

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Noble

Variants: NOBLES

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17252, Ireland 774
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12224
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland and England: esp. WR Yorks and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh and Tyrone

1 English, Scottish: nickname from Middle English *noble* 'noble, high-ranking, worthy' (French *noble* 'well-known, noble').

Early bearers:

England:

Peter Noble, 1185 in Templars Records (Warwicks); Robert le Noble, 1206 in Curia Regis Rolls (Hunts); Symon Nobyl, 1377 in Poll Tax (Eggleton, Rutland); Thoma Nobul, 1379 in Poll Tax (Potterne, Wilts); Johannes Nobil, 1379 in Poll Tax (Fairburn, WR Yorks); Thomas Noble, 1381 in Poll Tax (Dorking, Surrey); Alanus Noble, 1381 in Poll Tax (Horringer, Suffolk); John Noble, 1421 in Feet of Fines (Lincs); William Noble, 1448 in Feet of Fines (Devon); Edward Noble, 1549 in IGI (Ulverston, Lancs); Thomas Noble, 1551 in IGI (Oswaldkirk, NR Yorks).

Scotland: Radulphus Nobilis, 1198–1234, Thomas le Noble, 1253, John Nobil, 1398, Vilyam Nobile, 1464 in Black; William Noble, 1592 in IGI (Abercorn, W Lothian); Johne Noble, 1611 in IGI (Edinburgh, Midlothian).

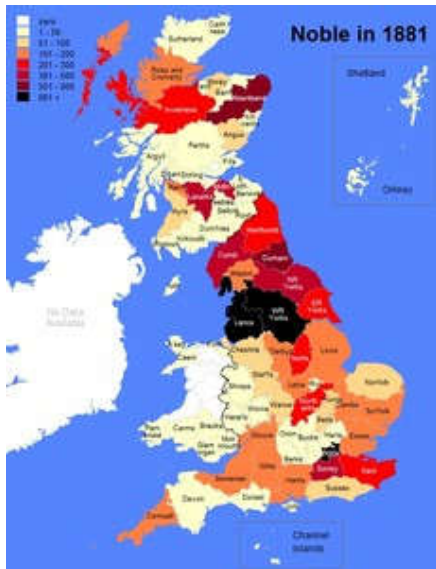
2 German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): anglicized form of **Knöbel**, a surname derived from an archaic German word for a servant.

Further information:

This was the name of a famous rabbinical family which moved from Wiener Neustadt to Sanok in Galicia in the 17th century.

Early bearers:

William Noble, master bootmaker, born in Germany, in Census 1881 (Everton, Lancs); Fritz Noble, upholsterer, born in Germany, in Census 1901 (Tottenham, Middx).



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Noble, 1881 frequency.

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