



# EDGAR



# EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history NO. 119, December 2017**

**SPECIAL NEWSLETTER**



## DNA Update



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

We have two, possibly three, significant DNA tests to report on, plus I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and all the best in 2018.

On September 20, I heard from a **Larry Edgar** in Oregon who was interested in a DNA test, so I ordered it for him. Still waiting for the results. It will be interesting to see if or how he relates to people we've already tested.

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When Ancestry.com pulled the plug on our DNA project a few years back, we tested a couple of people at GeneBase in Burnaby, B.C. I tested there, too, so I could be the Edgar project administrator. Another one was **Jonathan Ross Edgar**, who I matched 'way, 'way back, like 50 generations ago—that's 1250 years, or so, to a common ancestor! Every now and again, we get another announcement from GeneBase that we have another match with some obscure name. The important thing is that **Jon** and I both match the other person, which confirms that he and I are most definitely related.

Here's one of the letters I sent in 2016 about one of those matches:

Hi Jon,

I just got notification tonight of a match with Thomas Christopher Burns, and you must have, too. I sent him this note:

*Hi Thomas, You and I, plus Jonathan Ross Edgar, share a common ancestor. The match just showed up today. Do you have any Edgar relatives away back in your history?*

*See my site [www.edgargen.ca](http://www.edgargen.ca)*

This is the first direct confirmation I've had with my DNA tests showing that my Ireland ancestors came from Scotland, and that I'm definitely related to the Keithock Edgars -- you and I share a common ancestor with Thomas! It was always surmised that my ancient ancestry was Scottish, I just couldn't prove it. This is evidence! I'm over the Moon!  
James

We never heard back from **Thomas Burns**, but that's not unusual. Disappointing, but not unusual.

My next step came about as a result of one of my close matches on my Big Y test, **David Widerberg Howden**. **David** is on the board of the Norwegian Genealogical Society, and he was interested in exploring our mutual history. You see, my DNA type, I1 (or I-M253 in the modern designation), is derived from Norwegian Vikings. **David** is the closest match on my Big Y test.

Here's the next letter I sent to **Jon** and his sister, **Susan Cullen**:

Hi Jonathan and Susan,

I have a proposal that that was put to me by my nearest match on the Big Y test, David Widerberg Howden.

Board member in Norwegian Genealogical Society <http://www.genealogi.no>

Administrator in Norway project-DNA <http://www.norwaydna.no>

As you can see, he's Norwegian, and he's related -- must be our Viking connection. My Big Y results show names like Ole, Pers, and Rasmus, which also includes names from my 111-marker Y-DNA testing.

He asked if there was anyone in my tree descended from the Keithock Edgars who would be willing to do the Big Y test. I immediately thought of you. Would you be willing to do it?

If so, it's a two-step process. First we'd have you tested at FTDNA for 37 markers (Y-DNA). Then, once we had those results, we'd order the Big Y test as an upgrade. We have funds still available in the Edgar DNA Trust to look after a large portion of the costs. ...

What do you think?

James

We ordered the 37-marker test on October 30 this year.

Then, in mid-November, Family Tree DNA offered a sale on a 111-marker test upgrade plus a Big Y test. I phoned FTDNA and we were able to take advantage of the sale, so **Jon** now has a 111-marker test with the results already in, and he's waiting for the Big Y results.

The 111- marker results show some surprising things. The first is that he has a match to a **David Allen Edgar** in North Carolina, who we've known about for quite some time. He and his wife, **Robin**, have been on our radar since 2013, when **David** first wrote me. He has a website [www.plastiquarium.com](http://www.plastiquarium.com) that gives some of his biography (see [EdgarNews 70](#) and [EdgarNews 88](#)).

**David** and **Robin** were in contact with **Jon** and **Susan** in 2014, suspecting that **Jon** and **David** were related, so the DNA test most definitely confirms that they are cousins. **David** ordered his test in January 2017, and he had no **Edgar** matches, but he does now! We also found **Antony Edgar** and his son **Ian** through our mutual activity on WikiTree, also cousins of **Jon** and **David**.

