



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 69, October 2012**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

DNA – Well, I finally gave up (not like me)! The kit we sent to **Jack Edgar** in Rothesay, New Brunswick, is cancelled. Ancestry.com agreed to the cancellation and have sent me a replacement kit. That means we have a pre-paid test; if you know of someone you'd like to have tested (a male Edgar, that is), give me a ring, or send an email.

Regarding the kit sent to **Ivan Edgar**, in Kent, UK, I called him on the 18th and he promised to send kit. I heard from him next day and he was true to his word – it is on the way to the lab. As an aside, **Ivan** is originally from Omagh, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland, and so is **Keith Edgar**, who we tested a couple of years back. When I mentioned this to him, he said that **Keith** (I2b1) was his cousin! It will be interesting to see what the test results bring.

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**David Edgar** of Guildford, England, located an on-line book from the past, with mentions of Edgars, Robert the Bruce, The Red Comyn, and Roger Kirkpatrick. It is titled, *Drumlanrig Castle and the Douglases: with the early history and ancient remains of Durisdeer, Closeburn, and Morton* (1876) <http://archive.org/details/drumlanrigcastle00rama>

You can read the book at the site, or download it directly to your computer as a PDF.

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Speaking of **David** of Guildford, he and I have located **Lorraine Scovell** at long last—on the Isle of Wight. In Edgar Events #50, we reported about the wooden cabinet built by master craftsman, **James Edgar**, about 1863. At last report, the cabinet, which bears the Edgar coat of Arms, was in Victoria, B.C., Canada. We continue to hunt it down—I recently made numerous phone calls to Edgars in Victoria—no cabinet, but we linked up with more interested family members! The arms on the cabinet are those shown on p. 5, at top right.

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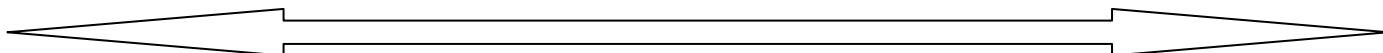
We thank **Robin Hagedorn** of Adelaide, Australia, for sending these links: [Infantry I: Regiments 1st through 50th](#) detailing British Army regiments serving in Canada, and this one [Infantry II: Regiments 51st through 104th](#).

Here is a sampling from one of the records (is this the same 31st Regiment in **Bill Edgar's** article below?):

### **31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment of Foot** [Soldiers' documents](#)

Raised as Villier's marine corps in 1702, reformed as a regiment of foot in 1715 and designated as the 31st regiment in 1751. In 1765 the regiment went to Pensacola, West Florida, where it suffered much from yellow fever. The regiment went to Quebec in May 1776, where the battalion companies helped to garrison Quebec during the War of Independence. The flank companies served in the operations under General Burgoyne, and were with the force that surrendered at Saratoga. After eleven years' service in Canada, the regiment returned home in 1787.

For those interested in pursuing these records further, I've placed the two documents on our site at [www.edgargen.ca/Brits\\_Canada.pdf](http://www.edgargen.ca/Brits_Canada.pdf) and [www.edgargen.ca/Brits\\_Canada2.pdf](http://www.edgargen.ca/Brits_Canada2.pdf)



# Coats of Arms, Crests and Insignia



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

I don't profess to be an expert on the subject, but I have learned a lot about Heraldry and Coats of Arms.

The basis for a coat of arms is quite simply one of recognition. A fully armoured knight could not be recognized on the field of battle. He painted a symbol onto his shield and/or wore colours to identify himself. If he had a seal, it had to be unique and be recognized by people who could not read. This was gradually developed into a status symbol and identity.

The first bit of Edgar historical artwork is the seal taken from the family tree constructed by J.H. Lawrence-Archer, the writing around the edge is "HOC EST SIGNUM EDGARII FILII COPATRII COMITIS." Rough translation "This is the seal of Edgar son of Cospatrick family."

The "Wee Beastie" pictured on the seal has confused me for a number of years; it looks like the cross between a Chihuahua and a chicken. I made enquiries to a Heraldic expert about its identity, it has two legs, two wings, a curly tail, and a beaked face; the beast that matches this description is a Wyvern.



A Wyvern is a mystical animal that dates back many years prior to Edgar using it on his seal.

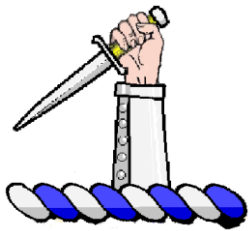
As with all heraldic emblems, its description is open to a lot of variation, but the physical elements are the same—Wyverns are cousins of dragons

A question I have is "where is this seal?" Does it exist? I doubt the actual seal exists, but it must exist somewhere in sealing wax on a document. I wonder how Lawrence-Archer got hold of it? (Answer on a postcard please or by email!)

