

Nicholas Noyes was born in Cholderton, co. Wilts, about 1616. He deposed 27 November 1671 "aged about fifty-five years" [*Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, 1536-1686* (EQC) 4:433]; deposed 24 December 1674 "aged about sixty" [Ipswich Land Records (ILR) 4:187]; deposed 31 March 1679 "aged sixty-three years" [EQC 7:165].

He married by 1641 Mary Cutting, daughter of John Cutting of Watertown.

What was evidently a family group of six, having decided to go to New England, took the Oath of Allegiance - John Woodbridge, George Brown, Nicholas Noyes, and Richard Brown - on March 24, 1633/34, Thomas Parker and James Noyes on March 26, 1634 - and all embarked on the *Mary and John* at Southampton, reaching Nantasket (now Hull) near Boston sometime in May 1634 and removed to Agwam (Ipswich) where they remained during the following winter. The Rev. Parker and friends remained in Ipswich until the following spring when they applied to the General Court for liberty to settle on the Quascacunquen in an area known as Wessacucon. May 6, 1635, the following orders were passed by the General Court:

- Wessacucon is allowed by the court to be a plantation & it is referred to Mr. Humfry, Mr. Endicott, Capt. Turner and Capt. Trask or any three of them, to sett out the bounds of Ipswich & Wessacucon or so much thereof as they can & the name of the said plantation in changed & hereafter to be called Neweberry.

Most of the passengers who came to New England in the ship "*Mary & John*" were induced to remove to Newbury early in the year 1635. Tradition asserts that they came by water from Ipswich and landed on the north shore of the Quascacunquen (now Parker) river, about two or three hundred rods below the bridge that connects the "Lower Green" with the "Great Neck" and the town of Rowley. A monument marks the spot where the settlers disembarked in May or June, 1635. Tradition states that young Nicholas was the first person to leap ashore when their boat anchored in the Quascacunquen (now the Parker) River. [John J. Currier, "*History of Newbury*" p.312; Sarah Anna Emery "*Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*" p.112]. They joined 23 men and their families who formed a cattle-breeding company and were among the first settlers at Newbury where their children were born. Newbury's first minister was a cousin, Thomas Parker.

Rev. Nicholas Noyes, in his account of his uncle, Rev. James Noyes, told of the coming of Mr. Parker, Mr. Noyes and his younger brother Nicholas Noyes, a single man, adding "between which three was more than ordinary endearment of affection, which was broken but by death."

Nicholas Noyes came to New England in the ship *Mary & John* sailing from London late in March 1634/5 and arriving in Boston in May 1634/5. His brother James and his cousin Rev. Thomas Parker were of the company which comprised some twenty of the first settlers of Newbury. Some of this company came directly to Ipswich and spent their first winter in that settlement; while some stayed nearer Boston.

In May 1635, a group of these people came to Newbury to establish their homes and tradition asserts that Nicholas Noyes was the first person to leap ashore when they arrived at the landing place on the north bank of the Quascacunquen River.

In the first allotment of lands granted to the settlers for house lot he did not receive any, probably because he was young and unmarried.

Feb. 24, 1636-7: - at a towne meeting it was agreed that Wm. Moody, James Browne, Nic. Holt ffrancis Plumer and Na Noyes shall lay out -all the generall fences in the towne that are to be made.

Nicholas took the Freeman's Oath as "Nicholas Noise" in Cambridge on May 17, 1637 when he and eight others walked from Newbury to Cambridge to vote for Gov. Winthrop. Their immediate purpose was to strengthen Governor Winthrop's Party and prevent the re-election of Sir Harry Vane. [*Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1628-1686* (MBCR) 1:373].

He was admitted to the Newbury church prior to 17 May 1637 implied by freemanship.

On April 21, 1638, he was one of five men fined 2s. 6d. apiece for absence from Newbury town meeting after due warning. The meeting was called to order at eight o'clock in the morning. Two of the men (not Nicholas) had their fines remitted, having sufficient excuses.

