



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 108, January 2016**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)



I've contended for some time that all the Edgars are cousins, not in the general sense of the word—of course we all descend from a common ancestor about 25,000 years back. No, I mean we share a common ancestor about 1000 years ago, as told in the *Account of the Surname Edgar* by James H. Lawrence-Archer (his mother was an Edgar).

In the foreword to the book, Lawrence-Archer states "The motive which led the compiler to undertake his task, was a *distrust of Family Traditions*, which although sometimes useful as clues, are quite often the sources of the strangest delusions and pretensions."

Then he goes on to describe the actual evidence he has uncovered to support that the Edgars of Wedderlie are the direct descendants of the Dunbars. The evidence is ancient charters, written in Latin, naming who was present at a signing, or identifying who was obliged to fulfill a certain requirement.

A couple of weeks back, Dr. Bruce Cockburn of the University of Alberta, with whom we have been working to establish the descendency of the Edgars and Dunbars (the Cockburns are also part of that descendency), sent an email. If you recall from Edgar Events [#106](#), he contends that the Edgars and Dunbars, while originally one family, split into two separate surnames approximately in the 1200s or even earlier. He unearthed even more evidence, which I'll let the following email exchange describe (he addressed to me and Debra Dunbar Nowell):

Hi Debra and James,

I was flipping through the book "Mighty Subjects: The Dunbar Earls in Scotland c. 1072-1289" and noticed a reference to a Patrick Dunbar. This Patrick is described as a relative of the earl who was, for a time, the earl's steward (important official in the earl's retinue). There is also a reference in the book to a Patrick, son or grandson of Edgar, who was the clerk to Earl Patrick I of Dunbar.

Do either of your family genealogies include a Patrick Edgar who fits these descriptions? Perhaps this is the source of the genetic link from the Dunbars to the Edgars.

Bruce

My response:

There's this...

<http://db.poms.ac.uk/record/source/2497/> "Alan, son of Edgar" and this

<http://db.poms.ac.uk/record/person/446/> "Patrick Edgar (son of Walter)"

Note, in this record from the second link, Patrick, son of Walter, knight, is mentioned along with Robert of Cockburn, knight.

13 Dec.			John of Letham, knight;	John, persona of Oldhamstocks ;
1248 X	Gift	of	Patrick de Lemmington, persona of Chirnside;	Patrick, son of
21 Jun.	Southtoun	of	Walter, knight;	Philip of Halliburton;
1270	Lennel (BWK)	Grantor	Robert de Hellum, knight;	Robert of Cockburn, knight;
			Thomas Papedy;	Walter of
			Darnchester (I) (son of Thomas)	

And again here

4 Nov. 1261 Restoration of wardship of East Nisbet (BWK) and marriage of heir Grantor Henry Categang'; Hugh de Gourlay, knight (son of Hugh), steward of Earl Patrick; John of Eslington, knight; John, persona of Oldhamstocks ; Patrick, son of Walter, knight; Richard de Tweng'; Robert Menzies (d.1267); Robert of Cockburn, knight; Thomas of Herrington, knight

<http://db.poms.ac.uk/record/person/444/> "Adam, son of Edgar" "Alan, son of Alan son of Edgar" "Gilbert, son of Walter" "Walter, son of Edgar" and "William, son of Edgar" (Here is just one record)

1166 X 20 Aug. 1179 Gift of common pasture on Lammermuir (ELO) Consentor Adam of Edington; Adam of Fogo; Adam, son of Aldan the Steward; Adam, son of Edgar; Aldan, steward of the earls of Dunbar; Alina, countess of Dunbar (d. 1179); Edward, son of Earl Cospatric; Gamel of Pitcox; Gilbert Fraser (12C); Gilbert, son of Walter; Hugh of Duns; John, chaplain (Dunbar, 12C); Patrick, son of Cospatric, earl of Dunbar; Ralph, chaplain (Dunbar); Stephen Papedy, steward; Walter, chaplain (Dunbar); Warin le Malle

It gets very thick, doesn't it?
James

And another followup:

One more...

