



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 103, August 2015**



DNA Update



by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)

I wrote this last issue, but will repeat it with one small change—mid-August, instead of mid-July. “We no longer have to wonder what happened to the test ordered for **Frank Edgar** in Peru. It is at the lab and being processed right now. We should see the results in mid-July.”

There is a second test being processed, for one **Daniel Edgar** of Stoke-on-Trent, UK. He wrote an email as follows:

Hi James

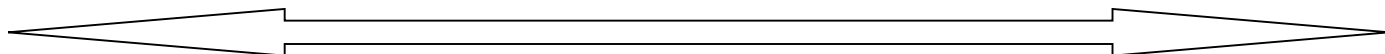
My birth date is third of April 1974, my Dad's name is Robert Colin Edgar (known as Bob) born 22 April 1936; my Grandad was James King Edgar born 23 August 1900 & passed away on the 12 March 1948; his Father was George Edgar born 20 October 1887 & passed away on the 9 of June 1908; his Father was Archibald Brown Edgar born 1856 & passed away 1 May 1903; his Father was called George & was a famous lighthouse keeper who was born in 1818 & passed away on the 8 October 1907.

My Great-grandad George was killed by a train at Lochwinnoch railway station - I will email you copy of the newspaper report & I will send you a copy of George the lighthouse keepers working career - he had 9 children.

All my forefathers were called either James or a George except obviously my Dad & Archibald - they both however have 2 older brothers - 1 called James & the other George. My son is William James Edgar.

Best wishes

Dan



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



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We received this from **Gwen Edgar** of Australia (see **Gill Watson's** article below)

Hi

This is a short history as I know it of my Edgars.

We believe David Edgar was born about 1797/1801 Belfast Ireland  
He married Mary Muckle\* who was born also in Belfast about 1801/1803.

Among their children was Samuel born in Belfast 1824/1825  
He married Marion Eaglesham\* 27-10-1849 Renfrew Paisley Scotland

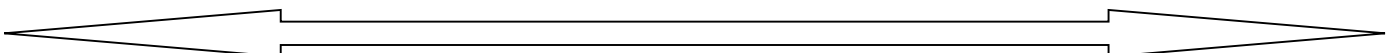
Their son David was born 8-7-1851 Glasgow Scotland.  
They came to Australia in 1852 David was about one year old.  
All 3 are buried in the Mallee area of Victoria.

David had a son David who had a son David (my father) who had a son David who had a son David who is now 19 so it may not be many years before there is another "David"!

I have been able to trace the Australian history quite well but have not been able to find any information on the Scottish or Irish part of our history, so if you come across any information please let me know. I do have hopes of getting to the UK within the next year or so.

Gwen

\* spellings may vary



## **Edgars of Kirkinner**

by Gill Watson ([gillmwatson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gillmwatson@yahoo.co.uk))

My great grandmother was Jane Edgar born in Kirkinner in 1865 to Thomas Edgar and Elizabeth Harris. Her Edgar heritage was obviously important to her as she named her third daughter (my grandmother) Mary Edgar McCheyne and she in turn named her eldest daughter Jean Edgar Harris.

Jane was part of a family of ten children born to Thomas and Elizabeth. Thomas was born in Newtownards, Ireland, around 1833. Elizabeth appears to be a native of Scotland, being born in Kirkinner, also in 1833. They married in Ballaird in October 1853. (Ballaird is a tiny place northwest of Kirkinner, now consisting just of a farm.) I have never been able to find any details of the marriage, only the date and place from Jane's birth record.

In the 1861 census, the family now made up of Mary, Isabella, Samuel, and John are living in Whauphill Village. Also living with the family is Elizabeth's younger sister, Grace, aged 14. Elizabeth's father William remarried in 1854 and emigrated to New York around 1858. It seems likely that Grace preferred to stay in Scotland.

By 1871, a further four children have joined the family—William, Jane, James, and Thomas. The family are living at Barnbarroch, Sloehabbert Lodge and Thomas is listed as a gamekeeper.

Barnbarroch House was built in 1780 and was an impressive building, belonging to the Vans Agnew family. The estate included 3.5 acres of land. It was completely destroyed by fire in 1941 and it remains a ruin to this day.



