



EDGAR EVENTS

**Researching and sharing Edgar family
history NO. 114, July 2016**



DNA Update

by James Edgar (james@jamesedgar.ca)



I have little to report DNA-wise this month, so I devote this issue to the fallen war dead. As in the text above, “Lest We Forget.”

We here in Canada celebrate Canada Day in July 1, marking the date of Confederation in 1867. But July 1 is known in Newfoundland and Labrador as a solemn day of remembrance, for it was on that day in 1916, exactly 100 years ago, that the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was nearly wiped out in one bloody event—the first day of the Battle of the

Somme. The [Newfoundland Heritage](#) site has an excellent write-up of the events leading up to the offensive, the battle, and the days that followed. [Wikipedia](#) is another source for information about the battle. A quote found there says it all: *22 officers and 758 other ranks were directly involved in the advance. Of these, all the officers and slightly under 658 other ranks became casualties. Of the 780 men who went forward only about 110 survived unscathed, of whom only 68 were available for roll call the following day. For all intents and purposes the Newfoundland Regiment had been wiped out, the unit as a whole having suffered a casualty rate of approximately 80%.*

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment is memorialized at Beaumont-Hamel in France with the splendid caribou stag monument, silhouetted against the sky. **Richard Edgar** of Northern Ireland kindly allowed me to use this photo taken on one of his many visits to the site.



Beaumont-Hamel Memorial

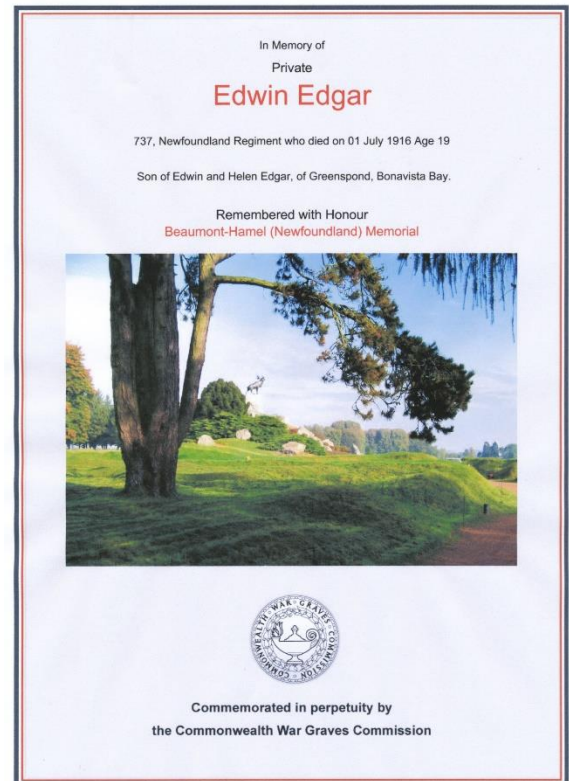


Another image from **Richard** shows the bronze plaque bearing the name of one who died that day, **Edwin Edgar**, a cousin of **Jim Edgar** of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) records online are freely available to anyone wishing to search for relatives or friends of any of the 1.7 million men and women who died in the two world wars. **Edwin Edgar's** record is shown below. **Jim Edgar** and I met through The Royal Astronomical

Society of Canada, and have exchanged emails often. I even got to present **Jim** with a certificate of appreciation last year when I visited St. John's.

A site having a complete listing of the RNR war dead is [Newfoundland's Grand Banks](#), dedicated to the 6200 soldiers from "The Rock" who died in the Great War.

Beaumont-Hamel is only one of five grave sites where islanders are buried. The others in France are at Gueudecourt, Monchy-le-Preux, Masnieres, and Courtrai in Belgium, each with the bugling caribou statue.

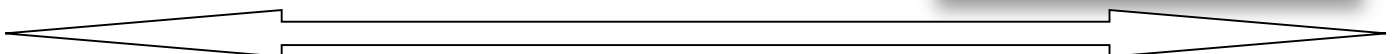


Pewter Badges

Looking to buy the **Edgar Crest**? At \$18, plus shipping, they make a great gift. The proceeds over cost go to the Edgar DNA Trust Fund, to help with our DNA quest.

Email me at james@jamesedgar.ca

Pewter buttons are also available.



We celebrate a new Edgar descendant

Adam Christopher Glen Warntz, born at 10:06 a.m., 2016 June 23, at 8 lbs 12 ounces and 23 inches. Father: **Andy Warntz**, Mother: **Corrina Warntz**



Here he is with Grandpa, **James Andrew Edgar**, **Corrina's** father.



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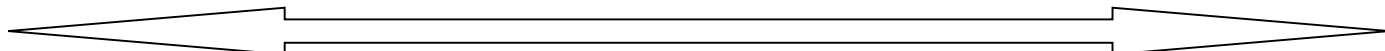
## [2000 Year Old Bog Butter Anyone?](#) (another link from Angela Reed)

» thestar.com «



Two-thousand-year-old bog butter—that's right. A peat cutter in Ireland recently dug up a 22 lb of butter made 2000 years ago. The Emlagh Bog turned up this unique gift from the past when Jack Conway, of Meath Ireland, was out cutting peat. If you have Meath ancestors, perhaps one of them helped make this butter, or milked the cow for the milk that was used in it.

