

Roddy-Ruddy One-Name Study

Researched & Prepared by Kim Roddy (2011 - present)

Notable or Famous Individuals

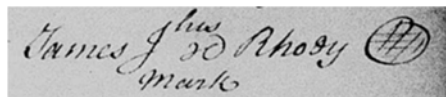
The following short list includes individual Roddy or Ruddy family members who are well documented and/or of some note in history or modern records.

Tadhg O'Rodaigh (abt 1517) - County Monaghan, Ireland (brothers Brian and William)

In 1516 Tadhg O'Rodaigh, Coarb of St. Caillin, discovered that the original vellum of the Old Book of Caillin had begun to decay.¹ He commissioned the scribe Maurice O'Mulconry (Muirgheas Mac Phaidín Uí Mhaoil Chonaire, d.1543) to transcribe it and produce the Book of Fenagh.² The original Old Book of Caillin (or Old Book of Fenagh, which is now lost) was entirely in poetry, so Tadhg directed that prose narratives or paraphrases were prefixed to the individual poems at the same time by the same scribe. In the Book of Fenagh, O'Mulconry, writing in 1516, traces back the O'Roddy of his day in 67 descents to Sitric, who is said to have lived around the time period of 300 B.C. The Coarb was a Latin and *Scotic* scholar and a composer of Sidna poetry. He married Honora O'Molloy in 1517. Another Tadhg O'Rodaigh (direct descendant of the Coarb of Fenagh) lived from about 1615 to 1710, and in 1640 he won a legal battle in the House of Commons in London against the bishop of Ardagh. In 1688, this same Tadhg O'Roddy supplied the links between himself and his ancestor of 1516, adding them in the margin of the O'Mulconry manuscript. This descendant, the second Tadhg O'Roddy, was alive in 1702 but was then about 90.³ The Book of Fenagh from 1516 was in the hands of the O'Roddy Coarbs of St. Caillin until the early years of the 19th century when it passed on to the last member of the family, Brian O'Roddy, Parish Priest of Kilronan. Around 1875, Brian passed the book on to the Bishop of Ardagh, Dr. Conroy. In 1888 the Royal Academy of Ireland brought the book for ten guineas from the Jesuit Fr. Denis Murphy. A modern edition of the book was published in 1875 and a second time in 1939.

Tadhg O'Rodaigh

James Joseph Roddye, Sr. (1680-1734) Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA



The grandfather of Col. James Roddye (below) was born in 1680 in Derry, County Donegal, in what is now Northern Ireland. He married Mary Hall around 1708 and immigrated to the colonies in 1722. He may have been the first Roddy to

¹ Tadhg is an ancient Irish name pronounced “tīg” like the first syllable of the word ‘tiger.’ In Irish (Gaelic) it is written **Tadhg**, but is often Anglicized to Teige. Timothy, Tim, Ted and Thady are the most common equivalents to Tadhg. In Northern Ireland it was Anglicized as Teague, but pronounced 'Tayg'. It was also translated as Thaddaeus, Theophilus and Theodsius, which are names of classical and biblical origin.

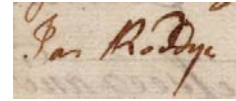
² For more detail on the Book of Fenagh, see the Royal Academy of Ireland at <http://www.ria.ie/Library/Special-Collections/Manuscripts/Book-of-Fenagh> (link verified 14 Jul 2014)

³ See “A Biographical Dictionary of Irish Writers.” By Anne M. Brady and Brian Cleeve. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1985. 'Writers in Irish and Latin' section begins on page 255. Also see “Dictionary of Irish Writers.” Volume 3: Writers in the Irish Language. By Brian Cleeve. Cork, Ireland: Mercier Press, 1971.

immigrate into North America. At the time of his immigration, he had at least five children, four of which he brought to the colonies to help work a mill on the Conewago Creek, running between modern day York, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA. His will identified his surname as "Rhody," but he did not write himself, making a mark for his signature.

