



EDGAR

EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 7 August 2007**



Lancaster Tug-of-War Team Honoured

(Editor's note – the following excerpt from the Glengarry News of Wednesday, 2007 July 18 – used with permission)

The following is the third of five profiles of the 2007 Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame Inductees. The induction dinner will be held August 15 at the Char-Lan Recreation Centre in Williamstown.

Tug-of-War was a popular sport nearly one hundred years ago. Every town and village had a team, and there was great rivalry when their team met in a regular schedule. The Lancaster Tug-of-War team was one such group.

William Clark, and Charles Edgar from Bainsville; Gordon Calder from Pine Hill; Charles McGregor and Hugh McDermid from Martintown; and L. McCulloch and Dan J. McDonald from Apple Hill.

The Lancaster men competed at functions in Glengarry and went on to win the Silver Cup at the Chateauguay Valley competition in Quebec. To earn the Silver Cup trophy the team had to have competed and won in three consecutive years. The competition was held annually on Dominion Day, and the Glengarry men won for the third year in 1923.

The Huntingdon Gleaner on July 6, 1922 reported: –The event of the day or evening of course was the Tug-of-War. The strong men from Glengarry came over determined to win as they brought their own Piper who after their victory led the team around the Arena to the skirl of the pipes with their Captain, John Thompson, hoisted on their shoulders. The Beauharnots team put up a determined fight to hold

