



CLANN

June
2006

Newsletter of the Irish Family History Foundation

Award for the Best Accessible Website 2006 - *www.irish-roots.net*

The Irish Family History Foundation website, www.irish-roots.net, has won the Irish eGovernment Award in the category of "Best Accessible Website". The Awards recognise excellence and honour the leaders in Irish eGovernment, raising awareness of the innovators and forward thinkers who are pioneering the changes happening in the delivery of Government service to its citizens. They also highlight public sector vision and expertise.

The [irish-roots.net](http://www.irish-roots.net) website was developed by **Kildare Web Services**, the operators of the kildare.ie website and is a website that uses best practice in usability and accessibility and adheres to recognised web standards. This award is for the website that best responds to and provides for persons with disability and has succeeded in clearly enhancing online access for those with disability. Key factors include improved access to resources and information for those with disability in accordance with eGovernment guidelines. The other nominees in their category were:

The Central Statistics Office (www.cso.ie)

The Chief State Solicitors Office
(www.attorneygeneral.ie/csso)

ComReg (www.comreg.ie)

This is a major honour for the national genealogy website and it demonstrates how a website can be both easy to use and attractive while also being accessible to all. **The Irish Family History Foundation** is the co-ordinating body for a network of government approved genealogical research centres in the Republic of Ireland (Eire) and in Northern Ireland which have computerised tens of millions of Irish ancestral records of different types. On their website you will find information about the Irish Family History Foundation centre for each



Minister Tom Kitt, Karel Kiely (IFHF), R. Youster (Kildare Web Services) and Colm McVeigh (Vodafone)

county. Through them you can have research carried out on your family history from the millions of genealogical records they have gathered over the years. The [irish-roots.net](http://www.irish-roots.net) is maintained by Karel Kiely of the Kildare history and Family Research Centre (Kildare.ie/genealogy)

This is the 4th Annual Irish eGovernment Awards and in the past finalists and winners have proven to be Irish eGovernment Internet Leaders. The Awards Ceremony took place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin on Thursday February 16th 2006. For more information visit following websites:

www.irishegovernmentawards.ie -
Irish eGovernment Awards

www.irish-roots.net -
Irish Family History Foundation

www.kildare.ie - Kildare Community Network

www.kildarewebservices.com -
Kildare Web Services

Pay Per View...

System for searching genealogical records of the National Genealogical Centres of Ireland

Introduction – The Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) with its cross-border network of local centres is the largest provider of professional family history research services in Ireland. It operates on an all-island basis & believes that genealogy can only be properly dealt with on this basis. Most centres have a local computer database comprised of church records: Primary Valuation of Tenements (Griffith's Valuation); Tithe Applotment Books; 1901 census; 1911 census and gravestone inscriptions. Some centres have also indexed civil records of births, deaths & marriages, as well as other relevant local sources, e.g. newspaper obituaries, school records, etc. There are a number of different database systems in use, but in recent years many centres have transferred data from the Digital VAX to a Windows Platform. The member centres of the IFHF have created an extraordinary resource which constitutes an invaluable part of our heritage and to bring together the 40 million + records as a searchable database online is a remarkable proposition.

The IFHF knows from long experience that people with Irish ancestry have a great interest in their family history. A sizable section of these people are interested in the process of researching this history but wish to carry out their own research. Many of those conducting their own research feel frustrated with the off line services available to them & often contact IFHF centres, even through they would prefer to conduct their own research. Making records available online is thus not just an opportunity to make a huge archive available but an opportunity to meet the identified and widespread demand from those who wish to do their own research & not be dependent on the services of others.

Pay Per View of Genealogical records – the IFHF is seeking to build a pay-per-view e-commerce website which will allow customers to search & Purchase genealogical information over the Internet. The online database will consist of approximately 40 million indexed records which will be created by combining the databases of the IFHF centres, and a search & Payment facility for online users will be provided. The pay per view system will be located on the national IFHF website at www.irish-roots.net.

Categories of Records to be made available online:

- Births
- Marriages
- Deaths
- Primary Valuation of Tenements (Griffith's Valuation)
- Tithe Applotment Books
- Census Return
- Graveyard Inscriptions.

