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## Preview of 2012 Clan Rally in Ireland

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

Join your kinfolds from Ireland, Australia, Canada, the United States and other parts unknown to share an historic Egan journey through Ireland's beautiful highways and byways. The 2012 Rally will be lead by our Chief, Mac Aodhagáin Michael J. S. Egan. We will visit many historical Egan sites not reached on prior Rallies. It is now time for you to be booking your travel arrangements as described herein.

The planned Egan Rally will begin at Bunratty in County Claire on the West Coast of Ireland, near Shannon Airport. In the evening of **Sunday, June 24**, there will be an informal gathering for libation and food. On **Monday, June 25**, we will register and then proceed by bus to the Killarney Lakes area and the market town of Macroom on the River Sullane - once a meeting place for the Druids of Munster from whom it is rumored that Egans descended - and where Brian Boru won a significant battle as a result of which he was named King of Munster.

**Tuesday, June 26** – From our base in Macroom, the bus will tour the Coachford area including (1) Beal na mBlath where Michael Collins, a leader in the rebellion that resulted in Irish independence, was ambushed, (2) Carrigadrohid Castle is the site where Bishop MacEgan of Ross was hanged by the army of Cromwell, (3) and Aghinagh Way visiting the Mullinhjassig Waterfall, a ring fort and a stone circle.

**Wednesday, June 27** - On to Cobh, a point of emigration for many Egans. We will visit the Cobh Heritage Centre to retrace their steps.

**Thursday, June 28** – On our way to Athlone, we will stop at the ancient Rock of Cashel, reported to be the place where the King of Munster was converted to Christianity by St. Patrick, and at Roscrea, where we will visit the historic Castle and ponder if King John built it in 1213 or whether it is 100 years older.

**Friday, June 29** – Athlone was an impassable fortress on the banks of the Shannon River until a bridge was built in the 12th century. The Anglo-Normans built a 12-sided donjon (keep) which still remains. We will visit the donjon and a nearby historic centre. We will also make a side trip to Fuerty to visit the grave of the Aidacain (Egan) who died in 865 AD. His headstone was uncovered in 1984, and research has identified him with the monastery at Clonmacnoise as a student and prominent churchman. His education at Clonmacnoise was significant to the family as here the early Egans learned to be scribes, brehons and wise men and women.

**Saturday, June 30** - On our way back from Athlone to Bunratty, we may visit Redwood Castle, which was bought and restored by our late Chief, Michael J. Egan, a lawyer from Castlebar, County Mayo. The castle was built by the Normans around 1210 and was taken over by the O'Kennedys, Chieftains of the territory in 1350. Valuing the wisdom of the MacEgans, the leading family of Brehons and Ollaves (lawyers and professors) the O'Kennedys awarded the castle to the MacEgans to establish what became a celebrated school of law and history. The castle's wooden parts (roof and flooring) were burned in Cromwellian times. Thereafter the castle was considered a ruin for 350 years, and eventually was it was covered by over six feet of ivy. When Chief Michael J. Egan bought the building in 1972, it had been used for storage and even a cow shed. Several Egan rallies have featured visits to this hallowed spot.

**Sunday, July 1** – The Rally will conclude in Bunratty with our traditional closing Banquet after a church service featuring an Egan chalice dating from the 1300s and Chapter meetings in the afternoon. Plan on staying overnight as the party will go late!

Accommodations have been arranged for the Rally group as described elsewhere herein, but space is limited. Since we will be in Ireland at the best time of the year, you need to reserve your accommodations and air passage soon. Please book your accommodations early, and communicate to Mac Aodhagáin what you have arranged, so that our Chief will have a good head count for making preparations for the various events. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS ON ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS.

The foregoing is a summary of the 2012 Rally events and arrangements currently envisioned by our chief, Mac Aodhagáin Michael J. S. Egan. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find more detail and pictures about the venues to be visited. If you have not already done so, please give me and Michael J.S. Egan an indication if you will be joining us and how many in your party, then get started on making those reservations!

# 2012 Egan Clan Rally Itinerary



## Sunday, June 24 – Overnight in Bunratty (P)

If you arrive early, you can enjoy the attractions of the Bunratty area, including a tour of the Castle and Folk Park, visit the Original Dirty Nelly's Pub next to the Castle for a pint and a sing-along or even have a Traditional Irish Night with dinner and dancing.



