



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 8, September 2007**



In this, the eighth issue of the Edgar Events newsletter, we have the following: **Steve Edgar** looks at some recent happenings with the DNA project, plus he examines an old will; a discussion from **Frankie Sawyer**; some information about what we see on the DNA results; and a major announcement from Relative Genetics. Finally, I've added a couple of interesting photos.

Edgar DNA Project Update

First from **Steve Edgar** of Crewe (sometimes known as **SUK**, and at other times as **Stavros the Greek**).

As I write this (28th August) the DNA results are coming in with a little more rapidity than they were this time last year. After the random tests of Ireland back in May and the recent new results, the DNA origins profile still holds strong. Richard's (R1b N. Ireland) theory of Roman occupation bringing the DNA into Britain is still current and hopefully valid.

In some ways the new results are helping and not helping (if you see what I mean)

I and I1b group

<i>Name</i>	<i>Case Number</i>	<i>Match%</i>	<i>Haplogroup</i>
I David Edgar (Annalong N.I.)	T089649	100%	I
I John (Archibald John) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	T089650	97.60%	I
I1c Ellen Walker	T067331	95.40%	I
I1b Alfred Edgar (Argentina)	T082663	83.80%	I1b
I1c Robert Allen Edgar (Sandy Payne)	T060817	82.40%	I

The I group and the I1b group are showing some good matches, in fact this is the Haplogroup that has shown the most progress and is becoming the most widespread throughout the world. At the moment we are seeing a 700-year-ago connection at an 82% match. This does fall in with the clan theory; as does the I1a group below. Maybe the theory is good?

I1a

<i>Name</i>	<i>Case Number</i>	<i>Match%</i>	<i>Haplogroup</i>
I1a Steve (John Stephen) Edgar (Toronto, Can.)	T062028	100%	I1a
I1a Bill (William S.) Edgar (Melbourne, Aus.)	T083326	83.80%	I1a
I1a Jacky Edgar (Benagh, N.I.)	T083900	83.80%	I1a
I1a James Edgar (Melville, Can)	T059847	81.40%	I1a

No further progress within this group as yet but the result is as near to perfect as we could wish. A known, documented connection with Bill, James, and Jacky, which dates to 1750-1800, and the average 82% match about 700 years ago. This again dates to the formation of the clan. If we can get other groups to match in the same date period, it would go further to back up the clan theory.

E3b

<i>Name</i>	<i>Case Number</i>	<i>Match%</i>	<i>Haplogroup</i>
E3b Norman W. Edgar (Georgia, USA)	T092665	100%	E3b
E3b Steve Edgar (Crewe, UK)	T069824	88.40%	E3b

At last!! A match!! I'm not the lonely Greek anymore — I have family! Juanita Edgar did the test on her son Norman (Norman the Greek?) and submitted it out of the blue. All I can say so far is that the match is about 1600-50 and is more than likely in Co. Down, N. Ireland (very possibly Scotland at the same date). We need another match on this to help.

R1b

<i>Name</i>	<i>Case Number</i>	<i>Match%</i>	<i>Haplogroup</i>
R1b Lee (Roland Lee) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	T089648	100%	R1b
R1b Gwen Edgar (NSW, Aus)	T069981	< 70%	R1b
R1b Richard Edgar (Tandragee, N.I.)	T075667	< 70%	R1b
R1b Charles Edgar (Frankie Sawyer, TN)	T094514	< 70%	R1b

This group is showing the most diversity and to date no matches. They are all Celts and the group dates back to 130-140,000 years ago. The Celts were at one time colonised all over NW Europe. Within that overall group, the various tribes would have split off into different areas. We know this group has origins in Ireland, Spain, and France. Is this what we are seeing, the same race, but split too long ago? The DNA lab simply does not have enough worldwide R1bs to recognise the sub-groups yet. Maybe in the future this will be defined. At the moment, this is showing as four separate Celtic origins in the Edgars.

