

An Historical Narrative of the

ELY, REVELL AND STACYE FAMILIES

who were among the founders
of Trenton and Burlington in
the Province of West Jersey

1678-1683

with the genealogy of the Ely
descendants in America

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CHAPTER IV.

THE ELYS OF MANSFIELD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

In 1645 the name of George Ely, ancestor of the New Jersey family appears first in the Manor Court Records of Mansfield. He may have come from across the Derbyshire border a few miles to the west, where the names of George, Hugh and John Ely are found, or from the north in the vicinity of Calverly, Yorkshire, where the Stansfields of Stansfield resided and had Christian names of Ely, Joshua, George, John and James and where one Joshua Ely son of James appears in the records, or from Utterby Manor, Lincolnshire, about forty miles to the East, where a George Ely appears on the pedigree at a date at which he might have been a father or grandfather of George of Mansfield.

He evidently came a courting, for he married soon after, Sarah, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Heath of Mansfield, and as shown in the following report from the College of Arms, became a leaseholder of church property at the head of West Gate.

At about this date, 1646, according to Harrod's History of Mansfield, a "Thomas Ely of London, Gentleman," with one other received a grant of 90 acres of meadow land in Mansfield from King James II for which was paid £560, 8s. and 6d.

There was also a Hugh Ely residing in Mansfield thirty years later, who named a son George; while in 1710 the death of "Mr. John Ely" is recorded. However, the transfers of the property of George Ely indicate that his children were Sarah, Rebecca, Ruth, Elizabeth and Joshua, but no other sons.

Of these children Rebecca married, in 1668, Mahlon Stacye of Dorehouse, Yorkshire, Gentleman, at the home of Godfrey Watkinson, then Vicar of Cloune, and a relative of the Stacyes. Dorehouse was a leased property situated adjacent to Ballifield Hall, the main property

of the Stacey family, in the Parish of Handsworth, near Sheffield. (See article on Stacey.)

Ruth married Lionel Revell, a son no doubt of Lionel Revell who was baptized at Dronfield, Derbyshire, 3rd June, 1632, who joined the Society of Friends. Hunter gives this Lionel's descent from the Revell Grange branch of the family of Revell as follows:

REVEL—

Sir John Revel in Coun. Warwick.

1—Thomas second son, County Derby.

1A—Edward, 4th of Edward II.—(1311.)

1B—Thomas, knighted for his prowess and admired valour, 5th of Edw. II.

1B—Thomas: Three sons:—

2A—Thomas. Removed to Stannington, Yorkshire.

2B—Edward. From whom the Revells of Stannington (Revell Grange) descend.

2C—Richard. Knighted.

2B—Edward, four sons:—

3A—Gregory—Knighted, 9th Henry IV.

3B—Sir John.

3C—Thomas.

3D—Rowland.

3B—Sir John, three sons:—

4A—Sir Thomas, 2nd Henry VI.

4B—William.

4C—Gregory. Knighted.

4A—Sir Thomas, four sons:—

5A—Sir John.

5B—Tristram.

5C—Richard.

5D—William of Rickardfield.

5A—Sir John, two sons:—

6A—Gregory de Stannington armiger Anno 22 Hy. VIII.

6B—Richard. Removed to Brampton.

6A—Gregory, two sons:—

7A—Richard.

7B—Rowland. Removed to Cold Aston.

7B—Rowland, son:—

8A—Robert, Vicar of Dronfield.

Son Lionell bapt. at Dronfield 1632.

Elizabeth Ely apparently died at Ballifield unmarried. Her tomb is still to be seen in a good state of preservation in the private burying ground of the Stacyses at Ballifield.

Joshua married Mary Senior by Friends' ceremony 8-29-1673, but before following their careers from Mansfield to West Jersey in America, the following report on the family from the College of Arms, London, is

given in full. It was made for the purpose of ascertaining, if possible, the antecedents of George Ely, of Mansfield, but the only additional clue is that one of the parcels of realty in Mansfield held by the children of George Ely, is referred to as "late the heritage of Thomas and Elizabeth Vesey," while the Elys of Utterby were also connected with the Veseys and lineal descendants of Hugh Revell of Ogston (Shirland).

A further search among the wills of Vesey, Heath and Ely at Nottingham would probably yield additional information.

COLLEGE OF ARMS,

LONDON, E. C., 22nd January, 1907.