## Monday, June 25 – Bus to Killarny Lakes and Macroom (B)

**The Ladies View of the Killarny Lakes was named for its admiration by the ladies-in-waiting of Queen Victoria's court on her 1861 visit to Ireland.**



**Brian Boru engaged Molloy in the Battle of Macroom (B) in 987 AD at a point where the Lee and Sullane meet. The battle lasted all day until Molloy was slain by Murrogh, Brian's son and Brian Boru was declared King of Munster. This was the first major battle between the Irish and the Danes (Vikings).**



## Tuesday, June 26 – Tour of Coachford area from Macroom (E)

**Beal na mBlath (C) is where in August 1922 Michael Collins, one of the most charismatic leaders in the history of Ireland and Commander in Chief of the National Forces, was killed in an ambush whilst on a tour of inspection of the Free State troops in his native Cork.**



**Carrigadrohid Castle (D), erected in the 15th century, stands on a rock in the river Lee. It was besieged by Parliamentary forces following the Battle of Macroom, and Bishop MacEgan of Ross was hanged by the reins of his own horse outside the castle, having refused to implore the Irish garrison to surrender to the Cromwellian army.**



**Aghinagh Way (D) contains over 250 archaeological sites, including Aghina Church, built in 1656 and Carrigadrohid Castle, built on a rock in the middle of the Lee River. North of the castle, 1 km up the Mullinhassig River is Mullinhassig Waterfall. West of the waterfall, you can view the Leades House, built in 1730, and currently being fully restored to its former grandeur. Next along the drive are the Cahirbaroule Ringfort (below left), an enclosed farmstead built in early Christian times. In Cahirbaroul, see a simple engraved cross surrounded by a circle of stones. The inscription was made in the 5<sup>th</sup> century,**

during the transition from paganism to Christianity. Heading north, see two megalithic tombs, each facing in a southwesterly direction. Heading north into the Boggeragh Mountains, see the Butter Road, created to transport butter from [Kerry](#) to [Cork City](#). Last on the loop is the [Carrigagulla Stone Circle](#) (below right). A Bronze Age circle, it contains 15 stones and is thought to be orientated with the setting sun on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February for the festival of Imbolc.



### Wednesday, June 27–Macroom (B) to Cobh (formerly Queenstown-F)

From 1848 - 1950 over 6 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland - over 2.5 million departed from Cobh, making it the single most important port of emigration. The Cobh Heritage Centre presents the Queenstown Story, a dramatic exhibition of the origins, history and legacy of Cobh. Retrace the steps of the two and a half million adults and children who emigrated from Ireland via Cobh on coffin ships, early steamers and finally on the great ocean liners. Explore the conditions on board the early emigrant vessels, including the dreaded coffin ship, and experience life on board a convict ship leaving Cobh for Australia in 1801.

### Thursday, June 28 – Cashel (G) and Roscrea (H) on way to Athlone (K)

The Rock of Cashel (Carraig Phádraig), more formally St. Patrick's Rock, is also known as Cashel of the Kings and is reputedly the site of the conversion of Aenghus the King of Munster by St. Patrick in the 5th century AD. Long before the Norman invasion, The Rock of Cashel was the seat of the High Kings of Munster, although there is little structural evidence of their time here. Most of the buildings on the current site date from the 12th and 13th centuries when the rock was gifted to the Church. The buildings represent both Hiberno-Romanesque and Germanic influences in their architecture. To quote from the Wiki entry, "The complex has a character of its own, unique and native, and is one of the most remarkable collections of Celtic art and medieval architecture to be found anywhere in Europe."

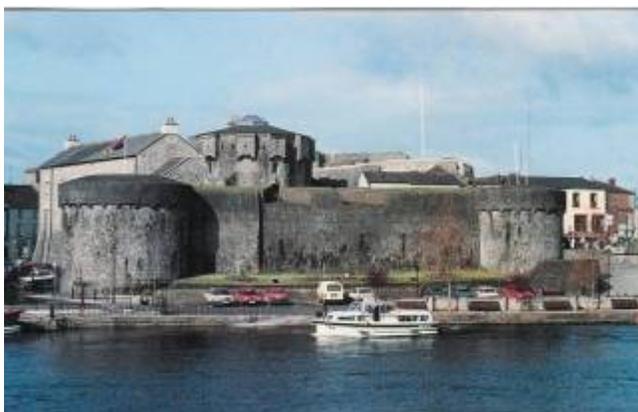


**Roscrea Castle and Damer House** - The stone castle consists of a gate tower, curtain walls and two corner towers dating from the 1280's. The castle rooms are furnished and some house exhibitions. Built in the early 18th century in the Queen Anne style, Damer House is an example of pre-Palladian architecture. Its rooms house temporary exhibitions. One of the rooms is furnished in period style. It also has a restored mill displaying original St Cronan's high cross and pillar stone.



