

Summer
2023

CLAN EGAN USA/CANADA NEWSLETTER

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2023 Rally in Athlone, Ireland The 21th International gathering of the Clan Egan

The 2023 Clan Egan Rally in Athlone, Ireland was a big hit among the attendees under the capable leadership and organization by Katrina Egan, the Clan MacAodagain, and Cormac Egan. Days were filled with excursions to local history sites with emphasis on Egan connections and the nights were filled with member gatherings at local pubs and restaurants, culminating in the banquet at the host Sheraton Athlone Hotel. A good time was had by all, and everyone sent thanks to Katrina and Cormac for all their hard work.



**The next Clan Egan Rally will be in the USA
in Summer 2025!**

**Dates and schedule still to be determined but
start thinking of joining your next clan gathering.**

Day 1 – June 13, 2023

After registration at the Sheraton Athlone, there was a walking tour of Athlone highlighted by a tour of Athlone Castle on the banks of the river Shannon. Unfortunately, a lightning storm with heavy rainfall hit in the middle of the tour which cut off power to most of the city, so the group retired to Sean's Bar, the oldest pub in Ireland, for shelter and drinks.



Day 2 – June 14, 2023 - morning

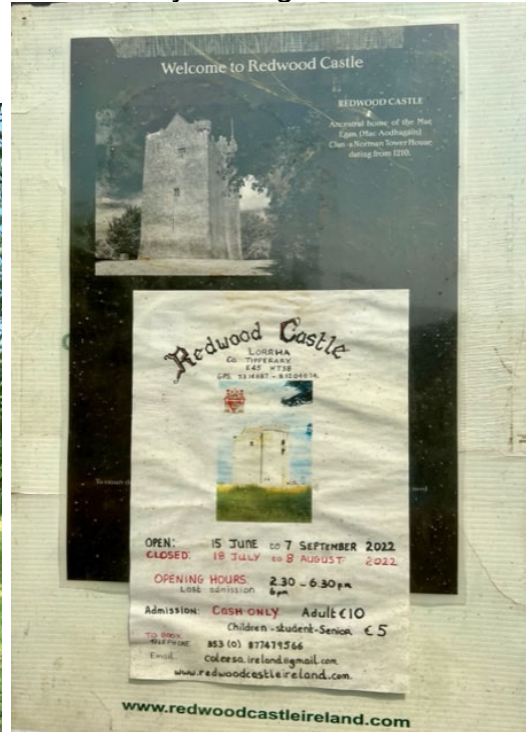
Day 2 began with a visit to Strokestown to tour the Strokedown House and National Famine Museum. Strokedown House is one of the few remaining manor houses in Ireland that was kept in the same family for several generations with beautifully restored rooms. The National Famine Museum documents the causes and effects of the great famine in the 1840's.



It was cheaper for landowners to pay for emigration than the poor house annually!

Day 2 – June 14, 2023 – afternoon

A highlight of the Rally was the return to Redwood Castle, the ancestral home of the Egan Clan since 1350. It is said to be the oldest occupied castle in Ireland where the present owners are kinsfolk of the owners of more than 600 years ago.



Day 2 – June 14, 2023 – afternoon (cont'd)

After visiting Redwood Castle, we toured several significant Egan gravesites nearby in the Lorrha Cathedral ruins. Returning to Athlone, it was time for a few drinks at the pubs and dinner.



Constantine Egan
plaque 1620



Day 3 – June 15, 2023 morning

First stop was the 1691 Battle of Aughrim memorial site in east Galway. Basically the Protestants representing King William defeated the Catholic Irish army, resulting in over 150 years of Catholic repression in Ireland, including prohibition of Catholic services and education of Catholic children.



Day 3 – June 15, 2023 afternoon

Clonberne was the next stop with an Egan memorial from 1861 bearing the Egan shield plus the foundation and a Gaelic keystone dated 1627 from the Egan Law School at Park Castle, the only remaining items from the school that operated for several centuries. The keystone is installed in the wall of the local primary school where the children are told the story of the Egan family.



Nearby was the remote farmhouse where Archbishop Boetius Egan (1734-1798) lived in seclusion because Catholic faith was forbidden and known priests were executed.



Day 3 – June 15, 2023 evening

As a special treat for the Clan Egan Rally, Egan's Irish Whiskey presented a seminar and tasting event at the Sheraton Athlone.



Day 4 – June 16, 2023 morning

Day 4 began with a Viking boat cruise on the Shannon from Athlone to Clonmacnoise, the most prominent medieval Christian site in Ireland where several Egons are buried, including our beloved prior MacAodagain, Michael JS Egan. After a tour, Clan Egan attendees said a prayer at Michael's gravesite.



Day 4 – June 16, 2023 (cont'd)



Lunch was held at Shannonbridge Fort, a common meeting site for Eigans built as a defense against a feared Cromwell invasion that never happened.



Next stop was a Wake House, a traditional stone building with a thatched roof where bodies were held on the way to Clonmacnoise for burial.



Day 4 – June 16, 2023 (cont'd)

Hedge Schools were set up in remote locations like farm hedges for Catholic children to go to school since they were prohibited from public schools.



Final stop was the Drum Heritage Center, which provided a warm welcome including a guide named Egan. Artifacts, the church and St Bridget's well were all included.



