

Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study

Researched & Prepared by Kim Roddy (2011 - present)

RESEARCH

The Meaning of the Surname: Onomatology, Toponymy, and Etymology¹

The Gaelic names O’Rodachain, O’Rodaghan, O’Rodaighe, etc. all appear to be efforts to write the ancient names as they sounded and all of these names were eventually Anglicized to O’Roddy (or O’Ruddy) sometime during the Tudor conquest of Ireland in the 16th to 17th centuries.

The earliest written record for **Macrodaidhe** is in 919 CE as the airchinneach of Cloonburren and son of Dunchadh. The earliest record for **Rodaighe** is in 1037 CE as the father of Cairbre, airchinneach of a little church at Clonmacnois, County Offaly. It is significant to note that both of these early Roddys were located only a few kilometers apart on opposite sides of the Shannon River on the boundary between modern day Counties Roscommon and Offaly.

The earliest written record for **Rodachain** is in 1050 CE for the Bishop of Fearn (Ferns), “Diarmaid Ua **Rodachain**.” The Coarb of St. Caillin was reported as dying in 1377 under various names including John Ua **Rodachain**, John **O’Rodaghan**, John **O’Rodachan**, and Seaan **O Rodachain**. It seems clear that these names were all spelling variations of the same man’s name. By 1447, the coarb of Fenagh is referenced as a Matha O **Rodachain**. Fenagh is located in modern day County Leitrim, only a few kilometers away from Aroddy.

The Roddy surname most likely has its ancestral Irish origins in the Gaelic O’Rodaighe and O’Rodachain from the early middle ages. Some of the oldest records associated with this family name stem from family history of Tadhg O’Roddy (circa 1517) and the Coarbs of St. Caillin, as documented in the ancient Irish manuscript “The Book of Fenagh.” This same individual is also documented in English court cases of the time dealing with land rights of the ancestral family ownership of the parish lands near Fenagh, about four kilometers northeast of Aroddy, County Leitrim, Ireland.

Tadhg O’Rodaighe

Ancient Origins

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Before attempting to fully understand the professional heraldry and commercial reports reproduced below, a discussion is required to understand the subtle distinctions between some of the lesser known and understood religious titles used: *coarb*, *comharb*, *erenagh*, and *airchinneach*.

¹ Onomatology is the study of proper names in general, toponymy is a sub-category and specifically the study of place names, and etymology the study of the origin of words in general.

The following definitions are provided from Wikipedia, which are appropriately resourced and verified to be accurate:

A **coarb**, sometimes spelled comharb or comarb, were lay-Abbots or lay-guardians and the hereditary farmers and wardens of the church lands belonging to a monastery. The title was necessary if a generation of heirs were not in the monastic order, and therefore couldn't be actual Abbots.

The medieval Irish office of **erenagh** (from old Irish *érenach*) was responsible for receiving parish revenue from tithes and rents, building and maintaining church property and overseeing the termon lands that generated parish income. Thus he had a prebendary role. The Erenagh had the tonsure but took no other holy orders; he had a voice in the Chapter when they consulted about revenues, paid a yearly rent to the Bishop and a fine on the marriage of each daughter. The role usually passed down from generation to generation in certain families in each parish. After the Reformation and the Dissolution of the Monasteries the role of erenagh became subsumed in the responsibilities of the parson in each parish.

From the Celtic Christianity Glossary²

Coarb (Gaelic: comharba=heir, successor)

The successor of the founder of a church or monastery, who as such enjoyed high personal prestige. The office was d anchorite movement of the 8th and 9th centuries.

Erenagh (Gaelic: airchinneach=superior)

An hereditary tenant of church lands. Enjoyed quasi-clerical status. In early Irish Church usage, an abbot or administrator of monastic properties. As with the coarb, the word and the institution kept its vitality because of the continuing connection with the administration of church property. But if similar in function, the erenagh was of lower status than the coarb, as the usage of the term 'chief erenagh' to describe a coarb testifies. In the later middle ages, the term airchinneach, in the southern half of Ireland, was also used to mean 'archdeacon'.

The following paragraphs are quoted from *A New History of Ireland*, and provide additional clarification³:

“The chief of the lineage in possession was appointed or at least confirmed by the bishop and bore the title of **erenagh** (*airchinneach*; Latin *herinacius*), which had originally denoted the head of a monastic establishment. A single church with extensive lands might have several erenaghs, each the head of a separate lineage occupying particular parts of its lands. If an **erenagh** lineage became extinct, the bishop could – and indeed was supposed to – install another in its place, and in

² Celtic Christianity Glossary (unsourced) found online at <http://individual.utoronto.ca/power/Celtic/chgloss.html> on 29 Oct 2014:

³ Cosgrove, Art, ed. *A New History of Ireland: Medieval Ireland 1169-1534*. Vol. II. Oxford: Oxford U, 2008. 434-435. Print.

the sixteenth century we find a number of lineages that descended from late medieval bishops installed as erenaghs.”

“The members of these **erenagh** lineages enjoyed, as they had done in the pre-reform period, a quasi-clerical status, and from them the greater part of the actual clergy in the purely Gaelic areas were recruited. The **coarb** (*comharba*; Latin *converbius* or *comorbanus*) was literally the ‘successor’ or representative of a patron saint and enjoyed as such an indefinable but very considerable spiritual prestige. His office was distinguished by this prestige rather than by any specific functions, but the **coarb** would normally be simultaneously **erenach** of the church lands in possession of his family.”

“In a number of places, however, the office of **coarb** had become by the fifteenth century a simple ecclesiastical benefice corresponding to that of rector and was no longer the hereditary preserve of a particular line. The probably explanation of the change in these cases is that the coarships in question had acquired an endowment in tithes, and that this had led to their being treated as ecclesiastical beneficed subject to the general rules of the canon law. Where this had not occurred, their original nature would have persisted unchanged.”

Heraldry and Commercial Reports

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Routinely, individuals researching their family history want to know what their family crest is. Traditionally, however, family crests were only used by landed families of wealth, and therefore most common names may or may not have a crest. Having said that, this section presents and discusses the heraldry associated, or claimed to be associated, with the study surnames. Images were found online at web stores purporting them to be authentic with no substantiating evidence or pedigree. The top crest was purchase at a heraldry shop in Derry, Northern Ireland in 2006.



Origin: English

Blazon of Arms: Argent on a chevron gules between three branches of rowan tree (or mountain Ash) proper, as many crescents or. *Note: The rowan tree is traditionally a charm against witchcraft, but in this Case it denotes Protection. The crescents denote Victory.*

Crest: A roebuck proper.

