

### THREE LINEAGES LINKED BY DNA

Stanton Edgoose (1810-1845), a son of the John Edgoose (1770-1820) who had moved to West Walton in Norfolk from Gosberton in Lincolnshire in 1796, married Patience Hudson (1817-1906) at West Walton on 31 October 1835. They had six children between 1836 and 1844. Patience gave birth to another six children after the death of her husband, the eldest of whom was my great grandfather James Edgoose (1847-1892). The attempt to trace all living Edgooses back to a common ancestor which I had started in 1966 received a setback as soon as I realised that I was not, after all, a blood relation of the families who had lived in Lincolnshire since the early 1500s. However, I was hooked on family history and persevered.

Forty years later, John Edgoose's great great great grandson John Samuel Edgoose, expressed the view that we must be related, given that photographs of our respective fathers showed an uncanny resemblance. We undertook a DNA test which showed that we had a 42 out of 43 marker match. John Samuel's great great grandfather John Edgoose (1801-1841) was clearly not a contender to be James Edgoose's father. That left just Robert Edgoose (1798-1870) whose wife Judith had died in 1842. All in all, a conclusive result.

Proving a connection with the Edgooses still living in Lincolnshire was more difficult. All were descended from Sarah Lawson Edgoose (1832-1874) who had five illegitimate children before she married John Metcalfe Westmoreland in 1861. I had traced her ancestry back to the James Edgoose who had been buried at Kirkby-on-Bain, Lincolnshire, in 1792, but I had found no documentary evidence to link him to my family in Pinchbeck, Gosberton, and Spalding. Fortunately, Wallace Edgoose, a direct descendant of Sarah's brother John Robert Edgoose (1839-1914) who had emigrated to the USA in about 1884, was still alive. He readily agreed to take the test. It showed a 40 out of 43 marker match. The last of his line in the USA, he died a few months later aged 82. Without that just-in-time DNA test any possibility of proving that the two family lines at one time had a common ancestor would have been lost for ever.