It must have been very soon after this in 1638 that Noyes sailed on a voyage to England, possibly to settle family affairs and to report on conditions in Massachusetts Bay. He returned to New England on the *Jonathan* which sailed from London, probably soon after April 12, 1639, and "came to Anchor in Boston Harbor." Also on the *Jonathan* were Anthony Somerby of Newbury and Mr. Peter Noyes of Sudbury, who, having come over on the *Confidence* in 1638, aged 47, and found New England to his liking, had gone back to his home in Penton, near Andover, co. Hants, to fetch his family. Peter was doubtless a kinsman of Nicholas. [EQC 1:268; [*New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (NEHGR), 32:407-11].

March 12, 1641, he is recorded as having 4 shares in the stint of the ox & cow comon.

When it was proposed to remove the inhabitants of Newbury from their first settlement on the Parker river to a new site nearer the Merrimac, the name of Nicholas Noyes appears in the list of the ninety-one freeholders of the town and was a deputy "for the managing of those things that concern the ordering of the New Town" on December 7, 1642. When the lands at the "new towne" were laid out he had a lot "joyning South Street" now Parker street.

He was on the Ipswich and Salisbury grand jury, 29 September 1646, 24 April 1649 [EQC 1:103, 164]; petit jury, 28 September 1647, 26 September 1648, 25 March 1651 [EQC 1:124, 146, 210].

At a towne meeting Dec. 10, 1646: the towne being informed that Mr. Thomas Parker was unwilling to act any longer in any matters concerning the new towne & that Mr. Cutting was going to sea, they were apprehensive of the weighty occasions of the towne that are likely to bee retarded, did make choise of Nicholas Noyes & William Titcomb in their roome, to be added to the rest of the new towne men for sixe weeks that so things may with more speed be dispatched.

He was sent at the meeting Dec. 16, 1646 when orders and grants were made in regard to the removal of the town.

April 1647, he was one of seven men chosen to act in ye Prudential affaires of ye Towne for one whole year from ye date hereof and was re-elected to this service April 27, 1648, and March 1, 1674/5 and as selectman, March 4, 1677/8, March 7, 1680/91 and March 11, 1683-4.

He was chosen way warden in April 1647.

At Salem Court, 6:5:1647, he was appointed one of the administrators of the estate of John Lowle late of Newbury, deceased, until the General Court takes further order.

At Ipswich Court 28:7:1647 he was one of the jury in the case of Mr. Symonds v. the Towne.

At the same court, Mr. William Gerrish, Richard Knight and Nicolas Noice, Administrators of the estate of John Lowell acknowledged judgment of £40 in favor of Persifall Lowell against the goods of John Lowell.

The assignment of James Godfrey by Mr. Jo Spencer to Nicolas Noyce of Newbery, dated Oct. 17, 1646 confirmed at Ipswich court 28:1:1648.

April 27, 1648, Thomas Marvyn was granted two akers of land lying near to the new pond on back side of Mr. Nicholas Noyes house lott at the new towne for his encouragement to kill wolves.

Nich Noyse in list of Jury of trials Ipswich court 26:7:1648 and 25:1:1651.

Nicolas Noyce one of, grand jury as Quarterly court Salisbury, 24:2:1649.

In 1650 Nicholas and four other men were before the court for saying that "the elders would transgress for a morsel of bread." He lost no prestige thereby for on September 30, 1651, at Ipswich he was sworn clerk of the Newbury market. In 1652 many were brought before the court for not observing the Sumptuary laws of 1651. The records say "Nicholas Noyes' wife, Hugh March's wife, and William Chandler's wife were each presented for wearing a silk hood and scarf; but were discharged on proof that their husbands were worth £200 each. John Hutchins' wife was also discharged upon testifying that she was brought up above the ordinary rank." [George F. Dow, "Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts (Salem, Mass., 1911), 1:303.]

May 19, 1650, Mr. Woodman, Henry Short, Nicholas Noyes & Richard Knight were chosen to lay out highways from all parts of the Towne to the mill and also to the farms. This committee granted Richard Pettingell fourteen akers of Land in exchange for land given up for a convenient way for the town's use.

