



# EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family  
history No. 99, April 2015**



## DNA Update



by James Edgar ([james@jamesedgar.ca](mailto:james@jamesedgar.ca))

This is going to take some time.... The four tests we have on the go won't be completed until sometime in June! **Frank Edgar** in Peru; **Steve Edgar** of Napanee, Ontario; **Gerald Thomas Edgar** of Layton, Utah; and **Robert Edgar** of Ayr, Ontario.

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When I wrote about the testing being conducted by Dr. Bruce Cockburn on the Dunbars, Cockburns, and Edgars, we suspected Raymond Croxford of Cape Town had the same S5750 mutation as the rest, but we had to be sure, so were waiting for his results. Now that we have them, and it's confirmed that Raymond has the mutation, we'd like to get him tested further.

We're going to start by getting his DNA into the FTDNA database by ordering the 37-marker test. Then, we'll order the Big Y test for him.

That brings me to the foremost topic this month—we need more cash! We have sufficient funds available to do the Big Y test, but that's all.

If you can find room in your budget, please send a donation to the Edgar DNA Trust Fund. I can accept cheques in Canadian or US dollars, UK pounds, or PayPal transfers. Mail to:

JAMES EDGAR  
PO BOX 2254  
MELVILLE SK S0A 2P0  
CANADA

All donations are gratefully accepted; they allow us to continue our research into Edgar roots worldwide.

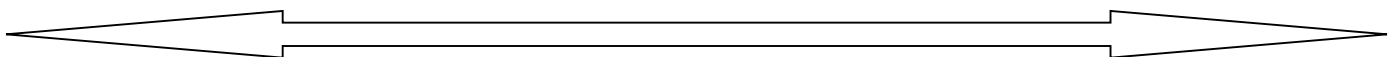
We have made some very compelling discoveries and connected people in distant places through the DNA testing. Let's keep that ball rolling!

Speaking of discoveries, **Bob Edgar** of Ayr, Ontario, asked me during my recent visit (see more on this below) if I could help him understand the DNA results when he gets them. I sent him two links:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_British\\_Isles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_history_of_the_British_Isles), and

[www.familytreedna.com/pdf-docs/Interpreting-Genetic-Genealogy-Results\\_web\\_optimized.pdf](http://www.familytreedna.com/pdf-docs/Interpreting-Genetic-Genealogy-Results_web_optimized.pdf)

This last one is a repeat from a few newsletters back—it's always good to review that information occasionally to keep our understanding up-to-date.



## DNA or Coincidence?



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

The purpose of our monthly newsletters is to publicize and coordinate all of our attempts around the world to build our knowledge of the Edgar family and its origins.

I know that I am related to Norman Edgar in North Carolina, our DNA proves it. According to the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) count, our best guess is that we are related in about 1650–1700 or so. Norman's mother Juanita and his sister Janine have done some fantastic work in tracing their records back from Buffalo, New York, to Monaghan in Ireland, Aberdeen in Scotland, and Sydney, Australia. The answer to their problem tracing these ancestors was simple—they were in the Army, they moved around fighting for their country. Ireland in the late-1700s and early 1800s was still part of the United Kingdom and it would have been “normal” for the younger sons to join the military, as that was a potential for income/adventure, *etc.* Tracing their locations throughout the world presents all sorts of problems, but in some ways makes it easier due to the common military link.

When James and I first got together and were looking for our family link (and before DNA proved us unrelated), I mentioned our research to my sister. She commented “does he look like you?” The answer is “No, he doesn't,” but it did set me thinking, does a common DNA association give a hereditary resemblance? Do I look like my parents or cousins? I do strongly resemble my paternal grandfather and I do look like the sum of my parents, obviously, but how far would this resemblance go back? I have studied photos of my great grandfather and I can see no likeness. His family (see photo below) have a common look—they easily pass for siblings.

The lack of old photographs makes it impossible to trace physical resemblances back from the mid- to late-1800s—there are simply no photos to go by. Before the mid-1800s, photography had not yet been invented, and what processes were available were very expensive. Prior to that, painted portraits were the only image-capturing device, very expensive and very often not able to capture a true likeness.



The question of family resemblances can then go outwards to cousins and uncles, and again, I don't look like them. But, how far apart can your looks go before they start to come back and recognizable features begin to reappear?

When Juanita and Janine researched their Edgars, they came across Michael Edgar who lives in the USA and is a retired officer from the US military. They sent me his photo. I looked at it in shock! It's me! See photographs.



*Michael*



*Steven*

We could easily pass for brothers, and we would pass for each other in some circumstances. This raises the question, do we look like each other because we are related or is it just coincidence?

I have been on this planet now for 62 years and have never seen anyone who looks like me, similar maybe, but not enough to pass as a sibling, yet Michael can do this. AND, we are DNA proven cousins.

Question. Coincidence or DNA?

[See the last page for a bit of shameless advertising...]

