



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 34, November 2009**



# DNA Update

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



Some weeks ago, I was asked, as the Administrator for the Family Tree DNA Edgar site, to try to contact a John Edgar on that site. The person asking for contact was **Glenda Dickson** of Australia. Her father, **Neville**, had his DNA tested at FTDNA, and he closely matches a **John W. Edgar** there. When Glenda tried to make contact, there was no response, so she emailed me. I've tried a couple times unsuccessfully to contact the Edgars on that site, so it was no surprise to hear that she was having this trouble.

I'm just as confused as she is — why would somebody go to the trouble of testing their DNA, putting it on the Internet, and then trying to remain anonymous? Nevertheless, I suggested that she could get a lot more people to compare if she put her Dad's results on the Ancestry.com site. She did, where she found numerous close I2b1 matches, as shown in this partial screen shot:

I2b1 related to James D. Edgar (AL, USA)(EW)		MCA	Haplogroup	DY6	DY6b	DY510a	DY510b	DY520a	DY520b	DY520c	DY520d	DY520e	DY520f	DY520g	DY520h	DY520i	DY520j	DY520k	DY520l	DY520m	DY520n	DY520o	DY520p	DY520q	DY520r	DY520s	DY520t	DY520u	DY520v	DY520w	DY520x	DY520y	DY520z		
Glenda Dickson (I2b1)...	-	I2b1a		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Jim Edgar (I2b1)(Kyle...	10	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
John Edgar (I2b1)(BC)	10	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Mike Edgar (I2b1)(Mon...	10	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Leslie Edgar (I2b1)(M...	10	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Ian Edgar (I2b1)(Belf...	10	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Robin Edgar (I2b1)(Mo...	10	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Judy Lynn (I1b)(Kansa...	9	I1b		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Jack Edgar (I2b1)(Del...	14	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
John D. Edgar (I2b1)(...	15	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Jim Edgar (I2b1)(GA)	14	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Alfred Edgar (I2b1)(A...	14	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Phillip Edgar (I2b1)(M...	14	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
James M. Edgar (I2b1)...	15	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							
Steve Edgar (I2b1)(Ka...	29	I2b1		15	16	18	13	14	24	11	12	15																							

Glenda's email to Steve UK and me from late September, went like this (slightly abridged):

Hi James and Steve,

My father, Neville, is 82 years old so I am corresponding on his behalf.

I cannot supply you with a family tree showing the male lineage because my father doesn't know who his father was. Since his DNA results closely matched with John W. Edgar there must be a connection somewhere way back with the EDGAR surname. Dad's haplogroup has been confirmed as I2b1a (we paid extra to have it confirmed) and I note that John's is predicted as I2b1. They are the only two within that haplogroup in your list.

Hopefully John Edgar will be able to contact me. As we live in Australia, a phone call is not very practical. I have discovered that EDGAR is an early pioneering family here in Victoria, in particular the Edgar family had a connection with Kadnook Station, near Harrow in the Western District. Any help you can give would be much appreciated.

Regards,  
Glenda Dickson

If any of our readers have anything to add to **Glenda** and **Neville's** story, write her directly at [rg.dickson23@gmail.com](mailto:rg.dickson23@gmail.com)

**Breaking News** – **David Edgar** of Australia, who contacted us some time ago inquiring about the DNA test has finally had his results posted on our Ancestry.com site. This is the first person to show a connection to **Richard Edgar** of Tandragee, Northern Ireland, plus he has connections to **G.C. Edgar** of Texas; **David Edgar** of Edinburgh, Scotland; **Ronald Edgar** of Lincolnshire, England; and **Tom Edgar** of Kilkeel, Northern Ireland. All of these people belong to Haplogroup R1b – The Celts.

