

# EDGAR EVENTS

Researching and sharing Edgar family history No. 94, November 2014





# **DNA Update**



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

We haven't heard back from **Frank Edgar** in Peru, yet, so still waiting on his test to see if he even got the kit.

On a different tack, We've heard from a few people around the globe, not least of whom is **Donna Edgar** in Napanee, Ontario. She and her sons, **Steve & Daryle Edgar**, are interested in researching their tree, so she reached out to me after finding my email address on the Internet

(LOVE the Internet!). She gave me a few details about her late husband, **Charles Gale Edgar**, and his father (**Charles Mostyn Edgar**). That last name rang a bell with Mrs. Poirot (my wife, **Jodie**), so she quickly went to the computer to check on our family tree program. Sure enough, we already had him on our tree! Here comes the good part...

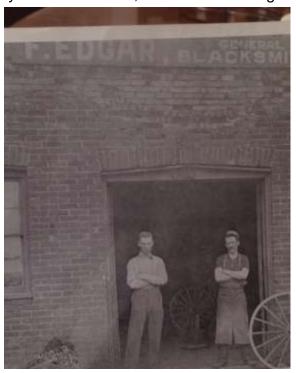
When I was growing up in Kamloops, B.C., there was a family who lived one block west of us. We were at 919 Pine Street, and they were at 783 Pine Street. They were the Bells. I went to school with **Laurie Bell**, and my sister **Marylen** went to school with **Laurie**'s brother **Gordon Bell**. There is a younger brother, **George Bell**—the latter two are still living in Kamloops. Turns out their mother, **Isabel**, was born **Isabel Edgar**, and her grandfather, **William Henry Edgar**, was born in Napanee, Ontario! Do you see where this is going?

For some time, we have puzzled over the **James Earnest Edgar** who is buried in the Pleasant Street Cemetery in Kamloops. **Jodie** has pondered over this numerous times, trying to figure out who he "belonged to." He doesn't show up on any census records, so when did he get

there, and from where?? Now we know—he was **Isabel**'s father, out visiting from Ontario in early 1950 and he died there in her house. Rather than ship the body back to Ontario, he is buried in Kamloops.

So, we have this rather large family tree on our computer of over 230 individuals going back to **William Edgar**, born about 1790 in Scotland. This is a prime target for a DNA test! We're coaxing **Steve** in Napanee to do the test—stayed tuned.

Incidentally, I never knew that **Isabel Bell** was an **Edgar**, but my brother in Kamloops, tells me that our Dad knew, and discounted her as being part of our family, since her ancestors came from the "wrong" part of Ontario. I've since befriended both **Donna** and **Steve Edgar** on Facebook, so we can keep in touch. **Steve** recently shared with me this picture, at right. Are they my cousins? Time will tell...



Fred Edgar & Co, Steve's great-grandfather in Napanee, Ontario.

And, we have this letter from John Edgar of Louisville, Kentucky, which reads, in part...

James.

I have corresponded with you some time ago. ... You advised me to get a test for my haplotype which revealed I was G2A. We lost contact when you indicated there were no G2A's in your records. I have searched many DNA resources and have come up empty. From my Grandmother's Bible I trace my Family Tree to my great grandfather, James Mack Edgar, Born 18 December 1843 in Alabama. His father was from Massachusetts and mother from Virginia. He died 25 February 1917 in Copiah, Mississippi. My contact with the Alabama Records Department has not been successful.

Could you please note my situation in your Edgar News Letter to see if anyone has some lead for me. I have traced my grandmother's tree back to John Oliver born in 1616 in Bristol, Somerset, England and died 1646 in Boston Massachusetts.

I enjoy the newsletter, but I can never make a connection for myself. Frustrating! Thank you for any further guidance you may have.

Peace, John Edgar

Which began this short email exchange with John, SteveUK, and me:

Hi is this James Mack Edgar?

