



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 60, January 2012**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)

Well, here we are, six years later, with issue No. 60! It's a great feeling when somebody sends an email that begins "I found your site on the Web, and I've been reading the Edgar newsletters..." That's why we do what we do – all for the good of Edgars worldwide. Enjoy!

Now, moving right along.... We have a brand-new test ordered by **Brad (James Bradley) Edgar** of Littleton, Colorado.; and another for **Chuck Edgar** of Athens, Georgia.

Of the tests from last issue, we still have **John Murray Edgar** of Ladybrand, South Africa, awaiting – we sent John a new test kit, as his first returned swabs went astray in the postal system.

Here are the others:

1. **Stephen James Edgar** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, is my cousin! This was a pleasant surprise, but not really so surprising, since **Mel Edgar** lives not too far away in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Mel** is also related to **Steve**, as are the rest of the I1 Haplogroup. More research needed there to find the actual connections!

2. **Jim (Samuel Douglas) Edgar** of Edmonton, Alberta, is an R1b. It turns out that he isn't related to any of the other R1b Edgars in our group. I helped him with some searches elsewhere (Ysearch and Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation) and we found some Edgar males to whom he is related. Interestingly, there were more matching males with the **Hamilton** name than **Edgar**, in both databases!

3. **Roland Edgar**, of Cumberland, England, is among the I2b1 Saxon group. Again, not surprising, since he's so close to the Dumfriesshire, Scotland, Edgars – and he's related to a whole load of them! **Roland** has also been in contact with **Sarah Edgar** (another Facebook contact who I mentioned last issue) of Barrow in Furness, England.

Getting back to **Roland**, he graciously agreed to publish his tree on our site, so you can go to this [link](#) to find out more about his lineage.

The whole idea behind putting these trees and names out there is to possibly spark an interest, jog someone's memory, or get the research juices flowing. If you can help these people make more or better connections, then please do—get back to them with your thoughts or results.

4. **James Edgar** of Nixa, Missouri, is an I2b1. He matches up with a large number of the people on our Saxons group, just like **Roly** above. **James's** family originate in Oklahoma. He tells me he's a driver, destined for fame one day as an Alaska Ice Trucker! Global Warming may put a damper on that....

5. **Gord Edgar** of Brampton, Ontario. Here's my part of the story: in 1999, our son, **Matthew** was living in Ottawa, our nation's Capital City. At the same time, three of his cousins lived there, and they didn't even know each other. I made it my business to get them together in the same room, arranging to meet them in January 2000 at the Conroy Pub in Ottawa. By the

time we got together, the net had widened and we had invited a few other **Edgars** and their wives. **Gordon** was one of them – he and his wife drove over from Brampton, near Toronto. The four cousins were: **Matthew Edgar**; **Nicolas Edgar** (my brother **Bob**'s youngest); **David Fourney**, **Stephen Fourney**, (both my cousin Eileen's grandsons – **David** is the son of **Lloyd Fourney**; **Stephen** is the son of **Robert Fourney**. Their cousins **Scott** and **Shannon Fourney** drove up from Lancaster—my Dad's hometown—both are the offspring of **Edgar Fourney**, deceased). In addition, **Nick**'s brothers, **Robin** from Montréal and **Andrew**, who secretly flew up from San José, California, joined us. A photo from the evening is shown below—as you can see, we all had a great time together! We ate next door at a Chinese restaurant. To add to the excitement, the temperature was extremely cold. The next day, we drove to the cemetery in Bainsville, where our ancestors are buried. I wanted some photos of the headstones, but the film in my camera froze and the motor drive ripped the little holes along the edge to shreds. So much for that idea (all hail to my digital cameras!)

As my research widened, I discovered **Richard Edgar** in Ireland, and then found out that **Gordon** had visited him years before, pursuing his own **Edgar** research. **Richard** even has **Gordon**'s tree and photos on his site [here](#).

Gordon traces back to a **Robert Edgar** b. 1772. We don't have a clear idea of who this **Robert** is. Gordon thinks he's descended from the Edgar ministers of Killaney, Saintfield, Boardmills, and Ballynahinch. However, I'll let SteveUK tell his side of the story....(see below)



Edgars at the Conroy Pub 2000 January 21



Gordon Edgar 2000 January 21

Curve Ball!



by Steve Edgar (steven-edgar@sky.com)

Shock! Horror! The news is that Gordon Edgar's DNA (who can trace his family on paper to the Edgar Ministers family in Killaney, Boardmills, Northern Ireland) does not match the family DNA of Peg Edgar, who can also trace her family back to Boardmills!

This is a real "curve ball" and has thrown all my ideas of who is who, and how they are connected, out the window!

I would have ideally liked it if Gordon and Peg were to match, then it would be pretty much a "slam dunk" outcome that we looking at the correct DNA of the correct family of Edgars in Killaney in the 1700s. Two Edgar families that have a heritage back to the same time and area must surely be the same family! But, no, not according to the DNA.

So, what went wrong? Well, it's not the DNA testing results, that's for certain!! We know from past experience that DNA does not lie. Both Gordon and Peg's families are Edgars, without doubt. But, not the same family.

