



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 93, October 2014**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

Well, now... We have a new test kit on its way to a correspondent in Lima, Peru. Since Ancestry.com are no longer in the Y-DNA business, we're using Family Tree DNA, a well-known firm in Houston, Texas.

The new man on the street is **Frank Edgar**, and he introduced himself to **SteveUK** with this email letter:

Hi:

My name is Frank Edgar. I'm from Lima Peru, South America and I'm quite surprised about this project. I didn't know that our family were so extended all over the world. I have the knowledge, even I didn't actually made a good research, that my great grandfather was Thomas Edgar (born 1845 Kircudbright, deceased 1903 Callao). He was a son from John Edgar, but I don't have any further info about it. I know that I still have some relatives in Scotland after my great grandfather's brother: Joseph Edgar. He had a milk farm in a little town called Gilmourstone (seems now it doesn't exist anymore). So I have a very far cousins over there, one of them is Mrs. Lilian Parker Edgar. I want you to know that the original plan of my great grandfather was to catch a ship to Australia or New Zealand from here in 1876. But for a reason I can't explain of, he never achieved it. I guess it was the war that we had in April 1879.

I'm looking forward to get more information about the Edgar family tree between 1830 to 1870 in order to look after a connection with my branch.

Sorry about my poor English, I'm Hispanic and a Spanish speaking person.

I hope you to find this info worthy.

My best regards

Frank Edgar

Lima, Peru

South America

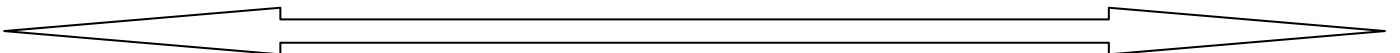
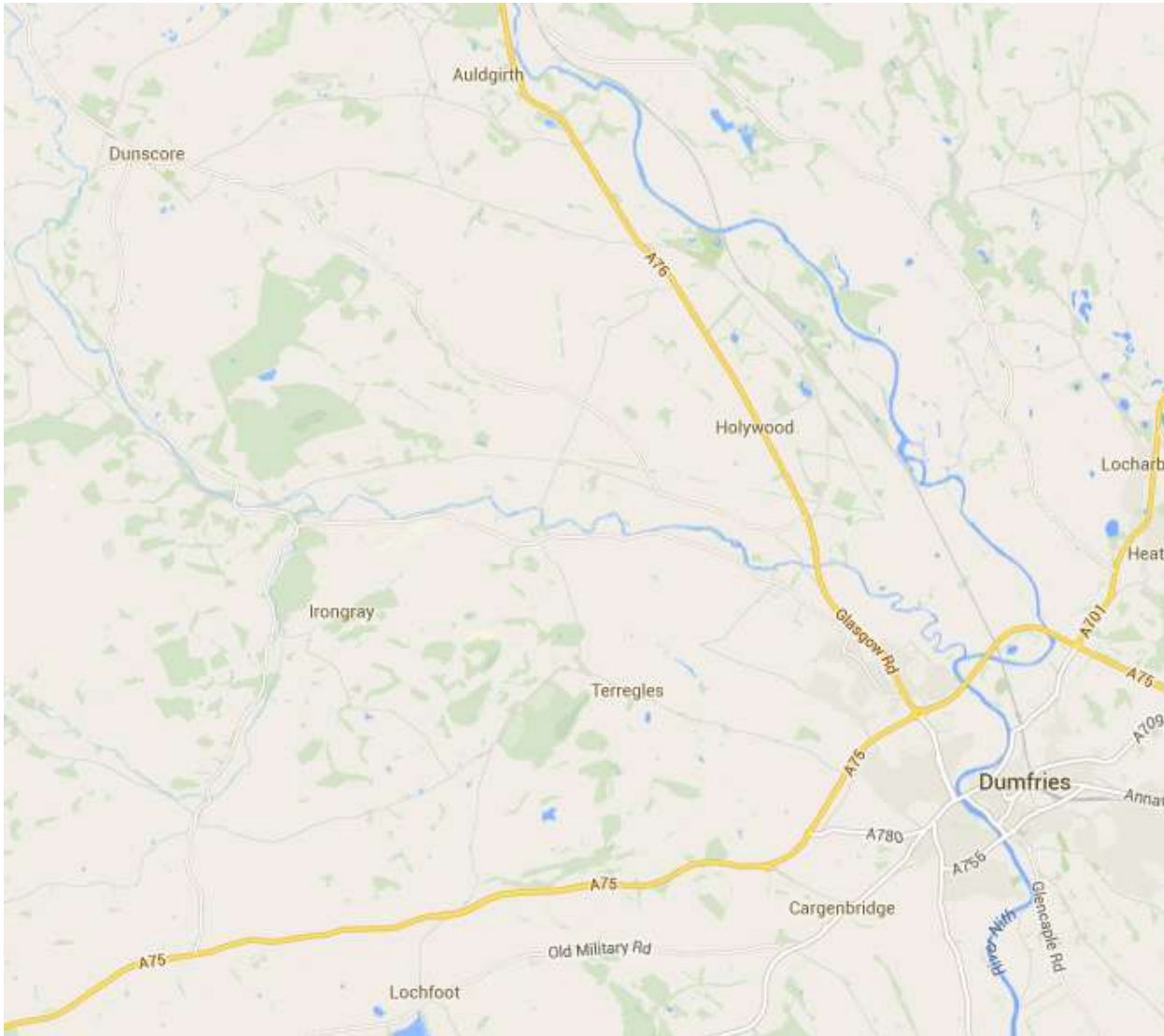
Thus began an email exchange between **SteveUK**, **Frank**, and me, discovering that we already have his great-grandfather on our database. We suspect he is related to a couple of **Edgars** who we have already tested, but the only way to know for sure is to conduct another test, which we have begun. **Frank's** family comes from Holywood, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, which is near where these two originally are from:

