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CLAN EGAN USA/CANADA NEWSLETTER

www.clanegan.org



Michael JS
Egan
Chief of Clan
Egan
International



Byron F.
Egan
President,
USA/Canada
Clan Egan



Greg Egan
Chief of Clan
Egan Australia

2012 Clan Rally in Ireland



Clan at Michael Collins Memorial on ambush site of Beal na mBlath

Braving the wettest three months in recorded Irish history, Clan Egan carried on with their 2012 Rally and achieved many highlights and memorable events. We were fortunate enough to find a few spots of sunshine to liven up the proceedings as well. Our merry troupe of 53 visited castles, graveyards, museums, shrines, ruined monasteries, schools, monuments, pubs, lakes, rivers and harbors – even a distillery! The group included 20 Americans, 7 Canadians, 14 Australians along with the clan chieftain Michael J. S. Egan, his wife Terry and local Irish gentry with Egan connections, plus several others dropping in along the way and some others joining for the banquet. At the Chapter meetings, Los Angeles was chosen as the site of the next Rally in 2014 – see page 7 for details. Here's how 2012 went:

Monday, June 25 After registration, the Clan proceeded by bus to Ross Castle on the Killarney Lakes area (photo below). Strange as it might seem, it was dry on our lake boat trip! Then it was on to the market town of Macroom on the River Sullane. Entertainment was provided in the pub at the Castle Hotel that evening.



Tuesday, June 26 – The morning included a tour of the historic town of Macroom, starting at the plaque honoring Bishop MacEgan (see below), then continuing on to Macroom Castle which has been converted into a College named after Bishop MacEgan. A local historian joined us there to give a talk on Egan influence in the area and other key events in local Irish history.



The local historian then directed our bus on a visit to the actual historical sights, starting with Carrigadrohid Castle on a rock in the river Lee, now attached to a bridge. Bishop MacEgan was the leader of an Irish army holding the castle when the English army attacked in 1650. The Bishop was captured and offered his freedom if he would order the soldiers in the castle to surrender. When taken to the castle, however, he cried out "Hold out to the last for religion and country", so the English hung him from a nearby tree by the reins of his own horse.



Our next stop was Beal na mBlath, a remote country road where Michael Collins, a leader in the rebellion that resulted in Irish independence, was ambushed and killed, under suspicious circumstances according to our historian (see top photo of Clan at memorial). Nearby at Kilmichael was the memorial to another ambush, this one a rare Irish victory. Charges of a fake surrender taint this location, however, which turned into a massacre of the English troops. Feelings between the two sides were so bitter that many of the battles turned into massacres with no prisoners taken, unfortunate in the extreme violence from both sides. That night, the Clan had a custom dinner in a banquet room at the Castle Hotel.



Wednesday, June 27 – We moved on to Cobh (pronounced “Cove”), a point of emigration for many Eigans and the last stop of the Titanic 100 years ago when Cobh was called Queenstown after the visit of Queen Victoria. We first visited the Cobh Heritage Centre with exhibits on emigration and the great steamship era including the Titanic and Queen Mary. After lunch, the group went on to the Jameson Distillery. Michael’s connections as prior Chief Engineer and designer of the plant enabled us to take a special conducted tour of the facility as well as several members participating in a taste comparison of various whiskey formulas. It was a jolly ride back to Cobh for the evening.



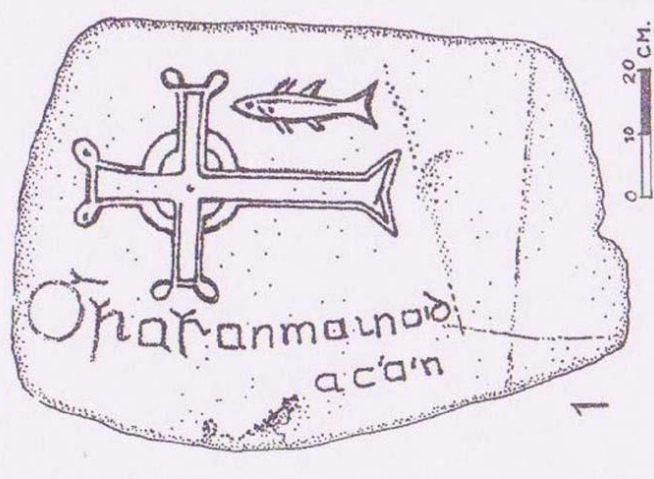
Thursday, June 28 – The day began with a stop at the ancient Rock of Cashel, reported to be the place where the King of Munster was converted to Christianity by St. Patrick, and a tour of the Bru Boru Cultural Center featuring Irish music next door where lunch was served with live music.

