



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 40, May 2010**



DNA Update

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



Regarding **Stewart Eggo's** test – the swabs still haven't been received at the lab in Utah, so we've ordered a new test. The kit is on its way to **Stewart** in Dundee, Scotland.

Another test kit was on its way to **Jason Edgar**, who lives in North Bay, Ontario. **Jason** was born in New Zealand, and his family originates in Northern Ireland, then to Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland. He reports that he has received, swabbed, and sent it back.

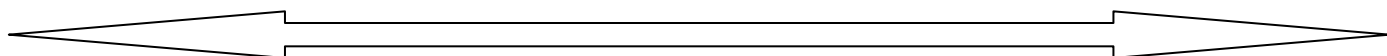
On another tack, one of the people tested through Family Tree DNA is **John William Edgar**, born in Kentucky, and living in Illinois. His ancestor hails from Northern Ireland, and settled in Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland, just like Jason's history!! **John** is now a member of the Ancestry.com group; his results now show on our page. That will be more than just a passing interest – to see how close **Jason** and **John** are.

Now, here comes the interesting part....**John William Edgar** is a very close match to **Glenda Dickson's** dad, who lives in Australia — showing two generations away.

John William is also a very close match to several others in the I2b1 Haplogroup, notably **Jim Edgar** of Kyle, Saskatchewan, **John Edgar** of British Columbia, **Mike Edgar** of Moneyreagh, Northern Ireland, **Leslie Edgar** of Maryport, England, **Ian Edgar** of Belfast, and **John D. Edgar** of Australia!! Just for the record – I repeat, those are all just two generations away! Bear in mind that the two generations is a best guess, derived from computer algorithms analyzing the DNA results. It could well be off by plus or minus 50 percent (or more), particularly if there were no mutations in the two families for several generations. This is where the real need for a paper trail shows up. Without it, we have no way of knowing how these people are related, if at all.

Nevertheless, there is a bunch at 8 generations from **John William** — **Jackie** in Dallas, **Jim** in Georgia, **Alfred** in Argentina, **Phillip** in Michigan, **Robin** in Moniaive, and **Colin** in Crewe. At 10 generations away is **James M. Edgar** of Edinburgh. This is so fascinating – linking all those families together with just one DNA test! There are 13 more I2b1 Edgars, but with much more distant connections.

We also have a new faces on the block, **John Adair**, an R1b, and **David Ager**, and I2b1. **David** shows only 8 generations away from **John William Edgar**! Others who have recently joined our group are **Michael Liggett** – his link to us is tenuous, at best, since he's not even the same Haplogroup as any of the rest; **Michael** is an I1c. **Margaret Jordan** joined us. She is a researcher in Belfast, Northern Ireland, helping **Glenda Dickson** with her research. **Danny Stottle** requested to join, and he did; as did **Bernice Caghey**, **Ann Barrett**, and **Billy McCutcheon**. We know about **Billy** – his mother is **Violet (nee Edgar) McCutcheon**, and his aunt is **Irene Edgar**; all three live in Bessbrook, Northern Ireland, and **SteveUK**, my brother, **Steve** in Kamloops, B.C., and I visited them in 2006. We're not sure exactly to which Edgar family they are related, but we keep searching. Unfortunately, there are no male Edgars in this family who can provide a DNA test.



Locations in Ireland, Part 2



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

Having lulled you into a state of false security by letting you think that there was some logic in how locations were identified in Ireland, I am now going to destroy that state and show you the problems you will face and the reasons why these problems occur.

I'm not sure if you are aware, but the 1911 Irish census is available online for free, visit www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search and have a look around. The transcriptions and original documents are all free to view but not to copy (unless you are really sneaky).

I looked at the family of William Edgar in Co. Armagh, and came up with the usual census details you would expect. There was other information to be gleaned, which was the enumerator's sheets, as below:

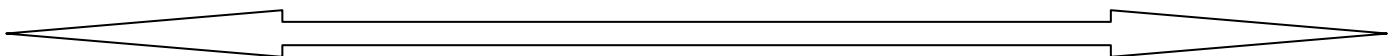
This details William's location by all sorts of parameters:

County - Parliamentary Division - Poor Law Union - District Electoral Division - Townland or Street - Constabulary District - City, Urban District, Town or Village - Barony - Sub-district - Parliamentary Borough - Parish....

