



# CLANN

December 2005

Newsletter of the Irish Family History Foundation



## A Message from the Chairman Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú

It is my privilege to welcome the publication of the new IFHF newsletter. This provides in some small measure an introduction to the vision and achievements of the IFHF and its constituent member genealogy centres on the whole island of Ireland.

The centres, which have made huge progress with limited resources, are a fine example of personal commitment and community endeavour. Each centre is at the heart of the community which it seeks to reflect and to service.

I salute all those who have worked so hard to provide a virtual national treasure - a countrywide genealogy data base and back-up service. In addition to the immediate activists, I also include the Churches, FÁS, Local Authorities and others.

Traoslaím uilig agus go raibh Rath Dé ar an obair.

## CAVAN RILEY RALLY...

Mary Sullivan of the Cavan Centre reports on an illustrious Riley who visited the area recently; Mr Victor Riley, who was guest of honour at a civic reception at Cavan Courthouse to honour the Ulster Riley Club. It included ninety members of the club not only from Ulster but from England, Scotland and Wales. Mr Victor Reilly is the only son of the last Managing Director of the Riley Motor Company and the grandson of William Riley who founded the company in 1896. William was the great great grandson of another William who emigrated from County Cavan around the mid 1770s and settled in Coventry. Subsequent generations of Rileys in Coventry were successful in their own weaving business, and then William diversified in the late nineteenth century into the growing bicycle industry and thence into the infant motor industry. Rileys were one of the first British car manufacturers that produced many innovative designs. The Club decided to spend the weekend in County Cavan, following Victor Riley's visit to Co. Cavan Genealogy Research Centre. Mary points out that although the centre was unable to trace his family history, Victor and his wife and the Riley Club have become friends of the centre and their weekend visit was a great boost for the county and their forty two vintage Riley cars were a great attraction.

Co. Cavan Genealogical Research Centre, Cana House, Farnham St., Cavan is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. Saturdays – by appointment only

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PHOTO: Back – left to Right: Rodney Shortell, Chairman Ulster Riley Club, Seamus Neely, director of Services Cavan County Council, Victor Riley, Guest of Honour, Kevin Reilly, Senior Executive Officer, Cavan County Council, Peter McVitty, Cavan County Councillor, Dr Francis Mac Kiernan, Bishop of Kilmore (retired). Front: L to R: Margaret Mortimer, Cavan Genealogy, Anne O'Reilly, Cavan Genealogy, Robin Cameron President Ulster Riley Club, Winston Bennett, Cavan County Councillor, Eddie Fee, Chairman Cavan county Council, Patrick Conaty, Lord Mayor, Maura Maguire Lynch, Cavan County Councillor, Concepta McGovern, & Mary Sullivan Cavan Genealogy.

## A WORD FROM FINGAL

We are grateful to those who have taken the time to contribute to our newly revamped IFHF Newsletter. When our Secretary, Pat Stafford, decided in his inimitable way that I was going to 'volunteer' to do the newsletter, I wondered if people would contribute. But they did, so here we are, and I hope you are pleased. To those of you who don't know, Fingal is the old name for North Co. Dublin meaning 'area of the stranger'. This name is still appropriate as people are still settling here from all over the world. The name has a new identity having been chosen by the County Council for this area, when Dublin was divided into four about ten years ago.

Our centre has been in existence since 1988 and began as part of Swords Historical Society which was founded in 1982. We have experienced the vicissitudes of running what purports to be a business, but with volunteers. We are still here today, tracing roots among many other facets of what is loosely termed 'heritage'. Because of the present climate, we must continue inputting data with volunteers, as there are plenty of openings now, not like the late 80s and early 90s when the enthusiastic young people we had on FAS Projects could not get employment locally. Our annual journal, the 12th edition about to be published, is the result of our oral history project, while last year we published an unusual history of our local R.C. Church. While most of the research was done by me I had excellent back-up from our members. As one whose family goes back at least five generations in the Swords/Fingal area I was prompted to research the families who had donated the Stations of the Cross in the Church. Dating back to about 1888 the donors turned out to be very interesting people, who had fought in wars in Egypt, won the Victoria Cross, was 'Parnell's Righthand man and designed the Pro Cathedral in Dublin. The project turned out to be much bigger than we thought it would be, but at least we have the family trees of twelve local families (two stations had no names). Someone once said to me, 'research is like a black hole', there is always something to be found out. Swords is about ten minutes drive north of Dublin Airport; the gateway to Fingal and well worth a visit. It was founded in 560 AD by St. Colmille who 'blessed the well of clear water' thus giving the town its name; 'Sord' meaning clear or pure. Our centre is in the old Carnegie Library, North Street, Swords, which belongs to Fingal Co. Council. We hold RC parish records from Balbriggan to Dublin inner city, Church of Ireland records for the northern end of our area, and various local records. We also work with developers re naming new estates, thus ensuring that the old is incorporated within the new. We are open 1 p.m. to 4.30p .m. weekdays, or at other times by appointment. All centres have their own tales to tell about clients and how their roots were found. The most exciting ones we have had recently include an elderly gentleman from Leeds in England, who turned out to be my grandmother's cousin, a man from Australia whose ggrandfather was doctor in the local Boro School – a long story indeed, and this year one of our researchers discovered that her great uncle is mentioned in none other than Ulysses by James Joyce! While we don't all have exciting backgrounds, there is great satisfaction in finding a connection with the past which is still relevant today.



