



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 109, February 2016**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)



One of my Christmas gifts last year was a Family Finder test from Family Tree DNA (FTDNA). **Jodie** (Mrs. Poirot) was having her's done, so I (somewhat reluctantly) agreed to do mine, too. My reluctance was based on what I knew about my family—for example, I already knew who my 16 great-great-grandparents were. At least, I knew their names and where they were from, even though some of the dates were a bit murky.

I had already completed a Y-DNA test at FTDNA, so the lab already had some of my cells to use for analysis, and the results came in fairly quickly. **Jodie** had to swab her cheek and send the kit back to the lab; mine was already there, and I now have the results.

I have to publicly apologize to **Jodie**, because I found a match to four firm cousins on the first day! Two I already knew (know)—**Joan Yearsley**, daughter of my 1st cousin, **Naomi (née Edgar) Studd**. I expected that. The other was to a **Jack McRae**, connected to my paternal grandmother, **Christena (McRae) Edgar**.

The third and fourth matches are ancestral connection to my grandmother's grandmother—my gr-gr-grandmother, and my paternal great-grandmother's father (and beyond). I've been in contact via email to both new-found cousins; the third confirms that her and my trees match all the way back to our mutual 8x great-grandfather, b. 1674 in Scotland. The fourth confirms that she traces back to our mutual ancestor, **John Peter Snider**, who was a United Empire Loyalist from New York state, and my gr-gr-grandfather.

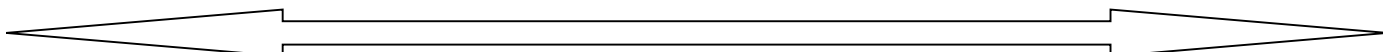
All of this means that I could quickly become a poster boy for the Family Finder test—it works, incredibly well! The limitations are that it doesn't do a very good job of predicting connections further out beyond 5th cousins, but between 1st and 5th cousins, it is quite accurate. Of course, you have to have a paper trail—some sort of tree—so that comparisons can be made to verify any possible leads. The surname I matched to on my mother's ancestry is **Giffen**, so I've since joined the Giffen Project at FTDNA.

When we **Edgars** completed Y-DNA tests, it was for a small set of markers out of the 3 billion or so in the human genome; the popular tests are for 12 markers, 25 markers, 37, 67, and on to 111 markers. The tests done previously at Ancestry.com and Relative Genetics before that were 46- and 42-marker, respectively. A 12-marker test is going to match a male person to about 10% of the world population—pretty coarse and not very helpful beyond establishing one's haplogroup. The 42- to 111-marker tests provide finer and finer detail, allowing the user to zero in on possible matches more and more accurately.

The tools available to Family Finder users on the FTDNA site are numerous, filtering by a variety of choices: name, match date, relationship range, shared cM (the sum of the autosomal DNA, given in centiMorgans, that genetic matches share), longest block, Y-DNA Haplogroup, and mtDNA Haplogroup. Another filter allows for searching on a specific ancestral surname.

The other test **Jodie** got for me is the mtDNA, which traces the female line all the way back to the beginning, which could be tens of thousands of years back. It's useful to determine areas of origin, if that's not already known. Not so useful to determine close relatives. Here's a quote from the [ISOGG](http://www.isogg.org) site:

A **mitochondrial DNA test** (mtDNA test) traces a person's matrilineal or mother-line ancestry using the DNA in his or her mitochondria. mtDNA is passed down by the mother unchanged, to all her children, both male and female. A mitochondrial DNA test, can therefore be taken by both men and women. If a perfect match is found to another person's mtDNA test results, one may find a common ancestor in the other relative's (matrilineal) "information table". However, because mtDNA mutations are very rare, the match will not necessarily be within a genealogical time frame.



Drumlanrig Castle

Years ago, **Robert Edgar** of Monmouth (near Portland) Oregon, sent me a few pages copied from a document entitled *Drumlanrig Castle and the Douglasses: with the early history and ancient remains of Durisdeer, Closeburn, and Morton*.

