

EDGAR EVENTS

Researching and sharing Edgar family history No. 25, February 2009



DNA Update

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



News on the DNA front is coming fast and furious — a <u>daily</u> newsletter is almost necessary to keep up!

Judy Lynn, Tara Corona, Steven Edgar of Kansas, and John Maurice Edgar, have put DNA test results on our group site now. SteveKS actually lives in New York – we have these designations to try to keep so many Steves and Jameses straight. In this case, Steve was brought up in Kansas and it's actually his dad's DNA that was

tested, so "SteveKS" seems approriate. Great news — **SteveKS**'s results show him related to both **Judy Lynn** and **Tara Corona**; the latter is only one generation (or so) away! As I wrote in my email of January 27, "Ellen Walker's dad (James D.), Howard, and Tara's uncle (John Newton) all show one generation apart. There's a close connection there!! Probably further than one generation - all the DNA shows is that there have been no mutations for a few generations - maybe three or more."

My distant cousin, **Sharon (Edgar) Bunek** of Wayne, Michigan, is steadily chipping away at what seems to be three different familes of Edgars who settled in Washington Co., Pennsylvania, in the late 1700s. She has devoted much time and energy at trying to piece together a history of these Edgars, and trying to keep straight in her mind the several people, all from different families, with the same name. Wouldn't it be nice if our ancestors had been more inventive and named their children something more distinct than Adam, James, Robert, or Steven!

We have the test results for **Harry James Edgar** of Kyle, Saskatchewan. (He goes by "**Jim Edgar,**" incidentally.) He is an I2b1, matching up with more than a few of the people in the I / I1b / I2b1 group, and closely, too!

The recent addition of **John Maurice Edgar**'s results, submitted at the urging of **Sharlene Miller**, compare favourably to the I1a group — **Bill, Mel, Jackie**, and myself in particular. And, very close in genealogical terns – six generations or so! He has only one marker different from mine at allele DYS462. We're anxiously waiting to see **John**'s tree, so we can trace his lineage and make our own comparisons.

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As an interesting aside, SteveUK thought it would be more than just appealing to join the Ferguson DNA group, to see some of their test results. His thinking is that Fergus, the son of Duvenald of Sanquhar, was one of three brothers: himself, Edgar, and Ewen. If, and it's a big "if," the Ferguson Clan derived from Fergus, the son of Duvenald, and so did one branch of our Edgars, then we might be able to detect similarities between their R1b people, for example, and our R1bs. Well, it turns out to be a false lead (at this juncture). See the "cut and paste" image I cobbled together from two sets of R1b tests. The closest Ferguson (Sherri Draper) has 18 mis-matches compared to David Edgar of Australia...

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Judy Lynn's story is an interesting one, because the names don't compare – she has added her family DNA to our site because it matches so closely, but the family name is Liggett!

I'm suggesting a name change, an adoption, or an illegitimate birth took place. So far, her extensive paper trail has given us nothing to connect the two families.

This seems like a good spot for a picture, something to cool down our Australian friends; some of them have been sweltering in +45 °C temperatures! This is our back yard here in Saskatchewan on New Year's Eve. A "Prairie Clipper" from Alberta dumped lots of snow and brought cool temperatures — the wind chill made it feel like -27 °C.



Recipes (and substitutes) from the Old Country

by Frankie Sawyer (docnhim@infionline.net)

One of the features of the Robbie Burns celebrations and at Clan gatherings is the presentation of haggis - the Culinary Crown of Scotland. No doubt, this was a delight that the migrating Scots carried with them when they moved to Northern Ireland, and to the New World and elsewhere. The recipe for haggis can be found on the Internet in case anyone is interested. Haggis is made of sheep innards, oatmeal, and other delectables, then boiled in a cloth bag. It's not exactly chateaubriand, but, when drenched in a good scotch whiskey, is consumable. I'm not sure, but I think a presentation of my mother's at "hog killin" time was a concoction substituting pork ingredients for sheep. Scotch whiskey wasn't required to make it edible! Mom called it "hashlet," and it was hard to beat when served with baked sweet potatoes on a cold winter day. The recipe follows in case you're interested.

