



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 81, October 2013**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

Mark Edgar of California is an R1B, related to **Roger Edgar** of Dunville, Ontario, Canada. And, he's the only **Edgar** connection! This is quite interesting, because when **Roger** was tested and didn't match any other **Edgars**, we made the assumption that his was a one-off, the result of a name change perhaps, or an illegitimate birth. But this recent match shows nothing of the sort – they're both **Edgars**.

Mark is a first cousin to two others on our mailing list, **Debra Edgar Bocobo** and **Veronica Edgar Velasquez**. All three are descended from **John Edgar**, b. abt. 1791 in Scotland. Their immediate grandfather, **George William Edgar**, married **Margarita Del Rosario** in the Philippines, and then the family migrated to California.

Thanks to **Sarah Edgar Kelly** for finding and suggesting this family to us.

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We didn't get any responses to the proposal last month from **Robin Edgar** of North Carolina—an **Edgar** weekend retreat in 2014.

Does that mean there is no interest at all? Please let me know if you are interested.

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Our **Edgar** gathering in Nova Scotia on September 21 was a great success, thanks to some preparatory work done there before our arrival by **Bob** and **Helen Edgar** of Dartmouth. They arranged for the church hall and had it all set up when we arrived. Helen had sticky name tags, pens, a guest book, and drinks and eats ready for the arrival of all of our nearby cousins. Plus, Bob had created this sign welcoming us all:



Below is a group photo of just about the entire crowd – only two or three were missing. If you would like to see more of the images from the day, email me.

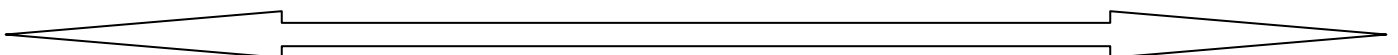


We had brothers **Bill, Bob, and Barry**, and their sisters **Rita and Adele**, plus **Rita's daughter Judy** (all descended from **James Delmar Edgar**); **Philip and Donald** (descended from **John Reid Edgar**), plus **Donald's father- and mother-in-law, Eric and Mary Elizabeth, Jean Surrette** (daughter of **John Reid Edgar**) and her son **Mark**, my son **Matthew**, plus spouses and children – only **Philip's daughter Sophie** made it into the picture.

The next day, **Matthew and Heidi, Jodie** and I drove to Lunenburg, then Peggy's Cove and Prospect, where we located the grave of **James Delmar** and **John Reid's father, James R. Edgar**, and his wife, **Mary Walsh**, plus six of their young children who all died before reaching age 10! Later in the week, **Jodie** and I searched for the grave of **James Delmar Edgar's** first wife, **Annie**. She is reportedly buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Halifax, having died young. After a long fruitless search, we phoned the Catholic Church in Halifax for assistance in locating the exact plot, which we had found on a computer search, but still no stone.

The contact at the church said he would help us find the grave, especially after I introduced myself as "**James Edgar**." He said "You're the plot owner, according to the records." Little did he realize there are numerous **James Edgars** in the world. However, I didn't dissuade him, as he was most obliging, thinking he was speaking to the plot owner! He even arranged to send the caretaker out to meet us and find the exact spot where **Annie** is buried—there is no marker. **Bob Edgar** says he is planning to get a marker made for **Annie's** grave.