I was recently rooting around in the filing cabinet and came across **Robert's** envelope, so I looked the document up on the Web and found it available [online](#), digitized by the Internet Archive in 2012 with funding from National Library of Scotland.

Searching through the document on the surname **Edgar** reveals much about our mutual family, away back in the early Scottish history. Here are some tidbits (I'll let you, dear reader, delve into the entire 400 or so pages at your leisure).

On p. 165 (re: Early History of Durisdeer): *Thomas Edgar resided there about the beginning of this century, and was the author of a book of poems entitled, "Poems on various subjects, but chiefly moral and descriptive, with songs and copious notes," by Thomas Edgar: Dumfries, 1822.*

On p. 220 (re: Early History of Closeburn & Dalgarnock): *Though we do not know the founder of Dalgarnock church, there is no doubt of its existence at a very early period. It was sacred to St. Michael (Gordon's Monast., vol. i., p. 146), and hence the place-name of Mitchelslacks. Not many of the churches of Scotland escaped the grasp of the abbey, and Dalgarnock is no exception. It was granted to the monks of Holyrood by Edgar, son of Duvenald, and grandson of Donegal, a Scoto-Irish chief, who lived in the reign of David I, and seems to have possessed the whole of Nithsdale or Stranid. This Edgar lived in the reign of William the Lion (1165-1214)*

On p. 223 (re: Closeburn Church): *We know that Edgar, son of Duvenald, who lived in the reign of William the Lion (1165-1214), had inherited large possessions in Nithsdale from his father, and was a liberal benefactor to the church. To the abbey of Kelso he gave in presence of his son Gylconnel the church of Kylosbern (Gordon's Monasticon, vol. ii., p. 479), and also the church of Dalgarnock, as we have before stated, to the abbey of Holyrood. This donation of the church of Kylosbern was confirmed by Walter, the bishop of Glasgow, in 1232, the very year that Ivan de Kyrkepatric received the barony from Alexander II. (Chart. Kelso, No. 278). [Kelso is about 90 miles east of Closeburn, and deep in the heart of the territory surrounding Wedderlie, the Edgar stronghold for several centuries.]*

On p. 314 (re: Early History of Morton): *We are able also to trace the history of Duvenald, the second son of Dunegal. He obtained a considerable portion of his father's extensive lands in Nithsdale, which he transmitted to his son Edgar, who lived under William the Lion and Alexander II. He granted to the monks of Kelso the church of Morton, with a carucate of land, and this grant was confirmed by William the Lion (Chart. Kelso, No. 344, 401). He also granted to the monks of Holyrood house the church of Dalgarnock, a grant which was also confirmed by William the Lion.*

His daughter Affrica possessed the lands of Dunscore during the reign of Alexander II. She granted to the monastery of Melrose a fourth-part of the territory of Dunscore, and the grant was confirmed by a charter of Alexander II in 1229 (Chart. Mel., No. 103, 104, 105). The scanty records of these times prevent us from being able to trace the succession of this family, but in the thirteenth century they assumed the surname of Edgar. During the reign of Robert Bruce, Richard Edgar possessed the castle and half of the barony of Sancher (Regist. Mag. Sig., 1. 27). He also held the lands of Ellioc in the parish of Sanquhar, the lands of Bartenonade, Lobri, Slochan, Glenabekan, and part of the lands of Kilpatric in the same shire, of all of which he obtained charters from Robert Bruce (Robertson's Index, 12, 13, 21).