Q. C. Ipswich, 24:7:1650, he was a witness in the case John Tillison fined for his many offences.

In the Registry of Deeds at Salem- Ipswich Deeds, vol. 1. p, 183 there is a "Transcript of the lands of Mr. John Spenser of Newbury, signed by Edward Rawson, William Titcomb, Edward Woodman and Nicholas Noyes.

Nov. 12, 1650, Mr. Ed. Rawson, Mr. William Gerrish, Henry Short; Rich. Knight, Nich Noyes, and John Pike Junr issued an order requiring all the inhabitants of the town to record all sales and exchanges of land,

He was Newbury clerk of the market, 30 September 1651 [EQC 1:233; Selectman, 28 January 1660; 15 June 1681 [EQC 4:139, 8:148].

Nicholas was appointed "commissioner to end small causes", or local justice, in 1652, 28 March 1654, 25 March 1656, 31 March 1657, 30 March 1658, 29 March 1659, 25 March 1662, 28 June 1664, 27 March 1666, 1668, 30 March 1669, 16 March 1669/70, 31 March 1674, 27 March 1677, 29 November 1681, 1683 [EQC 1:262, 336, 420, 2:11, 69, 151, 371, 3:172, 355, 4:12, 13, 119, 225, 5:290, 6:249, 8:232, 9:167]. His most important service, however, was as deputy to the General Court in 1660 and in 1678 when on September 19 he was chosen by the town "to serve at the next session of the Court until it be ended," a special session having been called for October 2 at which the oath of allegiance to King Charles II was submitted and signed by the deputies; he served also 28 May 1679, 19 May 1680, and 4 Jan 1680-84.

Ipswich court 28:7:1652, in case of Richard Kent v. William Moody. For making use of the ten acres of land granted him by the town on the west side of Merimack Ridge. Richard Kent, Jr., acknowledged before Wm. Gerrish, Edward Woodman and Nicholas Noyes, commissioners that he broke the wedge of one of the bars, etc.

Also at the same court, declaration of Nicholas Noyes & John Pike in behalf of the town of Newbury, in the case of the town of Newbury v. Jo. Davis about some corn distrained for rates due from Mr. Clarkes farm now in possession of Jo. Davis, etc.

At the same court Nicholas Noyes and Anthony Somerby presented written testimony concerning Thomas Blanchard and his family who came with them to New England in the Jonathan about thirteen years before.

Nov. 29, 1652, Mr Woodman, Richard Kent Jr Lieut Pike and Nicholas Noyes chosen to be "a committee for managing the business of the school", that a school house be built and that "£20 a year be appropriated for the schoolmaster. Evidently they failed to accomplish much business for on May 6, 1659 at Ipswich Quarterly Court, "Town of Newbury for want of a lattan scoole" is ordered to pay five pounds to Ipswich Latin school unless by the next court they provide a Latin school-master according to law. [EQC 2:70].

June 13, 1653, Samuel Bidfeild, George Little, Anthony Somerby, Francis Plummer and Nicholas Noyes took the Inventory of the estate of William Stevens of Newbury reported at Salem Q.C. in July 1653.

Sept. 27, 1653, his wife was brought into court for wearing a silk hood, and scarf, but was

discharged because it was proved that her husband was worth two hundred pounds.

At Ipswich Court March 28, 1654-Capt. Gerrish, Nicholas Noyce and John Pike were sworn commissioners to end small causes for Newbury. March 29, 1659, Mr. Edward Woodman, Nicholas Noyce and Lt. John Pike were sworn for the same service.

On 3 May 1654, he was on the Massachusetts Bay committee to enquire about the petitioners in support of Lt. Robert Pike [MBCR 3:345, 4:1:194]. 6 May 1657, he was on the committee to settle the bounds between Salisbury and Hampton [MBCR 3:432, 4:1:292]

March 31, 1657, Nicholas Noyce and John Pike were sworn.

March 30, 1658, Mr. Edward Woodman, Nicholas Noyce and William Titcombe were sworn,

March 29, 1659, Mr. Nicholas Noyce. March 25, 1662, Capt. William Gerrish, Mr. Edward Woodman & Nicolas Noyce were chosen and were re-elected for two succeeding years.

