

CLANN MAC AODHAĞÁIN



MacEgan, Egan, Eagan, Eagen, Keegan and Agin Families

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER

5 October 2012

Ireland Rally

The 16th Egan Rally has come and gone and regrettably we were unable to attend for family reasons. Anne Field, one of those who did, has supplied the following report and some of the accompanying photos.



In June 2012, an excited group of Egan's traveled from the USA, Canada, and Australia, and joined our ever-faithful Clan Chief Michael JS and his lovely wife Terry for the 16th Egan Rally, which began in Bunratty. Michael JS's tireless efforts to put together a terrific itinerary, with new and interesting places for our clan to visit, are inspirational to say the least. He welcomed us with a very poignant letter advising that these were indeed difficult times for Ireland, and that a highly structured austerity plan was now in place to help the Emerald isle "get back on its feet". Having faced many hardships thoughts it history, the Irish, as a proud and distinguished nation, will

always look for the silver lining among any storm clouds. As we have all been privileged to experience on many occasions, nothing dampens the hospitality of the Irish. Michael JS and Terry made sure that we travelers had a warm and happy time in their homeland, and were, as always, the perfect hosts. We are indebted to them for their generosity, in so many ways.



Our 6 days together covered quite a few miles, the Killarney lakes, Macroom, The Rock of Cashel, Roscrae Castle and Damer House, just a few of the early highlights. Due to some important business commitments in the USA, John and I missed the three days in the early part of the week, but were delighted to rejoin our Clan at Cashel. The mid week 2-night stay at the Cobh Hotel at Athlone was a welcome respite for most, and especially for John and I, as we had just traveled across 4 continents in 5 days!! The Trip to Fuerty, the site of the grave of the first Egan from 865AD, was wonderful.



Michael JS's vast historical knowledge was supported with two locals who expanded on the pertinent background of this exciting find for the

Egan's. This was followed up with a true 'county lunch' in the local hall and historical center, and reminded me that county hospitality of fresh sandwiches, scones and jam and cups of tea, still exist in this day of "fast-everything!". I was also very touched to visit the sacred monastic site of Clonmacnoise, where it is renowned that our Egan buried at Fuerty was a student and prominent churchman. However, it was the visit to Michael JS's parents' grave, and many of his forebears that was a special privileged for me. As Michael quoted, all the DNA of the Irish Egans is here in this cemetery". This really is hallowed turf!

As is our custom, there was a very good Aussie delegation and, with this being John's and my fourth Rally, I was delighted to have my cousin Kerri Egan join us for her 'maiden voyage' to the Egan gathering. Our much loved "Albury Mike" was also to accompany us, as the patriarch of our James and Catherine Egan branch, but regrettably at the worst possible time prior to the trip, he came down with a serious dose of pneumonia and was unable to travel. Predictably we were all disappointed that Mike was not able to make this much-anticipated trip, having missed the previous two, but no one more so than Mike. But to his credit, and as we Irish do (especially Egan's) we pull up our bootlaces and 'get on with it'. We also missed having our local leaders in Greg and Sue in attendance, but I have come to the conclusion that 'all the planets need to be in alignment' in terms of health, family and work for us to be able to do these big international trips at this stage in our lives. So at our formal banquet, it was wonderful to have Byron Egan from Dallas read out this 'welcome' from Mike, and in doing so, remembered Mike and his beloved Mary who passed away 3 years ago, to their many Egan family friends gathered together. Here is Mike's message:

"I wish the Egan Clan Rally, 2012, every blessing. Have a week of fun, fellowship, frivolity, and enjoyment above all, remember the hard times our forefathers went through, to make life better for us who follow". Albury Mike.

With the aid of modern technology, we were able to 'bring the rally to Mike in Albury', and via Skype he was able to speak with many of us that evening, once again confirming that, though we Egan's are scattered near and far,

we are always closely connected in heart and spirit.

Another highlight of the banquet was the awarding of the Clans of Ireland Order of Merit to our very popular Byron. I was thrilled to accept Michael JS's invitation to read out the citation of Byron's efforts and contribution, before he was officially invested. Needless to say, Byron's wife Nancy, and daughters Katherine and Mary were very proud.



However, the icing on the cake was a congratulations letter Byron subsequently received from Ireland's current president, Michael D. Higgins, which Byron shared with me. It reads

'This is a high honour and recognizes your important contribution to our wonderful Irish heritage and culture. I thank you for your hard work in keeping that heritage and culture alive both at home here in Ireland and amongst our wider global family.'

As each rally has gone by these past 6 years, in some diverse and wonderful locations in Ireland, the USA and Australia, I realize that it is the company we keep, more than the places we see that really make these gatherings so special.