*Mr. Russel Molesworth from Victoria, Australia visiting the Fingal Centre, September 2005. The family has connections in many parts of Ireland and England, including Brackenstown, Swords, Belvedere, Westmeath. A Molesworth lady was responsible for the Jealous Wall there. The Centre is doing some further research into his Dublin connections.*

Phone 8400080. email: swordsheritage@eircom.net.  
BERNADETTE MARKS, FINGAL GENEALOGY

## NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

Boston, Massachusetts claims to be the birthplace of American Genealogy. The oldest Genealogical Society in America – The New England Historic Genealogical Society will host the 2006 Federation of Genealogical Societies' annual conference.

They hope to bring together some of the finest genealogical presenters from the United States and also England, Scotland, Ireland and Canada for a four-day conference.

Keeping in mind the excellent service provided by our centres, the Irish Family History Foundation hope to be represented there. Those who have volunteered to go are Fergal O'Donnell, Armagh, Mary Sullivan, Cavan, Gerard Delaney, South Mayo. And Michael Egan, Dublin

They will, no doubt, be interested in taking publicity material from other centres, so for further information please get in touch with Fergal O'Donnell at Armagh. email: feargal.o'donnell@armagh.gov.uk

## IRISH FAMILY HISTORY FOUNDATION SEMINAR

In early December 2004, members of centres from around the country converged on the North Star Hotel, Amien St., Dublin for a two-day Seminar. All agreed that it was a worth while venture as it allowed people to get to know each other, air their grievances and even give vent to their anger! The Seminar was opened by our Cathaoirleach, Senator Labhras O'Murchu and the speakers covered a wide range of subjects from problems with FAS, to problems with Clients. Pricing was covered and samples of negative and positive replies to clients were presented. Because it is good to meet people from other centres and talk with them about their various experiences in the genealogy business, the Board has decided to make it an annual affair. We hope to see you all on 5th/6th December 2005 at the same venue and we hear the craic in the evening is going to be great!

## THE KILKENNY GENEALOGICAL CENTRE

**THE KILKENNY GENEALOGICAL CENTRE** is situated at Rothe House, Parliament Street, Kilkenny. There Mary Flood is available to trace your roots if your ancestors are from the Kilkenny area. The ancient house, which is owned by Kilkenny Archaeological Society, was once the home of the Rothe family who were of Norman origin but came to Ireland from Wales, and spread into many branches throughout Kilkenny and Wexford. John Rothe Fitz-Piers was from a minor branch, built Rothe House and was one of the merchant classes who played prominent roles in the affairs of Kilkenny, e.g. he was one of the first Aldermen when the city received its charter in 1609. David Rothe was a cousin of this family, bishop of Ossory who led the Confederate Bishops at the time of the Confederation of Kilkenny. Tradition points to this house as one where the Assembly met and took recreation in its orchards and gardens. Unfortunately the incumbent of the property Peter Rothe was dispossessed. General Michael Rothe, a relative led his own regiment in the service of France and it is believed that Lucy Rothe another cousin was a lady in waiting to Marie Antoinette.



The house is worth a visit, with the added bonus of finding your own Kilkenny roots. The Centre is open 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. April to October. Limited opening during winter months. Phone 056 7722893 email: rothehouse@eircom.net. www. kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie

## MEATH HERITAGE CENTRE

In November 1987 a new entity was born in Trim – the Meath Heritage Centre, a family history resource centre for the county. Inspired by Fr Sean McGearty, a Ballivor born priest serving in Australia but temporarily based in Tullamore, a local action group set out to establish such a centre. Trim Forum for Employment was formed as a result of concern within the Trim community in relation to the large number of people unemployed. The initial meeting in the Wellington Court Hotel on Monday 10th February 1986, attracted more than seventy people.