Motto: Spero meliora - “I hope for better things”



Origin: English



Origin: Ireland



Origin: Wales

From: "The Internet Surname Database"⁴

<http://www.surnamedb.com/surname.aspx?name=Roddy>

"This name, with variant spellings Rodie, Rhoddie, Roddy and Ruddy, has two distinct possible origins, the first being an Anglicization of the Olde Gaelic "O'Rodochain", written in modern Irish as O' Rodaigh. The Gaelic prefix "O" indicates "male descendant of", plus the genitive form of the personal byname "Rodach", from "rod" meaning "strong". Two distinct septs of this name existed in Ireland, one belonged to Fenagh in County Leitrim where the family held church lands and maintained the resident priests for generations. The other sept were of the Ui Bhreasail branch of Muintir Banna (an ancient tribal name for the descendants of Niall of the Nine Hostages, 4th Century High King of Ireland). Tir Roddy in the parish of Taughboyne, County Donegal, locates the sept. The second distinct possibility is that Rod(d)ie is a double diminutive of the Olde German personal name Roderick, a compound of "hrod", renown and "ric", power. On November 5th 1745, John Rodie, an infant, was christened in St. Peter's and St. Kevin's, Dublin, and on August 16th 1752, Mary, daughter of James Roddie, was christened in St. Andrew's, Holborn, London. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Tadhg O' RODY of County Leitrim, which was dated 1683, in "Dublin Society's Chorographical Survey", during the reign of King Charles 11 of England, known as "The Merry Monarch", 1660 - Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.1685."

<http://www.surnamedb.com/surname.aspx?name=Ruddy>

"This interesting surname has two possible origins. Firstly, it may derive from the Olde English pre 7th Century "rud(ig)", Middle English "rudde" meaning red or ruddy and would have originated as a nickname for one with red hair or a ruddy complexion. The creation of surnames from nicknames was a common practice in the Middle Ages, and many modern-day surnames derive from medieval nicknames referring to the personal characteristics. The surname may also be of Irish origin as an Anglicized form of the Gaelic "O'Rodaigh" composed of the elements

⁴ © Copyright: Name Origin Research www.surnamedb.com 1980 – 2014. Reproduced here by permission when link is included.

"O" meaning "descendant of" plus the personal name "Rodach", deriving from "rod" meaning spirited or furious. The surname is first recorded in the latter half of the 12th Century (see below). In the modern idiom the surname has many variant spellings including Rudd, Rudman, Roddy, Reddie, Ready, etc. Recordings of the surname from the London Church Registers include; Christopher Ruddy, who married Marie Petrison on September 26th 1630, at St. Gregory by St. Paul's, and Jane, daughter of Christopher Ruddy, who was christened on June 3rd 1632, at St. Mildred Poultry with St. Mary's, Colechurch. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Gerard Rudde, which was dated 1189, the "Yorkshire Pipe Rolls", during the reign of King Richard 1st, known as "The Lionheart", 1189 - 1199. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.”

From: “House of Names”

Since the initial publication of this study, the House of Names has been purchased by Swyrich Corporation, who has established new terms and conditions of use of content, including the condition: “The Content shall be used only for personal, educational and non-commercial use, and in any event the Content shall not be redistributed, published, posted on the Internet, broadcast, retransmitted or copied in any manner whatsoever.” Therefore I have removed the previously quoted content from this report and give the following links instead:

<http://www.houseofnames.com/roddy-family-crest>

<http://www.houseofnames.com/ruddy-family-crest>

From: “Coat of Arms Store”

<http://www.4crests.com/roddy-coat-of-arms.html>

“The surname of RODDY was derived from the Old English word 'rodu' and was a locational name from either Rhode in County Devon or from Rhodes, the name of two estates, one between Prestwich and Ringley and the other near Middleton. This was a common entry in Yorkshire records. It was a topographic name for someone who lived in a clearing in woodland. There does not appear to be any connection to the modern English 'road' which was not used of a thoroughfare on land until the 16th century. The name was originally derived from the Old French word 'rode' and was probably brought into England in the wake of the Norman Invasion of 1066. Habitation names are derived from names denoting towns, villages, farmsteads or other named places, which include rivers, houses with signs on them, regions, or whole counties. The original bearer of the name who stayed in his area might be known by the name of his farm, or the locality in the parish; someone who moved to another town might be known by the name of his village; while someone who moved to another county could acquire the name of that county or the region from which he originated. Early records of the name mention Hugh de Rodes who was recorded in the year 1319 in County Devon. William Rhodes of Yorkshire, was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. A later instance of the name mentions Robert Roades of Lancashire who was listed in the Wills at Chester in 1660. Occasionally the name was used as a metonymic

occupational name for a wheelwright, or for someone who lived by the water-wheel. John Rhoddie was tidesman at Garlieston, Scotland in the year 1792, and the first form of the name found in Inverness was Roddy. In Ireland the name was a variant of the name Roddy, from the gaelic O'Rodaigh. This name was found in County Leitrim, particularly associated with Fermagh. O'Roddy of Donegal, another eranagh family, is thought to be of different origin. Ireland was one of the earliest countries to evolve a system of hereditary surnames: they came into being fairly generally in the eleventh century and indeed a few were formed before the year 1000."

<http://www.4crests.com/ruddy-coat-of-arms.html>

"The surname of RUDDY was a variant of the name Roddy, from the gaelic O'Rodaigh. This name was found in County Leitrim, particularly associated with Fenagh. O'Roddy of Donegal, another eranagh family, is thought to be of different origin. Ireland was one of the earliest countries to evolve a system of hereditary surnames: they came into being fairly generally in the eleventh century and indeed a few were formed before the year 1000. The acquisition of surnames in Ireland and England, during the last eight hundred years has been affected by many factors, including social class and social structure, naming practices in cultures and traditions. On the whole the richer and more powerful classes tended to acquire surnames earlier than the working class or the poor, while surnames were quicker to catch on in urban areas than in more sparsely populated rural areas. The bulk of surnames in England were formed in the 13th and 14th centuries. The process started earlier and continued in place names into the 19th century, but the norm is that in the 11th century people did not have surnames, whereas by the 15th century they did. The name is also spelt RUDD. Early records of the name mention Gerard William Rudd of the County of Yorkshire who was documented in the year 1189 and William de la Rudd of Southampton, Hampshire was recorded in 1273. Richard atte Rudd of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. George Rudd was registered at Oxford University in 1554. Thomas Rudd and Elizabeth Green were married in London in 1620. It has long been a matter of doubt when the bearing of coats of arms first became hereditary and it was not until the Crusades that Heraldry came into general use. Men went into battle heavily armed and were difficult to recognise. It became the custom for them to adorn their helmets with distinctive crests, and to paint their shields with animals and the like. Coats of arms accompanied the development of surnames, becoming hereditary in the same way."

