



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history NO. 104, September 2015**



## DNA Update



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

Well! I have something to report!!

We received three significant DNA test results this past week, and they are significant, indeed.

Here is a snapshot of **Frank Edgar's** (of Lima, Peru) matches:

67 MARKERS - 18 MATCHES						
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
2	Mr. Steve Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-M223		8/26/2015
4	Joe Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-L126		8/26/2015
4	Mr. Justin Paul McLaurine	Y-DNA67	Rev. Robert McLaurine B. 1720 D. 7-5-1773	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Mr. James Richard McLaurine	Y-DNA67		I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Mr. John Omer McLaurine	Y-DNA67		I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Donald Davis	Y-DNA111	Samuel Davis, b.1702 and d.	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Mr. David Scott Ager	Y-DNA67	John Ager, b. abt 1770	I-L126		8/26/2015
6	Neville Seadon	Y-DNA111	Ireland	I-L126	L126	8/26/2015
7	Mr. John David Ferguson	Y-DNA67	James FERGUSON d. 1795, Buffalo Valley, PA	I-L126		8/26/2015
7	Mr. James Paul Hawthorne	Y-DNA111 FF	Thomas Hawthorn, b. 1490 and d. 1557	I-M223		8/26/2015
7	Kenny Ferguson	Y-DNA67		I-L126		8/26/2015

From Frank:

Dearest Mr Edgar:

I'm quite overwhelmed after the results of the test. It's really quite amazing to find out some distant relatives from other parts of the world. I've knew after all this years about my Scottish heritage, but to have real evidence eventually changes the perspectives. If you happen to come over here, maybe a tourism trip, you'll be very welcomed.

Thanks a lot

Yours sincerely

Frank Edgar

These are **Steve Edgar's** matches (he's in Napanee, Ontario):

67 MARKERS - 27 MATCHES						
Page: 1 2 of 2						
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
2	Frank Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-M223		8/26/2015
2	Mr. Justin Paul McLaurine	Y-DNA67	Rev. Robert McLaurine B. 1720 D. 7-5-1773	I-M223		5/1/2015
2	Joe Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-L126		5/1/2015
3	Mr. David Scott Ager	Y-DNA67	John Ager, b. abt 1770	I-L126		5/1/2015
3	Mr. James Richard McLaurine	Y-DNA67		I-M223		5/1/2015
3	Mr. John Omer McLaurine	Y-DNA67		I-M223		5/1/2015
4	Neville Seadon	Y-DNA111	Ireland	I-L126	L126	5/1/2015
5	Mr. John David Ferguson	Y-DNA67	James FERGUSON d. 1795, Buffalo Valley, PA	I-L126		5/1/2015
5	Kenny Ferguson	Y-DNA67		I-L126		5/1/2015
6	Mr. Charles Edward Ferguson	Y-DNA111 FF	William Ferguson, b. 1798 and d. 1862	I-L126	L126	5/1/2015

And, these are **John Edgar**'s matches (he lives just outside Chicago):

37 MARKERS - 10 MATCHES						
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
2	Mr. Steve Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-M223		5/1/2015
2	Neville Seadon	Y-DNA111	Ireland	I-L126	L126	9/2/2009
3	Frank Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-M223		8/26/2015
3	James H McCune	Y-DNA37	William McCune (c. 1815 - 1822); GA or TN	I-M223		6/24/2015
3	Mr. George Roland Edgar	Y-DNA37	Rober Edgar bn 1696 and d1793	I-M223		3/22/2015
3	Joe Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-L126		2/6/2012
4	Gerald Thomas Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-M223		4/17/2015
4	Mr. Justin Paul McLaurine	Y-DNA67	Rev. Robert McLaurine B. 1720 D. 7-5-1773	I-M223		11/1/2013
4	Mr. David Scott Ager	Y-DNA67	John Ager, b. abt 1770	I-L126		10/16/2013

Are you seeing the commonalities? For starters, they're all related to each other, distantly, mind you, but still related. And, not too distantly—a genetic distance of only 2 or 3. Also, there are **McLaurines** in each of the charts, plus **Fergusons** on each of the first two. When we see this happening more than once in a match, then we know it is more than a coincidence. There is a connectedness, but we don't yet know how. **Jodie** and I were introduced to a new term this week, and it describes exactly what may be the reason for these name differences—an NPE (a non-paternity event)—a term in genetic genealogy and clinical genetics to describe instances in which the biological father of a child is someone other than who it is presumed to be.

