



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 68, September 2012**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

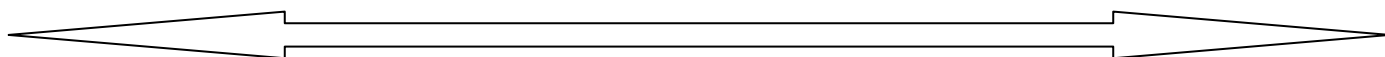
DNA – Not much has changed since I last wrote - we still have two kits “out there” to be returned to the lab. The kit we sent to **Jack Edgar** in Rothesay, New Brunswick, is in nowhere land. Haven’t heard from him for months! And, that’s still discouraging.

We have heard about the kit sent to **Ivan Edgar**, in Kent, UK. He reports that he will be sending the kit back this week. Here’s hoping he has already done so...

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On a different note—some time ago, I wrote that Jodie and I were researching soldiers who had enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force to fight in The Great War. There is still much research yet to be done, but early results show most of the soldiers came from families in Scotland and Ireland, or the families had only been in Canada a short time. Some even came from the US, wanting to fight, and joined the Canadian military in order to do so. If any of our readers are interested in pursuing your own relative(s) from The Great War, drop us a line. **Jodie** may already have a substantial tree from what she’s been able to find through her on-line resources.

Ancestry.com has very extensive records from the era, which you can search yourself. We just entered the surname Edgar, put Canada for the place, and pressed Enter. Then, under the heading “Military” found the listing “Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918.” There are 107 Edgars named, including a few females. A subscription is required to view the records.



**SteveUK** received this from **David Edgar** of Guildford, England, via email, and **David** has graciously allowed us to copy it here for your reading pleasure (see **Steve’s** article that follows):

Steve

I have lost all interest in the Olympic Games as have been busy rifling through my filing cabinets in a search for the Red Comyn.

Ever since the 1930s, sitting on my grandmother’s knee, I have been fascinated by the story of the death of the Red Comyn. Every time I go to Dumfries, I stop at the plaque on the wall at the site of Greyfriars Kirk, and I occasionally visit what is left of the ruins of his castle at Cruggleton (see attached). In my youth, I was shocked when I found out that he was a good man, well loved in the community.

I agree that there are no records other than Edgar sources regarding Richard Edgar’s involvement, although Lawrence-Archer presents fairly convincing deductions regarding

the motto and family crest. However there are equally no records other than Kirkpatrick sources regarding Roger de Kirkpatrick's involvement. In *The Chronicles of the Kirkpatrick Family*, Alexander de Lapere Kirkpatrick is unsure which of two Roger de Kirkpatricks was involved, and, moreover, two hundred years were to elapse before a Roger de Kirkpatrick was ever named in connection with the murder. Another suspect, seldom mentioned, was David Lindsay, another friend of Robert's. Historically, Robert alone has been blamed for the murder.

Back to the Olympic Games!!

David.



*John "The Red" Comyn's castle at Cruggleton*

## Edgar Insignia



by Steve Edgar ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))

Last month's article raised a response from David Edgar.

*Steve., I have just read your article in the latest Newsletter in which you state categorically that the "Maun Dae It" was an instruction to Robert the Bruce to kill the Red Comyn. This is very unlikely. The translation of the scots "maun dae it" was (and still is in many parts of Scotland), "must do it" (not "man do it").*

*According to legend, Robert the Bruce emerged from Greyfriars Church in Dumfries unsure whether or not John Comyn was actually dead. His followers therefore went into the church to finish him off. It is not certain who actually killed the Red Comyn. Some think that it was Roger de Kirkpatrick, which gave rise to the Kirkpatrick motto, "I'll Mak Siccar" (I'll make sure).*

*The other follower of Bruce who possibly carried out the "coup de grace" was Sir Richard Edgar, leading to the Edgar motto "Maun Dae It". It is possible that it was an instruction to Bruce, "You must do it", but would he dare to give an order to the claimant to the throne?*

*As John Comyn was killed on the altar of the church, whoever killed him must have been very doubtful whether or not to do the deed. It is far more likely therefore, that it was said by Richard Edgar to himself "I must do it", to give himself courage and strengthen his resolve.*

