

Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study

Researched & Prepared by Kim Roddy (2011 - present)

This section lists the primary and secondary variants researched in this study, as well as the related surnames, variants no longer in use but of use in historical significance, and discusses common recording and transcription errors found or searched for in conjunction with this study.

VARIANTS AND FREQUENCY

Primary Variants

There are two primary variants of this one-name study: Roddy and Ruddy. For completeness, the Reddy surname has been added to the list of primary variants, but is of interest only as it is related to the focus of this study. Each of these surnames has their own variations, referred to in this study as “secondary variants.” These secondary variants are much more uncommon than the primary variants, and are often intermingled in the same family in different government and religious records. Some variants are as a result of an attempt to Anglicize the Gaelic original surname, such as O’Rodaigh becoming O’Roddy, and eventually Roddy.

Secondary Variants

Other spelling variations have been found in records for the subject surnames, but not used consistently over the course of a lifetime. These variants usually have the same sound when spoken, but for various reasons are spelled differently in different records. Sometimes the original record taker may have misheard the name due to accent or other reasons and spelled it like it sounded to them, even though the family used a different spelling, both before and/or after the record in question. Some of these variations propagated into existing family surname usage. Future work is still needed to relate families with these variants to the primary variants.

Related Surnames

These surnames have been proposed as probably related, but to date no connection has been made either through traditional genealogical research, family trees, etc., or through DNA connections. Larger population groups with these surnames are indicated as “related major surnames” and exceed 100 instances in the 1940 US Census. Those surnames with less than 100 are listed as “related minor surnames.”

Extinct Variants

These are variants of the study that were used in the past but are no longer in use today. They are included for historical significance and research purposes.

Transcription Errors

These surnames have been found in records for members using either a primary or secondary variant, and are most likely a transcription error. Often the original document is spelled correctly, but the transcriber misread the handwriting, causing these members to be missed in computer searches. A good example is transcribing a cursive upper case “R” as a “B” or a cursive lower case “o” as an “e.”

Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study Variants and Deviants

Primary Variants	Secondary Variants	Extinct Variants (none in 1940 US Census)	Related Major Surnames (>100 in 1940 US Census)	Related Minor Surnames (<100 in 1940 US Census)	Variants Not Found in modern records	Common Transcription Errors
Roddy	Rody ¹	Roodey	Rothe	Roddis	Roddee	R*ddy
	Rhody	Roddye	Rod	Rothey	Rodacan	K*ddy
	Roddey		Rodd	Rowdy	Rodichan	P*ddy
	Raddy		Rodde	Rodican	Rodichain	B*ddy
	Roady			Rothy	Rodighan	R*Ily
	Roody			Rodyes	Rodaigh	K*Ily
	Roddie				Rodaighe	P*Ily
	Rhodey				Roadie	B*Ily
	Rhoddy				Roadee	
	Roddi				McRoddy	
	Rawdy				M'Groddy	
	Rooddy					
	Roady					
	McRody					
	Croddy ²					
Ruddy	Rhudy	Rhudey	Rudd ³	Ruddis	Ruddye	
	Riddy ⁴		Rudy ⁵	Rudde	Ruudy	
	Ruddey		Rud		Ruuddy	
	Ruddie				Ruddid	
	Rhuddy				O'Ruddy	
	Ruddi				McRuddy	
	Ruddee				M'Gruddy	
	Cruddy ⁶					
	Gruddy ⁶					
Reddy ⁷			Ready ⁷			

Notes:

1. Rody (pronounced *row-dee*) had 600 search result returns for the 1940 US census, making it one-seventh the size of the Roddy surname (pronounced *rah-dee*). For the purposes of this one-name study, it is treated as a secondary variant of Roddy.
2. Croddy (pronounced *krah-dee*) is presumed to be a progressive of McRoddy and/or M'Croddy. Since the root surname is Roddy, it is included in this study as a variant.