Others

<i>Name</i>	<i>Case Number</i>	<i>Match%</i>	<i>Haplogroup</i>
Mel Edgar, Jr. (Cincinnati, OH)	PEND-151164	< 70%	-
James Edgar (Glasgow, Scotland)	PEND-152635	< 70%	-

Still to come are Mel and James's results. Any Bets?

The percentage matches are based on probability and a generation count. The further back in time you go, the less reliable the dating is. A generation, in its literal form, is from father to son. If father has a son at 20 years old and then the son has a son at 20 years also, then 2 generations are 40 years. But, some folk marry at 40 before they start to produce a family, so 2 generations could be as high as 80 years. James Edgar (*your loveable editor*) is an example of this, he is the youngest son in the family and so was his father; he has a generation slip within his family — his eldest cousins are old enough to almost be his uncles. Thus counting generations with DNA is an accurate count but counted on a variable amount.

There are about five more enquiries bubbling away in the background which hopefully will prove to be DNA tests.

The South-East Edgars

by Frankie Sawyer (whose mother was an Edgar)

Like many other members of the Edgar family, we in the Southeast United States are asking: "Who was the progenitor of grandpa's, grandpa's, grandpa?" The SE Edgars are said to have come from "the Carolinas." But from which Carolina?

The first known Edgar that my line has positively identified was from Walton County, Georgia. His name was John Thomas Edgar, b. 1803. John Thomas had a brother named Hugh, perhaps one named



Absolum, and another named Henry. John Thomas married Mary Ann (Polly) Holloway in 1827 and they first appear in the 1830 U.S. census in Walton County. The parents of both John T. and Polly are unknown. There were other Edgars in that general area, but we cannot establish the connection.

At any rate, John T. and Polly had eleven children: George, Hugh, Henry, James, Clarissa, Martha, John, Caroline, Eliza, Marion, and Greenberry. They were born in the period 1832 to 1852. After Polly died John T. married Atlisa Grubbs or Scruggs, and they had one son, James Wiley.

Sometime between 1830 and 1850 John T. moved his family to Alabama. They spent a few years in Dale County, Alabama (east Alabama), then moved on to west Alabama. By 1860, they returned to Coffee County, which adjoins Dale County. John T. died in 1891 and is buried at Old Tabernacle Cemetery in Coffee County. Mary Ann preceded him in death by about 18 years. She, too, is buried in Old Tabernacle Cemetery, as are the following three generations.

My great grandfather, Hugh Edgar (b. 1834), married Frances Rebecca Holloway, who was, incidentally, a niece of his mother, Mary Ann; consequently, Hugh married his first cousin. (My son asked me if I'd counted my fingers and toes!) Hugh and Frances Rebecca were prolific breeders as was the previous generation. They had ten children. Their names were Monroe, Jane, John William, Louiza Victoria, Matilda, Polly A., Caroline, James Thomas, Ellen, and Henry.

John William, one of Hugh's sons, was my grandfather (b. 1862). He married Evelyn Bradshaw and they had five children born in the years 1888 to 1902. Their names were Cassie, Frances, Amanda, James Shelley, and Jessie Lee.

My mother, Jessie Lee (b. 1902, d. 1985), married my father, Shelley F. Wilson. In our family there are five children: Duva, Samuel F., Myra Nell, Thomas Heflin, and myself, Mary Frances (a.k.a. Frankie). There are numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, whom I won't name at this point, since none of them carry the Edgar surname.

Several of the Edgars migrated west and became part of the Mormon Church established in Upshur, Texas.

A first cousin, Charles Edgar of Ozark, Alabama, agreed to be the participant in the DNA project so we're eagerly waiting for those results. The major question remains unanswered at this point: who had his nest on the family tree branch above that of John Thomas?

Editor's Note – as you can see from the image on the next page, which is from the Relative Genetics Web site, Charles Edgar (Frankie's cousin) has already had his DNA analyzed – he belongs to Haplogroup R1b, the Celtic line.

