



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 59, December 2011**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

We have five tests waiting for results. Wait! Six, count 'em SIX! Here are the names and locations attached to the tests:

1. **John Murray Edgar** of Ladybrand, South Africa. He wrote to me:

I came across the Edgar News on the internet while following up Thomas Edgar of Thornhill. My Father's family were from Thornhill in Dumfriesshire, and lived at 15a East Morton Street. They were all joiners and coopers. My grandfather was William Murray Edgar b 1856 in Glasgow. He was brought up by his family in Thornhill; his father was John Edgar, and mother Margaret Murray. Both drop off the radar some time after William's birth. John Edgar had a brother Thomas, who was born in 1838 and appears to have been a successful builder. I am intrigued by John Edgar's disappearance, he may have emigrated to one of the colonies. This information may be of interest to some of the Edgars in Canada or Australia.

Regards,

JOHN MURRAY EDGAR,
Ladybrand, South Africa.

John's test has been in the mail for well over a month, so we're keeping our fingers crossed that it didn't get lost in the transition from there to here...

2. **Stephen James Edgar** of Grand Rapids, Michigan – I met him on Facebook. Steve wrote, when I asked if he was interested:

We've exchanged communications a few times before (My Aunt Carol Anne just bought some Edgar Clan badges)... This is the month!.... Am very excited about it... Have followed your work for years and finally doing it... Hope you will help me to analyze results!

Indeed we will help with understanding the analysis; looking forward to it!

3. **Jim (Samuel Douglas) Edgar** of Edmonton, Alberta – he contacted me with this email:

Greetings, whilst playing on the Internet during the weekend I ran across your genealogy page and read the newsletters. My name is Samuel Douglas Edgar, born in Glasgow in 1934, my father John Edgar, born in Penpont, 1910, my Grandfather Samuel Edgar, b Keir 1872, my great gf William Edgar, b Dumfries abt 1844, my great ggf was John Edgar b 1815 was a stonemason and was killed in a quarry accident and his parentage is unknown.

The curious thing I see is in Newsletter 21 there is a reference on screen 2 to Dr Bills ancestors Samuel Edgar b 1768 and a Jean Mc Kinnell b 1771

My ancestor William Edgar b 1844 married a Catherine Mc Kinnell. In Tynran in 1866, what are the chances of family relationships 76 years apart between these two families. My interest at the moment is in getting past the death of John Edgar between 1849 & 1851 and finding more ancestors on my list.

My name is Samuel Douglas Edgar and I reside in Edmonton, we emigrated here in 1949 and have been here ever since. My email address sdedgar@telus.net

*Hope to hear from you soon, Regards,
S.D. (Jim) Edgar*

A phone call and some emails got us rolling toward another test.

4. **Roland Edgar**, whom I met on Facebook. I'll let him tell his story:

I live in Ulverston, Cumbria. Was born at Workington, Cumberland (UK). Have researched the Edgars back to 1771 To Dalston, just outside Carlisle. That is one of my "brick walls".

Most of the Edgars (or Edgers) appear to have lived in the "Reiver Lands" of the Border area (Many of the reiver families were kicked out of the area by James in the 1600s (we wouldn't toe the line) and sent to places like Ireland, America and Australia to cause trouble there. Cumberland was in Scotland at one time. Carlisle being the only city to have had both English and Scottish Parliaments held in it, but not at the same time. :o)

Yes I have thought about the DNA test but I'm not quite sure about the validity of it ("It's a wise child who knows its own father" etc.) and not sure if I can qualify spending about £100 on it, but I'm still thinking about it.

Roland

With that, I promptly sent back my response, which was that the Edgar DNA Trust Fund would cover the cost, if necessary. Thanks to all who make that possible by their generous donations to the fund! Roland is paying half, and the Trust Fund is paying half.

5. **James Edgar** of Nixa, Missouri, whom I found on Facebook. He wrote:

I am in line for a part on the ice road trucker show in Alaska so I thought maybe if I was goin to be up that way we might have a cup of coffee or something. Not sure if or when but I will send an email when I do.

