

# EDGAR EVENTS

Researching and sharing Edgar family history No. 10, November 2007



# **DNA Update**

by James Edgar (Editor)

I said this recently in an email, and it bears repeating. "Well, well, well!"

The deeper we go, the more interesting it gets. We have a new Haplogroup in Elaine's family — R1a. This group must be close to the R1b, but far enough away to be a distinct group. So far, there are no known connections to Elaine's family, apparently from northern Poland, long before there were political borders. It must have been about the time the last ice age was ending that her people started to roam. She says she always knew she was unique, and now she has irrefutable proof of that!

In addition to Elaine, we have G.C. Edgar of Texas, coming in as another R1b – a Celt. But again, not close enough to be a close relative of the one's we already know about. Which leads into Steve Edgar's next article...

## **Bosnian** group

by Steve Edgar (of Crewe)

I've had a play around with the DNA matches for our I and I1b cousins. There is still some work to be done by the DNA lab as to the origins of this group. That aside, let's look at the matches (I've removed all the 100% matches and concentrated on the differences). From the "Match %" column it is obvious they are the same family.

Look at the end column, in red. This shows the number of matches there are. Where Robert's family are from is a guess — possibly Ireland. Alfred's, Ellen's, David's, and John's family are all related pretty closely and we know in Ireland. David and John are closer to each other than Ellen.

We know that David and John share an ancestor. We have the record of this person from their personal family trees. We went to see them in May 2007, knocked on their doors, and asked for a DNA sample! They said yes and gave us their history as well. David Edgar told us that his sister, Ann, had married John, both surnamed Edgar. But, that they had no known relations. The DNA disproves this — we can confirm that they (David and Ann, plus John) share a common ancestor!

Ellen's ancestor was either a brother/father/cousin/uncle and Alfred's was also of the same sort of match, but a generation apart.

What we need to do now is collate the data from the five families and look for similarities in forenames and make up a family tree. There is usually a commonality in family forenames, whenever a new name turns up it is usually the bride's father's name. (My Edgars all got called Joseph. A Benjamin William Edgar suddenly appeared from nowhere, Joseph married Elizabeth James. Guess what her father's names was? Benjamin William James!)

If we can collate all the names we can come up with into a respectably accurate family tree for this family. I have the data for Alfred, David, and John. Now I need the data from Ellen and Sandy. Please can you send it to me?

Name	Match																					
I Robert Allen Edgar (Sandy Payne)	100%	16	17	15	31	11	-	12	-	-	-	26	28	-	16	-	22	14	-	-	-	
I1b Alfred Edgar (Argentina)	91.20%	16	16	14	30	11	15	12	17	14	10	25	28	32	16	12	22	14	19	11	15	11
I Ellen Walker	85.30%	15	16	14	30	10	15	11	17	14	10	26	27	32	16	12	22	14	19	11	15	15
I David Edgar (Annalong, N.I.)	82.40%	15	16	14	30	10	15	11	17	13	10	26	27	32	17	12	22	14	19	11	15	17
I John (Archibald John) Edgar	78.20%	15	16	14	30	10	15	11	17	13	10	_	27	32	17	12	_	15	19	11	15	20

# **Musings on Project Results**

by Bill Edgar, Melbourne, Australia

(Editor's note – this was written before the latest DNA results for Elaine, G.C., John, and Steve AUS)

I have been looking at our project results to see how useful the information is so far, and where our project is leading us. We have been concentrating on Edgars with Northern Irish ancestors to date and it is interesting we have three haplotype groups with five members each. Note, I have included "I" and "I1a" in the one group. Original listings had more at I1a, but were changed back to I for an unknown reason. We also have the Mediterranean or Greek group with two members. I have sorted each group member so they match as closely as I can arrange them. As there are five in each group I have used 3 or more of the same number to be the main number with two or less matching recorded as a Variation. The number of Variations reflects the distance in generations we are from one another. DNA Heritage, another DNA testing company, quotes on total matches with their various tests as being, at 43 markers you are within 4 generations, matches at 25 markers are 6.9 generations, 21 markers matched are 8.3 generations, 12 markers matched are 14.4 generations and 10 markers are 17.3 generations. Variations or mutations can vary from generation to generation for various reasons, including the number of children born or other external reasons, including Agent Orange, or other industrial contamination, or even "no known reason." This all makes our results quite exciting when you look how close some of us are.