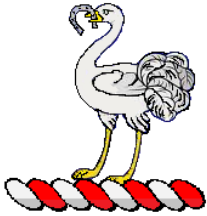
**Usage.** The question of usage comes from entitlement and descent. As we are all presumed to be descendants of Edgar son of Cospatrick, then we are all entitled to use this seal and the emblem.

## **Shields and Crests**

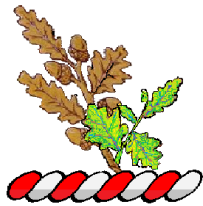
The emblems on shields identifies the bearer, they are unique to the bearer. They can also be used to identify the family connections of who married who, who your parents were, etc. Taken to the nth degree, a shield could hold thousands of emblems, each one belonging to an ancestor, but this would defeat the object of the exercise and not readily identify the bearer. To a fair degree, the shield emblem would identify the bearer's family, but the crest on the helmet would also help do this.



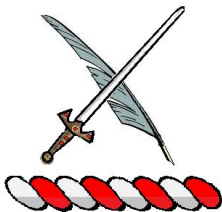
The crest of Sir Richard Edgar is the dagger and the arm



Suffolk Edgars is an Ostrich with a horseshoe in its beak



No idea!



Edinburgh Edgars have the sword and the quill

Shields are again unique to the family they belong to.



The Arms of Sir Richard Edgar



Winfred Haythorne Edgar's arms would claim descent from Sir Richard Edgar.

The crest and motto are the same, the mantle colours and the shield are slightly different.



The Arms of Sir Walter Edgar show the Motto and the Crest, but the shield now has two-colour Rampant lions and Scallops (I believe that the poor reproduction in the past has degraded the image and "Escalopes" are the correct emblem).

This arrangement would suggest that Sir Walter's mother's family has escalopes as their emblem.

The three Arms on the right have all been produced at different times by different people. Apart from the question of the



escalops, all of them show how different styles can be used. (The reason the Arms above does not have supporting greyhounds is that I can't draw greyhounds!)



This one is a mystery. It does not have the crest of the arm and dagger, it does not have either of the Edgar mottos.

The red hands are a hint at Ulster and the blue rampant lion suggests Scotland.

My guess is that this was produced for Scots Irish Edgars in Northern Ireland.

Another mystery. Escallopes in abundance, along with two fleurs de lis.



These Arms were sent to me many years ago as a pencil sketch by James' brother, Steve Edgar in Kamloops.

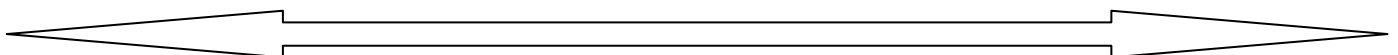
The Arms to the right look like a generic production by one of the "tourist" shops in Scotland. It has the Scottish blue Rampant lion on a shield.



While it is not "wrong," it doesn't mean a thing.

Any Edgar from Scotland could use this, no one would object.

I would very much appreciate comments, additions, and criticisms regarding the above. If I were you, I would choose the emblem, motto, and crest that you like, and use them. If anyone objects, ask them to prove you wrong (James' system works well, "prove me wrong, I'd love to see the details!").



## **Six-mile-bridge Incident**



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

I was looking at information in one family line and finding a possible link to another line in the early 1850s.

Looking at a local newspaper "Anglo Celt" for any information on an ancestor Patrick Tierney, a blacksmith of Sixmilebridge Road, Newmarket on Fergus, County Clare.

An article headed "Six-mile-bridge Incident" attracted my attention. A Priest from Newmarket on Fergus had helped organize and lead a number of local residents to go to Six-mile-bridge to protest on a voting day. The voters from the area were escorted to the election place by a number of soldiers from the English 31st Regiment who were stationed in the area. The protest got out of hand with rock and physical attacks with the outcome guns were discharged and several protesters were shot. None of these were my direct relatives, but hence the "incident," then a trial.

The soldiers were commanded by a Captain Egar in that article, and in the follow-up article had a Captain Eagar, showing that spelling of names as not that important in newspaper articles of that time.

Our member Marion Morgan provided our DNA group a list of burials in County Down. Included in the list was a death on 31st Oct 1821 of Jane Edgar daughter of Major Edgar of the 31st Regiment.

It would appear that our Captain Edgar, who was stationed in County Clare in 1852, had been living with his family in County Down and could be related to the Edgar families there.

[Six Mile Bridge Incident, County Clare](http://www.irelandoldnews.com). Irelandoldnews.com.

<http://www.irelandoldnews.com/Cavan/1853/Fund.html>. Retrieved 2011 December 18.

