



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 33, October 2009**



## DNA Update

by James Edgar (Editor) ([jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net))



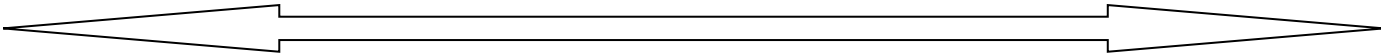
We've just had two more tests completed, one of them is Keith Edgar of Omagh, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland, and the other is James MacLean Edgar of Edinburgh, Scotland. Another test is in the works, but not completed yet, for David Edgar in Australia.

What's interesting about the first test is that we (SteveUK and I) thought, "Aha! We've finally got one from Ireland who could be the same Haplotype as Steve." Not so, the R1bs have it. Keith is related to a few already on our list of test results—David Edgar of Guildford, England; Robert Charles Edgar; Robert Irwin Edgar of Oregon; David Edgar of NSW, Australia; and Charles Edgar (Frankie Sawyer's cousin, and she's ecstatic!).

For the longest time, we pondered why we had no close matches in the R1b Haplogroup, but now we're starting to get these few. Which shows that this is such a large group that many tests are needed before we would start seeing matches—exactly what we're now seeing!

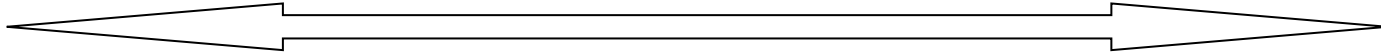
The other test result is for James MacLean Edgar of Edinburgh, who is one of the people I wrote to in my mass mailout last June. His test shows that he is (predictably) in the group I2b1. I say "predictably" because all of the mailout tests have proven to be either R1b or I2b1.

What is most interesting (to me, anyway) is that we have yet to find any Edgars in the same Haplogroup as myself, apart from those we already know about in Canada, the US, and Australia. There must be some in Scotland somewhere, but we haven't found them yet. That just makes me even more determined to seek out Edgars in Scotland for testing, which will be the thrust of our efforts on our next visit to the UK. LATE-BREAKING NEWS—Maybe we have found such a link, I contacted on September 29 a very distant relative in Kirriemuir, Scotland, who is an I1! More on this next issue.



Sharon (Edgar) Bunek had her brother, Doug's, DNA analyzed in a Family Tree DNA 67-marker test, and it is no surprise that his DNA matches the rest of us "11" people. His results show a match to me at 7 generations and a match to Mel Edgar's results at 10 generations.

In fact, there's a lesson in these details—since Doug had more (and, in some cases, different) markers tested than the rest of us, the results are more refined. And, that shows that the theories behind the DNA testing are quite correct—the closer matches are exactly what we would expect should happen.



A BIG "Thank You!" goes out to Bill Edgar in Melbourne for providing two updated files recently, now uploaded to the Ancestry.com site and placed on my own Web page. These are his one-name study of Edgars in an Excel spreadsheet, plus his analysis of the DNA results in a colour-coded spreadsheet, updated with the recent test results added.

[1nameSortedBbYrCname.xls](#)  
[new format results249.xls](#)

## Fonts of Information!

by Steve Edgar of Weston, Crewe ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))



My “newest” cousin, Fliss Wingrave, has been researching her family history for some time, and she made contact with me some months ago. Her expert witness is her mother, Doreen Carr, who has memories and stories of her family from the past. Our older relatives are a font of irreplaceable family knowledge, not always accurate, but based on fact.

Fliss mentioned various names to me she had been given that were causing her problems in her research.

One was Edgar Brian. Fliss has a photo with “pray for Edgar Brian” on the reverse. Edgar Brian was a soldier in WWI; the story from her mother was that Edgar was found crying in his room when he was on leave in 1918. He did not want to return to the Front Line, but no doubt pressure was brought to bear and he returned to the Front, where he was killed in September 1918. So who was Edgar Brian? What was his name, was it Edgar Brian, Brian Edgar or what? James’ wife, Mrs. Poirot, dusted off the little grey cells and set to work. Simultaneously, I looked at the photo and contacted Richard Edgar in Ireland, to see what he could tell me about the man in the picture as to his army connections (Richard is our resident WWI expert). On his epaulettes are crossed rifles, identifying him as an infantry rifleman. Richard suggested tracing the cap badge to find his regiment. This turned out to be the KOYLI (the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry), and fit the bill, since he was from Yorkshire. Mrs. Poirot was delving into the marriages and deaths to try to trace the name, with only partial hits, and I contacted the KOYLI archivist but got no joy— there were some records but not our man. Mrs. P. changed the name in her searches to “Bryan,” and bingo!!! We both found the correct man. Mrs. P. found his mother, Eliza Edgar, married to Samuel Bryan, and the archivist located Edgar Bryan; all the pieces fell into place.

