



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 44, September 2010**



## DNA Update

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



Let's start with pewter buttons...

Mark Wells has begun creating 101 pewter buttons for us. I have orders for 73 already at the \$2.75-per-button price. You can get in on the ordering, if you contact me at the e-address above.

Back to the main topic... Not much is happening in the DNA line, but we will have test kits from Ancestry.com to take with us in mid-September to Ireland and Scotland, as in the past. Steve and I have contacted Edgars in Dundee, Arbroath, Brechin, and Kirriemuir, which will give us a good start. Having a cross section of DNA from those locations will guide our efforts at finding our hidden roots.

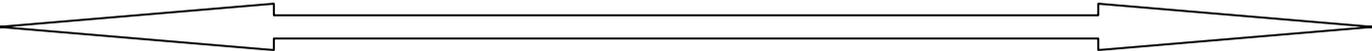
Interestingly, I have found no Edgars from years past in other parts of Ireland than Killeel with the same DNA as mine. The same goes for Steve — all his family ties are in the Newry area, but with no confirmed sightings elsewhere.

All of which begs the question, "Where did my (and his) family originate?"

The one tantalizing clue I have is through Don Edgar of Wolseley, Saskatchewan. His family are from the Kirriemuir area of Scotland, and he and I are the same Haplogroup – I1.

I'm hoping that my roots are in the Angus area (formerly Forfarshire) of Scotland, the site of Keithock, which looms large in Steve Edgar's history (he of Oakville, Ontario, and whom we lovingly refer to as SteveTO). He and I are of the same Haplogroup, but 'way back!

We thought at the beginning of this year that Stewart Eggo would prove to be of the I1 Haplogroup. But, alas, he turned up as R1b, and unrelated in any close way to most of the Edgar family, so no joy there! (My apologies, Stewart – no slight intended!)



Our DNA Trust fund is slightly depleted, we "only" have \$527 right now. Since last we asked for funds from you, our faithful readers, we have paid for two tests (Jason Edgar and Stewart Eggo), the start-up costs plus production of 110 pewter badges and 101 buttons. When you consider that we began the year with \$860, the badges and buttons have cost us nothing – it's a breakeven arrangement. From now on, income from the badges and buttons will assist the fund.

Steve and I hope to return from our upcoming trip with numerous DNA test swabs, and we need money to process those tests. Will you help? If so, send a cheque, bank draft, or money order in Canadian or US funds to me:

JAMES EDGAR  
PO BOX 2254  
MELVILLE SK S0A 2P0  
CANADA

# The other end of your family tree

by Steve Edgar ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))



Any of us researching our Edgar family history with either Irish or Scottish origins will no doubt have completed a family tree dating back as far as you can go. To make life a little easier, I have produced you a family tree from the other end. All you have to do is find the right ancestor on the chart, and then make the connections – easy! 😊



To the left is your ancestor King Kenneth 1st of Scotland (I'm taking bets on this).

I did an article some months ago where we were calculating the number of our ancestors, 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great-grandparents, 16, etc. Based on a generation being 25 years, giving 4 generations per century, in a 1000 years (40 generations) you could have over 1 trillion ancestors (try it on a calculator, 2 doubled 40 times). This figure is ridiculous in its enormity — even a 1000th of this is a billion, and 1/1000 of that is 1 million. Given that the population of Scotland was in the order of only 1-2 million in AD 1000 makes it an even more ridiculous number. The only solution to this enigma is that our ancestors in Scotland were inter-related. If we go back far enough,

we will find relatedness to the same ancestor more than once, but by different routes. My wife and I share at least four different family names from the past, all in the Manchester area. We are very likely distant cousins.

(As an aside, James and I once thought we were related because we are both Edgars. DNA proved we are not related on the male line. But, the above shows that we will still be related in the remote past, but not by the male Edgar line. One surprise is that his wife's family and my grandmother's family come from the same location on Cheshire; Jodie and I are likely more closely related than I am to James!)

Take a close look at the Scottish family tree below and try to trace any male DNA line. It's not easy. The originators of these family lines are from the Lords of the Isles and Dál Riata, from western Scotland and Co. Antrim, Ireland. (R1b?); Saxon, from N. Europe, (E1b?); Viking, from Scandinavia. (I1?); Norman, from France, (but, the Normans were originally Vikings.) (I2b1??) Many Scottish names are in fact French: Bruce – from *Bruis* (*Brus* or *Bruys*); Sinclair – from *de Saint-Clair*, etc. The French are Gauls, which would indicate R1b – maybe.