D. B. Ely, Treasurer Publication Committee, Ely, Stacey, Revell History.

Dear Sir: I now enclose a full report upon your pedigree giving the result of the researches to date with the devolution of the property acquired by the family at Mansfield ante 1680, as shown by the Manor Rolls which I trust you will find more lucid than the return which was sent you in December last. It is possible that George Ely paid a lump sum down upon taking up the lease of the tenement in Westgate which is still one of the chief streets of Mansfield, & so only paid the owners thereof a nominal sum of 20s per annum, which was increased in the next lease to 30s probably due to the building being enlarged by said George Ely, as it is then called a Mansion House. The owners of these premises held them of the Lord of the Manor & therefore they or the tenant would have to pay him a small fee, varying from a few pence to a few shillings upon the transfer of the property & upon the death of a tenant also for transgressing against the customs of the Manor, although in this particular manor the records dealing with the latter are missing from 1647 to 1700. I have a note that a certain Thomas Ely of London had a grant of land at Mansfield in 1646 but nothing was found in the Manor Rolls to support this, although something might be found among the state records in the London Public Record Office or by continuing the search among the P. C. C. wills. You will have observed that Lancelot Ellay the elder of Wattnow als Watnall which is in the parish of Greasley, some 8 miles south of Mansfield by his will dated 10 Feb: 1650 devised (inter alia) to *George Ellay* 5s, *Thomas Ellay* 5s, & to his sister *Elizabeth Ellay* 5s but unfortunately does not give their residential description or anything else to show any connection between the above George Ellay & your ancestor. It is curious that only two of the children of George Ely were baptized at Mansfield the eldest & youngest daughters, the latter named Elizabeth. I enclose the notes promised in my last letter from the Friends' Minute Books, together with extracts of Revel & Stacy entries from the Friends' Registers.

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED SCOTT-GATTY,
Garter.

REPORT UPON THE FAMILY OF ELY.

1645. The first mention of the family of Eley or Ely at Mansfield, Co. Notts., appears to be upon 3rd Dec: 1645, when Sara daur. of George Ely was bapt. there, according to the parish register.

1648. Three years later George Ely obtained a lease for 21 years from the Vicar and Churchwardens, of a tenement, then in his occupation in Westgate, Mansfield, at a yearly rent of 20s. He was admitted as tenant thereof at a Court of the Manor of Mansfield held there 13 June, 1648. A further lease was granted (by the sd. Vicar and Churchwardens & recorded at a Court of the Manor held 26 Sept., 1665) to Sarah Ely, widow, who must have been the widow of the above named George Ely. It is evident that the house had been enlarged during this period as it is now (1665) described as a Mansion House, & the land belonging to it, as one section of land, called Pinfold Close, in the occupation of John Kitchin. For some reason, perhaps because sd. Sara was in ill health, this lease was made out nearly four years before the former one had lapsed, for although dated 1665, the second term was not to commence until 1669, in which year the first term of years would end. Pinfold Close is first mentioned in 1655-6, when George Ely is described as part occupier thereof. At another Court held 5 July, 1670, Sara Ely, Mahlon Stacey & Rebecca his wife, & Elizabeth Ely surrender sd. Mansion House & Pinfold Close to Ruth Ely for the remainder of their term therein & on 13 April, 1675, Lyonell Revell & Ruth his wife surrendered same to Joshua Ely & his heirs. We have no record to show how he disposed of it.
1648. At the first above mentioned Court held 13 June, 1648, John Heath & Elizabeth his wife surrendered a full moiety, or half part of a close of land [i. e., arable] meadow & pasture called Oxclose, containing about 9 acres in the occupation of sd. John Heath, to George Eeley & his heirs. This was surrendered at a Court held 31 Mar., 1657, by Sarah Ely widow, together with the aforesd. Pinfold Close to James Hardy for 7 years at a yearly rent of £16. No money is mentioned in the surrender by John Heath & his wife to George Ely. There can be no doubt that Sara, wife of George Ely, who is described as Sarah Ely, widow, in 1657 was identical with Sara daur. of John Heath bapt. at Mansfield 14 June, 1628, for in 1673 Elizabeth Heath, grandmother of Joshua Ely, gave her consent to his marriage.
1654. Upon 18 Augt., 1654, Elizabeth, daur. of George Ely, was bapt. at Mansfield.
1656. At a Court held 15 Jan., 1655-6, George Ely obtained a mortgage upon a cottage in a place or street called Scotland in Mansfield aforesd. This mortgage was evidently not paid off, for at another Court held 15 Jan., 1668-(9), Joshua Ely, son of George Ely, dec'd, surrendered same, together with a croft to his sisters Sara, Rebecca, Ruth & Elizabeth, & upon 5 July, 1670, the two latter surrendered all their claim therein to their sisters Sara Ely & Rebecca Stacy, while at the same court Sara Ely surrendered same to Joshua Ely & Rice Jones upon trust to perform her last will.
1656. According to the Mansfield Register, George Ely was buried there 31 May, 1656. He does not appear to have made a will, as from 1652 to 1660 all the English wills were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (P. C. C.).
1656. At a Court held 12 Augt., 1656, John Heath & Gervas Hutton [als Hootton] obtain a mortgage on behalf of Sara Ely, widow, upon a cottage in Stockwellgate, Mansfield, but as no further mention of this was found in relation to the Ely family, it is presumed that the mortgage money was repaid in 1661 when it became due. Many leaves of the book containing the surrenders of this year are missing & hence we have no account of the re-surrender of the premises.

