

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Cunningham

Variants: CUNINGHAM, CUNINGHAME, CUNYNGHAME, CUNNINGHAME, CUNNIGHAM, CUMMINGHAM, CONYNGHAM, CONINGHAM, CONAGHAN, CONAHAN, CONNAGHAN, CONNACHAN, GUNNINGHAM

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26910, Ireland 9473
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14034
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks, Midlothian, Ayr, and Fife; Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Down; Galway; Cork

1 Scottish: locative name from the province of Cunningham in Ayr.

Further information

A family of this name can be traced back to Wernebald de Cunynghame, who was granted the manor of Cunningham by Hugh de Morville in the early 12th century.

Early bearers

William de Cunygham, 1245 in Kelso Register (Kilmaurs, Ayr); John de Cuninghame, 1259 in Lindores Chartulary (Lindores, Fife); James de Cuningham, 1309–27 in NRS (Selvieland, Renfrews); Adam de Cunygam, about 1431 in Ayr-Galloway Collections (Ayr, Ayr); Johne Coninghame, 1566 in IGI (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Jonat Cuningame, 1667 in IGI (Ayr, Ayr); James Baron Kilmaurs Cunningham, 1662 in IGI (Hamilton, Lanarks).

2 Irish: adopted for **Ó Cuinneagáin** or **Mac Cuinneagáin**, 'descendant (or son) of *Cuinneagán*', a personal name from a double diminutive of the Old Irish personal name *Conn* meaning 'leader, chief'.

Early bearers

Ó Cuinneagáin:

William O'Kynaghan, kern, 1552 in Fiants Edward §952 (Kings county [Offaly]); Donyll O Quaynegan, 1582 in Fiants Elizabeth §3965 (Sygenston); Patr. mcCale oge mcEchy O'Kenaghan, 1582 in Fiants Elizabeth §4006 (Ballaltycrau, Meath); Tirelaghe O'Qwyngan, 1585 in Fiants Elizabeth §4582; Teige O'Kineghan, yeoman, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6484; Tirlagh mcDonell O'Quinegane, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6521; John Cunningham, 1796 in Flaxgrowers Ireland (Drumballyrone, Down); Patrick Cunningham, 1796 in Flaxgrowers Ireland (Kilconla, Galway).

Mac Cuinneagáin:

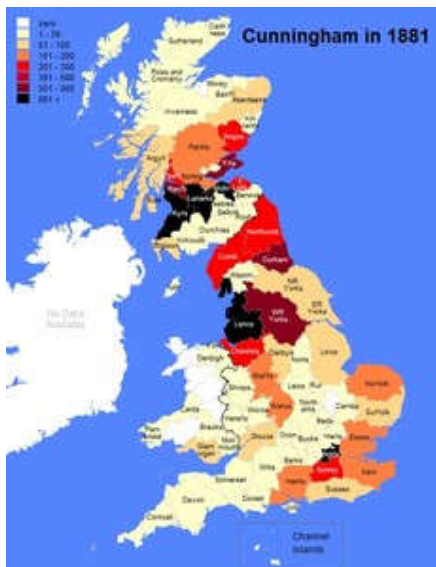
Donnell McCunigan, 1582 in Fiants Elizabeth §4080; Oyne mcTeige McCunigan, 1584 in Fiants Elizabeth §4469 (same); Shane mcYone McCunigan, 1584 in Fiants Elizabeth §4469 (Kilkire); William McQuynegan alias William negeaghy, 1591 in Fiants Elizabeth §5618 (Coppingerstown, Cork); Teig mcOwen McCunnegane, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6566.

3 Irish: also adopted for **Ó Connacháin**, a variant of **Ó Connagáin** 'descendant of *Connagán*', from a diminutive form of the personal name *Conn*.

Early bearers

Ireland:

Bernard O'Conegan, clerk, 1552 in Fiants Edward §1165 (Basehike in Maghereconaght); Teig O'Conegan, yeoman, 1572 in Fiants Elizabeth §2109; Ervin O'Connigan, servant, 1578 in Fiants Elizabeth §3261; Mulmory mcErean McConnigan, 1584 in Fiants Elizabeth §4535 (Woony, Limerick); John O'Conaghanen, 1585 in Fiants Elizabeth §4662 (Kiltollagh, Galway); Hugh O'Connegaine, 1585 in Fiants Elizabeth §4805 (Pobullbane); Hugh O'Connegaine, priest, 1590 in Fiants Elizabeth §5448 (Castletene, Roscommon); John O'Connigaine, 1591 in Fiants Elizabeth §5617 (Castell mcGerlair); Donogh O'Conaghan, husbandman, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6569 (Ballimcedill); Hugh mcMorish O'Cunnaghan, 1602 in Fiants Elizabeth §6761; Peter Cunnaghan, 1796 in Flaxgrowers Ireland (Killanny, Monaghan); Patrick Conyngham, 1796 in Flaxgrowers Ireland (Drumcar, Louth).



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Cunningham, 1881 frequency.

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