

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Hadleys Following Their Dream on the Oregon Trail: (Part three of four Parts)

Please see the two preceding months for parts one and two.

It was Monday, 14 April 1851 when Amelia, her husband Samuel Hadley, and Samuel's younger brother, Melville Hadley, along with approximately 23 horses, left Galesburg, Illinois on their journey, for *The Oregon Territory*. This wagon train consisted of about 50 men, 11 ladies and a few children. A physician was part of the group along with others who possessed the necessary skills to fix broken wagons and those who provided some skill in blacksmithing. The speed this wagon train made and the number of wagons pulled by oxen which they overtook on the trail would suggest that all their wagons were pulled by horses.

Amelia kept a daily diary. Except for the days between 23 July and 09 of August 1851, when Amelia was quite sick with the "flux" (a term used to define a bowel disorder), most others days are recorded. She usually described the number of miles that were covered that day, the available of fire wood and the types of trees along the trail, conditions of the drinking water they found, and the quality of the grass available for animal grazing.

Amelia reported on the dozen or so various Indian tribes they encountered, along with any impressions she had of them. She found many of the Indians "filthy" with the noted exception of the "Soo" (Sioux).

Amelia and the entire wagon train was constantly on guard against the thievery being practiced by the local Indian tribes. In one instance, in the middle of the night, an Indian stole one of their horses. At daylight, Amelia's brother-in-law, Melville, and a couple other wagon train men, followed the trail of the thief for about 12 miles. After an exhaustive hunt, they came across the thief, who was still riding the stolen horse. The Indian, upon being aware he was discovered, fled to some surrounding hills. The recovery party followed the thief into the hills but were unable to find the Indian. However, the Indian spotted the search party and fired upon them. "The Indian shot Hadley through the right side, the ball passing in between his ribs and out, within an inch of his back bone." "Mell" was brought back to the Hadley wagon and was treated by their wagon train doctor. Mel had a rough time recovering from his wound but recovered over a period of about three plus weeks.

Amelia's diary is replete with unique spelling, but still very easy to read and understand. There were numerous instances where one or more graves of previous pioneers were observed and she often cited the names and death dates, as recorded on homemade grave markers. Her writing often included the conditions of the graves that held the individuals and reported the graves had usually been open by wolves for their feasting upon the corpses. It was obvious to the reader Amelia had a dislike for the Mormons, but did record their names when she came upon their graves.



Amelia Emily (Hammond) Hadley

"There is some of the largest rattle snakes in this region I ever saw, being from 8 to 12 ft. long, and about as large as a man's leg about the knee. This is no fiction at all." Amelia Hadley, July 19, 1851

Amelia and the wagon train reached their destination in Oregon on Saturday 23 Aug 1861 and it is here her diary ends. Signed E.A. Hadley Oregon.

It is interesting to note she was often called Emelia and not Amelia. Since Amelia and Emelia sound so very similar, we assume she often went by the name of Emelia and used her first name as her middle name. Even her obituary, as recorded in the 08 Oct 1886 in the Roseburg *Plaindealer*, lists her name as Mrs. Emelia A Hadley. However, the Oregon State Records lists her first name as Amelia in connection with the birth of her children. As such, the data in www.hadleygenealogy.net lists her first name as Amelia.

For those interested in obtaining a copy of Amelia's diary, contact the Arthur H Clark Company P. O. Box 230, Glendale CA 91209. Request Volume III (1851) "Covered Wagon Women, Diaries & Letters from the Western Trails." (We understand the cost for this volume is \$25).

The fourth and final segment of this story will be included in next month's Hadley Newsletter.

Nova Scotia Hadley Factoid:

If you have been reading the *Hadley Newsletters* for the past 10 years or so, you will know we have often written stories about the Hadleys who settled in and around Hadleyville, Guysborough, Nova Scotia, Canada. If you wish to read some of the past *Hadley Newsletters* you have four options. 1. You likely can obtain a copy of the newsletters from other who have printed and saved them. 2. You can access the newsletter from the US Library of Congress, although accessibility to their copies are about a year behind the current issue. 3. You can visit the *Hadley Room* located as part of the Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton, MA. to read past *Hadley Newsletters* that will soon be placed in their files. 4. You can access most of the past *Hadley Newsletters* through the Hadley website:

<http://www.hadleygenealogy.net/hadley-news.html>

The current Hadley factoid is imbedded within a poem written by Charles Tory Bruce who was born at Port Shoreham, Nova Scotia. The sixth stanza of the poem *The Mulgrave Road* is as follows:

*You can see the rainclouds gather and pass
Over Hadley's Beach or the Artois plain;
And dust on the grass is dust on the grass
In Guysborough County or Port of Spain.*

This entire poem can be found at: <http://www.vehiculepress.com/chapbook/bruce/bruce18.html>.

We thank **Liz Maize**, a Canadian resident and part of our Hadley line for sharing the above information.

If you don't read the newspaper you are uniformed. If you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. ~ Mark Twain

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