## Edgar Events Notes



by Bill Edgar, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ([edgaraust@hotmail.com](mailto:edgaraust@hotmail.com))

Tracing your Family History, by Anthony Adolph, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. First published 2004, new edition updated text 2008. British Library ISBN 13 978-0-00-727492-5

I'm reading this book at present and, while some content is basic, the chapter (11) on Manorial Records is the best, simplest explanation I have found. Manors arose in the Middle Ages as units of land held by lords from the Crown, and by tenants from the lord. They had courts and all sorts of records for disputes, taxes, and other communal life. Some of these records are still available. The Genetic section is small and general but OK. There are lots of computer research sites recorded throughout the book that can be investigated — these are mostly included in the Quick Reference sections, which also include book references, in addition to the Web sites, and are very regular inclusions. I can recommend the reading of this book if you can find it in a library.

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[www.isogg.org](http://www.isogg.org) ISOGG. Web site of International Society of Genetic Genealogy, which can be a technical genetic site and may not be for everybody. The newsletter, issued monthly, is worthwhile for all of us. It contains success stories where people have used a DNA test to find relatives etc. It has stories and details on other family names studies like our Edgar study. There are links to Web sites to explain more on various subjects mentioned in the newsletter. There are no fees or costs on this site they say save your money to do a test. Check it out.



Figure 1 A Northern Ireland farmhouse, near Beleek, with gorse in the background.

# EDGAR RESEARCHER'S REPORT



Bill Edgar (11) [edgaraust@hotmail.com](mailto:edgaraust@hotmail.com)



Sharon Edgar [onsims@aol.com](mailto:onsims@aol.com)

**Records, records, where are the records for Northern Ireland?** We know that the National Archives burned in the Customs House fire in Dublin in 1922, destroying important records; however, we also know that many of these records still do exist in other locations. PRONI recently released a listing of pre-1858 wills and Dio Admons (administrative bonds, guardianship, etc.) that were gleaned from the Church of Ireland records. The wills can be purchased from PRONI; however there is no further info available on the Dio Admons.

1. Will of John Edgar, Carrickfergus, County Antrim, 1642. PRONI Ref: T/314/1
2. Will of Thomas Edgar, Derryleckagh, County Down, 1853. PRONI Ref: T/1532
3. Will of William Agar, Ballyloughlin, County Down, 1825. PRONI Ref: D/366/394
4. Dio Admons – Connor; Eager, Samuel, Ballymena, will date 1824
5. Dio Admons – Armagh; Edgar, William, Baleek, farmer, will date 1847
6. Dio Admons – Connor; Edgar, Hugh, Portrush, will date 1722.
7. Dio Admons – Down; Edgar, unknown, unknown location, will date 1832

Although PRONI does have a few items online, for those of us that cannot visit their facility in Belfast, and e-catalogues, where you can order documentation, they are **SLOW!**

**Aren't you tired of waiting for new records for NI to become available, from any source?**

**We have just started a new project: The County Down Records Pre-1804 Edgar Group Project.** We have several goals; to maintain a database for all Edgar records for County Down before 1804. We have already begun, the database is located here: <http://groups.ancestry.com/site/35433882/content/view.aspx?iid=83616989>

We are on a mission to acquire new records and information pre-1804 for County Down. We have created a small list of records that are available on microfilm from the Church of Latter Day Saints and a few documents from PRONI. Here is the list:

From the LDS on Microfilm:

Muster roll of the county of Down 1631	FHL BRITISH Film 990025
The muster rolls of the Ulster army of 1642	FHL BRITISH Film 897012
Volunteer militia lists, 1708-1761	FHL BRITISH Film 1279384
Subsidy roll, County Down, 24 August 1663	FHL BRITISH Film 1279356
Poll tax abstracts of 1660, Co. Down & Co. Armagh	FHL BRITISH Film 1279356

Dromara Presbyterian Church, Dromora Parish Church, Inch Parish Church (pre-1804 births, marriages, burials)	FHL US/CAN Film 496723
Religious census of some Ulster parishes, 1766 (Kilbroney & Seapatrick Parishes, Co. Down)	FHL BRITISH Film 1279330

From PRONI:

