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Family Name History

Gough



There are a number of explanations as to the origin of the Irish surname Gough. First of all, it is an anglicized form of the Gaelic O'Cuachain. The latter were a branch of the Hy Fiachrach and they held their lands in the west of Ireland, in County Mayo. There is another Gaelic surname, Mag Eathach, which has been anglicized Gough. The Mag Eathachs were a branch of the more numerous MacGough sept, whose lands were situated in more northern areas, in Counties Armagh, Monaghan and Louth. Finally, the vast majority of Irish Goughs are of Welsh nickname origin. The Welsh Gough was originally 'Coch' which is the Welsh term for 'red' and it would have been applied to one who had red hair or one who had a ruddy complexion. A number of families of this name came from Wales in the thirteenth century and settled in eastern counties like Dublin and Waterford where they soon established themselves as important merchants and administrators. Early instances of this surname in Ireland, include one Henry Goghe who obtained lands around Dungarvan in Waterford in the year 1329. In 1607 Sir James Gough bought Kilmainham Castle estate in the same county. The Goughs also produced two mayors of Waterford, Nicholas in 1435 and Sir Edward in 1660 and the family also produced a number of members of parliament. Finally, mention must be made of a family of Goughs who left Wiltshire for Ireland in the seventeenth century. This family became famous in the nineteenth century for their military exploits and were honoured with a number of knighthoods, a peerage and two Victoria Crosses.

BLAZON OF ARMS: Azure on a fesse argent between three boars' heads coupéd or, a lion passant gules.

Translation : The fesse represents the Old Military Belt, the boars Strength, the lion Courage.

CREST : A boar's head coupéd at the neck or, husked argent.

MOTTO : Gradu diversa via una

Translation : The same way, by different steps.

ORIGIN : IRELAND



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