

the
Speckled
booklet
of the MacEgans

no.1

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The Speckled Booklet
of
The Mac Egans

No. 1

Edited by

Liam Egan & Michael J. S. Egan

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DEDICATION

To our kinsfolk at home and abroad



Cover design by Brother Timothy O'Neill, F.S.C.—Scribe of the Egan Clan Association,
Candelabra featured in the Leabhar Breac.

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FOREWORD

One of the most outstanding medieval Irish manuscripts still extant is the Leabhar Breac—the Speckled Book of the MacEgans which was written before 1411. It is now a prized possession of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

It will not be considered presumptuous to call this production 'The Speckled Booklet' as it is our tribute to our forbears who left such an imprint on the history of Law and Learning in Ireland.

As you will see, the articles appearing in the booklet are of particular interest to people of the names MacEgan, Egan, Eagan and Keegan.

Because the MacEgans were a family interested in their family history and genealogy from the earliest times, it is not surprising that the formation of our Clan Association has evoked such interest amongst our kith and kin at home and abroad. It is hoped that the publication of this journal will stimulate even greater interest amongst people of the name, and that there will be many contributors submitting articles for publication in future issues.

It would be particularly appropriate if this publication is used by members of our far flung clan to trace their roots in Ireland, and I trust that our new Association will contribute to further study of our family history. Additional information on any article printed in this booklet would be very much appreciated.

The editors—Liam Egan and Michael J. S. Egan— have done prodigious work in the production of this booklet and they gratefully acknowledge tremendous assistance from other members of the Association.

*MICHAEL J. EGAN Chief, Redwood Castle.
August, 1984.*

Section 1
Our Coats of Arms

MYTHOLOGY AND THE ORIGIN OF THE CLAN
MAC EGAN FAMILY ARMS
By Bernard Egan

It happened that when Moses and his people were journeying through the desert, they met with a nobleman from Scythia who did a good deed for Moses in regard to the location of food.

That very night a snake came, entered the Scythian's tent and wounded the Scythian's young son in his bed. His father took the boy to Moses whose camp was near at hand. Moses applied his rod to the wound and healed him. Moses promised him that they would find an island where neither snake nor serpent lived, and this island could be found by following the setting sun. Moses gave the youth a golden torque, or collar, in the form of a snake and told him to wear it on his neck always in memory of the miracle, and the promise that Moses made. The youth came to be called Gael Glas, on account of the torque he wore, the gaelic word Glas meaning a lock, or locket.

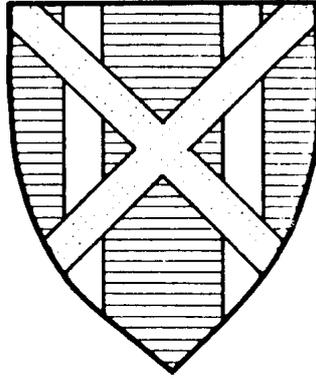
The Scythian nobleman resolved to find this island which was free of snakes, but it took a generation or two for his descendants to discover it. The Scythians, it must be understood, possessed education and learning of the sciences earlier than the Egyptians or the Greeks. The Scythian cured by Moses was the progenitor of Clann MacEgan.

Before the introduction of the coats of arms the family emblem was incised on their shields. The version of the coat of arms associated with the MacEgan family of Ballymacegan is probably the most widely used. It has quartered arms, the second and third quarters may have been incorporating a coat of arms belonging to another family, probably on the occasion of a marriage. The second coat was identical with the first quarter, that is a white tower between two men in armour, bearing battle axes with a golden snake on the top. The chief to whom this second coat of arms was granted was Darby Egan of Ballymacegan and he retained the golden snake. The Latin motto "Fortitudo et prudentia", means fortitude and prudence.

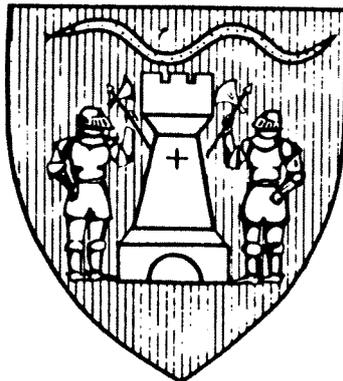
As there are no snakes or serpents in Ireland, the newt, a small tailed, lizard-like amphibian found in marshy places, and a relation of the snake, was assumed as the totem or emblem of the family. This newt is a harbinger of approaching death, appearing in the home of the oldest family member much the same as the banshee is a harbinger of death to other Celtic families. It is known that the newt has shown itself in more recent times. It is also believed that these, our first ancestors, arrived in Ireland by their own ways and means, and not in the company of any invading forces. In time the Melesians accepted and welcomed them because actually they were of the same family line and spoke the same language. As the sons of Geal Glas had a good knowledge of learning, they were put in charge of the schools of astronomy and other known sciences.

ARMS OF THE EGAN FAMILY
By Joseph J. and Mary Joan Egan

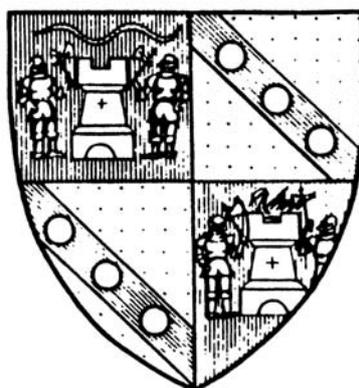
- I Azure two palets argent over all a saltire or Crest: A cross, patriarchal gules. (These are perhaps the oldest known Egan armorial bearings; although they most likely pertain to the family in Connaught, they may be considered the universal Egan arms).



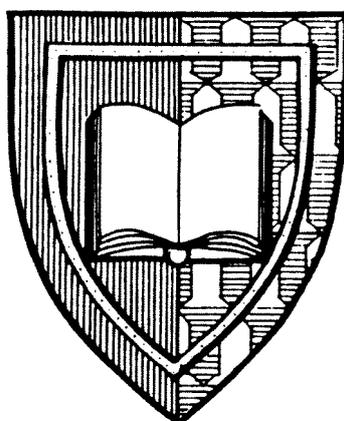
- II Gules a tower argent supported by two men in armour, their exterior hands resting on their hips, in each of the others a halbert all proper, in chief a snake or. (The arms of Patrick Egan, Esquire, of Annamaidel Tipperary, they date from the reign of Charles I, 1625- 1649).



- III Quarterly: 1st, gules a tower argent supported by two knights in complete armour, holding in their interior hands a battleaxe all proper, in chief a snake barways or; 2nd and 3rd, or, on a bend vert three plates; 4th, gules on a tower as in the first quarter, a swan statant argent. Crest: on a tower or, a knight in complete armour couped at the knees, holding in his dexter hand a battle-axe all proper. Motto: "Fortitudo et Prudentia" that is "Fortitude and Prudence". (These, the arms of the Ormond family, who in the 1700's concentrated their holdings in Ballymacegan and became known as the MacEgans of Ballymacegan, incorporate as the first quarter those of Annamaidel. In Genealogical Office MS. 103, page 18, may be found the official record of the Ballymacegan arms. They were confirmed on July 28, 1715, to "Darby Egan, Esq., son of Carbry McEgan of the same, Esq." Incidentally, the knights in armour, as they are depicted in the manuscript drawing, appear to be gallowglasses. Since these arms appear on the 1689 Egan memorial in the Dominican Priory, Lorrha, they were obviously in use long before the official confirmation. The Constance and John Egan mentioned in the grant are without doubt the same Egans who erected the mural tablet in Lorrha Priory. Sometimes the motto of the Ballymacegan arms is given as an ablative: "Fortitudine et Prudentia". that is "With (or "in") Fortitude and Prudence." The Latin motto accompanying both the arms at Lorrha and those in the Genealogical Office is, however, in the nominative case.



- IV Per pale gules and vair, an open book proper within an orle or. Crest: A hand erect couped at the wrist proper, holding a patriarchal cross, also erect, or. Motto: "Ciall agus Ceart", that is, "Prudence and Justice." These, the latest of the Egan arms are the armorial bearings of Michael Joseph Egan, B.A., LL.B., Knight of Malta, Pilgrims Cross, Jerusalem - of Mountain View, Castlebar, County Mayo, and of Redwood Castle, County Tipperary. They are an integral part of the official seal used by Michael Egan in his capacity as Notary Public. Genealogical Office MS. 110, fol. 75, contains a copy of the grant of these arms to "the descendants of Michael Egan of Curraghore and to his great-grandson Michael Joseph Egan of Castlebar, Solicitor, son of Michael Joseph, Mayo County Manager, son of Thomas Egan of Glenisland, all in County Mayo." The grant is dated July 4, 1957. Although the meaning of the insignia and devices on the older Egan arms is now largely a matter of conjecture, the symbols pertaining to the coat of arms of Michael J. Egan and designed for him by Chief Herald Gerard Slevin can, of course, be fully interpreted. The gules signifies the blood of martyrs and commemorates the sacrifices of Owen MacEgan and Boetius MacEgan, the heroic seventeenth-century bishops of Ross. The vair, or fur of a blue-backed squirrel with white underside, recalls the high office the Egans held as ollaves and brehons. The orle, or the border of gold inside the shield, in these arms symbolises the collar of Morann the Just, the great, half-legendary brehon of early Ireland, who wore it to safeguard the equity of his decisions. When Morann delivered a false or unfair judgement, his collar would tighten around his neck, to loosen again on delivery of the true one. Morann's judgement collar, also called **lodh Morainn**, a gift according to a beautiful legend in **The Book of Ballymote**, to the noble brehon from the Apostle Paul, connotes the hereditary legal calling of the Egans. The open book within the orle represents the learning of the family and, in particular, **An Leabhar Breac**. The hand grasping a patriarchal cross, such a cross is the crest of the oldest Egan coat of arms—suggests defence of the faith, honouring not only the martyrs of the Egan family, but also the many illustrious churchmen and Catholic lay scholars who have the surname. The motto of the arms, an Irish variant of the Latin motto of the Ballymacegan arms, emphasises once again the Egans command of Irish Law and their professional integrity.



Section 2 Our Ancestral Castles

REDWOOD CASTLE —DETAILS

O'Donovan gave the exact proportions of the castle while it was still a ruin. According to him it was built, probably, about the middle of the reign of Elizabeth, 1580; which makes its age about four hundred years. It was built by Mac Egan, who was a gentleman of high respectability in those days. A celebrated school of law and history was kept in this castle in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It was in this school that Michael O'Clery, the chief author of the Annals of the Four Masters, and Duaid MacFirbis, the author of "Irish Genealogies", received their early education. It was near this castle also that O'Sullivan Bere effected a passage across the Shannon, during his historic march from Clengarriff, after the siege of Dunboy Castle in Kerry on his way to the North. After the rebellion of 1798 the ruins of this castle became the retreat of a celebrated outlaw, James Meany and his associates, whose exploits are still remembered in the neighbourhood.

This castle was the home of a family of Brehons and historians, who administered law and imparted higher education in ancient Ireland and in later times. In the Journal of the Archaeological Society of Connaught, Vol. VI. No. 1, Martin I. Blake contributes an article on the MacEgans, in which he says: "It was some member of the family (though his name is unknown) who at the end of the fourteenth and the beginning of the fifteenth century (1390 A.D. to 1410) compiled the Irish manuscript book called "Leabhar Breac Maic Aedhagain" - The Speckled Book of MacEgan. It is not, therefore, certain whether this MacEgan lived in Anameadle in Toomevara parish, or whether he lived in Redwood, previous to the building of the castle, but a description of the Leabhar Breac (pronounced Louer Brac), will be given in the history of Redwood Castle. Writing in 1840 O'Donovan describes Redwood Castle as follows: Today this castle is but an ivied ruin; its existence is threatened by the heavy growth of ivy which has been allowed to surround the entire ruin; it stands in an ideally retired spot, near the banks of the Shannon, over against Meelick in Co. Galway, a mere relic of its former greatness. The growth of ivy on this ruin made it impossible to give a proper illustration of the castle. Writing in 1840, O'Donovan describes Redwood Castle:

"The Castle of Redwood, the ancient castle of the MacEgans, is situated on a rock, or green hillock, which rises abruptly on the east and south sides. It is built of limestone and contained four stories. The walls are bevelled, are in very good preservation, and are about 80 feet in height. The south side measures 40 feet 7 inches from the western extremity to a quadrangular tower, which stands attached to the south wall, is 14 feet 6 inches, which being added to 40 feet 7 inches makes 53 feet 1 inch, the whole length of the south side of the castle. The tower projects 6 feet 4 inches beyond the bare surface of the wall. The length of the tower attached to the south wall is 14 feet 6 inches, which being added to 40 feet 7 inches makes 55 feet 1 inch, the whole length of the south side of the castle. The tower projects 6 feet 4 inches beyond the bare surface of the wall. The length of the tower attached to the east wall is 21 feet 6 inches. this tower projects beyond the surface 3 feet 11 inches, the length of the tower at N.E. corner is 12 feet 2 inches. The whole extent of the castle at east side is 43 feet 4 1/2 inches. The tower at the north-east corner projects 4 feet 3 inches. Near the tower is placed the original doorway. It is pointed and constructed of chiselled limestone, 7 feet 7 inches high, and 4 feet 9 inches wide. It is, now, stopped up. There are openings long and narrow near the doorway in the east wall. This doorway admitted to the staircase and the interior of the castle. There was a watch-tower at north-east corner at top. and another at south-west corner. On the north wall are four large openings battered. The fourth floor rested on a stone arch. Chambers are placed in the thickness of the north and south walls. The stairs are accessible from the ground floor by a circular doorway of chiselled limestone. The stairs ascended spirally. The staircase terminates at the floor that rests on the stone-arch near the top of the castle; this floor measures 41 feet 1 inch in length, and 25 feet 5 inches in breadth. There is a fireplace in the north wall with a stone chimney over it. The castle was well lighted."

