



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 90, July 2014**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

This has been a momentous recent time for me – I transitioned from being National Secretary of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to National President! This newsletter comes out on the day I'm flying home from our General Assembly in Victoria, B.C., where our Annual General Meeting declared me as the Society's 62nd President. I'm pleased and honoured. ☺

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Now, back to regular programming... We have a new DNA test in the works for **Edward Edgar** of New Hampshire. We arranged the test through his daughter, **Sandy Edgar Beaudoin**. This test was arranged through Family Tree DNA.

A few days ago, we received notification from FTDNA that a **James Eager** had joined our group. I got this from his wife, **Jan**: *We just sent James' Y-DNA test off and are awaiting results :)*

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Readers may recall that we tried testing with Genebase a few times. Their system was okay, but not as comprehensive as we would like. Our testing will be done at FTDNA from now on.

Ancestry.com stopped providing test kits a few months ago, and then the announcements started to show up. This announcement from Ancestry.com. appeared on our Edgar Group site:



On our previous Compare DNA page at Ancestry.com, there no details at all! According to the announcement, it will be gone completely on September 5. That's a real pity, since our Edgar Group had nearly 300 members and had completed over 130 DNA tests!

Then this announcement came; a second one follows below:

We are no longer processing Y-DNA or mtDNA tests
Call 1-800-828-2362 for details



Y-DNA and mtDNA tests are being retired

We are contacting you in regards to your recent purchase of a Y-DNA or mtDNA test on Ancestry.com. At this time, we are no longer accepting for processing any Y-DNA or mtDNA tests sent to our lab. We apologize for any inconvenience this will cause and request that you contact us at 1-800-828-2362.

We understand the value you can gain from Y-DNA and mtDNA test results, however we've decided to retire these tests in order to dedicate more resources to the autosomal DNA test, called AncestryDNA, which surveys a person's genome at more than 700,000 locations.

We recognize that there are a lot of ways that we, as a company, can make family history easier, more accessible and more fun for people all over the world.

We encourage you to check out AncestryDNA as a way for you to try another DNA experience that has many benefits...

For further questions, please [click here](#) or contact us at 1-800-828-2362 or support@ancestry.com.

The second one...

MyFamily.com closes Sept. 5
[Export your content today](#)



MyFamily.com is retiring

Over the years we have built up a variety of products that enable our users to discover, preserve and share their family history.

We recognize that there are a lot of ways that we, as a company, can make family history easier, more accessible and more fun for people all over the world.

In order to do this, we need to focus on our core offerings to ensure we're delivering the best service and best product experience to our customers.

To that end, we've decided to invest more aggressively in our core Ancestry.com business and plan to retire the MyFamily.com service.

Starting on September 5, 2014, MyFamily.com will no longer be available.

We understand the value this service has provided to keep your family connected during your time as a subscriber. To keep the family memories you've gathered on MyFamily.com, please log in to your MyFamily group site and request an export by clicking on the "Export Now" button located at the top of the page.

There are other services that may provide one or more of the features that MyFamily.com offered, for example:

ThisLife by Shutterfly

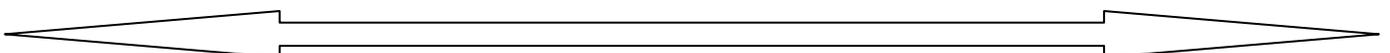
Carousel the gallery from Dropbox

Chatbooks

For further questions, please visit our [FAQ page](#) or contact Member Services at 888-265-7491 or myfamilysupport@custhelp.com.

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We will continue to test DNA, but there won't be as much of an urgency to test every person we contact. We've very nearly got everyone sorted already.



## In issue 47



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

### **Sharon (Edgar) Bunek had found an old inscription:-**

Transcribed By Elaine Leslie, John Leslie, and Dr. Lisa Leslie

*(A curious memorial of the last Laird of Wedderlie, which may interest some of your readers, exists in the shape of an inscription, placed by him on an old Bible belonging to the parish church of Westruther)*

*23 July 1736.*

*Upon this bound book which is a true and sacred divine revelation*

*I present and proclaim these words*

*To the venerable*

*D. Walter Scott,*

*in the church of Westruther*

*and all succeeding Ministers*

*And dedicate (them) for sacred use only*

*John Edgar of Wedderlie.*

*In holy scripture every truthfulness is taught;*

*Each goodness anticipated; each happiness promised.*

*All in the fields who are hungry seek the same;*

*Birds, seed; cows, grass; dogs, the hare.*

*Thus for each different need, different heavenly sustenance is supplied*

*From the sacred page of the Father.*

*The infant takes milk, the adult takes bread.*

*None when bent with old age wish to be without sustenance.*

This raises the question, "Who was this D Walter Scott?"