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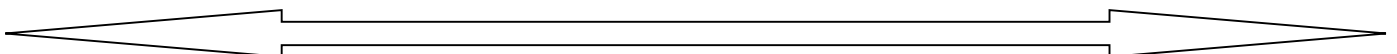
## **Pewter Badges**

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.) The proceeds over cost go to the Edgar DNA Trust Fund, to help with our DNA quest.



*Pewter badge*

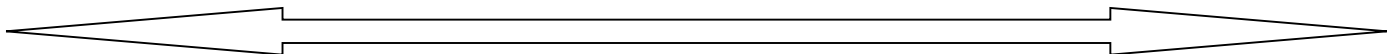
Email me at [james@jamesedgar.ca](mailto:james@jamesedgar.ca)





[www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-31905764](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-31905764), which tells of the Celts in the British Isles. The headline reads: *A DNA study of Britons has shown that genetically there is not a unique Celtic group of people in the UK.*

We've long held onto the oral history that the Celts sequestered in Iberia (Spain and Portugal) during the last Ice Age, and spread north and east, as the ice receded, eventually populating western England, Wales, Ireland, and western Scotland, as well as most of Europe. The reports here, in my opinion, don't go back far enough to disprove the theory—the reports only talk about the 5th century and later. The Celts slowly migrated into the islands after the end of the Ice Age, much earlier than the reported influx in the article. Like 10,000 years earlier!



Of interest in this 101st year after the beginning of The Great War.



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# Newsletter

## The Commonwealth War Graves in the United States of America



### The Commitment

Over 1,000 Commonwealth war dead of the two world wars are buried in the United States of America in over 480 sites. The largest concentration of war graves is in Montgomery (Oakwood) Cemetery Annexe, Alabama. There are a further twenty French war graves and eight non-world war graves for which the Commission has a responsibility.



### Historical note



Many of those who were buried in the United States during the 1914-18 War were United States citizens, serving in Canadian units, who joined the Canadian services before the United States entered the war in 1917. Others were Commonwealth servicemen who died while posted to, or training in, America.

Most of the 1939-45 War dead had died while undergoing flight training in the United States. Others were killed in

army training or in naval  
operations in the North  
Atlantic.

Among the Commonwealth war graves in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, is the grave of Field Marshal Sir John Dill GCB CMG DSO, Senior British Representative of the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington from December 1941 until his death in November 1944. His grave is marked by an equestrian statue, erected by some of his friends in the United States, as a permanent symbol of British-United States co-operation during the Second World War.

Also in Arlington National Cemetery is the grave of Major-General Orde Wingate DSO and 2 Bars, who was killed in an air crash in the mountains near the India-Burma border in 1944. He was buried in the United States because, in cases where Commonwealth and American servicemen died together, if the number of Americans were greater, the remains were transferred together to America after the war and re-buried in a collective grave in one of the national cemeteries.

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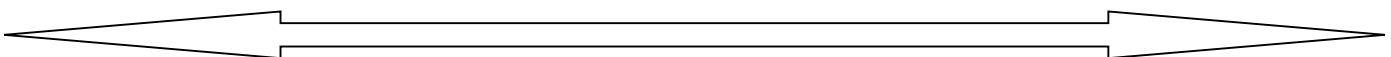
## **Maintenance**

Maintenance of the war graves throughout the United States is carried out by federal government, municipal, or corporate cemetery authorities, often under perpetual care arrangements. There are also a number of specific agreements negotiated between the Commission's Canadian Agency (who are administratively responsible for the war graves in the United States of America as well as those in Canada) and the appropriate authorities, which are reviewed annually. Correspondence should be addressed as follows:

The Secretary-General, Canadian Agency  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
66 Slater Street, Suite 1707  
Ottawa ON K1A 0P4  
Canada

## **Visits**

Regular, cyclical inspection visits of the war graves in the United States are conducted by officers of the Canadian Agency. Courtesy calls on various American officials are arranged as necessary during those visits.





**Picture Time** (see [Edgar Events #97](#), page 11, for an explanation)

*My hostess at The Swan and The Peacock B&B,  
Gail Swan. I even stayed in the Edgar Suite!*



*James Edgar Court in Ayr, Ont.*



*Robert and James Edgar at  
The Hill Farm, est. 1837*



*Robert has a well-stocked bar (which we sampled!)*



*Anne Edgar, Robert's cousin,  
who lives in Cambridge, Ont.*



## More Pictures

We have a new little baby boy **Edgar** descendant, **Gavyn Riley VanHorne**, son of **Hiram VanHorne** and **Sunshine Edgar**, born Saturday, March 28 at 1:33 in St. Mary's Hospital maternity ward, Amsterdam, NY. Weighing in at 6 lbs., 3.25 oz., and 19.5 inches.



**Zachary Christopher Chytry** was born January 5 to **Sharon Edgar Bunek's** daughter, **Meghan Felan Chytry** and her husband **Chris Chytry** of Wayne, MI. **Zac's** all dressed up in his Easter outfit.