From: "The Historical Research Center"

(purchased in Derry, Ireland, in person by study author)

"The English surname Roddy is actually of Gaelic origin and belongs to that group of surnames which is derived from a nickname based on a personal attribute or physical characteristic of the first bearer. In this case the surname comes from the Irish or Scots Gaelic word "rod" meaning "strong" and the surname Rodaigh, as it is spelt in its original form, was given to one who was renowned for his muscular frame and acts of great strength. This surname is also anglicized to RUDDY, Rodie and occasionally Reddy, and is sometimes found with the patronymic indicator "O" as in O'Roddy, meaning "a descendent of Rodaigh." In Ireland the surname is found mainly in the counties of Leitrim and Donegal where the family played an important role as a leading

sept of the Ui Bhreasail branch of the Muintir Banna. They can be traced back to Niall of the Nine Hostages in the year 379 AD. In Scotland the origin of this surname can be traced to Wigtownshire, although many families bearing the surname Roddy are found to be descended from a father named Roderick. Thus this surname may also mean simply "son of Roderick" or "son of Roddy." Roddy and Roddie are particular to Inverness and records of this derivation in Scotland date back to the eighteenth century. The surname probably came to England through Scottish settlers at some point in the eighteenth century after the Act of Union created a "United Kingdom" of England, Scotland and Wales in 1707. There is a branch of Scottish origin in Liverpool whose arms are given below."

The following table catalogs documentation from early Irish Manuscripts of reference to ancient names associated with the Roddy-Ruddy surnames. Place-names are footnoted with modern geographic locations.

Year	Manuscript	Text
about 219 BCE	In the Age of the World 4981 (). Rudhraighe , son of Sithrighe, son of Dubh, son of Fomhor, son of Airgeatmar, after having been seventy years in the sovereignty of Ireland, died at Airgeat Gleann. It was by this Rudghraighe that these battles were won throughout Ireland: the battle of Cuirce; the battle of Luachair; seven battles in Cliu; the battle of Gleannamhnach; the battle of Sliabh Mis; the battle of Boirinn; the battle of Ren; the battle of Ai; the battle of Cuil Silinne; the two battles of Fortrasc.	<i>Annals of Uladh</i>
150 BCE	During this time about thirty-five Kings reigned, all of the Irian race except three or four of the Heremonians. One of the greatest of those Irian Kings of Ulster was Ruadhraidhe Mor (Roorey Mor), who flourished about 150 years before the Christian era; his descendants are called the Clairma Bory, and in history they are frequently named Rudiicians from Stidricvus, the Latinized form of his name Conchobhar-Mac-Nessa	<i>"An Historical Account of the Diocese of Down and Connor, Ancient and Modern"</i>

	(Conoovary or Connor Mao Nessa), an Irian prince, ruled over Ulster about the period of the Incarnation.	
332 CE	Emhain — The royal residence (near Armagh) of the kings of Ulster, until a.d. 332, when the place was demolished by the Brothers Colla, progenitors of the Oirghialla, and the Rudiician septs were driven into the district of Ulidia proper, or the present counties of Down and Antrim.	<i>The Book of Fenagh</i>
919 CE	Macroidhe , son of Dunchadh, airchinneach ⁵ of Cluain-Boireann, died.	<i>Annals of the Four Masters 2</i>
1037 CE	Cairbre, son of Rodaighe , airchinneach of Eaglais-Beag ⁶ at Cluain-mic-Nois, died.	<i>Annals of the Four Masters 2</i>
1050 CE	Diarmaid Ua Rodachain , Bishop of Ferna;	<i>Annals of the Four Masters 2</i>
1372 CE	John Ua Rodachain , successor of St. Caillin, a general sage, died this year.	<i>The Annals of Ulster AD 1202-1378</i>
1377 CE	O'Kelly, Bishop of Clonfert-Brendan; John O'Rodaghan , Coarb ⁷ of St. Caillin, a general scholar; and Mac Morrissy, the Great Dean, died. It was at Rome that this dean died.	<i>Annals of the Four Masters 4</i>
1377 CE	John O'Rodachan , comarb of Caillin, the sage of Erinn, mortuus est.	<i>Annals of Loch Cé 2</i>
1377 CE	Seaan O Rodachain , coarb of Caillin, a sage of Ireland died.	<i>Annals of Connacht</i>
1447 CE	Matha O Rodachain , coarb of Fenagh, a hostel for guests and a	<i>Annals of Connacht</i>

⁵ Airchinneach is Gaelic for erenagh, the title bestowed by the bishop on the chief of the lineage in possession of church lands and/or head of a monastic establishment.

⁶ From the *Index Locorum* of the Annals of the Four Masters: "Eaglais-Beag, i. e., the Little Church, at Clonmacnois." Clonmacnois is an early Christian site on the Shannon River on the northwest boarder of County Offaly, in central Ireland.

⁷ Coarb was literally the 'successor' or representative of a patron saint and enjoyed as such an indefinable but very considerable spiritual prestige. His office was distinguished by this prestige rather than by any specific functions, but the coarb would normally be simultaneously erenagh of the church lands in possession of his family.

	well of riches to the churches of Ireland, entered into rest.	
1497 CE	Teige O'Rodaghan , Coarb of St. Caillin, a man whose goodness could not be well described, by reason of its exaltedness, greatness, and vastness, died in his own house.	<i>Annals of the Four Masters 4</i>
1532 CE	The Coarb of Fidhnach, namely, Brian O'Rodachain , died this year.	<i>The Annals of Ulster AD 1379-1541</i>
		<i>The Book of Fenagh</i>
	More research is needed to identify the heraldic connection to the sept of the Ui Bhreasail branch of Muintir Banna (an ancient tribal name for the descendants of Niall of the Nine Hostages, 4th Century High King of Ireland), located by Tir Roddy in the parish of Taughboyne, County Donegal.	

O'Rodaighe, O'Rodachain, Redican, O'Roddy

O'Rodaigh - 'descendant of Rodach' (derivative of rod, strong); the name of a branch of the Ui Maine in Co. Galway; also a variant of Ó Rodacháin (which see) in Co. Leitrim." From "Sloinnte Gaedheal is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames" by Rev. Patrick Woulfe, 1923, found online at the Library Ireland at <http://www.libraryireland.com/names/or/o-rodaigh.php>

From "The Irish Septs – Surnames, Variants, Tribes and Locations" by David Austin Larkin in 2007, found online at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~larkin/documents/IrishSeptsVoll1.pdf> on 30 Jul 2014.

RODDY – REDICAN, REDAHAN, REDDINGTON, REDEHAN, RODAHAN, RODAUGHAN, RODEHAN, RODY, ROGAN, RUDDY, RUDICAN, see GRODDY, REDDEN

O'Rodachain – an Ui Fiangaigh sept of Dunmore, Galway and Ballyroddy, Elphin, Roscommon.

O'Rodaigh⁸ – a Partraighe sept, Erenagh of St. Caillin of Fenagh, Leitrim
O'Rodaghain – an Ui Degha sept; Bishop of Ferns, Wexford; and seated at Ballyrogan, Brittas Bay, Wicklow.

O'Rodachain – an Ui Bresail sept of Oriel in Donegal, and at Mulaghrodan, Clonoe, Tyrone.

