



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 89, June 2014**



## DNA Update



by James Edgar ([james@jamesedgar.ca](mailto:james@jamesedgar.ca))

I gave up waiting for the return of the kit from **Stephen Edgar** (of Gloversville, N.Y.) and have received a refund. Ditto for the kit for **Antony Edgar** (of Hanover, N.H.) lost in the mail (or so it seems).

**Antony's** kit isn't as important as it first seemed, since we now know that he and **Jon Edgar**, who we already have tested, are closely related.

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I have been in email contact with **Doug Edgar** of Owen Sound, Ontario. He seems like a likely prospect for a DNA test, as we have information on his ancestry, but no connections to those already tested. More to follow.

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## Keep Calm

We have to congratulate Lea Edgar of Vancouver, B.C., for starting the Teespring campaign on Facebook to sell these sweatshirts or T-shirts. She reached her minimum number within the first day and sold an impressive 62 garments. Way to go, Lea!



## HMS Edgar



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

There have been eight ships of the British Royal Navy that had the name *HMS Edgar*. At first, I assumed that the Edgar name referred to was that of Rear Admiral Edgar, one of the last of the Wedderlie line.

Alexander Edgar, Esquire, a Rear-Admiral of the Red, Middlesex, April, 1856. Former grant 1817. Will reg. 123 Effingham, Prerog. Ct. of Canterbury.

Admiral Edgar died 17 Feb., 1817. with 2 cods, formerly of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, but late of Bedford Street, Bedford Square, London, a Rear-Admiral, &c., proved by oath of Maria Bethia Campbell, widow, the daughter, and Sir John Jackson, Bart, (heirs of John J., Esq.), the surviving executors, to whom administration was granted, being first sworn, &c. A query on April, 1856.

The above assumption is not likely to be true as the first HMS Edgar was launched in 1668. Rear Admiral Alexander Edgar was baptised in 1736 and appointed Rear Admiral in 1799. The first named HMS Edgar was much earlier.

So, the question is, who was Edgar?

**1668** HMS EDGAR, a 70-gun third-rate launched in 1668, rebuilt in 1700, and destroyed in an accidental fire 1711.

**1758** HMS Edgar, a 60-gun fourth-rate launched in 1758 and sunk as a breakwater in 1774.



**1779** HMS Edgar, a 74-gun third-rate launched in 1779, converted to a prison hulk in 1813, renamed Retribution in 1814, and broken up 1835.



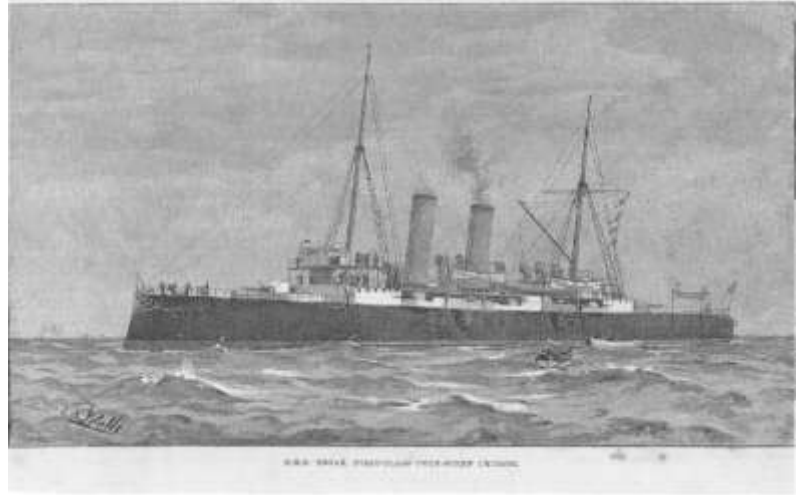
**1858** HMS Edgar, a screw-propelled 91-gun second-rate launched in 1858, on loan to the Customs Service as a hulk in 1870, and sold 1904.

**1859** The fifth HMS Edgar, She was launched as H.M.S. “*Edgar*” on 4 May 1859. Her name was changed to *Hood* in January 1860.

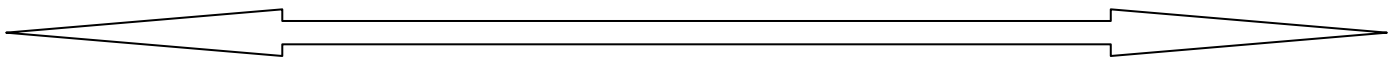
**1890** HMS Edgar (1890) was a first-class cruiser of the Royal Navy, and lead ship of the Edgar class. She was built at Devonport and launched on 24 November 1890.

