

- generally recognized. In 1758, shortly after accepting the presidency of Princeton College, he was stricken with smallpox and died.
- vi. EUNICE, b. 20 Aug. 1705; d. at East Windsor, 1 June 1788; m. at East Parish, Windsor, 1 Oct. 1729, Rev. SIMON BACKUS [Backus Family, No. 4], b. at Norwich, Conn., 11 Feb. 1700/1, d. at Louisburg, Cape Breton, 2 Feb. 1745/6, son of Deacon Joseph and Elizabeth (Huntington) Backus.
 - vii. ABIGAIL, b. 25 Dec. 1707; d. at Lebanon, Conn., 24 Sept. 1764; m. at East Parish, Windsor, 25 Oct. 1737, Rev. WILLIAM METCALF, Harvard Coll. 1727, b. at Lebanon, 17 Aug. 1708, d. there 15 June 1773, son of Jonathan and Hannah (Avery) Metcalf.
 - viii. JERUSHA, b. 20 May 1710; d. 22 Dec. 1729.
 - ix. HANNAH, b. 8 Feb. 1712/13; d. at Middletown, Conn., 7 June 1773; m. at East Parish, Windsor, 15 Jan. 1745/6, (Judge) SETH WETMORE, b. at Middletown, 18 Nov. 1700, d. there 10 Apr. 1778, son of Izrahiah and Rachel (Stow) Wetmore.
 - x. LUCY, b. 25 May 1715; d. 21 Aug. 1736.
 - xi. MARTHA, b. 5 Jan. 1718; d. at East Windsor, Feb. 1794; m. at East Parish, Windsor, 1746, Rev. MOSES TUTTLE, Yale Coll. 1745, b. at New Haven, Conn., 25 June 1715, d. at Southold, L. I., 21 Nov. 1785, son of John and Hannah (Humiston) Tuttle.

a. *New York Gen. and Biog. Record*, 70:323-6; 71:124-32; Henry R. Stiles, *History of Ancient Windsor*, 2:194-8. Many references are given in Captain Smith's account in the *Record*; see also *The Tuttle Family*.

NATHANIEL ELY

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

An excellent history of the Ely family was published years ago, on which we have drawn extensively, making a few additions and still fewer corrections. Nothing, apparently, has been attempted towards learning more of the English ancestry, since 1881 when the noted antiquarian, Joseph Lemuel Chester, issued his report which was published four years later in the family history.^a

This shows that Rev. George Ely, who was a student at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, in 1564, then described as "George Helie," aged 19, from the county of Lincoln, became Vicar of Tenterden, Kent, 26 Apr. 1571. After a long incumbency of forty-four years, he was buried at Tenterden, 21 Aug. 1615, his wife Florence having been buried three days before. His will, dated 13 Aug. 1615, named his wife Florence; daughter Abigail wife of Henry Verser; Lydia Ely, daughter of deceased son Andrew; Daniel Ely (under 22), son of said Andrew; son Obadiah and his son Robert; daughter Judith wife of Richard Marden; son Zacharye; Susan, Margaret and Sarah Ely (under 18), daughters of deceased son Nathaniel; daughters-in-law, Susanna Ely, Alice Ely, Mary Ely, Elizabeth Ely, and Susannah Glover; son Daniel; John, Thomas, Francis, and Nathaniel, sons of said deceased son Na-

thaniel, they to receive messuages and certain lands in Woodchurch; remainder to sons Samuel and Daniel.

Seven of the eight children named in the will were baptized at Tenterden between 1572 and 1591; Judith's baptism has not been found and possibly she was the eldest child, born elsewhere. There were also two girls named Lydia, both of whom died young, making ten children in all. They all received Bible names of the type which were popular with the Puritans. No trace of any of the children was found in Tenterden register, nor is there a will or administration of the estate of any one of the sons in either London or Canterbury, Kent. Unless they lived in humble circumstances in some other parish of Kent, they may have left the county.