**PRONI Reference: D1693/2** Manuscript of gravestone inscriptions for Fitzsimmons family, Boardmills, Co. Down; **Edgar family**, Killaney, Co. Down 1777-1856

**PRONI Reference: D1759/3/A/1** Typed Genealogical Notes on Families and Places of County Down. Families include, Savage, Wallace, Winder, Elliott, Henderson, Gillespie, Moore, Gordon, Perry, **Edgar**, Smith, Rea, McKee, and many more. 1670-1938

**PRONI Reference: T1532 Edgar and Hanratty Papers.** Title deeds to property in Newry relating to the Henning and Murtagh families; testamentary papers relating to **Thomas Edgar**, Derryleckagh, Co. Down, to Bernard Hanratty, Lisdrumliska, Co. Armagh, and Mary Hanratty, Newry. 1730-1944

**This is an Edgar Group Project**, we need you to volunteer to send for documents or sign up for a microfilm. We believe the most important goal for this new group project is to get our membership researching together and interacting with one another.

Bill Edgar brainstormed this idea and it is an excellent one! No previous experience needed! Bill and I will answer questions and get you started and will maintain the "to-do list." If you currently have any records for County Down pre-1804, please send them to either Bill or me, and we will get them entered in the database. We purposely chose County Down for our first group project as we have so many members with roots there. Please feel free to submit other ideas for Edgar group projects of interest.

Lastly, I must thank Marian Morgan and Juanita Edgar for their microfilm readings on church records. We pulled this County Down Records database together in about a week, from existing lists of records from various sources and a big "Thank You!" to Bill for creating this database, entering data, and editing. We entered data exactly as we found it. We will continue to refine some columns in the database, such as locations; some locations are townlands or areas, other locations are parishes.

Even though I do work with these various records all the time, I was amazed when I saw all the records together in one document. "Eager" is more prominent than "Edgar" in the mid-1700s, early settlement in certain locations, and over the years suggests a family relationship, and the importance of Church of Ireland church records. When you look at the database, please remember this: if the church record does not say Presbyterian, than it is a Church of Ireland record. Bill and I hope that we have piqued your interest and that you will join us in this new Edgar group project. Here is a listing of LDS microfilms that have been completed or are in progress — we do not want to duplicate our efforts.

# 259218; # 823636; # 823750; # 824282; #883747; # 93340; # 933428 — they are all church records for County Down. Please join this project, and remember that we always have fun too!

Sharon

Here are a few sites to help with your research...

[www.isogg.org/newsletter/2009/sep.html](http://www.isogg.org/newsletter/2009/sep.html)

[www.genesreunited.co.uk/default.aspx?ixc=u](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/default.aspx?ixc=u)

[www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frameset_search.asp)

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/)

[www.census.nationalarchives.ie/](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/)

[www.ancestry.com/search/](http://www.ancestry.com/search/)

[Ed. This story was partially published in Edgar Events No. 12 in January 2008. In this issue we continue the rest of the story, with Jennifer (Edgar) Detta's great-great-grandfather, Joseph Edgar, born 1839.]

## A Journey into the families of Joseph Thomas Edgar

by Jennifer Detta ([jjdetta@cintek.com](mailto:jjdetta@cintek.com))

It's very exciting when you find a new cousin and can share discoveries about your common ancestor and his descendents.

For me, this happened in my Edgar line last year. An online enquiry from "suze53" (Susan) in 2008, turned out to be a cousin from England related to my 2x-great-grandfather. This was a real break, as we (as yet) have no DNA matches to this line.

Between the two lines, our common ancestor is **Joseph Thomas Edgar**, born 1839 25 September in Warrington, Lancashire, England.

It turns out that Joseph Thomas had two families, the first one in Wales, then this first wife died. He re-married and moved with his new wife and children to the Ashton in the Makerfield area of Lancashire. There were more children and both families were raised together.

My cousin Susan is related to the first family through **Frederick John**, born in 1862 in Monmouthshire, and I am related to the second family through **Charles**, born in 1873 in Ashton in Makerfield. Susan's side of the family had passed on family stories about both families over the years, but my side had no knowledge first family — so we had a lot of sharing to do!

