

Summer 2014

Volume 10

CLAN EGAN USA/CANADA NEWSLETTER

www.clanegan.org



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Egan
Chief of Clan
Egan
International



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



Greg Egan
Chief of Clan
Egan Australia

June 14 – 22, 2014 Clan Rally in Los Angeles



Message from President of USA/Canada Clan Egan Association

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

The Clan Egan Rally in Los Angeles, California from June 14 to June 22, 2014 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, was due in large part to the efforts of Larry Agin, his wife Alice and son Eddie, our hosts in Los Angeles, along with 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 2016 discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter. To facilitate his consideration of new places in Ireland 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 2018, Kevin Egan and Maureen Kirincic have volunteered to host us in the Toronto, Canada area with visits to Ottawa, Eganville and elsewhere. More about the planning for this Rally also appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

While we had an excellent Rally in California and are looking forward to our Rally in Ireland in 2016, 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>.

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

Clan Egan group in front of Irish pub on Paramount Studios Backlot



Editor's Note: The historical presentations and photos by various attendees have been posted on the internet site www.Box.com. Accounts there are free and you can just contact Larry Agin at aqinla@sbcglobal.net to get an invite that allows access to everything that has been uploaded. Several sets of highlight photos were also posted on the World of Clan Egan Facebook page – all clan members are encouraged to join this Facebook group under the direction of Brenda Agin Lanoue. Only a few selected photos are included below but much more is available for those interested!

Highlights of 2014 LA Rally

Saturday, June 14, 2014 - The 2014 Clan Egan Rally in Los Angeles began officially with registration in the afternoon of 6/14/2014 at the Rally hotel, the Embassy Suites Hotel in Brea, a suburb of Los Angeles. Larry Agin, with assistance from his wife Alice and son Eddie and Cathy Eagen Montenegro, coordinated the registration process and provided valuable information regarding the Rally and other logistical matters.

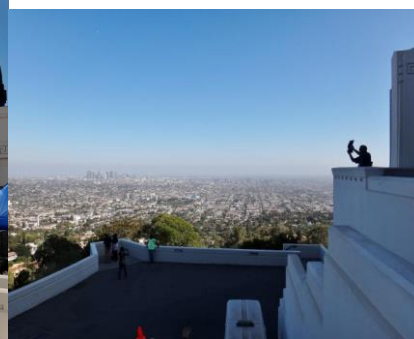
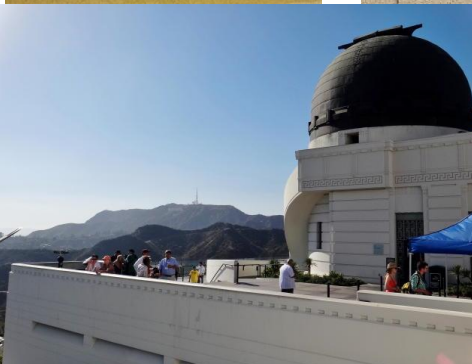
Afterwards, registrants adjourned to the Embassy Suites Brea's 5:30-7:30 pm Happy Hour (free drinks), where early arrivals had met the night before and also stayed for dinner. Happy Hours at the Embassy Suites Brea became a tradition at this Rally as they afforded Egans from all over the world who knew each other from prior Rallies an opportunity to renew friendships, and to meet new kin for which this was their first Rally. Happy Hours often melded into informal gatherings for dinner in or next to the bar. The gatherings were treated to the pithy humor of Mike Egan, a retired funeral director from Albury, Australia, who we called "Albury Mike" because there were several other Egans with the name Michael or Mike, and who was heard to remark: "I will be the last person to let you down." The hotel was situated next to a mall where folks could easily walk to get meals, supplies, things forgotten and items to take home.



Sunday, June 15, 2014 – Sunday began with a complimentary breakfast at the Embassy Suites, which became our early morning Rally gathering place. We then boarded buses to the Big Irish Fair at El Dorado Park in Long Beach, which is the largest Irish festival in western USA. At the fair we began with Mass officiated by a Croatian Priest, who clearly explained the meaning of, and theological reasons for, each step in the Mass. Afterward, we found multiple opportunities for Guinness, Irish music and many other Celtic and other things, including a car manufactured in Ireland named the “Shamrock”. Upon returning to the hotel, we again enjoyed our 5:30-7:30 pm Happy Hour and many of us again stayed there for dinner.



