



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 101, June 2015**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

Still waiting on **Frank Edgar** in Peru. However, we have received the results for **Steve Edgar** of Napanee, Ontario; and **Robert Edgar** of Ayr, Ontario (see newsletters [#94](#) and [#99](#)).

Here's a chart showing **Steve** in Napanee's relationships to some of our recent tests—he's an I2b1 under the "old" Haplogroup name, I-M223 under the new.

37 MARKERS - 12 MATCHES						
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
1	Joe Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-L126		5/1/2015
2	John W. Edgar	Y-DNA37		I-L126		5/1/2015
3	Mr. George Roland Edgar	Y-DNA37	Rober Edger bn 1696 and d1793	I-M223		5/1/2015
4	Gerald Thomas Edgar	Y-DNA67		I-M223		5/1/2015

Notice that the chart above is only for 37-marker matches, and they all are **Edgars**. We know who the bottom three are, but very little about the mysterious **Joe Edgar**. I did have this brief email exchange with the person who submitted the DNA:

Hi Joe,

We have several people on our Edgar project at Family Tree DNA who match you. Would you like to explore these connections further? There's one new person not shown here, Steve Edgar of Napanee, Ontario, Canada.

James

With this response:

Hello,

Edgar is on my moms side of the family, and she didnt use computers when we purchased the DNA kits so i forwarded your email to her to see if she knows of them.

Tyrus Chongulia

No response yet...

Considering the others, and based on what we see, **Steve** and **John W.** are fairly close with a genetic distance of 2; **Roly** is slightly further away. However, that gap widens when considering all 67 markers that **Steve** had tested, as shown below:

67 MARKERS - 25 MATCHES						
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
2	Joe Edgar		Y-DNA67	I-L126		5/1/2015
2	Mr. Justin Paul McLaurine		Y-DNA67	I-M223		5/1/2015
3	Mr. David Scott Ager		Y-DNA67	I-L126		5/1/2015
3	Mr. John Omer McLaurine		Y-DNA67	I-M223		5/1/2015
3	Mr. James Richard McLaurine		Y-DNA67	I-M223		5/1/2015
4	Neville Seadon		Y-DNA111	I-L126	L126	5/1/2015
5	Mr. John David Ferguson		Y-DNA67	I-L126		5/1/2015
5	Kenny Ferguson		Y-DNA67	I-L126		5/1/2015
6	Mr. Charles Edward Ferguson		Y-DNA111 FF	I-L126	L126	5/1/2015
6	Mr. Ferguson			I-L126		5/1/2015
7	Evert Crawford		Y-DNA67	I-M223	M223	5/1/2015
7	Hugh Richard Ennis		Y-DNA67	I-L126		5/1/2015
7	Dr. David Malcolm Stitt		Y-DNA67	I-L126		5/1/2015
7	Gareth O'Neill		Y-DNA67	I-M284	M284	5/1/2015
7	Mr. David Alexander Fergusson		Y-DNA111	I-L126	L126	5/1/2015
7	Donald Davis		Y-DNA111	I-M223		5/1/2015
7	Timothy Miller		Y-DNA67	I-M223		5/1/2015
7	Mr. Leslie Keith Ferguson		Y-DNA111	I-M284		5/1/2015
7	Mr. Barry Ferguson		Y-DNA67	I-M223		5/1/2015
7	Delbert c/o Marcia Ferguson		Y-DNA111 FF	I-L126	L126	5/1/2015

Joe Edgar is still in that list, but the rest of the **Edgars** dropped off—they're too distant to show. But, look who else shows up—**David Scott Ager**, and **Neville Seadon**. For these, we have to go a long way back to newsletters [#73](#) and [#34](#), respectively. David is related to a large number of our previous testers, including **John W.** and **Roly**, and we think **Neville's** father was an **Edgar**—the DNA proves it, but we still don't know who the father is! Also, look at all the **Ferguson** matches—more than a coincidence. So, there is much more investigation here to do.

We also know of another part of this family who grew up in my hometown of Kamloops, B.C. See newsletter [#94](#). Here's a chart from Family Tree Maker showing the relationship between Steve and **Laurie Scott** (néé **Bell**). Ditto for her brothers **George** and **Gordon Bell**.

