

DEVIN, FRANCES MALETA "LETA"

Birth

November 26, 1876 in Des Moines, Iowa



Death

October 12, 1966 at Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa



Cause of Death

Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 104
Lot was purchased by James Devin on July 24, 1920

Maiden Name

Griffith

Father

Francis Marion Griffith was born December 17, 1836 and died January 22, 1892. He is buried in Woodland Cemetery. He was the son of John W. Griffith and Mary Ann Carrell.

Mother

Marian Cravin (Mary Lenora Craven) was born July 21, 1850 and died February 14, 1898. She is buried in Woodland Cemetery. She was married on June 18, 1874.

Marriage

Frances M. Griffith to James Devin on June 22, 1898.
Ref: Book 9, page 60, Polk Co. records on file at IGS Library

Return of Marriages in Polk Co., for the year ending on December 31, 1898

James Devin
Age: 28
Residence: Polk Co., Iowa
Occupation: Farmer

Place of birth: Polk co., Iowa
 1st marriage
 Father: M. L. Devin
 Mother: Unknown Taylor

Married
 June 22, 1898 in Des Moines, Iowa

Leta F. Griffith
 Age: 21
 Residence: Des Moines, Iowa
 Place of birth: Des Moines, Iowa
 1st marriage
 Father: F. M. Griffith
 Mother: Craven
 Witnesses: George E. Carpenter and Jessie Rembeck
 Minister: Homer P. Dickey

Census

1880 – Des Moines Twp., Polk Co., IA; 5th Ward, ED164; Page 384B; July 2, 1880
 Buchanan Street
 Dwelling 618; Family /669

Griffith, Francis M.	42	Expressman	OH	VA	VA
Mary L.	30		OH	VA	MD
Jessie D.	05		IA	OH	OH
Maleta	03		IA	OH	OH
Mabel	02		IA	OH	OH
Roscoe	4/12		IA	OH	OH

1885 –
 1895 –

1900 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED61; Page 11; June 15, 1900
 Dwelling 155; Family 156

Devin, James	29	farmer Born December 1870 Married 2 years	IA	OH	IL
Francis M.	23	1 child ; 1 child living Born November 1876	IA	OH	OH
Amanda J.	72	WD, mother 11 children, 5 living Born July 18, 1823	IL	NJ	VA
Elizabeth	10/12	Born July 1899	IA	IA	IA
Lipert, Joseph	46	WD, farm labor	IA	GER	GER

Clark, Geo. E.	52	Born May 1854 farm labor Born April 1848	NY	NY	NY
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1905 – Bloomfield Twp. Polk Co., Iowa; State census
Card # 322

Devin, James		Post Office, Valley Junction, IA			
Devin, Frances	28	married	IA	OH	IL
Elizabeth					
Maran					
John					

1910 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED64; Page 7B; May 27, 1910
Dwelling 310; Family 310

Devin, James	39	farmer	IA	OH	IL
Malita	32	5 children, 5 living	IA	OH	IL
Elizabeth	10		IA	IA	IA
Marion F.	08	daughter	IA	IA	IA
John G.	06		IA	IA	IA
David E.	04		IA	IA	IA
Malita	01		IA	IA	IA
Leighton, Harry	21	servant, farm labor	IL	UN	UN

1915 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA

Card #25; Devin, James	44		IA	OH	IL
Card #26 Melita F.	38		IA	OH	IL
Card #30 David E.	09		IA	IA	IA
Card #27 Elizabeth	15		IA	IA	IA
Card #33 James Howard	02		IA	IA	IA
Card #31 Jane	06		IA	IA	IA
Card #29 John L.	11		IA	IA	IA
Card #28 Marion	13		IA	IA	IA
Card #32 Mildred	04		IA	IA	IA

1920 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED 233; Page 13B; February 6, 1920
Dwelling 319; Family 321

Devon, James	49	farmer	IA	OH	IL
Frances	42		IA	OH	IL
Elizabeth	20		IA	IA	IA
Marion	18		IA	IA	IA
David E.	16		IA	IA	IA
John G.	14		IA	IA	IA
Jane	11		IA	IA	IA
James H.	07		IA	IA	IA
William D.	04 10/12		IA	IA	IA

