

Summer
2010

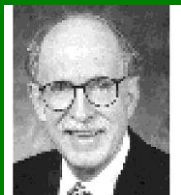
Volume 6

CLAN EGAN USA/CANADA NEWSLETTER

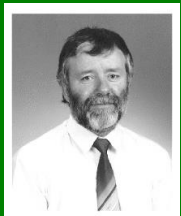
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Michael JS
Egan
Chief of Clan
Egan
International



Byron F. Egan
President,
USA/Canada
Clan Egan
Association



Greg Egan
Chief of Clan
Egan Australia

Fine Time at 2010 Clan Rally in Tasmania (see page 2+)



Message from President of USA/Canada Clan Egan Association

Dear Fellow Eagan/Eagen/Egan/Agin/Keegan Clan Members:

The Clan Egan Rally in Tasmania on June 30-July 4, 2010 has come and gone, but the memories remain of an outstanding gathering. The success of the Rally, which is described in words and pictures elsewhere in this Newsletter, is due to the efforts of Kerry and David Edwards, our hosts in Tasmania; Sue and Greg Egan of Melbourne, who coordinated the support of the Australia & New Zealand Branch of Clan Egan; and Michael J.S. Egan, Mac Aodhagáin or Chief of the Clan Egan International who came from Dublin, Ireland.

Michael J.S. Egan is already planning for our Rally in Ireland in the summer of 2012. To facilitate his consideration of new places for us to visit with an Egan nexus, he would appreciate any suggestions you might have. You could help him in identifying any Egan sites of interest to you by advising him from where in Ireland you think your ancestors came, the port from which they left Ireland, and how and by what route they may have traveled in leaving Ireland.

For our Rally in 2014, Larry Agin has volunteered to host us in the Los Angeles area and there was also discussion of going to Canada if our local members volunteer to host us. The decision for the venue of the 2014 Rally will be made at the 2012 Rally in Ireland.

While we had an excellent Rally in Tasmania and are looking forward to our Rally in Ireland in 2012, Rallies are only part of the story of the activities of Clan Egan. For more information on other activities of Clan Egan, come to our website: <http://www.clanegan.org>.

Tasmania Clan Rally Highlights

by Larry Agin and Byron Egan

Three Egan Clan families from the USA totaling 12 people plus Clan Chief Michael JS Egan from Ireland joined 32 Australian Eigans on the tour of Tasmania, with about 55 more Aussies coming out to the Clan Banquet for a total of around 100 people at the Rally. Overall, the winter weather was great, cool (highs in low 50s° F or around 10° C) but mostly clear and dry with little wind. Here are some day-by-day highlights:



Our hosts David and Kerry Edwards

Wednesday, June 30 – After Rally Registration at The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, we visited the Hobart Museum with its fine collections on early settlers and native animals as well as modern and fine art. Thereafter we went to the Hobart Town Hall for a guided tour and meeting with the Lord Mayor of Hobart. The Lord Mayor greeted Michael JS Egan, Mac Aodhagáin, as a visiting head of state as the leader of Clan Egan. There was a ceremony in which the Lord Mayor donned the robes of his office and Mac Aodhagáin wore the Clan Egan Lunula.

We then went to Parliament House for a guided tour and dinner hosted by Michael Polley, the Speaker of the House in the Tasmanian Parliament since 1998, who also recognized Mac Aodhagáin as a visiting head of state as the leader of Clan Egan. The Speaker commented that his Irish ancestors had appeared before the greatest jurists of England and been given free passage to Tasmania, and that he shared this distinction with many of his constituents.



Hobart Town Hall ballroom



Byron and Kerry with Hobart City seal



Tasmania's Parliament House



Tasmania's Speaker of the House Michael Polley greets Clan Egan before Parliament House state dinner



Hobart Lord Mayor with Mac Aodhagáin in official regalia



Egan Clan fills the Hobart City Council Chamber



Menu for dinner at Parliament House

Thursday, July 1 – We took a bus to Port Arthur and toured the infamous convict settlement there. After a guided tour and short cruise on the inlet visiting the Isle of the Dead, we had free time to explore the site and its museum. Each guest was given a playing card that linked them to a story of a particular convict and the museum gave details of their life before, during and after time in prison.

