



Boo!



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 82, November 2013**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

Here are a couple of follow-up stories. Remember the article in Edgar Events #80 **Richard Edgar** wrote about the Portadown obituary for **Mary**, wife of **James Edgar**? The report told of two of her sons serving in the Great War, one in the Ulster Division of the British Army, and the other “serving with the Australians in Egypt.”

My **Jodie** (not nicknamed **Mrs. Poirot** for nought!) pointed out after I had published the newsletter that we already knew about that family—we had even DNA tested one of the descendants, **Michael John Edgar**, who is descended from the Australian soldier, **Keith Allen Edgar** (1895-1966)! The strange thing about the test is that **Michael** is in Haplogroup J2, and we have no other **Edgars**, so far, who fall into that group.

If we go to the next newsletter in this series, #81, we see the Haplogroup distribution map on page 4 provided by **SteveUK** (more on this below). Here’s the interesting bit—Haplogroup J2 originates in Mesopotamia – what was this group doing in Portadown, Northern Ireland???

I don’t have an answer for that question, but hypothetically, many centuries ago, a distant ancestor from Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq and eastern Syria) made his way to Ireland, possibly through England or Scotland. We’ve jokingly said about **SteveUK**’s distant ancestor that he had a kebab shop on Hadrian’s Wall, possibly a Roman conscript. Perhaps **Michael** is in the same situation.

Here’s SteveUK at Housesteads in 2010, pointing out where the kebabs were made!



Now, moving on to **David Edgar** and **Alex Edgar**...

David was tested last March (see Edgar Events #76) and **Alex** was tested in August (see Edgar Events #80). We (**Jodie** and I) got family trees from both of them, did some searching online, and discovered that they both have a **Samuel Edgar** for a great-grandfather, and both have a **Thomas Edgar** for a great-great-grandfather.

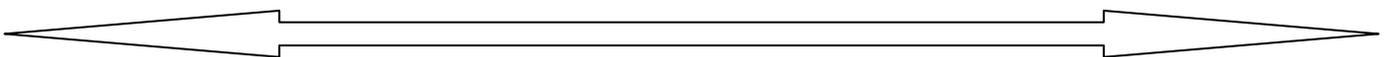
Not only that, both **Thomas** and **Samuel** were weavers on the marriage records (see below, obtained from Roots Ireland and www.findmypast.ie); the marriages both took place in Banbridge, Northern Ireland, the first in 1855, the second in 1871; Samuel is shown as a widower on the second marriage record; the two addresses on the records are only 8 or 9 miles apart.; the DNA results confirm our belief that David and Alex are closely related — their MRCA value is “1”!

See for yourself: **Samuel** married **Agnes Bigham** in 1855, and married **Agnes Wright** in 1871. **David** is descended from the first marriage, and **Alex** from the second, making them half-second cousins to each other.

Church Marriage Record	
Date of Marriage:	02-Nov-1855
Parish / District:	BANBRIDGE
County:	Co. Down
Husband	
Name:	Samuel Edgar
Address:	Slievenaman Kilcoo
Denomination:	Presbyterian
Occupation:	WEAVER
Age:	Full Age (Over 21)
Status:	Bachelor (Previously unmarried)
Wife	
Name:	Agnes Bigham
Address:	Ballymoney Kilcoo
Denomination:	Presbyterian
Occupation:	
Age:	Full Age (Over 21)
Status:	Spinster (Previously unmarried)
Husband's Father	
Name:	Thomas Edgar
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	WEAVER
Wife's Father	
Name:	Thomas Bigham
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	FARMER
Husband's Mother	
Name:	
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	
Wife's Mother	
Name:	
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	
Witness 1	
Name:	Thomas Parker
Witness 2	
Name:	James Bigham
Notes:	Church: DRUMLEE Presbyterian BY LICENCE REV H S STEELE.

