

Gott

Current frequencies: GB: 1498, Ireland: 10.

GB frequency, 1881: 1295

main GB location, 1881: WR Yorks; also Lancs

main Irish location, 1847-64:

Variants: [Gotts](#).

1 language/culture:English

(i) **Relationship name:** from the Middle English personal name *Got(te)*. It is probably in most cases a simplified pronunciation of the Anglo-Norman French personal name *Goz*, *Gots* (Continental Germanic *Gozzo*), often used as a pet form of the Old French personal name *Gocelin*, which was pronounced *Gotselin*; see [Joslin](#). The more usual development of *Goz* was to *Goss*, see [Goss](#). For the reduction of /ts/ to either /s/ or /t/ compare *Jort*, *Jors*, *Jorz* under [Joyce](#) (2). For *Gotson* as a patronymic surname see [Gosson](#).

(ii) alternatively perhaps *Got(te)* is sometimes from a pet form of one or more compound personal names with the first element (Old English or Continental Germanic) *God*, such as *Godhere*, or (Old Scandinavian) *Goð* or *Guð* 'god', such as *Guð(f)røðr*. However, unvoicing of *d* to *t* is only rarely found in such names in English records. A particular possibility is a Middle English **Gutte*, **Gotte* from Old Scandinavian *Gutti*, a pet form of Old Scandinavian *Guðpormr* (*Guttormr*) or perhaps of Old Swedish *Gudhfast*. Some of the following early bearers of the surname may otherwise belong under (2) or (3).

Early Bearers: (i) given names: *Gotte* filius Wulfrici, 1188 in [Pipe Rolls](#) (Yorks); *Gutti* le Cuper de Berton' [Barton Bendish], early 13th cent. in [Insley \(1994\)](#) (West Dereham, Norfolk); *Gotte* Fader, merchant, 1232 in [Patent Rolls](#) (Lincs).

(ii) surnames: Godui *Gott*, about 1095 in [Bury Saint Edmunds Documents](#) (Suffolk); Gilbertus *filiius Gotte*, 1195 in [Pipe Rolls](#) (Lincs); Haldan' *Gotte*, 1202 in [Assize Rolls](#) (Lincs); Nicholas and Alan son of *Gotte*, 1309 in [Wakefield Court Rolls](#) (Ossett, WR Yorks); Walter *Gotte*, 1318, John *Gotte*, 1343 in [Patent Rolls](#) (Lincoln, Lincs); Johannes *Got*, 1379 in [Poll Tax](#) (South Walsham, Norfolk); Willelmus *Gotte*, 1377 in [Poll Tax](#) (Amotherby, NR Yorks); Rogerus *Gott*, 1379 in [Poll Tax](#) (Airmyn, WR Yorks); Willelmus *Gotte*, 1379 in [Poll Tax](#) (Willingham, Norfolk); John *Gott*, 1559 in [IGI](#) (Friskney, Lincs); Johannis *Gott*, 1577 in [IGI](#) (Kildwick, WR Yorks); Thomas *Gotte*, 1567 in [IGI](#) (Sprotbrough, WR Yorks); Sara *Gotte*, 1598 in [IGI](#) (Great Ryburgh, Norfolk).

Other info: In 1319 Gocelin Bouer and Thomas Gotsone Bouer were accused of assaulting Gilbert de Lyndeseye ([Patent Rolls](#), Hunts). In Middle English usage *Gotsone Bouer* means 'son of *Got Bouer*', which seems to confirm that *Got* is a short form of *Gocelin*.

References: [Insley \(1994\)](#), p. 168.

2 language/culture:English

See [Goat](#).

3 language/culture:English

See [Gut](#).

Gotts

Current frequencies: GB: 796, Ireland: 1.

GB frequency, 1881: 490

main GB location, 1881: Norfolk

main Irish location, 1847-64:

language/culture:English

Relationship name: perhaps a variant of [Gott](#) (i) with genitival *-(e)s*. *Got(te)* is also found in medieval Norfolk.

Early Bearers: Geoffrey *Gottes*, 1346 in **Feudal Aids** (Norfolk); Henry *Gottes*, chaplain, John Henryservant *Gottes*, 1362 in **Patent Rolls** (Clippesby, Norfolk); Johannes *Gottes*, 1379 in **Poll Tax** (Worstead, Norfolk); Henry *Gottes*, 1390 in **Norwich Wills** (Clippesby, Norfolk); John *Gottys*, 1429 in **Norwich Wills** (Eccles on Sea, Norfolk); Thomas *Gottys*, 1502 in **Norwich Wills** (Walsingham Magna, Norfolk); John *Gotts*, 1569 in **IGI** (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk); Nicholas *Gottes*, 1579 in **PROB 11** (Little Ryburgh, Norfolk).

References: Gotts One-Name Study at <http://www.gotts.org.uk/>.