



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 74, March 2013**



# DNA Update

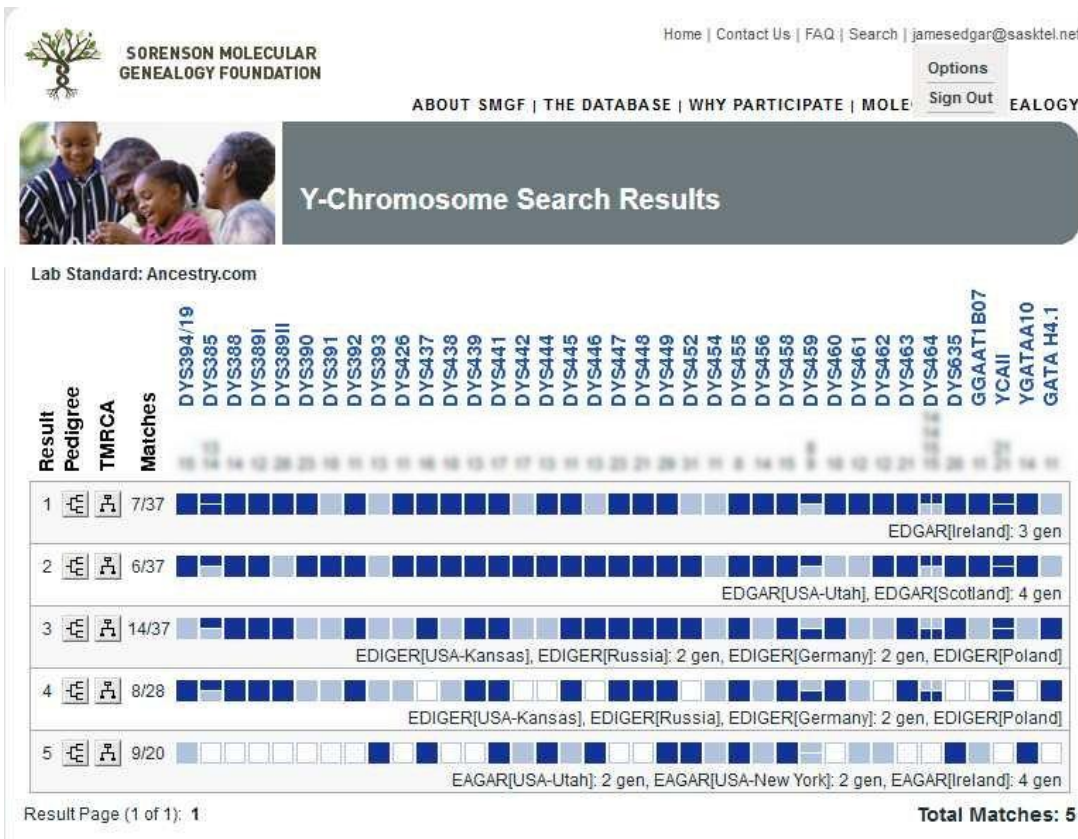
by James Edgar ([jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net))



We have one test at the lab in the processing mode — **Lawrence Edgar** of Barrie, Ontario.

Recall from the previous Events that **Philip's** sister **Donalda** is married to **Dan Edgar**. Are they cousins? More importantly, are WE cousins, and the answer to both questions is "Yes!" We received **Philip's** results just last week, and he's for sure a cousin of the I1 **Edgars**, but very distantly related. That means that **Philip's** sister, **Donalda**, plus **Bill** and **Robert Edgar**, all from the Halifax area are all distantly related to the I1s. See last month's Edgar Events for more information.

