

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Welsh

Variants: WELCH, WALCH

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13970, Ireland 518
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11723
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread throughout England and Scottish Lowlands: esp. Lancs; Lanarks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** scattered

1 English, Scottish: ethnic name from Middle English *welsh*, Old English *wēalisc*, *wēlisc* 'foreign, Welsh'. See also WALSH.

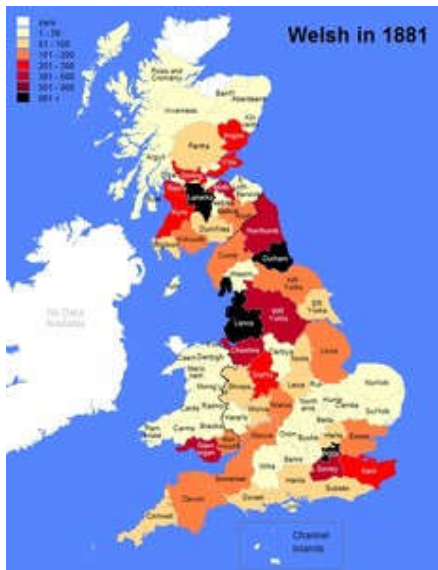
Early bearers:

Rose la Walesche, 1277 in Assize Rolls (Somerset); Simon Welsche, 1279 in Hundred Rolls (Beds); Margery Wellis, 1327 in Subsidy Rolls (Essex); John le Walsche, le Walche, 1327 in Subsidy Rolls (Suffolk); Roger Welch, 1334 in Colchester Court Rolls; William Welsh, 1548 in IGI (Stoke Fleming, Devon); Elizabeth Welsh, 1559 in IGI (Bruton, Somerset); John Welsh, 1563 in IGI (Fletching, Sussex); John Welsh, 1572 in IGI (Fiskerton, Lincs); William Welsh, 1574 in IGI (Stepney, Middx).

2 Scottish: ethnic name; in Scotland this may also may be an ethnic name for a Strathclyde Briton.

Early bearers:

John Walshe, 1360 in in Scotland Calendar (Roxburgh); John Walche, 1376 in Morton Register, Scotland (Kilbucho, Peebles); Patrik Welsh, 1618 in IGI (Edinburgh, Midlothian).



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Welsh, 1881 frequency.

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