She served in the First World War in the Gallipoli Campaign, along with her sisters Endymion, Grafton, and Theseus.

She was damaged in an attack by the Austro-Hungarian submarine SM U-29 on 4 April 1918. HMS Edgar was sold on 9 May 1921. She arrived at Morecambe on 24 April 1923 for breaking up.



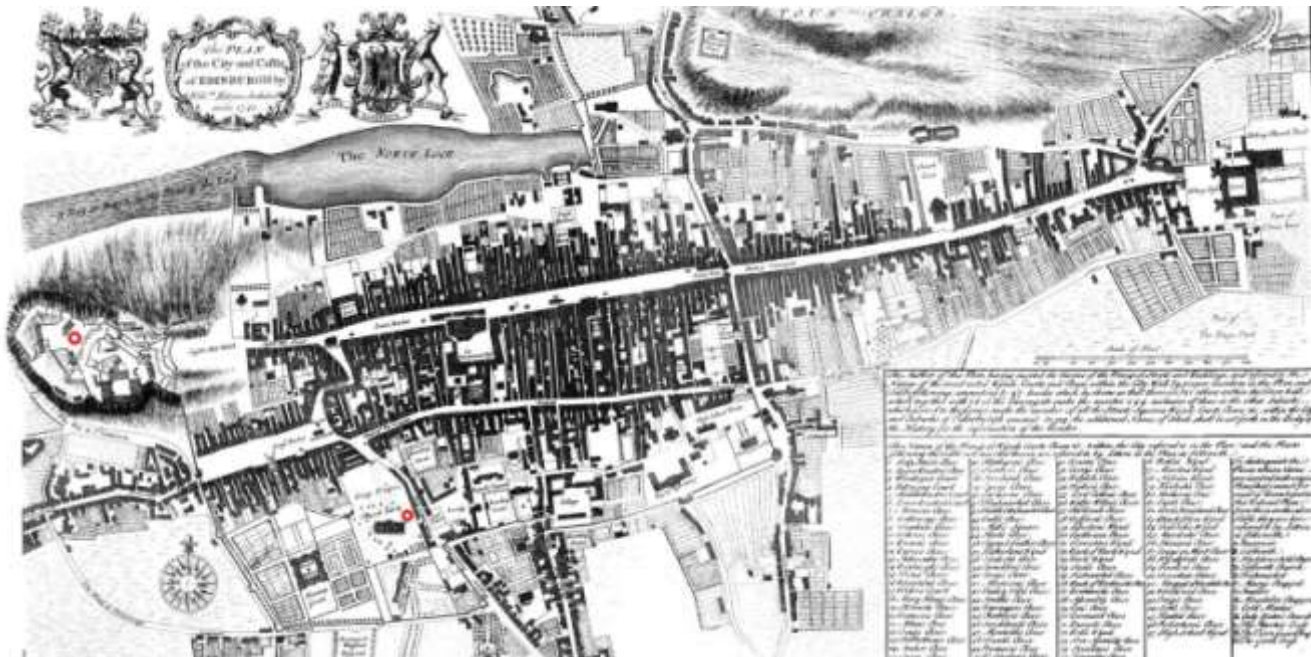
**1944** HMS Edgar (51), an aircraft carrier launched in March 1944, renamed Perseus in June, and broken up 1958.



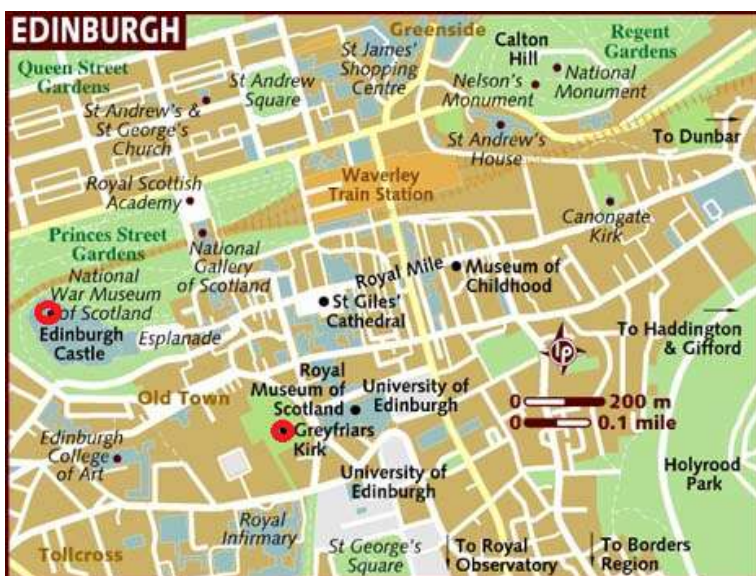
# Edgar's map of Edinburgh 1742

A map drawn by architect William Edgar in 1742, showing Edinburgh as it was at the time of the Jacobite Rebellion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The map clearly shows the distinctive pattern of closes and wynds, creating what is often described as a herringbone shape. Some key city landmarks are shown that no longer exist, such as the Luckenbooth shops next to St. Giles' Cathedral, and the Netherbow Gate, which marked the entrance to the city



\*\*\*\*If you save the map above to your computer, you will be able to zoom in and see more detail.



