



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 51, April 2011**



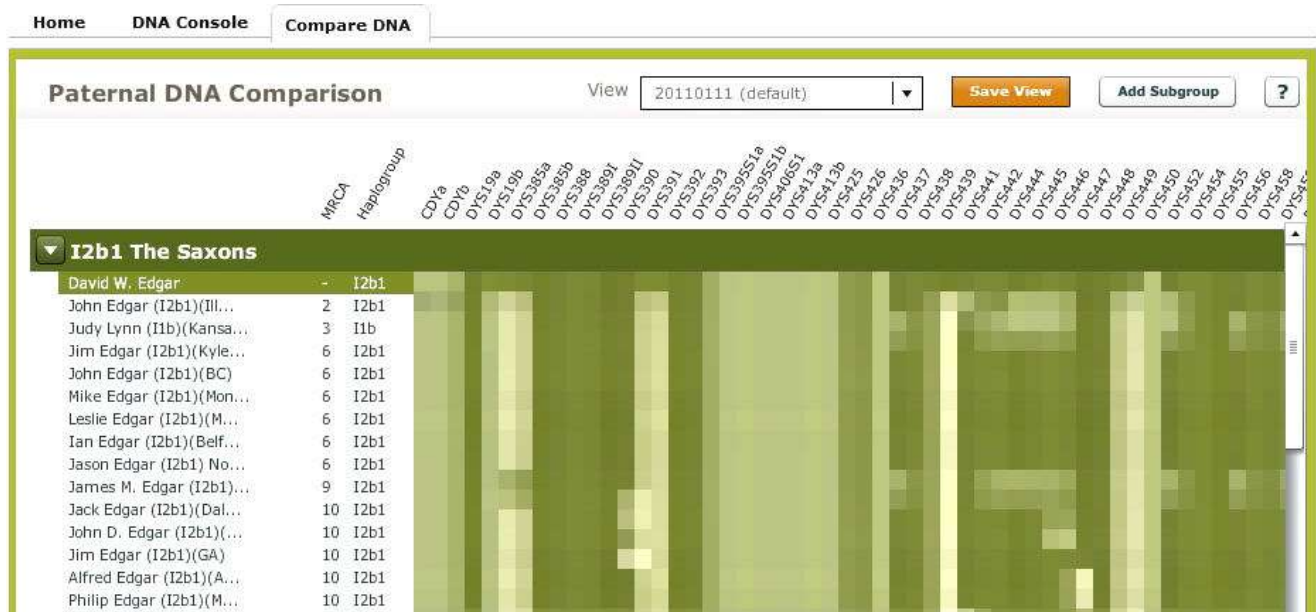
## DNA Update



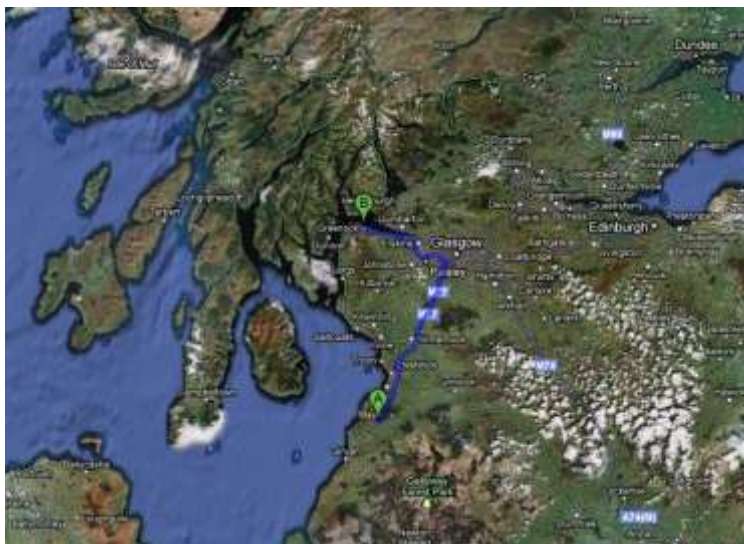
by James Edgar ([jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net))

Well, it has been an interesting time, to say the least. Upsets, changes, and more test results. I discovered that my Family Tree Maker database had somehow merged two people together and was treating them as one. That's not good, if you know what I mean!! I have a story to relate after I get it straightened out, but until then, I'm not saying any more.

Nevertheless, we do have some good news on the test-result front. In Friday, March 25, we got results for two Edgars, David Wallace Edgar of Greenock, Scotland, and Ray Croxford of Cape Town, South Africa. David Wallace is in Haplogroup I2b1, and we see several close relationships with him among those already on our group site. Here's a screen shot of his matches, with the values obscured.