Although O'Donovan has been quoted as the man who put the date of around 1580 on Redwood, there is quite an amount of evidence to show that this is in fact a very late date and probably refers to a later reconstruction of the building. There was certainly a castle here pre 1200 A.D. This wooden Norman structure was destroyed by the O'Briens in 1207. The Normans rebuilt it, stronger and stayed in it until 1350 when the O'Kennedys evicted them.

REDWOOD CASTLE - HISTORY

By Joseph J. and Mary Joan Egan

The castle and its townland, called in Irish Coillte Ruadh (Redwood), apparently took their name from the neighbouring wood of Brosnach, although it is possible that the original Irish designation meant 'the Wood of Ruadhan', after the sixth-century saint who founded the monastery in Lorrha village nearby. The present castle probably began as a Norman stronghold, erected about 1210. After they drove the Normans from the area in the mid-fourteenth century, the O'Kennedy lords of Ormond turned the Redwood property over to the MacEgan family in payment for services as brehons, or legal experts, and hereditary ollaves, or professors in history and literature.

All descendants of a common ancestor, the MacEgans (name in Irish is MacAodhagain, from the diminutive of Aodh, meaning 'fire' and anglicized Hugh) were the most important of the Brehon families in Ireland. They began as a prominent sept in County Galway, under the O'Kellys. From perhaps the twelfth century on, they became dispersed, attending to the legal affairs of such chiefs as the O'Conors of Connacht, O'Conor Faly, MacCarthy Mor, O'Carroll of Ely, Fitzpatrick of Ossary, O'Farrell Buidhe, and, after the Hibernicisation of the great Norman lord, MacWattin and the Clanrickard Burke. The branch of the Clan Egan that will concern us here, that of Ormond in North Tipperary, grew in influence under the O'Kennedy patronage and by the fifteenth century at least was, in the words of George Cunningham, "perhaps the most notable learned family in all Ireland".

Upon acquiring Redwood Castle, the MacEgans enlarged it. Later, about 1580, the family again renovated the building, a circumstance that has misled some into believing that it dates only from Elizabethan times. The MacEgans continued in occupation until the Cromwellian confiscation; the Civil Survey (1654-56) gives the owner of the castle in 1640 as Conly MacEgan 'of Keiltirou, Irish Papist'. By the time of the Survey itself, Redwood was 'an old ruined castle the walls only standing.'

At Redwood Castle the MacEgans kept a renowned school of law and letters, together with a house of hospitality for scribes, poets and musicians. Undoubtedly, several of the surviving Irish law tracts and parts of An Leabhar Breac ('The Speckled Book' of the MacEgans), a compendium in Irish and Latin of the early fifteenth century, were written here. Eugene O'Curry, who had an abiding interest in the manuscript, asserts that the Leabhar Breac is 'the most important repertory of our ancient ecclesiastical and theological writings in existence'. Echoing his view, Dermot Gleeson calls this largest Gaelic manuscript by a single hand 'one of the great testimonies of all time to Irish scholarship'.

Students were drawn to Redwood and its sister academy at Ballymacegan from all corners of Ireland. Duall MacFirbis, the seventeenth century Sligo genealogist and historian, author of *Chronicum Scotorum*, studied under the MacEgans, as did Brother Michael O'Clery, Chief of the Four Masters, the team who produced the noted scholarly work 'The Annals of Ireland'.

Some of the history associated with Redwood has been chequered. Not far from the castle in 1602 Donall O'Sullivan Beare made preparations to cross the Shannon during his hazardous march from Glengariff to Breffini in Co. Leitrim after the Irish defeat at Kinsale. His rearguard was attacked by Donough, son of Cairbre MacEgan, owner of Redwood Castle and high Sheriff of Tipperary, who himself fell in battle after a bloody skirmish, his garrison being routed with many losses. In the venerable ruins of the castle, the outlawed James Meaney, the Bold Captain, sought refuge after the 1798 Rebellion. His place of concealment, a small chamber high in the thickness of the castle wall, can still be seen today. At one point Redwood even served as a racing stable and according to local tradition, produced a Derby winner. As late as 1976, the ground floor of the castle was being used as a cow byre.

The restoration began with the construction of a slate roof. Twelve hundred tons of stone - Liscannor, Kilkenny rock face, Tullamore limestone - have gone into the castle, which is nearly ninety feet high and has walls measuring as much as nine feet in thickness. Nine-foot high crenellations in the Irish style surround the roof; the five storeys beneath are now floored and plastered and the new windows have diamond-shaped leaded panes. The old fireplaces have been made serviceable. On the south side of the hall is the minstrel gallery; on the other is a balcony leading to three bedrooms and a bathroom. The beams of the hall are old Wicklow oak obtained

from a Russian emigre in Dublin. Indeed, Irish oak has been used throughout the castle. The second floor now houses a small oratory. Floodlights encircle the castle, so that at night it can be seen for miles around.

In 1978 Canon Ryan discovered on the front gable of the castle under the newly constructed Roman arch, a *Silena-gCioch*, that is, a carved stone female of grotesque appearance, reputedly possessing talismanic powers. Redwood's *Sile*, a fine example measuring two feet long by one foot wide, had been long hidden by overgrowth. Michael Egan chose his profession as lawyer because he wanted to maintain a continuity between himself and his Brehon ancestors. When he first saw Redwood Castle it was an ivied ruin; but he had a vivid sense of the vitality of all that had happened within its walls and a vision of its restoration to dignity and purpose.

He has revived Redwood's reputation as a house of hospitality. The first function held in the castle in over three hundred years was a luncheon for Mayo lawyers on 14 June, 1981. On 1 May, 1982, Redwood was the setting for the launching of a reprint of Father John Gleeson's *History of the Ely O'Carroll Territory (1915)*, a valuable account, long out of print, of the area where the castle is located. Finally, on 7 August, 1982, Michael Egan hosted the first Clan Egan gathering held in modern times, when approximately three hundred of his kinsmen elected him their chief.

Redwood Castle, situated on a hillock near the Shannon, in Lorrha Parish, County Tipperary, is unique because it again belongs to a member of the family that held it until the mid-seventeenth century. The ancient mansion of MacEgan as John O'Donovan calls the tower house in the Ordnance Survey Letters. Redwood is now the home of Michael J. Egan of Castlebar, County Mayo, and his wife, Eithne Moran Egan. In 1972 Egan bought Redwood, then roofless and overgrown with ivy from the late Michael Kennedy, the owner of the surrounding farmland, and began to restore the castle as a private residence for his family. In charge of the renovation was Patrick J. Egan, cousin of Michael Egan. By 1981 Redwood was once again more habitable—now with central heating, electricity and running water.

OUR ANCESTRAL CASTLES

The MacEgans have been in occupation of many castles down through the centuries. The following are some examples:

11. **Park Castle** Northeast of Tuam, Co. Galway. Here the family housed an extensive library and a school of law. Passing out of Egans hands in the seventeenth century. The castle is now in ruins.
12. **Duniry** Northwest of Portumna, Co. Galway; was in use up to the end of the sixteenth century.
13. **Tullinadaly Castle** Near Tuam, Co. Galway. This property passed into the hands of the Lally family in the early seventeenth century.
14. **Redwood Castle** Situated on a hillock near the Shannon, in Lorrha Parish, County Tipperary.
15. **Cloghkeating Castle** Near Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary.
16. **Drumnamahane Castle** Now ruined.
17. **Annamaidel Castle** Lower Ormond near Toomevara.
18. **Behamge Castle** Lower Ormond in Rathnaveoge Parish, Co. Tipperary.
19. **Kilnalahagh Castle** In Co. Tipperary.
20. **Ballynamoe Castle** In Honeymount, near Dunkerrin.
21. **Derrymacegan Castle** Near Lorrha.

Section 3 Our Scribes, Artists and Poets

DRUIDS, BARDS AND BREHONS

In ancient Ireland there were three learned orders: the Druids, the Bards and the Brehons. The Druids were priests and seers; they offered sacrifice and they foretold the future: they were skilled in medicine; the duties of the Bards were confined to poetry and rhyming alone; they eulogised those who paid them and gave them hospitality, while they satirised those who were not generous to them, hence they were called *filé*.

The office of Brehon was thrown open to every Irishman who qualified himself for the position in the reign of Connor MacNessa in the third century. Previous to the time of King Cormac MacArt the laws of Ireland were unwritten, and were transmitted by the poets orally. King Cormac had them written in a book, which is called the *Senchus Mór*. This book was afterwards purified from paganism by St. Patrick. The highest grade of Brehon Law was that of *Ollamh (Ollav)* or Doctor. The training for this office was extended over a period of from twelve to twenty years; it included a knowledge of family history, geography, chronology, versification and a secret language, known only to the initiated. The name, Brehon, is taken from the Irish word *Breitheamh*, a judge.

The Brehons presided at the inauguration of kings and chiefs. Each Milesian lord had his own brehon.

When a brehon acted as pleader he received the eleventh part of the property in dispute. The MacEgans were amongst the first rank of brehons in ancient Ireland.

JOHN EGAN - THE HARP MAKER

At the start of the 19th century John Egan of Dublin was perhaps the most famous harp maker in Ireland. The Dublin and Belfast Harp Societies who were at the forefront of the revival of the harp had their instruments made by Egan. So important was John Egan as a harp maker that Thomas Moore sang to an Egan harp.

He is best remembered for his innovations in the art of harp construction. His small portable harp opened up the instrument to a wider playing audience.

He is accredited with the invention of what is commonly called the "Gital Harp". This was the same size as an Irish harp but it had finger instead of foot levers to make tuning easier.

There are Egan harps in many museums around the world notably the New York Metropolitan Museum of Musical Instruments, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and, of course, in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

John Egan's premises were initially at 25 Dawson Street, Dublin but he later moved to 30 Dawson Street. Finally in 1835 he was working at 21 Aungier Street, Dublin.

JOHN KEEGAN

When John Keegan wrote this ballad, I am sure he did not think that it would become the most popular recitation of the last 160 years. John Keegan was born in Laois in 1809 and grew to become a ballad singer and ballad writer. He lived through the worst of the Famine in Black 1847 and 1848 only to succumb in 1849 in the last failure of the potato and the last wave of famine related deaths. Although in the late 19th century this recitation was known as "Caoch the Piper", it is now generally referred to as "Caoch O'Leary."

The twenty years in the recitation are those spanning the Great Famine when the population of Ireland dropped by three to four million from a high in 1841 of nearly 8 million, "How True." Enough to say there's none but me to welcome Caoch O'Leary.