This modern map shows the same location as above. Marked in red are the Castle and Greyfriars Church. The same locations are marked on the old map for comparison.

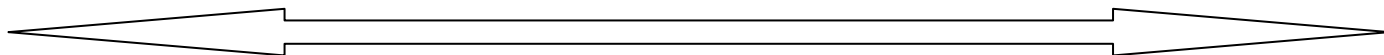
Greyfriars is where many Edgars were married and baptized in the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s

Many current residents don't know that they live on top of a filled-in Loch!

Back in the 1670s, a drawing of the city was made by Wenceslas Hollar.



Many of us can trace our ancestry and DNA back to this location, and it's nice to see an image of what the place looked like back then.



## **Picture Time**

SteveUK snapped this picture in Northern Ireland in 2010—beautiful dereliction.



## **The American Keithock Edgar Family of New Jersey & Detroit, Michigan**

*By Sharon Edgar Bunek ([onsims@aol.com](mailto:onsims@aol.com)) 2014 May 20*

Our recent Edgar Events has revealed several modern descendants of the Keithock Edgar family of Middlesex Co., New Jersey, as well as a recent DNA test and match to Steve-Toronto of the Canadian branch of Keithock Edgars of Forfarshire, Scotland. Most Edgar researchers are familiar with the original immigrant, Thomas Edgar (1681-1759), who came to New Jersey about 1718 and married Jennet (Janet) Knox (1689-1767) in America. The children of Thomas and Janet Edgar are known, and early on the sons and their descendants became known as: the 1st son, David Edgar of the Short Hills Branch; 2nd son, Alexander Edgar of the Woodbridge Branch, and the 3rd son, William Edgar of the Rahway Homestead Branch.

This short article is a summary of one Keithock Edgar family from the Rahway Homestead Branch that settled in Detroit, Michigan, in the 1860s and became very prosperous in the sugar industry. Clinton Goodloe Edgar (1873-1932), the author of "Letters and Genealogy of the Edgar Family," published 1930, is a descendant of the immigrant, Thomas Edgar, and is included in the genealogy of William Edgar, the 3rd son of Thomas Edgar, and who married Experience Clarkson.

Several letters in the book [Ed: described in Edgar Events #88 and online at [www.edgargen.ca/Letters\\_and\\_Genealogy\\_Of\\_Edgar\\_Family.pdf](http://www.edgargen.ca/Letters_and_Genealogy_Of_Edgar_Family.pdf)] describe the marriage and move to Michigan of the grandfather of C.G. Edgar; William Henry Edgar, who married Mary S. Babcock at the home of the Rev. Cornelius Edgar, Edgerton, Rahway, N.J. 1844 March 16, Saturday afternoon. "My Brother Matthias' son William Henry was married on Wednesday evening last, by his brother Rev. Edward B. Edgar, to my wife's sister, Mary S. Babcock." By the 1850 Michigan census, the newlyweds are found in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with a young family and engaged in farming. James Edgar, the father of C.G. Edgar was born in Kalamazoo.

JAMES EDGAR was a prominent factor in the business circles of Detroit, where he became extensively engaged in handling sugar and was also a director of the First National Bank. He advanced steadily in his business career by reason of the possession of those qualities that are always essential to success—enterprise and determination. Mr. Edgar was born near Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1845 May 16, a son of William Henry and Mary (Babcock) Edgar. He obtained his early education in the public schools of Kalamazoo and was prepared for college under private tutors. He expected to enter Dartmouth College, but owing to a change in his father's business arrangements, the plan was abandoned. He was a man of broad and liberal culture and throughout his entire life he read broadly, thought deeply, and found keen pleasure in his association with men of master minds.

It was in 1861 that his father removed to Detroit and here engaged in the sugar business. James Edgar accepted a position with the firm of K.C. Barker & Company, tobacconists, with whom he remained for eight years. On the expiration of that period, he entered into partnership with his father. They were first located in a store on Jefferson Avenue, where they remained for some time, and as the business grew and more space was needed, a store was built for them on Atwater street, where they remained for many years, finally removing to the location on West Jefferson Avenue, where they were doing business at the time of Mr. Edgar's death. In the legitimate lines of commercial activity, he won substantial success and was recognized as one of the representative merchants of the city.

