

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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The Road to Revolution:

As many know, the British left Boston on 18 April 1775 and marched to Concord where their objective was to destroy a cache of guns and powder the colonists had stored. Before reaching Concord they passed through the adjacent town of Lexington on 19 April 1775. It was here the British encountered a cluster of armed colonists at the entrance to a local tavern. The British ordered the colonists to lay down their muskets. The colonists refused and the British fired on these seventy or so colonists, killing eight of them. One that was killed was **Samuel Hadley**. The British then marched on to Concord where the first battle took place on what was to become the start of the American Revolutionary War.



The remains of all eight who were killed in Lexington are now buried at the base of the monument (pictured) which is located in Lexington Common. **Samuel Hadley** is one of the eight.

Note: It was a privilege for a colonist to be elected to the position of a "Common Man." Once elected, he was entitled to cut wood, graze his cattle and otherwise use the common land of the community.

The American Revolution:



As most of us were taught, the American Revolution was resoundingly supported by nearly all the colonists who felt they was justified in going to war due to, amongst other issues, was the imposition of taxes without representation. We all have seen the pictures at Valley Forge of the poorly equipped starving soldiers in bare feet during the terrible winter of 1777-78. Those pictures were only partly true. Yes, the winter was severe but the lack of food and provisions was not due to an apparent lack of availability of those items, but more due to the fraud, scams and profiteering by area merchants and farmers. In fact, there were many who did not support the revolution and maintained their loyalty to England. These individuals often sabotaged the efforts of the colonists who were fighting to achieve independence. Yes, we had relatives at Valley Forge and undoubtedly some of the area residents from our blood-line likely supported the British cause as well.

We would like to suggest that any who have an interest in our history, subscribe to the free podcasts presented by *The Gilder Lehrman Institute*:

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/historians/podcasts/>. After you register, you will access to over 100 lectures from noted historian and scholars. We highly recommend it.

Meet Frank Harvey Hadley (1856 – 1950):

Frank was a colorful and delightful gentleman and the word unique seems best to describe him. He started to work on the railroad at the age of 16 1/2. For three years he was a laborer and then was promoted to foreman, a position he held for thirty five years. His hearing failed him and he was placed on the retirement list at the age of 54 1/2. He then did odd jobs for about twenty years but was finally forced to stop working entirely due to his legs giving out. From 1931 he did nothing except a little work around his home. He resided in Sudbury, MA and lived in that home for 52 years. His address was: P.O. Box #5 Sudbury, MA. He became stone deaf and took many rides on the trains. A great many tourists, during the summer months, used the water pump in his front yard.



Frank married Laretta Locke in 1877. They moved to Sudbury, MA in Sept., 1885 where they bought a home, raised their eight children and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

The poem "*The Elusive Ancestor*" (see attachment) was written especially for Frank and Laretta on 15 June 1942 in celebration of their 65 wedding anniversary.

We are thankful to **Elin (Anith) Schroeder-Goering** and **Lillian Schroeder Bommarito**, great grand-daughters of this delightful couple for supplying much of the data on Frank.