



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 70, November 2012**

WOW – 70 issues!!



DNA Update



by James Edgar (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

I started looking for Edgars on Vancouver Island last month, hoping to find the current owner of the wooden chest featured in our Edgar Events #50. I haven't yet found the cabinet, but I did contact some interesting Edgars on the island – **James David Edgar** is **SteveTO's** uncle, the current Edgar Clan chieftain, and keeper of the family heirlooms. We had a very nice chat, and I've included him in the mailing list for our newsletters.

I also spoke to a **John David Napier Edgar**. It turns out that he's related to one of the Edgars that **Jodie** has been researching from their Attestation Papers when they entered the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the beginning of The Great War. She discovered that **David's** father, **James Nesbit Edgar**, had married in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1924, and **Jodie** has pieced together a tree of at least four generations.

Garth Edgar, apparently descended from a German family named **Eggenberger**, was another contact in Victoria.

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We heard from **David A. Edgar** of Tryon, North Carolina. **David** stumbled upon our newsletters and sent me an email. He is descended from a long line of **Edgars** who have been involved in the porcelain industry in the USA for many years, having discovered a deposit of kaolin on their land near Metuchin, New Jersey. Kaolin is one of the key ingredients in porcelain. You can read about his family at

<http://edgarminerals.com/About-Us.html> and *The History of Middlesex County, New Jersey* <http://archive.org/details/historyofmiddles03wall> Fascinating!

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Sharon (Edgar) Bunek sent me a contact in the person of **Bruce Edgar** of California, and we have a test kit going his way. Sharon writes:

Bruce has an extensive Edgar family tree that we are currently working on. Bruce belongs to the ever popular *George Edgar* family of Bedford, VA, through his son John Edgar, and his son James Edgar that married Judith Breedlove in Botetourt Co., VA, then moved to Logan Co, KY then settled in MO before 1820. Bruce is also then related to Elaine Leslie of Zachariah Edgar, another son of John Edgar of Bedford, VA. This will be the first DNA test that represents John Edgar of Bedford Co., VA, and I am very excited!

Thank you Sharon!

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On a different note, we heard back from Lorraine Scovell (remember her from the last newsletter?), and she is in the process of sending me the vast records from her Edgar research over the years. She's hoping they will be of use to future generations. I've promised to place them in an archive on the Web for all to see and use.

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I was asked in an email "Why do the DNA test?" and I responded with the following explanation. It's probably old news to some readers, but the basic premise bears repeating.

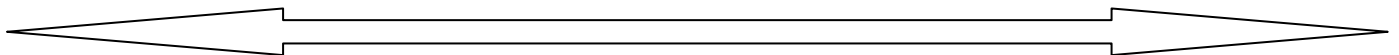
Regarding the DNA test, when I first started looking in Ireland and Scotland for connections to other Edgars, specifically Steve Edgar of Crewe, England, and Richard Edgar of Tandragee, Northern Ireland, we couldn't find any links in the written documentation between our families. After a couple of years of fruitless searching in libraries, church records, and archives, Jodie (Mrs. Poirot) suggested that we test our DNA, then we would know for sure if we were related or not. It took some time to find a firm that would do the test at a reasonable price, and we finally settled on Relative Genetics in Salt Lake City (they've since merged with Ancestry.com).

The upshot of it is that we aren't related at all, and the DNA proves it -- Steve is in Haplogroup E1b, and I'm in Haplogroup I1, Richard is an R1b -- each from distinctly different ancient ethnic backgrounds. E1b originates in the Middle East, spreading across western Europe and eventually into the British Isles (possibly mercenaries in the Roman army!); I1 originates in north-central Europe and eventually populates Scandinavia (the Viking influence into Scotland and Ireland). Of the other two groups (R1b and I2b1), R1b is the Celts, spreading northward out of Spain at the end of the last ice age and populating western England, Wales, Ireland, and western Scotland. The I2b1 influence is the Saxons from western Germany, primarily occupying the eastern half of England, but now strong in western Scotland.

