

# HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. CXVIII

Dec 2016

## Meet Thomas Benjamin Franklin Hadley: (1801-1869)

Before we launch into the life of Thomas, it may be helpful to understand a bit of his background.

Thomas was the fourth of eight children and second son born on 20 June 1801 to Rev. Moses Laurence Hadley. His lineage back to our patriarch George is as follows: Thomas, Moses, William, Joseph, Joseph and George.

Thomas was born approximately a mere 20 years after the end of the American Revolution; his father, Moses, had served in that rebellion. Moses and his family moved to South Carolina about 1792. Here Moses became a farmer and also served as the pastor of the Pipe Creek Church from 1784 to 1802. In 1808, when Thomas was seven years old, Moses moved his family to Wilkinson County, Mississippi and, according to the 1810 Census, owned three slaves. Thomas' new home neighbored with the Davis family. Jeff Davis, (Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America) was one of the Davis boys next to the Hadley farm and of the same age as Thomas. Thomas and Jeff became life-long friends and were in the same classes throughout their school years. The roots of Thomas's father were closely tied to the Dutch Protestants from New York and his mother had a strong connection to the Huguenots. The deeply religious influence of his parents on Thomas shaped his entire life.



Both his parents died when Thomas was rather young and Thomas assumed responsibility for the family, their farm and its slaves until he was about the age of 30.

He studied law and was elected as a County Judge. He was a member of the Mississippi State Legislature, along with Jefferson Davis, and was the most influential individual in getting the Homestead Act passed and signed into law. In fact, that Homestead law was unofficially called the "Hadley's Homestead Law."

In 1839 Thomas moved to Texas where he saw much potential for himself and in 1841 brought his family to Texas to join him. 1842 when Texas was threatened by an invasion from Mexico, Thomas joined "The Milam Rifles" as a Colonel. His health was not good enough for him to join the Confederacy in active duty during the Civil War although he financially support that cause and his many slaves were given into government service. He died in Houston, Texas on 30 Sept 1869.

He and his wife, the former Piety Smith are both buried in the Glenwood Cemetery, Houston, Harris County, Texas.

## Hadley Records Room:



The Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton, MA has made a room available to us which has been designated to become the permanent research repository for all our Hadley archives, memorabilia, photographs, and genealogy records. The room has already received the complete Hadley records compiled by **Brad Hadley** (1952-2015), **Mike (Hadley) Kelly**



(1933-2012) and the records of **Jon Hadley** (1947-2016) are expected shortly. In addition, the room has a major portion of the genealogical records of **Kingston Hadley** (1898-1960) and **Alice May (Bunton) Hadley** (1883-1966). Also, **James R Hadley** (1938-*living*) has made arrangements to have his on-going 39 years of research files donated to the Hadley Records Room. It is anticipated others will donate their Hadley treasures as well. We are also interested in receiving your records when you feel it appropriate to donate them into this permanent Hadley repository. In the meantime, the received records are securely stored waiting for our room to be brought into a functional condition.

The Hadley Records Room is still not complete. We now have library grade steel shelving and a four drawer file cabinet and limited funds to purchase additional cabinets. However, we do not yet have the funds to renovate the room and are in urgent need of financial gifts to bring our room into a useable format. The room needs lighting, a temperature/humidity control system, ceiling and wall insulation, a total electrical upgrade, and some major carpentry renovation. It has been estimated we are in need of about \$6,000. All donations are tax deductible and should be made to *The Narragansett Historical Society, c/o Ms. Debra Caisse, Treasurer, Re. Hadley Room, PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468*. Please see the attachment: *Hadley Room Guidelines*.

You may also wish to make your donation in memory of a loved one. We need your financial help!!! We can't think of a better way for you to leave a legacy for the Hadleys yet to come. We trust you agree and thank you for your support.

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## Hadley Professional Genealogists:

We are happy to report that an individual from our Hadley clan has become a professional genealogist. **Debbie Hadley** [debbie@bringoutyerdead.com](mailto:debbie@bringoutyerdead.com), who is a member of the *Association of Professional Genealogists* as well as the *National Genealogical Society* now has her own genealogy business.

Debbie's business, "[Bring Out Ye Dead](#)" specializes in genealogical research, not only for our Hadley family but for other families too. If you are looking for professional genealogical assistance, we encourage you to contact Debbie.

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"Living is like licking honey off a thorn"

Justice Hugo Black

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