Caoch O'Leary

*One winter's day, long, long ago,
When I was a little fellow,
A piper wandered to our door,
Grey-headed, blind and yellow;
And, how glad was my young heart
Though earth and sky looked dreary,
To see the stranger and his dog -
Poor Pinch and Caoch O'Leary.*

*And when he stowed away his bag,
Cross-barred with green and yellow,
I thought and said, "In Ireland's ground
There's not so fine a fellow."
And Fineen Burke, and Shaun Magee,
And Eily, Kate and Mary,
Rushed in with panting haste to see
And welcome Caoch O'Leary.*

*O God be with those happy times
O God be with my childhood.
When I bareheaded roamed all day
Bird nesting in the wildwood
I'll not forget those sunny hours
However years may vary.
I'll not forget my early friends
Nor honest Caoch O'Leary.*

*Poor Caoch and Pinch slept well that night,
And in the morning early
He called me up to hear him play
"The wind that shakes the barley:"
And then he stroked my flaxen hair
And cried, "God mark my deary"
And how I wept when he said "Farewell,
And think of Caoch O'Leary."*

*And seasons came and went, and still
Old Caoch was not forgotten,
Although we thought him dead and gone
And in the cold grave rotten:
And often when I walked and talked
With Eily, Kate or Mary,
We thought of childhood's rosy hours
And prayed for Caoch O'Leary.*

*Well twenty summers had gone past,
And June's red sun was sinking,
When I, a man, sat by my door,
Of twenty sad things thinking.
A little dog came up the way,
His gait was slow and weary,
And at his tail a lame man limped -
'Twas Pinch and Caoch O'Leary.*

Old Caoch, but O how woebegone!

*His form is bowed and bending,
His fleshless hands are stiff and wan,
Ay, time is even blending
The colours on his threadbare bag;
And Pinch is twice as hairy
And thinspare as when first I saw
Himself and Caoch O'Leary.*

*"God's blessing here!" the wanderer cried,
"Far, far be hell's black viper:
Does anybody hereabouts
Remember Caoch the Piper?"
With swelling heart I grasped his hand,
The old man murmured. "Dreary,
Are you the silky-headed child
That loved poor Caoch O'Leary?"*

*"Yes, yes," I said—the wanderer wept
As if his heart was breaking—
"And where, avic-machree," he sobbed,
"Is all the merry-making
I found here twenty years ago
"My tale," I sighed, "mighty weary:
Enough to say there's none but me
To welcome Caoch O'Leary."*

*"Vo, vo, vo!" the old man cried
And wrung his hands in sorrow:
"Pray let me in, astore machree,
And I'll go home tomorrow.
My peace is made, I'll go home tomorrow.
My peace is made, I'll calmly leave
This world so cold and dreary;
And you shall keep my pipes and dog,
And pray for Caoch O'Leary.*

*With Pinch I watched his bed that night,
Next day his wish was granted,
He died and Father James was brought,
And the Requiem Mass was chanted.
The neighbours came, to dig his grave
Near Eily, Kate and Mary.
And there he sleeps his last final sleep—
God rest you Caoch O'Leary.*

By John Keegan 1809-1849

TOMÁS BÁN MAC AODHAGAIN

This song was collected at the end of the last century by Mrs Costello and included in her book *Amrain Mhuighe Seola*. It has been sung for many years in Connacht. In tradition the story goes that "Fair Thomas Egan" ran away with the daughter of a rich landowner Stanley, a crime for which he was hanged. There is more than one version of the song and this is the only one that has verse seven in it.

The song is still part of the repertoire of traditional and "Sean Nós" singers in West Connacht. Indeed in 1981 I heard it sung in Carrowroe, Co. Galway, by a young woman who heard her mother sing it.

*'S ag dul O theach an tórraimh dhom
chuir mé éo-las ar mo mhian.
Mo chreach agus mo bhrón nach 'sa mbail'
a chaith mé'n oiche.
Tá arrainn a' gathail treasna thríom s'ag
comhnuidhe i lar mo chroidhe
Ach' a stór mar' mbídh tú a bhaile liom,
ní mhairfidh mé beo mí.*

*A's tháinig Tomas bán ar cuairt chugam, 's mé
i n-uaigneas liom féin
'seurd dubhairt se "ná bíodh buaidhreadh ort
ná rud ar bith mar é,
'sé do chúilin dualach a mharbhuigh mé
's i ngeallair crochfaidhear mé
's gur measa liom go mór thú ná mhaithin
'tá 'mo dheídh.*

*A'r a chomharranna 'r a chomhairleacha, ná toigidh orm é,
Ma chuaigh me ag múnadh an eoluis le stóirin gheal mo chléibh,
Ní bhfuair mé riamh droch-eolas air go fóill ó rugadh mé,
As mar bhfeicinn acht ag gabháil an bhóithrín
é, go dtóighfeadh sé mo chroidhe.*

*A's tá cuireach go Cill Choinne orainn a's caithfeam a dhul ann,
Beidh ann seisiún ceathramhnach idir gael a's Clainne Gal,
ní dhligfidhear ann acht beirt eicínt
's crochfaidhear iad, mo léan:
mar ta Tomas Ban Mac Aodhagain's Mac Uí Mháoláin le n-a thaobh.*

*A Thómas Bháin go cinnte, 's tt searc 's stor mo chroidhe.
A thomás a dtug mé gean duit seachas fearaibh og an tsaoghail, crochfaidhear tu go cinnte
mur' bhfuil ag grástaibh Dé
's a Dhia, nach mor an feall é, an
plannda breág mar é.*

*'s a Thomáis Bháin Mhic Aodhagain, 'sé mo léan thu a dul i gcein
As cé hiongnadh liom do mhaithrin bheith bronach in do dhiadh.
Dá mbeitheá ar leabhaidh an gháis aici cia 'R chás dí thu bheith tinn,
Ach do chrochadh as no saltachaibh,'s an bháirtach le do dhruim.*

*A's ní glad mainistreach ná teampaill a rinne stór mo chroidhe,
ní feoil na geir a shanntuigh se, na rud ar bith mar é,
Ach mar gheall ar bholacht Stanley do chrochadh é, me léan!
's an té a bhfuil grádh do Chlann na nGall aige,
an ceann go gcaillidh sé.*

*Beidh gárda breágh, láidir ag teacht le stór mo chroidhe,
Beidh Gearaltaigh Chluain Dálaigh 's orm dearg an ríogh,
Béidh Major óg Ó Conaill 's Ó Ceallaigh as Chuain Aoidh
's dá mbéadh triúr mar Ó Conaill óg agam,
ní crochfáidhe stor me chroidhe.*

Translation

Coming from the wake-house I first knew my love, My torment and my sorrow, that I did not spend the night at home. The pang goes right through me, and for ever rests in my heart. Ah! my treasure, if you will not come with me, I won't be alive in a month.

Thómas Bán came to visit me, when I was lonely by myself, and he said, "Don't be troubled, or in any way upset. It's your flowing hair has distracted me, and on that account I shall be hanged: And you are dearer to me than my mother whom I leave behind me.

Oh! neighbours and advisers, do not blame me if I went to give the information to the bright treasure of my heart. I never got a bad account of him since the day I was born, and if I only saw him going the boreen it would raise up my heart.

We are summoned to Kilkenny, and we must go; There will be quarter sessions there of Irishmen and foreigners. There will be only one pair adjudged, and they, alas! will be hanged, Namely Fair Thomas Egan, and Whelan by his side.

Oh! Fair Thomás, assuredly you are the love and treasure of my heart. Oh! Thomás, whom I loved beyond the young men of the world. You will surely be hanged unless God's grace assists you, And, oh God! what a crime it would be such a fair plant as he.

Oh! Fair Thomás Egan, 'tis my grief that you're going away, And I am not surprised that your mother is sad after you. If you were on your deathbed before her, she would never mind your being sick But to be hanged by the heels and the rain beating down on your back.

It was not the robbing of a monastery or of a church that my love had done. It wasn't meat or fat that he coveted or anything of the kind. But on account of the cattle of Stanley, he was hanged, My grief! and may he who loves the foreigners, may he lose his head.

There will be a fine strong guard coming with the love of my heart; There will be Fitzgerald of Clundaly, and the red army of the King. Young Major O'Connell will be there, and Kelly of Cluan-ee: And if only I had three men like young O'Connell, the treasure of my heart would not be hanged.

Unknown

JOHN KEEGAN CASEY

John Keegan Casey was the son of a peasant farmer near Mullingar. He was jailed as a Fenian in 1807 and was only twenty three years when he died in prison. He was one of the few poets produced by the Fenian Movement and by far the most popular. His most famous song "The Rising of the Moon" has become one of the best known in Ireland.

'Oh then, tell me, Séan O'Farrall, Tell me why you hurry so?,

The Rising of the Moon

*'Oh then, tell me, Séan O'Farrell,
Tell me why you hurry so?,*

*'Hush, ma bouchal, hush, and listen:'
And his cheeks were all a-glow:
'I bear orders from the captain
get you ready quick and soon;
For the pikes must be together
At the rising of the moon.'*

*'Oh, then, tell me, Séan O'Farrall,
Where the gath'rin' is to be?,
'In the ould spot by the river
Right well known to you and me;
One word more - for signal token
Whistle up the marchin' tune.
With your pike upon your shoulder,
By the rising of the moon.*

*Out from many a mud-wall cabin
Eyes were watching thro' that night:
Many a manly chest was throbbing
For the blessed warning light.
Murmurs passed along the valleys,
Like the banshee's lonely croon
And a thousand blades were flashing
At the rising of the moon.*

*There, beside the singing river,
That dark mass of men were seen -
Far above the shining weapons
Hang their own beloved 'Green'
Death to ev'ry foe and traitor!
Forward! strike the marchin' tune,
And hurrah, my boys, for freedom! '
Tis the rising of the moon.*

*Well they fought for poor old Ireland,
And full bitter was their fate;
(Oh! what a glorious pride and sorrow
Fill the name of 'Ninety-Eight!)
Yet, thank God, e'en still are beating
hearts in manhood's burning noon,
Who would follow in their footsteps
At the rising of the moon!*

By: John Keegan Casey, A.D. 1798

JOHN EGAN

Composed by: John Egan (1890's) uncle of Tom Egan—Lieutenant of Police, New York.

The Buck Hare

*I'll sing you a song if you just hold your tongue
Concerning a hare and the course he did run
Since first he was alive, I can tell you
Of all his good running and what he went through.
One evening from Macken he first took his flight
And he landed in Gurteen three hours before night
He faced back again, through the bogs he did run
And he lay all that night in the bushes of Bun.*

*Early next morning he started for Rim
And down by the brook, the poor buck took his fling
Twas there he met "Ponto" Mick, Marten and all
And they run the poor buck into Sweek Kilnagal.
Johnnie Dooley and Connors, the buck they did spy
They whistled and shouted and hulled they did cry
Their dogs then did see him, and his chase then took in
And they ran the poor hare back to Heffernans again.*

*Early next morning, Mick stood on the floor
The buck was sitting outside of the door
O'h "Ponto" says Mick will you look at the hare
And its for Derrycarney the buck did prepare
"Ponto" as near him at the fairy bush
To get under the rock he made a hard push
Mick drew the trigger to give him a cramp
But thanks be to God, that his powder was damp.*

*Anne Hosey run out, by the hole in my coat
You once killed my turkey and injured my goat
Just hand me my mantle, till I cross o'er the bog
And I'll give information of your guns and your dog
The buck cocked his legs and likewise cocked his scent
And from that to lumpeloon he beat "Ponto" full butt
When "Ponto" came back, says Mick, "Where is the hare?"
And with pure vexation, his locks he did tear.*

*He then did bid them goodbye and he started away
And he faced from Broughal and made no delay
When he came to the turn, the Clearys just let him pass
And they ran the poor hare into old Countyglass.
There on the banks of the river the buck he sat down
The Rogers did spy him and did him surround
The Buck took to the river his life to defend
And he started for Eglishe where he had a friend.*

*On Saturday morning before the sun rose
Some boys they were hunting, and the buck they did rise
He then took to the heels and he ran through the bog
And he never cried crack till he landed in Log.
Marten Daly got up after hearing a shout*

*He opened the door and he let his dog out
He did his endeavours the buck for to kill
But he beat Dalys dog at the top of the hill.*

*The next day was Sunday I'll have you to know
Both Melady and Egan to hunt they did go
Roller and Toller they gave him a hard chase
And they run the poor buck into Marshalls place
The buck being fatigued he lay down for a while
Paddy Mashall's he spied him and at him did smile
Saying stay where you are boy, and you I'll defend
You'll have plenty to eat, and sure I'll be your friend.*

*The buck he make answer, saying its all a darn lie
From this very moment from you I will fly
There's a lad down below at the butt of the hill
And if he got the chance sure my blood he would spill
The lad that I mean I'm told is your friend
To give information I'm told he does lend
If another man hunts me, sure I will go bail
You'll find him severely or send him to jail.*

*At eleven o'clock he set out for the cush
When he spied Paddy Condron lying under a bush
The hare then did shiver, saying at me he'll fire
And its back to the hills, sure I'll have to retire
The buck he got up and he sauntered away
Saying "God Morning" dear Paddy it is a fine day :
Pat drew the Cithogue and at him did peg
And he put the stick hurling right over his head.*

*Bad luck to you Paddy the buck he did say
You sauced me annoyance, so I'll gallop away
When I reach Ballylin the true story I'll tell
Mr. King will come up and he'll run you to hell
Then he started for home through hedges and crops
He left one of his hind legs in Hughie Guinens old trap
Instead of a friend you have proven more foe
So bad cess to you Hughie where ever you go.*

*So now I'll conclude and I'll finish my song
Down by the Sally Larking he sauntered along
He fell into a hare-hold the truth I will tell
And the buck left his death upon Nicholas Burelle.*

By John Egan (1890's)

DARIUS JOSEPH MACEGAN
The MacEgan

Darius Joseph MacEgan (1856-1939) was perhaps the most famous of the Egan graphic artists and established himself as an artist of world repute. Darius claimed that he could trace his ancestry directly back to Darby Egan of Ballymacegan who in 1715 was the acknowledged head of the Clan - with the title of MacEgan. Marie O'Beirne MacEgan was the wife of Darius and as they had no children it was believed that the nearest surviving male relative should assume the title on the chief's death. Maurice Francis Egan had been in contact with Darius and Marie believed him to be the heir to the title.

