

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

(Hadley, Headley, Hadlee, Hadly, Hadleigh, etc and their related kin)

Vol. CXLVI

Apr 2019

Our Hadley Name: From the Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland.

ISBN-13 97880199677764 (Copies from the New England Historic Genealogy Society)

English: locative name from Hadley in Ombersley (Worcs) or Hadley in Wellington (Shrops), or, less probably, from Hadley in Whitchurch (Shrops), Monken Hadley (Middx), or either of two places called Hadleigh (Essex, Suffolk).

Early bearers of our Hadley name:

Matilda de Hadlega, 1194 in [Pipe Rolls](#) (Suffolk); Warin de Hadlai, 1212 in [Pipe Rolls](#) (Yorks); Richard de Hadlege, 1311–12 in [Canterbury Freeman's Rolls](#) (Kent); John Hadley, 1390 in [Feet of Fines](#) (Essex); Margerye Hadley, 1560 in [IGI](#) (Halesowen, Worcs); Anne Hadley, 1592 in [IGI](#) (Ormskirk, Lancs); Margret Haddley, 1642 in [IGI](#) (Rowley Regis, Staffs).

References:

[Place-Names of Worcs](#), p. 270; [Place-Names of Shrops](#), vol. 1, p. 141, vol. 5, p. 272; [Place-Names of Herts](#), p. 75
Hadley, 1881 frequency. [Oxford University Press](#) Copyright © 2018. All rights reserved.

Decoding Hadley Cemeteries:

Cemeteries records, headstones, monuments, and burial rituals usually provide us with much information about our Hadley ancestors. We often can tell the religious belief, economic status, community recognition, political affiliation, hobbies, social connections, and their belief about what is the after-life.

We have tried to suggest, in a very brief statement, what some of our Hadley ancestors were recorded as believing about death, based upon their religion or lack thereof.



Religion of some Hadleys:

Christianity: There is a biological death and a spiritual resurrection.

Judaism: The Torah promises worldly rewards for those who were good and punishments for those who lacked faithfulness to God.

Hinduism: You may be reincarnated.

Buddhism: There is life after life.

Islam: Being with God assures eternal life.

Atheism: Upon death, there is nothing more.

Taoism: People can become deities or live forever with the practice of rituals and austerities.

Jainism: Death may bring being reborn in another physical appearance.

Scientology: At death the spirit leaves the body but life and personality continue.

*We are certain many might write different descriptions of the above and some might take exception with the brief descriptions we have suggested. We ask you not to be offended if you take exception to what we have written and to feel free to send your own **BRIEF** descriptions to Jim@HadleyGenealogy.net*

Headstones/Monuments/Cenotaph:

Not only do these edifices usually give birth and death year and sometimes day and month, they may also include a quote or saying, indicate parents' names, indicate religion by use of a symbol, have a fraternal sign, indicate military rank and branch, or indicate a hobby. Often the cemetery location indicates the geographical area where they lived, as well as other family members who may be interred in an adjacent plot within the same cemetery. We have found little connection between the actual size of the headstone/monument and the individual's wealth, except in obvious situations of a large crypt or mausoleum. A small headstone usually is no indication of the family's wealth.

Cemetery Records:

Many of the old cemetery records have been copied from church records. This would likely indicate the religious affiliation of the deceased individuals. These church records, more often than not, indicate the name of the cemetery along with the funeral or burial date, which likely would be different from the actual death date. It is not unusual to find the date on the tombstone different from the church records. The reason for the differing dates likely has to do with the time span between the actual burial date and the future date of the tombstone placement and its inscription.

Fear of premature burial:

Fear of a premature burial was a major concern for many up until the early/mid-20th century. As cemeteries were relocated to make way for community water reservoirs, an exhumed coffin revealed the buried individual was actually not dead at the time of their burial. Few as these instances were, the notion an individual could be buried alive was a major fear many held, and unique measures were often taken to assure their death was not diagnosed by error. It was not uncommon for a hollow tube to be inserted through the soil and into the coffin of the newly buried. A string was then placed in the hand of the deceased and passed up through the tube going to the surface where a bell was attached. This activity has given rise to two sayings we hear today -- that of being a "dead ringer," or someone taking the "grave yard shift" as they sat at the new grave for several days and nights waiting for a possible bell to ring. Once the living was convinced the buried person was dead, the tube and bell was usually removed.

Correction:

Page 2 of the March 2019 edition of the *Hadley Newsletter* has a date error. The article on Columbus indicted our Patriarch George Hadley died in 1886. This should have been **1686**; the error date would have made him 276 years old at the time of his death.

"Talk is cheap, except when Congress does it"

Anonymous

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