At Lorrha, the cathedral ruins contain several markers with historical significance for the Egans, including the gravesite of a direct ancestor of some of the group on the bus and a stone for Constantine Egan dating from 1689 which includes the Egan crest. From there, we visited the Redwood Mass Rock used for secluded outdoor Masses during penal times and the gate of Redwood Castle, although the interior was not open. The sun even came out during our visit.



Friday, June 29 – The first stop today was at Fuerty Churchyard to see the gravestone of the Aidacain (Egan), the very first identified Egan who died in 865 AD (reddish stone in first photo). 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. The detailed diagram of the stone that Michael provided in the last newsletter is shown again below.

Next came the Drum Heritage Center, open for only about a year. They were certainly glad to see us as we were the first large tour bus to visit them since they opened. The center is next to a local churchyard and the shrine of St. Brigid's Well. Edward Egan, a local historian and author, gave a talk and directed a local tour visiting a Wake house (holding spot for bodies in medieval times) and a hedge school. These schools were set up in secret by the Irish when the English forbade teaching the local children.



Saturday, June 30 – The morning began with a river cruise on the Shannon by Viking boat from Athlone to Clonmacnoise, a major medieval monastery and national historical shrine with special connections for Michael J.S. Egan's family as multiple generations are buried there. The site has an aura undimmed, perhaps even enhanced, by the light rain during our tour.

After lunch where published Irish histories listing Egans were shared, it was on to Bunratty for the banquet that evening at Bunratty Castle Hotel. At the Banquet, the highlights were an address by Michael on Clan history and the awarding of Byron Egan with the Clans of Ireland Order of Merit for his past services. The banquet concluded with singing and general good feelings all around. Samples of the singing can be found on the new World of Clan Egan Facebook page (see page 9) or check these Youtube links: <http://youtu.be/XxanBCJS4yg> and http://youtu.be/Gam_ke2PJg8.



Kieran Agin (in dark blue jacket), a local Egan, poses with DNA matches from the tour group at Clonmacnoise.



The parents of Michael J. S. Egan, our clan chieftain, along with many prior generations of Egans, are buried at Clonmacnoise.



Sunday, July 1 – Chapter meetings were held and it was agreed that the next Rally would be held in Los Angeles, hosted by Larry Agin and family. A tentative itinerary for that Rally is shown on the next page. It was also decided that the Rally in 2018 would be held in Canada. **Many thanks to Michael for all his planning and leadership on this wonderful Rally!!!**

Excerpts from Michael's remarks at the Clan banquet

It gives me great pleasure to address you all at this, our 16th Egan Clan Rally. First I'll say a few words in Irish, which I know will not be familiar to many of you but which would have been the language used by all of our Egan forebears who left Ireland before 1900. This being the case, it is easy to understand how our surname has been misspelt so often when written down in the USA or Australia by people who had never heard our name before then...

As noted, this is the 16th time since 1982 that we have gathered as Clan Egan. We have visited many places which are far from Ireland – all of which have seen members of our clan live and die. Our last Clan Rally was hosted in Tasmania by Kerry and David Edwards...we saw places that we could never have hoped to see in our lifetime. As you all will be aware, many Irish people were sent to Van Diemen's Land for the most trivial of reasons and it is now considered a badge of honour to be descended from such prisoners. We were very surprised to see that very few Egans were listed as guests of her majesty's government – but we could have known that Egans wouldn't have been involved in anything like that! All in all it was a great trip and we thank Kerry and David and all who attended.

Our primary aim as a Clan remains as ever – making our Egan/Keegan members and non-members aware of their heritage and to make them proud of their illustrious name. We never were big in terms of numbers but as regards intelligence, learning, education, diligence and fortitude and prudence we were second to none. As brehons we were the font passing on the Brehon Laws that had been used in the governing of all Ireland for centuries. Although many are judges and solicitors in the present day, we contribute still to the well-being of our country and the world in many ways. We would hope to continue in this way forever.