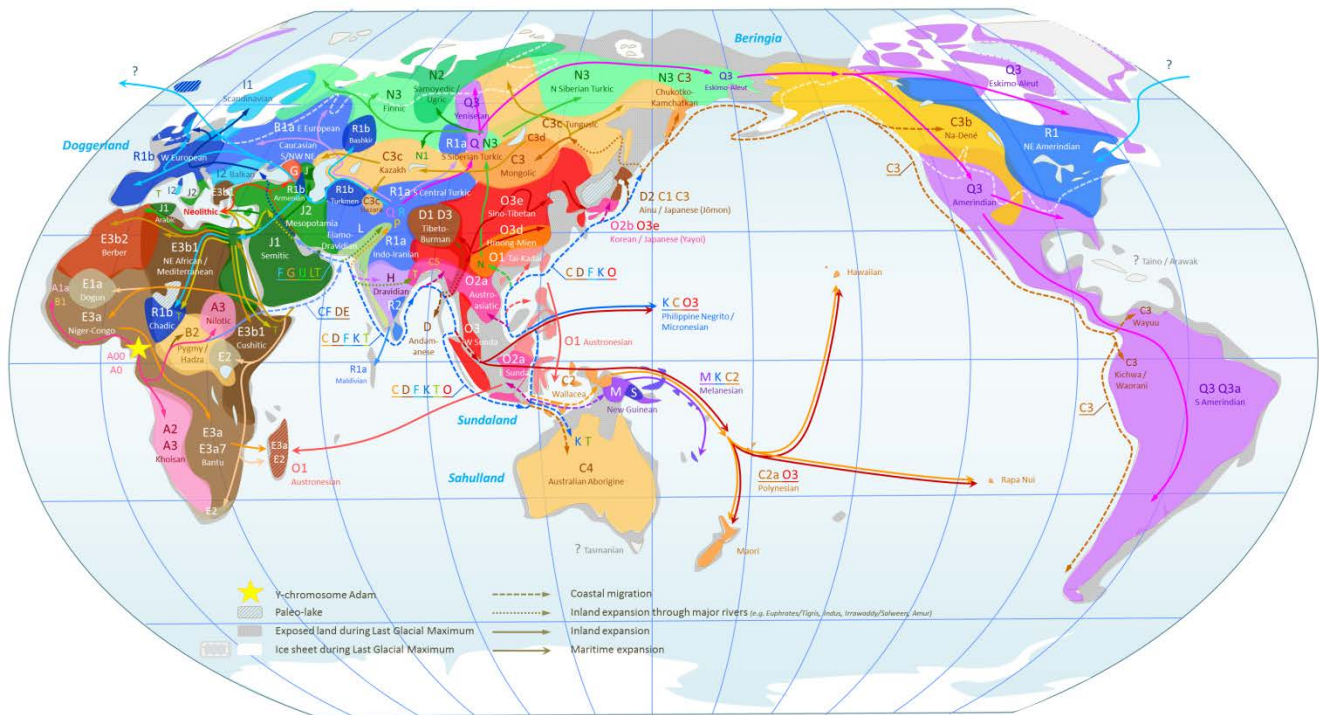
Next, we need to find **James Delmar's** gravesite—still unknown. **Jodie (Mrs. Poirot)** says we can get his death certificate, which should show the burial date and location.





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

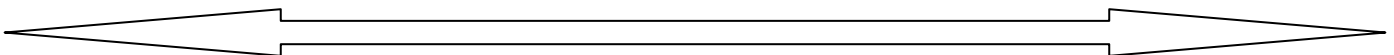
Study this...verrrry interesting!



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:World_Map_of_Y-DNA_Haplogroups.png

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Angela Reed has given us this interesting link about the origins of language.  
[www.nytimes.com/2012/08/24/science/indo-european-languages-originated-in-anatolia-analysis-suggests.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/24/science/indo-european-languages-originated-in-anatolia-analysis-suggests.html)



## Edgar Unnithing

from Gordon Edgar of Saffron-Walden, England (gordonedgar@uwclub.net)

Harking back to the earliest times, I refer to Edgar “Unnithing” [b. abt 1122 ?], who married Aliz / Alice de Greystoke. I often wondered about the meaning of the epithet and I see that someone has translated this as Edgar “the Dauntless.”

To come to the point, I stumbled on two other characters, styled “Unnithing,” both from medieval Wessex.

(1) Edward “Unnithing”...

*...The descent of the land of Aluric the Small, who held land in Wiltshire as well as Hampshire, is unclear, but it stayed in native hands. It was probably granted by Stephen to a grandson, also named Aluric, and then, by the future Henry II, to William Spileman, grandson of Edward Unnithing, whose family continued to hold by sergeanty.*

(2) There was also a Hugh “Unnithing,” but his entry was protected by a paywall and I did not get where I am today by being profligate!

So, our Edgar’s nickname was not unique and I found the term in some specialist dictionaries.

It turns out that “nithing” was a Middle English term derived from Old Norse meaning someone who was evil, wicked or treacherous. Evidently, “unnithing” was the antonym and has been translated by lexicographers as “honest” or “generous.”

Well, it is good to know that one of our putative ancestors was a decent man!