GRODDY – MacGRODDY, MacGRUDDY, MacRUDDY, MAGRODDY, RODDY
MagRodaigh – a Cinel Feargus Erenagh sept of Carrigbracky at Desertegny, Inishowen, Donegal

REDDAN – REDEHAN, RODDAN, RODAHAN, ROHAN, ROGAN, see RODDY, ROGAN

O'Ruadhain – a Clan Cullen Ui Caisin sept, Stewards of Thomond, east Clare.

Cinel	collective descendants of an eponymous ancestor, see Clan
Clan/Clann	a Clan, collective septs or descendants of an ancestor
Co Arb	an hereditary churchwarden, keeper of the saints patrimony
Erenagh	warden or keeper or civil manager of a monastic site
Fer/Feara/Fir	people of a district or community
M'/Mac/Mc	son of, denoting somebody's son, or a surname prefix
Muintir	the family of an eponymous ancestor
O/Ua/awe	a grandson, or descendant of an eponym as a surname
Tir	the land of (e.g. -Tir Conail = Donegal, Tir Eoghan = Tyrone)
Ui	the collective descendants of an eponymous ancestor, see Clan or Cinel

Ruaidhrí, genitive — id. (the same), Rory, Roderick, (Roger, Roddy); Teutonic — Hruodric, Norse — Rothrekr, fame-ruler; a name introduced by the Norsemen

Mac Rodaigh—IV—M'Ruddie, Ruddy; 'son of Rodach' (strong); a rare Donegal surname."

Rodaighi – The family of O'Rodaighi ("Muintir Rodaighi"), now Roddy, descended from

Muintir Rodaighi

Fiangalach, son of Anmchadh, son of Eoghan Buacc, son of Cormac, son of Cairpri Crom. This family is to be distinguished from the Roddys of Fenagh, in the county of Leitrim, who were of a different race, as their pedigree shows. *The Tribes and Customs of Hy-Many, commonly called O'Kelly's Country, translated by John O'Donovan,*

Roddy - Irish: reduced Anglicized form of Gaelic Ó Rodaigh 'descendant of Rodach', a personal name probably derived from *rod* 'spirited', 'furious'. *Dictionary of American Family Names, Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-508137-4*

⁸ Originally recorded as O'Rodaghain, but changed to O'Rodaighe by the author to agree with the historic manuscript, "Book of Fenagh"

Ruddy - English: nickname for a person with red hair or a ruddy complexion, from Middle English *rudde*, Old English *rudig* ‘red’, ‘ruddy’ (see [Rudd](#) 1). *Dictionary of American Family Names, Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-508137-4*

From Irish Times Irish Ancestors

<http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/index.htm>

Roddie: Sligo-Leitrim, Midlands, Derry-Donegal etc. Ir. Ó Rodaigh, rod, strong. There were erenagh families of this name in both Leitrim and Donegal. MIF.

Ó Rodaigh: Roddy, Ruddy: líonmhar: Sligeach-Liatroim & rl. Is ionann é seo agus Ó Rodacháin. Baineann siad le Fíodhnach agus N. Caillín, leis. Féach Ó Rodacháin.

(roughly translated from Irish: *From Rodaigh: Roddy, Ruddy: plentiful: Sligo-Leitrim etc.. This represents since Rodacháin. They relate to Fenagh and N. Caillín, with. View From Rodacháin.*)

Mac Rodaigh: líonmhar: Cúige Uladh. De bhunadh Sasanach cuid mhaith de mhuintir Ruddy. Sloinne annamh i dTír Chonaill is ea Mac Rodaigh. Brí: rod = láidir..

(roughly translated from Irish: *Mac Rodaigh: plentiful: Ulster. English origin of many of the people Ruddy. Rare Donegal surname is Mac Rodaigh. Meaning: strong = rod.*)

Ruddy: Sloinne annamh i dTír Chonaill is ea Mac Rodaigh. Brí: rod = láidir.

(roughly translated from Irish: *Ruddy: rare Donegal surname is Mac Rodaigh. Meaning: strong = rod.*)

Ruddy: numerous: Ulster generally, Mayo-Galway. Ir. Ó Rodaigh. Synonym of Roddy, so connected with Leitrim. Those of E Ulster may be of English origin.

Geographical “Nameplace” Occurrences

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The following nameplaces were discovered during a wide ranging search for towns, cities, regions, notable buildings, etc., that had names related to the one-name study. The websites for the U.S. Geological Survey Board on Geographic Names and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency GEOnet Names Server were extremely useful and provided latitude and longitude coordinates for most of these places.⁹

⁹ See the USGS website for the Board on Geographic Names for domestic (USA) searches at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/index.html> and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) GEOnet Names Server (GNS) for foreign name searches at <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>

Placename	Notes	Latitude-Longitude
Aroddy, Leitrim, Ireland	11 km north of Mohill, Leitrim, Ireland	54° 0' 25" N, 7° 51' 53" W
Castleroddy Glebe, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland	Historic townland 6 miles north of Omagh, now only Castleroddy Road	54° 40' 51" N, 7° 16' 59" W
Rae Roddy Castle	Supposedly near Loughrea, Galway, Ireland. ¹⁰ Probably near modern day Raruddy East and Raruddy West, about 7 km north of Loughrea.	53° 13' 9.5" N, 8° 35' 22" W
Rodd, Rodd Wood, and Roddhurst, Herefordshire, England, UK	On road B4355 on the boarder of Wales and England, about 40 miles due west of Worcester, UK	52° 15' 28" N, 2° 59' 38" W
Rodde, Ambert, France	2 km north of Ambert, Auvergne, France, aabout 135 km west of Lyon	45° 33' 45" N, 3° 43' 42" E
Rodde, Grammendorf, Germany	Northeast Germany between Hamburg and Poland	53° 59' 37" N, 12° 52' 53" E
Roddey, South Carolina, USA	South of Charlotte in suburbs of Rock Hill, SC	34° 52' 15.5" N, 80° 56' 12" W
Roddy, Dodge, Georgia, USA	Half-way between Columbus and Savanna east of Cochran, GA	32°21'10"N, 83°15'02"W
Roddy Church		32°21'10"N, 83°15'06"W
Roddy Volunteer Fire Dept.		32°21'06"N, 83°15'03"W
Roddy, Tennessee, USA	Historic town was 60 miles west of Knoxville and north of Spring City, TN	35° 46' 18" N, 84° 46' 26" W
Roddy, Texas, USA	Historic town was north of Mabank, Kaufman, Texas, southeast of Dallas, TX. Roddy is on State Highway 198 and Farm Road 47 in southwestern Van Zandt County.	32°25'3"N, 96°2'9.2"W
Roddy Bayou, Prairieville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana, USA	25 miles southeast of Baton Rouge, LA	30°19'40"N, 90°53'02"W
Roddy Crater, Mars	Named after astrogeologist David John Roddy (1932-2002)	21.65° S, 320.61° E
Roddy Mountain	In Madison County, North Carolina, USA, in the Pisgah National Forest on the state line of NC and TN in the Smoky Mountains	35°57'58"N, 82°43'19"W
Roddy Branch (stream)		35°56'57"N, 82°43'29"W
Roddy Cemetary		35°57'43"N, 82°43'54"W
Roddy Moor, County Durham England, UK	25 miles south of Newcastle upon Tyne, Durham	54° 43' 41" N, 1° 45' 33.5" W
Roddy's Station, Sommerset County, Pennsylvania, USA	Historic place no longer in existence, 20 miles north of Cumberland, MD on Philson Road at the junction of Wills Creek and Laurel Run (stream) near existing railroad tracks	39°48'36"N, 78°51'32"W
Rodey and Rodey Canyon, New Mexico, USA	North of Las Cruces in suburbs of Hatch, NM. The community is located on the southeast border of Hatch along New Mexico State Road 185	32° 39' 20" N, 107° 8' 40" W
Tirroddy, Donegal, Ireland	8 miles west of Derry, Donegal, Ireland	54°58'11.0"N 7°27'42.5"W
Roddy, Frederick, Maryland, USA	Historic town north of Thurmont, MD	39°38'26"N, 77°24'07"W