Our secondary role is to try to help people trace their roots. We know that no matter

where you are that your roots all go back to Ireland. Where in Ireland is the problem! Since we met here 4 years ago, there has been an explosion of data available on the Internet and Facebook and Twitter and several other sources. All of these make it easier to search and be a couch potato! I have never yet met somebody who has managed to dig up their roots somewhere in Ireland and who said that they would not like to visit the place where their ancestor walked and toiled. No amount of Googling the Google Earth site will ever replace walking the same green grass or meeting with previous members of your family.

I have spoken at previous rallies that the populations of Ireland was reckoned to be around 1 million people in the early 1640's. By the time of the great famine in 1846/8 period, this number had exploded to around 8 million with the great bulk of these occurring in the 1790-1830 period with the relaxation of the Penal Laws. On the Griffiths Valuation lists, there were approximately 1800 Egan families listed or approximately 8000-9000 individuals. This gives Egans as approx. 0.1% of the population. There is no reason to imagine why this ratio would have changed over the years and so going back to 1640 we could expect Egans to have been 0.1% of 1 million – about 1000 people or about 200 families. All of you will have descended from these 200 families. The question is – where were these families?

At this point in time there is only one way to get some indication of where they were. This is by DNA testing. As a family group we are one of the most advanced in Ireland in getting our DNA tested and the more tests we have carried out the better the data will be able to point to specific areas of the country. We would expect to find Egan clusters in East Galway, around Park and Duniry, around north Tipperary and in the area of Ferbane in Co. Offaly. I hope that we can get Sue Egan to give us a paper on the topic in the near future.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next Rally in 2014 – Thank you.

Byron Egan awarded Order of Merit by Clans of Ireland

Byron Egan, the President of the USA/Canada chapter of Clan Egan, was awarded the Order of Merit by the Clans of Ireland at the Clan Banquet. Michael J. Higgins, President of Ireland, wrote in his later letter of commendation to Byron that *"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."* All of us in the USA/Canada chapter can be especially proud of Byron's contributions.

The full citation, read by Anne Field at the banquet, goes as follows:

The Order of Clans of Ireland was established to honour those who have made a significant and sustained contribution to their Clan Society or who have brought conspicuous honour to their Clan name through their professional and personal life. The Patron of the Order of Clans of Ireland is Dr. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland and this evening on behalf of the President of Ireland, the Order of Clans of Ireland will be bestowed upon Byron Egan of the United States by the Cathoirleach of Clans of Ireland, Dr. Michael J.S. Egan, Chief of Clan Egan.

Byron Egan was the founder of Clan Egan Association in USA and Canada and has overseen the growth of his branch of the Clan which now has over 300 members.

In fact Byron has provided over 27 years of service to Clan Egan Association as a tireless supporter and organiser of Clan activities. In particular he has co-ordinated many Egan rallies in the USA and ensured that the clan continues to enjoy a prominent place among Irish clan societies in the North America.

At a very practical level Byron was responsible for setting up a financial system to allow subscriptions to be easily paid to Clan each year, thus ensuring the long term sustainability of the Clan Association.

Outside the Egan Clan Byron is involved in many philanthropic activities, most notably as a Member of the Board of Governors of the Dallas Symphony Association.

In recognition of his long term and significant contribution to the Egan Clan and for bringing honour to the Egan name through his philanthropic work, he is now created a Companion of the Order of Clans of Ireland.

The Gathering - Ireland 2013

The Irish government has declared 2013 to be a year of "The Gathering", a year-long celebration of all things Irish. Any Egans interested in going should contact Michael and he will see if he can help with their visit. More information can be found at the event website: <http://www.thegatheringireland.com/About.aspx>, which has the following description:

Throughout 2013, Ireland will open its arms to hundreds of thousands of friends and family from all over the world, calling them home to gatherings in villages, towns and cities.

There will be clan gatherings, festivals, special sporting events, music and concerts taking place all across the country, all year long. Communities throughout Ireland will showcase and share the very best of Irish culture, tradition, business, sport, fighting spirit and the uniquely Irish sense of fun. Over 70 million people worldwide claim Irish ancestry. The Gathering Ireland 2013 provides the perfect excuse to reach out to those who have moved away, their relatives, friends and descendants, and invite them home.

Join the new 'World of Clan Egan' group on Facebook

Brenda Agin Lanoue has created a new Facebook group called 'World of Clan Egan' for all members of the Egan Clan and extended family to stay in touch, post pictures, share milestones, and look forward to future Clan Egan Rallies. Already there are 81 members in the closed group and all Clan Egan members world-wide are encouraged to join. Just type in "World of Clan Egan" in the search box and you can request admission to the group. If you have any questions, contact Brenda at aginroth@nycap.rr.com.

