

SELECTED ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS OF THE BOWNE HOUSE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZATIONAL PAPERS

Records of the Bowne House Historical Society, Inc. (B.H.H.S.) –

Extent: Approximately 63 cubic ft,

Mostly textual materials; some multimedia and audiovisual formats.

Dates: Early 1900s – 2007; bulk 1945-2007

This collection comprises the organizational records of the B.H.H.S. from its founding in 1945 until 2007. Holdings include the Society's extensive administrative files, with over 60 years of meeting minutes and correspondence, along with documentation of its collections & architectural preservation efforts, archaeological excavations, landscaping, historical & genealogical research, educational programming and exhibits, community outreach, publications, ephemera, scrapbooks, clippings files, and visual and multimedia archives. Processing of the Society's Archives is ongoing. This collection will not only support the interpretive mission of the Bowne House, but also contribute to the documentation and understanding of the historic preservation movement in New York State.

FAMILY PAPERS

The John Bowne House Colonial Document Collection:

Extent: 6.72 cubic ft + 1 box

Dates: 1653-1839; n.d.

This important group of original documents dates from the Colonial period, as far back as the 1650s. It includes the personal and religious correspondence of John Bowne himself, his wives, and several generations of descendants, along with other prominent early families from Flushing and the surrounding communities. Letters and other records of Colonial women are well represented. Also present are early Quaker meeting records and Epistles, and legal records such as marriage contracts, Wills, Deeds and indentures representing the business, legal and personal networks of the broader community. These documents are currently stored offsite for safekeeping during the ongoing restoration of the Bowne House; however, digital surrogates are available to researchers at the Museum.

Parsons and Bowne Family Papers

Extent: Approximately 3 cubic ft

Dates: 1716-1980s; bulk 1800-1945

This collection contains personal and business papers, official records, antique photographs such as dagguerotypes and tintypes, maps, genealogical research, and other memorabilia of Bowne and Parsons descendants. The bulk date from the 19th

and early 20th centuries, accompanied by a smaller volume of 17th and 18th century records, some of which are facsimilies or manuscript copies of the originals. Items reviewed so far include: a letter describing the Quaker writer's experience in the Revolutionary War era; a note carried by a fugitive slave on the Underground Railroad; and a memoir of the Parsons Nursery, penned by its co-founder Samuel Bowne Parsons.

The Pemberton-Bowne Correspondence

Extent: 0.2 cubic ft

Dates: 1690-1708

This file contains photocopied reproductions-and for the Bowne side of the correspondence also transcriptions-of a correspondence between two couples: Samuel and Mary (Becket) Bowne of Flushing, and Phineas and Phebe Pemberton of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The parties corresponded throughout the 1690s, exchanging dozens of letters that discuss domestic concerns and share local news. Many of these letters were exchanged by the two female correspondants, adding to the relatively sparse record of Colonial women. The originals of the Pemberton letters currently reside offsite with the John Bowne House Colonial Document Collection, while the originals of the Bowne letters are now owned by Pennsbury Manor. Scanned images also exist at the two repositories.

18th Century Monmouth County Records:

Extent: 7 documents

Dates: 1730s-1770s

This collection consists of a small group of original 18th century documents, relating to property transactions in Monmouth County, New Jersey, in which the New Jersey branch of the Bowne family had an interest. Several of these documents are in poor condition and in need of preservation and conservation.

LOCAL HISTORY: FLUSHING AND ENVIRONS

Lawrence Halloran Real Estate Collection

Extent: 2 cubic ft

Dates: 1896-1940

Collection consists of maps, property surveys and real estate listings of settlements and developments in and around Flushing, N.Y. , dating from the late 19th century through the 1930s. Donated by Lawrence Halloran, a local real estate agent by trade and an early Trustee of the Bowne House Historical Society. May be of interest to local historians and scholars of land use and development.

OTHER

The John Bowne and Historical Flushing Research Collection

This collection consists of facsimiles and transcriptions of historical documents, such as John Bowne's Diary and Account Book, early Flushing Estate records, and census records, along with research summaries by historians and other researchers from the Bowne House.