



Happy (belated) Easter!



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 52, May 2011**



## DNA Update



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

Well, well, well, what have we here? **Corey-David Edgar** of Toronto has his DNA kit in the mail to the lab – we're awaiting his results. Mail service to and from the USA is dismal, at least to and from Canadian destinations. **Darlene Odenwalder** at Ancestry.com tested the system by mailing kits to England, Australia, and Canada (me). The first two were received at the far end within four or five days. The one to me took from March 17 to April 15! Is this an indication that Homeland Security is being far too careful?

Changing the subject completely, we saw a message on Rootsweb, which was subsequently mailed to **Richard Edgar** in Tandragee, Northern Ireland, asking about **Patrick Logan Edgar**, buried in Werribee Park, Victoria, Australia. <http://boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.edgar/488.2.1/mb.ashx> The body of the message grabbed my attention at the mention of the name **Wesley Edgar**, with a link to his firm, Castlemaine Gold Mining Co. I sent an email to the address given at the mining page, asking for him to email me back. It turns out that **Wess** is my cousin, one of those **Edgars** from the family of Kilkeel, Northern Ireland. **Bill** and **Ros Edgar** in Melbourne keep **Wess** up to date on our happenings, so, as they say Down Under, "No worries!"

Here comes the good part...the message that went to **Richard** in Tandragee:

Dear Mr Edgar

I am writing about the grave of **Patrick Logan Edgar**, born **15 September 1831** in Hutton Berwickshire and died on **15 May 1858** at Werribee Park, Victoria, Australia.

I thought you might be interested in this lost member of the Edgar clan who is buried in a lonely grave in a bluestone enclosure at the top of a steep bank above the Werribee river next to what is now the 9th tee of the Werribee Golf Course. A very fitting place for a Scot to be buried!

According to the Coroner's inquest, Patrick died on 15 May 1858 after falling from his horse and sustaining a head injury.

If you download Google Earth, enter co-ordinates **37 degrees 56 minutes 11.77 seconds South and 144 degrees 40 minutes 5.07 seconds East**. You will see the outline of a square which is the bluestone wall around Patrick's grave.

The grave is on an old estate called Werribee Park, once owned by brothers Thomas and Andrew Chirnside. The Chirnsides originally came from Berwickshire Scotland where I believe there is a town called Chirnside. You can see from the photo that the Chirnside Mansion at Werribee is quite an impressive building.

Thomas & Andrew Chirnside were very successful in Australia and brought out their own workers from around Berwickshire, even the stonemasons to build their Mansion. Patrick may have been one of the station hands employed by the Chirnsides.

I have included photos of the "Mens Hut" where Patrick probably lived. The view of the river flats from the bluestone graves is where Patrick would have worked, possibly looking after Chirnside sheep .

I have been trying to find out whether there is a link between the "**LOGAN**" in **Patrick Logan Edgar** and a member of the Chirnside called **Robert Logan Chirnside** buried in the Chirnside vault at East Geelong cemetery. Is this a co-incidence? Perhaps the Edgar, Logan or Chirnside clans in Berwickshire might know how they are linked.

I have attached the obituary for Andrew Spencer Chirnside as it gives the history of Werribee park.

If you should have any information about the history of **Patrick Logan Edgar**, the Werribee Historical Society would be most interested as they know very little about the grave and Patrick's history.

Patrick Davis  
Melbourne Australia

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Here are some of the images accompanying the message.



1 The bluestone enclosure



2 Patrick Logan Edgar 1831 - 1858



3 The Men's Hut



And, found on-line,  
"Rev. John Edgar  
Minister of Hutton  
1821-1858  
Died 2nd April 1858,  
aged 72"

[http://huttonian.blogspot.com/2009\\_07\\_01\\_archive.html](http://huttonian.blogspot.com/2009_07_01_archive.html)

This is Patrick's father.

Any readers who have followed these newsletters for any time will know that we have a great core of dedicated volunteer researchers, people who love a challenge. My cousins **Sharon (Edgar) Bunek** of Wayne, Michigan, and **Robin Hagedorn** of Adelaide, Australia, dug right into this one. Here's what **Sharon** found concerning **Patrick's** brother **Andrew**:

**Edgar, Andrew, L.L.D.**, eldest son of the Rev. John and Jesse (aka Janet) Logan Edgar

**Born:** 06 Aug 1815 at Foulden, Berwick, Baptized at Foulden (LDS)

**Died:** 19 Dec 1893, death place Buckinghamshire, England. Probate date 1 Feb 1894 (ancestry. com England And Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills & Administrations) 1861-1941)

**Died:** Oct-Nov-Dec 1893, age 78, District Christchurch (1837-1925) Hampshire County, Vol. 2b (ancestry. Com England & Wales , FreeBMD Death Index: 1837-1915)

**Buried:**

**Married 1<sup>st</sup>:** Mary Ann, widow of Prof. Everitt, and daughter of Elhanan Bicknell, Esq., of Herne Hill, Surrey on 2 January 1850. Additional info on Mary Ann: **Born 20 Nov 1817**, father Elhanan Bicknell, mother Mary, Maternal grandfather, Benjamin Scutt Jones, Christening Place, St Mary Newington, Surrey, England (England & Wales Christening Records, 1530-1906 at ancestry.com).