This DNA evidence opens up a number of possible solutions:

- 1) the records for either Peg or Gordon are wrong;
- 2) both Peg and Gordon's connections are wrong;
- 3) there are two Edgar families in Killaney.

From the evidence of DNA, Peg's family do have a close match to Michael's DNA from Ballybreagh (not far from Killaney). Whereas Gordon's DNA is a match to that of James and Jackie in the Benagh / Kilkeel area, which is totally unexpected. We need to check and double check both sets of records and find the solution—if there is an error, we need to find it.

It is not impossible that both Peg and Gordon are correctly located to the area. Part of the problem we (and others) have had is the mass of conflicting evidence and the lack of certain vital links. Perhaps the solution is that there are two families? Perhaps the stories about four Edgar brothers and Robert Edgar settling in Killaney were both true? They both settled in the same area at the same time? Not impossible, but unlikely.

The solution to this is more DNA testing. We need to search out some more Edgar Minister male descendants and get more testing done. If anyone has a lead for us as to possible descendants of this family, or can provide additional material to help establish either Gordon or Peg's results more clearly, we'd be very grateful.

Have a Happy New Year!

Steve Edgar

Sharon (Edgar) Bunek graciously sent a list of a whole bunch of books she found [here](#) to help in any research you may undertake. Try out those that look inviting... You can subscribe to the newsletter at the foregoing link in the section "To Subscribe".

- [Google Your Family Tree](#) - get \$5 off, AND a coupon for a FREE copy of the second edition when released during the first quarter of 2012 (enclosed within the book) - \$29.95
- [The Guide to FamilySearch Online](#), by James L. Tanner - \$39.55
- [The Genealogist's Google Toolbox](#), by Lisa Louise Cooke - \$25.00
- [Google Earth For Genealogy DVD](#), by Lisa Louis Cook - \$11.88
- [Google Earth For Genealogy, Vol. II DVD](#), by Lisa Louis Cook - \$11.88
- [Evidence Explained](#), by Elizabeth Shown Mills – \$58.75
- [History for Genealogists](#), by Judy Jacobson – \$29.35
- [A Field Guide for Genealogists](#), by Judy Jacobson – \$29.35
- [The Genealogists Guide to Researching Tax Records](#), by Carol Cook Darrow, CG and Susan Winchester, Ph.D., CPA – \$19.60
- [Becoming An Accredited Genealogist](#), by Karen Clifford, AG - \$19.55
- [Finding Your Hispanic Ancestors](#), by George R. Ryskamp - \$24.50
- [Finding Italian Roots](#), by John Phillip Colletta, Ph.D. - \$16.61
- [Guide to Genealogical Records of Italy](#), Sicily, by George Ott - \$48.95
- [Searching for Flemish Ancestors](#), by Jozef J. Goethals - \$19.55
- [Spelling Variations in German Names](#), by Roger Minert - \$16.12
- [The Germans in Colonial Times](#), by Lucy Fortney Bittinger - 14.99
- [Deciphering Gothic Records](#), by Fay S. Deardon
- [Romanians in the US and Canada](#), by Vladimir F. Wertsman - \$14.97
- [Virginia Genealogy](#), by Carol McGinnis - \$34.30
- [Georgia Land Lottery Research](#), by Paul K. Graham - \$29.35
- [Welsh Family History](#), by John & Sheila Rowlands - \$24.45



A blossom on our daughter's Christmas cactus.

You might enjoy reading this exchange from Facebook – I did!

[Steve Edgar](#) Does anyone know the story of the Black Edgars?

[Ira N Sharon](#) Black Irish? is that what you mean

[Steve Edgar](#) Nope, black Edgars

[Roland Edgar](#) Is that as in Colour or as in Black Sheep of the family or what?

[Steve Edgar](#) Black as in black

[Roland Edgar](#) Would these be black slaves that took (or were given) the surnames of their plantation owners?

[Steve Edgar](#) Nope, way cooler than that!

[Roland Edgar](#) Go on then, tell all.

[Steve Edgar](#) After Culloden, a bunch of highlanders including Edgars stole an English Frigate by slaughtering the watch. They then sailed out across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and were overtaken by an English Sloop of war just off Barbados. Every man for himself as any that could got to shore and tried to escape the English. Those that were caught were hanged. Those that were not settled. Some of these Edgars married locals. There were also some lime plantations owned by Edgars too. Some of these Black Edgars left Barbados and settled just north of Barrie, Ontario and called their town Edgar. It's basically a cross roads but there still is a cemetery.

[Ira N Sharon](#) Interesting, could we have an approx. date on this story? Highlanders? well then I can't help but wonder which Edgars in our DNA groups would be considered Highlanders? I'm thinking Keithock Edgars. We also had "other" Edgar families in Barbados and other islands in the sugar business such as the Alexander Edgar family of Berwickshire, Scotland. Additionally, England sent many Edgar convicts off to work in the plantations in these islands in the 1600s.

[Steve Edgar](#) 1745

