

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Lindsay

Variants: LINDSEY, LINSEY, LINZEY, LINDSLEY

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14351, Ireland 1646
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9621
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland: esp. Lanarks, Ayr, Angus, and Fife
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down and Antrim; also Tyrone

1 English, Scottish: locative name from the Parts of Lindsey, one of the three administrative subdivisions of Lincs. The others are HOLLAND (1) and KESTEVEN.

Further information:

This surname was taken to Scotland by Sir Walter de Lindissie, a retainer of the Countess of Huntingdon, in or soon after 1124, when the countess's husband succeeded to the throne of Scotland as King David I. Walter's great-grandson, Sir William de Lindsay, sat in the Parliament of 1164 and was later a justiciar. The family has been influential and powerful in Scotland ever since.

Early bearers:

England:

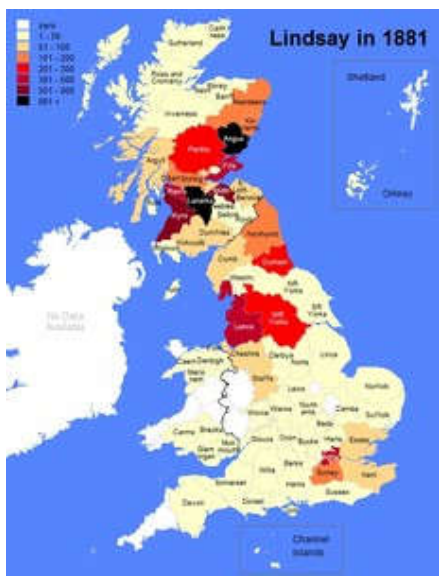
Robert de Lindesie, 1203, and Thomas de Lindesie, 1207 in Feet of Fines (Lincs); John Lindsey, 1564 in IGI (Barrow upon Soar, Leics); Allys Lindsay, 1570 in IGI (Authorpe, Lincs); Thomasine Lindsey, 1574 in IGI (Ipswich, Suffolk); Jeffrey Lindsey, 1581 in IGI (Grimsby, Lincs); Jony Lindsay, 1606 in IGI (Giggleswick, WR Yorks).

Scotland: David Lindsay, Earl of Crawford, 1576 in IGI (Perth, Perths); Bessie Lindsay, 1591 in IGI (Dunfermline, Fife); Elizabeth Lindsay, 1596 in IGI (Edinburgh, Midlothian); James Lindsey, 1611 in IGI (Tranent, E Lothian).

2 Irish: adopted for various Irish surnames, including **Ó Loingsigh** (see LYNCH), **Mac Giolla Fhionntóg** (see McCLINTOCK), and **Ó Fhloinn** (see FLYNN and LYNN).

Early bearers:

Oyne O'Linsie, clerk, 1588 in Fiants Elizabeth §5225 (Ardarta); Dermot O'Linsie, 1601 in Fiants Elizabeth §6557 (the Downings); Donell O'Lyensy, 1602 in Fiants Elizabeth §6657; Donogho O'Linsey, 1600–01 in Fiants Elizabeth §6466.



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Lindsay, 1881 frequency.

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