Robin Wright Edgar of Moniaive, Scotland; **Brad Edgar** of Littleton, Colorado (his Dad, **Jim Edgar**, was the Governor of Illinois for a couple of terms). **Janet (Edgar) Taylor** and **Claire (Edgar) Sutton** are also in this same family—Haplogroup I2b1, hailing from Caerlaverock, Dalbeattie, and Dunscore, Scotland.

Frank gave us the contact details for a distant relative, **Lilian Parker Edgar** of Kilmarnock, Scotland, who had actually located him and visited in Peru a few years ago. I've emailed **Lilian**, but have yet to receive a response.

Something else **Frank** sent was a Youtube video of him playing guitar. <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=q7V6LZZK7kl>

As we can see from the Google map below, the towns in **Frank's** history, Irongray, Dunscore, and Hollywood, are all in close proximity northwest of Dumfries. Dalbeattie is to the southwest of Dumfries, and Caerlaverock is a bit southeast. It all seems to fit, but we'll wait until we have the DNA test results before we pass final judgement.



Bristol and Jamaica revisited



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

Some time ago I wrote about my research trying to connect Preston Edgar, a pewterer in Bristol, to the Edgar family of plantation owners in Jamaica.

Alexander Edgar 1776-1820 was from Auchingrammont in Edinburgh, and the family had previously invested heavily in the ill-fated Darien Scheme in Central America. This project was flawed from the outset and very nearly bankrupted the whole of Scotland. Millions were invested by institutions and personal investors—all was lost. The result of Scotland's losses in this scheme so weakened the economy it was a contributory factor in the union of Scotland with England; Scotland needed English financial support.



**Alexander Edgar
(by Henry Raeburn)**

The Edgar family finances were such that Alexander borrowed heavily and invested this money in a sugar plantation called Wedderlie in Trelawney, Jamaica, in the late 1700s. He owned numerous slaves and the profits from this plantation did much to rebuild the Edgar finances back in Scotland. During this period in the late 1700s and early 1800s, he and wife Anne Gordon had at least 11 children born in either Edinburgh or Jamaica. From the records, it looks as though they commuted between home in Scotland and the plantation on a regular basis. Alexander's brother, Handyside, was a qualified physician and had married Mary Simpson in Jamaica. They had another plantation called Bounty Hall, not far from the Wedderlie plantation.



Teapot by Edgar and Curtis

Anyway, back to Preston Edgar in Bristol. Preston Edgar had a partnership with Richard Curtis and they manufactured pewter and copper utensils for export. This export formed part of the "slave triangle" across the Atlantic. Trade goods were exported from Britain, in this case pewter and copper goods, to West Africa. Slaves captured in Africa were exported to the West Indies and America; cotton and sugar sent back to Britain. While they were in partnership together, Edgar and Curtis sponsored at least two ships to carry out this trade triangle.

