

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Our Patriarch George Hadley- a “Common Man”: (ca 1612-1686)

Today it is hard for us to appreciate the difficult living conditions and life our ancestors had to endure. We do have some indication from the early tax role as to the amount our Patriarch George Hadley was taxed. In 1664 our George was taxed from the Town of Rowley, Massachusetts, the sum of eight shillings and six pence, (in today’s currency it would be about \$10.00 USD). At that time, he was living on his land, located along the banks of the Merrimack River. He owned 200 acres of land, which included a house and barn. He also owned eight acres of meadowland and six acres of marshland. This land was bound on the north by the *Common*.

When a property owner was voted to become a *Commoner*, he was then allowed to use the property that was jointly owned by the community for the common purpose of cutting fire wood. In addition, some of that *common* land was cleared and fenced and the *Commoners* could also use that land to contain their cattle.

We are told that when a settler went to his fields to work, his loaded musket was close-at-hand, as was his Mastiff Hound or Beagle. A dog was his safety alarm and often fended off any wild animals.

Since our George was privileged to hold the title of being a *Common Man*, he was allowed to share in the common safety and common goods within the *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*. This explains why Massachusetts was designated as a “Commonwealth” and not a State. (Today, for all practical purposes, there is no appreciable difference between a State and a Commonwealth).

For some unknown reason in 1666, our George decided to swap his property and buildings for the property and buildings belonging to a Mr. Thomas Kimball of Ipswich, MA. It is interesting to note that ten years later, in May 1676, Mr. Kimball’s property was attacked by the Native Americans. During that attack, Mr. Kimball was killed, his buildings burned, and his wife and five children carried off to a distance of about 40 miles. Fortunately, Mrs. Kimball and her children were safely released the following June. The swapping of property in 1666 with the Kimball family seems to have coincided with the death of Mary (Proctor) Hadley, George’s wife.

Our George remarried on 29 June 1668 to the widow Deborah (Prince) Skilling who was about forty-six years old at the time of their wedding.

The *Hadley Newsletter* feels obligated to briefly discuss the negative feelings our Patriarch George, his son John and residents from the Town of Ipswich, had towards their King Charles II and the House of Stuart. On 02 Oct 1678, one hundred twenty-one residents from Ipswich are recorded as now being “in compliance.” These residents had previously neglected to take the required oath of allegiance to the King. These negative sentiments were not only toward the House of Stuart, but also toward some of the clerical leaders of the *Protestant Movement* that had inflicted both physical and economic punishment upon the Puritans for holding “incorrect” religious beliefs. The Puritans had understood they were practicing a **pure** form of Christianity and not what they considered papist abuses, deviations



from the *Book of Common Prayer*. In 1660, the Puritans, having been forced out of the Church of England, and many of the colonists were just fine with that! They were now allowed to practice Christianity as they understood it to be.

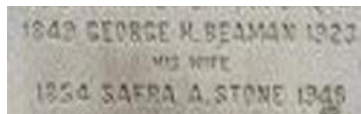
Not their true first names:

It is a bit unusual for an adult Hadley to **not** use their first name as it appears on their birth certificate. An example of this first name change is found belonging to *Sorency William Hadley* (1860-1926), who used his middle name as his first name. In fact, his tombstone, found in the Greenwood Cemetery, Council Grove, Morris, Kansas, has his name listed as “S. *William Hadley*.” In this instance, his unusual first name of *Sorency* apparently caused him to use his middle name of William as his first name. Note in the picture to the right, his true first name is suggested by the letter “S” even though we are not told what name the “S” represents.



It is not so unusually for infants or young children who have died to have their *intimate* nickname used by their family to appear on their headstone. Examples of some non-legal first names found on a few cemetery headstones of young children are Junior, Baby, and Baba.

Another example is a first name change taking place by swapping the order of the first and middle, is *Adelma Safra Stone* (1854-1946) who has two of our Hadley relatives in her genealogical roots. Beginning as a young school girl, Adelma changed her first name. Her written explanation was the teasing she received about her initials, spelling out the word ASS. In fact, the changed first name of *Safra* is found on her marriage license and the name of *Safra A. Beaman* also



appears on her headstone. This stone is located in the Riverside Cemetery, Winchendon, Worcester, Massachusetts. *Safra* was the first name she used throughout her adult life. It is also interesting to

observe the name *Adelma Jeanette Hadley*, (1907-1988), first and middle names were given in honor of her two maternal grandmothers, the first two names this Hadley lady proudly owned.

All his wives died young:

The three wives of William Henry Bracy (04 May 1858 – 15 Feb 1940), are all buried in the Otter Creek Cemetery, Otter Creek, Hancock County, Maine. (1) **Jennie B Hadley** died at the age of **18**; (2) **Cora E Greening** died at the age of **22**; and (3) **Adelma O Thomas** died at the age of **27**. William was laid to rest in the same cemetery at the age of **81**.

“The answers are all out there, we just need to ask the right questions.” *Oscar Wilde*

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