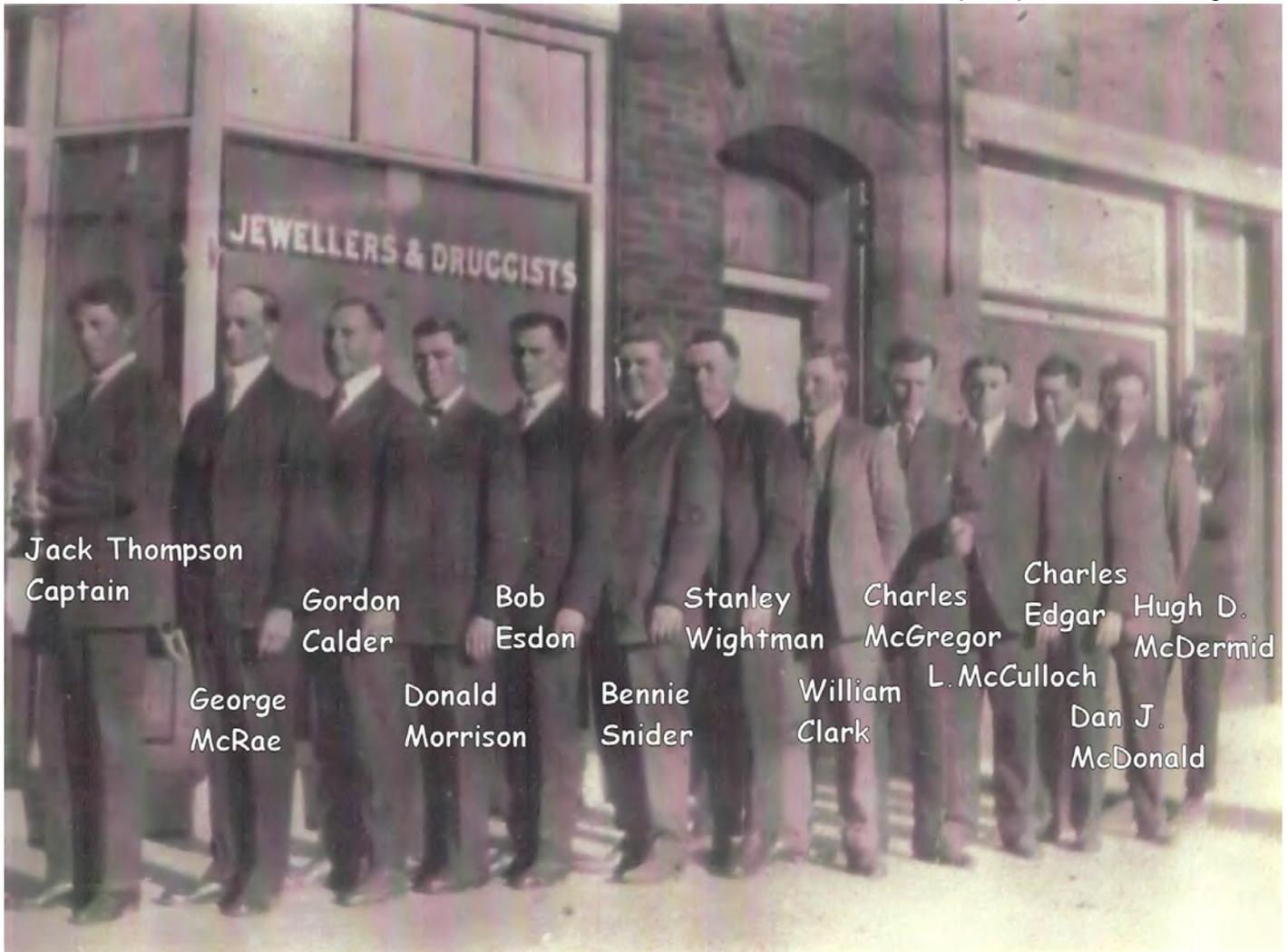


Figure 1 Courtesy Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame

The team consisted of George McRae, Bob Esdon, and Stanley Wightman from the Lancaster area; Jack Thompson (Captain), Donald Morrison, Bernard Snider,

the cup but had to give in to the Glengarry team by about three inches. The Chateauguay team for their weight put up a much gamer pull than was expected.”

The following year The Gleaner on July 5, 1923, gave the following account:

–The Tug-of-War at night was really the event of the day. Three teams having entered from Huntingdon, Glengarry, and Chateauguay Counties. The first pull was between Huntingdon and Chateauguay, the latter team winning after the best pull of the night. After a rest, Glengarry and Chateauguay pulled, the Glengarry team entering the Arena headed by their own piper determined to win which they did amidst great excitement of the spectators. After this last event, 100 or more couples occupied the dining room in tripping the light fantastic until 3 a.m.”

Taken from The Glengarry News, Friday, July 6, 1923: –At Chateauguay, Que., Dominion Day was fittingly celebrated by holding of Athletic Sports Games, etc., of sufficient interest and importance as to attract a large attendance. Probably the feature of the afternoon’s entertainment was the tug-of-war participated in by teams representing Glengarry, Ormstown, and Huntingdon, the more so as they were very evenly matched and honours were only won after severe test of strength, as Huntingdon and Ormstown pulled first, the former winning. Later they met the Glengarrians, who after a hard pull amid much excitement won out and as this was their second win, the Highlanders became the proud possessors of the Silver Trophy awarded. The personnel of the team was as follows:

Messrs. Jack Thompson, Bainsville, Captain, Charles McGregor, J.D. McDermid, Martintown; Dan McDonald, L. McCulloch, Apple Hill; D.J. Morrison, Bainsville; Charles Edgar, Front, Stanley Wightman, 3rd Lancaster, Gordon Calder, 6th Lancaster, Robert Esdon, and George McRae, Lancaster. We extend congratulations.”

Rumour has it that some of the Lancaster team took up to three days to make their return to Glengarry.

– with files from Joan MacMillan, Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame

(Editor’s note - The **Charles Edgar** noted in the foregoing news clips was my father’s elder brother – 19 years his senior. **Charles’** father was **Charles Edgar**, as was his gr-grandfather, the family patriarch from Kilkeel, Northern Ireland. Looking over our family tree, I find that my relatives on the team, apart from **Uncle Charles**, include **Hugh McDermid**, **George McRae**, **Bennie Snider**, and **Stanley Wightman**.)

MORE TALES OF DISCOVERY FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

by James Edgar

When **Steve Edgar** of Crewe and I visited Ireland this past May, we were greeted by all as if we were family, which we were to some. It was a nice feeling to be among family and friends!

We’ve seen some interesting results from the three DNA samples we coaxed out of **David Edgar** in Annalong, and **Lee** and **John Edgar** from Kilkeel. **David** belongs to Haplogroup I, as does **John**.

John married **Ann Edgar**, and he told us she wasn’t his relation – but they might be after all. **Ann** and **David** are brother and sister, and **John** is of the same Haplogroup, so he and **Ann** could well be cousins from a few generations back.

This is one of those surprises we were told about when we started this project — some people may not want to find out all the gory details made obvious by their DNA analysis.

Lee, on the other hand, is Haplogroup R1b and so is part of the Celtic group. It was **Lee’s** father, **Cliff**, who volunteered him for the test – not that Cliff was uncertain or anything. But when Lee came into the room, father **Cliff** said, —“You do it!”

Later that day, as **Steve** and I were shopping around Kilkeel for gifts to take home, who should we bump into but **Lee**! It was great that we are starting to recognize some faces from our visits over there.

On a different note, we found out through talking to **Jacky Edgar’s Aunt Martha** that she and her daughter, **Maud Ryan**, had visited St. Arnaud, Australia in 2004 for an Edgar Family Reunion.

