



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 30, July 2009**



Note: Thanks to David Edgar of Guildford for the snappy new Edgar Crest shown at top. It's taken from a pewter pin he owns, now out of stock. If there were enough interest, he could arrange to get some cast in lots of 100.

Happy 4th Anniversary!

We have been sending out Edgar Events newsletters since July 2006, so this marks our fourth year of continuous publication.

DNA Update



by James Edgar (Editor) (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

Shortly after Steve and I returned from our recent trip to Ireland, England, and Wales, I decided to conduct a “fishing trip” by trolling the on-line Scotland phone directory for Edgars. I thought by writing to the male Edgars there, we might stimulate interest in our DNA research and our quest for Edgar history. I wrote a covering letter, included my printed address and phone number on a business card, and sent them off to 150 different addresses in Aberdeen, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Moffat, and Stranraer. The mailout left here on Monday, June 1, and I was receiving responses on Friday, June 5! Amazing!!

As you can well imagine, some people may be a bit reluctant to respond to a letter asking for money, or, perhaps even more suspicious, seeking to take some DNA for “scientific research”! Nevertheless, I have received eight responses by already, two of which have generated new DNA tests: **Laurence Edgar** from Glasgow, and **Harry Edgar** from Edinburgh. I’ll keep you posted about further progress.

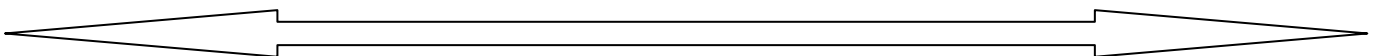
On another tack, we have four other DNA tests in the offing — **Michael**, whom I wrote about in the last issue, and three new project members, **David**, **Jackie**, and **Keith**.

David Edgar lives in Guildford, England, and is descended from the Edgars of Wedderlie, according to his own research. He has been on the trail for over 30 years, and has a vast knowledge of his family history. We are pleased that he has agreed to join us. If **David** is correct, *i.e.* if the DNA proves him right, he may well be my cousin!

Jackie Edgar lives in Mesquite, Texas, and is a cousin to **Jim Edgar** of Georgia, whose DNA test results we already have on our family group, arranged by his cousin, **Joyce Phipps**.

Jackie found us by searching on [James Edgar's Web site](#), and then emailing **SteveUK**, following up on the “Edgar Family DNA Project” message there. **Jackie** has posted his family tree on our family group site at [ancestry.com](#), so go there and have a look.

Keith Edgar is a co-worker of **Richard Edgar**’s in Portadown, Northern Ireland. **Richard** convinced **Keith** to take the test, so we have results coming from Omagh, Co. Tyrone, for the first time.



Now, it's picture time...

This is one that Steve took while we visited St. Patrick's in Newry, where Steve's 3rd-great-grandmother, Jane (Burns) Edgar, is buried. The silverware is a beautiful study in light and shadow.



This was the first time in five years that we had been able to enter the sanctuary of St. Patrick's – on all the other times, there was nobody around to let us in. The groundskeeper was quite willing to let us look at their old records, and photograph the church interior.

At right is the Minister who probably buried Jane Edgar in 1853 — the Venerable F. King, D.D.



We loved this beautiful example of the ornate stained-glass windows in St. Patrick's

Name Variations



by Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe (steven-edgar@sky.com)

For a long time, a lot of us have been searching for our ancestors and drawing blanks. No matter how hard we try, nothing seems to fit. We end up totally frustrated and decide to take up a simpler hobby, such as nuclear physics or psychiatry!

Juanita and I have been banging our heads against a brick wall for some time, we know we are related, the DNA says we are, but how? And when? A clue here is that we have been searching for Edgar. Well, "Why not?" I hear you say, "That's our name." Here is a clue — Juanita's ancestors spelled their name "**Eadger**" originally and later changed to **Edgar**. A search on Eadger has come up with some new possibles.

The name variants have always supposed to have happened a long time in the past; **Adair**, for example. This must be an old variant because there are so many of them.

I have come up with my latest "Larry Lightbulb" (my wife calls all my best ideas "Larry Lightbulbs"). The older the name variation, the more people there are with the variation. If there are only a few, it is likely to be a misspelling or a transcription error.

The variations in Scotland come about from scribes and record keepers who write down the name of a person based on that person's dialect, not an easy job with some accents. Also, bear in mind that accents were a lot broader back then. People did not travel anywhere as much as we do now, their accent would have been a lot more local. (I do remember as a child [I'm *only* 56] a man who was born in our village telling me he could recognise the accent from another village five miles away!)