**11b** are our closest group with Bill (Melb) 1 variation, James (Melville) 2 variations, Jacky (Benagh) 2 variations, Mel (Cincinnati) 2 variations, and Steve (Toronto) 8 variations.

I and I1b Robert (Sandy Payne) did not have the full 43-marker test. I did not say the number of variations, as it would differ from other samples. Alfred (Argentina) has 6 variations, Ellen Walker 1 variation, David (Annalong) 2 variations and John (Kilkeel) 4 variations. The interesting thing with this group is Ellen is the "lynch pin" between Robert & Alfred to David & John as the numbers match to either sets. With examination of "known" old family details we may get to see where they meet.

**R1b** This group has our widest variations James (Glasgow) 9 variations, Lee (Kilkeel) 10 variations, Charles (Frankie) 11 variations, and Gwen (NSW) together with Richard (Tandragee) both 12 variations. The "Celtic" group is far apart and it is ironic that two of the earliest samples taken still have the most variations.

**E3b** Our DNA Project Coordinator Steve of Crewe now at last has a mate in Norman from Georgia — they have 5 variations. Steve's parent's postman is now off the hook.

The need to exchange "early family history data" will help tie us together and make that difficult, slow, march back in time we all want to achieve. Because Bill and Jacky have a proven documented match, James and now Mel are very close to being able to match. Early family Christian names in Bill & Jacky's family match James's family. We have a list of names for the area so think we have the match.

Ellen is important to her group; we must be able to find a match there soon.

R1b needs more tests to get closer matches, they may not be far away, who knows?

Project Coordinator:	Steve E	dgar																				
Project Coordinator's E-mail Address:	banjos@	edgarh)	ome	.fsne	t.co.ı	uk																
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I1a Bill Edgar (Melbourne, Aus.)	l1a	14	14	14	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20
l1a James Edgar (Melville, Can.)	l1a	14	14	14	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20
l1a Jacky Edgar (Benagh, N.I.)	l1a	14	14	14	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20
I1a Mel Edgar, Jr. (Cincinnati, OH)	l1a	14	14	14	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20
I1a Steve Edgar (Toronto, Can.)	l1a	14	14	14	14	12	28	21	10	11	13	11	16	10	13	17	17	12	11	11	23	20
l Robert Allen Edgar (Sandy Payne)	I	15	16	17	13	15	31	24	11	12	15	11	-	10	12	15	-	-	11	-	26	20
I1b Alfred Edgar (Argentina)	l1b	15	16	16	13	14	30	24	11	12	15	11	15	10	12	15	17	14	11	10	25	20
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I David Edgar (Annalong, N.I.)	I	15	15	16	13	14	30	24	10	12	15	11	15	10	11	15	17	13	11	10	26	20
I John (Archibald John) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	I	15	15	16	13	14	30	24	10	12	15	11	15	10	11	15	17	13	11	10	-	20
E3b Steve Edgar (Crewe, UK)	E3b	14	18	19	12	13	30	22	10	11	13	12	14	10	11	17	15	14	11	13	24	20
E3b Norman W. Edgar (Georgia, USA)	E3b	14	18	19	12	13	30	23	10	11	13	12	14	10	11	17	15	14	11	13	23	20
R1b Gwen Edgar (NSW, Aus)	R1b	14	11	14	12	13	30	24	10	13	13	12	15	12	13	14	17	11	12	13	25	19
R1b Lee (Roland Lee) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	R1b	14	11	14	12	13	29	24	10	13	13	12	15	12	12	14	17	12	12	14	25	20
R1b Charles Edgar (Frankie Sawyer, TN)	R1b	14	12	15	12	13	29	24	10	13	13	12	15	12	12	14	17	13	12	13	25	19
R1b James Edgar (Glasgow, Scotland)	R1b	14	11	15	12	13	29	24	11	13	13	12	15	12	12	15	17	12	12	13	24	19
R1b Richard Edgar (Tandragee, N.I.)	R1b	14	11	13	12	13	29	25	11	14	13	12	15	12	12	14	17	12	12	13	25	18
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Elaine (N. Carolina)																						