Col. James J. Roddye (abt 1742-1822) County Rhea, Tennessee, USA

Colonel James Roddye was born 1742 in Ireland, and died 1822 in Russellville, Hamblen Co., TN. He was a Colonel during the American Revolution, serving in the North Carolina line. He served with distinction in the Battle of King's Mountain, for which the Continental Congress awarded him a large tract of land. In 1785, he built the first house in Russellville, Tennessee (in now Hamblen County) which served as a tavern, called the Tavern with The Red Door (or the Red Door Tavern), on the Old Kentucky Rd. between North Carolina and Kentucky. This house was later named "Hayslope." Col. Roddye was a member of Capt. William Bean's company in the Indian raids in the early history of Tennessee. He represented Jefferson County in the Senate in 1789, and was one of the framers of the First Constitution of Tennessee, his signature appearing on that valuable document. He was commissioned by Gov. Sevier as a Justice of the Peace for Jefferson County in May, 1796. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1788, representing Greene County, as well as the 2nd General Assembly in 1797-99, representing Jefferson County. Some documents indicate he was born in England in 1748, exact date and place and names of parents unknown. Married (1st) in 1766, presumably in England, to Catherine Chase, who died in 1779. Before the Revolutionary War he emigrated from England and settled on Roane Creek in the upper Watauga valley. He later removed to Greene County, but when Jefferson County was established his lands lay within that county. In Revolutionary War: a private in Captain Bean's Company in Indian raids; was a colonel at the Battle of King's Mountain. After returning from King's Mountain he built the first house in Russellville (now in Hamblen County). He was married (2nd) in 1784 to a Miss Russell (for whose family the town of Russellville was named). Delegate to the Franklin Constitutional Convention from Greene County; member of North Carolina Convention to consider ratification of the U. S. Constitution, 1788. Sometime register and justice of the peace of Jefferson County. Member of the Constitutional Convention of 1796. Member of Baptist Church, one of the organizers of the Bent Creek Church. Died at his home, "Hayslope," in Jefferson County (now Hamblen) in 1823; buried in Bent Creek Cemetery, near Russellville, Hamblen County. [from "Descendants of Col. James Roddye at http://home.earthlink.net/~carolet1/James_Roddye_Report.html]



From The United States Biographical Dictionary, Missouri 1878

"Jesse Roddye was the son of Colonel James Roddye, who emigrated from England to America long prior to the Revolution. His first wife was said to have been a sister of Daniel Boone, by whom he had ten children; his second wife was a Russell, from Virginia. Most of his children moved South; one son and two daughters settled in New Orleans; both daughters married Lees, of Virginia. Colonel James Roddye was a Whig and received his title as an officer in the Revolutionary War; he was also a member of the state constitutional convention of Virginia, and died in 1824"

Col. Patrick Roddy (1827-1895) - Victoria Cross Recipient - County Roscommon Ireland



Colonel Patrick Roddy, VC, was born in Elphin, Co Roscommon, Ireland. He was an Irish recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He was 31 years old, and an Ensign in the Bengal Army during the Indian Mutiny when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross:

“Ensign (now Lieutenant) Patrick Roddy, Date of Act of Bravery, 27 Sep 1858, Major-General Sir James Hope Grant, K.C.B., Commanding Oudh Force, bears testimony to the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Roddy, on several occasions. One instance is particularly mentioned. On the return from Kuthirga of the Kuppurthulla Contingent, on the 27th of September, 1858, this

officer, when engaged with the enemy, charged a Rebel (armed with a percussion musket), whom the Cavalry were afraid to approach, as each time they attempted to do so, the Rebel knelt and covered his assailant; this, however, did not deter Lieutenant Roddy, who went boldly in, and when within six yards, the Rebel fired, killing Lieutenant Roddy's horse, and before he could get disengaged from the horse, the Rebel attempted to cut him down. Lieutenant Roddy seized the Rebel until he could get at his sword, when he ran the man through the body. The Rebel turned out to be a subadar of the late 8th Native Infantry,—a powerful man, and a most determined character.” [*The London Gazette* - 12 Apr 1859]

