

# 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 two of four Parts)

**Part 1** of this saga can be found in the Feb 2018 issue of the *Hadley Newsletter*: [www.HadleyGenealogy.net](http://www.HadleyGenealogy.net) (look under the tab marked "Hadley Family News")

**Amelia Emily Hadley** (1825-1886) was born **Amelia Emily Hammond** on 21 Sept 1825 in a settlement near Cleveland Ohio to Horaito Hammond and his wife Louisa (Fisk) Hammond.

In 1849 she was living in Illinois as a widow. Her husband, Stacy Shinn had died in Dec 1849 from Typhoid Fever and her one and only child by this marriage, Howard Scott Shinn, had died the previous month at the age of 2 also from Typhoid.

It is unknown how **Samuel Bradley Hadley** (1821-1891) met Amelia, although we do know they were married in Galesville, Illinois on 10 April 1851, the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of Samuel, and four days later with all their worldly possessions become part of a wagon train that left for the Oregon Territory.

Samuel was the seventh of fifteen children born to Dr. Samuel Straw Hadley <http://www.hadleygenealogy.net/ghtout/grpf4529.html> and his wife Margaret Whitman (Gibson) Hadley on 10 April 1821 in Brownfield, Oxford County, Maine.

This 4 ½ month wagon train voyage was filled with peril and about 18% of those who ventured forth to make the journey died before reaching Oregon. It is interesting to note that most who died on the Oregon Trail died from cholera or dysentery, while a good number died from accidents. Less than 1% died from conflicts with the Native Americans since, for the most part, in 1851 the Native Americans were mostly at peace with the wagon trains.

It is assumed Amelia had some possessions she added to their wagon. Their wagon (also known as a *Prairie Schooner*) was most likely a wagon made by the Studebaker, Co. (The Conestoga Wagons were heavy freight wagons and some could carry cargo of up to 12,000 lbs.) These Studebaker wagons were considered light weight, weighing about 1500 lbs. and could only carry a similar load of about 1500 lbs. They were made principally for hauling goods and food – not for riding. The food items the Hadleys most likely took with them were as follows:

- 140 to 200 pounds flour per person
- 40 to 140 pounds bacon per person
- 10 pounds salt per person
- 20 pounds sugar per person
- 20 pounds coffee per person
- dried fruit per person
- beef cattle or fat calves to kill on the way for meat
- rice
- beans
- corn, meal, plain and parched
- raw corn
- peas
- milk cows

Most of the pioneers walked beside their lead ox, (oxen were preferred by approximately 2/3 of all wagon trains although mules were also used for the journey). Samuel and Amelia used several horses (about 20) and alternated their use of pulling their wagon. Horses were sometimes used, although many considered them too fragile an animal, unless they were draft work horses, to make such a



strenuous and lengthy voyage of approximately 2000 miles while pulling upwards of 3000 lb. Since Samuel and Amelia had extra horses with them, they were able to swap off the pulling horses with fresh horses as the need arose. Samuel and Amelia had the intent of raising horses once they reached Oregon. It turned out for them to be an excellent choice of transportation and a way to start a business.

The wagon cost about \$1100 and the tented fabric used to cover the wagon cost about \$800 or more, depending upon its quality and the amount of bee's wax used as a fabric weather protection coating. Our Hadley relatives most likely slept in a bed roll under their wagons since there was no room in the wagon for them. They filled their wagons with a few important possessions, plus food for their animals as well as for themselves. Samuel and Amelia, as did others, sometimes purchase or trade for additional food from the Native Americans whenever they felt they could afford it. They relied upon their own provisions, picked grains and berries along the way, along with any type of animals they could shoot. Their skill with a rifle was essential for their survival and both Samuel and Amelia apparently were good shots. They knew, if one of them should die, the other would likely have a very difficult time of survival if they did not possess their own survival skills.

What makes this story interesting is the daily record Amelia kept in her diary for four-plus months of travel on the Oregon Trail. Her diary has been published as *Covered Wagon Women Vol III*. Pages 57-96, By Kenneth L Homes. University of Nebraska Press ISBN 0-8032-7287-1

*Next month, the continuing part of their story will include notes and stories from Amelia diary*

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### **More information about our Capt Joseph Hadley (1724-1801)**

For those who have been following, over the past month, the story involving our Capt. Joseph Hadley, you may find the attached newspaper article of a run-away slave believed to have been on a ship piloted by our ancestor. Once again we are grateful to Liz Maize, [elizabethmaize@cogeco.ca](mailto:elizabethmaize@cogeco.ca), who is a direct relative of Capt. Hadley, for sharing this story with us. Please see the attachment: *Joseph Hadley - Runaway Servant*

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### **Genealogy Factoid:**

If you and your identical twin marry identical twins, genealogical speaking, your kids would be considered cousins, although DNA would classify them as siblings.

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*Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But then I repeat myself.*

*~Mark Twain*

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