[County Cavan Newspaper Transcription Project](#)

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[Ireland Home Page](#)

[County Cavan](#)

***Anglo-Celt***

***Published in Cavan, county Cavan***

***August 5, 1852***

THE SIX-MILE-BRIDGE TRAGEDY. The slaughter of the Irish people at Six-mile-Bridge, in the county of Clare, has been under investigation for several days past. In another place we publish a portion of the evidence given at the inquest, by which it will be seen that the men under the command of **Captain EGAR** of the 31st foot, were guilty of willful and deliberate murder. We presume, from the evidence, that Capt. EGAR was in command of the party who butchered our fellow-countrymen in open day upon their native soil, and if we are under any mistake whatsoever, it is owing to the attempts of the military" authorities" to stifle the

investigation and to frustrate the ends of justice. The 31st, we believe, lost its facings years ago, for cowardice, and it now rejoices in red tuffs, red collars, &c.;

It seems, by all accounts, that the Clare election was of the ordinary hue of closely contested elections in Ireland; upon the one side ranged the landlord influence, upon the other side the Priests. All parties were, of course, much excited; but it is quite apparent that no sufficient provocation was given the cowardly wretches of the 31st to discharge their guns upon a defenceless crowd. Indeed, it has been proved by Mr. WILSON of Belvoir, a Protestant gentleman, that the populace surrendered their sticks to him before the military entered the village. This alone would show that no attack was premeditated by the people. We trust the government will act impartially in the matter, and punish the guilty parties whether dressed in red, black, or grey.

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**August 19, 1852**

THE EARL OF LANESBOROUGH.

Since this justly admired nobleman and his amiable Countess returned to their estates in Cavan, the tenantry have had one unbroken scene of rejoicing. To-day a large party, numbering upwards of 1,000, dined at Lanesborough Lodge, Belturbet, on the invitation of the Earl and Countess. We will give the particulars in our next.

It is to be regretted that these reunions are not more frequent generally, as they would tend to break down prejudices and unite landlords and tenants in all struggles for their mutual advantage and the benefit of the common weal.

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**August 26, 1852**

THE AFFRAY WITH THE MILITARY AT SIX-MILE-BRIDGE - VERDICT OF "WILFUL" MURDER.

The chief witness for the defence has been Lieut. HUTTON, who is an officer of considerable experience, having taken an active part in four general engagements in India. He says that when the military arrived at Six-mile-bridge, they were received with hooting, groaning and stone-throwing. This last operation proceeded continuously. The mob pressed on the party. The officer endeavoured to remonstrate with them, but this only made bad worse. Father BURKE came up to the cars and said, "Oh, my God! To see those of our own religion, our flesh and blood, treated as convicts!" Volleys of stones accompanied this exclamation. The stone-throwing became so violent that Lieut. Hutton was compelled to face his men about and drive back the people at the bayonet's point. As soon as the charge was over, the mob returned to the attack. About this time the front rank was entangled in the lane, where the fire appears to have taken place. One shot was heard in this lane, and then another, and others followed in rapid succession. Three of the soldiers near Lieut. Hutton were lying upon the ground. This officer distinctly swore that the lives of his party and of the voters were in the most imminent danger. His men said to him, "will you allow us to be murdered without firing?" At this moment a number of people rushed past from the front, and Lieut. Hutton, feeling that their flight would create a panic in the rear steadily refused permission to fire. **Captain EAGAR** swore that, but for the musketry, the affair would have ended in the disarmament and murder of the military party. Capt. Eagar swore, that in the midst of the affray, Father Burke dashed past right before him, with a whip in his hand, in a state of great excitement, as though



impelling the mob to rescue the voters from the cars. One of the soldiers deposed that he was compelled to push away Father Burke from the cars, and he called on the people to drag them out.

The Court sat at half-past ten o'clock this morning, when the Coroner resumed the reading of the depositions to the jury. This occupied the Court up to two o'clock.

Mr. GRAYDON - Now, Mr. Coroner be good enough to tell the jury to take each case separately by itself, so that there may be separate findings.

The Coroner - I intended that from the first; if that were not the case we would have only one inquest.

Mr. Graydon - And I also call upon you to direct as to identity, and the non-liability of one party for the act of another.