67 MARKERS - 13 - MATCHES		
Genetic Distance ↑	Name	Earliest Known Ancestor
1	Matthew D. Clarkson Y-DNA111 FF	Daniel Clarkson, b 1793 Eliz. NJ
3	David Allen Edgar Y-DNA67	
5	Mr. Karl-Axel Boström Y-DNA111	Karl Erik Boström, b 1924 and d 2012 his father un
5	Mr. David Fulton Akin Y-DNA111	David Akin b.1640's Scotland (I1-DF29+A14569+)
6	Alasdair Duncan McLeod Y-DNA111	James McLeod b.1747 Durisdeer, Dumfries,Scotland
6	Mr. Victor John McLeod III Y-DNA67 FF	John McLeod
6	Evelyn Bayna Y-DNA67	Read
7	W.A Ekland Y-DNA67	Ole Ekland, b. 1880
7	Mr. Mats Altby Y-DNA67 FF	Emanuel Olsson, f 1788 d. 1818, Björkö
7	Mr. William Malcolm Mcclounie Y-DNA67	John Mcclounie b. 22/09/1744 Morton Dumfrieshire
7	Robert Wilhelm Solvang Y-DNA67 FF	Karl A. Andresen Solvang 1871-1955 Enebakk AKR
7	JAN LENNART SÖDERSTRÖM Y-DNA111 FF	Per Bryngelsson Wijkfäldt, b abt 167x in Våse (S)
7	Hans Kruth Y-DNA111	

The other interesting part of **Jon's** results above show much the same as mine—mostly Norwegian names as his close matches! **David Allen Edgar** shows as a close match, of course, and I have **Douglas Neil Edgar** (**Sharon Bunek's** brother), but we're still miles apart, genealogy-wise. As I said above, I believe our common ancestry goes back 1200 years or so.

These are my matches at the 67-marker level:

67 MARKERS - 15 - MATCHES		
Genetic Distance ↑	Name	Earliest Known Ancestor
2	Mr. Douglas Neil Edgar Y-DNA67	Edgar
5	William MacIsaac Y-DNA111 FF	Angus MacIsaac c.1795, South Uist, SC
6	Mr. Iain Grant William McQueen Y-DNA111	Donald McQueen d 1594 Scotland
6	JOHN D. SHANNON Y-DNA67	Alexander Shannon
7	Hans Morten Sundnes Y-DNA67 FF	Olav Eriksson Myklebust, ca. 1510-1574 Ørsta, MRO
7	John-Olav Slettaeløkken Y-DNA67 FF	Jørgen Pedersen Holum d1816 Dovre, OPL
7	Magne Øye Y-DNA111 FF	Ola Jonsson Skylstad c.1570-c1605 Hjørundfjord MRO
7	Mr. John Robson Burgess Y-DNA111 FF	Richard Burgess, c1802-, Woolton, Liverpool
7	Timothy Matthews (paternally adopted) Y-DNA67 FF	Unknown--Paternally adopted
7	Bradford Hatch Y-DNA67 FF	
7	Jakob Anders Persson Y-DNA111 FF	Måns Bengtsson 1697-1734 Lekeryd (F) Sweden
7	Mr. Edward John Randall Y-DNA111 FF	Arthur Randall, bc 1871, West Norwood, London
7	Mr. Peter Aaron Cook Y-DNA67 FF	L-#9 - (Peter Cook - ancestor pending)
7	Mr. Ted Randall Y-DNA111 FF	Edward Randall, 1900-1981
7	Hatch	Line #1 - Thomas HATCH 1598-1661 of Barnstable, MA

I've been putting the Keithock Edgars onto WikiTree, whose trees and history are well documented in a printed genealogy from 1930. If you're interested in exploring this tree, have a look at **David Edgar**, who first owned Keithock in the 1600s, and his descendants. There is an American line and a Canadian line, and they're both on there. **Antony** and **Ian Edgar** (father and son) have been helping make sure we have accurate information on the tree. **David Edgar**, the Keithock progenitor, on WikiTree is profile Edgar-1531. The Canadian line isn't quite complete yet, but it's a work in progress. Right now, it ends at **Sir James David Edgar**, who is **SteveTO's** gr-gr-grandfather. **SteveTO** and I also match DNA-wise, so we know that **Jon** and **David** are also his distant cousins, as well as **Antony** and **Ian**. **David** of Keithock is **SteveTO's** 8th great-grandfather, and likewise for **Jon**, **Susan**, and **Antony**; 9 greats for **Ian**!

What we hope to get from the Big Y test that we're waiting for now is to show that **Jon** and I are related to **David Widerberg Howden** in the same way. That would clinch the case!