<http://poms.cch.kcl.ac.uk/db/record/factoid/29570/>

"Patrick, son of Alan son of Edgar"

<http://poms.cch.kcl.ac.uk/db/record/source/2541/>

This is VERY interesting -- "familial relationship"!

13 December 1229	X	31	<u>Son of Waltheof (father of John) (Familial relationship)</u>	relationship
December 1232				
13 December 1229	X	31	<u>Son of Patrick, earl of Dunbar (d.1232) (Familial relationship)</u>	relationship
December 1232				
13 December 1229	X	31	<u>Son of Patrick, earl of Dunbar (d.1232) (Familial relationship)</u>	relationship
December 1232				
13 December 1229	X	31	<u>Son of Alan, son of Edgar (Familial relationship)</u>	relationship
December 1232				
13 December 1229	X	31	<u>Son of Edgar (father of Patrick, Walter, Alan) (Familial relationship)</u>	relationship
December 1232				
13 December 1229	X	31	<u>Brother of Alan, son of Alan son of Edgar (Familial relationship)</u>	relationship
December 1232				
13 December 1229	X	31	<u>Clerk of Patrick, earl of Dunbar (d.1232) (Employment relationship)</u>	relationship
December 1232				

James

I include these because you can go to the site yourself and draw your own conclusions. My main one being that these texts (translated from the original Latin) provide actual names of living persons, and the text itself gives the proof that the Earls of Dunbar were related to the Edgars.

The next emails I got from Bruce follow:

Your last reference to a Patrick Edgar, "Clerk of Patrick, earl of Dunbar" is probably the same one that I found in the book.

Bruce

And,

Hi James,

I believe that the Patrick Edgar that I saw referred to in the book was Patrick, son of Walter Edgar. Here is the corresponding charter in the POMS database. On 13 October 1273 Patrick Edgar is being required by Earl Patrick III to give up his land in Lennel to the convent at Coldstream.

<http://db.poms.ac.uk/record/source/4837/>

Bruce

And I replied:

Yes, that's the inference I got from the entry shown as:

13 December 1229 X 31 [Son of Edgar \(father of Patrick, Walter, Alan\)](#) relationship
December 1232 [\(Familial relationship\)](#)

The Edgar mentioned here must be Walter, who was the son of the original Edgar, and Walter (and his son, Patrick) must be a cousin of Patrick III. Is that your feeling in this? Is that what "familial relationship" refers to?

According to the Wikipedia entry, Gospatrick II was father of the original Edgar.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospatrick_II,_Earl_of_Lothian

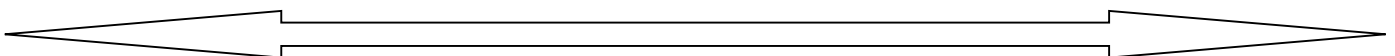
James

Lastly, Bruce replied:

There are evidently several Edgars in the extended family of the Earls of Dunbar. A younger brother of Earl Gospatrick III, was named Edgar. This Edgar married Alice, daughter of Ivo. If Walter Edgar was descended from this Edgar, then Walter would have been a distant cousin of Earl Patrick III, who was the great great grandson of Gospatrick III.

Bruce, son of William, son of Thomas, son of John

So, there you have it, a fascinating look at the connections and history of nearly 1000 years ago, giving powerful evidence to back up the DNA results. It isn't proof, but surely points to the strong possibility that we're all related—not delusional or pretentious!



If you're not already a member of the Edgar Worldwide Clan on Facebook, you should be.

Persian Edgars?

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



On the International Genealogical Index (IGI), I accidentally came across a Simon Edgar, born in 1896 in Turkey. He shows up on a 1913 immigration document into Philadelphia, USA. On examining the document, Simon is a 17-year-old farm labourer of Assyrian ancestors from Yeslaw, in Russia. The document also states he has a brother, Constantine, also in Yeslaw, Russia.

I thought that this was bit odd, a Turkish and Russian connection for the Edgars, are they really Edgars or is it an Anglicised version of a Russian or Turkish name?

