



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history NO. 100, May 2015**



LET'S  
CELEBRATE  
THIS IS ISSUE  
#100!



## DNA Update



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

I said last time “This is going to take some time....” And, I was right. We did get one of the tests, though—that of **Gerald Thomas Edgar** of Layton, Utah. Still waiting on **Frank Edgar** in Peru; **Steve Edgar** of Napanee, Ontario; and **Robert Edgar** of Ayr, Ontario.

**Gerald’s** matches within our group are: **Roland Edgar** of Cumbria, England, **Graeme Gillespie** of Australia, and **Ray C. Riley** of Stillwater, Oklahoma. This latter person joined our group because he closely matched **Roly** and **Graeme**.

| Name                   | Paternal Ancestor Name                             | Country  | Haplogroup |
|------------------------|--|----------|------------|
| John Graham Downer     | John Downer  | England  | E-L117     |
| John W. Edgar          | James Edgar, b. 1815, Maybole, Scotland            | Scotland | I-L126     |
| David Scott Ager       | John Ager, b. abt 1770                             | Unknown  | I-L126     |
| Neville Osman Seadon   | Ireland  | Ireland  | I-L126     |
| James Somerville Edgar | Charles Edgar, b. abt. 1772, Kilkeel, Co. Down, NI | Ireland  | I-M170     |
| Douglas Neil Edgar     | James Edgar, b. abt 1762, Co. Down, NI             | Ireland  | I-M253     |
| Gerald Thomas Edgar    | Walter Edgar, b. 1796 Queenshill, Scotland         | Scotland | I-M223     |
| George Roland Edgar    | Robert Edger b. 1696 and d. 1793                   | England  | I-M223     |
| Graeme Gillespie       | James Edgar (aka Gillespie) b1826 IRE d1901 AU     | Ireland  | I-M223     |
| Ray C. Riley           | Samuel Solomon b 1798 TN and d 1861 TN             | Scotland | I-M223     |
| Pamela Hagwood         |  | Unknown  | I-P37      |
| James Eager            |  | US       | J-M172     |
| Eric Robledo Edgar     | Jose Maria Robledo, b. 1820, San Luis Potosi, Mex. | Mexico   | O-M175     |
| Andrew N.L. Edgar      | Andrew Edgar c1750 Scotland                        | England  | R-L257     |
| Carl Edgar             |  | Unknown  | R-M269     |
| Dallas Edgar           |  | Unknown  | R-M269     |
| David Leslie Edgar I   | Thomas Edgar, b. 1697 and d. 1741                  | Scotland | R-M269     |
| Edward Edgar           |  | Unknown  | R-M269     |
| Earl Wesley Adair      | James ADAIR b. 1794 GA d. 1842 TN m. Mary HILL     | Unknown  | R-M269     |
| William Wayne Tucker   | Aaron Tucker b.1768 MD, d. ca 1865 Pulaski Co., IL | England  | R-M269     |
| Robert Charles Edgar   |  | Unknown  | R-M269     |
| Scott Norman Edgar     | Robert Edgar                                       | Ireland  | R-M269     |
| Thomas G McKee         | Charles McKee b. 1764 d. 1848                      | Ireland  | R-M269     |
| Wesley Dewey Edgar     |  | UK       | R-M269     |

It can be seen in the foregoing that the Haplogroups we were all familiar with have been re-named using a combination of letters and numbers. For example, R1b has been replaced with R-L257, in **Andrew N.L. Edgar’s** case, and with R-M269 for the remainder. The difference indicates a different ancestry.

Likewise, I2b1 is now identified by a few different combinations of letters and numbers. I-L126 is a subclade of I-M348, so is I-M223, and so is I-P37. These new identifiers were adopted a few years back, but we haven’t changed with the times.

Here's a quote from the [ISOGG](http://www.isogg.org) (International Society of Genetic Genealogy) site: **Because of continuing research, the structure of the Y-DNA Haplogroup Tree changes and ISOGG does its best to keep the tree updated with the latest developments in the field.** It requires regular study to keep up with the changes. [www.isogg.org/tree/ISOGG\\_YDNATreeTrunk.html](http://www.isogg.org/tree/ISOGG_YDNATreeTrunk.html)

Another example of designators is evident in my own result compared to Douglas Neil Edgar's result: his is I-M253, and mine is I-M170. The difference is that I only had 12 markers tested when I joined (I already knew my Haplogroup and markers from my earlier test at Relative Genetics in 2007), where Doug had the 67-marker test, so his results are known to a much greater accuracy. It is worthwhile reading up on this at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup>.