Monday, June 16, 2014 - Monday began after breakfast at the hotel with a bus tour narrated by Larry Agin (with commentary by Eddie Agin) of the greater Los Angeles area, including downtown (with a stop at the California Science Center to view the Space Shuttle Endeavor), the Wilshire corridor and Beverly Hills (Rodeo Drive), Sunset Strip and Hollywood, where we had lunch and tours of the forecourt of the Grumman's Chinese Theater where there are footprints of famous movie stars and of the Dolby Theater where the Academy Awards are presented. In the afternoon we had a Paramount Studios tour where we saw how movies are made. We saw two-story buildings which cinematography on occasion converts into skyscrapers, the parking lot that was flooded for scenes in the Old Man in the Sea and the Ten Commandments, an area between two buildings the size of a front lawn which cinematography can make into a football field and other wonders of movie making. We then traveled to the top of a mountain to Griffith Observatory from which we could view the expanse of the greater Los Angeles area. Afterward we again enjoyed our Happy Hour and then split up for dinners in the mall area.



Tuesday, June 17, 2014 - Tuesday began with breakfast at our hotel, and was followed by a visit to the Queen Mary which is permanently docked in Long Beach highlighted by the Glory Days tour conducted by the ship's captain featuring all the beautiful Art Deco furnishings and decorations onboard. Some also enjoyed a Princess Diana exhibit and engine room tours while others visited a Russian submarine docked nearby. Lunch was enjoyed in various dining locations around the ship. In the afternoon we went to the Aquarium of the Pacific where we learned much about marine life around California. That evening we enjoyed Santa Maria-style barbeque in the Bolsa Chica State Beach picnic area, which was on the Pacific Ocean and chilly. We were entertained by the Agin Brothers, who are barbeque legends in California as well as being recognized country and western performers and related to our host Larry Agin. Because the night was windy and cold by the ocean, the Agin Brothers treated us to a performance on the bus.



Wednesday, June 18, 2014 – Wednesday was focused on our adventure to the Disneyland and the adjoining Disney California Adventure Park where we saw the Agin family's love and knowledge of the Disney experience. Eddie Agin helped us with his mastery of how to get around the parks and pick the rides. Many stayed from early morning until closing late in the evening, while others came later or returned earlier to recover. Fun was had by all.



Thursday, June 19, 2014 - Thursday again began with breakfast at our hotel. Some played golf while most rested. This was followed by a visit to the Huntington Library and Gardens, where many enjoyed lunch in Café on the grounds. The gardens were in prime spring condition, the Gutenberg Bible was available in the Library and some even visited the Blue Boy and Pinky paintings in the Art Museum. That evening Happy Hour was followed by a Ceili party at the hotel with dinner featuring corned beef and Guinness stew followed by singing and Irish dancing. With Eddie Agin as our master of ceremonies, the entertainment opened with a bagpipe and drum procession by Patt Sloan's grandchildren. After Eddie led a group sing-along of more than a dozen traditional Irish songs (*Editor's Note: Songbook available on www.box.com*), we were treated to singing of our own Tori Claire (Victoria Humpert), an aspiring performer in New York, who was joined by Kerry Edwards and Michael J. S. Egan. A small group made a rollicking attempt at dancing the "Walls of Limerick" to close the festivities.



Friday, June 20, 2014 – After breakfast, the group visited Knott's Berry Farm, which lays claim as America's first theme park. Messrs. Disney and Knott were contemporaries and shared ideas. We had lunch at Knott's famous Chicken restaurant. That evening we experienced the Medieval Times dinner show where the presence of Clan Egan was recognized by the MC and our knight was victorious in the jousting competition while favoring several of our ladies with flowers and crowning one of our own as Queen of Love and Beauty for the event.



(cont'd)



Saturday, June 21, 2014

Saturday breakfast was followed by **Chapter Meetings**. As President of the Clan Egan Association, a Texas non-profit corporation formed on May 3, 2006, Byron Egan noted that the Clan's charter states that 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. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service had issued a determination letter to the effect that the Corporation is a tax exempt organization of the kind that is exempt from most state and federal taxes and to which contributions are generally deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Clan Treasurer James H. Eagen reported that the Corporation has a bank balance of approximately \$4,000 and approximately 370 dues paying members. Dues were approved to remain at \$25 for a family and \$15 for individuals.