James Edgar of Glasgow's DNA swab arrived in Salt Lake City on August 28, so the results will be forthcoming soon.

DNA Primer

Compare	Participants	Search	Match %	Haplogroup	Y-chromosome STR markers																																													
					DYS19a	DYS19b	DYS385a	DYS385b	DYS389c	DYS389b	DYS390	DYS391	DYS392	DYS393	DYS425	DYS426	DYS428	DYS429	DYS430	DYS441	DYS442	DYS444	DYS445	DYS446	DYS447	DYS448	DYS449	DYS452	DYS453	DYS455	DYS456	DYS457a	DYS457b	DYS458	DYS459	DYS460	DYS461	DYS462	DYS463	DYS464a	DYS464b	DYS464c	DYS464d	DYS464e	DYS464f	DYS607	GSAT11807	YCA11a	YCA11b	Y-GATA10
	I1a James Edgar (Melville, Can.)	100%	I1a	14	-	14	14	-	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20	30	31	11	8	14	16	8	9	10	12	12	21	12	15	16	16	-	-	21	11	19	21	15	21
	I1a Bill (William S.) Edgar (Melbourne, Aus.)	95.4%	I1a	14	-	14	14	-	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20	30	31	11	8	14	16	8	9	10	12	12	21	12	15	16	16	-	-	21	11	19	21	15	21
	I1a Jacky Edgar (Benagh, N.I.)	93.1%	I1a	14	-	14	14	-	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20	31	31	11	8	14	16	8	9	10	12	12	21	12	15	16	16	-	-	21	11	19	21	14	21
	I1a Saeve (John Stephen) Edgar (Toronto, Can.)	81.4%	I1a	14	-	14	14	-	14	12	28	21	10	11	13	11	16	10	13	17	17	12	11	11	23	20	31	31	11	8	17	16	8	9	10	12	12	21	12	14	15	16	-	-	21	11	19	21	15	21
	Mel Edgar, Jr. (Cincinnati, OH)	< 70%	-																																															
	I1c Robert Allen Edgar (Sandy Payne)	< 70%	I	15	-	16	17	-	13	15	31	24	11	12	15	11	-	10	12	15	-	-	11	-	26	20	28	-	11	11	14	16	8	9	11	12	-	22	11	11	14	16	-	-	-	19	21	-	21	
	I1c Ellen Walker	< 70%	I	15	-	15	16	-	13	14	30	24	10	12	15	11	15	10	11	15	17	14	11	10	26	20	27	32	11	11	14	16	8	9	11	12	12	22	11	11	14	16	-	-	19	11	19	21	15	21
	E3b Steve Edgar (Crewe, UK)	< 70%	E3b	14	-	18	19	-	12	13	30	22	10	11	13	12	14	10	11	17	15	14	11	13	24	20	33	30	11	11	16	14	9	9	11	12	12	18	15	16	16.3	-	-	21	13	19	22	14	23	
	R1b Gwen Edgar (NSW, Aus)	< 70%	R1b	14	-	11	14	-	12	13	30	24	10	13	13	12	15	12	13	14	17	11	12	13	25	19	30	30	11	11	15	18	9	10	12	11	11	-	15	15	17	17	-	-	24	10	19	24	15	23
	R1b Richard Edgar (Tandragee, N.I.)	< 70%	R1b	14	-	11	13	-	12	13	29	25	11	14	13	12	15	12	12	14	17	12	12	13	25	18	30	30	11	11	17	18	9	10	13	12	11	24	15	16	17	-	-	23	10	19	23	15	22	
	I1b Alfred Edgar (Argentina)	< 70%	I1b	15	-	16	16	-	13	14	30	24	11	12	15	11	15	10	12	15	17	14	11	10	25	20	28	32	11	11	14	16	8	9	11	12	12	22	11	11	14	16	-	-	19	11	19	21	15	21
	R1b Lee (Roland Lee) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	< 70%	R1b	14	-	11	14	-	12	13	29	24	10	13	12	15	12	12	14	17	12	12	14	25	20	32	31	11	11	18	16	9	10	10	12	11	24	15	15	17	-	-	23	10	19	23	15	22		
	I David Edgar (Annalong, N.I.)	< 70%	I	15	-	15	16	-	13	14	30	24	10	12	15	11	15	10	11	15	17	13	11	10	26	20	27	32	11	11	14	17	8	9	11	12	12	22	11	11	14	16	-	-	19	11	19	21	15	21
	I John (Archibald John) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	< 70%	I	15	-	15	16	-	13	14	30	24	10	12	15	11	15	10	11	15	17	13	11	10	-	20	27	32	11	11	14	17	8	9	11	12	12	-	11	11	15	16	-	-	19	11	19	21	15	21
	E3b Norman W. Edgar (Georgia, USA)	< 70%	E3b	14	-	18	19	-	12	13	30	23	10	11	13	12	14	10	11	17	15	14	11	13	23	20	34	30	11	10	16	14	9	9	11	12	12	18	15	15	16	16.3	-	-	21	13	19	22	14	22
	R1b Charles Edgar (Frankie Sawyer, TN)	< 70%	R1b	14	-	12	15	-	12	13	29	24	10	13	13	12	15	12	12	14	17	13	12	13	25	19	29	31	11	11	15	17	9	9	11	11	11	24	15	15	17	17	-	-	24	10	19	23	16	21
	James Edgar (Glasgow, Scotland)	< 70%	-																																															