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I1a Bill (William S.) Edgar (Melb. Aus.)	l1a	14	14	14	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20
I1a James Edgar (Melville, Can.)	l1a	14	14	14	14	12	28	22	10	11	13	11	16	10	11	17	17	13	11	14	23	20
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l1a James Edgar (Melville, Can.)	l1a	29	31	11	8	14	16	8	9	10	12	13	21	12	15	16	16	21	11	19	21	15	21
l1a Jacky Edgar (Benagh, N.I.)	l1a	31	31	11	8	14	16	8	9	10	12	12	21	12	15	16	16	21	11	19	21	14	21
I1a Mel Edgar, Jr. (Cincinnati, OH)	l1a	29	31	11	8	14	17	8	9	10	12	12	21	12	15	16	16	21	11	19	21	15	21
l1a Steve (John Stephen) Edgar (Toronto.)	l1a	31	31	11	8	17	16	8	9	10	12	12	21	12	14	15	16	21	11	19	21	15	21
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I Ellen Walker	I	27	32	11	11	14	16	8	9	11	12	12	22	11	11	14	16	19	11	19	21	15	21
l David Edgar (Annalong, N.I.)	I	27	32	11	11	14	17	8	9	11	12	12	22	11	11	14	16	19	11	19	21	15	21
l John (Archibald John) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	I	27	32	11	11	14	17	8	9	11	12	12	-	11	11	15	16	19	11	19	21	15	21
E3b Steve Edgar (Crewe, UK)	E3b	33	30	11	11	16	14	9	9	11	12	12	18	15	15	16	16.3	21	13	19	22	14	23
E3b Norman W. Edgar (Georgia, USA)	E3b	34	30	11	10	16	14	9	9	11	12	12	18	15	15	16	16.3	21	13	19	22	14	22
R1b Gwen Edgar (NSW, Aus)	R1b	30	30	11	11	15	18	9	10	12	11	11	-	15	15	17	17	24	10	19	24	15	23
R1b Lee (Roland Lee) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)	R1b	32	31	11	11	18	16	9	10	10	12	11	24	15	15	15	17	23	10	19	23	15	22
R1b Charles Edgar (Frankie Sawyer, TN)	R1b	29	31	11	11	15	17	9	9	11	11	11	24	15	15	17	17	24	10	19	23	16	21
R1b James Edgar (Glasgow, Scotland)	R1b	31	30	11	11	15	17	9	10	11	12	11	25	14	15	17	17	23	10	19	23	15	21
R1b Richard Edgar (Tandragee, N.I.)	R1b	30	30	11	11	17	18	9	10	13	12	11	24	15	16	16	17	23	10	19	23	15	22

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# Obituary

I David Edgar (Annalong, N.I.)

I John (Archibald John) Edgar (Kilkeel, N.I.)

by James Edgar (Editor)

Charles Edgar, who recently gave his DNA sample to help Frankie Sawyer's quest for her roots, has passed away in Alabama. He and Frankie were cousins. She knew he was ailing when she asked him to participate in the project, and she also had a sense that time was running against her – she had to get the sample from him in a hurry. She writes, "Charles was truly a southern, well learned, gentleman." More on this in the next Edgar Events newsletter.

# **Proving the Clan Theory**

by Steve Edgar (of Crewe)

Richard Edgar in Tandragee opened up the very plausible theory that maybe I, as Greek in origin, had a male ancestor who served in the Roman army between AD 1-400 (the "kebab shop on Hadrian's Wall" theory).

