

Clan Rally 2008 in Ireland is success

We had our final gathering and said farewell on Sunday at Redwood Castle.



Clan Egan Rally Summary

by Byron Egan

The Clan Egan Rally in Ireland on June 25-29, 2008 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 ("FTDNA"). Michael J.S. noted that this Project has been significant in tying together branches of the Y chromosomes associated with many Egans. He further commented that the results initially were based largely on 12 marker kits, and that the Y chromosome patterns could be more fully developed and reliable links established with the 25 or 37 marker tests.

The Clan has now supported two upgrades to increase the number of markers. The first upgrade was to increase from 12 markers to 25 markers on the recommendation of Bennett Greenspan, Chief Executive Officer of FTDNA, at the 2006 Dallas Rally. Bennett advised that this was sufficient to establish membership of major branches of the family. He also advised that a greater number of markers would, in time, be useful for determining greater detail within the branches.

The DNA report generated for the 2008 Rally was based on 25 markers and shows, at present, two

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Join us for Egan Clan Rally 2010 in Hobart, Tasmania

As agreed at the 2008 Clan Rally in Ireland, the next rally will be held in Hobart, Tasmania. No dates are fixed yet, but a possible time frame is Wednesday, June 30, 2010 to Sunday, July 4, 2010. Suggestions for alternative dates are welcome.

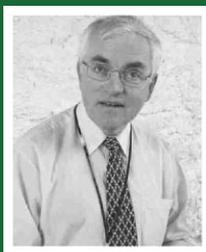
On the program we hope to have a city base with one overnight trip to Port Arthur, the historic prison from the convict period. Hobart is a beautiful and historic city. We hope to show you some of the rich heritage and scenic beauty of the island State, and hope that you will extend

your stay to enjoy the full experience Tasmania has to offer.

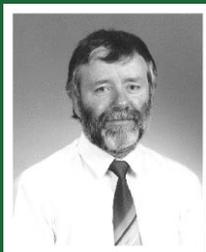
We plan to enjoy our meals together in some memorable locations. Tasmania is famous for its food, its architectural heritage and the views. We will also be on the lookout for local experts on Irish immigration to talk to us, and maybe we will turn up some Egan surprises.

We look forward to offering you a warm welcome in 2010.

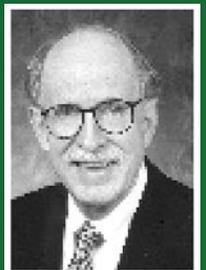
You can contact us at: kerry@dedwards.id.au
David and Kerry Edwards



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

The Road Less Traveled

by Jackie Egan

At the Rally in Texas, we all thought it would be a great idea to visit the Aran Islands on our westerly trip around Ireland during the 2008 Rally. Little did we know that on the day we chose to travel on the ferry, that the skies



would be gray, the weather inclement and the seas very rough. It was with some trepidation that I stood in the ferry "house" waiting for the boat to arrive, but I kept a smile on my face, knowing that all I needed to do was keep my eyes on the horizon, while on the boat, and all would be well.

We stood in line, against the wall, with our luggage and waited to board the boat. Tim and I sat toward the front, in a row shared with Greg and Sue Egan. The rocking of the boat already bothered Sue, and she decided to go outside for fresh air. We started out okay, but as time went on, I found myself only able to see the

horizon line if I sat up on the edge of my seat, which required me to hold onto the seat in front of me to keep myself from sliding backwards. Greg, noticed my riding position and joked with me about my "white knuckle" ride. And, that was how I rode for the entire 90 minutes. The waves being so high at one point, and our roll so significant, that my horizon line was obliterated by water. Not a good thing. But I survived without getting sea sick and with a good story to tell, and Tim now has a new Aran sweater. Our



Clan is indeed an adventurous group, and I look forward to our next Rally. But, I won't be taking the Ferry, that's for sure!

A Tale of Two Pubs

During the Clan stay in the town of Doolin, just prior to the infamous crossing to the Aran Islands, many of us visited the two local pubs known for music.

Late in the afternoon Greg, Sue, Jackie and myself, wandered into O'Connors large comfortable pub which was obviously the main pub in town.



