

THE BULKELEYS IN COLCHESTER

Gershom and his wife Sarah had seven children, the youngest of whom was a son named John who was born in Wethersfield in 1679. John graduated from Harvard in 1699, married Patience Prentice of New London in 1701 and was ordained minister of the church at Colchester on December 20, 1703. Like his father Gersham, John was not only a minister but also a lawyer and physicians as well. Dr. Chauncy wrote of John Bulkeley that he was one of the greatest geniuses of his day and surpassed his predecessors in the strength of his intellectual power.

John and his wife Patience had 12 children, the third of whom was John and part of this exhibit will focus on his lineal descendents, Eliphalet Adams Bulkeley and Morgan Gardner Bulkeley. John was born in Colchester in 1705 and died here in 1753. His first wife was Mary Gardiner from New London, and after her death he married Abigail Hastings. He was the first Bulkeley to graduate from Yale (1726).

John's younger brother Gershom was born in Colchester in 1708 and died here in 1788. He married Abigail Robbins of Wethersfield in 1733 and they had 8 children. Gershom served as a Captain in the 1st Company which fought during the 1757 Campaign in the French and Indian War. Gershom also was Colchester's deputy to the Connecticut General Assembly. Gershom's family lineage is displayed in some detail in the exhibit, which tells about the re-discovery and exhumation of "The Tomb of Gershom Bulkeley and his Descendents".