



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history NO. 102, July 2015**



## DNA Update



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

We no longer have to wonder what happened to the test ordered for **Frank Edgar** in Peru. It is at the lab and being processed right now. We should see the results in mid-July.

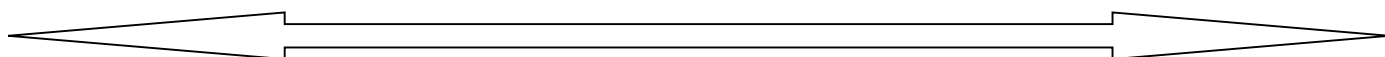
**Tony Edgar** of Chilliwack, B.C., recently joined Family Tree DNA and ordered a test, even though he'd already had one at Ancestry.com. Interestingly, he doesn't match any of the **Edgars** on our FTDNA site! His only match is Bob Damman—Tony's results show he's in Haplogroup R-M269, so not even in the same ballpark. This is consistent with the original results at Ancestry.com, as Tony didn't match anyone there, either. So, we have a mystery—who are his distant ancestors?

67 MARKERS - 1 MATCH				
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup
7	<a href="#">Bob George Damman</a>	Y-DNA67	??? Damman	R-U106

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This should not come as a surprise to anyone, as we already know that the **Edgars** and **Dunbars** are descended from the same original stock. **Andrew N.L. Edgar** of Battle, England, continues to get matches as shown below to the **Dunbars**.... The most recent one at top is from June 9, and this is only a partial list—it goes on for three pages!

| Genetic Distance | Name                                            |             | Most Distant Ancestor                          | Y-DNA Haplogroup |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 5                | <a href="#">Richard Dunbar</a>                  | Y-DNA67     |                                                | R-M269           |
| 7                | <a href="#">Alvin Ray Allen</a>                 | Y-DNA67     |                                                | R-M269           |
| 7                | <a href="#">David Grant Dunbar</a>              | Y-DNA111    | Robert Dunbar b. 1634 d. 1693                  | R-M269           |
| 7                | <a href="#">Edward Dunbar</a>                   | Y-DNA67     | Crinan b.975 Scotland m. Bethoc                | R-M269           |
| 5                | <a href="#">Jeffrey Michael Harlan</a>          | Y-DNA67 FF  |                                                | R-M269           |
| 7                | <a href="#">Dan Newberry</a>                    | Y-DNA111 FF | James P Newberry, b. c. 1794                   | R-M269           |
| 7                | <a href="#">Donald George Dunbar Jr.</a>        | Y-DNA111 FF | Robert Dunbar, b. 1650 and d. 1693             | R-L257           |
| 6                | <a href="#">Mr. Andrew R Dunbar</a>             | Y-DNA67     | James Dunbar b. 1730 d. 1783                   | R-M269           |
| 7                | <a href="#">Joseph William Osborne</a>          | Y-DNA111    | Jonathan H Osborne ,b.1825 Mecklenburg Co. ,NC | R-L257           |
| 6                | <a href="#">Mr. Donald Stanley Dunbar Ph.D.</a> | Y-DNA111    | Samuel Dunbar, b. 1735                         | R-L257           |
| 7                | <a href="#">Mr. Bruce Victor Curry</a>          | Y-DNA111 FF | John Curry                                     | R-L257           |



## 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)



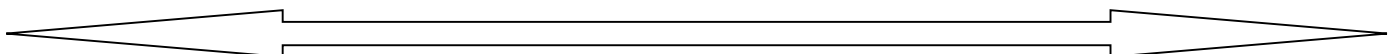
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Jodie and I have changed our webpage at [www.edgargen.ca](http://www.edgargen.ca) by removing some old trees and inserting new pedigree trees. For example, [www.edgargen.ca/James\\_Pedigree.pdf](http://www.edgargen.ca/James_Pedigree.pdf). That's also where you can retrieve all of the Edgar Events newsletters, from #1 to the present.

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*Photo by Robin Edgar (my nephew):  
L to R, the Moon, Jupiter, and Venus, juxtaposed with the statue of Copernicus in Montréal*



## Mystery Men



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

Whilst trawling the Internet for family members, I often come across interesting characters and do a little bit of investigation just to see where it leads.

Firstly, I came across David Edgar who was married to Anne Gregg at the Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church in Belfast in 1753. David was born about 1720 in Ireland and was of Scottish ancestry (so far so good!)



