

# USA/Canada Clan Egan

Issue 1

First Quarter 2002

## Message from the President of USA/Canada Clan Egan Association

Byron F. Egan  
Dallas, Texas

Our next Clan Egan Rally will be July 3-7, 2002 in Australia. This will be a seminal event to follow our Millennium Clan Egan Rally held June 29- July 2, 2000 in Ireland.

A number of Egans immigrated to Australia over the years and have prospered. The Clan Egan Association in Australia has over 120 members, and sent a significant contingent to Ireland for the Millennium Rally. Our Australian cousins brought an offer to host us in 2002. In addition to promising to arrange an interesting and educational experience for us, they pointed out that July is winter in Australia with daytime temperatures in the range of 70 degrees Fahrenheit, which should be a relief to those of us who will be experiencing a hot summer at the time. Our Australian cousins further pointed out that, with the prevailing favorable currency exchange rates (currently \$1.9 Australlars for each U.S. dollar), the U.S. dollar goes a long way in Australia. This

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## Egan Coat of Arms

*Fortitude and Prudence*



## Clan Egan 2002 Rally Australia (July 3-7)

Greg & Sue Egan  
Clayton, Victoria Australia

This year finds our Clan Gathering as far away as it is possible to get from our ancestral home at Redwood Castle, Co. Tipperary.

Australia is a place where many of our forebears spoke of in dread as a place to which their friends and relatives were sent - never to return. Nowadays, our young people find that Australia is a great country to work in or simply visit. They all have nothing but good to say about its people and its weather.

Many who will attend the Clan Gathering will be from the southern hemisphere - far from us geographically but very close to us in spirit. Those from overseas will undoubtedly find the adventure of visiting a new and exciting country, meeting kinsfolk from all over the world and enjoying the hospitality laid on for us all in Melbourne and its surrounds to be a memorable occasion which will never be forgotten.

If you can, mortgage the house or sell the car and come!

<http://www.monash.edu.au/oce/eganrally/index.html>

Please use the attached registration form, and register now! ❖

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# Clan Rally 2002 Programme

Greg & Sue Egan  
Clayton, Victoria Australia

While the 2002 Rally will be based in Melbourne Victoria we will travel through the Victorian Goldfields seeing older townships, gold diggings and the historic city of Bendigo. Later we will visit the picturesque wine growing areas of the Dandenong mountain range and Yarra Valley. Our hope is that our overseas family members in particular will get to see a little more of our countryside, much of the character of which is still as it was in the 1850s. We anticipate that most of us will choose to travel together on the coaches for the tours giving us ample time (the itinerary is not particularly rushed) to discuss and trade information on our common interest - The Egans.

Many of you may wish to add side trips during your stay. Link Tours that are coordinating the tour component of the Rally are offering two tours, one before and one after the Rally, which may be of interest. Australia is very large and we suggest you make good use of your own travel agents. Australia is also very safe but we do recommend you take out appropriate travel insurance.

## Wednesday 3 July Gathering Day in Melbourne

6:00 Reception and Rally Opening (proposed to be at the Duxton Hotel) - Opening Remarks by the Clan Chief Dr. M.J.S. Egan

## Thursday 4 July Bendigo and Country Victoria

In the morning we will leave Melbourne by coach for the central Victorian township of Maldon. Upon arrival in the town a guide will board the coach and provide a commentary during the hour-long tour. We will enjoy some free time strolling through this National Trust town prior to lunch at The Maldon Hotel. A talk will be presented during lunch. Mid afternoon we will travel to Porcupine Village where a guided tour of this historical gold mining village will be provided. Late afternoon we will travel through to Bendigo where we will stay overnight at either Cathedral Motor Inn or The Shamrock Hotel.

## Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>

Commencing in the morning, and breaking up into smaller groups, we will enjoy the following historic attractions:

- Central Deborah Mine
- Golden Dragon Museum
- Vintage Talking Trams

Lunch will be find your own and an opportunity for discussion in Central Bendigo before traveling out to the Bendigo Pottery complex, returning to Melbourne late in the afternoon.

