

Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study

Researched & Prepared by Kim Roddy (2011 - present)

ANALYSIS

Frequency Revisited

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During the census years of 1850/51 in the UK, Canada, and USA there were 703 individuals recorded with the "RODDY" surname and slightly less than half that number at 328 with the "RUDDY" surname, totaling over 1000 individuals (the Irish census for this period was destroyed and is not available). By the census years of 1900/01, there were 3,660 "RODDY" and 3155 "RUDDY" individuals in the same countries, including the Republic of Ireland. There is indication that the RODDY/RUDDY surname immigrated to Australia and other British colonies, but research is still ongoing to determine accurate numbers. To date, the research has produced no instances of RODDY families that did not ultimately originate from Ireland or the UK.

Of specific note, there are a number of RODDY families that derived their name as a result of slavery in the early to mid-1800's in the US. For example, there are 113 individuals with the last name RODDY in the 1850 US Federal Census Slave Schedules. The majority of these slaves were owned by RODDY families living in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Louisiana. According to an [ONS database](#) there were some 1172 "RODDY" individuals as of September 2002 in England and Wales. This gives a frequency of 1 in 46,425 or 0.0022% of the population, ranked the 5,840th most common name in England and Wales. The same data base indicates there were 1518 "RUDDY" individuals at the same date with a frequency of 1 in 35,842 or 0.0028%, ranked 4,707.

The US Census made Surname frequency information available for the year 2000, available at <http://www.census.gov/genealogy/www/data/2000surnames/index.html>.

The **RODDY** name had the following frequency:

Name	RODDY
Rank	4660
Number of occurrences	6957
Proportion per 100,000 people for name	2.58
Cumulative proportion per 100,000 people	59264.23
Percent Non-Hispanic White Only	78.42
Percent Non-Hispanic Black Only	17.36
Percent Non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander Only	0.49
Percent Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native Only	0.37
Percent Non-Hispanic of Two or More Races	1.48
Percent Hispanic Origin	1.87

The **RUDDY** name had the following frequency:

Name	RUDDY
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Rank	9831
Number of occurrences	3034
Proportion per 100,000 people for name	1.12
Cumulative proportion per 100,000 people	67877.95
Percent Non-Hispanic White Only	95.35
Percent Non-Hispanic Black Only	0.26
Percent Non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander Only	0.56
Percent Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native Only	0.23
Percent Non-Hispanic of Two or More Races	0.92
Percent Hispanic Origin	2.67

Based on the above information, it is estimated that there are on the order of 10,000 to 20,000 individuals using the RODDY surname throughout the world today.

Distribution of the name

In 1850/51, over 62% of RODDY individuals were recorded in the US Census, while almost 30% were recorded in the UK. Canada had just over 8% of the RODDY individuals in 1851. The 1851 census for Ireland were destroyed and no census information is available during the 1850/51 time frame. In 1900/01, just over 63% of RODDY individuals were recorded in the US Census, but the UK percentage dropped to around 12.5%. Canada had 3% and the now-available Irish RODDY individuals accounted for over 21%.

The rate of change for the US RODDY population between 1850 and 1900 was $2308 / 438 = 527\%$. The same rate of change for the UK was $456 / 207 = 220\%$. If the Irish 1901 numbers are not included, the overall total rate of change for RODDY was $(3660-779) / 703 = 410\%$. Based on this, one could estimate that the number of RODDY individuals in Ireland in 1851 was around $779 / 410\% = 190$, but this does not account for massive death and emigration from Ireland to the US during the famine from 1845 – 1852.

Data

While conducting the research, I also gathered data for the RODY variant of the name. This variant may need to be added in the future as it seems to be associated with various RODDY families.

US Census Survey Results:

Year	RODDY	RUDDY	RODY
1790	6 families	0 families	2 families
1800	7 "	3 "	0 "
1810	12 "	1 "	10 "
1820	24 "	0 "	3 "
1830	52 "	8 "	15 "
1840	43 "	5 "	21 "
1850	438 individuals	116 individuals	120 individuals
1860	605 "	244 "	191 "
1870	1048 "	535 "	395 "

1880	1388 "	812 "	255 "
1890 (partial)	0 "	0 "	4 "
1900	2308 "	1435 "	505 "
1910	2724 "	1680 "	536 "
1920	3042 "	1922 "	727 "
1930	3438 "	2029 "	552 "

Canada Census Survey Results:

Year	RODDY	RUDDY	RODY
1851	58 individuals	37 individuals	24 individuals
1861	70 "	98 "	13 "
1871	90 "	96 "	78 "
1881	127 "	102 "	20 "
1891	130 "	122 "	53 "
1901	117 "	133 "	66 "
1911	137 "	146 "	78 "

UK Census Survey Results:

Year	RODDY	RUDDY	RODY
1841	78 individuals	77 individuals	52 individuals
1851	207 "	175 "	66 "
1861	209 "	242 "	65 "
1871	276 "	303 "	66 "
1881	297 "	493 "	5 "
1891	362 "	530 "	21 "
1901	456 "	576 "	38 "
1911	75 "	117 "	2 "