Add to all of the above a lack of standardised spelling! [Ed. For further proof of that, just look at the way **Steve** uses an "s" instead of a "z" in "standardized"!]

I am about to revise my research, I am not going to look for **Edgars** in Newry, I am now searching Newry for **Eagers, Eadgers, Agars, Eggars, etc.** Look in your chosen location for the variants. I don't see why this shouldn't also be a worldwide phenomena; perhaps this is why I can't find **Hugh Edgar** on a ship's record.....

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Speaking of Juanita, I always find it nice to put a face to a name, so here's a fairly recent photo of Juanita and her two daughters, Judy and Janine. "Thanks" you three, for permission to publish your photo!

James



My Ontario Edgars

by James Edgar (Editor) (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)



In April, I sent an email describing the following to certain members of my immediate family, and it seems like it should go out to the wider audience of our newsletters. So, here it is...

At the digital library at McGill University, Montréal, one can access historical Canadian maps. This link is for Glengarry County, Lancaster Township. The library also gives the names of all the resident landowners in the Township. <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas/images/maps/townshipmaps/sto-m-lancaster.jpg>

I found these records in the “People” search:

Edgar James Glengarry Lancaster
Edgar Robert & Charles Glengarry Lancaster

This is a partial preamble to the atlases:

Between 1874 and 1881, approximately forty county atlases were published in Canada, covering counties in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec. Thirty-two of these atlases were produced for Ontario by the following five companies: H. Belden & Co. (17); H.R. Page & Co. (8); Walker & Miles (5); J.H. Meacham & Co. (1); H. Parsell (1). Two types of county atlases exist for Ontario, those which covered a single county or multiple adjacent counties, and those which were published as supplements to Dominion of Canada atlases. In total, 40 Ontario counties were covered by these 32 atlases.

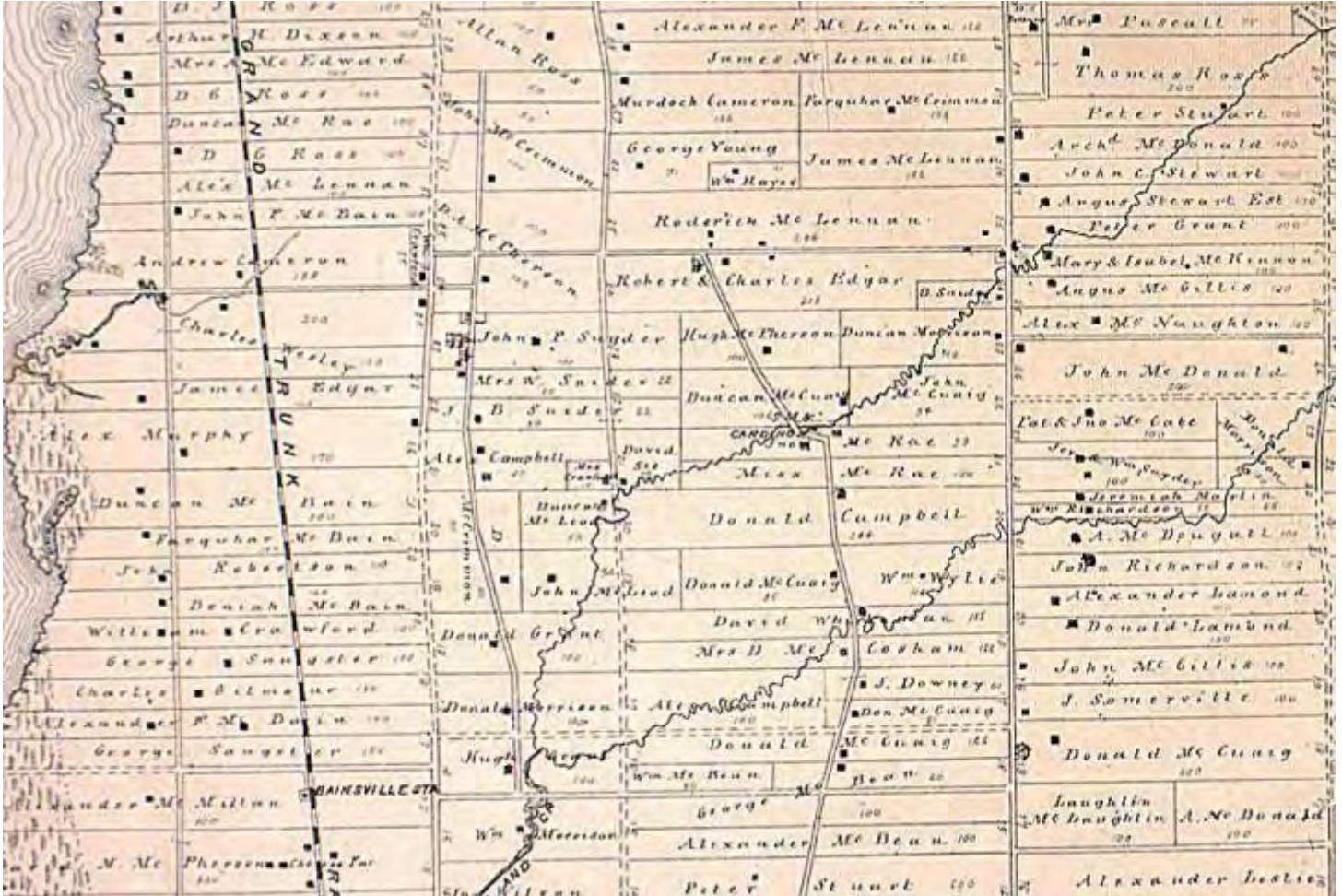
This cropped portion of the Lancaster map, shows our ancestors’ land. See James Edgar at the middle on the left, right next to Charles Westley (spelled “Wesley”), from whom the land was purchased. Then there’s Robert and Charles Edgar just to the northwest.