**Died: Apr-May-Jun1858**, District Marylebone (1837-1901) County, London, Middlesex. (England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index 1837-1915 at ancestry.com).

**Buried: burial date 4 Jun 1858**, age 40, Parish, Kensall Green All Souls, Borough Kenington and Chelsea, County (London, England, Deaths and Burials 1813-1980 at Ancestry.com)

3. Logan Bicknell Edgar: information on a different page

**Married 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Emily Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Humphrey Ballard, of London on 23 June1864

[My notes: work in progress]

#### **Occupation and Education:**

“Doctor of Law. A student of the Middle Temple, 2 May 1839; called to the Bar 6 June 1845. Member of the South Eastern Circuit, draftsman under the Statute Law Commission, 1855-7. Secretary of the Law Amendment Society, 1858-67. Common Law Editor in the “Weekly Report”, 1852-62; and of the “Law Magazine”, 1865-70.” (Society of Edgar Families. Newsletter # 11. Melbourne, Australia. Retrieved on 17 Apr 2011:

<http://sites.google.com/site/edgarsocietynewsletters/newsletterno.11>

**“Edgar, Andrew, LL.D.** Edinburgh Univ., a member of the South-eastern circuit, draftsman under Statute Law Commission 1855-7, secretary Law Amendment Society 1858-67, common law editor in *Weekly Reporter* 1852-62 and of *Law Magazine* 1865-70, a student of the Middle Temple 2 May, 1839, called to the bar 6 June, 1845 (eldest son of Rev. John Edgar, of Hutton, Berwicks.); born 6 Aug., 1815 ; married 1st, 2 Jan., 1850, Mary Ann, widow of Professor Everitt, dau. of Elhanan Bicknell, Esq., of Herne Hill, Surrey; he married 2ndly, 23 June, 1864, Emily Elizabeth, youngest dau. of late Humphrey Ballard, Esq., of London.” (Foster, Joseph (1885). Men at the bar: A biographical hand list of the members of the various inns. Retrieved on 17 Apr 2011 at googlebooks.com)

**Residences:** First found on the 1841 census for Hutton, Berwick, Scotland with his mother and father and siblings.

**1841** Census Hutton, Berwick, Scotland (ancestry.com)

**1851** Census St Marylebone Civil Parish, Middlesex County, England (ancestry.com)

Andrew Edgar, age 35 born Scotland

Wife, Mary A, age 33 born Newington, Surrey Co., England

Son, Logan B, age 5 months born Marylebone, Middlesex Co., England

Step-son, Herbert Everitt, age 10 born Bloomsbury, Middlesex Co., England

Others: Mary Orsbin and Sarah Brooker, servants

**1861** Census St Marylebone Civil Parish, Middlesex County, England (ancestry.com)

Andrew Edgar, age 45 born Scotland

Son, Logan “Berknele”, age 10 born Marylebone, Middlesex Co., England (ancestry.com)

Visitor, John Geo Edgar, age 33 born Scotland (appears to be Andrew's brother, John George)

Others: Sarah Fox and Ann Tyers; both born England, servants?

My notes: Mary A, wife, is not listed

**1871** Census Kensington Civil Parish, London, England (ancestry.com)  
 Andrew Edgar, age 55 born Scotland  
 Wife, Emily E, age 49 born Highbury, Middlesex Co., England  
 Son, Logan B, age 20 born Marylebone, Middlesex Co., England  
 Others: Charity Warman, Rosa Nutter, Mary Apps ; servants

**1881** Census Sunninghill Civil Parish, Berkshire County, England (ancestry. com)  
 Address: Elvartwick Street  
 Andrew Edgar, age 65 born Scotland. Occupation: L.L.D. Barrister in practice  
 Wife, Emily E, age 59 born Highbury, Middlesex Co., England  
 Others: Charlotte Harman, Sarah Beckett, Ellen Chapman; servants

**1891** Census Stoke Poges Civil Parish, Buckinghamshire, England  
 Andrew Edgar, age 75 born Scotland  
 Wife, Emily E, age 69 born Highbury, Middlesex Co., England  
 Others: Catherine Davis, Sarah A Yates, Mary E. Tates; servants

Then **Robin** found this information on the Census records (note the number of times the name "**Logan**" enters these records – this is **Patrick Logan Edgar's** family):

#### ANDREW EDGAR CENSUS RETURNS

##### 1841 SCOTTISH CENSUS

Hutton, Berwickshire

Andrew Edgar 25 living with Rev. John Edgar and mother Janet aka Jessie.

