

U. S. CANADA NEWSLETTER

Clan Egan Association

Editor: Jane Eagen . 16215 Audubon Lane . Bowie, Maryland 20716 . U.S.A.

New Leaders Elected At 1998 Rally

Both International and U.S. Canada leaders were elected at the 1998 Clan Egan gathering held at Annapolis, Maryland, June 19—22, 1998. The death of Michael J. Egan of Castlebar left the Clan Egan without an elected Chieftain. Michael J.S. Egan of Dublin was elected Clan Chieftain by acclamation. He has shown dedication and leadership abilities over a period of time that made him the outstanding choice as the International Clan Chieftain. He was nominated and then elected by acclamation. Eithne Egan, widow of Michael J., presented him with the lunala and gavel, the symbols of his office.

Byron Egan of Dallas, Texas was elected President of the U.S. Canada Clan Egan Association by acclamation also. Read more about him on another page. The list of officers and committee members and their addresses can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

A Good Time Was Had By All

Saint John's College in Annapolis, Maryland definitely was the place to be June 19—22 if you wanted a good time with fine people. The 1998 Gathering of the Clan Egan was the event and there were many Egans, Eagans, Eagens et al and their families in attendance. At the banquet there were one hundred, seventy of us in one room.

Friday evening, Michael Maloney, cultural attaché from the Embassy of Ireland, addressed the group on the status and goals of the peace process. He spoke of three levels of activity: (1) neighborhood to neighborhood in Northern Ireland, (2) Community in Northern Ireland to community in the Republic of Ireland, (3) The Republic of Ireland and England. U.S. Senator George Mitchell was praised highly as the leader in the process. President Clinton received accolades also. He said that few people realized that on the night of Good Friday Clinton was on the telephone at three in the morning EST persuading participants to remain at the table and not to give up on the meetings. Mr. Maloney also answered questions from the group for many of us. Ireland can be proud to have him as a spokesman.

Pat Colling Egan gave a slide presentation of some of her research in which she presented a different theory about the location of some of the early Egans. It is serious food for thought. I admit I cannot do it justice in this column.

Saturday was a busy and important day. We all gathered and Vince Egan, Director of Development presided over the meeting. The Mayor of Annapolis welcomed us and expressed his joy in having our group in his beautiful and historic city. Father Joe Egan opened it with a prayer and paid a tribute to deceased Clan Chieftain Michael J. Egan and others who had passed on. Michael J.'s wife, Eithne and daughter, Mary Kaye were introduced. After the nomination and election by acclamation of Michael J.S. Egan, Eithne came forward and placed the lunala on the new Chieftain. She also presented the gavel to him. This was a very emotional moment and one of grace and dignity. His acceptance was brief, but he spoke of looking to the future and the importance of communication in our organization. Keeping in mind we do not have a large treasury and postage costs are high, electronic communication appears to be preferred when possible. Almost everyone present either has e-mail or has someone in his or her family who can send and receive on their behalf.

. . . A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL (continued)

Two programs were presented in the afternoon, Irish Genealogy by Pam Clark of the Irish Acorn and Jim McInerney who related to us the role of the Irish Brigade in the Civil War. He told of the heroism and great losses suffered by the Fighting 69th at the Antietam Battlefield and the monument recently placed there in their honor.

Saturday evening we enjoyed a banquet and had several distinguished guests, the Mayor of Wexford, his wife, and the Wexford County Manager. Wexford, Ireland and Annapolis are sister cities and thus the visiting Mayor. The Commodore Barry Unit of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was the host for the visiting officials and joined in the fun at the banquet. The AOH presented the Planning Committee and our new Chieftain with several lovely gifts. Following the meal we enjoyed a performance of Irish dancing from the Broesler School of Irish Dance. The performers had competed in Ireland in April and were preparing for the nationals in the United States. The Flying Cows of Ventry provided music the rest of the evening. Several Egans joined in the jigs and reels.

Sunday we visited the birthplace of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, and then worshiped at St. Mary's Church. The Ancient Order of Hibernians escorted us into the church with an honor guard and piper. The other worshippers were a little surprised. They were even more surprised when they realized that this whole troop of people filed into the pews. It was standing room only. Father John Egan and Father Joe Egan were concelebrants. The soloist was outstanding.

One of the most enjoyable times was the crab feast. It was fun for everyone, those who did and didn't know how to eat the Chesapeake blue crabs. After going inside for cake and coffee we were enchanted by a storyteller. Three little girls assisted him and came in right on cue. Several of our group then shared their favorite family stories. The election of the United States Clan was completed and Byron Egan of Dallas, Texas became the new leader.