Lungs (called "lights") from a hog (their use is not permitted by the USDA, so you have to have a secret butcher friend to help in securing these).

Heart

Liver

And any other edible bits and pieces of meat available.

Spices like salt, black and red pepper, and sage

In a large pot, add the cut pieces of meat and spices, and cover with water. Boil slowly several hours until a thick gravy forms. Since scotch isn't required in this recipe you can enjoy that on the side. Um, yum, yum!

So who says the Scotch/Irish ways have died? No sheep? Not a problem — Scotch/Irish folk were innovative.

Book Review



by Bill Edgar, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (edgaraust@hotmail.com)

The latest book I have read on DNA and its place in family research is "Family History in the Genes," subtitled "Trace your DNA and grow by Chair Barrage, published October 2007.

your family tree." by Chris Pomery, published October 2007.

This is quite a good book, easy to read, and it explains what DNA testing is about. Pomery covers in detail why it is good to be in a Surname Group for Y-Chromosome testing, and how a group he is involved with appeared to have numerous branches in the one Haplotype group, but, with the involvement of members of the Surname group, they have reduced the branches by finding links. In other words the test is only the first part in finding our past — we must work together to get results.

One thing the book does not give is an explanation of the Locus or Markers, which are pre-eminent, that is the ones used out of the 43 tested, in setting our Haplotype group. Some DNA testing companies have a separate search, at an extra cost, to tell you your Haplotype. It seems this piece of information is withheld from us users. There are hints in the book but no absolute list. Can you find it, wherever it is? [See www.isogg.org/tree the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. Ed.]

The book also has a good reference section for other online sites, and a great glossary of terms used in genealogical DNA research.

I had previously read the book "DNA and Family History" by Chris Pomery, written in 2004; also very good and it gave more information at a personal level. This book is also considered a great reference book on the subject, but as things change so quickly in DNA testing, the newer book is more up to date.

Bill Edgar

Bill (Aus) has kindly created an Excel spreadsheet with all the DNA from our collective groups, much like we were able to get in the past from our Relative Genetics host. Placing it here hardly does the power of the spreadsheet justice, but I include it for reference. It's too wide to fit on one line, so Bill has arranged two parts, split at DYS448.

I will make a link on our Ancestry.com page and on my own Web site, so you can get the full Excel spreadsheet. Once you have it, you can shift the data around to make your own comparisons. Have fun! [Ed.]

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Robert Allen Edgar (OH, USA) via Sandy Payne	1	28		- 11	11					11			22						-	13			21
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(3b Steve Edgar (Crewe, UK)	ЕЗЬ	33	30	11	11	16	14	9		11	12	12	18	15	15	16	16.3	21	13	19	22	14	23
3b Norman W. Edgar (Georgia, USA)	ЕЗЬ	34		- 11	10			9		11			18				16.3	21	13			14	22
3b Donald Edgar (Mason, MI, USA)	ЕЗЬ	34		11	11			9		11			18				16.3	21	13			14	23
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tib James Edgar (Glasgow, Scotland)	R1b	31		11	11			9				11	25					23				15	21
tib Robert Edgar (Gregon, USA)	R1b	30			11			9					24					23				15	21
11b Richard Edgar (Oregon, OSA)	R1b	30	30	11	11			9				11	24				17	23				15	22
	R1b	29		11	11			9				11	24	15			18	23				15	23
Mb G.C. Edgar (Texas, USA)	R1b	29.2		11	11			9				11		15			18	23					23
Mb Tom Edgar (Kilkeel, NI)				- !!								11	24 24					23				15	22
RIb Lee (Roland Lee) Edgar (Kilkeel, NI)	R1b	32		!	11			9														15	
RIb David Edgar (NSW, Aus) Gwen	R1b	30	30	11	11			9						15		17		24				15	23
R1b Jim Edgar (St. John's)	R1b	29		- 11	11			9					24			17		23				15	21
Mb Jim Edgar (St. John's, NL, Can.)	R1b	30	30	- 11	11			9				11	25					23			23	14	21
R1b Calvin Eggers	R1b	29	30	12				9	10			11	24			17		23	10	19		15	22
R1b Sharlene Miller	R1b	30	۱۰ ا	- 11	11	-	17	-	1-	10	12	·	24	14	15	18	17	-	l -	19	23	۱- ا	22