We had a memorable dinner in Port Arthur at the Fox and Hounds Hotel where we stayed overnight. The night was quite chilly and many huddled around the roaring fire at the restaurant. Some brave souls even returned to the prison for the evening "Ghost Tour".



Landmarks include church (top l), commandant's house (lower l) and guard tower (top r). Lower right shows playing card match in museum.



Morning guided tour of Port Arthur started in light drizzle but clouds cleared on cruise around harbor featuring Isle of the Dead (burial ground for prison)



Convict leg irons in museum are uncomfortable



Egan clan gathers around the fire in the Fox and Hounds hotel on chilly evening after group dinner

Friday, July 2 – On our way back to Hobart we toured a number of Tasman Peninsula sites such as the Devil's Kitchen and the Tasman Arch along the rugged coastline. We stopped for lunch and shopping at the historic village of Richmond with the oldest bridge in Australia, dating from 1823. On the bus ride back, David Edwards once again demonstrated how Chateau Cardboard can make a bus ride more enjoyable and facilitate singing, then Kerry Edwards led the singing with several other contributors. David also showed how the bladder from a Chateau Cardboard box can be removed and used as a pillow. We returned to Hobart in time for dinner at the pub in the New Sydney Hotel, a short walk away from the Old Woolstore.



Rugged coastline on Tasman peninsula includes the huge Tasman Arch (top right) carved out by the relentless ocean.



Historic Richmond village is picturesque



Beautiful sunset as we return to Hobart

Kevin Egan at Richmond Bridge from 1823 (oldest in Australia)



Saturday, July 3 – Saturday morning was free for individual activities. Many of us went to the famous Salamanca Markets or shopped elsewhere in Hobart. In the afternoon, we could choose between a lecture and two tours. Dr Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, a prominent Tasmanian history authority, talked about his latest project on convicts in Tasmania (we hope to get more information for future newsletters). David Edwards conducted a tour of Hobart Waterfront's Engineering Heritage. A third option was a tour of Anglesea Barracks, a military site that contains some of the oldest and best colonial architecture in Hobart.

At the Saturday evening Clan Banquet at Old Woolstore Hotel, after remarks by Kerry and David Edwards, Greg Egan and Byron Egan, Michael J. S. Egan tied together various Egan related sites in Ireland (see pages 7-9) which take the Egan name back to 865 AD. Thereafter there was singing led by our Chief, poetry readings, dancing and merriment. Eddie Agin performed a special Egan version he wrote of Duncan, a popular Australian song (see box on next page; video is on Youtube under "Eddie sings Egan version of Duncan" or click this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIK-9VIgZn0>) to a rousing reception. A great time was had by all.



Royal Engineers Building on David's tour;
Clan Banquet placemat, tables and families
(Greg Egan group; Veronica Egan Foard)



Duncan (Egan version) by Eddie Agin

Oh I love to have a drink with Duncan
I love to have a drink with Dunc.
We drink in moderation
And we never ever ever get rollin' drunk
We drink at the Old Woolstore Pub
Where the atmosphere is great!
Oh we love to have a drink with Duncan
'Cause Duncan's our mate!

Oh I love to have a drink with Byron
He's the Lone Star Lord.
We drink in moderation
He loves to drink Château Cardboard*
We drink at the Old Woolstore Pub
Where the atmosphere is great!
Oh we love to have a drink with Byron
'Cause Byron's our mate!

Oh I love to have a drink with Gerry
I love to have a drink with Ger.
We drink in moderation
And he sleeps at night with his big ol' bear.
We drink at the Old Woolstore Pub
Where the atmosphere is great!
Oh we love to have a drink with Gerry
'Cause Gerry's our mate!

I love to have a drink with Lucca
I love to have a drink with Claire.
We drink in moderation
They only serve soda-pop in here!
We drink at the Old Woolstore Pub
Where the atmosphere is great
Oh we love to have a drink with them two
'Cause they are our mates!