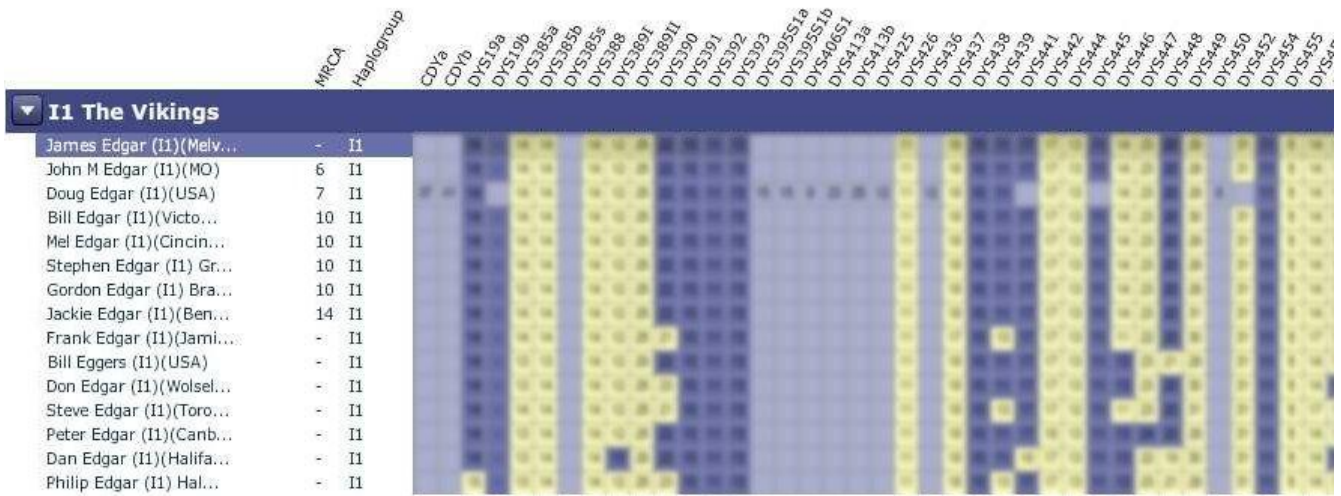
There's more to this... I entered **Philip's** results into the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation database and found some **Edgar** connections, like this...



These aren't close matches, but they are matches nonetheless. And, that second one down has a link to **John Edgar** of Fifeshire, Scotland, as do two Facebook friends, **Debra Edgar Bocobo** and **Veronica Edgar Valasquez**. Their family came from Scotland to Utah, then to the Philippines, and from there back to the US. Are we related? Only another test will tell, and I'm working on that...

Now, **Dan's** test results are in – another I1. I'm gaining distant cousins by the barrelful! Here's what his results look like – he matches no one, not even his brother-in-law, **Philip** (or wife,

**Donalda**). Of course, we have an answer for this seeming discrepancy – the connection(s) go too far back to see on this chart. We need to see back more than 30 generations.



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We sent a test kit to **Rob Edgar** in Australia, and we have word from him that he received it in the mail and has returned it already. **Rob** reports that he has nine cousins in Ulster. He wrote "My great grand father was Aughtry Edgar. I have been to the ruin of the original Edgar house. It is on land owned by second cousin James Edgar." The area he refers to is near Banbridge, Northern Ireland. We'll soon see what the DNA tells us.

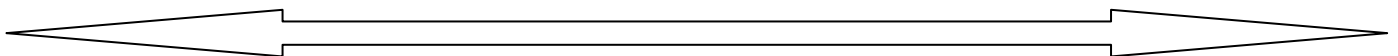
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Changing the subject a bit, we celebrated a 1st birthday over Facebook with **Renee Alysse Edgar**, **Chuck Edgar's** daughter, and her mate, Ryan Hamel. Their young son, **Clifton Aiden Hamel**, turned one year old on February 9. Here he is with Dad and Mum, ready to eat cake!



When Clifton was born, Renee wrote: Clifton Aiden Hamel was born at 9:16 p.m. at Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville, Georgia, on February 9th 2012. He was 6lbs 4oz, 20 1/2 inches long at birth and absolutely beautiful!!!

Hope you had a great birthday,  
Clifton!



