



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history No. 97, February 2015**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

Last month, I wrote: “Still waiting to hear about the test from **Frank Edgar** in Peru... *sigh* I’m ready to order a replacement kit, thinking this one has gone astray in the mail.” And I did, order a replacement kit, that is. This will take another couple of months....

The second test for **Steve Edgar** of Napanee, Ontario, is on its way to the lab. Again, we’ll keep you posted.

A third test, ordered last week, is for **Gerald Thomas Edgar** of Utah – see below.

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Has anyone read *An account of the Surname Edgar* by J.H. Lawrence-Archer? Of course, you have. Let me refresh your memory, though, quoting from page 1, “Edgar is an old and peculiar surname. One might suppose, even at the present day, it would be common, at any rate about large cities, and in those districts whose characteristics as still, to a certain extent, more especially Saxon. When, however, we come to inquire narrowly, and refer to Directories, we find it of rare occurrence.... A few persons named Edgar seem to have been in attendance upon, or connected with, the courts of several of the ancient kings of Scotland. ... .. we find a notice of Sir Patrick Edgar in 1272, in the *Chronicle of Lanercost*; and in the reign of King John...

“In the shire of Berwick,” says Nisbet, “besides the Homes, there were other ancient families of different surnames, who carried lions rampant in variations of tinctures, from the old Earls of Dunbar and March; whether upon the account of descent from that ancient family, or, as vassals, carried lions in imitation of those of their patrons, I shall not be positive, as the Hepburns, Rentons, and and of the name Edgar who held their lands of the old Earls of Dunbar.

“The principal family of the name of Edgar there, is Edgar of Wedderlie, yet extant, who carried for their proper arms—*Sable*, a lion rampant *argent*.

“As for the antiquity of the name, I shall here vouch a charter of Earl Patrick, son of Waldeve, Earl of Dunbar, who grant to the monks of Durham, the church and lands of Edram.... The charter has no date, but id granted in the reign of King William, and in it are many witnesses, among whom are many barons in the shire of Berwick, as ‘Stephen {a[edie, Robert de Bonaire, Gilbert de Hume, Henrie de Prenderghest, Edgward de Aldcambus, Aan de Suyntoun, William de Nesbit, and Willielm filius *Edgari*.’

“The last-mentioned William, son of Edgar, I take to be one of the progenitors of Wedderlie.

“The aforesaid principal charter is fully repeated in the charter of confirmation of King Robert the Bruce, dated at Berwick, the 15h day of November in the 21st year of his reign.

“Richard Edgar, in the reign of King Robert the Bruce, married the eldest daughter and coheir of Ross of Sanquhar, and William Crichton married the other sister... King Robert confirms to Richard and his son Donald Edgar, the half of the lands of Sanquhar, with the manor place as the charter bears.... It appears that Edgar of Wedderlie is descended of this Richard.

“I have seen a resignation in the custody of Edgar of Wedderlie, by Richard Edgar, son of Richard Edgar of the lands of Wedderlie, in favour of Robert Edgar Dominus de Wedderlie, in the year 1376, and confirmed to his son, John Edgar of Wedderlie, 1384.

“And beside the Arms of Wedderlie are quartered with figures like to those of Ross of Sanquhar—three water budgets or, much defaced, as on an old stone in the house of Wedderlie, supported by two greyhounds; and for crest, a dexter hand holding a dagger pointed downwards. Motto: ‘Man (maun) do it.’ And on a compartment below, ‘Salutem disponit Deus.’

“It has been remarked, with reference to the origin of our Peerage, that two great Houses, one English, one Scottish, sprang from the best Saxon aristocracy. Of the old Earls of Northumberland, one named Cospatrick left England after the Conquest, and settled in Scotland. He was ancestor of the Earls of Dunbar, of whom the Homes, and we believe the Edgars, are cadets.”

Now, let us harken to about the year AD 1147, when Cospatrick II (sometimes spelled Gospatrick), 1st Earl of Dunbar, whose son, Cospatrick III, 2nd Earl, dies, leaving four sons: 1. Cospatrick IV (3rd Earl); 2. Edward; 3. Edgar (“who appears to have been ancestor of those of the surname Edgar.”); and 4. Uchtred.

It would appear from the foregoing that the Edgars of Wedderlie are descended from the 2nd Earl of Dunbar.

Now, we get to the meat of the story, because several of the Edgar males whom we previously tested show a strong connection to the DNA supplied by Debra Dunbar Nowell of the USA. We now have a fellow who also is closely related to the Dunbars, Dr. Bruce Cockburn (no, not the Canadian musician), and he is exploring this connection more thoroughly. He’s already started by conducting a BigY-DNA test on Andrew Edgar of Battle, England. Remember Andrew from [newsletter #52](#)? The results that include Andrew’s test follow on the next page, compared to the Osborns, Dunbars, and Cockburns (among others). [Ed: this will blow up quite nicely.]

