

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Camp Nelson and our Hadley American Flag:

In June of 1863, Major General Burnside ordered a supply depot and training camp to be constructed in Kentucky. *Camp Nelson* was then designed and constructed to support the Union Armies as the war of the rebellion advanced south.

Col. Henry Harrison Hadley (1841 – 1903), who is a 3rd great grandson of our patriarch George, gained the rank of Lieu. Colonel, which was conferred upon him jointly by Pres. Andrew Johnson and Edwin M Stanton, Secretary of War. This document is publically displayed in the *Hadley Genealogy Center* which is located in the Reformed Church of Port Ewen, Salem Street, Port Ewen, New York 12466.

On April 18, 1862, Col. Hadley was assigned the responsibility of what was to become the *119th United States Colored Infantry Regiment, (sic)*. Col. Hadley's charge was to train the men of the Regiment, who were offered wages and a self-determined life if they enlisted in the Union efforts. Up to 1700 men made their way to Camp Nelson. Their families were promised shelters if they accompanied the men to the camp.

We can just imagine the daunting task Col. Hadley was facing, supervising the several thousand people and seeing to the construction of housing for all of them. He also had to procure food, provide medical attention, and as well as organize the training of the men to become soldiers. The principle objectives for the men were training for garrison and picket duties, security details, as well as preparation for actual battle if the need presented itself. It is reported the 119th Regiment did indeed see some action during the Civil War, although the specific details of skirmishes are still being investigated.

In 1865, as the war ended and efforts of closing Camp Nelson and discharging the troupes was taking place, it is the "*Colored Women*," whose husbands and male family members who served under Col. Hadley that brings particular interest to the story. These women, who were so thankful for the care and attention Col. Hadley paid to their needs, presented to him a hand-made American Flag with the 34 stars. They had made the red and white stripes of the flag from scraps of clothing. The blue background served as a base for the thirty four gold stars that were individually cut from cloth and sewn in place. That blue background was faded to the extent the blue color was mostly not distinguishable. The entire fabric,



from which the flag had been made, was also obtained from bits of clothing that were salvaged from the various families' clothing, and were hand-sewn together.

The flag had suffered the ravages of time and the highly delicate care for its preservation was likely not the major concern in the early years of its creation. It had been lovingly cared-for with admiration for those women who made it and the respect shown to what the flag represents. However, time had taken its toll on the flag and parts of it had simply disintegrated.

Thanks to the efforts of *Mrs. Henry Harrison Hadley IV (Janna Peterson)*, the flag underwent a professional restoration in 2021. In the process of preservation, no additional fabric was added so as to maintain the integrity of this important and valuable artifact. It is now housed in a sealed glass display case which can be seen as one enters the *Hadley Genealogy Center in Port Ewen, NY*.
(We additionally thank Janna Hadley for her assistance in writing this article).

THE GIFTED HAND-MADE AMERICAN FLAG, in its present state.



Within the picture and below the flag is the following inserted note:

“Flag made by colored refugees During the war of the Rebellion. Presented to Henry H. Hadley After he had conveyed them to safety Within the Union Line. “

What is DNA? Deoxyribonucleic Acid

Deoxyribonucleic acid is the molecule that carries genetic information for the development and functioning of an organism. DNA is made of two linked strands that wind around each other to resemble a twisted ladder — a shape known as a double helix.

James R. Hadley 65 Rondout Harbor, Port Ewen, NY 12466 (845) 339-5363
Email: Jim@HadleyGenealogy.net or Jags@hvc.rr.com Website: www.hadleygenealogy.net
Editing by Anita D Hadley