SPECIAL INVITATION: Those who attended the Clan Egan Rally are invited to upload 10-20 of their favorite pictures to the World of Clan Egan Facebook page for all to share and comment on. This is the best method for all of us to share photos from this event.

Video of Rally available on Youtube

Edward and Elayne Allebest created a fine video of their visit to Ireland featuring the 2012 Egan Clan Rally, giving a great feel for the sights and history we encountered. You can view Part 1 of this video which includes about 15 minutes relating to the Rally by clicking this link to Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW796XG-8uE>.

Part 2 of the video adds another six minutes of other sights in Ireland that may also be of interest: <http://youtu.be/VJmMTyBNehI>.

2014 Rally in Los Angeles

Preparations are underway for the 2104 Clan Egan Rally in the Los Angeles area. There are many popular and famous family attractions the area but also more Irish connections than might generally be expected.

Along with the activities on the schedule, visitors are encouraged to extend their visit to see other well-known local sights like the Getty Center (Art museum and grounds on hillside overlooking city), the Griffith Observatory and Universal Studios Hollywood.

Embassy Suites Brea will be the host hotel for the Rally. Lots of attractions are within reasonable driving distance and the group rates are very reasonable for the Los Angeles area, especially including a cooked-to-order breakfast. All rooms are suites with a separate living room that can accommodate up to 4 people. Fine banquet and meeting rooms are also available. The lobby has an Egyptian theme that isn't exactly Irish but still adds a flair. Great shopping and dining options surround the hotel.

In addition, historical studies on Egan and Agin ancestors in the United States are planned for presentation before the banquet, plus hopefully a few surprises.

The best feature of all Rallies is the opportunity to socialize and get to know your close and distant relatives better. We hope the tourist appeal of Los Angeles will attract a lot more of the Egan family members from the United States and around the world to enjoy our good fellowship – and have some fun!

Host Hotel for 2014 Rally: Embassy Suites Brea



Embassy Suites Brea Highlights

- Every room is a *suite* - private bedroom with a king or two double beds and a comfortable living room area with sofa bed (sleeps 4 total)
- Hotel guest enjoy complimentary use of our outdoor heated lap pool, whirlpool, and fitness center.
- *Adjacent* to the Brea mall, the 2nd largest retail center in Orange County with over 175 specialty shops and 4 major department stores
- Located in North Orange County we are just 6 short miles to Anaheim with easy freeway access
- Central to 3 major airports - Orange County/John Wayne, Los Angeles and Ontario

Rates

Saturday, June 21, 2014 / 8 nights

Two room suite – King Bed \$114.00*

Two room suite – Double Bed \$134.00*

*Tax is 10.07% per night (much lower than area taxes which are upwards of 17%) and no resort fees

Rates include:

- **Complimentary** cook-to-order breakfast each morning including fresh fruits, juices, muffins, cereals and a cooked to order omelet station
- **Complimentary** Evening Manager's Reception featuring 2 hours of complimentary beverages and light snacks
- **Complimentary** parking
- High Speed Internet Access

For more information please go to our web-site
www.brea.embassysuites.com.

Tentative Schedule for 2014 Rally of Clan Egan in Los Angeles

Day	AM	PM	Dinner/Evening
Sa 6/21		Arrival	Buca di Beppo
Su 6/22	Catholic Mass	Orange County Irish Fair – largest in western US	
Mo 6/23	Bus tour of Hollywood and Beverly Hills	Paramount Studios tour	Ceili (Irish dancing) in North Hollywood
Tu 6/24	Huntington Library and Gardens (lunch at Café)	Queen Mary – Long Beach (featured in Cobh museum)	Dinner on Queen Mary
We 6/25	Disneyland and California	Adventure Parks—all day	
Th 6/26	Golf outing or Brea Mall	Rest	Medieval Times Dinner Show
Fr 6/27	Knott's Berry Farm stores (lunch at Knott's famous Chicken restaurant)	Bolsa Chica State Beach Or Huntington Beach Park	Agin Brothers BBQ on beach
Sa 6/28	Chapter Meetings	Historical presentations	Clan Banquet at Embassy Suites

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

Newsletter Material:

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

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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**Summer 2012 Newsletter
featuring
Clan Egan Rally 2012
in Ireland**