March 5, 1665/6, Capt Gerrish, Mr. Joseph Hill & Nicholas Noyes were chosen and were reelected for three terms.

March 3, 1672/3, Capt. Gerrish, Nicholas Noyes & Lieut. Woodman were chosen and reelected for three successive years.

March 5, 1676/7 Mr. John Woodbridge, Nicholas Noyes & Daniel Pearce Jr. were chosen.

Sept. 9, 1681, Capt. Daniel Pearse Mr. Nicholas Noyes & Serg Tristram Coffin were appointed.

July 19, 1654, Nicolas Noyes, Anthony Somerby and Robert (his mark) Adams were witnesses to lease of Richard Kent of Newbury, yeoman, to Lancilit Graneger of his great Island or farm.

Nicholas Noyes and John Allen took inventory of the estate of William Mitchell, 26:7m: 1654.

Nicholas Noyes and Capt. William Gerrish were appointed to interview those who had signed the petition asking the release of Robert Pike, which was presented to the Generall Court, May 14, 1654 and to make a report of the reasons given at the October session of the court.

Henry Fay who died June 30, 1655, owe Nicholas Noyes 10s.

Sept. 20, 1655, Mr Nicholas Noyes of Newbery, gent. and Robert Long of Newbery, weaver, were appointed attorneys for Thomas Noyes of Sudbury, yeoman, to let his house and lands in Newbury, formerly Henry Fay's.

Thomas Noyes of Sudbury, son of Peter Noyes, had apparently settled in Newbury, but returned to live in Sudbury before 1656 when he appointed his friend Mr. Nicholas Noyes, gentleman,

and Robert Long, both of Newbury, his attorneys to let his house and lands.

14:3m: 1656: In answer to the pet of the inhabitants of Salisbury in refference to the settling of the bounds between Hampton & them, the (General) Court hath nominated Lieut John Applton, Mr Joseph Metcalfe & Mr Wm Bartholmew of Ipswich, Nico Noyce & Daniel Pearce of Newbery who are hereby empowred a commissiours to act in this case according to former orders of court; & whatsoever they or ye major pt of them shall conclude in reference to the sd bounds mentioned in the pet to stand firme & good pvided that Capt Nico. Shapleigh of Charles Towne be pcured by the ptyes to assist the commissionors in drawing out a plott & rÃ¼ning the line according to their direction; the charg of the commissiours to be borne equally by both townes & the artist to be payd by Salsbury only & that a true returne be made of what is done herein to the next session of this court to be ratifyed & confirmed. Apparently the results of this committees work was not agreeable to the parties concerned, for on 6 May 1657, these bounds not per-fected & settled to the satisfaction of the parties the same committee members were recalled to repeat the service. 26:9:1656, at Salem court. Will of Mr. James Noies of Newbery was proved by Capt. Wm Gerrish and Nicholass Noies. Sara Noyes, the widow swore to the inventory, 21 Nov. 1656, before Edward Woodman and Nicholas Noyes.

At a meeting of the selectmen Jan. 26, 1656/7, Henry Short & Nicholas Noyes stated that there was a way through Richard Kents Island from the way that is laid out thruâ€™ John Chenyâ€™s land to the way that is laid out over the marsh. 29 7:1657, Richard Kent sued John Cheny at Ipswich court. For denying him a way where it was laid out. John Chenye ordered to make this way laid out by the town sufficient, as Mr. Nicholas Noyes and Henry Short should judge.

April 9, 1657 at Ipswich court, in the case of William Titcombe presented for lying at a general town meeting when they voted for governor, it was reported that Richard Brown. Henry Jaquish, John Knight, Captain Gerrish, Nicholas Noyes, Richard Knight, Atony Sommarbee, Henry Lunt & Heu March had been arbitrators in the matter.

19:9:1657, at Ipswich court, Nicholas Noyes and Joseph Noyes deposed in the case of John Chater presented for detaining a steer that was lost out of Mr. Noyse herd.