The outliers J and O are just that—unknowns, and we may never know the true parentage.

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Thanks to Marian Morgan and Angela Reed, we have some Internet links to search through:

<http://bit.ly/1cAXLOq> 3.6 million dog licence registration. It seems unlikely, but it is true that family history can be gleaned from such a registration—they tell who was where and when!

[www.gouldgenealogy.com/2014/12/biggest-digitisation-of-irish-genealogy-records-begins](http://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2014/12/biggest-digitisation-of-irish-genealogy-records-begins) This one is self explanatory

<http://bit.ly/1FZQnpj> This is an announcement from Family Tree DNA to administrators like me, telling of improvements to the new search facility.

<http://bit.ly/1Hdt9Oc> More from FTDNA, describing the new global search.

<http://irishdeedsindex.net/> This location is a search of Irish deeds, for example, I searched on "Edgar" as a surname only and got the following:

| Name search results                                                              |        |      |                       |                   |                    |                  |                        |         |             |             |           |       |                      |                   |                   |                   |                    |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Number of name searches since 20150422 is 1139.                                  |        |      |                       |                   |                    |                  |                        |         |             |             |           |       |                      |                   |                   |                   |                    |  |
| Search terms<br>Family = edgar<br>Forename =<br>Date loaded on or after 20070401 |        |      |                       |                   |                    |                  |                        |         |             |             |           |       |                      |                   |                   |                   |                    |  |
| Idx No                                                                           | Volume | Page | Memorial number       | Year current deed | Month current deed | Day current deed | Current deed type      | MS or W | Person code | Family name | Forname s | Title | Residence            | Role current deed | Role earlier deed | Year earlier deed | Month earlier deed |  |
| 25661                                                                            | 17     | 198  | <a href="#">8527</a>  | 1716              | 11                 | 19               | L + R                  |         |             | EDGARD      | William   |       | Kinsale, COR         | O                 |                   |                   |                    |  |
| 88854                                                                            | 114    | 333  | <a href="#">79123</a> | 1743              | 3                  | 21               | Indented deed of lease |         | D           | EDGAR       | Walter    |       | Ballymena, Co Antrim | O adj             |                   |                   |                    |  |

Clicking the link (79123) got me this:



## Memorial extract — Registry of Deeds Index Project

Memorial No: 79123

|          |                            |                         |                        |                      |             |                      |              |          |   |
|----------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|----------|---|
|          |                            |                         | Type of deed           | Date of current deed | 21 Mar 1743 | Vol                  | Page         | Menorial |   |
|          |                            |                         | Indented deed of lease | Date of earlier deed |             | 114                  | 333          | 79123    |   |
| No       | Role(s) in earlier deed(s) | Role in current deed(s) | Family name            | Forename             |             | Place                | Occ or title |          | A |
| A        |                            | P1                      | ADAIR                  | Robert (Sir)         | of          | Ballymena, Co Antrim | knight       |          |   |
| B        |                            | P2                      | MCNEILLY               | Robert               | of          | Ballymena, Co Antrim | innkeeper    |          |   |
| C        |                            | O adj                   | SAUL                   | William              | of          | Ballymena, Co Antrim |              |          |   |
| D        |                            | O adj                   | EDGAR                  | Walter               | of          | Ballymena, Co Antrim |              |          |   |
| Abstract |                            | tenaments in Ballymena  |                        |                      |             |                      |              |          |   |
| MS       |                            |                         | Date registered        |                      |             | Date abstract added  | 20091212     |          |   |

There is much to sift through, especially if the search includes spelling variations, e.g. Eager, Ager, Edgard, Adair.

## Picture Time

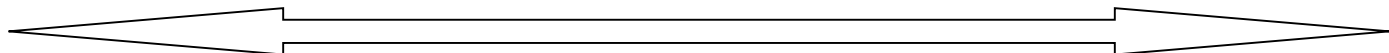


Office of the  
Prime Minister



Cabinet du  
Premier ministre

*The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, and Yours Truly (in my role as RASC President) at an important astronomical announcement in Vancouver, B.C.—Canada will fund the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope dome and the adaptive optics system.  
[Note the Maxwell Tartan tie.]*



## 100th Edition



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

When James and I started this Newsletter nine years ago, little did we think that we would still be here at our 100th edition. We originally produced a quarterly "round up," a bi-monthly and then monthly newsletter. James and I often wondered if we would have enough to say each month to keep this thing going, but with the help of some of our readers we did.

