



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 76, May 2013**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

We have three tests outstanding: **Larry Edgar** of Barrie, Ontario; **Ron Edgar**, also of Barrie; and **Roger Edgar** of North Carolina. The first two are men I contacted by phone and Roger is Loretta Embry's father. She emailed to ask if we could get a test kit to her Dad – she was going to use her powers of persuasion on him!

In an email discussion with **Bob Webb**, we find that **Loretta's** Dad's DNA won't likely add anything to what we already know about this family, since we can trace it back to **Adam Edgar** born in the mid-1700s in Pennsylvania, but not beyond that. It's always good to check the process, though, and this is one of the ways to do that – multiple tests for the same family.

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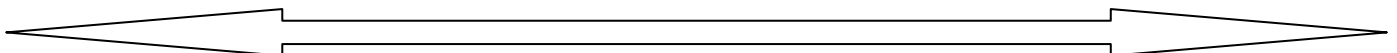
We have confirmation about the story we wrote last issue about **James Edgar** of Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. He was the grandfather of **Ivan Edgar** of Canterbury, Kent. **Ivan** is an R1b and is a cousin to **Keith Edgar** of Omagh, Co. Tyrone. After we had already ordered the DNA test, we found out that **Ivan** and **Keith** were cousins, but by then it was too late to stop the process. **Keith's** father, **Alan**, sent us a large hand-printed tree from the 1980s that showed or confirmed most of what my Jodie (Mrs. Poirot) had discovered. The phone call to Ivan confirmed the rest – his grandparents left Canada after the end of WWI, returning to their native Ireland. Grandma didn't like the cold climate.

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As a point of interest, we have 270 members on our DNA.Ancestry.com site! Some people remain active after many years, while others haven't bothered to even look. Now is a good time to do just that – come on down! If you would like to join but haven't, send and request at <http://ldna.ancestry.com/findGroups.aspx?mode=search&query=edgar>

Failing that, email me and I will send you an invitation. Joining requires a username and password, mainly to keep the spammers at bay, plus it ensures the DNA data doesn't get out to prying eyes.

Once you're on the site, you can use it like a social media place, uploading photos, trees, stories, text, etc. All the Edgar Events newsletters are posted there, as well.



BREAKING NEWS

A couple of years back, we heard from **John Edgar** in Australia, relaying this message from Rachel Edgar, as previously given in newsletter #55 of August 2011:

My name is Rachel Edgar and I live in Victoria, Australia.

I am currently trying to trace back the 'Edgar' descendants of my Family Tree but cannot seem to find much information.

I came across your website but still couldn't see if there was anything relating to my direct descendants on it?

I'm not sure what sort of information you have or how accessible it is but was wondering if you had any records from Ireland or Australia?

The information I currently have is below but I have come to a stand still & cannot find anything further back? If you have any information or know where I could look it would be very helpful.

James Edgar; Born: 1864 Dublin, Ireland. Died: 1948 Portadown, Ireland **Great Great Grandfather**

Keith Alan Edgar; Born 1895 Townsville, Australia. Died: 1966 Trentham, Australia **Great Grandfather**

William James Edgar; Born 1927 Yenda, Australia. (Still Living) **Grandfather**

Michael John Edgar; Born 1954 Beechworth, Australia. (Still Living) **Father**

Rachel Mary Edgar; Born 1985 Traralgon, Australia. Still Living) **Myself**

After some delay, Rachel got her Dad to agree to the test and she just got the results – we have a totally new Haplogroup for the Edgars, as you can see below. Now we have five!

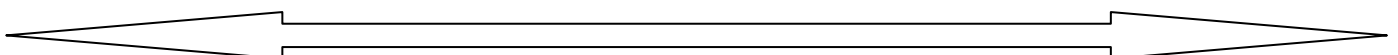
PATERNAL LINEAGE TEST RESULTS FOR MICHAEL JOHN EDGAR

Your DNA test results show that you belong to haplogroup *J2a1h*,
The Cultivators.