All this for William's location!! The best way of describing the mapping of this particular location is look at it as a series of different overlays atop the same country map of Northern Ireland. Each has its own borders and overlaps that straddle the same location. If William's next-door neighbour was over one of these borders, his location could be interpreted as being some distance away. (Also, don't forget our lovely politicians who have a habit of changing borders at a whim to ensure re-election!)

Any location is identified by any of these different parameters; it depends on whose view you are looking at. William's location is in Armagh — that's easy! However, he is also in Hockley, Rathdrumgrane, Portadown, Mulland West, Richhill, and Kildarton simultaneously. (This is in 1911. I wonder what the 1901, 1881, 1871 censuses gave as his location?)

So what is the solution? Answer — there isn't one!! All I can advise is to check the actual location you are looking for by cross-referencing in detail. Use Google maps at <http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl> as a guide; many locations no longer exist as a place, only as a road name that used to lead there still exists. (I do have some old maps I can send as PDFs for most NI counties, please email me.)



Notes from Near and Far

The Ancestry.com Web site has changed lately (in the past couple of weeks), and the cause is a computer glitch. Somehow, our family group site is being presented as a MyFamily.com site, so, until that gets fixed, we are stuck with some shortcomings of the glitch!

If you haven't visited the DNA.Ancestry.com site lately, you should take a look at the images uploaded there by **Richard Edgar** of the gravestones of Edgars buried at the Vimy Ridge Memorial, and read the comments by some members.

Did you know that ISOGG was on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ISOGG)?

Firstly, what is ISOGG? It's the International Society of Genetic Genealogists. Their Web site is loaded with information about the DNA testing process, a Q & A for beginners, and much more. There are no dues and no donations accepted – it's information for you, free of charge!

[Emerald Ancestors](http://EmeraldAncestors.com) a relatively (if you'll excuse the pun) new site for Northern Ireland in the original nine Ulster counties: Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Monaghan, and Tyrone. You can search for the usual Birth, Death, and Marriage categories, plus the Census and School Register for certain locations. Searches require membership and a fee (£ 9.99 for a month, £29.99 for six months, or £49.99 for a year); certificates can be ordered for an additional fee of £12 each. The certificates come by email, so there is little delay from ordering to receipt.

Try doing a Google search on [Genealogy](http://Genealogy.com) and see what you get — 36.9 million sites contain a vast collection of information on the many aspects of our hobby!. Of course, for some of us, it's more than a hobby — to borrow the Liverpool football coach **Bill Shankly's** famous 1981 quote (he also was paraphrasing — borrowing the phrase from **Henry Russell Sanders**, an American 1950s college football coach):

"Some people believe genealogy is a matter of life and death; I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that."

The [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia.com) page on genealogy is also loaded with information – give it a go!

Cousin **Bill Edgar** of Melbourne has done a magnificent job of collecting, organizing, and colour coding all of our DNA results and keeping them up to date on an Excel spreadsheet, which is posted on our site in the "Files" tab as "Ancestry Excel 2010 Mar 25.xls".



I have some of the pewter Edgar badges still for sale. The price is \$18 CAD, shipping extra. They are an attractive, antique-looking badge, quite suitable for a jacket lapel or a tartan cape! Send me a note if you want one or more (jamesedgar@sasktel.net).

Proceeds go to our DNA Trust to finance more tests. The text is *Maun Dae It* – from the story of **Robert the Bruce** ensuring his ascendancy to the Scottish throne by killing **John "the Red" Comyn** in Grey Friars Abbey in Dumfries in 1305. When he hesitated, his mate, **Richard Edgar**, urged him on with the equivalent of "You must do it!"

Picture time

These images have absolutely nothing to do with genealogy, but they're too good to pass up. Our son-in-law, **Mark Burnell**, took these in St. Vital Park, Winnipeg, during the past couple of weeks. Enjoy!