The uniqueness of the IFHF proposal is that not only will it be the sole site that will host an index of the Catholic Church records, it will also allow users to search across the other sources in one location and within one database.

In December 2005 a consultant was engaged to look at the IFHF's options on how best to establish a pay per view internet based business to sell its genealogical records. The board of IFHF then appointed a sub-committee which issued a Request for Proposals to a number of companies. Following the responses to that document it was decided to appoint BRS a Belfast based software solution provider, as the preferred partner subject to contract. They have developed & delivered an online pay per view system for the Ulster Historical Foundation which has been live since February 2005.

Benefits of Pay-per-view

- Genealogical researchers will be able to carry out their own searches online.
- Revenue will be generated for local centres, returning the investment by the state and local communities.
- If self service searches are possible for a large percentage of clients, resources in centres can be devoted to completing work on the index.
- Public access to the computerized indexes to church & other records currently located in the National Library, National Archives, GRO & other repositories will free up their resources also, allowing them to do other valuable work.
- Revenue which is currently going to organisations outside the State which have computerized some Irish records will be channelled into Ireland and into the local communities.
- An Irish pay-per-view site will establish a connection between the clients & Ireland. Clients will be encouraged to deal with local Irish centres which have vast local expertise in both genealogical records & local knowledge. This could be used to promote regional tourism...

MEATH HERITAGE CENTRE

Presentation of Certificates to Trainees

Minister for Food & Horticulture, Brendan Smith presented certificates to the trainees of Meath Heritage Centre on Monday January 2006. Minister Smith said the support of FAS has been vital to providing a service to those seeking their roots in County Meath and of course, the major focus on the project is the training provided. FAS and the Centre have prepared and introduced over 250 trained people into the workforce of County Meath each bringing in further income into the county. Skills gained include computer operation, word processing, clerical and office work, job search skills and heritage appreciation. Minister Smith praised the sponsoring group Trim Forum for Employment who have been active in local development in Trim.

Mary Kenny, Chairperson of the sponsoring group, congratulated the trainees on achieving their awards and thanked FAS for their continuing support for the project. Noel French, Project co-ordinator thanked the committee for their support and FAS for their tremendous help over the years. It has been greatly appreciated and valued. He thanked FAS personnel involved in the scheme Jim Culligan, Sean Roche, Anne Keenan, Bernie Durkin, Kathleen Bradley and all the other staff in Navan and Dundalk. He also thanked Meath County Council and Trim Town Council for their support. FAS Regional Director, Jim Wadden, said that the Meath Heritage Centre through its partnership with FAS has been a major contributor to a large number of people achieving their employment goals or taking positive steps up the job ladder. He thanked the management committee for all their work and said a key person in this process is Noel French who has been at the heart of all that has happened at the centre for almost twenty years and also his assistant supervisor Maura Maguire. He said that the awards recognised the hard work which the trainees had put in to achieving their goals. Mr Wadden said that the Centre had a high placement rate with 70% of trainees advancing to jobs or further training.

FETAC certificates in relation to computer and clerical skills, manual handling, first aid certificates and ECDL certificates were presented. The following were presented with certificates: Breda Burns, Alban Crosbie, Noirin Dunne, Marie Fowler, Cathal Gantley, Caroline Hogan, Josephine Kerrigan, Jackie Quinn and Michelle Regan.



Included in the photograph are Minister Brendan Smith, Jim Wadden, FAS Regional Director, Councillor Jimmy Fagan, Councillor Gerry Reilly, Jim Culligan, Mary Kenny, Maura Maguire, Noel French and trainees who received their certificates.

BOSTON FGS 2006

Each year the Federation of Genealogical Societies holds a conference for the nation's genealogists. This year the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston (9 August 30-September, 2, 2006) meet for the largest genealogical conference ever held. Speakers from the United States, Canada, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England will be providing educational opportunities for genealogists at all levels – from beginner to professional. With 350 information-packed sessions spread over the course of four days, you are sure to find the perfect techniques and practices for your research. Hundreds of exhibition booths will cram into two exhibit halls to demonstrate the latest product and services. A special feature of Boston 2006 will be the 'Irish Village' located in the main exhibition hall. This year the IFHF have agreed to attend to represent all IFHF Family History Centres and we have a large exhibition area (6 booths) for displaying our service and promoting Irish Genealogy.