James Edgar	Head	M	57	Alabama
Mary J Edgar	Wife	F	45	Mississippi
<u>Marcus Edgar</u>	Son	M	24	Mississippi
Joseph Edgar	Son	M	22	Mississippi
Powell J Edgar	Son	M	14	Texas
Walton Edgar	Son	M	12	Texas
Lollis Edgar	Daughter	F	8	Texas

#### Steve

Thanks to both of you for your prompt responses. Yes, that is James Mack Edgar that I described. I found in census records that he was born in Alabama and his parents were from Mass. and VA, but no names. The Bureau of Vital Statistics has nothing about his birth. The Powell J. Edgar was my grandfather, John Powell Edgar. ... I have long suspected we had some "outside influences" in our heritage.

Peace, John

If anybody "out there" can help with John's quest, please write him at woodhill7417@gmail.com

Then, we have this correspondence from Joseph Edgar...

Hi James,

I hope all is well. I've been diving into the rabbit hole recently trying to determine my paternal origin. I've recently used 23andme, but those results are less than precise. The only useful information gained is the identification of my Haplogroup as I2b1.

In reading a post on ancestry.com, your response regarding our surname and your knowledge thereof prompted this email. Any guidance on how to enhance my efforts is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Joseph Edgar

I answered him on October 11, but haven't heard any more. The 23andme test may prove useless in doing the kind of research we're interested in, so Joseph may have to re-test.

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From Bruce Cockburn (no, not the famous singer). This is written to Todd Edgar concerning his DNA test at FTDNA:

Hi Todd,

Perhaps you have noticed that your STR test results at Family Tree DNA have been matching members of the Cockburn family, and probably also the Dunbar family. I am a coadministrator of the Cockburn project, and members of my project have certainly been matching your kit. That is how I obtained your e-mail address.

I see that have already tested positive for the SNP mutation U106. So too do the members of the Cockburn project. I suspect that you would also test positive for the even more specific SNPs L257 and S5750, which both test positive for most Cockburn men and many Dunbar men. The test results confirm that the Cockburns and Dunbars, and perhaps also your branch of Edgars, have a common origin in the Borders area of Scotland.

I also noticed that you are not already a member of the Edgar Y-DNA project at Family Tree DNA. Please consider joining the Edgar project since this way you will benefit from the expertise of administrator of that project, Mr. James S. Edgar, and access to a wider group of Edgar genealogists. Here is James' contact information:

Mr. James S. Edgar, e-mail: james@jamesedgar.ca

You can join the Edgar project by using the "Manage Projects" tab in your Internet account at Family Tree DNA. Joining one or more projects costs nothing, and membership can provide useful benefits in your family history research.

The L257 SNP test has been available for a couple of years at Family Tree DNA. The S5750 test will become available at FT-DNA in the next few weeks. I obtained a positive result on the S5750 test for one Edgar by ordering the test through the company YSeq.com, which is the only place to order this test at the moment.

Please let me know if you have any questions on the L257 and S5750 SNP tests. regards,

Bruce Cockburn (living for one year in Vancouver, BC)

This falls in line with the tests results we've seen that connect the Edgars with the Dunbars. Andrew Edgar of Battle, UK, is one of those who matches very well the Dunbar DNA, leading us to conclude that the history is correct—the Edgars are descended from Cospatrick II, 3rd Earl of Dunbar. [Ed: Recall Andrew's distant relative was featured in the story about a grave on a golf course in Australia in Edgar Events newsletter #52. Which is how we found Andrew!]

#### ~-~-~

# **Picture time**

We got this from **Bob Edgar** in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, wanting to know if we could help figure out how he was related to the man on the right, **John Edgar Walsh**.



Bob wrote: Hello James: I am not quite sure what relation this fellow is to me, he is the guy on the right, seated, with his hand raised. Bob

John [Edgar] Walsh in Prospect

I quickly checked our Family Tree Maker database and the relationship calculator there revealed "He is your first cousin, twice removed." **Bob** was suitably impressed!