[Shamelessly borrowed from ISOGG, I give you this message from the Director www.isogg.org/newsletter/2009/jan.htm Ed.]



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From the Director - New Year's Resolution #1 - DNA Test NOW!

Are you or a relative contemplating DNA testing but are procrastinating?

Don't wait, test now because there is no way to know what curveballs life is going to throw at you. This was a recent topic of discussion among ISOGG members and I shared the story of how my father DNA tested in May 2003 and died five months later. Because my father tested with Family Tree DNA and they store DNA samples for 25 years, I was able to upgrade my father's kit to more markers and additional tests that have since come out. Another member shared how her friend's brother had consented to test after years of asking, but never actually took the step to order the test kit. He died unexpectedly of a heart attack and now they will never know if their two ancestral lines were related.

Yet another member shared how one potential tester was killed in an auto crash and another was in prison. Perhaps the oldest tester, but was one who did not procrastinate on testing, lived to be 106! He just needed to live long enough to utilize the technology.

With tough economic times spread worldwide, many people may not be able to afford a DNA test at present. If this is the case for you, there are several options available. For example, some companies like Family Tree DNA will accept installment payments and then send the kit for processing once it is paid off.

In the last six months, several companies have had sales and some have reduced their prices considerably. There is also the option of a free DNA test from SMGF, but know that you do not receive the results and it may take up to two years or more for the results to be posted in their online database.

If you are concerned about obtaining DNA now, but wish to store it until you can afford the test, **Whatman** produces reasonably priced **FTA storage cards**. Whatever option you choose, just make sure that you do not procrastinate on the actual swabbing. You do not want to add that to your list of life's regrets.

Katherine Borges

ISOGG Director

Alida Reilly of Port Alfred, South Africa, has given us some of her own photos. Here's her at her wedding – love the mens' hairdos!

That's **Alida** on the right (of course!), and her new husband, **Graham.**



Below is a later photo at her establishment where she used to run a B&B, but now rents the rooms as apartments (less work). **Wayne,** her son, operates river tours on the nearby Kowie River. It sounds like a busy life, full of visitors and hustle and bustle!

That's **Alida**, almost hiding at the patio door.





Figure 1 Wayne Reilly's tour boat



Figure 2 Glenda (same mother, different father); Alida (red top). In front are Glenda's son Sven, daughter Carla, and Glenda's father.

Dog Days of Summer

by Frankie Sawyer (docnhim@infionline.net)

When I write my great American novel, it will be entitled "The Setting of the Dog Star." The story line will begin when the Dog Star, Sirius (the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major), rises in the dry, hot weeks of July, and will climax when the star sets in August. Sirius was named the Dog Star by the Greeks because of the constellation's shape. They said only a mad dog would go out during those days of scorching heat. Thus the term Dog Days was coined and applied to that summer period.

So what does this have to do with Edgar genealogy? I remember clearly some of the Dog Days myths that I heard as a child. For instance, if there was no rain when the Dog Days began, it would not rain until they were over. And, if one had a sore or abrasion, it would not heal until the end of Dog Days. Perhaps we can credit the transmission of such fanciful sayings to our Greek Edgars, Haplogroup E3b. Perfect tie-in to the genealogy of our superstitious Scotch/Irish ancestors, eh?