Throughout the four day conference our IGHF delegates Mary Sullivan, Gerard Delaney, Michael Egan and Feargal O'Donnell will deliver a series of talks on various aspects of Irish Genealogy and on sources for some Irish counties. The delegates will be on hand to promote and answer queries on all aspects of Irish genealogy. Some IGHF laptop databases will be brought to the conference for on the spot research and it is hoped our new Pay Per View System will be up and running and possibly have an American Launch at the conference. To date the following talks have been agreed with the FGS:

"How to Trace your Irish Ancestors Using IFHF Databases" - Feargal O'Donnell

"Emigration: Mayo to Massachusetts in the 19th Century" – Gerard Delaney

"Genealogical Sources: County Mayo" – Gerard Delaney

"Genealogical Sources: County Cavan" – Mary Sullivan

"Genealogical Sources: County Dublin" - Michael Egan

"Genealogical Sources: County Armagh" – Feargal O'Donnell

"Genealogical Sources: County Clare" – Gerard Delaney

"Genealogical Sources: County Offaly" – Michael Egan

"Genealogical Sources: County Galway" – Gerard Delaney

"Genealogical Sources: County Wexford" – Mary Sullivan

In addition to these talks Brian Mitchell will be delivering a talk on "Genealogical Sources: County Derry" and William Roulston on "Genealogical sources: County Down". We are still discussing further county based talks with the FGS.

Boston 2006 promises to be a huge opportunity for the IFHF Centres to promote their service. Any queries or recommendations can be forwarded to Feargal O'Donnell at sagp@armagh.gov.uk

TAGOAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

My Tony Killeen, T.C., Minister for Labour Affairs paid a visit to the Yola Farmstead, Tagoat, Co. Wexford on 23rd February, 2006.

During the course of his visit he was brought on a tour of the Genealogy Centre by Mr. Pat Stafford, Secretary of the Irish Family History Foundation. He was fully briefed on the great work that is being done by the I.F.H.F., in relation to Genealogy in Ireland and the work and commitment of the participants on the FAS "Community Response" scheme in creating a National Archive, which is of historic value, and is of importance to the National Economy through its tourism trails.

The Minister expressed how impressed he was with the commitment and dedication of all involved in the Genealogy project.

**Tagoat Community Council, Yola Farmstead,
Tagoat, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 9132608/10/11.
Fax: 053 9132612. Email: wexgen@iol.ie**



Back Row L-R: Cllr. Bernard Crosbie, Minister Killeen, Sen. Alderman & Cllr. Padge Reck, Mr. Patrick Stafford, Secretary I.F.H.F., Mr. John Rice, Project Manager.
Front Row L-R. Ms. Jane O'Brien, Secretary Tagoat Community Council, Ms. Derval Monahan, Minister's Private Secretary and Ms. Kathleen Cullen, Office Manager

MALLOW HERITAGE CENTRE

A Success Story.

Over 500 Trainees placed in employment

Over the past twenty years, in conjunction with FAS, Mallow Heritage Centre has established a database for the family records available in all forty-six parishes of the Diocese of Cloyne. The Parish has been generous in its support of the Centre i.e. in providing accommodation, lighting and heating for both the Indexation Project and the Heritage Centre. The Indexation Project is the foundation stone of the entire work and service provided by Mallow Heritage Centre to both the public at home and abroad. All data used in the Heritage Centre is indexed and computerized by the Trainees of the Indexation Project. The Centre in partnership with the Sponsor and FAS today provides a solid training scheme for Trainees while also enhancing the social and tourist attraction and potential of this area.

The result is a heritage database to the best professional standard and the placement of over five hundred of FAS Trainees in permanent employment.

