



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history – No. 23, December 2008**



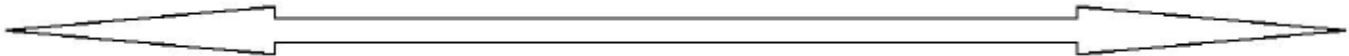
## DNA Update

by James Edgar (Editor) ([jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net))



The year is coming to a close, and I have to say it has been a good one for our family history quest: We've added several new branches to various trees; received some new DNA test results; and located Edgars all over the world. Our Ancestry.com site now boasts numerous Members and Guests, and test results on our comparison page (see Steve UK's December contribution below).

I got news last week that Robert Edgar of Oregon had received his test kit and has mailed it back already; ditto for Desmond Edgar of South Africa. Following up on suggestions from Desmond and his cousin, Jim Edgar of Arkansas, I spoke to several different members of their family, some in the USA, some in South Africa, and some in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland. We are closer now to seeing these two results – Robert and Desmond – perhaps by Christmas? My first guess is that the DNA result will show Desmond to be Haplogroup I or I1b. Robert may be the same, or perhaps R1b. Just guessing, mind you. Some new joiners include Calvin Eggers (see his story below) and Jim Baxter. We don't know how they fit in, but their DNA distantly matches some of the Edgars in Haplogroup R1b. Perhaps their history will shed some light on the many, and various, R1b people. Then we have Tara Corona (what a delightful name!) who asked to join a couple of weeks back. She's had family health problems and will get back on track with us shortly. Finally, I neglected to welcome Sharlene Miller, who in September contributed her male relative's DNA results; and Judy Lynn joined up recently, too.



Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))

## The Edgar DNA group

It might surprise you all to know that the Edgar DNA group within Ancestry.com is one of the largest. We have 83 signed in members/guests and 40 tested members and thanks to the various Edgar websites lots of enquiries. I think two new enquiries per week would give an accurate idea of how things are progressing. Our monthly newsletter, —Edgar Events.|| has a worldwide circulation of 140, which is quite remarkable for a small family name.

More to the point, we have a good number of active members who are busy beavering away, poking and prodding into the history books, trying to find the truth behind our name.

I do want to dwell on that word —truth.|| There are lots of Edgar family stories, Robert the Bruce's best

man, four Edgar brothers at the Battle of the Boyne, James Edgar, secretary to James Edward Stuart, Edgar brothers from Germany, etc. No doubt, you will have heard some or all of the above, but how true are they? Well, from what we can ascertain, they are all likely to be true, BUT, not connected. The stories are about Edgars, but have probably been absorbed or collected by our ancestors, after all, don't each of us want to be a relative of the man who was Robert the Bruces's best man?

The hard bit is trying to find out who is who and which is which and tracing them back to their ancestor. We do know who the original Edgars were; we also know who we are now over the past 200 years or so. However, filling the gap is the trick. We are approaching the solution slowly and getting there. Every month we seem to come up with another theory, only to be shot down the next! But, this is the strength of our group, we are not afraid of being proved wrong! In fact, James insists on it! Whatever he hypothesizes always comes with the caveat *"or prove me wrong – please!"* This openness has led to great progress in our research and is moving us forward.

We know that there was an Edgar in Sanquhar in upper Nithsdale. We have a lot of detail of the family, who were they, what they owned, what they did, etc. But, which Edgars were they? My theory (another one!) is that they were the I and I1bs.

I have based this on:

- 1) they still live in farming communities in the same area
- 2) they are spread over a very local area around the Irish Sea
- 3) Their DNA overall is very similar

The Edgars from Wedderlie are an older family from the Berwick on Tweed area, I think that they are the I1a group, based on:

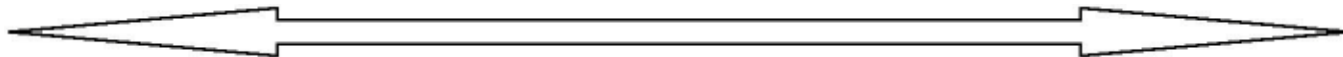
- 1) they are the oldest DNA group
- 2) they have a connection to Norway, which fits with the history
- 3) They are no longer indigenous in the area; again this matches the history.