Since we have found each other, Susan and I have worked jointly on the Edgars. Susan's Mum has also contributed with colourful stories about her grandfather, Frederick John, and her uncles — plus a large amount of family memorabilia, which has been tucked away. Susan has found a number of treasures stored there. She has been trudging through the (very large) cemetery at St. Thomas in Ashton, and found some headstones related to the Edgar family.

This Lancashire Edgar family were all coal miners. Susan has a good idea of how they lived. After we found Frederick John's widow, Elizabeth (Disley), living at 11 Bolton Road in the 1911 census, this is the word picture she sent me:

"The house was a typical terraced house in an industrial northern town. These houses were built in blocks, some as small as four or six houses, others ran the entire length of the street as one block of houses. To get to the back of your house, you had to walk to the end of the block, down a footpath at the side of the end house and into the entry that ran behind all the houses.

They opened straight off the street, no front garden. Depending on the layout, some would open straight into a room with the stairs leading off a rear room, others would open into a lobby which had the stairs leading from it. No working class house in the 1920s had a

bathroom, so this one certainly wouldn't in 1911. The WC was at the bottom of the garden and the rear entry was used by the sewage collectors, who would remove the full toilet pan and replace it with an empty one. The bath was a metal one that was filled for use then stored away.

At 11 Bolton Road, there was a large room at the front of the house overlooking the road. Behind that was a small kitchen. As she was never there when meals were cooked, Mum doesn't know if it was done on some sort of cooker in the kitchen, or on the fireplace, which would have been a large metal affair with a coal fire in the centre and ovens around the sides. The small kitchen may even have been classed as a scullery.

I know what this type of house is like quite well. Most people are horrified to learn that Dad's mother lived in one of these till she went into a nursing home in the mid 1980s. Literally two up, two down. The WC at the bottom of the garden (though by this time connected to the main sewage system), no running hot water, the only tap in the house was for the cold water supply in the kitchen. The cooking range was still there in the kitchen, though by this time she used a free-standing gas cooker.

I hope this gives you some idea of the living conditions of your ancestors!"

A fascinating aspect of family history is wondering what prompts your particular ancestor to leave home and family, and move to a new country. We may never know what took Joseph Thomas Edgar from Warrington to Wales about 1858 — many of his descendents subsequently left Ashton in Makerfield, and took their expertise as coal miners with them.

The industrial might of the area was waning, and by 1901, three out of four sons had left Ashton in Makerfield. With the remaining Edgar son, four out of six of his sons moved on in the next wave. Susan's Mum remembers being told that her uncles left because there was little work there in the 1920s.

Son **Selwyn Thomas** was born in Q3 1860 in Newport, Monmouthshire, and moved as a child to Ashton in Makerfield. By 1899, he had returned to Wales.

Two other sons, **Charles** (my great-grandfather born in 1873) and **Joseph Thomas** (born in 1879) were employed in the coal industry in Ashton in Makerfield, Lancashire, and recruited by the Coal Creek Company to immigrate to Fernie, B.C., Canada. The brothers immigrated in 1901.

**Joseph Thomas** was an engineer who worked on the haulage machinery for the mines. He apprenticed on the equipment in England, helped build it, and came over as a certified engineer with the equipment when it was shipped to Canada. He married Alice Hope in Fernie, B.C., in 1913. They had no children. Joseph Thomas worked long past retirement age; when the Coal Creek mine shut down, he was still working at age 75.

My great-grandfather, **Charles**, started working in the coal mines in Lancashire by about age six (according to family lore). I tend to believe this as, in later life, he was so bent over from pushing carts that my father, Denis Charles, remembers being able to look his grandfather straight in the eye when he was four years old! By then, Charles could not stand upright, and slept only in a chair.