What do all those numbers on this diagram mean? Here are a few selected clips from the Relative Genetics site to help with their meaning.

Table Layout

Across the **top** of the chart are the names of the Y chromosome locations (loci) used for testing. On the **left** of the chart you will see the names of each participant tested with their individual data presented on the **right**.... The data are sorted in comparison to the first individual on the chart. The compared participants are listed based on a 70% match, those participants matching the first individual less than 70% are listed at the bottom of the chart according to sequence number. Mismatching data are color coded.

Each of the names of the Y chromosome (Ycs) locations (loci) available for testing are presented above based on the Y chromosome resolution purchased (Ycs resolutions range from 18-43 markers and can yield up to 46 allele values. However, DYS 19b, DYS 464e, and DYS 464f are very rare in nature and you will likely not have a value at these locations regardless of the Y chromosome resolution test that was purchased.

A **dash**, “-”, shown in specific boxes in the chart above means that results were not produced for that particular locus based on one of 3 situations. First, as previously indicated, in the cases of DYS19b, DYS464e and DYS464f, a lack of result may be due to the fact that these allele results are very rare in nature. Second, in other situations, the dash may signify the presence of a null allele or, an allele value that cannot be amplified or obtained using the current testing methodology. Null allele values are generally caused by a mutation at a specific DNA position within the region being tested. This mutation renders the locus uninformative under the testing conditions employed by the laboratory. Or third, if your data was inputted from another source other than Relative Genetics, the full range of markers will appear and a dash will be shown at each location for which data was not entered.

Y-chromosome Haplogroups

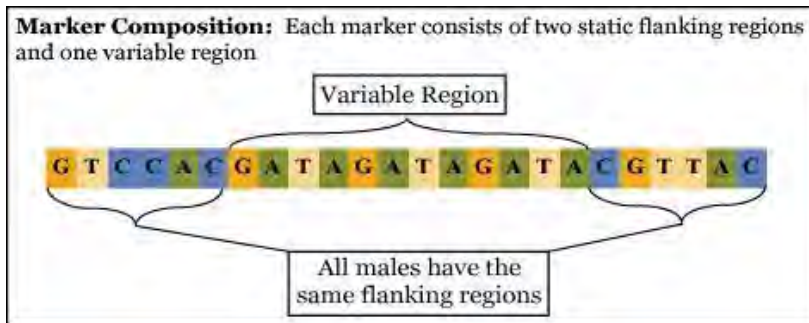
In addition to your Y-chromosome STR results, we are able to accurately predict which “haplogroup” your Y-chromosome belongs to. Haplogroups can be thought of as branches of the Y-chromosome genetic tree. With its roots in Africa approx. 140,000 years ago, as time has progressed, small mutations have occurred on the Y-chromosome. When a mutation happens (called a SNP, pronounced “snip”), the

tree branches so that over time and as people have migrated into different continents and regions, we see a tree-like structure with branches found in certain parts of the world.