Church Marriage Record	
Date of Marriage:	29-Nov-1871
Parish / District:	BANBRIDGE
County:	Co. Down
Husband	
Name:	Samuel Edgar
Address:	Ballyroney
Denomination:	Church of Ireland
Occupation:	WEAVER
Age:	Full Age (Over 21)
Status:	Widower (Male)
Wife	
Name:	Agnes Wright
Address:	Ballyroney
Denomination:	Church of Ireland
Occupation:	
Age:	Full Age (Over 21)
Status:	Spinster (Previously unmarried)
Husband's Father	
Name:	Thomas Edgar
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	WEAVER
Wife's Father	
Name:	John Wright
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	SHOEMAKER
Husband's Mother	
Name:	
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	
Wife's Mother	
Name:	
Address:	
Denomination:	
Occupation:	
Witness 1	
Name:	Thomas Carson
Witness 2	
Name:	Eliza Maud Morrison
Notes:	Church: DRUMBALLYRONEY Church of Ireland BY LICENCE REV C PARKHURST.

Does the sleuthing and do the search results get any better than this? I think not! We've spoken to both **David** and **Alex**, plus his nephew **Bill** — everybody's excited!



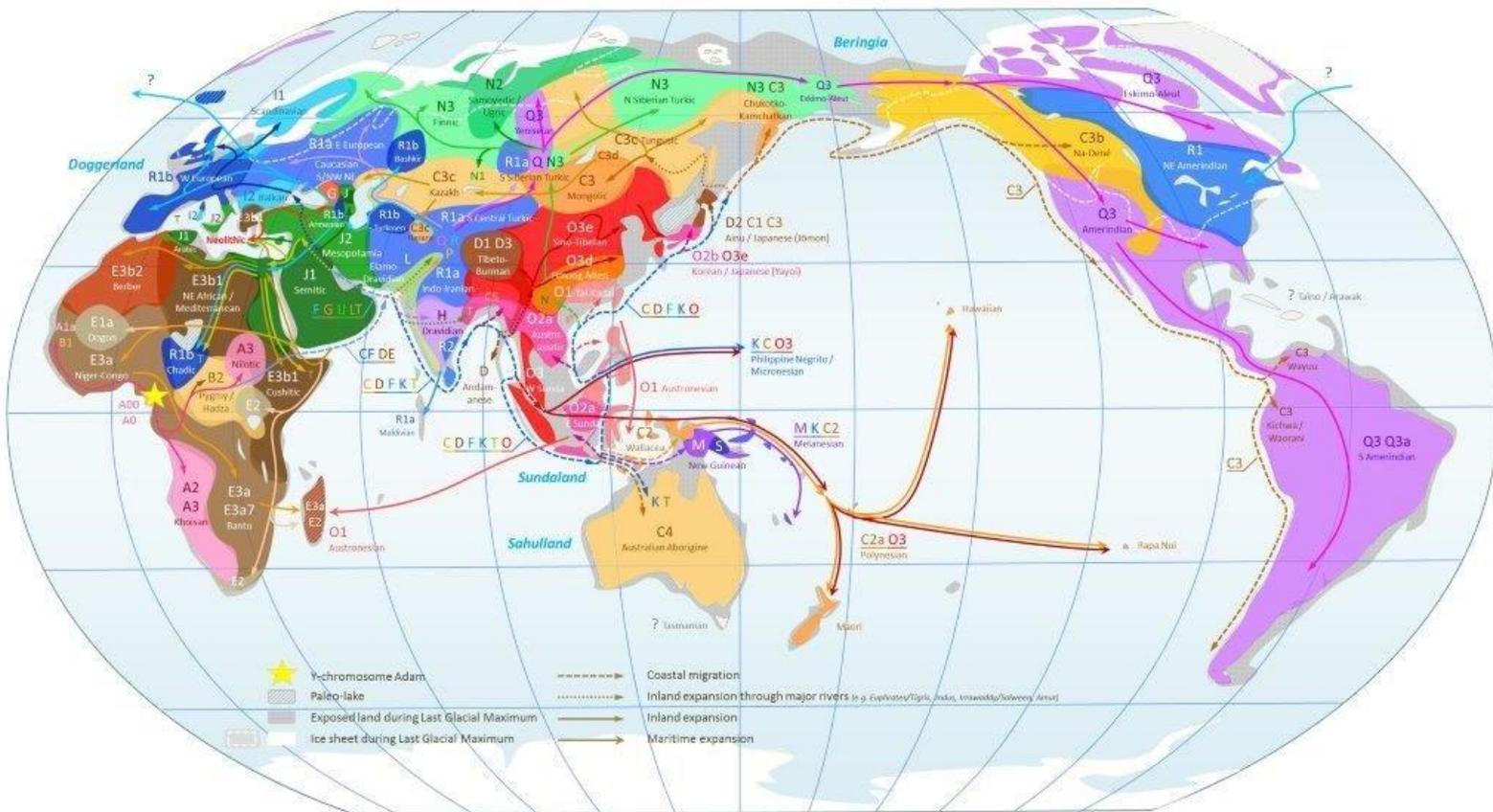
Y-DNA Origins

by Steve Edgar (steven-edgar@sky.com)



[Ed: Here's the story that should have been in last month's issue—it got misplaced somewhere in cyberspace—might still be out there!]

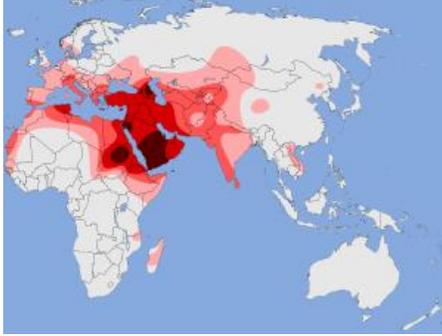
Below is a map (thanks to Don Milligan) showing the origins of all the DNA Haplogroups and their migration paths. Of interest to us are I, R, and E (and now with a smattering of J). The origin of all people was Haplogroup A centred in East Africa, thousands of years ago. As the population slowly increased, separate groups began to populate different areas as food and resources became strained. These groups, because of isolation, developed their own strain of DNA and became a slight variant of the original A group. The closer to A you are, the closer to the original origins.



This however does not characterize ethnicity or race. All it does is trace the source of a single male ancestor who, over only 100 generations, would only be 0.000000000001% of your genetic makeup. In a time span of over 20,000 years, this male ancestor will have only the minutest effect on your overall race, appearance, or physical attributes. You are the sum of hundreds of thousands of ancestors (on a calculator multiply 2x2 20 times, that number is the total of your ancestors at 21 generations).