*In any case, I think that "Maun Dae It" in the first person, makes more sense in a family motto.*

The above clarifies the origins of the Maun Dae It motto. It makes much more sense than the "Man do it" I had read elsewhere. However, was the "must" and instruction to Robert the Bruce or to himself? David's next email had another hint

*Steve, in Fairbairn's Crests by James Fairbairn, he translates "Salutem Disponit Deus" as "God administers salvation". It has occurred to me that this would exactly suit a guilt-ridden Richard Edgar.*



I agree that "God administers salvation" would salve the conscience of a guilt-ridden Sir Richard Edgar, but was it for the actual deed or the suggestion to kill the Red Comyn?

Back in the 1200s, everyone was deeply religious (it didn't stop them killing each other!) and they would commit all kinds of acts of reparation to avoid being excommunicated or lose the likelihood of going to Heaven—they would flog themselves, pay huge penances to the Church, buy and set up a church and pay priests to pray for them for their salvation (and still carry on killing people!)

Robert the Bruce (above) didn't get off "Scot free" (if you'll excuse the play on words):



extracted from Wikipedia about what happened after the events at Dumfries Abbey

*Bruce and his party then attacked Dumfries Castle. The English garrison surrendered and for the third time in the day Bruce and his supporters were victorious, Bruce hurried from Dumfries to Glasgow, where, kneeling before Bishop Robert Wishart he made confession of his violence and sacrilege and was granted absolution by the Bishop. The clergy throughout the land was adjured to rally to Bruce by Wishart. In spite of this, Bruce was excommunicated for this crime.*

I was still not 100% convinced about the actions of Sir Richard Edgar, did he or didn't he? Or was it Roger de Kirkpatrick's, motto, "I Mak Siccar"—"I make sure"—who made certain the Red Comyn was dead. It is certainly much clearer.

A third email from David read:

*Many years ago, someone (probably my grandmother) gave me a written heraldic description of the Arms of Edgar of Wadderlie (sic) purporting to have come from "A Directory of Gentlemen of Coat-armour Vol. 1" by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies. I have been unable to trace the book. There is another book by Fox-Davies entitled "A Complete Guide to Heraldry" which is online, but the Edgar coat of arms is not mentioned. The heraldic description reads:- Arms of Edgar of Wadderlie  
Shield - Sable; thereon a lion rampant argent; and for crest, a dexter mailed hand holding a blooded dagger point downwards; motto; Maun doe it; And on a compartment below; Salutem disponit Deus.*

The word "blooded" is crucial, as part of my uncertainty about the event has been the lack of blood on the Edgar dagger. Without blood, I doubted that Richard Edgar ever carried out the deed, but with blood...a whole new point of view opens up.

To play devil's advocate on this, I can see three arguments.

- Heraldic arms and symbols have a code of language that describes accurately the shield, mantle, crest, and motto. "Sable; thereon a lion rampant argent; and for crest, a dexter mailed hand holding a blooded dagger point downwards; motto; Maun doe it; And on a compartment below; Salutem disponit Deus."

This is very clear, a black background with a silver lion on the shield. On the crest, a right arm in chainmail holding a bloodied dagger.

If you look at all the old books and illustrations of shields and crests, it would be very difficult to see the blood in the drawings. But a written description? It would be impossible to miss.