Because particular STR patterns are seen within particular haplogroups, on most occasions we can predict which haplogroup you are in and where your Y-chromosome fits into this Y-chromosome tree. Along with the prediction, we also provide the history, background and mapped distribution of your haplogroup.

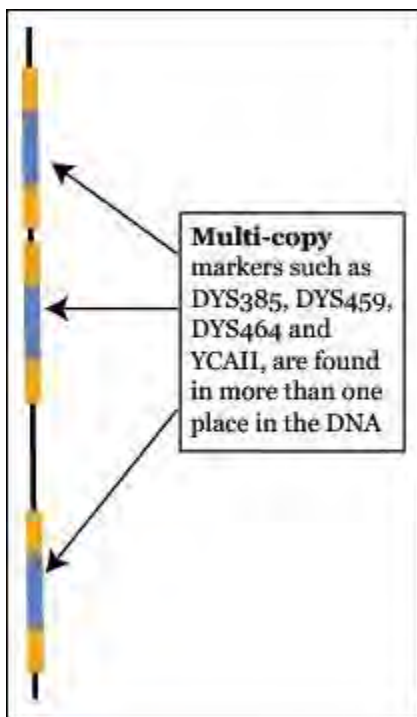
Marker Composition

In general all DNA markers, or loci, are comprised of three regions, two that are the same in most



individuals, and one that can vary from one individual to another. The static regions flank the variable region and act as molecular highlighters, allowing the variable section to be accurately measured in all individuals. This measurement is reported to you as your allele value.

Multi-Copy Markers



For most of the loci tested, the short stretches of DNA that make up the flanking regions are unique to only one place anywhere in the DNA. However, multi-copy markers such as DYS385, DYS459, DYS464 and YCAII, are found in more than one place in the DNA. Because these are Y chromosome markers this means that the flanking regions are found in more than one place on the Y chromosome. That is why these markers can yield more than one value.

This site www.relativegenetics.com/relativegenetics/news.htm#acrg brings news about the recent announcement that Sorenson Genomics, parent company of Relative Genetics, has joined forces with Ancestry.com and its parent company, The Generations Network, so users can trace their roots at the click of a mouse button.

Let's let them tell it:

PROVO, UTAH (June 18, 2007)—A new partnership seeks to reunite families through science. The Generations Network, parent company of Ancestry.com, has announced it will combine its unrivaled collection of online family trees and historical documents with Sorenson Genomics' precision ancestral DNA testing. This unique partnership promises to revolutionize family history by allowing people to trace their roots and connect to distant cousins through DNA at the click of a mouse.

Ancestry.com boasts more than 14 million users and the world's largest collection of online family trees. In the last 12 months alone, more than two million people have built family trees on Ancestry.com. Sorenson Genomics is one of the world's foremost laboratories for genetic genealogy testing services, and has been helping genealogists extend branches of their family trees through DNA analysis since 2001.

"Entering the DNA category is a natural and powerful extension of our company's mission to connect families across distance and time," said Tim Sullivan, CEO of The Generations Network. "Our partnership with Sorenson Genomics creates an incredible combination of resources designed to demonstrate how closely we are all related."

By taking a simple cheek-swab test and comparing results against DNA profiles in a test-results database, virtually anyone can uncover genealogical associations unimaginable just a few years ago. Users can easily connect with and discover lost or unknown relatives within a few generations, as well as gain insight into where their families originated thousands of years ago.