As these various Haplogroups lived their lives in their distinct locations, they began to adapt to local climatic conditions—in highly sunlit areas, they retained more melanin to combat high UV, in forests, the people became smaller to allow easier movement. In less sunny areas, skin tones became lighter; in cold areas, facial features became less prominent to protect from frostbite. These characteristics were reinforced within the local areas and the world's so-called races were formed.

J Group. Middle East



This group, like the E group, owes its origins to Africa, but the migrants went east to Asia rather than north into the Mediterranean.

So how does this affect the Edgars and who are we?

From the evidence of DNA, it looks like the male origin of the Edgars lies with either the Celts or the Saxons. We have 47 Saxon and 45 Celtic DNA tests done. Based on this statistic, there is no overall majority and it would be difficult to predict the answer of which was the origin. One way of deciding this could be the MRCA (most recent common ancestor) counter, most of the Saxon matches are within 35 generations, while the majority of the Celtic matches are beyond the 35 MRCA marker. Does this infer that the Celtic group is older?

The Irish, Scots, and the Picts were Celtic and were indigenous to the area of mid-Scotland; the Vikings had colonized part of the area in the 800s. Our oldest traceable ancestor was Crinan, the Thane of Dunkeld, in AD 1000. From his ancestry, he was very likely a Celt, but the title “Thane” is confusingly Saxon. Very early on as well, the Viking invasions were influencing the DNA of this region.

The Saxon invasions were not usually concentrated in the far north—they mainly colonized Norfolk, Lincolnshire, and parts of Northumbria. Their DNA may be connected to the Edgars of Suffolk and the Edgars connected with Poland and the Baltic.

So, the geographical and the supposed DNA evidence clashes, no real answer there as to the true origin. Based on the numbers there is possibly an argument for two Edgar family sources.

The Viking influence is less than half of either the Saxons or the Celts. Given this statistic, the Viking DNA must have come into the Edgars at a later date. If it were earlier, then there would be more of them. [Ed: or we need to do much more testing.]