From humble beginnings the FAS course offered to trainees today under the expert tuition of Mary Mullane, Co-ordinator of the project is truly a professional one. As an Accounting Technician herself, Mary is very aware of the need in modern office placement for expertise in multi-tasking. The course covers SAGE computerised accounting programme on site. On completion trainees are issued with a SAHE

50 Certificate. (The cost of the course on a commercial basis would be in the region of £500). E.C.D.L course on site, with trainees coming from a very wide hinterland covering a radius of ten to forty miles from Mallow such is the status of the course. The Centre has built up a very good reputation with Businesses and Centres for Further Education in Mallow in terms of providing Work Experience and Employment for the Trainees.

Family foot searches are ongoing since the Indexation Project commenced. Martina Aherne has been researching family trees since 1985, long before the introduction of the computer system to the office. She has vast experience of family research and a great knowledge of local lore and history.

Mallow Heritage Centre holds the records of the forty-six parishes of the Diocese of Cloyne. It is the second largest data-base in the Republic with over three million records i.e. Baptism, Marriage, 1901 and 1911 Census of Ireland, Tithes Applotment, Griffiths Valuation and Graveyard Inscription records. It is the only data-base of its kind in County Cork and as such has a profound tourism impact on the town of Mallow and its hinterland. While the Heritage Centre is not self-sufficient, the Parish has from the beginning been committed to the development of the research facility – acknowledging the huge social and tourist aspect to the entire project i.e. people with Irish ancestry coming back to Ireland to trace their family roots. It is a personal service and every client's query is very personal to them and their families.

The excellent reputation for service given at Mallow Heritage Centre has been built up over many years and is second to none. This is attributed to the personal involvement and commitment of Monsignor Denis O'Callaghan, P.P, Mallow and of Paddy Carleton, Manager of Community Services, FAS.

Mallow Heritage Centre has many satisfied clients like the following:

'The Mallow Heritage Centre did outstanding research on my family. Its representative, Martina Aherne, was very co-operative and she was a pleasure to deal with. The information she generated encouraged me to take my five children and their spouses, and my brother and sister and their families to Ireland.....Joseph M. Walsh, Milford, New Jersey. Thank you for your outstanding report on my ancestor, Mary Ellen Walsh. It is truly amazing that you found her siblings scattered among the various parishes over a wide span of years. I could not believe my eyes when I read your report. Kathleen Dublin, Florida. In 1990 my wife and I visited Mallow Heritage Centre and it was through their information and wonderful help that we found the property at Ballyvinitier that my great grandfather was born on. Ian Cummins, N.S.W. Australia'