Some measure of the success of this is the broadening of our knowledge of the Edgar name. DNA testing made a major contribution to this and now knowing that there are only 4 (possibly 6) Edgar families out there, all with a possible single origin and that that origin is connected to the Dunbar family. This goes some way to verify the records that the Edgars are descended via the Earls of March and Dunbar. Wonderful stuff this DNA!

One thing I find vexing is that when I discover a new fact about the Edgars, I check in the two "workshop" manuals (An Account of the Sirname Edgar and A Genealogical Collection) only to find that J.H. Lawrence Archer and the Grampian Society have beaten me to it, a 100 years ago!



These old researchers, J.H. L-A in particular, were pretty good at what they did, bearing in mind that they were 150 years before the Internet!

I would stress the importance of both of these books (readily available as a download) and I would urge you all to read them, they contain a lot more than you think and point to a lot of potential connections.

We still have the "black holes" of knowledge in the 1600s and 1700s for many of our families, but as the Internet continues to grow, more and more information becomes available.

**JH Lawrence Archer**

Two fairly new and interesting record sources are "Billion Graves" and "Find a Grave." If you can locate where an ancestor was buried, very often his or her relations were buried either in the same grave or close by. Both these sites want your help in deciphering online headstones and entering the data into the search engine. It's a nice way to repay for the records that others have taken the trouble to compile and that we have used.



Speaking of graveyards, this is a massively under-recorded resource. It really helps to know that others are buried together, it gives a very strong indication that they are related, even if the names are different. If you photograph the headstones and send them to Billion Graves or Find a Grave, it will further enhance these websites.

### What will the next 100 issues bring?

I think our continued effort in this direction will enhance what we already know, maybe even producing a 100% match to the paper records, giving us the definitive information about our roots.

A project I'd like to launch is for everyone who has had a DNA test to submit their earliest records. From 1850 backwards in time. We could collate these with the relevant DNA MRCA matches and

potentially join them up. The family forenames are particularly important at these dates, a lot of families used a naming pattern for the children. I have been very successful in predicting the names of the grandparents of children born, it also works for the parents, aunts, and uncles.

I believe we will have our eyes opened to the fact that our ancestors moved about a lot more than we thought. I have been helping Warren Gillespie-Edgar locate his ancestors, and the evidence so far is that they came and went freely. East Scotland, West Scotland, Ireland, back to West Scotland, and finally to Australia. This to me is the typical movements of a family who were landless. The father or grandfather was likely a farmer and the eldest son inherited the farm or took over the lease. The rest had to make their own way in life.

For your interest, printed below is the first newsletter we produced.

# EDGAR EVENTS

## Researching and sharing Edgar family history No. 1 July 2006

The idea behind this newsletter is, as the title suggests, to publish news, history, and research items to members of the Edgar family worldwide. We all have our stories and family traditions and most importantly we are all searching for our roots. By sharing our histories we hope to help each other with what we know—hopefully to introduce ourselves to each other and maybe help make connections back in time. My own personal goal is to produce an Edgar family tree that covers the whole of N. Ireland, very optimistic!

James Edgar from Melville, Saskatchewan and I will be producing this newssheet every two months to try to collate all the latest news and views. In this, the first issue, we will be relating both James' and my known histories.

Issue No. 2 will have Richard Edgar's history from Portadown in N. Ireland and hopefully another story/history will be sent in by one of the many Edgar folk I have e-mailed regarding this project. We will also have a meeting page where Edgars from all over can get together via e-mail. To initially avoid spammers and unsolicited junk mail I will be e-mailing directly to you all using a group e-mail. Then after a while I will publish this on the Internet. If you have friends and family you want to include let me have their e-address and I will include them. We will be setting up a small forum for individuals to ask for research help you need, send your details/requirements and I will enter a contact line for example: "James Edgar, Canada researching Edgars from Kilkeel Co Down pre 1800" if this matches your research contact me and I will put you in direct contact with James.