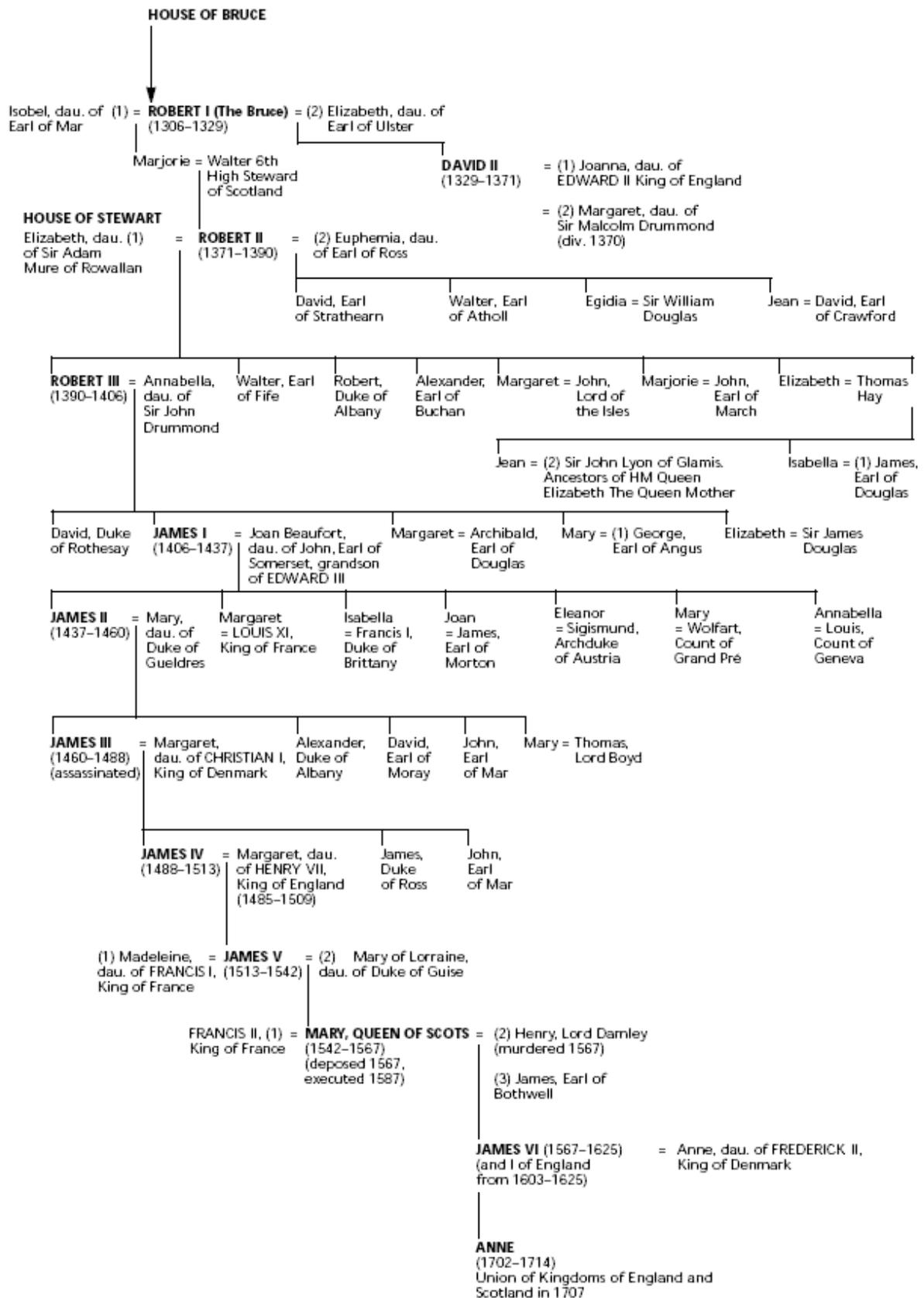
Now try to convince yourself that that none of the members on the family tree were illegitimate, fostered, or adopted. This is where the “true” blood lines fail. “Blood” (*i.e.* DNA) and family are not one and the same; they work only until the line is broken by an outside-of-marriage event.

So, who wants a take me up on a bet about King Kenneth 1st?