So, you see, the DNA test would tell us where your particular Edgars fit in this general scheme, and, more importantly, to whom else you might be related. Included in the test is a predictor pointing to the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA). We've done over 100 tests to date, so have accumulated a significant database of worldwide Edgars.

We have R1b Edgars predominantly around Wedderlie (Berwickshire); I2b1 Edgars in and around Dumfries; I1 Edgars in Northern Ireland and Keithock (Scotland); and E1b Edgars in and around Newry, Northern Ireland. Incidentally, all four of these groups are represented in Northern Ireland -- three are found in the small town of Kilkeel where my ancestors left from in 1820 to migrate to Canada! This isn't surprising, since there have been several successive waves of Scottish farmers "planted" into Ulster over the centuries.

Through the DNA testing, I've found living cousins in Kilkeel; Detroit & Grand Rapids, Michigan; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Melbourne, Australia. We've also been able to piece together Edgar families in the USA, finding males in Missouri, Texas, and Georgia, all descended from the same man, Hiram Edgar, in Kentucky in the early 1800s. We've connected Edgars in Australia, South Africa, Scotland, and Jamaica to the same small area of eastern Scotland -- Wedderlie!



Charles and Arthur



by Bill Edgar, Melbourne, Australia (edgaraust@hotmail.com)

Charles and Arthur (Aughtry, Aughtery, Doughty and Oughtry) as Christian names in County Down.

Charles and Arthur are not usual names for the Edgar families in County Down, as far as we can know.

Our DNA joint leader, James in Canada, has Charles born 1772, as his great-great-grandfather. This is the only Charles recorded in Irish Edgar records with a birth date prior to 1800. In fact, the name does not SEEM to appear again until the Tithe Applotment records collected in 1830. Charles in Cargenah, Down ref. V171 P35.

Does anyone have any ideas how this name entered the Edgar name list and do you have a Charles in your early Irish Edgar history? I have a Charles born 1886 in St. Arnaud, Australia, to my great-grandfather, William, born Co. Down about 1840 a son of Arthur Edgar, born Co. Down approx. 1797

Arthur, the Anglicized name of the Irish name Aughtry, Aughtery, Doughty, Oughtry, or any other similar spelling.

In the 1803 Agricultural census records of County Down, we have both an Aughtry and a Charles, both with farms in Benagh; were they a similar age, brothers?

Indications are that we had an Aughtry in Down prior to the Aughtry/Arthur born 1797, my great-great-grandfather. Was my Arthur the son of Aughtry? The will for Oughtry, granted 1816, is noted in the Newry and Mourne will index. The Tithe Applotment Book also has an Aughtry information collected 1830 in Lisgarron, Down, and there was no Arthur. The tithe only recorded the property owner/lessor, not sons or farm workers. Ros Davies' Co. Down Web site has two persons named Arthur who lived in the same years and lived almost next door to each other.

— One lived in Benagh and was the husband of Margaret Haddon, father of Catherine b 31 Mar & bapt. 12 May 1841 & William b 17 Mar & bapt. 28 Apr 1844 at Mourne Pres. Church. Parish Records.

— Second was husband of Eliza Thompson; father of Robert b 10 Mar & bapt. 16 Mar 1842 at Mourne Pres. Church. (This is my Arthur and he lived at Drummonmore, almost next door to Benagh.)

Do you have an Aughtry/Arthur in your early Irish Edgar family?

Charles and Aughtry entered the Ulster Edgar name list at around the same time and it is surmised that they would have come from the names of a wife's family. Does anyone have any ideas on this family or perhaps families.

James Edgar, I1, Melville, and Bill Edgar, I1, Melbourne, only differ in our DNA test by 1 value at markers DYS449 & DYS462. (Ed Note: The same applies to Jackie, also descended from Arthur, except he has one more marker difference at Y-GATA-A10.)

We are close in DNA, close in residences of our earliest ancestors (Benagh and Drummanmore) and both have ancestors with not the usual County Down Edgar Christian names, but have no written records to prove a connection. We need help!