The two years between rallies passes very

quickly, and when we reunite it feels like 'just yesterday' since we were with one another. However as in any family, we can ill afford to take for granted those things that connect us and the ties that bind us. We now have the Egan Facebook page, our regular newsletters and the clan website, that can help us stay 'electronically' in touch across the various continents on which we all live. However, that 'global family' that President Higgins referred to in Byron's letter, is a very human family. We all have our ups and downs, our joys and sorrows, our heartaches and disappointments, and when we get the chance to share those with our family that is physically close, it is a blessing indeed. I am one very proud Egan descendent, and I know the resilience and determination that is in our DNA, comes from, to use Albury Mike's words " a long line of our forebears who went through hard times to make life better for those of us who follow" .

For this we give thanks, and look forward to our next gathering in Los Angeles in June 2014, God willing and good health prevailing.



Other photos were contributed by David Edwards and all are available on the website.

DNA Study

Greg provided the following report for the Rally:

We now have one of the largest Irish DNA studies. The results are updated from time to time on the Australian and New Zealand Chapter site at:

<http://www.eganfamily.id.au/Clan/Research/DNATesting.html>

The procedure for joining the study is quite simple and the DNA test painless and completely confidential. This procedure is documented on the site above.

The results are identified by a "kit number" which you can use to find which members of the Clan may be related to you. Sue can place you in contact with others who appear to be related in the current groupings, which are attached. You can see that there are a number of large groupings most of which overlap at say 20 generations.

While the number of people in the study is significant we still need to systematically identify "Egans" living in Ireland and who have been in a particular geographic area for a long time. Their family lineage, as far as possible, needs to be documented. The central aim of the DNA study is to find our roots in Ireland, not just that we came from Ireland for that much we know.

Linking up with others in the study is a task which requires pro-active personal effort as Sue and I cannot do this ourselves easily because of the confidentiality provisions.

You need to let Sue know that you wish to contact someone with a specific kit number; she will then contact them to see if they wish to reciprocate.

It has been a joy to us to find that we are in fact related closely to many that we found ourselves instinctively at ease with in the Clan – of course that is everyone.

We are sorry to miss the Rally this year but wish you all well. Have a great time.

Egan Facebook page

Brenda Agin Lanoue, the US Clan Chapter Director in charge of Facebook sent the following email to members after the Rally.

*Hello Clan Egan Members,
The new Facebook page is premiering.....it is called "World of Clan Egan".*

In order to join it, of course you must have a Facebook account.....go to search and type in: World of Clan Egan

The new site will come up and you request to join....

I thought the closed site would be better to keep out spam, etc, but still allow people looking for sites containing the words Egan to see us, consider joining us, just not actually accessing our posts....

Hope to see many of you from the Rally signing up and also those of you I have yet to meet.....Brenda Agin Lanoue

If you have any questions regarding the Clan Egan Facebook page, please contact Brenda at aginroth@nycap.rr.com.

Family Reunion



Norm and Sandra Egan hosted a Reunion for the Descendants of Thomas Egan & Ellen Shearing of Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath at the Cowra Bowling Club on the 7th & 8th April this year. Norm reports "The reunion went well 68 people replied and turned up and everyone had a good time found a couple of new relatives. They came from Queensland, Lismore, Canberra, Canowindra, Young and Gosford."

New Members

We welcome the following new members: Kerri Egan who joins Albury Mike, Anne & John Field, Pauline Harbick, Des Dineen, Kathy Adams and Trevor Gallagher and is descended from Patrick Egan and Johanna Purcell from Tipperary;

Jane Murphy Isaksson-Forestal, who is descended from James Egan and Margaret Slamen from Offaly and joins the extended family of the Ballan-Greendale Egan's;
Robert H. Egan, who is descended from Dennis Egan and Johanna Callaghan from Cork and joins Nita Williams;
Matt Egan who is descended from Thomas Hagan and joins David T. Egan;
Kathy Nolan, who is descended from William Keegan and Matilda Dawkins from NSW and joins Thelma Draper and Anne Simpson;
Belinda Egan who is descended from William and Theresa Egan from Merriwa, NSW;
Terry Anderson, who is descended from Michael Egan from Cork and Mary Ann Kearney.

Research

Elaine found this website with old school photos from the Wycheproof State School No 1757 – several of our relatives are pictured, so you might find some too!

<http://wycheschools.webs.com/1940sphotos.htm>

Convict Records is a free website listing convict names and biographies, based on the British Convict Transportation Register for convicts transported to Australia between 1787 and 1867.

<http://www.convictrecords.com.au/convicts>

So far only 4 Eagan, 16 Egan, 7 Keegan, 1 Kegan and 1 Kegin convicts are listed. We know there are a lot more than that, so perhaps some of you may like to add your relatives (any surnames) or add extra details to the records.

Finally Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle, NSW has put a search facility on the web at <http://www.sandgatemetery.org.au/>. The search result includes photos of the headstones, where they exist, and a Google map showing the location of the grave within the cemetery.

Greg & Sue Egan

<http://www.eganfamily.id.au/Clan/index.html>