The Forum has pursued research into a number of employment and community projects. In November 1987 the Forum established the Meath Heritage Centre with the assistance of the National Manpower Service, which later became part of FAS. I became involved as a result of my all-consuming interest in history, having at that stage published local histories of Navan and Athboy. While waiting for the project to commence I spent my hours visiting the graveyards of country Meath recording gravestone inscriptions – they are not the dead places they appear to be. I also received the help and support of the Offaly family history centre in Tullamore. We opened our doors having begged, and borrowed the necessary furniture and office equipment. We had twelve trainees – thirteen females and one male – the male participant later married one of the female participants – the Meath Heritage Centre where love stories begin! Since then we have given more than two hundred people a second start in life. Young people having a difficulty breaking into employment and mature women returning to the work force are the two main categories of people who get a chance in the Heritage Centre. With their improved computer and clerical skills together with job seeking skills they are worthy additions to the workforce of many companies.

We commenced recording and indexing the parish registers of Trim. We came across many interesting entries – the Navan Monk was one such entry relating to a Trim

man who established his own order of monks in Navan – it made the front page of the Daily Mail in 1908. We set out to index all the parish registers, census and land records for the county. With the support of Monsignor Kenny and Bishop Smith our access to the Catholic parish registers was eased. The Church of Ireland clergy and bishop were also very supportive. With the arrival of two P.C.s our indexation work became that much easier. In 1989 we moved to offices at High Street, courtesy of Michael Regan. This was to be our home for three years.

In December 1990 we got our first major Government support when we took delivery of Digital computers. Also in that year Trim was designated a Heritage town and the County Council with the assistance of E.U. funding set about renovating the houses at Mill Street. In April 1991 the Minister for Labour, Mr. Bertie Ahern, launched our booklet on the history of Nobber. To date we have produced booklets on the Church of Ireland in County Meath, Trim Gaol, and A Tourist Trail for Trim and Parnell's local connections. Our booklet on Wellington was launched by President Mary Robinson in the Diocesan hall – a major event in Trim in 1992. Monsignor Kenny presented the President with an engraving of the pig-fair at the Wellington Monument. I was privileged to give the President a tour of Trim.

In 1993 on a very busy day for him, Minister Noel Dempsey opened our new offices at Mill Street. Because these offices were needed by the Council we have since moved to the old Town Hall on Castle Street. Supervisors have come and gone – today I am lucky to have Maura Maguire who is a whiz at teaching the trainees computers and Carmel Rice who corresponds with all our enquiries from the four corners of the globe. We continue our work with the help of FAS – there are still people who need a little or a lot of help in improving their employment prospects and I am still as interested in history as I was in 1987.

*NOEL E. FRENCH*

## OFFALY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND IRISH MIDLANDS ANCESTRY

Irish Midlands Ancestry under the aegis of Offaly historical and Archaeological Society has been providing a family history research service for the past twenty-two years at its Research Centre in Tullamore for Counties Laois and Offaly. In comparison to other regions these two counties do not rank among those with high emigration figures, particularly during the famine years. However, a steady stream of enquiries arrives by post, email, telephone and personal callers. Over seven hundred enquiries were received in 2004 and over eighty per cent of these could successfully be dealt with. The Research Centre continues to gather family history records and local history material. At the present we are well into the computerisation of the civil records for Laois and Offaly which were microfilmed by members of staff. An Access database of local events in newspapers is currently in progress with some 20,000 records inputted to date.

Like anywhere else in the country, Laois and Offaly have their fair share of well-known celebrities who are descended from midland emigrant. In recent times we have been requested to compile family history reports for the family of Pat Rafter, the well-known Australian tennis player. Television sports enthusiasts will be familiar with the BBC's Desmond Lynam who has connections with Borris in Ossory and Aidan Quinn with Birr roots who played Harry Boland in the film 'Michael Collins'.

A person employed directly by the Society assisted by people working on our FAS Community Employment Scheme carries out the family history research. We are fortunate to have the support of FAS for this work. We are also lucky to have such a talented group of workers, numbering fifteen this year.

