



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 72, January 2013**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (jamesedgar@sasktel.net)



We have results for **Bruce Edgar** in California. He's an R1b, closely related to **Steven Paul Edgar** of Gravois Mills, Missouri. Recall that when we had **Steven** tested, he didn't match any other R1b on our project (see [Edgar Events #50](#)).

The MRCA for **Bruce** shows him as one generation away from **Steven**—very close. We continue to search for the common link to their ancestry. It shouldn't be hard, as **Bruce** feels it should be in Missouri a few generations back.

AHA!! We have some of it—**Steven** gave us his father's and grandfather's name, and we now have some of the family—it looks to go a long way back, just as **Bruce** suspected. The details are still a bit murky, so we'll wait until we get some solid facts before publishing anything.

~~~~~

We've been in touch through email with **Derek Lawson** in Linlithgow, Scotland. His ancestor was **William Edgar** of Co. Down, married to **Mary Rooney** in Kilcoo Church of Ireland in 1871. Kilcoo lies between Rathfriland and Castlewellan. My **Jodie** (Ms. Poirot) found a marriage record for them on rootsireland.ie, and, from that, we have the names of both the bride and groom's fathers. Helpful, those marriage records!

~~~~~

And another, **John Fuller** of Yuma, Arizona. **Juanita Edgar** put us on to him, and he's now part of our mailing list. Earlier in December he wrote, in part:

James, thank you so much for your help. Yes the David Edgar and Mary Eveline are definitely my great grandparents. My grandmother Eva was born at Mt. Pleasant. The best part of what you sent me was the maiden name of Mary Eveline. All my aunts thought it was Harte, but obviously it is Hartle and that may help a lot. ...

Thank you, John Fuller

It turns out that **SteveUK** and **Juanita** had been searching for the same family back in August. Recall the story we published about the nurse, **Sister Mabel Edgar**, in [newsletter #68](#).

Jodie found a marriage between **John Fuller's** ancestor, **David Edgar** and **Mary Eveline Hartle** in Kildarton, Co. Armagh. This was an important find, even though the marriage record shows her name as "**Hartle**"; **John** now advises that the name is "**Harte**" on numerous other records and documents, including the 1912 Ulster Covenant. More good news is that **David's** residence is shown as Mt. Pleasant on the marriage document—confirmation!

~~~~~

We welcome **Kingsley Edgar** of Australia to our newsletters, and we're working on him to get his DNA tested. He's one of those I met on Facebook.

~~~~~

From **Dennis Wise**, who recently joined the DNA group, we got this:

Thank you for the welcome.

James Edgar (b: 9 Jun 1805 in Ireland, d: 3 Mar 1889 at New Haven, Shiawassee Co., MI)
was my g-g-grandfather.

Dennis has provided us with some of his family documents, such as the marriage of his grandmother **Martha Haughton** (née **Edgar**).

249										
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF MICHIGAN:										
Return of Marriages in the County of <u>Shiawassee</u> for the quarter ending <u>June 30</u> A. D. 18 <u>88</u>										
RECORD NUMBER	DATE OF LICENSE			FULL NAME OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE AND MAIDEN NAMES OF BRIDE IF A WIDOW	AGE OF EACH IN YEARS	WHITE, BLACK, MULATTO, ETC.	RESIDENCE OF EACH	BIRTHPLACE OF EACH	OCCUPATION OF EACH	NAME OF FATHER OF EACH
	Month	Day	Year							
774	June	20	1888	Walter S. Burger Martha Haughton	41 34	W W	New Haven New Haven	England Canada	Farmer Housekeeper	John Burger James Edgar

Dennis also sent two newspaper clippings with a chilling story (see also on next page):

MURDER IS THE MEANING OF TELEGRAM

Santa Ana Register, November 9, 1906

This Is the Conclusion of Mr. Robert Edgar, whose Brother Is Shot—"Brother Ed Is Shot Dead"—News Comes of Death in Michigan of Former Resident of Santa Ana

"Come at once. Brother Ed is shot dead," is all the information that Mr. Robert Edgar has of a tragedy that has taken place in Michigan. In response to a telegram bearing this information he is today speeding across the states to his old home in Michigan, where the tragedy occurred. The telegram was delivered yesterday to Mr. Robert Edgar of 1027 Logan street. It was signed by Martha Burg, a sister. Mr. Edgar left over the Santa Fe last night. When Mr. Edgar left he had no idea of how death had come to his brother but he believes the words mean murder. The dead man was well known in this city. He resided her for about twelve months three years ago.

