

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. CVIII

Feb. 2016

Dates of our Hadley Ancestors:

When we visit cemeteries to be with our ancestors, we may encounter dates on their headstones that leave us a bit puzzled. The reason for this puzzlement may lie in the way birth and/or death dates are displayed. As an example, you may encounter a death date that reads; "Died 1907, 8 m 7 d ag 82, 6m 23d". We are usually able to determine that the person died on 7th of August 1907 and, by doing the Math, was born on 15 Jan 1825. We may think the way the death date is given as being a bit unusual.

One reason for not giving the actual month may have to do with the Quakers. In the early years of the expanding communities in North America, only the name was usually given on a tombstone or just the initials of the individual. The Quakers did not use the name of a month since they understood the months' names were derived from Satan. Since the Quakers are considered the first to add dates to a tombstone, this practice was soon adopted by those of other religions. In addition, only the death date was given and if you wished to know the birth date, you were forced to count back from the given death date and age at death to determine when the individual was born. Our curiosity may not stop here although our calendars may give us a bit of confusion too.

In 1582 the Julian calendar, being less accurate by 10 days than the Gregorian calendar, replaced the Julian calendar since the Julian calendar moved slower and did not reflect the actual time it took the earth to circle the sun.

The Gregorian calendar change was first made in selective countries of Europe, but it took the US, Canada and the UK until 1752 to make the change. By that time, the calendar had lost 11 days and we find some months with only 18 days and February actually had 30 days. Between 1582 and 1927, most of the rest of the world made the calendar change, with Turkey making the change in 1927 by dropping 13 days.

Our current Gregorian calendar is still not totally accurate since it is off by 1 day every 3236 years. To compensate for this, one second was dropped from our current calendar on 30 June 2012. This gave us an extra second on our clocks, and every 4 years we add a day in February. So for those of you that did not remember, this month will have a 29th day. This of course being Leap Year as we know it.

What do people do who were born on Feb 29 about celebrating their birthday? I guess we will just have to ask them. We do know that **Margaret (Hadley) Franklin** (1942-1991) had a child born on 29 Feb 1964 and we are sure there are other Hadleys who share that date as well.

Editor's Note: Valentine's Day is coming soon.



Hadley Museum Room:

The International Hadley Room that currently is under development at the Narragansett Historical Society Templeton, MA, has been receiving some generous monetary gifts, although we are still very much in need of additional funds. We need to purchase and install an environmental system that will be designed to prevent our family documents, old photographs, and other Hadley records from deteriorating over time. For example, we have the actual military discharge document of **Norman Hadley** which was for his service in the War of 1812. We also have a Daguerreotype photograph dated to around 1857 of **Moses Hadley** ((1769-1858). In addition we have an old Hadley diary dated 1813, to name but a few, of the very old and valuable Hadley records.



Once the Hadley room is completed, these documents will be housed there for your inspection, education, research and appreciation.

We would like you to consider donating a few of your Hadley documents and/or memorabilia to the Hadley Museum Room. You can obtain additional information from **Mary (Hadley) Grimes** maryegrimes@comcast.net our *Hadley Room Archivist*. Tax deductible donations can be made to:

Narragansett Historical Society
C/o Ms. Debra Caisse, Treasurer
PO Box 454
Templeton, MA 01468 USA

Monthly Hadley Newsletters:

This is the 108th *Hadley Newsletter*! Most of the previous *Newsletters* can be found at our website, www.hadleygenealogy.net and listed under the button "*Hadley Family News*." In addition, the *Newsletters* are filed with the US Library of Congress in Washington, DC and are available for your inspection there as well.

We need your help by providing a brief article for this your *Newsletter*, about your past family members that others might find of interest. For example, why did your relatives move to their home location? What was their role in a military conflict? What did they do in their life for work and or pleasure and what religious, political or voluntary office might they have held? In addition we hope you will be willing to share with the readers of these *Newsletters* a human interest story about your kin? They **ALL** have a story to tell and it is up to you to tell their story for them. If you have an idea for a short article and would like to discuss it with someone, feel free to contact **Jim Hadley** Jags@hvc.rr.com or give him a call at (845) 339-5363 EST.

"Genealogy without documentation is mythology"

Ulster County NY, Genealogy Society, October 2015 Newsletter

James R. Hadley 65 Rondout Harbor, Port Ewen, NY 12466 (845) 339-5363
Email: Jim@HadleyGenealogy.net or Jags@hvc.rr.com
Website: www.HadleyGenealogy.net or www.HadleyGenealogy.com