Their first ship was the "Reliance," a 160-ton, 10-gun ship, which had been a prize ship captured earlier from the French. She was reported well in March 1804 and was lost in the Gambia River in 1805. Its trade route was Bristol, the Gambia, and Barbados. There is no description of how she was lost with her "cargo" of 200. This "cargo" would have been 200 slaves with a crew of 20 to be gaolers and to sail the boat. The boat was owned by Cobb Taylor and Co., financed by Curtis and Edgar, it was captained by James Gordon. One would assume that this loss would have been insured, as in 1805 Curtis and Edgar were at it again!

In 1805, they part-owned another prize boat called the "British Tar," a 230-ton, 16-gun vessel with a crew of 16 and again captained by James Gordon. (Coincidentally, Alexander Edgar, the plantation owner in Jamaica was married to Ann Gordon, she had a brother called James (!)). James Gordon must have somehow escaped the loss of the Reliance the year before and made his way back to Bristol to command another ship for Edgar and Curtis. The British Tar left Bristol in November 1805 and reported well in the Gambia River in May 1806, and expected to be on its way to Jamaica in July 1806. However, it did not make it as on July 19 it was reported captured by a French Privateer and taken to Guadeloupe in the West Indies. (One can only hope that the "cargo" of 260 slaves fared better in Guadeloupe than they would have done in Jamaica.)



The Revanche

However, this is not the end of the British Tar. In 1807, Captain John Sherriff of the English vessel HMS Curieux attacked a French vessel, the Revanche, captained by Captain Vidal. Sherriff and six other crewmen were killed, the Curieux's sails were so badly damaged that she had to withdraw from the battle. Damaged, the Curieux had to make repairs in Carlisle Bay, Barbados, before she could continue active service. The Revanche escaped with minor losses.

Going back a few years, the Revanche was reported as a prize ship in 1797 and renamed British Tar after it was sold. It was then used as a slave ship until she was recaptured in 1806 by the French, refitted as a warship, and used to fight the British in the West Indies.

In 1807, the capture of slaves in the whole of the Atlantic was abolished in Britain and her colonies, although slavery still existed on the Caribbean Islands and the mainland of the USA. Slavery was finally abolished by Britain and her colonies in 1833. Huge compensation was paid to these plantation owners for their loss of assets and income when they arrived back in Britain, so much so that most retired on a comfortable income for life.

Preston Edgar and Curtis do not have a record of slave-trading exploits prior to 1804 and, with its abolishment in 1807, left them with only a small timeframe to carry out this trade. Preston Edgar's son, John, aged 22, died in Trelawney Jamaica, in 1805. I see this date and location as an opportunity for the two Edgar families to discuss the importation of slaves from Africa the next year. This again is a pointer to the fact the families in Jamaica and Bristol were related. Also, the fact that Preston Edgar's father was a pewterer in Edinburgh in the mid-1700s gives another clue as to a connection.

The partnership of Preston Edgar and Curtis was dissolved in 1809, and Edgar continued to trade under the name of Preston Edgar and Co., Bristol, into the mid-1800s.

Notice is hereby given, that an Account of Sales of the Head Money Bill for La Revanche French Privateer, and of the Salvage for the Recapture of the Queen of Naples, the 2d of October, 1796, and of the Proceeds of the French Pacquet Sangelle, taken in January last, and of La Nouvelle Eugenie, taken the 11th of May last; all by the Squadrons under the Command of Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. will be deposited in the Registry of the High Court of Admiralty, agreeable to Act of Parliament.

Jos. Hunt, John Wedderburn, David Webster, of London; and Sam. Pellew, of Falmouth, Agents.

London, July 27, 1797:

Notice of the sale of the Revanche



Edgar and Curtis hallmark

Pewter products were popular as the alternatives in clay were brittle and could be broken beyond repair. Aboard ships, ceramics did not last very long and could leave sharp pieces on the decks for the crew to cut themselves in bare feet. Wood and pewter were easily repairable if damaged.

It was a legal requirement that all pewter items produced had to be assayed and hall-marked by the authorities, which gives us the records of what was produced, where it was produced, and where it

was exported to. Most of the Preston Edgar and Curtis wares were exported mainly to the Americas, a few can be found in Britain and can be quite expensive.