Our reference library currently houses over 6,000 volumes, which are catalogued on computer. Members and researchers including university students, use the library constantly. The Society has currently one hundred and fifty members who are informed of Society news and events by regular monthly newsletters and emails. We also use the local press, radio and church bulletins to keep the public informed of activities. These activities are open to members and non-members alike. The Research Centre has collected over 30,000 photos, both modern and old. Many of these are old press photographs in addition to four important local collections, the Mangan, Hanley, Fetherston Haugh and Harris collections. Local newspapers are important records of local history and consequently the Centre has a large collection in both hard copy and microfilm.

The Society enjoys very good relations with the Heritage Officers in both counties and is about to commence a joint project on details of cemetery memorials. This is a pilot project which will become nationwide, it is hoped. Local and family history is very much alive in the Midlands and interest and participation are growing steadily in all age groups. In ending, the Society wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the valuable work, which so many dedicated volunteers contribute on an ongoing basis.

Irish Midlands Ancestry, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday –  
Open all year round. Phone/FAX 0506 21421 email: ohas@iol.ie web: irishmidlandsancestry.com

### STARTING YOUNG NEWS FROM TAGOAT

The Genealogy Centre for Wexford is run from the Yola Farmstead, which is part of the very successful project run by Tagoat Community Council. The Chairperson and Trustee of Tagoat Community Centre is Patrick Stafford, who is, of course, Secretary of our Irish Family History Foundation Ltd. The far thinking Pat is making sure he will have some computer literate people for future projects, genealogy or otherwise. Computer training for children as young as five from Tagoat has been made available; thanks to €10,000 funding from AIB Bank. The classes aim to prevent children from the area being excluded from IT training by allowing pre-school and primary school children to obtain a good foundation in computers. Classes have been running since September 2004 to June 2005 with some 200 local children taking part, thus making a significant difference to their life opportunities. Pat said 'without AIB Better Ireland, the children would not be able to avail of this computer training.' Training for ECDL certification is also available for older children, thus improving their skills and employment opportunities.

Photo shows the children receiving their certificates.

Co. Wexford Heritage & Genealogy Society,  
Yola Farmstead Folk Park, Tagoat, Rosslare, Co. Wexford.  
Tel: 353 (0) 5332611 Fax (0) 5332612  
Email wexgen@iol.ie  
Web: www.genocities.com/wexgen  
Opening times: 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Monday to Friday  
Seasonal Opening All year Round  
Location Take N25 to Rosslare Harbour.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS

*IRISH WORLD, 51 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland. BT71 4HP.*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS

– In addition to complementing other sources of genealogical data, gravestone inscriptions constitute a valuable resource in their own right. Just as much as birth, marriage or death records, they are an important link with our ancestors. They often provide additional or incidental information – for instance on family relationships, occupation or place of residence – that may not be accessible via the more obvious channels of church or state records. Indeed, in those cases where no other written documentation is available, a gravestone inscription may be the only tangible link to a forebear.



**The local context** - Every graveyard is a repository of local history, commemorating the names and achievements of a community. One need only visit Thomas Grey's wonderful poem 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' for verification of this. But a thoughtful walk through any graveyard will surely impress upon the observer the riches that attend such often neglected places. These riches are of immense value to social historians and folklorists, as well as to genealogist, students and teachers. It is in the context of genealogical research that the material in Irish Gravestone Inscriptions is offered.

**A permanent record** - Gravestones are durable but of course some are more durable than others, and centuries of weathering, erosion, vandalism and well-intentioned removal take their toll. Inscriptions become fainter with time, as the stone deteriorates, there may well be no legible records left to posterity. By collating the information available on gravestones and transferring to computer, Irish Gravestone Inscriptions has ensured that valuable data is retained for the use of present and future generations who might wish to discover the path to their Irish roots

**Marketing gravestone information** – Up to now, gravestone inscriptions data have been used by a number of family-history centres in Ireland for their own research purposes. But in response to requests from clients worldwide, and to show the wide extent of material available, Irish World's index comprises in excess of one million gravestone entries from across Ireland and will be added to as time goes by. It comprises information from hundreds of graveyards, large and small, of all denominations and encompassing several centuries of burials.

Willie O'Kane of Irish World has given this interesting insight into the importance of gravestone inscriptions as an aid to genealogy. He would encourage centres to become involved in this important project. You may contact Willie at Tel/Fax 0044-028-87746065 - Email: [info@irish-world.com](mailto:info@irish-world.com) - Web-site: [www.irish-world.com](http://www.irish-world.com) Centre open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed for lunch 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Centre is on outskirts of Coalisland – 4 miles from Dungannon.

