

Clan Egan gathers in Dallas



Members gather outside Byron's home for the traditional Clan Egan photograph.



Michael J.S. Egan
Chief of Clan Egan
International



Greg Egan
Chief of Clan Egan
Australia



Byron F. Egan
President of Clan Egan
USA/Canada

Members of the Clan all had a wonderful, albeit, hot time in Dallas. As we all learned, one of the reasons that Texas became a more populated state, as time went on, was the invention of air conditioning. And we all appreciated that invention while we were touring.

Our tour, arranged by USA President Byron Egan, was indeed fun, educational, and entertaining. We had sightseeing events that ranged from Rodeos, to Museums, to Dance Halls. The attendees got a good flavor of what makes up the Dallas/Fort Worth area and covered lots of ground via our guided bus tours. Brian Egan, our tour guide, did a wonderful job describing the sights, answering our questions, and providing some humor with his insights of the local area.

We had opportunities to chat with old and new Clan friends, connect with the Genealogy Department at the Dallas Public Library, do walkabouts and enjoy plenty of good food and beverages. Our thanks to Byron and his family for a tasty Sunday brunch prior to our business meeting and for their extended efforts in putting together a most memorable Clan gathering.



Megan Egan Miller, Nancy Egan and David Edwards share some humor.



Mike Egan, Tim Egan and Elizabeth Egan Miller share a few moments of conversation.



Brian Egan leads the group to the museum as the Dallas tour begins.



Are Your Irish Roots Red, White and Blue?

by Elizabeth Eagan Cox

I often wondered how deep my family roots went in American History. A few years ago I took to heart my curiosity and traveled back in time courtesy of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (referred to in American culture as “the DAR”.) Much to my surprise, I discovered I was directly descended from a documented Revolutionary War Patriot! I’ll never forget that moment, because it spurred me into researching additional patriots in my family. To date I have discovered six patriots and I’m still digging!

I never thought digging up history on my Irish immigrant great-grandfather James Egan would lead to the Revolutionary War. You see... James came to America in the 1840s, and in 1853 married Elizabeth Jane Corley. One of their sons, Jacob B. was my grandfather and his only son Michael, was my father.

I discovered Elizabeth Corley hailed from one of the oldest families in Virginia. In 1701-02 the Corley family helped to build Saint Peter’s Parish Episcopal Church in New Kent County. Still standing and very much an active parish, I visited St. Peter’s last year, and was delighted that the parish administrator had taken time to open church vestry record books to pages that showed my Corley family name! It makes good sense, that a family so well established would have patriotic ties. After all, in the politics of the Revolutionary War, there were only two sides...the rebel Americans and the opposing English. After we won that war, there wasn’t much incentive for the English to stick around.

If you’re an American and you have an Irish immigrant ancestor, there’s a good chance your Irish ancestor married a person with red, white and blue roots. How do you find out if those roots travel back to the Revolutionary War?

The DAR provides a free online patriot lookup service. If your ancestor is listed in DAR archives, which by the way, is the preeminent and most extensive of all lineage societies, you can receive information about your ancestor’s service. It’s easy:

1. Ideally, the more you know, the greater your chances of getting a match. I scoured my family tree and based on age, I chose two men, a father and his son. I asked for lookups on both. Turns out the father, Valentine Corley, is a patriot. This service is not free, but it is reasonable at the minor cost of ten dollars per Record Copy (rumor is, this fee will be raised to fifteen dollars). Requests for Record Copy must be mailed with payment. The form used for the request is on the DAR web site. From the front page, far left, click Record Copy. This takes you to the page from which you can print the request form.

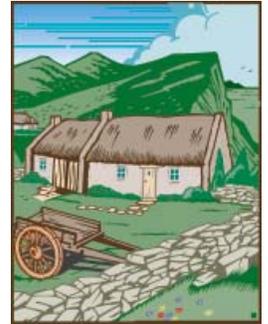
2. Go to the official DAR web site: www.dar.org. From the homepage, at center left, click Genealogy. From that page scroll to bottom right, and click DAR Patriot Lookup. On this page is a brief explanation about the free service and the e-mail form for you to fill-in the blanks. Basic information is required: your name and e-mail address, first and last name of your ancestor, birth date and location and death date and location.

information requested is wartime residence and spouse’s name. At the end of the form is a message box. I used this box to explain my ancestor’s name had alternate spellings and clarified any information requested that I left blank. If you do not have concrete information, then explain the best guess of what you do know.

3. After submitting your request you’ll receive an email and reference number. Expect and answer in about two or three weeks. If your ancestor is a patriot, your next option is to request a “RECORD COPY.”