Since then, I've had an email or two arranging the test, and, again, the Trust Fund is covering the cost; **James** will pay back later.

6. **Gord Edgar** of Brampton Ontario, who we've been associated with for many years, has decided it is time to test. His kit is on the way! We breathlessly await his results, as it may lead to a positive connection with the Edgar ministers of Northern Ireland.

We'll keep you posted with all the results.

We also have some newcomers to the DNA.Ancestry.com site...

Alan Miller, with whom I have been carrying on an email discussion about the ancient Edgars in Dumfries and Wedderlie.

Stephen Edgar of Peterborough, England

Sarah Edgar of Barrow in Furness, England. She and I met on Facebook, and she wrote:

Hi James thanks for your note!

I heard about the DNA project on the fb site -- how can we get in on that? ...I assume you need to be male? ..my brother(s) could do it! Yes please I would love to receive the newsletter.

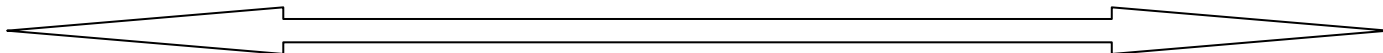
My dad John Burnett Edgar passed away 28 years ago. I don't really know any other details about my ancestry other than my grandfather's name was Harold Watson Edgar. I'm really interested in finding out more.

Many thanks - look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah

We're waiting on **Sarah** to convince her brother to do the test – possibly today!

In addition, I've been in touch with **Janet Edgar Taylor** of Guelph, Ontario; **Andrew Edgar** of Newtownards, Northern Ireland (brother of **Colin**, who we tested a few years back); and **Bob Edgar** of Thunder Bay, Ontario.



I think it's time for a picture – don't you? The kids are grandchildren of my cousin, Helen (Edgar) Ross, seated, with her son and daughter-in-law, and husband, Bruce, in green.



Is this your Uncle Sam ?



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

The family of the Edgar Ministers is probably the most famous Edgar family in Ireland. Their origins, who they were and who is descended from them has always eluded us.....until now!

This family arrived in Ireland with the family of Hugh McKee and fought at the battle of the Boyne in 1690. They lived in Killaney, Boardmills in County Down and intermarried over the years. There are stories of there being 4 brothers and 1 other, whether you attribute the 4 to the Edgars or the McKees is still not decided, but it must be based on fact for it to be a story in both families. The McKees hail originally from Penninghame in west Scotland, not far from Newton Stewart, but the source of the Edgar family has always been a mystery.

Peg Edgar from Red Deer, Alberta, sent us a family tree which traces her family back to about 1780 or so with Robert Edgar who was from Killaney. After a lot of research, I am strongly convinced that this is Robert, the son of James Edgar and Mary Mossgrove. Admittedly, the dates of birth are out by one year, but it is a huge coincidence! It's logical to believe they are the same person rather than try to convince myself that it's just coincidence. It could well be a year of birth and a date of baptism that shows the difference, or even a date calculated back from a given age at the time of death.

Peg's male relation showed as Haplogroup I2b1. This family is the most populous in western Scotland, in and around Dumfries and Galloway. Again, this is a logical source for this family to be in Ireland, it is literally just across the water. We also know that William III's army was recruiting in the area, promising land in Ireland if they fought and won.

When you make the assumption that the Edgars in Killaney are I2b1, then an awful lot of other Irish Edgar families start to fit into place. Most of these families have roots in the area, and all within about 20 miles of Killaney. Again, logic would lead to the assumption they must be related.

There is, however, a gap in our knowledge of this family, Robert Edgar arrived in 1690 and settled on his granted land in about 1691. The first birth record to a Robert Edgar is in 1720, the next in 1725. For this to be the same Robert, he would have been 50 or 55 years old at the birth of his first child. Possible, but not plausible. This, to me, would indicate that there is a Robert, son of Robert. These Roberts would have been in Ireland at a time when the Presbyterian Church had not been established, travelling ministers from Scotland performed baptisms, marriages, and funerals in local houses or, if available, "borrowed" other churches and chapels. The records of these events were very likely kept by the minister and possibly recorded in family bibles, but there was no formal church register. This is probably why the records no longer exist. Maybe they are in some obscure Scottish records office? Who knows!

