

"Edgar"

(a copy)

Leaving the traditions, which every one will evaluate for him self, we fortunately have some records of history, which we can gather piece-meal, from printed records. Of course the Edgar name appears only incidentally, for the records are not primarily a history of the Edgar family, but a history of the Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter) Church in So. Car., Tenn., & Illinois.

From these I glean the facts that in the summer of 1789, the Rev. Jas. Reid, came as a missionary to America, & invited different societies in So. Car., setting in order the affairs of the Church & dispensing the Sacraments. At that time he organized the group that lived in the neighborhood of Rocky Creek, Cheater District So. Car., into a congregation. Five elders were elected at that time, one of whom was Adam Edgar.

He bore an honorable name, an ardent Covenanter, & doubtless continued in the eldership until his death, which occurred probably some ten yrs. later. I drew this conclusion from the fact, that record is again made of the Rocky Creek Meeting House, which was then known locally as "Widow Edgar's meeting house," the date being 1-28-1801. Her Husband must have been dead at least a few yrs., for the Church to have become known by the name of the widow.

Among other things which happened at that time, was the ordination & installation of Rev. Thos. Donnelly as pastor of that & other churches in that general region, & also the election to the eldership of quite a number, among whom was Wm. Edgar, the eldest son of Adam Edgar, and the progenitor of the line from which we spring.

In this connection it may be said, that the convictions of Adam Edgar & his wife have been stamped upon posterity, that in each succeeding generation they have not lacked one or more descendants who have been elders in the Covenanter church. It is true that many of us have sought & found fellowship, with many communions now represented among the descendants; but that Godly couple who established their home in the southland, more than almost two centuries ago, so impressed their religious convictions upon their children, is evidence that they had the strength of character for which all of the generations following may be grateful.

It seems that after the death of his parents, & partly due because of slavery, the children with their families, migrated to Tenn., which while a slave state, was not so dominantly so, as was So. Car. This was probably in the yr. 1808 or 1809, Some of them settled in Lincoln Co., not far from Fayetteville, & some of them, either then, or later, settled in Hickman Co., at Duck River, a little SW of Nashville Tenn.

Wm. Edgar was probably of the group, for in 1812, a commission was appointed to organize a congregation in Lincoln Co., & on that commission was elder Wm. Edgar of Duck River. At the same time of the organization of the congregation, one of the elders elected was Samuel Little, who m Mgt. Edgar, a dau. of Adam Edgar. This family of the Little's later came to So. Illinois.

Some yrs. later, 1819, several families of both Tenn. communities migrated to Randolph Co. Ill. & were among the pioneers of that section of the country. From Glasgow's History, I quote concerning the formation of a congregation at Eden Ill., by the Rev. Samuel Wylie; "The first Covenanter congregation organized was in June 1821, with 35 members & the promise of a salary of about \$200. per yr. The elders were Samuel Little & Wm. Edgar, who had the yr. previously emigrated from Tenn." Thus ended the lesson, as far as the printed records are concerned.

What has happened to the family in the yrs. since, is a part of the history of So. Ill. Some have been identified with this part of the country. Others have made it their point of departure, & have gone to the four points of the compass. A goodly number have gone to Kan., others to Pa., which state Adam Edgar left somewhat unceremoniously many yrs. ago. Representatives of the

family are to be found in most all the professions & lines of business, & have achieved the average measure of success. However, I have not known of one of the name becoming a multi-millionaire. That tho, is not the climax of distinction.

To present the family, the genealogy is thus ;
 To Adam Edgar were born ; Wm., John, Jas., Mgt., & Abigail.
 John had 2 sons ; Samuel remained in Tenn. & Wm. migrated to Mo.
 Jas. was father of 8 sons & 1 dau. One son was Hy. & another Wm. This family, in whole or in part, moved to vicinity of Houston Texas, yrs. ago.
 Mgt. m Samuel Little, came to So. Ill. & has many descendants, -Littles, Pipers, Beavers, Coulters & others near Coulterville & Oakdale Ill.
 Abigail m Mr. Walker & is thot to have remained in Hickman Co. Tenn.
 This brings us to the eldest-the one from whom the most of us descend. Wm. m Mary Morrison & they moved to Rand. Co. Ill. in 1819. To this union were b ;
 Adam who m Mgt. Sinclair
 Robt, S. who m Jane McMillan
 Alex. John who m 1st Janet Campbell, m 2nd Jane Sinclair (sis. of Mgt. above)
 Wm. who m Mary Morrison *buried old Bethel Cemetery*
 Janet who m John Alexander.

I shall not attempt to designate further. No one can do it perfectly, but perhaps others may pick up the thread & weave it together.

In the main I believe this to be a fairly correct account.

(signed) Thos. Delbert Edgar.

Some traditions.

Let us recall a bit of tradition, as it has come to us by tradition, not being a matter of record.-

About the middle of the 18th century, probably between 1745-1755, Adam Edgar was b in Pa. It is not known whether his ancestors came directly from Scot., or whether they came by way of the N of Ire. The place of Adam's birth is not known It is thot that there were other children in the family, but we had no trace of them.