3. Rudd is by far the largest related surname at 7923 search result returns for the 1940 US census, more than three times as much as Ruddy. More work needs to be done to determine if Ruddy (and variants) originated with this dominant English surname.
4. While Riddy (pronounced *rid-dee*) does not sound like Ruddy (pronounced *ruh-dee*), in cursive writing it is easy to confuse the two. It is assumed to be a variant of Ruddy by mistake, or a variant of Reddy. It will be included as a secondary variant for Ruddy for clarification purposes to determine if it is a result of a propagated transcription error.
5. Rudy (pronounced *roo-dee*), is the second largest related surname at 5563 search result returns for the 1940 US census, making it more than twice as big as Ruddy. For the purposes of this one-name study, it is treated as a separate, but related major surname.
6. Cruddy and Gruddy (pronounced *kruh-dee* and *gruh-dee*) are presumed to be progressives of McRuddy and/or M'Gruddy, which have a similar sound. Since the root surname is Ruddy, it is included in this study as a variant.
7. Ready and Reddy, both (pronounced *red-dee*) are the fourth and fifth largest Roddy-Ruddy variants or related surnames in the 1940 US census at 3287 and 2357 search result returns respectively. They are smaller than Roddy, but bigger than Ruddy. Reddy is a common transcription error for Roddy (and sometimes Ruddy), but is pronounced quite different. Professional genealogy historians have often listed it as an Anglicized variant of the original Gaelic Rodaigh or Rodican surname, after Roddy and Ruddy. Ready is rarely, if ever, a transcription error of Roddy or Ruddy, but it is presumed to be related to Reddy by virtue of the sound of the surname and similarity of spelling. Reddy will be listed as a primary variant for this study, of lower priority, but further variants of Reddy, including Ready, will not be researched.

A general note on pronunciation

As an American, and especially an American from the western states, my pronunciation does not reflect accents of people from other parts of the world, including other parts of America. On a recent trip to Ireland, I asked an old gentleman in a pub to pronounce “Roddy” and then “Ruddy,” and with his strong Irish brogue, I could not discern the difference in the names – they sounded exactly the same, “*Rrrrooddy*,” with a clear rolling “R” at the beginning, a guttural combination “*oo*” and “*uh*” sound in the middle, and a sharp “*d*” sounding almost like a soft “*t*.” Other Irish listeners had no difficulty discerning the different names and a large discussion ensued that they were, in fact, probably related, but of different descent. It is my opinion, considering that most Roddy and Ruddy families are of Irish or Scots-Irish descent, that when they came to America and immigration officials and census takers heard their names, they wrote down what they heard, as best they could. This is the main reason for the known mixture of Roddy and Ruddy heritage, as demonstrated by yDNA matches across both of these family surnames.

Search Returns from Ancestry.com 1940 & 1850/1851 Censes, FindaGrave.com, and FamilySearch.org
(From searches conducted 29 Jul 2014)

Primary Variants

The Guild of One-Name Studies defines a variant as a name spelling which varies from the primary name spelling (or another variant spelling) used by that person's ancestors and which is:

- A name spelling that the person was known to have used, through signature evidence on wills, marriage bonds, etc., or other documents originating from the individual concerned, or
- A name spelling used by officials on a consistent and persistent basis over a period of years.

A deviant is any other spelling recorded, including cases where the spelling occurs in official records, but only randomly and inconsistently. Deviants will also include spellings derived from enumeration, transcription and indexing errors, both contemporary and modern. The Guild recommends that members should not register deviant spellings as variants and should limit variants to those still found today. This is because most enquirers will realize that spellings in previous times were extremely variable.

Surname Variant	Ancestry							Find-a-Grave	Family Search	
	1940 US	1850 US	US Slave Schedule ^a	1851 England	1851 Scotland	1851 Wales	1851 Channel Islands	1851 Canada	2014 World-wide	1846-1851 US Irish Famine Passengers
Roddy	3587	474	113	160	45 ^b	3 ^c	1	58	3434	52
Ruddy	2137	116	0	160	14	0	0	37	1396	84
Reddy	2357	218	15	202	11	6	0	26	1907	98

^a 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules results give total number of slaves owned by persons with this variant surname

^b Scotland "Roddy" results includes 3 "McRoddy" in search results

^c Wales "Roddy" results includes 2 "McRoddy" in search results

Extinct Variants

These are variants with no search result returns in 1940 US Census, but historically used and related to the primary variants.