And, his great-grandmother's death certificate. She was born in Canada:

PLACE OF DEATH		STATE OF MICHIGAN		237	
County of <u>Shiawassee</u>		Department of State—Division of Vital Statistics		MAR 7 1907	
Township of <u>New Haven</u>		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		Registered No. <u>5</u>	
City of <u>New Haven</u>		FULL NAME <u>Laura Edgar</u>		(If deceased, state name of person to whom certificate is issued)	
SEX <u>Female</u> COLOR <u>White</u>		DATE OF DEATH (Month) <u>February</u> (Day) <u>6</u> (Year) <u>1907</u>		I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Nov. 7, 1906</u> to <u>February 6, 1907</u> , that I last saw her alive on <u>February 4, 1907</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>27</u> years.	
AGE <u>76</u> years, <u>2</u> months, <u>6</u> days		SINGLE, MARRIED, DIVORCED, OR WIDOWED <u>Widow</u>		The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Inferior condition of lungs with heart failure</u>	
DATE OF BIRTH (Month) <u>Dec</u> (Day) <u>13</u> (Year) <u>1830</u>		AGE AT MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, OR WIDOWED (If married, give date of death of spouse. If divorced, give date of decree. If widowed, give date of death of spouse.) <u>19</u> years		Contributory <u>27</u> (months) <u>6</u> months	
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Canada</u>		NAME OF FATHER <u>A. Ward</u>		(Signed) <u>Herbert C. White</u> M. D.	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Canada</u>		MARRIAGE NAME OF MOTHER <u>Not known</u>		2-6-1907 (Address) <u>New Haven</u>	
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Not known</u>		OCCUPATION <u>None</u>		SPECIAL EXEMPTION only for English, Italian, French or Span. soldiers	
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF (Informant) <u>Mrs. W. Burger</u> (Address) <u>Easton Mich</u>		PLACE OF BURIAL OR BURNING <u>Easton</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>Feb 8 1907</u>		Buried at <u>New Haven</u>	

MURDER NEAR EASTON

Edward Edgar Shot Down in Cold Blood Last Night From Ambush

Body and Head Filled With Double B Shot—No Motive Known For Deed—Identity of Assassin Unknown.

Ed. Edgar, aged 35 years, was murdered last evening near his home in New Haven township, near Easton. A neighborhood row is believed to have been the cause of the murder. The man's body was not found until this morning. Edgar's farm, where he resides with his mother, is on section 12, facing the Hazelton township line.

Edgar left home in the evening to go to Lorenzo Walworth's home, a short distance to the south. At 8:30 he left for home, carrying a lighted lantern on his arm. As he passed a clump of bushes two shots were fired from a shotgun, it is believed. Neighbors heard the shots but paid no attention to them. The shots, coming from the left, struck Edgar in the bowels and head. The shots used in the loads were double B. Mrs. Watson, who lives close to where the tragedy took place, heard the shots and a cry, but she did not think of any trouble going on and paid no attention to the matter.

Two theories are suggested this afternoon relative to the cause of the murder, only one of which is given any credence. Edgar kept company with the twenty years old daughter of Mr. Walworth, and some friends of the dead man say today that another young man in the neighborhood was jealous; although he himself had never made much of an effort to win the affections of the girl. Edgar was on the best of terms with the Walworths, so that there is no cause for suspicion that any of that family are responsible for the deed. The other theory is that Edgar was shot by a man in the township who had accused Edgar of killing his sheep. The man lost some sheep a time ago, the deed having been committed out of pure devilishness. For some reason the crime was charged up against Edgar, although no one else believed him the guilty party. Trouble followed between the two men on this account, and some fear that this is the solution of the tragedy of last night.

Coroner Loring impaneled a jury this morning, and during the viewing of the remains the nature of the wounds were revealed. When the first shot was fired, the assassin evidently stood about three rods away. The first shot probably struck the man in the left hip, for the second struck him in the chest and face as though he had turned to face his enemy. There were sixty shot in the hip, chest and side, and twelve in his head.