## ACCURACY AUDIT:

Since the Irish Family History Foundation began in 1989 in Tullamore, groups all around the country have been successfully inputting data from parish registers, and all other sources, in order to create a comprehensive data base to help those tracing their roots. In order that a reasonable amount of accuracy might be assured, parish registers of all denominations were audited in recent years. The average error rate of the centres audited was lower than expected at 1.87%. This confirms the centres' commitment to the indexing project. The standard of project management maintained, and the high standard of data input gives credence to the dedication of the local committees who sponsor the projects. The input from various centres to this newsletter, illustrates that centres are not just tracing roots, but bringing welcome tourists to their area.

## NAMING THE NEWSLETTER

The Board decided that because we were having a new type Newsletter, we should have a new name. Suggestions were invited from centre members, and various ideas were bandied about at Board meetings. Because something smart and simple and with an Irish flavour was deemed to be best, the name suggested by Mary Sullivan of Cavan was agreed upon. So the new name is simply 'Clann' meaning in Irish, 'family'. Congratulations to Mary on her apt suggestion.

# CONTACT DETAILS FOR CENTRES THROUGHOUT IRELAND

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Armagh	Armagh Ancestry	38A English St., Armagh, BT61 7BA Northern Ireland	Tel: +44 28 3752 1802 Fax: +44 28 3751 0033 e-mail: <a href="mailto:ancestry@acdc.btinternet.com">ancestry@acdc.btinternet.com</a> <a href="http://www.armagh.gov.uk">www.armagh.gov.uk</a>
Cavan	Co. Cavan Genealogical Research Centre	Cana House, Farnham St., Cavan	Tel: 353 (0) 49 4361094 Fax: 353 (0) 49 4331494 e-mail: <a href="mailto:canahous@iol.ie">canahous@iol.ie</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Clare	Clare Heritage Centre	Corofin, Co. Clare	Tel (065) 6837955 Fax (065) 6837540 e-mail: <a href="mailto:clareheritage@eircom.net">clareheritage@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.clareroots.com">www.clareroots.com</a>
Cork City	Cork City Ancestral Project	C/o Cork County Library, Farranlea Rd., Cork	Tel: 353 (0) 21 4346435 e-mail: <a href="mailto:corkancestry@ireland.com">corkancestry@ireland.com</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Cork North	Mallow Heritage Centre	27-28 Bank Place, Mallow, Co. Cork	Tel: 353 (0) 22 50302 Fax: 353 (0) 22 20276 e-mail: <a href="mailto:mallowhc@eircom.net">mallowhc@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
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Donegal	Donegal Ancestry	The Quay, Ramelton, Co. Donegal	Tel: 353 (0) 74 9151266 Fax: 353 (0) 74 9151702 e-mail: <a href="mailto:donances@indigo.ie">donances@indigo.ie</a> <a href="http://indigo.ie/~donances">http://indigo.ie/~donances</a>
Dublin North	Swords Heritage Centre	Carnegie Library, North St., Swords, Co. Dublin	Tel: 353 (1) 8400080 Fax: 353 (1) 8400080 e-mail: <a href="mailto:swordsheritage@eircom.net">swordsheritage@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Dublin South	Dun Laoghaire Heritage Society	Moran Park House, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin	Tel: 353 (0) 1 2047264 e-mail: <a href="mailto:heritage@dlrcco.ie">heritage@dlrcco.ie</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
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: <a href="mailto:info@irish-world.com">info@irish-world.com</a> website: <a href="http://www.irish-world.com">www.irish-world.com</a> 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: <a href="mailto:galwayroots@eircom.net">galwayroots@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.galwayroots.com">www.galwayroots.com</a>