On the back page of the bulletin created for the reunion is this passage:

We Complete the Circle

Around 1861 **William Edgar** left his home and family in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland and was never to see them again. He settled in St. Arnaud and with his wife **Isabella**, produced a family of 9 boys.

This weekend their descendants are delighted to include in our reunion, **Martha Henderson** and **Maud Ryan**, descendants of **William's** brother **James**.

At our last reunion we watched a video of **Martha** describing life on the family farm in Kilkeel where **William** grew up. Now she can tell us in person. Welcome **Martha** and **Maud**."

William and **Isabella's** eldest son was **Robert Arthur (Arty) Edgar**. **Arty's**

second son is **Angus William James Edgar**, who married **Elva Kathleen Vickers**. Their son is **William Stanley (Bill) Edgar**.

When **Bill** joined our project and had his DNA analyzed, he was pleased to find out that he was related to **Jacky** and me.



It turns out that someone in his family probably knew he was related to **Jacky's Aunt Martha**, but the knowledge got lost somewhere, as so often happens. This is

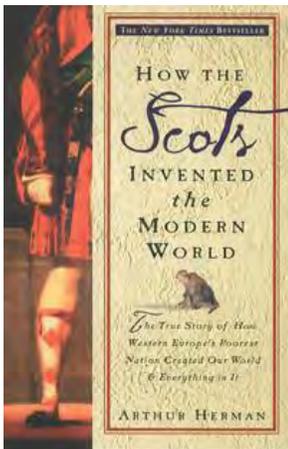
especially true when families are dispersed far and wide across countries, continents, and wide oceans!



Last weekend, I decided one of the ways we could get some Edgars in Scotland interested in our Edgar DNA project was to start phoning them. I contacted three **James Edgars** in Glasgow. But struck out until the fourth try. We have a DNA swab on its way to Glasgow as we read this. There are not a lot of Edgars still living in Dumfriesshire, but Glasgow seemed a good bet as a jumping-off point. We'll keep you posted as the results are revealed.

I was also in touch with **Frankie (Mary Frances) Sawyer** in Tennessee, who I contacted after a discussion on Rootsweb. Frankie's cousin Charles Edgar has supplied his DNA and the results will be forthcoming soon.

She says she will also prepare a story about the south-eastern Edgars, who cover the US map from Ohio as far south and east as the Carolinas, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida.



I've been reading a book titled —**How the Scots Invented the Modern World**— it's a good read.

The author, **Arthur Herman**, says that mostly Irish Scots from Ulster populated the eastern and southern parts of the U.S.A.

He writes, —**America** became the final destination of all three branches of the Scottish ethnic and cultural family: Highlanders, Lowlanders, and Ulster Scots. The first Ulster Scots turned up in 1713....Between 1717 and 1776, perhaps a quarter of a million Ulstermen came to America, 100,000 of them as indentured servants. They did not remain servants for very long, as colonists soon discovered that Ulster Scots were not born to be obedient.”

Some of those descendants from the Ulster Scots are familiar to us all — **Andrew Jackson** was the son of an Ulster immigrant. Another immigrant, Captain Robert Polk, was the grandfather of **James Knox Polk**, twelfth President of the United States; the son of Patrick

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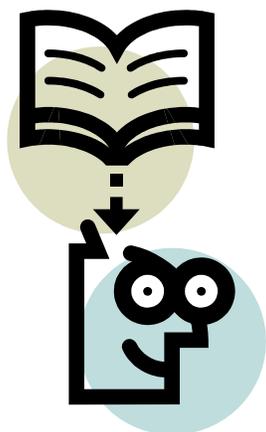
Calhoun and Catherine Montgomery was South Carolina's most powerful politician, **John C. Calhoun**; **Patrick Henry**, the **Hatfields**, and **McCoys** — the list goes on and on. Look for the book at your local store or library.

I end this August issue with a photo taken in May — the green hills north of Killeel, with the mountain, Knockree, in the distance.



Your feedback and reaction will be invaluable for future newsletters, please e-mail your comments and, most importantly, your family stories to:

jamesedgar@sasktel.net.



Web sites of interest

www.geocities.com/edgarwebsites – Richard Edgar's Irish Web site

jameswd.sasktelwebsite.net – James Edgar's Genealogy Web site

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~rosdavies – County Down info

www.clanedgar.com – Clan Edgar homepage, based in Toronto.

boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.edgar/mb.ashx – Edgar Message Board

www.b2q2.com/boards/board.cgi?user=EdgarWeb – EdgarWeb Message Board

www.relativegenetics.com – Homepage of our DNA Lab in Salt Lake City