Relationship Calculator

Calculate relationship between

Laurie Anne Bell
Birth - 30 Sep 1946 in Kamloops, BC, Canada

(12b1) Steven Edgar
Birth - Napanee, Lennox Addington Co., ON, Canada

Relationship (2)
(12b1) Steven Edgar is
4th cousin 1x removed
of Laurie Anne Bell

Nearest common relative(s)
William Edgar and Catherine Smith

Path

Name	Relationship
Laurie Anne Bell	self
Isabel Gladys Edgar	mother
James Earnest Edgar	father
William Henry Edgar	father
Ferdinand Edgar	father
William Edgar	parent
Catherine Smith	parent
David Edgar	son
William Bell Edgar	son
Charles Frederick H. Edgar	son
Charles Mostyn Edgar	son
Charles Gale Edgar	son
(12b1) Steven Edgar	son

Civil Degree: XI Canon Degree: 6

View Relationship Chart... Close Help

So, the testing and results have given us more to chew on, plus some different leads to pursue. As usual, the more we know, the more we discover how little we really do know!

Now, let's move on to **Robert Edgar** of Ayr, Ontario. We could only find one other Edgar on the FTDNA database who matches him, that of **Thomas Edgar** of New York City. They're both R1b or R-M269. We know little about the Carsons, but it's more than coincidence.

37 MARKERS - 3 MATCHES						
Genetic Distance	Name		Most Distant Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
3	Mr. Earl Leaver Carson	Y-DNA37	Daniel Carson, b.c. 1800, NJ	R-M269		5/9/2015
4	Thomas Campbell Edgar	Y-DNA37	TCE:	R-M269		5/9/2015
4	Benton Johnny Carson	Y-DNA37	Charles Carson b. 1824 NJ	R-M269		5/9/2015

I had a rather pleasant email exchange with [Tom](#), where we discovered that we'd have to go back to the 1600s or earlier to find a match between the two families. They're definitely related, but the history goes back a long way, and it will be a challenge to find any records that far back!

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## Picture Time

**Steve** and **JoAnn Edgar** are in the UK as I write this. Here are a couple of the photos **Steve** posted recently on Facebook. Here is **Steve** in the oldest pub in York; **Jo-Ann** having fun on the quaint olde street.



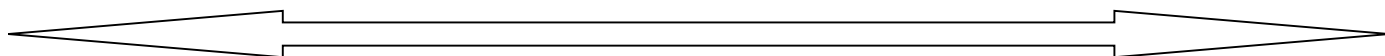
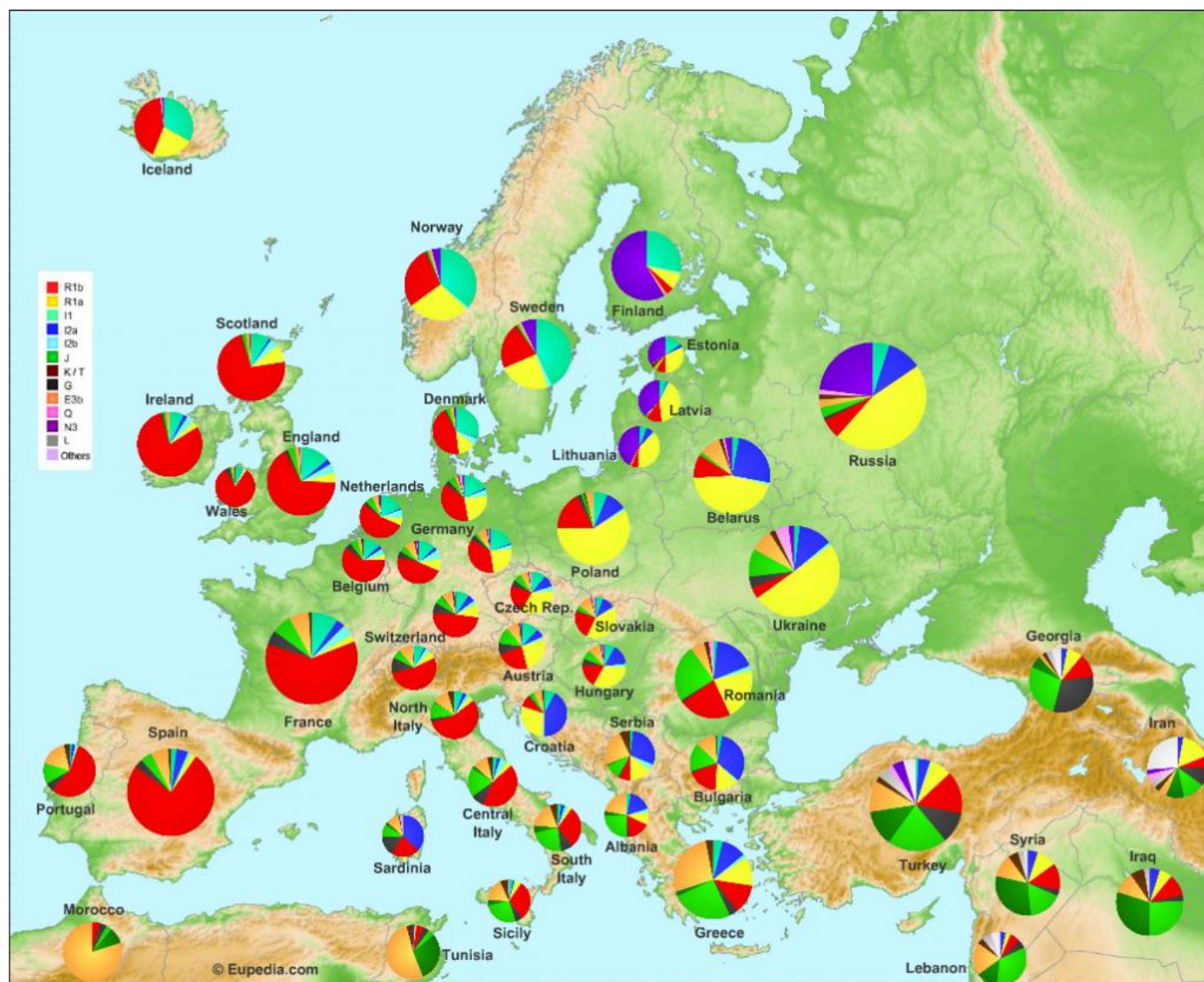