Galway West	Galway Family History Society West Ltd.	Liosbaun Estate, Tuam Rd., Galway	Tel/Fax: 353 (0) 91 860464 e-mail: <a href="mailto:galwayfshwest@eircom.net">galwayfshwest@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Kildare	History & Family Research Centre	Riverbank, Main St., Newbridge, Co. Kildare	Tel: 353 (0) 45 433602 Fax: 353 (0) 45 449721 e-mail: <a href="mailto:kildaregenealogy@iol.ie">kildaregenealogy@iol.ie</a> <a href="http://www.kildare.ie/genealogy">www.kildare.ie/genealogy</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Kilkenny	Kilkenny Archaeological Soc	Rothe House, Parliament St., Kilkenny	Tel: 353 (0) 56 7722893 Fax: 353 (0) 56 7751108 e-mail: <a href="mailto:rothehouse@eircom.net">rothehouse@eircom.net</a> website: <a href="http://www.kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie">www.kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie</a>
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Leitrim	Leitrim Genealogy Centre	Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim	Tel: 353 (0) 71 9644012 Fax: 353 (0) 71 9644425 e-mail: <a href="mailto:leitrimgenealogy@eircom.net">leitrimgenealogy@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Longford	Longford Genealogy	1 Church Street, Longford.	Tel: 353 (0) 43 41235 Fax: 353 (0) 4341279 e-mail: <a href="mailto:longroot@iol.ie">longroot@iol.ie</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Louth	Louth Co. Library	Roden Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Tel: 353 (0) 42 9335457 Fax: 353 (0) 42 9337635 e-mail: <a href="mailto:referencelibrary@louthcoco.ie">referencelibrary@louthcoco.ie</a> website: <a href="http://www.louthcoco.ie">www.louthcoco.ie</a>
Mayo North	Family History Research Centre	Enniscoo, Castlehill, Ballina, Co. Mayo	Tel: 353 (0) 96 31809 Fax: 353 (0) 96 31885 e-mail: <a href="mailto:normayo@iol.ie">normayo@iol.ie</a> <a href="http://www.mayo.irish-roots.net">www.mayo.irish-roots.net</a>
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Meath	Meath Heritage & Genealogy Centre	Town Hall, Castle St., Trim, Co. Meath	Tel: 353 (0) 46 9436633 Fax: 353 (0) 46 9437502 e-mail: <a href="mailto:meathhc@iol.ie">meathhc@iol.ie</a> <a href="http://www.iol.ie/~meathhc">www.iol.ie/~meathhc</a>
Roscommon	Heritage & Genealogical Centre	Church St., Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.	Tel.: 353 (0) 71 9633980 Fax: 353 (0) 71 9633998 e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@roscommonroots.com">info@roscommonroots.com</a> <a href="http://www.roscommonroots.com">www.roscommonroots.com</a>
Sligo	Co. Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society	Aras Reddan, Temple St., Sligo	Tel.: 353 (0) 71 9143728 Fax: 353 (0) 71 9135416 e-mail: <a href="mailto:heritagesligo@tinet.ie">heritagesligo@tinet.ie</a> <a href="http://www.sligoroots.com">www.sligoroots.com</a>
Tipperary North	Family Research Centre	The Governor's House, Kickham St., Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	Tel.: 353 (0) 67 33850 e-mail: <a href="mailto:tipperarynorthgenealogy@eircom.net">tipperarynorthgenealogy@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Tipperary South	Brú Ború Heritage Centre	Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary	Tel: 353 (0) 62 61122 Fax: 353 (0) 62 62700 e-mail: <a href="mailto:bruboru@comhaltas.com">bruboru@comhaltas.com</a> <a href="http://www.comhaltas.com">www.comhaltas.com</a>
Waterford	Waterford Heritage Services	St. Patrick's Church, Jenkin's Lane, Waterford	Tel 353 (0) 51 876123 Fax 353 (0) 51 850645 e-mail: <a href="mailto:mnoc@iol.ie">mnoc@iol.ie</a> <a href="http://www.waterford-heritage.ie">www.waterford-heritage.ie</a>
Westmeath	Dún na Sí Heritage Centre	Knockdomney, Moate, Co. Westmeath	Tel: 00 353 (0) 90 6481183 Fax: 00 353 (0) 90 6481661 e-mail: <a href="mailto:dunnasimoate@eircom.net">dunnasimoate@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Wexford	Co. Wexford Heritage & Genealogy Society	Yola Farmstead, Tagoat, Rosslare, Co. Wexford	Tel: 353 (0) 53 32611 Fax 353 (0) 53 32612 e-mail <a href="mailto:wexgen@eircom.net">wexgen@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.irish-roots.net">www.irish-roots.net</a>
Wicklow	Wicklow Family History Centre	Wicklow Historic Gaol, Kilmartin Hill, Wicklow	Tel.353 (0) 404 20126 Fax. 353 (0) 404 61612 e-mail: <a href="mailto:wfh@eircom.net">wfh@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.wicklow.ie">www.wicklow.ie</a>