Sheriff Jarrad drove to the Edgar farm early this morning and it is expected the mystery may be cleared up before night.

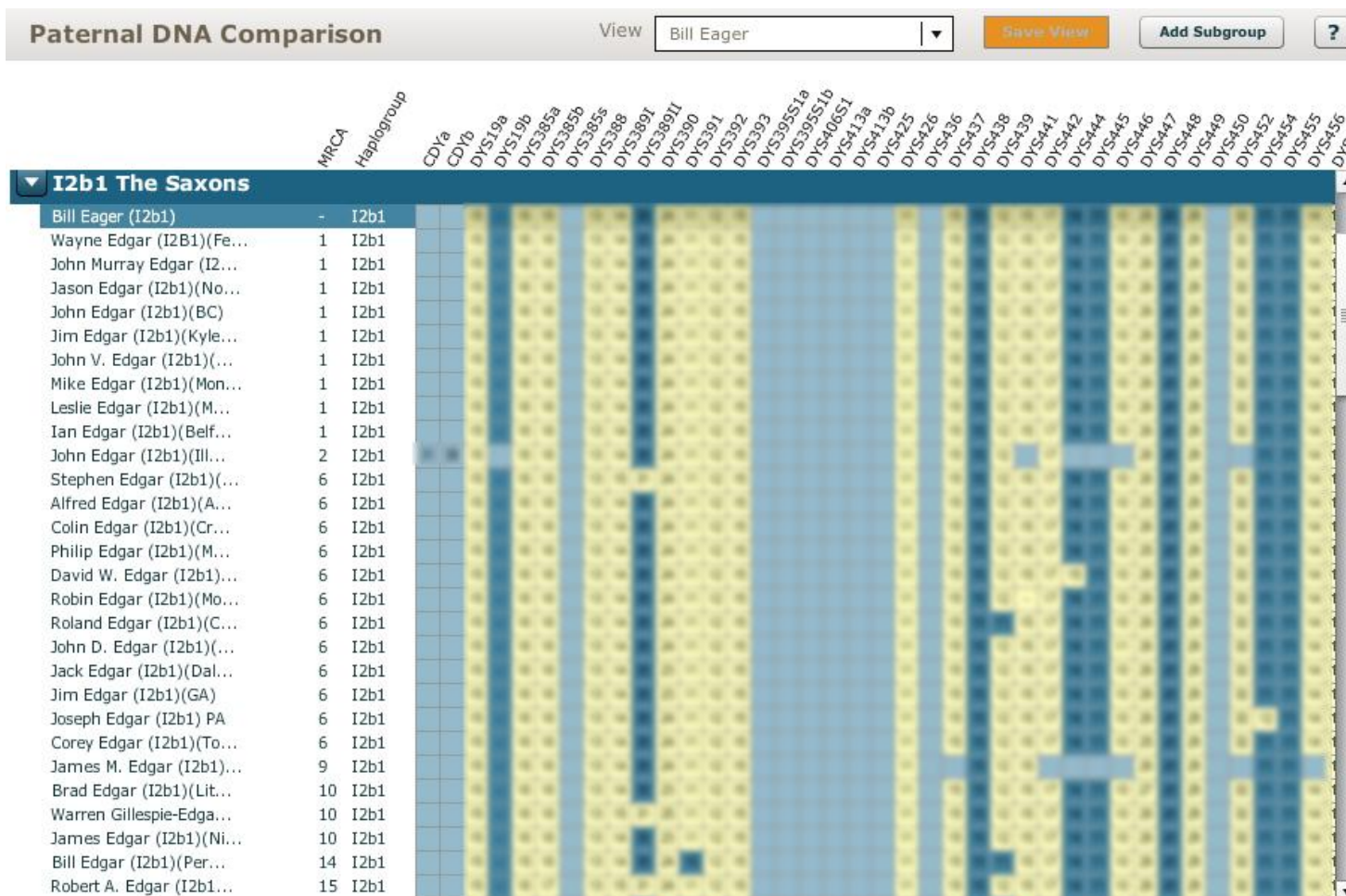
Indications show that Edgar staggered along the road a few steps and then fell dead across the wagon road, his lantern still on his arm. Evidently no carriages passed along the road all night, for the man was not discovered until this morning. His mother noted his absence over night, but was not worried until on arising this morning she found him still out, and reported the matter to neighbors. Charles Watson saw Edgar lying in the road, but before going up to the body he summoned Ray Jones. The matter was reported by them to Sheriff Jarrad.