Greg and Sue Egan at O'Connor's Pub

After our evening meal, many of the Egans elected to go to O'Connor's for a night of live music. Since we had already been there earlier in the day, we opted to take a walk in the opposite direction to a small more country-like pub named McGanns. The

place was rocking with five musicians in a corner space the size of four phone booths. We appeared to be the only out-of-towners amongst the crowd that was wedged into the place. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as did the folks who went up to O'Connor's. All of us were treated to an outstanding evening of music.



McGanns' Pub, second building on left, with a nearly midnight sky in the background showing that there is still twilight in the sky in June, even at that late hour.

The Park Castle Wall



Brehon Park Restaurant wall in room behind the bar is made of MacEgan Park Castle stone.

During the Clan Rally the group visited the area of Tuam near the Park Castle remains, which has an important connection to the history of our Clan. Foregoing the planned lunch at Brehon Park provided a few of us the option to visit the very small pub out front along the road. Father Joe was the first there and began a conversation with three local folks having their afternoon repast. During the course of our talking with these gentlemen,

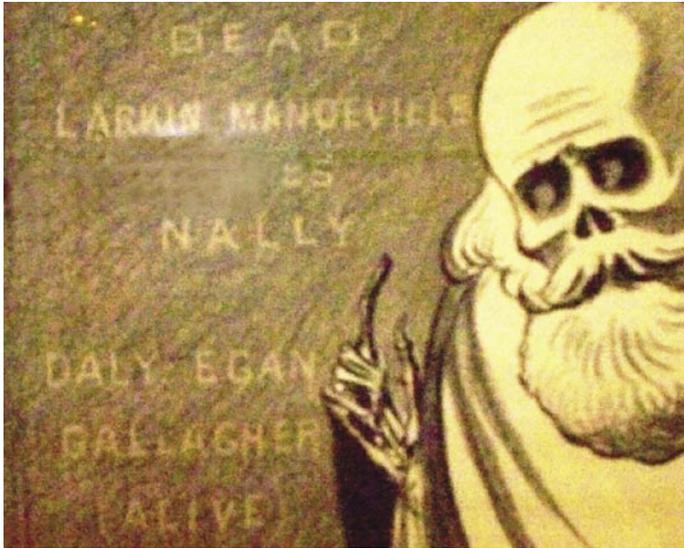


Brehon Park Restaurant photo borrowed from 2000 article The Egans from Park Castle, June 11, 2000, written by William F. Egan and posted on our Clan web site.

one of them informed us that the back room of the pub had been made of stone from the MacEgan Park Castle. He took us into the back to show it to us. He told us of the history of the area and the connection of the Egans and the educators that they were back centuries ago. It is believed that at one time there were thousands of students who came from throughout the world to learn to read, write, and learn the rules of law. Oh, and by the way, I should mention that they had a really great pint of Guinness there as well.

Tim Egan

Still Alive... Daly, Egan and Gallagher



Poster located at Dirty Nelly's Pub, Shannon, Ireland.

Above is a photo of an anti-British political poster from 1897. It depicts the names of Irish rebels who had struggled against the tyranny of England and had been in prison. The top three names have died while captive, however, the three below, Daly, Egan, and Gallagher were alive at the time the poster was printed. This poster was located in Dirty Nelly's Pub just around the corner from the Shannon Hotel.

The Importance of Clan Egan DNA Testing



Joe Egan (left), Tim Egan, (center) and Sean Egan (right) found a connection through the Clan DNA test results.

Why DNA testing is important to me.

If anyone should question the value of the DNA testing within the Egan Clan, I can personally tell you it's a very positive thing and well worth doing. In the picture above, I stand between my exact genetic connections out to 25, Joe (left) and Sean (right) Egan from Dublin. The brothers were kind enough to come visit with the Clan and myself in Lorrha. I can't tell you how comfortable it felt to be with these men and it felt real natural. So, if you having any doubts go ahead and sign up for that DNA study. You just might find a long lost cousin or two.

Tim Egan



Sean Egan speaks at Rally

Sean Egan of Dublin, made a brief presentation at the Sunday gathering at Redwood Castle. He presented copies of papers to the Clan, describing the history of Tom Clarke, who was an Irish Rebel imprisoned for 16 years by the British during the War for Independence in the late 1800s. Ultimately, Clarke was executed. He was associated with a John Egan, himself an ex-political prisoner.