## LEITRIM GENEALOGY CENTRE

**LEITRIM GENEALOGY CENTRE** which is situated at Main Street, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim is kept busy helping their many clients with tracing their ancestors in the Leitrim area.. All major sources are now available at the centre and enquiries can be dealt with by calling, writing or giving all available details via post or email. Their satisfied clients include M. Wall, U.S.A. who 'was over the moon to think that I will at long last know where in County Leitrim my Grandmother was born'. While G. Grail also from U.S.A. says 'Your records (remarkable in light of the scant information I provided) not only uncovered four additional ancestors I never know existed, but also enabled me to contact a third cousin and an entire branch of my family that I knew nothing of. I won't ramble on, but just to say that I and my family for generations to come, thank you for your efforts in establishing our Irish lineage'.

LEITRIM CENTRE: is open Monday to Friday  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed on Bank Holidays. Tel: 071-9644012  
Fax:071-9644425 Web: [www.irishroots.net/Leitrim.htm](http://www.irishroots.net/Leitrim.htm)  
E-mail: [leitrimgenealogy@eircom.net](mailto:leitrimgenealogy@eircom.net)

## NORTH TIPPERARY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE

**THE NORTH TIPPERARY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE** provides a full time, efficient genealogical research service for clients whose ancestors originated in North Tipperary. We are located in former Governor's house of an extensive gaol complex for North Tipperary and it is now the Nenagh Heritage Centre (Museum). The Museum has various exhibitions of rural life in Ireland, including a shop, school room, dairy, kitchen, forge and its unique gaol model. The Gatehouse portrays the vivid memory of the prison as it was in the 1840s. Well worth a visit and admission is free; we are open all year round. The main genealogical sources which are all computerised include, church records (all denominations) for the diocese of Killaloe, Tithe Applotment Books (land records of the 1830s) Primary Valuation Lists (land records of the 1850s), Gravestone Inscriptions (exclusive to the centre), Civil Births, Deaths and Marriages (which commenced in 1864), The 1901 Census, The 1650s Civil Survey, 1660s Hearth Money Rolls and the 1840s Poor Law Rate Books, Nenagh Guardian (local newspaper) births, deaths and marriages (1838-1864). The family history research centre has attracted numerous visitors to North Tipperary since it opened its door back in 1991. Research is conducted on a fee basis. Please visit our webpage at [www.irishroots.net/ntipp.htm](http://www.irishroots.net/ntipp.htm) to obtain an Enquiry Form. For further enquires please contact: Nora O'Meara, Genealogist, North Tipperary History Research Centre, The Governors House, Kickham St., Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Phone: 067 33850. Email: [tipperarynorthgenealogy@eircom.net](mailto:tipperarynorthgenealogy@eircom.net).  
Family History Research Centre is open  
Monday-Friday 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## NUI CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HISTORY

To standardise the level of research in the centres, the board of Irish Family History Foundation initiated a Certificate Course in Family and Community History in association with NUI Maynooth. The principal instigator and tutor was Dr Chris O'Mahoney, a founder member of the Foundation and Treasurer for many years. Plans are afoot to put another such course in train, thus ensuring efficient standard of service to the clients of our various centres throughout Ireland.

The aim of the course is to enable the participants to critically evaluate and apply a range of historical sources to create a family history and to deepen their awareness of its context by setting it in a wider community environment. Those who participated in the second course received their Certificates from Dr Raymond Gillespie of the History Dept., NUI Maynooth. The event took place at the Ashling Hotel, Parkgate St., Dublin in November 2003 and those who received their Certificates were:

Catherine McNally	Cavan Centre
Concepta McGovern	Cavan
Mary Murray	Galway
Winifred Long	Kilkenny
Brid Sullivan	Leitrim
Ellen Keane	Leitrim
Pauline Flood	Longford
Aileen Horkan	Mayo North
Bríd de Barra	Mayo South
Gerard Delaney	Mayo South
Anne Noone	Mayo South
John Kearney	Offaly
Margaret White	Offaly
Evelyn Cosgrove	Sligo
Theresa Finnegan	Sligo
Theresa Finnerty	Westmeath
Caroline Ganley	Westmeath

*Those who completed the first Course in Maynooth and were presented with the Diploma Certificates in 2000 were:*

Pat Stafford	Wexford
Mary Flood	Kilkenny
Nora O'Meara	Tipperary North
Gerard Delaney	Mayo South
Mary Moore	Carlow
Deirdre Walsh	South Tipperary
Meave O'Brien	Wexford
Jenny Condon	Wexford.

