

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Was there a nefarious physician in our midst?

We offer the following partial account of the life of Dr. William Wallace Hadley, MD (1864-1933). <http://www.hadleygenealogy.net/ghtout/gp1536.html> . The writer of this short essay has the intent of leading you, the reader, towards suspicions of murders, although there has been no proof that murders actually took place. You be the judge. It does seem that William could be compared with following the lead of King Henry VIII who also had five wives.

William was born on 02 Sept 1864 in Cape Vincent, Jefferson County, New York, the second child and second son to Samuel and Sarah (Anthony) Hadley. His lineage can be traced back to our patriarch George as follows; William, Samuel, Ira, Samuel, Amos, Samuel, George, Samuel, and then George.



Medicine Bottle

William graduated from the Medical College, University of Buffalo, when he was less than 22 years of age. He married Stella Merriman and they had a son, Leo Merriman Hadley who was born in 1889. Leo died very young, possible also in 1889. William and Stella soon divorced, which was following the lead of King Henry VIII.

William moved to the Albany, NY area and he married for a second time, the wealthy Mrs. Mary S (Mead) Barney. William and Mary moved to Marbletown, Ulster County, NY where he opened a practice in the neighboring town of Stone Ridge. Mary died in Stone Ridge in Dec 1893 leaving an estate, in her own name, of \$11,000. Due to inflation and the devaluation of the dollar, that \$11,000 was considered a sizable sum. Since there was no income or inheritance taxes in 1893, and taking into consideration inflation, the equivalent in today's money would be about \$500,000 dollars. William was the executor and inheritor of Mary's estate and it appears as if William also signed her death certificate. And yes, here William departed from the trend of King Henry VIII by not beheading his second wife, although Mary was just as dead.

William then decided to marry, for a third time, Theresa V Graham. Theresa had just turned 26 year old when she died in Stone Ridge NY in Jan 1897. Here William was back in stride with King Henry VIII, where both the King's and William's third wives died. (Of "natural" causes?). William tried his hand at marriage for the fourth time in Apr of 1901 in High Falls, NY to Claire Darling. It seems as if the healing reputation of William had suffered a bit in the Town of Stone Ridge and as such, he moved his practice

to Wallkill, NY. It appears that Claire died in the Wallkill area and William's brother, Dr. Fred Anthony Hadley, who was also a physician and lived in the neighboring town of Walden, NY, signed her death certificate.

Sometime after leaving the Wallkill area William moved to the NY City area. William then turned his hand to another profession, that of a huckster selling an elixir he claimed was the answer to eternal life. This enterprise was marketed as a substance called the **Force of Life**, which claimed it could raise the dead.

This enterprise, after many consumer complaints, caught the attention of the legal authorities. William was forced to terminate this fraudulent business. According to *The New York Times* of Jan 13, 1906, William was brought to court where he was tried and convicted of fraud:

<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F30812FC3B5A12738DDDA0994D9405B868CF1D3>

[We thank Brad Hadley bradh@bradhadley.com for providing the above link to the *NY Times*.]

Before 1920, William had acquired sizable assets and decided to move to Nassau County on Long Island, NY. It was here in the town of Glen Cove where he helped organize the Parkside Hospital. He died in this hospital in 1933, the result of a ruptured appendix, leaving his fifth wife, Mrs. Vivian (Kuehn) Currier as a wealthy widow. King Henry VIII fifth wife outlived her husband too and was also financially comfortable for the rest of her life.

There is much more to the life of William but that story will have to wait for another day and until more information about his life surfaces. We also need to locate a picture of him. Any help in this regards would be appreciated.

*(Note to the reader: There were, at least three **William Wallace Hadleys**. Two were very distantly related and a third seems to be from an entirely different and unrelated Hadley. They were born as such: The unrelated William was born in MA, the second William was born in Jasper, NY in 1834 and the William referenced here was born in Cape Vincent, NY in 1864)*

Mary Helen (Sherman) Hadley: (19 Nov 1925- 21 Dec 2013)

We have been informed of the passing of **Mary Helen Hadley** in Bar Harbor Maine where she and her late husband, **Lawrence Chase Hadley** had made their home for many years. We send our condolences to her children, Scott, Lucinda and Stephen and their families. We thank Patti Leland pleland57@yahoo.com for sharing the information about Mary with us.

“When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs.
When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence.”

[Ansel Adams](#)

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