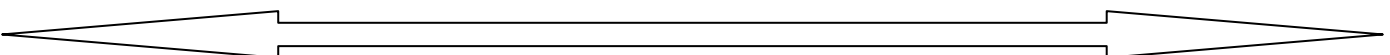
The very interesting story on Charles's immigration to Canada is in Edgar Events No. 1 and 2. The story on Arthur appears in Edgar Events No. 3.

Picture time

In late September, Jodie and I travelled by plane to Toronto, where my sister met us. Marylen lives in a suburb of Sudbury, Ontario, and we drove there to visit with her and her family for a couple of days. Then we toured eastern Ontario for two weeks. Jodie picked the time of year especially to see the colourful trees and the pumpkins by the roadside. Marylen's husband, Terry, wants me to note that it was Jodie and he who located the graveyards we visited – according to him, Marylen and I are both klutzes when it comes to map reading!

Anyway, we saw the trees, and they were incredibly beautiful! I don't have space here to post them all, but you can see many of them at my site

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106588267197428311265/20120926OntarioTrip?noredirect=1>



Recently, Mark Mozer sent us this obituary for Rev. George "Windy" Edgar, who is the patriarch of the Edgars from Newry and who settled in Ohio, then Michigan, and back to Ohio. This is SteveUK's and Donald of Mason, Michigan's relative whose family extends from Michigan to California. We can account for all of the relatives mentioned in the obituary.

The Republican, 10 Nov 1899
Wauseon, Fulton Co. Ohio
died 3 Nov 1899

THE REPUBLICAN, FULTON CO. OHIO

PRESIDING ELDER EDGAR DEAD.

The Rev. George Edgar, presiding elder of this district of the United Brethren church, radical branch, died at his residence on the ridge road just southwest of here, Friday, Nov 3 after a short illness. He was 60 years and over 10 months old and was born in Newry, Ireland, came to the United States when fourteen years of age. He first settled at Duran, O., lived in Michigan for two years and then located in this county where he has resided for many years. Mr. Edgar was among our best citizens. The funeral was held from Bethany church, West Barre, Sunday, conducted by the Rev. Mason, of Frontier, Mich., who was assisted by the Rev. Gilbert of Stryker and the Rev. Clark of Delta. The interment was at Wauseon. A wife and seven children are left. The children are: William of Wauseon; Mrs. E. Moden of Liberty Center; Mrs. Lehrs, Miss Emma, Earl, Robert and Lloyd. Earle Edgar was presented a beautiful wreath by his friends.

Those from away who attended the funeral were: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Edgar, Ed. and Miss Claude Edgar of Mason, Mich.; Mr. and Mrs. John Edgar of Grand Rapids; Mrs. Mease, Fred Gasser, Mr. and Mrs. William Edgar, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerr and children, all of Liberty Center; Mr. and Mrs. O. Benner of Stryker.

The Dark Eleventh Hour



by Richard Edgar, Tandragee (edgar888@yahoo.com)

Every nation has its foundation story, even small countries like Northern Ireland. 2012 September 28 was the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Ulster Covenant, a document that is now looked upon as the birth certificate of Northern Ireland.

“So what was the Ulster Covenant?” many of you might ask. Well, in 1910 during the British parliamentary elections, the Liberal Party won the election beating the Conservatives by just two seats. In an attempt to form a government, the Liberals formed a coalition with the Irish Home Rule Party; the “home rulers” only agreed to the coalition on the grounds that the Liberals would repeal the Act of Union 1800, and this government act formed the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The home rulers wanted a new Irish parliament to be formed in Dublin, but there was one stumbling block—while the majority of those in the southern part of Ireland were in favour of home rule, the majority of people living in the north of the country were totally in favour of the maintenance of the status quo. The political leaders in the north were known as Unionist and traditionally always sat on the Conservative benches in the House of Commons.

So why did the Unionist faction oppose home rule for Ireland? The Unionists were proud of their British citizenship and did not want to lose it. Home rule, they stated, was destructive to their citizenship.