One concern I have always had is with the number of seemingly unconnected Edgar records in the Killaney area from about 1750 onwards. Edgars everywhere – all with the same forenames, but with different dates of birth, dates of marriage, and dates of death. These records are not likely to be inaccurate, what would be the point? The answer must be that there is a very large related family all using the same traditional forenames for children and cousins. (Add to this the tangle of location names that we normally experience provides a tiny

insight). Back in the early 1700s it was not unusual to have 8, 9, or 10 children, even more. What was unusual was for all of them to survive. Infant mortality was very high, as high as 75%; mothers also frequently died in childbirth; inter-family remarriages were also common.

If we look at a man and woman marrying in 1700, by 1725 they could have had up to 25 children. Those 25 children could have all done the same by 1770, that figure could be as high as 625 descendants! Worst-case scenario is there are only 2 or 3. The true figure will be somewhere in between, there could easily be 10 separate Edgar families in Killaney in 1750. The local area could certainly not support such a large expansion, if these 10 families had children of their own. The eldest son would usually inherit the farm, the rest had to look elsewhere for their future and spread out, either in Ireland or through migration. Only the girls would be likely to remain in the area, as they would marry local boys and live locally. The records we have do mirror this trend, girls stay in the area, the boys move on.

So, the question is where did they go? If we look at the DNA matching for the I2b1s on the Web site, we find:

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------|
| Howard Methany Edgar, | ancestor Adam Edgar. B abt 1745 in Pennsylvania USA | MRCA 19 |
| John Newton Edgar, | ancestor Adam Edgar b. Abt 1745 in Pennsylvania USA | MRCA 19 |
| Richard John Edgar, | ancestor John Edgar 1717 in Moffat, Dumfries | MRCA 19 |
| David Edgar, | ancestor ? Edgar 1870 Annalong, Co Down | MRCA 29 |
| Desmond Edgar, | ancestor James Edgar 1830 Kilkeel, Co Down | MRCA 35 |
| Harry James Edgar, | ancestor Samuel Alexander Edgar abt 1857. N Ireland | MRCA 1 |
| Michael Brian Edgar, | ancestor Robert Edgar 1779 Carryduff, Co Down | MRCA 1 |
| Jason Michael Edgar, | ancestor John Edgar 1800 Ireland | MRCA 1 |
| Jack Lee Edgar, | ancestor Charles Edgar, 1700 Scotland | MRCA 6 |
| John David Edgar, | ancestor John Edgar 1795 Ireland | MRCA 6 |
| James Vernon Edgar, | ancestor John Edgar 1795 Ireland | MRCA 6 |
| Alfred Edward Edgar, | ancestor Robert Edgar 1810 Ireland | MRCA 6 |
| Phillip Thomas Edgar, | ancestor Joseph Edgar, Rathfriland, Co Down, Ireland | MRCA 6 |

The locations for the Edgars on the left are Canada, USA, Argentina, England, Scotland, and Ireland.

There are other members of the I2b1 Haplogroup who have not as yet submitted their family trees, so we don't know how they fit in, but we do know that they will somehow.

The Most Common Recent Ancestor (MRCA) count is not 100% accurate, but it can give a clue as to the closeness of a match. It is measuring mutations within DNA, something that does not happen on a regular basis and is based on mathematical probabilities.

We can interpret from the above that the I21b group are originally from Dumfries and Galloway. A very long time ago, members went from Scotland to Ireland and settled in the Kilkeel area (MRCA 29 & 35)

Other members left for Pennsylvania USA, did they leave from Scotland or Ireland?(MRCA 19)

The remainder (MRCA 1 & 6) are all close Edgar family settled in and around Co Down. (one of which looks to have gone back to Scotland) With a bit of effort, now we know the Haplogroup, we should be able to identify some links and build a family tree.