¹⁰ “According to a history of the O'Neachtain/O'Naghten family written in 1788 by Edmond O'Naghten, the ancestor of the original O'Neachtain built the town of Loughrea. As he described it, "they erected a noble palace and church, and fortified the place with several strong Castles and Walls, one of which Castles through which was one of the gates of the town and called Latimor Castle and Gate O'Naghten appropriated to his own use and defense, and had his Arms cut in stone over the gate, with an inscription of the time it was erected." **The O'Neachtains reportedly also built Rae Roddy Castle, a stone fortress not far from Loughrea.**” [quoted from *The O'Neachtain Territory of Maonmagh*, found on-line on 12 Aug 2013 at <http://www.nortonfamily.net/norton-irish.htm>]

Roddy Lake Dam, Boone County, Missouri, USA	20 miles north of Columbia, MO, half way between Kansas City and St. Louis	39°10'08"N, 92°09'27"W
Roddy, Perry, Pennsylvania, USA	Historic place no longer in existence, 20 miles northwest of Harrisburg, PA, on Narrows Road	40°25'57"N, 77°05'56"W
Don Roddy Field Sports Complex, Bellevue, Nebraska, USA	2 miles north of Offutt AFB	41°08'54"N, 95°54'21"W
Fort Roddy, Kyegegwa, Uganda		00°38'00"N, 031°04'00"E
Ruddy Mountain, Valdez-Cordova County, Alaska, USA	A 7,461 ft / 2,274 m mountain peak on the western slopes of Mt. Drum in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve, about 200 miles east of Anchorage, AK.	62°05'18"N, 144°45'55"W
Ruddy Bay, Ecchols County, Georgia, USA	20 miles east of Valdosta, Georgia	30°49'49"N, 82°58'19"W
Ruddy Pool, Kossuth County, Iowa, USA	About 20 miles north of Algona, IA, near the state line.	43°18'09"N, 94°07'02"W
Ruddy Gulch, Shoshone County, Idaho, USA	5 miles east of Wallace, ID	47°28'11"N, 115°51'20"W
Ruddy School, Iroquois County, Illinois, USA	Historic school (no longer in existence)	40°30'02"N, 87°53'55"W

Earliest Historical Occurrences

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Earliest recorded instances of the **Roddy** surname (with variants) is as follows:

England:

Jane Roddey married Thomas Sefton in Burton, Cheshire, England, on 08 Jan 1579

Edmundi Roddey christened two daughters, Joanna and Agneta, in Wedmore, Somerset, England, on 5 Nov 1606.

Edmundus Roddy was buried in Wedmore, Somerset, England, on 08 Apr 1612.

Jana Roddy married Gulielmy Turner in Wedmore, Somerset, England, on 28 May 1612.

James Roddy christened son James in Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England, in 1656.

Michael Roddie christened daughter Mary, born 5 Dec 1655, in Long Newton, Durham, England on 16 Dec 1655.

William Roddy christened daughter Elizabeth in All Saints, Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, England on 9 May 1669.

Scotland:

John Roddie and Margaret Davidson christened daughter Sarah, born 12 Mar 1717, in Kirkmaiden (by Drummore), Wigtownshire, Scotland, on 20 Mar 1717.

John Roddie and Grizell McCrackan christened daughter Mary in Stranraer, Wigtown, Scotland, on 26 Mar 1712.

John Roddy (no father listed) & Margaret Davidson (no father listed) married in Kirkmaiden (by Drummore), Wigtownshire, Scotland, on 12 Feb 1730, and had three children [*NOTE: marriage was probably 1720 - possible transcription error*]:

- Janet Roddy, b. 25 May 1720, c. 5 Jun 1720
- James Roddy, b. 14 Sep 1722, c. 23 Sep 1722
- John Roddy, b. 1 Sep 1727, c. 7 Sep 1727

William Roddy (father William Roddy) & Elizabeth Davidson (father James Davidson) married in Kirkmaiden (by Drummore), Wigtownshire, Scotland, on 28 Apr 1721, and had four children:

- John Roddy, b. 23 Mar 1722, c. 8 Apr 1722
- Jean Roddy, b. 29 Oct 1723, c. 3 Nov 1723
- Janet Roddy, b. 16 Nov 1724, c. 24 Nov 1724
- Agnes Roddy, b. 7 Aug 1727, c. 14 Aug 1727

John Perry (father not listed) & Grizel Roddy (father Thomas Roddy) married in Stranraer, Wigtown, Scotland, on 29 Apr 1761.

Wales:

Ireland:

Mathew O’Rodachon (O’Roddy) was identified as the Canon of Clonmacnoiae on 8 Jul 1418 in a Papal document directing that he be made a brother in the Priory of Mothel (present day County Waterford, Ireland).

Tadhg O’Rodaigh (O’Roddy) was the Coarb of St. Caillin in 1516 when he was responsible for the transcription and adaptation of the ancient manuscript, the *Old Book of Caillin*. In the rewrite, now called *Book of Fenagh*, he documents his ancestry back to 300 B.C. A full 14 generations before Tadhg’s life was the first recorded Rodachae or Roddy, estimated at around the year 1100 CE.

Hugh O Roddy and Sheelie Mc A Leese were married on 27 Oct 1684 at Derry Cathedral, Templemore, Londonderry, Ireland.

Canada:

United States:

Australia:

India:

European Continent:

Africa:

Other:

Earliest recorded instances of the **Ruddy** surname (with variants) is as follows:

England:

Scotland:

Wales:

Ireland:

Father Hugh O'Ruddy had a son Allexander O'Ruddy at Derry Cathedral, Templemore, Londonderry, Ireland, on 22 Mar 1658.