Patrick Roddy served in the Abyssinian War and the Second Anglo-Afghan War. He later achieved the rank of colonel. He died at Jersey, Channel Islands on 21 Nov 1895. He was buried at Mont-a-L'abbe Cemetery, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Colonel Roddy's legacy is kept alive by the Roddy Family Hibernian Society which is now chaired by Roddy Bisgaard Lanigan. [Patrick Roddy – Wikipedia]

Brigadier General Phillip Roddey (1826-1897) - Confederate Army – American Civil War

Roddey was born in Moulton, Lawrence County, Alabama, to Philip and Sarah Roddey. His father, a saddler, had moved his family to Alabama from eastern Tennessee. Philip D. Roddey's birth year is usually given as 1826, which is on his tombstone. However, census records show him as several years older, and in fact his father had been shot and killed in an altercation in Moulton in 1824. Roddey's widowed mother raised her 3 children as best she could, but Roddey received little formal education. He was a tailor in Moulton before he was appointed sheriff of Lawrence County in 1846, serving at least until 1852. He then purchased a steamboat, which he ran on the Tennessee River. He married Margaret A. McGaughey and had a son and a daughter.



When the American Civil War began, Roddey, who had not supported secession, sought to remain out of it. After the fall of Fort Henry, Tennessee, to Ulysses S. Grant in February 1862, however, Union gunboats were able to sail as far as Florence, Alabama, where the shallows at Muscle Shoals stopped them. Rather than allow his steamboat to be seized and used by the enemy, Roddey burned her. He then raised a cavalry company, which he led at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862.

Roddey was active with his company during the advance on Corinth, Mississippi, General Braxton Bragg. In October 1862, Roddey accordingly was authorized to increase his command to a regiment, the 4th Alabama Cavalry and was promoted to colonel. Roddey's regiment would serve under both Nathan Bedford Forrest and Joseph Wheeler, principally in Tennessee and Alabama.

In December 1862, the 5th Alabama Cavalry Regiment was brigaded with Roddey's 4th Alabama Regiment, and Roddey was named the commander of the District of Northern Alabama. Later, the 10th Alabama Cavalry Regiment added to his command, as was a Georgia horse artillery battery. In April 1864, Roddey's brigade was transferred to the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana.

Promoted to brigadier general, Roddey led his cavalry brigade thereafter mainly in support of Forrest. Roddey's men were armed with rifle-muskets rather than carbines, and as such are often regarded to as mounted infantry rather than true cavalry; they generally fought dismounted. Much of the time they were stationed in their own home area, and Roddey is thus called the "Defender of North Alabama". Roddey fought a delaying action against Grenville Dodge during Abel D. Streight's 1863 raid across Alabama and Georgia, and remained in Alabama during John Bell Hood's 1864 Nashville campaign. After Hood's failure, Roddey joined Forrest in trying desperately to stop Union General James H. Wilson's cavalry raid into south Alabama in March 1865. Roddey's command fought for the last time in April at the Battle of Selma, where Forrest's men were overpowered by the more numerous and better armed Union horse soldiers. Most of Roddey command was captured at Selma. The remainder surrendered at Pond Springs (now Wheeler), Alabama, in May 1865.

After the war, Roddey moved with his family to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He later relocated in New York City, where he became a successful commission merchant. He moved to London, England, for business reasons in the early 1890s, dying there in 1897.⁴

Thomas R. Roddy (1857- 1924) – Chief White Buffalo of the Winnebago Tribe (now Ho-Chunk Tribe)

Thomas R. Roddy was born in April 1857 in Peoria, Illinois, when his father, Patrick, and mother, Margaret, were both about 27 years old. He married his wife, Ida O'Hearn, on December 31, 1885, in Jackson County, Wisconsin. In late 1899 he was elected to be the chief of the Winnebago Tribe of Indians (now Ho Chunk Tribe), who lived on lands near Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Thomas had long been a friend to the Winnebago Tribe, and had put together a Wild