Bishop-elect Eoghan MacEgan

The photo on the right, was taken by Jackie Egan at an historic site on the western coast of Ireland in the town of Timoleague. It is the tombstone of Bishop-elect of Ross, Eoghan MacEgan who was buried at the Timoleague Friary. During a famous battle in 1603, Bishop-elect Eoghan MacEgan was slain in battle against the forces of the crown. This bit of Egan history was found by pure happenstance, as we just were riding down a road and saw a road sign indicating an historic location and pull in. You just never know what interesting

history you might find when you're touring the country side.



Eithne Egan - Rest In Peace

We have recently learned of the passing, on September 18, of Eithne Egan. She was the wife of Michael J. Egan, the former Clan Chieftain. She and her husband were responsible for the restoration and maintenance of Redwood Castle. This allowed members of the Clan, along with others, to experience a sense of Egan history and our Clan's profound connection to the past.

This will be my final Clan newsletter. I am turning the task over to Mikell Humpert, who will be producing the next one. Photos, articles and information should be forwarded to her at: mhumpert5@msn.com. I have enjoyed my turn as editor, but my busy schedule no longer allows me time to devote to the task, so it's time to move along. Good luck to Mikell during her tenure as Editor.

Jackie Egan

Getting to My First Clan Rally in 4 Easy Steps

Step 1: Be Curious. Like many people, I was intrigued by a 2006 report about Niall of the Nine Hostages being the father of Ireland. Apparently Ghengis Kahn was a mere copy-cat. Humor aside, the newspaper reported on a yDNA study at Trinity postulating that a genetic signature carried by a lot of living males of Irish descent converges on 5th century legend Niall. Could yDNA bridge a lesser abyss? The loss of records had all but discouraged me about Irish genealogy until now.

Step 2: Throw away Scruples. Discovering that Egan, of various spellings, is one of the handful of Irish surnames associated with the so-called Niall signature, I ignored my scruples about becoming the relation of a blood-thirsty, sex-crazed guy I wouldn't relish meeting on a dark street. Somehow, I found, and joined Ancestry's y-DNA study later in 2006 by giving my Dad a test kit for his 87th birthday.

Step 3: Accept Invitations from Strangers. In due course, the results were posted. Then someone I'd never met before, Sue Egan of Victoria, Australia (then globetrotting in Spain), e-mailed me in early 2007 with a welcome to the study. She casually mentioned Clann MacAodhagáin. This was absolutely the first I'd heard of the organization. I'd been unaware of the hard work by the Clan to set up and recruit for the study I'd stumbled upon. A big thank you to Sue who fanned the spark.

Step 4: Vulnerability Helps. Fast forward to January 2008. I was feverishly working hard on a big project with a deadline of June 24th. Evenings and weekends, too. Feeling sorry for myself, I needed a tropical-island sort of daydream, fast, to pull me through the big project. Suddenly, e-mail arrived about the Clan Rally. Wait a minute! It starts on June 25th.

The Result: Booking flights can be extraordinarily pleasant if you are supposed to be working instead on a big project. Clan Chief Michael J.S. Egan of Dublin arranged the complete itinerary, to utter perfection and with magnificent effect. A big thank you to Michael who made it all happen. We enjoyed adventure, fun, and excellent company. Most thrilling to me was the access to Egan-related historical sites. They would have been impossible to find, but for decades of sleuthing by Michael J. S. Egan and others.

Back home, I've learned not to describe the rally as a "family reunion" because of, you know, looks when I explain how a 50% chance of having a common ancestor within 7 generations at 12 markers actually soars to a whopping 95% chance within the last 29 generations. I did have the pleasure of meeting Gerry and Leanne Egan of New South Wales, Australia. Gerry is a 25-marker match with my Dad, but who's counting? The time spent with everyone was utterly delightful.

I cannot take complete credit for it, but I discovered a simple binary classification system on the final day of the Clan Rally: tough Egans versus soft Egans (all spellings found in each group). The beauty is that a non-scientist can so readily grasp it. This picture, taken on the lawn of the Gurteen Agricultural College dormitory shows many of the tough Egans the morning after



our stay. The soft Egans aren't in the picture because they were off at a hotel with a spa, for Pete's sake. See what I mean?

Fortunately, I can attest that all the Egans show great toughness when truly necessary, such as for stone fort clambering on remote islands, left-handed sword fighting on circular stairs, or pint raising almost anywhere.