The second was Norman Fisher, who had died in WWI— somehow he was related to the Edgar family, but tracing his death in WWI was a problem. There were plenty with that name, but none fit the bill. Mrs. P. again sharpened her pen and dusted off the little grey cells. This one proved a bit easier. Norman Fisher was the son of Nelly Bryan and Harold Fisher, and he was born in 1921. He was certainly not a WWI casualty, but the story that he died in the war was certain. So it must have been WWII, Mrs. P. traced his death to January 1944, when it was recorded he died in a plane crash. When I lived in Glossop, Derbyshire, I met a man who recorded and visited crashed aircraft sites in the hills of the UK. These crashes occurred at a frightening rate as young, inexperienced trainee pilots tried to navigate the atrocious flying conditions in the UK hills, before they faced the dangers of flying over Germany at night. Within an hour of my contact with Alan Clark, I had the reply— Norman Fisher died on 1944 January 24 on a training mission in a 4-engine Halifax bomber. The accident report shows that the outer starboard engine failed at 20,000 feet, and the aircraft lost altitude; it passed through dense cloud and the wings iced up. The starboard wing ripped off, the wreckage also removing the tailplane. The resulting crash in mid-Wales killed all aboard. The worrying thing is that the aircraft in question had spent a long time in the repair/service shed. It had only averaged seven hours of flying time over a few months!

The third was Edgar Fisher, who died in a pot-holing accident. This was easy. I Googled “pot hole death fisher” and found an instant hit. J.E. fisher died in 1955 in the “Dolly Tub Pitch” in a local pot hole, the death was recorded in Ewecross, Yorkshire. It is not 100 percent proven that JE Fisher and Edgar Fisher are one and the same, but I challenge anyone to disprove it!

Significantly, none of this research could have progressed had it not been for Fliss's mother. The stories are true, but the facts are juggled and unclear. If there is one thing to be learned from all this, it is that your most valuable resource for your family history are Mum and Dad, Granny and Granddad, Uncles and Aunts. Don't waste this resource, it is more valuable, and it will run out faster than our oil. Call Grandma this weekend!!!

Steve Edgar

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Picture time



**Figure 1 The abandoned flax mill at Derrylecka, Northern Ireland**

This was “discovered” by Peter Edgar of Australia, as he was Web surfing (“stumbled across” in his words)



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### **Celts descended from Spanish fishermen.**

(originally published in The Independent, 2006 September 20)

By Guy Adams

Don't tell the locals, but the hordes of British holidaymakers who visited Spain this summer were, in fact, returning to their ancestral home.

A team from Oxford University has discovered that the Celts, Britain's indigenous people, are descended from a tribe of Iberian fishermen who crossed the Bay of Biscay 6,000 years ago. DNA analysis reveals they have an almost identical genetic “fingerprint” to the inhabitants of coastal regions of Spain, whose own ancestors migrated north between 4,000 and 5,000 BC.

The discovery, by Bryan Sykes, professor of human genetics at Oxford University, will herald a change in scientific understanding of Britishness.

People of Celtic ancestry were thought to have descended from tribes of central Europe. Professor Sykes, who is soon to publish the first DNA map of the British Isles, said: “About 6,000 years ago Iberians developed ocean-going boats that enabled them to push up the Channel. Before they arrived, there were some human inhabitants of Britain but only a few thousand in number. These people were later subsumed into a larger Celtic tribe... The majority of people in the British Isles are actually descended from the Spanish.”

Professor Sykes spent five years taking DNA samples from 10,000 volunteers in Britain and Ireland, in an effort to produce a map of our genetic roots. Research on their “Y” chromosome, which subjects inherit from their fathers, revealed that all but a tiny percentage of the volunteers were originally descended from one of six clans who arrived in the UK in several waves of immigration prior to the Norman conquest.

The most common genetic fingerprint belongs to the Celtic clan, which Professor Sykes has called “Oisin.” After that, the next most widespread originally belonged to tribes of Danish and Norse Vikings. Small numbers of today's Britons are also descended from north-African, Middle Eastern, and Roman clans.

These DNA “fingerprints” have enabled Professor Sykes to create the first genetic maps of the British Isles, which are analysed in *Blood of the Isles*, a book published this week. The maps show that Celts are most dominant in areas of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. But, contrary to popular myth, the Celtic clan is also strongly represented elsewhere in the British Isles.

“Although Celtic countries have previously thought of themselves as being genetically different from the English, this is emphatically not the case,” Professor Sykes said. “This is significant, because the idea of a separate Celtic race is deeply ingrained in our political

structure, and has historically been very divisive. Culturally, the view of a separate race holds water. But from a genetic point of view, Britain is emphatically not a divided nation.”

## Origins of Britons

### Oisín (R1b)

Descended from Iberian fishermen who migrated to Britain between 4,000 and 5,000 BC and now considered the UK's indigenous inhabitants.

### Wodan (I)

Second most common clan arrived from Denmark during Viking invasions in the 9th century.

### Sigurd (R1a)

Descended from Viking invaders who settled in the British Isles from AD 793. One of the most common clans in the Shetland Isles, and areas of north and west Scotland.

### Eshu (E3b) [Ed. Now changed to E1b]

The wave of Oisín immigration was joined by the Eshu clan, which has roots in Africa. Eshu descendants are primarily found in coastal areas.

### Re (G)

A second wave of arrivals which came from the Middle East. The Re were farmers who spread westwards across Europe.

### Roman

Although the Romans ruled from AD 43 until 410, they left a tiny genetic footprint. For the first 200 years, occupying forces were forbidden from marrying locally.

[Ed. See also [www.eupedia.com/europe/origins\\_haplogroups\\_europe.shtml](http://www.eupedia.com/europe/origins_haplogroups_europe.shtml)]



Figure 2 Newborn lambs near Derrylecka, Northern Ireland