In accordance with the Clan bylaws, the incumbent directors - Michael J.S. Egan, Byron F. Egan and James H. (Jim) Eagen - continued in office, and each of the following persons was elected to serve as officers:

Michael J.S. Egan, Chairman of the Board; Mac Aodhagáin or Taoiseach
 Byron F. Egan, President USA & Canada Chapter and Tanist
 Lawrence M. Agin, Vice President and Newsletter Editor
 Kevin A. Egan, Vice President
 Maureen Kirincic, Vice President
 Cathy Eagen Montenegro, Vice President
 William Joseph Gibbs-Egan, Genealogist
 Edward K. Agin, Entertainment and Media Coordinator
 Brenda Lanoue, Facebook Coordinator
 Justin Agin, Webmaster
 Joseph F. Eagan, S.J., Chaplin
 James H. (Jim) Eagan, Treasurer and Director of Development
 Nancy Dean Egan, Secretary
 Elizabeth Dean Egan Miller, Assistant Secretary

Michael J.S. Egan explained that it is customary in Irish clans for a "Tanist" to be selected to be the second ranking clan officer after the Taoiseach. The Tanist would act for the clan in the absence of the Taoiseach (the chief who serves for life) and, in the event of the Taoiseach's inability to continue to serve, would be successor as Taoiseach. Byron F. Egan was elected Tanist for Clan Egan to serve for life.

The consensus of the members was that the next two Rallies, which will be in June or early July, will be as follows:

The Rally in 2016 will be in Ireland and will be organized by Michael J.S. Egan. The 2016 Rally will be based in Dublin and will coincide with events in Ireland surrounding 100th anniversary of Rising of 1916.

The Rally in 2018 will be in Canada and will be organized by Kevin A. Egan and Maureen Kirincic. It will originate in Toronto, Canada and include visits to Ottawa, Eganville, the Thousand Islands and other points of interest.

(Chapter Meetings on June 21 – Cont'd)

There was a discussion regarding the importance of the Clan Egan website (www.clanegan.org) (for which Justin Agin is webmaster) and Facebook page (for which Brenda Lanoue is our Facebook coordinator) to the educational mission of the Corporation and for communications with members.

After the Chapter Meetings, we had well researched historical presentations. Mark Agin first educated us about Agin family trees and the Agin/Egan connection (we are all from the same Irish family roots). Cathy Eagen Montenegro then presented her detailed and extensive report about prominent Egans in America. Larry Agin showed slides on Egan family name counts in the 2000 US Census and the Irish presence in Los Angeles history. Eddie Agin gave a short video presentation on Irish in the movies, especially Disney films. *(Editor's Note: All presentations except Eddie's are available on www.box.com)*

That evening after Happy Hour, we had our **Clan Egan Banquet** at the hotel. At the Banquet, Byron Egan discussed the history of Clan Egan in the United States and Canada in relation to Rallies. He explained the evolution of the Clan Egan Association in the United States and Canada has been intertwined with Rallies that began in Ireland in 1982 and spread to the United States in 1985, to Austria in 1991, and to Australia in 2002. Our prior Rallies have been centered around Dublin and Redwood Castle in Ireland, in Bernstein, Austria, in Melbourne and Tasmania in Australia, and in the United States in Annapolis, Dallas, Salt Lake City and Scranton, in each case with a variety ancillary locations visited. Through these Rallies, which are now held every two years, we have focused on learning more about our Irish roots and have met people who share our quest to link up with those in Ireland and elsewhere who share common ancestors. We have met at Rallies folks from various places to which Egans from Ireland immigrated, including Australia, Austria, Canada, England, Germany, New Zealand and Tanzania. Our Rallies have introduced us to the Clan Egan DNA project which has helped us connect with other people in our blood line. Greg and Sue Egan from Melbourne and Michael J.S. Egan from Dublin have been instrumental in organizing our Clan Egan DNA project. We have found that genealogy is a humbling and frustrating experience which is full of false trails, but that the bigger picture one gets from the search may be as significant as the details. The process of looking for our roots has brought us into contact with others who share a common quest and led to lasting friendships across our globe. Byron Egan's remarks are available on the Clan Egan Website (<http://www.clanegan.org>) and on www.box.com.

After Byron's remarks, Michael JS Egan spoke on clan related activities in Ireland (see next page for complete address). The Banquet and Rally then closed with more singing and celebrating in the fine Egan Rally tradition.



Sunday, June 22, 2014 - Sunday morning we gathered for our final breakfast at ESB and dispersal. We were all sad to see our great Rally end, but left with good feelings about each other, the health of Clan Egan and with great anticipation for our upcoming Rallies in Ireland in 2016 and Canada in 2018.

Speech delivered by Michael JS Egan at Clan Rally Banquet, Los Angeles, 21 June 2014

Dia dhibh a chairde, Muintir MacAodhagain
Failte roimh go leir.

With these words of Gaelic greeting I start my few words to try to cover some of the major things I have been involved with for Clan Egan during the last two years. I would ask those of you who have been to many rallies to bear with me as I briefly trace the history of the Egan Clan.

