



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 11, December 2007**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (Editor)

We welcome Steve Edgar of Australia to the completed DNA testers – he’s an E3b, making it very suspicious that SteveUK was NOT a one-off! Now that we have the two Steves and Norman – all E3b, we have a distinct Edgar group, putting to rest the “one-ancestor” theory. Hadrian’s Wall is becoming more and more populated!

We also welcome John Edgar of British Columbia, Canada, whose DNA was submitted by Peg Edgar of Alberta. John is an I1b, related (distantly) to Alfred of Argentina.

As well, we have others interested in joining our group, but waiting until Ancestry.com gets their act together in the New Year. Until then, we have the gallery of “old geezers” from far and wide. I leave it to you to decide if there are any family resemblances or similarities.... But first, as promised, is this carryover from last issue — from Frankie Sawyer, the photo and obituary from her cousin, Charles K. Edgar, who died just a short time ago. Charles provided the DNA sample that shows Frankie’s Edgar connection to the Celts – Haplogroup R1b.



Charles K. Edgar
May 31, 1923
October 17, 2007

Mr. Charles K. Edgar, age 84, of Ozark, died Wednesday, October 17, 2007, in Flowers Hospital. Mr. Edgar was born May 31, 1923, in Coffee County, Alabama, to the late Mary Bell Faircloth Edgar Young and James Shelley Edgar. He served in the United States Navy, received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Troy Teachers’ College, and his Master’s Degree from Auburn University. Mr. Edgar began his career as a Teacher and Principal of Skipperville High School. From there he served as Principal of Clayton High School and Daleville High School. He was the first Principal at East Gate Jr. High School in Ozark. In 1969, he became the principal at Carroll High School. He served as the Director of the Carroll High School Vocational School from 1979 when it opened until his retirement in 1988. Mr. Edgar was an avid Auburn football fan, a master gardener, and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was a member and Deacon of Ozark Baptist Church, and a member of the Kiwanis Club.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Edgar was preceded in death by his first wife, Doris Snellgrove Edgar; his step father, Charles Cecil Young, and three brothers, Max Edgar, James Edgar, and John Huey Edgar all of Ariton. Survivors include his wife of 13 years, Corene Edgar of Ozark; one daughter and son-in-law, Lynda and Daniel Byrd of Panama City Beach, Florida; one step daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Tim Shepard of Ozark; one sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Charles Lindsey of Enterprise; one step son and daughter-in-law, Alicia and Michael Byrd of Headland; three grandchildren, Justin Byrd, Ryan and Brooke Campbell, and Brittany Shepard and fiancé, Clint Pugh; one great granddaughter, Allie Elizabeth Campbell. Numerous nieces, nephews, and friends also survive.

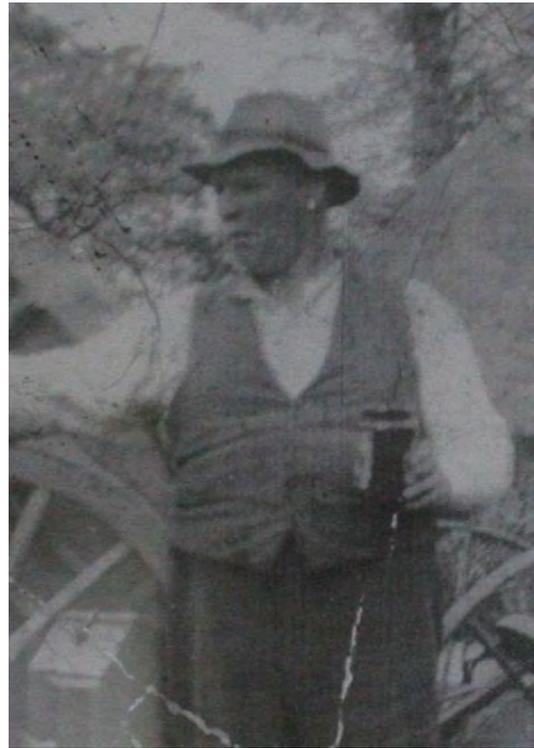


OLD GEEZERS
FROM THE PAST

I'll start with my own ancestor, James Edgar, b. 1800 in Benagh, Kilkeel, Co. Down, N.I. This is taken from an original tintype image.