In the evening we will be free to find our own dinner in Central Melbourne. We hope and encourage you to take this opportunity to collect in groups for discussion.

## Saturday 6 July Dandenongs and Yarra Valley

On Saturday we will travel by coach to visit the Dandenong Ranges to the East of Melbourne, a glorious retreat from the city's bustle. Travel aboard the quaint little steam train, Puffing Billy from Belgrave to Emerald Lake, taking in the rolling hills, fern gullies and lush vegetation. We will continue by coach through the ranges to the beautiful Yarra valley and enjoy lunch at the Healesville Sanctuary, one of our great attractions with more than 200 species of native birds, mammals and reptiles on display in a natural bush setting. The visit will be enhanced with the services of accompanying guides.

The day will conclude with a wine tasting at a selected Yarra Valley winery.

We will arrive back in Melbourne approximately 6.00pm for a short break before the Rally Banquet 7:00pm at the Victorian Club Rialto Building.

## Sunday 7 July Rally Close

- 9:00 Church Services
- 11:30 Chapter Meetings
- 1:00 Rally Close

## Professor Gregory K. Egan

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# The Immigration History to Australia

The first human inhabitants of Australia were the Aborigines. They arrived there about 60,000 years ago. Nobody is quite sure how they came to Australia. They may have walked (during the ice ages) and sailed there from Asia. It is estimated that there were about 300,000 aborigines living in Australia before Europeans arrived

In 1779 the British government decided it needed a new penal colony (place to send convicts) as far away as possible from Britain. John Banks who had been with Captain Cook when he visited Australia suggested just the place: Australia. Then known as New South Wales.

On the 13th May 1787 a fleet of eleven ships left Britain with two years provision and a cargo of 759 unwilling convicts, their guards, and ships crew numbering - 1530 people in all. They were to colonize the new land.

After an eight-month journey they sailed into Botany Bay in New South Wales on the 18th of January 1788. The captain of the fleet Arthur Phillip decided Botany Bay wasn't a very good place to start a settlement and moved to Port Jackson further up the coast, the site of the city of Sydney today.

Life in the new settlement was very hard and most of the people didn't have the skills (like farming, carpentry, etc.) to tame the new land. Starvation was always a major problem.

Not too many people wanted to come to Australia in the early days because life was very hard. The sort of people who were needed (farmers, carpenters, builders, etc) didn't want to leave the comforts of home for the hardships of this new land.

During the early 1800's as poverty and unemployment increased in Britain the British government tried to encourage people to come to Australia by agreeing to pay for their passage (this was called "assisted passage"). These settlers were called "Free Settlers". Life on board these ships was squalid. Disease in these cramped surroundings was always a problem.

Some of these new settlers laid claim to vast tracts of

land on which they started grazing cattle and sheep. They came to be called the "Squatters". Over time some of these families became very wealthy and respectable. Their land holdings called "stations" in some cases are bigger than some countries.

The discovery of gold in 1850 changed Australia radically. In the space of a few years the population increased astronomically. People came from England, Ireland, Scotland, China and even the USA in search of gold. Cities emptied as people rushed off to the gold fields. New shops, factories and farms were opened up to cater for the new people.

These people digging for gold came to be called the "Diggers".

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*The potato famine in Ireland in the 1850s brought an influx of Irish immigrants.*

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After the end of World War II, many displaced people from Europe found their way to Australia. They came mainly from Britain, Holland, Germany, and Italy.

Rapid industrialization in the early 1960's meant that there was a great demand for unskilled labor for the new factories, industries and civil engineering projects opening up in Australia. A large number of new immigrants arrived from Britain, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Turkey.

The new immigrants also brought with them their cultures, customs and cuisines. Australia started to become cosmopolitan - a truly multicultural society.

More than 500,000 refugees have settled in Australia since 1945. The latest groups being from war ravaged Bosnia.