Dr. Maurice Francis Egan was born in Philadelphia, May 24th, 1852. He received a degree of B.A. from La Salle College in 1873 and later was awarded his Masters Degree. He entered Georgetown College in 1875 receiving his degree in 1879. He was then the recipient of an M.A. degree from Notre Dame University in 1878, J.U.D. from Ottawa University in 1881, C.H.D. Villanova in 1907, Litt. D from Columbia University in 1919, LLD from N. Johns Brooklyn in 1920. He married Katherine Chilben of Philadelphia in 1880, Mrs. Egan died January 27th, 1921.

Dr. Egan began his active career in 1877 when he became subeditor of McGees Illustrated Weekly. For a time he also edited the Foremans Journal. In 1888 he became editor of English literature at Notre Dame. In 1907 he was appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark until 1918. Dr. Egan resigned as Minister to the court of Denmark in 1918 after having held the post for twelve years. At the time of his retirement he was dean of the American Diplomatic Corps. He twice refused the Ambassadorship of Vienna.

Dr. Egan was a voluminous writer. among his works being "The Life Around us", "Modern Novelists", studies in literature and volumes of poems. His "Ten Years on the German Frontier" was published in 1918. He was awarded the Laetare Medal for poetry in 1911.

He was Commander of the Order of Donneborg, and a member of the Institute of Arts and Letters. He was decorated by His Majesty the King of the Belgians in 1906, and by the King of Denmark in 1923.

Following the first World War he returned to the U.S.A. and devoted himself to his first love - literature, and wrote many book reviews for literary magazines.

He had two daughters Mrs. G. A. O'Reilly (at whose home in Brooklyn he died) and Mrs. Elmer T. Murphy who lived at 19th Street, Brooklyn. Dr. Egan had one son Gerald Egan who was a captain in the First World War, and later was with the New York Herald. Up to 1924 he lived in Brooklyn. Dr. Maurice Egan died on the 15th January, 1924.

Section 4
Our contribution to Religion and Politics

JOHN EGAN

Egan, John, Chairman of Kilmainham, was born probably about 1750, at Charleville, County of Cork, where his father was a Church of Ireland clergyman. He entered Trinity College as a sizer in 1773 and studied law in London, Irish Bar 1778. After his return home married a widow lady of some fortune. He was a Bencher at King's Inns, Dublin in 1787. In March, 1789 he entered Parliament as member for Ballinakill; and from 1790 to the period of the Union, sat for Tullagh, Co. Waterford in the Irish House of Commons. He was a noted duelist. A contemporary account says: "In person he much resembles Fox, in manner he is rough, boisterous, and overbearing." He once fought with his intimate friend, Curran, fortunately without serious consequences. Egan complained of the great advantage his size gave to his adversary: "I'll tell you what, Mr. Egan", said Curran, "I wish to take no advantage of you whatever let my size be chalked out on our side, and I am quite content that every shot which hits outside that mark should go for nothing." In after life there were few of his old friends of whom Curran was accustomed to speak with greater affection than Egan. In 1799 he was appointed Chairman of Kilmainham. His means were by that time reduced, and the post was then almost his only source of income. The office depended upon government favour, and it was intimated that his support of the Union would lead to further advancement. As the final debate on the question proceeded, it was seen that he was writing under conflicting emotions; at length he rose, delivered a furious speech against the Union, and sat down exclaiming: "Ireland - Ireland for ever ! and damn Kilmainham !" He died in Scotland it is said in poverty, May 1810? Aged about 60.

A writer in Notes and Queries, 2nd series, suggests that Egan was the author of a number of letters on political characters of the day, that appeared during his life-time in the Dublin Evening Post, signed "Junius Hibernicus."

MONSIGNOR MICHAEL R. EGAN
Baltimore, U.S.A. (Late of Shannonbridge, Co. Offaly)

The untimely death of Rt. Rev. Monsignor Michael Robert Egan, retired Pastor of St. Brigid's Church, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. occurred following a car accident and caused deep regret not only amongst his former parishioners and friends but in his native West Offaly where he was well known and to which he was a frequent visitor.

Monsignor Egan, who was born 19 April, 1906, was ordained in June 1930 and on June 29th, 1980 he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination with Concelebrated Mass in St. Ciaran's Church, Shannonbridge.

One of eleven children of the late Patrick and Margaret Egan, Clondelara, Shannonbridge, he was nephew of the late Canon Robert Egan, P.P., Mullahoran, Co. Cavan, he was educated in Shannonbridge Primary School and at St. Mel's College, Longford, before studying for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Baltimore at All Hallows College, Dublin, as a protege of Archbishop Michael J. Curley (a native of Athlone and a friend of the family).

After ordination he took up his first post in St. Anthony's Parish Church, Washington D.C., and in 1940 was appointed assistant to Rt. Rev. Monsignor Leary in St. Louis Church, Clarksville, Maryland. His term here recalled a historic link with South Offaly as he also had charge of St. Mary's Church, Doughoregan Manor, the home of the O'Carroll family of Carrolton, descendants of the O'Carroll's, Princes of Ely.

Msgr. Egan was glad to spend eighteen years in Clarksville prior to taking up duty as pastor of St. Brigid's Church, Baltimore, in 1958 where he was to spend yet another eighteen years. At the request of Cardinal Archbishop Laurence Shehan the Holy See raised him to domestic prelate with the title of monsignor in April, 1965.

But before he retired at the age of seventy in June, 1976 Msgr. Egan had added a new church, new school and new convent buildings in St. Brigid's Parish, a formidable task that considerably added to the religious and educational structure of the parish.

A New Role

When he retired he found a new pastoral role for his talents when he was invited by Fr. Edward Staub, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Baltimore, to assist him and since July 1st, 1976, he had been carrying out a very caring mission amongst the sick, the elderly and the house-bound visiting hospitals and homes and bring consolation and spiritual hope to the sick and elderly. It was a most rewarding role that he carried out with great diligence and patience and for which he was greatly admired by all the parishioners. It was here he reached the Golden Jubilee of his priestly life and Cardinal Shehan preached the sermon at his Jubilee Mass.

Returning to Ireland to share occasion with his family he was one of the concelebrants of the Jubilee Mass of his classmates in All Hallows College, Dublin, on June 22nd, 1980, when the sermon was preached by Bishop John J. Scanlon of Honolulu. A week after a similar Jubilee Mass was concelebrated with neighbouring priests in St. Ciaran's Church, Shannonbridge, at which all his family and friends attended; his brothers, sisters, and nephews and fifty grandnephews and grandnieces. At the time of his death Msgr. Egan was residing at Stella Maris Hospice, and following the car accident he was removed to Maryland Institute for emergency medical services, and shock treatment unit of University Hospital. Where he was visited by two of his brothers, Augustine (Shannonbridge) and John (Dublin) before he passed away, at 0700 hrs. Irish time, on Saturday, 20th March, 1982.

His brothers are Kieran Patrick Egan and Augustine Egan (Shannonbridge), James Joseph Egan and John Egan (Dublin) and his sisters are Agnes Keegan and Bridget Grennan (Tullamore); Theresa Smyth (Daingean), Alice Egan (Shannonbridge) and Evelyn Egan (Fivealley, Birr).

He was predeceased by another sister Margaret Mary Moran (Shannonbridge) .

BOETIUS MACEGAN A Bishop Hanged at Carraig An Droichid

It comes as no surprise that the name of Roger Boyle, who became Baron Broghill and afterwards first Earl of Ossery, is now remembered only as the man associated with the hanging of Boetius MacEgan, Bishop of Ross, at Carraig an Droichid. According to a contemporary authority Boyle was 'a great poet, statesman, soldier, and great in everything which merits the name of great and good'. An Irish commentator put it another way: "His name will, however, never be wholly forgotten at least as long as a stone of Carraig an Droichid remains or whilst the stirring verses ('The tramp of the soldier is heard in Macroom') find a place in our anthologies." (Editor's Note: - Words anybody?)

MacEgan was born at Ballygrady in the parish of Kilbrin. As a boy he became attached to the Franciscan way of life and went to the Continent to be educated for the priesthood. He studied theology at Bordeaux, and after his ordination he went to Alcalé in Spain where he continued his studies for three years. He then returned to Ireland where he won fame as a preacher. He was guardian of Buttevant Friary about 1641-1642 and later became Definitor Provincial and Definitor General at the General Chapter held at Toledo in Spain on June 3rd, 1645. He returned to Ireland at the end of August 1645.

The Ireland he returned to was a troubled one. The war that had begun in Ulster in October 1641 had soon spread to the whole country. Now, after three years, the Catholic Parliament known as the Confederation of Kilkenny was more divided than ever. They were awaiting the coming of a Papal Nuncio to draw them together. The Nuncio, Rinuccini, came to Kenmare a few weeks later and Boetius hurried south to meet him. He accompanied him on his triumphal journey to Kilkenny.

MacEgan was appointed senior chaplain to the Ulster Army under Eoghan Rua O'Neill, and was present at Benburb to bless the soldiers before their great victory there on June 5th, 1646. Eoghan Rua sent him to Limerick to bring news of the victory to the Nuncio and he arrived there with the captured flags on June 13th. The city went wild with joy; bonfires blazed in the streets and salvos of guns hailed the victory. The standards were deposited in the Franciscan Church and were taken out the next day in solemn procession to St. Mary's Cathedral.

The differences between the Old Irish and the Old English in the Confederation were growing deeper; differences soon arose between the Confederation and the Nuncio. One of them arose out of the choice of Boetius as Bishop of Ross. The confederation had already nominated Robert Barry Ross; the Nuncio proposed, however, that Barry should go to Cork and that Boetius, who had received no nomination from the Confederation, should go to Ross. The appointments were confirmed at Rome early in 1647. The Nuncio left Ireland in 1649, a deeply disappointed man; a few months afterwards Cromwell landed at Ringsend. Town after town fell and in November Eoghan Rua died. Cromwell spent Christmas in Cork and on January 29th, 1650, took the field again, marching out from Youghal. He went on to lay siege to Clonmel held by Eoghan Rua's nephew, Aodh Dubh. Word was brought to Cromwell that a large force under David Roche was marching from Kerry to relieve Clonmel. Broghill was ordered by Cromwell to gather an army and march against Roche, who had centred his army at Macroom. Broghill went by Cork to Kilcrea passing by Carraig an Droichid, held by Roche's forces. Roche, decided to withdraw his army into the country behind Macroom and in a running fight MacEgan was captured.

On the following day which was May 11th or May 22nd, 1650, according to our modern calendar, Broghill summoned Carraig an Droichid to surrender and promised MacEgan that he would spare his life if he advised the garrison in the castle to lay down arms. When he was brought before the castle, MacEgan called on the defenders to hold out to the last. In his fury Broghill had him taken to a nearby tree and had him hanged with the reins of his horse. Roche reported that he had been strangled and beheaded. That night the Bishop was buried at Ahina.

His grave is not known.

Section 5
Stories of our Irish Kinsfolk

THE MURDER OF BOYCE EGAN
From Tales of the West of Ireland - by James Berry
Published by the Dolman Press - 1966

"Musha" said the old packman, Hugh O'Malley, "the tale I am about to tell deals with two subjects which most engross the youthful minds of the present generation, namely love and murder. When I set out with the famous Tom Lavelle to learn how to be a packman, we went to Dadreen in the far west where we were welcomed with open arms by my aunt and her husband, William Egan. They were considered the wealthiest peasant couple in either of the two owls of the O'Malleys, for the word barony was never used in those days, but only the terms Owl Eagher for Burrishoole and Owl Oughter for Murrisk. The Egans had only two in family, both sons, and surely one of them was the finest young man I have ever seen. He was named Behalagh, or Boyce Egan. When he found I was going to become a packman, he decided to go with us. Alas! that was the evil choice he made, as time revealed.