In the coming months, Ancestry.com will release technology that captures DNA test results in an ever-expanding, searchable database. Using this database, users can easily identify distant cousins and tap into thousands of hours of already-completed genetic genealogical research, breaking through family tree dead-ends or barriers such as missing or inaccurate records and name changes. Ancestry.com is also developing technology that will allow users to integrate DNA results with the historical documents already in their online family trees.

"DNA research becomes more meaningful to people searching for relatives as more peoples' DNA results become part of the database," said Doug Fogg, COO of Sorenson Genomics. "By combining the powerful networking effect of Ancestry.com's extensive user base with Sorenson Genomics' industry-leading DNA testing capabilities, this partnership will dramatically alter and expand the DNA testing services marketplace."

Prior to the current partnership, Sorenson Genomics provided DNA testing and database matching services through its direct-to-consumer genetic genealogy division Relative Genetics. This new partnership agreement brings former customers of Relative Genetics and its DNA database under The Generations Network's umbrella. Sorenson Genomics will now provide DNA testing services for The Generations Network, and Ancestry.com will market DNA testing and database-matching services for genealogy purposes. Results of the Relative Genetics' DNA database will be included in Ancestry.com's growing database.

The Will of Thomas Edgar of Derryleckagh

by Steve Edgar of Crewe, UK

A couple of years ago BDT (Before DNA Testing), James and I were researching into our supposed common ancestor in or around Newry and Co. Down. We found Edgars in Newry and in Benagh, in fact there were two Benaghs, one near Kilkeel and the other just outside of Newry near to Derryleckagh (various spellings — Derrylecka, Derrylaka, Derrylecker). In desperation we paid for a genealogist to research for us and unexpectedly could find no connections at all. He did find me a connection in Keggall, but nothing for James at all.

On the positive side, it did stop us wasting our time with pointless research, and got us going in the right direction. DNA proved to be the saviour on this. It got James, Bill, Jacky, and John Stephen definitely connected and started us on a positive solution to the family history problem.

As part of our paid for research, a Thomas Edgar popped up in Derryleckagh; both James and I were intent on claiming this Edgar as an ancestor, but to no avail, the names didn't fit, the location didn't fit..... nothing(as usual!). One thing that did come out of this was the Will of Thomas Edgar. He was either unmarried or childless as he left his estate to his nieces, (with very some carefully worded caveats!!) see below for a transcription:-

The last Will and Testament of Thomas Edgar 1787 to 4 Jan 1852

In the Name of God Amen. I Thos Edgar of Derrylaka in the county of Down being of sound mind do make and publish this my last will in manner and form following. I leave and bequeath to my two sisters Sarah and Mary Edgar share and share alike all my furniture and chattel property on my farm and residence at Derrylaka. With this exception that the grey colt ~~and cows~~ is to be sold out of which is to be paid my funeral expenses and any debts I may owe at my decease. And also will and bequeath to my sisters Sarah Edgar Mary Edgar and Charlotte Swale the sum of £100 each sterling to be paid out of my personal property by my executors herein after named. But said sum of £100 I leave to each of my said sisters respectfully upon the express condition that no claim shall be made by any of them under the will of my late father Alexander Edgar and that should any of my said sisters make any such claim I declare it to be my will that the person making such claim should forfeit said sum of £100 and that same shall sink into my residuary fund and form part thereof. I also will and bequeath Margaret Brown the sum of £100 in her own and sole right to be paid out of my personal property and not subject to the control debts or liabilities of her husband James Brown on same conditions that she shall make no further claims under the will of my late father on penalty of forfeiting said sum of £100 which shall also then sink into any residuary fund. And further I declare it to be my will that should the said Margaret Brown or her said Husband James Brown take probate of my said father's will or either he or the said Margaret make any claim of any nature or kind whatsoever then the said bequest of £100 shall be void and cancelled. And I declare it to be my will that my brother James Edgar shall have all the lands in Sheeptown entire and unmolested which was I possess under the will of my late father and in exchange Alexander Edgar also I will and bequeath all the farm the entire of the lands I possess in Tormore under the will of my late uncle David Hemming to be divided and share and share alike amongst my four sisters Sarah Edgar Mary Edgar Margaret Browne and Charlotte Swale for their own and sole use. But it is my will and desire that my said lands in Tormore be sold and the money arising therefrom the equally divided amongst my aforesaid sisters by my executors herein after named. The sum of £170 remaining over of my personal property I wish to be put in the bank till I consider what is the best manner of disposing of it. And I nominate constitute and appoint my brother James Edgar executor and Dorothea Tegart of Newry in the county of Down executrix of this my last will and testament in testimony of which I herein sign my hand and seal.