[**Ed. Note:** The **Edgar Unnithing** first mentioned above is the same **Edgar**, son of **Cospatrick III**, 2nd Earl of Lothian and Dunbar. It is this connection that leads us to believe that the R1b **Edgars**, eventually holders of Wedderlie, are of the same lineage as the **Dunbars**. The DNA test results bear this out, as numerous R1bs are matched with the **Dunbar** sample graciously supplied by **Debra Dunbar Nowell**. Some are close, some not so close...

| R1b The Celts            |    |         |       |
|--------------------------|----|---------|-------|
| Lineage1 Dunbar          |    | R1b1b2z | 35 30 |
| William (Pilot) Edgar... | 2  | R1b     |       |
| Harry Edgar (R1b)(Edi... | 3  | R1b     |       |
| Colin Edgar (R1b)(Bel... | 7  | R1b     |       |
| Winston Edgar (R1b)(L... | 7  | R1b     |       |
| Ray Croxford (R1b)(Ca... | 7  | R1b     |       |
| William Edgar (R1b)(E... | 7  | R1b     |       |
| James Edgar (R1b)(Gla... | 7  | R1b     |       |
| Andrew Edgar (R1b)(Ba... | 12 | R1b     |       |
| Charles Edgar (R1b)(T... | 34 | R1b     |       |
| Chuck Edgar (R1b)(Ath... | 34 | R1b     |       |
| Mark Edgar (R1b)(Cali... | 35 | R1b     |       |
| David Edgar (R1b)(AUS)   | -  | R1b     |       |

All the **Edgars** here down to **Andrew** of Battle, England, have close ties to Wedderlie and area, and some are close enough matches, like **Bill “The Pilot” Edgar**, to show only a couple of generations apart. Same goes for **Harry Edgar** of Edinburgh at three generations.

The bottom three at 34 and 35 generations are a long shot, and shouldn’t be considered (unless one of them had a family tree that showed an actual connection to a **Dunbar**, of course).]

## **We have this response from SteveUK**



by Steve Edgar ([steven-edgar@sky.com](mailto:steven-edgar@sky.com))

Hi Gordon

Thanks for the update

I did a double check on Unnithing:

“An honest man, someone not dishonest, not a rogue, not a \*nithing.”

To my mind this is descriptive of an individual’s traits, *i.e.* an honest person.

Edgar is a very common forename, it is part of Saxon group of names along with Edward, Edmund, Edgbert, Edwin etc. The “Ed” part had a meaning “rich, happy, prosperous” and the “gar” as “spear.”

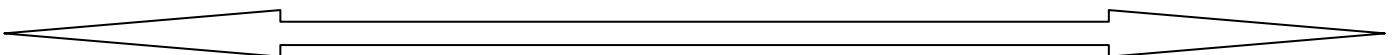
It would follow that anyone with the “Ed” part must have been wealthy, and then had the latter added according to their trait.

It makes you wonder if children had another “birth” name and then took on another name according to their status when they were older? I cant see a baby being born as “happy, prosperous spear”. We know some of these descriptive names as “the peaceable,” “the simple,” “the conqueror,” etc. These are English translations of Saxon or Norman names. Others must have stayed in their native tongue.

Pre-1066, all of the land in England was owned by Saxons, or by Saxon churches. William the Conqueror took over and granted land to any nobleman who had supported him in 1066. Basically he carved up the country amongst his Norman cronies ousting the Saxons. If they objected, they were killed.

The Saxons and Normans, for the most part, at this time were following the Nordic “son” and “dottir” system of naming from the mother or father. To avoid land disputes and Saxon claims, William introduced “family” names whereby male descent could be more easily traced, Sinclair, De Brus, *et al.* One Edgar ancestor (or more) must have owned land and started using Edgar as De’Edgar or Edgarson, then dropped the prefix/suffix for convenience.

Steve



## Steven Edgar of Falkirk, Scotland, makes these!



Steven wrote on Facebook: A Small sample of what's available but if u see another online let me know and I'll make your plaque from using whatever you like. Sample text of what you want carved can be created and emailed to you in any font before it's carved.

I make them, they are all individually cut, air dried, hand carved, varnished and painted.



## Picture time



This is the *Bluenose II*, recently refurbished and docked at its permanent home, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

