

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. CXCVII

Sept 2022

Confederate Hadleys:

Last month (Aug 2022) the *Hadley Newsletter* had an article about the “**Ethnography for the Hadleys**”. Amongst other, the article cited **Rev Moses Laurence Hadley** (ca 1756-1818) a direct descendent of our Patriarch George, a slave holder and living in Mississippi. One of the sons of Moses was **Thomas Benjamin Jefferson Hadley** (1801-1869), who moved from Mississippi to Texas and was one of the founders of the First Baptist Church in Houston. Thomas and his wife Piety Lucretia Smith raised a family of seven children – some of whom were born in Mississippi while others in Texas. **Their daughter Margaret Houston Hadley** (1843-1920), along with her husband Capt. William Kellam Foster (1836-1881), raised a family of three children. This entire family was a major support of the Confederate efforts as can be attested to by the actions of William. The following is an excerpt from the *Confederate Military History* by Clement A Evans, published 1899.



“Captain William Kellam Foster, of the staff of General Magruder, was born in England, August 4, 1836, and came to the United States with his parents in childhood. He was educated at Philadelphia, studied law, and at the time of the beginning of hostilities in 1861, was practicing his profession at New Orleans. He took part in the capture of the Federal arsenal about the time of the secession of Louisiana, entered the Confederate service with the Louisiana Zouaves, and later became assistant inspector general with the rank of captain on the staff of Gen. John B. Magruder. In this capacity he served from 1862 to 1864, participating in the Seven Days' battles around Richmond and the capture of Galveston, Tex. In 1864-65 he continued his service to the end upon the staff of Gen. John G. Walker. Captain Foster died in New Orleans in 1881. On March 2, 1865, he was married to **Margaret Hadley**, of Houston, Tex., daughter of **T. B. J. Hadley** and Piety L. Smith, and first cousin of Col B. F. Terry. Two children of Captain and Mrs. Foster are living: Paul Hadley Foster, of Greenville, Tex., and Victor Sidney Foster, a cadet at West Point, N.Y”.



Hadley Legends: Apocryphal, Stories, Gossip, History, Spurious or out-right fibs?

We have encountered many Hadley stories of veracity which we question. In the past, we have dared not to print those tales, even though there is probably some truth buried within. However, since many stories will likely make fun reading, we have decided to share some of these tales with the greater Hadley family. We will also let you know that what is printed is questionable and then let you decide what to believe.

On such questionable story surrounds the parentage of **Mary Anne Rouche-Singley Hadley** (1845-1937). Mary was born 30 June 1845 at Eel River, Humboldt, California. Her mother may have died or

just abandoned her shortly after her birth. There are various stories surrounding her early years and probable adoption and how she likely came to have the name of Rouche. In fact, her name has been seen spelled as Ruche, Roche and Rouch. Should we wish to gain access to her adoption records, assuming a legal adoption took place, those records will only be made available through a Court Order. Without such a Court Order, the state of California will not even acknowledge if an adoption took place. However, there is also the possibility that Mary was orphaned resulting from the slaughter on Gunther Island of some of the Wiyot Indians. Her father was also said to be a full blooded Native American, although there is the rumor her father was actually a Russian "Mountain Man." It is known that some of the mountain men did indeed spend a bit of time with some of the native people and likely fathered a child or two while "visiting".

At the time of Mary's birth, the Pacific Northwest was sparsely populated, since the California Gold Rush had not yet happened. There were few non-Native trappers, such as the famous Kit Carson, who lived in isolation with the exception of occasionally meeting some of the native indigenous tribes.

As a child, Mary was believed to have been adopted by the Singley family with whom she lived until sometime around 1858. There is the probability Mary was actually taken into this family to become something similar to an "indentured servant." One reason to suspect this type of adoption was that Mary was never taught to read or write. As well, an extra hand on the Singley dairy farm would have been a highly welcomed addition to assist with the daily chores.

A speculation as to why Mary eloped with **Alfred Augustus Hadley** (1830-1907), who was 30 years old and about twice Mary's age, was her possible treatment as an "indentured servant" by the Singley family and not a traditional family member. Alfred, known as A.A. Hadley had left his native home of Ohio about 1848 to become part of the California Gold Rush. (*More about Alfred in a future Hadley Newsletter*)

Mary and A.A. had 11 children. It is interesting to note that according to the 1900 US Census, as well as other previous censuses, Mary used her middle name of Anne as her "first" name. Mary's great grandson, **Leland Hadley** (1918-2009), believed Mary would have had to be a full-blooded Native American since she had 3 vertical tattoos on her chin. Members of her family believed she was embarrassed by the tattoos and likely did not allow anyone to take a photograph of her. If that is true, it is likely the reason no picture of her seemed to have surfaced. Only the tribal nation, into which Mary was likely born, would have tattooed their children. Even though Mary never learned to read or write, education was a high priority in this Hadley household and a number of their children successfully sought and obtained a higher education. *Since this Hadley family has many stories to tell, additional articles about them will be forthcoming in future Hadley Newsletters.*

"Nothing you have not given away will ever really be yours." C. S. Lewis

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