1916

Constantine A Edgar April 15th 1916 sailed from Yokohama to Vermont, USA

A merchant aged 35, single, an Armenian from Persia. Last known address Bangkok, Siam

1930

Conrantine Athloon Edgar, a merchant, aged 50, lived in Manchester, England, and sailed from Liverpool to Singapore on the "Antenor" on the 29th March in 1930. His family is listed as :

Mrs Victoria Edgar aged 36

Mstr Andranik Edgar aged 9

Miss Araxy Edgar aged 8

They were listed as "to be settled in Singapore"

1939

In 1939, on board the "Asama Maru" sailing from Yokohama, Japan, to San Francisco, California, Constantine A Edgar aged 59, a textile merchant, a British subject of Armenian race from Istaphan in Iran

Mrs Victoria Edgar aged 44

Miss Araxy Victoria Edgar aged 16

1947 Headstone, Sydney, NSW

Constantine Arathoon Edgar b. 23 Feb 1889 in Julfa, Istahan, Iran. Died in Sydney, Australia 11th March 1947

Victoria Edgar 21st Sep 1894 died 8th Nov 1965

1943

Andranik Constantine Edgar aged 22, buried plot A16 Thanbyuzat War Cemetery, Burma, died 25th November 1943

Nothing else is showing on any index, I decided to search on "Arathoon" as this appears to be a family linked name, possibly Constantine's father's name.

1901

Mackertich Arathoon Edgar married someone in Chorlton, Manchester, in June 1901

1901

On the 1901 census, Arathoon Edgar, b Singapore is a 17-year-old visitor in Didsbury. (I was born in Didsbury!!)

1915

Arathoon Edgar an Armenian in transit through Hawaii from Hong Kong to San Francisco. Final

destination London, England.

1925

Arathoon G Edgar married Kathleen Manuk in June 1925

1929

Mackertich A Edgar died March 1929, aged 61 in Kensington

1956

Arathoon G Edgar died Aug 1956 in Kensington, London, aged 72 (b. 1884)

I decided to do a business check on the family name and found these listed as Armenian companies in Singapore:

Edgar & Company	1871 – 1899	Founded by Galstaun Edgar, had ties with the Co. with the same name in Surabaya in Java.
Galstaun & Company	1878 – 1884	Marcus Galstaun. Had close links to Java.
M. & G. Moses	1839 – 1845	Founded by M. = Mackertich & G. = Galastaum, brothers
Edgar Brothers	1912 – 1968	Founded by Charles, Mackertich, Constantine, Martin and Sarkies. Over time they had offices in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Surabaya, England, and Japan. In 1927, they became Edgar Brothers Ltd. Then in 1966 Edgar (Malaysia 1966) Ltd., and in 1967 Edgar (Malaysia) Ltd. and Edgar (Singapore) Ltd.

So, I think I am safe to assume that all of the above records show from one family, an Armenian family of textile merchants based in Singapore. The link with Manchester is logical as 80% of the world's cotton output was from the Manchester area in the late 1800s. An ideal place to be connected with.

The question is, are these Armenian textile merchants really Edgars? An article I read from the Internet shows a thriving Armenian population in the Singapore area that were badly affected by the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.

The community of some 95 Armenians, augmented by refugees from Hong Kong and Malaya, faced great uncertainty. Armenians had settled in Singapore since the early 1820s. Some were classified as British as they were born in a British colony. Others from Persia had become naturalized British subjects. Thus the fate of most was sealed once Singapore surrendered. What befell the Armenian community was a microcosm of the larger British community.

This next quote is the clincher:

*Readers may be surprised at some of the Armenian surnames that will be mentioned. Most of the Armenians who came to Southeast Asia were Persian Armenians, and many had been educated in Calcutta. Their surnames were thus Anglicized. For example, **Yedgarian** became **Edgar**, **Setian** became **Seth**, and **Hovakimian** became **Joaquim**.*

And a last word for Andranik Edgar

Phillip Seth and Andranik Edgar were sent as slave labourers to the infamous Thai-Burma railway. Like thousands of others, they succumbed to inhumane living and working conditions. Andranik died from gangrene and Phillip from typhoid. Andranik's memorial plaque rests in the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in Burma, while Phillip's lies in the Chungkai War Cemetery in Thailand.