⁴ Adapted from Wikipedia article viewed on 8 Feb 2014: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillip_Roddey



West show to help them earn money. He also lobbied for better treatment of the Indian tribe and helped them with negotiations with the federal government. When the old chief was sick and dying and was asked by the tribe who he thought should be his successor, he named Thomas Roddy instead of the presumed next-in-line, Tom Thunder, son of the ailing old chief. At the time, he was the only known white man to hold the post of Chief of an Indian tribe and the story was told throughout the nation in various newspapers. He was known as Chief White Buffalo. The Lincoln Evening News posted this story on 11 January 1900:⁵

The Wife of an Indian Chief

“Mrs. Roddy and Her Husband are to Rule over the Winnebago Indians”

“Mrs. Roddy, wife of Thomas R. Roddy, enjoys the honor of being the only white wife of an Indian Chief.

“Moreover she is the wife of a white Chief. For her husband, Thomas R. Roddy Native of Ireland has recently been elected chief and ruler of the Winnebago Indians.

“Mr. Roddy is a tall, handsome man with bushy hair and curling mustache. His wife is a very good looking little woman with a sufficient amount of diplomacy in her composition to assist her husband through the most trying situations of his future career.

“When Mr. Roddy gets in full control of the Winnebagos then Mrs. Roddy's real work will begin.

“I anticipate, said she, "a very busy time. We shall want to improve the Winnebagos in every way as well as enjoy them as they are a delightful people, loyal, and true to the very heart. In selecting my husband to rule them, they showed that they wanted a man of force and a man of character and education, one who whole do better for them than an Indian.

“In this country, as it now exists, the Indian must keep pace. He must wear comfortable clothes, attend schools, learn the ways of civilization and in other ways come up to the white man. This Mr. Roddy will assist them to do.

“My four children and I will live at Black Falls River and from there we will oversee, in our way, the Indians. For I intend to help constantly and steadily.

“There is trouble to begin with; Black Hawk and Green Cloud are enemies and rivals among the Winebagos. Black Hawk is a friend of ours or at least we are connected in a business way in the tribe. That fact has caused some trouble between Green Cloud and Mr. Roddy, but nothing serious we trust.

⁵ Found online on 17 Jul 2014 at <http://genealogytrails.com/neb/wifeofwinnibagoindianchief.htm>

“Mr. Roddy's name will be White Buffalo. His crown will be a wampum belt, valued at \$5,000, which is presented to him upon his inauguration. In the inaugural ceremonies, which are very imposing, there is a medicine dance, after which Great Nojenkah, head of the Medicine Lodge, crawls forward on his knees and presents the belt to his chief.

“The Winnebagos are in a pitiful condition, said Mrs. Roddy. They are compelled to go fifty miles to school, many of them. The squaws are disheartened and the men are tired of agriculture as it is offered to them. It is vastly different from hunting in the woods or cultivating fields in the midst of picturesque scenery. They re-compelled to dig in the earth for the very poorest returns. If they depend upon farming as it is now stands with them without suitable implements. WE shall endeavor to improve their condition and I trust we shall be able to do so very speedily.”

Here is another story posted online about the challenge to the election by the son of the old chief. It was posed by the Winona Post on the 100 year anniversary of the event.⁶

A wild dispute was brewing across the river

by Dan Nerhaugen

The leadership of a Native American, camped across the Mississippi from Winona, nation was about to be settled with Tomahawks 100 years ago this week.

The May 21, 1900 Winona Daily Herald reported, "The Winnebago tribe of Indians, who have been camping just across the river from Winona, is preparing to install a new chief. Whether it will be Thomas R. Roddy of Chicago, who was elected a year ago after the death of Chief Black Hawk, or Tom Thunder, may depend on the outcome of a duel. Roddy, who is an Irishman and known as White Buffalo among the Wisconsin Indians, is preparing to go to the reservation next week and be inaugurated. Preparations are under way to give him a royal welcome.