I suspect that the D is for Dr., rather than it being his name. I checked the register of Ministers in Edinburgh for the period and found:

*Walter Scott, a Church Minister at Westruther from his ordination 1704 until his death in 1737. He was born in 1677.*

The text above looks to be some sort of celebration of his 30-plus years as a Minister, a few months before his death, perhaps he was ill? I can't trace his father, but his mother was Sophia Home, daughter of George Home and Katherine Pringle. Walter's father and Sophia also had children Frances, Catherine, Agnes, Barbara, and Robert; Frances was also a Minister.

In the border area of Scotland, if your name wasn't Trotter, Pringle, Scott, Home, Spottiswood, or Edgar you were marked down as a Sheepstealer! This region was infamous for the [Border Reivers](#), who stole cattle, sheep, and horses; they held to ransom captives and could be "hired" to "locate" articles you required. As a result, the families that lived in the area became very closeknit; this in earlier times would have been classified as a "Clan."



The John Edgar who made the dedication was the last of the Edgars of Wedderlie and was the ancestor of the Edgars of Auchingramont, whose line produced Anne Edgar, the wife of Sir Henry Raeburn. Raeburn painted a portrait of Sir Walter Scott. He also painted portraits of various members of the Edgar family in Jamaica and Suffolk Also on his list of paintings is one of the poet Robert Burns.

*Henry Raeburn. Self portrait*

He painted over 1000 portraits in total.



*Robert Burns. Poet Anne Edgar. wife Elizabeth Edgar. Suffolk Archibald Edgar Jamaica Sir Walter Scott*

An Edgar family traditional story is that Sir Walter Scott's book, "The Bride of Lammermuir." is based on the demise of the Edgar family of Wedderlie. Given the proximity, the close resemblance of the locations, it looks like Sir Walter Scott could somehow be related to the Edgars in this area. Certainly a Walter Scott was married to an Edgar, but how he was related to Sir Walter Scott can't be found as yet.

I do know that Steve Edgar in Toronto has some Edgar-related portraits. Are these by Raeburn?

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Spelling

Next, is the old subject of spelling of the name Edgar. Another variation came up in my research this week. EDZEARE.

I agree that this form of the name is not overly convincing and it is a stretch of the imagination to view EDZEARE as EDGAR, but on the source page on the [IGI](#), the Edzeare family lived at Wedderlie, Berwickshire! So, to my mind, this is a no brainer!

The Edzeare in question was Margaret, daughter of John Edzeare, married James Hwde of Hoadsland, Berwickshire in 1647. "Hwde" translates as Hood. Whoever wrote these records was obviously very free with their spelling, but, given that Samuel Johnson wouldn't be around for another 100 years, there wasn't a dictionary for them to refer to either.

The next Scottish variant shows as Edzar or Edzer. The earliest of these shows as Beatrix Edzar and Alexander Sandersone marrying in 1607. These records are from the Haddington / Edinburgh area. Haddington was, in the past, the principal city in Scotland.

In old Scots pronunciation, the G and Z were pronounced very much the same—it's a sort of soft G, crossed with a Z, which variant shows up again in the name Menzies, pronounced here in the UK as MINGIS.

There is a Francis P Edzar in Pennsylvania in 1904. I did some research to find that this Edzar shows on another record in 1904 as Edgar, so I think this is a transcription error rather than a continuation of an Edzar line.