Bruce Cockburn writes:

Hi James,

Andrew's Big Y results were posted back on December 30. Ten new mutations were found in his Y-DNA ... only seven are reliable and testable, and therefore useful for constructing an Edgar genetic family tree. This is a relatively large number! I have already arranged for the following tests to be available for further Edgar research at the testing company YSeq.com at \$35 per test: A1778, A1779, A1781, A1782, A1783, A1784, and A1785. I have attached an updated L257 haplotree that shows these new SNP labels.

The next step would be to test an Edgar man who is still related to Andrew (that is, who is very likely to be in haplogroup L257), but also quite distant. An Edgar who is at STR distance 3 to 7 would be ideal. You could test that man at YSeq.com and then determine which of Andrew's seven testable SNPs are common to the Edgar men in R-L257. These common SNPs would then form a genetic definition of the Edgars who are presumably direct descendants of Earl Gospatric.

...

Bruce

15668028 (L257, S186) T->C

DYS464X = cccg

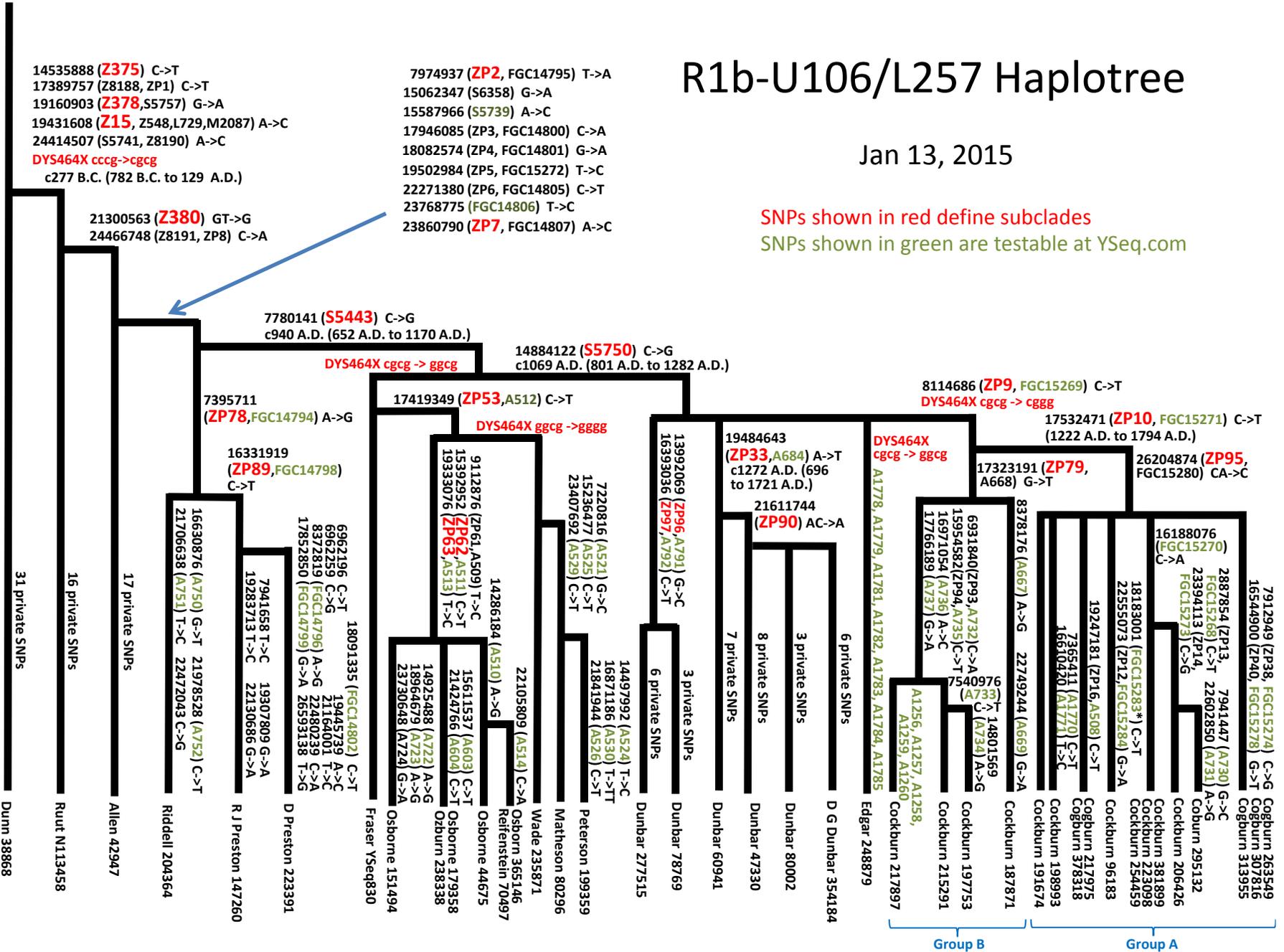
c1033B.C. (1668 B.C. to 1024 B.C., 95% confidence)