"Tom Thunder of Trempealeau, the son of a medicine man, wants to lead the Winnebagos, however, and has sent Roddy a challenge to fight a duel, the victor to succeed to the leadership of the tribe.

"If Thunder wished to fight I will give him choice of weapons , as I am at home with the tomahawk or spear, and I have met much better men than him," observed Roddy today.

"But I am surprised at his hostility. It was Tom's father, the oldest medicine man of the tribe, who came to announce to me my election to the chiefship, and at that time he vowed allegiance to me. It was the wish of Black Hawk, after the death of his only son, that I succeed him, and I was chosen formally at a meeting of the whole tribe. Green Cloud, whose brother-in-law killed young Black Hawk, aspired to the office, though he is now loyal to me. I expect no trouble, but even if I did I should go to the reservation next week."

⁶ Found online on 17 Jul 2014 at <http://www.winonapost.com/archive/52100/OTHnews52100.html>

A few days later, the Herald said, "Tom Thunder, the Winnebago Indian, has got on his war paint and has issued a challenge to fight White Buffalo over the grave of Chief Black Hawke and he asks White Buffalo to name the date. ..."

"The challenge was made and signed in the presence of several citizens and was mailed to White Buffalo last night. Young Thunder will have another meeting of the older members of the tribe this week and will make a big effort to have White Buffalo turned down and have himself proclaimed chief."

The local paper reported that the challenge had stated, "With tomahawks I will meet you at the grave of our valuable chief Black Hawk, and alone. You and I will settle the question of the chieftain. Give date. I am ready."

Despite the bellicose rhetoric of Thunder and Roddy, the dispute seems to have been settled peaceably. During the following weeks, the Herald made no further mention of the dispute.

Tom Thunder ended up accidentally drowning in the Mississippi River two years afterwards on 28 Apr 1902. The later life of Chief Roddy is not well documented. It is unclear how long he was an active chief of the Ho Chunk Tribe, or how long he associated with them, but by the 1920 U.S. Census he is in Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma, living with his wife and two sons, Frank and Bright. Bright was later known as Little Chief White Buffalo. He died in 1924 and is buried next to his son Frank in the Pawhuska City Cemetery, Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma.

PFC Donald Barrett Roddy (1943-1965) - US Army Casualty of War - Vietnam War

Private First Class Donald Barrett Roddy was notable as the only Roddy or Ruddy listed on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. He was born on March 7, 1943 to Mr. William Roddy of Gloversville, New York and Mrs. Mary B. Woolfenden of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Donald is a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School after attending Shaker High School in Latham, New York, for his freshman and sophomore years. He also attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan where he was a member of the Chi Sigma Nu social fraternity. Donald entered the Army on January 13, 1965. Private First Class Roddy began his tour of duty in South Vietnam on August 18, 1965 serving as an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Donald was killed on November 15, 1965, less than three months in country, as a result of enemy small arms fire during the Battle for the Ia Drang Valley. According to an Ann Arbor Newspaper article written by Gary Lillie, "Taking part in the first battle of LZ X-Ray, was Pfc. Donald B. Roddy, a 1962 graduate of Ann Arbor High School." As a member of the 'Lost Patrol' of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, he lost his life along with the rest of his machine gun crew as they fought to cover the withdrawal of their fellow troopers to safer ground. The account can



be found on Page 87 of the book, “We Were Soldiers Once...and Young,” by Joseph L. Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore. Donald was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Donald Barrett Roddy is survived by his parents, his step-father, and a brother. His name is recorded on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Panel 3E, Row 61. He is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Gloversville, Fulton County, New York. [from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund at <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/44047/DONALD-B-Roddy>]

John Ruddy (1814-1832) – Irish Immigrant Murdered at Duffy’s Cut Pennsylvania

This young, unknown, Irish immigrant became known to millions after his remains were discovered in an unearthened mass grave in 2010. Due to the unusual circumstances of his death, and the unique genetic identifying trait in his family, researchers were able to positively identify him almost 180 years later.