*Figure 1: Barnbarroch House*

See [www.gallowaygazette.co.uk/news/history-of-barnbarroch-house-whauphill-1-333712](http://www.gallowaygazette.co.uk/news/history-of-barnbarroch-house-whauphill-1-333712) and <http://ruination-scotland.com/2012/11/05/ruin-of-the-month-barnbarroch-house/>

A further child, Elizabeth was born in 1872. She died aged only two years and eight months of scalding. The Register of Corrected Entries for her death makes very sad reading. Elizabeth suffered severe scalding, the result of an accident and died 14 ½ hours later. It must have been a terrible tragedy for the family. However, worse was to follow when Elizabeth Harris died in 1876, a year after giving birth to her tenth child Robert. Elizabeth's death certificate records her cause of death as paraplegia. I believe that this would be known as a stroke today. She was only 42 years old.





Figure 2: Edgar Gravestone in Kirkinner Kirkyard

Thomas erected a gravestone in her memory in Kirkinner Kirkyard. The stone must have been maintained by someone else in the family as it mentions the deaths of Thomas himself as well as the youngest son Robert and the eldest son Samuel.

The gravestone reads:

Erected by Thomas Edgar in memory of his beloved wife Elizabeth Harris, who died at Barnbarroch on 17th Octr 1876 aged 42 years. Also their daughter Elizabeth who died 24th Nov 1874 aged 2 years and 8 months. Also the above Thomas Edgar who died at Kirkinner 19th April 1897 aged 64 years. Also his son Robert who died at Harewood 30th June 1914 aged 39 years. Also his son Samuel who died at Kilruddery Bray 5th Sep 1924 aged 66 years.

Eldest daughter Mary gave birth to an illegitimate son in 1875, named after his grandfather, Thomas. He was brought up by his Aunt Isabella. Mary moved to London shortly after Thomas's birth and she can be found as a housemaid in St James in 1881 and then in Farnham, Surrey, in 1891.

By the time of the 1911 census, Thomas was married with four children and living in Northumberland. However, by 1913, he appears to have abandoned his family and travelled to the USA. His border-crossing record lists an address in Regina and gives the address of his mother in Ayrshire. It is quite likely that he started a new family in USA.

|                                                                                     |                                                                                   |                                                                               |                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| class B<br>MANIFEST                                                                 |                                                                                   | Part of <i>Winnipeg Mar</i> Date <i>Jul 7-1913</i> Serial No. <i>250-7120</i> |                             |
| Family name <i>EDGAR</i>                                                            |                                                                                   | Given name <i>THOMAS</i>                                                      |                             |
| C.I.V. No.                                                                          | Place and date of issue                                                           | Section and subdivision                                                       | Quota country charged       |
|                                                                                     |                                                                                   | Act of 1924:                                                                  | R.P. No.                    |
| Place of birth (town, country, etc.)                                                | Age <i>38</i> Yrs. Sex <i>M</i>                                                   | W. D. S.                                                                      | P.V. No.                    |
| <i>Kirkinner Scot</i>                                                               | Men.                                                                              | Occupation <i>Stone Cutter</i>                                                | Read <i>70</i>              |
| Language or exemption                                                               | Race <i>Scotch</i>                                                                | Nationality <i>Scotland</i>                                                   | Write <i>Can</i>            |
| Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came         | Last permanent residence (town, country, etc.) <i>1630 Albert St. Regina Sask</i> |                                                                               |                             |
| Mother <i>Mary</i>                                                                  | From <i>Galloway Place Ayr Scotland</i>                                           | Where                                                                         | Passage paid by <i>Self</i> |
| Ever in U.S.                                                                        | From                                                                              | Where                                                                         | Passage paid by             |
| Destination, and name and complete address of relative or friend to join there      |                                                                                   |                                                                               |                             |
| <i>Sandstone Mich no add-</i>                                                       |                                                                                   |                                                                               |                             |
| Money shown                                                                         | Ever arrested and deported, or excluded from admission                            | Purpose in coming and time remaining                                          |                             |
| <i>2.5</i>                                                                          | <i>no</i>                                                                         | <i>Perm</i>                                                                   |                             |
| Head tax status                                                                     | Height <i>5 Ft. 7 1/2 in.</i>                                                     | Complexion <i>ruddy</i>                                                       | Hair <i>br</i>              |
|                                                                                     | Eyes <i>blue</i>                                                                  | Distinguishing marks                                                          |                             |
| Seaport and date of landing, and name of steamship                                  | Con. Im. Identification card No.                                                  |                                                                               |                             |
| <i>Buchanan 5-17-1913</i>                                                           | <i>Virginian</i>                                                                  |                                                                               |                             |
| Records by <i>B. H.</i>                                                             | Previously examined at                                                            | Date                                                                          | Arrived by <i>Y. N. B.</i>  |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. FORM 548. 16-2140 |                                                                                   |                                                                               |                             |