As you can see, there are close matches, indeed. We have some work to do, comparing David's tree to some of the others to find where there might be common ancestors. We'll keep you informed when we find out anything.



We're currently looking at Jason Edgar in North Bay, Ontario, and John Edgar in Illinois, because they share a common story of family migrating from Ireland to Maybole, Scotland. Our newest David lives in Greenock – here's the map, you be the judge!

This is the west coast of Scotland, with Maybole marked as A and Greenock as B; over on the left is Ireland.

Ray Croxford of South Africa is Patricia (Edgar) Leishman’s nephew. Pat is one of the people I wrote to in Scotland in 2009, and we, partly through my lengthy delay, finally have his results – he’s an R1b. His results show him closely related to several more people in our group:

- William Forsyth Edgar of Dundee, who we nicknamed “Bill, the Pilot”
- Harry Alexander Edgar of Edinburgh,
- William Roberts Edgar of Edinburgh,
- James Paterson Edgar of Glasgow, and
- Colin Stuart Edgar of Belfast.

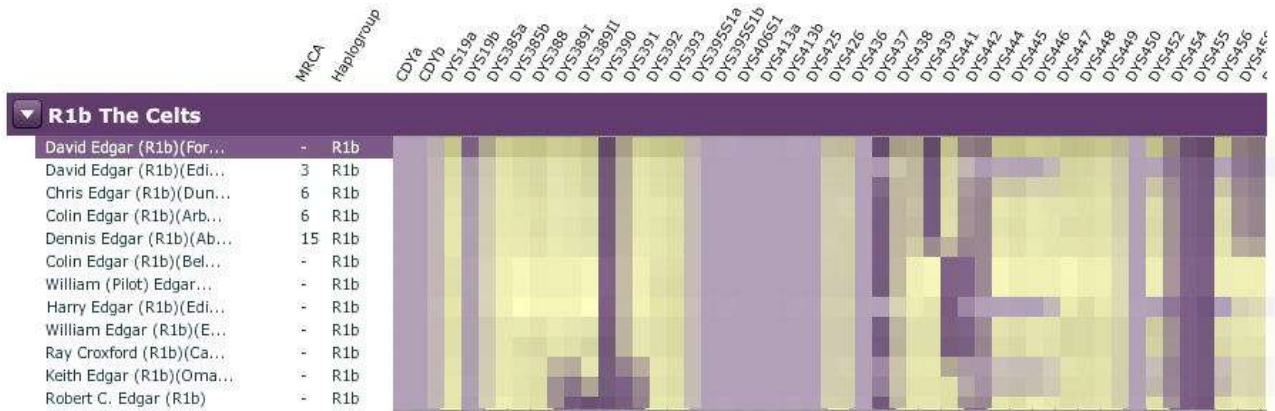
In addition, note that some of the close matches are of the Dunbar family, which fits in with a proposal that Debra Dunbar of has been nursing for a couple of years. She thinks, and probably correctly so, that the R1b Edgars and Dunbars are the same family! The 3rd Earl of Dunbar had a son named Edgar, and it is thought that all the R1B Edgars descended from him. Go to [www.dunbardna.org](http://www.dunbardna.org) for more information.



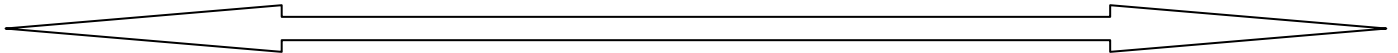
Finally, we have David Keilloh Edgar, who I initially thought might be my relative in Haplogroup I1. We have to re-think that conjecture, because he’s an R1b, and not related to me at all! When we received David’s details, Jodie (Mrs. Poirot) and I said, I bet “Keilloh” is his mother’s maiden name. So we did some sleuthing on Scotland’s People and found his parents – his mother is indeed a Keilloh! The father is David Fowler Edgar – again, “Fowler” is a mother’s maiden name, and so on. This particular naming convention went back several generations.

David also has some close matches with some of our Edgars (just not me!)... David’s matches coincide with some of those who we tested last fall: David in Edinburgh, Chris in Dundee, Colin in Arbroath, and Dennis in Aberdeen.

We're closing in on some distinct families, all named Edgar, all in Haplogroup R1b, but not related!



Corey-David Edgar, who I reported last issue is also related to David Wallace Edgar of Greenock, has just agreed to the DNA test; hopefully we will have some results for our next newsletter.