Thanks to **Angela Reed** and my nephew, **Nick Edgar**, we have more Internet links to ponder:

<http://www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/>

[http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.ca/2015/05/ancestrydna-soon-available-in-canada.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/DhbcZ+%28Olive+Tree+Genealogy+Blog%29](http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.ca/2015/05/ancestrydna-soon-available-in-canada.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/DhbcZ+%28Olive+Tree+Genealogy+Blog%29)

This link that Nick found at <https://twitter.com/42aross/status/602867792317054977> provides genetic maps of Europe, like the one shown here. There are several maps at the page showing various distributions. <http://thedockyards.com/genetic-maps-of-europe/>



## Missing Links?



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

I have been in email and Skype conversation with Warren Gillespie for a number of years, he suffers from a “brick wall” syndrome the same as I do. Stuck with an ancestor that he can’t trace beyond. His block is later than mine but intriguing, just the same.

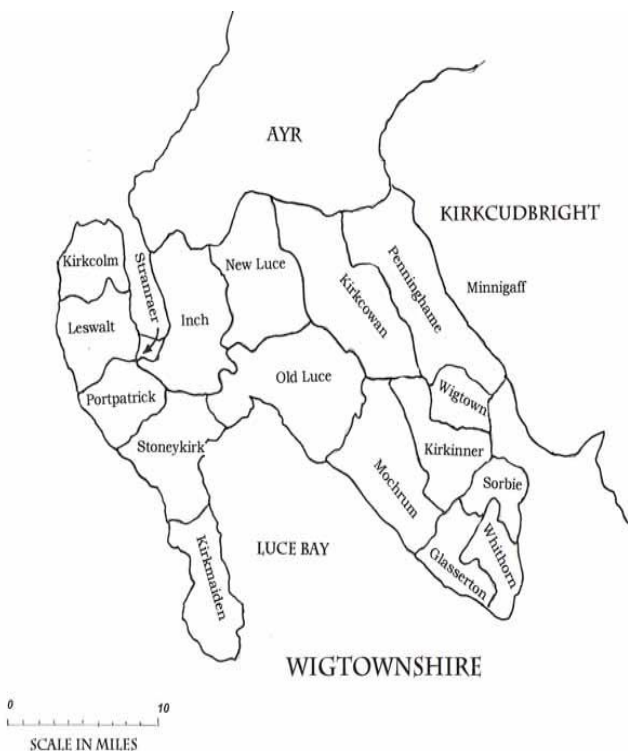
His ancestor James Edgar married Janet Gillespie in Kirkiner, Wigtownshire, in 1848. When James arrived in Australia he was James Gillespie (no doubt there’s a good story behind that!). All Warren knew was that James was from “Co Down” and Janet from Dumfries—he knows more of Janet’s family than of James’s. Her father was Charles Gillespie, mother was Hamilton McCarr Cunningham, grandfather Charles Cunningham, grandmother Janet Barr.

