

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Green

Variants: GREENE, GRENE

- **Current frequencies:** GB 114774, Ireland 2618
- **GB frequency 1881:** 83566
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread throughout England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Down and Antrim; Cork and Tipperary; Longford

1 English: locative name from Middle English *grene* 'green' (Old English *grēne*), denoting someone who lived by the village green. Some of the Tudor examples below may belong under (2) or (3).

Early bearers:

Geoffrey de Grene, 1188 in Pipe Rolls (Kent); Richard de la Grene, 1200 in Pipe Rolls (Norfolk); Geoffrey Attegrene, 1206 in Assize Rolls (Lincs); Walter ad Grenam, 1210 in Curia Regis Rolls (Lincs); William del grene, 1221 in Cotton Tiberius B ii (Norfolk); John en le grene, Robert Othergrene, Henry on the grene, 1274–99 in Löfvenberg (Worcs); John super le Grene, 1327 in Subsidy Rolls (Derbys); Geoffrey atte Grene, 1360 in Feet of Fines (Oxon); Johannes othe Grene, 1377 in Poll Tax (Wombourn, Staffs); Henricus super le Grene, 1377 in Poll Tax (Beeby, Leics); Henrico dil Gren, 1379 in Poll Tax (Lowton with Kenyon, Lancs); Willelmus in le Grene, 1381 in Poll Tax (Ashford, Derbys); Margery Grene, 1538 in IGI (Norton and Lenchwick, Worcs); Hewe Greene, 1538 in IGI (Saint James Garlickhithe, London); John Greene, 1538 in IGI (Coleshill, Warwicks); Edward Grene, 1539 in IGI (Bushley, Worcs); Edmond and John Green, 1540 in IGI (Hartford, Hunts); William Green, 1546 in IGI (Church Pulverbatch, Shrops); Tho. Green, 1548 in IGI (Croston, Lancs); Alicia Green, 1551 in IGI (Cratfield, Suffolk); Mary Green, 1556 in IGI (Pateley Bridge, WR Yorks).

2 English: nickname from the Middle English adjective *grene* 'green' (Old English *grēne*), probably in the sense 'young, immature'.

Early bearers:

John the Grene, 1364 in Patent Rolls; Johannes le Grene, 1379 in Poll Tax (Great Ellingham, Norfolk); Hugone the Grene, 1381 in Poll Tax (Sewstern, Leics).

3 English: relationship name from a Middle English personal name *Grene*. Compare Godwin Grenessone, 1115 in Winton Domesday (Hants), Peter filius Grenii, 1196 in Pipe Rolls (Yorks), Matthew filius Grene, 1202 in Curia Regis Rolls (Surrey).

Early bearers:

Alexander Grene, 1230 in Pipe Rolls (Yorks); William Grene, about 1248 in Bec Abbey Documents (Oxon); Willelmo Gren, 1379 in Poll Tax (Great Glen, Leics); Richard ap Grene, chaplain, 1434 in Patent Rolls (Dolgellau, Merioneths).

4 Irish: (i) adopted for **Ó hUainín** 'descendant of *Uainín*', a personal name from a pet form of *uaine* 'green', see HONAN. (ii) adopted for **Ó Fathaidh** or **Ó Fathaigh** through erroneous association with *faithche* 'lawn', see FAHEY.

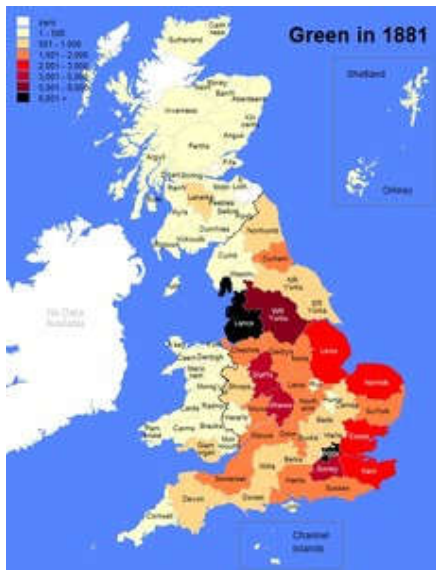
Early bearers:

Paul Grene, 1566 in Fiants Elizabeth §859 (to hold the custody of the house of Kilmaynan); Roger Grene, 1569 in Fiants Elizabeth §1354; William Grieghan, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6532 (Tibburd).

5 Jewish (Ashkenazic): anglicized form of German **Grün** or Yiddish **Grin**, ornamental or handout names meaning 'green', or a short form of any of the numerous compounds formed with this element; see GREENBERG, GREENGROSS, GREENSTEIN, for example.

Early bearers:

Elizabeth Green, 1808 in Great and Hambro Synagogue Births (London); Levy Ephraim Green, born in Holland, in Census 1851 (London); Ephraim Green, in Census 1861 (Whitechapel, Middx); Hyman Green, born in Poland, in Census 1881 (Saint George in the East, Middx); Solomon Green, born in Austria, in Census 1881 (Cheetham, Lancs); Aaron Asher Green, synagogue minister, 1892 in Anglo-Jewry (Hampstead, Middx); Hubert Green, 1899 in United Synagogue Members (Hampstead, Middx); Israel Green, born in Russia, in Census 1911 (Mile End Old Town, Middx); Harris Green, born in Russia, in Census 1911 (Leeds, WR Yorks); Moses Wolfe Green, born in S Wales, in Census 1911 (Prestwich, Lancs).



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Green, 1881 frequency.

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