### Picture time (from the UK)

SteveUK's cousin, Floss Wingrave, sent me this a couple days ago – called Spring, at last!



## Lost and found



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

I have not got much personally to report on my Edgar front this month as I have been busy with work projects, but Robin (bless her cotton socks!) has discovered the lost Hugh!

Hugh was born in Newry in 1828 and worked at the family rope-making business, he married Martha McCaul in 1857, the same year that his father Joseph died. It looks like Hugh's brother Joseph Jr. took over the business affairs, and it was about this time that the family split took place.

I have the feeling that Joseph Jr. was a bit of a despot; also anti-Catholic, he was certainly high up in the Orange Lodge at the time. Plus, I have the feeling that Martha McCaul may well have been Catholic, as her step-mother's name was Bridget – this is an unusual forename outside the Catholic faith. Hugh was 14 years younger than his brother and was more on a par with his nephews and nieces. His niece, Catherine, also married a Catholic, Patrick Fox, and moved away to Seapatrick. Hugh also moved at this time to an unknown destination.

Robin discovered a “Hugh” Edgar, widower, claiming a pension in Newry in the 1900s. She also found a “Hugh” on the 1901 Ireland census living in Portadown, a widower, a lodger, born 1828 and working in a rope factory. This is too much of a coincidence for it not to be him. He lived on David St. in Edgarstown, Portadown. My guess is that he arrived there about 1860 with Martha and possibly had family. I need to do some checking on Edgarstown and find the origin of the name. It might be named after Hugh? (I'm not holding my breath though!)

I spoke to Richard in Tandragee about the above, his local knowledge put some sense into why Hugh arrived in Portadown. He would likely have travelled up the Newry canal, he may well have had contacts amongst the boat owners with his rope-making connection. This got me to thinking that maybe their business declined due to the canal being replaced by the railways in the 1850s and '60s.

I have looked at my Edgars over and over again and still can't break the 1785 barrier! Who was Joseph's father? Was it David? Are Samuel and George brothers or cousins? The DNA test we did can only prove we are definitely related and roughly when, but not exactly how. My faith that a solution will be found is reinforced by the fact that Robin found Hugh. More and more information is being digitized and is available on Internet searches, the answer will be published sometime!

I know I frustrate some people when I talk about “luck.” I know that a lot of determined hard work goes into the research that the Edgar Project researchers do, it is usually frustrating and very time consuming. The “luck” element comes in when the tiny piece of evidence locks all the hard work together. The expression “Chance favours the prepared mind” is very true.

## Orr family

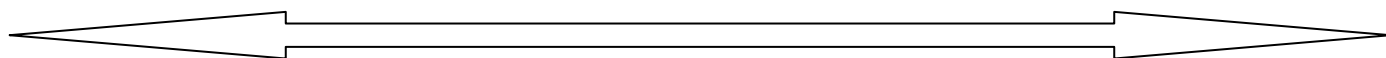
To prove the “luck” element, I have been looking for the family of Jane Burns who married Joseph Edgar in 1805. Her father was Hugh Burns and mother was Jane Orr from Ballykeel. I looked on Ros Davies’ site and there are lots of Orrs in the area; logically they must be related. I spent a happy Sunday going through all the Orr records, building a family tree. The number of Orrs marrying other Orrs, cousins, aunts, brothers’ widows was a bit of an eyeopener!

The Orrs arrived in Ireland in the early 1600s, before the 1630 Plantations –

*1 The first Orrs in Ulster were James Orr and wife Margaret McClement who went from Beith, next door to Lochwinnoch, to the Ards ca 1607 with the Montgomery Settlement ( Their lineage is in the Ulster Pedigree ca 1830 by Gowan Orr). Their sons were James and Patrick. James stayed in the North Down area around Comber;*

*2 There is a tradition in the family that the original name was McLean, and that in the troublous times in the beginning of the 17th century, two brothers to avoid persecution swam the river 'Orr' or 'Our' in Wigtownshire (Scotland) and saved their lives that way. They crossed in an open boat from Portpatrick to Donaghadee, and in thankfulness for their escape they took the name 'Orr' by which their descendants have been since known. One of the brothers, James Orr, settled at Ballyblack, to the south of Newtownards. He was interred in Movilla graveyard Newtownards, in the year 1627, Janet McClements, his wife, died in 1636..... Soon after the death of James Orr the family removed to Ballybeen, near Comber.' (thanks to Ros Davies' Web site)*

How true the second part above is, is still to be tested. I have recorded the family tree down to the mid 1700s (there are lots of them!) and still could not find the connection. There was an email address for Brian Orr who has conducted a one-name study. Within hours, I had a reply – there was my Jane Orr with her connections to the Orr family and her daughter Jane Burn who married Samuel Lewers? I suspect that this was her first marriage and she married Joseph later. The line takes me back to Beith in Ayrshire with my 11 times great-grandfather John Orr born in 1550! Oh that the Edgar family history could be sorted out in a couple of days!!!