Many people don't get the "removed" bit—it means a relative is not in the same generation as you are. For instance, my aunt's children are my first cousins; if one of the cousins has children, those children are still my first cousins, but once removed—in a different generation. In **Bob**'s case, his great-great-grandfather was **Edward Walsh**. **Edward**'s grandson was **John Edgar Walsh**. Those two "great-great"s make up the twice removed.

On October 24, I received this letter:

What kin are you to John A. Edger b. in Ky. about 1810? his father b. in Ireland John A. Edger [is my] my gr-grandfather.

J.B.Medley e-mail <u>jamesbmedley@gmail.com</u>

My response:

Hi James.

Now, this is interesting! I don't know of any kin of mine in Kentucky. It's possible that another family line settled there. We do know of a Hiram Laymar Edgar who was born in Kentucky in 1799. His father was John Lenn Edgar, born in Trenton, NJ, and we can go back even further to his gr-grandfather, Charles Edgar, b. 1706 in Co. Down, Northern Ireland. None of these people are related to me, though—different DNA group.

What makes me suspect that there is no relation (but it remains open to conjecture), is the date of birth for John A. Edger. If he was born in Kentucky in 1810, then his parents would likely have left Ireland well before that. And what about his parents? Where were they born? My distant ancestor, Charles Edgar, was born about 1772 in Kilkeel (possibly Newry). And, he was married there to Susan Cummings in about 1799. They left for Canada in about 1820, settling in eastern Ontario. If there is a relationship, then John A. could perhaps have been Charles's uncle. We also have to remember that we have discovered six different DNA groups all named Edgar or Edger (and Agar, Eager, Eggie, Eggo, etc.).

Do you happen to know John A. Edger's father's name and birth? Regards,

James

And, he wrote back, sharing his grandmother's photo.



James That's about all I know about the Edger or Edgar. John moved to Franklin Co., TN and died there All the Edgers now live in Huntsville Alabama.

This is a picture of My Grandmother She died in 1897 when my mother was 9. My grandmother married George Henry Stovall. Her name was Lizzia.

If any of our readers can help James with his quest for more info, write him at the address above.

**Jodie** shared with me a great bit of sleuthing. She was searching for a **John Edgar** in British Columbia, not looking for any of my relatives, and she came upon a mention of my brother in the B.C. Department of Highways newsletter, the *Road Runner*. We didn't know, until now, that **John** was a founding contributor to the newsletter during his years in Golden, B.C. Included here is the tribute written about him following his death in 1988.



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## John Leslie Edgar

Mr. £dgar was with the Ministry for 33 years, starting on February 17, 1955 in an auxiliary position as Labourer and Axeman in Kamloops Region. He was promoted to Clerk Grade 2 in 1961 and moved to Colden District as a Clerk Grade 3 in 1962, He returned to Kamloops in 1970 as Timekeeper and remained there until his retirement on March 31, 1988, John passed away on December 22, 1988.



John L. Edgar

# **Edgar Clan Tartan - revisited**



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

As most of us are aware, the Edgar family are descendants of the Earls of March and Dunbar and have an association with Clan Maxwell, therefore we are entitled to wear either of these as a tartan, if we choose.

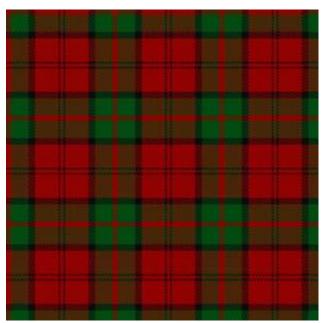
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## Clan Dunbar

"The sett for this 'once powerful' Lowland family first appeared in the Vestiarium Scoticum. There is also a Dunbar district tartan (#1236, original Scottish Tartans Authority reference) woven by Wilson's of Bannockburn around 1850. It is not possible to say whether Wilson's pattern was intended as a district or a family sett. The Chief of the Dunbars, Sir Jean Dunbar of Mochrum, once a jockey, lives in Florida, U.S.A. House of Edgar and Lochcarron weave this and call it Dunbar Modern."