"We took a supply of stockings and set out for Derry where we arrived safely. Lavelle took us to the merchant that he always dealt with, a very wealthy gentleman named McKenzie who had no family save one fully grown daughter who when she saw Boyce Egan, fell in love with him, nor did she try to conceal her passion. Western Egans had never yet married a Protestant. She then offered to become Catholic but her father objected. The next time we reached Derry, she offered to elope with him, but he would not have her that way. Her case was a sad one, for she loved him to distraction."

"When we returned home from Derry, the girl Lavelle was engaged to had in his absence married, so he fled the country and went off to Jamaica, so we were left without our guide and mentor, and we decided to give up the business. At that time there lived in the village of Cross a man named Jack Davitt, a packman. He came to us and induced us to go with him into Connemara to buy stockings, and in an evil hour we consented. When we were ready to start for Derry with him a very strange thing happened. A champion wrestler came to the parish and challenged any man in the parish to wrestle him, but if none could be found who was able to throw him he placed the parish under tribute, and he had to be given a certain amount of money before he departed. This sort of thing existed in Ireland since the earliest days, almost down to our time. It was for vanquishing a champion of this sort with the sword that Tiobod-naLong was created Lord Mayo, and it was for a similar deed that DeCoursey became Lord Kinsale, and also claimed the privilege of wearing his hat in the presence of royalty."

"Well I wanted to see the wrestling, so I set out from Dadreen for Tooreen where Mass was offered up on Sunday, for there was no church near in those days. When the Mass was over the strange bully from Roscommon sprang into the field in which there were many stunted trees. He stripped himself naked above the hips and challenged any man in the parish to wrestle him. Not one man replied to his call, and like another Goliath he began to revile them and laugh them to scorn. I was leaning on the fence looking at him. His taunts so enraged me that I sprang into the field and alighted on some loose stones which caused me to twist my ankle. Still I ran towards him while he stood and laughed at me, but before he knew where he was I had caught him by the left hip and the right shoulder, and I lifted him as easily as I would a child. I swung him round, and in doing so I broke his thigh against a stunted ash tree, the roar he gave could be heard a mile off, but in fact he was the weakest man I ever handled. There was much cheering, but it's little I heeded it, for my ankle was throbbing painfully."

"I had to rest for about three weeks, and the two Jack Davitts and Boyce Egan set out for Derry without me. When they drew near Derry, old Davitt proposed that they take some food. The food which we carried with us will astonish the refined present-day people. It was called Busthaun, and this is the way it was made; when the women were churning, they kneaded the fresh unsalted butter and oatmeal together and then formed it into balls as large as footballs. We carried these balls with us on the journey. Our ancestors maintained that it was the most substantial and wholesome food on earth, and I do believe it was. The two Davitts and Boyce Egan went into a field and the old Davitt spread a cloth and took his skean Dhu, or Irish dagger, out of its scabbard on his hip, and began to help himself from the crest ball of Busthaun."

"When they were almost finished eating, old Davitt gathered up a handful of crumbs and with all his strength cast them into the eyes of Boyce Egan, blinding him. Then he drove his skean dhu to the hilt into his heart. Boyce, who was one of the strongest young men in Connacht, caught old Davitt, smashed him with his fist and knelt on his breast. Just as Boyce was about to stab old Davitt, young Davitt came from behind and drove his skean deep into Boyce's back. With the daggers of his murderers, driven deep into his body, Boyce Egan died, a young man who was said to be the finest and most beautiful man in all of Ireland."

"Old Davitt took off the murdered man's shoes with the silver buckles and put them on his own feet, and then took all his money. The two Davitts placed the body in a drain which was arched over with briars and they started for Derry, taking the dead man's horse and load with them. When they reached Derry, Miss McKenzie asked old Davitt, "where is Boyce Egan, for I see you have his horse?" "He is not well", said Davitt, "so he asked me to take it along with me." "How is it I see you wearing his shoes with the silver buckles?", she asked. "My own were not the best, so he lent these to me" he said, "but he didn't forget sending you the two balls of yarn he promised you for the stockings." She seemed satisfied with his explanation. When the Davitts disposed of their goods they sold the dead man's horse on the way home, and when they reached there they circulated the news that Boyce Egan got married in Derry and remained there."

"About a month afterwards old Davitt asked me to go with him to Connemara to buy stockings. I consented because I longed to see my cousin and comrade, Boyce Egan. We crossed the Killary and were bound for the fair of Dooneen. Halfway between Tully and Letterfrack, he asked me into a field which was surrounded by whin bushes. I agreed and as usual he took out the Busthaun spread the cloth on the grass and drew his skean dhu, but somehow I felt uneasy, nor could I eat any of the food."

"I got up and walked towards the fence, and as I looked along the road we had come by, I saw three men coming towards me at a great pace. They had their sticks on their shoulders and their body coats thrown across them. When they drew near, I recognised them. Two of them were brothers named Durkan of Askalaun, and the other was a man of gigantic stature named O'Malley of Clankeen. All three were yeomen. "Where are you going in such haste?" I asked. "Didn't you hear?" they said. "What would I hear?" I replied. "Jack Davitt and his nephew killed your cousin, Boyce Egan, about six weeks ago near Derry, and we are looking for him." "Keep quite," I replied. "Old Davitt is in the field over there. I will go down and spring on him, and then you jump into my assistance."

I walked back into the field. "Who were you talking to?" asked old Davitt. "Three strangers like ourselves who are going to Dooneen," I replied. "Sit down, man, and take some food," he said. I pretended to do so, but I sprang upon him, caught his two wrists and raised his arms in the air. He fell back, and I placed my knee on his breast. The three men rushed into subdue him. We took the skean dhu out of his hand, bound him with ropes, and recrossed the Killary with him. The Yeomen took him to Westport, and handed him over to the terrible Denis Browne, better known as Soap the Rope, who forwarded him to Derry. He was tried where he committed the murder. But no trace could be found of his accomplice the nephew."

"About six months afterwards, some children were herding cows on the brow of a cliff in the village of Dooaghtry when they saw small slates of shingle being cast from the base of the cliff to skim upon the smooth surface of the sea. Since they often did this themselves, they knew it was some person who was doing it. They told their parents who were aware that there was a cave at the base of the cliff and who guessed that young Davitt was concealed there. They sent word to Boyce Egan's relatives who gathered in great numbers. They went in by boat and captured young Davitt in the cave. He was handed over to Denis Browne, and was afterwards hanged in Derry."

"The ends of justice were served, but Miss McKenzie was inconsolable and pined for her dead love. She composed a lament for her lover which I used to sing in the old days.", The company insisted that the old packman sing it once more, so he sang for them the lament of Rebecca McKenzie Egan:

*Oh, once I loved a noble youth
Whose face was fair and bright to see,
But since he died, in very truth
The world is all a blank to me.*

*For now he's gone, alas, from me
Beyond that dark, mysterious bourne,
Oh, never more his face I'll see,
And I am left to weep and mourn.*

*I'll climb with thee the mountains high
I'd brave with thee the raging main,
Nor would I even breath a sigh
Lest that one sigh would cause thee pain.*

*I'd fly with thee to torrid climes
I'd tread with thee their burning sands,
Thy voice to me were sweet as chimes
Of joy bells in my native land.*

*I'd live with thee in deserts bare,
Or in a rude cabin by the sea,
Nor would my heart feel pain or care
When thou wert there and I with thee.*

*Oh, leave me in a darksome cave
Where summer sunbeams never shine,
Nor fragrant flowers nor shrubs shall wave
Above this broken heart of mine.*

*But should we meet beyond the grave
In realms of everlasting bliss,
The only wish my heart doth crave
It is to lay upon thy brow one kiss.*

Miss McKenzie

Miss McKenzie pined away rapidly and died when the autumn leaves were falling, but before she died she became a Catholic, for she wished that no impediment should stand between herself and her beloved in the world beyond. Although the lovers were cruelly parted in this life by the daggers of dastardly murderers, they sleep side by side in a fine tomb in the Catholic Cemetery of Derry.

DANIEL AND STEPHEN EGAN (1815-1816) From "85 Years of Irish History" By William J. O'Neill

There occurred in 1816 an incident strikingly illustrative of the Protestant ascendancy policy of making examples to preserve the quiet of the country.

The gentleman who officiated as peace-preserver on the occasion to which I now allude, was the Rev. John Hamilton, Protestant Curate of Roscrea, in the King's County, and a magistrate. The reverend gentleman had been transplanted to Roscrea from the County Fermanagh. In politics he was an enthusiastic Orangeman: his personal disposition appears to have been romantic and adventurous.

Mr. Hamilton, on receiving his appointment to the magistracy, promised, as he afterwards boasted, to distinguish himself by his zeal in discharging the duties of his office. He speedily set about redeeming his promise. The Monaghan militia commanded by Colonel Kerr, were at that time quartered in Roscrea. They were all of red hot Orange principles. and it was the familiar practice of the reverend gentleman to obtain from the commanding officer parties of the men, who scoured the country, firing party tunes, and thus exhibiting their ardent loyalty in a sort of irregular ovation of perpetual recurrence. But these triumphant feu-de-

joie, and the accompanying martial music, could not long furnish serious occupation to a spirit so adventurous as that of the Rev. John Hamilton.

There resided at Roscrea two highly respectable Catholic Distillers, the Messrs. Daniel and Stephen Egan.

It occurred to the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, J.P., to evince his magisterial zeal by implicating the Messrs. Egan in a criminal conspiracy to murder the Protestant gentry of the neighbourhood. He possibly also desired to serve the commercial interests of his patron, Mr. Birch, by getting the rival manufacturers of whiskey hanged. He was bustling, active, and artful; and finding in many of his neighbour the ready credulity of prejudice, he soon succeeded in creating serious alarm in the minds. He procured the aid of a confederate named Dyer, who was groom or stableman in the employment of Mr. Birch (the reverend gentleman's patron); and Dyer, being duly drilled by Mr. Hamilton, swore informations, bearing that several persons engaged in the murderous conspiracy aforesaid, occasionally rendezvoused in a valley called the Cockpit situated in the domain of the Hon. Francis Aldborough Prittle, M.P., for the purpose of concerting their organisation, and also of practising the manoeuvres of military exercise. Matters were not yet ripe enough to explode the plot against the Egan family. An assistant for Dyer was procured from Dublin, a dexterous practitioner in informations, named Halfpenny, alias Halpin.

That Reverend gentleman, his wife, and Halpin, dressed up a straw figure in a suit of Mr. Hamilton's clothes. They placed this figure in a sitting attitude, at a table in a parlour on the ground floor of Mr. Hamilton's house; its back was turned towards the window; on the table before it was expanded a large Bible; a pair of candles stood upon the table. From without, the appearance of the pantomime was precisely that of the reverend pastor of the Roscrea Protestants, deeply immersed in the study of the Word of God. The scenic illusion in the parlour being thus prepared, the reverend gentleman furnished a pistol to Halpin who, with Dyer, had received his instructions to fire through the window at the stuffed figure. A man named Quinlan was inveigled to join the shooting party. Dyer and Halpin, in obedience to Mr. Hamilton's injunctions, fired through the gash at that reverend gentleman's straw representative, the window shutters having been left open for that purpose, the figure was hit in the back with a bullet - the Bible was dislodged—two bullets struck the opposite wall.

Dire was the commotion that instantly prevailed throughout the town. The shout rang from mouth to mouth that the excellent pastor had been fired at whilst studying the Bible. He had escaped — hurrah! - by the special interposition of Providence. His preservation was, doubtless, miraculous; but who could say that the same overruling care would be vouchsafed to the other Protestant inhabitants, whose lives were equally menaced by the popish conspiracy which had thus been mercifully baulked of its first intended victim? The Protestants clearly must defend themselves.

The drums beat to arms. Parties of the Monaghan militia paraded the streets. In half-an-hour the Messrs. Egan, who were quietly sitting with some friends, were arrested by a piquet and conveyed to the guardhouse, where they were detained for a whole night on a charge of conspiracy to murder the Rev. Mr. Hamilton. These events all took place on the night of the 28th December, 1815.

Next morning the two Egans were hauled out with great difficulty by the strenuous exertions of their friends. For some days a clam succeeded, interrupted only by the occasional visits to Mr. Egan's house, under pretext of searching for arms.