Ireland Census Survey Results:

Year	RODDY	RUDDY	RODY
1901	779 individuals	1011 individuals	0 individuals
1911	763 "	1067 "	0 "

Total Census Survey Results (UK, US, Canada):

Year	RODDY	RUDDY	RODY
1850/51	703 individuals	328 individuals	210 individuals
1900/01	3660 "	3146 "	609 "

Ireland 1766 Religious Census Survey Results:

3 RODDY - Edmond, James, and Pat all from Carlingford, Louth

1 RUDDY - James from Kildemock, Louth

1 RODY - Tyrone from Dungannon, Armagh

Placeholder for statistical analysis

During the census years of 1850/51 in the UK, Canada, and USA there were 703 individuals recorded with the Roddy surname and slightly less than half that number at 328 with the Ruddy surname, totaling just over 1000 individuals (the Irish census for this period was destroyed and is not available). By the census years of 1900/01, there were 3,660 Roddy and 3155 Ruddy individuals in the same countries, including the Republic of Ireland. There is indication that the Roddy-Ruddy surname immigrated to Australia and other British colonies, but research is still ongoing to determine accurate numbers. To date, the research has produced no instances of true Roddy or Ruddy families that did not ultimately originate from Ireland or the UK. At least one family is documented as originating in Prussia, but their original surname was Radue. In various censuses in the US, the same family name was written as Rade and Ruddy.

Of specific note, there are a number of Roddy families that derived their name as a result of slavery in the early to mid-1800's in the US. For example, there are 113 individuals with the last name Roddy in the 1850 US Federal Census Slave Schedules. The majority of these slaves were owned by Roddy families living in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

According to an [ONS database](#) there were some 1172 Roddy individuals as of September 2002 in England and Wales. This gives a frequency of 1 in 46,425 or 0.0022% of the population, ranked the 5,840th most common name in England and Wales. The same data base indicates there were 1518 Ruddy individuals at the same date with a frequency of 1 in 35,842 or 0.0028%, ranked 4,707.

The US Census made Surname frequency information available for the year 2000, available at <http://www.census.gov/genealogy/www/data/2000surnames/index.html>.

The **Ruddy** was the most common surname variant and had the following frequency:

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A simple search on FamilyTree.org gave the following total returns for each variant considered in this study. It is important to note that the number of returns includes duplicates and multiple records for the same individual, or one record for a family with the same surname, and does not indicate the total number of individuals in the study. This is merely another method of attempting to estimate the total number of individuals in the study and to help determine which variant is most dominant and which are rarely used. This knowledge will help inform the decision as to which are true primary variants, reasonable historic and present-day secondary variants, and which variants are no longer used or have ever been used.

Variant	Total Records Returned on Exact Search	
	Ancestry.com	FamilySearch.org
Ruddy		
Roddy		
Roddey		
Roddie		
Roody		
Rodde		
Roddye		
Roddee		
Rooddy		
O'Roddy		
O'Roddie		
Rodican		
Ruddie		
O'Ruddy		
O'Ruddie		
Reddy		
Raddy		
Rody		
Rhody		
Roady		
Rhodey		
Roadie		
Roadee		
Rudy		
Ruddi		
Rothe		
M'Groddy		
McRoddy		
McRoddie		
Roddid		
Rody		
Rud		
Rudd		
Reddy		
Rod		
Rodd		
McRuddy		

Based on the above information, it is estimated that there are on the order of 10,000 to 20,000 individuals using the Roddy surname throughout the world today.

It is also worth noting the difference between Roddy and Ruddy ethnicities: The Ruddy families have less than 150 members in the year 2000 that were not Caucasian, and only about 7-8 African-Americans. Contrast this with the Roddy families in which slightly over 1500 were not Caucasian, including over 1200 African-Americans. Presumably this may indicate that in general, while the Roddy families were historical slave holders, the Ruddy families were not.

Geographic Distribution

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Placeholder

statistical analysis

geographical analysis

Proposed Modern Origins

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Rod → Rodd → Roddy ??? [‘ahh’ sounds like rod – ‘rah•dee’]

This possibility doesn’t seem to be supported well by the early records of these families. Rod and Rodd show up scattered across lower England and Cornwall in the 1530-1550s. While the first Roddy variant shows up in Cheshire, near Liverpool, they are not clearly linked by family or geographic proximity.

Rud → Rudd → Ruddy ??? [‘uh’ sounds like rut – ‘ruh•dee’]

There is some evidence to support the theory that the Ruddy surname emerged from the Rudd family in County Norfolk in the 1530s. While most of this family stayed in Norfolk, a number moved to the shires north of London, including Berkshire, Hertfordshire and then Bedfordshire, where names such as Rudde, Ruddle, and Ruddy emanated. The first Ruddy family in the English census was recorded in 1570 in southwest Bedfordshire, near the border of Hertfordshire.

O’Roddy, McRoddy, M’Groddy → Roddy

O’Ruddy, McRuddy, M’Gruddy → Ruddy