Charles married Elizabeth Eccleston in Ashton in 1899. They had five sons (one died in infancy) and one daughter, Edna (who died of TB during WWII). Of the four surviving sons – Charles, Clifford, Sherman, and Stanley – there are many Edgar descendents here in Canada. Charles served in WWI as a Sapper, his Canadian Attestation papers from 1916 January 14 state that he was 5 feet 1/2 inches tall, and had coal scars on the lumbar region of his back. Charles Edgar, Sr. died in 1944 of pneumonia.



Charles and Elizabeth Edgar – photos taken in Fernie about 1910



Charles Edgar (with grandson Jimmie) about 1941

Grandsons Charles, John, George, and Frank also moved on.

**Charles** was born in 1882, and married Elizabeth Whittington in 1914. He moved to Sittingbourne, Kent, to find work. His son James, a mining engineer, went to Australia, again to find work, and Charles and his wife Lizzie joined Jim and his family in Australia when Charles retired.

**John** was born in Q2 1884, and married Susan Elizabeth Yeates in 1905. John moved his family to Doncaster, Yorkshire, England.

**George** was born in Q2 1887. He left England for Canada in 1907 – crossing with his uncle, Joseph Thomas. In the 1911 census, George is listed as “nephew” living with Charles in Fernie, B.C., occupation “coal miner.” Between 1911 and 1926, nothing about George is known except that on 1926 November 11 he was killed in a mine accident at the “Jingle Pot Mine” in Nanaimo, B.C. He is buried in Nanaimo, no stone marks the grave. There are other Edgar cousins buried near George’s plot and more Edgar cousins still living in Nanaimo today.

**Frank** was born in Q4 1899. He married Clara Littler in England in Q3 1923, and Joan was born Q4 1923. Frank and Clara immigrated to Kirkland Lake, Ontario, Canada in the late 1920s. The Kirkland Lake gold mining area would have been in a very isolated part of Ontario at that time, a very large muskeg-like area of the Laurentian Shield, full of black flies and mosquitoes. Frank and Clara sent stories home to England about very cold winters and being subject to frostbite. Frank retired to Rexdale, Toronto, and is buried there. Daughter Joan married Roy Cheeseman.



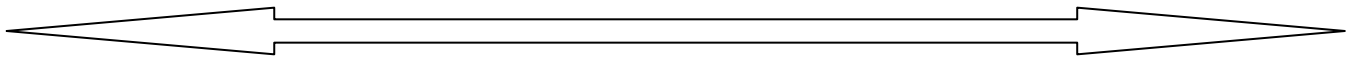


Frank Edgar before boarding ship to Canada



Family headstone in Toronto area cemetery.

This incredible journey into our past has revealed a fabric and texture that was only dimly seen until now. We are grateful that we have been involved in the discovery and the telling of this, our Edgar family story.



## Photo Gallery



Figure 2 - Robert Burns' statue at the head of the High Street in Dumfries, Scotland

# Eggo!

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



A couple or three weeks back, my wife, who we lovingly call “Mrs. Poirot” after the fictional “world’s greatest detective,” thought she would do some digging around after the family of **Don Edgar** from Wolseley, Saskatchewan. Readers may recall that he lives a short drive away from me, and last year we had his DNA tested, just on the off chance that he might be related — it was worthwhile doing the test to see his Haplotype. We don’t know exactly how he is connected, but he is of the same Haplogroup — I1. The Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) predictor at Ancestry.com shows him as 41 generations away from me; not close, but related, just the same.

When I first contacted Don’s wife, Ruth, by phone, she said we wouldn’t likely be related because his father’s name was originally Eggie, changed to Edgar before he came to Canada. This is what got Mrs. Poirot searching — was there an Eggie born in Scotland who came to Canada? Well, as it turns out, she found somebody who matched somewhat, except his last name was Nicholson. At first this was puzzling, until the light came on and she realized that James Eggie Nicholson was an illegitimate birth by James Eggie, b. 1858 (the father), to the mother, Isabella Nicholson. Starting to make sense! Incidentally, James Eggie Nicholson was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland. I had known that from speaking with Don in Wolseley, and from his niece, Kirrie.

