

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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The four “D” in some Hadley families:

By the four “D” we are talking about: Death, Disease, Divorce and Debt.

In more than one set of records, we have found the male Hadley, who was then the married head of his household, abandoned his family. Often, years after his death, it was found he had married again and had started a second family, which had been unknown to his first family, and perhaps unknown to the new family that another family had existed.

Death, as tragic as it naturally is, finds a very common situation where a women or man remarry after the death of their spouse. This activity was often encouraged, especially if the deceased individual was a male who left his widow with small children. It was not uncommon for a known relative to become the second husband and in some instances, the second husband adopted the children from his wife’s deceased husband.

We have found several records where a young Hadley mother had died leaving one or more small children in the hands of the widowed husband. If the motherless children were girls, they often went to live with a relative. Sometimes those children were legally adopted by the relative, although in several cases, no legal adoption ever took place.

Disease and childbirth took the lives of some women. Suicide by a man, determined likely to have resulted from guilt and community pressures, were known to have been the catalysts for his suicide. In another instance, we have found where a Hadley family had not followed through with their commitment to pay for their church pew, experienced their church’s acting to “*Withdrawing their hand of fellowship*” to this family.

Even though we found no death directly related to the lack of payment to the church, the ostracization by the church and the community of this Hadley family was likely a major cause for this family moving from their community.



Hadley family prejudices:

As the Hadley family records are searched, it is not unusual to find family notes that attempt to stretch information or expound fibs about a deceased family member. These exaggerations and mis-statements might be an attempt to conceal what was considered a social blunder that was reflective of the morays and customs at the time the individual was living.

We have the written comments of a widowed male **Hadley** who was looking for a live-in housekeeper. It is believed there was not a sexual overtone in that quest, although there was clearly a religious prejudice present. This well-respected **Hadley** gentleman was a Protestant. When a potential lady was suggested to him who might be available as a housekeeper, he responded that he would not have a



“Papist” living in his house. The *Hadley Newsletter* has interpreted that comment to mean this Protestant gentlemen would not have a Roman Catholic lady living in his home.

We know of another incident where a father, in response to his son’s dating a Roman Catholic young lady, said “No son could hurt his father any more than what my son is doing to me now by dating a Roman Catholic girl.”

Years ago, when plans were being discussed with another **Hadley** about potential assistant in organizing a family reunion, this individual commented that “at least we won’t have a Catholic at the reunion.” When an inquiry was made as to the meaning of that statement, the responder held the belief there were no **Hadleys** professing the Roman Catholic faith. This individual expressed surprise when informed there were indeed a number of **Hadleys** who were practicing Roman Catholics. This individual then responded, “well then, we will not have to invite them to our reunion.”

Our research suggests in the past there were negative feelings held by some **Hadleys** towards Roman Catholics and apparently, to some extent, still exist today. And upon further exploration, we surmise similar feelings were held by a few **Hadleys** who were Roman Catholics having similar feelings towards the Protestants as well. Inquiry as to the source of those feeling are outside the limits, goals, and objectives of the *Hadley Newsletters*. However, the historical source of negative religious feelings by the Protestants towards Roman Catholics, and vice versa, can readily be traced to the era of King Henry VIII (1491 – 1547).

A Glimpse at Capt. George Hadley: (1742-1823)

This Revolutionary War Officer was the 2nd great-grandson to our Patriarch George and an interesting character was he. There are conflicting reports that the father of Capt. George drowned in Island Pond, Hampstead, New Hampshire.

George married Lydia Wells (1740-1806) in 1764 and they proceeded to have eleven children. George then remarried in 1809 his second cousin, Mehitable (Hadley)Toy. During the early years of George’s adult life, he was associated with skirmishes related to the *French and Indian Wars*, although not much happened since peace was declared in 1763.

In 1777, George enlisted at Fort Edward, New York with the *Committee for Safety*, since our Revolution from mother England was taking place. George apparently had acquired a substantial sum of money. He was chosen by the Town of Weare to be a money lender and was able to advance the town payment for its soldiers. The town ultimately repaid the loan to George 1056 pounds in paper currency. In 1776, George and a John Simmons jointly hired Joseph Emons for 6 pounds to serve for five months in the Revolutionary War “on their behalf.”

Note: George, a lover rather than a fighter, hired another townsman to report for duty in his place. Farmers often hired people to report in their place while they brought in their crops, then they subsequently reported in. George, having more money than a desire to be shot at, hired one person after another to report, so he never did go back into active service.” [Note by the late Brad Hadley (1952-2015)]

“All get what they want; they do not always like it.” ~ C. S. Lewis

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