26 May 1658, the General Court âœ“In answer to the petition of seuerall other inhabitants of Newbury informing of disorders dc in ye last peticon of theire neighbors, the Court judgeth it meete to declare that the execution of what is passed in referenc to ye former petition be suspended, and the case to be in status quo; & it is ordered yt the secretary issue out his warrant agt the next Gennerall Court to Jno Emery, Jno Webster & such others as are named in the papers brought into the Court, to appear before the Generall Court in October next to answer wt is laid agt them for theire abusive carriages in that petition & yt Hen Short, Rich Kent, Rich Knight, Nicholas Noyes & Anthony Somers by then also appeare & make good wt they chardge agt the other persons.

Mr. Nicho Noyes served as Deputy to the Generall Court Dec. 9, 1660, May 18, 1678, May 19, 1680, & Jan. 4, 1680/81.

Richard Brown in his will proved 24 June 1660 "æppownt my loving friends Richard Kente, Nicholas Noyes and Robert Long my overseers to put in execution this my wille and testament."□

March 25, 1662, at Ipswich court, Nicholas Noyes and Hugh Marsh in the name of the selectmen of Newbury v Willm Sawyer for detaining and not resigning up ten acres of salt Marsh. Withdrawn.

April 28, 1662, Nicholas Noyes, George Abbott, Richard Parker & Nathan Parker took inventory of the estate of John Stevens of Andover.

June 28, 1662, Nicholas Noyce & Samuel Moody took the inventory of the estate of John Brabrooke.

At a meeting of the commissioners of Newbury, Aug. 27, 1662, Mr. Woodman, Capt. Gerrish & Nicholas Noyes being present, in the case of Samuell Plumer attorney for his father v. Richard Dole for cutting and carrying away hedging stuff from land of Francis Plumer. The commissioners found for the plaintiff. Richard Dole the defendant appealed to next Ipswich court. Sept. 30 at Ipswich court the verdict was given the defendant Samuel Plumer, upholding the decision of the commissioners.

Inventory of the estate of Rev. William Worcester of Salisbury was taken, 6:9:1662 by Edward French Richard Wells and Nicholas Noyes.

June: 8, 1663, when John Bishop sold his mill to Peter Cheney the record reads "eit standeth upon the Little River between the land of Nicholas Noyes on the south-west and land lately purchased by the town of Capt. William Gerrish."□

In the inventory of the estate of Robert Rogers of Newbury, who died Dec. 23, 1663: - "ein Nicholas Noyce, his handes, 18s."□

When Mary Miller, his mother-in-law made her will on "enouemb: 26th 1663, "eshe gave "etwo oxen that is in my son Nicholas Noyes his hands I give to my said son Nicholas prouided that he pay also to my said Daughter Sara Browne eight pounds out of the said oxen". She also made a bequest to "emy daughter Mary the wife of Nicholas Noyes".□

Sept. 11, 1666, he was one of those who signed the petition to the General Court, asking the adoption of conciliatory measures and the repeal of all legislative acts displeasing to the king.

March 30, 1669, he was one of the witnesses to the letter sent to Ipswich court by Richard Kent, Henry Short and Anthony Somerby making complaints against Mr. Edward woodman who spake in a town assembly against Mr. Woodbridge (Coffin p 74)

On 30 September 1679, "Nicholas Noyes" was one of ten Newbury men who "were discharged from ordinary training, each paying one bushel of Indian corn yearly" [EQC 7:263-64].

In the long and bitter controversy between Rev. Mr. Parker and Edward Woodman, Nicholas was one of Parker's chief supporters. He was chosen deacon of the First Parish of Newbury on March 20, 1683/4.

Sometime before his death his son Nicholas, the Salem parson, wrote of him as "through the mercy of God yet living, and hath of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren above one hundred."

ESTATE:

On 19 March 1648[/?], "John Spenser of Newbery" sold to "Nicholas Noice of Nubery ... thirty acres of land lying in Newbury at the west end of his farm on the other side of the street called by the name of Merrimack Street" [ILR 1:95]. On 16 April 1651, "Nicholas Noyes of Newbury ..., yeoman," sold to "George Little of the same town and county, tailor, all that parcel of land, containing sixteen acres ... in Newbury"; acknowledged 11 April 1664 by "Nicholas Noyes ... and Mary Noyse his wife" [ILR 4:186-87]. On 4 January 1653[/?], "Henry Shorte of Newbury ..., yeoman, & Sarah my wife" sold to "Nicholas Noyes of the aforesaid town & county, yeoman also, all that parcel of land formerly purchased of Nicholas Holt, containing forty acres ... in Newbury" [ILR 5:421].

