

Egan Clan Reunion Here To Be First in United States

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Today's Living Editor

THE BREHONS were the law givers and judges of ancient Ireland, and among the most important of such families in the old Gaelic system were the Mac Aodagains.

When the Clan Egan (and Eagen) gathers in Scranton this weekend for the first reunion to be held in the United States, latter day family successors to the Brehons, lawyers and judges, will be well represented.

Two modern Brehons will be the honorees at the four events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The clan chieftain from Ireland, Michael J. Egan, a solicitor in Castlebar, County Mayo, who arranged the first reunion in the Republic of Ireland in 1982, is one of the two to be feted at the festivities, which about 150 Egans, Eagens, Eagans, MacEagens and Keegans will attend.

Retired Pennsylvania Chief Justice Michael J. Eagen of Scranton, titular head of the Eagen family of Northeastern Pennsylvania, is the other. His son, attorney Michael J. Eagen Jr., accompanied by his son, Michael III, also will be present.

The Irish lawyer will be accompanied by his wife, Eithne, and daughter, Pauline, and will be a house guest of the clan treasurer (cisdeoir) James M. Eagen Jr. and his wife, Shirley, Clark's Summit, who along with their son, Jay, and daughter, Gretchen, of the Washington, D.C., area, attended the third annual reunion of the clan last August at the Egan Castle restored by Michael J. Egan in Lorrha, County Tipperary. This same castle was the Brehons' 14th century law school.

In July of this year Shirley Eagen was a guest of the Egans in Castlebar



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and at the castle while on a shopping trip for her Clark's Summit Irish import store, Shanty 'n Lace.

After clan members from New York, New Jersey, Washington, Virginia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ver-

mont, New Hampshire and Ohio begin to assemble here on Friday, there will be registration and a cocktail reception at the Hilton at Lackawanna Station at 6 p.m. The next morning at 10 there will be a clan meeting at the same hotel. That evening the cocktail reception and dinner will be held in the Eagen Auditorium of the University of Scranton at 6:30, with introduction of guests and remarks, followed by entertainment and dancing with the Irish Balladeers.

Sunday at 12:30 a Mass will be concelebrated in St. Vincent de Paul Church by Monsignor James A. Lowry and the Rev. William Egan, St. Agnes Church, Forest City.

Among those who will participate in the festivities are Drs. Joseph and Joan Egan from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. They are the authors of "History of Clan Egan — the Birds of the Forest of Wisdom." The clan shield, consisting of two doves inside a laurel wreath, has the motto "Peace and Wisdom."

Joan and Joseph Egan were the link between the Egans of Ireland and the Eagens of Pennsylvania when the clan reunions began in 1982. At that time James M. Eagen Jr. of Clark's Summit was invited to the Irish rally but couldn't attend and gave the invitation to his sister, Mary Agnes, and her husband, Don Kemple, a lawyer in Syracuse, N.Y., who planned to spend that summer in Ireland. They will be present for the 1985 rally, too.

Thomas Kieran Egan of Rutland, Vt., who was re-elected representative for North America at the 1984 reunion, will be among the participants here. He will be accompanied by his wife, Peggy.

The Castle Egan is located where three counties in Ireland — Galway, Offaly and Tipperary — and three provinces — Connacht, Munster and Leinster — touch. The little village of Lorrha is between Portumna in Galway and Birr in Offaly just where the stretch of road starts south into Tipperary. It was in 1982, after Michael J. Egan had completed the restoration of Redwood Castle in Lorrha Parish near the River Shannon, that the call went out from the chieftain for all the present day members of the clan to gather.

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Egan, who recently was elected president of the Knights of Malta, performed his labor of love without the assistance of a government grant or public support. His cousin, Patrick J. Egan, an architect in Dublin, where Michael also practices law, returned Wicklow oak and Tullamore