Moving on, we see **David Scott Ager** and **Neville Seadon** in all three charts. **Joe Edgar** shows up in charts 1 and 3, and **Gerald Thomas Edgar** in the 3rd.

What this is showing is that all of these people are interrelated at some point in their history—some further back than others. If we look back to 2011, and compare the results from our Ancestry.com tests, we see more commonalities. Look at the distribution around **John William Edgar** and **Neville Seadon**, which I highlighted below. From **Harry James Edgar** in Kyle, Saskatchewan, to **Robert Allen Edgar** in Ohio, there is a 12-generation spread, and that includes all those in between, which also includes our new test results. Recall that the FTDNA tests use the new Haplogroup designations, which we had earlier lumped together into I2b1.

## I2b1

NAME	LOCATION	HAPLOGROUP	MRCA
James D. Edgar	AL, US via Ellen Walker	I2b1	0
Howard Metheny Edgar	KS, US	I2b1	1
John Newton Edgar (TC)	WA, US via Tara Corona	I2b1	1
Ralph Richard Edgar	VA, US	I2b1	6
William Robert Edgar	Perth, Western Australia	I2b1	6
John Lawrence Michaelree	NY, US	I2b1	9
David Edgar	Annalong, Northern Ireland	I2b1	10
Richard John Edgar	Western District, Australia	I2b1	10
Archibald John Edgar	Kilkeel, Northern Ireland	I2b1	15
Desmond Edgar	South Africa	I2b1	15
Harry James Edgar	Kyle, SK, Canada	I2b1	19
Jason Michael Edgar (No)	North Bay, ON (from New Zealand)	I2b1	19
John James Ian Edgar	Belfast, Northern Ireland	I2b1	19
John McKee Edgar (John) (BC)	B.C. Canada, via Peg Edgar	I2b1	19
Leslie Edgar (M)	Maryport, UK	I2b1	19
Michael Brian Edgar (Mike)	Moneyreagh, Northern Ireland	I2b1	19

James M. Edgar	Edinburgh, Scotland	I2b1	23
Alfred Edward Edgar (A)	Argentina	I2b1	24
Chris Andrew Edgar	Suffolk, UK	I2b1	24
Colin Albert Edgar	Crewe, UK	I2b1	24
Corey David Edgar	Toronto, ON, Canada	I2b1	24
David Wallace Edgar	Greenock, Scotland	I2b1	24
Jack Lee Edgar	Dallas, TX, US	I2b1	24
James Vernon Edgar	Pine Mountain, GA, US	I2b1	24
John David Edgar	Vic, Australia - son of Dee Edgar	I2b1	24
Joseph Louis Edgar	Pittsburgh, PA, US	I2b1	24
Philip Thomas Edgar	MI, US	I2b1	24
Robin Wright Edgar	Moniaive, Scotland	I2b1	24
<b>John William Edgar</b>	<b>IL, US</b>	<b>I2b1</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Neville Seadon</b>	<b>Western Australia (Glenda Dickson)</b>	<b>I2b1a</b>	<b>26</b>
James Edgar	Thornhill, Scotland	I2b1	28
Terence Eugene Edgar	Adelaide, Australia	I2b1	29
Norman Duncan Edgar	Dumfries, Scotland	I2b1	30
Robert Allen Edgar	OH, US - via Sandy Payne	I2b1	31
William Macreadie Edgar	Yorkshire, UK	I2b1	33
Graham Charles Edgar	Melbourne, Australia	I2b1	36

Another new name in the mix belongs to **James McCune**, who just joined our group this past week (his daughter, actually, joined him up with us). She wrote:

Hi James,

I'm writing on behalf of my Dad, James H. McCune. I administer our account at FTDNA. My Dad recently had the Y-DNA test...and doesn't match any of the men in the McCown/McCune project. His closest match is Roland Edgar in England, whom I've already contacted. My Dad joined the I-M223 group and was placed in the IslesSc Group 1 with many Fergusons and Stuarts and some Edgars. I've just joined the Edgar Project and see that he's a perfect match with many of the men there. Yesterday I ordered the SNP Y8599 to give me more information on his paternal line. I've also made contact with two other matches, Ray Riley and Neville Seadon's daughter.

I've only been able to trace our paper trail back to William McCune, c 1822, TN or GA. I assume that a surname change or NPE occurred sometime prior to that. I would appreciate any insight or guidance you could give. Can you add me to your newsletter mailing list, please?

Email - [cmellington777@yahoo.com](mailto:cmellington777@yahoo.com).