## Edgar DNA Trust Fund status

**This is a request for more donations** – we need the funds to keep the drive going. It is through generous donations from you, our readers, that we can continue with our quest. Please help, if you can – no amount is too small.

Send cheque or money order in US or Canadian dollars, PayPal, or direct deposit.

My mailing details:

JAMES EDGAR

PO BOX 2254

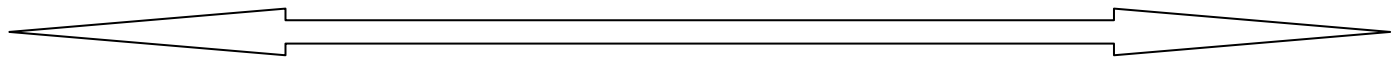
MELVILLE SK S0A 2P0

CANADA



Peter Edgar, my very distant cousin from Australia, sent these photos of his ancestor Hugh Edgar on the left, and himself on the right. Peter confesses that he once sported a bushy moustache, so the resemblance would have been very strong.

Peter writes: Hugh Edgar trained as a blacksmith, I believe, and then headed north into the wilderness as the horse-specialist with his school-mate-turned-surveyor Charles Winnecke. He and Winnecke and others charted a lot of the vast northern reaches of outback South Australia and beyond. Hugh became very proficient at this and ended up in charge of horses and camels on the famous Horn scientific expedition north to Alice Springs in 1893. Hugh would have worked with famous Afghan cameleers including Moucha Balouche (not sure of spelling). Indeed, there is a photo of him with them and the scientists. The photo I sent shows him with another man involved in the transport of the scientists. I saw Hugh described as "a good rider and a good shot."



When I "found" my cousin, Pamela Ewen, on Facebook, I quickly invited her to lunch in Toronto because I was travelling there to the spring National Council meeting of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. It would be a perfect opportunity to meet her for the first time! Pamela's mother, Naomi (née Edgar) Studd, my first cousin, recently passed away just a few days short of her 91st birthday. Pamela graciously brought with her to the lunch meeting a photo of her grandfather, John James Edgar, my father's elder brother, and a copy of the service from Naomi's funeral. Here we are, meeting for the first (and not the last!) time.



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Finally, from my cousin, Bill Edgar in Melbourne, we have this **Researcher's Report:**

University of Melbourne Archives visit on 1 March 2011 by Bill & Ros Edgar, Melbourne, DNA I1 and Lesley Lloyd of same family heritage as John David Edgar DNA I2b1.

We were directed to this archive by John Edgar of Sydney, Aust., DNA I2b1 who has a web site with copies of the Edgar Family Newsletters 1937 – 1942 as provided to him by Maggie Tucker. She had obtained them from Isobel Edwards of Casterton who was the great granddaughter of James Edgar (born 6 Apr 1811 at Moffat) from his 1<sup>st</sup> marriage to Isabella Scott.

The archive consisted of 25 boxes of documents, photos and memorabilia as collected by William Herbert Edgar and his family. A good number of the boxes related to the Mair family. Helen Mair married Herbert Edgar. These Mair records would be of interest to that family if anyone has any contact with them. The remainder, except one, all related to the William Herbert Edgar's family who had come from the William Edgar in "Swan and Edgar" London. This family was covered in the Society's newsletter No 6 Page 48, Edgar's of Riddings and Canonbie. There was a good amount of information we collected on this family and a lot more which could be collected.

The last box was the one most time was spent on. It contained letters between William Herbert Edgar and Ian Trentham-Edgar mostly regarding the establishment of the Society of Edgar Families and discussing Edgar families in Australia. Ian appears to have been the driving force in Edgar history and we were very unlucky he died at such a very young age. He was about to publish his findings on the Irish branch of the Edgar family when he died. William Herbert Edgar JP became the Vice President of the Society and Ian Trentham-Edgar was the Secretary/Treasurer. William Haslam Edgar MLC (State Politician) was the President of the Society and had the same initials as the Vice President. This caused disappointment for Lesley who had hoped to find information on William Haslam Edgar who was obviously co-opted as a high profile Edgar but only after the society was formed. There was correspondence showing they had collected William Haslam's, Belfast Ireland ancestry but it never made it to the newsletter. In this box No 14 was a note to the Archivist to replace a torn holding envelope written by a Tom Edgar who obviously had been investigating before us. It would be interesting to know who he is.

