

# EGAN COLLECTION

Finding Aid produced September 7, 2018

## Repository

Historic Red Hook  
7562 North Broadway  
Red Hook, NY 12571

## Title

Egan Collection  
2018.025

## Extent

One document box

## Dates

Circa 1880's (one photo)- 1960's

## Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions

## Languages

English

## Scope and Content

One documents box the holds the following:

Photos: Photos, 1880's-1960's, primarily of Egan family members.

Family items: memorabilia.

Letters: 16 packets of personal family letters, bound mostly by rubber bands. A few business letters.

## Historical Note

The letters and items in this collection record the history of the family of Edward B. Egan who at his death in Rhinebeck, New York was a resident of Barrytown, New York. Much of this history can be understood best through the personal letters of Edward B. Egan's son, Edward W. Egan, which are included in this collection. Newspaper articles have also been helpful in describing this history. Edward B. Egan and his wife Irene had two other children, Thomas and Anne.

Edward B Egan according to his obituary in the Rhinebeck, New York Gazette, Sept 2, 1971, was a retired real estate executive who worked most of his life in New York City. He worked for some years as an accountant at New York Central. He was also a World War I Veteran. In his later years he moved to Barrytown, New York. Some of his letters to the editor were published in local Dutchess County newspapers and it appears as though he showed much interest in local politics and events (see Letter to the Editor, Red Hook Advertiser, June 16, 1989 page 6). His funeral services were at St. Christopher's Church, Red Hook, New York, of which he was a member.

The wife of Edward B. Egan was Irene Welstead Egan, born in New York City on March 8, 1893. In 1918, she served as a naval yeoman 3 class for almost a year. She also lived elsewhere in New York but along with her husband moved to Barrytown about 1967. She died on May 4, 1971, her funeral services were at St. Christopher's Church, Red Hook, New York, and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Rhinecliff, New York.

The son of Edward B. Egan and Irene Welstead Egan was Edward W. Egan, born March 26 1922 and died August 27, 1989 (US Social Security and Claims Index). It is likely that he attended Hamilton College in Clinton New York as some of his letters were written from there. The US Dept. of Veterans Affairs listed him as enlisted in the army from 1943-1946. He worked at the American Embassy in Paris in the 1950's and sent letters to his parents from there. In this collection is a news clipping stating that Edward B. Egan took a ship from Paris, where he was on a four week leave from the American Embassy, to visit his parents.

The sister of Edward B. Egan, Francis (1896-Dec. 1984) married Frederick T. Hodgkiss and was a resident of Tivoli, in Dutchess County, New York, where she died. She is buried in Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Rhinecliff, New York as is her daughter Sheila. They had two other daughters, Joan and Margaret.

There is an obituary for Joan (Hodgkiss) Becker, daughter of Francis Egan Hodgkiss, in the Poughkeepsie Journal Sept. 10-12, 2016, that states that she died on Sept. 8, 2016, in Poughkeepsie at age 90, and is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Rhinecliff, NY. It is not known when she moved out of New York City but the article states she grew up in Brooklyn. She was as resident of Dutchess County since 1969. She worked among other places at the Admissions Office at Dutchess Community College in the 1970's and was very active in volunteer work. She had five children with her husband Harold G. Becker, and later in life she attended Dutchess Community College,

receiving an Associated of Arts degree. One of their children, Stephanie Boshnack (Marvin) of Lake Ronkonkoma, New York, passed away October 22, 2016 according to her obituary on [legacy.com](http://legacy.com).

There are other known living descendants of Joan Hodgkiss Becker, including four additional children Paul Becker, Cheryl Becker, Laurie Murray-DeSantola, and three grandchildren John H. Becker (resident of Poughkeepsie, NY), David R. Becker, and Alyssa John Murray. In Edward B. Egan's obituary, a grandson is listed as Matthew Kallem.

The family history follows through letters and photos of their years in New York City, New Hartford, Oneida New York, and includes some photos of time spent at a home called Herring Rock, Barrytown, New York taken from about 1913- 1921. The role of this home to the family is not known, as their primary residence appeared to be New York City. As noted previously, some members of this family, including Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Egan and his sister Frances and her family and descendants, lived in Dutchess County for a number of years.

Local residents of the area state that the old Egan house is at 60 Station Hill Road, now rented out and not owned by the Egan family (see newspaper items at end of this finding aid). The Ed Egan who lived in that house was described by an acquaintance as a nice person, retired, who probably died in the late 1960's or early 1970's.

It is worth noting that many family letters are signed with the name "Ned." They are addressed to Mr. and Mrs. EB Egan so it is assumed these were written by their son Edward W. However there are some photos from about 1913-1921 identified as taken by Ned which one concludes were taken by the father Mr. Edward B. Egan.

## Provenance

This collection was donated by Jack Lewis (John "Jack" Lewis, 1931-2012), an educator in Red Hook, who was a neighbor of

Edward B. Egan.

## Copyright Notice

Courtesy of Historic Red Hook

### Contents of Box including envelopes, packets, loose items

(at time of preparation of this finding aid- further organization of photos and letters according to date and/or subject is planned at a later time):

16 packets of family letters, bound by rubber bands- includes some business correspondence; accompanying one letter from France, a small newspaper article identifying home leave of Edward W. Egan

Several leather bound small booklets

Wallet

Baby shoe (1)

small box with pins and medals, an ID for staff at US Navy Supply

embroidered handkerchief

antique religious history book 1903 autograph book

antique mesh purse

Photos, circa 1880's-1960's:

In one envelope- one tintype circa 1880's, several photos circa 1900

Envelope of World War I photos

Folder with multiple antique photos

Envelope lettered "Egan's- Herring Rock, Barrytown, NY"

## Related Materials

### Obituaries:

Edward B. Egan, Rhinebeck NY Gazette/ The Gazette Advertiser, Sept. 2, 1971

Irene Welstead Egan, Rhinebeck NY Gazette,, May 6, 1971

Joan Becker, Poughkeepsie Journal, Sept. 10-12, 2016

### Additional Newspaper Notes:

Poughkeepsie Journal, June 24, 1975: Foreclosure sale notice for Herbert Dan Rubin vs. Edward W. Egan, Defendant, for Red Hook property, road leading to Barrytown Landing

Poughkeepsie Journal, 1974: 2 pieces of land, N. Widley Road and W. Station Road, Red Hook, NY- notice of sale of lands for unpaid taxes 1973

Fold 3 image of card of Irene Welstead's naval participation, World War I

Finding aid prepared by Nancy H. Bendiner

