

THE BULKELEY'S IN CONNECTICUT

Gershom Bulkeley was one of the earliest graduates of Harvard, graduating in 1656. After marrying Sarah Chauncy, a daughter of Charles Chauncy, President of Harvard, he sailed of New London, where, in 1660, he became the minister of the town at the annual salary of 80 pounds“ to be reckoned in provisions or English goods”

In a written contract with the Town of New London, the Town agreed to pay for “the transportation of the family and their effects from Concord to New London; provide him with a house, orchard, garden and pasture and with upland and meadow for a small farm; and finally to supply him yearly with firewood. If he died in the ministry, his wife and children were to receive sixty pounds sterling”.

In 1666 the Reverend Gershom moved to Wethersfield where the Town fathers had voted to invite him to lead the ministry. He remained in the ministry until 1677 when he moved to Glastonbury where he practiced medicine, surgery and politics. In 1675 he had been commissioned to serve as surgeon of the Connecticut “Army” in King Philip’s War. He became one of the most prominent physicians of his time, and it is reported that his medical practice included prominent citizens from throughout the Connecticut Colony.

Gershom’s tabletop gravestone can be found in the old Wethersfield burial ground behind the Congregational Church. He died in 1713 at the age of 77 and 11 months. His inscription reads *“He was honorable in his descent, of rare abilities, master of many languages; exquisite in his skill in divinity and Christian life”*.