There is a solution to this tracing of our ancestors. James and I are prepared to sponsor five DNA tests that we will do and pay for by ourselves. All we need is a Time Machine to take us back to:-

1. Scotland, in AD 1000 for a DNA test on Crinan, Thane of Dunkeld.
2. Greyfriars Abbey, Dumfries, to test Robert the Bruce and Richard Edgar (two good ones here!)
3. The River Boyne in 1690 and test any Edgar
4. Sanquhar castle, to test Douvenald's son Edgar







Most testing companies will estimate your Haplogroup based on your STR results, and will inform you of their estimate. We will proceed, however, as if our testing company did not perform a Haplogroup estimate. Additionally, even if the testing company predicted your Haplogroup based upon your results, it is always informative to perform your own analysis.

The first step in the analysis is to visit Whit Athey's [Haplogroup Predictor](#), a free web-based program that allows the user to easily estimate their Haplogroup (but be sure to read the Conventions page – some testing companies report different numbers for the same alleles and it is important to enter the correct number into the program). Choose either the basic 15-Haplogroup Program, or the Beta 21-Haplogroup Program. You might want to start with the 15 to get a rough idea, and then use the 21 to potentially obtain more information. Enter your allele values into the predictor and the probability of your Haplogroup will be calculated in the right-hand field as you type.

Let's use our alleles as an example. When we input these alleles, there is a 100.0% probability that the Y-DNA belongs to Haplogroup R1b. Don't worry if your results aren't as clear as this example; Haplogroup designation using STR results rather than SNP results is a matter of statistical probability rather than absolute certainty. Fortunately, the results in our example match the Haplogroup predicted by the testing company. If your results don't match the predicted Haplogroup, you might have to conduct more research to attempt to elucidate to which Haplogroup your DNA belongs. If you are unable to predict a Haplogroup based upon STR testing, one possible avenue is to proceed with SNP testing, which will almost certainly be able to identify your Haplogroup. We will example SNP testing in a later section.

## 2. How Do I Learn More About My Y-DNA Haplogroup?

Now that we know that we (most likely) belong to Haplogroup R1b, we should attempt to learn as much as we can about the Haplogroup. Here are some links that will contain information about most, if not all, of the major human Y-DNA Haplogroups:

- The International Society of Genetic Genealogy's [Y-DNA Haplogroup Tree](#) – this terrific resource contains a separate page for each Haplogroup. Click on the Haplogroup of interest and you will find a new page with a “map” of the R Haplogroup, including subgroups. There is also a brief description of the Haplogroup's roots, a list of primary references, and a list of additional resources.
- Charles Kerchner's [YDNA Haplogroup Descriptions & Information Links](#) – this great resource contains a very brief description of each Haplogroup along with a list of links (if available).
- Although Wikipedia should always be used with caution, the [Human Y-chromosome DNA Haplogroups](#) page contains links to individual pages for many of the Haplogroups and a number of subgroups.
- If all else fails, use a search engine to find pages that might contain more information.

Most Haplogroups have multiple sources of information available. Don't worry if these sources of information conflict with each other – the science is still developing and estimates change with every new discovery.

## 3. Does Anyone Match My Y-DNA Haplotype?

To learn more about our haplotype, and to potentially find other people who match our haplotype, we will use the free public Y-DNA databases that are available. Examples of these

databases are Family Tree DNA's [Ysearch](#), DNA Heritage's [Ybase](#), and the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation's [Y-Chromosome Database](#). Since these databases function in similar ways, we will use Ysearch as an example. Note that there are at least two ways to search each of these databases:

### **a. Search by Haplotype**

At Ysearch.com, the user encounters a Welcome page. At the bottom of that page, click on "Search for genetic matches." Then click on "Click here to enter any sequence and search by Haplotype."

This brings us to a screen where we can enter our example haplotype. Enter your haplotype and leave the other options at their defaults with the exception of "Show users that tested at least X of the markers that I did" (set this to "12"), and the "maximum genetic distance" (set this to "0" at this early stage of your research).

The next screen is a list of the profiles that match our haplotype exactly with at least 12 of our markers. For our sample haplotype, we get over 650 exact matches (as of January 2008). R1b is very common, and, as a result, there are many R1b haplotypes in these databases. There are 1660 exact matches in Ybase, and 364 exact matches in the SMGF database. Note that some of these profiles may overlap.

If you didn't get any matches using a genetic distance of "0", change it to "1", or "2", or more. Note that your closest matches will match by a genetic distance of "0"; the more differences between haplotypes, the greater the amount of time to a recent common Y-DNA ancestor.