Cheers!

Shirley Egan
Aurora, NY, USA



A MacEgan joined us at the Rally

Padraig MacEgan from Ballyhaigh, Co Kerry joined our Rally events on Sunday at Lorrha. Many of us enjoyed chatting with him while eating our Sunday afternoon meal at Denis Maher's Pub in Lorrha, where this photo was taken. He is shown above, center, talking to Greg Egan, (right) as Leanne Egan, (left) looks on. Greg is holding the box that contains the DNA testing kits used by Clan members to assist in their geneology research.

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Archbishop Boetius Egan



A member of the Burke family points to the portrait of Archbishop Boetius Egan, while holding a wooden cross. The Burke family kindly allowed the Rally group to tour their house, which the Archbishop had occupied. The wooden cross had hung in his room. We appreciate the Burke family allowing such a large group through their home, so that we could view more of our Egan history.

Searching for Our Irish Roots

by Bill Egan

As my family and I prepared for our first trip to Ireland in 1994, I knew very little about my Irish ancestors, and didn't really expect to learn much on that trip, but I was pleasantly surprised. The 2008 Rally was on our fifth trip and much has been learned in the intervening years. For an example, see "Egans from Park Castle Rally 2000" at <http://www.clanegan.org/>.

Over the past fourteen years, I acquired new information in various ways, seemingly very fortuitous at times. I want to recount a small part of that story here in the hope that it might give you some inspiration. I must admit, however, that the fact that my family had maintained some contact with relatives in Ireland over the last century gave me a great start. My second cousin in Ireland knew some of our family history and her mother had done some research on our ancestors. (We shouldn't be surprised; the Egans were one of the "learned families" of Ireland)

On that first trip, having learned that my grandfather came from Ballinrobe in County Mayo, I saw there the gravestones of my Egan great-grandparents. Not only did the inscriptions and relative positions of the various gravestones tell a story, but my son Mike discovered the gravestone of my great-great-grandparents, which was well hidden from view under the table-like gravestone of their son. So far as I know, even their names had been unknown at that time.

We also discovered the Egan Clan organization on that trip. A B&B operator in Birr asked us if we had been to the Egan Rally two years before. I said, "No—do you mean it's real?" I had gotten a letter but had dismissed it as a travel sales gimmick. We made it to the next rally in 1994.

We learned that two of my grandfather's brothers had occupied a house on an estate, once owned by Lord Lucan, that was being converted to the Ballinrobe (Cloonagashel) Golf Course. We visited the house and the lady in charge let us look through it and suggested we talk to a "local historian." We did that and he remembered the family. (At that same time, a BBC special about the current Lord Lucan, who is missing and

wanted for murder in England, happened to be airing.) On a later trip we had lunch in that house, now the golf course field house, and someone, having heard who we were, came by to tell us about a person who had a picture of my relatives.

On one trip to Ballinrobe, my son Tom looked for Egans in the local phone book. This led us to a man running the hardware store, who said he didn't think we were related but suggested we talk to another "local historian." She, in turn, suggested that we talk to someone else who also knew local history and who was related to the Egans. We didn't have time to find him but I wrote to him when we got back to the US. He answered, "Hello cousin!" He turned out to be my father's second cousin, a man most knowledgeable about things Irish and a native Irish speaker. (My son Bill had taken up studying the Irish language, as we have since, which is what led to all this in the first place.) We became friends and visited him and his family on subsequent trips and learned more than I can recount here.

This has been about learning by looking around Ireland and talking to people there, but it is only a small part of the story. I have also learned from others who were seeking genealogical information and I have benefited because others came to know that I was gathering such information.

Here is a recent example. A cousin once removed (my cousin's child) was contacted by a man who was tracing some Egan ancestors. The cousin knew that I had family genealogical information, so he had that man contact me. I then got a second cousin once removed (my second cousin's child), who had originally contacted me when he was investigating his Egan genealogy, involved in the interchange. I mentioned that an author (Fr. Swords) had gotten information from the Vatican Archives on some relatives of Archbishop Boetius Egan who were Spanish and French knights and that they must have submitted genealogical information in order to be knighted (per Conor Mac Hale), but that I had no hope of acquiring that information and couldn't read the languages anyway. Our new contact

said he could read both languages. My second cousin had the references sent from the Vatican and also discovered that the genealogies of the Irish Spanish knights had been recorded in a book published in Ireland. I borrowed the book from the Santa Clara University library and identified the Archbishop's grandparents and great-grandparents, who are also my ancestors, and may be yours.