Australia currently accepts around 80,000 new immigrants a year. The present criteria for immigration are: skills, qualifications and abilities; capital and business expertise; close family ties; refugees and humanitarian needs. ❖

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## Remembering the Clan Egan 2000 Rally

Carole Egan Mondragon  
Oakville, Ontario Canada

It was a hot, muggy summer afternoon. A mixed group of American, Australian, English and Canadian tourists pick their way carefully through a cow-pattied field in the heart of the Emerald Isle. Their destination is an ancient, tumbledown building. Three walls surround the empty shell of the eight hundred year old ruin. Ignoring the heat, the crowd gathered eagerly around the speaker. Video cameras and tape recorders at the ready, they poised to catch the honeyed, historic words that fall from the lips of their leader, Michael, chief of the Egan Clan, as he claims this uninhabitable ruin for their common heritage.

Michael speaks of a time long ago when Egans presided over this great house, creating a university run by non-clerics who taught the ancient Brehon law, history, genealogy and literature. This was a protected place until the time of Cromwell in the 1600s.

As we listened to Michael recreate the life of this school, I saw in my mind's eye, a curragh sailing down the nearby Shannon River. As I allowed myself to follow this whimsical thought, Michael's voice receded into the distance and I think I saw two cloaked figures walking up the path from the Shannon, deep in conversation on some point of law. A worker calls a greeting from a nearby field. 'What news? Do you bring news from beyond the Shannon?' One of the cloaked figures waves back. 'Yes, I have news. I'll share it tonight at supper.' The two walk on into the shadow of the broad gateway to the school. Others wait there with water to wash the weary feet of the travelers. Once refreshed, the two entered the grounds and stop by the well to drink. I follow them through the gate and become aware of a humming sound, as voices repeat some lesson within the walls. A group of students near an upstairs window, work under the patient eye of a master. The students pore over their work, adding artistic beauty to rolls filled with Celtic calligraphy. In yet another room, students discuss the finer points of Brehon Law. Seated by a window, a lone student lost in thought, gazes unseeingly, quill poised over his parchment. Inspiration comes and a smile passes



fleetingly across his face as he bends to apply himself to the task. A bell calls the students to the evening meal and they gather from the four corners of the wide meadow, from the fields and the classrooms. They sit at long tables and bow their heads as the evening meal is blessed and respond with a deep resounding Amen. There is a clatter of bowls and a rumble of happy conversation as the day's work is discussed. As the meal draws to a close, attention is called to the new work the lone poet has composed that day. He stands, suddenly shy and begins to recite his poem, soon losing himself in the beauty of the words. Students nod their heads appreciatively and as the poem draws to its close, hands thump the table in appreciation. Silence is called for and the two visitors from beyond the Shannon are invited to share their news. Gravely, the travelers tell of the Penal Laws to be imposed by the English. Laws in which will affect the very foundation of their culture. A loud cry of anger breaks out and soon the whole room is involved in heated argument.

The scene recedes as I heard Michael Egan say '...and that's the history of how this place came to be.' I am startled back into the present and look about me at the many Egans, cousins, joined together in antiquity. Why are we drawn to this place? Why to this place of learning? Why do so many Egans become lawyers, historians, literary people, artists, and psychologists? These were questions we all ponder in our hearts.

As we meander back across the fields towards our waiting cars, I turn again to catch a glimpse of the great house that once rocked with vitality and the

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# Archbishop Edward Michael Egan

By CLAUDIA McDONNELL

## BISHOP EDWARD EGAN APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP OF N.Y

Archbishop Egan officially becomes leader of 'a noble people, a holy Church'.

In a ceremony of solemn prayer, celestial music and jubilant applause, Archbishop Edward M. Egan became the Archbishop of New York in St. Patrick's Cathedral June 18, 2000. He spoke in his homily of his joy and humility at being chosen to head the archdiocese and his gratitude to Pope John Paul II for appointing him to serve "a noble people, a holy Church."