Interestingly, many of the matches in the Ysearch and Ybase databases have undergone SNP testing to show that they belong to the R1b1c Y-DNA Haplogroup. This might suggest that our Y-DNA sample belongs to R1b1c, a sub-clade of Haplogroup R1b (see the SNP section, below).

Another way to use the database to search is to click on "Create a new user." This will allow you to create a profile that you can use to easily search for matches. This profile will be searchable by other users of Ysearch and will allow them to contact you for more information if necessary.

### **b. Search by Surname**

Searching by surname is yet another way to find potential matches in public DNA databases. This method of searching can even be used before a DNA test has been purchased. For instance, let's assume that we haven't yet ordered a DNA test, and that our last name is "Bettinger." Has anyone else with the last name "Bettinger" ever been tested? What were their results?

To begin, go to the [Ysearch database](#). At the top of the page is a button labelled "Search By Last Name" (there is also an alphabetical list of surnames, if you want to skip the search function). Click on that, and enter "Bettinger" in the first data field; press enter. As you'll see, there is currently (as of January 2008) one person with the last name Bettinger in the database. Clicking on that record reveals that this Bettinger belongs to Haplogroup R1b1.

If we already have our results, we can now compare our haplotype with the Bettinger who is already in the database. There a number of ways to limit the search on the first page; I'll let you

explore these options as you become more familiar with the database. If you are interested in maintaining a permanent presence on one of the DNA databases with your haplotype available for searching, create a new user record. When new people go online to search for matches to their results, they will be able to compare their haplotype to yours.

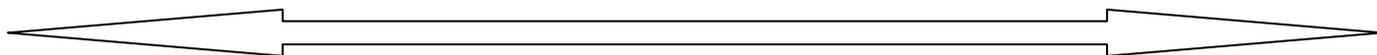
#### **4. Should I Join a Surname or Geographic DNA Project?**

A DNA project is a collaborative effort to answer genealogical questions using the results of DNA testing. A surname project brings together individuals with the same (or very similar) surname, while a geographic project gathers individuals by location rather than by family or surname. Other projects bring individuals together based upon their Haplogroup designation. DNA projects are run by Administrators who are responsible for organizing results, sharing information, and recruiting new members to the group. DNA projects can potentially provide a number of benefits to participants, including the following:

1. Confirm or reject suggested relationships between individuals in the project;
2. Identify previously unknown relationships between individuals in the project;
3. Confirm or reject the relationship of particular surname lines or surname variants (for example, do the Hoisington and Hossington surnames have a common source?);
4. Identify or learn more about the surname's country of origin;
5. Learn more about the ancient ancestry of a surname and its variants;
6. Learn more about the migration of the surname over time;
7. Learn about the genetic origins of and contributions to a geographic region;
8. Assist in genetic genealogy research projects for publication (scientists have used the results of DNA projects to learn more about human history – see the [JoGG](#) for examples), and;
9. Join a community of exciting genetic genealogists.

There are undoubtedly many more benefits to joining surname or geographical DNA projects. One benefit that I left off the list is a financial one. The companies that offer DNA projects, such as Family Tree DNA and DNA Heritage, offer testing discounts to members of those projects. This is often a great motivation to join a project, and also serves as a terrific recruitment tool. By the way, don't worry if you've already taken a genetic genealogy test and later decided that you would like to join a DNA project. It's never too late to join!

[Look for more of this in the next issue of Edgar Events.]



Picture time — a few scant days ago, my daughter Stacie, son-in-law Mark, and grandson Zane drove out from Winnipeg to visit for a few days. Mark and I took advantage of the chance to go on a driving “walkabout” with our cameras. Here is one of my shots from that day – straw bales drying in the Sun.



### Late-breaking news...

## DNA tests “show Hitler had Jewish and African roots”

“Samples taken from relatives show that he is linked to the ‘sub-human’ races of Africa and Jews he sought to exterminate. Journalist Jean-Paul Mulders used DNA taken from a relative to determine where Hitler’s ancestral links lay. His male (Y) chromosome Haplogroup came out as E1b1b, which is rare in Germany and most of Western Europe; it is most commonly found in the Berbers of Morocco, Algeria and Libya as well as Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews.

Checks into his parentage show that his father Alois is the illegitimate offspring of a maid called Maria Shickelgruber and a 19 year old Jewish man called Frankenberger. This would mean that Hitler was a quarter Jewish, enough to qualify him for one of his own extermination camps!

“Hitler would not have been pleased about this,” states Mr. DeCourte of the University of Leuven. (That has to be the understatement of the century!! – Steve)