At Fuerty in Co. Roscommon, just outside Roscommon town is to be found the tombstone of the very first Egan – Aodhagain who died in 853AD. This was recorded in the Annals of The Four Masters. The ancient church at this location was founded around 450AD by no less a personage than St. Patrick. Aodhagain was buried there as it was the most sacred location ruled by the O'Kellys, from whom the Egans emerged. The O'Kellys were at war with Clonmacnoise when Aodhagain died and although Aodhagain was attached to Clonmacnoise as a scribe or teacher before his death, he could not be buried at Clonmacnoise due to the hostilities.

The Egans from Aodhagain's time continued in the learned tradition in Galway at Park, and later at Duniry and then across the Shannon at Redwood, Co. Tipperary. Bill Egan's family, of Cupertino, California, who are here with us tonight, are the only Egan family that have been traced by us all the way back to Park – around 1400AD.

We all know of Redwood Castle in north Tipperary – in the centre of Ireland. Here there was a famed school of learning operating down to 1650 approx. We have been handed down the location of the school at Ballymacegan but it has never been confirmed. University College Galway are carrying out intensive field work this summer to establish where the school was in Ballymacegan townland.

Constantine Egan and his son John are commemorated on the 4 October 1689 plaque located in the ruins of Lorrha Cathedral. Where did he go after erecting the plaque? No gravestone or slab remains. The internet and the availability of British records have allowed me to locate him and his family in Jamaica on his plantation in the early 1700s. He, and his wife and sons left wills and using the data I have been able to follow the sale of the plantation and the movement of the family back to London, England. The last person I have traced so far was a Kingston Egan (no doubt named after a Kingston planter family who were neighbours and friends of Constantine or Kingston Capital city of Jamaica). I'm still working on tracing this family.

Judge Richard Egan of San Juan Capistrano, California was a very famous man in this area in the late 19th century. He was known to have been born in Waterford in 1842 approx. and to have arrived in New York when he was about 10 years old. He was an orphan at that time and was in the care of his uncle while he received his education. I have checked all the Waterford birth records and only two possibilities exist for a Richard (unusual Egan Name) Egan and I hope to track down which of these is the famous man.

John Egan is the man after whom Eganville, Canada was named. This logging baron was mentioned earlier by Kevin Egan and it is hoped to visit there during the 2018 Egan Clan rally. He had a son called Henry Kelly Egan and from this unusual Kelly-Egan combination I have been able to trace his origins back to Lissavahaun House in the townland of Lissavahaun in Co. Galway. A lot is known about John and his son Henry became Sir Henry Kelly Egan. He also had 2 other sons and 5 daughters who we would like to trace before 2018.

On the 23 April 2014 we celebrated the 1000th anniversary of King Brian Boru destroying the power of the Vikings in Ireland. It was Good Friday in the year 1014. On behalf of the Egan Clan I was proud to make a speech at a large gathering of Irish Clans held in Christ Church to mark the occasion.

Lastly, I have started scanning the large amount of Egan documentation which I have assembled over the last 35 years. I now have about 1000 files scanned. Later in July I will be discussing the work with Greg and Sue Egan from the Egan Australian/New Zealand chapter when they visit Ireland on their world cruise. The plan would be to put all this data on the Egan website and make it available to all Egan Clan members.

Finally, on your behalf and on my own also, I'd like to most sincerely thank Larry, Eddie and Alice Agin for the exceptional rally which they have treated us to. It was great from every viewpoint – wonderful work. We cannot thank you enough.

Clan Surname Counts from 270 million names in 2000 US Census

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Count</u>
Egan	22,491
Keegan	9,662
Eagan	5,420
Eagen	1,105
Agin	1,067
McKeegan	350
Agins	288
Total	40,383

One item that drew a lot of interest at the historical presentations was the chart at left showing counts for the various Egan surname variants in the 2000 US Census. Here's a little musing on these figures: Let's first assume equal numbers of male and female children from each generation on the average. Per Mark's presentation, we can trace back 6 generations to James Agin of Hunterdon born in 1759 with each generation running 30 years consistently, although the recent standard for a generation is 25 years. So let's assume the average Egan generation runs say 25 years and the average American Egan Clan person today of about age 40 can trace their American ancestry back 5 generations (or 125 years) to someone born around 1849, the middle of the great potato famine when the majority of Irish immigrated to America. Too many numbers and assumptions, I know, but the conclusion would be that it is not unreasonable to say there were over 1 million people ($40,383 \times 2$ to the 5th power = 1,292,256 to be precise) in America as of 2000 who could claim some Egan clan ancestry with or without a Clan surname, and even more today. Let's hope they don't all try to join the Clan Egan Association at once! – Larry Agin

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 application form.

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:

Mail completed form and check to:

Clan Egan-USA/Canada

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**Fall 2013 Newsletter
featuring preview of
Clan Egan Rally 2014
in Los Angeles**