Somehow the two families have mixed up their history over time and this remains our prime objective for the future.

The —other|| Edgars are more likely adoptions, illegitimates, or fosterings into the two main families. There is a possibility that there is truth in the McGreggors=Edgars, De Guerre = Edgar, etc. There is even hope that there is truth behind stories of the children of the Kings Edgar (Scottish and English).

**Those are my suppositions. What do you think? In James's words, if you think I haven't got it right ..... *"prove me wrong -please!"***

Contact me at [steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com)



## What is an Ulster Scot?

I found this on Wikipedia... [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster\\_Scots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster_Scots)

Ulster Scots, also known as Ullans, Hiberno-Scots, or Scots-Irish, refers to the variety of Scots (sometimes referred to as Lowland Scots in contradistinction to the Gaelic language of the Highlands) spoken in parts of the province of Ulster – in East Antrim, north Down, north-west Co. Londonderry and also in the fishing villages of the Mourne coast. It is one of three Anglic dialects spoken in Ulster, along with Mid-Ulster English (around the Lagan and Clogher valleys) and the Gaelic-influenced English of Donegal, the Sperrin mountains and the Glens of Antrim.

Native speakers traditionally called it simply Scots, Braid (or broad) Scots or Scotch (see Scotch) – as did James Orr in *The Irish Cottier's Death and Burial*: “To quat braid Scotch, a task that foils their art; For while they join his converse, vain though shy, They monie a lang learn'd word misca' an' misapply.”

Ullans is a portmanteau neologism merging Ulster and Lallans – the Scots for Lowlands – coined by the physician, amateur historian, and politician Dr. Ian Adamson. The magazine of the Ulster-Scots Language Society is also named Ullans, ostensibly from “Ulster-Scots language in literature and native speech” but ultimately from the other contraction. The German linguist Manfred Görlach differentiates between the term “Ulster Scots” (the historical spoken variety) and “Ullans” (the revived literary variety).

[And here's a bit about that beloved son of Dumfries, Robert Burns, shamelessly borrowed from the Ulster Scots Agency site [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com). January 25 is —Burns Night worldwide. Ed.]

### Robert Burns – The Ulster Connection

By Nelson McCausland, Director, The Ulster-Scots Heritage Council



Burns holds a central position in the Ulster-Scots literary tradition and had a profound influence on the later 18th and early 19th century group of Ulster poets known as the —rhyming weavers.||

When the first edition of Burns poems, known as the Kilmarnock edition, was published in July 1786, extracts were printed in the —Belfast News Letter|| – the first paper in Ulster and probably the first in the British Isles to do so. Thereafter Burn's poetry appeared frequently in the pages of that newspaper. Indeed it published many pieces from the —Ayrshire Ploughman|| before they appeared in

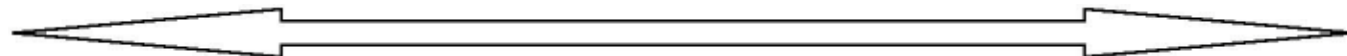
any collection edition of his works!

For a' that and a' that It's coming yet for a' that That Man to Man the world o'er Shall brothers be for a' that (A Man's a Man for a' that) Such was the impact of Burns in Ulster that the first edition of his poetry printed outside Scotland was in Belfast. The Edinburgh edition appeared in 1787 and James Magee of Bridge Street, Belfast, reprinted and republished it in the same year. The influence of Burns in Ulster was such that it was said there was a time when there were but two books in Ulster homes, the Bible and Burns. Ulster people read his poetry and understood it. So much so, that in many old copies there was no need for a glossary since many of the Scots words were common in Ulster and needed no explanation.

## The Linenhall Library

Andrew Gibson was a native of Ayrshire who settled in Belfast. He was a governor of the Linenhall Library and one of the Presidents of the Belfast Scottish Association. A Burns enthusiast, he collected over 2000 volumes of Burns and Burnsiana. The collection was purchased by public subscription in 1901 and placed in the Linenhall Library, Belfast. It is rightly regarded as one of the best collections in the world.