The E1b1 group is dramatically smaller than either the Viking, Saxon, or the Celtic groups. This would suppose that this group is younger, there is one MRCA count that is beyond 35, but the remainder (4 tests) are well within the 35-marker range. Also, bear in mind that two of the DNA tests were done to confirm known ancestor details and were not obtained randomly like the majority of the other Edgar tests. From this, I would infer that this group may well not be “true” Edgar. Sometime In the recent past, maybe 1600-1700, a male child was born that was illegitimate, fostered, or adopted into an Edgar family.

The J Group is comprised of one test for one person. No matches. The only inference I can make off this is an illegitimate, fostering, or adoption event more recently. If we get more matches, we could well get more details.

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## MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) Calculations

When we take our DNA test we get two results. One is the Haplogroup to which we belong, and we get an MRCA predictor, which gives an idea of when two people would share a common ancestor, this is not 100% accurate.

The MRCA indicator is based on the mathematical probability and averages of the number of mutations that occur between generations. The exact regularity of these mutations is impossible to predict, but based on averages, it can be approximated.

The second variable is the time span of a generation. A generation is assumed to be 25 years. But this has the potential for massive variations. Suppose a couple aged 17 married and had a child at age 18—this would equal one generation. If they continued having children up until they are age 45, the children are still one generation from their parents, but potentially 27 years apart.

The generation spans in this case are 18 years and 45 years.

| E1b The Eastern Mediterranean |    |       |  |    |            |
|-------------------------------|----|-------|--|----|------------|
| Steve Edgar (E1b)(Cre...      | -  | E1b1b |  | 14 | - 18 19 12 |
| Donald Edgar (E1b)(Ma...      | 14 | E1b1b |  | 14 | - 17 19 12 |
| Norman W. Edgar (E1b)...      | 23 | E1b1b |  | 14 | - 18 19 12 |
| Steve Edgar (E1b)(Que...      | -  | E1b1b |  | 13 | - 17 18 12 |

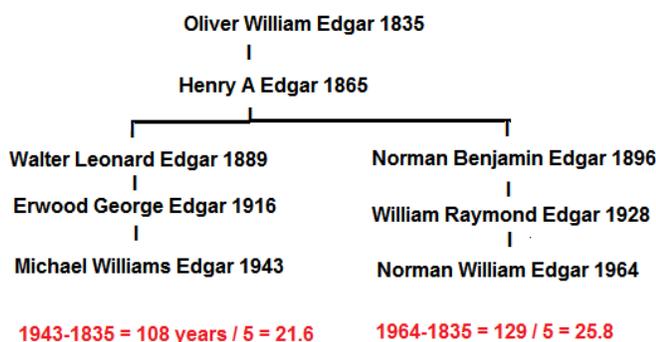
Juanita's son, my cousin Norman, and I share an ancestor at an MRCA count of 23. And, we don't know who the ancestor was.

I share an ancestor with Donald at MRCA 19, but I am not certain if his ancestor and mine

were brothers, cousins or uncle/nephew.

What we don't know is how accurate the DNA MRCA count is and who our common ancestor was. Basically we were flying blind—we don't know who and we don't know when.

Juanita had an idea. Her son has a known cousin, Michael, in Colorado. They are related by a common great grandfather, Henry A. Edgar in 1865. According to this, their actual MRCA is 3 generations.



As shown at left, by subtracting the date of birth (DOB) of Henry from the DOB of each great-grandchild and dividing by the number of generations, we get an average generation count for this family. If we combine the two averages and divide by 2 we get an approximate generation value of 23.7 years—24 for convenience. This fits in with the usual prediction of 25 years.

Then came the results of Michael's DNA test. Michael is a cousin of Norman (big sigh of relief, knowing that was proved!) and the calculated MRCA count is 6. Our known chart MRCA for the family tree is 3. We know that that the mathematics for the MRCA calculation is based on probabilities and is therefore not wholly accurate, but the error allowance can be 50% over a short time. The longer the time frame, the more accurate the results should be.

The fact that the MRCA count is 6, simply means that twice as many DNA mutations have taken place than were predicted. Over the next 3 generations it might be that only half the number of mutations occur, thus bringing the predication back to normal.

