

# HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. CCIII

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## Meet Seth Davis Hadley Jr. and his four wives:

What first caught our attention was the epitaph on the tombstone of Seth Hadley's second wife, **Catherine Christena Little** (1828-1862).

*"While not in health she meekly sought  
And found the robe which Jesus wrought  
In that aged deaths vale, she trod  
And calmly went to meet her God."*

Catherine was born Catherine Christina Little, 29 April 1828, to David and Marget Little in New Pittsburg, PA and died on 09 May 1862 in Nevada, Story County, Iowa after bearing four children to Seth. Seth and his other three wives may now all be together in the same cemetery.



However, our story is intended to be about **Seth Hadley Jr.**, so we will back-up to start his brief biography.

Seth Jr. is a 4<sup>th</sup> great grandson to our Patriarch George Hadley and was born on 27 Mar 1816 in Nottingham West, Hudson, New Hampshire to Seth Hadley Sr. and Sophia Steele. *(No record has been found that Seth Jr. and Seth Sr. actually used the suffix's Jr. and Sr. The Hadley Newsletter had inserted the suffix to their names only for clarification purposes).*

Seth Jr. died in Bainbridge, Barron Michigan on 18 Apr 1893 and his remains, at an unknown date, were allegedly transported back to Iowa for burial and to be with his first three wives.

It is interesting Seth's Jr. name appears elsewhere on several other headstone along with the names of several of his previous wives. This raises the question, if his name appears on the headstone of a couple of his previous wife's headstone, then just maybe these wives are not buried with him?

It is not unusual for the name of a Hadley to appear on more than one headstone and in two different cemeteries. The reason for this is likely that Hadley had two spouses; one having died and a second (or more) marriages subsequently took place. We surmise this may be the case for Seth Hadley, Jr. as well as why his name appears on several different headstone and in different cemeteries. It has also been found three other headstones carry the name of a previous husband for one of Seth's previous wives.

It is also interesting to note that the widespread use of embalming became available during the US Civil War (1861-1865) and was used for many soldiers who died during that terrible war. Transporting a dead soldier would not have been sanitary, [had effective embalming not been developed for distant travel without the embalming option.] Thus, embalming for Seth may have taken place at or near his death location and before his body was moved to a distant cemetery.

We feel the married lives of Seth's four wives along with his 12 children, including his step-children, might get rather complex to sequence and explain. We think it will be sufficient to just acknowledge that Seth was said to be a good and healthy husband. We also have good reason to believe he had a strong libido which was likely influenced by not only biological factors but by social factors as well.

## Update on the Homer M. Hadley Memorial Bridge:

Please refresh your memory on the article that appeared in the Feb 2023 of the *Hadley Newsletter* about the *Homer M Hadley Memorial Bridge* (Pictured). Thanks to the information provided by **Lang Hadley**, we have learned this floating concrete bridge was flooded, due to human error, causing the bridge to sink.



It seems this bridge across Third Lake Washington had “hatches” that were inadvertently left open by a works crew. A local storm hit the bridge causing part of the hollow box design of the bridge to flood and sink.

Fortunately, the human work crew that caused this very functional bridge to sink has had the storm’s damaging effect upon the bridge rectified and the bridge is now functioning again. Parts of the bridge that sank have been recovered and sold as salvage, with new rebuilt construction taking the place of the damaged bridge parts.

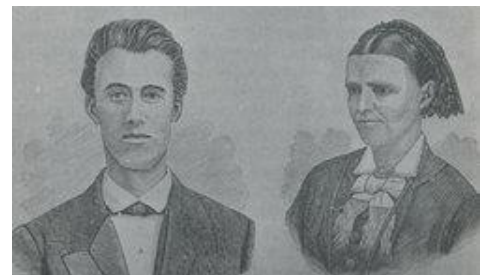
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## Tragedy in another Hadley family:

Chancy Hadley and his wife Mary Bell started their married life in May 1833 in Rockland, Ohio. They were struggling pioneers in those early days leading up to our Civil War. Their efforts were initially directed towards farming and lumbering and establishing a family life. For the most part, their Christian efforts resulted in what would have been considered a modest life for a rural back-woods family. They establish their life in Bellville, Ohio. In August 1844, after living in Bellville for about 11 years, they moved to Whitley, Indiana. In their new home resulted in raising a large family consisting of just 10 boys.

Tragedy struck their three youngest boys who were 5<sup>th</sup> great grandsons to our Patriarch George. These boys were: Horace Rowse born 04 Sept 1848; Millard Fillmore born 05 Sept 1850; and John Wesley born 14 June 1862. On a warm spring day, the boys decided to head down to the St. Mary’s River to bathe. In mid-June the river water was still cold and apparently the water was high and had a fast current, which took the lives of all three boys by drowning. Apparently, there were no witnesses to the accident since no account has surfaced surrounding their drowning. All the bodies were recovered and are buried in a common grave in Linderwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Allen, Indiana.

Their mother was so distraught and emotionally damaged by the loss of her three youngest boys, she was never able to fully recover and lead a normal life. Records indicate she suffered grievously. If we then add the death of another son, Rev. Oliver Hadley (1838-1869), likely affected her physical health which, in turn, was a significant cause for her early death. The death of Oliver occurred on his way back to the United States from his missionary work in Sierra Leone, West Africa, under the umbrella of the United Brethren in Christ Church. He had become ill and was also suffering the pain from the death of his daughter Ida, who had been born 6 weeks earlier. Ida died from a similar disease and was buried beneath a tree in their mission compound where Oliver and his wife Mahala were attending to their missionary calling.



*Rev. Oliver & Mahala (Brown) Hadley*