# R1b-U106/L257 Haplotype

Jan 13, 2015

SNPs shown in red define subclades

SNPs shown in green are testable at YSeq.com



Group B

Group A

In response to a posting on the Facebook site *Edgar Worldwide Clan* by **Robyn Edgar Kilponen**, **Diane Edgar Lowe** tipped off her cousin **Gerald T. Edgar**, and we now have their ancestral trees in our database. **Robyn's** family goes back to **Walter Edgar** b. 1796 in Kirkudbright, Scotland. **Diane** and **Gerald** go back to the very same **Walter** – all three are cousins! How cool is that? On January 25 (Robbie Burns' Birthday) I ordered a DNA test for Gerald.

Further to that, another new Edgar on the Facebook group is **Karen Hazelton Lashin**, descended from the **Edgars** who came to Schuyler, Nebraska, from Scotland, via Ontario, Canada, in the middle 1800s. That same family group includes several on our list: **Robert Edgar** of Oregon, **Peter Edgar** of Washington, **Diane Craig** of California, and **Kathleen Edgar-Holden** of Washington. All descended from **George Edgar**, b. abt 1710 in Scotland.

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Picture time

From Robin (Edgar) Hagedorn in Adelaide, Australia, when she visited Larne, Northern Ireland, in 2013...

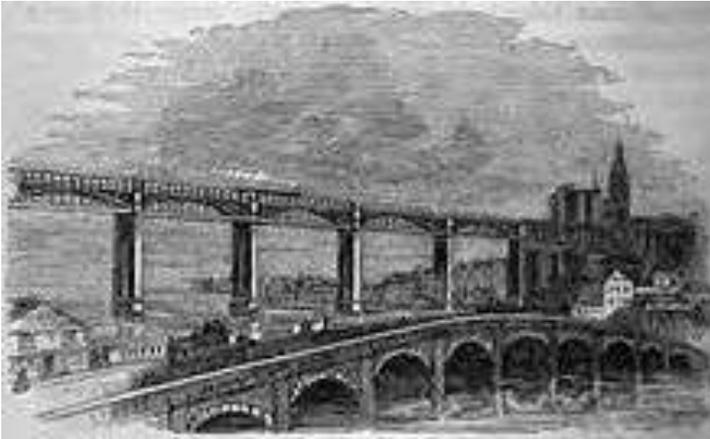


Warkworth and Newcastle, Northumberland



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

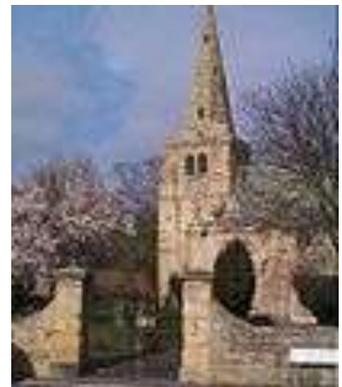
I was contacted earlier this month by Joe Edgar from Gateshead regarding his ancestor Edward who lived in his local area back in the early 1800s. This original ancestor appeared to have been married three times and Joe had some confusion with the 1841 census as to a correct date of birth. Did his ancestor actually marry three times or was it only twice? Could there be another Edward in the same area? The age given on the 1841 did not quite fit with the marrying-three-times scenario.



Part of the confusion was also about Edward's location. Newcastle upon Tyne is in (or was in) Northumberland and Gateshead is in Co. Durham. The two towns are only separated by a bridge over the river Tyne, but it leads to a lot of messing about within the records and researching—you have to be very aware of the localities being so close together but in totally different counties. The records Joe has are for both locations.

The date of birth confusion was resolved by the fact that the 1841 census in England was notorious for rounding up the ages of adults to the nearest 5 or 10 years. This would answer the discrepancy in the dates of birth and made it more feasible that Edward had been married three times. (Sadly, the very likely cause of death for two of his wives would have been complications in childbirth, a major cause of death in the early 1800s.)