**Richard John Edgar I12b Aust on his [Web site](#) writes about Ian,** Also due for thanks is Denis Shackell for the following note on his uncle Ian Trentham-Edgar who was the power house behind the newsletters:

*"My mother was Ena Trentham-Edgar sister of Ian, who was the researcher and compiler of the Edgar Family Newsletters. He died suddenly on July 26, 1942 of meningitis at the age of 27 whilst in officer training with army intelligence. Hence there were no more Newsletters and the Irish branch of the family was never tackled. He was employed as an auditor with the Vacuum Oil Company, a demanding job, and yet found time to establish the Society of Edgar Families, be a founding member of the Genealogical Society of Victoria and assist Alexander Henderson in the research and writing of his two books. Ian was unmarried. My mother recalled assisting Ian by typing some of the newsletters onto wax stencils with a portable Imperial typewriter, which my parents kept for many years. Ena died on November 14, 2005 at the age of 90. My sister Jacqueline and I are Ian's nearest living ancestors."*

**Society of Edgar Families Newsletter for Halbert Edgar.**

**(V) HALBERT EDGAR**, born 30 May 1823, at Moffat. **[Some of the information in the newsletters is incorrect. Please see my family (John Edgar) [Web site](#) <http://edgars.in.australia.googlepages.com/halbertedgar> for details.]**

The records we found were collected by William Herbert Edgar JP and so any Edgar details held by the Society or by Ian Trentham-Edgar have not been located in these records. It is to be wondered if they are held by someone or lodged for safekeeping, any ideas where to search. Did John ask Denis Shackell if any records were known to exist?

Bill Edgar, Melbourne



INFORMATION FOUND AT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011

Book ref: "Account of the Surname of Edgar" by J H Archer-Lawrence 1873

Box 14: A complete index of Edgar names and where found.

Box 1: Details on the formation of the Edgar Society.

Box 9: Collection of letters etc. Helen Edgar nee Mair, wife of Herbert Edgar

Box 1: William Henry Edgar's collection including a description of his father –in-law, Captain W Mair, 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Commissioner of Police in Victoria, d aged 98.

Newspaper cuttings: Many of general interest to William Henry. Personal include:

D: Alexandrina 13.3.1940 Ballarat A 57 years

D: Winnie 23.9.1940 Wife of Cyril, Mother of Noel and Annie, A 40

D: George Sneddon Late AIF Fitzroy A 65

Divorce: Genevieve 33 of Glen Iris, against Jack Vernon of Hawthorn for misconduct.

Missing: William Arthur of Oakleigh and Alphington

Letter 25/11/1947 re Alfred and Andrew Edgar, photo in Melbourne n newspapers from Bearsdon near Glasgow.

Box 14: Note from Tom Edgar who had looked at material and reported a damaged envelope.

Some personal details from different info:

Edward Swan Edgar, 422 Collins St, Melbourne (squatter) member 31/6/1940

ES Edgar, Estate Agent, 422 Collins St. Melb, brother of Mrs Nicholson.

Thomas Edgar, 4 SpringGrove, Analby Rd, Hull, Yorkshire, son of Thomas Edgar of Thornhill Dumprishire. D 1908

Note found said: Edgars mainly found in Dumprishire in Moffat, Langholm, Annan, Burfoot, Blacklaw, Hart fell, Sanquhar, Canobie, Caerlaverock, Dumphries, Holywood, Bombie in Kirkbright, Melrose, Roxburgh, Greenlaw, Duns, (both in Berwick), Newtown, Keithock, Peppermiln, Elsieshiellds and Gretna green. The 1<sup>st</sup> marriage there was an Edgar & Kirkpatrick.

1875, "Kirklands" property was held by William Schindler Edgar.

William Edgar 1791/2-1869

Frances Leghorne 199-1888

In memory Margaret Maria b Wandsworth Surrey 31/8/1828, 2<sup>nd</sup> d of William & Frances Edgar M Clapham Church 20/7/1848 d Wimbledon House 2/5/1884

William Herbert Edgar purchased Torwood in Kilsyth (built 1887) on 1/3/1941.