"I come only to serve you, and all of the community in the three boroughs and seven counties of the Archdiocese of New York," he said. "I come with joy to serve to the best of my ability. I have seen your wonderful works. I am honored to become a part of you in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

Archbishop Egan wore the cross at the ceremony and noted that he uses it "only for the most important liturgical ceremonies" in his life. "It is my inspiration," the archbishop said. "It is my strength. It is, above all, what I bring with me to the Archdiocese of New York."

The rite in which Archbishop Egan became head of the archdiocese according to Church law was the Ceremony of Canonical Possession.

For more info: <http://www.cny.org/egan.htm> ❖



**Archbishop Egan assumes his seat in the archbishop's chair, the cathedra, in St. Patrick's Cathedral during the Ceremony of Canonical Possession June 18. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the papal nuncio, who presented him with the mitre and crozier of his office, joins the congregation in applause.**

## Archbishop Edward Michael Egan's Coat of Arms

Archbishop Edward Michael Egan's motto, chosen when he was consecrated a bishop on May 22, 1985, is "In the Holiness of Truth," from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. "You must put on that new person created according to God, in justice and holiness of truth," is the passage from Ephesians 4:24. By the use of this phrase, Archbishop Egan expresses his profound belief that in a continuation of his ministry as an educator in the Church, it is his essential duty as a bishop to teach the People of God what they need in order to gain salvation in the holiness of the truth that is Jesus Christ.

His coat of arms as Archbishop of New York features on the left side (from the viewer's perspective) an X-shaped "Cross of St. Patrick" to honor the patron of the cathedral church of the archdiocese. Within the X-shaped cross is a windmill, which is also part of the seal of the city of New York, reflecting the Dutch heritage of those who founded it as New Amsterdam. Four small red crosses represent the Gospels and signify the Church's mission to bring the Good News to those entrusted to its care.

The right side of the shield contains the arms Archbishop Egan adopted when he was consecrated a bishop to serve as an auxiliary in New York and retained as Bishop of Bridgeport. The Celtic cross reflecting the archbishop's Irish heritage is presented in yellow, the color of the arms of Pope John Paul II, who appointed him to the episcopacy. The cross has a dove in the center, representing the Holy Spirit, and in each arm an olive branch. These symbols are taken from the arms of Pope Pius XII, during whose pontificate

Archbishop Egan was ordained a priest on Dec. 15, 1957. Behind the shield is a processional cross with two horizontal bars and a pontifical hat, called a gallero, with 10 tassels arranged in four rows on each side. These are the insignia of a prelate of the rank of archbishop. (A bishop's coat of arms has one horizontal bar on the cross and six tassels on each side.)

Deacon Paul J. Sullivan, a heraldry specialist in Narragansett, designed Archbishop Egan's coat of arms.

For more info:

<http://www.nypdholyname.com/cardinalegan.htm>



### Egans that were lost September 11<sup>th</sup>

**Christine Egan**, 55, Winnipeg, Canada  
Reported missing, World Trade Center, at/in building

**Lisa Egan**, 31, Cliffside Park, N.J.  
human resources manager, Cantor Fitzgerald  
Reported dead, World Trade Center, at/in building  
Capt.

**Martin Egan**, 36, New York, N.Y. firefighter,  
New York Fire Department Confirmed dead,  
World Trade Center, at/in building

**Michael Egan**, 51, Middletown, N.J. Aon Corp.  
Reported missing, World Trade Center, at/in building

**Samantha Egan**, 24, Jersey City, N.J.  
Cantor Fitzgerald Confirmed dead,  
World Trade Center, at/in building

*May they rest in peace.*

*Our prayers are with their families.*

## Nine Famous Irishmen

Byron F. Egan  
Dallas, Texas

Irishmen have migrated to a wide variety of locales. Set forth below is a famous tale, which I believe to be true and which moves me each time I see it, of nine Irishmen who were sent abroad by Queen Victoria in lieu of a sentence of death and where she found them 25 years later.