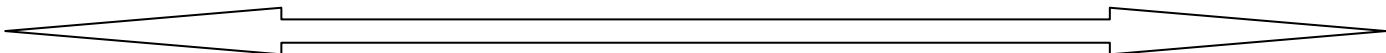
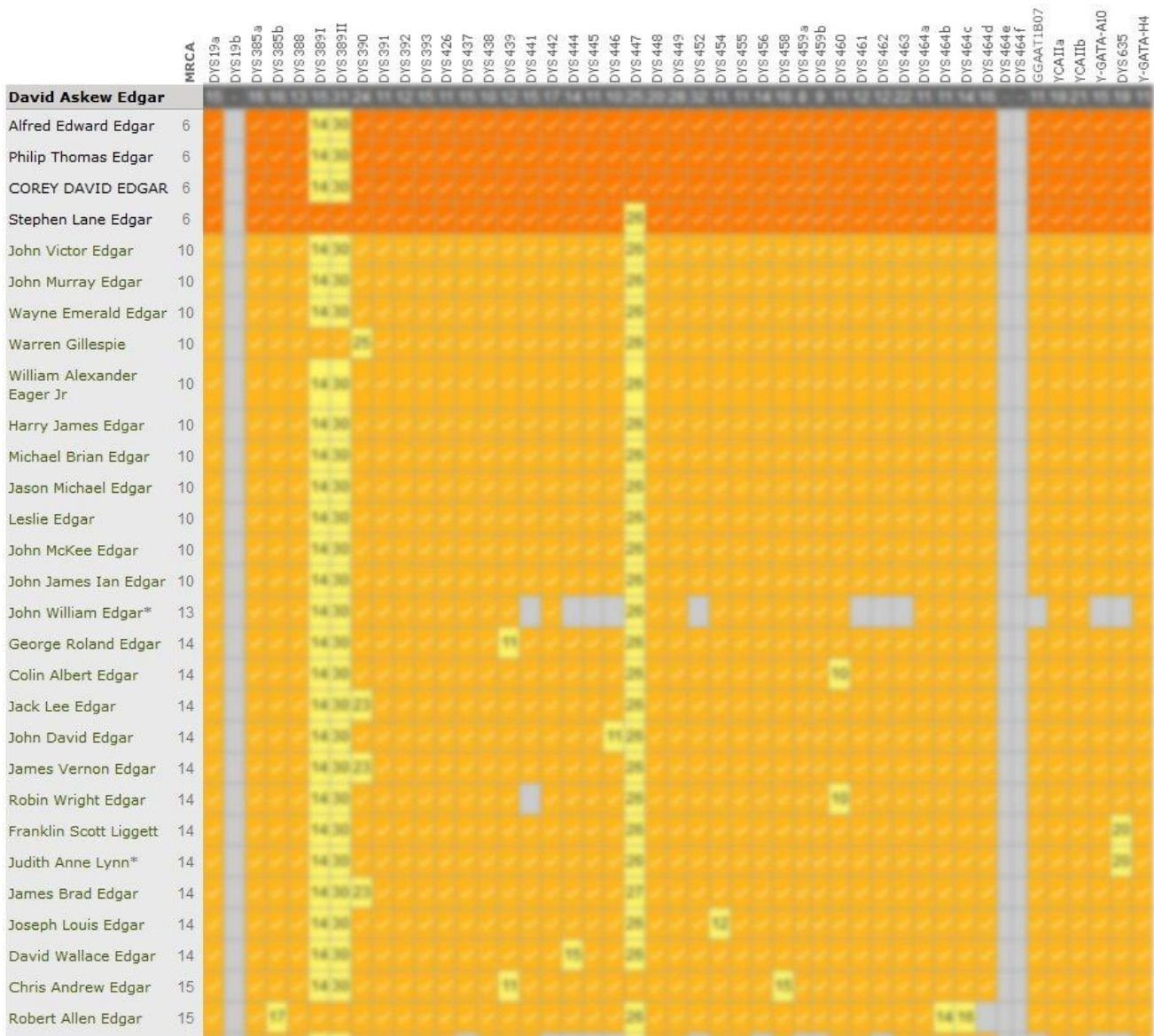
This map shows the likely migration pathways of your ancient ancestors, The Cultivators (haplogroup *J2a1h*). The Cultivators thrived in the region known as the Fertile Crescent and may have lived where present day Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq are located. To use your test results to build your family tree, visit dna.ancestry.com and learn about other participants with genetic profiles that are similar to your own.

 ancestry.com | DNA



Remember **David Askew Edgar** of Ousden, Newmarket, UK, from the last newsletter? We were awaiting his results...

This is the way Ancestry.com assessed the connections. Look at all his new cousins – **David** is related to numerous I2b1s on our site, some of them very closely! [The numbers have been deliberately blurred. Ed]



Mrs. Poirot has done it again!