So, that answers the question—not Edgars, but Yedgarian!

Have a great New Year!
Steve

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Pewter Badges

Looking to buy the **Edgar Crest**? At \$18, plus shipping, they make a great Christmas gift. (Pewter buttons also available.)

The proceeds over cost go to the Edgar DNA Trust Fund, to help with our DNA quest.

The order of 50 more badges has arrived, just in time for post-Christmas shopping.

Email me at james@jamesedgar.ca



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Interesting reading:

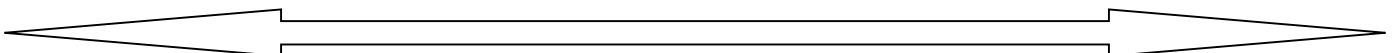
www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3000998/Are-Welsh-truest-Brits-English-genomes-contain-German-French-DNA-Romans-left-no-trace.html
www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35179269

This is the parent site for the links to People of Medieval Scotland, used in the opening pages above. The introduction is a good primer, describing what the site is all about.
<http://poms.cch.kcl.ac.uk/about/introduction.html>

When I first saw the video linked below on Facebook, I picked up right away on the “Edgars Mission” part of the website name. A little research showed that it wasn’t about our family at all, but named after “Edgar Alan Pig.” It’s too good to pass up, though, full of exuberance and good times. What a great way to begin the New Year!

www.facebook.com/CompassionOverKilling/videos/10152746935965895/?fref=nf

One more—if you’re into UFC, check out Frankie “The Answer” Edgar at
www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7PLtPsRiqY



Bill Edgar of Ohio, who recently befriended me on Facebook, offered to let us reproduce his grandmother's obituary. Betty Edgar passed away on December 15, leaving this family:

Her children, Charlotte Conner of Jacobsburg, Ohio, Janet Edgar-Adams of Sarasota, Florida, William C. (Christy) Edgar, Jr and Scott (Lisa) Edgar both of Jacobsburg, Ohio. Also nine grandchildren, David (Margaret) Major, Tammy (Todd) McFarland, Lori Major (Vernon Green), William Edgar, III, Stephen (Candace) Edgar, Somer Adams, Courtney Adams, Nathan Edgar and Brittnee Edgar, five great grandchildren, Shane, Tony and Katie Major and Olivia and Dustin McFarland and one great great granddaughter, Elizabeth.

www.bauknechtaltmeyer.com/obituary/betty-l-edgar

Received from my first cousin's husband, Joe Lewellen, an obituary for her death—she was 102! Included in his email was a clipping from the 1946 August 20 Vancouver Sun, with my brother, John Edgar, highlighted on the front page. Joe found it when going through Hazel's papers.

In Memoriam



Hazel Lewellen

Hazel Lewellen, a long time Quartzsite resident, passed away on November 14, 2015 with her husband of 50 years at her side.

Hazel was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on July 10, 1913 and lived there until she moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada in 1941 after her husband was killed in a machine shop accident. She, along with her husband and son, immigrated to the United States, settling in southern California in 1951. She became a naturalized citizen in 1959. She started work at the US Post Office as the first female letter carrier following her 2nd husband died in an automobile accident. She retired from the Post Office in 1978. In 1980 she and her 3rd husband started RVing full time traveling around the US and Canada, where she still had family. They spent their first winter in Florida; then came to Quartzsite every winter after that. In 1998 they sold their 5th wheel trailer and settled down to stay in Quartzsite.

Hazel is survived by her husband Joe, son and daughter-in-law Erin & Brigitte Jerrett of Arkansas; granddaughters Faith (Joh) Hufft, of Texas; Jami Jerrett (Jason Davenport) of California; and four great grandchildren, Zachary USMC, Donivan, Texas and Angel & Jayden of California. She may be gone, but she'll forever be in our hearts.



CHEERFUL CRIPPLE. Johnny Edgar, 13-year-old Kamloops lad, smiles from his bed in Portland Shrine Hospital where he is undergoing a series of operations which may cure a spinal condition which has crippled him from birth. The plucky newsboy is the holder of a trophy from the Kamloops Athletic Association for the member showing most progress in gym classes. *1946 award*