*DNA research. Last year we started a DNA research project, the results of which are getting very interesting (go to the Relative Genetics website to find the details.) There are many myths and stories regarding the Edgar line, one of which is that ALL Edgars share a common ancestor, Edgar son of Cospatricks descended of Crinan the Thane of Dunkeld in about 1250 A.D. This seems to have been dismissed by the DNA results. We are lucky in that we do have Steve Edgar in Toronto who can prove his lineage back to Crinan. His DNA has provided an excellent base for the research. James Edgar's DNA is a close match to his and with a root source going back to Norway fits in well with the history.*

*Ellen (using DNA from a male member of her family) and Robert in the USA are from a different line. Their origins are N. Germany, Saxony. This fits in with the rumoured Edgars that came from Hanover in Germany and settled in Scotland/Ireland. It might even prove a connection to King Edgar, was he of Saxon origin? My own DNA proved to have a source from, wait for it, Macedonia, N. Greece. Nothing like an Edgar root source! Was it the*

*milkman? Was an ancestor adopted? Was it a Macedonian soldier in the Roman army on Hadrian's Wall?..... Where do you fit in with the above ?*

We need more DNA samples to verify and research the above. The DNA test is a simple cheek swab, sent to Relative Genetics in Salt Lake City. It costs \$195 US and is paid directly to them. I am the project coordinator and will make the arrangements for the kit to be sent to you.

## **Family Stories Story No 1. Charles Edgar of Benagh, Kilkeel Co. Down**

Our Edgar family history tells of my great-great-grandfather, Charles Edgar, arriving in Canada from Kilkeel in Co. Down N. Ireland around 1820 with his two sons, James (my great-grandfather) and Robert, who then cut down trees producing logs in the forest north of Quebec. Using the lumber they built a ship, and sailed it back to Ireland. Upon arrival they dismantled the ship and sold the lumber and the ship as building materials for new homes. With the proceeds from the sale, Charles financed the migration of the rest of his family to settle on a plot of land in Lancaster, Ontario -- the very same farm where my father was born in 1906. This story (actually a very similar story) was verified by the March/April 2003 issue of Canadian Geographic, a story of the ship Columbus on launch day in 1824. When I saw the Columbus picture, I was astounded, riveted, and thrilled! This was about our family -- it confirms what sounded like a far-fetched story from the past and made it come alive. So there really were such ships built and sailed to Britain, just like our family story said. Wow! What an adventure that would have been.

I have a family ledger which details the marriage of Charles Edgar to Susan Cummings in 1799 in Newry, Co. Down. The ledger also hints at the location of their farm in Benagh, near Kilkeel and after a visit to the area I was pleased to find Edgars still around! Jacky and his wife Delma live just off the seafront in a bungalow. We are in the process of trying to persuade them to provide a DNA sample to verify our possible connection. They have an Aunt who has had the family research done and can trace back to Arthur in the 1780s, he could well be the brother of my Charles. After extensive research over the years I have managed to find a lot of my family history with connections to the Somerville family. In St. Patrick's cemetery in Newry I came across some Cummings, possible relations to Charles' wife. In a village called Annalong in Co. Down we were searching another graveyard and I came across a Somerville adjacent to an Edgar, a coincidence or a relation?

Prior to my known ancestor Charles, I have nothing; the records in N Ireland are sparse to say the least. Further research is planned and I remain hopeful that a lucky break will happen in the future and reveal some history for me.

There was a possible significant breakthrough, during some research, the last will of Thomas Edgar of Derryleckagh turned up. He was a bachelor and left all his land to his nieces. Further research revealed that Thomas's grandfather, also Thomas, married Anne Bruce. This land at Derryleckagh was part of her dowry, which she inherited from the Bruce family. It turns out that she was a descendent of Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce. Edward conquered most of Ireland in the 1300s. There is a story that an Edgar was with him during the conquest. Until this was known it was supposed that all Edgars settled in Ireland during the Plantations of the 1630s. This takes Edgars back to 1350 or so, three hundred years earlier. This is possibly a hint that two Edgar families exist in Ireland. It is possible that Thomas and my Charles are related.