She found an **Edgar Ernest McBain**, who was the son of my great-grand aunt **Mary Jane** (my great-grandfather's sister). Here he is on the Canada 1881 Census, age 3 years, with his family, living in Lancaster, Ontario (my Dad's birthplace).

1881 Census of Canada about Edgar E. McBain		
Name:	Edgar E. McBain	
Gender:	Male	
Age:	3	
Birth Year:	1878	
Birthplace:	Ontario	
Religion:	Scotish Ch	
Nationality:	Irish	
Province:	Ontario	
District Number:	99	
District:	Glengarry	
Sub-District Number:	B	
Subdistrict:	Lancaster	
Division:	1	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Beniah McBain	46
	Mary Jane McBain	40
	Mariah A. McBain	16
	Martha A. McBain	12
	Minnie C. McBain	11
	Gillis L. McBain	8
	Arthur L. McBain	6
	Edgar E. McBain	3
	Maynard L. McBain	3/12

What we found so interesting about this fellow was that he lived in my home town of Kamloops, B.C., while I was growing up there as a kid; he died there and is buried in the Hillside Cemetery in Kamloops!

Here he is again, returning wounded from overseas after the Great War:

NOMINAL ROLL OF MEN TO BE DISCHARGED IN CANADA									
PARTY OF MEDICALLY UNFITS, ETC., SAILING FROM LIVERPOOL									
5th. Sailing of 1918.									
No. of Personnel	Number	Rank	Name	Military District	Military District	Classification	Reason for Discharge	Residence	Occupation
	MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER THIRTEEN -- Page 3.								
	437630	Pte	Kearns James	100D	51	B3	Dis. of A.G.	Edmonton	Friend.
	18823	Pte	King John	G.D.	93	B3	Dis. of A.G.	Edmonton	Father.
	251723	Pte	Knot Alfred	Alta	2 02	B2	Dis. of A.G.	Duknowl	Mother.
1	436214	Pte	Lailey Arthur	CAMO	51	B3	Dis. of A.G.	Edmonton	
	624625	Pte	Lambert E.T.	Alta	151	B2	Dis. of A.G.	Camrose	Father.
1	100151	Pte	Lang William	100	66	B3	Dis. of A.G.	Edmonton	Mother.
	606960	Pte	Long William	Alta	175	B2	Dis. of A.G.	Calgary	Wife.
	160972	Pte	Lyman Franklin	Alta	80	B2	Dis. of A.G.	Brasford	Mother.
2	523262	Pte	Marshall James	CAMO	CAMO	B3	Dis. of A.G.		Wife.
3	736316	Pte	Moffatt James	N.S.	113	B2	Dis. of A.G.	Calgary	Father.
4	811347	Pte	McBain Edgar	ALTA	136	B2	Dis. of A.G.	Edmonton	Sister.
	1 01247	Pte	McConnell John	300D	66	B2	Dis. of A.G.	Edmonton	Father.
	447625	Pte	McDonald Alex	CAMO	56	B3	Dis. of A.G.	Calgary	Wife.
				11AmC	83		Dis. of A.G.	Calgary	Mother.
							Dis. of A.G.		Friend.

He returned to live in Edmonton for a time, then moved to Kamloops. All I can say is "Who knew?" And, shouldn't we have known? Did my parents know?? Too late now!

Genetic Diversity of the Scots

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



I received an email from Don Milligan recently (he is a researcher into the Milligan family and all of its name variants). The Milligans have also done DNA testing and are working to resolve their family origins. What struck me was the resemblance to our Edgar family's DNA and the distribution similarities.



The Picts were the original inhabitants of Scotland. (These fierce people were the reason that the Romans built Hadrian's Wall! The word Pict derives from the Latin for painted or coloured. They went into battle naked and were covered in tattoos.)