The Coroner then proceeded to charge the jury. He said - Gentlemen of the jury, I deeply regret that it has not fallen to my lot to be a person of greater legal experience, in order in some way to relieve your minds of the care and anxiety, which I know you all feel, as the time approaches when you are to decide when, where, how, and by what means the parties named came by their death. Yesterday the tediousness of this protracted inquiry was relieved for nearly four hours by the able and impassioned address of Mr. Gradyon and Mr. COFFEY. They addressed you in a style of eloquence that has been rarely excelled in the highest courts of justice in the land; but, gentlemen, you are not to be led away by any such address from the calm and dispassionate consideration of all the circumstances of this most serious and important inquiry. The coroner's jury is, in fact, a grand jury, and the general result of their verdict is to put the case in course of trial; it is not a final determination of the guilt or innocence of the parties charged. The jury should inquire into and find the cause of the death of the several parties, and by whose hands occasioned. As to these particulars it will be probably found that there is no real controversy; but the jury should further inquire under what circumstances the parties severally lost their lives, and the result of that investigation may be to lead to a verdict of murder, manslaughter, of justifiable homicide against or in favour of some of the parties charged. Now, as to the law of the case. When one man kills another, the act is prima facie, felonious, and amounts to murder, unless the homicide took place under such a state of facts as would in law amount to a justification or excuse, or under such recent provocation as would reduce it to manslaughter. Where the death of one man has been occasioned by the agency of another, the law presumes it to be murder unless circumstances appear which reduce it to manslaughter, or amount to a justification. Murder is the malicious killing of another, and malice may be either expressed as for instance where the party charged indicates beforehand his intention to commit the felonious act, or implied from the circumstances of the case, or from the fact alone of taking life without justification or excuse. The law infers malice whenever human life is taken without just cause or provocation, and a wanton disregard of the life of another may, under the circumstances, be evidence of malice. Manslaughter is when a person takes the life of another under circumstances of provocation so fresh and strong as he could not be fairly considered the master of his own judgement (sic) or the guide of his own actions; as, for instance, where one receives a wound or a severe blow, and instantly in the heat of passion, avenges it by striking in return, and kills his adversary. The provocation in that case would rebut the inference of malice.

The learned gentleman proceeded with his remarks at great length, laying down the law affecting the case clearly and forcibly. When he had concluded the jury retired to the room shortly before three o'clock, and at twenty minutes to five o'clock they caused it to be announced in open court that twelve of their number had agreed to a verdict. At this time the court was densely (sic) crowded, and the utmost anxiety was evinced to learn the result of this most protracted inquiry. The jury having come into court, the foreman announced that twelve of the jurors had agreed to a particular finding, and they resolved to have the verdict drawn up in a legal form.

The coroner then read the finding as follows:-

"We are satisfied that John C. DELMEGE, J. P., Jno. GLEESON (first), James POSTINGS, William BARNES, John THOMPSON, John DWYER, James SHARPE, Thos. CLARKE, and John CARTER, soldiers of the 31st Regiment, are guilty of the 'Wilful (sic) murder of Jeremiah FRAWLEY."

Mr. William M'MAHON said he was one of five jurors who did not agree to that verdict. He considered the soldiers were culpable, and those who thought with him were for a verdict of manslaughter.

The other issues, as to the deaths of Michael CONNELLAN, Michael COLEMAN, Thomas RYAN, James CASEY, and JAMES FLAHERTY, were then severally given into the jury, and a similar verdict of "Wilful (sic) murder" was returned upon each, against Mr. Delmege and the soldiers.

On application of counsel, the coroner signed his warrant for committal of the soldiers, and they were transmitted to Ennis gaol in the evening.

The coroner also signed his warrant for the apprehension and committal of Mr. John C. DELMEGE, who was not in the court during the day. The proceedings then terminated.

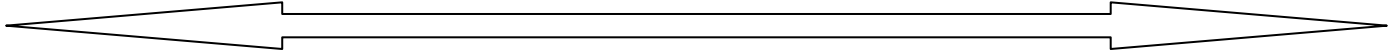
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## **Six Mile Bridge Incident, county Clare**

"When a general election was called for the summer of 1852 Bishop Vaughn asked the people to support candidates who would be advocates of religious and civil liberty and tenant right. Voting at this time was still public, with a small number of polling stations in each constituency. One of the Clare centres was in Sixmilebridge. A group of militia was escorting eighteen voters, tenants of the Marquis of Conyngham, into the village where they were expected to vote for Colonel Vandeleur, the conservative opponent of the tenant right candidates. As they approached the courthouse a hostile crowd hissed and pelted stones at the soldiers and eventually burst through the guard, dragging away a few of the voters. Under orders from a magistrate the soldiers then fired on the crowd, killing six and wounding several others, one of whom later died. Most of the dead were from the vicinity of Newmarket-on-Fergus. Michael Clune, parish priest at Sixmilebridge, had a narrow escape when a bullet went through his hat and grazed his temple"

[*The Diocese of Killaloe: 1800-1850* by Ignatius Murphy (pp236-237) ]

The Six Mile Bridge Incident was reported in the *Anglo-Celt* on August 12, 1852. [The article](#) accused the men of the 31st foot, *of willful and deliberate murder*. On April 7, 1853 the proprietor of the *Anglo-Celt* was served with an official notice from the Crown Office, Dublin, to surrender on Monday the 18th of April, instant, to abide judgment in the case of the Queen v. Wallace. The proprietor, Zachariah WALLACE, was eventually convicted of libel and served six months in the Cavan gaol in 1853.



Picture time...



*Crepuscular rays at sunset.*