Nathaniel Ely, the eldest son, was baptized at Tenterden, 28 Sept. 1572; and was described as "Clerk, Master of Arts," in his marriage record, at Tenterden, 9 June 1597, to Susan (or Susanna) Dowle. He was presumably a graduate of Cambridge, and obtained a clerical position somewhere, and he certainly died before his father made his will on 13 Aug. 1615. We know only that he had the four sons and three daughters named in that will: John, Thomas, Francis, Nathaniel, Susan, Margaret and Sarah.

Nathaniel Ely, Jr., was probably the youngest son, since he was named last, and he may have been the youngest child. If the fifth or sixth child, we may estimate, since his parents were married in 1597, that he was born 1607 or 1609. The fourth son of a poor curate, he was probably raised to a trade. His estimated age is close to what we should expect the age of the emigrant to be, and in view of the rarity of the two names, Nathaniel and Ely in combination, he is tentatively identified with the New England settler. It may be mentioned that Nathaniel Ely of Springfield was released from training in 1665 when licensed to keep the ordinary. Usually such a release was given when the age of sixty was attained, but the terms of this release suggest that it was given because training would conflict with the management of the ordinary, hence he was in 1665 a few years under sixty, and born between 1605 and 1610.

a. Heman Ely, *Descendants of Nathaniel Ely* (1885), vi-ix.

1. NATHANIEL¹ ELY, born in England, about 1607-1609, died at Springfield, Mass., 25 Dec. 1675; married MARTHA ———, born in England, died at Springfield, 23 Oct. 1683.

He came to New England probably in 1634, settled at Cambridge, and was made a freeman of Massachusetts Bay, 6 May 1635, the same date as Robert Day whose house lot adjoined his.

In 1636 he came with Rev. Thomas Hooker to Hartford, thus becoming one of the historic founders of that place. Here too his house lot adjoined Robert Day's. His lands were entered in February 1639/40, beginning with

his home lot of two acres with his dwelling house and gardens, and thirteen other parcels were listed, quite a respectable holding. His interest as a proprietor in the undivided lands in Hartford was referred to as late as 1671/2, though this interest had long since passed to John Talcott who had bought several of his allotments.^a

He was Constable of Hartford, 6 Feb. 1639/40, and a Selectman in 1643 and 1649. He served on juries in 1643 and 1645, also in 1649 when he was fined five shillings for tardiness in arriving to serve. He was one of the leaders in the settlement of Norwalk. On 26 June 1650, "Natha: Ely and Richard Olmsted in the behalfe of themselues and other Inhabitants of Hartford, desired the leaue and approbation of the Courte for planting of Norwaake." Removing there, he was Constable in 1654, Selectman in 1656, and a Deputy to the General Court at the session of 26 Feb. 1656/7. In 1659 he was one of the Norwalk men appointed by the General Court to lay out an Indian reservation on Gold Hill. The same year, he sold his Norwalk property to Thomas Betts. In the Norwalk rate list of 1655, his property was appraised at £293, the only larger estates being those of Thomas Fitch (£314) and Rev. Thomas Hanford (£300).^b

At Springfield, where he was admitted an inhabitant on 26 Mar. 1660, he quickly became a prominent citizen. He was chosen a Selectman, 4 Feb. 1661/2, and with Captain Pynchon was appointed to examine the accounts of the retiring Selectmen. He was again Selectman in 1664, 1667, 1669, 1672, and 1674. Here too he was Constable in 1665, for half a year; measurer of lands, 1665-69; and sealer for weights and measures, 1674. He was on the committee to arrange for the building of a new Meeting House in 1674, along with Major Pynchon, Elizur Holyoke, Anthony Dorchester, and Jonathan Burt, and Lieut. Thomas Cooper was later added to the committee. He seems to have been a carpenter, for in 1667 he was appointed to see that another door was made for the Meeting House and also to see to the new hanging of the bell, and in 1669 he had a trifling charge against the town for nails and a hasp.^c

In 1665 he was licensed to keep the ordinary in Springfield and this continued to be his occupation until his death. Once he was fined for selling cider to Indians, and in 1674 for not keeping beer as strong as the law prescribed, but his conduct of the business seems to have been satisfactory, or his license would not have been renewed.^d

Children of Nathaniel and Martha (——) Ely, born in England:

- 2 i. SAMUEL,² b. ; d. 17 Mar. 1691/2.
- ii. RUTH, b. ; d. at Springfield, 12 Oct. 1662; m. at Springfield, 3 Oct. 1661, JEREMIAH HORTON, who d. at Springfield, 18 Aug. 1682, son of Thomas and Mary (——) Horton. He m. (2) at New Haven, 5 May 1664, Mary Gib-

bard, bapt. at New Haven, 20 Jan. 1643/4, dau. of William and Anna (Tapp) Gibbard.

a. *Conn. Hist. Society Collections*, 14:150, 549, 80, 81.

b. *Colonial Records of Connecticut*, 1:43, 83, 84, 126, 183, 210, 288, 336; Heman Ely, *Descendants of Nathaniel Ely* (1885), 1-3; Edwin Hall, *The Ancient Historical Records of Norwalk, Conn.* (1865), 22, 46.

c. Henry M. Burt, *History of Springfield* (1898), 1:278, 291, 314, 357, 368, 396, 405, 148, 357, 361; 2:79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 87, 97, 111, 119, 121. The Ely book errs as to some dates because of giving them in the original Old Style form.

d. Heman Ely, *Descendants of Nathaniel Ely* (1885), 4.

2. SAMUEL² ELY (*Nathaniel*¹), born in England, , died at Springfield, Mass., 17 Mar. 1691/2; married at Springfield, 28 Oct. 1659, MARY DAY [Day Family, No. 1, iii], born about 1641, died at Hatfield, Mass., 17 Oct. 1725, aged 84 (gravestone), daughter of Robert and Editha (Stebbins) Day. She married second, at Springfield, 12 Apr. 1694, Thomas Stebbins, born 31 July 1648, died at Springfield, 7 Dec. 1695, son of Thomas and Hannah (Wright) Stebbins; and third, 16 Dec. 1696, Deacon John Coleman, born about 1635, died at Hatfield, Mass., 21 Jan. 1711, aged 84 (gravestone), son of Thomas and [first wife] Coleman.

His youth was doubtless passed in Hartford and Norwalk, Conn. On 26 Mar. 1660, the same date as his father was admitted, he was admitted an inhabitant of Springfield, and Elizur Holyoke gave a bond of £20 to secure the Town.^a Samuel had known Mary Day in Hartford when the families were next-door neighbors, and they seem to have kept up the acquaintance after the Elys moved to Norwalk. In 1658 Mary accompanied her mother to Springfield upon her mother's marriage to Mr. Holyoke. Then, in the fall of 1659, Samuel went up to Springfield to marry her, and the following spring Mr. Holyoke went surety for his new stepson-in-law so that he could be admitted an inhabitant. It looks as if Samuel and Mary had been boy and girl sweethearts, and the removal of Nathaniel Ely to Springfield was probably influenced by the marriage of his only son to a girl who had such prominent connections there.

Samuel seems to have helped his father in managing the ordinary, and to have succeeded him in that responsible business, for as late as 1681 we find payments made to him by the Town for entertaining the Selectmen, entertaining the school house raisers, entertaining the rate makers, and others. In 1678, his yard was used as the Town Pound. He held minor town offices at times, such as appraiser, hayward, and fence viewer. In 1680, Daniel Denton, who was then schoolmaster, entered a bill, "Due to our Landlord ely £1 10s 9d off which 9 shillings ffor a school in his house." In 1673, Samuel Ely was chosen Constable, "but he pleaded hard for freedom from the Office," and the former Constable was persuaded to serve in his place, upon Ely's paying him £1. In 1680 he was again chosen Constable, and ac-

cepted. In 1683 he had a charge of five shillings against the Town for a thousand lath nails in connection with building the new Meeting House.^b

Children of Samuel and Mary (Day) Ely, born at Springfield:

- i. A child,³ b. 1660; d. 3 May 1660.
- ii. SAMUEL, b. 1 Mar. 1661/2; d. 22 Mar. 1661/2.
- 3 iii. JOSEPH, b. 20 Aug. 1663; d. 28 Apr. 1755.
- iv. SAMUEL, b. 4 Nov. 1664; d. 18 Feb. 1664/5.
- v. MARY, b. 29 Mar. 1667; d. 11 Nov. 1667.
- vi. SAMUEL, b. 9 May 1668; d. at West Springfield, Mass., 23 Aug. 1732 ae. 61; m. (1) at Springfield, 10 Nov. 1697, MARTHA³ BLISS, born at Springfield, 1 June 1674, d. at West Springfield, 6 July 1702, dau. of Samuel² and Mary² (Leonard) Bliss [see Bliss Family, No. 1, xi]; m. (2) 7 Dec. 1704, SARAH BEDORTHA, b. at Springfield, 18 Oct. 1681, d. at West Springfield, 8 May 1766, dau. of Joseph and Lydia (Leonard) (Dumbleton) Bedortha.
- vii. NATHANIEL, b. 18 Jan. 1670/1; d. 11 Mar. 1670/1.
- viii. JONATHAN, b. 1 July 1672; d. 10 July 1672.
- ix. NATHANIEL, b. 25 Apr. 1674; d. May 1689.
- x. JONATHAN, b. 24 Jan. 1675/6; d. 27 Feb. 1675/6.
- xi. MARTHA, b. 28 Oct. 1677; d. 25 Nov. 1677.
- xii. JOHN, b. 28 Jan. 1678/9; d. at West Springfield, 15 Jan. 1758 in 80th yr. (g. s.): Deacon; m. at Springfield, 30 Dec. 1703, MERCY³ BLISS, b. 18 July 1680, d. 5 May 1763 ae. 83 (g. s.), dau. of Samuel² and Mary² (Leonard) Bliss [see Bliss Family, No. 1, xi].
- xiii. MARY, b. 20 June 1681; d. 21 Dec. 1681.
- xiv. JONATHAN, b. 21 Jan. 1682/3; d. at Springfield [Longmeadow], 27 July 1753 in 71st yr. (g. s.); Deacon; m. at Springfield, 16 Mar. 1708/9, LYDIA⁴ BURT, b. 9 Mar. 1687, d. 14 Dec. 1767 in 81st yr. (g. s.), dau. of Deacon Jonathan³ and Lydia (Dumbleton) Burt [see Burt Family, No. 2, ii].
- xv. MARY, b. 29 Feb. 1684/5; m. 26 Dec. 1705, NATHANIEL COLEMAN, b. at Hatfield, Mass., 18 Oct. 1684, d. there 7 Apr. 1755, son of Deacon John and Mehitabel (Root) Coleman.
- xvi. RUTH, b. abt. 1687; m. 15 Dec. 1709, EBENEZER WARNER, b. at Hatfield, 5 Nov. 1681, d. at Belchertown, Mass., 25 Aug. 1749, son of Lieut. Daniel and Martha (Boltwood) Warner. He m. (2) 5 July 1748, Sarah Bellows.^c

a. Henry M. Burt, *History of Springfield* (1898), 1:277.

b. *Ibid.*, 1:328, 391, 417, 427, 487, 420, 381, 416, 421, 296, 392, 410, 418, 438; 2:119, 144, 81, 85, 98, 160.

c. L. C. Warner and J. G. Nichols, *The Descendants of Andrew Warner* (1919), 66.

3. Deacon JOSEPH³ ELY (*Samuel*,² *Nathaniel*¹), born at Springfield, Mass., 20 Aug. 1663, died at West Springfield, Mass., 28 Apr. 1755, in his 92d year (gravestone); married 9 July 1685, MARY² RILEY [Riley Family, No. 1, ii], born at Springfield, 2 June 1665, died at West Springfield, 19 May 1736, in her 71st year (gravestone), daughter of John¹ and Margaret (—) Riley.