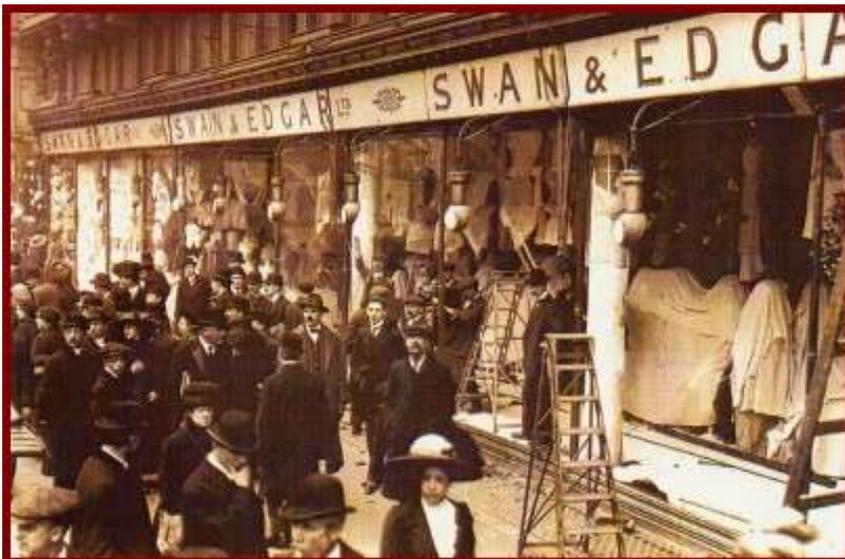
The further back you go, the more likely the name spelling will vary, anyone who is stuck should try these variants on the search engines.

This brings me neatly to the name Edgare. I have recently been in contact with Delma Edgar in British Columbia. She has traced her husband's Edgar line to Canonbie in Dumfries, Scotland. The earliest record here uses the spelling Edgare, with John Edgare in 1643, who had a son William in 1676. A few problems start to arise in our efforts to work on this family:

1. They all called their children by the same forenames, David, William, John, James, *etc.*
2. The family lived at Riddings in Cumberland, which is now in England. Canonbie church records are from Dumfries in Scotland.
3. The DNA test we have on a descendant shows only two matches, neither of which are early enough to match to Canonbie. But, the other family who are from Canonbie do not have a match DNA close enough to be of use.

If anyone out there has a link to either Riddings or Canonbie, we'd very much like to hear from them, we may well be able to link them into the family tree we are building.

There is a famous link to this Edgar line. This is to William Edgar, who was a partner to Mr Swan and founded the world's first department store.



"When William Edgar first came to London he had a haberdashery stall at St. James's Market in Haymarket. With no lodgings to go to, used to sleep under it at night. He met Mr. Swan, a draper about whom very little is known, and together they opened a shop in the Ludgate area of the City. The business did tolerably well and in 1812-1814 the friends were able to move out of the City to 20 Piccadilly. Following the construction of Regent Street, they moved into number 49, which had been the premises of the Western

Mail and Coach Offices and also of the Bull & Mouth inn, (the licence for which they retained until shortly before it closed in the late 20th century).

Mr. Swan died in 1821, but Edgar retained his name, even after the refurbishment and the erection of the splendid new shop-front in 1841. Mr. Edgar flourished and was a familiar sight riding his horse to work from his home at Kingston Hill. He was always asked to be on hand to personally help when Queen Victoria's family visited the store. Expansion meant that, by 1848, the business had come to occupy the premises at numbers 45-51 on the Quadrant and the entire corner of Piccadilly circus.

William Edgar was born in 1791 at or near Longtown, in the parish of Arthuret, which is in the Diocese of Carlisle. Family tradition asserts that he served a draper in Longtown in his early youth. When still a lad, he set out on foot for London, with a letter of introduction to Mr Swan (d. 26 November 1821), a London draper with a small shop in Ludgate Hill. There he found congenial employment, and when it was decided to open a branch shop in Piccadilly, young Edgar was admitted to partnership and given charge of the new undertaking. Swan died within a few years, but William Edgar, possessed of an unusual aptitude for business, rapidly made the name of Swan and Edgar known throughout London, and indeed, throughout Great Britain.

