

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Barclay

Variants: BARKLEY, BARCLEY, BARTLEY, BERKLEY, BERKELEY, BURKLEY, BIRKLEY, BRICKLEY

- **Current frequencies:** GB 8528, Ireland 276
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6141
- **Main GB location 1881:** Fife; Aberdeens, and Banffs; also Ayr
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Tyrone

Scottish: locative name from one or more of the many places so called, such as Berkley (Somerset), Berkeley (Gloucs), Birtley in Witley and Birtley in Bramley (both Surrey), Barklye in Heathfield (Sussex), Bartley in Eling and Bartley Heath in Odiham (both Hants), and Bartley Green in Northfield (Worcs). In several cases the /k/ has become a /t/.

Further information:

The Scottish Barclays were Norman barons originally from southwest England. It was long assumed that they were from the family that held Berkeley Castle in Gloucs, but G. W. S. Barrow (1973, *The Kingdom of the Scots*) adduced evidence that they are more probably from Berkley in Somerset.

Early bearers:

England:

Roger de Berchelai, de Bercleia, 1086 in Domesday Book (Gloucs and Somerset); Thomam de Berclay, 1226 in Patent Rolls (Acton, Gloucs); Berkwald de Berkle, 1244, Sewyn' de Berkel', about 1257 in New Forest Documents (Bartley in Eling, Hants); Henry de Barclay, 1327 in Subsidy Rolls (Derbys); Helewys' de Berkele, 1327, Robert de Berkleggh, 1332 in Subsidy Rolls (Sussex); Johanne de Berkeleye, Petro de Berklye, 1332 in Subsidy Rolls (Witley, Surrey); Willelmo de Berkleggh', Roberton de Burklegh', 1332 in Subsidy Rolls (Bramley, Surrey); Matylda Berclay, Matilda de Berkley, 1379 in Poll Tax (Great Bowden, Leics); Thomas Berkeley, 1533 in IGI (Berkeley Castle, Gloucs); George Barclay, 1547 in IGI (Norwich,

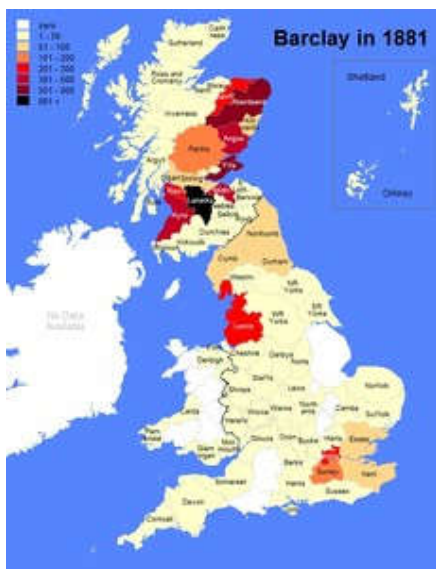
Norfolk); Thomas Barckley, 1561 in IGI (Bosbury, Herefs); Charles Berkeley, 1599 in IGI (Bruton, Somerset); Thomas Berkley, 1790 in IGI (Worcester, Worcs); Francis Henry Fitzharding Berkeley, 1794 in IGI (Berkeley, Gloucs).

Scotland: Walter de Berchelai or Berkelai, Chamberlain of Scotland, 1165 in Aberdeen Register; Humfridus de Berkeley, about 1178–98 in Brechin Register (Brechin, Angus); Walter de Berkelay and Robert de Berkelay, about 1175 in Glasgow Register (Glasgow, Lanarks); Gelis Barclay, 1561 in IGI (Perth, Perths); Mariore Barclay, 1575 in IGI (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Wattie Barclay, 1579 in IGI (Anstruther, Fife); Lawrence Barclay, 1581 in IGI (Stirling, Stirlings).

Ireland: Lord Barckelly, 1562 in Fiants Elizabeth §464 (Moylotyston, Kildare); John Barckley, 1570 in Fiants Elizabeth §1617; Francis Barkely, 1585 in Fiants Elizabeth §4633 (Connaght); Francis Barkley, 1597 in Fiants Elizabeth §6154.

References:

Place-Names of Surrey, pp. 215, 226; Place-Names of Sussex, p. 467; Gover, Hants Place-Names, p. 195; Hampshire Place-Names, p. 28; Place-Names of Worcs, p. 348.



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Barclay, 1881 frequency.

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