The separate Celt families we are finding must also be pointers to the same theory. It is a known fact that the Romans never used local troops to police their conquests, they were always brought from another location. The Celts are of SW France/NE Spain/Irish/Welsh/Scottish origin. The DNA variation we are finding is Celtic but subdivided into the various locations (as yet we can't tell which is which). Ongoing research and more samples will get us there and we may be able to pick out distinctive tribes. The Celts did do an awful lot of trading and moving about, perhaps this is why separation is proving difficult. Some of the DNA will prove to be indigenous Irish or Scottish, but I do think that Roman import origin will be there. (What race were the Romans?)

Like any theory, it must be testable to stand as a good one.

My test on this is that there were some males, of various origins, lingering about in south-eastern Scotland, in AD 1200 or so, awaiting their opportunity to become Edgars. But what of their brothers, fathers, and male cousins? Did they all become Edgars? No, I don't think so. I'll bet they joined another clan, likely as not the same clan as their wife's father. Detailed below is a Clan map of south-eastern Scotland centred on Clan Edgar. Looking around we see Home, Douglas, Trotter, Maitland, etc. Surely



the brothers of the new Edgars must have joined another local tribe; was the other tribe a Home, Douglas, etc? A DNA link at about 800 years ago would be cast-iron proof; older links would be highly likely.

(copy of map portion from a larger map, thanks to Collins, "Scotland of Old.")

#### **Celtic Cousins**

by Steve Edgar (of Crewe)

We have, in the Edgar DNA results, a lot of Celts showing as ancestors of the Edgars forming what we believe was the original Edgar Clan. I have been reading up on the Celts and need to do an update on the details of Celtic origins and why we show so many diverse origins.

First of all, I had supposed that our Celts had arrived with the Romans as soldiers. This may not be the case, other native British Celts were already here well before the Roman conquest. All of Britain was Celtic in AD 50, as was all of NW Europe. Those horrible I1a Vikings were still in Norway pillaging amongst themselves, and were not due to introduce their genes (that's a polite way of putting it!) for another 700 years. The Celts were so widespread that they started to produce their own DNA separations. These same separations are showing in our DNA results.

I don't think that our DNA project is going to answer the deeper Celtic origins question. It will of course show up the Edgar connections later than about AD 1250 or so (after the Clan formation). The earlier records may well start to show when the Relative Genetics information is transferred to Ancestry DNA. If this project works, with its millions of participants (not tens, like ours) then the true origins of our Celtic tribes may well be revealed.

If any of you Celtic Edgars have not allowed your data to be passed over to Ancestry DNA, I recommend that you do so right away; it is not an opportunity to be wasted.

This new information may well provide the more specific Celtic origins that we would like to see. It will compare current locality DNA results and compare with the old. The laws of probability will show where your Celtic tribe may well have originated from.

#### **Damned Vikings**

The new member of the I1a Vikings is Mel from Cincinnati. It must have come as a bit of shock to him to find he has a close connection to some Edgars in Benagh, Kilkeel, Co. Down, within our group and also that he has ancestry dating back over 1000 years!...all from one simple DNA test!

Mel's valuable DNA data along with his long written record has actually allowed us to produce one of those skeleton family trees we have been threatening Edgar family members with for so long. Based on written records from Ros Davies' Co. Down site, flax growers' records, leaseholders' records, our own family details, and because we know there is a DNA link, we know that these people are related; therefore, with a small amount of speculation we can make the following tree:-

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Richard
           James Snr
                             Another
                                              Another
                                                           all b between 1670/80 - the four brothers?
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           James Jnr b. abt 1710
               I
           James III b. abt 1735
               I
   I
                                  I
                                                  Т
James IV 1764?
                         Charles 1772
                                              William?
                                  I
James V 1784?
                           James 1800
                                                Arthur 1797?
   I
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Samuel 1840?
                        Charles Stephen 1848
                                                James 1834?
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There is still work to do to putting all the details in, but I don't think it is wholly inaccurate. This tree is taking the family into the late 1600s, around the Battle of the Boyne time. Time for more speculation! Did these Edgars arrive from Scotland to fight in the battle and then settle (see a clue in the McKee history)? Here is a letter from John McKee to another McKee descendant discussing John's remembrances of his youth in Ireland. This John McKee's ancestors are, I am almost positive, our ancestors because they lived almost across the street from each other in County Down, Northern Ireland.