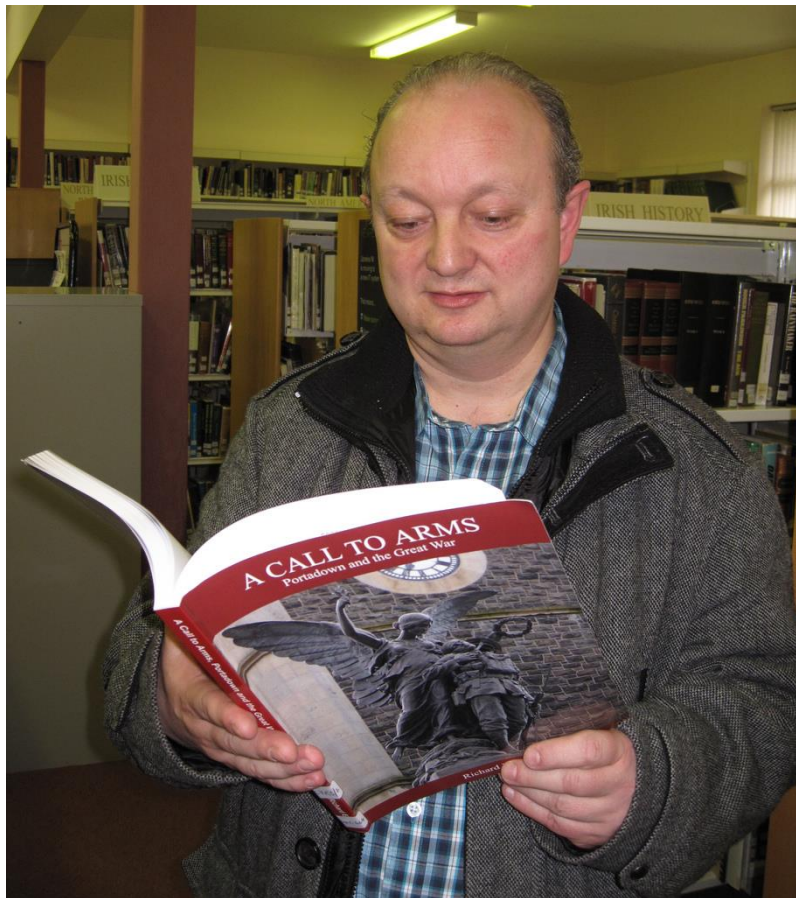
Families of the name of Edgar continued to flourish in the south of Scotland; and an interesting little work, containing a list of such families, and ably edited by Dr. Charles Rogers, 1873, has been published by the Grampian club. They have all probably Duvenald as their common progenitor. The place-name of Edgarstoun in Dunscore hands down to us the site of their manorhouse.

Picture Time

Richard Edgar writes (on Facebook):

I was just on the Libraries NI website, much to my surprise I found this picture, it was taken at the library in the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh, Co Tyrone.

It was taken a year ago, they were doing what they called "shelvies" taking pictures of people reading books off their shelves; they wanted me with my own book.



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Angela's Links

Protect and identify those precious heirlooms for future generations

<http://justapharmgirl.blogspot.ca/2011/11/keeping-track-of-those-heirlooms-and.html>

Edgars of Auchingramont, Edinburgh

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



I had an email from Robert Stewart, a descendant of the Rev James Stewart who married Priscilla Edgar in the mid 1700s. He stated that Priscilla was the daughter of Alexander Edgar and Margaret Edgar. Margaret was the daughter of James Edgar. Alexander was the son of Alexander from Edinburgh. This is an instance of two branches of the same family reconnecting. Both lines were from Wedderlie.

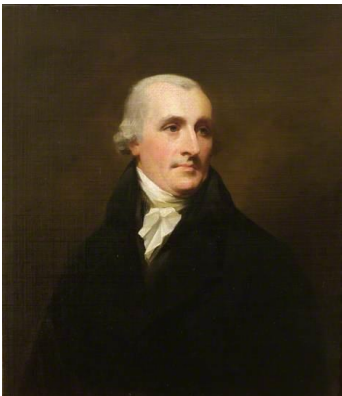
I don't have a lot of information on the children of Alex and Margaret, enough gaps to convince me that there were potentially missing children.

Margaret's parents were James Edgar 1667-1737 and Priscilla Handyside 1679, they married in Edinburgh in 1710. They had recorded family from 1749 to 1776.

So, the "smoking gun" name of Priscilla being the name from her grandmother fits. Add to this the "possible" child of Priscilla had a brother, his name was.... wait for it....Handyside Edgar! Wow! [Ed: sometimes spelled "Handaside" or "Handasyde".]