Edgar is said to have been a quiet, inoffensive fellow, and no one ever heard of his having any trouble until today. In the crowd that gathered today there were whisperings that of late Edgar and a neighbor had had some trouble. The nature of it has not been revealed yet.

That it is a case of murder there seems no doubt. Either shot would have killed, and if the man had attempted suicide the shots would not have been placed as they were. The man would hardly have used a shotgun. The ground about the bushes where the shots were supposed to have been fired indicate that someone had been there recently.

Edgar leaves a mother, two brothers, John and Robert in Santa Ana, Cal., and two sisters, Mrs. Snyder, of Santa Ana, and Mrs. Burge, of New Haven.

Another new kid on the block, by the name of **William Eager**, is from New Jersey. He joined our Ancestry.com site on December 24, and look who he's related to—not just related, CLOSELY related!

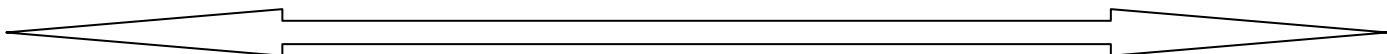


Bill says his ancestry is Eastern European, but I suspect it's more Scottish than anything. This requires much more digging! Cousin **Sharon (Edgar) Bunek** may already have some of the pieces to this puzzle. (It's not your eyes, the image above has been deliberately blurred.)

And, on another front, but very related (excuse the pun!), **Dale Eager** of Florida has agreed to do the DNA test. **Sharon** has been in touch with **Dale** for a few years, has urged him to do the test, and he agreed. We'll keep you posted when the results come in.

Our (your) Edgar DNA Trust Fund has paid for this test (and many others). If you wish to contribute to the fund, contact me at james@jamesedgar.ca. I'm the fund administrator, and can accept Canadian and US dollars, GB pounds, and drafts or money orders from all other locations.

We have some very generous donors who have kept the fund "topped up" over the years, and we thank them immensely for the support they have given. **Juanita Edgar** in North Carolina has this as her motto "A dollar a day for DNA." Think about it, and drop me a line.



Family Trees Appeal



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

Please accept my apologies for not contributing for the past couple of months, but I took on a 7-week contract at 12 hours per day, 7 days per week. It didn't leave much time for family history!

Now that I'm back in the fold, I'd like to launch an appeal. We have 254 members on our Ancestry Web site and over 110 DNA tests done. The results of the tests can be seen at <http://dna.ancestry.com/groupDNA.aspx?siteId=35433882>

[Note: to view the data, you need a membership in MyFamily.com—it's quite painless, and the password requirement keeps the spammers and snoops at bay.]

What we need to do is collate all of this data, try to match up individual family trees, and start to make the connections. Hence the appeal.

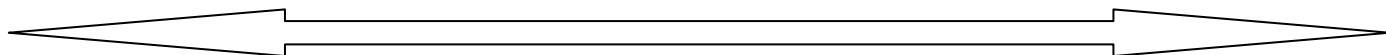
It would be very helpful if all members (and non-members) were to send to James and/or myself their earliest family trees to about 3 generations, with any known siblings and locations. What we can then do is look at the various Haplogroups and locations, check the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) count, and see if we can piece some bits of evidence together and find ourselves some cousins.

Any tree format is acceptable, be they hand drawn and scanned, PDF, Family Tree Maker, Genealogy reports, or Ahnentafel reports—any format you want to send. We will then enter the trees onto the database, produce family group reports, and look for matches. Any that are found would be reported back to the senders and would form the basis of an article in an upcoming newsletter.

Please remember it's your earliest records we need.

Happy New Year

Steve Edgar, Crewe UK



Tracing lost relatives is something we all do every day and at times can be very frustrating in that we lose track of the people we are looking for. The reasons for their disappearance is never obvious, but was usually due to migration. The question is migration to where? Australia, Canada and the USA are the obvious favourites and no doubt have been thoroughly investigated. But where else could they have gone?

