

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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Variations in Hadley Birth, Marriage & Death Dates (BMD): PART 3

The previous two months of the *Hadley Newsletters* discussed both birth and marriage date variations.

Part 3: Death date conflict/variations:

Here we can sometimes find differing death dates for our Hadley ancestors. An attending physician usually signed and dated a death certificate. This became an accepted practice beginning about 1800. Before this time, a local undertaker might well have performed the recording of a death. There are other instances where the actual death date is probably unknown since the funeral date is recorded as being the death of date.



On older tombstones we sometimes find a different date than appears in the records. A reason this differing is likely due to the time lag between the death and the creation of the tombstone. Memories being what they are, often a year or more may have lapsed between the stone cutting on a tombstone, and the actual death date; errors were bound to happen.

We have observed a different death that appears on a tombstone to the death date that appears on a cenotaph plaque. This is another example where it is likely human error was the cause for the differing dates.

On 10 Jan 1921 a fire destroyed many federal records of the 1890 US Census. Communities were moved into action, as was the federal government, to store census and other records in a fire-secure location. Before that, it was not uncommon for town records, including birth, marriage, and death records, to be stored in the home of a local town official, usually the town clerk. Some of the town officials had home fires that destroyed the local records. In an attempt to recover some dates for the fire destroyed records, errors likely were made.



1921 fire destruction of records

Hadleys and their Dutch Connection:

Our Patriarch **George Hadley** (ca 1612-1686) settled and raised a family while moving to several different locations around the coast of Massachusetts. We have a rather good history for two of his sons; **Samuel** who stayed in the Massachusetts region, and **Joseph** who moved to Yonkers, which is just north of New York City. The immediate generation who followed Joseph stayed in and around New York City, although future generations migrated their way north along both sides of the Hudson River.

New Amsterdam (now New York City), was a strong bastion for the Dutch who, along with the Hadleys, were part of this Hudson River Valley migration. Even though there continued to be aggressive migrations of Europeans to the North American shores, the availability of young men and women of marriageable age was

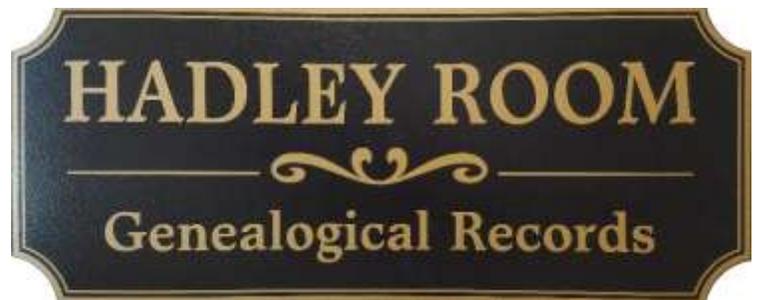
limited. The young Hadleys often found their Dutch neighbors' eligible choice for mates, and records indicate a strong interfaith connection between the Dutch and the Hadleys soon became apparent.

At the time of this northern migration most families were Protestants and many were affiliated with the Dutch Church. The Anglican, Quaker, and Roman Catholic religions, along with other smaller denominations, were also present in the New York area. However, it was the Dutch religion that dominated this area in these early years, until the English drove the Dutch out of New York City.

From about 1628 until about 1819, the North American branch of the Dutch Church spread throughout the Hudson Valley, with often more than one church from this denomination being built in the same community. In 1819, this Dutch religion in North America split into two branches, for administrative and political reasons, and the new branch became the *Reformed Protestant Dutch Church* and later changed its name in 1867 to the *Reformed Church in America*.

The Hadleys often married into a Dutch family. These Dutch families usually maintained a strong church affiliation with their Dutch culture and that association greatly influenced the Hadley family's choice of a religion. As such, from the early 1700s, up until the early/mid twentieth century, we find many New York Hadleys having a religious connection with the *Dutch Church* and then the *Reformed Church of America* – and to some extent, that affiliation continues to this day.

Progress of the Hadley Room: at the Narragansett Historical Society, Templeton, MA



This Hadley Newsletter is Your Newsletter:

If an important event happens in your sphere, please let the *Hadley Newsletter* know. We would like to let others know of any event such as a birth, marriage, death, major award, promotion, or anything you think is worth sharing with the greater Hadley family.

"Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else."

~ Frederic Bastiat. (French economist 1801-1850)

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