This is the family of the plantation owners in Jamaica. Margaret and Alex's son, Alexander, married Anne Gordon in Jamaica in 1797, one of their children was named James Handyside Edgar. Another example of the name continuing through the generations.

OK, so we have a smoking gun. The clincher is if you search for anyone named Priscilla in Scotland, you find it to be very rare.



Alexander Edgar

Jamaica Edgars

If you can cast your mind back to a previous issue, I had found that the son of Preston Edgar a pewter maker from Bristol had a son die in Jamaica. He died in the same parish as the Edgar plantation in St Marys, Trelawney, Jamaica. The question I raised was that there must be a connection. It could be chance, but I doubted it.

The family of Preston Edgar 1782–1858 was father Preston Edgar 1760–1841, mother Rebecca Candy 1761- Grandfather John Edgar 1720- Gr-grandfather James Edgar 1689–1734 Edinburgh.

Along this line there is a brief connection to Liverpool, but they suddenly appear in Bristol as a prosperous family. In the 1600s and early 1700s, a lot of trade and commercial interests were on the UK east coast. Edinburgh was a major trading centre with Scandinavia and northern Europe. (Edgars are found in Dansk, Poland, and East Anglia. As the New World of the Americas open up and the slave trade proved to be so lucrative, trade moved from the east coast to the west coast of Britain, Liverpool and Bristol being the principal gateways to the Americas.

So, a move from Edinburgh would be logical, especially when part of your family owns a plantation in the West Indies.

Whilst I was helping Robert Stewart trace information on Priscilla Edgar, I was referring to the book "An account of the Sirname Edgar," published by the Grampian Society in the 1800s. I came across this passage:

*On page 32. Proclamation of marriage : Sabbath 4th July 1742. Mr Alexander Edgar, Residenter and Margaret Edgar, dau of the deseased James Edgar **Pewtherer** burgess both in West Kirk Parish.*

This is the same James Edgar who was the great-grandfather of Preston Edgar. His business was pewtering; his son John moved from Edinburgh to Liverpool (briefly) and then on to Bristol. The family had the cash resources to set the business up quickly and make good profits.

In conclusion, the reason John Edgar was in Jamaica when he died was that there WAS a family connection. They may well have been trading with Jamaica in either pewter or slaves (the Edgars of Bristol sponsored two slave ships that were lost in the Gambia river, there could well have been more that were successful).

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

Last month, I wrote a letter to Jennifer Edgar in Toledo, Ohio (I do this on a monthly basis, just to open new doors). I got her address from one of the "free" tracing websites. The names Lyle E, Lee A., and Jennifer Edgar all being associated at the same address was enough to lead me to believe that this family were cousins from Co. Armagh originally.

About a month later I got an email from Jennifer! Wow, yes, she is married to Lee and yes, he is the son of Lyle E, Edgar tracing back to Fulton, Ohio, and previously to Ireland

We have had interesting email conversations and I have updated my family tree with their children and cousins. In one of the emails she told me of a chance meeting:

Several years ago we were skiing on our lake, we passed the boat launch (it was NASCAR race weekend) Some of the fans at the racetrack near our lake (Michigan International Speedway) tend to come to OUR boat launch to cool off or take a dip in the water since they camp at the track and probably want to sort of take a bath!

In 2012 we ski past a bunch of people swimming at our public launch and one particular man starts waving at us madly!! Of course we wave back each time we make a ski pass.

When I was done skiing I dropped in the water near the proximity of the boat launch. This guy waves again and yells to us, "Hey can my son and I get a boat ride around the lake???" Now mind you normally we do not just pick up strange people to jump on the boat but for some odd reason since he at the time has a young son we thought what the heck!! We picked up both him and his son, rode around, let him watch us ski, offered to take his son for a pull etc.. all in all about a hour ride. While on the boat he told us his name was John and that he was from Chicago and comes in to town every June to see the races.



As we got to drop him off I take his picture with his son on the boat, I tell him now every June be sure to flag us down we will take you for a ride! I ask for his email to send said picture and he precedes to write tell me his email address is;---- get this, ---JEDGAR@..., I say "wait a minute. repeat that ????" he says again J Edgar@. I ask excuse me WHAT is your last name??? he says EDGAR!! oh wow!!!!