He was fence viewer in 1698 and 1707. He seems to have taught school in the district known as Ireland in Springfield, 1732-1734.^a

His will, dated 14 Apr. 1738, named his sons, Joseph, Nathaniel and John Ely; daughter Mary Stebbins alias Ely; daughter Ruth Ely; daughter Sarah McIntire alias Leonard alias Ely; to grandson Caleb Stebbins, a tract granted "to my Grandfather, Nathaniel Ely." Son Joseph to be executor. The inventory, taken 10 June 1755, totaled £356.4.9.^b

Children of Joseph and Mary (Riley) Ely, born at Springfield:

- 4 i. JOSEPH,⁴ b. 9 Apr. 1686; d. 6 Jan. 1770.
- ii. MARY, b. 25 July 1689; d. at Springfield, 9 Apr. 1770 ae. 80; m. at Springfield, 1 Mar. 1710/11, Capt. THOMAS STEBBINS, b. at Springfield, 7 Mar. 1686/7, d. there 4 Dec. 1758 ae. 72, son of Edward and Sarah (Graves) Stebbins.
- iii. MARTHA, b. 16 July 1691; perhaps living 1773; m. (int. 6 Nov. 1714), EBENEZER PARSONS, b. at Springfield, 21 Jan. 1690/1, d. there in 1742, son of Ebenezer and Margaret (Marshfield) Parsons.
- iv. NATHANIEL, b. 21 Oct. 1694; d. at West Springfield, 29 Dec. 1787 ae. 93; m. (1) 16 Feb. 1720/1, ELIZABETH DEWEY, b. at Westfield, 13 May 1699, d. at West Springfield, 6 July 1752 ae. 53, dau. of Samuel and Sarah (Weller) Dewey; m. (2) at Springfield, 6 June 1754, MARTHA FERRY, who has been identified as the Martha b. at Springfield, 15 Sept. 1703, though she d. at West Springfield, 21 Dec. 1786 ae. 92 [sic], dau. of John and Mary (Cooley) Ferry. The age at death better fits Martha³ (Leonard) (Ashley) Ferry, b. 23 Oct. 1695, who was actually in her 92d year of age at the stated date of death [Leonard Family, No. 3, vi].
- v. RUTH, b. 20 Oct. 1697; d. 21 May 1754 in 57th yr. (g. s.), unm.
- vi. SARAH, b. 8 Jan. 1703/4; d. 28 June 1787 ae. 85 (g. s.); m. (1) at Springfield, 14 Apr. 1726, NATHANIEL LEONARD [Leonard Family, No. 3, iii], b. at Springfield, 6 Nov. 1685, d. there 16 July 1734, son of Benjamin and Mary (Scott) Leonard; m. (2) (int. 31 July 1736), WILLIAM MCINTIRE, Jr.
- vii. JOHN, b. 19 June 1706; d. at West Springfield, 15 May 1754 in 47th yr. (g. s.); m. 28 May 1747, EXPERIENCE BAGG, b. at Springfield, 17 Apr. 1708, d. 23 Oct. 1748, dau. of Jonathan and Mary (Weller) Bagg.

a. Henry M. Burt, *History of Springfield* (1899), 2:349, 374, 480, 496, 497.

b. Verbatim copies in Heman Ely, *Descendants of Nathaniel Ely* (1885), 7.

4. JOSEPH⁴ ELY (*Joseph*,³ *Samuel*,² *Nathaniel*¹), born at Springfield, Mass., 9 Apr. 1686, died at West Springfield, 6 Jan. 1770, in his 84th year (gravestone); married at Springfield, 24 Dec. 1713, MARGARET³ LEONARD [Leonard Family, No. 3, vii], born [perhaps 1693], died at West Springfield, 3 Oct. 1760, in her 68th year (gravestone), daughter of Benjamin² and Sarah (Scott) Leonard.

His gravestone reads: "In memory of Mr. Joseph Ely, who died / Jan'y 6th, 1770, in the 84th year of his age. / If there's a Power above, / He must delight in virtue, / And that which he delights in, / Must be happy."