Canada:

United States:

Australia:

India:

European Continent:

Africa:

Other:

Notable or Famous Individuals

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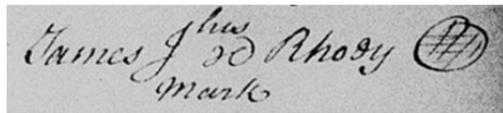
The following short list includes individual Roddy or Ruddy family members who are well documented and/or of some note in history or modern records.

Tadhg O'Rodaighe (abt 1517) - County Monaghan, Ireland (brothers Brian and William)

In 1516 Tadhg O'Rodaigh, Coarb of St. Caillin, discovered that the original vellum of the Old Book of Caillin had begun to decay.¹¹ He commissioned the scribe Maurice O'Mulconry (Muirgheas Mac Phaidín Uí Mhaoil Chonaire, d.1543) to transcribe it and produce the Book of Fenagh.¹² The original Old Book of Caillin (or Old Book of Fenagh, which is now lost) was entirely in poetry, so Tadhg directed that prose narratives or paraphrases were prefixed to the individual poems at the same time by the same scribe. In the Book of Fenagh, O'Mulconry, writing in 1516, traces back the O'Roddy of his day in 67 descents to Sitric, who is said to have lived around the time period of 300 B.C. The Coarb was a Latin and *Scotic* scholar and a composer of Sidna poetry. He married Honora O'Molloy in 1517. Another Tadhg O'Rodaigh (direct descendant of the Coarb of Fenagh) lived from about 1615 to 1710, and in 1640 he won a legal battle in the House of Commons in London against the bishop of Ardagh. In 1688, this same Tadhg O'Roddy supplied the links between himself and his ancestor of 1516, adding them in the margin of the O'Mulconry manuscript. This descendant, the second Tadhg O'Roddy, was alive in 1702 but was then about 90.¹³ The Book of Fenagh from 1516 was in the hands of the O'Roddy Coarbs of St. Caillin until the early years of the 19th century when it passed on to the last member of the family, Brian O'Roddy, Parish Priest of Kilonan. Around 1875, Brian passed the book on to the Bishop of Ardagh, Dr. Conroy. In 1888 the Royal Academy of Ireland brought the book for ten guineas from the Jesuit Fr. Denis Murphy. A modern edition of the book was published in 1875 and a second time in 1939.

James Joseph Roddye, Sr. (1680-1734) Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA

The grandfather of Col. James Roddye (below) was born in 1680 in Derry, County Donegal, in what is now Northern Ireland. He married Mary Hall around 1708 and immigrated to the colonies in 1722. He may have been the first Roddy to immigrate into North America. At the time of his immigration, he had at least five children, four of which he brought to the colonies to help work a mill on the Conewago Creek, running

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James J. Roddye" followed by a circled monogram, likely "JR".

¹¹ Tadhg is an ancient Irish name pronounced “tīg” like the first syllable of the word ‘tiger.’ In Irish (Gaelic) it is written *Tadg*, but is often Anglicized to Teige. Timothy, Tim, Ted and Thady are the most common equivalents to Tadhg. In Northern Ireland it was Anglicized as Teague, but pronounced 'Tayg'. It was also translated as Thaddaeus, Theophilus and Theodsius, which are names of classical and biblical origin.

¹² For more detail on the Book of Fenagh, see the Royal Academy of Ireland at <http://www.ria.ie/Library/Special-Collections/Manuscripts/Book-of-Fenagh> (link verified 14 Jul 2014)

¹³ See “A Biographical Dictionary of Irish Writers.” By Anne M. Brady and Brian Cleeve. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1985. 'Writers in Irish and Latin' section begins on page 255. Also see “Dictionary of Irish Writers.” Volume 3: Writers in the Irish Language. By Brian Cleeve. Cork, Ireland: Mercier Press, 1971.

between modern day York, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA. His will identified his surname as "Rhody," but he did not write himself, making a mark for his signature.

Col. James J. Roddye (abt 1742-1822) County Rhea, Tennessee, USA

Colonel James Roddye was born 1742 in Ireland, and died 1822 in Russellville, Hamblen Co., TN. He was a Colonel during the American Revolution, serving in the North Carolina line. He served with distinction in the Battle of King's Mountain, for which the Continental Congress awarded him a large tract of land. In 1785, he built the first house in Russellville, Tennessee (in now Hamblen County) which served as a tavern, called the Tavern with The Red Door (or the Red Door Tavern), on the Old Kentucky Rd. between North Carolina and Kentucky. This house was later named "Hayslope." Col. Roddye was a member of Capt. William Bean's company in the Indian raids in the early history of Tennessee. He represented Jefferson County in the Senate in 1789, and was one of the framers of the First Constitution of Tennessee, his signature appearing on that valuable document. He was commissioned by Gov. Sevier as a Justice of the Peace for Jefferson County in May, 1796. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1788, representing Greene County, as well as the 2nd General Assembly in 1797-99, representing Jefferson County. Some documents indicate he was born in England in 1748, exact date and place and names of parents unknown. Married (1st) in 1766, presumably in England, to Catherine Chase, who died in 1779. Before the Revolutionary War he emigrated from England and settled on Roane Creek in the upper Watauga valley. He later removed to Greene County, but when Jefferson County was established his lands lay within that county. In Revolutionary War: a private in Captain Bean's Company in Indian raids; was a colonel at the Battle of King's Mountain. After returning from King's Mountain he built the first house in Russellville (now in Hamblen County). He was married (2nd) in 1784 to a Miss Russell (for whose family the town of Russellville was named). Delegate to the Franklin Constitutional Convention from Greene County; member of North Carolina Convention to consider ratification of the U. S. Constitution, 1788. Sometime register and justice of the peace of Jefferson County. Member of the Constitutional Convention of 1796. Member of Baptist Church, one of the organizers of the Bent Creek Church. Died at his home, "Hayslope," in Jefferson County (now Hamblen) in 1823; buried in Bent Creek Cemetery, near Russellville, Hamblen County. [from "Descendants of Col. James Roddye at http://home.earthlink.net/~carolet1/James_Roddye_Report.html]

From The United States Biographical Dictionary, Missouri 1878

"Jesse Roddye was the son of Colonel James Roddye, who emigrated from England to America long prior to the Revolution. His first wife was said to have been a sister of Daniel Boone, by whom he had ten children; his second wife was a Russell, from Virginia. Most of his children moved South; one son and two daughters settled in New Orleans; both daughters married Lees, of Virginia. Colonel James Roddye was a Whig and received his title as an officer in the Revolutionary War; he was also a member of the state constitutional convention of Virginia, and died in 1824"

Col. Patrick Roddy (1827-1895) - Victoria Cross Recipient - County Roscommon Ireland

Colonel Patrick Roddy VC was born in Elphin, Co Roscommon, Ireland. He was an Irish recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He was 31 years old, and an Ensign in the Bengal Army during the Indian Mutiny when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross:

