

# HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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## Hadley Roots in Yonkers, Westchester Co., NY. then Canada.



Sometime before 1679, Joseph Hadley (1653-1694,) one of the sons of our Patriarch George, moved from Massachusetts to the Bronx River area of NY where he undertook farming. It is not clear why he left his parents, although there is the possibility his move was prompted by his desire to “make his own way in the *New World*,” and not wanting to live under the thumb of his father. This Joseph had a son, Joseph, whom we will call Joseph Jr. (1690-1754). He married Rebecca Dyckman in 1716 and proceeded to have 10 children, all born in

Kingsbridge, a small section of the Bronx, NY, directly adjacent to the southern boundary of Yonkers. As was the tradition, the first son was named after his father. This son, (we will call Joseph 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1720-1758) married Martha Bishop and upon her death married Esther Whittemore.

Two other sons of Joseph Jr., were George (1722- 1779) and William (1732-1783)\*. Both these sons are considered patriots for their roles in the American Revolution. They were successful farmers, selling their produce to the British, that is, up until the onset of the Revolution. They then put their tails between their legs and moved north to Rockland County, NY. *We present this background as an introduction to just one branch of our Hadley family who became British/Canadian subjects.*

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## \*William Hadley: (bef. 1786-aft 1861) & grandson to the William above.

By his neighbors and family, William was thought to be a “turncoat” and some even classified him as a traitor. [Oh, what love will do to some men]. Before we delve into William, it might be helpful to provide a bit of background on our Hadley Family in “The New World”. Our Patriarch George Hadley (ca 1619-1686), came to the North American Shore about 1628. He was a weaver by trade and raised a rather large family of about 7 children. We know a good deal about two of his sons, Samuel (ca 1652-1745) and Joseph (1653-1694) *See the article above.*

The heirs from Samuel initially stayed around Massachusetts, New Hampshire and what was to become the state of Maine and some eventually worked their way up into Canada due to fertile fishing grounds.

Joseph, a son of Samuel, left home and moved to New York, settling in a section of Yonkers, a then small settlement adjacent to what would become New York City. The heirs of Joseph spent several generations in the Yonkers area, but gradually started to work their way



*William's Oath of Loyalty to England*

north along the west side of the Hudson River. Some eventually moved to warmer climates in the southern parts of the US. Here they became successful planters and some even owned slaves.

The focus of the article is on William Hadley <http://www.hadleygenealogy.net/ghtout/grpf7958.html>, who was born into the line of Joseph. (It sounds a bit biblical here). Joseph married Hannah Orser, a daughter of Solomon Orser and Mary Robins. Solomon Orser was an avid and staunch supporter of the British Crown. Just before the onset of the American Revolution, Solomon moved his family, including his daughter Hannah from Yonkers, New York, to Ontario, Canada. William Hadley, smitten on Hannah, moved to Ontario where he ultimately married her, and where they proceeded to raise their five children.

There were also other reasons why William may have moved to Canada. It seems as if William enjoyed music. William was heard playing a musical instrument in his home. His father, being a religious man, broke the instrument, believing playing that instrument was an affront to God. William promptly left his home and no record has ever been found, which indicated he either returned or had any further communication with his family. Also, William's father and two of his brothers were active in the American Revolution, fighting for their independence from the British Crown; the same British Crown where soon-to-be father-in-law was an active supporter.

Subsequently our William signed an oath of loyalty to Britain on 10 Sept 1833. In this oath he is listed as being a Yeoman. (Being a "Yeoman" in 1833 was more of a way of saying he owned a parcel of land, although being a Yeoman at the time of William's oath-signing did not have the elite meaning it once had several hundred years earlier.)

William spent the rest of his life in Canada, having remarried in 1835 after the death of Hannah in 1831. William is buried adjacent to Hannah on Wolfe Island near Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

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### **Wedding Bells:**

Shannon R Hadley and Virginia F Smith were united in marriage 15 June 2020 in Bellaire, Ohio. We wish the couple many years of happiness and trust they will add to their wonderful Hadleys family.

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### **Passing of Henry "Harry" Harrison Hadley IV: (1936-2020)**

Harry passed on 24 June 2020 at his home in hospice care in Lincoln, MA. He leaves his wife Janna, daughter Jannette, son Henry V and grandson Henry VI. The entire Hadley community send their family our deepest sorrow and regrets.

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*"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul". ~ George Bernard Shaw*

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