Below is Jacky Edgar's gr-grandfather, James Edgar, also born in Benagh, abt. 1834. These two would be 1st cousins, once removed.



Jacky has three brothers and three sisters, plus his parents, Willie & Molly, plus two uncles, two aunts, and various nieces and nephews! They all live within about 10 miles of each other in the Kilkeel area.



Next is Henry Edgar. We have this data from Juanita Edgar, who sent the picture, taken in 1919. She says "This is a picture of Norman's Gr-Grandfather, Henry A. Edgar, 1865-1922, b. Buffalo, New York."

Bill Edgar of Australia sent me a few old photos – do you see any recognizable characteristics?



This is William Edgar, born in Killeel abt. 1840, son of Arthur Edgar (James above on the right and this William were brothers). He moved to Australia

Here is William in his Orange Order regalia at an earlier age.





This is Frankie Sawyer's ancestor, Hugh Edgar. The photo has been "fixed up," from a dark photocopy. Hugh shines up pretty good, don't you think?

Next is Steve Edgar of Crewe's ancestors, Benjamin William Jr., Benjamin William Sr., and Joseph Edgar.





Now look at this fellow, compared to the next!
Above is George Edgar, 1838-1899;
below is William Samuel Edgar. 1833-1913,
both from Jack Ruffer.



From Steve Edgar of Toronto, this is his great-great-grandfather, Sir James David Edgar.



And this one, also from SteveTO, is James Edgar, Secretary to King James. Now, that's going back a long way!



This one is from Elaine Leslie. She is descended from George Washington Edgar, through her grandmother.

George Washington Edgar



GEO. W. EDGAR.
See page 89.
1819-1906

And finally, we have a couple of family shots. This one from Bill Edgar in Australia is of his grandfather and family. Bill's father is the young lad at the right, Angus William James Edgar.



STEWART A.E. EDGAR ROBT. ARLENBARK JESSIE MAUDE EDGAR
 HELENA MARY I. EDGAR "NANNY" ROBERTSON
 MOTHER OF JESSIE ANGUS W.J. EDGAR

Ed. Note - Thanks to all who sent me photos from their past.



And this one from Mel Edgar. He writes, "My line is Samuel Doney Edgar gggrandfather and Susan Poulson gggrandmother, then James Henry Edgar gggrandfather. This picture must be from the 1890s

	Lillie Belle Edgar (Belle) Born: Jan 16, 1871		Franklin Sumner Edgar (Frank) Born: Aug 24, 1869	Lewis Barstow Edgar (Lewis) Born: Dec 5, 1877
James Henry Edgar (Jim) Born: Dec 27, 1873	Samuel Doney Edgar (Sam) Born: Aug 31, 1842	Samuel George Edgar (Sam Sr.) Born: Mar 13, 1885	Susan (Poulson) Edgar Born: Mar 14, 1852	Lulu Blanche Edgar (Blanche) Born: Apr 27, 1887

To close off, we have this interesting submission from Ted Barnes of Australia.

EDGAR FAMILY NAME IN ULSTER

By Edward Barnes
(October 2007)

It wasn't long after I started to research my wife's paternal EDGAR ancestry in County Down, that I heard the story that the Edgar name first occurred in Ulster, when four brothers of that name migrated from Scotland during the reign of King William the third. So I decided to extend the research, to see if my wife's line could be linked to one of the four brothers. The time has come to set down my findings but, first of all, it might help to set the scene if I mention briefly, something of the Scottish origin of the name. I have extracted this from "The Surnames of Scotland" by George F Black.

EDGAR comes from the Old English personal EADGAR meaning 'happy spear'; the first record of the name is attributed to a Scottish king, seventh son of Malcolm the third (reigned 1097-1107). Edgar's held extensive lands in Nithsdale, Dumfries, during the reign of William the Lion (1165-1214). Other Edgar's held lands in Berwickshire of the earls of Dunbar.