On the marriage record for Edward Edgar, he stated that his birth location was Warkworth, Northumberland. This is a town and parish north of Newcastle, not far from the coast and within a few miles of Wedderlie in Berwickshire. The Warkworth Parish records include records of some Edgars from a nearby village called Chevington. Edward Edgar is not a common name; I checked my database and found that most of the Edwards I have are from the east coast of Scotland and England.

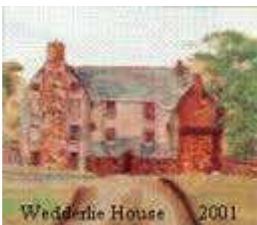


A quick trawl through the Warkworth Parish burial registers came up with some dates of burials of Edgars in the 1600s and 1700s, the names showing were very similar to names found in Joe's family in the 1800s, so, based on this circumstantial evidence, the assumption is that these old Edgars in Warkworth are very likely his ancestors and that they in turn could well be descendants of the Edgars of Wedderlie. Warkworth has its own castle as well and its written history dates back to AD 737, with links to the ancient monastery on Lindisfarne Island.



Warkworth Castle

Joe's 19th-century ancestor Edwards' records are pretty good, marriage, births, deaths, and also the 1841 census. There is even a coroner's report on Edward as he had "dropped dead on the street" at Christmas time in 1846. Many of the links that Joe had found were proven to his profession as well—Edward was a glass cutter by trade.



We have not as yet had a clear, definitive DNA link to the Edgars of Wedderlie, but we strongly suspect that they are R1b. Joe has agreed to a DNA test and if he proves to be an R1b then there's a bit more evidence to support our conjecture on the Wedderlie Edgar line. Even better, if we could research a connection from Wedderlie to Warkworth, then the vital link could be made and we could prove definitively that the Edgars of Wedderlie are R1b. Any volunteers for this?

[Ed. See my article above about the DNA testing project going on with the R1b Edgars, probably Wedderlie Edgar descendents. Also, we have a Warkworth Edgar descendent on our database who is tested already and is not an R1b—Christopher Edgar of Bury St. Edmunds is an I2b1. Joe's test will be a good one to confirm a connection, or not!]

If any of you are researching Edgars from Lancashire, England, there is a marvellous Web site called Lancashire Parish Clerk Online. There are hundreds of Edgar, Eagar, etc. records of burials, marriages, and baptisms. These are not the public records, but are transcribed from the church records. These records are particularly important as they cover Liverpool, Salford, and Manchester. These three cities were industrial magnets that drew in thousands and thousands of workers from Scotland, Ireland, and many English village locations.

Liverpool was a major port that was used by migrants to the USA, Canada, and Australia. Many people left their home country to work in Liverpool to save up for their boat fare. Manchester in particular was called "Cottonopolis." In the 1800s, Manchester manufactured 80% of all the cotton goods worn by the rest of the world—none of which was manufactured by workers whose families had lived there for generations, all were imported labour.

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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.)

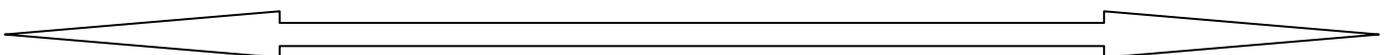
Email me [james@jamesedgar.ca](mailto:james@jamesedgar.ca)



*Pewter badge*



*Pewter button*



Here is a Facebook exchange from earlier in January....

Sharon Edgar Bunek

Happy New Year Edgar Worldwide Clan! in the next Edgar Events could we mention this Facebook page and provide a link? I am sure we have done this in the past, let's do it again. I am really missing our old ancestry DNA page and the ability to communicate with others! Although not all Edgars will be interested in Facebook, this is still a great forum for the time being to discuss openly everything Edgar!

Sharon Edgar Bunek

For example: In our recent Edgar Events, Steve just did some research on the William Coner Edgar family with roots in Bedford, VA; Logan Co., KY and MO. Great job so far, I have also researched this family and many branches to great extent. I think a discussion on this Edgar family will attract other Edgar family members in this open forum and not me just exchanging emails with Steve and a few others. What is needed for this Edgar family is a Y-DNA test from a male descendent of William Coner Edgar. Quite possibly "Mona" might have a living Edgar brother, father, uncle or cousin available for a DNA test.

Sharon Edgar Bunek

FTDNA also offers "forums" for discussions, may be a closed forum, not sure, we don't have an Edgar one, I just looked one over for the Bruce family with lots of discussions on DNA.

James Somerville Edgar

Of course we could mention it -- will do. I'd like to see the same setup we had on Ancestry, but FTDNA doesn't cut it in the same way. The Forums are at <http://forums.familytreedna.com/> But first you have to register <http://forums.familytreedna.com/register.php>

Also...