It was surmised - I pretend not to say with what truth—that the Government felt rather disinclined to follow up the prosecution in consequence of the excellent character always borne by the parties accused. But Lord Norbury and the Earl of Rosse so vehemently urged the prosecution, that the scruples, if any, of the Government were overruled. A fresh witness to sustain the accusation was procured in the person of one Hickey, brother-in-law of the first witness, Dyer. Meanwhile, the rampant delight of the Orange inhabitants of Roscrea was evinced in the most noisy and extravagant manner. Colonel Kerr was an active partisan of the Rev. Mr. Hamilton. He permitted the tattoo to be beaten through the town every evening, the drums being followed by a large military escort, at whose head the reverend gentleman ostentatiously strutted, arrayed in an orange cloak, and wearing round his waist a belt studded with pistols. This melodramatic exhibition was enlivened by such tunes as "Boyne Water" and "Protestant Boys" played on the military fifes.

On the morning following the attack on the stuffed figure, the Hon. Mr. Prittie, son of Lord Dunally, visited the Rev. Mr. Hamilton to inquire the particulars, and asked him whether his (Mr. H.'s) son had not had a great

escape? "Yes sir" replied Mr. Hamilton. "Where were you sitting" demanded Mr. Prittle, "when the shot was fired at you?" "There sir" answered Mr. Hamilton, pointing to a table in the room. Mr. Hamilton thus sought to confirm Mr. Prittle in the belief which that gentleman had, in common with the public, then adopted—namely, that the shot had been actually fired at himself. This attempt at deception should be carefully borne in mind, because it neutralises the defence which the reverend gentleman set up his conduct at a subsequent stage of the affair.

On the 11th of January, 1816, the Messrs. Egan were arrested under a warrant of the Rev. Mr. Hamilton's they were placed in the custody of a party of soldiers and marched to the inn, where they found some eight or ten involved in the murderous conspiracy. The last named parties were confined for the night in the guardroom.

At ten o'clock on the following forenoon all the prisoners set out for Clonmel, which is forty miles distant from Roscrea, escorted by a large body of military and police, the Egans travelled in a chaise which proceeded at a footpace; the other prisoners walked, handcuffed, after the carriage. The first day's journey was to Templemore. It was rendered extremely fatiguing by the slowness of the pace and the inclemency of the weather. The rain poured down in torrents, and the prisoners, on arriving at Templemore, were conducted to a miserable den without a fireplace, approximately named the Black Hole, in which they would have spent the night but for the humane interposition of Sir John Garden, who obtained for them the accommodation of the Inn.

Next day they proceeded to Cashel, where they were consigned to a small, dreary, damp apartment, without any sort of furniture. They applied for permission to occupy the Inn, but met a refusal on the plea that the disturbed state of the country would render compliance dangerous. It was, however, resolved to forward them at once to Clonmel.

A curious incident occurred within a few miles of that town. Two of the escorts appeared to quarrel with each other, and in the course of the dispute they fell from their horses. The steeds, released from their riders, ran away, and the whole escort, with the exception of a single policeman, made off in pursuit of them. The solitary guard approached the Egans and strenuously urged them to escape. "I will follow my comrades" said he, "in pursuit of the runaway horses, and you can then act as you please." But the prisoners, apprehensive of some trick, rejected the advice thus urgently offered, and quietly awaited the return of the party of police .

Arrived at Clonmel, they were met in jail by the Rev. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Corker Wright a magistrate, who had seriously interested himself in the prosecution. Mr. Wright on the following morning visited the prisoners, affecting great friendliness, and strongly advised them to confess all they knew of the "conspiracy" promising to exert his influence to procure their pardon. Of course an indignant disclaimer of all knowledge of any conspiracy was the only reply elicited by this treacherous suggestion. The Egans were then invited to see the various apartments of the jail. In one room they were shown the hangman busily preparing ropes for the next execution. But this sight failed to scare them into the false and foolish act of self-incrimination.

In a few days the special commission was opened by Lord Norbury and Baron George. The Crown Prosecutor was Charles Kendal Bushe, then Solicitor General, and afterwards Lord Chief Justice. The public argued very gloomily for the prisoners when it was known that Lord Norbury was to try the case. Norbury had a terrible reputation for severity. "We'll have great hanging next assizes - Lord Norbury's to come" was a phrase that familiarly heralded his lordship's approach to assize towns on the circuit.

Two witnesses came from Roscrea to bear testimony to the excellent character of the Egans. One of these was the Rev. Mr. L'estrang, Protestant Rector of Roscrea. The other was a protestant layman Mr. William Smith, who informed the prisoners that shortly previous to the firing at the straw person through the window, he had been present at a dinner-party given by Mr. Birch, of Roscrea, at the Rev. Mr. Hamilton's instance. It was there stated that the Egans were accused, on Dyer's sworn informations, of drilling men in the domain of the Hon. Mr. Prittie, for treasonable purposes: and Mr. Smith was then told that he should be apprised of the mode in which it was intended to proceed against them, provided that he took an oath to keep secret the particulars. Mr. Smith rejected this condition, stating his conviction that the Egans were incapable of the imputed criminal acts; and that, to his own personal knowledge, Dyer had sworn falsely, in as much as the Egans were sworn by that person to have been drilling men in Mr. Prittie's grounds .

Dyer was of course the principal witness. He gave his evidence with great self-possession and dexterity. He deposed to several meetings for military exercise in Mr. Prittie's domain. He was obliged to confess, on cross-examination, that he was in receipt of five shillings a week for suppressing his evidence against one Francis Cotton, on a trial in which the said Cotton had been charged with the murder of a man Quigley. The admission of his own infamy in compounding the felony of murder, necessarily deprived his evidence against the Egans of weight with the jury. Contradictions in his testimony were also elicited on cross-examination.

The Rev. John Hamilton was the next witness. The trick of the stuffed figure had transpired, and as he knew that a cross examination on the subject awaited him, he resolved to put a bold face on the matter. Accordingly, in his direct evidence, he spoke of the effigy as a stratagem, employed for the purpose of ascertaining if Dyers previous informations were true; but on his cross examination he was constrained to admit that he had left the Government as well as several of his brother magistrates, under the impression that the firing at the effigy was an actual firing at his person. The reader will remember that, when Mr. Prittie, on the morning following the attack on the straw figure, said to the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, in that gentleman's house, "where were you sitting when the shot was fired at you?" Mr. Hamilton answered, "there sir" pointing to a table in the room, and thus attempting to confirm, in Mr. Prittie's mind, the belief that he had been actually fired at.

When the reverend gentleman's testimony closed, the courthouse rang with execrations, and the judges had some difficulty in restoring order. Halpin, and Dyer's brother-in-law, Hickey, were next examined. Halpin gave his evidence with the composure and readiness of an expert informer. He inculpated Quinlan in the guilt of firing at Mr. Hamilton's effigy, under the belief that the effigy was the reverend gentleman himself. Hickey's evidence tended to exonerate Quinlan from having fired. but he swore that Mr. Stephen Egan had administered to him an oath to assist anyone who should attempt to take Mr. Hamilton's life.

The infamous nature of the prosecution being manifest, the jury, without the least hesitation, unanimously acquitted the prisoners. Lord Norbury, deprived of an opportunity of hanging anybody, escaped from the court under the pretext of sudden indisposition, leaving Baron George alone on the bench. Dyer, with the concurrence of the learned Baron, was placed in the dock by the order of the Solicitor-General, and indicted for wilful and corrupt perjury, but the grand jury, thinking, perhaps, that he might be useful on some future occasion, committed the disgraceful act of ignoring the Bill.

The liberated prisoners were warmly congratulated by their numerous friends. They had a narrow escape. Had the Rev. Mr. Hamilton's dexterity of execution been equal to the ingenuity of his invention, it would have fared hardly with them. He wanted only the opportunity to become a second Titus Oates. It was a romantic experiment, doubtless—that of the Orange divine who stuffed a figure of himself—delicious thought !—and had it shot at, to bring some Papists to the shelf, who could not otherwise be got at.

The Egans on their return were obliged to enter Roscrea by a back lane, in order to avoid the sanguinary ferocity of about one hundred of the Monaghan militia who had turned out, half intoxicated, ready for a desperate riot. There were also a large number of Orangemen, armed and prepared for mischief, who excited alarm by firing squibs through the town. Colonel Kerr was with some difficulty induced, by the strong remonstrance of a military gentleman, to draw the soldiers into the barracks. Mr. Hamilton published a pamphlet in his own vindication. He expatiated on his magisterial zeal— on the innocent nature of the exploit of getting men to fire at the effigy, which exploit, he loudly protested, was merely an ingenious device resorted to with the view of ascertaining whether designs against his life were really harboured by the persons whom Dyer had accused. He disclaimed having represented to the Government that the firing at the effigy was a firing at his own person; he alleged that he had made Major Sirr privy to the trick, and that he had requested the major to convey that information to the Castle authorities. If he did so at all, it was somewhat of the latest .

The most amusing part of Mr. Hamilton's pamphlet is his solemn complaint that the Messrs. Egan showed no gratitude to Colonel Kerr. He was also dissatisfied with Peel, who was then Irish Secretary. "It is evident" says the ill used clergyman, "that Mr. Peel's sole object was to vindicate the Lord Chancellor for not superseding me, and that he had no wish to defend me on my own account. .'

One would think that Mr. Peel, in all conscience, had quite enough to do to palliate the retention of such person in the magistracy, without entering on a defence of his machinations against the Egan family.

My account of the transactions described in this chapter is derived from a manuscript narrative lent me by one of the Egan family Alderman Egan of Dublin, and a pamphlet published by the Rev. Mr. Hamilton.

Section 6
Stories of our emigrant kinsfolk

JOHN EGAN
He:had a town named after him

John Egan was a native of Aughrim, Co. Galway. He emigrated to Canada in 1832. In 15 years he did as much as any man every achieved in such a brief period. Few men were better acquainted with the trade of Ottawa. The resources of the country and its requirements were thoroughly mastered by him. He worked his way from nothing to the head of the largest business on the river. It was he first gave system to its lumber trade.

Before his time lumbering on the Ottawa was a wild venture. The annual business of his house ran up a few years before his death from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. It gave employment to over 2,000 men, it required 1,600 horses.

A handsome man, whose life was divided between business and public service. He represented the county of Ottawa, until it was divided, he then became the member for Pontiac. He died at the age of 47. He was the founder and the man after whom the town of Eganville, Ontario was named.

WILEY M. EGAN

Wiley M. Egan is numbered among those whose keen insight enabled them to recognise the opportunities that Chicago offered at an early day and in their utilization to advance steadily to a foremost position in the business circle of the city. He was equally prominent as a representative of the Masonic fraternity and his memory is honoured in Wiley M. Egan Chapter, R.A.M. He left his impression upon all the different activities—commercial, fraternal, political and social—with which he was connected and each responded to the quickening touch of his enterprising spirit. He was born in Ballston, New York, on the 1st August, 1827, a son of William and Mary Egan, who were farming people of the Empire State. He came with his parents to Chicago, arriving on the 9th of October, 1836,—about a year before the incorporation of the city. He was identified for many years with the commerce of the Great Lakes and the strength of his character, his forceful purpose and his laudable progress which characterized his business career. The interim between 1842 and 1853 was spent as sailor and master and from that time until his death as owner of sailing and steam vessels. During the period of his active connection with lake commerce he built and owned some of the best and finest vessels that floated on the inland seas, yet this did not compass his business activity nor suggest the scope of his ability. In connection with his vessel agency he conducted an extensive and important insurance business, embarking in that line in 1857. He represented many marine insurance companies, including the Corn Exchange, the Mercantile Mutual of New York, the Pacific Mutual of New York, the Boston Marine of Detroit, the Mercantile of Cleveland and the Buffalo of New York.

During the long years of his experience as insurance and vessel agent he became widely known in the commercial circles of this city. He was the owner of twenty-five different vessels and no name has figured more prominently in connection with shipping interests in Chicago. Although his business activity brought him prominence, Mr. Egan was perhaps even more widely known as one of the leading members of the Masonic fraternity. On the 7th of September, 1855, he became a Master Mason in Garden City Lodge, No. 141, A.F. & A.M. He took the degree of Royal Arch Mason on the 23rd February, 1857, became a Royal and Select Master July 16, 1861, attained the Knight Templar degree on the 27th October, 1857, and in the Scottish Rite proceeded through the various degrees until the thirty-second was conferred upon him in the Chicago consistory, April 22, 1864. Then came to him added honour of election to the thirty-third degree in the Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States, June 18th, 1870. This elevation comes only in recognition of superior service rendered to the organisation. Again and again he was called to official positions in Masonry. He acted as master of Cleveland Lodge, as King and High Priest of Washington Chapter and was Grand High Priest of the grand chapter. He was also eminent commander of Chicago Commandery and grand commander of the grand commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. He served as treasurer of the grand lodge and grand chapter, continuing in that Masonic relief committee after the memorable Chicago fire of 1871.