Thanks so much.

Christine McCune Ellington

[There's that term we just learned—NPE.]

**Roland Edgar** in Cumbria, England, hadn't yet joined our group until late in 2011, so he doesn't show up on the chart above. He'd fit in there, too, though.

That takes us up to date on two of the tests.

The third is for **Daniel Edgar** of Stoke-on-Trent, England. Interestingly, he doesn't match any **Edgars** on our database at all! He does match, though, plenty of **McCulloughs**, **McWhirters**, and **Malones**. That's where he should be looking. Recall, though that his **Edgar** family goes back to the early 1800s, which contains a bit of a mystery.

67 MARKERS - 63 MATCHES						
Page: 1 2 3 of 3						
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
2	Olinda Hudson Green	Y-DNA67 FF	Richard Henry Hudson, b. circa 1784 in SC	I-L126		8/26/2015
2	Kent Frazier	Y-DNA111 FF	Thomas Frasher, b. 1773 MA and d. 1855 ME	I-M223		8/26/2015
2	Mr. Kenneth Eugene McCollough Sr.	Y-DNA67 FF	William McCullough, b. 1787 and d. 1859	I-L126	L126	8/26/2015
2	Lloyd Andrew Mills	Y-DNA67 FF	James Mills b. 1805 and d. 1890	I-L126		8/26/2015
3	Greg Spencer Mills	Y-DNA111 FF	James A. Mills, b. 01/06/1805 SC d. 1890 MS	I-L126		8/26/2015
3	Thomas Mark McCulloch	Y-DNA67	Thomas McCuluck d. after 1803 TN	I-M223		8/26/2015
3	Mr. Ian MacCulloch	Y-DNA67		I-L126		8/26/2015
4	Paul K. McCullough	Y-DNA67 FF	James McCullough , b. 1786 and d. 1866	I-M284		8/26/2015
4	Mr. Alan McCullough	Y-DNA111 FF		I-L126		8/26/2015
4	Mr. George Thomas Cash	Y-DNA111 FF	Newton W Cash (McWhorter) b. 1847 and d. 1918	I-L126	L126	8/26/2015
5	Allen McCullough	Y-DNA67	Alexander McCullough, b. 1801 PA or DE, d. 1838 Ne	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Patrick Max Rice	Y-DNA67	John Rice, 1831, Louth, Ireland	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Mr. John Robert McCullough	Y-DNA67		I-L126		8/26/2015
5	Mr. Jesse Owen McWhirter	Y-DNA111	William McWhirter b. Abt. 1706 d. 1803 TN	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Mr. David William Malone	Y-DNA67	Michael Malone, b. abt 1820 and d. abt 1855	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Mr. Gary Charles Malone I	Y-DNA67	Michael Malone b. about 1820 d. about 1855	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Ken McCracken	Y-DNA67	John McCracken b 1699 N.Ire & d 1792 Rowan Co, NC	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Mr. Larry Robert Boyd	Y-DNA111	William Boyd, B. 1761 and D. 1847	I-L126		8/26/2015
5	Douglas Arthur McWhirter	Y-DNA111	Andrew McWhirter, d. 28 Aug., 1758 in Farden, Colm	I-M223		8/26/2015
5	Michael Ray Boyd M.D.	Y-DNA67	George Boyd, b c 1735, Orangeburg, SC	I-L126		8/26/2015
6	Clifton Wayne McCullough	Y-DNA111	Alexander McCullough bc 1750 Ulster IRE	I-L126	L126	8/26/2015

~~~~~



Ross Taylor, Janet (Edgar) Taylor, Jodie & James Edgar

On a different subject, but somewhat related (if you'll forgive the pun), is a recent visit we had from **Janet** and **Ross Taylor** of Niagara Falls, Ontario. They had been touring Western Canada in a motorhome, and stopped into Melville for a quick visit on their way east. Here we all are posing for the camera in the back yard of Corner House.

**Janet** is an **Edgar**, and her ancestry hooks up



with these same **Edgars** in the foregoing paragraphs. Her descendancy stems from **William Edgar** and **Janet Dickson (Dixon)** probably of Caerlaverock, Scotland, in the early 1700s. She's related to a good number of the **Edgars** on the Ancestry.com chart above.

Funnily, while here, she mentioned that her son had married a woman who was descended from the **Edgars** and she wanted a little help trying to figure out if her son married his cousin! Turns out that he didn't. What we did find out is that her son's wife has a great-grand-aunt who was an **Edgar**, and she's from the same family of **Edgars** we met in Halifax a couple years ago who were originally from Brooke, Lambton Co., Ontario. Which again shows that "it's a small world"!