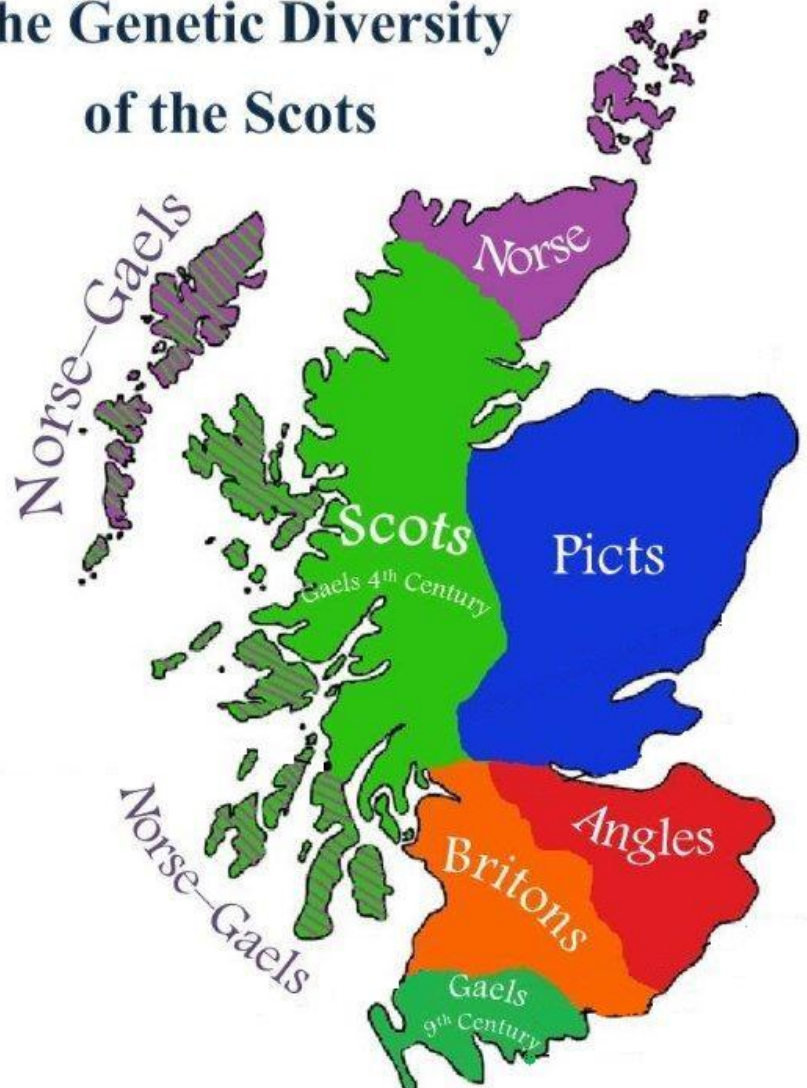
The Picts would have been dark haired, probably dark eyed and sallow skinned, showing their earlier southern origins. Their DNA would have been R1b Celtic, as would the Scots

who originally came from Ireland. These Scots were "Lords of the Isles" who conquered the Western Islands of what is now Scotland. The Roman name for Scotland was Caledonia.

The Britons would have also been Celts who would have settled mostly in England; the origins of these three Celtic groups goes back many thousands of years to northern France and Spain. Any DNA matches between these three groups would be so old that they would not show any matches on the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) calculator.

Surprisingly the Angles' origins show in the east. In the Edgar family this group, I2b1, shows mainly in the west – in Dumfries and Galloway (we have identified these as the Saxons on our DNA site). This location difference is perfectly logical. The Anglo Saxon

The Genetic Diversity of the Scots



www.scottishorigenes.com

origins are from northern Germany/Denmark and would certainly have settled on the east coast of the UK mainland after the Romans left in AD 400. The Anglo Saxons forced the Briton, Gaels, and Celts west to Wales and Ireland.

When this I2b1 DNA got into the Edgar family is not known, but the Edgar family travelled west and settled in the area marked "Gaels 9th century" which is now Dumfries and Galloway. (The fact that there is an area of predominantly Saxon blood in east Scotland could well upset some Scots as their derogatory term for the English is 'Sassanach'. Sassanach is a derivation of Saxon!) :-)

The Anglo Saxons, predominantly, would have been fair skinned, fair haired, and blue eyed.



The area in the far north, the Norse, show its origins to the Vikings; these are DNA group I1, who started to settle around AD 800 and pushed the original inhabitants out. There would also have been a Viking DNA influence through the eastern region of Scotland as well. Again the characteristics of the Vikings is that of fair hair, fair skin, and blue eyes. The Vikings travelled further west and down towards Ireland. They established the city of Dublin in Ireland, which they used as a base for their trade in slaves.