-- James Edgar, Melville Saskatchewan (and siblings Robert, Steve, & Marylen)



## **Story No 2, Joseph Edgar, Newry Co. Down b. abt.1785**

My family history research started from two or three pages of text written in a family bible dating back to 1815. By piecing the data together I managed to create a crude family tree from my ancestor in Ireland who married Jane Burns in 1805. After a lot of internet searching and a couple of trips to Ireland I was able to fill in details and answer a lot of questions. One major source of information was Jodie Edgar (wife of James in Melville) who has my eternal gratitude for some of the items she revealed. Joseph was a rope-maker in Newry, Co. Down in the early 1800s; he married Jane and had eleven children, eight died in infancy and Robert died in his twenties. This left two remaining sons, Joseph Jr. and Hugh, to work with him in the rope business.

Newry at this time was a thriving town, being a major port in N. Ireland. I have evidence that Joseph Sr also grew his own flax in Keggall near Camlough in Co. Armagh, maybe feeding his rope-making business. His home and business were at 47 Water Street and his sons lived up on High Street just below St. Patrick's Church, where the family are buried. Their religion was Church of Ireland and they contributed to the rebuilding of St Patrick's Church. This is unusual in that most other Edgars ten miles away in Kilkeel are Presbyterian. He was a District Master in the Provincial Orange Lodge and signed a declaration of loyalty to Queen Victoria. When he died he left a will which was lost in the 1923 fire at the records office in Dublin. Then, from the mid 1850s onwards, times got hard in Newry, the canal was too small for the new larger steel boats that were being built, when they did get through they also required fewer ropes. Business must have dropped off steadily and the family decided to migrate. Salford, near Manchester, in the 1870/80s was their choice.

The census records show grandson Joseph III with sister Sarah, brother Robert and his mother Elizabeth (nee James) living in adjacent houses. Joseph III, a railway lorry man had married Elizabeth Phillips from Ireland in Salford, they had six children, one of whom was my Grandfather Benjamin William Edgar. His siblings were Martha, a spinster who lived in Lincolnshire. Edna who married 'Reg', and then went to London. John, who supposedly went back to Ireland to be a farmer, Joseph IV (Fox) Edgar, the 'black sheep', (I don't know why), I have no details other than his photograph, and William Blackburn Edgar who, with his wife and children Barbara and Graham emigrated to Australia in the 1950/60s. Where are all these people now, where are their descendants?

My grandfather had one son Benjamin William Edgar II, Benjamin had me, Steven John and my sister Janis Lynne. Janis and I both have one child. Hugh and Robert back in Newry must also have had children and they may also have migrated to the UK, I think to Liverpool, Manchester, and Durham, the names Joseph and John from Newry crop up in the 1901 census. My only known relations are my mother, sister, wife, niece, son, and great niece. Where are all the rest?

## **Steve Edgar, Crewe. England**

So, there we have the first two family stories, both connected in Newry in Co. Down. James and I "met" on the Internet about 3 years ago. His Charles and my Joseph were both in the Newry area in 1800-10ish—were they cousins? Were they brothers? After three years of research and two trips to Ireland we can now say, after the DNA results, NO!! We are not even distant relations, in fact we may even be different races the gap is that wide!

The DNA so far points to three sources; will more research reveal more or confirm the three?

*We're hoping the above may stimulate the memories of other Edgars who might share part of the same history. If you send your history I will publish it and send it worldwide. If you know of other Edgars who you would like to copy, please do so. Better still, send me their address and I will e-mail the next copy directly.*

**Your feedback and reaction will be invaluable for future newsletters, please e-mail your comments and, most importantly, your family stories.**

Websites of interest [updated to reflect current URLs]

<http://edgarfamily.angelfire.com/> Richard Edgar's site

<http://www.edgargen.ca/> James Edgar's family history Web site

## Forum

James Somerville Edgar, Canada. Researching Edgars in Benagh and Kilkeel Co. Down, pre 1800.

Richard Edgar. Tandragee, N Ireland. Researching Edgars in Portadown. Co. Armagh, pre 1900

Steve Edgar, Crewe England. Researching Edgars in Newry and Co. Armagh, pre 1800

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## Pewter Badges

Are you in the market for the **Edgar Crest**? At \$18, plus shipping, they're a great way to say "I love my family!" (Pewter buttons also available.) The proceeds over cost go to the Edgar DNA Trust Fund, to help with our DNA quest.



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

*Pewter badge*