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CENTRES THROUGHOUT IRELAND

AREA	CENTRE	ADDRESS	CONTACT
Antrim/Down	Ulster Historical Foundation	Balmoral Building 12 College Square E, Belfast BT1 6DD, Northern Ireland	Tel: +44 (0) 28 9033 2288 Fax: +44 (0) 28 9023 9885 e-mail: enquiry@uhf.org.uk www.ancestryireland.co.uk
Armagh	Armagh Ancestry	38A English St., Armagh, BT61 7BA Northern Ireland	Tel: +44 28 3752 1802 Fax: +44 28 3751 0033 e-mail: ancestry@acdc.btinternet.com www.armagh.gov.uk
Cavan	Co. Cavan Genealogical Research Centre	Cana House, Farnham St., Cavan	Tel: 353 (0) 49 4361094 Fax: 353 (0) 49 4331494 e-mail: canahous@iol.ie www.irish-roots.net
Clare	Clare Heritage Centre	Corofin, Co. Clare	Tel (065) 6837955 Fax (065) 6837540 e-mail: clareheritage@eircom.net www.clareroots.com
Cork City	Cork City Ancestral Project	C/o Cork County Library, Farranlea Rd., Cork	Tel: 353 (0) 21 4346435 e-mail: corkancestry@ireland.com www.irish-roots.net
Cork North	Mallow Heritage Centre	27-28 Bank Place, Mallow, Co. Cork	Tel: 353 (0) 22 50302 Fax: 353 (0) 22 20276 e-mail: mallowhc@eircom.net www.irish-roots.net
Derry	The Genealogy Centre	Heritage Library, 14 Bishop St., Derry BT48 6PW	Tel: +44 28 71269792 Fax: +44 28 71360921 e-mail: niancestors@btclick.com www.irish-roots.net
Donegal	Donegal Ancestry	The Quay, Ramelton, Co. Donegal	Tel: 353 (0) 74 9151266 Fax: 353 (0) 74 9151702 e-mail: donances@indigo.ie http://indigo.ie/~donances
Dublin North	Swords Heritage Centre	Carnegie Library, North St., Swords, Co. Dublin	Tel: 353 (1) 8400080 Fax: 353 (1) 8400080 e-mail: swordsheritage@eircom.net www.irish-roots.net
Dublin South	Dun Laoghaire Heritage Society	Moran Park House, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin	Tel: 353 (0) 1 2047264 e-mail: heritage@dlrcco.ie www.irish-roots.net
Fermanagh/Tyrone	Irish World Family History Services	Family History Suite, 51 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, BT171 4HP, Co. Tyrone	Tel: +44 (0) 28 8774 6065 e-mail: info@irish-world.com website: www.irish-world.com Tel: 353 (0) 90 9749309
Galway East	East Galway Family History Society	Woodford Heritage Centre, Woodford, Loughrea, Co. Galway	Fax: 353 (0) 90 9749546 e-mail: galwayroots@eircom.net www.galwayroots.com
Galway West	Galway Family History Society West Ltd.	Liosbaun Estate, Tuam Rd., Galway	Tel/Fax: 353 (0) 91 860464 e-mail: galwayfshwest@eircom.net www.irish-roots.net
Kildare	History & Family Research Centre	Riverbank, Main St., Newbridge, Co. Kildare	Tel: 353 (0) 45 433602 Fax: 353 (0) 45 449721 e-mail: kildaregenealogy@iol.ie www.kildare.ie/genealogy www.irish-roots.net
Kilkenny	Kilkenny Archaeological Soc	Rothe House, Parliament St., Kilkenny	Tel: 353 (0) 56 7722893 Fax: 353 (0) 56 7751108 e-mail: rothehouse@eircom.net website: www.kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie
Laois/Offaly	Irish Midlands Ancestry	Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	Tel: 353 (0) 506 21421 Fax: 353 (0) 506 21421 e-mail: ohas@iol.ie www.irishmidlandsancestry.com
Leitrim	Leitrim Genealogy Centre	Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim	Tel: 353 (0) 71 9644012 Fax: 353 (0) 71 9644425 e-mail: leitrimgenealogy@eircom.net www.irish-roots.net
Longford	Longford Genealogy	1 Church Street, Longford.	Tel: 353 (0) 43 41235 Fax: 353 (0) 4341279 e-mail: longroot@iol.ie www.irish-roots.net
Louth	Louth Co. Library	Roden Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Tel: 353 (0) 42 9335457 Fax: 353 (0) 42 9337635 e-mail: referencelibrary@louthcco.ie website: www.louthcco.ie
Mayo North	Family History Research Centre	Enniscoe, Castlehill, Ballina, Co. Mayo	Tel: 353 (0) 96 31809 Fax: 353 (0) 96 31885 e-mail: normayo@iol.ie www.mayo.irish-roots.net
Mayo South	South Mayo Family Research	Main St., Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo	Tel/Fax: 353 (0) 94 9541214 Contact: Gerard Delaney e-mail: soumayo@iol.ie www.mayo-irish-roots.net
Meath	Meath Heritage & Genealogy Centre	Town Hall, Castle St., Trim, Co. Meath	Tel: 353 (0) 46 9436633 Fax: 353 (0) 46 9437502 e-mail: meathhc@iol.ie www.iol.ie/~meathhc
Roscommon	Heritage & Genealogical Centre	Church St., Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.	Tel.: 353 (0) 71 9633980 Fax: 353 (0) 71 9633998 e-mail: info@roscommonroots.com www.roscommonroots.com
Sligo	Co. Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society	Aras Reddan, Temple St., Sligo	Tel.: 353 (0) 71 9143728 Fax: 353 (0) 71 9135416 e-mail: heritagesligo@tinet.ie www.sligoroots.com
Tipperary North	Family Research Centre	The Governor's House, Kickham St., Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	Tel.: 353 (0) 67 33850 e-mail: tipperarynorthgenealogy@eircom.net www.irish-roots.net
Tipperary South	Brú Ború Heritage Centre	Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary	Tel: 353 (0) 62 61122 Fax: 353 (0) 62 62700 e-mail: bruboru@comhaltas.com www.comhaltas.com
Waterford	Waterford Heritage Services	St. Patrick's Church, Jenkin's Lane, Waterford	Tel 353 (0) 51 876123 Fax 353 (0) 51 850645 e-mail: mnoc@iol.ie www.waterford-heritage.ie
Westmeath	Dún na Sí Heritage Centre	Knockdomney, Moate, Co. Westmeath	Tel: 00 353 (0) 90 6481183 Fax: 00 353 (0) 90 6481661 e-mail: dunnasimoate@eircom.net www.irish-roots.net
Wexford	Co. Wexford Heritage & Genealogy Society	Yola Farmstead, Tagoat, Rosslare, Co. Wexford	Tel: 353 (0) 53 32611 Fax 353 (0) 53 32612 e-mail wexgen@eircom.net www.irish-roots.net
Wicklow	Wicklow Family History Centre	Wicklow Historic Gaol, Kilmartin Hill, Wicklow	Tel.353 (0) 404 20126 Fax. 353 (0) 404 61612 e-mail: wfh@eircom.net www.wicklow.ie