[Joan Edgar Bess](#)

Always enjoy the Edgar Genealogy. My line is William Coner Edgar

[Sharon Edgar Bunek](#) Agree! I know you are looking around for something similar to My Family, everything including our DNA console at one site. I have been looking to at what other surname DNA projects are currently doing. Many are doing FTDNA for their DNA info and also a page at freepagesRootsweb. Here is a link to the Hall Surname DNA project, I think it's a good jump off page that provides links to all of their stuff including a Hall discussion board.

[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~halldna/](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~halldna/)

[Hall Surname DNA Project](#)

[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com)



[Sharon Edgar Bunek](#) Here is a link to the Edgar message board at Rootsweb, it is the same message board at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), but it's free! if you have never used it before you need to register for free! You do not need to be a member of [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

<http://boards.rootsweb.com/surnames.edgar/mb.ashx>

[Genealogy, Family Trees & Family History Records at Ancestry.com](#)

**SteveUK** has been in touch with **Joe Edgar** who lives in Warkworth, England. **Joe** wrote to Steve... Another DNA test in the offing.

Hello Steven

Thank you for the information

My tree line is as follows

Joseph Edgar 1951 Gateshead

Joseph Edgar 1927 Newcastle Upon Tyne

Stanley Edgar 1905 Gateshead

Edward Edgar 1866 Newcastle Upon Tyne

Thomas Edgar 1842 Newcastle Upon Tyne

Edward Edgar 1805 Or 1806 -This is where it goes astray

He died Christmas time 1845 found dead in the street. Coroners case Jan 1846.

Died Edward Edgar but in 1841 census was listed as Edward Hedger

I realise this type of name variation happens due to human error

If it is the same person he appears to have been married 3 times

1825 to Isabella Lindsey - 1832 To Elizabeth King - 1837 to Margaret Forsyth

The Edward Edgar that married in 1825 has a father Edward born 1786 Newcastle Upon Tyne.

This Edward was born in 1800 Newcastle so to me this cannot be right.

1832 Marriage and 1837 marriage I believe is correct and is listed as Edward Edgar

It is the 1841 census that the name changes to Hedger. Same relatives but the error in surname.

There are sons from the 1832 marriage residing in 1841.

My belief is Edward was born in 1805/6 and married twice in 1832 and 1837 died 1845

The Edward married in 1825 born 1800 and his father Edward born 1786 cannot be our tree. I am odds with our family as they view our line back to this position.

This is where I am stuck at this moment trying to find where my Edward was born in 1805/6.

I do hope the above is clear enough for any help.

I am currently researching 6 trees belonging to my wife and I Paternal and Maternal

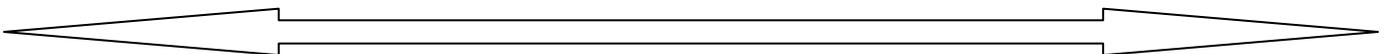
The Edward problem is at odds with other family members' research but I feel I am correct in my assumption that he was only married twice and therefore our tree goes in a different direction.

Could you give me more information on DNA project?

Any help with this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards

Joe



My cousin **Joan Yearsley's** husband, **Glen**, asked me if I knew about **Anne Edgar Photography** in Cambridge, Ontario. I didn't but phoned her and chatted a bit about her family. After hanging up, **Jodie** and I had a look at our database and discovered we already had much of **Ann's** family on our computer [her name only has an "e" in her business]. One of her distant relatives is **Walter Scott Edgar** who died in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, during WWII.

This record tells of his demise <http://svwm.ca/casualty-display/?ID=A000007597>:

L8430 Private (Royal Canadian Army Service Corps driver) Walter Scott Edgar (b.1918) of Moose Jaw died 19450329 of tuberculosis and is buried at Rosedale cemetery, Moose Jaw. Edgar was invalided home from England early in 1944 and discharged two months later. He was the son of Scott C. Edgar and left a wife Marion Irene. Walter was born at Tugaske [SK] and was working as a janitor for Army & Navy when he enlisted at Regina late in 1941.

**Ann** put me onto her cousin, **Bob Edgar**, who runs the family farm in Ayr, Ontario. His family have been working the farm for 175 years, when his distant ancestor, **James Edgar**, came to Canada from Ayr, Scotland, via New York in about 1840. **Bob** was my next phone call. We exchanged stories about our ancestors and how we got to be living in Canada. I just ordered his DNA test, and I've made arrangements visit him at the farm in early March. He says when some of his land was sold for development, he got to name the street he lives on—it's James Edgar Court, after his gr-gr-grandfather! I plan to have my picture taken by that street sign!!