4. A Record Copy is a photocopy of a verified DAR application (several pages in length) of a woman who filed for DAR entry based on direct lineage to a Rev. War Patriot. This is one of the most exciting ways to discover your lineage! Imagine receiving a full printout of a family tree of a patriot you are descended from with sources listing documented evidence!

One more bit of advice... Man, woman or child, you need not be interested in joining DAR to use these services.



Byron Egan leads us down the Chisholm Trail.



Anne Field leads the cattle drive through the Fort Worth stock yards.



John and Paul Schmidt enjoy the Sunday brunch



Clan USA President's Report from Dallas Rally

by Byron Egan

The 2006 Clan Egan Rally in Dallas has come and gone, but the memories remain. During the Chapter meetings at the conclusion of the Rally, there were a number of matters discussed that are worthy of your focus:

DNA Project: Michael J.S. Egan, Chief of the Clan Egan International from Dublin, Ireland, and Greg Egan, Chief of the Australian Branch of Clan Egan, discussed the progress made to date on the Egan DNA Project being conducted for us by Family Tree DNA. Michael J.S. noted that the attached report handed out by Family Tree DNA was significant in tying together branches of the Y chromosomes associated with many Egans. He further commented that those results were based largely on 12 marker kits, and that more people should have the 25 marker test conducted in order that the Y chromosome patterns could be more fully developed and reliable links established.

The 12 marker test costs members of the Clan Egan Association \$99.00, and the 25 marker test costs \$148.00. Those of us who have had a 12 marker test performed can have the 25 marker test conducted for an additional \$49.00. Since Family Tree DNA still has the samples from our 12 marker tests, Family Tree DNA can reprocess the same sample for the 25 marker test without us submitting an additional sample.

To order an upgrade, log on your Family Tree DNA personal page and click on "Order Tests" to the right of your name and kit number. A personal page is the online page FamilyTreeDNA_set up with your results and comparisons listed. You can log on at www.familytreedna.com on the right hand side of the screen with your kit number and password. Clan Egan members who do not have the necessary information can email Brandi at brandi@familytreedna.com with password or kit number questions. These DNA tests will enable more of our members to find links to kinsmen in Ireland and elsewhere, and are an increasingly important part of the mission of the Clan Egan Association to further genealogical research.

Rally in Ireland in 2008: Michael J.S. Egan, Chief of the Clan Egan International from Dublin, reported on plans being developed for the Clan Egan Rally in 2008, which will be held in Ireland. Michael J.S. proposed that the Rally start near Shannon Airport and concentrate on places with Egan significance in the West of Ireland that the Clan has not previously visited. Redwood Castle, which has been a Clan center for years, would remain on the venue list. Michael J.S. suggested that we might go to the Clare County Heritage Center in Corofin (which has significant Egan data, as many Egans are from County Clare), Doolin (famed for its traditional Irish music), the magnificent Cliffs of Moher, and the Aran Islands (Kerry Edwards has family connections there and could arrange a memorable visit for us that would give us an authentic perspective that we would likely not experience if we were traveling there on our own). Michael J.S. said that the initial planning contemplated that the Rally would begin on Thursday, June 28, 2008, and continue through Sunday, July 2, 2008, which is the traditional Rally timing. Michael J.S. noted that the Rally might be extended for an additional day to allow for an overnight stay on the Aran Islands. There was discussion of having one or two bases from which to travel so that we do not have to repack every night. These plans are tentative, but we should block the days on our calendars now and start making plans to participate in this next adventure.

2010: Although final plans for the venue of the Clan Egan Rally in 2010 remain to be determined, we discussed possible venues for the 2010 Clan Egan Rally. Greg Egan and Kerry Edwards proposed that we come to Australia in 2010 and that our principal venue would be in Tasmania, where Kerry and David Edwards volunteered to be our hosts. Paul Schmidt offered Chicago as a possible venue and said that the many Egans and other Irish connections on the South Side of Chicago would make for a memorable visit. More information about each of these possible venues will be forthcoming.

Corporation: The U.S. branch of the Clan Egan Association was formed as a non-profit corporation in Texas on May 3, 2006 under the name Clan Egan Association. Our certificate of formation states the corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for educational purposes, including research, publications and presentations regarding genealogical and other historical subjects, and the preservation of historical sites, all as determined by the board of directors of the corporation. These activities shall be exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of § 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

The initial directors of this corporation are Byron F. Egan, James H. Eagen and Michael J.S. Egan. We intend to file a Form 1023 with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to establish that we are a non-profit organization within the meaning of Code Section 501(c)(3). This would make the organization exempt from most state and federal taxes, and our contributions to the organization generally deductible for federal income tax purposes.

New Officers: At the Rally the following officers of the Clan Egan Association in the U.S. were elected to serve for two-year terms and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified.

