



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 14, March 2008**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (Editor) (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)



Since last issue at the end of January, we were awaiting results from two DNA testers – Jennifer Detta’s uncle Bob from B.C., and Peter Edgar of Australia.

Uncle Bob is one of the Celtish R1b types, who doesn’t appear to be related to anyone on our previous tests. One has to realize that the R1b is very widespread across the world and within family groups, so it isn’t surprising that there should be many unrelated people in our project. What is surprising is that they’re all named Edgar! How did that come about? Press on, gentle reader – Steve’s revelation below (Swan & Edgar) will help clear away some of the murkiness.

Peter Edgar, on the other hand, is my cousin. We’re not exactly sure when he and I converge in the distant past, but the results posted on the Relative Genetics site show him as a 74.5% match to me, and the same to Bill in Melbourne and Jackie in Kilkeel. He’s a little closer to Mel in Cincinnati, but here’s the great surprise – not even close to Steve in Toronto! What does that tell us? Likely that a separation long ago took Peter’s ancestors to a different part of Scotland than Wedderlie. Was this a branch of Edgars that settled in Dumfriesshire?

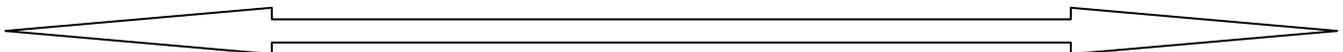
I estimate Peter’s connection to me at about 1000 years ago, and SteveTO’s at about 750 years ago. How did I arrive at those figures, you might well ask? Well, one generation, on average, is 25 years. 25 times 40 is 1000 years. The Relative Genetics site gives SteveTO and me that “Most Likely” assessment – 40 generations (1000 years) to find a common ancestor.

Of course, these are probabilities. What if there were fewer generations (more years per generation)? That certainly makes sense based on my own ancestry; I have four generations in nearly 175 years – gr-gr-grandfather Charles Edgar was born in 1772; his son James Edgar was born in 1805; his son Charles Stephen Edgar was born in 1848; my dad was born in 1906; and I was born in 1946. That shoots a large hole in the 25 years/generation estimate!

Back to SteveTO: if we use a higher figure — 35 years per generation — then he and I could converge at a lower estimated value: perhaps 750 years ago (21 generations). Using the same years-per-generation value, I estimate Peter’s relationship at 28 generations back (1000 years). It makes just as much sense, perhaps even more, to use 35 years/generation than the 25-year figure. Again, it’s all probabilities and not “carved in stone,” as the saying goes. Your guess is as good as mine — what do you say?

[More from DNA.Ancestry.com](http://DNA.Ancestry.com)

In speaking with Darlene Odenwalder this past week, I found out that we can obtain test kits for our use when SteveUK and I go knocking on Scottish doors in May. Plus, she says the site, once our family project is migrated over from Relative Genetics, will include a “chat room,” where we can post blogs, newsletters, photos, etc. — a new way for us all to keep in touch, to share stories and information.



DNA Trust Fund

by Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe (*banjos at edgarhome.fsnet.co.uk*)



The Edgar DNA Trust Fund, set up some while ago, received some very generous donations from a lot of Edgars and their relatives. The idea behind collecting the money was to give us a kitty to spend on testing. Many people can't see spending \$199 US for a test they simply cannot afford, even though they are interested. The fund gave us the power to select likely candidates and find out their past. The money set us up to do some random testing last year in and around Kilkeel in Northern Ireland.

We wanted to discover the origins of the Edgars in the town. There were lots of them and, from the DNA test, we found that they were just as varied as the results we see from all over the world.

At the time, we did not have the diversity of Edgars we see now, and more and more testing is going to be needed. James and I do a lot of persuading and cajoling just to get a person to agree to a test. It would be nigh on impossible to get them to agree to pay as well. (James's power of persuasion is a deadly weapon at anything less than 100 yards — good, but not that good!)

