



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 116, September 2016**

FINAL NEWSLETTER



DNA Update

by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)



John Coburn, who is an acquaintance through the Regina Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, seemed like a perfect person to test, ultimately to see if he matched the rest of the Cockburn/Dunbar/Edgar males. His test was purchased through the Edgar DNA Trust Fund (more on this below). So, we will see what that brings.



When **SteveUK** and I set out on the genealogical journey that began in 2003 by me answering a query **Steve** had placed on an Internet message board: “Anybody out there got family from Northern Ireland in the late 1700s?” (or words to that effect), it was a great adventure—we were going to find out all about our families and our relationships. After searching for nearly four years, which included hiring two different researchers in Ireland, our DNA tests proved that not only were we not directly related, it seemed a pure fluke that we had the same surname! He’s an E1b1 Haplotype and I’m an I1. We’ve visited Ireland seven times, and Scotland three times, searching for clues.

We broadened our DNA search to include Edgars from all over, first with **Richard** in Ireland (he’s an R1b), then **SteveTO** in Oakville, Ontario (he’s an I1, and related to me), then **Bill** in Melbourne, Australia (another I1, related to me). In 2006, when **SteveUK**, my brother **SteveBC**, and I toured Ireland together, we found the Edgars in Benagh, just outside Kilkeel. **Jackie**’s test proved him to be an I1, related to me (we’re still not sure how, since there are no records to show that detail) and directly related to **Bill** in Melbourne—they have the same gr-gr-grandfather.

That’s three different Haplotypes. Then we tested some more. **SteveUK** and I would take a handful of test kits generously supplied by Relative Genetics and later by Ancestry.com, phone Edgars out of the directory in Ireland and Scotland, go to their door and take the cheek swab right there. One we even did on the sidewalk outside a fish shop in Arbroath (**Colin Edgar** – R1b).

David Edgar of Annalong, near Kilkeel, introduced a new DNA type—I2b1, which made four distinct Haplotypes, all with the Edgar surname. **David**’s sister **Ann** married a **John (Archibald John) Edgar** in Kilkeel. When we asked **David** if **John** was a relative, he said he didn’t think so. But the DNA test for **John** proved that **Ann** and he were indeed cousins—not close, mind you, but related just the same. That same day, we tested **Lee Edgar** in Kilkeel, an R1b—that made three different DNA types, all named Edgar, in and around that small town!

Soon, we were able to match up family lines and we found geographic concentrations of Haplotypes. **SteveUK**’s family were in Co. Armagh and Newry, originally farmers, then later his ancestors owned a ropeworks in Newry. His Haplotype originated near Macedonia—a descendant of a Roman Soldier? Interestingly, his family tree goes back to 1795 and stops dead—a true brickwall. My tree is the same. I know my gr-gr-grandfather, **Charles Edgar**, was born about 1772 in Ireland, but before that, who knows? The difference is that I know there are Edgars who share the same DNA type still living in the same area in Northern Ireland that my family came from. Plus, there are others who have no Ireland history, **SteveTO**, for example, who traces back to Keithock in Scotland. My family must have connections there, too—the DNA doesn’t lie!

The area that we lovingly refer to as the Dromara Triangle in central Co. Down (Ballynahinch, Banbridge, Dromore, Saintfield, Carryduff, Comber) is mainly populated with I2b1 Edgars, closely related to the **McKee** family, who fought side by side at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690, and were given land in Ireland as reward for their efforts.

The R1bs are directly descended from **Cospatrick III**, 2nd Earl of Dunbar, who inspired the Dunbar, Cockburn, and Edgar families (plus a bunch more!). This branch of Edgars was also close friends with **Robert the Bruce**, who gave the Edgars land for the manor house known as Wedderlie. **King Robert** also gave the castle known as Sanquhar, northwest of Dumfries, jointly to the Edgars and Crichtons (an Edgar married a Crichton). The castle is in ruins now, testament to why one should not build a castle out of sandstone! These Sanquhar Edgars (or Nithsdale Edgars) are I2b1s, and were always considered cousins to the Wedderlie R1b Edgars. My I1 Edgars are Viking descendants, and the I2b1s are of Saxon origin.