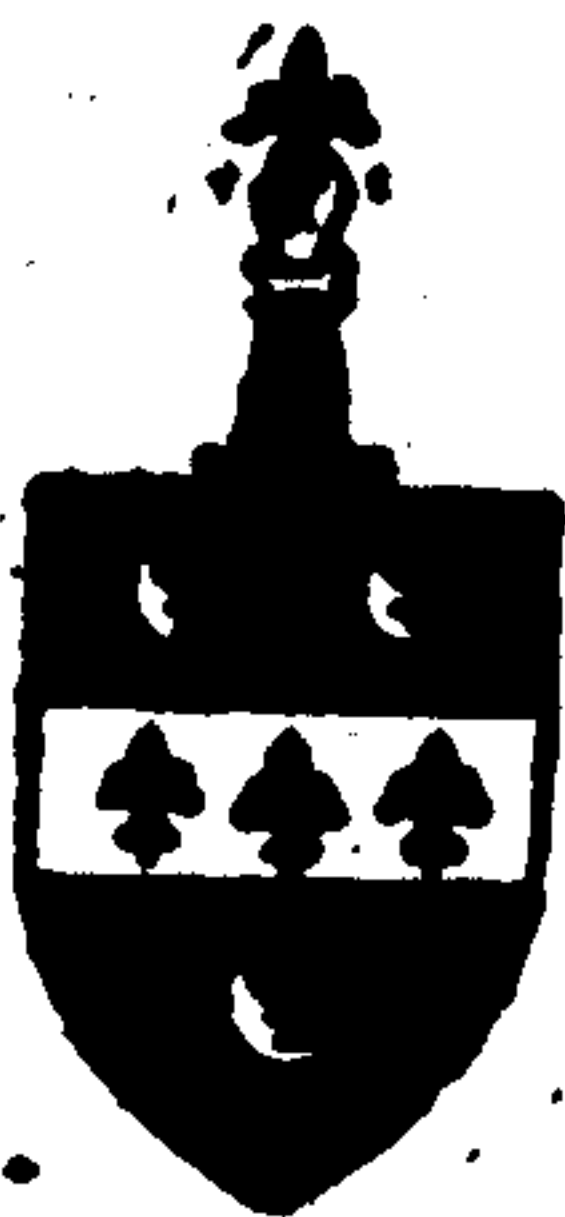
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1660. The above trustees at a Court held 17 April, 1660, obtained another mortgage for the use of ad. Sarah Ely, widow, upon a messuage in Mansfield belonging to William Barker, which at a Court held 5 July, 1670, was surrendered by Sara Ely, Mahlon Stacy, Rebecca his wife & Ruth Ely to Elizabeth Ely, upon whose death it descended to Joshua Ely who at a Court held 1 July, 1673, obtained a relief as heir of Elizabeth Ely, his sister, & upon 27 Jan. 1673-(4), ad. Joshua Ely & Mary his wife re-surrendered same to the ad. Wm. Barker.
1660. At the same court, 17 Apr., 1660, John Heath & Edward Hartley obtain a tanyard in Westgate to hold in trust for ad. Sara Ely, widow. This was surrendered at a Court held 5 July, 1670, by Sara Ely, Mahlon Stacy & Rebecca his wife, & Elizabeth Ely to Ruth Ely.
1661. On 11 June, 1661, Josua Ely obtains a relief as heir of George Ely, his late father, to all his lands. He was probably from 12 to 14 years of age, as at the former age he would be capable of taking the oath of allegiance to the crown, while at the latter he could choose his own guardian, which, however, was not necessary as his mother was still living.
1665. On 26th Sept., 1665, Sarah Ely, widow, appoints a new trustee in place of Gervas Hutton & this is the last mention we get of her from the rolls. She probably died between this date & 5 Jan., 1668-9, when Joshua Ely, being then still a minor, chose his brother-in-law Mahlon Stacy for his guardian. If Sarah Ely made a will, it will no doubt be found among the records of the Peculiar Court of Mansfield, which are now kept at Nottingham & are tied up in bundles with no index prior to 1751. From the foregoing surrenders it is highly probable that she left her mansion house in Westgate with Pinfold Close to her son Joshua, her interest in the Scotland Cottage to her dau'r's Sara & Rebecca, in Barker's messuage to her dau'r. Elis'th & in the tanyard to her dau'r. Ruth, all or part thereof with remr. to Joshua.
1668. Rebecca Ely married 29-5-1668 to Mahlon Stacy of Dorehouse, Handsworth, at Cloune, Co. Derby. This Mahlon Stacy was probably related to Robert Stacy of Handsworth, whose children were registered by the Friends from 1654 to 1666.
1672. Elizabeth, dau'r. of George Ely, was buried at Ballifield, 27 Dec'r, 1672, & her property descended to her brother Joshua.
1673. Joshua Ely, still a minor, was married to Mary, dau'r. of Alice Senior, at Skegby, 29-8-1673, & on 27 Jan., 1673-(4), we find them acting jointly in the surrender to Wm. Barker.
1675. The last entry from the Manor Rolls relating to this family ante 1699 is on 18 Apr., 1675, when Lyonell Revell & Ruth his wife surrendered the Westgate house to Joshua Ely & his heirs.
- 1674-7. From 1674 to 1677 we find the births & burials of John, George & Joshua, children of ad. Joshua & Mary Ely in the Friends' Reg'ra.
1679. The Marriage Allegation of Hugh Eley of Mansfield, mercer, aged 24, to Marie Roca, of Bilsthorpe, Co. Notts, aged 22, is dated 18 Oct'r, 1679, to be married at the latter place. They had a son
1682. George, bapt. 3 Sept., 1682, at Mansfield. I have no proof that this Hugh Ely was related to George & Joshua Ely, although he may have been a nephew or cousin of the former; neither have I any proof to connect Mr. John Ely who was buried at Mansfield 25 Nov., 1710, with any of the above.
- 24 Jan.

