

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. CCVI

Jun 2023

Religion of our Patriarch George Hadley - the beginning...



In order to better understand the Christian beliefs held by our Patriarch George, we will briefly step back in time to the 16th century. Here we see what began to morph into the wide-spread *Protestant Reformation* in 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This gave fuel to the smoldering *Reformation* in Europe which was then adopted in England by King Henry VIII in 1531. This lay cause for this King to be ex-communicated from the *Roman Catholic Church*, so the English Parliament passed laws naming the King head of the *Church of England*.

For the following century, the newly restructured *Church of England* underwent dramatic changes, including reverting back to the *Roman Catholic Church* for a period of five years, and then back again to the *Protestant Church of England*. During the five years of 1553-1558, the Tudor Queen Mary I, better known as Bloody Mary, is said to have burned at the stake over 300 English Protestants for not paying full homage to the *Roman Catholic Church*.

For the remaining part of the 16th century, turmoil within the *Church of England* continued with various degrees of punishment for those not “believing as they should.”

At the beginning of the 17th century, a group of *Protestant English Subjects* felt they needed to worship in a purer form of Christianity and thus they became known as *Puritans*.

In 1608, a group of Pilgrims went to live in Holland to escape their religious persecution in England. In 1620, about 100 of these Pilgrims sailed for America. Many adopted a strict simplification of religious rituals. They embraced the philosophy of John Foxe, which was published in his “*Book of Martyrs*.”

Our **Patriarch George Hadley**, came to America about 1626, although religious freedom was probably not his principal motive for coming. He likely came for opportunities that did not exist for him in England. It is assumed he was not the oldest male in his family, who would have been the person designated to inherit the family home and property. Our George, however, likely did have a structured protestant religious upbringing. We also suspect Mary Proctor, his first wife and mother of their children, (assumed to be seven in number), provided some instruction in Christianity for those who lived long enough to receive it. It is likely their instruction was not based upon the King James Bible, which was first published in 1611. It was likely the Geneva Bible, which was first published in 1560, and widely endorsed by the Pilgrims, who accepted it as their only valid bible. It was also the official bible of the Church of England.

In 1660, our **Patriarch George Hadley**, along with many other New Englanders, was forced out of membership in the *Church of England*. This termination of religious membership was meant to be a punishment, although both the *Pilgrims* and *Puritans*, for the most part, were just fine with that. Our George did acknowledge the sovereignty, and an element of his general safety was still dependent upon Charles II, who was now the reigning English King. George’s daily life and that of his family’s well-being required a total commitment of all members of his family. Coupling this along with daily prayer and joint support from their *Puritan* religious community was essential, if they wished to survive. AMEN

Death to some Hadleys from La Grippe:

There have been several wide-spread La Grippe incidents that have taken a devastating death toll on some of the **Hadleys**, as well as many other members of society. The sickness known as “La Grippe”, is widely known today as influenza. It also has been known as the “Spanish Flu,” and there is documentation that several of the **Hadleys** succumbed to that pandemic.

As many know, the flu is a very contagious virus, unlike the Bubonic Plague or “Black Death,” which is caused by bacterial infection. This flu struck Eurasia and North Africa in the middle of the 12th century and is thought to have killed upwards of half the world’s population. We have no proof, as yet, of how many Hadley lives that flu took from us, although we believe someday that question may be answered.

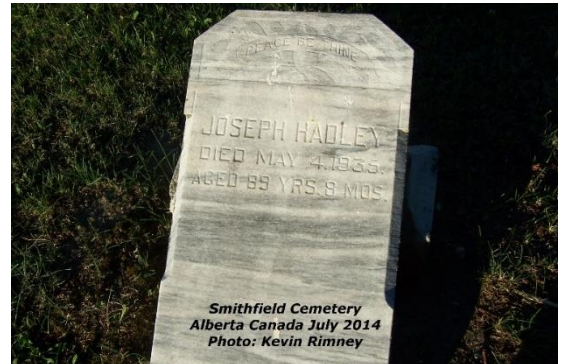
Down through the ages, these sicknesses have shown their deadly strengths on every continent around the world, with the exception of Antarctica.

Some scientific journals have now indicated there are likely over 1.5 million different viruses, many of which, should they gain a public foot-hold, have the potential of causing a world-wide catastrophe.

It has been documented that human behavior, be it voluntary or not, is often the major catalyst for the spread of a virus. Many viruses can often be detected far beyond just a few individuals and our **Hadley** clan has not been, nor will it be in the future, likely immune from a future virus pandemic.

Meet Joseph Hadley (1845 – 1935): Joseph was the third of eight children born 19 Oct 1845 to Sylvester and Mary Jane (Fralick) Hadley on Scugog Island, Ontario, Canada. He married Hanna Jane Hall on 30 Oct 1871 in Port Perry, Ontario, Canada and they had three children; Adela born in 1873, Rufus born 1875 and Lester born 1881.

Joseph was a farmer and the first to settle in an area that became known as **Hadlington**, a Township in Monmouth County, Haliburton Province, Ontario, Canada, and this town was indeed named after him.



As an adult, Joseph and his young family moved to the Smithfield District in Alberta, Canada to pursue farming and to establish a life he dreamed about; one that offered more opportunities.

It was in Alberta, that Joseph and his two sons constructed their own timber home and barn by felling their own trees, cross cutting the logs and siding to continue the life of farming on a rural plateau adjacent to a creek. This home is believed to still be standing, having undergone numerous improvements and various renovations.

Throughout his adult life in Smithfield, Joseph and his family were deeply involved with their church, which is now known as The United Church of Canada; among other virtues, members believed in the Christian principle of sharing with those less fortunate than themselves. Some of his Hadley heirs are still living in the general Smithfield area.

“Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.” *Oscar Wilde*

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