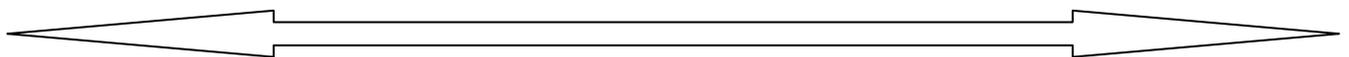
We have sponsored \$1500 worth of testing so far, either by total payment or a 50/50 split — it works well, but cash has run out. We have no funds left for any more testing.

Crunch time!!! I'll bet you can guess what's coming next!

We need money, not necessarily lots from individuals, but a regular cash flow — \$5 or \$10 per month from lots of people will really give us what we need. We have a list of people we want to test from all over the world. James and I will be going back to Ireland and Scotland in May to find some candidates for testing. Scotland is our "home," and with luck, with the right person, we may get some really good details of the DNA within the Sanquhar area. This, coupled with the joining of our DNA details onto the DNA.Ancestry.com site, opens up a massive database of information. James's details are below. If you want to contribute, feel free to do so, but if you don't want to set up a formal donation, how about putting a \$20 bill in an envelope and just posting it to James? Ensure you make cheques payable to "James Edgar."

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CANADA

Steve UK



Received from Gwen Edgar a couple of weeks ago...

Hi

This is a short history as I know it of my Edgars.

We believe David Edgar was born about 1797/1801 Belfast Ireland.

He married Mary Muckle* who was born also in Belfast about 1801/1803.

Among their children was Samuel born in Belfast 1824/1825.

He married Marion Eaglesham* 27-10-1849 Renfrew Paisley Scotland.

Their son David was born 8-7-1851 Glasgow Scotland.

They came to Australia in 1852 David was about one year old.

All 3 are buried in the Mallee area of Victoria.

David had a son David who had a son David (my father) who had a son David who had a son David who is now 19 so it may not be many years before there is another "David"!

I have been able to trace the Australian history quite well but have not been able to find any information on the Scottish or Irish part of our history, so please, if you come across any information, let me know. I do have hopes of getting to the UK within the next year or so.

Gwen

* spellings may vary

And Gwen supplied these photos...

Samuel Edgar

Born 1823/1824 Belfast, Ireland

Died Australia.



David Edgar

Born 1851 Glasgow, Scotland

Died Australia.

One of those moments.....

by Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe (banjos at edgarhome.fsnet.co.uk)



For a long time I have been blathering on about the origins of the Edgars, the Vikings, the Greeks, the Balkans, and of course the Celts. The Celts have caused me some considerable head scratching as to why they are so diverse. Adoption? Illegitimacy?

Well, an answer came via Richard Edgar in Tandragee in N. Ireland. He received the following email:-

Dear Sir/Madam

Can you possibly shed some light on my family's history on my mother's side. We (her children) had always been told that she was related to the de Guerres (?spelling), Huguenots expelled from France who settled in Britain, where the name was changed to Edgar and one of their ancestors, presumably William, established the drapery shop Swan and Edgar. I would welcome any information you might have.

Kind regards

Philip Wells. Perth, W. Australia

Reading this was literally was 'one of those moments' that makes the research effort so worthwhile! De Guerres = Edgar. People who are expelled from one country are usually keen to integrate in the next. The name change? Yes, very plausible. AND best of all they would likely have been Celts! Maybe this is an answer to one of the Celtic origins.

We have asked Philip to check for a living Edgar relative for a DNA test, so fingers crossed on this one. Another of these name changes is supposedly rooted in the name McGregor. McGregor = Gregor or Agur = Edgar. Gregor is a Scots forename. Is it a variation of Edgar (or, in old Scots spelling, "Edzer")? Theses and others must be possibilities as to the origins of the variations in the genetic makeup of us Edgars.

Swan and Edgar, Drapers

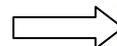
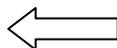
The story given to us by Phillip Wells of the connection to the Huguenot De Guerre family entering England sometime in the period 1500 - 1789 and changing their name to Edgar. A connection to Swan and Edgar drapers shop encouraged me to 'Google' Swan and Edgar.