Friday, June 29 – Tour Fuerty (J) and Athlone (K) from Base in Athlone

**Fuerty (J), County Roscommon, is the site of the grave of the first Egan from 865 AD that the Mac Aodhagáin talked about at the 2010 Rally in Hobart. See previous Newsletter of Summer 2010 for more about this exciting find.**



**Athlone Castle Visitor Centre is a Norman Castle that dominates the town centre of Athlone in County Westmeath. It commands the traditional gateway to the West of Ireland. The visitor centre features exhibitions and audio visual presentations on the siege of Athlone, John Count McCormack. There are also exhibits about the River Shannon wildlife and history with folk and military museums.**

## Saturday, June 30 – Athlone (K) to Bunratty (B) via Redwood Castle (N)

We hope to visit Redwood Castle, built by Normans about 1210, and occupied by them until 1350. In 1350 the O'Kennedy's, the Chieftains of this Territory, took over the Building and installed the MacEgans. They were the leading Irish Family of hereditary Brehons and Ollaves, or lawyers and professors, at the time. A celebrated school of learning, primarily of Law and History, was established by the Family, and pupils came from all parts of Ireland for about 300 years. The 2008 Rally group posed in front of the castle (below right). Along the way, we pass through Loughrea (L), Lorrha (M) and Nenagh (O).



## Sunday, July 1 – Bunratty Church Services and Banquet

After church services in the morning and Chapter meetings in the afternoon, the Clan will hold its traditional evening Banquet to conclude the 2012 Rally. There are no planned events on the following Monday, although there will likely be informal gatherings around unscheduled breakfasts as folks say goodbye and head in different directions. The closest airport to Bunratty is Shannon.

### MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

**Dues:** A friendly reminder to the membership that **Clan Dues are payable to Jim Eagen every year.** Please send \$25 (for family) or \$15 (individual) to him at: Clan Egan-USA/Canada, c/o Jim Eagen, Treasurer, P. O. Box 438, Poolesville, MD 20837-0438. Thank you. Please include form on next page.

### **Change of Address or E-mail:**

**Please be sure to update your postal and e-mail 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:

Jim Eagen, P.O. Box 438, Poolesville, MD 20837-0438 or e-mail him at:

[jimeagen@comcast.net](mailto:jimeagen@comcast.net) OR contact Byron Egan at:

4405 McFarlin Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75205 or e-mail him at: [began@jw.com](mailto:began@jw.com).

### **Newsletter Material:**

**If you have any material to submit for future newsletters,** please email it to Larry Agin at [aqinla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aqinla@sbcglobal.net) or mail to 7400 Dunfield Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045 USA

## Important 2012 Rally Accommodation Information

As you book your accommodations, please identify yourself as part of the Clan Egan Rally group and ask for the Clan Egan rate. When your booking is confirmed, please email Mac Aodhagáin (M.J.S. Egan) ([michael.egan@mjse.ie](mailto:michael.egan@mjse.ie)) and Byron Egan ([began@jw.com](mailto:began@jw.com)) under the subject "RALLYBOOKING" with the details of your booking (i.e., place and names of persons booked).

The Clan Egan bus is to pick us up and drop us off at the designated accommodations. If you choose to book accommodations in places not listed above, it is likely that you will have to make your way to one of the designated locations to catch the bus.