So, a man from “Co. Down” married in Kirkiner in 1848. Why Kirkiner? In the mid-1800s there was a potato famine in Ireland, times were hard, millions migrated from Ireland, mostly to the USA and Canada. It would seem logical that a man from “Co Down” would possibly go back to his roots in Scotland during the famine, be living there, meet his bride and marry? Why not?

Looking at the records there are numerous Edgars in Kirkiner. The earliest I have found so far is Walter Williamson marrying Margaret Edgarre [sic] in 1695. Their dates of birth must be in the 1670s. In Sorbie Parish (5 miles away), John Edgar married Margaret Cunninghame [sic] in about 1700, their dates of birth point to the 1680s

So, there are Edgars in the Wigtown area in the late 1600s.

Up the road from this area is Newton Stewart, the home of the McKees from Killaney, Boardmills, who fought at the Battle of the Boyne with the Edgars in 1690 (I’m not going into the argument of how many McKees and how many Edgars!) The Edgars and McKees intermarried and became Ministers of the Presbyterian Church. These two families are much written about and an extensive family tree has been drawn up. However, there is no certain male descendant. A couple of people are very likely to be descendants, but the actual “knot” is still to be actually tied to make a totally confirmed link. The story of how the Edgars and McKees got together is open to conjecture. Were they friends before 1690, in Scotland? Or did they meet in Ireland?



The original home of the McKees being Newton Stewart is confirmed in the name Purdeysburn as the McKee farm in Killaney, Ireland, Purdeysburn is 4 miles south west of Newton Stewart.

So, if the McKees are from Newton Stewart, then the Edgar could be from Wigtownshire? Conjecture of course, but not impossible.



The Wigtown peninsula, the Machars, is 22 miles from Ireland and 18 miles from the Isle of Man. Back then it would have been easier to get to either of them than to travel to Glasgow, which is 90 miles away

What Warren has always suffered from is the location of “Co Down,”—very ambiguous, and it covers a huge area. He has never been able to trace the father of James Edgar, who married in 1848, and the first recorded child is Charles in 1851—a gap of 3 years. The Irish naming pattern gives Charles, the second child, as the mother’s father’s name, this checks out to Charles Gillespie. So there could well have been a birth in 1848 – 1850. This child should have the name for James’s father, but no record exists. The child Charles was born in Old Cumberland Ayrshire and there are records of the family being in the Glasgow area prior to their migration to Australia.

James, by his various locations does not seem to have been prospering, his circumstances must have been poor and the location of the birth of his first child could be anywhere, very likely not recorded. The first chance he gets, he is out of Scotland and off to Australia, changing his name *en route*.

So, where is the missing link from Scotland to Ireland? A bit of research from the Internet revealed that David Edgar 1797–1873 married Mary Muckle, both from Co Down. David was the son of Samuel Edgar. David and Mary’s children are born in Ireland and in Dalry, Ayrshire. The birth in Dalry is 1849—just after the potato famine. Their second son, Thomas, died in Kirkinner in 1897, and his family members are spread out over Ireland, Scotland, Cumberland, and London.

Again, there is a Kirkinner connection. The forenames sort of fit, there are Cunninghams as well. It all seem logical to be the same family.

## Graveyards.



What we really lack is information. I checked out the graveyards in the Wigtown area and they are in Kirkinner, Sorbie, and Wigtown, but they have not as yet been properly catalogued.

One graveyard in Wigtown has an Edgar grave in it. It links Robina Edgar to Mary Stewart Edgar. She is referred to as the sister-in-law of John Hannay. One child dies in Kent

Warren lives in Perth, Western Australia, and I live in Cheshire, England, and, after the elections, I need a holiday. So.....

.....after extensive ~~blackmail~~ persuasion, Warren offered to underwrite my holiday. He said he would pay us to

go to the area, eat in the best restaurants, drink lots of



champagne, and stay in a 5-star hotel so that we could survey the graveyards and send him the information.

The money order he sent me looks a bit dubious, though, I'll take it to the bank next week and cash it to see what happens. (I do have a strong feeling that my week's holiday won't be in Wigtown.)

I have booked a cottage on the harbour wall in Garlieston for a week's holiday with wife, son, two dogs, a large notebook, and a huge memory stick for my camera.

Assuming that the bank and police are OK with Warren's money order, I'll report my findings next month.

Steve UK

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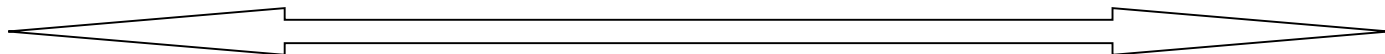
Pewter Badges

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.

Email me at james@jamesedgar.ca



Pewter badge



More Babies!