Signed *Thos Edgar* Witnesses present *Samuel Duncan George Lester* Derrylacka 20th December 1852

I herein declare it to be my will and true meaning that the aforesaid sum of £170 aforementioned in this my will be equally divided share and share alike amongst the following persons namely my two sisters Sarah Edgar and Mary Edgar also the six daughters of my sister Margaret Brown namely Jane Eliza Brown Anna Brown Margaret Elinor Brown Sarah Maria Brown Rose Anne Brown Francis Brown. Also the daughters of my sister Charlotte Swale namely Eliza Margaret Swale and Charlotte Swale in their own and sole right. Also the four daughters of my brother James Edgar namely Charlotte Edgar Margaret Edgar Mary Edgar and Sarah Edgar in their own and sole right.

Signed *Thos Edgar* Witnesses present *Samuel Duncan George Lester* Derrylacka 1st January 1852

It is my wish that Martha Chambers child shall be called Thomas Chambers and that he is to receive out of my personal property the sum of £30 to be placed at interest and the sum of £4 per annum to be allowed for his support out of it and schooling and to be brought up in the Protestant faith for five years and if he conducts himself properly his is to then to receive £10 to bind him to a trade with the sanction of my executors.

Signed *Thos Edgar* Witnesses present *Samuel Duncan George Lester* Derrylacka

_____ In the goods of Thomas Edgar late of Derrylacka in the county of Down farmer ____deceased

Prerogatives, **Dorothea Tegart** of Newry in the county of Down spinster the executrix named in the last will and testament and two codicils of said Deceased. Maketh oath and saithe that the deceased's directions she drew for him his said will and codicils and contained in the paper writings marked with the letters A and B hereunto amended saithe that the deponent wrote the first two pages of said will on 29th day of December 1852 in deceased presence and by his directions and instructions at which time the interlinearcations obliterations and erasures now appearing therein viz the words "is to be sold" underlined between the 7th and 8th lines from the top of the first page of said will the words "and cows" obliterated on said 8th line the word "each" interlined between the 12th and 13th lines from the top of said first page the words of "£100" underlined between the 3rd and 4th lines from the top of the 2nd page of said will the words "and in" obliterated on the 10th line from the bottom of the said 3rd page the words "Alexander Edgar" and "the entire of" underlined between the 9th and 10th lines from the bottom of said pages the words "and in exchange for the" appearing obliterated on the said 9th line the words "the lands" written over the word "farm" obliterated in the 8th line from the bottom of said page

Wonderful stuff! Lots of hints, subterfuge, bickering and potential skulduggery!. Was Martha Chambers' child the illegitimate son of Thomas? That is one DNA test I'd love to do!!!

The land mentioned in the Will came down from Alexander Edgar's father also a Thomas Edgar b. abt 1760. Thomas had married Mary Bruce and her dowry was the lands in Milltown, Sheeptown and Derrylecker. Mary Bruce was a descendant of Edward Bruce, "King of Ireland" who was Robert the Bruce's brother. This makes an interesting connection. Robert the Bruce's best man was Richard Edgar and he was the instigator of Robert slaying the Red Comyn and taking the throne of Scotland. Hence our Edgar motto "Maun do It." Was this a reconnection to the same Edgar line? Or is it a different line?

