

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Russell

Variants: ROUSSELL, ROUSSEL, ROUSELL, ROUSEL, RUSSELL, RUSSEL, ROWSELL, ROSSELL, ROZZELL

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53760, Ireland 5001
- **GB frequency 1881:** 36230
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lanarks; Lancs; Surrey and Kent
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Tipperary; Down and Antrim

1 Norman, English, Scottish, Irish: nickname, relationship name from a diminutive of Anglo-Norman French *rous(e)* 'red, reddish', used either as a nickname for someone with red hair or a ruddy complexion, or as a personal name. Compare ROUSE. Some of the post-medieval bearers may belong under (2).

Further information:

This Norman name has been established in Ireland since the 12th century. It has been reinforced by Huguenot bearers of the name *Roussel*, of the same origin.

Early bearers:

given names:

Russel, about 1095 in Bury Saint Edmunds Documents (Suffolk); Russellus de Suberton', 1212 in Curia Regis Rolls (Somerset).

surnames, England: Ralph Russel, 1115 in Winton Domesday (Hants); Robert Russel, 1169 in Pipe Rolls (Dorset); John Roussel, 1297 in Earldom of Cornwall Accounts; Ellen Russell, 1538 in IGI (Haddon, Hunts); John Russell, 1539 in IGI (Northam, Devon); Mary Russell, 1539 in IGI (Saint Matthew Friday Street, London); Alice Russell, 1540 in IGI (Worplesdon, Surrey); John Russell, 1540 in IGI (Piddinghoe, Sussex).

surnames, Scotland: Walter Russell, 1164–77 in Paisley Register; John Russel, 1180–1220 in Black; Robert Russel, 1296 in Scotland Calendar (Berwicks); Andreas dictus Russell, 1310 in Aberdeen Register (Aberdeens); William dictus Russelle, about 1320 in Great Seal of Scotland; Jerome Russell, 1539 in Black (Glasgow).

2 English: locative name from any of several places called Rushall (Herefs, Norfolk, Staffs, Wilts) or Rusthall (Kent). See RUSTELL.

Further information:

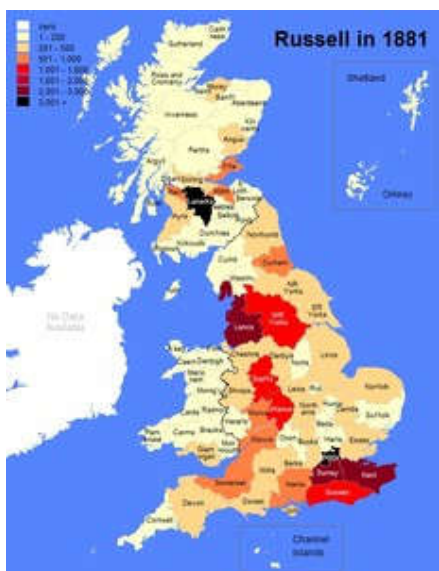
Vivien de Russehale, a woodward in the Forest of Dean, is supposed to have given his name to Russel's Bank in West Dean (Gloucs).

Early bearers:

Vivien de Russehale, about 1270 in Place-Names of Gloucs.

References:

Kentish Place-Names pp. 76–7; Place-Names of Gloucs 3, p. 231; Place-Names of Wilts, p. 323; Staffs Place-Names, p. 470; Watts, Dictionary, p. 513.



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Russell, 1881 frequency.

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