- **24 June Sunday--Bunratty**

Bunratty Castle Hotel, Assumpta Lynch, [Assumpta@bunrattycastlehotel.com](mailto:Assumpta@bunrattycastlehotel.com)  
+35361478700

The Courtyard, B&B, [info@bunrattycourtyard.com](mailto:info@bunrattycourtyard.com) +35361361444

Bunratty Manor, B&B, [bunrattymanor@eircom.net](mailto:bunrattymanor@eircom.net) +35361707984

- **25 June Monday and 26 June Tuesday--Macroon**

Castle Hotel, Macroon, Kay McCarthy, [kaycastlehotel@gmail.com](mailto:kaycastlehotel@gmail.com) +3532641074

Richaldine House, B&B, Mrs Manning, [richaldinehouse@gmail.com](mailto:richaldinehouse@gmail.com) +3532641966

Hillview House, B&B, Mrs Kelleher, +3532641878

- **27 June Wednesday--Cobh**

Commodore Hotel, Cobh, Mary O'Mahony, [commodorehotel@eircom.net](mailto:commodorehotel@eircom.net)  
+353214811277

Watersedge Hotel, Ms Aga, [info@watersedgehotel.ie](mailto:info@watersedgehotel.ie) +353214815566

Ard na Laoi Guest House, +353214812742

- **28 June Thursday and 29 June Friday--Athlone**

Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Ruth Allingham, [info@hodsonbayhotel.com](mailto:info@hodsonbayhotel.com)  
+353906442000

Carnivan House, B&B, Mrs O'Brien, +353906494486

Kinahan's, B&B, Mrs Kinahan, +353906492217

Grove House, B&B, Jackie Mannion, [campbellmannion@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmannion@gmail.com)  
+353906492786

- **30 June Saturday and 01 July Sunday --Bunratty**  
(same accommodations as for 24 June Sunday)

- **02 July Monday--Bunratty**

Dispersal to your next destination. The closest airport to Bunratty is Shannon.

Message from IrelandHeritage:  
Update from Ireland yDNA Project

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) has a sale on new kits and upgrades. The details are posted on our project news webpage:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/IrelandHeritage/default.aspx?section=news>

So, it is a good time to order that y-DNA kit for a relative or friend or to do an upgrade on your own kit. (Note: upgrades to 111 markers or new orders for 111 marker tests are not included in the sale but may be discounted at a later date). To avail of any of the sale offers, go to your own personal webpage at FTDNA and look for the "Special Offers" link.

Matches at 37 markers or 67 markers are useful for identifying close relationships. In some cases the 38-67 range of markers show signature mutations which help to identify y-DNA clusters and potential subclades.

In the Ireland yDNA Project, we group people by y-haplogroup and terminal SNP (e.g. L226+). Do remember that as the project has over 4300 members, to see your results in the results chart, you will have to either go page by page to your result or you can change the number of results displayed from the standard 500 results per page to 4500 (to make sure you see them all).

Many of the y-haplogroup projects are very involved in researching their particular y-haplogroup or subclade and we advise our members to join the most appropriate y-haplogroup project for their results. In the Ireland yDNA Project, we monitor developments in the y-haplogroup projects, especially the projects concerned with R1b1a results as approximately 75% of our yDNA results would fit this category.

We also recommend that members join their own surname group. Surname Projects are often the most knowledgeable about a surname and the matches which occur for that surname.

We would like to thank those who made recent donations to the project fund. The fund helps to sponsor SNP testing for newly discovered SNPs. This helps us all!

Margaret Jordan  
Admin. Ireland yDNA Project

**Membership Application Form  
- Clann Aodhagáin - USA and  
Canada**

Family Name:

First Name:

Names of adults at this address:

Permanent Address

Alternate Address (and months there)

New membership or renewal:

If known, Membership Number:

Member Since:

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

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:

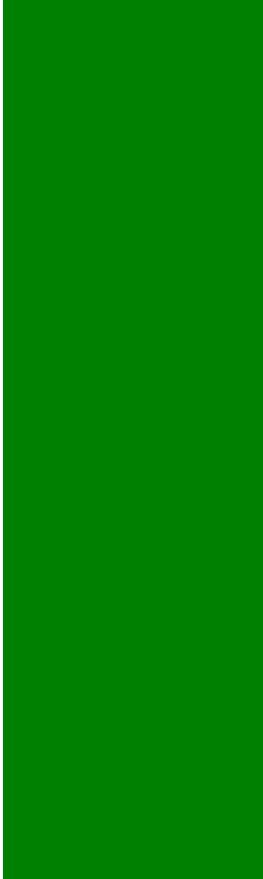
Clan Egan-USA/Canada

c/o Jim Eagen, Treasurer

P.O. Box 438

Poolesville, MD 20837-0438

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**Fall 2011 Newsletter  
featuring preview of  
Clan Egan Rally 2012  
in Ireland**