##### 1851 ENGLAND CENSUS

Marylebone, Middlesex England

|                 |        |           |                       |
|-----------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Andrew Edgar    | 35     | Barrister | born Scotland         |
| Mary            | 33     | Wife      | born Surrey Newington |
| Logan G         | 5 mths | son       | born Marylebone       |
| Herbert Everitt | 10     | stepson   | born Bloomsbury       |

##### 1861 ENGLAND CENSUS

Marylebone, Middlesex England

|                      |    |                   |                                          |
|----------------------|----|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Andrew Edgar         | 45 | Widower Barrister | born Scotland                            |
| Logan Berknele Edgar | 10 |                   | born Marylebone (sic) should be Bicknell |
| John Geo Edgar       | 35 | Author            | born Scotland                            |

##### 1871 ENGLAND CENSUS

Chelsea, Kensington, Middlesex England

|               |    |           |                         |
|---------------|----|-----------|-------------------------|
| Andrew Edgar  | 55 | Barrister | born Scotland           |
| Emily E Edgar | 49 | wife      | born Middlesex Highbury |
| Logan B Edgar | 20 |           | born Marylebone         |

##### 1881 ENGLAND CENSUS

Claverhouse, Sunninghill, Berkshire England

|               |    |           |                         |
|---------------|----|-----------|-------------------------|
| Andrew Edgar  | 65 | Barrister | born Scotland           |
| Emily E Edgar | 59 |           | born Middlesex Highbury |

##### 1891 ENGLAND CENSUS

Uplands, Stoke Poges Buckinghamshire Reg. District ETON

|               |    |           |
|---------------|----|-----------|
| Andrew Edgar  | 75 | Barrister |
| Emily E Edgar | 69 |           |

#### ENGLAND PROBATE CALENDAR

Emily Elizabeth Edgar of Uplands, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire died 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1893 at Exeter Lodge, Bournemouth Administration with Will probated 1 May, 1894 to Logan Bicknell Edgar, Edgar Bogue and Herbert Everitt.

Andrew Edgar of Uplands, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire died 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1893 at Exeter Lodge, Bournemouth Probate, 1 February, 1894 to Logan Bicknell Edgar, Edgar Bogue and Herbert Everitt.



## LOGAN BICKNELL EDGAR

### 1881 ENGLAND CENSUS

Egg Buckland, Plympton, Devon England

Logan Bicknell Edgar 30 Barrister born Middlesex, Marylebone

Edith Amee (?) unclear 28 born Yorkshire

Janet Agnes Margaret 1 born Hampshire

### 1891 ENGLAND CENSUS

Chipping Barnet, Hertfordshire

Logan B Edgar 40 Barrister born Middlesex Marylebone

Edith A 28 born Yorkshire

Janet A M 11 born Hampshire, Long Sutton

Richard L 9 born Devonshire

Edith M 2

### 1901 ENGLAND CENSUS

Hastings, Sussex

Logan B Edgar 50 Barrister born Middlesex Marylebone

Laura R Edgar 39 born Norfolk, Norwich

No children with them, Richard Logan Edgar boarding out

### ENGLAND PROBATE CALENDAR

Logan Bicknell Edgar of Rosebank, St. Helens, Park Road, Hastings died 5<sup>th</sup> February 1931 Probate London to Helen Sarah Edgar, Widow.

Parents of Rev. John Edgar of Hutton Berwickshire given as Andrew Edgar and Alison nee Bogue.

Georgina Logan Edgar daughter of John & Jessie married 1851 Charles Stuart and died 1901

Janet Edgar daughter of John & Jessie born 1820 died 1912 no marriage given

Alicia Edgar daughter of John & Jessie married 7<sup>th</sup> August 1844 at Hutton Manse to Mr. David Bogue bookseller and publisher of London.

Catherine Elizabeth Edgar married Robert Witton Glendinning born 30 March 1829 died Edinburgh 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1882 .

Patrick Logan Edgar aged 26 died 1858, Werribee Park, Victoria Australia

Richard David Edgar aged 77 died 1913 Geelong, Victoria, Australia

## RICHARD LOGAN EDGAR

Richard Logan Edgar married 1908 in SALFORD LANCASHIRE Mary Ellen Sherry.

Richard L Edgar died aged 85 in 1967 in Warrington

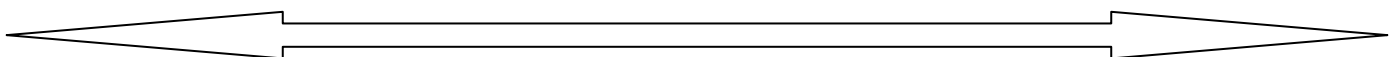
One possible and one definite child

Michael L Edgar born 1910 in Runcorn Cheshire

John B Edgar born 1912 in Runcorn Cheshire (definite mother's maiden name Sherry).

Enter my wife, **Jodie** (a.k.a. "Mrs. Poirot") – she located **Andrew Nicol Logan Edgar** near London, England, son of **Logan Andrew Edgar**, grandson of **Logan Bicknell Edgar**! Through the magic of the modern Internet, we found a telephone number, dialled it, and in moments were speaking to **Eleanor Edgar**, **Andrew's** wife!! He was away at the time, so I promised to call back a couple of days later.

I spoke to **Andrew** on Easter weekend; we had a lovely chat, shared some info, and, best of all, his DNA kit is on its way to him in the mail! And, that's how the story continues. We'll keep you posted, of course. Any guesses as to **Andrew's** DNA type?



