



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 56, September 2011**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)



Well, it turns out that **Terry Edgar** of Glengowrie, Adelaide, Australia, is an I2b1! We had initially thought that there might be a link with **Peter Edgar** (I1) of Canberra, Australia, but this turned out not to be so. **Terry** is **Adrian's** younger brother, who we've been in conversation with for the past few months. The brothers descend from **William Edgar**, son of **John Edgar** of Scotland, who came to Adelaide in 1848. This result ties **Terry** in with a number of other I2b1 Scottish **Edgars**.

There is a link with **Peter** but not what we had speculated. **William Edgar's** brother, **Hugh Edgar**, married **Peter's** great grandmother, and she had children with him. The great grandmother came to the partnership with children. It was not clear whether **Peter's** grandfather was the son of **Hugh**, but the DNA now suggests that likely **Hugh Edgar** adopted **Peter's** grandfather and gave him his surname. **Peter** comments that, in agreeing to join the DNA program, this was one of the puzzles he hoped to solve.

The other mystery was the relationship of **John Edgar** to Dumfries. This result has given **Terry** many useful lines to explore.

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The **Rev. R. Richard Edgar** has his results back, and we find he is closely related to three others in the I2b1s – **James D. Edgar**, **John Newton Edgar**, and **Howard Methany Edgar**. As you can well imagine, Richard is a busy guy (aren't we all, busy guys and gals, that is?), so we have yet to piece together his ancestor tree. But, we will...

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As reported last issue, a new member of our group, **Roger Edgar** of Dunnville, Ontario, has his swabs at the lab for analysis—still waiting.

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Another newbie is **Walter Edgar** of Columbia, South Carolina. At my invitation, **Walter** is getting his DNA tested. His first response to my suggestion was:

James,

Thanks for the e-mail. But my family's name was Ezard in Manchester and became "Edgar" when they immigrated to the US.

Walter

**SteveUK's** first response at hearing this revelation was:

Ezard is a variation of Edgar originally.

It is an old spelling variation of Edzar.

In old Scottish, the letters g and z are interchangeable as in **Menzies** and **Mengies**.

Walter has sent me a document from the early 1980s written by a researcher in the UK, who traced the **Ezards** back to at least the 1841 British Census. It remains to be seen whether the name really is an **Edgar** corruption from very early on. So, we shall see if there's a connection between the **Ezard** and **Edgar** families.

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In another coup for **Mrs. Poirot** (my **Jodie**), we have found a direct descendant of the **Edgars** in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland. **Bruce Edgar**, the renowned left-handed cricket player from New Zealand is my cousin! (See <http://es.pn/qTtMII>) **Bruce's** distant ancestor is **Arthur Edgar**, b. 1797. We haven't quite figured out the exact relationship between my ancestor and **Arthur**, but I suspect my **Charles Edgar** (b. 1772) was Arthur's uncle. If that relationship is correct, then **Bruce** is my 4th cousin, twice removed.

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**Stewart Edgar** of Mytchett, Surrey, England, is in the process of ordering a test. We received this (slightly abridged) email from him, which gives his line back a couple of generations:

My Father's name was Thomas Stewart Edgar, born in Cumnock, Ayrshire; he was a miner and died in 1992. My Mother's name is Margaret Hastings Kennedy (remarried and her Maiden Name was Robertson - born in Patna Ayrshire)

I have two sisters:

Jean Hannah Owen - she has three children:

Donnagh Louise Frith; Ryan Thomas Bevan; and Rachel Owen - Living in Maltby

Elaine Edgar - she has two children:

Darryl Innes and Kayliegh Innes - living in Evesham, Worcs

My Grandfather was Isaac Edgar; he was Scottish and died in the 1980s in Cumnock  
Occupation, Miner My Grandmother's name was Hannah

They had five children:

Guthrie (Deceased 2005/6)

Thomas (Deceased 1992)

Agnes (still in Cumnock area)

Ann (still in Cumnock area)

Hugh (teacher in the north of Scotland - Elgin, I think)

There are rumours that my Grandfather (who was definitely Scottish) came from Huddersfield, though I can't really check this out with anyone now.

Beyond that I'm stumped

Regards,

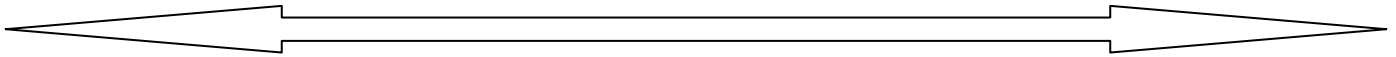
Stewart

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We also heard from **Nicolette Edgar**, who lives in New Zealand. While we were able to help her trace her family back a couple of generations to Dumfries, Scotland, it led to an illegitimate birth. Her grandfather was the son of an unknown father, raised by an **Edgar** mother, whose maiden name was likely **Pagan**. In any event, her children were raised as **Edgars**.

