

# Who was George Hadley?

16xx-1686

Brad Hadley

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# What we know vs what we conclude

- Periodically, you should go back over your “facts” and ask where you got the information and whether your interpretation is the only possible conclusion.
- Examples:
  - George listed sons and daughters in his will. So these are his children. Probably, but maybe some were adopted or nieces/nephews he took in.
  - John Proctor listed some of George’s children as grandchildren. So Mary Proctor was the mother of George’s children. Probably some were; maybe all.

Charles Banks made mistakes.

His statements on George were  
unfounded.

Forget Reydon, England until/unless  
someone finds something new.

Don't pass on this misinformation!

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**But if I get a chance to go there,  
I am definitely making a pilgrimage to  
Reydon, our ancestral home!**

It would be of interest to know something of his mental, moral and physical characteristics. That he was a man of thrift and enterprise is certain. That he was a man jealous of his rights, who would not be imposed upon, and who knew how to protect himself, his legal controversies, in all of which he was successful, amply prove. His amiable concessions to the somewhat unusual demands of his second wife may be fairly used as evidence of his having been a right-minded and good-natured man. Moreover, the early settlers of Ipswich colony were men of high respectability and Christian excellence. They were not mere adventurers, allured to these inhospitable shores by hopes of gain and mere worldly advantage, but were of a God-fearing, gospel-loving, well-educated and industrious body of settlers, many of whom were possessed of considerable means. In the Ipswich colonists may be found many of the most honored New England names, associated with piety, progress, culture, philanthropy and patriotism of these Puritan commonwealths for more than tow hundred and fifty years. Of this body, my ancestor was one, which, to my mind, is presumptive evidence at least that, being one of them, he was like them.

-- Samuel Page Hadley

# From NEHGR 1853, pg 77-78

Memorand, that whereas Geo. Hadley of this towne, Planter, being lately possessed of **one house lott about one rood of ground, lying on the South syde the Towne River** bounded by an house lott, formerly granted to Phillip Chal Us on the East, and by a house lott, formerly granted to Robert Hayes on the Southwest, **this house lott being formerly granted to John Wedgwood**, as apeareth in this book folio 10, and by him sould to the sayd Geo. Hadlye; Also the said George being possessed of a planting lott, bought of Kathcrine Gilven, widow, lying upon Rabbitt Hill, and bounded as apeareth in this book folio 20, now the sayd George Hadley, hath sould and exchanged all the sayd houselott and planting lott to Samuell Boreman of this Towne, Cooper, together with one small Dwelling house, built and standing upon the sayd houselott, together with all the privileges and apurtenances to the sayd house and Lands belonging as by a deed under his hand bearing date the same day and yeare with this present date, as doeth more largely appear, and the sayd George Hadley doeth by this entrance confirm the sale, and the sayd Samuell Bore- man's is quietly to enjoy the sayd house and Lands, together with all other the premises, to him. his heirs, and assigns forever: Entered by theyr joynt consent this 12\* day of the 11\* month called **January 1639.**

Source: The Ancient Records of the Town of Ipswich

Thomas Bishop & George Hadlye appointed to  
laye out the high wayes through the \_\_\_\_\_  
farmes at chebaco unless in places where  
the ground is very bad for carting to lay out  
but a side wyde to Thomas Bishop & John  
Andrews to laye out a waye for Goodman  
Lester to his marsh

Thomas Bishop & George Hadlye appointed to  
laye out the high wayes through the \_\_\_\_\_  
farmes of chebaco \_\_\_\_\_ in places where  
the ground is very bad for ...

Ipswich Town Meeting 12th month 1650

# What we know

- John Proctor, wife Martha, and son John and daughter Mary/Marie (age 1) arrived on the ship Susan and Ellen in 1635. John received several grants of land in Ipswich and was a prominent citizen there while George Hadley was in Ipswich and Rowley.
- George “Hadlye” bought a house lot and house at the West end of town and planting lot at Mudy River from Samuell Boreman. August (sixth month) 1639.
- Before Jan 1639/1640 bought a house lot on the South side of the Town River from John Wedgwood and a planting lot at Rabbitt Hill from widow Katherine Gliven. He sold both to Samuel Boreman Jan 1639/1640.
- Not on list of commoners Feb 1641/1642 (pg. 102). John Proctor is.
- Sept 1647, George and others exempt from working on highway if they do work on another stretch of road. (pg. 128)
- 1655 Moved to Rowley, the next town North, buying 240+ acres from William Wild.
- 1660’s: Several court cases for debts, boundary disputes etc. Including 1664 suit against Joseph Pike over son Samuel’s apprenticeship as a weaver.
- Nov 1666 acquired land in west Ipswich from Thomas Kimball.
- 1668, married widow Deborah Skillings.
- In 1672 John Proctor’s will lists grandchildren John and Martha Hadley.
- George on list of “right of Commonage” in Ipswich dated February 18, 1678.
- George’s will dated 18 Sept 1684 named three sons, John, Samuel, and Joseph; and two daughters, Mary Page and Martha Hadley. Will proved Nov 1686.
- Buried Sept. 30, 1686.

# Who was George Hadley?

- He was in Ipswich by mid 1639
- Likely was from England, as most settlers in Ipswich at that time were.
- Likely married the daughter of a prominent family (Proctor)
- He had three sons, John, Samuel, and Joseph; and two daughters, Mary and Martha.
- Acquired 240 acres of land by 1655; bought and sold land occasionally, like others.
- Had some legal dealings; like others.
- Came to this country when living conditions and hardships were beyond what most of us can imagine.
- Began the Hadley family that most of us here descend from.

# More Information

[www.hadleyfamily.us](http://www.hadleyfamily.us)

- **Indexes and notes from Ipswich land records**
- **PDF of “Ancient Records of the Town of Ipswich” (scanned by Google)**
- **Other stuff**