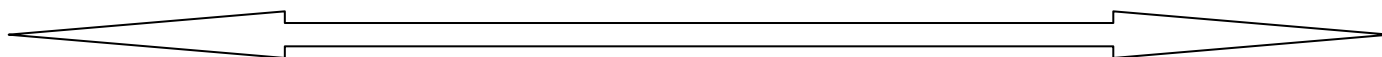
Both the Saxons I2b1 and the Vikings I1 are an offshoot of a group of people who originated in the area around the Ukraine thousands of years

ago.

The final Edgar group the E1b1b does not show on this map; this group has a Mediterranean origin, Greek or possibly from the Levant. The likely ancestor may well have come from the Roman Army, which would have been in the area in about AD 100. The characteristics of this group would be dark hair and eyes, with sallow skin.

These DNA origins are carried down the male line and do not identify racial stereotypes. In any male individual the Haplogroup would only have something like 0.0001% of an influence on their appearance. The DNA for the male carries the line, but each marriage over a thousand years would dilute those characteristics unless they married within the same family.

The evidence of the map above would indicate that all of the Edgar families could well have one common ancestor and that we are all the same family.



We have this clipping supplied by Bob Webb, mentioned above. He wrote: [Attached is a copy of an article from the Victoria Advocate in Victoria, Texas, that will be of interest to you. I didn't intend the article to be so much about me. But, reporters have a way of writing articles as they wish.](#)

B4 — VICTORIA ADVOCATE, Friday, April 5, 2013

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DEWITT COUNTY

Man breathes new life into cemetery

Descendant of settler
cleaning, restoring
historic graves

BY SONNY LONG
SLONG@VICAD.COM

Bob Webb doesn't want his family's history to be forgotten.

Webb, of League City, a descendant of the Edgar family that came to Texas in 1853, is leading the effort to restore the Edgar Family Cemetery in DeWitt County.

The Edgar family's first-born son, Joseph Smith Edgar, was a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, said Webb.

Webb and his cousin, Kitte-na Jane Hannah, of Washington, D.C., began collaborating on researching and cataloging the Edgar family history about seven years ago.

"Getting the cemetery cleared, restored, secured and maintained has been one of our projects to do," Webb said.

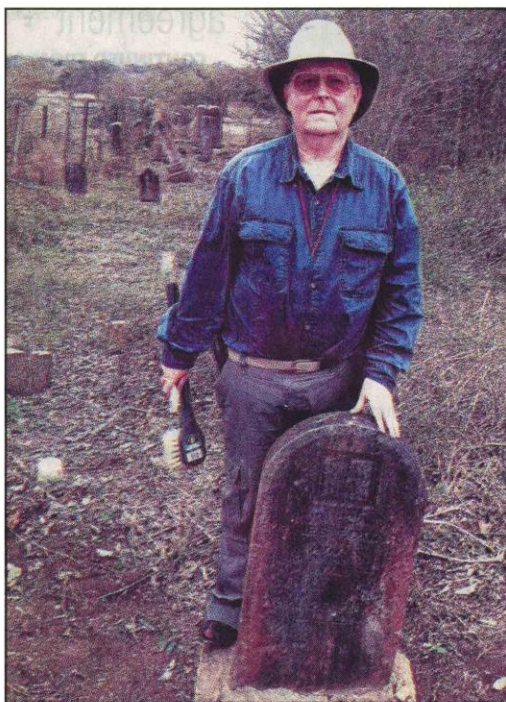
"To my knowledge, the last burial occurred in the old Edgar Family Cemetery in 1938," Webb said. "My late cousin, John Tracy, visited the cemetery in 1969. It was an overgrown jungle then. It had certainly not been maintained and may not have been cleared since around the time of that last burial there."

The cemetery is on private property, a mile within a ranch over some rough terrain and across a small creek with no bridge, Webb said.

A descendant of the Mahler family, which also has graves in the cemetery, worked with the landowner in the early 1990s and cleared a portion of the cemetery where most of the Mahler graves are located, Webb said.

"I made several visits to the cemetery starting in 2006 with very minor cleanup done but with gravestone searches and photographing," Webb said.

After retirement last year,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY BOB WEBB

Bob Webb stands with the headstone of his ancestor James Edgar. Webb is spearheading the effort to restore the family cemetery in DeWitt County.

Webb and his wife, Jane Webb, began devoting more time to the cemetery.