This is the oldest recorded version



## Clan Maxwell

"Scottish Tartans Society notes: Tartans of the Lowland families were not named until the publication the 'Vestiarium Scoticum' in 1842. The authors, the Sobieski Stuart brothers, enjoyed a popular following amongst the Scottish gentry in the early Victorian era, and in the spirit of the times, added mystery, romance and some spurious historical documentation to the subject of tartans. The Maxwells have. nevertheless, a tartan of at least 150 years antiquity, probably designed by persons of great imagination and flair."

This is the oldest version on record, dating (as above) to 1842, when it was registered.

There is a distinct similarity between the two tartans, suggesting a link in the past. Note: both are to the same scale.

The usage of the Scottish formal wear as we know it today was only really established in the mid- to late-19th century. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert bought Balmoral Castle and celebrated all things Scottish.





They would hold parties in the castle and guests would turn up in dress incorporating the traditional tartan with the formal wear of the age. This is the origin of the kilt and jacket we see today. The young gentleman illustrated at left is hardly in a position, dressed as he is, to roam the hills in search of haggis, deer, or to fight Redcoats. The colours he is wearing are dark enough to be of use as camouflage, but the rest of it is completely impractical for outdoor life.

The kilt contains a large number of yards of material, dependent on cost, and is worn with the traditional sporran (purse), dirk (small dagger), and pin. The pin is a form of decoration and of clan identity. It was traditionally used to hold the top part together. Anyone who has bought one of our pewter badges can now see how this works. (we still have stocks of these at \$18 each, contact James)

The traditional Scottish dress from the past would have looked more like this (as worn

by a Scottish re-enactor). The plaid is one piece of material wound around the body held together with a belt. The thick leather cross belt is a sword hanger. This ensemble is far more practical and even supplied a readymade blanket for overnight warmth.

This is the type of clothing that was outlawed by the English in the 1700s. Wearing this was punishable by death. All signs of Scottish identity back then were severely dealt with.

The original dyes used on tartan were obtained from plants and were much more subdued than would be seen now, and these subdued colours would form the basis for the "hunting" outfits. Far less conspicuous, and easier to maintain.



The clan Stewart has at least 35 different tartans designed for different clan locations and for different purposes; some (I'm sure) only devised to give a more fashionable colour. (Since a lot have been registered since 2000 it would likely be fashion rather than tradition that inspired the design.)











James Edward Stewart 1745 Stewart dress 1819

Stewart Mourning 1880

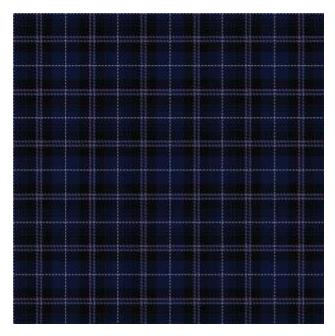
Ancient Stewart 1745

Stewart Hunting 1819

However, the actual elements of any modern design must in some way be based on the traditional patterns and weaves. If you want to replicate or have a tartan made up, it's simply a matter of getting the "thread count" that will give the colours and their positions and giving that to any weaver to reproduce.

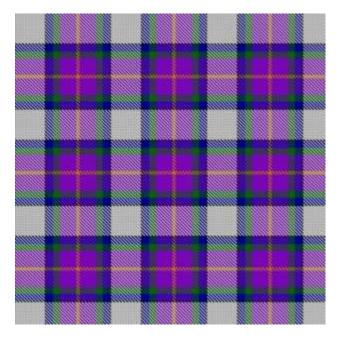
There are a couple of Edgar tartans registered; both have been set up for formal occasions and both look very nice.

I did have the idea of registering a tartan for the Edgars in the past, but as someone has beat me to it, there seems no point. I could arrange to get these tartans woven if there was enough interest, let me know if you want a length of material.



Designed by Carol Hunter and Tom Edgar using colours which reflect their connection with Scotland. They are happy to share this tartan with all those who bear the surname Edgar.