Oh I love to have a drink with Michael
We love to have a drink with Mike.
We drink in moderation
'Cause he's the guy that we all like
We drink at the Old Woolstore Pub
Where the atmosphere is great!
Oh we love to have a drink with Michael
'Cause Michael's me mate

Oh I love to have a drink with the Egan's
I love to have a drink with them.
We drink in moderation
We drink to us! Here, Here again!
We drink at the Old Woolstore Pub
Where the atmosphere is great!
Oh we love to have a drink with the Egan's
'Cause we're all good mates!

Sunday, July 4 – Church services at Bellerive—Lindisfarne Catholic Parish in Hobart were led by a parish priest, who specially recognized Clan Egan and his predecessor parish priest William Egan. After lunch at the Woolstore, there were Clan Chapter Meetings (see p. 10-11) and fond farewells.

Rally Wrap-up from David and Kerry Edwards

David and I were delighted with the attendance at the Clan Egan Rally in Hobart, particularly that of our overseas cousins, as Tasmania really is a long way away. We were pleased to show off our beautiful home and we were rewarded with wonderful weather.

We hope that attendees have fond memories of the Rally, and Tasmania. We felt that everyone came with the firm intention to enjoy themselves and join in the wonderful atmosphere of fun and family. Our reward was the joy generated during the week and the firm bonds of friendship forged during that time.

We are looking forward to meeting you again at the next gathering.

Rally Thank-You from Clan Chief Michael JS Egan

Having had the task of putting many Egan Rallies together in the past I can assert just how difficult it is to put a wide ranging and interesting programme together. I understand the detailed thinking that must be put into the timetable, the locations, the transport methods, the hotels, the weather possibilities, the numbers of people attending, the costs, the paperwork and the other logistics that make up the basic plans. In Tasmania we were fortunate to have had Kerry and David Edwards to look after all of these items, and more, to everybody's satisfaction. They even managed to control the weather while we were there! We must not only thank them, but also Greg and Sue Egan who were of great help in all matters to Kerry and David.

We had a great mix of events and places to see while at the same time there was lots of time to talk, sing and even to have a drink or two. Château Cardboard was again the preferred wine for the bus journeys!! The singing was again much in evidence, especially late at night- the calibre was not up to scratch and much training is required before the next Rally.

A big, big thank you to Kerry and David and to all who made the long journey down under such a most memorable occasion.

* Château Cardboard is a clan term for boxed wine used by Bryon at the banquet and Michael in his message above.

Transcription of a talk given by Michael JS Egan at Egan Clan Rally, Hobart, Tasmania on 3 July 2010

Some time ago David and Kerry Edwards asked me to prepare a few words on any topic I would like to speak on so here I am. I was allotted twenty minutes and the paper is therefore brief but I will cover what I can in that time.

Since our last Rally in Ireland we have made one very significant find and I'd like to tell you all about it. In 1861 a historian/antiquarian by the name of George Petrie found two very old headstones in Fuerty, Co. Roscommon – near Roscommon Town. The ancient monastery at Fuerty was founded by St Patrick in the mid fifth century and contains some very old ruins. The two stones were laid aside and in time were again covered over with soil. During graveyard cleanup operations in 1984 a team of workers located the stones about 600 mm under the topsoil. Both of the headstones were dated to the ninth century. At that time it was decided that they would be best preserved by embedding them in the vertical wall of the nearby 18th century church bell-tower.

One of the stones was dedicated to a person by the name of Mor (which means 'big' or 'very many'). The other I will now show you (see box at right).

The inscription in old Irish script reads as follows:

Or ar anmain Aid
acain

In English this translates as Pray for the
soul of Aidacain (Egan)

The Stone

A few more words about the stone: It is about 950mm long by 680mm wide and is red sandstone. The centre of the stone has a two-lined ring cross with looped terminals. To the right of the cross and facing upwards



Fuerty Churchyard



Aidacain (Egan/Aodhagáin) Stone



Reproduced from "Some Early Christian Slabs from
Fuerty and Clontuskert", Albert Siggins,
Roscommon Historical Journal, Vol, 2 1988.

is a fish which still clearly displays an eye, fins, gills and lateral line. (This is one of only two stones which have been found in Ireland with this early Christian symbol). The inscription is in the vertical on the left hand side of the cross. The Irish and the presentation of the stone is typical of the Clonmacnoise style for the time period concerned and shows what would have been carved for a very important lay person or ecclesiastic.