On the 28th of November, 1849, Mr. Egan was united in marriage to Miss Mary P. Helm, who was born January 10th, 1827, in the town of Willsborn, Essex County, New York, a daughter of William and Mary (Phillip) Helm, who were natives of Scotland and settled in Chicago in the later '80s. They became the parents of five children: William, George, Marion, Helen and Charles. Of these, two have passed away. Marion is the widow of Lucian P. Cheney, formerly a druggist of Chicago; Helen I. is the widow of S. W. Wyatt, of the city; and Charles W. is also a resident of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Egan celebrated their golden wedding in 1899. For nearly twenty years prior to the death of Mr. Egan the family residence was at 1224, North State Street, where his widow still resides. He passed away on the 12th of February, 1903, at the age of about seventy-six years. Throughout the period of his residence in Chicago the city remembered him among its prominent and valued residents. He was long a member of the Board of Trade and was honoured with its presidency in 1867 and 1868. His ability won recognition in political circles and he was elected to represent the ninety-fifth district in the general assembly of Illinois, where he took his seat on the 1st January, 1871, participating in the deliberations of the first assembly to enact laws under the state constitution adopted in 1870. He was closely identified with the Union for its upbuilding. Above and beyond all, he was noted and honoured for his commercial integrity. In business affairs his word was never questioned and in all things his life measured up to the highest standards of honourable manhood. For two-thirds of a century he resided in Chicago and his life gave impetus to the city's substantial growth in many ways.

TRAILING AN EMIGRANT FAMILY FROM WEST LIMERICK

By: Aiden Plunkett (The Kerryman—18th March, 1967)

For a panoramic view of the Shannon's Estuary, it would be difficult to choose a more appropriate spot in the County Limerick than the Ice-House Cross at Ballygloughlin in the parish of Glin. Moving Westwards towards the Tarber-Listowel Road, along what is popularly known as "The Line" one passes the house of Mr. James Holly. It is on the left hand side quite close to the Limerick/Kerry border. Well back from this house and to the left of the hay barn it is possible to observe the outline of a building that has been demolished. The grass-covered foundations are clearly discernible. Mr. Patrick Egan of Tarmon's Hill, Tarbert, who died in April, 1963, at the age of eighty-three, claimed that these foundation stones belonged to his paternal grandfather's home. It had been raised to the ground by a battering ram in the bad old days of post-famine evictions.

Bailiff Arrived

According to Mr. Egan the bailiffs arrived to throw his grandfather and family on the roadside. The old man, also Patrick Egan was dangerous ill at the time and the family managed to extort a stay of eviction for about two weeks, when the sick man had recovered sufficiently he and his wife, Ann Wallace, and their children moved to Mohernagh in the present parish of Ballyhahill, and old Ballygoughlin homestead was reduced to the ruin it is today. Mr. Egan's story was pretty well corroborated by his brother John who died in 1959.

The family evicted from Ballygoughlin numbered nine children six boys and three girls. One, Michael, died in the 1850s at the age of fifteen. Old Patrick himself passed away about 1860 before his family scattered. His wife survived him by about a quarter of a century. Of the remaining eight children, seven, as we shall see, emigrated. William, Catherine, John and Ann, went to Australia; Frank, Thomas and Ellen went to the United State of America. Their Australian descendants have inherited some interesting family letters and papers from which the following notes were culled. They help us trace, in broad outline anyway, the fortunes of one group of West Limerick emigrants of a century ago.

William Egan married Brigit Naughton of Lisready in Loughill Church on 20th January, 1864. The witnesses were William Managan and Catherine Egan, William's sister. A certificate of the marriage is still in the hands of their Australian grandchildren. It carries the signature of Father Daniel Kennedy who had become the first parish priest of Loughill when that area was detached from Glin in 1855 and erected into a separate parish.

William and Brigit left Ireland for Australia in the mid-1860s, leaving behind their baby daughter, Catherine. The child remained here until she was about 12 years old and then joined her parents 'down under'. Like many another Irish gold-rush country around Bendigo in Central Victoria. Letters show that they lived at various times at Eaglehawk, also at Myer's Flat, nearer Bendigo and finally in Bendigo City itself, where William died in 1912.

Coincidence

By a curious coincidence, a hilltop village near Daylesford, between Bendigo and Ballarat is today named Eganstown. John Egan (1811-1896), a native of Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary, who had come to Victoria in 1841 founded this township in 1848, John is credited with being the first to discover gold in the Daylesford district in 1851. Many Irish surnames appear on the tombstones in the neighbouring churchyard. There is evidence that John from Borneight was a relative of William from West Limerick. A cousin of William, named Patrick O'Meara, was in the same district of Central Victoria in 1869. It is not clear if Patrick came from North Tipperary where the surname "O'Meara" is quite common. A grandson of John Egan, Father John Francis Egan, parish priest of West Geelong, Victoria, died suddenly in November, 1957.

William and Brigit had seven children. Two of these died in childhood. Another William, Jnr. died in Western Australia in 1905 at the age of thirty-five. Catherine, who had been born in Ireland, married a man named Toop and died in Sydney in 1925. Michael John lived until 1953, Ann who became Mrs. Dowd, died in 1955, aged eighty seven. Most of her nine children still live in the Melbourne area and are prominent in civic as well as ecclesiastical affairs. A brother of Brigit Naughton also emigrated to Australia about a century ago and a number of his descendants still live in New South Wales. The name of Lisready (near Loughill), from where the Naughtons hailed, is still a household word in the family, though most of them have very remote ideas as to its exact geographical location. At least two of these Naughton descendants are sons, one at Lawson, N.S.W., and another at Snowy River, N.S.W.

Father Alan Naughton of the Diocese of Goldburn, who died in October, 1961, could trace his ancestry back to the Lisready family. Fr. Naughton was the son of William and Sarah Lyons and was born at Araluen, N.S.W. in 1905. He was a student for the priesthood at the Irish College in Rome from 1929 to 1932, but illhealth forced him to abandon his studies for a long period. Eventually he resumed his duties and was ordained almost at the age of fifty but the Lord willed that his career as a priest should be a short one.

Catherine Egan was the second member of the evicted Ballygloughlin family to make her home in Australia. She was baptized in Glin Parish Church on 5 June, 1845, by Father David Quaid, afterwards Parish Priest of Dromin. The sponsors were David Quiney and May Wallace. The Glin baptismal register for 1845 is no longer intact. Catherine's descendants in Australia possess an authenticated copy dated 9 November, 1867, and signed by Father John Bunton, P.O., Glin. Catherine married Patrick Burns of Duncaha, Shanagolden, on 16 March, 1867, in Loughill Church. The officiating priest was Father James Hogan, P.P.

Marriage Certificate

An official copy of their marriage certificate, dated 11 November, 1867, is also in Australia. along with a certificate of Patrick Burns baptism. This latter certificate is dated 16 November, 1867, and shows that Burns was the son of William and Mary O'Connell. He was baptized by Father James O'Donnell on 18th January, 1844. The proximity of the dates on these certificates would suggest that the newly-married couple were collecting essential documents with a view to leaving Ireland. A letter to Catherine from her brother Thomas indicates that she and her husband were well settled in Australia by May 1869. Patrick Burns is mentioned as being at some time in Bendigo and also at Long Gully, Victoria, where he seems to have stayed with a friend named Dan Dempsey. Catherine kept in touch with her relatives at home and sent her mother and brothers occasional sums of money. She was the mother of three children: Ann, who married a man named Gordon and died at the age of eighty-five in 1954; Mary, who remained unmarried and died in 1940 aged sixty-eight and Catherine Jnr., later Mrs. Foster who lived to be seventy-eight and passed away in 1947. All three are buried in Melbourne General Cemetery, where their mother lies also. She had died at Northcote, Victoria, in 1889.

John Egan was the third member of the evicted Ballygloughlin family to head for Australia. He arrived there sometime in 1868 when he was thirty years of age. For a time he worked at Ballarat, presumably goldmining, and he lived with his brother, William and family at Eaglehawk. John never married though he is believed to have been engaged once to a Protestant lady, but the engagement was broken off. Correspondence was not one of his distinguishing qualities, so it is was easy to lose track of him. His brother and sisters in Australia had no news of him for one long period. However, after William's death in 1912, a nun from Bendigo met John at Young, New South Wales. She duly reported this to William's widow and family and they duly invited John to come and stay with them. He remained with that family until his death in November, 1930.

Ann Egan

Ann Egan was the last of the Ballygoughlin Egans to reach Australia. We know nothing about the time of her arrival there or her movements but she died on 2nd July, 1889, and like many of her relatives, is buried in Melbourne General Cemetery. It is clear from letters available in Australia that two other members of the original Ballgoughlin family contemplated going to Australia, but never went there—Thomas and Patrick remained in Ireland, married Hanora Anglim, and settled in Tarmon's Hill, Tarbert, where he died on 15th May, 1914, aged eighty-two. So, the evictor's batteringram has provided a chain reaction that links Ballygoughlin with Bendigo and Ballarat at the other side of the globe, and has also helped to people Australia with foreign-born Irish.

TRAILING AN EMIGRANT WEST LIMERICK FAMILY "(Continued)
(The Kerryman—13 May, 1967)

The first article on the emigrant Egans from Ballygoughlin, near Glin (published in The Kerryman on March 18 last) traced briefly the movements of William, Catherine, John and Ann, who had made their homes in Australia in the 1860s. They left behind them in Ireland three brothers, Patrick, Thomas and Frank, and one sister, Ellen.

Thomas wrote to his sister in Australia, Mrs. Catherine Burns on May 27, 1869, and made it clear that he hoped to see her "in the land of Sydney, and that before long." Further, he expressed the view that their brother, Patrick, who was evidently a successful farmer soon to be married would like-wise emigrate to Australia. The family movements over the next five years or so are not documented for us and 1874 is the next year that appears on the letters still available in Australia.

On June 27 of that year Patrick wrote to Mrs. Burns. Patrick was still in Ballyhahill and his letter mentioned a letter received from Thomas the previous February. Patrick pointed out that their brothers, Thomas and Frank (who was an accomplished flute player) were together, and that Ellen was in the same place. He added the significant sentence: "Last year (1873) was a slack year in America." He further indicated that he himself hoped to procure some good land the following autumn: "If I have enough money." This land may well have been the farm at Tarmon's Hill, Tarbert, where Patrick, who did not after all leave Ireland, at least for good, died in 1914.

Changed Mind

It is clear that Thomas Egan changed his mind about going to Australia and headed for the United States instead, along with Frank and Ellen. Of Thomas and Ellen we have no further definite information. John and Patrick Egan, who died in 1959 and 1963 respectively, confirmed that their uncles, Thomas and Frank, and their aunt Ellen had emigrated to America. They also related that Frank had died at Wilmot, Robert's Country, South Dakota, in 1901 and that he left a family of nine children.

After numerous efforts, the present writer has succeeded in locating a family of Egans, originally from Wilmot, South Dakota whose Irish-born father, Frank Egan, pretty well answers to the details related above. The Frank in question came to Wilmot about 1870. Wilmot was not properly established as a township until 1885 but the area was inhabited before that. Frank had an aunt in Wilmot named Catherine McEnergy and married Margaret Ann Heath in 1884. She was born in Manitowoo, Wisconsin, in 1865 and came to South Dakota in 1878, settling first on a farm near Corona. Frank moved for a time to Brown's Valley, Minnesota, but later returned to Wilmot where he died in the Spring of 1901.

After his death two of his brothers are said to have visited his wife and his nine children. Quite likely one of these brothers was the Thomas of whom so little is known after 1869. Of his nine children six are still alive, Michael, Frank, William, Margaret, Lily and Charles. Agnes, Ann and John are dead; the last named succumbed to a bout of influenza contracted during the First World War; Frank's wife, who had re-married, died at Milbank, South Dakota in 1940. Those of their children who survive live mainly in Wilmot and Milbank, and one is in Superior, Wisconsin.

Quite Common

Apart from this family, the surname Egan is quite common in Wilmot and Milbank today. While most of the families claim Irish ancestors few of them have any clue as to the parts of Ireland from which their forebearers first emigrated. Like so many Irish emigrants, the Egans of South Dakota managed to retain their Catholic faith despite the shortage of priests and other difficulties. It is of interest to mention that Moody County in South Dakota has a town named Egan and so has Dakota County, Minnesota.