~~~~~

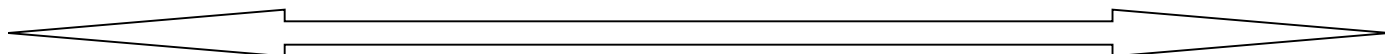
## Picture Time



On the night of June 22, I was looking toward the north, hoping to see some aurora through breaks in the cloud. At one point, I glanced behind me and discovered that the sky was completely lit up, but in the south! Notice the Big Dipper at the bottom of the image is pointing at the North Star a bit to the upper right—so that's north. Most of the dazzle is at the left and above, which is the south. Most unusual, and look at all the colours I saw.

~~~~~

It is with extreme sadness that I report the death of a man I admired and to whom I felt an intimate closeness. **Dr. Oliver Sacks** died 2015 August 30 at age 82. Recall in [Edgar Events #101](#) that I reported on *How I "Met" Oliver Sacks*. I've been reading **Dr. Sacks'** books over many years, thoroughly enjoying each one. It is enough to say that he has left the world a better place. See this memoir by **Kate Edgar**, Dr. Sacks' Personal Assistant, [www.oliversacks.com/a-life-well-lived](http://www.oliversacks.com/a-life-well-lived).



## Wigtownshire 2015

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



### Sorbie



My wife Barbara was introduced to the thrilling phenomena of wandering around graveyards whilst we were on holiday in Wigtownshire earlier this month. Comments such as “is this it?” “I can’t stand this much excitement for too long,” and “where are the shops?” slowly disappeared as she found headstones of interest. We had walked from Garlieston to Sorbie cemetery, about 4 miles, on a glorious sunny morning.

The parish church is in Garlieston and the cemetery is in Sorbie. The old church can be seen in this photo, it fell into decline in the 1800s. All of this is in the Parish of Sorbie.

The names on the headstones are the same names as found all over Ayrshire, Wigtownshire, and N Ireland. (Wigtownshire is now part of the county of Dumfries and Galloway). This further indicates that the population moved around a fair deal. Examination of Parish and Census records show that very, very few people were landowners. Most of the population were workers or tradesmen, and having to move around for work. However, work was scarce.



There are two predominant DNA types found in an area that includes Ireland, Scotland, and Cumbria. Census records show that the population moved freely back and forth and rarely stayed in the area for more than three decades. They also moved to the USA, Australia, and Canada.

The only hit we got was Thomas Edgar married to Elizabeth Harris. This couple is the subject of an article by Gill Watson (in last issue), Gill is a descendant, and we are looking for a male to do a DNA test on. Fingers crossed that we can find one! Some of the headstone text can add a bit of

detail to a person’s life. The stone at right would hint that James Briggs had served in the First World War, was awarded the DCM and MM and then went on to Southern Ireland to serve as a Police Constable, who was killed there, possibly as part of the “Troubles” of Irish independence.





To avoid Barbara getting over-excited in the graveyard we decided to call into the shop in Sorbie village. I think “trading post” is a more accurate description—they sold all sorts of odds and ends—it was a post office, greengrocer, pharmacist, newsagent...you name it.

We got chatting to the shop owner and discovered that she was from Alsager, the next town to where we live in Weston, Cheshire. She had sold up, moved to Sorbie, and was semi-retired.

Walking back, Barb and I stopped and chatted with various people. It is a noticeably friendly area, people talk, they wave to you, they smile. They take the trouble to be nice (very unusual in the modern world we live in, by the way—it's infectious!).

We walked the 4 miles back to Garlieston and stopped in the pub, The Harbour Inn, for some lunch.



### **Garlieston town**

In the early 1800s, Lord Garlieston developed a small coastal village to house a labour force to run a mill and a harbour to import and export from this part of Scotland. He also built a large house with extensive gardens.

Two families of Edgar lived on Cow Lane, Garlieston, in the 1850s and '60s. The only clue to their origins was that William Edgar, b. 1821, was from Whithorn, and he had a family of 7 children. The only male descendant I can find is John Edgar, who was killed in Palestine in 1917. The location and date would suggest that he was possibly part

of the British Army linked to Lawrence of Arabia fighting the Ottoman Empire in this area. Perhaps our resident military expert, Richard Edgar, could throw some light on this?

The last Edgar I have on record in Garlieston is Janet Edgar who died here in 1980, unmarried.