The story of the four brothers is mentioned in "News Letter, Society of Edgar Families, No. Eleven" Melbourne Australia, 1941 (the society appears to have ceased during World War 2). The article appears to be quoting from two sources: "An Account of the Sirname (sic) of Edgar", 1868 & 1873, and a Grampian Club publication, "The Scottish House of Edgar", 1873. There are three slightly different stories: (1): Three brothers settled respectively at Castlewellan, Saintfield and Newtownards as farmers. (2): The youngest of the four brothers settled in Guilford; he had two sons, one of whom was the father of (Rev) Samuel Edgar. (3): Doctor John Edgar, son of Rev. Samuel Edgar is quoted (1864) as saying, "The tradition of our family is that four brothers came to Ulster, one of whom joined the army; another settled near Castlewellan, where his descendants spell their name AGAR; a third settled in County Down, and my branch at Saintfield in the same county".

Frank Fox of Ballynahinch in a letter to Mrs Henderson (Ed. This Mrs. Henderson is Jacky and Bill's Aunt Martha.) of Kilkeel (a correspondent of mine) stated that a Robert Edgar joined the army of King William the third in Scotland. He embarked from Kirkcudbright with his friend, Hugh McKee, and fought at the Boyne (1690), and Aughrim (1691), under General James Douglas; and afterwards he settled in Lisbane, near Saintfield. Some Edgar descendants were buried in the old Killaney Graveyard at Loughinney.

Several Edgar's have been Presbyterian ministers in Ireland, and I am indebted to The Linen Hall Library, Belfast, for giving me an extract from a manuscript volume, the "Irish Presbyterian Fasti", covering those surnamed Edgar, with a brief story (about three lines) of each. An analysis of this list, in conjunction with the Melbourne News Letter, has enabled this writer to construct a simple family tree. An outline follows: The youngest of the four brothers settled down to farming, possibly first at Lisbane, but moving on to Guilford. He had three sons according to the "Fasti" (two according to the Newsletter). The third son (No. 879 in the "Fasti") was Samuel (1746-1785).

He had two sons, Oliver (farmer), and Samuel (1783-1850) (No. 882); and a grandson through Oliver, named Samuel (died 1891) (No. 881). The "Fasti" names the farmer ancestor of these ministers, John. Another line comes down from either the eldest, or second son of John (name unknown), who produced a son, Samuel (1767-1826) (No. 880), born Guilford. This Samuel had three sons: eldest John (1798-1866) (No. 877), born at Ballykine at the time of the 1798 rebellion; and third son, David (1807-1889) (No. 874).

Rev. Samuel Edgar (1767-1826) was prominent at the time of the 1798 uprising. Some of his activity has been recorded in a five-part series of articles by Horace Reid of Ballynahinch, entitled "The Battle Of Ballynahinch", and published in the "Mourne Observer" in 1993-1995.

Further information on the Edgar family name is contained in abstracts of two wills of John Edgar, Burgess, and his grand son, also named John, Plummer (sic), both of Carrickfergus, and dated respectively, 13 June 1642 and 19 May 1702. Probate of the later will is dated 31 July 1702. From these two wills the following family tree emerges: Grandfather, John Edgar had a son, Michael, and he married Margaret Dobbin. She had a brother, James Dobbin, and a nephew, (Major) John Dobbin, husband of Dorothy Kennedy. Michael and Margaret Edgar had two sons, John (died 1702) and James. This latter son produced a large family of Edgar's: John, Elizabeth, Hannah, Joan, James and Hugh.

So, the four Edgar brothers who migrated to County Down in the reign of King William the third, (reigned 1688-1702) were not the first of that surname to land in Ulster.

Last, but not least, I turn to the search for my wife's Edgar ancestry. Her father, Leslie Edgar, and mother, Kathleen May Pengelly were married in Perth, Western Australia, on 10th December, 1927. Leslie had emigrated in late 1911, at the age of 17; Kathleen had emigrated from South Devon with her parents, brother and three sisters, one year later. According to tradition, the Pengelly family had been encouraged to move overseas, because the wife had married below her station in life; and Leslie Edgar had left home because of a cruel father.