The above is, of course, speculative — if you can explain it better, please do so! I would really appreciate your input and comments.

I would very much appreciate it if all of the I2b1 Edgars would send me an update of their family trees as far back as they can. I think that I will be able to join all of this together, but I do need those family trees to do it!

The title of this article is Uncle Sam, now is the time to reveal the reason why!



Harry, Mike, Jack, John, James Alfred and Phillip Edgar ... is this your uncle Sam?

Samuel Edgar 1767-1826

And while we're at it, is this your cousin John?

John Edgar 1798 – 1866

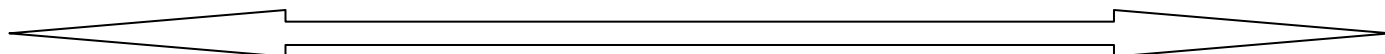


Rev. John Edgar

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the friends and researchers out there who have helped put together the information that has allowed this article. Without their comments, arguments, analysis, criticisms, and steadfast hard work, identifying this family could never have been achieved.

The bad news on all of this is that the connection to my family (Haplogroup E1b1b) is looking weaker, it may well just be coincidence that the names William, Samuel, Joseph, Robert, etc. are strong in my family. Perhaps my family named them in honour of the Ministers family? I would also not be surprised if they had actually met them as well! The Minsters did travel and preach in churches all over Ireland. I still have a hope that there may be a connection! I do think that my E1b1b line is due to an adoption, fostering, or illegitimate event within an Edgar family. Again, can I appeal to all the DNA-tested Edgars to supply us with a family tree? Especially if you suspect that your family are from the Killaney area!

Steve Edgar, Crewe UK





"With a photo for every name on the Wall in D.C., their memories are preserved," says volunteer Jay Kimbrough.

FACES of the WALL

VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM ARE ON A MONUMENTAL MISSION: GATHERING PHOTOS OF THE 58,272 WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT HOME

Former Marine platoon commander Jack Ruffer can still see the faces of all 11 men he lost in Operation Medina on Oct. 12, 1967. One, Sal Bazulto, was a newlywed who left for Vietnam unaware his wife was pregnant. Another, William Stanton Blessing, gravely wounded at 18, took his last breath as Ruffer held him, rocking. "These aren't just names on that wall," says Ruffer, 70, of those and the 58,270 others on Washington, D.C.'s Vietnam Veterans Memorial. "They were real people."

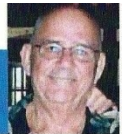
Ruffer is one of about 200 volunteers—many of them vet-

erans—toiling to find a picture for each name etched in the black granite. In the 18 months since memorial founder and president Jan Scruggs launched a nationwide call for photos (buildthecenter.org), more than 23,000 have come in. The plan is to display them in a nearby education center, opening in 2014. For the surviving vets, it's a Herculean labor of love. "You see how much of life they had ahead," says Dr. Linda Schwartz, who was an Air Force nurse in Vietnam. "People need to see these faces as the real cost of war."

Sandra Sobieraj Westfall



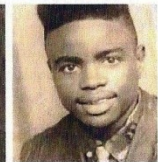
CHARLIE COMPANY UNDER ATTACK: 1st LT. RUFFER (left, ca. 1960, and right) collected these photos of 11 Marines lost in Operation Medina, then tracked down 592 more. Thanks to Ruffer and other volunteers, says Wall project leader Scruggs, "a whole new generation will learn of these men's courage."



PFC WILLIAM STANTON BLESSING
The Denver teen "was only in my platoon for three weeks and he was dead" from a battle wound, recalls Ruffer.



PFC ROGER EDWIN WALTON
He followed both his parents into the Marines and is buried in their family plot near the East Springfield, N.Y., home he left behind for Vietnam.