Surname Variant	Ancestry								Find-a-Grave	Family Search
	1940 US	1850 US	1850 US Slave Schedule	1851 England	1851 Scotland	1851 Wales	1851 Channel Islands	1851 Canada	2014 World-wide	1846-1851 US Irish Famine Passengers
Roodey	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roddye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Rhudey	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Major Related Surnames (with search result returns greater than 100 in 1940 US Census)

Surname Variant	Ancestry								Find-a-Grave	Family Search
	1940 US	1850 US	1850 US Slave Schedule	1851 England	1851 Scotland	1851 Wales	1851 Channel Islands	1851 Canada	2014 World-wide	1846-1851 US Irish Famine Passengers
Rudd	7923	1438	438	2983	13	19	14	66	8476	40
Rudy	5563	1065	95	39	3	0	0	17	4431	17
Ready	3287	936	120	421	57	15	2	89	3147	195
Rothe	1565	62	0	22	1	0	0	0	1266	2
Rod	1063	18	6	98	3	0	0	12	302	2
Rodd	868	104	10	446	5	9	0	20	599	5
Rodde	176	4	0	27	0	1	0	0	66	0
Rud	120	975	73	213	31	5	0	14	784	0

Minor Related Surnames (with search result returns less than 100 in 1940 US Census)

Surname Variant	Ancestry								Find-a-Grave	Family Search
	1940 US	1850 US	1850 US Slave Schedule	1851 England	1851 Scotland	1851 Wales	1851 Channel Islands	1851 Canada	2014 World-wide	1846-1851 US Irish Famine Passengers
Roddis	69	6	0	279	0	0	4	0	98	0
Rudde	58	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	23	0
Rothey	57	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	48	0
Rowdy	50	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Rodican	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Rothy	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Ruddis	5	23	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0

Prefix Related Surnames

These names almost always show up in searches with the root surname, but sometimes they have a space incorporated in the transcription between the prefix and surname. Instances of O’Roddy, McRoddy, M’Groddy, etc., including Ruddy variants almost always appear in search results for exact searches without the prefix and occur very seldom in modern records. Often the O, Mc, or M are transcribed incorrectly as a middle initial. Care must be taken to seek out these rare occasions so as not to miss anyone.

The following is a description of the use of some of these prefixes:

- M’/Mac/Mc – son of, denoting somebody’s son, or a surname prefix
- O/Ua/awe – a grandson, or descendant of an eponym as a surname

Surname Variant	Ancestry								Find-a-Grave	Family Search
	1940 US	1850 US	US Slave Schedule	1851 England	1851 Scotland	1851 Wales	1851 Channel Islands	1851 Canada	2014 World-wide	1846-1851 US Irish Famine Passengers
O’Roddy	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
O’Ruddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McRoddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McRody	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McRuddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McRudy	0	0 ^d	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croddy	122	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	159	0
Cruddy	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
M’Groddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M’Gruddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groddy	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Gruddy	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0