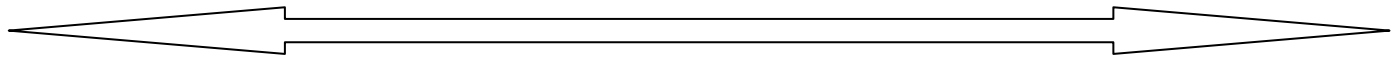


I regularly trawl eBay and Amazon looking for items of Edgar interest, and I was lucky to find this pewter measuring jug made by Preston Edgar and Curtis in about 1800, and I paid only a few pounds for it.

They are quite rare here in the UK and a lot more available in the USA, where some items can command hundreds of dollars on auction sites.

If you can get items cheaply, they can be an investment.

I still have not achieved my goal of linking the Edgars in Jamaica to the Edgars in Bristol, but I think I can now provide a convincing argument as to the likelihood.



Picture time

Jodie and I were in the UK for a couple of weeks in early September, and we have many photos to share. Here's one, taken in Belfast at Rockies Sports Bar, owned by **Jim Graves**, Canadian ex-pat who went there to play hockey and he's been there ever since! He is taking great delight in the photo below, showing off his Saskatchewan licence plates. He also has numerous hockey jerseys hanging from the ceiling, and he proudly pointed out his Melville Millionaires jersey (donation of which was arranged by "you know who"). Also prominently displayed are jerseys from the Yorkton Terriers, Notre Dame Hounds, Weyburn Red Wings, and Estevan Bruins.



Pewter Badges

Are you in the market for the 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



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## More pictures...

While in London, we met up with **Winston Edgar**, his wife **Philipia** and daughter **Angela**. Recall that **Winston**, originally of Jamaica, is one of our DNA testers, and he's in Haplogroup R1b, related to the **Wedderlie Edgars** of Scotland. He's the grandson of a Scottish plantation owner. We spent a lovely few hours together, visiting, sharing a meal, viewing photo albums, and exchanging stories.



*Angela*

*James*

*Jodie*

*Winston*

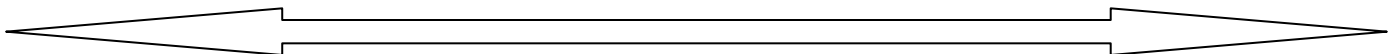
*(photo by Philipia)*

While we were in Ireland, we visited **Jackie** and **Delma Edgar** in Kilkeel, home of my great-great-grandparents and family when they left Ireland to move to Canada in the early 1800s. Of course, nothing would be right unless **Delma** fed us well. This was the table set for tea that awaited us when we arrived—one thing we didn't do while overseas was go hungry!



*Delma Jackie Jodie James*

Just before we sat down for “tea,” I made a quick visit down the road with cousin **Victoria (Edgar) Newell**. Her grandfather, **Samuel Edgar (Jackie’s uncle)**, owned the family farm, Drummanmore, and now she has it, managed by her and her husband. Daughter **Leah** was a bit shy, but son **Adam** was definitely NOT having his picture taken!





We received this clipping from Bob Edgar of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. We don't have this Frank Wallace Edgar in our database, and don't have any further information on him. Anybody out there have anything to add?

[My apologies for the blurry image – I've fixed it up as best I could.]

Chronicle Herald

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## OBITUARIES

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**EDGAR, Frank Wallace** — The passing of Frank Wallace Edgar of Richibucto Road, N.B., husband of Velma (Law) Edgar, occurred on November 19, 2008, in Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital. Born on April 13, 1938, in Owen Sound, Ont., he was the son of the late Wallace and Leona (Lumley) Edgar. He had a full career with the navy and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He then had a career in real estate with several agencies. Frank was a former member of the Lion's Club in Trenton, Ont. He also was an avid Leaf's Fan and enjoyed golfing. In addition to his wife, Frank is survived by his daughter, Shauna Gillman; son, Frank Edgar (Colette), both of Fredericton, N.B.; grandchildren, Matthew, Mitchell, Ryan, Trevor, and Brendan; six great-grandchildren; sister, Lynda Adams (Peter), Toronto, Ont.; brother, Noel (Kathy), Newmarket, Ont.; niece, Jennifer; nephew, Kevin. Besides his parents, Frank was predeceased by his daughter, Patricia. Memorial service will take place at a later date in Ontario. For those who wish remembrances may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Personal condolences may be offered through [www.yorkfh.com](http://www.yorkfh.com).



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