

# HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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## Cemeteries that are no more:

The Dec 2015 issue of the *Hadley Newsletter* told the story of how the Hadley Cemetery in Orange, Grafton, NH was saved from possible destruction. Other cemeteries have not been so fortunate. In the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many municipal water districts were formed to supply the needs of our fast growing cities. These water districts often found it necessary to create reservoirs by damming streams. Since there were usually no restrictions on where the dead were buried, many families created a burial ground on their own property. These properties were later scheduled to be underwater by the creation of these reservoirs. Many interred in these family cemeteries were disinterred and moved to higher ground. In addition, nature has taken its destructive toll on cemeteries and early road construction created water run-off which destroyed others cemeteries.



Beavers have created dams which have flooded some cemeteries as they have of the **Hadley Cemetery**, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2481974&CScn=Hadley&CSntry=4&CSst=23&> in Bar Harbor Maine. This Cemetery is often underwater. Only 11 grave markers have been found during dry times in this now swampy cemetery, although it is likely more of our **Hadley** relatives are interred here. This cemetery could become permanently accessible to us if the beaver dam was to be removed. Due to the protection of the beaver in Acadia National Park, the elimination of the beaver dam is out of the question. The position of the US National Park Service has clearly established its priority by placing the beaver home into a higher level of importance than our **Hadley** relative graves.

Many early burial grounds had wooden markers and it is virtually impossible today to find any remnants of any such markers that are more than 300 years old. In the 1820's the US saw its first haying machine. Local burial grounds, then as today, were often used for family picnics/gatherings. It became necessary to move grave markers to accommodate a horse-drawn hay mower. As such, if a cemetery has headstones dated before 1820-30, and they are aligned in an orderly fashion as is the custom today, it is highly likely those markers have been moved and are not located in the exact position where folks had been interred. A few additional examples of cemeteries that have changed are:

1. 40 cemeteries in the Hudson Valley of New York that held the remains of 2637 folks who were disinterred in order to create the Ashokan Reservoir, (which now provides a significant amount of potable water for New York City). In addition the remains of about 80 individuals that were disinterred from an unnamed cemetery, which is also under water, are now buried in the

Bushkill Cemetery in West Shokan, Ulster, New York, although the names of those disinterred are unknown for they were lost in the moving process.

2. There were 34 cemeteries within eight central Massachusetts towns in the Swift River Valley that were flooded to create a reservoir. The dammed Swift River created the Quabbin Reservoir that now supplies much of the potable water to the city of Boston. 7613 graves were moved and 6801 were reinterred in the Quabbin Park Cemetery, Ware, MA, which has been created to accommodate the new residents.
3. The *Congregational Peoples of Righteousness Cemetery* <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2419823&CScntry=4&CSst=36&CSnty=2037&CSsr=41&> in Yonkers, NY was sold to a land developer in the mid 1980s. That former cemetery had been the final resting place for approximately 94 adults and 147 children. It has now become a Commercial Center, Home Depot, Costco's and Stew Leonard's food store.
4. In Hartland, Windsor, Vermont can be found the *Aldrich Cemetery*. This cemetery had the misfortune of being situated within sight of a desirable building lot. The new owner of this building lot, who is also the owner of the Vermont Telephone Company, felt the headstones were disruptive to the view from the new vacation home he plans to build. Apparently, having enough money and political clout, he was successful in getting several of the graves disinterred and moved to a different location. This disinterment was done in spite of very strong objection from many of the town people and community leaders.

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## **Drummond Hadley: (1938 2015)**

We are sad to announce the passing of Drummond Hadley on 26 Nov 2015 in Cooperstown, NY. Drummond was the oldest child of Willis Dean Hadley and Jacqueline Busch Jones and one of the heirs to the Anheuser-Busch fortune. Drummond owned a ranch of approximately 30 square miles. Not only was he a rancher, he was also poet and conservationist. For those interested in reading his obituary see: [http://tucson.com/news/local/obituaries/drummond-hadley-cowboy-poet-conservationist-dies-at/article\\_06807e31-14ae-5c7c-aaa0-b12899853fa0.html](http://tucson.com/news/local/obituaries/drummond-hadley-cowboy-poet-conservationist-dies-at/article_06807e31-14ae-5c7c-aaa0-b12899853fa0.html). We send our condolence to his family.

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“Be kind. Remember everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle” ~ Thompson

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