Here are selected excerpts from one of many articles written about his death and discovery, published on February 28, 2013:⁷

“The remains of a 19th-century Irish immigrant who researchers believe was murdered while building a Pennsylvania railroad will be reburied in his home country this weekend after being identified in part through a missing molar. U.S. historians unearthed the bones of the young man thought to be 18-year-old John Ruddy near train tracks in suburban Philadelphia four years ago. On Saturday, they'll attend a re-interment for the railway worker more than 3,000 miles away at a cemetery in County Donegal. Ruddy was among 57 Irishmen hired in 1832 to help build a stretch of the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad known as Duffy's Cut. But the immigrants from Donegal, Tyrone and Derry died about six weeks after their arrival, and the railroad company never told their families.

“Bill Watson and his twin brother Frank, also a historian, led a team in a 10-year effort to research and dig up evidence of how the workers died in what is now a woody area behind homes in Malvern, about 20 miles west of Philadelphia. Their conclusion is that many workers died of cholera and were dumped in a mass grave.

“One Ruddy donated a DNA sample to confirm the identification in 2010, but researchers have not had the time nor the money to complete the analysis yet. However, it's unlikely another body with that bone size and 'super-rare' tooth anomaly would be found at the site, said University of Pennsylvania anthropologist Janet Monge, who works with the all-volunteer team. Researchers are going ahead with Ruddy's burial this



⁷ Found online on 13 Nov 2014 at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2286009/John-Ruddy-killed-building-Pennsylvania-railroad-1832-mass-grave-buried-Ireland.html>

weekend because of a looming deadline for a documentary film crew that has been following the Duffy's Cut project.

“Ruddy's relatives, who could not be reached for comment, are expected to attend, as are other community members, Watson said. A lot of the people throughout Donegal see this as being important because they've all got stories in their family tree like this — people who left for America and were never heard from again,' said Watson, whose own ancestors also hail from the county. Ruddy will not be buried in his homestead of Inishowen but in the nearby town of Ardara, where a grave was donated by a more recent immigrant to the U.S.

“The Watsons have been unable to identify the other alleged homicide victims because their bones indicate they were all in their 20s, leaving too many possibilities. However, their remains were reburied last year in a solemn ceremony at a suburban Philadelphia cemetery. The mass grave can't be excavated because of its proximity to active railroad tracks.



'The idea of somehow being able to get one of them back to Ireland, it seemed like a distant hope 10 years ago,' said Watson, who is also a history professor at Immaculata University in Malvern, not far from where the workers died. 'It's just a miracle, actually.'”

A detailed of the discovery of his remains can be found on the Smithsonian Magazine online here: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/irelands-forgotten-sons-recovered-two-centuries-later-9194680/?no-ist>

Capt. Andrew Roddy, Sr. (1834 – 1897) – Great Lakes Sailor and Singer, Beaver Island, MI



When Captain Andrew Roddy was born on March 14, 1834, in Donegal, Ireland, his father, Patrick, was 34 and his mother, Kate, was 33. He married Catherine McBride in 1857. They had 13 children in 22 years. He died on February 5, 1897, in Beaver Island, Michigan, at the age of 62. [Briefly tell the story and significance of this event here...]

Watson Ruddy (1844-1895) & James Ruddy (1846-1900)– Ruddy Bros. Proprietors, Chicago, IL

When Watson Ruddy was born about 1844 in Tyrone, Northern Ireland, his father, Robert, was 29 and his mother, Catherine, was 28. He married Martha Byrnes on August 16, 1894, in

Chicago, Illinois. They had one child during their marriage. He died on June 4, 1897, in Cook, Illinois, at the age of 53.

Prominent race horse owner, Alderman candidate, businessman, public figure

[Briefly tell the story of his pursuit of Alice Mackin, his marriage of her step-mother widow Martha Byrnes, his subsequent death and Martha's marriage to his brother James here... This story is more about Martha Byrnes than Watson and James Ruddy]



WATSON RUDDY
1844 - 1897