

BOWNE HOUSE ARCHIVES



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BOWNE FAMILY PAPERS OF FLUSHING, L.I.

BFP #2018.1.01-07 (PDF copy)

Deed, John Firman to John Bowne

Date: January 1, 1666 Old Style
(January 11, 1667 New Style)

Citation:

Deed, John Firman to John Bowne, January 1, 1666 O.S. (January 11, 1667 N.S.), BFP #2018.1.01-07, Bowne Family Papers of Flushing, Long Island, AC# 2018.1, Bowne House Archives, Flushing, NY.

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NOTES ON 17TH- AND 18TH-CENTURY DOCUMENTS

Dates:

1. Quaker dates: early Quakers used the numbers, not the names, of the months and the days of the week. (Note that the numbering of the months was different in the Old Style calendar—i.e., their "seventh month" is September, not July.)
2. Old Style ("O.S.") vs. New Style (N.S.): Prior to 1752, English people mostly used "Old Style" dating, which followed the Julian calendar and began the New Year on March 25. However, the Dutch and many other European countries followed the "New Style" calendar in use today. By the 17th century, the Old Style calendar had fallen ten days behind the New Style.
3. Dual dating: because the New Style calendar began the year on January 1 and the Old Style began it on March 25, dates that fall in between are sometimes given in a format like 1663/4 or 1663-4.

Common abbreviations:

y ^e = the or thee	y ^m = them
y ^t = that	w th = with
y ⁿ = than or then	w ^{ch} = which

Note: words like "ye" are spelled with the Old English character thorn, which looks like the letter "y" but is pronounced "-th."

Money is denominated in pounds, shillings, and pence, in columns as follows: £ : s : d

Reading 17th- and 18th-century handwriting:

Transcriptions are already available for some of the Colonial-era documents from the Bowne House Archives; transcription of the rest of our collection is an ongoing project. We recommend the following resources for those who would like to learn how to read early modern handwriting for themselves:

Kip Sperry, *Reading Early American Handwriting* (Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009) - book available from Amazon.com and other online retailers

Library of Congress Research Guide: "Paleography: Interpreting Handwriting in Genealogical Research" - <https://guides.loc.gov/paleography/early-american-handwriting>

Online tutorial from Harvard's Beinecke Library: "Quarantine Reading: Learn to Read Secretary Hand" - <https://beinecke.library.yale.edu/article/quarantine-reading-learn-read-secretary-hand>

Know all men by these presents that ~~John~~ John
Firman of newtowne on long Island in y^e gr^eve
there have sold unto John Bowne of flushing
on long island a p^{ar}ce of medow fine arbor^e more
or lesse lying by flushing water bounded with
Thomas Robarts his medow on the south & honore
satts on the north the wood on the west & flushing
meadow on the east & by these presents ~~John~~ John
Firman affores^d have sold unto John Bowne
affores^d said his heires sur^{or}ssors & assigns the fores^d
said medow from me and mine for ever to him
his heires sur^{or}ssors & assigns to have & to hold
as his or there p^{ro}pr^e or inheritance to enjoy
peaceably without lett or molestation from
any that shall lay claime there unto to the true
perform^{ance} of the p^{ro}mosi^{on} & do bind my
heires unto & have sold to my hand and seals this
first day of January 1666
witness

John Burroughes

John Marshall

witnessed by me John Burroughes
clerk at newtowne

John F. Firman
his