

# **Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study**

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## **GOALS**

The Guild defines a One-Name Study as: "Research into the genealogy and family history of all persons with the same surname and its variants." A one-name study is a project researching all occurrences of a surname, as opposed to a particular pedigree or descendancy. In short it encompasses the research of a surname over the face of the earth throughout the known recorded history of time.

Clearly this is a daunting task, even for an uncommon family name, and while the Roddy or Ruddy surname is not as common as Jones and Smith, it is also not extremely rare. It is estimated that there are approximately 10,000-20,000 individuals with these surnames living today. A rough estimate of all individuals recorded in history with either of these two names is on the order of 50,000-100,000 people total.

This study will never be completely done, and will always be a work in progress, but it is the intension of the author to post results as they are achieved, modifying them as additional information is discovered and analyzed. In order to help keep the study on track and continue to be useful and relevant, the following specific goals have been established:

1. Identify all known living and historic individuals and families with the Roddy or Ruddy surname, including those who used lesser variants that are no longer in use today.
2. Identify all worldwide Roddy and Ruddy family branches and attempt to determine which are related through both traditional and genetic (DNA) genealogical research.
3. Develop and maintain a searchable archive for all available Roddy and Ruddy records, maintaining appropriate safeguards for all living people in the data base.
4. Develop and maintain a searchable, on-line public record data base available to all interested researchers of the Roddy and Ruddy surnames, maintaining appropriate safeguards for all living people in the data base.
5. Propose and defend the true origins of the Roddy and Ruddy surnames, including if and how these two family names are related. Identify the earliest recorded use of these surnames in distinct geographic areas. Attempt to determine if these surnames have evolved from or are related to similar surnames such as Rodd and Rudd.
6. Analyze and present the current and historic frequency of the surnames.
7. Analyze and present the current and historic geographic distribution of the surnames, as well as patterns of immigration and emigration.

Taken together, these goals should help this study validate existing genealogical research, prove or disprove theories regarding ancestors, migrations, and history, and assist in the breakdown of genealogical “brick walls” in the research associated with Roddy and Ruddy families.