On 26 April 1655, "Nicholas Noyes of Newbury ... & Mary my wife" sold to "John Allen of the abovesaid town & county all that parcel of land which was lately William Mitchell's, which the said William Mitchell purchased of Jno. Knight Senior & John Knight Junior and of John Davis, except the garden plot & the house & that which the house standeth upon & is for the yard, the which land & house being mortgaged unto Anthony Somerby lately by William Mitchell in his lifetime & since his death his wife not being in a capacity to redeem, the said Nicholas Noyes, with the consent of the widow of the said William Mitchell, deceased, have redeemed it the said house and land, and now also with the consent of the said Mary, the relict of the said William Mitchell deceased, & with the consent also of the abovenamed Anthony Somerby to whom the said land and house was mortgaged, he and said Anthony Somerby yielding hereby up all his right & title and interest in the said house & land"; signed by Nicholas Noyes, Mary Noyes, Mary Savory and Anthony Somerby [ILR 1:195-96].

On 13 October 1659, "John Woolcott of Newbury ..., carpenter, and Mary my wife" sold to "Nicholas Noyes of the said town and county all that six acres of upland and marsh ... lately purchased of Benjamin Swett, granted by the town to Thomas Brown" [ILR 2:69]. On 14 March 1660[/?], "John Bond of Newbury ... & Esther my wife" sold to "Nicholas Noyes of the abovesaid town & county all that parcel of meadow and upland containing by estimation about nineteen acres" [ILR 2:26].

On 1 April 1673, "Nicholas Noyes and Mary my wife" for a payment of four pounds a year deeded to "our son Cutting Noyse all the right that we have in that farm lying and being on the east side of the way going to Merrimak [illegible] was formerly Stephen Dummer's ... likewise I Nicholas Noyes do reserve four acres of meadow ... which is in exchange for Cutting Noyes to have four acres of salt marsh in Holt's neck, likewise it is agreed upon by Nicholas Noyes and Mary his wife that if the four pounds a year be not paid according to agreement, that then five

acres of the plowland and ten acres of the meadow on the south side of the farm the said Nicholas Noyes or Mary his wife may rent out" [ELR 33:8-9].

On 6 April 1682, "Henry Jaquish of Newbury ..., carpenter, ... with the consent of Anne my wife" sold to "Nicholas Noyes of the abovesaid town ..., yeoman, ... a parcel of salt marsh lying and being in the Great Marshes in Newbury containing by estimation four acres" [ELR 14:217].

On 5 July 1692, "Nicholas Noyes Senior of Newbury" sold to "Ensign Joseph Knight of Newbury aforesaid all my right, title & interest in a piece of arable land containing three acres ... in the township of Newbury aforesaid in a common field there known by the name of the Common Great Field" [ELR 22:146].

On 9 April 1696, "Nicholas Noyes of Newbury" sold to "Samuel Smith of Haverhill ... a certain messuage or tenement lying in Haverhill aforesaid containing about twelve acres of land ... also three acres of meadow lying in said Haverhill ... commonly known by the name of Duck Meadow" [ELR 25:103-4].

On 19 April 1698, "Nicholas Noyes Senior of Newbury" deeded to "my loving and dutiful grandson Nicholas Noyes of Newbury aforesaid, the eldest son of my eldest son John Noyes late of Newbury deceased, ... about eighteen acres of upland lying in the township of Newbury ... by name of Deacon Noyes His Neck adjoining unto a parcel of upland which I formerly gave to my son John Noyes deceased ..., also I give to my said grandson Nicholas Noyes Junior eight acres of meadow ... lying in said neck adjoining unto the meadow which I gave to my said son John Noyes aforesaid and was inventoried as his estate" [ELR 15:41-42].

The homestead of Nicholas Noyes was owned and occupied in 1885 by the heirs of Nathaniel Little.