On 1870 January 5, in Lexington, Kentucky, Mr. Edgar was married to Miss Mary Goodloe, a daughter of Judge William C. Goodloe, a distinguished resident of that city, and Almira (Ousley) Goodloe. Two children were born of this marriage: Bessie Edgar, who died 1893 May 1; and Clinton Goodloe Edgar, who married Mary McComas and has two children, James Edgar and Katharine McComas Edgar.

When St. John's Episcopal Church was a chapel on High street, Mr. Edgar became a member thereof, and in fact was identified with the church from its organization. He served as vestryman and did everything in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. His political allegiance was given to the Democratic Party until the progressive republican movement was instituted, when he became a follower thereof, being a warm admirer of Theodore Roosevelt.

### **"Brigadier General Clinton Goodloe Edgar dies in Paris in 1932**

1932 August 9 "Associated Press dispatches from Paris and Detroit today announce the death in Paris last night of Brigadier General Clinton Goodloe Edgar, Michigan's most prominent figure in the sugar industry and holder of a distinguished service record. He was 58 years old. A cablegram was received by Mrs. Catherine Edgar Byron, wife of State Senator William D. Byron, of Williamsport, and daughter of General Edgar announcing his death, which occurred in the American Hospital in Paris. His death, following a stroke suffered Sunday, came while he was on a vacation begun in mid-July. The body will be returned to Detroit. General Edgar appeared in the best of health when he arrived in Paris, but last week he told a friend he felt ill and was taken to the- hospital where, it was said, he showed a high blood pressure. The body has been placed temporarily in a receiving vault pending the arrival of a relative who sailed today on the Leviathan. General Edgar was managing partner of W.H. Edgar and Son, and president of the Edgar Sugar House in Detroit. During the war, he was placed in charge of the construction of buildings for the air service, consisting of 27 aviation fields, nine depots and two experimental stations, involving the expenditure of \$70,000,000. For his achievements, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Italian order of the Crown. He was credited with designing and developing the all-steel, de-mountable standard hangar adopted by the Army and Navy for use in the air service. During his business career, he was president of the Continental Sugar Co. and a director of the Wabash Railway. General Edgar married Miss Mary McComas, daughter of the late U.S. Senator Louis E. and Leah Henmrighthouse McComas, of this county. General and Mrs. Edgar frequently visited here and at Williamsport, where they have a summer home at Springfield Farm. He is survived by his wife and daughter, Mrs. Byron, and a son, James Edgar, of Detroit. His mother, Mrs. James Edgar, lives in Detroit."

Clinton Goodloe Edgar left a will in Wayne Co., Michigan, dated 1932 June 7, and set up a trust, the income from which was to be distributed to his wife and children. Upon the death of his wife, one-half of the trust income was to be given to his daughter, Katharine Edgar Byron, or her issue, and one-half to his son, James Edgar, or his issue.

Katharine Edgar Byron: (1903-1976):

"Katharine McComas Edgar was born in Detroit, Michigan, on October 25, 1903, to Clinton Goodloe and Mary McComas Edgar. Her maternal grandfather was Louis Emory McComas. She grew up on the McComas family estate, Springfield Farm, near Hagerstown, Maryland, and attended private schools including the Holton Arms School in Montgomery County, Maryland. In 1923, she eloped with William Devereux Byron II, and the couple went on to have five sons. In 1938, she was elected the first councilwoman on the Williamsport Town



Council. After the death of her husband in a plane crash in 1941, Katharine Byron sought election to his vacant seat representing Maryland's Sixth District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She won the election and became the first female representative to Congress from the state of Maryland. While in the House, she was present for many votes leading up to and including the vote to declare war on Germany and other Axis powers during World War II. She was chosen as one of five members of the house to give floor speeches in support of the declaration of war. She did not run for a second term, instead deciding to stay home to care for her young family. After leaving office, Katharine Byron, who had been a well-known hostess during her and her husband's terms in office, stayed in Washington and continued to be active among the District's political social circuit. In 1947, Katharine Byron married Samuel Bynum Riddick. She spent much of her post-congressional career as a volunteer for the American Red Cross, but took to the campaign trail once again in 1970 to help her son Goodloe campaign for her former seat in the House of Representatives. Katharine Edgar Byron passed away on 1976 December 28, in Washington; she is buried in Riverview Cemetery next to her first husband, William."