## **A Review**

by Bill Edgar, Melbourne (edgaraust@hotmail.com)



### **Burnt Eucalyptus Bark:**

Early settlers of the far western District of Victoria

Author [Nancie Edgar](#)

Publisher N. Edgar, 1972?

Length 52 pages

Subjects [Western District \(Vic.\)](#)

This book is a great resource for all family history with families who settled in this district. I found a copy at Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies AIGS in Blackburn Victoria. It covers how development of the land with the issues involved and how the changes in land ownership caused queries, and, of course, the Australian problem of droughts and flooding rains.

My interest was because of the name of the author **Nancie Edgar** and the subject in a chapter of the book named **David Edgar**, plus other details on **David** and family. I attempted to contact **Nancie** via our DNA member **Richard "John" Edgar** in Sydney, who is a descendant of this **Halbert Edgar** (**David's** brother) and has the web site <http://sites.google.com/site/edgarsinaustralia>, but she was not located. The following is some of the information I obtained from her book:

### Chapter 5 Page 8 (*Early History for the State of Victoria, Australia*)

The Portland Bay area was opened up by the **Hentys** who came from Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) starting on 1834 November 19. This was the first permanent village in Victoria, with only explorers, whalers, and sealers living there prior to this.

Explorer Major **Thomas Mitchell** came down from Sydney, and in doing so explored the area now know as the Western District in 1836. The Henty's selected a run "Merino Downs" in 1837.

**David Edgar** came as overseer for **W. Forlonge** to the "Grangeburn Run" Hamilton in 1840. He was born 1812 December 18 at Moffat, Dumfries, and migrated on the ship *North Briton* to Van Diemen's Land. He came onto land at Point Henry near Geelong, Victoria, in December 1838. He was first with **Bayley Bros** at Werribee and recalled that he was overturned in a shepherd's watch box by a gale on December 1839, whilst he was shepherding near Carngham, which is near Ballarat.

### Chapter 14 1849 – 1856 David Edgar Page 34 to 36

**David Edgar** took up the Fitzroy River or Cave Hole Run of 12,800 acres with 400 cattle in 1842, and remained there until he went to Mullagh in 1849. He lived at the Bush Inn. He married **Sarah O'Meara** in 1844. **Edgar Street**, Heywood, Victoria, bears his name today. He wrote of his coming to the Harrow district, "In June, 1849 I purchased Mr Reilly's right and interest in the Mullagh station and went in equal partnership with Mr Birmingham." He took possession on 1849 July 1 when there were "5308 head of sheep."

He and his family travelled from Heywood to reach Mullagh on 15 July of this year, after nightfall, on a reeking wet winter's night. The hut at Mullagh, which did duty as a homestead, was a miserable structure with an earthen floor, excepting a small space in front of the fireplace. There was no furniture beyond the usual equipment of a rough table and a few stools; stringy bark stretchers provided the beds. (These beds were usually made from jute

seed bags slung between branches tied in a cross.) The site of this hut was Goose Lagoon; they decided to camp in the woolshed in preference to it until the Pine Hill lease was acquired. They then moved to the Pine Hill homestead at Konepra. This was in December 1849 and the Pine Hill Run carried 7287 sheep and 45 cattle. (They lived in the woolshed from July to December in the coldest wettest time.)

It is recorded that while in the woolshed the native cats troubled them and went off with the children's shoes (there were no local shops to get new shoes).

Soon after they acquired Pine Hill, **Mr. Birmingham** died and his widow married **J.B. FitzGerald** in January 1851; she retained the interest in Mullagh-Pine Hill with **David Edgar**. In 1854, **C.P. Cooke** was paid in full for the right to the run Pine Hill, the purchase price and current expenses being met, **David Edgar** said, "by the proceeds of the wool alone."

According to a verbal undertaking **David Edgar** had with the late **Mr. Birmingham**, the partnership expired with the last payment on Pine Hill. The two runs were put up for sale, but there was no bid, so it was agreed to divide. **Mrs. FitzGerald** being the senior partner had the first choice, she got Mullagh.

The subdivision did not invalidate the claim of pre-emptive right to 640 acres on each run. After four year's negotiations with the powers that be," **David Edgar** bought, for one pound per acre and expenses, the pre-emptive section on Pine Hill. He had had to remove his homestead to his woolshed to get it as it had to be in one block only.

A letter **David Edgar** wrote in 1851 revealed the added difficulty of coping with the sheep when the gold rush was taking the men away. He said they would have to start shearing early to get men, but was sure they would "stand out for higher wages."

"We are likely to be very short of hands on the station, three more men have left ... and I have not seen a single man seeking employment so that even now were it not for the blacks we would be badly off." (Blacks = Native Aboriginals who would camp on the station and "work," often quite hard, for little or no pay – mostly just provisions).

"The sheep are suffering very much, there is so much of the ground covered with water and the flocks being so large makes it very bad for getting them through the water.

"A great deal more of the run is wet than I suppose ever was seen by white man before, to help our misfortunes we have two flocks joined.