Charles Edgar was the patriarch who came to Canada from Co. Down, Northern Ireland, in about 1820. Here, he and wife Susan are living with their son, Robert. Recall from Edgar Events No. 1 that Charles and his two sons came to Canada in about 1818, cut down enough timber to build a ship and fill it with lumber, then sailed it back to Ireland to sell all the wood. They used the proceeds to return to Canada and buy land on the St. Lawrence River at Westley’s Point in Lancaster, Ontario.

Note that the railway split the land east to west (north is to the right). My father told me that the Edgars and Westleys agreed to rearrange portions of their land more like squares instead of the historical long, narrow parcels, with one farm to the north of the tracks, and the other on the south. Sounds like a very practical solution to a bothersome problem of getting machinery and animals across the tracks from time to time.

Looking at the map is like reading our pedigree — all the following names show up on our Edgar tree:

McBain (McBean), Sangster, Robertson, McRae, Snider (Snyder), McPherson, Morrison, Ross, Cameron, McCrimmon, McDonald, McNaughton, McCuaig — and probably some I missed. Tucked away in the lower right is even a Somerville — though we don't who they are, or if related!



I'm in possession of the transfer deed from when Charles and Susan sold the land to my great-grandfather, James Edgar, in 1847 February 20. Shown below is a scan of the lower portion of that transfer, showing their signatures "Charles Edgar" and "Susanna Edgar":

then said grantee that he has the right to convey the said
 lands to the said grantee notwithstanding any act of the
 said grantor and that the said grantee shall have
 quiet possession of the said lands free from all in-
 cumbrances. I reserve however for himself his said wife
 Susan Edgar during their natural lifetime for their support
 & behoof all the said remaining acres about one hundred
 acres in front of the said lands extending from Lake Saint
 Francis to a certain Orchard and what at the demise of
 the said grantor & his wife the said grantor his heirs & assigns
 shall have quiet possession of the said lands according
~~to the said grantor's agreement~~ with the said grantor that
 he will execute such further assurance of the said
 lands as may be requisite.
 And the said Susan Edgar wife of the said grantor
 hereby has her dower in the said lands (the reservation here
 above made excepted).
 In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have here-
 unto set their hands & seals the day & year first herein above written
 in and sealed & signed in the presence of) *Charles Edgar*
Thomas Scott *Susan Edgar*

The Canada Census records tell a story of their own.

Here's the partial image from the 1851 Ontario Census, with Charles and Susan, and 18-year-old Catherine Making (possibly their servant), and James Edgar and his family. Line 14 is my grandfather, Charles Stephen Edgar. Note their neighbour — Charles Westley.

7	Nil						
8	Charles Edgar		Ireland				X
9	Susan						X
10	Catherine Making	Servant	I. C.	I. C.			X
11	James Edgar		Ireland	I. C.			X
12	Ann Elizabeth		I. C.	I. C.			X
13	Joseph Mearns						X
14	Charles Stephen						X
15	Janet						X
16	Ann						X
17	M. H. H.						X
18	Charles Westley	Whitcomb	United States				X
19	Isabella		Scotland				X
20	Charles Westley	Servant	I. C.	I. C.			X

On the 1861 Census, Susan Edgar, age 85, is living with her widowed son-in-law. Interestingly, Margaret Edgar Williams shows on the record, even though she had died the previous year — one of the questions on the 1861 Census was “Who died in 1860?”