I decided to run a "wild-card" on the IGI (International Genealogy Index at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>) and see what came up. Overleaf is a list of worldwide locations I found Edgars:

Jacob, Aidsik, Absolom, and Mariam Edgar , PERSIA
Ralph, Henry, Peter, and Martha Edgar , RUSSIA
Pearl, Phoebe, and David Edgar, JAPAN
Grant Kenneth Edgar, MONGOLIA
Maria, George, Susannah, and Lily Charlotte Edgar, INDIA
Adelaida B. Edgar, ARGENTINA
Merrill, Blanche, and Rachel Edgar, HAWAII
Elvira, Carlos, Guillermo, and Jose Edgar, MEXICO
Susannah, Alexander, and Maud Edgar, JAMAICA
Elizabeth, Marie, and Louis Edgar, GERMANY
Frederick Edgar, BARBADOS
Daniel G. Edgar, PHILLIPINES
Robert, Julia, and Lillian Edgar, CUBA
Rosa, Tomas, and Juana Edgar, PERU

How many of these are “real” Edgars and how many are adopted or corrupted names I can't tell, but if anyone out there is bored in the New Year and wants to take on a project....

Steve Edgar

Dr. Rachel Edgar



by *Richard* Edgar
(edgar888@yahoo.com)

[**Richard** sent me this by email
on December 12]

In this week's Portadown News
(the local paper) there is an
Edgar from Co Armagh who is not from my family, I
don't know her or her parents, I wonder is she a
member of the family you have been researching
from Co Armagh.

Richard



Rachel Edgar, daughter of David and Susan Edgar, formerly of Portadown, and grand-daughter of Alex and Joyce Edgar, Richhill, and the late Idwal and Rene Williams, formerly of Gilford Road, Portadown, who has graduated with a PhD from the University of Cambridge and who is currently working there as a Research Fellow at the Institute of Metabolic Science. INPT47-032

On another front, we received this from Richard.

I am currently reading a book written by Cardwell McClure and Wilson Steen of Edenderry Historical Society in Portadown. The book is "A history of the foundry 1844 - 1983," which tells the story of Portadown foundry and the engineering history of the area. The book also has biographies of some of the engineers who worked in the foundry; to my great surprise, there is a member of my family listed in the book, Lieutenant Commander Samuel Edgar, MBE. I have never met Samuel but I am going to try and get in touch with him, he is a cousin of my father. The worst thing is he lives in Gosport, a town I have visited a number of times, but I didn't know he lived there.

Richard

Samuel Edgar MBE:



Sam Edgar was born at Ahorey, near Portadown and attended the local primary school, followed by an excellent education at Portadown Technical School. Later in the Royal Navy he was to find out just how good the latter actually was. Like so many of his friends in those days there simply wasn't the money to continue with an education. He left the 'Tech.' in the summer of 1952, aged just fourteen and a half.

He spent his first year of work in a grocer's shop in Portadown but, because he had a good record in subjects like maths, mechanics and physics, a teacher called 'Nobby' Clarke persuaded him to serve an engineering apprenticeship. An application to join the Foundry was accepted and was the start of three enjoyable years working in the real world, with first class people. It was actually quite a tough working environment for a teenager, but it instilled the confidence that stood him in such good stead in later life.

Sam recalls some of the characters there: Geordie Laverty; Tommy 'Sticky' Sloan; Billy Twinem and Jimmy O'Neill, the foreman, who took time to see that the apprentices were properly trained. Sam attended the local 'Tech' for a full day on Fridays and night classes twice a week, to improve both his engineering skills and academic learning. He had to cycle five miles from Ahorey to work, home for tea, back to 'Tech' and then home again.

Sam always had a hankering to join the Navy and with his mother's blessing he enlisted in May 1956 as a Marine Engineer Mechanic (Stoker) at 'HMS Raleigh', the Royal Navy's training school in Cornwall.

After a year's hard training Sam embarked on the adventure of a lifetime. His first tour of duty involved commissioning a frigate called 'HMS Opossum' – this lasted 18 months, mainly in exotic places like Hong Kong, Tokyo, the Philippines, India, Ceylon and South Africa.

