



Copyright © 2025 Flagon & Trencher.

Provided for research purposes.

All rights reserved.

*Proper citation for this document
is as follows:*

*Flagon & Trencher: Taverner and Innkeeper
Biographies (2025), at
www.FlagonAndTrencher.org, all rights reserved.*

RALPH EARLE 1606 - 1678

Innkeeper, Newport, R.I., 1647 - 1655+

Ralph Earle was born 1606 in Exeter, Devonshire, England; died at Portsmouth, R.I., in 1678. He married in England Joan Savage, a descendant of Sir Isaac Newton. They came to Rhode Island on the Hercules in 1634 (8?) with two or more children.

A close friend of Fox and Penn of the Society of Friends, Ralph Earle was chosen "to keep an Inn to sell beer and wine, and to entertain strangers" from 26 August 1647 in Newport, R.I. He was again "voted and granted" an innkeeper on 6 November 1650. On 25 May 1655 he was once again appointed to "keep a house of entertainment", this time "with a convenient sign to be set out at the most perspicuous place to give notice to strangers."

Ralph Earle served the colony in many ways other than as its chosen Innkeeper. He was made Treasurer and Overseer of the poor in June 1649; a tax assessor in January 1650/51; and Town Treasurer on 3 June. In 1654 he returned to public office as Overseer of Work of the local gaol. There is some evidence that at this time he may have owned the Newport Ferry.

When he was 61 years old on 10 August 1667, Earle joined a "troope of horse" and later became its Captain. There are many records of Earle's sale of land, the conveyances dating from 1651 to 1658.

- Mrs. Jonathan M. Self
#81-36

REFERENCES

Ralph Earle and His Descendants, by Pliny Earle, 1888
Civil and Military list of Rhode Island, 1647 - 1800
Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England. Volume 2
Encyclopedia of American Biography. New Series. Volume 7