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We most recently heard from **John Edgar** in South Africa, who has a test kit going to him right now. We don't have many of his details, but we will soon – watch for more news next month. We expect **Michael Edgar** in Australia to send in his kit very soon.

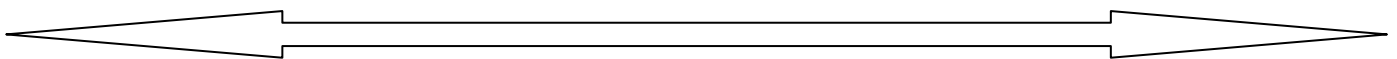


I think it's time for a picture!

Last weekend, I was out driving around the Winnipeg area with my son-in-law, Mark Burnell, cameras in hand, he and I looking for something pleasant to photograph. Here is one of my shots – sunflowers ripening in a vast field west of the city. Do you get the feeling that the field is several miles across? The Canadian Prairies just go on and on...where you can see your dog run away for three days, so the tongue-in-cheek saying goes!



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## The Edgar Ministers from Killaney, Co. Down



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

Juanita and I continue our search to find our common ancestors in Northern Ireland and have not made very much progress on paper but have made leaps and bounds in our understanding of the local area.

Locations in Ireland are problematic, as the names usually come from a descriptive location; *Mullaghbane*, for example, being “white mountain.” (I got very excited a few months ago when I found Edgars in Mullaghbane, only to be disappointed when I found 3 Mullaghbanes, all in Co. Armagh!)

Add to this the confusion with County, Parish, Townland, Diocese, and District boundaries, locations can be a problem. To make matters worse, the spelling varies—Carricknaveagh and Carricknaveigh are the same place. They are also a townland and a location.

Our Edgar records for the Killaney area are pretty thin, but we know that they intermarried with the McKee family from the same area. What we have been doing is researching the known McKee history from Wills, Public Records, Ros Davies, etc. and have “piggy-backed” a few Edgar records. The real breakthrough has been the understanding of the area and how confusion can occur.

The Edgar history is so sparse that discrepancies are not easily spotted. The McKees have a lot more records, and the discrepancies show what is being recorded and how it might lead to confusion. One family of McKee’s children were born in Boardmills, Killaney, Carricknaveagh, Oughley, Poagsburn, and Saintfield. It’s not until you look at a map and see all of these locations within a few hundred yards of each other that you realize that all these children were born in the same place. A farm called Poagsburn, in Carricknaveagh, off the Oughley Road, near Killaney/Boardmills, in the Saintfield area!!

If you are having problems with your research try “piggy-backing” with one of the wives’ family history records and look for Edgars being mentioned; it’s surprising what this turns up! And, try to get a feel for the location.

**OK, back to the subject of this article.**



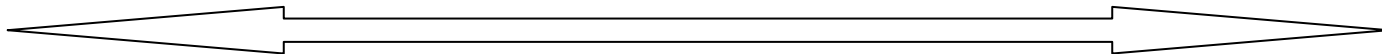
*Rev. John Edgar*

Juanita and I are still convinced that we are related to the ministers, for a number of reasons, all of which are circumstantial and have lots of suppositions:

- 1) Names. We both share a lot of similar forenames with the ministers
- 2) Both our families suddenly appear in a location, with no history
- 3) Members of the ministers family “disappear”
- 4) No thorough research has been done on the ministers’ family
- 5) No DNA tests have been done on this family

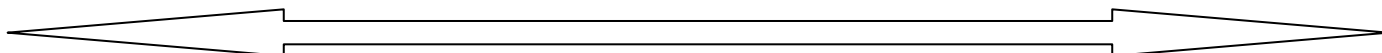
Individually, any one of the above is a weak excuse for a line of research, but put together they can almost make a case. By “piggy-backing” with other families, we have learned that the Ministers’ money and land did not always carry on the Edgar line.

From Wills and other details, we found that a family named Prentice inherited many Edgar assets. These Edgars seemed to have a disproportionate number of daughters; they had even fewer sons who did not marry or have simply disappeared.



If you haven’t already done so, check out the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG). You can find them at [www.isogg.org/](http://www.isogg.org/)  
And at their own Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/11416337921/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/11416337921/)

Have a look at the “For Newbies” page, where you can find oodles of information to help the beginner understand DNA testing.



One more picture: We spotted this team of horses at work in a recently mown field. Jodie thought they looked so happy to be working, they were smiling!

