

Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study

Researched & Prepared by Kim Roddy (2011 - present)

Heraldry and

Ruddy¹

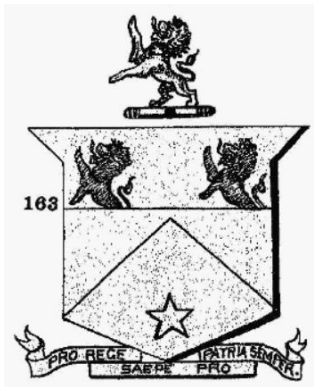
Arms: Per chev. in chief two demi lions ramp. and a mullet in base.

Crest: A lion ramp.

Motto: Pro regé sæpe, pro patria semper.

Translation: Often for my king but always for my country.

Meaning: Often have they fought for the king, always for their country.



Commercial Reports

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.

¹ Ancestry.com. Irish Pedigrees [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2003. Original data: O'Hart, John. Irish Pedigrees; or The Origin and Stem of The Irish Nation. Vol. 1-2. New York, USA: Murphy & McCarthy, 1923. Page 346; motto translation on page 19A; crest on plate 36



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: English²



Origin: Ireland



Origin: Wales

From: "The Internet Surname Database"³

<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

² This crest is actually for Rodd, sometimes presumed to be the origin of Roddy, but unsubstantiated and probably not true.

³ © Copyright: Name Origin Research www.surnamedb.com 1980 – 2014. Reproduced here by permission when link is included.

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 "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”

The initial publisher 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.”

I have therefore 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 Uí 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.”

From Irish Times Irish Ancestors: <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/index.htm>

Roddie: Sligo-Leitrim, Midlands, Derry-Donnegal 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.