“Ensign (now Lieutenant) Patrick Roddy, Date of Act of Bravery, 27 Sep 1858, Major-General Sir James Hope Grant, K.C.B., Commanding Oudh Force, bears testimony to the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Roddy, on several occasions. One instance is particularly mentioned. On the return from Kuthirga of the Kuppurthulla Contingent, on the 27th of September, 1858, this officer, when engaged with the enemy, charged a Rebel (armed with a percussion musket), whom the Cavalry were afraid to approach, as each time they attempted to do so, the Rebel knelt and covered his assailant; this, however, did not deter Lieutenant Roddy, who went boldly in, and when within six yards, the Rebel fired, killing Lieutenant Roddy's horse, and before he could get disengaged from the horse, the Rebel attempted to cut him down. Lieutenant Roddy seized the Rebel until he could get at his sword, when he ran the man through the body. The Rebel turned out to be a subadar of the late 8th Native Infantry,—a powerful man, and a most determined character.” [*The London Gazette - 12 Apr 1859*]

Patrick Roddy served in the Abyssinian War and the Second Anglo-Afghan War. He later achieved the rank of colonel. He died at Jersey, Channel Islands on 21 Nov 1895. He was buried at Mont-a-L'abbe Cemetery, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Colonel Roddy's legacy is kept alive by the Roddy Family Hibernian Society which is now chaired by Roddy Bisgaard Lanigan. [Patrick Roddy – Wikipedia]

Brigadier General Phillip Roddey (1826-1897) - Confederate Army – American Civil War

Roddey was born in Moulton, Lawrence County, Alabama, to Philip and Sarah Roddey. His father, a saddler, had moved his family to Alabama from eastern Tennessee. Philip D. Roddey's birth year is usually given as 1826, which is on his tombstone. However, census records show him as several years older, and in fact his father had been shot and killed in an altercation in Moulton in 1824. Roddey's widowed mother raised her 3 children as best she could, but Roddey received little formal education. He was a tailor in Moulton before he was appointed sheriff of Lawrence County in 1846, serving at least until 1852. He then purchased a steamboat, which he ran on the Tennessee River. He married Margaret A. McGaughey and had a son and a daughter.

When the American Civil War began, Roddey, who had not supported secession, sought to remain out of it. After the fall of Fort Henry, Tennessee, to Ulysses S. Grant in February 1862, however, Union gunboats were able to sail as far as Florence, Alabama, where the shallows at Muscle Shoals stopped them. Rather than allow his steamboat to be

seized and used by the enemy, Roddey burned her. He then raised a cavalry company, which he led at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862.

Roddey was active with his company during the advance on Corinth, Mississippi, General Braxton Bragg. In October 1862, Roddey accordingly was authorized to increase his command to a regiment, the 4th Alabama Cavalry and was promoted to colonel. Roddey's regiment would serve under both Nathan Bedford Forrest and Joseph Wheeler, principally in Tennessee and Alabama.

In December 1862, the 5th Alabama Cavalry Regiment was brigaded with Roddey's 4th Alabama Regiment, and Roddey was named the commander of the District of Northern Alabama. Later, the 10th Alabama Cavalry Regiment added to his command, as was a Georgia horse artillery battery. In April 1864, Roddey's brigade was transferred to the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana.

Promoted to brigadier general, Roddey led his cavalry brigade thereafter mainly in support of Forrest. Roddey's men were armed with rifle-muskets rather than carbines, and as such are often regarded to as mounted infantry rather than true cavalry; they generally fought dismounted. Much of the time they were stationed in their own home area, and Roddey is thus called the "Defender of North Alabama". Roddey fought a delaying action against Grenville Dodge during Abel D. Streight's 1863 raid across Alabama and Georgia, and remained in Alabama during John Bell Hood's 1864 Nashville campaign. After Hood's failure, Roddey joined Forrest in trying desperately to stop Union General James H. Wilson's cavalry raid into south Alabama in March 1865. Roddey's command fought for the last time in April at the Battle of Selma, where Forrest's men were overpowered by the more numerous and better armed Union horse soldiers. Most of Roddey command was captured at Selma. The remainder surrendered at Pond Springs (now Wheeler), Alabama, in May 1865.

After the war, Roddey moved with his family to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He later relocated in New York City, where he became a successful commission merchant. He moved to London, England, for business reasons in the early 1890s, dying there in 1897.¹⁴

Thomas R. Roddy (1857-after 1920) – Chief White Buffalo of the Winnebago Tribe (now Ho-Chunk Tribe)

Thomas R. Roddy was born in April 1857 in Peoria, Illinois, when his father, Patrick, and mother, Margaret, were both about 27 years old. He married his wife, Ida O'Hearn, on December 31, 1885, in Jackson County, Wisconsin. In late 1899 he was elected to be the chief of the Winnebago Tribe of Indians (now Ho Chunk Tribe), who lived on lands near Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Thomas had long been a friend to the Winnebago Tribe, and had put together a Wild West show to help them earn money. He also lobbied for better treatment of the Indian tribe and helped them with negotiations with the federal government. When the old chief was sick and dying and was asked by the tribe who he thought should be his successor, he named Thomas Roddy instead of the presumed next-

¹⁴ Adapted from Wikipedia article viewed on 8 Feb 2014: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillip_Roddey

in-line, Tom Thunder, son of the ailing old chief. At the time, he was the only known white man to hold the post of Chief of an Indian tribe and the story was told throughout the nation in various newspapers. He was known as Chief White Buffalo. The Lincoln Evening News posted this story on 11 January 1900:¹⁵

The Wife of an Indian Chief

“Mrs. Roddy and Her Husband are to Rule over the Winnebago Indians”

“Mrs. Roddy, wife of Thomas R. Roddy, enjoys the honor of being the only white wife of an Indian Chief.

“Moreover she is the wife of a white Chief. For her husband, Thomas R. Roddy Native of Ireland has recently been elected chief and ruler of the Winnebago Indians.

“Mr. Roddy is a tall, handsome man with bushy hair and curling mustache. His wife is a very good looking little woman with a sufficient amount of diplomacy in her composition to assist her husband through the most trying situations of his future career.

“When Mr. Roddy gets in full control of the Winnebagos then Mrs. Roddy's real work will begin.

“I anticipate, said she, "a very busy time. We shall want to improve the Winnebagos in every way as well as enjoy them as they are a delightful people, loyal, and true to the very heart. In selecting my husband to rule them, they showed that they wanted a man of force and a man of character and education, one who whole do better for them than an Indian.

“In this country, as it now exists, the Indian must keep pace. He must wear comfortable clothes, attend schools, learn the ways of civilization and in other ways come up to the white man. This Mr. Roddy will assist them to do.

“My four children and I will live at Black Falls River and from there we will oversee, in our way, the Indians. For I intend to help constantly and steadily.

“There is trouble to begin with; Black Hawk and Green Cloud are enemies and rivals among the Winebagos. Black Hawk is a friend of ours or at least we are connected in a business way in the tribe. That fact has caused some trouble between Green Cloud and Mr. Roddy, but nothing serious we trust.