Going back another generation, James Eggie’s father was also James Eggie, b. 1833, married to Diana Tindal Stormonth. **Except**, on the 1881 Scotland Census, he declared himself as James Edgar! On one of the searches Mrs. P. conducted on the International Genealogical Index (IGI), she couldn’t find a James Edgar, so she put in his wife’s name, Elisabeth Smith, born in Kinnettles, and she came up with a family living in Kirriemuir named Eggo. Not much of a stretch from Eggie to Eggo! Still looking on the IGI, some of the children are shown as Eggo, some are Eggie, and by 1891, some revert to Edgar.

The Census breakdown for the family name goes like this:

Census	Surname
1841	Edgar (David and wife, Elisabeth)
1851	Eggo (David and wife, Elisabeth, plus 5 children)
1861	Eggie (David and wife, Elisabeth, plus 3 children)
1871	Elisabeth Eggie (David died earlier; 3 children + 2 grandchildren)
1881	Elisabeth Eggo (plus 2 children + 3 grandchildren)
1891	Ann Eggo (Elisabeth’s daughter, born Ann Eggie)
1901	James Edgar (Born James Eggie - son born James Eggie Nicholson)

At Juanita Edgar’s suggestion, we started looking in the on-line phone book for living Eggos in Scotland, and found some on the first try! Shona Eggo of Arbroath, Scotland, tells me her father, Stewart, may be interested in a DNA test. We’re waiting for him to give the nod. The other Eggos we found in the phone listing turn out to be Shona’s granduncle William and his wife, Kathy, in Dundee.

At the back of my mind is this — we’ve never found one Scottish Edgar related to me in my June mailout, nor in all our DNA testing. Were we looking in the wrong place? Should we have been looking around Dundee, Brechin, Kirriemuir, Keithock? This Eggo connection, if it is a connection, could be another earth-shattering revelation! Stay posted...

## One last item...

I have made some inquiries with a local Saskatchewan craftsman about creating for us an Edgar badge in pewter, like the one on the opening page and reproduced here.



**David Edgar** in Guildford, England, supplied the original image, and I did a little editing in Adobe Photoshop to change the lettering of the text to what we believe is our Edgar motto, “Maun Dae It,” which literally means “You must do it.”

If we can get 25 or more orders, the price will be **\$18 CAD each**, shipping is extra. Each pewter badge will have a substantial pin across the back, sufficient to hold a couple of layers of stout tartan cloth!

I’m so confident that we can and will have sufficient orders to sustain the cost given above that I entered into a contract with the artist, **Mark Wells**, who will create a proof copy before the end of January. We will hold exclusive rights to the mould, once it is done to our (my) satisfaction. I’ve already sent him a cheque for his start-up costs of \$230. Once we have recovered this start-up fee, any profits will go to our DNA Trust Fund to aid in future tests.

The badge width will be approximately 2 inches, and the thickness approximately 3/16 inch, following these details (from the written contract):

- it features a chainmail clad hand, holding a dagger at 45 degrees downward, encircled in a belt
- the text on the belt shall read “MAUN DAE IT”
- the badge shall be approximately 5cm (2”) across
- it shall be approximately 0.4cm (~3/16”) thick
- there will be a pin across the back of the badge from side to side to attach it to fabric
- the badges shall be cast in lead-free, food-safe, “silver-pewter”

The job will be started over the Christmas holiday (Mark, the craftsman, is a university student) and we can expect the first orders to be ready by early to mid-February.

Please send me an email soon to indicate your interest in one or more badges — think of your children and grandchildren! [jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

Incidentally, there is another project from this same craftsman that we should consider. He can make us pewter buttons modelled after the one from Steve in Toronto, shown here:



If you are interested, we can get this going, too. Start-up of \$115, and price (with a minimum of 10 buttons per order) would be:

Quantity	Price per button
10-49	\$1.75
50-100	\$1.60
101+	\$1.45

James