Jacky's Family

James' Family

Mel's Family

#### "Tom McKee:

"When King William III (of Orange) sent the Duke of Schomberg to Scotland (where he was well known as the friend and protector of the Scottish martyrs and exiles in Denmark) to raise an army to conquer King James in Ireland. Amongst the volunteers were four brothers call McKee, and Robert Edgar who fought at the Battle of the Boyne and marched back again about 100 miles to get their farms on the County Down Coast; when their fathers came from and where they could see the Isle of Man and Scotland in the offing.

"Hugh McKee and Robert Edgar settled in Lisban near Saintfield, where their descendants are still numerous, of which I am one.

"James McKee settled in the Ards, County Down, where his descendants still live. David crossed the Lagan River and settled in County Antrim three or four miles from Belfast. The fourth brother would rather be a soldier than farmer and remained with the army."

Or were they already in Ireland? If they were Scottish, we need to trace the family in 1650 or so in Scotland. If they were already settled in Ireland, then the chances are that they arrived *circa* 1630, as part of the Scottish Plantation Acts. Records from Scotland needed for 1600.

This family is just about sorted for 250 years ago; we need older DNA to take it back further, but where? My guess is 1) Saintfield, and 2) Keithock area Scotland, as potential origins. We know Keithock is the second family home, so any Edgars in the area are prime candidates.

There are still Edgars out there missing out on their history, if anyone can put comments on chat Web sites, history sites, forums, etc. please do so — it might encourage others.

#### Forwards and backwards

When the future DNA Ancestry site is up and running we may well be able to find our more obscure cousins, namely the Odgers, Adairs, Agars, Edzars, Edgers, Eggers, etc. The overall DNA map might bring these folk in as well and fill in a few gaps. After doing some checking these spelling derivations are not consistent, they do not "flow" within a family, brothers and sisters each had their own spelling. A lot of this was from the fact that the scribe or writer was not a local person. He had to translate the local accent and then write it down. Anyone asking a broadly accented Ulsterman to pronounce Edgar will hear "Odger"; what does the scribe put down? What he hears probably! If the Odger/Edgar couldn't read, how would he know it was spelt wrong?

#### More from SteveUK – little snippets

I have always wondered why the Edgars have had allegiance to two sets of Royal families in Scotland — the Bruces and the Stewarts. Was it coincidence?

The Stewarts derive their name from "stewards," an office appointed by King David (1124-1153) on Walter Fitzallen. Walter married Robert the Bruce's daughter. Robert the Bruce's son, King David II, died childless and was succeeded by R the B's grandson, Robert Stewart, who became King Robert II. The line continued to Mary Queen of Scots, etc. and the Edgars must have kept their allegiance to the Scottish Royal family.

(Editor's Note – Elizabeth, the daughter of the "Red Earl" of Ulster, Richard de Burgh, became the second wife of Robert the Bruce. Interestingly, the Red Earl owned Greencastle from 1280 to 1326!)

### Picture album

The castle at the tip of land by Carlingford Lough is actually made of green stone, pieces of which can be picked up at the water's edge. Is it any wonder that the place is called "Greencastle"? It is an ancient building from about AD 1230. See <a href="https://www.newryjournal.co.uk/content/view/1321/31/">www.newryjournal.co.uk/content/view/1321/31/</a>



This past spring, in May, Steve Edgar and I visited the Battle of the Boyne site, shown below. The Jacobites were arranged along the ridge from where I took the photo, and William's army came across the River Boyne, about where the white buildings are in the middle foreground. To learn more about the famous battle, see this site <a href="https://www.irelandseye.com/aarticles/history/events/dates/ch5.shtm">www.irelandseye.com/aarticles/history/events/dates/ch5.shtm</a>