## WICKLOW FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

They call County Wicklow the Garden of Ireland, a name that is surely appropriate to the delightful and varied scenery that can be encountered in this beautiful part of the world. Indeed, the variety of landscape that is County Wicklow affords the traveller new spectacles at every stage of their journey. From the wonder of the ancient monastic settlement of Glendalough to the breathtaking beaches and colourful woodlands, Wicklow remains in the heart of everyone who samples its magical beauty. For those following the ancestral trail in Co. Wicklow the Wicklow Family History Centre is a genealogy research service established in 1987 by Wicklow County Council and FAS. Since its foundation our staff has computerized Co. Wicklow's Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland parish records as well as Church records of Methodist and Presbyterian circuits. Other records held by the Wicklow Family History Centre include land and tax records, i.e. Griffith's Valuation, the Tithe Applotment Books, as well as Ordnance Survey townland maps, parish maps, placename histories, commercial directories and tombstone inscriptions. These sources enable us to give Wicklow descendants as a complete picture as possible of where and how their ancestors lived. Indeed, we have researched and compiled family histories for enquirers from Ireland, Britain and also from such far-flung places as the USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Located in Wicklow's Historic Gaol, Wicklow Town. Visitors to the Wicklow Family History Centre can also learn more about the fascinating history of their ancestral county as told at the gaol.

Wicklow's Historic Gaol 1702-1924. The history of Ireland can be read in stone from the great country estates, to the Georgian town houses, to the thatched cottages. Each building has a story to tell about the country, the people, their lives and the times they lived in. One of the most dramatic stories of all is told by Wicklow's Historic Gaol, Wicklow Town. The Gaol makes a unique day out for any visitor anxious to delve beneath the surface to the flesh and bones of Irish history. The stories of ordinary people, struggling to survive in extraordinary circumstances, are told through a variety of media – actors/interpreters, audios, figures and graphics. Important episodes in Irish history are featured, beginning with the horrific gaol conditions before reforms were put in place. The 1798 Rebellion and the tragedy of the famine years are vividly depicted, alongside the traumatic impact of the transportation of almost 50,000 Irish people as convicts to Australia between 1791 and 1868...

"It is therefore ordered and adjudged by this Court, that you be transported upon the seas, beyond the seas, to such a place as his Majesty, by the advice of his Privy council, shall think fit to direct and point for the term of your natural life."

Indeed, more Wicklow people were transported to New South Wales as a result of 1798 Rebellion than from any other county and the Wicklow Family History Centre has helped many descendants of these transportees to discover their Wicklow roots. After the first floor of Wicklow's Historic Gaol, visitors head for the Quayside where they can climb aboard the convict ship 'Hercules' and encounter Captain Luckyn Betts, the cruel master of one of the early hell ships. The gruelling journey to Australia is retold in dramatic detail. (Wicklow's Historic Gaol is closed for the season and reopens in March).



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Family History Foundation took place at the North Star Hotel, Amiens St., Dublin on November 21st 2005. The atmosphere was decidedly upbeat. Cathaoirleach, Senator Labhras O'Murchu lauded those directors of the board who had given their time voluntarily to work on the various sub-committees which are bringing about some positive developments towards the future of our centres.

Karel Kiely of the Kildare Centre has been working on the production of our new web-site, while Gerard Delaney with his sub committee, has explored the possibility of granting official status as a professional genealogist to those centre members who are suitably qualified, i.e. those who have done the Maynooth Diploma, or higher.

Plans are afoot to complete the inputting of data from Parish Registers, so all in all, the future looks bright.

## TRACING YOUR ROOTS

The thirty I.F.H.F. Genealogy Research Centres listed in our newsletter are available to help you find your ancestors. The centres cover the whole of Ireland. To speed things up regarding your query, it is a good idea to talk to the older members of your family, and write down everything they know about their parents, grandparents and other relations. Gather old letters, photographs, documents, heirlooms; they can all tell you about your family's background.

## NEWSLETTER

We in the Fingal Centre have enjoyed producing the first of our new IFHF newsletters. It is hoped to issue them on a regular basis, so don't forget let us know what is going on in your area. Short articles and photos will be welcome.

Contact Bernadette at email: [swordsheritage@eircom.net](mailto:swordsheritage@eircom.net).  
Phone 8400080.