David next appears in Albany, America / USA (quick question for my transatlantic cousins here, "What is the correct name for the USA before Independence?") where he was an elder of the newly formed Presbyterian Church in 1762. He had arrived in the Americas during the 7 Years' War period of 1756-63 and established himself as a merchant.

He was in business with his brother William and John Macomb in Schenectady County, New York, and he was described as an Indian Trader in the book "People of the American Frontier" by Walter Scott Dunn.

His business interests were located in other places as well, Montréal and Detroit (where he voted in 1768), plus an interest in Herkimer County.

In 1766, he signed the constitution of the Albany Sons of Liberty. He was elected to the Albany Committee of Correspondence in March 1775 and later contributed to the revolutionary movement.

In 1776, his first home was assessed for tax and he was one of the wealthiest people in the state. (He must have had a second home somewhere!)

He died in September 1776 leaving substantial property. He had lived in Albany for more than 20 years; his widow and children lived in Albany for many years after.

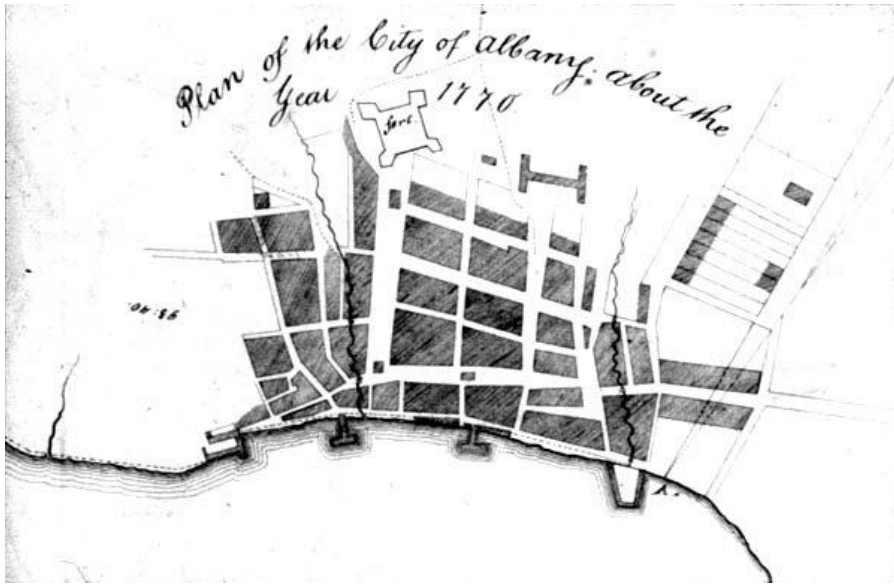
I can find records for only one child, Gregg Edgar b.17???, who lived in Albany Ward 2 in 1790.

The story of David and Ann then takes a sad turn (extract from "The Other Revolutionaries" by Stefan Bielinski).

*Jane Edgar was in dire straits. Since her husband's untimely death in September 1776, she had found it increasingly difficult to support her large family. In August of 1780, this Scottish-born widow penned a desperate letter to Governor Clinton. She explained that the Edgars had lived in Albany for more than twenty years. During that time, they had prospered - importing goods through David Edgar's brother, a Montreal merchant. But suffering the loss of her husband, cut off from previous sources of supply, and no longer able to survive by keeping boarders, she was still responsible for four children, a servant woman, and an old negro man. She asked the governor to*



permit them to relocate to Canada where she would be able to draw on the Edgar estate. Clinton was moved to grant her request. But two months later when she applied to the Albany Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies for the actual pass, they refused - making her a casualty of one of the governor's political struggles. So the impoverished widow and her family struggled in wartime Albany - barely surviving until James Gregg Edgar became old enough to care for his mother until her death in 1800.



The map shows Albany in 1770.

Secondly, there is his brother, William 1739-1820, described as “William, one of the most important local merchants”—an extract from the [Dictionary of Canadian Biography](#) by Francess G. Halpenny.

There are details of letters written by William in the New York public library after he left Detroit and settled in New York.

