

BOWNE HOUSE ARCHIVES



Bowne House Historical Society, Inc.

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BOWNE FAMILY PAPERS OF FLUSHING, L.I.

BFP #2018.1.01-17 (PDF copy)

Power of Attorney: John Crook to John Bowne, John Tilton, and William Richardson

Date: August 7, 1675 Old Style
(August 17, 1675 New Style)

Citation:

Power of Attorney: John Crook to John Bowne, John Tilton, and William Richardson, August 7, 1675 O.S. (August 17, 1675 N.S.), BFP #2018.1.01-17, 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 I John Brooke of Devon
in the County of Bedford Gent^{le} have assigned, ordained, and
made and in my stead and place by these presents put and
constituted my trusty & well beloved friend John Bourne of
Long Island in America Planter John Dilton in the same
place Planter Samuel Spicer of the same place Planter
and William Richardson Master of the Ship Mayflower
of New England & Joyntly and severally to be my true &
lawfull Attorney or Attorneys for me and in my name
and to my use to ask, receive for my requite & return and
redemption of Nathaniel Brewster of Middlesex County in
New England and John Wiffant all & every sum
of Debt and sum of money in a good & lawful manner
any manner of Charges or induces whatsoever & giving
and granting unto my said Attorneys my whole
power strength and authority in and about the
premise and upon the receipt of any such Debt or
sum of money aforesaid acquittances or other
discharges for me and in my name to make sale and
deliver and all and every such Act and Acts things
and things devise and do as whatsoever in the
law or proceeding of all or any such Debt or sum of money
aforesaid for me and in my name to do as fully
as I found as fully largely and amply in every respect to
all intents construction & purposes as my self might or could
do, if I were there in person and you present ratifying
allowing and holding firm and stable all and whatsoever
my said Attorneys shall lawfully do or cause to be done
about the execution of ye promise by virtue of these presents
in witness whereof I have signed John Brooke hereunto with my
hand & scale ye fourth day of August Anno 1675

Witness
in the presence of
Nathaniel
Alexander Parker
John Brooke

John Brooke