CHAPTER I.

THE STACYE FAMILY.

THE name of Stacye is not, apparently, derived from a locality. According to the author of the "Norman People", it comes from "Tacey—Robert and Gervase, Normandy, 1180-95. John Tassi, 1272, England; Tacy: Rualen de Tissie, Normandy." In Lower's *Patronymica Britannica*:—"Stace from either Eustace or Statius, is probably of continental origin, as the final E is sometime accented and from Stace we get Stacy."



STACYE OF BALLIFIELD

The family of Stacye of which Mahlon the founder of Trenton was a younger son, was seated at Ballifield Hall, parish of Handsworth, in the West Riding of Yorkshire bordering Derbyshire certainly from about the year 1330 down to the close of the nineteenth century. Still earlier in the 36th year of the reign of King Henry III, 1252, a cleric of the name of Eustace was rector of Handsworth Church. This is confirmed also in "*Familiae Minorum Gentium*," in which is stated that the Ballifield family of Stacye were reported to have held that estate from the time of the Norman Conquest.

The Arms of the Stacyes, as given in Burke's *General Armory* are: Azure a fesse between three martlets, or, charged with three fleurs de lis. These arms have never been recorded at the College of Arms, but that may also be stated of the arms of other ancient families in England. The earliest mention of Stacy arms omits the fleurs de lis, and are somewhat similar to the early arms used by the ancient family of Furnival, Lords of Hallamshire, which included Ballifield. This family were descendants of the Viscount Enstachius of the Domesday period. These arms differed from those of Stacy only in the number of martlets and the use of the bend instead of the fesse, a common difference. There was also

CHAPTER I.

THE SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA.

In October, 1678, the ship "Shield" from the port of Hull on Humber, Yorkshire, England, dropped anchor in the Delaware river before the present site of the city of Burlington, New Jersey, the first trans-Atlantic ship to go so far up-stream. Smith, in his History of New Jersey, published in 1765, states that the vessel in tacking up the river before an adverse breeze, in turning on the Pennsylvania side, became entangled in the overhanging trees, at a point where the city of Philadelphia is located, and that some one on board made the prophetic remark that the place would make a fine site for a city. Could they have foretold that the great Quaker City was to spring up at this spot, to become famous as the cradle of American Independence one hundred years later, they would undoubtedly have landed and established a settlement.