"Thanks to the contribution of a Mahler relative and ours, funds were provided to hire a crew to do the rough part of the clearing, which was done over two weekends in March," he said.

"What is left now is to remove the rest of the vines and to smooth the cemetery and do a more detailed survey, including locating as many as possible of all of the grave markers there, with and without inscriptions," said Webb.

A Decoration Day is planned for Saturday, and Edgar descendants from Texas and other parts of the country are expected to take part.

There will be two three-hour work sessions at the cemetery, one at 8 a.m. and one at 2 p.m., and a visitation period at 2 p.m. for those unable to attend either work session, Webb said.

During lunch, an organizational meeting will be held aimed at forming an Edgar Family Cemetery Association with the objectives of restoring, regularly tending and preserving the cemetery.

If interested in attending a work session, the visitation at the cemetery and/or the luncheon, contact the Edgar Family Cemetery Association via email at efca1853@gmail.com. More information can be found at the Edgar Family Cemetery website.

MORE THAN THE EDGAR FAMILY

In addition to Edgar family members, other burials occurred in the Edgar Family Cemetery, including many who have descendants still living in DeWitt, Victoria, Lavaca, Gonzales, Jackson, Karnes and surrounding counties. Some of those surnames include: Abel, Batchelor, Bates, Bell, Bennett, Bouldin, Brown, Carr, Dikes, Donnell, Duke, Dykes, Farquhar, Hadley, Hugo (or von Hugo), Jacobs, Ladd, Lee, Luce, Mahler, McAdoo, McCormick, McMeen, Means, Mikes, Mikes, Murphey, Newsome, Nyegaard, Odom, Pincham, Powers, Pridgen, Rackley, Reader, Robinson, Skeen, Sparkman, Strown, Taylor, Welch, Witherington and Young.

SOURCE: parkerhannah.com/EdgarFamilyCemetery/Welcome.html.

YES, THERE IS AN EDGAR, TEXAS

Edgar is on alternate U.S. Highway 77 about 7 miles northeast of Cuero. In 1853, James Edgar brought his family to the area and claimed the land granted to his son, Joseph Smith Edgar, for his service in the Texas Revolution. In 1887, the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway located a depot in the area and named it for these early settlers. The area post office was established in 1888. In 1890, the community had daily mail delivered by rail, a general store and a population of 25, and by 1915, a reported 100 residents supported a Wells Fargo office, at least one store, the school and a cotton gin. The community also had telephone service. The Edgar post office was discontinued in 1940, and the school closed in 1951. In 2000, the population was eight. Edgar is not listed on the 2010 U.S. Census.

SOURCE: Handbook of Texas Online

Pewter Badges and Buttons



Solid pewter badges are available (from me, **James Edgar**) at \$18 CAD each – shipping extra. The casting has an integral clasp at the back and a sturdy pin. Perfect for your jacket lapel, tartan cape, or sporran!

We initially ordered 110 badges in September 2009, and we ran out! Fifty new badges have been made and recently delivered to me; the advertised price remains the same.

I also have a supply of pewter buttons, at \$2.50 each – shipping extra.

Email me, if interested – james@jamesedgar.ca

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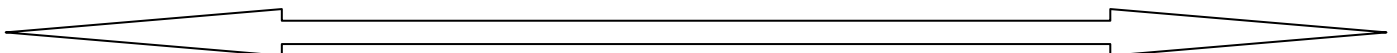
From a cousin in Grand Rapids, we have this snippet:

Just learned about an historic farm about 60 miles north of Grand Rapids, Michigan. I knew there was some history there, as I've seen an Edgar Road but not followed up on that fact. Correspondence revealed this farm was the homestead of an Edgar family from Canada. Their web site is [www.edgarfarmplace.com/history](http://www.edgarfarmplace.com/history) and has the family history.

Thought I'd send it along for your collection.

