

BOWNE HOUSE ARCHIVES



Bowne House Historical Society, Inc.

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BOWNE FAMILY PAPERS OF FLUSHING, L.I.

BFP #2018.1.01-16 (PDF copy)

Indenture: James Clement to John Bowne

Date: May 30, 1663 New Style

Citation:

Indenture, James Clement to work for John Bowne, May 30, 1663, BFP #2018.1.01-16, Bowne Family Papers of Flushing, Long Island, AC# 2018.1, Bowne House Archives, Flushing, NY.

Original document appears on next page

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>

It is contracted and Agreed between John
Brown Inhabitant in Olijnsight in the Province of
New Netherland in America, on the one part and
James Clomont of the Bishoppbridge of Durham in the
Kingdom of England on the other part, That is to
say That the said James Clomont doth hereby bind
and oblige my self, to be obedient, Just, Faithfull
and alway willing to the utmost of my power truly &
faithfully to serve the said John Brown his heirs or assigns
the full space of Six yeares after my arrivall at the habitation
of the said John Brown, and to pay one halfe of my freight
or passage from the place of Subjection to the place
aforesaid in the New Netherland, In performance
of the promise by the said James Clomont the said John Brown
doth hereby bind & oblige my self his heirs & assigns to pay
or cause to be paid to the said James Clomont the full quantity of
Two hundred & forty pound weight of Merchantable
beaver, and sufficiently to clothe him with two
suits of Apparel, and fitt to Labo^r in the other fitt
to use with other occasion, Amsterdam in Holland
the 30th day of the 5th month call May 1603 New Nether

John Lodge witness

Francis Halford witness

John Brown
James Clomont