The north of Ireland was the most wealthy and industrialized part of Ireland; the industrial revolution had not had much impact in the south of Ireland. In the north, Belfast and the areas within fifty miles radius had become one of the premier industrial regions in the world—Belfast had the two largest shipyards in the world, the largest linen mills, tobacco works, tea processing plant, rope works, and, believe it or not, the world’s first mass-production aircraft factory. In 1801, the year after the act of union, the census showed that Belfast had a population of 22,000. By 1901, Belfast had over 300,000 inhabitants. In the north there was a lot of work and money to be made, the south of Ireland on the other hand was mostly a rural, subsistence-farming community. The Unionists believed that it was the Act of Union that had brought about this wealth; they had access to markets across the globe as part of the British Empire, and they believed that if those ties of union were cut, poverty would follow. Also if a Dublin parliament were formed, it would have to raise taxes. Many of the subsistence farmers of the south could barely feed themselves, never mind pay taxes, so the industrial north would be hit hard to pay for the rural south.

Another worry the northerners had was religious freedom. The majority of people living in the province of Ulster were Protestants, and the majority in the south were Roman Catholic. The people of Ulster’s fears were inflamed when leading Home Rulers stated “Ireland will be a catholic country for a catholic people.” Fears over religious freedom fuelled the Unionist cause.

A major worry for many within the British Conservative Party, and others around the British Empire in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India, was that home rule for

Ireland could cause a domino effect—once one country fell out of the Empire, before long the whole thing would come falling down.

Two of the leading members of the Empire Unionist Party were Rudyard Kipling and Andrew Bonar Law. Kipling was born in India to Ulster parents, and he donated £30,000 to the Unionist fight against home rule, and he also wrote the poem “The Dark Eleventh Hour” about the struggle against home rule. Andrew Bonar Law was the leader of the Conservative Party. Born in Canada, his father was a Presbyterian Minister from Coleraine in County Londonderry. Bonar spent a lot of time in Ulster, and he understood the people and how they felt. (Incidentally, a little trivia for you all, Andrew Bonar Law is the only British Prime Minister who was not born in the United Kingdom.)

A speech made in The House of Commons by Colonel Edward James Saunderson, MP, opposing home rule was recently commemorated in Portadown. On 2012 June 30, Portadown Unionist Centenary Committee unveiled a commemoration stone; I had attended a number of their meetings and fundraisers, but missed the unveiling of the stone because I was in France at the Somme commemorations.



The stone above has the words of the Ulster Covenant inscribed on its front face, and Saunderson's speech is inscribed on the back. A statue of Saunderson stands to the right, with the Portadown War Memorial to the left, and Saint Mark's Church behind them.

Saunderson's speech: *"No man who comes to Belfast will laugh at the Ulster Loyalists. When all is said and done, whether or not the House of Lords reject this Bill, I say in the name of my people I reject it. You may occupy the House of Commons for years to come with academic debates about the merits of this Home Rule Bill, but I say in their name I reject it... Home Rule may pass this House but it will never pass the Bridge at Portadown!"*

Unionist leaders Edward Carson MP and Captain James Craig MP realised that Ulster must make a grand gesture, to show that the people were totally opposed to the home rule bill. Craig was reminded of the Scottish Covenants from the 17th Century. As a Presbyterian whose family had come to the north during The Plantation of Ulster, Craig liked this idea of linking back to his forefathers. Craig then spoke to leading Presbyterian layman and wordsmith, Thomas Sinclair. Taking his inspiration from the Scottish National Covenant of 1638 and Scottish Solemn League and Covenant of 1643, Sinclair penned the words of The Ulster Solemn League and Covenant. The wording of the covenant bears many references to Sinclair's Presbyterian views, so much so that the Presbyterian Church had to issue a statement that those signing the covenant only committed themselves to these views for the duration of the home rule crisis and not for life. This was going to be a commitment made before God, so it had to be watertight.

The date was set for the 1912 September 28, and, at over 500 centres, men and women of Ulster birth would sign that they opposed home rule for Ireland. Ulster Day, as it became known, started with hundreds of church services. The ministers based their sermons on the Old Testament, which told of the covenants between God and the people of Israel. You were going to make more than just a political statement—by signing the covenant, you were making a promise before God to oppose home rule for Ireland by any means necessary. This was a conditional declaration of war.

