

## **Investigating your Family History – A Practical Approach**

The Western Family History Association is a genealogy association based in Galway. Home counties of members include Galway, Clare, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim. It is a self-help group for its members and does not carry out research. The Association typically holds five to six meetings during the year, together with a number of other activities throughout the year. Meetings are open to the general public. In addition to these activities it provides a continually expanding library of genealogical and historical books for members' usage. Western Family History Association regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (alternating months). By attending and participating in the meetings one gets to benefit from the experience and expertise of members ranging from beginners to those who have several years experience in tracing their family history. Access to the latest information presented by expert speakers including how to access family records, census data, emigrant data and the latest developments in genealogy, such as, the digitisation of family records, births, marriages and deaths and information on how genetics can be used to help trace ancestry.

One of the extra activities the Western Family History Association organises each year is an event for Heritage Week, and 2011 is no different. This year, in conjunction with Galway County Council a workshop entitled Investigating your Family History – A Practical Approach will take place. This will also include the launch of the Western Family History Association's new website by the Mayor / Deputy Mayor of County Galway. The programme of events follows.

All are welcome to this free event. We would particularly love to see the active retired members of our community who have a wealth and knowledge of family history ready and waiting to be tapped into. Investigating your Family History – A Practical Approach will take place at the Claregalway Hotel, Claregalway, Co. Galway on Wednesday 24th August, 7.00 - 10.00pm. For further information please contact Bríd Higgins, Secretary of the Western Family History Association [bridhiggins@eircom.net](mailto:bridhiggins@eircom.net) or 087 795 6229 or Marie Mannion, Galway County Heritage Officer [mmannion@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:mmannion@galwaycoco.ie) or 091 509198. Also check out [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) or [www.wfha.info](http://www.wfha.info) for further details.

**INVESTIGATING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY – A PRACTICAL APPROACH**  
(co-hosted by the Western Family History Association and Galway County Council).

**Venue** CLAREGALWAY HOTEL, CLAREGALWAY, CO. GALWAY

**Date and Time** WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST, 7.00 - 10.00PM

**Contact** Bríd Higgins, Secretary of the Western Family History Association  
[bridhiggins@eircom.net](mailto:bridhiggins@eircom.net) or 087 795 6229 or check out [www.wfha.info](http://www.wfha.info)

Marie Mannion, Galway County Heritage Officer  
[mmannion@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:mmannion@galwaycoco.ie) or 091 509198 or check out [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

**This is a Free Event. All are welcome.**

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- 7.00 – 7.30pm**     **Launch of the Western Family History Association Website (WFHA).**
- Welcome by Michael Connaughton, WFHA Chairperson and Marie Mannion, Galway County Heritage Officer.
- A brief description of the website by WFHA webmaster Tim Murphy.
- Launch of website by Mayor Michael Maher / Deputy Mayor Bridie Willers.
- 7.30 – 8.00pm**     **Sources for Tracing your Family Tree.**
- Bríd Higgins, WFHA Secretary, will speak on Administrative Divisions and the different sources for tracing ancestry – Census, Church, Civil, and Land records including the Repositories where they are located.
- 8.00 – 8.30pm**     **Break for Refreshments – Tea & Coffee.**
- 8.30 – 9.00pm**     **Tracing Ancestry through a Galway’s Genealogy Centre.**
- Siobhan McGuinness of Galway Family History Society West will speak on history of the county genealogy centres, sources available at their centre, parishes covered and researching at the centre both commissioned research an online research.
- 9.00 – 9.30pm**     **Putting Your Family Tree Together.**
- Gerry Naughton, WFHA Committee member will speak on compiling your Family Tree together, the importance of writing down details and records available on the web.