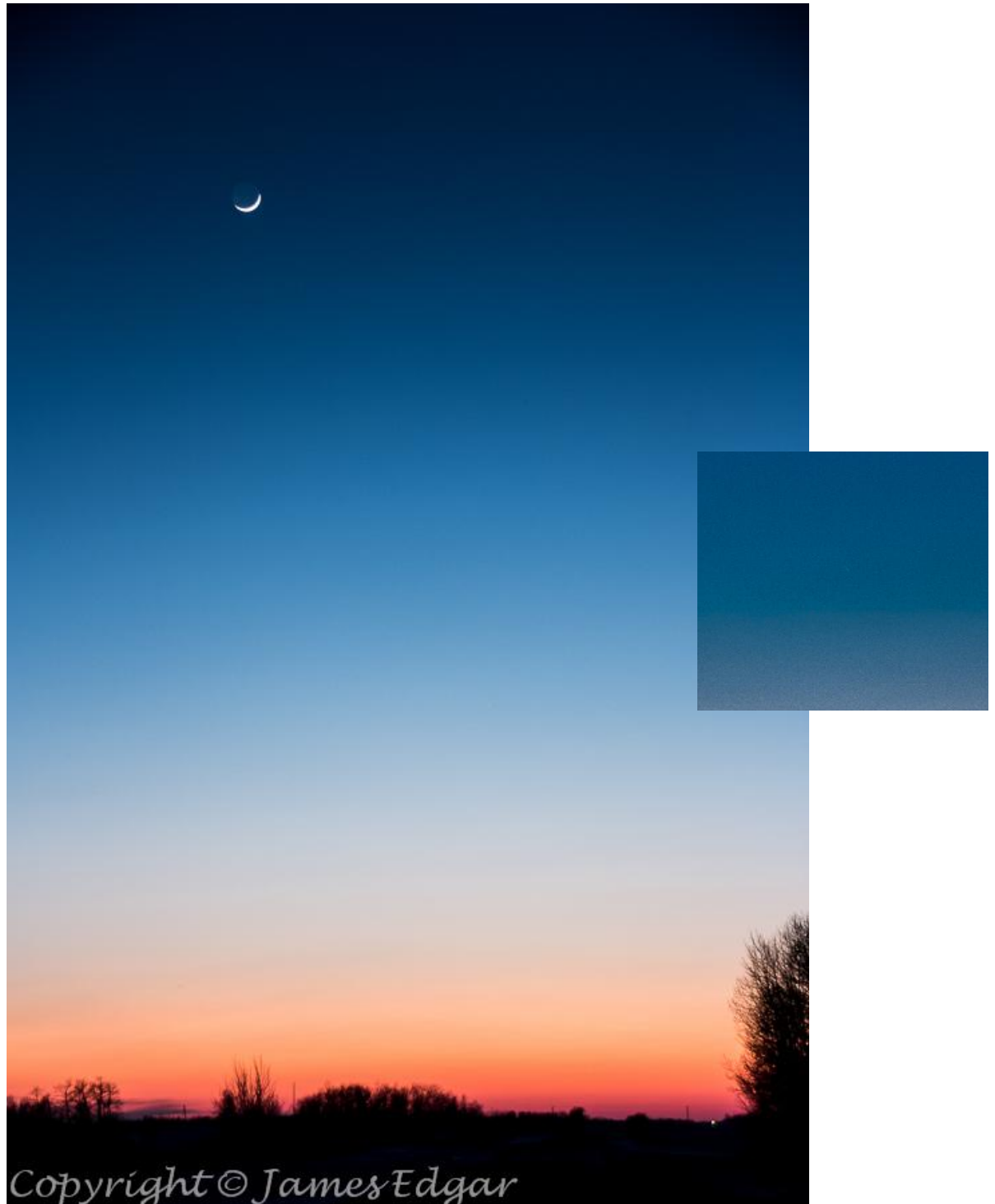
Carol Anne Edgar  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Jodie** and I looked at the site given above, and conclude that the **Robert Edgar** (son of **Jacob Edgar** and **Margaret Warden**) mentioned in their history was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, about 1849. He married **Mary Waugh** and they had three children, all born in Michigan, **Blanche**, **Oliver**, and **Jessie**. **Robert** died in 1908 in Cato, Montcalm Co., Michigan. **Jacob** was born in Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland, and his father **Melvin** was born in Kilmegin, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. Does this ring a bell with anyone? **Jason Edgar** of North Bay, Ontario, (and his cousins **Wayne**, **Tim**, and **Angela**) and **John Edgar** of Chicago have family from Maybole and Northern Ireland!



## **Picture time**

I was out hunting for Comet PanSTARRS in March and snapped this shot, not knowing if it was actually in the frame. It is in there, just at the transition between blue sky and pink dusk, that wee smudge. However, it is so indistinct the comet can't be seen except with extreme image processing. I was happy just to get the fantastic range of colours and the partially lit Moon and earthshine.



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