Michael J.S. Egan, Chairman of the Board

Byron F. Egan, President

Timothy (Tim) Egan, Vice President

Nancy Dean Egan, Secretary

Jacqueline (Jackie) Egan, Newsletter

Doug Egan, Co-Webmaster

Maryan Egan-Baker, Vice President

Paul Schmidt, Vice President

James H. (Jim) Eagen, Treasurer and Director of Development

Jacki K. Barber, Co-Webmaster

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Photo Highlights of the Clan Events

Father Joseph Egan celebrates Mass at the hotel, after which, the members gathered at Byron and Nancy's home for the Clan meeting and a meal prior to adjourning the Rally.



Photo Highlights of the Clan Events

Lloyd Bockstruck, Dallas Public Library lead genealogist, talks to members about the Egans in Texas, while musicians entertained down in the lobby. The Clan then toured Dallas Heritage Park via horse and buggy followed by conversation and an excellent evening meal in the Renner School House.



William Eagan plays the "squeeze box" while the Kerry Edwards dances first with Paul Schmidt and then her husband David, as Tim and Jackie Egan look on.





The Irish in Mexico

By Tim Egan



During our visit to the Dallas area we heard about the Irish and their impact on Texas. The history and the culture of Texas and Mexico are heavily intertwined and I thought it would be a good idea to share some information about the Irish people and their effect upon the country of Mexico.

As early as the 1600s the influence upon Mexico by the Irish was cast. Throughout its history Mexico has benefited from the contributions of the Irish people. Those of you who remember the swashbuckling character Zorro will be surprised to know that he was actually an Irishman. He fled Ireland due to a scandalous love affair. He was so moved by the poverty in the degradation of the Indians and Africans that he began plotting a war of independence against the government. He was subsequently imprisoned, and 10 years later he escaped and lived as a fugitive continuing his life and love affairs in the New Spain. He was captured and escaped more than once and was ultimately sentenced to death by the Inquisition of all people. He became a legendary martyr for his adventurous and charitable lifestyle. This Irishman still lives in Mexican history.

During the great potato famine a mass emigration from Ireland took place. These displaced people escaped starvation, sickness and death by emigrating as thousands of their countrymen were dying. Those who came to the United States were often victims of prejudice and hostility. The sentiment of hatred against the Irish was widespread. Some of those Irish immigrants headed to Mexico because they found they were more welcome. This had a lot to do with the fact that Spain was a Catholic country that had colonized Mexico and those who were Catholic were more accepted. Also a large number of Irishman joined the United States Army only to find that they were treated poorly by their Protestant officers. When the opportunity arose they headed south to Mexico.

During the Mexican American war in the late 1840s a group of Irish led by Captain John Riley fought for Mexico's liberty. This battalion known as the San Patricios [St. Patrick's] fought bravely for Mexico's independence and suffered high casualties. Even today they are hailed as heroes throughout Mexico, and are celebrated with a holiday. Every Mexican child understands the contributions of these Irish/Mexican patriots. Oddly enough reading American history you might believe they were deserters and evil men. I guess it's up to your point of view. Adios Amigos.

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Clan Egan members enjoyed an evening at the Mesquite Rodeo which included a buffet meal and thrilling rodeo events such as calf roping and barrel races.



Tim Egan, Kerry Edwards, Mike and Mary Egan and John Field eat their BBQ buffet dinners, prior to the rodeo.



Clan USA President's Report from Dallas Rally

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Our three vice presidents have distinct responsibilities. Maryan Egan-Baker is responsible for helping on genealogical matters. Tim Egan performs a variety of administrative roles. Paul Schmidt will concentrate on expanding our membership as expansion of our membership base will provide more access to information and other resources that could further the educational mission of the association.

Doug Egan has been in the computer software business for years and has volunteered to help Jacki Barber expand the web site she developed and has been updating for us to further our educational mission and communications with our membership and others. Jackie Egan volunteered to assume the responsibilities for getting out our newsletter which will be distributed electronically as well as by mail.

T-Shirts Still Available: The Clan Egan T-shirts displayed at the Rally are still available for purchase in most sizes. The price is U.S. \$14 per T-shirt or 3 T-shirts for U.S. \$35, plus shipping and handling of \$4.00 to destinations in the U.S. (there is no shipping or handling charge for orders of three or more T-shirts shipped within the U.S.). If you wish to purchase a T-shirt, please specify the style and size you want and send a check for the purchase price, plus shipping and handling, made payable to the Clan Egan Association, c/o Byron F. Egan at 4405 McFarlin, Dallas, Texas 75205. The sizes still available are: Large, Extra Large, 2x and 3x. No sizes Medium or Small remain.