Florence I.	01 11/12		IA	IA	IA
John	62	brother, bridge const.	IA	OH	IL

1925 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 99; Line 110

Devin, James	54		IA		
		Father was M. L. Devin, born in NY Mother was Amanda Taylor, born in NY M. L. and Amanda were married in NY			
Melita F.	48		IA		
		Father was Frances W. Griffith, born in IL Mother was Marian Cravin, born in IL Francis and Marian were married in IL			
John G.	20		IA		
		Father was James Devin, born in IA Mother was Meletia Griffith, born in IA			
D. E.	18		IA		
		Father was James Devin, born in IA Mother was Meletia Griffith, born in IA			
Jane	16		IA		
		Father was James Devin, born in IA Mother was Meletia Griffith, born in IA			
Jim	12		IA		
		Father was James Devin, born in IA Mother was Meletia Griffith, born in IA			
Wm.	09		IA		
		Father was James Devin, born in IA Mother was Meletia Griffith, born in IA			
Florence	07		IA		
		Father was James Devin, born in IA Mother was Meletia Griffith, born in IA			
John	67	brother	NY		
		Father was M. S. Devin, born in NY Mother was Amanda Taylor, born in NY			

1930 - Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED 95; Page 3; April 18, 1930

Dwelling 73; Family 73

Devin, Jim	59	farmer	IA	OH	IL
Francis M.	52		IA	OH	IL
James H.	17		IA	IA	IA
William D.	14		IA	IA	IA
Florence I.	12		IA	IA	IA

1940 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED77-9; Page 4A; April 15-16-17, 1940

#79 – same house as in 1935; Des Moines, Polk Co., IA

Devin, James	69	farmer	IA		
Frances M.	63		IA		

Obituary

[The Des Moines Tribune, Thursday, October 13, 1966, Page 4]

Services for Mrs. Leta Devin, 89, of Crestview Acres Nursing Home, 916 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at McLaren's Funeral Home. Burial will be in Orillia Cemetery.

Mrs. Devin died Wednesday at Iowa Methodist Hospital after a short illness. Born in Des Moines, she was a graduate of East High School and attended former Highland Park College and Drake University.

She was a member of the Fort Des Moines Methodist Church and Plainview Community Club.

Surviving are four sons, John of Mount Pleasant, David of San Diego, California, James of Muscatine and William of Des Moines; four daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Beerbower of Huston, Texas, Mrs. Marian Bigelow of Wabash, Minnesota, Mrs. Jane Lotz of Des Moines and Mrs. Florence LaBlanc of Longmont, Colorado; a sister, Mrs. Mabel White of Des Moines; 19 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

The following was taken from Find A Grave:

Maleta Griffith had just finished the course she was taking at Highland Park College in Des Moines to become a school teacher and had received her certificate to teach. A friend of hers, Florence Carpenter, told her that a friend, Mrs. Michael Devin, had fallen off a wagon load of corn and broken her hip. She was recovering at home and needed help. Would Leta go out and help them during the summer months? Florence's husband, Sonny Carpenter, was Michael's son Jim Devin's best friend. While Leta was at the farm helping out, Michael Devin went to an auction sale and bid above his means for a bull to improve his very fine herd of beef cattle. Amanda realized that Michael was getting too old to be in charge (He was born in 1823, so would have been in his 70's, and sent for their youngest son, Jim, to come home and take over.

Jim was interested in horse racing and was employed in Kansas City making the feather light metal shoes that were put on the horses just before a race. When Jim returned home upon the call of his mother, he found the sweet and tiny, also beautiful and shy, Leta Griffith taking care of his mother. The courtship was underway! A relative told of how Jim's horses chewed up the board fence at the Griffith home in Des Moines while he was inside courting the lovely Leta.

Jim and Leta were married on June 22, 1898. Sonny and Florence Carpenter stood up with them and after the services, the four of them spent the day in a boat on the Des Moines River.

They had nine children and were married for almost 50 years.