SEMINAR A GREAT SUCCESS

The second annual Seminar of the Irish Family History Foundation on December 5th and 6th 2005, proved to be a great coming together of personnel from the various member centres throughout the whole country. The Seminar took place at the North Star Hotel, Amiens Street, Dublin. The day began on an upbeat note with an encouraging speech from Chairman, Senator Labhras O Murchu. He lauded the centres, many run by voluntary committees, on the excellent work they are doing in promoting roots tourism and creating the national treasure which is our data base of genealogical sources.

Karel Kiely, Manager of the Kildare Centre, gave a demonstration of the new web site, while much to my surprise I was called upon to 'launch' the first in our new series of newsletters. Then another launch, that of The Irish Family History Foundation Professional Genealogists Association which was organised by Ger Delaney of the South Mayo Centre. Certificates of Membership were awarded to about thirty recipients, including those who were participants in our NUI Maynooth Course in Family and Community History, and those with higher qualifications; all with many years of hands-on experience in all aspects of genealogical research and local history. Certificates were presented by Chairman, Labhras O'Murchu.

After lunch an interesting and informative talk on *Griffith's Valuation* was given by Mr. William Smyth who has done extensive studies of the subject. Following a Question & Answer session, the serious part of the day finished. Those who stayed overnight took the opportunity to do some Christmas Shopping and were back in time for Dinner. The craic was good at our table when centres, Galway, Wexford, Tipperary and Fingal, exchanged stories about some people's ideas of tracing their roots. Sorry the Fingallians could not stay for the novelty quiz presented by Mary Sullivan and Fergal O'Donnell, but we heard all enjoyed the night.

Next morning we got down to business again starting with an informative session on 'Pay Per View' by Dr Brian Smith. This was followed by a progress report on our Tierney Genealogy System. Mr Andy Tierney answered questions and some problems with the system were ironed out.

Next came Dr Nollaig O'Muiraille, an animated speaker whose subject 'McFirbis's Great Book of Genealogies' kept us all awake and interested. After lunch 'The Way Ahead' was chaired by Fergal O'Donnell from Armagh, when many problems, new ideas, plans for the future contributed to a lively session, thus ending the Seminar on the upbeat note on which it had begun the day before. These gatherings are well worth while, even to put a face to someone who is just a voice on the phone. Well done to our Treasurer, Caroline Ganley from the Westmeath Centre who did all the hard work in the background, assisted by Fergal O'Donnell from Armagh..

Bernadette Marks, Fingal Genealogy.



Chairman: Senator Labhras O'Murchu launching the Seminar.



