

GORRY RESEARCH

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The following is an extract from a research assessment done for Carolyn Devine.

The fact is that Devine is of Gaelic Irish origin and it is not associated with any one area of the country. Edward MacLysaght's *Surnames of Ireland* (the most authoritative work on the subject) suggests at least two separate origins for it. Ó Duibhín, in the Tyrone-Derry area (adjacent to Donegal), is one and Ó Daimhín, in the Tipperary area, is another. However, he also states that Devines were a branch of the MacGuires and "a leading sept in Fermanagh in the fifteenth century, since found mainly in Tyrone". For a more detailed explanation you should refer to MacLysaght's *Irish Families*, which is widely available in major libraries. Davin, Divine and Diveen are variants you might need to look out for in nineteenth century records.

Donegal is one of the areas where surviving Roman Catholic parish registers have a very late commencement date.

Griffith's *Primary Valuation* was published for the Donegal area in 1857. The Heritage World & Genealogical Publishing Co. CD-ROM *Index to Griffith's Valuation* lists a total of 14 Devine (or variants) holdings in Co. Donegal (see Appendix). The records of Clonleigh R.C. parish (which includes the town of Lifford) cover baptisms 1773-1795, Jan. 1836-May 1837 and 1853 forward, and marriages from 1778 (with enormous gaps). The records of Conwal & Leck R.C. parish (which includes the town of Letterkenny) begin in the 1850s.

Getting down to the research you can do, I can only suggest you attempt the following:

1. Check the revisions of Griffith's *Valuation* for the townlands of Meenalooban, Aghawee and Kirkneedy to determine how long the three Hugh Devines remained as property occupiers. These records are held at the Valuation Office, Dublin. You may find it beneficial to engage a record agent for this work. If you wish to do so, I suggest you contact Hilda McGauley >>>> <http://indigo.ie/~records> by completing the appropriate form on her website.
2. If any of these individuals remained in occupation till 1864 or later, it may be possible to obtain their death record, using the date of their replacement as a guideline for their date of death. Again, a record agent could do a death search for you. Irish death records are similar to those from England & Wales, so you will get little genealogical information from them. However, the occupation or the name of the informant may help you determine whether you have found the right person. Similarly, the name of the person replacing them in the Valuation Office revisions might provide a clue.
3. If you're lucky enough to find that the families remained in the three townlands into the twentieth century, you could have the 1901 and 1911 Census returns (held at the National Archives, Dublin) checked. Tracing living descendants is an option in this way.
4. You could, just to eliminate the possibility, have the baptismal register of All Saints R.C. parish (on microfilm at the National Library, Dublin) checked for children. It might even be worth your while to commission an index search with Donegal Ancestry, Old Meeting House, Back Lane, Ramelton, Co. Donegal; tel [+353-74] 51266;

e-mail donances@indigo.ie; website <http://indigo.ie/~donances/>. As they have indexed most surviving R.C. registers in the county, you would cover the unlikely possibility of finding a baptism by contacting them.

5. As for other people researching the same family, the most effective way of getting in contact is through the *Genealogical Research Directory (GRD)*, by checking back issues of this annual publication for entries concerning the surname and/or by placing an entry yourself. The closing date is about September. Look at the relevant website. You'll find it on the Standard Reference Works page of my site >>>>> <http://indigo.ie/~gorry/Refs.html>.

You may find the book which I jointly wrote with Máire Mac Conghail, *Tracing Irish Ancestors* (HarperCollins, Glasgow, 1997), of assistance in understanding the various records.

Yours sincerely

Paul Gorry

Heritage World & the Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc.
CD-ROM *Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, 1848-1864*

Devine (& variants) entries from Co. Donegal

Devin, Anne	Parish : Clonmany	Location : Kinnea	
Devin, James	Parish : All Saints	Location : Kildrum, Lower	
Devin, Patrick	Parish : Conwal	Location : Drumanaught	
Devine, Anne	Parish : Templecarn	Location : Tullycarn	
Devine, Hugh	Parish : Clonleigh	Location : Aghawee	
Devine, James	Parish : Clonleigh	Location : Drumnaha	
Devine, John	Parish : Templecarn	Location : T/Pettigoe/Mill Street	
Devine, Margaret	Parish : Clonleigh	Location : Cloghfin	
Devine, William	Parish : Urney	Location : Cloghfin	
Devon, John	Parish : Conwal	Location : Kirkneedy	
Diven, Hugh	Parish : Conwal	Location : Kirkneedy	Comment : Danl.
Divin, Daniel	Parish : Conwal	Location : Kirkneedy	
Divin, Hugh	Parish : Conwal	Location : Kirkneedy	Comment : Daniel
Divin, Hugh, Sr.	Parish : Conwal	Location : Kirkneedy	