Adam Edgar's father d while Adam was a boy, & his mother, later, m a man by the name of Simpson, of whom nothing is known, except that after the 2nd m of his mother, home was not pleasant for young Adam.

Following a custom which was quite common in those days, his mother bound him out to another man, which action he bitterly resented, & it is supposed that he sought larger liberty by running away.

The next that is known of him, is that he was an honored & respected citizen of Chester District, So. Car. When & Where he had m is not known, neither do we know her maiden name. It is said she was of Indian blood, others say not, but whoever she was, she was respected in her community.

The descendants of Alex. John Edgar have been influential in educational lines, -teachers, ministers, missionaries to Syria, China & the Indians, as ; Rev. Alfred Edgar spent many yrs. with the Indians.

Dr. Robt. S. Edgar of Coulterville Ill., & wife were parents of 7 sons, -

Donald Cargill,
 Rev. Thos. Delbert
 A. J.
 Robt. Metheny
 J. Arthur
 Dr. J. C.
 Wm. Melville

Our mother d at Wilkensburg Pa. & is bur. at Coulterville Ill. Cem.

***** Rev. Thos. Delbert Edgar.

1. Adam Edgar b possibly Pa. 1745-1755 d before 1-28-1801 m
her name not now known to us.
2. Their children were; Wm., John, Jas., Mgt., & Abigail (possibly others)
We will speak of Wm., the eldest last in this genealogy.
2. John Edgar b m lived in Tenn.
3. Samuel Edgar b " " "
3. Wm. Edgar b migrated to Mo.
2. Jas. Edgar b m & migrated to vicinity of Houston
Texas. Have reason to know they had 8 sons & 1 dau. Only know of 2 sons.
3. Hy. Edgar b
3. Wm. Edgar b
2. Mgt. Edgar b m in Tenn. Samuel Little who d aged 84
yrs. near Sparta Ill. Their early home was about 30 mi. from Nashville Tenn.,
where he taught school. Later they moved to Rand. Co. Ill. She was sometimes
called "Polly" Little. Samuel was an elder in the 1st session of Rev. Samuel
Wylie's church at Eden Ill., on 5-24-1819. On 5-3-1819 there is a record of
Polly Little "of some age" being baptised by Rev. Wylie. Samuel Little signed
the 1st & 2nd calls for Rev. Wylie to be minister at Eden Ill. (Church record)
3. Josiah Little b m 1-9-1822 Anna Lessley a dau. of Hugh & Jane
Lessley) Josiah & Anna were admitted to the church membership in Eden,
Ill., on examination, June 1822.
4. Jane Little baptised in that church 5-15-1823 m in Ill. Robt. Lyons.
4. Eliz. Little " " " " 1-15-1824 m in Ill. ---- Skelly
3. Wm. Little b m
4. Wm. Little b m 1-4-1844 Mary Ann Linn b
5. Wm. Little b Englewood Kan. m 9-15-1878 Ophelia McGuire b 1856 d 1919
6. Chas. Little b 8-25-1879
6. Wm. Little b m 1st
m 2nd Mrs. Clara McDill & seperated.
6. Josiah Little b
6. Minerva Little b
6. Jane Little b
6. Jas. Little b
6. Mary Little b
3. David Little b 1803 reared abt 30 mi. from Nashville Tenn. d 6-4-1883 m
Mgt. Linn b 1809 d 1891 Ill. (dau. of Wm. & Rebecca Ervin Linn. Rebecca was
an aunt of Mrs. Tom Dunn of Sparta Ill.)
4. Nancy Little d 11-3-1920 m J. Davidson Elder b 9-5-1821 d 5-
24-1901 Marissa Ill.
5. Mgt. Elder b m -- Nevin b
5. Anna Bell Elder b 12 -24-1872 m 7-25-1888 Geo. Cherry b 6-23-1867
6. Fred Vincent Cherry b 9-25-1889 d 10-27-1927 m 10-16-1907 Lydia
Madeline Houser b 1-9-1899
7. Melba Anabel Cherry b 6-27-1908 m 7-15-1927 John E. Geselsch b 1902
8. Janice Claire Geselsch b 10-3-1928
8. Jas. John " b 2-2-1935
6. Jas. Alonzo Cherry b 9-5-1891 d 5-26-1910
5. Martha Elder b 9-23-1851 d 8-23-1940 m --- Houston
5. Mary Ann Elder b 2-9-1854 d 1-28-1935 Marissa Ill.
5. Ella Elder b 2-9-1854 d 8-24-1935 m 1885 John Richmond b 12-14-1856
d 12-26-1945 Coulterville Ill.
6. Harold Richmond b
5. Eliza Elder b m 12-24-1903 Robt. D. Hood b 1880 d 1941
6. Alonzo Hood b
6. Maude Hood b m --- Kimmel b
7. Bobby Lee Kimmel b