

Joshua Hadley

A Pioneer of Texas

D. A. Sharpe

Joshua Hadley was born about 1794 in North Carolina, though some sources cite a birth date as early as 1786. Joshua is the great, great grandfather of *George W. Johnson* of Fort Worth, Texas, a member of the Ephraim M. Doggett Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

Although there is little proof known to us in the Ephraim M. Doggett Chapter, Joshua Hadley, who arrived in Texas in 1830, is believed by many to be the son of Benjamin Hadley and Elizabeth King. This information may have been passed down through descendants of his daughter, Carolina, who lived until 1899 and whose granddaughters were avid family historians and among the earliest members of at least two lineage societies. Most family histories state, without documentation, that Joshua was born in North Carolina in 1786. However, Stephen F. Austin's Register of Families shows that Joshua was 36 when he arrived in Austin's Colony in 1831 from Tennessee, indicating that he was actually born about 1795. Benjamin Hadley indeed had a male 0-10 years of age living in his household in 1800 in Cumberland County, North Carolina. The male child under the age of 16 enumerated in Benjamin's household in 1790 (Joshua, according to other researchers) appears to have left or died by 1800, thus giving weight to the theory that Joshua was actually born about 1795 but still could be the son of Benjamin. The other possibility is, of course, that the male child enumerated in both censuses was one and the same, meaning he was born in 1790. Benjamin left North Carolina soon after 1800 and settled in Spanish Florida.

In 1830, Joshua and his first wife, Obedience Grantham Hadley, whom he married about 1816, moved to Texas. They gave issue to five children. Travis King Hadley was born about 1818 in Tennessee and died in Grimes County, Texas about 1847. Grantham H. Hadley was born about 1820 in Tennessee. He died sometime after the 1860 U. S. Census. Joshua ,Carolina, and Denny Porterfield were the last of the five first marriage children.

On May 7, 1830, Joshua Hadley received title to a league of land (4,428.4 acres) near the source of Rocky Creek, four miles northeast of the site of Anderson in what is now Grimes County. This was in Stephen F. Austin's Second Colony. There, Joshua constructed a two-story house and a log fort for the protection of his family and the surrounding community. The community became known as Hadley's Prairie.

Joshua Hadley represented the District of Viesca in the Convention of 1832. In 1835, he became the first Alcalde (Mayor) elected in Washington Municipality. Joshua served in the Texas Army and received for his services a bounty grant of 320 acres in Grimes County. The reader might be interested to know that his Texas Army service was only from June 30 to September 30, 1836! A rather short time to earn 320 acres of land! Probably he received no other compensation.

Joshua received another league of land in Sterling C. Robertson's Colony for his services as a surveyor. The title for this league, located in Limestone County, was issued 25 February 1835. He purchased two lots in the town of New Cincinnati from James C. DeWitt on 11 January 1837. Joshua maintained herds of cattle, so large land areas were useful to him.

Joshua was a surveyor and surveyed two leagues of land given to him as land grants on May 17, 1831 and on February 25, 1835. These land grants were in what are now Grimes County and Limestone County. He also purchased 15,000,000 varas of land as recorded in Washington County, Texas.

Obedience died in 1839. Joshua subsequently married a widow, Joyce V. McGuffin, who brought two children into the family from her first marriage. Joshua and Joyce produced three sons born in the Republic of Texas: Henry F., William B. and Andrew "Dee" Drew Hadley.

Joshua Hadley died during the summer of 1845 and was buried at his home in Hadleys Prairie.

Sources: E. L. Blair, *Early History of Grimes County* (Austin, 1930),
 Texas House of Representatives, *Biographical Directory of the Texas Conventions and Congresses, 1832-1845* (Austin: Book Exchange, 1941)
 Laura Duke Womack <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ldwom/Hadley.htm>
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