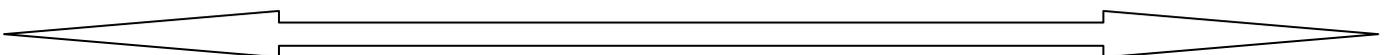
He was greatly assisted in the expansion of his undertaking by the financial assistance which his cousin, David Edgar, of Longtown, gave him. At his death, he left one of the most substantial fortunes which had, up until that time, been amassed by any person engaged in the soft goods trade. He died at his mansion home, Eagle House, Clapham Common, Surrey, on 25 September 1869, and was, until he disposed of it to the Duke of Buccleuch in 1872, the owner of a shooting box called Kirklands, which he built in 1850, at Closeburn, Dumfries-shire, Scotland. He was buried in the family vault in Norwood Cemetery. Will dated 21 February 1867. Estate sworn at under 300,000 pounds."

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## **Pewter Badges**

Looking for a solid pewter Edgar Crest? At \$18, plus shipping, they're a great way to say "I love my family!" (Pewter buttons also available.)

Email me [james@jamesedgar.ca](mailto:james@jamesedgar.ca)





From Richard Edgar of Tandragee  
(edgar888@yahoo.com)

Looking back at

# Old Portadown

## Omitted names of soldiers now to be on War Memorial

As the centenary of the start of World War One approaches, more and more well advised for the inclusion of the names of several soldiers with Portadown connections - mostly from WWI - on the town's war memorial - names which are believed to have been omitted owing to the confusion of the aftermath of the war.

Research done by local historian Richard Edgar of the Subsidary Historical Society - aided by Councillor Robert Smith - suggests that the men have a right to join the names of comrades from the Great Wars.

These names will be handed over to the Commonwealth Graves Commission who - after meticulous follow-up research - will make the ultimate decision. The drawback is there is no more room on the plaques on the memorial, nor is there room for any more plaques. An additional plinth would have to be supplied. Richard is preparing a detailed history of local soldiers who fought in the Great War - concentrating on 7th and 8th and including those who marched the coffin to return to their home town in 1918 and beyond. He is preparing it in book form, for publication in October, and will include the names of all local soldiers who served.

"Of course we all revere the memory of those who did not return," said Richard. "But generations are also proud of those who came home, many of them wounded, and it is only right and proper that they should be remembered too." Richard has prepared a list of fallen heroes whom he believes warrant a place on the town's War Memorial -

**WOKIDS, Samuel James** - Lower Seagon, No 11255, Rank: Private, First Royal Irish Buffs. Samuel James was lost on April 25, 1918, aged 24. He had no known grave and is commemorated on Panel 43 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium. He was the brother of George Woods.

**McVEIGH, John** - 58 Carran Street, Portadown, No 12545, Rank: Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery. John was lost on April 15, 1918, aged 23. He is buried in Grave XI.C.4.



Robert Smith (left) and Richard Edgar at the town's War Memorial where they are campaigning to include the names of more fallen soldiers of World War One



The Main Gate, Belgium; right, Private J Slips of Florence Court - killed in action

**St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens, France.** John was the son of Hugh and May McVeigh.

**GILPIN, Isaac** - Florence Court, Eilderry, No 20795, Rank: Private, and Durham Light Infantry. Killed in action August 9, 1918, aged 36. Commemorated on Panel 36 and 38, Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium. Isaac was the son

of Frederick and Margaret Gilpin, the brother of William, James, Ann Amelia and Margaret.

**GILMOUR, Robert** - Tinsack, Moy Road, Portadown, No 27647, Rank: Private, and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Robert was killed in action on March 17, 1918 and is buried in Grave 1.1.3

**Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium.** Robert was the son of James and Elizabeth Gilmour, the brother of Irwin, Elizabeth, Charles and Sarah.

**GILLESPIE, Francis** - ? Railway (Wataon) Street, in Eilderry, No 26496, Rank: Private, Royal Irish Regiment. Also served No 134830, Rank: Private, 191st Company,

Labour Corps. Francis died of illness on November 1917, aged 48. He is buried in Grave VII.I.123, Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France. He was the husband of Sarah Gillespie. He also served in India and

through the South African campaign.

**REA, William.** Balaugh, No 29303, Rank: Private, 73rd Canadian Infantry. William was killed in action April 28, 1917, aged 37. He is buried in Grave I.H.15A Winescourt Communal Cemetery, France. He was the son of Thomas and Margaret Rea, Balaugh, Portadown.