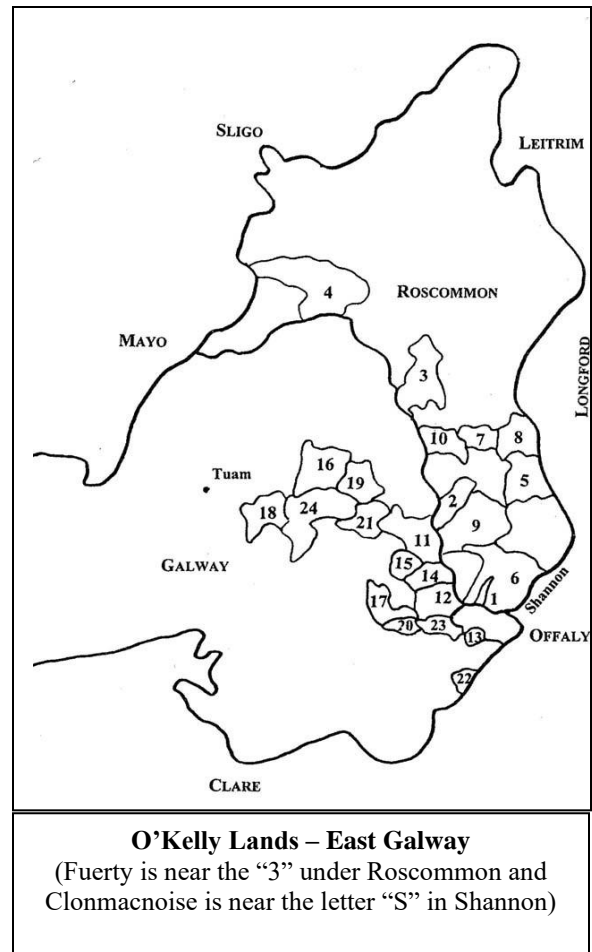
Who Was Aidacain?

From the Annals of The Four Masters we know that this man died in 865AD.

From the ancient Irish Annals we know quite a lot about this man - where he received his education, where he spent most of his active life, his position as an anchorite in the monastery at Clonmacnoise and several generations of his family who were active in that place up to around the year 1200AD. I don't have time to get into the details on all of these people but will add that one of the most famous was a man called Conn na mBocht - Conn of the Poor. Amongst other things he looked after the poor at Clonmacnoise.

At the time of Aidacain there were no Universities or many places of higher learning in Ireland. Foremost in the country on the educational front would have been Clonmacnoise and it is without any shadow of doubt that it was at Clonmacnoise that the Egans learned to be scribes, brehons and wise men. With such education they would have been ideally equipped to help large clans to organise the running of their clan armies, lands and taxes. Initially they put their talents to use in the service of the O'Kellys in east Galway who were great supporters of Clonmacnoise. By the early medieval period they were the chief accountants, brehons and marshals of the O'Kelly forces... all very important posts.

From these positions they acquired much land and wealth in east Galway. Their next step was to set up schools of learning and



this they did at Parke and Duniry (both also in Co Galway in O'Kelly territory). It is likely that Parke came first but this has not been established definitively as yet. Both were thriving in the 1400s.

We know that Ballymacegan, Co Tipperary was a school for the education of judges/brehons in the 1500s and was flourishing into the mid 1600s. These Egans almost certainly came south from Parke. Why settle at Ballymacegan? It was ideally located in the centre of the country and near the Shannon River. This was in the territory of the Duke of Ormond and it was a Palatinate and not subject to Dublin Castle. The area was free of the strife for long periods because Ormond had his own very large army to protect his territory. The Egans were clever, as usual, to set up in such a place. They got on well with Ormond as no doubt he welcomed a peaceful, well educated family who could advise him on all

things associated with lands and the Brehon Laws which were still in force in his area.

So why was Aidacain buried in Fuerty and not Clonmacnoise? The answer can be found in the ancient annals which tell us that the O'Kellys were at war with the authorities in Clonmacnoise in the 840 -880 AD period and most likely Aidacain was not allowed to be buried there. Instead he was buried in the most sacred place readily available to the O'Kellys in their own territory ie Fuerty , which had been founded by St Patrick.