This Dog Days/Dog Star rhetoric hardly sounds scientific to be sure; therefore, any questions that might arise can be directed to our very own Edgar astronomer — our illustrious editor of the Edgar Events newsletter, **James**. With that thought in mind you will enjoy reading about **James**' work with The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada — accompanied by a photograph. **James** has devoted valuable time to introducing children to the wonders of astronomy. Kudos to him for his civic spirit!



From the Melville Advance of 2009 January 07:

For as long as there have been stars in the night sky, people have watched and used them to their advantage. 2009 marks 400 years since astronomy became a modern science and has been named the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009).

In 1609, Galileo Galilei, noted mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher, invented the telescope, and, since that time, watching for comets or new planets has become a hobby for many and a vocation for some.

Local amateur astronomer, **James Edgar**, with the support of some local businesses, has obtained enough Star Finders to supply one to each school-aged child in Melville. A Star Finder, also known as a planisphere, is a circular map

LOCAL AMATEUR ASTRONOMER James Edgar, shows two youngsters, Mitchell Dales and Katelyn Koval, the new RASC Star Finder. Star Finders are helpful devices to determine the times and positioning of stars and planets in the night sky. Four locals, Sean Schofer (Restorex), Glen Miller (Royal Drug Mart), Merv Ozirny (Ozirny law Firm), and Dr. Frank Kowbel (dentist), contributed funds that enabled Edgar to purchase 1000 Star Finders, enough for all school-age children in the city, enabling them to gain some education in regards to the International Year of Astronomy.

with an overlay that can be used to show the region of the sky that is visible for a certain time frame, date, and location. Star Finders are useful for orienting yourself by the night sky, for identifying constellations or for planning a night of stargazing.

Building on a planisphere from the National Research Council of Canada, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) redesigned and produced the handy Star Finder. At least 75,000 of these colourful devices will be distributed in Canada in IYA2009. Throughout the year, products and events are planned with everything from trading cards to storybooks and astronomy guides being a few features to spur on the amateur astronomer in everyone.

"We're trying to encourage people to just put their eye to an eyepiece and take a good look at what's out there," says Edgar. "What a person can see looking at even the Moon with a telescope or a good set of binoculars will just blow your socks off."

May 10 has been named International Astronomy Day and one of the special events being held is 100 Hours of Astronomy. The purpose of the event will be to have as many people as possible look through a telescope for the first time as Galileo did 400 years ago. The overall theme is to offer all Canadians the chance to experience a "Galileo Moment" or some sort of engaging astronomy event in 2009.

In addition, the RASC hopes to establish new dark-sky preserves (DSP) and urban star parks in numerous locations in Canada. We have the most and the largest such DSPs in the world. The largest is right here in Saskatchewan — the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, where the RASC will hold their annual meeting, the 2009 General Assembly.

Over the years, astronomy has aided man in making calendars, celestial navigation, and even astrology, and amateur astronomers have left many a mark on the science, helping to discover and observe phenomena in a science where time may be measured in millennia as opposed to minutes and seconds.

Edgar has had a keen interest in the night sky all his life. He joined the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada in 2000 and quickly became involved in the Society. He is Editor's Assistant and a contributor to the renowned *Observer's Handbook*, production manager of the bi-monthly RASC *Journal*, and is the Society Secretary.

Edgar adds that he'd like to see the day when all National and Provincial Parks would be "dark-sky friendly" and the reasons for this are two-fold. "We want people to be aware of 'light pollution.' We spend billions of dollars all over the world lighting up the bottom of clouds," explains Edgar, who adds that replacement of the lighting system in Calgary has not only made the night sky more visible for amateur astronomers like himself, but has also saved \$2 million in energy costs per year for the city.

"What we'd really like to do is encourage people to learn a little about science — it makes us all a little bit better with that extra knowledge," concludes Edgar.