He was chosen Constable in 1729.^a

Children of Joseph and Margaret (Leonard) Ely, born at Springfield [West Springfield]:

- i. MARGARET,⁵ b. 26 Oct. 1714; d. at West Springfield, 5 Sept. 1796 ae. 82; m. (int. 30 July 1743), ELIJAH ROGERS, b. at Springfield, 20 Apr. 1720, d. at West Springfield, 18 or 24 Mar. 1769, son of Henry and Sarah (Remington) Rogers.
 - ii. MIRIAM, b. 16 June 1716; d. at West Springfield, 29 Oct. 1800 ae. 83 (g. s.); m. 30 Mar. 1738, Capt. ELISHA CHAPIN, b. at Springfield, 16 July 1707, killed by the Indians at Hoosac, near Williamstown, 17 July 1756 ae. 49 (g. s.), son of Samuel and Hannah (Sheldon) Chapin.
 - iii. JOSEPH, b. 30 Mar. 1718; d. at West Springfield, 31 May 1803 ae. 85 (g. s.); Captain in the French War, 1747; m. 8 Mar. 1749/50, MARY DAY, b. at Springfield, 7 Aug. 1726, d. at West Springfield, 22 Apr. 1771 in 45th yr., dau. of John and Abigail (Bagg) Day.
 - iv. AZUBAH, b. 15 Mar. 1719/20; m. (int. 22 Dec. 1744), ABRAHAM ADAMS, of Springfield, who d. before 12 Mar. 1762.
 - v. KEZIAH, b. 15 Sept. 1723; d. at West Springfield, 1 Jan. 1796; m. 7 Feb. 1771, AARON BUSH, of Westfield, Mass. No issue.
 - vi. ZEBIA, b. 22 Sept. 1726; d. at Granby, Mass., 26 Sept. 1808; m. 26 Sept. 1745, STEPHEN CHAPIN, b. 29 May 1718, son of John and Sarah (Bridgeman) Chapin; res. Wilbraham and Granby, Mass.
 - vii. MARY, b. 4 Oct. 1728; d. at Springfield, 16 May 1802; m. (1) 24 Oct. 1754, Ens. ASAHEL JUDD, b. at Northampton, Mass., 172-, d. near Minas, N. S., in 1756, while serving as an officer in the French War, son of Thomas and Hannah (Bascomb) Judd; m. (2) 8 Mar. 1763, JAMES SYKES, b. at Springfield, 13 Aug. 1719, son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Ball) Sykes.
 - 5 viii. BENJAMIN, b. 23 Dec. 1730; d. 25 Dec. 1802.
 - ix. ENOCH, b. 5 Feb. 1732/3; d. 16 Nov. 1736.
 - x. DORCAS, b. 22 Sept. 1735; d. at West Springfield, 3 July 1777 in 42d yr. (g. s.); m. at West Springfield, 30 Nov. 1758, JOHN⁵ ELY, b. 6 Apr. 1735, d. 25 Aug. 1815 ae. 80 (g. s.), son of Ens. John⁴ and Eunice (Colton) Ely, and grandson of John³ and Mercy (Bliss) Ely [see No. 2, xii]. He m. (2) (int. 13 May 1780) Abigail (Montague) Chapin, widow of William Chapin.
 - xi. ANNE, b. 10 Oct. 1738; d. 9 May 1740.
- a. Henry M. Burt, *History of Springfield* (1899), 2:447.

5. Col. BENJAMIN⁵ ELY (*Joseph*,⁴ *Joseph*,³ *Samuel*,² *Nathaniel*¹), born at [West] Springfield, Mass., 25 Dec. 1730, died there 25 Dec. 1802, aged 72 (gravestone); married at West Springfield, 1 June 1758, ESTHER BACKUS [Backus Family, No. 4, v], born at Wethersfield, Conn., 19 Nov. 1739, died at West Springfield, 19 Sept. 1820, aged 81 (gravestone), daughter of Rev. Simon and Eunice (Edwards) Backus.

He was chosen 1st Major, Col. John Mosely's (3d Hampshire County) Regt., 31 Jan. 1776; appointment concurred in by Council, 8 Feb. 1776, and commissioned same date. A letter from Ely to the Council, dated Wattertown, 24 Apr. 1776, stated that the 2d Company in the 3d Hampshire County Regt. was without a captain. He was Major of a detachment commanded by Lieut.-Col. Timothy Robinson which marched from home 21 Oct. 1776 to Ticonderoga to reinforce the army and returned 17 Nov. 1776.^a