

Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study

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METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this study was informed by the goals and developed along the way, adapting and expanding as more information was discovered and understood. With hind-sight after a few years of basic research (step 3 below), this list was revisited and revised to become what it is today. It is my hope that by clearly stating the process of conducting this one-name study, as well as keeping the methods generic, other researchers might be inspired as to how to start and conduct their own study.

1. Clearly state a hypothesis for the study.
2. Establish a clear and achievable set of goals that will motivate and drive the study and make it useful for the principle researcher and author, as well as other researchers interested in the Roddy and Ruddy surnames and secondary variants.
3. Do basic searches for the Roddy and Ruddy surname on common genealogical research sites, as well as living people search sites to get a feel for the size and scope of the study. Report these original findings in the Frequency of Name section, modifying as additional information becomes available.
4. Determine all known lesser variants, both past and present, documenting common transcription errors and miss-spellings, and annotating variants that are no longer in use today. Investigate previously unidentified applicable individuals by conducting extensive searches for these common transcription errors and miss-spellings as well. Based on this research, establish a preliminary set of primary and secondary variants to research.
5. Identify all known living and historic individuals and families with the Roddy or Ruddy surname, including all appropriate variants. Begin gathering data based on Internet searches first, and then conduct email, targeted letter writing and personal visits as necessary. Examples of data gathering include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Develop Excel spreadsheets for each primary and secondary variant with separate workbooks for each source found. Establish a unique naming convention or numbering scheme to identify each individual.
 - b. Utilize Ancestry.com to record each individual found and attach a copy of each supporting record for that individual to the file. Ultimately, every record on Ancestry.com that is associated with a study variant should show that it is attached to a person in this study.
 - c. Seek out previous research on Roddy-Ruddy families, including public, private, and commercial sources.

- d. Visit the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to look for previously published studies that will help inform this study.
 - e. Search for oldest recorded instances of variants in various geographic areas.
 - f. Identify notable or famous people during the search and summarize their lives for the study.
 - g. Continue gathering historical data and documenting it in the previously mentioned spreadsheets. If possible, save copies of all original historical data in a PDF format.
 - h. Conduct searches for living persons with the primary and secondary variations of the subject surname using Internet search, telephone books, social media, etc. Maintain a secure, searchable contact list, but ensure privacy for these living individuals. These living individuals should be contacted as necessary to acquire new information, confirm previous research, and possibly contribute to genealogical DNA testing.
 - i. Attempt to recruit as many living males to participate in the Ruddy-Roddy Surname DNA Project on FamilyTreeDNA, as well as other applicable DNA projects that may provide data supporting this study. Encourage women who are related to the study surnames to participate in autosomal DNA tests such as FamilyFinder and AncestryDNA to help connect family lines.
6. Develop a privately maintained searchable archive for all available Roddy and Ruddy records, including all historic and living persons using these surnames. Maintain appropriate safeguards for all living people in the data base. This archive will be for the sole use of the author for the course of this study and may include various material protected by copyright or purchased by the author or other contributor to aid in the research (subscription or “pay for record” services).
 7. Develop and maintain a publically available, searchable, on-line record data base available to all interested researchers of the study surnames, with open source information or with proper authorization of proprietary data, maintaining appropriate safeguards for all living people in the data base. Where such proprietary data is unable to be displayed in these results, give links to these searchable data bases where available.
 8. Conduct Analysis of the data when sufficient data is gathered, including the following:
 - a. Attempt to combine records for duplicate individuals.
 - b. Attempt to identify related and unrelated family lines and branches through both traditional and DNA genealogical research and analysis.

- c. Summarize reported origins of the study surnames, including various heraldry and commercial surname origin findings. Attempt to confirm or refute these statements and determine the true origin or origins of the Roddy and Ruddy surnames. Attempt to determine if these surnames have evolved from, or are related to, similar surnames such as Rodd and Rudd.
 - d. Identify the earliest recorded use of these surnames in distinct geographic areas. Analyze and create visual graphics of the current and historic geographic distribution of the surnames, as well as patterns of immigration and emigration and attempt to glean information relative to family relationships.
 - e. Analyze and create visual graphics of the frequency of surname use and distribution and attempt to glean information relative to family relationships.
9. Present the findings of this research and analysis in this paper as well as on the study web site, the DNA project web site, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and in descendant reports and GEDCOM files available for review and download. Consider publishing or self-publishing a physical book on the subject.
10. Maintain a list of useful links for this study and provide them for information. Each link should include the name of the site and page, full hyperlink web address, date visited, and description of relevant information contained on the page, as well as any membership or fees required to gain access to the information.