

# Oxford Reference

## The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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## Adam

**Variants:** ADEM, ADAMS

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7207, Ireland 65
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5115
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland: esp. Lanarks; Aberdeens and Angus
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

English: relationship name from the Old Testament (Hebrew) personal name Adam, conventionally interpreted as 'man, human', and associated with a root meaning 'red, fair'. It has been widely used as a Christian name in western Europe. See also ADAMS, ADAMSON, MCADAM, MCCADDEN, BADHAM. Pet forms of Adam survive in ADCOCK, ADDY, ADNETT, and ATKIN.

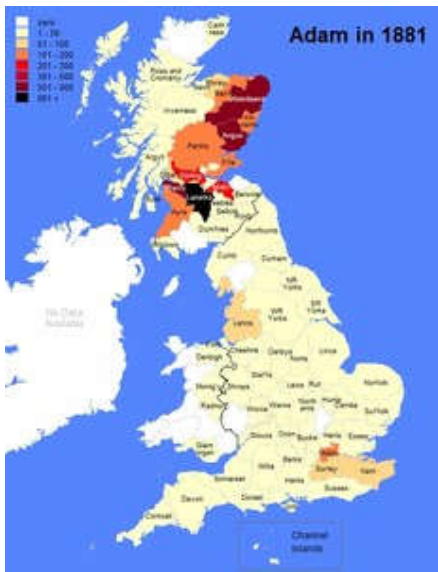
### Early bearers:

#### given names:

Adam filius Huberti, 1086 in Domesday Book (Kent); Adam Warenarius, 1146–53 in Danelaw Documents (Lincs); Adam, sub-prior of Melrose Abbey, later abbot of Coupar Angus, 1189 in Heads of Houses in Scotland, 43.

**surnames, England:** Alianor Adam, 1281 in Assize Rolls (Cheshire); Will'o Adam, 1332 in Subsidy Rolls (Barnby in the Willows, Notts); Thomas Adam, 1377 in Poll Tax (Northants); John Adam, 1496 in PROB 11 (Stanwell, Middx); William Adam, 1543 in PROB 11 (Saint Stephen Walbrook, City of London).

**surnames, Scotland:** Andrew Adam, 1423–37 in Acts of Parliaments of Scotland; Daudid Adam, 1564 in IGI (Monifieth, Angus); Elizabeth Adem, 1668 in IGI (Dundee, Angus); James Adam, 1737 in IGI (Arbuthnott, Kincardines); Isabell Adams, 1750 in IGI (Kilconquhar, Fife).



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Adam, 1881 frequency.

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