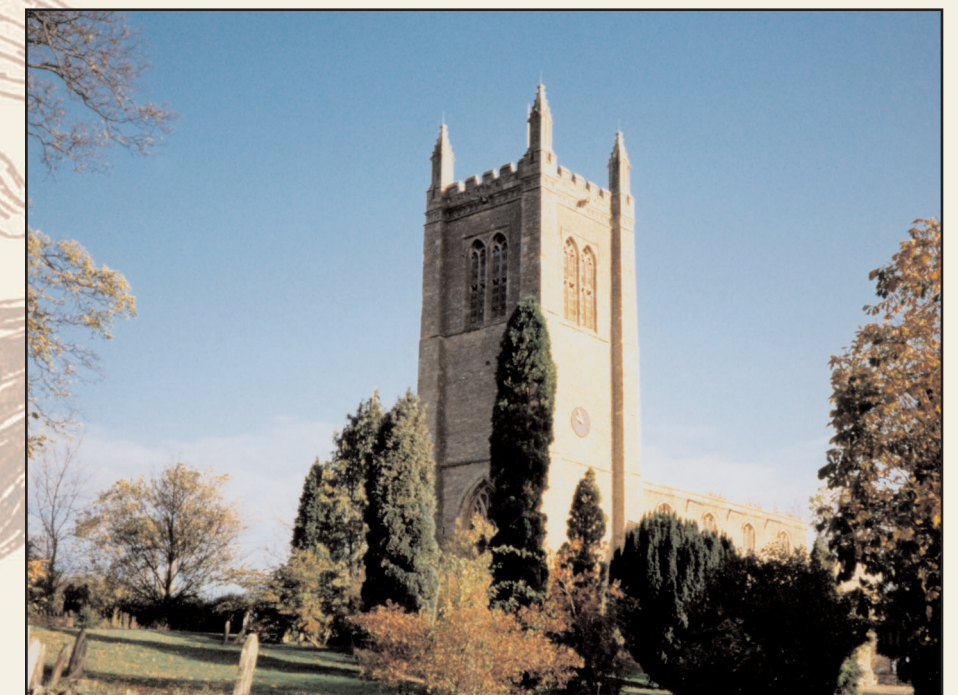


# THE BULKELEY ANCESTRY

**T**he Bulkeley family traces its English ancestry to the small town of Bulkeley in the County of Chester, where, as early as 1200, Robert de Bulkileh was Lord of the Manor. The de Bulkileh spelling reflects the fact that the English family descended from Normans who successfully invaded and defeated the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066.

Over the course of four centuries and twelve generations the direct ancestors of our Colchester Bulkeleys migrated from Chester through Shropshire to the town of Odell in Bedfordshire where in 1583 Peter Bullkeley was born, the eleventh and last child of the Reverend Edward Bulkeley and Olive Irby Bulkeley.

Peter graduated from St. John's College, Cambridge in 1604 or 05 and received his Master's degree in 1608. He was ordained a deacon and priest in 1608 and succeeded his father as Rector of All Saints Church in Odell in 1610.



All Saints Church, Odell, England

At that time there was a great deal of religious turmoil in England as the concept of Puritanism emerged. Puritans felt that the Church of England was too much concerned with the rituals and ceremonials and not sufficiently concerned with the inner religious needs of the common man.

The Reverend Peter Bulkeley became attracted to the Puritan ideals, and in 1634 he was suspended for this non-conformity. Wanting to continue this preaching of the gospel, he decided to come to New England where he would be secure from persecution by the Church of England hierarchy.

*Bulkeley*