From Susan Edgar Parkes: My second son Jamie Darren Parkes with wife Zoe Morton-cox, son Leo Jamie Parkes. Their daughter, Lola Joan Parkes, was born 2015 February 9.



My other son, Adam Garry Parkes, is the father of newborn Riley Parkes.



This wee bundle is, **Killian**, the newest baby in the Amsterdam, New York, **Edgar** family, son of **Aaron Edgar** and **Shannon Podolec**, born February 11.



How I “Met” Oliver Sacks

I often give astronomical talks to school classes and at public speaking events, and one of the presentations I put together is on the *Synthesis of Elements in Stars*. Most people who know me also know I have a penchant for making things wooden, so I folded into my PowerPoint presentation this story about wood and the periodic table.

Dr. Oliver Sacks, professor of neurology at the NYU School of Medicine, chose as the subject for one of his many books his love for the [periodic table](#), the familiar chart first devised in the mid-1800s by Russian [Dmitri Mendeleev](#). The book title is *Uncle Tungsten*, referring to Sacks' uncle owning a tungsten factory, and how it led to him getting to know most of the heavy metals at first hand. He wrote:

It used to be said, when I was a boy, that there were 92 elements, each with its own unique characteristics. These elements, which could combine with one another to form millions of compounds, were “the building blocks of the universe.”

One knew, or suspected, that some of them were related. Tin and lead, for example, were both soft metals, easily melted; copper, silver and gold—the “coinage” metals—could all be beaten into foils so thin that they transmitted green or blue light.

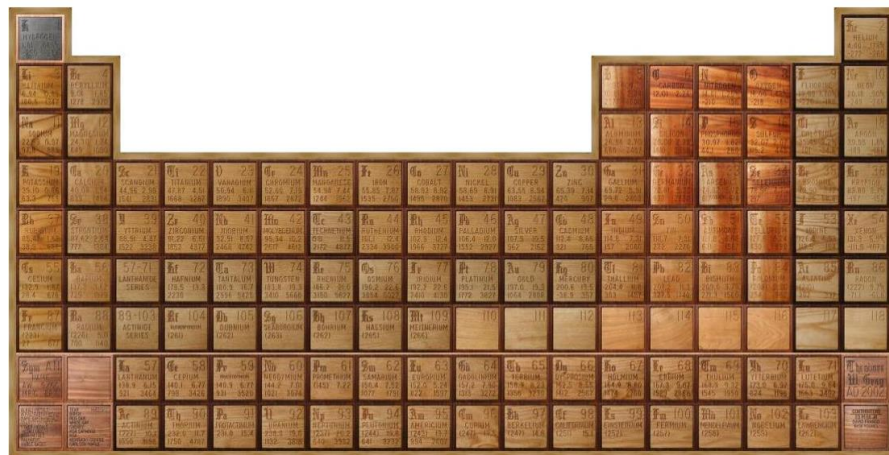
But I am not sure that it occurred to me that all the elements might be related to one another until I went, at the age of 12, to the Science Museum in London (newly reopened after the end of the Second World War) and there saw an enormous cabinet labeled “The Periodic Table” hanging at the head of the stairs. Seeing the table, with its actual samples of the elements, was one of the formative experiences of my boyhood and showed me, with the force of revelation, the beauty of science. The periodic table seemed so economical and simple: everything, the whole 92-ishness, reduced to two axes, and yet along each axis an ordered procession of different properties.

Now, one of the other people who read *Uncle Tungsten* is [Theodore Gray](#), who, among other things, is a co-founder of [Wolfram Research](#), which makes computation software, such as *Mathematica*. I knew that Gray, inspired by Dr. Sacks' book, had built the Periodic Table Table! His misunderstanding of what was described in the book as the “enormous cabinet” led him to imagine it was a cabinet like a table, but it was in fact a wall display. Nonetheless, Gray decided it would be a cool thing to build such a table and include all the known elements in cutouts below their respective names. Here he is in a screenshot from the video in which he describes his masterpiece.



Me, being the curious person that I am, got to thinking that Oliver Sacks should see this table, or at least be made aware of it. So, I wrote him an email and asked if he knew about the table. Can you imagine my surprise when I received a reply from his personal assistant, **Kate Edgar**?

She began: “*Are we cousins?*” And then went on to explain that Dr. Sacks indeed not only knew about the table, but that he had actually visited Ted Gray at his office near Chicago. Here they are, pondering over the table together.



Now, isn't that a nice little story of the periodic table, Oliver Sacks, genealogy, and wood? ☺