## J.H. Lawrence-Archer

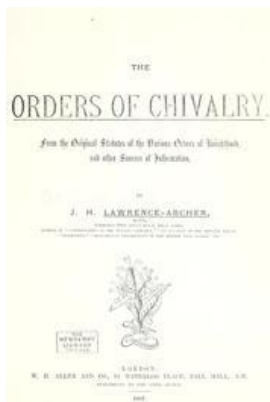


by Steve Edgar ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))

The name J.H. Lawrence-Archer, Captain H.P. is significant to the Edgar family, he wrote the book “An Account of the Surname (sic) Edgar” that was published on 1873.

In the book, he describes his research on behalf of the Edgar family and draws some conclusions as to the origins of the family with its connections to Wedderlie, Keithock, and Sanquhar; he also produced a large pedigree. (I have PDF versions of both, email me for a copy.)

A question that has intrigued me is “who was Lawrence-Archer and why did he write the book?”



When I checked with Amazon Books I found that he was well published, he had written other books – “Monumental Inscriptions of the British West Indies,” “Memorials of the surname Archer,” “Comments on the Punjab Campaign 1848-9,” “Orders of Chivalry” (copies available) as well as the book on the Edgars. It gave his date of birth as 1823 and death date as 1889.

Here was a connection to the West Indies and to the Army. A few months ago, I wrote a piece on the connection between two Edgar families, the head of one was a plantation owner in Jamaica, and the other a family in Bristol who were trading pewter and copper to West Africa and the West Indies. Both families were involved in either using

or trading slaves.

I had previously written to the Sir Walter Scott Society, trying to validate the story that the book “The Bride of Lammermoor,” written by Scott, was in some way based on the Edgars of Wedderlie. Nothing came from this by way of proof, but a comment by Dr. Paul Barnaby, Project Officer of the society focused my thoughts, “*When looking up Mary Edgar, I was momentarily misled by a reference in Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine (November 1822) to the marriage in May Place, Jamaica of James Henry Archer, M.D. of Dublin Castle, Jamaica to Mary, third daughter of the late Alexander Edgar of Wedderley. I take it, however, that this is a link that you are aware of. That Blackwood’s printed this information suggests a strong Edinburgh connection.*”



Here was a potential connection. James Henry Archer MD married Mary Edgar in Jamaica in 1822. A note in my database shows this marriage as taking place on the 1822 October 15; they had two recorded children, James Henry and a daughter unknown. I have their dates of birth as being “about 1825.” J.H. Lawrence- Archer was in fact born in 1823. A search of the Jamaican family-history site showed a James Henry Archer MD and a Lawrence family living in Trelawney, Jamaica. The same location as the family of Alexander Edgar and Ann Gordon, whose third daughter was Mary Edgar!



Now it gets a little difficult to find out who J.H. Lawrence-Archer really was, the Lawrence part is confusing. Is it possible that James Henry Archer either died or was divorced soon after the birth of his two children and that Mary (Edgar) Archer remarried a man with the surname Lawrence?(A record on the IGI shows a James Henry Archer MD marrying a Sarah Baillie in Jamaica 1838, – was this the same man?) The remarried Mary Edgar could now be Mary Lawrence and her children could well have been adopted as Lawrence-Archer? Maybe! The dates and location certainly fit. \*\*\* See Stop Press below!!!!\*\*\*

Records from Jamaica are particularly sparse and it's not always easy to distinguish the names of slaves brought in being baptised with the name of their owner.

Given that J.H. L-A wrote a book on the West Indies, another on the history of the Archer family and on the Punjab in India, it is not much of a stretch of the imagination to piece all of this together. As further corroboration, a James Henry Lawrence-Archer b. 1872 married Winifred Petman in Rawalpindi, India, in 1897. He was the son of a James Henry Lawrence-Archer.

J.H. L-A, the father, would have been 49 when his son was born, not too old to be fathering children, given that he was an officer in the British Army and would have been serving abroad for most of his life. He died in Brentford, Middlesex, in 1889 February 14, aged 67. (There is some evidence that the marriage to Winifred Petman was a second marriage.)

