



Eabha and Lydia Landers, from St Joseph's, Glanmire, winners of the Evening Echo award for the Best in Cork history project, presenting a copy of their DVD to American genealogist Megan Smolenyak on the occasion of her visit to Cork City Hall, with the Lord Mayor Cllr Mick O'Connell and the Lady Mayoress Catherine O'Connell.

Picture: Richard Mills

Famous US genealogist visits Cork

A GENEALOGIST who discovered the true story of Annie Moore visited the Cork birthplace of the famous immigrant yesterday.

French-born American citizen Megan Smolenyak arrived in Cork yesterday to visit Annie's birthplace on the Old Youghal Road, and the house on the city's Rowland Lane, near Shandon, where she was raised.

Annie Moore was one of six million people who left

Ireland between 1848 and 1850. She became the first immigrant to be processed through New York's Ellis Island immigrant centre. Until Ms Smolenyak's work was published, generations of people thought Annie had gone to Texas and died there in her early Twenties.

However, it is now known that Annie settled in New York, married a German immigrant named Joseph Schayer and had 11 children.

She arrived at Ellis Island as a 17 year old, and died of heart failure at the age of 47.

Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Michael O'Connell met Ms Smolenyak in City Hall where she was presented with several local history books and DVDs.

Ms Smolenyak, who also traced Barack Obama's roots to Offaly, is now a consultant with the American version of the TV show, *Who Do You Think You Are?*