In conclusion I must acknowledge that without the PhD Thesis work of Ms Annette Kehnel in 1995 on the Church and Lands of St Ciaran at Clonmacnoise it would have been virtually impossible to tie together all the facts presented above about the early Egans. (Her work is available at ISBN 3-8258-3442-5)

Thank you all for listening – I'll try to answer any questions you may have now or later.

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 at right.

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

OR contact Byron Egan at:
4405 McFarlin Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75205 or e-mail him at: began@jw.com.

Membership Application Form - Clann Aodhagin - 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

Highlights of Clan Chapter Meetings at Hobart Rally

DNA Project: Michael J.S. Egan and Greg Egan discussed the progress made to date on the Egan DNA Project conducted for us by Family Tree DNA. Michael J.S. noted that Family Tree DNA has made significant progress in tying together branches of the Y chromosomes associated with many Egan. He also noted that the Clan now has one of the largest DNA projects and almost all of the original 12 marker tests have been upgraded to 37 markers, allowing much better opportunities for identifying particular branches of the tree.

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. You should normally order a 37 marker test, but may wish to consider 67 markers if you are trying to identify particular branches of your family tree within say 10 generations. A personal page is the online page Family Tree DNA_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 Sue Egan, the DNA Project Administrator, at spe@optusnet.com.au with password, kit number or other 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.

Greg has recently produced a new analysis that gives the time, in generations, to your most recent common ancestor with others in the project. This is much easier to

read for most of us and may be found at http://www.eganfamily.id.au/Clan/Research/DNATMRCA_37M_30G.html

The most recent information regarding the Clan's DNA endeavors can be found on the Clan Egan website at <http://www.eganfamily.id.au/Clan/Research/DNATesting.html>

Non-Profit Corporation: The U.S. branch of the Clan Egan Association was formed as a non-profit corporation in Texas and is operated, exclusively for educational purposes, including research, publications and presentations regarding genealogical and other historical subjects, and the preservation of historical sites.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service establish that the corporation is a non-profit organization within the meaning of §501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, which makes the organization exempt from most U.S. state and federal taxes and 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 the ensuing two years or until whichever of the following shall first occur: his successor is duly elected and qualified, his resignation, his 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)

Larry Agin, Newsletter (Los Angeles, California)

Jacki K. Barber, Co-Webmaster (Calvert City, Kentucky)

Doug Egan, Co-Webmaster (Boca Raton, Florida)

Michael J.S. Egan of Dublin, Ireland is the worldwide Chief of Clan Egan and may be appropriately addressed as Mac Aodhagáin. The directors of the corporation are Byron F. Egan, James H. Eagen and Michael J.S. Egan.

Website: The Clan Egan website is critical to our educational mission and our communications with our membership and others. In view of the expanded educational content planned and confidentiality concerns, a password protected members only website section was discussed. Our website will continue to be handled by Doug Egan and Jacki Barber.

Rally in 2012: Discussion was held on the next rally in Ireland in 2012 and Michael provided the following ideas: "I have had a request that we consider going to Cobh in Co. Cork, where most of our ancestors left for foreign climes. This being in the south of the country, I think that we would then have to visit Macroom and Carrigadroihid where there are famous Bishop Owen McEgan connections. Travelling north we should visit Redwood Castle, if that is possible, and go on to Athlone area. Here at Drom we can visit a local heritage centre, run by an Egan, and see a hedge school, an ancient keening place and other places nearby. Lastly we could visit the Egan headstone from 865AD in Fuerty Co Roscommon. As centres for all these activities, we will have to have one in the south near Macroom and another at Hodson Bay Htl (just outside Athlone). The Rally will be held the last week in June approx and will probably take most of the week. At least one bus will have to be provided." Michael would be happy to hear additional ideas for the 2012 Rally.

If you have any material to submit for future newsletters, please email it to Larry Agin at aginla@sbcglobal.net or mail to 7400 Dunfield Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045 USA

Clan Egan USA/Canada
P.O. Box 438
Poolesville, MD 20837-0438

**Summer 2010 Newsletter
featuring
Clan Egan Rally 2010
in Tasmania**