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In early December, a **Josh Edgar** joined our FTDNA group, and I was interested to know if he was related to anyone previously tested. His full name is **Joshua Daniel Edgar**, and he is indeed related to **Dr. James Edgar** of Tampa, Florida, and **Frankie Sawyer** (whose mother was an **Edgar**).

**Frankie** has been a long-time friend since we first started our **Edgar** research away back in 2005. Her cousin, **Charles Edgar**, was DNA tested before he passed away in 2007. **Frankie** has been to Ireland a couple of times, trying to find something that would connect her family to there, and we believe she is distantly related to **Richard Edgar** of Tandragee, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, **Frankie**, **Dr. James**, and **Josh's** documented tree only goes as far back as **John**

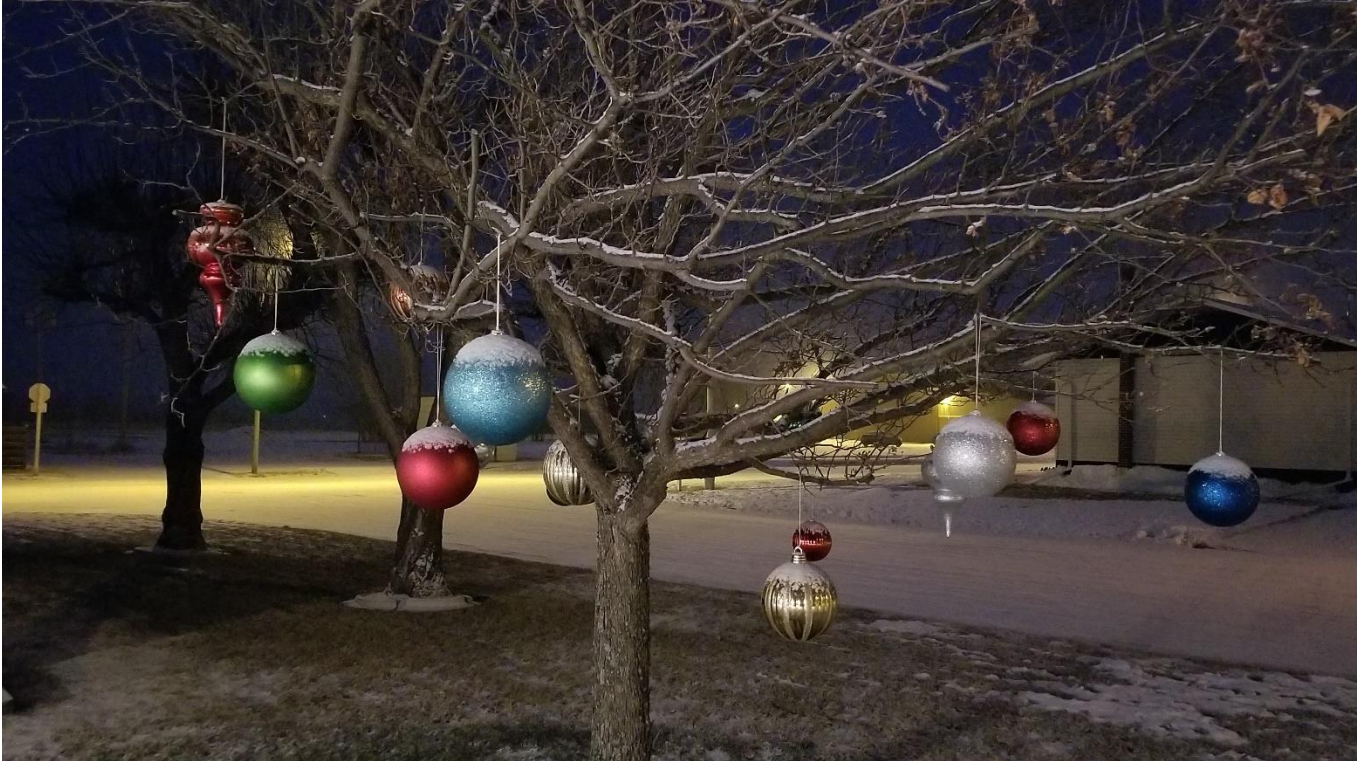


**Thomas Edgar**, born 1803 in Georgia. He died and is buried in Coffee County, Alabama. Beyond that, they have no records to show where they came from. **Frankie** always has suspected Ireland, but that's pure supposition. The distant connection to **Richard** carries some weight, though.