"The news from the goldfields are of a mixed kind and I keep expecting men will shortly be returning ... Mrs. FitzGerald could hire two or three of the emigrants by the "Tasmania" if they were country bred and likely men for shepherding on 30 pounds to 34 for a married man and two rations ... but unless he could get likely men I would sooner not have them as the best of them want a good deal of training ... all the usages and employments are so totally different from what they can have been used to." (Consider the cost above with the one pound per acre for land.)

He also said at this time, "We got done with our footrotting last night, our hands are all sore from burns and cuts, knocks, etc., and mine, as usual, are the worst."

It is quite clear that the early squatters were not afraid to use their hands as well as their heads.



Writing again to **Mrs. FitzGerald** in August of the next year, 1852, **David Edgar** spells out another problem of the station owner coping with the ghastly spells of wet weather, which can alternate with the dry periods – the sort of weather that can flatten newborn lambs.

“The yards and the ground are in such a state that I cannot get them in to draft.”

Prospects of shearing looked gloomy both as regards weather and shearers. **David** thought **Mr. Blair** may be sending some of the immigrants to his station (Clunie) and he could get some to help at shearing too, but he said there was a meeting to be held at the Glenelg so “wait until you hear from me next post ... God willing” when there may be “better weather and better prospects altogether, for it is never so dark as just before day breaks.”

With regard to the immigrants, according to advertisements in the “Portland Guardian” during 1853, **D.G. Parker** had the Settlers Immigration Registry Office at Portland from which he no doubt directed those who would go to the stations inland.

To tell how some of these immigrants were getting on, **David Edgar** wrote from Mullagh to Mr. **FitzGerald** on 1853 May 8.

“I wrote you last post asking you to get **Parker** to send in his bill of charges etc. in connection with the immigrants.

“**Hawkins** I suppose is in the town before this reaches you for the remainder of their luggage and the goods from Melbourne.

“The immigrants are doing very middling, they certainly seem to wish to do well, but they are very unfortunate in getting in the way of it. I have been keeping my patience with them and endeavouring to get them into the way of well doing. **Mally** is still in bed with his foot but his boy and girl are minding his flock. **Marsh** makes the best offer, although he has lost himself twice he always sticks to his sheep, he or perhaps his wife are rather unreasonable in their demands on the shop chit etc. for people who have earned nothing as yet; the following is a verbatim list of requirements in addition to the usual fit out and rations –

“12 yards ticking, 10 yards brown sheeting, 6 yards print, box matches, 6lb soap, 3lb plums, 2lb currants, a wash tub, a little saucepan, a little boiler to cook in with lid, 12 yards black border, 1 yard of black net, 12 yards ribbon, 6 cotton laces black, 2 stay laces, a little camphor, 2 mackintosh, 3 pairs stockings, 3 shirts, 2 south-westerns, 1lb hops, 1 bottle yeast, vinegar, some rice and potatoes.

“I have been out to where they are and she wants a great deal more her children have no comforts, poor dears, one of them will die if it does not get wine and some butter and milk; she also wants an extensive supply of medicine, I managed, whatever, to reduce the whole to some soap, a pea jacket and a box of pills.

“The children are certainly poor sickly looking things and I intend sending stock-keeper out tomorrow with a little rice and potatoes.”

The regular rations were taken round the out-stations once a week and, according to **David Edgar**'s diaries, he often made this round himself, on Saturday or Sunday. No doubt he would cast an eye over the shepherd flocks at each out-station at the same time, for being in charge, his was a 7-day week. Stock-keeper was virtually a shepherd on horseback, his

duty being to muster up the cattle regularly and try to keep them within the boundary of the unfenced run.

The letter continued, “The **McIntyres** everyone of them are doing well, and no trouble whatever.

“The weather has at last taken up. We have been making brush yards, the sheep seem determined not to camp, we had three mixtures last week, one with **Marydale**, one with **Hamilton** and one with ourselves.”

He then mentions that “scab is all over the country”; he had used lime, but it made the wool brittle and easily pulled. He had a sore on his wrist made bad by the lime water.

The incidence of scab made it an urgent necessity to have sufficient shepherds; the sheep numbers were rising all the time and they had to be grazed seven days a week without making contact with the neighbours’ sheep.

**David Edgar**’s diary of 1856 indicates there were then at least six shepherds, with a hut-keeper for each, often the wife. They lived at out-stations, Konepra, Bunup, Campbell’s Lake, Potbrook and Wild Dog Swamp, with one at the home-station and **Jacky**, an aborigine, was with them treating footrotty sheep at one stage.

There appeared to be a quick turnover in staff, although some stayed a while. Some staff were recruited at other runs as they changed hands.

Shepherding was very often a stepping stone to taking up a run with some sheep for oneself. After **David Edgar** visited his father and mother “at home” in Scotland in 1857, he arranged to bring out his brother **James** and family and sister **Jess** and her family “to shepherd.” His brothers, **Halbert** and **John**, had come to him earlier on; **Walter** came in 1853 and was with him for many years. **Walter**’s occupation when he came as an immigrant was given as “shepherd.” Most of these members of **David**’s family moved out on to land of their own eventually.

**Nancie** on page 40 quotes a letter that started her on her quest for the history of the area, dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 1863 from Scotland.