In the Young Irish disorders, in Ireland in 1848 the following nine men were captured, tried and convicted of treason against Her Majesty, the Queen, and were sentenced to death: John Mitchell, Morris Lyene, Pat Donahue, Thomas McGee, Charles Duffy, Thomas Meagher, Richard O'Gorman, Terrence McManus and Michael Ireland.

Before passing sentence, the judge asked if there was anything that anyone wished to say. Meagher, speaking for all, said: "My lord, this is our first offense, but not our last. If you will be easy with us this once, we promise, on our word as gentlemen, to try to do better next time. And next time - sure we won't be fools to get caught."

Thereupon the indignant judge sentenced them all to be hanged by the neck until dead and drawn and quartered. Passionate protest from all over the world forced Queen Victoria to commute the sentence to transportation for life to far away wild Australia. In 1874, word reached the astounded Queen Victoria that Sir Charles Duffy who had been elected Prime Minister of Australia was the same Charles Duffy who had been transported 25 years before. On the Queen's demand, the records of the rest of the transported men were revealed and this is what was uncovered:

Thomas Francis Meagher, Governor of Montana  
Terrence McManus, Brigadier General, United States Army  
Patrick Donahue, Brigadier General, United States Army  
Richard O'Gorman, Governor General of Newfoundland  
Morris Lyene, Attorney General of Australia, in which office Michael Ireland succeeded him,  
Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Member of Parliament, Montreal, Minister of Agriculture and President Council, Dominion of Canada  
John Mitchell, prominent New York politician. This man was the father of John Purroy Mitchell, Mayor of New York City at the outbreak of World War I. ❖

buzz of learned people. My heart leaps at the thought that my ancestors once walked this very path, through this gate and over this wide green meadow. A breeze sighs its way through the trees and the leaves lift and stir as they whisper the unknown secrets of eight centuries. I smile as I turn, taking with me the memory of this ancient place of learning, lost from the modern world in all but the ancient books, hidden in a distant field where no one hears the passing sound of a forgotten people.

Quiet and introspective, we start our cars and drive away in convoy along the narrow Irish road. As we leave the ghosts of our ancestors in a swirling cloud of dust, we carry in our hearts an understanding of their passion and knowledge that we are connected in a common past. ❖

## Message from the President

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favorable exchange rate should help offset the costs of travel. Advance booking of airline tickets, perhaps in one or more groups, can further reduce costs.

Our Australian cousins have developed exciting plans for the Rally. As described elsewhere herein and on the Clan website ([www.clanegan.org](http://www.clanegan.org)), the tentative itinerary will commence in Melbourne and include traveling to Egan sites in rural Victoria. Professor Gregory K. Egan, Head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering at Monash University near Melbourne, is President of the Australian Clan Egan Association, and is coordinating the planning for our 2002 Rally in Australia.

My family is planning to join me in coming to Australia for our 2002 Clan Egan Rally. Our Clan Chief Michael J.S. will also be in attendance. We hope that you and your families also will join us.

Dues for the USA/Canada Clan Egan Association are due January 1 for each calendar year at the rate of \$15 per person or \$25 per family household, to our Treasurer Jim Eagen as follows:

USA/Canada Clan Egan Association  
c/o James H. Eagen  
4610 Brad Court  
Rockville, Maryland 20853

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# Officers of USA/Canada Clan Egan Association

The current officers of USA/Canada Clan Egan Association, who were reelected at the Rally and agreed to continue, are:

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**Your Clan Chief and your USA/Canada President each have been elected by members of their respective groups for life. Your other officers were elected to serve until the next Rally and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. In the interim between Rallies, vacancies may be filled and new officers and committee members may be appointed by the Clan Chief or USA/Canada President, as the case may be.**

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The Technology Committee, chaired by Jacki Barber, includes Ellen Bell, Russ Brehm, Patrick J. Eagan, James H. Eagen, Doug Egan, Greg Egan, Kathleen A. Egan, Michelle Egan, Jane Rock Kennedy and Mary Theresa Taylor.