Read the whole story at [For peat's sake! 2,000-years-old butter found in Irish bog](#)



## Robin's Visit

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



A couple of weeks ago, Robin Hagedorn (our erstwhile researcher from Australia), called from the English Lake District and asked for a recommendation for a hotel in Crewe. Instead of the flying visit on Sunday as planned, she wanted to come down earlier on the Friday night.

I duly picked her up at the station, got her settled at the hotel, and took her to the White Lion in Barthomley for a drink.

This place dates back to 1614 and was one of the original buildings in the Parish.



It's a step back in time, real beer, uneven floors, wobbly tables, and lots of oak beams.





And, what's more important, it serves real beer. (For the benefit of our Trans-Atlantic and Antipodean cousins, this stuff is warm, tastes good, and counts as one of your "5-a-day"—honest!)



On Saturday, we went to the Wybunbury Fig Pie Wakes. Wybunbury (pronounced Wimbury) is a small village in Cheshire that holds an annual competition to bake a fig pie and roll it down a hill (British eccentricity at its best!).

The tradition of rolling pies here dates back over 200 years.

The church steeple leans to one side and has a preservation order on it. The funds raised at this event help maintain the steeple.



Further British eccentricity was demonstrated by Edward Timpson MP (UK government Minister of State for Children)—he rolled the first fig pie.

Last year he threw the longest throw ever, but was later disqualified because he didn't bake his own pie!



See Youtube [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wzzx5W2lZ8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wzzx5W2lZ8)

Sunday was a quiet day, we had lunch with Robin and took her to the station for her onward trip to London.

To keep this article in its correct context for Edgar Events, I looked in the graveyard. There are no Edgars....

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### **I continue to get letters...**

Good day

I trust you are well.

I am busy with our family tree and after my grandmother passed away, I am struggling with the Edgar side of the tree. In my search on the Internet I came across your website.

I would like to know if you perhaps have any information or know of some one I can contact who can assist me.

My great great grandfather was Joseph Thomas Edgar 4/4/1876 - 22/7/1965 born in South Africa.

His father was Joseph Thomas Edgar 13/8/1847 - 16/7/1902. He was married to Hermina Johanna Delport. According to the information gather by my grandmother's cousin he was also born in South Africa.

His father was William Edgar married to Mary Ann Gough according to the latest information I received from my grandmother's cousins and were originally from Ireland.

He had a sister Mary Ann Edgar born ±1849. She was married to George Jones (born ± 1836). They were married in South Africa on 14 February 1876 at Jacobsdal, Marico District. This I could find in the marriage records for the St John Baptist Church in South Africa.

I appreciate your time.

Kind regards

Hermien Scheepers

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With a little sleuthing by Mrs. Poirot (my wife, Jodie), we were able to pass a contact to Hermien who we discovered on Ancestry.com, a David Clark. I got this from him when I asked him about Hermien and if he had an Edgar relative who might do a DNA test.

James,

I just responded to her email as well. I am very familiar with the names/places she sent me. My grandmother was Bertha May Edgar who married Ernest Albert Louis Hansel, lived in Mafeking a long time and then moved to Johannesburg. I have a surviving Aunt in the UK and an uncle in SA, from that union. She is 92 and he is 89. I am not sure that they would do DNA testing though.

I was born in Johannesburg, but moved to the USA in 1992.

I am right in the middle of moving house, but will respond with more info in about 2 weeks.

I would love to be on the mailing list, thank you.

David

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On 2016 April 24, Doreen Lord (née Moorhouse), passed away in Lancashire, England. She was the great-great-granddaughter of John Edgar, born in 1840 in Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, who later died in Yorkshire, England. We offer our condolences to Doreen's daughter, Fliss Wingrave and her family. SteveUK and Fliss are cousins.

## One last piece about memorials

**Richard Edgar** of Northern Ireland shared these photos of the Wooden Soldier memorial in Dollingstown, which is in Co. Down, just east of the Co. Armagh border and the town of Lurgan.



Richard wrote: I had to go to Dollingstown today to get a picture of the new Dollingstown Soldier. What a fantastic piece of art, a true tribute to the men of Dollingstown who served and were lost in the *Great War*. A big thank you must go out to Bruce Kidd and everyone else involved in having this put in place. This wooden soldier stands silently on guard at the Dollingstown War Memorial.

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An excerpt from the Lurgan Mail newspaper...



A new book to remember Lurgan's fallen of World War One is to be launched

Titled *Not Forgotten: Lurgan and The Great War*, the book remembers all of the town's war dead, including 181 names not included on the town's main war memorial or those in the surrounding villages.

There are 420 names commemorated on the memorials from total losses of 601 for Lurgan and the surrounding area.

The book by Lurgan man Clive Higginson and Portadown's Richard Edgar came about as the result of a challenge to Clive, who has had an interest in war history for the last 15 years, to have the book ready for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme (it started on July 1, 1916).

The book's aim is "to ensure those not named on the war memorials are permanently written into Lurgan's story."

That story includes Lurgan woman Rosa McGibbon, who served as a nurse with the 10th Irish in the Middle East. She died in 1919 as the result of illness.

Indeed, of the 601 losses, 36 died of illness.

Other statistics show that the town had the highest percentage recruitment per head of population for any town in the British empire at the time – with 60 per cent signing up.

On the first day of the Somme campaign 79 Lurgan men lost their lives.

