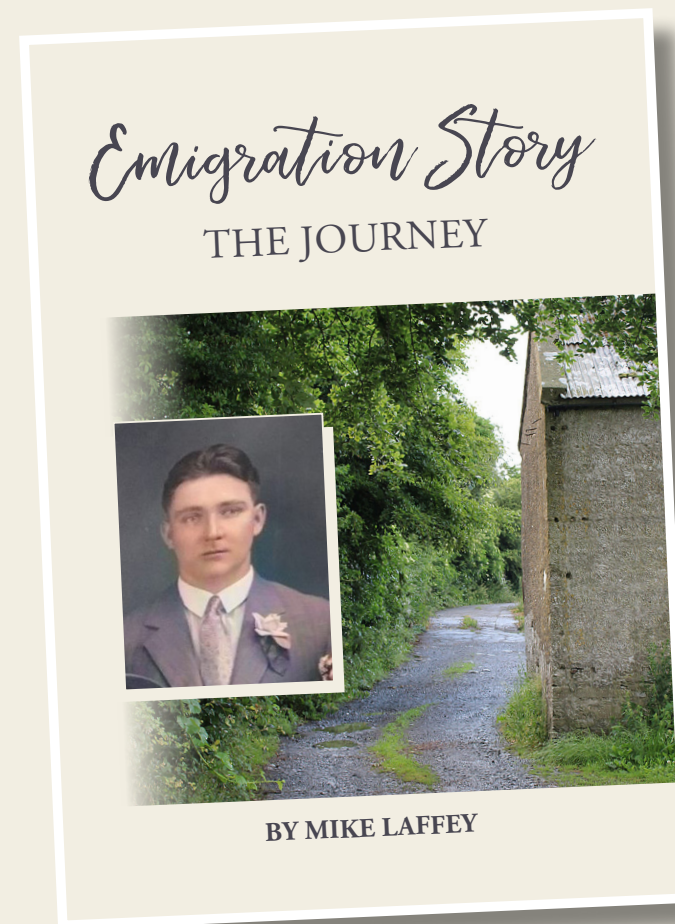


Launch of

Emigration Story THE JOURNEY



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



7:00pm - 10:30pm | 23rd August 2025
Thompson's Bar
Menlough, Ballinasloe, County Galway
H53 XY36



Order of Ceremonies

Welcome by: Paul Curley, Chairperson, Skehana & District Heritage Group

MC for the evening: Emma Laffey

Elected Members

Author: Mike Laffey

Official Launch: Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council

‘The Journey’ is a powerful emigration story by Mike Laffey (Mahwah, USA), detailing his father David Laffey’s 1915 journey from Menlough, East Galway to New York. The book, nearly three years in the making, features rich photographs and personal insights into the emigration experience shared by thousands of Irish families.

Also featured is a 1927 diary by Mary Ellen Higgins of Moylough, capturing her emotional journey from Athenry to Cork and onward to New York. Together, these stories offer a vivid picture of the hopes, hardships, and lasting impact of Irish emigration.

Fáilte/Welcome

The Skehana & District Heritage Group extends a warm welcome to you all as we host our National Heritage Week 2025 event in what is an unbroken sequence since our formation in 2012. We are especially pleased this year to welcome Mike Laffey and his immediate and extended families from across the Atlantic Ocean, across the Irish Sea and here locally in Ireland on the occasion of the launch of his publication ‘Emigration Story – The Journey’.

Our nation’s history is embroidered with stories of emigration as it has most likely touched every Irish family in one way or another and thus Mike’s publication adds a few more stitches to this reservoir of our cultural history.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to you Mike on this great occasion, we are honoured that you have chosen us as a partner for this event and we wish you continued enjoyment in your family life and good health for the future.

Skehana & District Heritage Group – August 2025