

=== Another Noyes family ===

Undoubtedly related to Peter, another Noyes family had been deeply involved in the religious controversies of the period and had left five years previous [to Peter's departure] from Weyhill in Cholderton, Wiltshire, their activities must have been well known to Peter.

The Cholderton Noyes family had been in the midst of the struggle over church reformation. The Reverend William Noyes, an Oxford graduate, had died in 1622, and the rectorship of the village church had gone to his son Nathan, also an Oxford Bachelor of Arts. Nathan's uncle, Robert, was a prominent yeoman in the town, as was his older brother Ephraim,. But the two younger brothers had drunk deep of the Nonconformist brew, despite the fact that James had followed his father and elder brother to Oxford. Perhaps their cousin, the Reverend Thomas Parker, had fanned their rebellious spirits, for James, aged twenty-five, and Nicholas, aged eighteen, had decided to forsake Cholderton for Massachusetts.

The records do not say whether these members of the family had visited Peter Noyes in Weyhill or had passed through the village on their way to their port of embarkation, London. They do state, however, that the families knew one another (1 - Col. Henry E. Noyes, ed., *Genealogical Record of Some of the Noyes Descendants of James, Nicholas and Peter Noyes* (Boston, 1904) I, 43-44. Both men finally settled in Newbury, Mass. Both became freemen, while Nicholas served as deacon of the first Church and deputy of the General Court. A deposition of 1652, a copy of which is in the Weyhill Rectory MMS attests to the fact that both Nicholas Noyes and other inhabitants of Newbury, Mass. knew various families in Weyhill, Hants, and knew of the details of their trips to New England.)