“At Moffat, Dumfries, on that day the kettle would be singing on the side of a shiny stove and all would be quiet within as a pleasant evening mantled the countryside.

“**David Edgar**’s father, **John**, sitting by the window at a table covered with a frayed chenille cloth would take up a quill pen and start to write. He would pause occasionally to scan the country he knew and loved so well, for in it had spent his life as a shepherd and farmer.

“He was then past 84 summers, with a high smooth brow and faded blue eyes which mirrored the honesty of the man, his hair was fine and grey. He was a deeply religious and the family Bible held pride of place on the chiffonier; his family had regularly gathered round to hear the message read from its pages and inside the front cover was a register of births and deaths.

“His hand was shakey as he wrote, but his mind was clear: ‘Moffat, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Dear Walter, As we heard a month or two ago you were leaving Mullagh and as we have no sure word of you, we are anxious to hear, we had a letter from Libby (Isabel Gray) last month I

think she said you and David had been at their place and you were all well, she seemed to think you would be writing from Harrow, but hers was the only letter we got last month. I think it is the first month we have wanted one from David or some of his children since he was here and we seldom get a letter from James or Halbert and never John, he was with Jess (Johnston) the last account we heard of him.

"I must tell you something of your relations on this side of the globe. We had Jean (Hairstens) at Moffat a fortnight. Robert and his family are well as far as we know, we expected Chrisa here when Jean came but we have neither seen nor heard of her since.

"Your mother and me are in moderate health for which we have great reason to be thankful to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, we are getting frail but able to stir about and do everything needful which is a great blessing for we are far from any of our own.

"We have been at Robert's, I think every summer since he went to the Highlands, he is anxious for us to come this year but it's rather far from home for us and takes a good of expense and we have not made up our minds to go yet.

"I think of nothing in our neighbourhood that would be any news to you, the Australian overland mail came in, we will have the other in a few days.

"It cannot be long till we go whence we shall not return, we are far separated with seas and mountains, it is a comfort to know that we may all meet where there will be no more parting and all be peace and joy; that this will be the happy estate of us all ought to be our daily prayer.

"I hope you will let us know how Grace and all the children are keeping.

"Your mother joins me in our best regards to Grace and all the children, while I remain, your affectionate father John Edgar."

To Mr Walter Edgar, care of Mr David Edgar, Pine Hills, Harrow, Victoria.

As the old man put his pen and ink in the chiffonier drawer, his wife would pour water from the singing kettle into a small teapot and bring it to the table and, as they had their supper, the soft arms of a Scottish night would enclose the small dwelling.

Out here in Australia.

Walter Edgar

On 1863 July 15, towards evening **Walter** would have just come in from tending the sheep on Kadnook, which by now he looked after for his brother **David**.

One can picture him – before he entered the undressed timber cottage, he would get a tin dish, part fill it with water from the tank and, with homemade soap, wash away the soil from his hands and the sheep yard's dust and the sweat from his face. As he did so a flash of white wings against the clear blue sky would catch his eye, cockatoos whirling overhead, shrieking like a thousand hens caught in the sky.

Still later in the day, as the sun set and the heavy leaves hung still, he would see a haze come over the land under the gum trees and the light from the setting sun would penetrate

through it in long finger like rays of soft gold, etching the sheep silhouetted in its path with silver.

As he came near to the homestead this day, he would pass the gardener's cottage and soon reach the front of the house passing along a drive that went round a well-kept lawn; from here the buggy and pair would be taken to the stables by a groom who was instructed to rub the ponies down well.

The Pine Hills house is there, it is a typical old English-style farmhouse of brick with two gable ends and a verandah between, with two sets of windows in each gable, the upper being attic. There were two small dormer windows in the centre part of the roof at one time. Wings from the gable ends form a central courtyard.

**David Edgar** died at Pine Hills in 1894; his wife **Sarah** in 1911, at Babba Mia, they are both buried in the private cemetery at Pine Hills.

One can conclude what is virtually a humble attempt to justify the early runholders, who set about developing the land under very difficult conditions, by stressing that they should get some credit for doing just this instead of all being bundled in together as "squatters" who walked in and "grabbed" the land without "by your leave." Reference to their early privations is now often quoted with a heavy overtone of sarcasm.

**David Edgar** remarked that the runholders realized that one day they "would either have to buy or be bought out..." and, from the first Land Act of the 1860s, this became the case.

Referring to the impending implementation of the second Land Act of 1862, the statement in a letter of this year, "the whole of Warrock will be open for selection from 1st October next," is important. Surely this, following years of occupancy with a covenant giving pre-emptive purchase right, was sufficient cause to stir even the most devout to take some remedial action, as indeed it was. For those who had not been able to take up the right to buy in much land, it would mean they must sell most of the flock of sheep they had laboured over the years to build up and improve, and walk off all but the purchased pre-emptive section, or, they must try to buy in as best they could. (Warrock Run was opened for selection under the Agricultural Areas of Hodgkinson and Ligarwood, parishes of Warrock, Barnoolut, Dewrang, and Brimboal.)