26	Isaac Williams	Labourer	U States	F. C.	15
27	Margret Ann Williams		Co West	F. C.	13
28	William Gordon Williams		Co West	F. C.	11
29	Charles G. Williams		Co West	F. C.	7
30	Mary Jane Williams		Co West	F. C.	3
31	Margaret Edgar Williams				
32	Susan Edgar		Ireland	Co of S	85

Here is my great-grandfather, James Edgar, and his family, spread over two pages.

46	James Edgar	Farmer	Ireland	Co of S	57
47	Elizabeth Edgar		Co West	Co of S	44
48	Mary Jane Edgar		Co West	Co of S	20
49	Ann Edgar		Co West	Co of S	18
50	Margaret Edgar	Labourer	Co West	Co of S	15

1	Charles S. Edgar		Co West	Co of S	13
2	Matilda Edgar		Co West	Co of S	10
3	William Edgar		Co West	Co of S	7
4	Susan J. Edgar		Co West	Co of S	5
5	Margaret C. S. Edgar		Co West	Co of S	2

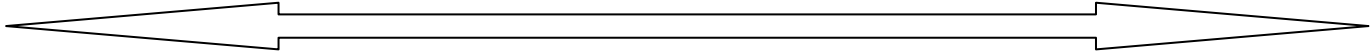
All the family is there – father, mother, and eight children between the ages 2 and 20.

Here is the data on James Edgar from the 1871 Canada Census, again on two pages:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1							Edgar John	7	11		Co of S	Irish		
2							Susan	7	14		"	"		
3							Emma	7	12		"	"		
4			1	63	71		Hestley Charles	4	14		Co of S	Irish	Farmer	
5							Catharine	7	11		"	"		
15			63	71			Edgar James	11	65		Ireland	Co of S	Irish	Farmer
16							Elizabeth	7	55		"	"	German	
17							Samie	8	26		"	"	Irish	
18							Maranda	11	24		"	"	"	Labourer
19							Stephen	4	52		"	"	"	Farmer
20							Matilda	8	14		"	"	"	

Finally, here are the Edgars on the 1881 Census, the year before James died.

Age	Sex	Name	Age	Sex	Name	Age	Sex	Name	Age	Sex	Name
49	M	James	76	M	Ireland	16	F	James	—	M	James
50	F	Ann Eliza	65	F	O	—	F	—	—	F	—
	M	Alexander	34	M	"	—	M	—	—	M	William
	M	Stephen	32	M	"	—	M	—	—	M	James
	F	Susan	22	F	"	—	F	—	—	F	—
	F	Emma	20	F	"	—	F	—	—	F	—



Heidi Edgar Receives Recognition!

The following is self-explanatory. **Heidi** is the wife of my son, **Matthew**, and is the Membership Coordinator and one of the archaeologists at Mission San Luis in Tallahassee, Florida — for more information on this 16th-century Spanish Mission, see www.missionsanluis.org.

Thanks to the publishers of their newsletter, *La Pluma*, for permission to copy this half page.

AWARDS

Heidi Edgar Receives Army's "Freedom Team" Certificate



Friends of Mission San Luis Membership Coordinator, Heidi Edgar, recently received a Certificate of Appreciation and a personal letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren, for her contributions to the U.S. Army's Freedom Team Salute program.

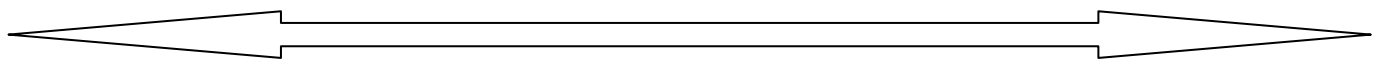
Heidi says, "My passion is supporting soldiers through anysoldier.com. I have adopted several soldiers over the three years I have been doing this, and send care packages and letters to them throughout their deployment. I am involved in card swaps, quilt making, and event participation—all to support our Armed Services."