Tidbits From an Irish American Pantry

by Elizabeth Eagan Cox

According to American and Irish census records, more persons of Irish heritage live in the United States than in Ireland! To be sure, this statistic is the generational result from the great wave of Irish immigration during the mid-1800s brought about by the Potato Famine.

The Irish Potato Famine in 1846 forced thousands of Irish from their land in fear of starvation. Hundreds of Irish died in the famine and many more fell ill and died during their horrendous sea-faring journey to America. There is an old adage that claims what does not kill a person will strengthen them... This is certainly true of the Irish who came to America.

Along with a hearty soul, quick wit and a keen desire to succeed in their adopted homeland, immigrant Irish brought with them customs that define their ethnicity in our society today. All things Irish in American culture is a long list that includes the holidays of Saint Patrick's Day and Halloween, along with symbols such as shamrocks, harps and leprechauns, Celtic knots, and lilted toasts and blessings the likes of "Erin Go Bragh" (Ireland forever).

In culinary history Irish credit is assigned to the famous beverage: Irish Coffee, a hot libation laced with Irish whiskey and topped with whipped cream. Sweetened or not, Irish coffee is uniquely American in origin and in culinary history is said to have been trademarked in 1952 at the Buena Vista Bar in San Francisco. Although earlier reports allegedly credit the cheery concoction to 1947 at Shannon Airport, Ireland, as the unofficial welcoming beverage served to newcomers. Regardless of where Irish Coffee was patented, the San Francisco Irish community has claimed the credit for the recipe.

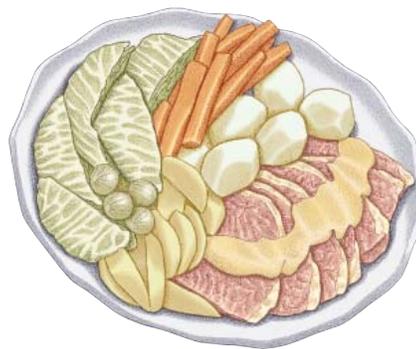
Corned beef...that infamous stewed meat served up on Saint Paddy's Day is rarely served in Ireland and is in fact, yet another imposter among authentic Irish icons. Homeland Irish wouldn't think of eating corned beef if instead they could eat seafood, lamb and pork. So where and when did corned beef become Irish? 'Twas in America of the 1800s that Irish immigrants took to buying the most inexpensive cut of meat. A lowly piece of tuff-textured beef brisket was easy on the pocketbook and when seasoned with herbs and stewed properly the meat was turned into a suitable Sunday dinner.

Myths abound as to how the brisket got its name. Folklore says briskets were soaked in corn liquor and became "corned" after sitting in the brine. That is a fanciful explanation contradicting the real corning of brisket, which refers to the Irish description for the small kernels of spice – including pepper corns – used to flavor brine in which brisket is marinated. Today, corned beef is purchased readily "corned" and ready to put into a stew pot.

CORNED BEEF DINNER is cooked with cabbage, potatoes and carrots in the stew pot with the brisket.

Ingredients: 3 to 4 pound corned beef brisket, 1 onion; sliced, 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 2 bay leaves, 1 teaspoon crushed basil leaves, 6 medium potatoes; quartered, 6 carrots cut into chunks, 1 head of cabbage; quartered.

Directions: Remove corned beef from package, do not rinse, place in a large Dutch oven/stew pot and add water to barely cover the brisket, cover pot with lid. Set on low heat to simmer 1 hour per pound of meat. After simmering, remove from heat and remove brisket (set aside). Add to the stew: potatoes, carrots, onion and all spices, bring this to a boil then reduce heat to simmer. Next, return brisket to pot and add cabbage, cover pot and cook 25 minutes or until cabbage is tender. Note: Use a large pot, if the ingredients are crowded the dinner will take longer to cook. Beer is often substituted for all or part of the water in this recipe.



IRISH COFFEE It's a good idea to pre-warm the glass goblets or coffee mugs by filling them with steaming hot water.

Ingredients/Directions: Per cup/serving; Place 2 Tablespoons of white granulated sugar in goblet/mug. To this pour in 1 and ½ ounces of Irish whiskey and 5 ounces of strong black coffee. Stir, preferably with a long cinnamon stick, then top with a dollop of whipped cream. Personally, I prefer this libation "black-Irish" style. In other words, forget the sugar and whipped cream. Use 2 ounces of Irish Whiskey and stir with a cinnamon stick.

Visit Elizabeth Eagan Cox at www.CookingUpHistory.com.

Obituary
Pam Egan, wife of Kevin, who was a member of the Clan Egan Australia branch, passed away on the 18th of October.



Clan Egan USA/Canada
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We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.clanegan.org

Rally 2008 Ireland