Although wool was selling well at this time, the borrowing to finance quick land purchase with agents, and "dummy" costs added, often put a load of debt on the run that was never worked off, which did not help when the land crash of 1890 came.

Actually the struggle during the period of consolidation set the image of the squatter or runholder as a member of a hard core of Australian aristocracy (squattocracy). He later became known as a pastoralist, then a grazier.

Thinking back, it is quite clear that early settlers, or "colonists" as they were called, could have no conscious feeling of guilt whilst they were settling the land, which, as far as they were concerned and by their standards, was not being used.

NOTE Aboriginals as in most countries were not recognized as landholders or users and now in 2011 are claiming back some parcels of land.

**Walter Edgar** and 3 daughters took up selections, under the land act 1869 in the parish of Koolomurt in 1873, and completed payment within the prescribed 10 years. The **Edgars** came onto the blocks on 1874 April 14, and put a homestead and other buildings on adjoining corners of selections. This way the improvements covered the properties. They dug drains and dams, made yards and fences and, as required under the purchase terms, cultivated one tenth of the land. The Homestead was called "Woodacres."



## Desmond Edgar of Australia

From Sam Edgar in England, we have this query, that began with Sam asking if I knew of a Desmond Edgar. I answered Yes, he lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, and his roots are in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland (like me, but we're unrelated).

Sam came back with:

Hi James, I have a cousin, Desmond Edgar, who went to Aus. in 1951 with his brother George. I have not been able to trace them; he is the same age as me, but he was born in Belfast, as I was. His father's name was William, we called him Uncle Billy, they went to join their sister Bell, as we called her. Unfortunately, I do not know her married name. Desmond is not a much used name, hence my hope that he was my cousin,

SAM

So, I sent that off to Robin in Adelaide... She responded, but had little info to add.

From Sam again:

Hi James, My uncle William, known as Billy, married Maggie (Nesbitt) on the 30th Oct.1917 in Warrenpoint, Newry, Down. They had 3 children born to them, Isabella, known as Bell, Eileen, and George; Desmond was an adopted son; your cousin is correct - Desmond and George did sail from Southampton in 1951 on the ship Moreton Bay.

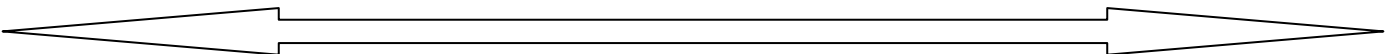
Uncle Billy's parents names Thomas and Jane née Steele. Thomas was born in Raphoe, Donegal; Jane was born in Enniskillen.

Desmond and George lived with our Grandmother in Derrygonally NI,1941+?

I hope this info. will help your cousin,

SAM

Sam would welcome anyone who can further his search...email = [smedgar@btinternet.com](mailto:smedgar@btinternet.com)





## Letter from Aunt Mary



*From Steve Edgar in Oakville, Ontario (SteveTO) (jse@idirect.com)*

Copy of a letter (without date) from Mary Caroline Edgar addressed to James D, Edgar of Toronto Canada and later sent by him, March 15, 1868 to Reverend C.H. Edgar of Easton Pennsylvania.

{Sir James David Edgar was my Great-Great Grandfather. – (John) Steven Edgar}

Dearest Jamie;

In Nisbet's Heraldry three families of Edgars are mentioned, the Edgars of Wedderlie in Berwickshire, The Edgars of Keithock in Forfarshire and the Edgars of Poland. At the death of the last Edgar of Wedderlie, Rear-Admiral Alexander Edgar, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1817, the newspapers in announcing the fact mentioned he was of "one of the oldest families in Scotland as appears by deeds as far back as 1170". It is generally believed that the Edgars of Wedderlie were descended from Edgar, son of Queen Margaret, niece of Edward the Confessor, married to Malcolm, King of Scotland and by Catholics honoured as St. Margaret.

Admiral Edgar left only a daughter. She wished her son to take the name Edgar and as only representative of the eldest branch of the family can use supporters to the family arms, she applied to the Court of Lord Lyon, King at arms, for permission for her son to wear them. Thomas Edgar, my father's elder brother and your grandfather, then the head of the Edgars of Keithock protested against this as he claimed to be head of both families, since it was a younger son of Edgar of Wedderlie who bought Keithock from the Lindsays in 1617. This claim was allowed, as being the nearest known male descendant of the Edgars of Wedderlie, but it was possible that another might come forward who had quitted the Wedderlie stem more recently than the Keithock branch, he was not allowed to use supporters for twenty years; these twenty years being now long past, you are the undisputed representative of the Edgars both of Keithock and Wedderlie. Wedderlie now belongs to Lord Balantyre.