Monday morning we boarded buses for tours. Some went to Washington to the National Archives and Mall area. The second bus visited Whitmarsh Chapel where John Carroll was elected the first Bishop of the Catholic Church in the United States, then on to his birthplace and finally to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Monday evening was very special. We sat out under the trees on this balmy moonlit night and chatted with each other. Acquaintances became friends. Different ones volunteered to be on committees and ideas were explored. I don't know if it was the magic of the Irish or because it was a group of very fine people, but it was a most enjoyable evening and a wonderful closing to a great weekend.

*The editor, who was also on the Planning Committee, wrote this article. . .
....so it may be more than a wee bit biased!*

Vince and Maryann Continue the Celebration

After celebrating their golden wedding anniversary the week before, the Egans of Lexington, South Carolina were surprised to find more cake and to do in Annapolis on Friday evening. We all got goosebumps when Vince asked the band to play *The Anniversary Waltz* and he sang it to his beloved. She then joined him for the waltz. We all ooohd and aaahd when they dipped. Their family was present to join in and beamed.



Memorabilia Available

A variety of Clan memorabilia were made available at the Rally in Annapolis and can be ordered if you wish.

T-shirts

With a five-color Clan Aodhagain Crest are available for \$11.00 in sizes from Youth: 6/8, 10/12, 14/16, and Adult: small, medium, large, x-large, and xx-large. Add \$3 for shipping each 1—3 shirts in the United States.

Baseball-Style Adjustable Hats

Green with the "Clan Aodhagain" printed in gold are available for \$7.00. These can be shipped with shirt orders and 2 hats equal 1 shirt in calculating the shipping costs.

6"x8" Plaque with the Family Crest

\$30.00, plus \$3 for shipping.

Casting of the 13th Century Crest

From the Dominican Priory at Lorrha, County Tripperary for \$40.00 plus \$T.B.D. for shipping.

You will find an order form on the Egan web page at:

[HTTP://Home.Sprynet.Com/Sprynet/MTTaylor/Clanegan.HTM](http://Home.Sprynet.Com/Sprynet/MTTaylor/Clanegan.HTM)

or write to Jim Egan, 4610 Brad Court, Rockville, Maryland 20853 with your request, contact numbers, and address. If any item is not in supply to fill your request, restocking will be done at the first of every calendar quarter.

TECH COMMITTEE SURGES AHEAD

The Tech Committee (ETC) has been busy and very productive. Even if you do not have access to the Internet, someone in your family may, and they could share the information there with you, so read on.

The members of the Clan Mac Egan technical committee have set up a web site <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Bluffs/5500>. The purpose of the site is to have a centralized location for all those researching the many variations of the Mac Aodhagain name (Egan, Eagan, Eagen, Keegan, etc.) The page is divided into several sections.

In the LINEAGE section you will find the GEDCOMS, databases of family trees. Please send yours today! Remember, whenever uploading a family tree, always be sure to use your extraction program to exclude the pertinent details of living persons. The new page contains information on "The Annals of the Four Masters", The "Speckled Book of Mac Egans" and the Redwood Castle. On the CONTACTS page you will find email addresses of all Clan Officers and links to personal home pages devoted to MacAodhagin Genealogy. In SIGN and VIEW GUEST BOOK, you can read the search queries posted by others, and add your own.

Look in the list of officers and committee members for names, addresses, etc.

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YOU KNOW YOU ARE

ADDICTED WHEN . . .

You brake for libraries.

You hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.

You would rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.

You are more interested in what happened in 1697 than in 1997.

Savage, Torrey, and Pope are household names, but you cannot remember what to call the dog.

You can pinpoint Harrietsham, Hawkhurst, Kent, but can't locate your state capitol on the map.

You think every home should have a copier and a microfilm reader.

You know every registrar of deeds in the state by name, but they lock the doors when they see you coming.

You store your clothes under the bed because your closet is full of books and papers.

All your correspondence begins "Dear Cousin."

You have traced everyone of your ancestral lines back to Adam and Eve, have it documented and still do not want to quit.

(from Prince George's County
Genealogical Society Bulletin, Oct. 1997)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The dues for membership for Clan Egan USA/Canada are currently \$15 per year for an individual or \$25.00 per year for all members of a household at one address. Within this newsletter you will find a form to use for mailing in your current dues if not already paid. Please check your mailing label which will indicate if our records show payment of the 1998 dues. Also please provide all of the information on the form so that we may keep up communication with you electronically as well as at any second location where you spend some substantial part of the year.

Last year a separate, and entirely voluntary, donation was created called the Eagen Pence. You may choose to make such a donation in any amount so the Clan Egan USA/Canada can provide discretionary support for the International Clan.