

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. CXVI

Oct. 2016

The Roots of our Patriarch GEORGE HADLEY:

Down through the years there have been many who have attempted to find the roots of our **George Hadley** (ca. 1605-1686) who likely arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony around 1628. No ship manifest has been found with his name. This means he likely was not a paying passenger. Assuming he was not a paying passenger, this likely means he was a member of the sailing ship crew. If we assume he was a crew member, this means he either "jumped ship" or was indentured to the ship's captain. If he was indentured to the ship's captain, his indentured contractual status would have allowed that contract to be sold or bartered to someone who was already in the colony or arriving on the same ship. It is still possible that his indentured contract was predetermined before he left England.

Those who have looked for George's roots are many. There was Judge **Samuel Page Hadley** (1831-1919), who, published his book in 1887; *"Genealogical Records of the Descendants of Moses Hadley and Rebecca Page of Hudson, NH with Some Accounts of George Hadley of Ipswich, Mass. and His descendants"*. This book was published by the Morning Mail Print, Lowell, Mass.

Then there was **Kingston Hadley** (1898-1960), working during the late 20s and into the early 30s from his library position at Penn State University, Media, PA. Kingston attempted to locate every Hadley in the US who would have been related to our George by using telephone books to find the Hadleys.

Many of the records of Kingston Hadley found their way to **Alice May (Bunten) Hadley** (1883-1966), (who researched the Hadley family from the early 50s until just before her death in 1966.

Others, during the latter part of the 20th century and into the early part of this century, have continued the search of trying to find the roots of our George. Many who have struggled with that task include the late **Mike Kelly** (1933-2012), **Brad Hadley** (1952- 2015), and **Jon Hadley** (1947-2016). There are many current-day researchers/genealogists who continue the quest to find the roots of our George.

For the past 10 years, it has taken the unending toll of **Barbara (Hadley) Edge**, barb.edge@yahoo.com to likely have cracked the mystery behind the roots of our elusive patriarch, George Hadley.

Barb has taken a most unusual approach in her research. Most genealogists try to find direct evidence of an individual. Barb had the belief that direct evidence of the roots for our George may actually not exist. She thus set about to find **every** George Hadley, along with those who had variations of the spelling of his name, by researching birth, marriage and death records everywhere in the world before 1639. Barb's goal was to disprove that the *hundreds* to George Hadley she found between 1570 and 1639 were not our George. Her focus was to locate a George Hadley that could fit the criteria of our patriarch George while not being able to disprove that he was our George. It was an indirect approach. She believed his birth record many not exist. To date, her assumption has proven to be correct.

What Barb has found is plausible and probable. Barb, in her research, has found a Hadley family living in the eastern section of Suffolk County, England during the 1500-1600's. Barb has come to know this family well, thanks to copies of Wills she has obtained from England. Within this family has been found four different George Hadleys and all but one (presumably our George) can be accounted for in searches in England of all vital records that includes Birth, Marriage and Death records including family Wills.

Barb also believes the George Hadley (1588-1653) who first married Elizabeth Spooner and then married Margaret Holloway was most likely the first cousin of our patriarch George. This George suddenly appears in the same area with a marriage record dated 1632 and thus can be ruled out as being any of the three other Georges. This marriage record states "*George Hadley, widower and Ann Jesopp, single, of Reydon married at North Cove*" Nothing more of this George or any of his children are found in the English records. **We believe this George came to America and is our Patriarch.**

We have a record in Jan. 1639 of our patriarch George in Massachusetts conveying a "lot with a small house" in Ipswich, Massachusetts to Samuel Boreman. This lot had previously been owned by John Wedgwood between 03 Mar 1637 and 12 Jan 1639. Sometime between 1637 and 1639, our George acquired this land and is proof our George was in Ipswich, MA before 1639 to have acquired and sold some land.



The parentage of our George is unknown. Barb believes he most likely was the son of William Hadley, brother of the eldest George who was born in 1565 or perhaps a bit earlier. This William and his wife Margaret also had a son they named William and who was baptized at Southwold, Suffolk, England on 30 Apr. 1605. Southwold is about 2 miles from Reydon and about 10 miles from North Cove. It would be reasonable to assume William and Margaret had another son and named him George after William's brother George who had been born, as previously mentioned, around 1565.

Where did George get the money to purchase the land? He either inherited it, earned it, obtained it by some nefarious means or acquired it through marriage. Our George married Mary Proctor before or in the year 1649.

As a side topic that needs to be explored further is a record of a William Hadley who was part of the Jamestown Colony which started in 1607 on the banks of the James River, Virginia. There is some reason to believe this William may have been a directly related to our George and possibly his younger brother. No further record of this William has been found.

The *Hadley Newsletter* and its readers are indebted to **Barbara (Hadley) Edge** barb.edge@yahoo.com for her willingness to share her research, and we commend her for her efforts of adding to the knowledge of our ancestor and patriarch, George Hadley.

"If voting made any difference, they wouldn't let us do it"

Mark Twain

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