The Una Egan Chalice



The Una Egan chalice is kept at a church museum in the grounds of the RC Cathedral at Loughrea in County Galway. It had previously been held in a small parish church in east Galway, but was brought here for safe keeping by Rev. Dr. Patrick K. Egan many years ago. Fr. Cathal Geraghty who is Curator of the museum, kindly gives the chalice into our care for the mass which is held every 4 years to coincide with our Clan Rally in Ireland.

The chalice is silver with a gilt inside to the bowl. Around the base is the inscription in latin "Pray for the soul of Una Egan alias Burk (sic) of Pallis". It has the date 1642 alongside the inscription.

The Egan is likely to be an Egan from the Duniry area and the Burke is almost certainly a MacWilliam Burke of the family from Pallis in east Galway, near Tynagh.

Michael J.S. Egan

Clan Egan Rally Summary

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major branches of the family which are most probably related. It was decided at the 2008 Rally to upgrade most of the current project membership to 37 markers as some relationships have become so substantial that further detail is worthwhile (e.g., the Ferbane group). The last of the 37 marker tests funded from international reserves will be complete in October, at which time the DNA Report will be updated. A number of tests had to be re-run by FTDNA to satisfy its internal standards, which has caused this delay. The Clan Chapters, with the Chief, will be considering what recommendation will be made as to the 'Gold Standard' for the number of markers, but it is possible that this will be 37 (certainly not less than 25).

The latest results for the DNA Project are posted permanently at: <http://www.eganfamily.id.au/Clan/Research/DNATesting.html> Members of the Project are provided with a direct link to their results by FTDNA, but should also contact Sue Egan at spe@optusnet.com.au with details of their earliest known ancestor and, if possible, their county of origin in Ireland.

Rally in 2010 in Tasmania: 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 have volunteered to be our hosts.

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, and which purposes shall in all events be construed to be exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of § 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

The initial and current directors of this corporation are Byron F. Egan, James H. Eagen and Michael J.S. Egan.

We filed with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") on October 26, 2007 an IRS Form 1023 to establish that we are a non-profit organization within the meaning of §501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"). On December 4, 2007 the IRS issued a determination letter to the effect that we are a Code §501(c)(3) organization, which makes the organization exempt from most state and federal taxes and contributions to the organization generally deductible for federal income tax purposes. Thus, we must all recognize the importance of Clan Egan being operated exclusively for educational purposes, including research, publications and presentations regarding genealogical and other historical subjects, and the preservation of historical sites.

New Officers: At the Rally the following officers of the Clan Egan Association in the U.S. were elected to serve for the ensuing two years or until whichever of the following shall first occur: his or her successor is duly elected and qualified, his or her resignation, his or her removal from office by the Board of Directors or his death:

Michael J.S. Egan, Chairman of the Board (Dublin, Ireland)
Byron F. Egan, President (Dallas, Texas)
Kevin A. Egan, Vice President (London, Ontario)
Patrick F. Egan, Vice President (Broken Arrow, Oklahoma)
Shirley K. Egan, Vice President (Aurora, New York)
Terence P. (Terry) Egan, Vice President (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
Nancy Dean Egan, Secretary (Dallas, Texas)
James H. (Jim) Eagen, Treasurer and Director of Development (Poolesville, Maryland)
William F. (Bill) Egan, Genealogist (Cupertino, California)
Mikell Egan Humpert, Newsletter (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
Jacki K. Barber, Co-Webmaster (Calvert City, Kentucky)
Doug Egan, Co-Webmaster (Boca Raton, Florida)

Doug Egan, who has been in the computer software business for years, is helping Jacki Barber expand the website she developed and has been updating for us. Mikell Egan Humpert volunteered to assume the responsibilities for getting out our newsletter, which will be distributed electronically as well as by mail, in relief of Jackie Egan who handled this issue of the Newsletter reporting on happenings at the Rally. Both the web site and newsletter are critical to our educational mission and our communications with our membership and others.

Newsletter: Mikell Egan Humpert will need articles, pictures, news, etc. for the Clan Egan Newsletter. Please send your articles, pictures, news, etc. for the next edition of the Newsletter to Mikell Egan Humpert at: mhumpert5@msn.com.