As a starting point we had some documentary information. Leslie Edgar was born 26th July, 1894, at Finnis, Dromara, County Down; his father being Melvin Edgar, farmer of Finnis, and his mother, Lizzie Robinson. We knew that Leslie's mother had died when he was very young, and a search quickly found his parent's record. The Marriage Certificate revealed that the event took place on 12th March 1889, at Ballynahinch. Lyssie (sic) was residing at Artana, Dromara. Melvin's father is shown as Alexr (sic) Edgar, farmer, and Lyssie's father is Alexr Robinson, Coastguard. We were fortunate in finding the baptism of Melvin Edgar and two siblings in the Mormon IGI; the events took place at the Presbyterian Church, Dromara, Down. These details are: James Leslie Edgar, 20 December 1858; Melvin Edgar, 23 January 1861; Sarah Helena Edgar, 16 July 1863. The mother's name is given as Maria Leslie. This information was very helpful in looking for the marriage of the parents (it also provided a clue to Leslie Edgar's Christian name: he was given his mother's maiden name). The Marriage Certificate of Alexander Edgar and Maria Leslie reveal the event took place at the Registrar's Office, Lisburn on 2nd May 1857. The groom's father is Melvin Edgar, farmer, and the bride's is James Leslie, farmer.

Although my main aim was to follow the Edgar name, I sometimes found it added substance to the wider picture to look at spouses. The fact that the occupation of Alexander Robinson (Lizzie's father) was "Coastguard" at the time of her marriage looked interesting. A search found that Alexander had married Susan Wallace at Newcastle, Down on 3rd March 1865; his rank was "Sailor on board the

'Royal George"'. Research at the Public Record Office London (Kew) showed that he was born on 17 March 1833, at Bangor Down. He joined the Royal Navy from the Merchant Service in 1854, and served for 10 years 88days, on "Calcutta", "Duke of Wellington", "Assistance", "Fury", "Sparrowhawk", "Marlborough" and "Royal George". He was awarded two Good Conduct Badges and the China Medal for service during the Opium Wars of 1857-1860. He may also have the Baltic Medal for 1854-1855, but more research is needed. After discharge from the navy Alexander Robinson enlisted in the Coastguard, and died at Cranfield Kilkeel on 29th March 1873, 'Dead at Station', whatever that may mean.

Returning to the Edgar story. I extracted all references to the name Edgar recorded in the Griffiths Tax Valuation for County Down (1864). There were 60, largest concentrations being in the Parishes of Drumballyrone (11), Drumgooland (11), Newtownards (9) and Kilkeel (7). Fortunately there was only one with the Christian name of Melvin, and he was in the Townland of Benraw, Parish of Drumgooland.

Next I employed a professional to search the Drumgooland Parish Registers at PRONI, Belfast. The Presbyterian records do not go back far enough, but the Church of Ireland Registers start in 1779, although there is a gap from 1793 of about 40 years. Lo and behold there were several families of interest in Benraw; two mentioned the Christian name Melvin - but the surname was **AGAR!!** There were no marriages, but there were a few Agar baptisms between 1783 and 1791, and for the record here they are: John Agar & Agnes Johnson baptised Maria Ann (9 Nov. 1783), James 19 Feb 1786; Melvin Agar & Elizabeth Grey baptised John (26 Feb 1785), Mary (22 July 1787), John (9 Aug 1789), Margaret (28 Dec 1791); John Agar & Rose Smith baptised William (4? Dec 1785); William Agar & Lois (?) Smith baptised Alexander (15 Jan 1788), William (15 Feb 1791); John Agar & Agnes Baxter baptised Melvin (17 Oct 1790).

The death of a Melvin **Edgar**, aged 80 years took place at Benraw on 28th June 1878. If this is our man then either the correct age was 88 years (1790 baptism), or another Melvin was born circa 1798. Also, I have a copy of a will of a Melvin Edgr (sic) of Benraw in the Parish of Drumgala (sic) dated January 10 1878; probate granted 28 April 1893 to William Edgar. The will mentions daughters Bety (sic) Jane, Marget (sic), Izabella and sons David and Alexander. Co-executors were William & Alexander Edgar.

So it would appear that this writer's wife is descended from the Edgar brother who settled in Castlewellan, and whose more immediate descendents changed their name to Agar. Reversion to Edgar occurred, presumably, during the period 1793-1833. Any more information on the Edgar family in Ulster would be appreciated.

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That's all for this year - enjoy your Christmas and we'll see you again 2008!

