

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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What was it like when our Patriarch George Hadley arrived?

We are talking somewhere around the year 1628 when our George Hadley probably arrived in what is likely Massachusetts. Since we have been unable to find any proof when our George arrived on the North American Continent, the only assurance we have is that he did not swim to Massachusetts from his likely home in England.



We say *likely home* in England since we have no proof that was his birth location. However, all the data we do have strongly suggests our George was likely born in England and that he likely had a cousin or uncle, by the name of Joseph Hadley. This likely relative did come to Jamestown, Virginia around 1607 and it is also likely he is buried there as well.

Those who did arrive on the North American shores in the early part of the 1600s, knew there were many folks who had come before them. There are records suggesting there may have been as many as 1,000,000 native American already living all across the North American Continent and had been there for hundreds of years. What the English did not know was how friendly or welcoming these natives would be.

When the Pilgrims arrived in 1620, they attempted to make a suitable landing on the arm of Cape Cod in Massachusetts before they settled in Plymouth. What they did find were some native Americans who could actually speak some English. These individuals had learned a bit of the English language from the many fishermen who, for years before, had been coming to the bountiful fishing grounds off Cape Cod, and had a limited contact with the natives from whom they acquired an understanding and use of selective English words.

We know that many who sojourned to North America came not only for religious freedom, but for a potential life of self-determination since, in England in the late 1500s, there was limited individual freedom. One account gives the number of annual required religious obligations to be 147. Many of our relatives were called *Puritans* since they wanted their religion to be what they understood to be pure Christianity, and believed they would be unincumbered to practice their religion in the way Christ wished for them to do.

The Lord said: "Go forth and multiply":

We Hadleys are known for taking the Christian Bible seriously – and that includes **Seth Davis Hadley, Jr.** (1816-1893). Seth was the first of three children born in Nottingham-West, (now Hudson), New Hampshire, to Seth Sr. and Sally Blodgett. Seth was a farmer throughout his life, first starting in New Hampshire and then moving to more fertile land in the mid-west.



Seth, being born to strong New England stock and, taking his religious commitments serious, proceeded to father eighteen (18) children with his four (4) wives. In Genesis 1:28 it says, "... and God said unto them, *be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue.*" (Seth also suffered through the death of three of his wives, who left several young children without their mother.)

As we read through the genealogy of families who lived in the nineteenth century, we are faced with the stark reality that a large number of infants often did not live much beyond their first year. We note the death of a young child was not uncommon during the time period when Seth lived; in fact, three of his children - one child from three different and successive wives, also succumbed to a disease of the time. We have yet to find the cause of death of his first three wives, or the one who out-lived him. However, we have no reason to suspect there was any nefarious activities surrounding their deaths.

The following are the four wives of Seth along with the number of children each wife produced with Seth.

Sophia Steele 1817-1846 (5 Children) *(No picture of Sophia has yet been found)*

Catharine Cristena Little (1828-1862 (7 Children)

Mary (Ogden) (1835-1873) (3 Children)

Sarah Ellen Chandler (1866-1901) (3 Children)



Catherine Little



Sarah Chandler



Mary Ogden

"Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength." ~Eric Hoffer