Heidi says she was elated to have received the award. She has had no contact with the young man who submitted her name, other than to send him boxes and letters and take it on faith that he received them. He went to the extra effort to submit her for nomination into the program. She says, "...I hope that



the little bit that I sent gave him comfort and the knowledge that we have not forgotten him or his fellow soldiers. It just makes it seem like what we (as supporters) are doing is making a difference. What a thrill!" ▲





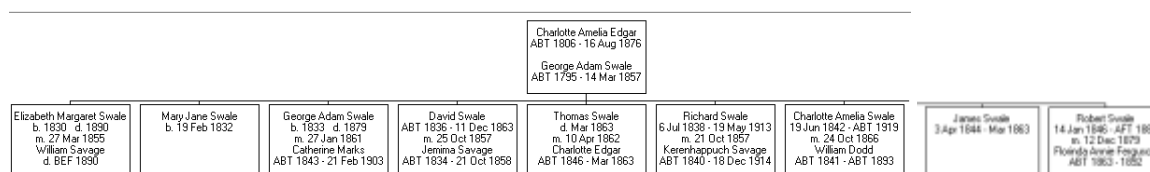
Charlotte Amelia Edgar/Swale ca 1806 - 1876.



by Marian Morgan (mdmorgan@westnet.com.au)

For a great many young Australians of the latter part of the 20th century and now, travelling to the UK and Europe is something of a rite of passage, and it is only about a 24-hour flight to get there or back, but in Charlotte Edgar's time things happened very differently....

Charlotte was born in Ireland in about 1806, the daughter of **Alexander Edgar** and the sister of **Thomas Edgar**, of Derrylacka (sometimes seen as "Derryleckah" or "Derryleckagh"). She was my great-great-grandmother. She married **George Adam Swale** (known as **Adam**) and they had nine children, all born in County Down. It would appear that after the death of her brother Thomas, the family moved to Derrylacka, where Adam farmed the property until his death in 1857. Charlotte then moved to Canal St., Newry.



Children of Adam & Charlotte:

Elizabeth married William Savage of Lurgancanty, County Down, and they had a family there, with the property still today being in the Savage name. Two of their sons went to live in Cooktown, Australia.

Mary – nothing further known, possibly died in infancy?

George Adam (known like his father as **Adam**), my great-grandfather, was in Geelong, Victoria, Australia by 1861, but I have been unable to find any shipping record for him to this date. He married another Irish immigrant, Catherine Marks, from Loughgall, County Armagh in January 1861, and they raised their family in Melbourne, losing their first five babies then having six surviving children.

David and **Richard** married respectively Jemima and Kerenhappuch Savage, sisters of **Elizabeth's** husband William, above, so there were three inter-family marriages. These last two marriages took place on 21st October 1857, in Warrenpoint, Co. Down, for **Richard** who was 19 years old, and 25th October 1857, in Liverpool, for **David** who was 20, and then they sailed for Melbourne, Australia on 27th October in the ship *Herald*. Also on board were Kezia and John Savage, of the same family. (In the Bible, Job's daughters were named Jemima, Kezia and Kerenhappuch.) Richard worked as a policeman in the state of Victoria, Australia, and raised his family here: 11 children, of whom 9 survived infancy.

Charlotte Amelia married William Dodd in 1866. William was in the "civil service." By 1871 they were living in Bethnal Green, London, where William was a customs officer, and there they raised their family.

Robert, the youngest, married Florinda Ferguson in 1879, and they seem to have stayed in Ireland.

Until very recently I had known almost nothing of the other two sons, **Thomas** and **James** except that **Thomas** had married his cousin, another **Charlotte Edgar**, in 1862, when he was 24 and she was 16. However, I often wondered if they too had emigrated. The answer came thanks to a wonderful digitization project from the National Library of Australia, which is placing old newspapers online and making them searchable, SO much better than ploughing through endless microfilm! The answer to their whereabouts concerned the ship *Lord Raglan*:

The Times newspaper of Feb 23 1863 gives the following glowing report:

“Lord Raglan, destination Melbourne, register 1,881, Burden 2,500, To Sail, Feb. 20.

“The well-known magnificent packet ship Lord Raglan will be despatched as above, with passengers and cargo. This splendid ship has made the passage from Liverpool to Melbourne in 79 days, and during her employ as a Government transport she conveyed the large number of 1,300 soldiers from Mauritius to Bombay in 123 days (the fastest on record), without sickness or mortality. The saloon is a spacious apartment, and passengers in this class are provided with bedding, linen, and all necessaries. The second, cabin, intermediate, and steerage accommodations are extensive and complete. Passengers embark on the 20th February... “

A distant relative of the family named Amey (from the name Amelia) and descendant of **Elizabeth** above, had told me some time ago that there were supposed to have been some family members on board the ship *Lord Raglan*:

There is an interesting account written by one of the passengers from the *Lord Raglan*, the letter making its way back to England via another ship they passed by. (From *The Argus*, 19 April 1864):

“Crossing the line, March 23rd 1863”:

“We left the port of Liverpool at two p.m. on Monday 23rd. February, with three powerful tugs following us. One left us after we had got pretty well out, but the other two remained with us for three days and two nights. We then bid adieu to the white cliffs of Albion, with three hearty good cheers.