### **More info for James Edgar, the only son of Clinton Goodloe Edgar of Detroit, Michigan.**

Finally! This is where I began my research effort regarding James Edgar of Detroit, Michigan, who owned a circus in the 1940s! Years ago, I stumbled upon him and I was quite intrigued as I do collect "unusual" American Edgars, such as early explorers, fur traders, merchants, ministers, to modern-day cowboys.

### **The Circus Comes to Town**



James Edgar on the right standing next to a Sparks Circus train in Sarasota, Florida, in 1947.

In 1946, James Edgar, the only son of Clinton Goodloe Edgar of Detroit, Michigan, leased the Sparks Circus from the Ringling Brothers in Florida. James Edgar, principal owner and manager of this circus, invested heavily in revamping the failing Sparks Circus and toured the U.S. and Canada during 1946 and 1947 by railroad. However, it was a short run as the Sparks Circus staged its last performance on 1947 September 7, in Tacoma, Washington. Edgar and the Sparks Circus returned to Venice, Florida, to winter over, where Edgar terminated his relationship with the Sparks Circus. James Edgar had made two memorable contributions to circus history. He had established the last circus to be an under-canvas railroad show and placed

Venice, Florida, on the Circus map. Until his death in 1957, James Edgar continued to create and finance additional entertainment acts, such as the Hillbilly Review.

“Edgar was from a very wealthy Detroit family. He was married twice. The first in 1934 was to Katherine Crawford, a musical comedy and screen actress. They divorced in 1936 after a tabloid type scandal. Edgar’s second marriage was to Ann White from a circus family. That one stuck.”

Obituary: Gross Pointe News, Gross Pointe, Michigan, 1957 June 13

James Edgar age 47 died of a heart attack in South Bend, Indiana on Friday, June 7th. Vice-President of Edgar’s Warehouse Inc. of Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Edgar was traveling with his wife Anne to Culver Military Academy to visit his son William where he was stricken. Surviving are his wife Anne White Edgar; son William; a sister Mrs. Kathryn Byron of Washington, D.C and his mother, Mrs. Clinton Goodloe Edgar of Washington, D.C.

James Edgar had only one child, William H. Edgar, who was last found in court proceedings in 1984 regarding legal issues regarding the trust account of his grandfather, Clinton Goodloe Edgar.

Lastly, this is only a summary of one American Keithock Edgar family, with ties to the original immigrant, Thomas Edgar. Sources are not included in this summary; if anyone wishes more info, please contact me. Additionally, I have placed my notes on Alexander Edgar, the 2nd son of Thomas Edgar with our administrator, James Edgar, to be made available to whomever wants them. As time permits, I will prepare my research efforts on the 1st son, David Edgar, the Short Hills branch, and forward it to our administrator. I am thrilled that we are now looking over the Keithock Family of New Jersey and expanding upon the genealogy of the 1930s as written by C.G. Edgar, with help from other members of this very large Edgar family.

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## **Pewter Badges**



Looking for a solid pewter Edgar Crest? At \$18, plus shipping, they’re a great way to say “I love my family!” (Pewter buttons also available.)

Email me [james@jamesedgar.ca](mailto:james@jamesedgar.ca)

7 GENERATIONS OF EDGARS:



1ST GENERATION  
GEORGE BAIRD EDGAR  
1830 - 1917  
MURROBLAIGH, WILTSHIRE CO., SCOTLAND  
EMIGRATED TO THE U.S.A. IN 1871



2ND GENERATION  
GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER  
WALTER JOHN EDGAR  
1861 - 1936  
FORSYTH, PENN. CO., SCOTLAND



3RD GENERATION  
WALTER HENRY EDGAR  
1888 - 1934  
BALTIMORE CITY, UTM, U.S.A.



4TH GENERATION  
WALTER GORDON EDGAR  
1921 - 1988  
BALTIMORE CITY, UTM, U.S.A.



5TH GENERATION  
DAVID GORDON EDGAR  
1958  
BALTIMORE CITY, UTM, U.S.A.



6TH GENERATION  
WALTER GORDON EDGAR  
1988  
ROSLAND, WASHINGTON, U.S.A.



7TH GENERATION  
WALTER ROBERT EDGAR  
1988  
WINDFORD, WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

Recall that in Edgar Events #88, I wrote about finding links between **Mark Edgar** (who tested as an R1b), and his cousins **Debra Bocobo**, **Susan Bell**, **Veronica Velasquez**, **Scott Alexander Edgar**, and **Kim Leeming**. We have this photo collage from **Kim**, showing all the generations from **George** Edgar, born in 1830 in Scotland. Enjoy!