

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Our Patriarch George Hadley lived under a Theocracy:

Let us take a look at what it must have meant to our ancestor to live under this form of government. "A theocracy is defined as a form of government in which one or more deities of some type are recognized as supreme ruling authorities, giving divine guidance to human intermediaries who manage the day-to-day affairs of the government." Many believe that Salem witchcraft and the subsequent trials were the catalysts that tore our theocracy apart. The belief in witches, coupled with Christian beliefs, constitute a theocracy.



Our Patriarch George Hadley died on 29 Sept 1686, probably in what is now Rowley, Essex County, Massachusetts. Rowley is about a dozen miles from Salem, (and as with other neighboring towns such as Andover and Topsfield), would have felt the tension and fear that swept Salem, which reached its climax in 1692. Even though our George was not living during the actual witch trials, he certainly would have felt the storm of witchcraft which had been brewing for a dozen or more years before the actual trials.

The formal accusations of finding witches in Salem in February 1692 ended in May of the following year. During this period of 15 months, the more than 200 people were accused of being "possessed" were from the village of Salem or some of the neighboring towns. All the subsequent trails of accused witches that led to death took place in Salem; this was also where the hangings actually took place.

Of the thirty individuals who were found guilty, fourteen were women. Five of the men who were convicted were hanged; one man was crushed to death and five individuals died in jail. The remaining individuals who had been convicted were ultimately released from jail. When Sir William Phips, who had been appointed Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony by our King William III, heard his wife was being accused of witchcraft, decided to terminate the witchcraft trials in Salem and release all who were being held in prison.

Many know of the two Salem colonists who were hanged for being witches and who were directly related to our Patriarch George. These individuals were **Susanna (North) Martin** (abt. 1621- 19 July 1692) and **John Proctor Jr.** (30 Mar 1632 – 19 Aug 1692).

Meet Alfred Augustus Hadley: (1830-1907)

Alfred, better known as A.A., was born in Washington Township, Knox County, Ohio to Moses C. and Jane (Riddle) Hadley on 26 Feb 1830. He was a 5th great grandson to our Patriarch George Hadley. He was also the first of nine children born into this family. His father, having been born in Willsboro, Essex County,



New York and into a farming family, moved with his family to Ohio for what he believed would be better farming opportunities.

As a young man, Alfred worked on the family farm, attended Oberlin College in Ohio, became a local teacher and then left that profession in 1848 to try his luck in the California gold rush. As an unsuccessful "forty-niner," A.A. decided to explore the northern coastal part of California to see if there would be an opportunity for him to "find his fortune."

Finding Humboldt County, CA a lush and virtually unpopulated region, except for the Native Americans and a few trappers, A.A. decided to lay claim to some land in the Mattole Valley. This was about the time wagon trains were making an impact upon the Pacific Northwest by eager families looking to start a new life; they were taking advantage of "free" land offered by the US Government if they could meet the settlement and agriculture requirements. A.A. was able to meet those requirements.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, there were few available women for the single men in the Mattole Valley and many single men turned to the young ladies who were part of one of the regional Native American tribes. A.A., was successful in this venture when he found a 15/16-year-old Native American girl from the Wiyot tribe and who had been adopted by a white Christian family. This girl was given the name of **Mary** by the Singley family who had adopted her. Some have speculated Mary was nothing more than a type of "indentured servant" on the Singley dairy farm and apparently, she was eager to leave should an opportunity present itself. A.A. provided the opportunity for Mary as well as himself to start a married life together.

A.A. Hadley, being about 30 years old, which was about twice the age of Mary, married her on 31 Dec 1858, which was sometime shortly after she had run away from the Singley family.

A.A. would become a successful farmer and, according to the 1900 US Census, owned 29 head of animals, mostly being horses. (*Chickens and other fowl, were usually not considered animals by the US Census*). A.A. was also successful in business ventures; he owned hundreds of acres of land and successfully raised 11 children. However, on 12 March 1904, two of his daughters, Ida 33, and May 23 years old, both were in a boat that capsized in the Mattole River, Humboldt County, CA. and were drowned.

Even though A.A. was considered an expert horseman, the horse he was riding, stumbled and landed in a mud puddle, pinning him in the mud under the horse. This accident cost him his life on the 28 March 1907. A.A. is buried in the *Hadley Cemetery* in Petrolia, Humboldt County, California along with many other members of this Hadley family.

"Readers are advised to remember that the devil is a liar." *C S Lewis*

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