Robert's granddaughter, Eliza Everitt, had lived in Belfast's York Street area. Her daughter kindly entrusted Eliza's collection of books and portraits to the Linenhall Library.



[This message came from Bob Webb of Texas, an early convert from the Relative Genetics days, now re-joining the group at Ancestry.com. Ed.]

Hi James and Steve,

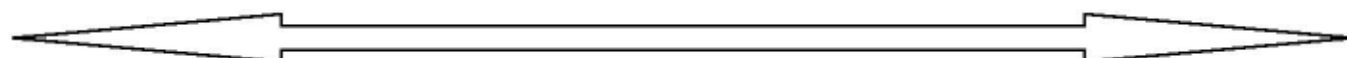
It worked and I successfully visited for the first time since the merging into Ancestry.com! Thanks for the help with my access.

The website is awesome! You guys have really created something here, very worthwhile, and very impressive! I know this didn't happen by accident or easily. Thanks for all you two have done (and continue to do) to make this possible and to continually improve it. I am "jaw dropping stunned" at how cool it is and how much it's grown and improved since I last visited.

Things are settling down a little at my work now. Hopefully, I can stay in closer touch and get back on the "genealogy trail" again in the coming months. I'm yearning to get back "into the hunt."

All the best,

Bob



[This is from an email received from Calvin (Cal) Eggers, who asked to join us – his DNA matches some on our Group site. When I first heard from him, I thought he would be a relative of the Bill Eggers we already have on-site, except he's not!. Ed.]

Hello. My name is Calvin (or Cal) Eggers and I may be a —misfit|| in the Edgar group. I recently had my Y-DNA tested and was disappointed to find only three in the Eggers group on-line. At the suggestion of another Eggers, I also joined the Edgar group. After all, occasionally headwaiters have lost my reservation under —Edgar.|| I was glad to find a couple of distant R1b matches, though I am a neophyte in understanding the DNA results.

I have seen Eggers/Egger described as a variant of Edgar, with a military-based meaning. I have also seen the surname Eggers described with a German origin meaning plowman or harrow. Since my ancestors were German and were farmers (weren't all of ours at one time!) that felt like a more natural

definition. Certainly, there are many possibilities, including multiple lines of each family, unrelated to each other, Eggers morphing into Edgar, or Edgar morphing into Eggers. Based on Web postings, there appear to be multiple Eggers lines, not necessarily related to each other.

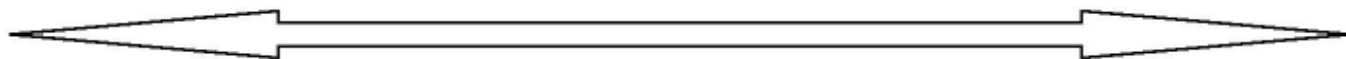
My paternal ancestors are from Lamstedt, Germany. At the time of their immigration to Missouri in the U.S. in 1842, Lamstedt was part of the Kingdom of Hannover, then part of Prussia, and then the German Republic. It is a small village in what is now Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) between Hamburg and Bremerhaven. I was born in Perry County in southeast Missouri, and have been in Pittsburgh, PA, most of my adult life. I have degrees in electrical engineering, and worked in computer process control, component quality, and medical-device quality and regulatory processes. I have been semi-retired for several years, but continue to consult to medical-device companies.

We have compiled much of the family tree and history of our line, going back to 1722. It is hosted on a FTM-sponsored Web site. If anyone is interested, the easy way to find it is to Google my full name: —Calvin W. Eggers||  
([familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/e/g/g/Calvin-W-Eggers/index.html](http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/e/g/g/Calvin-W-Eggers/index.html) ).

The —book on the Web site gives some of the background of our family, both in Germany and in Missouri. You can click on the older trees (Harm Eggers), but those with living members are restricted.

Hoping to learn more about DNA and family connections through this group.

Best regards, Cal Eggers



Finally, a photo from one of my trips to the UK — this one of some cheerful daffodils growing at the roadside near Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope. In the throes of winter, we need something like these lively sprouts to give our spirits a lift.

Happy Holidays to all!