So, it's quite likely that my conjecture is correct—that these different DNA groups came about as a result of illegitimate births maintaining the Edgar surname, either because the woman who bore the child kept her maiden name (an NPE=Non-Paternal Event), or her parents raised the child, using their surname, or some such mechanism. What I'm saying is that we're all related, if we were able to look back to see what happened 1000 years ago. Of course, no records exist to prove me right or wrong, so it's a sound conjecture, until someone does prove me wrong!

In addition to the four main Haplotypes, there are two others with only one person each, both of Asian origin—one, **James Eager**, is a Native American in Haplogroup J (Western Asia), and the other, **Eric Robledo Edgar** of Mexico, is in Haplogroup O (Eastern Asia).

We've done over 160 DNA tests in the last 10 years, finding Edgars in such diverse places as South Africa and Peru, plus Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Ireland, Scotland, and England. We're confident that the Edgars originated in Scotland, and probably another group arose independently in England.

We've pretty much exhausted the testing landscape—there are few places where we haven't explored, and few Edgar families we don't know about. Jodie and I have 115 different trees resulting from these tests on our computer database, plus 28,000 names of other Worldwide Edgars!

If anyone wants to know about who is on a particular tree, we welcome inquiries.

With that, I'm signing off as Editor for this final Edgar Events newsletter. I'll maintain all 116 editions on my site for as long as I can (www.edgargen.ca). It has been a great adventure, as I said at the beginning, and we had no idea where it would lead, but we sure have had an enjoyable time doing this, meeting new family members and making lasting friendships. I'll always cherish the many encouraging emails we've received over the past ten years.

Pewter Badges

I have 48 **Edgar Crests** left, and will continue to take orders. At \$18, plus shipping, they make a great gift.

Email me at james@jamesedgar.ca

A few pewter buttons are also available.



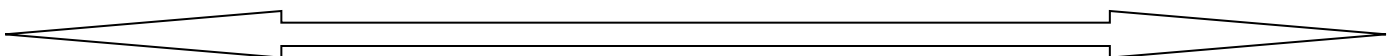
Picture Time

From **David Leslie Edgar** of Guildford, England, I recently got this email and image:

Hi James.

Attached is photo of a family group at our Diamond Anniversary. Margaret and I are centre surrounded by our four children and eleven grandchildren. Only one grand-daughter could not attend as she is teaching English in Japan. The family crest, as a kilt pin on our eldest son's kilt, is in clear view, but can you spot another one?

David.



End of an era



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

James and I had a late-night discussion (late-night for him, early morning for me!) about the future of the Edgar Events Newsletter. We started this project back in July 2006 after we sat in a cafe on a wet day in Newry, Co. Down, with four different members of Edgar families, Richard, James, SteveBC, and me. Were we related? Who knows! We decided to use a DNA test as suggested by

James's wife, Jodie.

Our opening newsletter says it all:

The idea behind this newsletter is, as the title suggests, to publish news, history, and research items to members of the Edgar family worldwide. We all have our stories and family traditions and most importantly we are all searching for our roots. By sharing our histories, we hope to help each other with what we know—hopefully to introduce ourselves to each other and maybe help make connections back in time.

My own personal goal is to produce an Edgar family tree that covers the whole of N. Ireland, very optimistic! James Edgar from Melville, Saskatchewan, and I will be producing this newsheet every two months to try to collate all the latest news and views. In this, the first issue, we will be relating both James' and my known histories. Issue No. 2 will have Richard Edgar's history from Portadown in N. Ireland and hopefully another story/history will be sent in by one of the many Edgar folk I have e-mailed regarding this project.

We will also have a meeting page where Edgars from all over can get together via e-mail. To initially avoid spammers and unsolicited junk mail I will be e-mailing directly to you all using a group e-mail. Then after a while I will publish this on the Internet. If you have friends and family you want to include let me have their e-address and I will include them.

We will be setting up a small forum for individuals to ask for research help you need, send your details/requirements and I will enter a contact line for example: "James Edgar, Canada researching Edgars from Kilkeel Co Down pre 1800" if this matches your research contact me and I will put you in direct contact with James.