IFHF Professional Researchers Association. Back: Mary Murray (Galway West), Siobhan McGuinness (Galway West), John Kearney (Laois-Offaly), Mary Sullivan (Cavan). Concepta McGovern, Brid de Barra (Mayo), Karel Kiely (Kildare), Feargal O'Donnell (Armagh). Front: Bernadette Marks (Fingal), Nora O'Meara (Tipperary North), Senator Labhras O' Murchu (Chairman), Pat Stafford (Wexford), Mary Flood (Kilkenny), Caroline Ganley (Westmeath).



Karel Kiely, Kildare Centre, Introducing the new website at the Seminar.

MAYO NORTH FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Tourists to the West of Ireland who wish you take an approach more historical than poetic should consider paying a visit to the Mayo North Family Heritage Centre. The foundation specialises in the production of individually researched Family History reports and is a magnet for people who wish to learn more about their heritage, drawing visitors from around the world. Our Researcher, Bridie, is on-hand to trace family roots throughout North Mayo.

The centre is based in the grounds of Enniscoe House, an 18th century house that overlooks Lough Conn, County Mayo. The Centre compliments the undulating western landscape and is surrounded by a variety of views, peaceful woodlands and small buildings that contrast with the rugged open fields. It is the ideal place to absorb and appreciate the unspoiled landscape of the west of Ireland countryside.

For those who wish to relax and enjoy the landscape without perhaps getting their feet wet in the inevitable but occasional showers of rain, the tearooms are now open for the summer; serving hot beverages, fresh buns and home-made rhubarb tart that add to the warm glow that surrounds visitors to this area.

At the rear of the Centre there is a Victorian walled garden, an organic walled garden that dates back to the early 18th century and 19th century pleasure grounds that extend to the shores of Lough Conn. However, the present focus of the gardens is on the Victorian period with plants of that era and on the many fine architectural features that have been restored under the Great Gardens of Ireland Restoration Programme. A museum displaying an impressive array of local farm and household artefacts has also been incorporated into the main building. Visitors should also look out for the forge dedicated to developing traditional skills in blacksmithing and a shop selling antique as well as contemporary collectables.

The Genealogy Centre is open all year round – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. **Museum, Coffee Shop, Gardens & Shop** are open: April to September, Monday to Friday 9.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs; Weekends 14.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs.
Tel: (096)31809.
Fax: (096) 31885.
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THE LATE DR. CHRIS O'MAHONEY

It was with deep sorrow and regret that the members of the Irish Family History Foundation learned of the death, on May 20th 2006, of their friend and colleague Dr Chris O'Mahoney. Dr. O'Mahoney was the first chairman of the Irish Family History Society. He was a director of the Irish Family History Foundation Ltd and its treasurer until his retirement a few years ago. He also represented the IFHF as a director on the board of Irish Genealogy Ltd. Chris gave freely of his time while with the IFHF, particularly at each AGM when he presented the accounts with aplomb. He was responsible for organising and running the genealogical studies course in conjunction with the Department of History at NUI Maynooth. Many of the staff in the IFHF genealogical centres successfully completed the course.

Formerly from Youghal, Co. Cork, Chris had lived in Limerick for many years.

Sincere condolences are extended to his wife Valerie, brothers Fr Brendan, OFM Cap, Paudie, and Tom, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

His funeral took place in Limerick.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

GOOD NEWS FROM LIMERICK

Irish Family History Foundation is delighted to announce the good news that the Limerick Research Centre will re-open shortly. The people of Limerick county and the people all over the world whose ancestors originated in Limerick will be thrilled to hear that the genealogical centre for Limerick will be available in the near future.

The Fingal Centre members are once again delighted to have been able to assist the Irish Family History Foundation with the production of their newsletter; the second in the Clann series. We are grateful to those of you who have taken the time to write articles and forward photographs. If you have missed out this time, please keep in mind that we hope to produce 'Clann 3' before the end of the year. We are kept busy, like other centres, tracing roots and inputting data.

If any centre can help us with instances of the name QUARTERMASS we would be delighted to hear from you. We have done a search and found a few in our area, but being an unusual name, the family could be connected to others of the same name throughout the country.

Bernadette Marks, Fingal Genealogy.
Email: swordsheritage@eircom.net