We stayed in Garlieston village on the harbour front over the week of the longest day, June 21. This was the view we enjoyed from our rented apartment window.

The photo was taken at 11 p.m.

The sun had just set and you can see the harbour water was very calm.

Again, we experienced extraordinary friendship and courtesy from every one we met in the village.





As the night drew on and got darker, we experienced moonrise across the bay. The stillness of the water can be seen in the reflections.



*Moonrise in Garlieston*

The nights in Garlieston are a particular joy. It's quiet. Very quiet.

No cars, trains, or aircraft in the background. The sounds of birds and waves are all you can hear. (One night I heard a strange sound, and, upon investigation, it turned out to be a cow in the next field, the noise was the sound of it chewing grass!)

### **Kirkinner**

In an effort to help Warren Gillespie Edgar find information about his family, we took a trip 5 miles north to Kirkinner (Barbara insisted on driving not walking. I think she

wanted to stop wasting time walking when there is so much to see in a cemetery...or maybe not!)

Not a lot to see other than one Edgar headstone, without much detail. There is a link in this area to the family of Gill Watson. [Ed: See [Edgar Events #103](#).]

Nothing for Warren though! His ancestor appears to have come from Ireland, married in Kirkinner, move to Ayrshire, and thence on to Australia. On the 1861 Ayrshire Census, James Edgar is married to Janet Gillespie; his next-door neighbour is Hugh Edgar, about 20 years older, an uncle? Or a coincidence?

I did find some Parish records, some of the earliest of which are Margaret Edgare (sic) marrying Walter Williamson in 1695 and Barbara Edgar, b. 1739, the daughter of John Edgar and Agnes Fie. There are dribs and drabs of information through the 1700s and into the 1800s. Nothing conclusive and nothing that ties in or confirms anything.

### **St. Ninian's cave**



Having run out of cemeteries we decided on a day off and went to St. Ninian's cave. [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/propertydetail.htm?PropID=PL\\_266](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/propertydetail.htm?PropID=PL_266)

This was on one of Scotland's famous "get all the seasons in the same week" day. This one was foggy. (we had already had hot sun, cloudy, rain, hail, still calm, and windy that week).

And, our two dogs decided this would be a good day to set off for the Isle of Man; swimming there seemed the best idea!



The walls in St. Ninian's cave have been a place where pilgrims carved their names (with dates) for many years, as can be seen here.

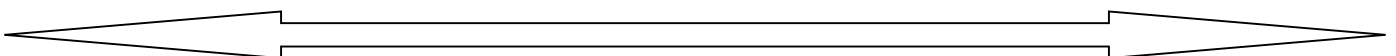
## Conclusions

Edgars have been in the Wigtownshire area for many hundreds of years. They never seem to have been landowners, but at best tenant farmers and very many have moved about extensively looking for work. The records, or lack of continuity in the records, show this to be the case. This area of Britain, SW Scotland, N Ireland, Cumbria, and the Isle of Man have been served best by the sea. It was easier to sail than travel by land.

To trace families and individuals is very difficult, I think the major problem will always be the question "Where did they go?" They went from Scotland to N Ireland, back to Scotland, into Cumbria, back to Scotland, and then migrated to the USA, Canada, or Australia.

Each individual will have his or her own story, but work and prospects for work have continually driven members of the Edgar family to move away from this area. In fact, there are very few Edgars still living there—the name is not well known.

If I could point to a location where things seem to come and go, that accepts new arrivals and sees the departure of others, it would be Stranraer, the ferry port that leads to Belfast. It all seems to stem from and come back to this town. It has three cemeteries and lots of bits of records to look through. It also has a few Edgars still living there (maybe next year, Barbara).



## 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)



~~~~~

We've had a few new people join us. Some recent ones from Facebook:

**Charlotte Edgar-Conner** of Jacobsburg, Ohio, USA

**Jan Edgar-Adams** of Siesta Key, Florida, USA

**William Edgar** of Benton, Arkansas

**Joe Applegarth** of El Paso, Texas, USA

**Myrtle Moore** of Wheeling, West Virginia, USA

**Barbara Edgar Bonnell** of Wheeling, West Virginia, USA

**Debbie Edgar-Cumberledge** of West Virginia, USA

**Bob Edgar** of West Palm Beach, Florida, USA

**Rals Edgar** of Dunnville, Ontario, Canada

## One more photo



*Over the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, fireworks mark the celebration of Canada Day, 2015 July 1, 148 years after Confederation.*