Old Thomas had another son John, his daughter married Henry Hart, their son Henry b. 1835 became Sir Henry Hart. He was famous for opening up the Post Office and other communications in China. He is a famous son of Portadown in Co. Armagh. Portadown has a lot of Edgars, it even has a district called Edgarstown.

There are a lot of male Edgars all born in the 1780s, who are possible fathers of male children. If anyone has a clue to these descendants, we would be really interested. Some of Thomas's descendants, the Swale family, are buried in St Patrick's graveyard Newry, where my ancestor, Joseph and his family, are also buried. We may be the same family.

I have recently been contacted by Marion in Australia who is a descendant of the Edgars in Derryleckagh, she is a descendant of the female line and cannot take part in the DNA research.

My Edgar database has topped the 4000 mark and pairings and matches are starting to show up. If you have any Edgar data pre-1850, please share it with us — it may help produce more matches which can be confirmed by a DNA test.

I think, well, hope that we have identified all the Edgar families and will start to see good matches for the future. You can help by logging on to any genealogical site, chat room, Web site, anything and leave some sort of message to ask other Edgars to contact us.

Steve Edgar



Photo credit: James Edgar

Photos

Navan Fort stands just outside Armagh, and is the location of an old Iron-Age/Bronze-Age shrine. The earthworks there made the hilltop fort easy to defend, plus the associated ditches prevented the “good spirits” from flowing downhill.

Steve Edgar of Crewe, UK, stands at left, James Edgar (your editor) is in front of the wall.

History has it that the residents of Navan are

the Celts who became the Scots of Scotland – “Until the 800s, the Angles, Britons, Picts, and Scots often raided each other for silver and cattle. After about 740, Pictish kings often dominated the country. But in 843, Kenneth MacAlpine, a king of the Scots, united his realm with that of the Picts. Violent rivalries marked the early history of the Scottish kings, but their authority expanded. Kenneth II, who reigned from 971 to 995, received from Edgar, king of Wessex, all the English lands between the Rivers Tweed and Forth. This was the region called Lothian, the northern part of Northumbria.” (from www.visitdunkeld.com/early-rulers.htm)

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Sanquhar Castle has long been part of Edgar and Crichton history. The old ruins stand in crumbling desolation in the southwest of Scotland. It has a long a colourful history, having been visited by Robert the Bruce, William Wallace (Braveheart), Edward I, Mary Queen of Scots, and James VI.

The Edgar history has it that Sir Robert de Ross had two daughters, Margaret and Isabel, aged five and two when he died. Just before the death of King Robert I, both daughters re-married, having been earlier widowed. Margaret married Richard Edgar, and Isabel married William Crichton. The Sanquhar barony was divided between them, a Royal Charter granting Richard Edgar “the chief manor and half of the whole barony.” By the 1600s, the Castle belonged to the Crichton family. By 1639, the Crichtons had moved to Ayrshire and sold their holdings in Sanquhar to the Earl of Queensbury. The place has crumbled ever since!

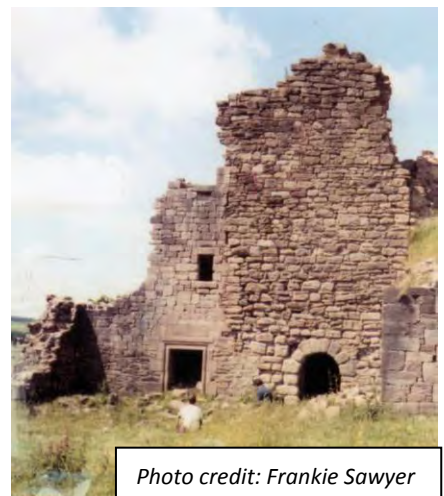


Photo credit: Frankie Sawyer