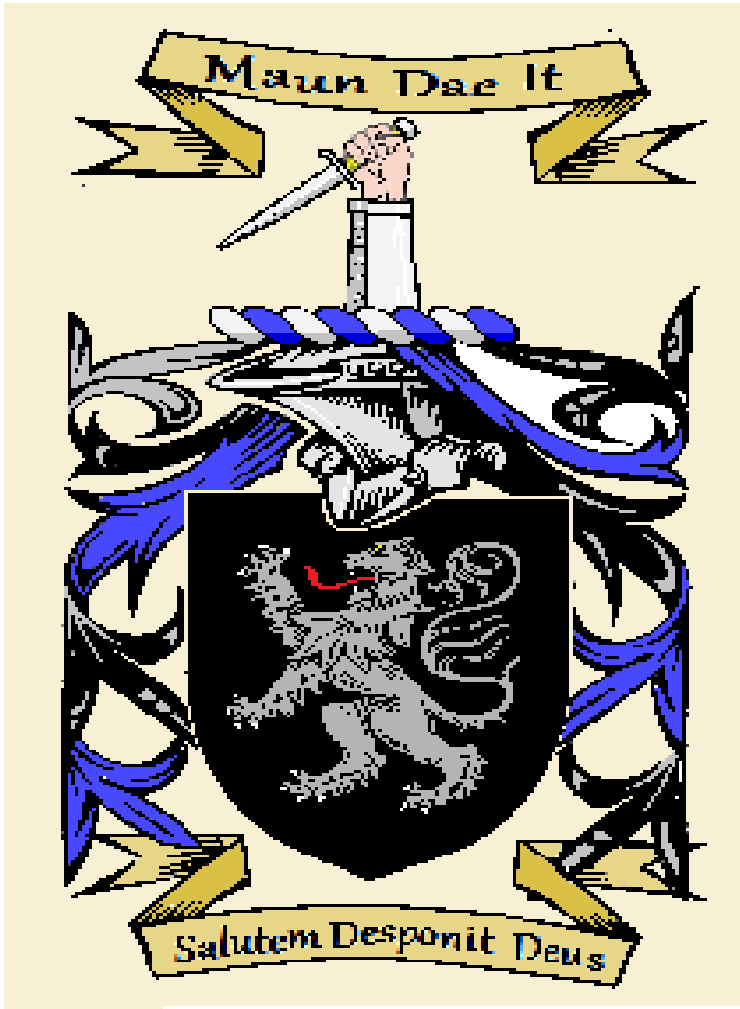
- If a Heraldic description had been taken from a picture of the arms, then the blood could well have been missed out and the 'mailed arm' in the could be seen as being armoured arm, not mailed. If you look at the picture on the right, the blood is not easy to see, neither is the mail on the arm.



- Or someone has mixed up the crest from Roger de Kirkpatrick with the Edgar crest.

From being a sceptic, I am now a convert to David's argument. I think that Sir Richard Edgar was involved with the actual killing of the Red Comyn, it would make some sense that both he and Kirkpatrick made sure he was dead, perhaps Richard Edgar was indecisive and had to convince himself to do it. I can't see that Richard Edgar did not go to the Red Comyn's body, others were there, he would be seen as a coward. The fact that his coat of arms publicizes "*God administers salvation*" under his shield looks like further evidence of his guilty conscience.

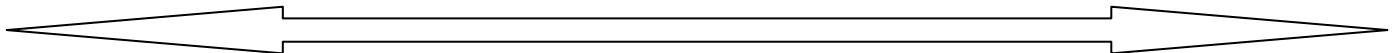
David Edgar - 1, Steve Edgar - Nil!



Sir Richard Edgar's shield and crest. I drew this a week ago, with no blood and an armoured arm. Before I change it, I'd like some feedback on the blood and chainmail issue.

See the next article about other crests and shields.

I intend to produce these, and others, in high-quality mounted onto a wooden base in the near future (not just for Edgars, any name can be done).



## Sister Mabel Edgar



by Richard Edgar ([edgar888@yahoo.com](mailto:edgar888@yahoo.com))

In last month's Edgar Events, I had written a piece about the Second World War, Juanita Edgar contacted me after reading this piece and asked "do you know anything about Mabel Edgar who served in the First World War?"

Juanita had found the newspaper cutting below on the Web site "The Great War Forums."



*Taken from: Armagh Gazette dated 17 March 1917*

[The caption reads] *Sister Mabel Edgar of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve who has been nursing in France since the outbreak of war. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar, Mountpleasant.*

Mountpleasant is on the Tirnascobe Road, between Altaturk Road and Shewis Road, about half a mile southwest of Richhill, Co. Armagh. Although Mabel's family lived very close to my own ancestors, I do not believe we are related. This is something we have found in other

areas where a number of unrelated Edgar families have lived very close to each other; it has led us up the wrong path many times in the past.