There is a tradition in the West Indies [and in the UK] that the eldest son inherits the estate, the next joins the army/militia, and the youngest joins the clergy, which could well explain J.H. L-A's army connections.

So, to answer my original question, why did J.H. Lawrence-Archer write the book on the Edgar family?

It was because it was his mother's family. He also wrote a book on his father's family, the Archers, (NOT the Lawrence-Archer family, but the Archer family).

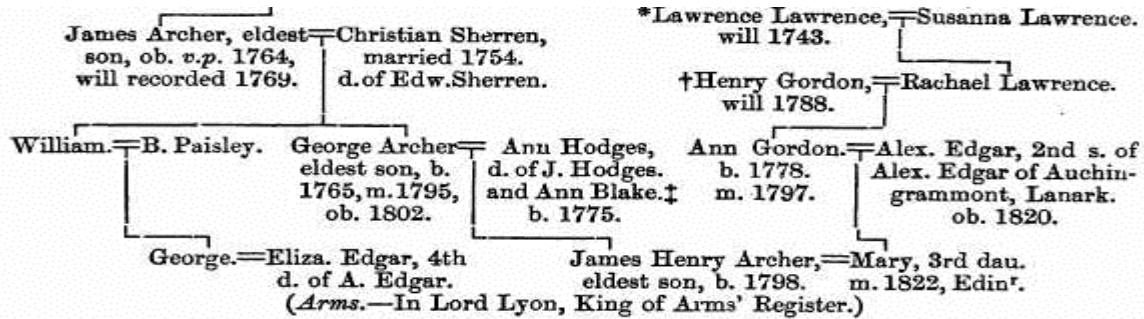


As an aside, this is a portrait of Sir Walter Scott, painted by Sir Henry Raeburn. Raeburn married Anne Edgar. Anne's father was the brother of Alexander Edgar, whose ancestor was the owner of the plantation in Jamaica. He had also painted the portraits of numerous members of the Edgar family in Edinburgh and Suffolk.

There is no evidence of a marriage connection to Sir Walter Scott or his family, but the Edgars certainly moved in the same circles as the Scotts in Edinburgh and were known to each other. It can't be ruled out that the story of the "Bride of Lammermoor" was based on the Edgars of Wedderlie.

**STOP PRESS.** Having checked my database, I have found that Margaret, daughter of Robert Edgar, Laird of Wedderlie, married a Walter Scott in about 1500-50. The forename Walter goes back in the Scott family to at least 1650, it could well be that the Edgars and the Scotts are related after all!

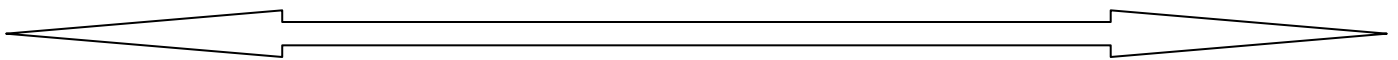
**STOP PRESS (again!)** My cousin Janine (Juanita's daughter) has just sent me the family tree below from a book "The Scots in the West Indies"



What a find! It clearly shows that the Lawrence name came from the Edgar side of the family, not from a re-marry or the Archer side. This is now absolute proof that James Henry Lawrence-Archer was an Edgar by descent.



James Henry Lawrence-Archer



## **Pewter Badges and Buttons**



For those of you new to this newsletter, solid pewter badges are available (from me, James Edgar) at \$18 CAD each – shipping extra. The casting has an integral clasp at the back and a sturdy pin. Perfect for your jacket lapel, tartan cape, or sporran!

I also have a supply of pewter buttons, at \$2.50 CAD each – shipping extra.

Email me, if interested – [jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

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## **Picture time**



*Copyright © James Edgar*

*Canada Geese and Tundra Swans at ice's edge on Wascana Lake, Regina.*