Reading the above again after 10 years I realise how naïve we were in our ambitions, but clear on our goals.

It is not possible to produce to produce a family tree for N Ireland, nor is it possible to do the same thing for Scotland. The records simply don't exist—they're not lost—they were never made or they have been destroyed. But, what we have achieved is a DNA map to suggest we are all one family. We have enough DNA results to confirm families and near or far cousins.

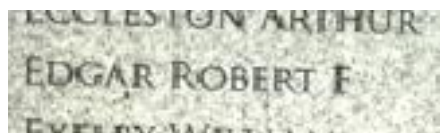
We now have a research database, a mine of information for future researchers. Our origins are no longer an absolute mystery; it is the detail that confounds us, and unless new records or techniques become available, there is little more we can do.

James and I agree that the website should stay in place. It costs only a few dollars per year to maintain and we have about \$200 in the "kitty," which will do nicely to keep it going.

In the meantime, James (Jim-Bob as I affectionately call him) and I will be still here. If anyone has questions we're still here to answer them.

I have to say it's been 10 years of pleasure, we've met some wonderful people, had lots of fun, exchanged emails with hundreds of Edgars and have enjoyed the experience.

As my final contribution, I have a photograph of the memorial column at Piccadilly Station in Manchester.



Robert Francis Edgar was my 1st cousin, twice removed. He was the son of John Hugh Edgar and Eliza Jane Paul, both from Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

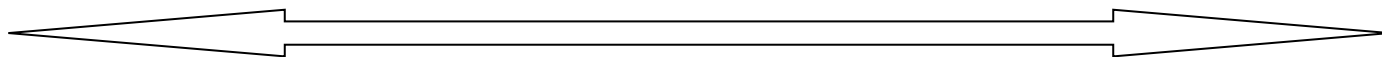
Robert was born in Manchester, Lancashire, in 1887; he married Elizabeth Shaw in 1911. Their son, John Hugh, born in 1913, sadly died in 1917 when he set fire to himself whilst playing with matches.

Robert died in Gallipoli, Turkey in 1915 during that campaign in the First World War.

He is buried there. The line is extinct.

Finally, I think we have achieved what we set out to do.

We are most thankful for your contributions, feedback, and criticisms. Without you, it would not have been possible.



We honour Lt. Clyde Edwin Edgar, USN, who died just over 51 years ago while training for the Vietnam war.

<https://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/ltjg-clyde-edwin-edgar-usn>

In an email from [Martie Lottering@yahoo.com](mailto:Martie_Lottering@yahoo.com)

I've got the following information about my Edgar line of family:

Job Edgar married to Nann Edgar (Henderson)

Only son - William Edgar

William Edgar married to Mary Ann Edgar (Gough). He died in 1877.

Children:

1. James Thomas Gough (1840 - 1915) married to Arabella Johanna with son John Honiball Edgar married to Alida Maria with daughter Frances Alice Auditore

2. Mary Ann Edgar (1849 - ?) married to George Jones

3. Ann Edgar

4. Richard Edgar

5. Joseph Thomas Edgar (1847 - 1902) married to Hermina Johanna (Delpport) (? - 1901) with children:

1. Alida Maria Edgar (1870 - 1905)

2. Mary Ann Edgar (1872 - 1947)

3. Hermina Johanna Edgar (1877 - ?)

4. Joseph Thomas Edgar (1876 - 1967)

Joseph Thomas Edgar married Hester Barendina Nell (1876 - 1954)

Children:

1. Joseph Thomas (1896 - 1927)

2. Jacob Hermanus (1898 - 1969)

3. Willem Johannes (1900 - ?)

4. Frederick Louis

5. Johanna Susanna

6. Petrus Johannes Jacobus

7. Baden Alfred

8. Mary Ann

9. Ester Gertha

10. James Gough

11. Hermina Johanna (1905 - 1979)

Hermina Johanna Edgar married Andries Stephanus Botes

This is my grandmother.

Maybe there is someone out their related to one of the above mentioned people.

Martie