So, where are we?

- 1 We have an approximate generation period of 24 years
- 2 We know the MRCA count is likely to be double that of the actual MRCA

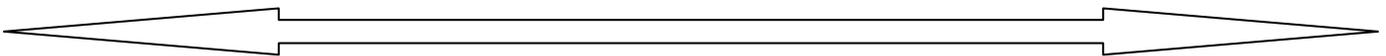
I am an MRCA count of 14 from Donald  $14/2 = 7 \times 24 = 168$  subtract from my DOB 1952 = I share an ancestor with Donald in 1775-1800. This falls into place with what I suspect.

I am an MRCA 23 from Norman.  $23/2 = 11.5 \times 24 = 276$  years subtracted from my DOB = I share an ancestor with Norman and Michael in 1675-1700. This is 50 years earlier than I expected.

The above could well be repeated for any of the other Edgar DNA groups. If you have the paper trail and the DNA results, it could well help to predict for others in your group.

**PLEASE NOTE. If there are any mathematicians or DNA experts out there who could pick flaws in this article I would be very grateful. I would dearly like to improve the accuracy of the predictions.**

**Steve**



### **Some helpful links:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Most\\_recent\\_common\\_ancestor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Most_recent_common_ancestor)

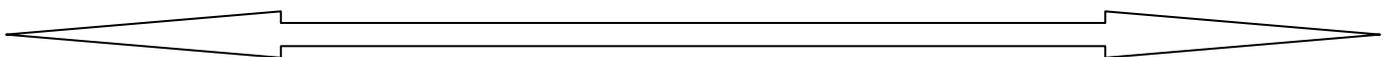
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetics>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA\\_sequencing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA_sequencing)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic\\_genealogy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_genealogy)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogical\\_DNA\\_test#Understanding\\_test\\_results\\_2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogical_DNA_test#Understanding_test_results_2)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human\\_Y-chromosome\\_DNA\\_haplogroups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Y-chromosome_DNA_haplogroups)



Next, we have some good news and some not-so-good... the good news first:

We announce the birth to **April Edgar** and **Kris Sullivan**, a girl, **Katelynn Ann Marie Sullivan**, 6 pounds 2 ounces, 19 inches long, born on 2013 October 6. Congratulations **Kris** and **April**!



*Katelynn and April, the proud Mum*



*Katelynn*



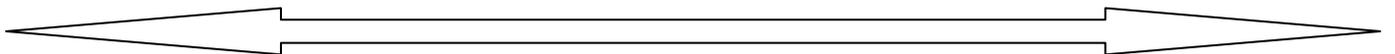
**Scout Naomi Kelly**, daughter of **Sarah Edgar Kelly** and **Orlando Kelly** celebrated her 1st birthday back in June and we missed it, but it's never too late to celebrate! Happy Belated Birthday, Scout!



**Emma Raynelle Gutierrez**—7lbs 1oz, 19 inches long, on October 20, daughter to **Jolina Bocobo**, granddaughter to **Debra Edgar Bocobo**,.



*Debra proudly holds her newest granddaughter, Emma.*



Condolences go out to **Steve Edgar** and his family in Oakville, Ontario—  
**SteveTO**, as we call him, on the death of his father,  
**John Wedderlie Edgar**, born 1940 October 23, died 2013 October 8.

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Condolences go out to **Sarah Edgar Kelly** and her family in Calgary and the UK—
on the death of her father,
James Bernard Shelley Edgar, born 1935 December 2, died 2013 September 26.

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### Lest We Forget

November 11 is coming up fast, and we encourage all of our readers to take a moment to contemplate the many lives of the young men and women who suffered and gave their all so we could enjoy the freedom to think, say, and do.

We are reminded of the Battle of the Somme, where 58,000 British troops died or were wounded in one day, 1916 July 1. This is the day that the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was almost completely wiped out at Beaumont-Hamel, suffering a casualty rate of 90 percent! Six weeks later, the reinforced regiment was back in the battle lines at Flanders. As recently as August 2010, an RNR Corporal died of his wounds eight days after being injured by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, making him the regiment's first casualty since the Great War.