Mabel's first cousin, Samuel Wesley Edgar, died of wounds 16 October 1918 and is buried in grave I.G. 25 Delsaux Farm Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Samuel was from Monaghan in Ireland, he was the husband of Eva Maud Edgar, 94 Petherton Road, Canonbury, London, England. He was serving as a Bombardier in the Royal Field Artillery; he had previously served in the Boer War in South Africa.

To help find out more about this lady, I purchased a copy of her medal index card from the national archives office. From the medal index card, I found that Mabel had served in France during the war and had been awarded the following medals:



(left to right) 1915 Star, British War Medal, and the Victory Medal



All members of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve would also have worn the regimental insignia pictured above; this was worn on the right while medals would be worn on the left.



I was also able to purchase a copy of Mabel's military records, if anyone would like a copy please let me know and I will email it to you—her records file runs to 46 pages. From the file, I found that Mabel trained in Ireland at hospitals in Enniskillen and Dublin; during her time in the military, she served in Rouen Military Hospital in France. The hospital at Rouen was well sited close to the ports of Dieppe and Le Havre, this allowed quick and easy evacuation of wounded. From her records, Mabel suffered health problems herself and was sent to the military hospital in Croydon, London, for treatment. Mabel was discharged from service 4 October 1922, having served from 12 October 1915.

I then searched the 1901 and 1911 census of Ireland for Mabel. In 1911, she is living in Dublin working as a nurse, but in 1901, she is at home with her family. Are any of these your ancestors?

Taken from 1901 census of Ireland, Residents of a house 5 in Rathdrumgran (Hockley, Armagh):

David Edgar, age 56, head of family, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Mary Evelyn Edgar, age 42, wife, Church of Ireland, born Co Sligo, speaks both English and Irish

Eva Edgar, age 17, daughter, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Mabel Edgar, age 15, daughter, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Alicia Jane Edgar, age 14, daughter, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Agnes Edgar, age 11, daughter, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Mary Evelyn Edgar, age 9, daughter, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

David Samuel Edgar, age 6, son, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Thomas John Edgar, age 5, son, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

William Alexander Edgar, age 5, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Henry Elsa Edgar, age 2, daughter, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Albert Edward Edgar, age 1, son, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Victoria Beatrice Edgar, age 1, daughter, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

Annie Sayers, age 45, governess, born Co Tipperary

Mary Wilson, age 19, housemaid, Presbyterian, born Co Armagh

James Wilson, age 52, servant, Presbyterian, born Co Armagh

John Wilson, age 18, servant, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

John Clydesdale, age 17, servant, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

John Dean, age 18, servant, Church of Ireland, born Co Armagh

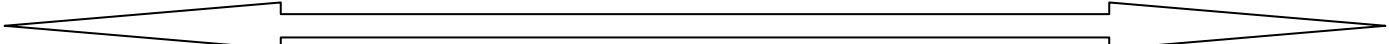
Is Mabel from your family? If she is, please let me know. If you would like a copy of her military records, let me know that also, and I will send them to you.

To finish, these two pictures of military sites I have visited illustrate the exceptional bravery of those who served in the medical services during the First World War. The Royal Army Medical Corps is the only regiment in the British army that does not carry regimental colours; they display no battle honours, but their members have put their lives at risk in every conflict stretching back to the Crimean War. Recently, I attended a talk in Edenderry Orange Hall, where a nurse from Portadown talked of her experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, their dedication to service continues.



The grave of Captain Noel Chavasse V.C and Bar, M.C., the only British soldier to have been awarded two Victoria Crosses during the First World War. The other picture is of a field dressing station outside Ypres in Belgium. It was here that Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote the poem "In Flanders Field." Both men were officers in the medical corps and both at the front facing the full horrors of the war.

Unlike these two men, Mabel Edgar survived the war, but I am sure she experienced some absolutely horrible things. It was her dedication to duty, and of her colleagues, that saved the lives of thousands of wounded. That is something to be truly proud of.



Steve Edgar of Weston Crewe (SteveUK) lost his sister, Janis, to cancer on August 10. Please remember him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.