Figure 3: Thomas Edgar Border Crossing 1913

Isabella married Hugh Roney in 1878. Together they had a family of six with three of the children having Edgar as a second name. Hugh was a shoemaker by trade, but by 1901 he was sub-postmaster at the Post Office at Kirkinner. His occupation was listed as Postmaster in 1925, the year before his death. Two of their sons—Arthur Pittuck Roney and Thomas Edgar Roney

travelled to Canada and enlisted there for World War I. Both went back to Canada after the war and both also returned to Scotland some years later. Thomas went back to Canada again, this time remaining there. He has several living descendants in Canada.

Samuel married Sarah Wills from Ireland in London in 1883, with Mary and William as witnesses. They moved to Kilruddery, Bray, Ireland, sometime before 1901. They had four children. The youngest, William Sandford Edgar, emigrated to Canada in 1911 and he joined a bank. He served in World War I, returning to the bank in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, in 1919. He has several descendants living in Canada.

The photo below of the Edgars was taken on 1884 May 5. In the front row from left to right are Hugh Roney, Isabella, Thomas, and Mary. At the back are Robert, centre with Jane next to him. The remaining boys are probably William, James, and Thomas. Samuel is not present as he was living in London at the time.



*Figure 4: Edgar Family in 1884*

My great grandmother Jane married Alexander McCheyne in 1885 in Kirkinner. They had eight children. Four of them emigrated to Miniota, Manitoba, Canada. Of these, Robert and Alex signed up for World War I. Robert was killed in 1917, but Alex survived and was awarded a Military Medal for his actions at Passchendaele. Jane's descendants live in England, Scotland, and many parts of Canada.

Robert, the youngest of Thomas and Elizabeth's children died in 1914 aged 39 years (as recorded on the gravestone). His death certificate says "Found drowned in the River Wharfe but



there was not sufficient evidence to show how he came to be so drowned.” Maybe foul play was involved, but it is difficult to be certain.

The remaining boys have been difficult to trace. Thomas became a valet and can be found travelling to New York several times and also to Bermuda. James travelled to Canada, arriving in Quebec in 1908 and then crossing to the USA. After that, he disappears. I have been unable to trace John and William.

By 1891, Thomas Edgar was living with his daughter Isabella and her family. He died in 1897 in Kirkinner. His death was registered by his son-in-law, Hugh Roney. His parents' names are blank on his death certificate, so it appears that Isabella didn't know who her grandparents were.