**HOGARTH, Herbert** - Plumket - Portadown, No 73207, Rank: Corporal (despatch rider) 7th Signal Company, Royal Engineers. Herbert was killed in action May 13, 1917 and is buried in Grave III.B.21 Winescourt Communal Cemetery, France. He was born in England and worked as an accountant in the Belfast Bank, Portadown before the war.

**CORNOR, John** - 40 Montague Street, Portadown, No 32023, Rank: Private, Royal Irish Fusiliers. Died September 13, 1918 and is buried in Kilmore (St Aloysius) Church of Ireland. John was the husband of the wife of Mary Agnes Connor and the son of John and Annie Connor.

**NUNN, Harold Edwin** - 30 Woodhouse Street, Portadown, No 7648, Rank: Sergeant, 1st Norfolk Regiment. Harold was lost on May 9, 1917, aged 26, and is buried in Grave I.D.13, Bois Carré, British Cemetery, France. He was the husband of Mrs A.E. Nunn.

**COLLEN, William Stewart** - Dublin (formerly Eilderry). Rank: Lieutenant, 6th Royal Tank Battalion. William was killed in action on August 7, 1915. He is buried in Grave Special Memorial A.5

Green Hill Cemetery, Gallop. William was the son of Joseph and Hannah Moira Colleen and brother of Hannah Sophia, Mary Elizabeth and Margaret Robinson Colleen.

**CAMPBELL, James** - Thomas Street, No 4843, Rank: Sergeant Major, 7th Royal Irish Rifles. James was killed on August 9, 1917 and is commemorated on Panel 40, Menin Gate, Belgium. He was the brother of Susan and John Campbell. He had served in India and Africa.

**MCCREY, John Archibald** - Tiertacaghan, No 15468, Rank: Sergeant, 10th Royal Irish Rifles. Archibald was killed in action December 28, 1916. He is buried in Grave III.F.6 Buncrue Military Cemetery, France. He was the son of John and Mary Jane McCreedy, the brother of James, Joseph William, Margaret McLaughlin and James Carmichael.

**COX, James Joseph** - Servia Street, Belfast, formerly Corran, Portadown, No 12773, Rank: Private Irish Guards. Died of wounds October 28, 1914, aged 34. Buried in Grave III.A.30, Boulogne Cemetery, France. Husband of Mary Cox.



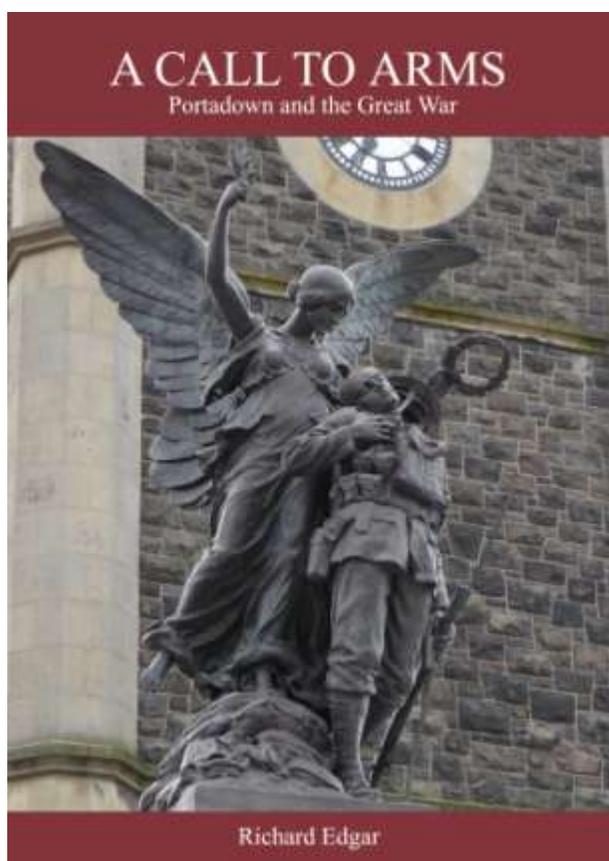
Sergeant H. Hogarth, 7th Signal Coy., killed in action



John Cornor, 10th Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action

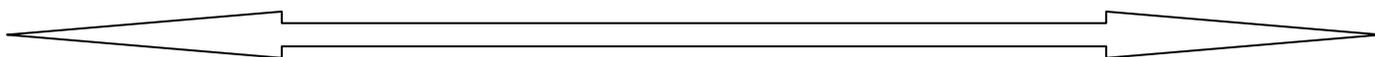
Richard wrote:

“You may have noticed that I have not been putting the same effort into family history research over this last couple of years, the fact is, you may already know this, I have been working on a book, “A Call to Arms, Portadown and the Great War” I am pleased, or maybe that should be relieved, to say that my book is now finished and is currently with the printer. If everything goes to plan, the book will be launched on 1st July 1914, at the Ulster Memorial Tower, Thiepval, France. There can be no better place to launch a book like this than on the battlefields of France and Flanders. ... The main issue here in Portadown at the moment in relation to this book is the large number of men I found who are missing from the town War Memorial; the local press is doing a feature on this story from my book this week. I have attached a copy of the book's front cover....”

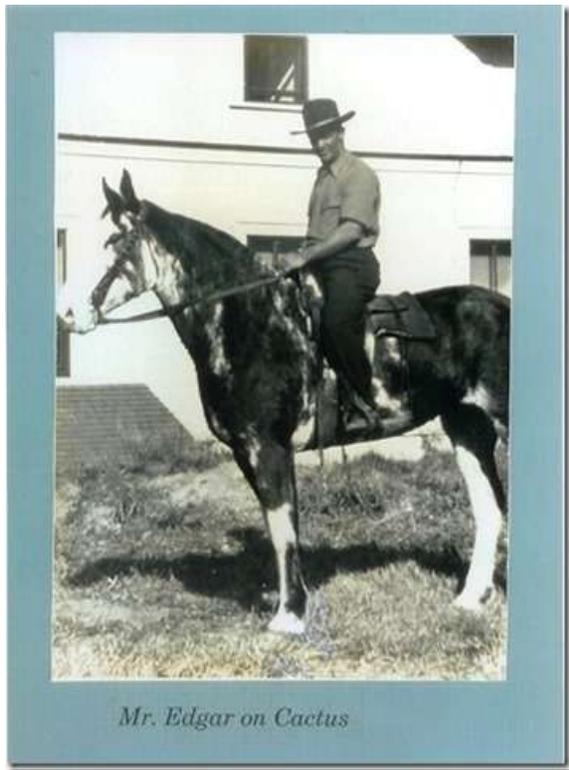


Available from mid July, “A Call to Arms, Portadown and the Great War.” This book, written by Richard Edgar to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War, tells the story of over 2000 men and women from the Portadown area who served in the First World War. Those who died and those who served and came home are included; it contains an expanded roll of honour that includes many whose names never made the town’s war memorial. It also contains a collection of poems by local war poets, soldiers’ letters home, news reports from the period, pictures of over 110 local soldiers, and many other local pictures from the period.

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From Bud Edgar, The Comedy Cowboy
(budedgar@shaw.ca)



Mr. Edgar on Cactus

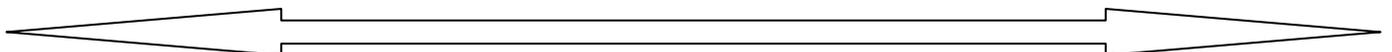
That's **Bud's Dad, Freeman Edgar**, on his horse "Cactus"



Bud wrote:

The Edgar Cattle Brand is O X; it goes back to 1882.

This plaque commemorates 100 years of the brand at the 1986 Calgary Stampede.



With sadness, we observe the passing of my new-found cousin, **Eric Edgar**, of Waverley, Nova Scotia. He was loved by many and will be missed by all. Our sincerest condolences go out all of the family, who we “discovered” and then visited in Halifax last year.



EDGAR, Eric Gordon, age 80 years of Waverley, died June 7, 2014 at the Victoria General Hospital. Born in Brooke, Ontario he was a son of the late Robert & Winnie (VanNatter) Edgar. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Navy, retiring with the rank of Captain. He is survived by his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Russell. Cremation has taken place.

Eric, at left, with his two grandsons, **Robert** and **John**.

From **Eric's** son, **Dan Edgar** (via Facebook):

We held a celebration of Eric Edgar's life yesterday afternoon at the Shearwater Aviation Museum. What an amazing turnout! My dad would have been so honored and pleased.