

Oxford Reference

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

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Waugh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5367, Ireland 309
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4050
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb, Durham, Borders
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

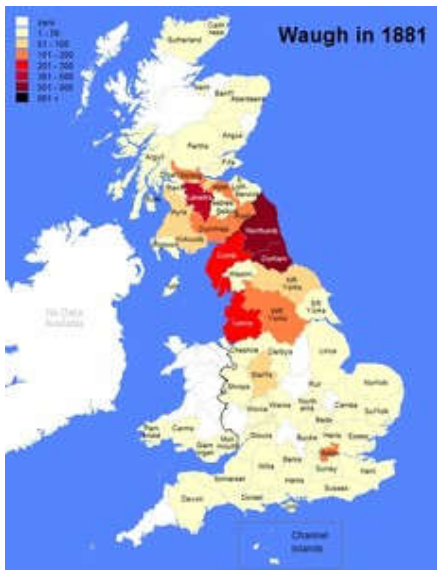
Scottish: nickname from Middle English *wale* 'foreigner' (in a form reflecting the final consonant of Anglian Old English *walh*), a word applied by the Northumbrians to Strathclyde Britons, in the same way that Gaelic *Gall* was applied by Highlanders to Lowlanders. The word usually denoted speakers of Celtic or Romance languages.

Further information:

Black's derivation from the place-name *Wauchope* is impossible, as is Harrison's from Scots and northern dialect *waugh* 'wall'. Places along Hadrian's Wall are named using Anglian Old English *wall*, not *wāg*, and the *-l-* remains in the documentary record, as in *Walker*, *Wallhead*, *Wallsend*. The only evidence that might indicate a place-name origin is David de Waughe, 1296 in Black (Lanarks), and this is probably an error for *le Waughe*.

Early bearers:

Robert, Thomas Walgh(e), 1296 in Black (Roxburgh, Peebles); William Wauh, 1379 in Yorks Poll Tax; William Waugh, 1436 in Black; Edward Wauch, 1526 in Black; William Waugh, 1565 in IGI (Auckland Saint Andrew, Durham); Alisone Wauche, 1574 in IGI (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Jeorg Wauch, 1578 in IGI (Anstruther, Fife); Issobel Wauch, 1601 in IGI (Kelso, Roxburghs); Adame Waugh, 1610 in IGI (Edinburgh, Midlothian).



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Waugh, 1881 frequency.

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