

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Cremation:

Cremation is a delicate, and for most, an uncomfortable topic that all Hadleys are likely, sometime in their lives, to be faced with deciding whether it is the right choice for their family. And yet most know little about it, or as much about it as they wish to know. It is a practice with this earliest known activity dating back 32,000 years to Australia. It was also included in the pagan practices of early Rome.

The cremation practice was under the consistent objection by Judaism for 1500 years and this has influenced the burial practice for Christians. Muslims do not practice cremation and yet it is the preferred way of dealing with the departed loved ones of the Hindu faith. Other cultures, down through the ages, have found cremation a preferred way of dealing with their dead.

In pursuing the death records of those Hadleys descending from our patriarch George Hadley, we find no listing of a cremation before 1900. We have observed that cremations, in very limited instances,



started around 1935 for some of our Hadley families. Around 1950 there seems to be a regular increase in cremations up until today where, we would guess, about one half of our family members who have died have been cremated. Among our Hadleys, we find no universal practice for the disposal of the ashes. Some have selected to have their ashes placed in a cemetery or a columbarium while others have chosen disposal of their ashes spread in a lake or river or scattering to the wind at a favorite location.

The overall costs associated with cremation is generally much less than traditional burial. In addition, urns to hold the cremation ashes can be purchased for under \$25, contrasted to possibly well over several thousand dollars for a casket. Many states now require a cement vault for the casket while none is often not required for an urn.

The common denominator for the disposal of the ashes seems to indicate there is none. All agree that whether burial or cremation is selected, it remains a very private and or religious decision and that the ashes be treated with the same respect as burial of the whole body.

Editor's Note: This article on Cremation Is not meant as an endorsement. Should you have any questions, we suggest you consult a funeral professional.



Unknown Hadley:

We ran across this picture that is said to be a Hadley, although without an attached first name, date, or location. Can you help us identify him? If so, please let **Jim Hadley** Jags@hvc.rr.com know who you believe him to be and, if possible, his Hadley lineage.

Editor's Note: We try and awaken the Hadley dead so we may hear the story they have to tell.



DNA Litigation:

We are unhappy to report there is litigation now going on between various DNA providers/laboratories/businesses. This means some folks that have previous had their DNA profile established may be unable to retrieve their results until the legal issues surrounding this litigation are resolved. It seems as if the bottom line of this lawsuit is ultimately about money. Be patient, we are confident the issue will be resolved since there is much money to be made by some laboratories.

Genealogy Gift:

Pat (Mary) Hadley, wife of the late **Brad Hadley** (1952-2015) and her family have donated the years of Hadley genealogical research done by Brad to the *Hadley Room* which is now under development and located at the Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton, MA. On behalf of the greater Hadley family, deep appreciation is expressed for this valuable gift which will add to the Hadley knowledge for generations to come through these records, and which will soon be available to all for their Hadley family research.

“The family is one of nature’s masterpieces”

~ *George Santayana*

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