Created for the wedding of Jay Edgar and Josh Feyen on 2010 July 24 in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, USA



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# **Pewter Badges**

Are you in the market for the Edgar Crest? At \$18, plus shipping, they're a great way to say "I love my family!" (Pewter buttons also available.)

Email me james@jamesedgar.ca



While I was visiting Toronto in early October, I stayed a night with cousin **Steve Edgar** and his lovely wife, **Jo-Ann** (the two of them just celebrated their 8th anniversary!). Jo-Ann treated us to a meal using the heirloom silverware given to **James Edgar**, Secretary to **James Francis Edward Stuart**, "The Old Pretender" to the throne of England and Scotland and father of **Bonnie Prince Charlie**.

Here's the photo I took that evening, as the forks were being set out.



Here also is a photo of a painting **Steve** shared with me, from about that same era late-1600s to early 1700s. Unknown the artist and unknown the subject...





**SteveTO** (as we affectionately call him, with **Max Edgar** on his knee) gave me this, too—from Wikipedia. Thanks for sharing!

Port Edgar is a marina situated on the south shore of the Firth of Forth immediately to the west of the southern end of the Forth Road Bridge in the town of South Queensferry, Scotland.

In previous years it had been the site of HMS Lochinvar. In the inter-war period, Port Edgar was a destroyer base under the command of the then-

Captain Cunningham who later went on to become Admiral of the Fleet.

In recent years, it has become a busy marina with a sailing school with 300 berths. Previously operated by Edinburgh Leisure, Port Edgar Marina Limited—a private investment company—took over management of the marina in April 2014. Part of the group's £1.5m development plans included a capital dredging project to alleviate concerns about harbour depth. Until then the failure of successive management structures to maintain harbour depths through dredging since the departure of the Royal Navy threatened activity at Port Edgar.



Port Edgar as viewed from the Forth road bridge in 2010.

## The Royal Navy

Bought by the Admiralty in 1916 as the site of a future naval base, the pier at Port Edgar near South Queensferry had been regularly used by Royal Navy ships since the 1850s.

Shortly after its purchase, the wounded of the Battle of Jutland were landed at Port Edgar for the Royal Naval Hospital at Butlaw, South Queensferry. The dead of the battle were buried in the local cemetery at South Queensferry.

In 1917, the completed base was commissioned as HMS Columbine, a depot for Torpedo Boat Destroyers of the Grand Fleet

In 1938, HMS Columbine and the naval hospital at Butlaw were closed.

In 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Port Edgar was commissioned as HMS Lochinvar, a training establishment for the Royal Naval Patrol Service.

In 1943, HMS Lochinvar relocated to Granton Harbour in Edinburgh just a few miles along the coast. Port Edgar became the home to HMS Hopetoun, a Combined Operations Training centre for British and Allied navies training for the D-Day landings in France.

After the Second World War, HMS Hopetoun closed, and in 1946 HMS Lochinvar returned to Port Edgar. It was now home to the Royal Navy minesweepers clearing the Firth of Forth and East coast of the UK of its wartime minefields.

In 1958, the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron was moved to HMS Lochinvar. It would remain at Port Edgar until 1975. It then moved to HMS Caledonia in Rosyth (and in 1994 moved to Portsmouth).

In 1960, the port also became Navy's only minesweeping training establishment.

In 1975, HMS Lochinvar closed and all its operations moved across the Forth to HMS Caledonia in the rebuilt naval base at Rosyth.

Today, Port Edgar is owned by the City of Edinburgh Council and is a marina for pleasure craft and a base for other watersports. It sits under the shadow of the Forth Road Bridge, within sight of the 1890 rail bridge, and soon to be in the shadow of a new cable-stayed crossing to the West. Port Edgar will sit amongst three major estuary crossings, from three centuries.

In 1988, the Algerines Association unveiled a memorial at Port Edgar to the minesweepers and fishery protection vessels based at Port Edgar and Granton between 1939 and 1975.