

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Hadley Cenotaph:

Perhaps we should start with the definition of a Cenotaph. According to Wikipedia: *A cenotaph is an empty tomb or a monument erected in honour of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere. It can also be the initial tomb for a person who has since been reinterred elsewhere.* The word *cenotaph* is derived from the Greek *kenos taphos*, meaning "empty tomb."

The Hadley Cenotaph pictured here is located in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Templeton, MA. This is not considered a super large cemetery. although it does hold the remains of about 3,775 souls.

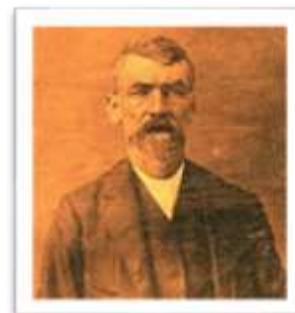
This side of the Cenotaph lists eleven sequential Hadleys, along with their associated dates, starting with our Patriarch George and ending with James R. Hadley. On another face of the Cenotaph, we find the descendants of James Hadley, pictured here with grandson, Keifer (Hadley) Ludwig. Listed here are two additional generations, the living descendants of James.

We have counted twenty-seven known Hadley graves in this cemetery with the earliest known date of a Hadley born in 1799. These grave plots are scattered around the cemetery, although the site where the pictured Cenotaph is located does not, as yet, contain any actual burials. However, this site does have two marked future plots. The Hadley family has purchased this site along with perpetual care for all future plots. The site is large enough to receive as many as seventy-two urns or twenty-four caskets.

Of the eleven sequential Hadleys in this, our genealogical line starting from our George, the actual gravesite of our Patriarch George is unknown. That of his son Samuel is assumed to be known, elsewhere but no firm documentation exists. The next four sequential male Hadleys are buried in various locations in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and the following four male sequential generations are buried in this cemetery. Some of the many living Hadleys, including the two shown here, may well find their final resting place in this cemetery.

Meet Slave-holder William Peter Gershom (W P G) Hadley: (1806-1879)

Peter, known as W P G Hadley, was born to the Rev. Moses Hadley (1756-1818) and Ann Roberts (1776-1820) on the 19 Apr 1806 in Woodville, Wilkinson County, Mississippi. He was the sixth of eight children born into this family. Rev. Moses was a well-known Baptist preacher and farmer, born in Yonkers, NY, and was a patriarch who served in the Revolutionary War. He also owned a few slaves.



Hadley Cenotaph



Keifer (Hadley) Ludwig & James R. Hadley

Around 1790, Moses relocated in South Carolina where it is believed he met his wife and where their first two children were born. Around 1808, they moved to Wilkinson, Mississippi where their remaining six children were born. All the children had biblical names. The names William and Peter are well known Christian names, but few will recognize the name of Gershom as being the name of one of the sons of the biblical Moses.

In 1810 the US Census lists the estate of Moses as being an “overseer.” Of those he had charge of overseeing were ten people, including slaves.

William, following his father, became a farmer and according to the 1860 US Federal Census – Slave Schedule 12 – slaves are listed. The oldest of these enslaved individuals was an 80-year-old “B” (Black) female and the youngest being a 3-year-old “M” (Mulatto) female. Of the 12 listed slaves, 8 were classified as “B” and 4 as “M.” This census was from the 4th ward Minden, Claiborne County, Louisiana and was enumerated on 13 July 1860 by J. H Simmons, Assistant Marshal

Unfortunately, the surnames of the slaves, as in this census, are not given – just the surname of the slave owner.

It may be worth speculating as to how the “M” individuals, who were so designated, came to be of a “mixed white/black race.” (*Editor’s Note: We believe there to be only one race – the human race*). The last three children in the slave schedule are ages 4, 3 and 1 and all listed as “M” while the oldest, a male, and the two youngest as females. In the slave schedule, the ages of the females are 80, 36, 20, 16, and 6. It is likely the three youngest children’s mother was one of these women. What about the origin of the white father?

WPG Hadley had 10 children consisting of four males. Due to age and deaths of these four males, only two could possibly have been a father to any of the slave children. Were either of these two male sons of WPG possibly the parent of one or more of the young slave children?

History tells us that it was not unusual for the owner of the slaves, or a member of his family, to impregnate a young slave girl.

We have **NO** proof either of the sons of WPG were responsible for any children with a slave. The DNA samples from both the descendants from WPG and the descendants from former slaves would need to be examined before we could possibly answer that question.

A wise man once said nothing Anonymous

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