

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Cemeteries?

A cemetery headstone in Vermont reads:” *As you are now so wonce was i. As I am now so you must be*”

Some have asked, why do we have cemeteries? There are many different answers to that question. Behind that question may also be hidden issues that are related to our own feeling about our “eternal resting place”. Some believe we are going to eternity where there is no such thing as time – since time exists outside of eternity. Other believe we are in a temporary resting place until we are called for our resurrection. Others believe a cemetery is the end and still others believe a cemetery is a waste of valuable space.

There is also comfort for some of the living Hadleys to know where their remains will be placed and, in many instances, being placed in a location where the remains of relatives and family are to be found.

A cemetery can offer solace for some of our living relatives, by identifying a location with some sort of marker such as a tombstone, mausoleum, columbarium or headstone. The size and or style of a marker often is an attempt to convey ones position they held in life as well as their wealth.

For many Hadleys, the cemetery provides a place for us to visit and to feel connected to those that have gone before us. In addition, there are a number of Hadleys who make the journey to a specific grave, then spread a blanket to have a lunch or read a book. Some also feel compelled to leave something of a memento of the individual at their grave.

Today, the graves in most cemeteries are placed in a location where they can receive necessary care or machine maintenance should it be required. Most monuments are now placed upon a concrete foundation so as to provide support, in the years to come, in keeping the marker standing erect.

In older cemeteries, if the grave markers are dated pre-1840 and in an alignment, it is likely those headstones have been moved (although not the grave). The movement of the grave marker likely took place to facilitate a horse-drawn threshing machine, which had been invented in 1834, to cut the grass between the headstone. Up until that time, graves were dug in a random location within the cemetery. In the 1850's it was a rather common occurrence, after church, for some of the Hadley to load their family into a wagon, along with picnic attire, head for their local cemetery plot to spend time with a departed family member. The movement of the headstone into a straight line and the cutting of the grass, made it possible for picnicker's not having to trod through tall weeds or grasses to get to their intended site located in a random location.



Groveland Township, Michigan

Sometimes, we find a grave outside the cemetery walls and without a grave marker. Those placed there were likely indigents, impoverished, or criminals who were thought to be not deserving of a place within the confines of the hallowed cemetery.

Scatter Gardens, for a number of Hadleys, are becoming more common for their cremated remains within an existing cemetery and other *Scatter Gardens* stand alone. Most states have regulations or laws as to where scattered remains can take place although some families seem to be ignoring those restrictions.

Lost Cemetery and the Hadleys therein:

Mount Desert in Maine is a well-known vacation area consisting of Cadillac Mountain and many small towns including, with perhaps the best-known, being Bar Harbor.

In the early part of the 18th century, the Hadleys were one of the very first families to make Mr. Desert their home. The fishing waters were excellent and the many harbors and abundant salt marsh grass fields were available to feed livestock for grazing.

Today, Mount Desert includes the acclaimed Acadia National Park with its 27-mile *Loop Road* and with some of the finest views of the rugged cliffs on the Northern Atlantic coast, has become a major tourist attraction.



Otter Creek, Maine

When the National Park loop road was created, it passed near or through some of the small settlements such as Otter Creek, where some of the homes of our early Hadley relatives were located. It also passed near the Otter Creek Cemetery, (*see picture*) and another likely burial location where the road is thought to have covered some of our relatives -- specifically; Lillian Hadley (1859-1962) her parents, Samuel Hadley (1808-1891) and mother Lydia Young (1820-1895) *etc.*

It is speculated, should permission be granted by the National Park Service to use ground-penetrating radar on sections of the Loop Road, where discoveries would be found, where the soil under the road might have previously been disturbed – a disturbed condition that would strongly suggest the location of graves. Okay, now what do you think of the chance of having the road location excavated? And

should a grave/graves be found, what would be the chances of making that section of the road become a detour so as to preserve what might be our family?

We now ask, is there any individual who would be willing to organize a group to develop a plan and approach the National Park Service, indicating we would like to dig up their road and, at the governments cost? If so, please contact Jim Hadley Jags@hvc.rr.com or Pattie Leland pattieleland@yahoo.com

“To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance.” Oscar Wilde

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