The Surname Egan is also known and honoured in Canada. At least one family in Port Credit, Ontario, is certain that their grandfather, Michael Egan, came originally from Limerick, more likely Limerick City. It should be noted that the surname was particularly common in Limerick.

Section 7 Egans of today

WHAT ARE THE EGANS UP TO NOW ?

Richard Egan whose grandfather emigrated to the U.S. from Limerick in the 1850s was a well known screen actor in the late 1950s and early 1960's he is now concentrating on the stage.

Garda John Egan of Kerry had played in seven All-Ireland and Gaelic Football finals— 1975/76/78/79/80/81 and 1982. He has to his credit 5 All-Ireland medals and was captain of the team defeated by Offaly in 1982. He still plays.

Michael J. Egan is still the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Kevin Keegan has just retired having led his team Newcastle, out of the 2nd Division English soccer. The man thought by many to be the greatest British footballer of the last decade will probably have his hands full fighting off the offers of manager and trainer for so many clubs seeking promotion.

GREAT LOSS TO LAWN TENNIS Raymond Egan—An appreciation by C. A. Kemp

Lawn Tennis in Ireland has lost a good friend in Raymond Egan, and so have I. I use the term Lawn Tennis advisedly because this was the game he and I learned to play. Tennis was a game played at Hampton Court, Queens Club, London, and the Manchester Racquets Club, although we knew that there was a court at the Earl of Iveagh's house in Stephen's Green and one on Lambay Island.

My earliest recollection of Raymond Egan was of being involved in trial matches for a Leinster schools team to play against Ulster which was the only Interprovincial match in those days. This was about 1932 and Raymond and his older brother, Edward, and Roy Brown were the players I remember. Both resplendent in St. Gerard's School blazers and indeed during all his playing career Raymond was always immaculately dressed on the court. When Bunny Austin introduced shorts at Wimbledon many men changed to them and a lot of us wore shapeless hockey or football shorts, before properly cut tennis shorts came on the market.

Raymond remained faithful to long white cricket trousers all his life and indeed continued to wear long-sleeved cricket shirts and long-sleeved pullovers as well. Even on the hottest day in summer, you knew you had not got him worried until you managed to make him shed his pullover and even then (like Jack Crawford, the great Australian player) Raymond would play for some time with the shirt sleeves buttoned at the wrist. When he rolled up his sleeves you felt you were in with a chance of beating him.

Our tennis lives ran on parallel lines. We were the same age and were in junior tournaments together. At that time there were only two Fitzwilliam and Lansdowne. Raymond won the Irish Junior Championship at Fitzwilliam in 1933. I invariably lost to Raymond Egan or Roy Brown in the semi-final and they would meet in the final.

He beat me to the Irish Davis Cup team by eight years, being selected against Italy at home in 1938 and against Yugoslavia away in 1939, whereas my first appearance was against Sweden in 1946. We played Sweden in Stockholm and lost 5-0, but we both took Torsten Johannson to five sets and Sweden went on to win the European zone. An interesting prelude to the match took place when we were asked if we would like to play a doubles with King Gustaf, who was then over 80 years of age. Raymond and I played the King and George McVeagh and after one set the King said he would like to play a little more. Afterwards we were told that it was the first time for a long time that the King had played outdoors and more than one set.

In 1947 Ireland lost to Yugoslavia in Dublin, 3-2. Raymond and I losing the doubles match to Mitic and Pallada and Yugoslavia reached the final of the European zone that year. I partnered Raymond in Davis Cup matches only, so I knew him better as an opponent than as a partner. Father Jim O'Connell in a most moving tribute to him at his funeral, spoke of his absolute integrity. This was very apparent on the court as well as in his ordinary

daily life. I think a by-product of this integrity was his inmate courtesy to his opponents, his partners, the umpire, the linesmen and the ballboys. His regular partner in the home tournaments in the Dublin League and also at Wimbledon was Eustace Fannin, and they were ideally suited because they were both absolute gentlemen on the court. Raymond won the Irish Singles Championship in 1940 and 1943 and he and Eustace Fannin won the men's doubles for four successive years from 1940 - 1943 .

I played against him in the closing stages of many tournaments and I suppose it would be fair to say that he usually won the hardcourts and I usually won on grass.

There were, of course, some exceptions. Raymond was a very precise, meticulous player, with ground strokes hit fairly flat but with enough top-spin to give good control. His volleying and especially his overhead was very consistent and accurate and he made his winners with placements rather than pace.

In 1939 at Wimbledon Raymond played W. C. Choy, the Chinese Davis Cup player and was only beaten in five sets and in the men's doubles, he and Eustace Fannin played Charlie Hare and Frank Wilde, the British Davis Cup pair, who went on to reach the final.

In 1946 Raymond was beaten by Pallada of Yugoslavia in the singles and he and Frank Peard lost to Beleli and Pelizza of France in the doubles, in 1947 he had a five set battle in the singles with a good English player called Michelmor and he and Eustace Fannin were beaten again in five sets by an English pair, Goldham and Weatherall.

In International matches (other than Davis Cup) Raymond and I were on two winning teams together against England, when we beat them in 1947 at Lansdowne and in 1949 at Belfast Boat Club. In the latter match Raymond beat Boxter and Hough 3 sets to 1.

In his usual modest manner, many years later Raymond used to say that Hough was never heard of again after that match. An interesting feature of the Irish team in the late forties is that all of us, both men and women, lived in the same postal district of Dublin, i.e. Ballsbridge. In 1950 I left Dublin and did not see Raymond so often but came back to live in Dublin in 1962, by which time both of us had got married.

Our respective wives became great friends and I saw a great deal more of Raymond off the court. By this time we had both stopped playing competitively. Raymond retained his great interest and love for the game and was a constant spectator at all tournaments in the Dublin area. He loved watching the junior tournaments and must have got a lot of pleasure in watching his own children, all of whom were good players, if not quite reaching his own high standard. All the qualities he had shown on a tennis court were evident in his daily life, integrity, kindness and courtesy. He was a gentleman and yet had very strong opinions and convictions which he was not afraid to voice when the need arose. During the last few years of his life, when he suffered great pain with amazing stoicism, I had the same experience as Fr. Jim O'Connell when visiting Raymond. I used to come away from the hospital or his home feeling better for having seen him and talked with him.

To his devoted wife, Pam, and his family all we can say is that we are better for having known him.

C. A. KEMP
21st February, 1984

Section 8 Genealogy Corner

In this section we intend to publish genealogy queries from members of the Clan Egan Association.

To start this section rolling we include a few items which have been submitted to us from Australia, Ireland and U.S.A.

Seeking William Egan

Date of birth unknown. He was a government geologist for Northern Ireland. Helped survey route for Dublin-Belfast railway. His son George Frederick was born in Tipperary in 1867. He had a daughter Lititia Egan who was first woman to graduate in law at Dublin University. She became a missionary and died in 1901 in Ahmadabad aged 33 years.

- Replies to Robert Baker, 7 Phoenix St., Lane Cove 2066, N.S.W. Australia.

Seeking Margaret Egan

Of Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. She married Patrick Drennan and sailed to Australia in 1857 on the "Lady Milton." She settled at Kilarney, Victoria.

— Replies to Mrs. N. Roblins, P.O. Box 238, Colac Victoria 3250 Australia.

Seeking Thomas Egan

Of County Westmeath, served in Irish Constabulary before emigrating to Australia.

—Replies to Mrs. P. Liebich, 12 Cummins Place, Broken Hill 2880, New South Wales, Australia.

Seeking John Egan

Born in Ireland 1814 approx. Married Mary Buckley. Had 1 son Daniel born on 21st December 1845 in Ireland. Emigrated to Canada arriving Galt, June 1846. Had large family in Canada.

—Replies to Frank Egan, Strobhar, P.O. Box 284, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305, USA.

Seeking Patrick Keegan

Born near Gorey, Co. Wexford in 1837 approx. Married Anne Sinnot and lived in River Chapel/Courtown area in 1876. Patrick was a baker, and the family of seven children and parents emigrated to New Zealand in 1874. Replies to Egan Clan Archivist, 9 Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Dublin 4.

Seeking Cornelius Egan

Parents, birthplace and date of birth unknown. Alderman of Dublin 1841-50. Died at Howth 2nd July, 1863. Any descendants please? Replies to Egan Clan Archivist, 9 Booterstown Avenue, Dublin 4.

We have received a copy of a book entitled John Egan from Egan Clan members Elaine and Albert Egan in Australia. This fine piece of genealogical research work traces the life of a farming emigrant from Kilmore Upper, Co. Tipperary and his many descendants in Australia.

Section 9

Miscellaneous

"One of the first directors of the British and Irish Steam Packet Company, Francis Carleton, was a very active member of the Board of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company. It was, no doubt, largely due to his influence that the newly formed Company (The British and Irish S.SP. Co.) came to work in close cooperation with the older Dublin shipping interest. That the association between the two companies was very close indeed is borne out by the fact that Mr. James Ferrier was one of the three trustees of the Transatlantic Steamship Company formed in 1838, the other two being Richard Williams and James Jameson.

The first secretary of the new company was Mr. William James Egan, who held the position from 1836 to 1867. He was succeeded by his son Alfred W. Egan in 1870, who remained in office until 1911. Thus, with a very brief interlude when the position was held open by Mr. Phineas Howell, the Eigans were secretaries of the company for seventy-five years.

Did you know?

The policeman portrayed by Gene Hackman in the film *The French Connection*—Popeye Doyle, was based on a real life New York policeman Eddie Egan who went on to become a television actor himself—not suprisingly he plays policemen. His most recent part was as the detective Hennessy in the television adaptation of Mickie Spillane's *Mike Hammer* where the lead part was played by Stacy Keatch.

Did you know?

When General George Armstrong Custer (1839-1876) made his famous last stand at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana USA, on 25/26th June, 1876, among his 272 comrades were Thomas Egan (Dublin) and Michael Keegan (Waterford).

Did you know?

From Freeman's Journal, Saturday, 4th July, 1863.

Death of Cornelius Egan, Esq., J.P.

We deeply regret to have to announce the death of Cornelius Egan, Esq., J.P. which melancholy event occurred on Thursday at his residence Howth.

Mr. Egan for a long period held a high position in the mercantile world and enjoyed the friendship and esteem of all his fellow citizens. He was for years an alderman of the Dublin Corporation, and was remarkable for his steady adherence to Liberal principles while he never offended by their intrusion those who differed from him.

Did you know?

The first and only man to win medals in both summer and winter Olympics was Eddie Egan. In 1920 in Antwerp he won the gold medal in the light heavy weight division; twelve years later in 1932 he was a member of the USA bobsleigh team which won the gold medal at the Lake Placid Winter Olympics.

A non-drinking, non-smoker, this boy from a poor Denver, Colorado background made his way through Yale, Harvard Law School. Became a Rhodes scholar at Oxford where he became the first American to win a British amateur boxing championship.

Did you know?

Golf was an Olympic event in 1900 in Paris and 1904. Twentythree year old Chandler Egan, the United States champion was suprisingly beaten into the silver medal position by 46 year old George Lyon of Canada. However, the USA represented by the Western Golf Association won the gold medal in the team event and not only was Chandler Egan the captain of the team but there was another Egan, Walter Egan, on the team also.

Did you know?

The site of the Pony Express Station in Salt Lake City during the 1860-1861 has a plaque containing the following inscriptions:

PONY EXPRESS DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

Here, Ben Ficklin, General Superintendent and Major Howard Egan and James C. Bromley, division superintendents, had their headquarters.

The following were honoured Utah Riders.

<i>Howard Egan</i>	<i>William Dennis</i>	<i>Wm. H. Streeper</i>
<i>Richard E. Egan</i>	<i>Thomas Dubson</i>	<i>William Page</i>
<i>Howard R. Egan</i>	<i>J. H. Faust</i>	<i>Henry Worley</i>
<i>William F. Fisher</i>	<i>George E. Little</i>	<i>Michael Whelan</i>
<i>John Fisher</i>	<i>Elijah H. Maxfield</i>	<i>Elijah N. Wilson</i>

Erected by the sons of Utah Pioneers.

Did you know?

Contrary to the belief of many writers who have written on the Egan Clan in the past, the Mac Egan name is still alive in Ireland— in Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry.

Section 10
ADVERTISEMENTS

Anybody intending to advertise anything of interest, either business or pleasure, should contact our Chief Michael J. Egan or Michael J. S. Egan for details of our most reasonable rates.