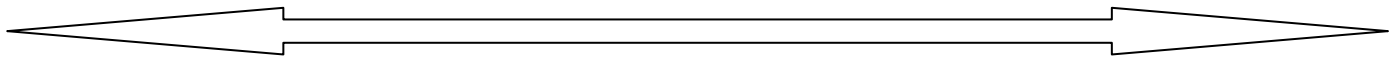
David Edgar of Keithock (whose portrait you will one day have, at present it is at Helstone) had a large family. Two of his sons, John and James, bore prominent parts in the rising of 1715. The first died a prisoner in Stirling Castle and the second escaping to Italy to become the well-known private Secretary of the Chevalier, or as we Jacobites call him of James the third, with whom he remained more than forty years, till his death in 1762. There are many anecdotes of the Secretary, as well as of his nephew John, your Great-Grandfather, who followed Prince Charles in 1745, which I must leave for another paper but there is no book about the Jacobites in which the Secretary is not mentioned in the most honourable manner as the most faithful and devoted follower of the Stuarts, the most loyal and true of men. Meanwhile if you have an opportunity of seeing any books about the Jacobites, I will mention some in which the Edgars are particularly mentioned. In Robert Chambers "History of the Rebellion 1745-6" he gives one well-known anecdote of the Secretary in the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, page 419. In Denistone of Denistone "Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange and A. Lumsden" he mentions both the Secretary and your Great-Grandfather frequently. Lumsden was the under-secretary and at Mr. Edgar's death, succeeded to his post. In the "Land of the Lindsays" page 270 there is a good deal about the Edgars although there are several

inaccuracies in dates and spelling of names. Another son of David Edgar's, Henry, was Protestant Bishop of Fife, he left no children. Another son displeased his father by his democratic principals and went to America, where he has left many thousands of descendants. Every now and then one of these American Edgars comes to Scotland to visit the family cradle. And when your father passed through New York on his way to Canada, he found some of them out, and was received with the greatest kindness and hospitality. You see should Canada ever be united to the Northern States, you have a ready-made clan.

Your Great-Grandfather, John, who succeeded his father, Alexander, in 1758 {this is obviously a wrong date – JSE} fled to France from the battle of Culloden, he served in Lord Ogilvy's Scotch Regiment until the passing of the Act of Indemnity in 1756 when he returned to Scotland. He died in 1788 leaving a number of children and as Keithock was greatly mortgaged at the time of succession probably by their efforts in behalf of their rightful King, he had not been able to lay anything for the younger children and by his will it was sold a year after his death. Of all his children only two left descendants, the youngest son, James, your Grandfather and the eldest daughter Catherine, Mary Watson's mother. The late Protestant Bishop Moir of Brechin speaking to a clergyman who repeated it to us, of the Edgars of Keithock – said they had always been renowned for their honour and loyalty – that the word of one of them was as good as the oath of another man. That inheritance at least, my dear Jamie, remains your own, no one can deprive you of it. In the next letter I shall send you anecdotes as promised. Meanwhile I must conclude.

Your most affectionate Aunt,

Mary Caroline Edgar



A message from Juanita Edgar in South Carolina: **A dollar a day for the DNA!**

Of course, what she means is, for a mere dollar a day from the heads of all the Edgar families, we could support our DNA Trust Fund indefinitely. Think of the tests we could do!

If each family head collected enough from his immediate relatives and sent it along, that would be \$365 times the number of families – just four families comes to nearly \$1500 a year. That equates to 10 tests a year, minimum!

Keep those **\$** and **£** rolling in folks!! Every little bit helps, so don't be put off by the appeal for a large sum – we'll accept all donations, large or small.

This comes from Marian Morgan (descended from the Swales and Edgars of Derrylecka, Northern Ireland) ([mdmorgan@westnet.com.au](mailto:mdmorgan@westnet.com.au))

Hi James & Steve,

Perhaps this is of interest for the Newsletter? **The Irish Newspaper Archive** is a subscription database covering material listed below.

The National Library of Australia has made it available free to those of us Aussies who join up (also free) and it can be searched from home which is great. It may also be available from other libraries or institutions.

Anyone can do an initial search without cost but to view the actual clipping you have to subscribe.

<http://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>

"The Irish Newspaper Archive contains over 6 million pages in over 500,000 issues of Irish Newspaper publications. With national daily editions such as the Irish Independent, regional weekly editions including the Connacht Tribune, Kerryman and Anglo-Celt and out of print publications such as the Freeman's Journal and The Nation.

Spanning back as far as **1763** with issues been converted from microfilm and running right up to current date where more recent issues are presented in full color. The contents of all issues are fully text searchable and reflect the full context and layout of each page."

Hope this is of use to others!

**Marian**

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**Finally, Picture Time** This is the churchyard at Westruther, where the **Edgar** family of Wedderlie worshipped and are buried. Off in the distant north are the Lammermuir Hills, where the Twinlaw Cairns stand silent sentinel.

The family of the **Rev. John Edgar** mentioned earlier came from around here, as did **Bill Edgar** of Dundee's family (Swinton); **Patricia Leishman** of Dundee (Duns), and **David Edgar** of Guildford (Wedderlie).

Read here about the Twinlaw Cairns

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/edgar/messages/747.html>





I got a load of pictures from **Wess Edgar** in Australia...



Brylie, Wess, and Aunt Martha in 2005



This is Wess, with his Dad, Ian. Aunt Nellie and Aunt Martha live in Kilkeel.

埃德加

By Jun Shan

These are the Chinese characters for “Edgar”



In the Mourne Presbyterian Churchyard in Kilkeel with Martha (née Edgar) Henderson (in blue coat).



Ditto