He returned home for more training at Gosport, in Hampshire and it was there he met his future wife Rita. They still live in that area. By 1963 Sam had been promoted to Chief Petty Officer and this again meant serving overseas, leaving his wife and family at home. It was while serving out of Singapore that he found out the submarine crews could bring their families on station with them. This was known as 'married accompanied', so he promptly volunteered for submarine service.

Sam was recommended for promotion to Officer Rank in June 1970 and commissioned as an Engineer Sub Lieutenant.

Back in the UK, Sam's experience was used to train crews and conduct trials on submarines. Promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 1981, his last appointment was an engineer's dream – Engineer of the First Submarine Squadron based at 'HMS Dolphin' in Gosport.

After that job, he had the great honour of being awarded an MBE – presented by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Sam retired from the Navy in November 1987, after thirty-one and a half years service. He is fully convinced that the head start he'd had in life made all the difference to his career. Taught moral standards and a code of conduct by his mother, a first class education at Portadown Technical School, the work ethic and confidence gained in the Foundry, and his experience in the Royal Navy all helped enormously.

Richard wrote on December 20:

James / Steve

I have just been speaking to Samuel Edgar on the phone, this is the family member I found in the Portadown Foundry book. He has given me direction as to where my family come from before Ahorey. We come from Newtownhamilton in Co Armagh, also the Robert Edgar hanged for murder in Armagh is a member of my family. I now have some things to start digging deeper into my own history. I shall write something about this for the next Edgar News.

Richard

Picture time



Bohemian waxwing on the garage roof

Big Deal



by Warren Gillespie-Edgar (ozewoz@dodo.com.au)

“Big Deal” is a statement (or more often, a thought) made by others when they’re not directly affected by something, so I expect many readers will resort to the phrase when consuming this piece of personal chest-beating. But, to me, this is certainly a Big Deal—probably the biggest deal of my life. You see, I was born a Gillespie—Warren Gillespie—and accepted that fact blindly for most of my life. It wasn’t until my later years, my fifties anyway, that I developed an interest in genealogy. Fairly soon after my interest started I made contact with a cousin’s wife, Dee Gillespie, of Collie, Western Australia. Dee really got me scurrying to every resource I could find to track down my family—past and present.

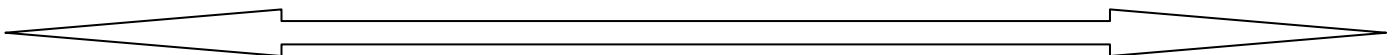
But, there was a major stumbling block—James Edgar Gillespie. I think James was born around 1826-1827 in Northern Ireland. He popped up in Scotland around 1850, and married Janet (Janette) Gillespie and produced a couple of Edgar offspring. Then the story takes a twist that has affected hundreds (maybe thousands) of people ever since. They migrated to Australia, adopting Janet’s surname and using Edgar as their middle name. They produced more children in Australia, all bearing the surname Gillespie and the middle name Edgar.

So, with our research, I had accepted that my real name, and that of my father, and his father before him, was not Gillespie, but rather Edgar. But it was always in the background and only ever brought up at family occasions—births, weddings, or funerals. They were usually the only occasions where I caught up with the “rellies” anyway.

Out of the blue in the late ’90s, I finally found Steve Edgar. Steve is a “full bottle” on Edgar history; it’s branches, the black sheep, the legends—the whole zoography. Steve then introduced me to James Edgar from Canada, and together they convinced me to take the ancestry.com DNA test. So, I did. It seemed to take forever for the results to arrive. But when they did—“Bang”—confirmation. I am an Edgar. In fact, my I2b1 Haplogroup puts me fairly and squarely in the middle of “The Stonemasons,” which is about 30,000 years old.

Of course, the mystery now deepens. Why did James Edgar change his surname to that of his wife? Where was he born? Who were his parents? There are scant records and plenty of smart people with far more genealogical skills than I who have tried to crack it, to little avail.

Nevertheless, we press on. I believe we Edgars are an indomitable lot, after all we survived some interesting times—and if there are answers to be had—we’ll find ’em.



SteveUK has provided us with a map of Ireland showing the distribution of the surname "EAGAR," which could also be "EAGER." Note the large number in what is now the Republic.

County Down is also significant in the north (in case you don't already have the map details burned into your mind, it's the **RED** bit with "13" showing).