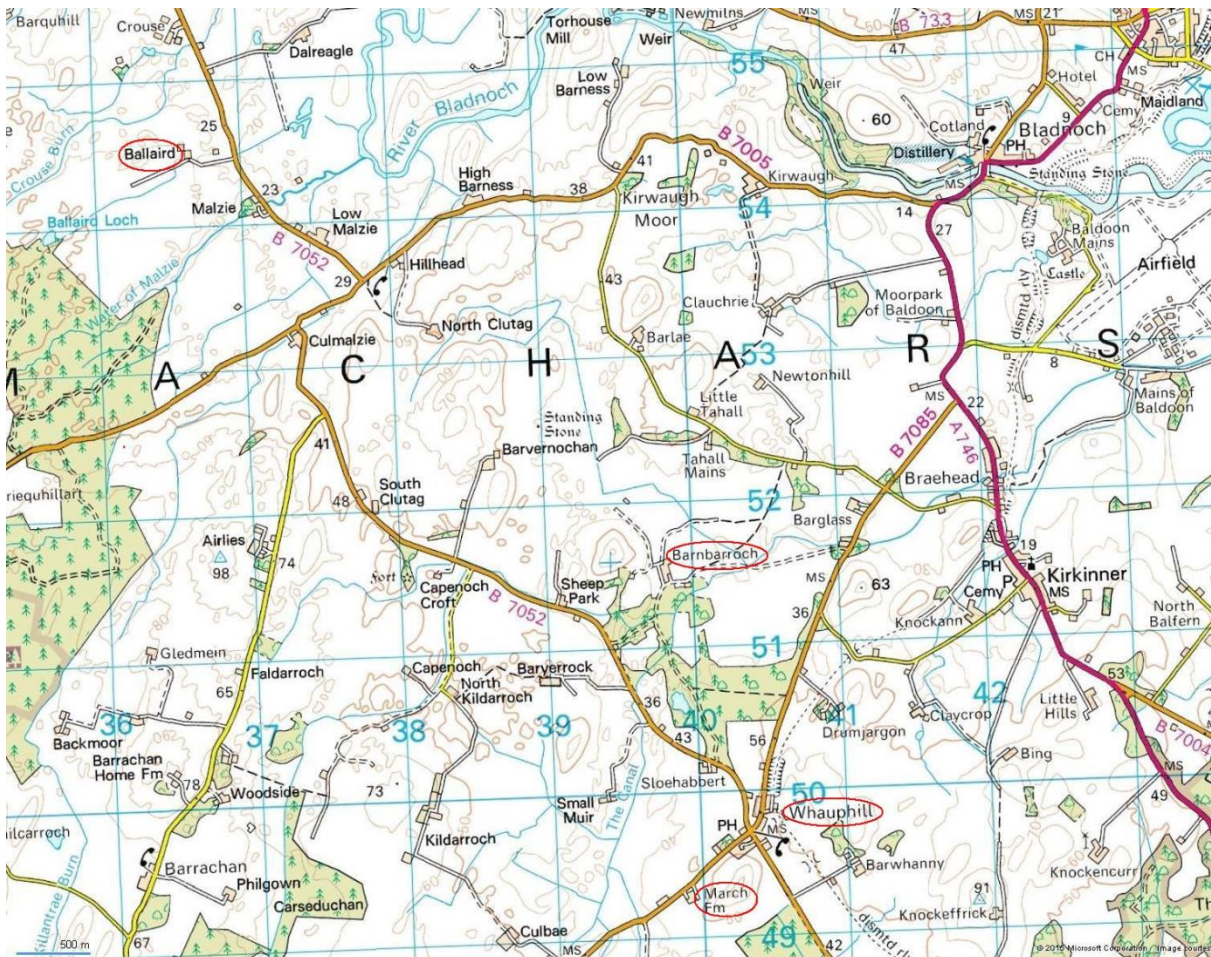


Figure 5: Map of Kirkinner and surrounding area

So who were Thomas Edgar's parents? Several people have suggested David Edgar and Mary Muckle, but I can find no proof of this. In the 1851 census, there are two Edgars in Kirkinner—Thomas aged 18 and William aged 22. William married Catherine Rodger at Marchfarm near Kirkinner in 1855. Marchfarm is a tiny village very close to Whauphill where Thomas and family were living in 1861. On William and Catherine's marriage certificate, William's parents are listed as Robert Edgar and Elizabeth McKeand, with William's birthplace as Downshire, Ireland.

William and Catherine had several children (Marianne, Elizabeth, Catherine, Margaret, Robert, and Isabella), but most of them seem to have died before their first birthday. In the 1861 census, they have one child Robert aged ten months, at least three children having already died. By 1871, they were no longer in Kirkinner and I have lost track of them.

It was at this point that Steve got involved. He found another family of Edgars from Ireland. William Edgar was born in Ireland in 1820 and he married Mary Whyte, also born in Ireland. They had a family of seven, the first three being born in Ireland and the youngest four born in Wigtownshire, indicating that they came over to Scotland between 1847 and 1849. The names of their children (Isabella, David, William, James, Richard, Margaret, and Jane) overlap with the other two Edgar families and with those of David Edgar and Mary Muckle (Samuel, Janet, David, Margaret, and Jane) suggesting that these families might all be connected in some way.

However, the most significant connection comes from eldest daughter Isabella. She married James Sandford in 1862. Their eldest son William Edgar Sandford was born in 1864. So, Samuel Edgar (son of Thomas and Elizabeth) had a son William Sandford Edgar, while James Sandford and Isabella Edgar (daughter of William) had a son William Edgar Sandford. Surely, this must indicate a close connection between the two families? I have been unable to find William Edgar's death certificate, so I don't know who his parents were.

At this point in time, there are four Edgar families (Thomas and Elizabeth, William and Catherine, William and Mary, David and Mary) who are possibly connected, but with no documentary evidence to support this. If anyone reading this can throw light on the above or who may be connected to any of the Edgars mentioned in this article, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

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More of Angela Reed's links:

<http://antrim.rootsireland.ie//generic.php?filename=sources.tpl&selectedMenu=sources&eno=1606#Sacred-Heart-Belfast>

www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com

www.ancestry.com

www.ancestryireland.com

www.familysearch.com

www.findmypast.com

<http://geni.nidirect.gov.uk>

And, you might just want to subscribe to the magazine where Angela got the URLs to share with us.

www.familytreemagazine.com

