

# HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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## Hadleys and Their Children:

In England in 1882, the *Married Women's Property Act* was passed which gave women independence, so they would no longer be regarded as "possessions" of their husbands. The passage of the 1882 Act initially only changed the attitude of the wives. Many of their husbands continued to hold onto the belief that they were the sole head of their household AND they should exercise complete control over their wives and children.

In both Canada and the US, many men held onto similar beliefs throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and dare we stay, that attitude in a few households continues to this day.

The belief of masculine superiority still exists in many parts of the world including, to a lesser degree, families in North America.

In much of the world, religion has played and continues to play a dominate role in supporting the premise of male superiority.

Judaism, Islam and some of the sects of Christianity can find support for the role of male superiority in their respective religions. The Judaic/Christian Bible has passages that are explicit in setting forth the role for both men and women. In the past, children were relegated to a status not much above that of slaves.

The Hadley men often had little responsibility or interaction raising their children during the children's early years. Once the boys started to approach adolescence, then Hadley dads often stepped into the picture. The Hadley boys were needed to assist on the farm/household with a multitude of tasks. Those tasks increased as the boys grew older, and the boys usually resisted proportionally to their age. Virtually all the boys came to resent many of their assigned tasks and found ways to rebel. Some ran away from home in their mid to late teens, and some revolts resulted in violence.

We have read an account of a Hadley father being acquitted for shooting and killing his son, by reasons of self-defense. Some of the Hadley boys just disappeared and their whereabouts is still unknown. Perhaps someday DNA may shed some light on their history.

The Hadley girls were taught by their mothers the multitude of tasks in running a household. They understood their role was to marry, raise children and be subservient to their husbands. Records suggest there were many Hadley divorces, even in days gone by. We have scant records of domestic violence in Hadley homes, but assume their homes mimicked society during any period of time.

Records indicate that most Hadley families found a way to successfully raise a family in which the parents did not try and treat each child the same, but acknowledging that each child was different. When church life was a part of the family unit, it seemed that family experienced less strife.

Today we would like to think the raising of children and the role of their parents has changed for the better. We are sure that for many Hadley families that is true, although we are also sure improvements are still needed in others family units.



## Changes in our Calendar -- a Genealogist's Headache

In 1752, England and by extension, the soon-to-be United States, changed its Julian Calendar system to the Gregorian Calendar system. That year ended the use of two different dating systems that had existed from 1582 in many of the European countries. However, both the Arabic and Chinese cultures used two different calendar systems at that time, as they continue to use today.



Some interest facts:

1. 1582 was the year the Gregorian Calendar change went into effect and the day after Sept 2 became Sept 14. (11 days were dopped from the old calendar. As such there was no Sept. 3 through Sept. 13 in 1582).
2. In 1582 the **new year** became Jan 1, where it previously had been 25 March.
3. Not all western countries adopted the new Gregorian system in 1582 at the same time. In fact, it was not until 1927, the last European country to adopt the Gregorian system was the country of Turkey.
4. Today, those few countries that continue to use the Julian Calendar are now 13 days behind our Gregorian Calendar.
5. Our Gregorian calendar is still not perfect. It is off by one day every 3236 years.
6. The Julian Calendar has since been revised and has become the **New** Julian Calendar. It is now actually more accurate than our Gregorian Calendar, being off only 1 day ever 31,250 years.

All these changes have made it sometimes possible to find two Hadleys' recorded dates to identify an individual – and both being correct. It all depending upon the time frame the calendar system was used and when a changed calendar system was adopted by that country.

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## Hadley Newsletter:

For those familiar with the Roman Numeral System may note this is our 180 consecutive monthly *Hadley Newsletter*. Most of the previous Newsletter can be found at [www.HadleyGenealogy.net](http://www.HadleyGenealogy.net) By going to that site and selecting the fifth button on the left, it will bring you to past Newsletters.

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*"Fun is like life insurance: The older you get, the more it costs". ~ Kin Hubbard*

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