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## Picture Time

Our hawthorne tree partially died last year, so we decorated it with Christmas ornaments. We left them up all summer and even added some more in the fall. Some of the local kids think they're planets! Do they know me, or what?!?



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## **Pewter Badges**

I have 17 **Edgar Crests** left, and will continue to take orders. At \$18, plus shipping, they make a great gift.

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

**A few pewter buttons are also available.**



## Skeletons in Cupboards

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



I have, over the past few months, been trying to fill the gaps in my family tree using new sources of information, one of which has proved very successful in giving some background to the individuals on there.

If your ancestors were from the UK, they may have a mention in a newspaper, and the British Newspaper Archive (BNA) is a very good resource [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

A word of warning, though, you might find it's not all good news! There could be a few scandals, as well—as I was to find out!

My great-granduncle, Hugh Edgar, b. 1828 in Newry, is an ancestor who has always remained somewhat of a mystery. He married Martha McCaul in 1857; she was a Roman Catholic; the marriage didn't seem to go down well with the families and they disappear. (Or did they?) Hugh turns up in 1901, aged 72, in Portadown as a Labourer in a rope-works, he's a widower. A little later he's in Newry claiming a pension and eventually dies in Belfast at the age of 91 in Belfast.

I've searched all over for any hint of a family for him and Martha—nothing! Then, I consulted the BNA...and, lo and behold, here's Hugh!

In 1857, Hugh is trying to move the business from Water St. to Margaret St. and to sell the stock off cheaply.

In 1857, Hugh is selling off stock cheaply to cover debts, after his father's death in 1856 (does this explain why there is no headstone for Joseph Edgar senior?)

In 1857, Hugh's brother Joseph is denying the move to Margaret St. and is advertising for the old premises in Water St.

In 1858, both Hugh and his nephew Benjamin are implicated in Cock-fighting on the 2nd of April.

In 1863, Hugh is mentioned with others as being involved in a dog fight.

In 1866, *NEWRY TELEGRAPH Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Hugh Edgar and Margaret Edgar were charged with having assaulted Martha Edgar the wife of the former on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst at Newry The complainant deposed that on Monday last she went to her husband's house having been sent for by him and upon entering the door she was assaulted by the defendants. Water was thrown about her and she was pushed. Edgar was directed to enter bail to keep the peace for 12 months, himself in £20 with two sureties of £10 each, and in default to be imprisoned for the period of two months. Margaret Edgar was discharged with a caution*

*Cross summonses at the suit of Hugh Edgar and Margaret Edgar against Martha Edgar were struck out.*

In 1867, Hugh assaults his apprentice.

In 1867, Hugh is bankrupt — *re **Hugh Edgar**. The insolvent had been a rope maker in Newry.—The amount of his liabilities was £71, but Mr. Evans, who appeared for....*

In 1867, Hugh is summonsed by his brother Joseph for debts.

In 1868, Hugh assaulted his daughter Margaret (aged about 11 years) on Christmas night after a visit to her grandmother. Hugh was in the habit of doing this. He was bound over to keep the peace.

In 1869, Hugh is cock fighting again, but the Police can't prove anything. The only evidence is a few feathers on the ground....

Hmm, some questions answered—the marriage didn't last long, nine years afterwards they're having a punch-up in Newry. New information has come forth, Margaret must be his daughter with the marriage to Martha. Margaret is working as a nanny for the King family.

So, here we have my mystery relative, Hugh Edgar: marries outside the faith; becomes a wife beater; a child beater; an apprentice beater; a cock fighter; a dog fighter; and a bankrupt; ends up as a labourer in Portadown and claiming a pension in Newry. Lived to the ripe old age of 91!

I'm sorry I started this now!

Steve

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### **From Family Tree DNA ([ftdna.com](http://ftdna.com))**

Through December 25th, we are offering **REDUCED SHIPPING** for both domestic and international orders.

We also have a special offer valid through 12/31/17 for a select group of individuals. Users that have a Big Y plus a Y67 or Y37 test have the opportunity to upgrade to Y111 for a reduced price. Eligible testers were sent an email that includes instructions on how to take advantage of this special one-time offer. A follow-up email will be sent later this week to anyone that has not used their coupon.

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**Merry Christmas everyone and have a Happy New Year!**