The picture shows the village of Richhill in County Armagh on Ulster Day. The men line up



ready to parade to Saint Matthew's Church in the top right of the picture. The man in the extreme left is carrying a fife, which will be played along with Lambeg drums as they march. A banner stretched across the street reads "We will not have home rule". One of the men who signed the Ulster Covenant in Richhill that day was William Edgar, my great grandfather. William could not write, so placed his mark on the page below.

(MEN)

SHEET No 4

PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION, *Mud Armagh*

DISTRICT, *Richhill*

PLACE OF SIGNING, *Abney Orange Hall*

Covenant:—

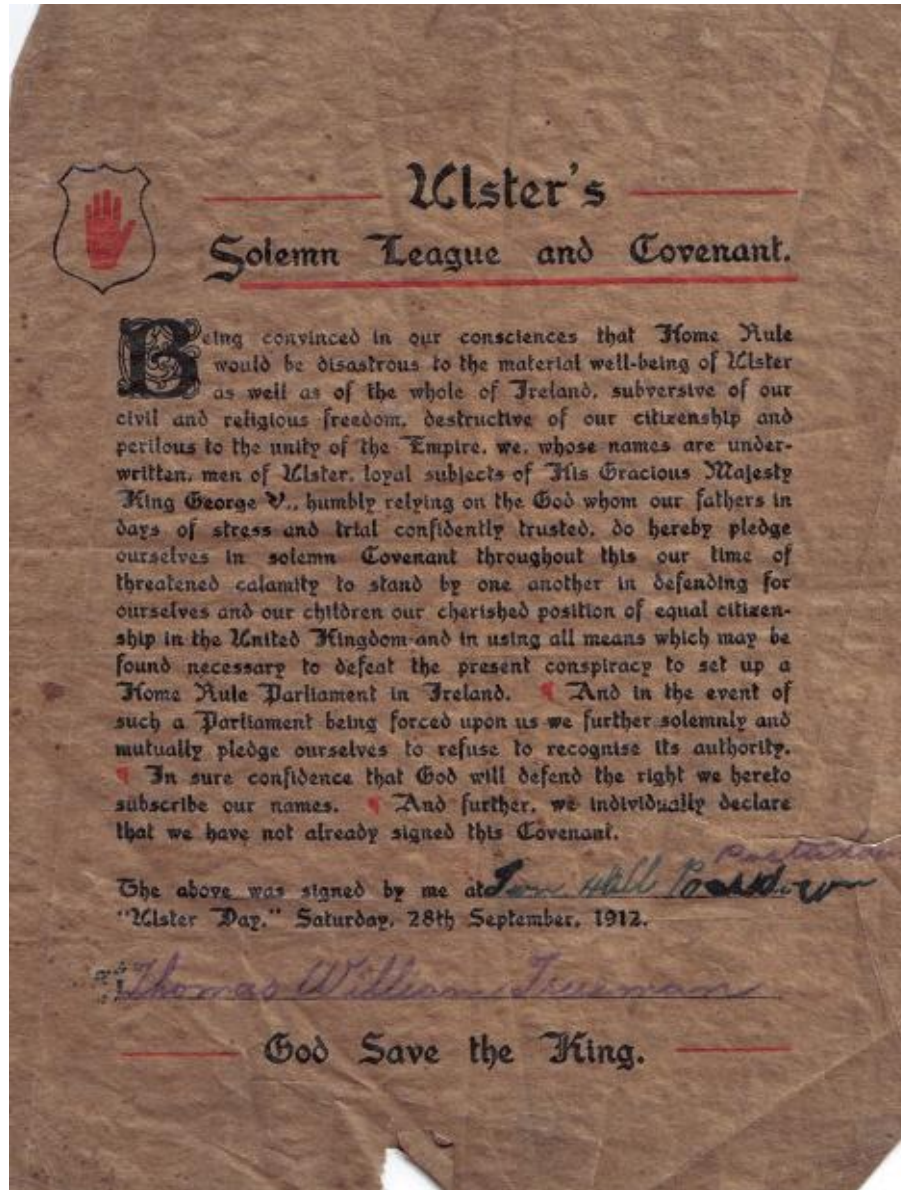
BEING CONVINCED in our consciences that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as of the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship, and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are underwritten, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George V., humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of stress and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in solemn Covenant, throughout this our time of threatened calamity, to stand by one another in defending, for ourselves and our children, our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom, and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland. And in the event of such a Parliament being forced upon us, we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to refuse to recognise its authority. In sure confidence that God will defend the right, we hereto subscribe our names.