These far-seeing voyagers, however, pushed on toward the head of tidewater and no doubt determined that the future centre of commerce would be located as far to the inland as a sea-going craft could sail.

On the morning after the vessel anchored, she was found embedded in ice thick enough to allow the passengers to walk over it to the shore. Either Mr. Smith has his dates wrong or the early climate of New Jersey has greatly changed, for ice of such thickness does not now form in the lower Delaware until December.

Included in this band of colonists were "William Emley with his wife, two children, two men and two women servants; Mahlon Stacy, his wife (Rebecca Ely), children and several servants, men and women; Thomas and John Lambert with their families and servants; Thomas Revell, his wife, children and servants; Godfrey Hancock, his wife, children and servants; Thomas Potts, his wife and children, John Wood and four children, Su-

sannah Farnsworth her children and two servants, Godfrey Newbold, Richard Green, Peter and John Fretwell, John Newbold, one Barns a merchant from Hull and many others."

Mahlon Stacye had acquired his interest in West Jersey prior to his arrival in America, through a claim against the estate of Edward Byllinge, one of the original Quaker purchasers of the South or West half of the province from Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. Among these early proprietors were two groups known as the Yorkshire and the London companies who sent their representatives to the province to administer the laws and supervise the allotment and sale of lands, etc.* These Commissioners were Thomas Olive, Daniel Wills, John Kinsey, John Penford, Joseph Helmsley, Robert Stacye, Benjamin Scott, Richard Guy and Thomas Foulke.

The London Company chose the land lying to the southward of the little settlement at Burlington, the Yorkshire Company settling to the north. Mahlon Stacye's original tract was the land at the Falls of Delaware, a few miles above Burlington, which he named Ballifield. Gradually this location became the nucleus of a town and eventually was named Trenton.

We are indebted to Smith's History of New Jersey for the preservation of the following quaintly worded and interesting account of the West Jersey Colony, an extract from a letter written by Mahlon Stacye and dated the 26th of the 4th Month 1680, and addressed to his "brother Revell" in England. (This must have been his

*It appears that a second settlement was necessary in the acquisition of title to these lands: First, the agreement with the dominant "official owners," and again an agreement with the ingenuous and then friendly Indians, by the distribution of trinkets, cooking utensils, guns and ammunition, cloth, etc. Smith, the Quaker historian of New Jersey, gives an interesting account of these early tribes. He states that "They were very loving to one another; if several of them came to a Christian's house and the master of it gave one of them victuals, and none to the rest, he would divide it into equal shares amongst his companions; their young women were originally very modest and would countenance no indecent expressions. They were of a mirthful nature, delighted in fine clothes, were punctual in their bargains; in their councils seldom or never interrupted one another; their language was high, lofty, and sententious. Their times of eating were generally morning and evening."

CHAPTER II.

DESCENDANTS OF JOSHUA ELY OF TRENTON.

The children of Joshua and Mary (Senior) Ely were:

1. John Ely, born June 7, 1674; bur. at Skegby, Nottinghamshire, England, Sept. 25, 1674.
2. George Ely, born August 8, 1675; bur. at Skegby, Mar. 3, 1676.
3. Joshua Ely, born in Nottinghamshire, Feby. 25, 1677; died near Trenton, New Jersey; letters of administration granted George Ely, March 14, 1760; married Mary ———, but probably died without issue.
4. George Ely, born in Nottinghamshire, England, about 1682; died in 1750 at Trenton; married, 1703, Jane Pettit. For further account of him and his descendants see forward.
5. John Ely, born at Trenton, New Jersey, 1685; died there 1732; married Frances Venables; for further account see forward.
6. Elizabeth Ely, mentioned in her father's will, no further record; was a minor at date of will, but had either arrived at age or died prior to settlement of the estate as there is no record of guardianship.
7. Hugh Ely, born about 1689, at Trenton, New Jersey; died Buckingham, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1771; married first 1712, Mary Hewson, second, Phoebe (Canby) Smith; for further account see forward.
8. Sarah Ely, born 1697; Mahlon Stacy appointed her guardian October 7, 1712, then fifteen years of age; mentioned in will of her aunt, Rebecca Stacy.

Children of Joshua Ely and Rachel Lee, second wife:—

Benjamin }
Ruth } twins, no further record.

We have no record whatever of Rachel (Lee) Ely, the widow of Joshua, or of her children.

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