Dues: Clan Egan Association annual dues are \$15 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership. The Clan Egan Association survives on your dues. If you have not paid dues in 2008, please send your dues to: James H. (Jim) Eagen, P.O. Box 438, Poolesville, MD 20837. Your Clan Egan dues should be deductible on your U.S. Federal Income Tax Return if you itemize deductions.

Summary of Rally Events:

Wednesday, June 25 – The Rally assembled at Bunratty Shannon Shamrock Hotel near Shannon Airport. After opening remarks by Chief Michael J.S. Egan, we walked to Bunratty Folk Park and Bunratty Castle. After lunch we bused to Clare Heritage Centre in Corofin. Antoinette O'Brien of Clare Heritage Centre talked to us about the Egans/Keegans of County Clare and the genealogical work of Clare Heritage Centre. We had dinner and a traditional Irish night at the Bunratty Folk Park Corn Barn.

Thursday, June 26 – We boarded two big buses for sites in the north of County Clare, including Poul nabrone Dolmen, Caherconnell Stone Fort, Aillwee Cave and the Cliffs of Moher. We spent the night in Doolin where we had dinner at Hotel Doolin. Thereafter, a number of us walked to O'Connor's Pub and other Doolin pubs for music, drink and craic.



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Friday, June 27 – From Doolin we took a ferry to Kilronan on Inishmore (the largest of the three Aran Islands). The ferry was small and the seas rough, resulting in discomfort being suffered by several. We took a bus to various sites on Inishmore and had dinner at Óstan Áráinn (the Aran Islands Hotel).



Saturday, June 28 – We took a ferry from Inishmore to Rossaveal in County Galway (this ferry was larger, the weather was good, the passage was sheltered by the Islands and the voyage was uneventful). We drove through Connemara, County Galway, to Dunblaney (near Tuam), where the Eigans, including an Archbishop of Tuam, lived after leaving Park Castle. After lunch, we visited Park Castle remains and Clonberne (see piece by William F. (Bill) Egan, whose ancestors were in these places, available at <http://www.clanegan.org/CR/rally00>).

html and on pages 8 and 9 of the Information Pack, available at <http://www.clanegan.org/CR/rally08.html>), Kilconnel Abbey and Duniry. We had our traditional Rally banquet at Modena Restaurant in Portumna.

Sunday, June 29 – We assembled for chapter meetings at Gurteen Agricultural College, Afterward we went to Lorrha for Mass and then to Redwood Castle, where we were hosted by Coleesa Egan (the daughter of our former Chief Michael J. Egan). Our Chief and Charles Egan gave presentations on Egan and genealogical topics, which are now on the Clan Egan web site.

Welcome New Clan Members

Allyson Rowe, Round Rock, TX
Larry & Alice Agin, Los Angeles, CA
Larry & Julie Leonard, Clovis, CA
Robert & Catherine Eagen Montenegro, Corona, CA
Shirley K. Egan, Aurora, NY
Thomas & Amy Kagan, Raleigh, NC

Change of Address or E-mail

Please be sure to update your addresses when they change. We often get our newsletters returned and don't want to lose our connection to you, so please send any updated information to either: Jim Eagen, PO Box 38, Poolesville, MD 20837-0438 or e-mail him at: jimeagen@comcast.net OR Byron Egan, 4405 McFarlin Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75205 or e-mail him at: began@jw.com

Clan Web Site

All the Clan Rally information and photos have been posted to our web site: www.clanegan.org. Please take a look at all the Rally photos, or articles that we have uploaded to the site for you. If you have any other information or photos that need to be added to the web site, please contact Byron at: began@jw.com

Membership Record Form - Clann Aodhagin - USA and Canada

Family Name:

First Name:

Names of adults at this address:

New membership or renewal:

Membership Number:

Permanent Address:

Alternate Address (and months):

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

Member Since:

Relative who will help re-establish contact if mail is returned:

Membership Dues are \$25 for a family at a single address and \$15 for an individual.

Mail completed form and check to: Clan Egan-USA/Canada
c/o Jim Eagen, Treasurer
PO. Box 438
Poolesville, MD 20837-0438



CLAN RALLY 2010 HOBART, TASMANIA

We're on the Web!
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