And further, we individually declare that we have not already signed this Covenant.

NAME.	ADDRESS.
<i>John Patterson</i>	<i>Cornerscribe Portadown</i>
<i>William + Ellis</i> <i>mark</i>	<i>Abney Portadown</i>
<i>John Downey</i>	<i>Abney Portadown</i>
<i>William + Edgar</i> <i>mark</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Alexander + Jeffers</i> <i>mark</i>	<i>Cornerscribe " "</i>
<i>James Jeffers Sen</i>	<i>Abney " "</i>
<i>Samuel Patterson Sen</i>	<i>" " "</i>
<i>William + McClure</i> <i>mark</i>	<i>" " "</i>
<i>Abraham + Davison</i> <i>mark</i>	<i>Ballybragh " "</i>
<i>Joseph Wallace</i>	<i>Abney Portadown</i> 1266-46

In all, half a million people signed the Ulster Covenant that day, the vast majority of them in Ulster. But many also signed in other parts of Ireland, Scotland, England, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, and even China. Of the people who signed the Covenant, 455 were Edgars. You can view their names and addresses on my [website](#), or if you go to the PRONI [website](#), you can download an image of their actual signatures.

In many Ulster homes, can be found souvenir copies of the Ulster Covenant taken away by the signatories after they signed the document. The Covenant below belonged to my great-grandfather, Thomas Trueman, who signed this copy in Portadown Town Hall on Ulster Day. Thomas stored this certificate inside the cover of his bible, which shows that he fully understood that this was as much a religious commitment as it was political, some eighty years after he signed it. Unlike William, Thomas could write. My granny Edgar and her sister Margaret found it where their father had stored it away and they give it to me knowing my interest in these things.



The Ulster Solemn League and Covenant and the half million people who signed it had a major impact of the future of politics in Ireland. The Home Rule Bill was set aside because of the First World War, but when the war ended and the government returned to the home rule issue, everything had changed. [Ed. note: *With the collapse of the allied front during the German Spring Offensive and Operation Michael, Britain had a serious manpower shortage and the Cabinet agreed on 5 April to enact Home Rule immediately linked in a "dual policy" of extending conscription to Ireland. This signalled the end of a political era, which resulted in a*

public swing towards Sinn Féin and physical force separatism. Interest in Home Rule began to fade as a result.] It was obvious that in Ireland the political viewpoints were so far apart, if home rule was imposed, civil war would follow. So, the British government arrived at a compromise, declaring The Government of Ireland Act 1920, dividing Ireland into two parts, the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland. [Ed. Civil war did follow – see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Civil_War] In 1948, the Irish Free State became the Republic of Ireland, and it left the British Commonwealth.

“Now, 100 years on, everything predicted that would go wrong under home rule has gone wrong in the Republic,” but, with me as a Unionist, you would expect me to say that. I am glad that our grandfathers and great-grandfathers had the sense and foresight to reject home rule.

That aside, last year the Republic of Ireland finally come in from the cold—a new generation is now in power and the men who blamed Britain for everything that went wrong in Ireland have all had their day. The Republic now stands on its own identity and has the best relationship it has ever had with Britain. This new relationship was cemented firmly in place by the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth last year. That visit built many bridges between the people on this island.

Seeing that the first Dail Eireann (Irish Home Rule Parliament) met at the Mansion House in Dublin in 1921, I don't know what my great-grandfathers would think if they had seen their great-grandson in the picture below in the chamber of “The Enemy's” Home Rule Parliament!

