## HADLEY NEWSLETTER

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

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## Dr. Elijah Wells Hadley: (1814-1865)

Elijah Wells Hadley (Hadley lineage: Elijah, Moses, Nehemiah, Parrott, Samuel, Samuel, & George)
http://www.hadleygenealogy.net/ghtout/gp1309.html
was the third son and fifth of ten children born to
Moses Hadley and Nancy Wells. Elijah was probably
born at their home in or around Nottingham West,
which is now Hudson, New Hampshire. He married



Isabella Smith (1821-1908) who was born in Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. At the time of their marriage, Isabella was a widow with two young children, George born 1822 and Margaret born 1844. Her deceased husband, George Simpson, had died in Scotland at the age of 31.

Isabella, after burying her husband, migrated to Chicago, Illinois with her son George and daughter Margaret Sarah, where one or more of her older brothers had arrived sometime before 1844.

It was in Chicago where she met Elijah, who was unmarried and had a dental practice. Elijah and Isabella were married on 19 May 1853 in Chicago. The couple had one child, a son Everest Wells Hadley (1856-1933). Elijah died on 24 Mar 1865, leaving Isabella with her two boys and a daughter; her adult son George Simpson who was 23 years of age and her younger son Everest who had just turned 9 and her daughter Margaret Sarah Simpson age 21.

The burial of Elijah is of interest. He was initially buried in the *Chicago City Cemetery*. The last burial in that cemetery was in 1866, when the City of Chicago made the decision to turn the cemetery into what was to become *Lincoln Park*. Those who were buried in the *Chicago City Cemetery* were disinterred and then reinterred in *Rosehill, Graceland, Wunders* and *Calvary Cemeteries*. In addition, the remains of about 6,000 confederate prisoners from the federal prison Camp Douglas were reinterred in *Woods Cemetery*. Disinterments were officially completed by 1870. However, as late as 1998, digs in the *Lincoln Cemetery* have yielded human remains. The assumption has been made that it is likely Elijah is buried in *Graceland Cemetery* since that is where his wife had been interred.

Elijah, besides being a dentist, was a tinkerer and inventor. He invented a machine to perforate postage stamps that had, up until that time, required separation by using scissors.



VERY FINE. A RARE EXAMPLE OF THE ONE-CENT 1851 ISSUE WITH CHICAGO PERFORATIONS.
APPROXIMATELY 19 EXAMPLES ARE RECORDED. THIS IS ARGUABLY THE FINEST SINGLE EXTANT.

**1c Blue, Ty. II, Chicago Perf 12-1/2 (7 var).** Brilliant color, lightly cancelled by numeral handstamp with "1" showing on stamp, well-balanced margins, single soiled perf top at left

The origin of the Chicago perforation was revealed in an article published by Jerome S. Wagshal in the *Chronicle* 130 (May 1986). To briefly summarize Mr. Wagshal's revelations, the inventor of the machine used to create the Chicago Perf stamps was **Dr. Elijah W. Hadley**, a Chicago dentist. He probably constructed the machine in 1854. Over a two-year period, beginning in November 1854, **Dr. Hadley's** device was offered for sale to the Post Office Department thru R. K. Swift, a prominent Chicago banker and businessman. The distinctive 12-1/2 gauge Chicago Perf was applied to sheets of the 1c (Plates 1 Late and 2) and 3c 1851 Issue, the former being considerably rarer. According to the census of Chicago Perf items compiled by W. Wilson Hulme II (*Chronicle* 175, Aug. 1997), a total of 19 examples of the 1c Chicago Perf have been recorded, comprising 2 unused, 5 used on included in this .covers and 12 used off cover (including a strip of three). (We thank Dave Roepke for some of the data that has been included in this article)

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"Always live within your income, even if you have to borrow money to do so". ~ Josh Billings

James R. Hadley 65 Rondout Harbor, Port Ewen, NY 12466 (845) 339-5363

Email: <u>Jim@HadleyGenealogy.net</u> or <u>Jags@hvc.rr.com</u>

Website: <u>www.HadleyGenealogy.net</u> or <u>www.HadleyGenealogy.com</u>