^d Mary Mcrudy (b. abt 1828) in US Census Mortality Schedule for death in 1870

All Surname Variants and Deviants

Surname Variant	Ancestry								Find-a-Grave	Family Search
	1940 US	1850 US	1850 US Slave Schedule	1851 England	1851 Scotland	1851 Wales	1851 Channel Islands	1851 Canada	2014 World-wide	1846-1851 US Irish Famine Passengers
Rudd	7923	1438	438	2983	13	19	14	66	8476	40
Rudy	5563	1065	95 ^e	39	3	0	0	17	4431	17
Roddy ^f	3587	474	113	160	45 ^g	3	1	58	3434	52
Ready ^h	3287	936	120	421	57	15	2	89	3147	195
Reddy ^m	2357	218	15	202	11	6	0	26	1907	98
Ruddy	2137	116	0	160	14	0	0	37	1396	84
Rothe	1565	62	0	22	1	0	0	0	1266	2
Rod	1063	18	6	98	3	0	0	12	302	2
Rodd	868	104	10	446	5	9	0	20	599	5
Rody	600	120	6 ⁱ	55	10	1	0	24	320	14
Rhudy	515	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	767	0
Rhody	438	152	0	48	2	0	0	0	419	0
Roddey	400	29	0	23	12	0	0	1	380	1
Raddy	303	18	0	2	1	1	0	0	22	3
Roady	297	47	12 ^j	35	0	1	0	10	383	2

^e All but 12 slaves owned by Kentucky Rudy families

^f Roddy – 17 records for Ireland, 1841/1851 Census Abstracts (12 Republic of Ireland, 5 Northern Ireland)

^g Includes three “Mc Roddy” (space between Mc and Roddy)

^h Ready and Reddy, both (pronounced *Red-dee*) are the fourth and fifth largest Roddy-Ruddy variants or related surnames in the 1940 US census at 3287 and 2357 search result returns respectively. Reddy is a common transcription error for Roddy (and sometimes Ruddy), but is pronounced quite different. Professional genealogy historians have often listed it as an Anglized variant of the original Gaelic Rodaigh or Rodican surname. Ready is rarely, if ever, a transcription error of Roddy or Ruddy, but it is presumed to be related to Reddy by virtue of the sound of the surname and similarity of spelling. Reddy will be listed as a primary variant for this study, of lower priority, but further variants of Reddy, including Ready, will not be researched.

ⁱ All 6 slaves owned by Ephraim Rody, East Feliciana, Louisiana, USA

Roody	185	27	0	4	0	0	0	0	46	3
Rodde	176	4	0	27	0	1	0	0	66	0
Roddie	172	22	0	56	54	0	0	1	118	0
Rud	120	975	73	213	31	5	0	14	784	0
Rhodey	108	20	0	12	0	0	0	0	63	0
Riddy	75	5	0	42	2	0	0	6	16	17
Roddis	69	6	0	279	0	0	4	0	98	0
Rudde	58	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	23	0
Rothey	57	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	48	0
Rowdy	50	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Rodican	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Rhoddy	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Ruddey	10	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roddi	9	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ruddie	8	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	15	0
Rothy	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Rawdy	6	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhuddy	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Ruddis	5	23	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Rodyes ^k	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rooddy	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Roodey	0 ^l	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roddye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Roddee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rodacan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rodichan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^j All 12 slaves owned by Thomas B Roady, Taylors, Jackson County, Arkansas, USA

^k While there were no 1850 records for Rodyes, there were a handful of records from 1830, 1870, 1900, 1920, 1930, and 1940 US census, and the 1841 and 1901 England census.

^l No Roodey results in 1940, but 9 in 1930

Rodichain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rodighan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rodaigh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rodaighe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruudy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruuddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhudey	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddi	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddee	3 ^m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^m All three in one family actually recorded as "O'Ruddee"

Unused Surname (no occurrences found)

Other variations in spelling of Roddy and Ruddy below were searched for but had no occurrences found in modern records:

- Roddye (10 Find-a-Grave only),
- Roddee,
- Ruddye,
- Rodye,
- Rodyes,
- Roddei,
- Roadie
- Rothy (10 Find-a-Grave only)
- Rodacan
- Rodichan
- Rodichain
- Rodighan
- Rodaigh
- Rodaighe
- Roadie
- Roadee
- McRoddy
- M'Groddy
- Ruddye
- Ruudy
- Ruuddy
- Ruddid
- O'Ruddy
- McRuddy
- M'Gruddy

In the London Election Registration, there were recorded these variants: Roadie (29) 1910-1958, O'Roddy (28) 1932-1965, Rodye (1) 1951.

There was also one Theresa Rodyes in the 1875 Minnesota census.