All this time we were taking another Edgar, a few minutes earlier a complete stranger for a ride and to find out his name was John Edgar! Boy did we laugh! promised him every year a boat ride and now ever year in June he stops in for a ride!! I have his phone number and Email will pass to you later! Nice guy!! Will try to contact him for you tonight. Jennifer.

I sent an email to John to open yet another connection (hopefully to my family as well) and a day later I got this reply:

hello john edgar here from braidwood illinois have to get back to you on birthdays i can tell you my family from scotland we have also traced back way back we are from the maxwell clan in scotland

I'm hopeful I'll hear from John soon.

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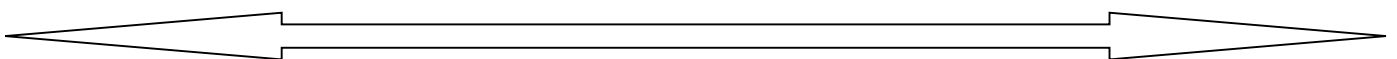
Pewter Badges

Looking to buy the **Edgar Crest**? At \$18, plus shipping, they make a great Christmas gift. (Pewter buttons also available.)

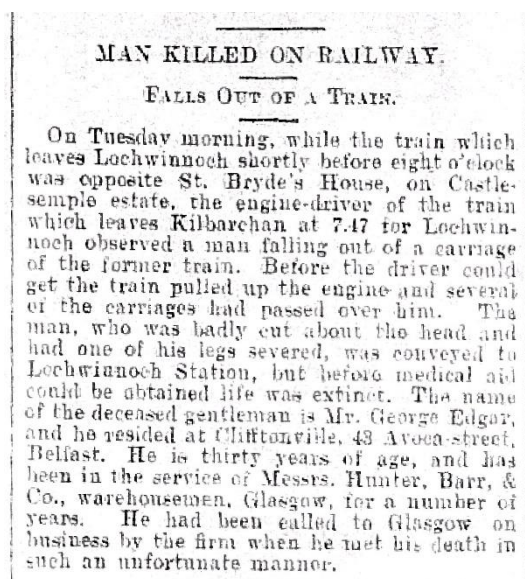
The proceeds over cost go to the Edgar DNA Trust Fund, to help with our DNA quest.

The order of 50 more badges has arrived, just in time for post-Christmas shopping.

Email me at james@jamesedgar.ca



Daniel Edgar of Stoke-on-Trent sends this clipping from a newspaper of old, describing the unfortunate death of his grandfather.



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From Marti Mace:

Edgar Reunion get together 2016 October 21-23 in Cleburne, Texas, at Cleburne State Park. Bring your RV, tents or if you choose, you can stay in Cleburne at one of the hotels...just Google those if you choose. See price listings for all at the Cleburne State Park. If you fly in, Dallas would be the nearest airport. This reunion will be in honor of Max Edgar the RV man! So give it your best to make it! For those who want to play golf with Max...He thinks he'll have his golf clubs out to go play as well at the nearby golf course. Bring your bicycles as there are plenty of bike or hiking trails.

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Commonly used Genealogical terms

AE or AEt	Age	ob juv	Died as a juvenile
b.	Born	ob coel	Died as a bachelor
Bap or Bapt	Baptised	ob inn	Died as a spinster
bd, bu, bur, burd,	Buried	ob s p	Died without issue
coh or coh'r	Coheir	ob s p leg	Died without lawful issue
co. or com.	In the county of	ob s p mas	Died without male issue
d.	Died	ob s p s	Died without surviving issue
da or dau	Daughter	ob v p	Died in the lifetime of father
fil et haer	Son and heir	s	Son
h	Heir	s & h	Son and heir
fr ap or appart	Heir apparent	temp	In the time of
m. md. or mar	Married	unmar	Unmarried
na or nat	Born	viv or vix	Was living or lived in the time of
ob	Died	wid	Widow
ob inf	Died as an infant	x	Extinction of branch