Three links to some Web sites came up and are worth a read:

www.storyoflondon.com//modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=448

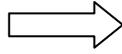


Swan and Edgar Ltd., 49 Regent Street

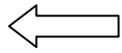


**Swan and Edgar Ltd. 1911
Broken windows following Suffragette frenzy**

Swan and Edgar's, 1924–8.



Swan & Edgar 1927 Christmas Poster.



www.cumberland-news.co.uk/life/viewarticle.aspx?id=576823

These links describe the rise and fall of the shop in London, but more importantly, 'The Cumberland News' offers a story as to where these Huguenots may have settled. There are direct links to Carlisle and to Cumbria.

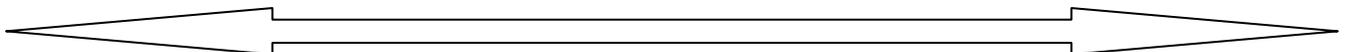
In the past, I had supposed that the Edgars in Cumbria were the Edgars of Dumfries and Galloway simply moved around the coast a bit. From the article in the 'News' it seems that there is a direct connection with the Edgar from Swan and Edgar. This might answer as one of the sources of our Celtic DNA profiles. I checked on De Guerre also, it is French for 'of war,' and may be a shortened version of 'Nom de Guerre'. A pseudonym used by people engaged in warlike activities (see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudonym#Nom_de_guerre) to disguise their origins.

This opens up the possibility that these Huguenots were possibly mercenaries (more on Huguenots at www.ferdinando.org.uk/huguenots.htm).

The sources of the Edgar family never fail to amaze!

If any Edgars out there have a trace to Cumberland, Westmorland, Cumbria, or the Lake District, we'd like to know. Perhaps this is your family.

Steve Edgar UK



Prima Noche.... First Night

The (continuing) diversity of the Edgar gene pool has got me thinking. How can a small family name have so many origins?

A couple of quick answers are adoption and illegitimacy. Without paper records adoption would be virtually untraceable other than through DNA research. The same would stand for illegitimacy. As the old saying goes "It's a wise child who knows his own father".

With this in mind, I started to do some sums. If we go back 1000 years and count 25 years as a generation, that gives us 40 women per descendant who had the opportunity to have a child by other than 'conventional' means. Given that each woman was capable of having 10 children in her lifetime, that gives us 400 opportunities per descendant for an illegitimate child. Also given that there are at least 4 Edgar families that gives us 1600 opportunities.

This is, obviously, a very theoretical figure. I can't imagine that it is remotely accurate. But, if it is only 1% accurate over 1000 years that gives a more realistic number of 16 descendants with the possibility that one of their male ancestors was from outside of the Edgar gene pool.

Bear in mind these were violent, unhealthy times. If an Edgars brother-in-law was killed or died and their child was then adopted, *i.e.* his wife's sister's child. That father may have been a Celt.

I then heard about Prima Noche, 'First Night'. The Norman Lords (and others) were granted land as a reward for their services at the Battle of Hastings and various other actions. The granted land was theirs to rule, subjugate, and earn a living from, plus supplying King William with money and an army. One of the rights that the Lord had was Prima Noche. Every serf girl, when she got married, had to spend her first married night with her Lord of the manor (and who is to say how many other nights at his whim?) This was not very popular with the bridegrooms, who did get a trifle upset by this! I doubt that every Lord of the Manor put these rights into practice, but some must have done so.

The offspring of the past liaisons and adoptions would have been brought up in the family with the other offspring and mixed in, so to speak.

If we look at the family groups (Haplogroups) that we show on the Relative Genetics Web site, we have

6 I1a Vikings - all match better than 70%

6 I1b Balkan - all match better than 70%

3 E3b Greek - 2 match better than 70% and 1 less70%

7 R1b Celts - at less than 70%.

This would indicate 10 separate roots at >70% or 4 roots at <70%

My overall view on this is that there are only 4 Edgar families. Which fits with a small family name such as ours (and the above table). The Vikings, Balkans, and the Greeks (bar one) look good. But the Celts are very diverse (or they match at an earlier date). The Celtic influence will

