (he was awarded Knight Commander of the order by **Queen Victoria**), and **Member of Parliament**.

At the suggestion of **Richard Edgar** (Tandragee), we have included this song written by **Sir James**.

We celebrate Canada Day each year on July 1 — this year marks 143 years since Confederation.

The poem reveals **Sir James Edgar’s** love of our country, and his love of the parent Britain is obvious.

The photo above is borrowed from the [Wikipedia](#) article. The Order KCMG is described [here](#).

THIS CANADA OF OURS

*Song written by Sir James David Edgar
KCMG MP*

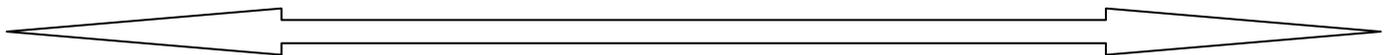
Let other tongues in older lands
Loud vaunt their claims to glory
And chaunt in triumph of the past
Content to live in story.
Tho’ boasting no baronial halls
Nor ivy-crested towers
What past can match thy glorious youth
Fair Canada of Ours
Fair Canada
Dear Canada
This Canada of Ours.

We love those far-off ocean isles
Where Britain’s monarch reigns
Well ne’er forget the good old blood
That courses through our veins;
Proud Scotia’s fame, old Erin’s name

And haughty Albion’s powers
Reflect their matchless lustre on
This Canada of Ours
Fair Canada
Dear Canada
This Canada of Ours.

May our Dominion flourish then
A goodly land and free
Where Celt and Saxon hand in hand
Hold sway from sea to sea
Strong arms shall guard our cherished homes
When darkest danger lowers
And with our life-blood we’ll defend
This Canada of Ours
Fair Canada
Dear Canada
This Canada of Ours.

*Published in “This Canada of Ours and Other
Poems” (1893)*



Is “Elgar” a variant of “Edgar”?

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



I searched the Internet and found this site, with some of the Elgar history:
www.houseofnames.com/xq/asp.fc/gx/elgar-family-crest.htm

“Elgar is an ancient Anglo-Saxon surname that came from a group of baptismal surnames which all mean the *son of Eggar*.”

“The English language only became standardized in the last few centuries; therefore, spelling variations are common among early Anglo-Saxon names. As the form of the English language changed, even the spelling of literate people’s names evolved. Elgar has been recorded under many different variations, including Agar, Algar, Alger, Algore, Augar, Auger, Elger, Elgar, Eager, Eagar, Etches, Eaches and many more.

“First found in the counties of Yorkshire and Northumberland, where they held a family seat from ancient times.”

And, we have this from a site offering explanations of baby names:

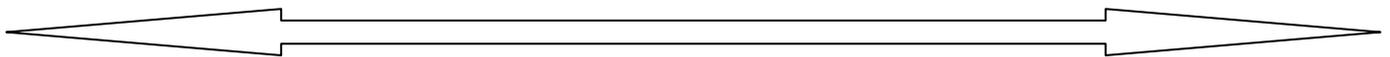
The name Elgar is a baby boy name. The baby name Elgar originated [sic] as an [sic] German name. In German, the name Elgar means - shining spear.

[Ed. The site desperately needs a proofreader!]

Of course, many of you will remember or have heard of Sir Edward Elgar, English composer, who wrote “Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1,” also known as “Land of Hope and Glory.” He was born and died in Worcestershire 1857-1934.

So, are we Edgars related to the Elgars? The only way to tell for sure is through a DNA test, and to have a recorded ancestral history showing a relationship.

Food for thought...



Picture time — My panorama of the Qu’Appelle Valley, near St. Lazare, Manitoba, where the Assiniboine and Qu’Appelle Rivers join to flow eastward to Winnipeg. The Qu’Appelle Valley is often touted as “Saskatchewan’s Best Kept Secret,” since it truly comes up by surprise while approaching by highway. It is 430 km long (about the distance from Dublin to London), and is deep and wide; the valley contains ten lakes and passes through four provincial parks.

Jodie’s cousin, **Laurence Bindley**, visiting from Larne, Northern Ireland, was trainspotting with his friend, **Richard Cossey**, during the first weeks of June. They came to Saskatchewan to see our trains and to enjoy some of the countryside — they weren’t disappointed!



Pewter Buttons

We asked our pewter technician, Mark Wells, to create buttons similar to the Edgar crest badges he made earlier this year (I still have a supply of the badges, should anyone want one, a couple, or a few).

Mark has completed a trial casting, shown here. Each button is solid pewter, one inch in diameter, with a loop cast into the back for sewing.



Prices for the completed buttons are as per the following schedule:

Quantity	//	Price per button
10-49	//	\$3.00
50-100	//	\$2.75
101+	//	\$2.50

I'm thinking we would order 120 buttons at first, depending on the response I get from you, our readers. Of course, I won't know until you respond, so I'll decide on the order once I have some feedback. The 101+ is the best option for us, providing we can get that many orders.

Start-up costs, paid from our Edgar DNA Trust, will be recovered through a small markup to help replenish the fund.

LATE-BREAKING DNA UPDATE



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

Stewart Eggo's DNA swabs arrived at the lab in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 17! The results should be out any second now....
Oh, Oh! (...wait for it...)

Now, if that doesn't jar your preserves! All along we (**SteveUK**, **Jodie**, and I) thought that we had found a basis for my family's Scottish connection. Here was somebody from around Keithock, near Brechin, who might be related to me. **Stewart** is from Kirriemuir, and it would seem he was part of the Edgar family – my Edgar family. The DNA was going to prove it.

Stewart Eggo's test results reveal him to be an R1b, not related to me in any way! Nor is he closely related to anyone of the other R1b's in our group – 54 generations is the closest, long before surnames became popular.

So, here's the question I put before you now: Is he an Edgar? Or, is his apparent relatedness merely coincidence?