“We had a head-wind when the steam-tugs left us. In the Western Ocean we encountered a terrific storm. It blew a perfect hurricane carrying away our sails, and washing part of our bulwarks away, also the lifeboat. For two nights we were completely drenched by heavy seas washing over us; we all expected the ship would founder, and that we should all be lost. I shall never forget the scene – men and women shrieking, crying, and praying, on all sides; but, thank God, she rode safely through. The chief mate had his leg broken, in trying to save the lifeboat. Since the storm abated we have had fine weather. We are now under the burning sun of the tropics, with seven ships in sight. I hope we shall speak with some of them. We have had one death, and we are likely soon to have several births. We have just spoken two ships – one from Madras and one from Hong Kong, but we did not board them, as they were sailing with a fair wind. There is another ship in sight, homeward bound, so I must conclude.

“Yours, &c., “H.T.”

“P.S. – As I have still some time left, I will now inform you what sort of passengers we have got on board. My opinion is that if England, Ireland, and Scotland had been searched through, a worse lot could not have been found. I have seen and heard much, but I never heard such language in my life; the oaths and curses are dreadful. If we arrive safe in Melbourne it will be a miracle.”



Figure 1 This is the *Lord Spencer*, which might have been very similar to the *Lord Raglan*.

For many weeks/months after her expected arrival, there was speculation in the news about where the *Lord Raglan* could be, but the final conclusion is as follows:

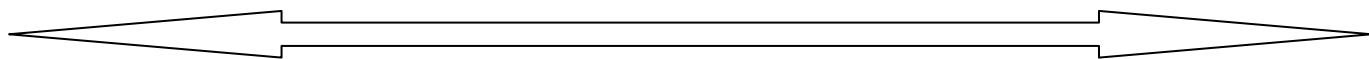
“Lord Raglan. Wooden ship, 1886 tons. Built at Quebec, 1854. Lbd 227.6 x 41.4 x 22.1 ft. Reg. at Liverpool for the White Star Line in 1860 after several owners. Left Liverpool for Melbourne with almost five hundred passengers and crew on 24 February 1863, was spoken on 23 March in latitude 20N, longitude 22OW, but was not sighted again.

When the ship *Imperatrice Eugene* reached England from Natal, she reported the remains of a ship burnt to the waterline on 26 March. There was no sign of survivors.”

Ref: Stone, Peter: Encyclopedia of Australian shipwrecks and other maritime incidents: including vessels lost overseas, merchant ships lost at war, and those lost on inland waters, together with a bibliography of vessel entries. Yarram, Vic : Oceans Enterprises, 2006.

I finally found an online passenger list for the *Lord Raglan* from the *Argus* newspaper, sadly listing the names **Thomas** and **Charlotte Swale**, **James Swale**, and also a William Savage (no doubt another member of the family mentioned above.) **James** would have been only 18 years old. They were travelling steerage class. One can only speculate about the horrible and terrifying end they must have met...

So, **Charlotte Edgar/Swale** had 5 of her sons head off to the other side of the world to start a new life, but only 3 of them reached their destination. Only **Adam & Richard** had surviving families of their own as **David**, his wife Jemima, and their baby daughter Jemima all died of TB within a couple of years of arriving in Melbourne, no doubt caught either before or during their long voyage out. **Charlotte** must have known she was saying goodbye to her sons forever: I wish I knew more about her life but how hard it must have been to be a mother back then. For those of that time it was survival not only of the fittest, but also the luckiest!



Check out this link for a comprehensive Irish name description and an Irish history timeline [McCormick Family site](#).

The Rombough Family noted on the site are joined with my Wood ancestors back a few generations in our trees. See the John Wood tree on my Edgar [Web site](#).

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Pictures from Steve Edgar in Kamloops (my older brother). He had company from Australia for his birthday on May 21 — Bill and Ros Edgar.



Figure 2 Steve's favourite!



Figure 4 Guinness swimming trunks



Figure 3 Bill & Ros Edgar