PFC OLIVER BELL JR.
Only 19, Bell had been sending money home to Florida so that his mother, Annie Mae, could get out of her apartment and buy a house—his dream for her.



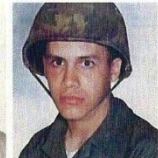
SGT. SALVADOR BAZULTO JR.
He married just three months earlier and didn't know his bride, Cecilia, was pregnant—with a son she would name Salvador III.



CPL. QUINTON MORGAN BICE
The Texan first served aboard the USS Coral Sea and, for a USO visit, escorted actress Jennifer Jones, who later called his mom to say he's a fine son.



CPL. JOHN RAYMOND LEE
Lee and his best friend, fellow Marine Brad Foote, bought 40 acres in Oregon to build houses and start a business. Foote escorted Lee's body home.



PFC JOHN JAMES CASTILLO
His sister Margaret recalls how, back home in Saginaw, Mich., Castillo's dog Charlie inexplicably began to howl on the night of Oct. 12, 1967.



LCPL. KEVIN ARTHUR CAHILL
Ruffer remembers Cahill, from Lynn, Mass., for his "great instincts—the best point man you could ask for, and he died doing his job."



PFC JAMES MICHAEL DE ABRE
The Morgan Hill, Calif., native marked his 21st birthday just 12 days before the deadly, eight-hour firefight in Hai Lung National Forest.



CPL WILLIAM THOMAS PERKINS
A combat photographer and posthumous Medal of Honor winner, he dove on a grenade, saving Ruffer and others.



PFC GERALD JOHN BROTHERS
He married his girlfriend right after he graduated Infantry Training Regiment. They had only a few weeks together.

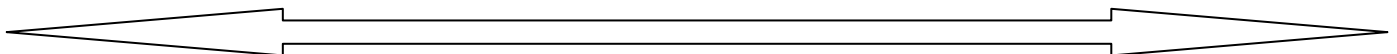
Do you recognize that face or the name at the upper right of this page from People Magazine? That's **Jack Ruffer**, brother of **Jim Ruffer**, and cousin of **SteveUK!**

He and many others are campaigning to find a photograph for each of the war dead on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Go to the Web site buildthecenter.org for news or to donate.

Here's an example of a recent news release:

DEARBORN TEACHER LEADS CAMPAIGN TO GATHER PHOTOS OF MICHIGAN NAMES ON VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Washington, D.C. — The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has announced that Dearborn teacher Lisa Lark will lead the campaign to gather photos from each Michigan name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington.



More photos – this time from Genie Chambers of Australia. She writes:

Hi,

Yesterday evening we heard a 'mewing sound' out front, and found a baby koala (the youngest I've ever seen away from its mother) trying to climb one of the trees (the wrong sort for koalas...). I thought you might to see these pics - I don't often get this close! The little one wasn't afraid (which worried us), but I decided not to get any closer after looking at the nails and seeing how well it could leap... This baby is smaller than our cat overall - just built differently. The adult males here, in body size are similar in size to our Irish terrier.

Cheers from Genie



She wrote further: Just an update - we (or rather the dogs) heard the baby later at night, but by the morning, we couldn't find him (with some relief there) - we're keeping a watch out. They do tend to move about, and a National Park is across the road....when we had the drought for 2 summers, 2009, 2010 - it was so hot that the koalas were coming down from the trees in search of water - we (and a lot of people) were leaving containers at the base of the trees for them. Koalas aren't everywhere here - depends where the 'right' trees are.

Genie promises more to come of a wallaby mother with her joey.

Finally, if you're into the modern technology, try aiming your smart phone or iPad at this QR (Quick Response) Code:



This one at left will take you to my genealogy Web site.

You can create codes to take you anywhere on the Web, send a text message, Short Message Service (SMS), or even to dial the phone. Here's a site where you can let your creative side loose on building QR Codes qrcode.kaywa.com Have some fun – give it a try.

Here's another code that will take you to the DNA.Ancestry.com Edgar family group page:



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With the Holidays coming, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