He helped establish the British-Canadian fur trade with Alexander Henry “the Elder.” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander\\_Henry\\_the\\_elder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Henry_the_elder)

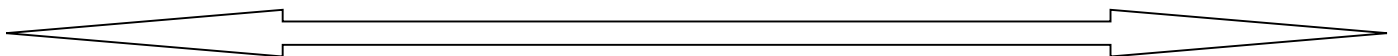
So here we have two mystery men. One a founder of the American Revolution who has a wife and four children before 1800, and then ... nothing on the records.

His brother a major merchant in the fur trade, and then ... nothing in the records.

I have searched in vain for any reference other than the books referred to above.

Was James Gregg Edgar the same person as Gregg Edgar? Where are the descendants of James and Jane? What happened to William? Did he marry? Have a family?

And finally ... are you connected? If so, please contact us!



### **More of Angela Reed's links:**

<http://antrim.rootsireland.ie//generic.php?filename=sources.tpl&selectedMenu=sources&eno=1606#Sacred-Heart-Belfast>



## Picture time

Andrew Carnegie, [noted philanthropist](#), donated libraries to numerous cities and towns in the United States, Canada, Britain, and other countries. While I visited **Robert Edgar** in Ayr, Ontario, last March, he pointed out to me the old library there, built in 1909 with grant money from Andrew Carnegie! [This image is from Google Maps, so slightly distorted.]

The new library in Ayr looks much different—see below.



## Jason and Ericha

There's a rumour going round that **Jason Shaffer** is engaged to **Ericha Edgar** (of Rogers, Arkansas), and here's the proof that it's more than a rumour.

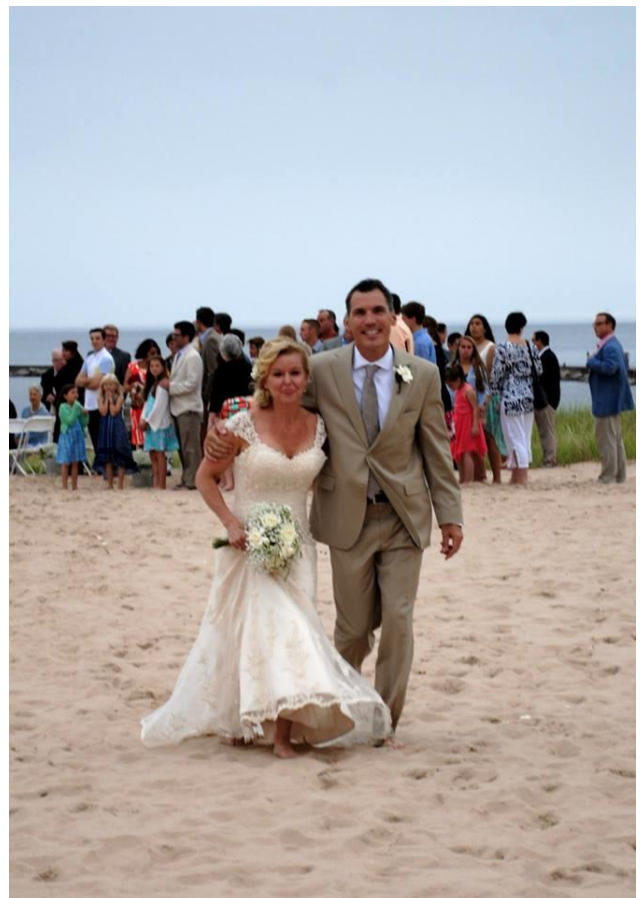
Nice going, you two! And, nice ring!!

We first met up with **Ericha's** father, **Jim Edgar**, in 2009 when we discovered he was related to **Desmond Edgar** of South Africa, and that his family came from the same village in Northern Ireland as my family (Kilkeel), and that one of his ancestors was born in Ontario, Canada. Interesting connections, but we're not directly related.



## Steve and Tracey Edgar

Now, this **Steve Edgar** is my cousin, and he just got hitched to **Tracey Thaens** on June 15 by the lakeside in Michigan. Looks like a barefoot romance, to me. Congratulations to you both!



**Austin James Edgar**

And, here we have a brand new **Edgar**, once again... Austin was born on Friday, June 26, in Kirby, Texas.

This is another descendant of the **Edgars** who originated in Co. Down, Northern Ireland. The father is **Rodney James Edgar**, son of **Douglas Neil Edgar**. And, **Doug** is the brother of **Sharon (Edgar) Bunek**, longtime contributor to this newsletter.

Congratulations to all, especially the mother, **Jean Victoria!**

