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Welcome everyone to our latest newsletter in which we keep you all informed of the activities of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) centres and the Roots Ireland website.

## NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS!

Since our last newsletter we have uploaded the following records to our database at [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie):

- 12,500 Armagh graveyard, baptismal and burial records;
- 15,500 census substitute records for Monaghan;
- 13,000 baptismal and marriage records from North Mayo.

This means that so far in 2024, we have uploaded just over 124,000 records from Kerry, Monaghan, Armagh, Mayo and Tipperary!

We have many more records coming for the Roots Ireland database later this year, so keep an eye out for our updates!

You can read more about the various records which have been uploaded in recent years on our blog at [www.rootsireland.ie/category/blog/](http://www.rootsireland.ie/category/blog/)

We will notify those on our mailing list when new records are uploaded and available, so make sure to register to our mailing list to keep abreast with new additions to [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)!

## EYE ON COUNTY CENTRES



*Karen Terry & William McVitty.*

### The Killian Homeplace first anniversary

RTÉ cameras were rolling in County Longford on June 21st recording the first anniversary festivities at The Killian Homeplace Family History Centre. The television programme, *Nationwide*, featured The Killian Homeplace in 2022 and returned to record a second episode to highlight the work being done by the dedicated genealogists and local historians in Fermoy, just outside of Lanesborough, County Longford. Tracing two



branches of American Karen Terry's family tree, they were able to bring her to the place of origin of her Stephenson family in the townland of Cloontumpher. Roots Ireland's records helped The Killian Homeplace Research Team to connect her with her long-lost fifth cousin, William McVitty, for the first time. School principal, Patty O'Shea Karban from South Bend, Indiana stayed at The Killian Homeplace for the week on an Eli Lilly Fellowship studying her Irish heritage and brushing up on her step dancing moves.



*L-R: Brendan Scott, Manager, Irish Family History Foundation, Joan Killian Gallagher, Founder & Chairman, The Killian Homeplace, Martin Morris, Longford Archivist.*

## EAST GALWAY CONFERENCE

The East Galway Family History Society in Woodford, County Galway, held a very successful conference on 6th-7th September on the theme of Galway's Ulster heritage. Co-organised with the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies in Omagh and Irish World Ltd., also in Tyrone, two other centre groups of the Irish Family History Foundation, the weekend included field trips and talks to a very large audience. Speakers included Monica Hynes, manager of the East Galway Family History Centre, Dr Paddy Fitzgerald of the Mellon Centre, Willie O'Kane →



*Left to Right: Noel Murphy, Monica Hynes, Noel Larkin, Stephen Connolly, Dr Paddy Fitzgerald and Geert Janssen.*

from Irish World, Stephen Connolly, Noel Murphy, Noel Larkin and Geert Janssen. The conference studied the mass migration from Ulster to Connacht which took place after the Battle of the Diamond in Armagh in 1795 and the impact which this has had on Galway in the centuries since. A book of essays originating from this conference is also in the works.



## KILKENNY LINKS WITH MINNESOTA

The East Galway Family History Society has also been fundraising for twenty years for Galway Hospice and in that time have raised the incredible sum of €20,000, marked in the photograph below.



*L to R: Monica Hynes, Colette Dodd (Galway Hospice) and Shirley Dillon.*

Mayor of Kilkenny, Councillor Andrew McGuinness with Eoin Hennessy who are both visiting Kilkenny, Minnesota to celebrate the St. Patrick's Day Parade on 15 September. In recent years this has been held mid-way through the year from St Patrick's Day, due to usually intrusive snowfalls there during the month of March. They visited Kilkenny Archaeological Society library to discuss the many links being forged between societies here in Kilkenny and yonder in Kilkenny MN. Kilkenny has been twinned with Kilkenny, Minnesota, since March 2013 and their Mayor visits our parade each year on 17 March. Kilkenny, Minnesota was founded by Kilkennymen; amongst them was Dennis Doyle, born in Cuffesgrange and who arrived there in 1851 who championed the development and was granted a Post Office that was named Kilkenny on 25 July 1857. Many Kilkenny folk settled there in the early years both from Cuffesgrange and Paulstown parishes, including an ancestor of Professor John Portmann, who is the first person to be granted Irish citizenship as a result of DNA analysis. His is another story!



## WICKLOW TOWN IN THE 1600S



*L-R: Eoin Hennessy, Mayor Andrew McGuinness, Mary Flood (Kilkenny Family History, Rothe House), Valerie O'Sullivan. Front: Angela Moylan.*

The digitised minute book of the Wicklow Borough Corporation is now available to access on Wicklow.ie. The minute book dates from 1662 to 1707 and is one of the earliest items in the Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service collection. Written in the old secretary hand style, it has been transcribed into modern English and this transcription is also on Wicklow.ie. Local historian Therese Hicks produced the transcription for the County Archives along with an essay placing the minute book in historical context. The minute book opens a door into the world of Wicklow Town as it developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, detailing the proceedings of the meetings of the town burgesses. The minutes provide tantalising details such as trade, diet, politics, oaths of allegiance, placenames and family names. See also <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow-county-archives-service/wicklow-borough-corporation-collection>.



*The minute book of Wicklow Borough Corporation.*

Thank you for reading, and please let us know if you have any queries or comments about our site and/or centres by emailing [enquiries@rootsireland.ie](mailto:enquiries@rootsireland.ie).



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