

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Blyth

Variants: BLYTHE, BLYDE, BLIGHT, BLIGH

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5528, Ireland 56
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4698
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia: esp. Norfolk; also N England and S Scotland: esp. Fife

1 Scottish: locative name from Blythe in Lauderdale, Berwicks, and possibly also from Blyth in Peebles.

Early bearers:

William de Blythe, 1296 in Scotland Calendar (Berwicks); Adam de Blyth, 1302 in Scotland Calendar (Perth, Perthshire); James Blyth, burgess, 1485 in Morton Register, Scotland (Dundee, Angus); Cuthbert Blyth, burgess, 1563 in Laing Charters (Edinburgh, Midlothian).

2 English: locative name from Blyth (Northumb, Notts) or Blythe (Warwicks).

Early bearers:

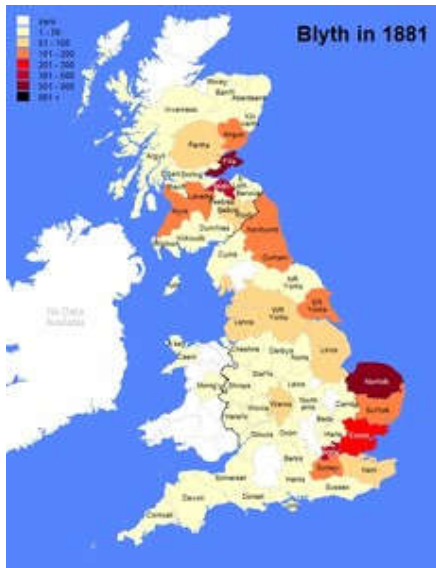
William de Bliða, 1177 in Pipe Rolls; Willelmus Blyth, 1379 in Poll Tax (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Johannes de Blythe, 1379 in Poll Tax (Wishaw, Warwicks); Alicia de Blyth', 1379 in Poll Tax (Brough with Stainmore, Westm); Willelmus de Blythe, 1379 in Poll Tax (Doncaster, WR Yorks); Thoma de Blythe, 1381 in Poll Tax (York, Yorks); Nicholas Blyth, 1539 in IGI (Norwich, Norfolk); John Blyth, 1541 in IGI (Pencombe, Herefs); Peter Blythe, 1542, Grace Bliithe, 1544 in IGI (Cambridge, Cambs); John Blyth, 1554 in IGI (Elm, Cambs); John Blyth, 1562 in IGI (Englefield, Berks); Katheren Blyth, 1563 in IGI (Lower Hardres, Kent).

3 English: nickname from Middle English *blithe* 'joyful, happy' (Old English *blīðe* 'gentle, merry') or from an unrecorded personal name, Old English **Blīða*, derived from this. The adjective is found as both *bliht* and *bligh* in the 13th century (OED).

Early bearers:**given names:**

Blide, 1101–7 in Saint Benet of Holme Register (Norfolk); Blithe de Ryseford, 1276 in Hundred Rolls (Yorks).

surnames: Willelmus filius Blie, 1188 in Pipe Rolls (Lancs); Robert Blithe, 1221 in Cotton Tiberius B ii (Norfolk); John Blythe, 1296 in Subsidy Rolls (Sussex); Johannes Blythe, 1379 in Poll Tax (South Creake, Norfolk).



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Blyth, 1881 frequency.

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