“Mr. Roddy's name will be White Buffalo. His crown will be a wampum belt, valued at \$5,000, which is presented to him upon his inauguration. In the inaugural ceremonies, which are very imposing, there is a medicine dance, after

¹⁵ Found online on 17 Jul 2014 at <http://genealogytrails.com/neb/wifeofwinnibagoindianchief.htm>

which Great Nojenkah, head of the Medicine Lodge, crawls forward on his knees and presents the belt to his chief.

“The Winnebagos are in a pitiful condition, said Mrs. Roddy. They are compelled to go fifty miles to school, many of them. The squaws are disheartened and the men are tired of agriculture as it is offered to them. It is vastly different from hunting in the woods or cultivating fields in the midst of picturesque scenery. They re-compelled to dig in the earth for the very poorest returns. If they depend upon farming as it is now stands with them without suitable implements. WE shall endeavor to improve their condition and I trust we shall be able to do so very speedily.”

Here is another story posted online about the challenge to the election by the son of the old chief. It was posed by the Winona Post on the 100 year anniversary of the event.¹⁶

A wild dispute was brewing across the river
by Dan Nerhaugen

The leadership of a Native American, camped across the Mississippi from Winona, nation was about to be settled with Tomahawks 100 years ago this week.

The May 21, 1900 Winona Daily Herald reported, "The Winnebago tribe of Indians, who have been camping just across the river from Winona, is preparing to install a new chief. Whether it will be Thomas R. Roddy of Chicago, who was elected a year ago after the death of Chief Black Hawk, or Tom Thunder, may depend on the outcome of a duel. Roddy, who is an Irishman and known as White Buffalo among the Wisconsin Indians, is preparing to go to the reservation next week and be inaugurated. Preparations are under way to give him a royal welcome.

"Tom Thunder of Trempealeau, the son of a medicine man, wants to lead the Winnebagos, however, and has sent Roddy a challenge to fight a duel, the victor to succeed to the leadership of the tribe.

"If Thunder wished to fight I will give him choice of weapons , as I am at home with the tomahawk or spear, and I have met much better men than him," observed Roddy today.

"But I am surprised at his hostility. It was Tom's father, the oldest medicine man of the tribe, who came to announce to me my election to the chiefship, and at that time he vowed allegiance to me. It was the wish of Black Hawk, after the death of his only son, that I succeed him, and I was chosen formally at a meeting of the whole tribe. Green Cloud, whose brother-in-law killed young Black Hawk, aspired to the office, though he is now loyal to me. I expect no trouble, but even if I did I should go to the reservation next week."

¹⁶ Found online on 17 Jul 2014 at <http://www.winonapost.com/archive/52100/OTHnews52100.html>

A few days later, the Herald said, "Tom Thunder, the Winnebago Indian, has got on his war paint and has issued a challenge to fight White Buffalo over the grave of Chief Black Hawke and he asks White Buffalo to name the date. ...

"The challenge was made and signed in the presence of several citizens and was mailed to White Buffalo last night. Young Thunder will have another meeting of the older members of the tribe this week and will make a big effort to have White Buffalo turned down and have himself proclaimed chief.

The local paper reported that the challenge had stated, "With tomahawks I will meet you at the grave of our valuable chief Black Hawk, and alone. You and I will settle the question of the chieftain. Give date. I am ready."

Despite the bellicose rhetoric of Thunder and Roddy, the dispute seems to have been settled peaceably. During the following weeks, the Herald made no further mention of the dispute.

Tom Thunder ended up accidentally drowning in the Mississippi River two years afterwards on 28 Apr 1902. The later life of Chief Roddy is not well documented. It is unclear how long he was an active chief of the Ho Chunk Tribe, or how long he associated with them, but by the 1920 U.S. Census he is in Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma, living with his wife and two sons, Frank and Bright. Bright was later known as Little Chief White Buffalo. It is not clear when he died as the 1920 census, at the age of 62, is the last record found.

PFC Donald Barrett Roddy (1943-1965) - US Army Casualty of War - Vietnam War

Private First Class Donald Barrett Roddy was notable as the only Roddy or Ruddy listed on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. He was born on March 7, 1943 to Mr. William Roddy of Gloversville, New York and Mrs. Mary B. Woolfenden of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School after attending Shaker High School in Latham, New York, for his freshman and sophomore years. He also attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan where he was a member of the Chi Sigma Nu social fraternity. Donald entered the Army on January 13, 1965. Private First Class Roddy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on August 18, 1965 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Donald was killed on November 15, 1965 as a result of enemy small arms fire during the Battle for the Ia Drang Valley. According to an Ann Arbor Newspaper article written by Gary Lillie, "Taking part in the first battle of LZ X-Ray, was Pfc. Donald B. Roddy, a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School." As a member of the 'Lost Patrol' of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he lost his life along with the rest of his machine gun crew as they fought to cover the withdrawal of their fellow troopers to safer ground. The account can be found on Page 87 '(We Were Soldiers Once...and Young by Joseph L. Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore). Donald was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Donald Barrett Roddy is survived by his

parents, his step-father, and a brother. His name is recorded on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Panel 3E, Row 61. He is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Gloversville, Fulton County, New York. [from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund at <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/44047/DONALD-B-Roddy>]

John Ruddy (1814-1832) – Irish Immigrant Murdered at Duffy’s Cut Pennsylvania

This young, unknown, Irish immigrant became known to millions after his remains were discovered in an unearthened mass grave in 2010. Due to the unusual circumstances of his death, and the unique genetic identifying trait in his family, researchers were able to positively identify him almost 180 years later. [Briefly tell the story and significance of this event here...]

Capt. Andrew Roddy, Sr. (1834 – 1897) – Great Lakes Sailor and Singer, Beaver Island, MI

When Captain Andrew Roddy was born on March 14, 1834, in Donegal, Ireland, his father, Patrick, was 34 and his mother, Kate, was 33. He married Catherine McBride in 1857. They had 13 children in 22 years. He died on February 5, 1897, in Beaver Island, Michigan, at the age of 62. [Briefly tell the story and significance of this event here...]

Watson Ruddy (1844-1895) & **James Ruddy** (1846-1900)– Ruddy Bros. Proprietors, Chicago, IL

When Watson Ruddy was born about 1844 in Tyrone, Northern Ireland, his father, Robert, was 29 and his mother, Catherine, was 28. He married Martha Byrnes on August 16, 1894, in Chicago, Illinois. They had one child during their marriage. He died on June 4, 1897, in Cook, Illinois, at the age of 53. [Briefly tell the story of his pursuit of Alice Mackin, his marriage of her step-mother widow Martha Byrnes, his subsequent death and Martha’s marriage to his brother James here... This story is more about Martha Byrnes than Watson and James Ruddy]

Historical Data

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Excel spreadsheets, gedcom files, etc.

Web scraping of raw information

Living Member Search Data

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(placeholder for how to deal with living member data and privacy concerns)