

# Oxford Reference

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

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## Bowie

**Variants:** BOWEY, BOY, BOYE, BUOY, BUI, BUIE, BUY, BUYE, GILBOY

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2694, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2567
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland

**1** Scottish Gaelic: (i) nickname from Gaelic *buidhe* 'yellow', i.e. 'yellow-haired', pronounced as two syllables. The equivalent term in Ireland is *buí*, often anglicized as *boy*. It may also be a shortened form of GILBOY.

### Early bearers:

#### Scotland:

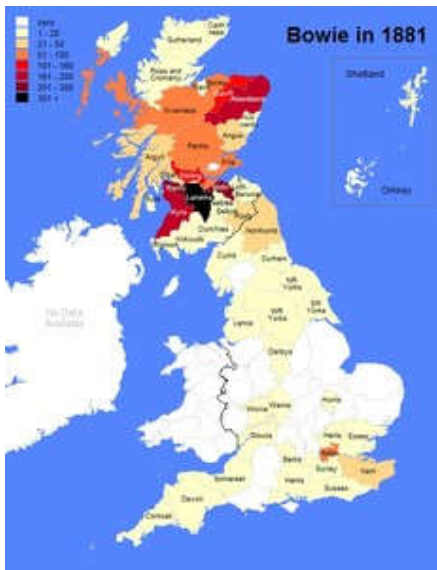
John Boye alias Bowy alias Boee, 1481 in Scotland Calendar; David Bui, 1654 in IGI (Pittenweem, Fife); Donald Buy, 1671 in Culloden Papers (Inverness); James Bui, 1684 in IGI (Alves, Morays); Gilbert Bui, 1705 in IGI (Largiebreac, Jura, Argyll).

**2** Irish: from **Ó Buadhaigh**, see BOGUE.

### Early bearers:

#### Ireland:

Towill O Boy, 1580 in Fiants Elizabeth §5497 (Connacht); Donell buoy mcShane bowy, and Donell mcShiames bowy, yeoman, and Mortagh and Conoghor mcOwen bowy, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6514 (Seantullaghe and Kilecrydane, Cork).



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Bowie, 1881 frequency.

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