

BOWNE HOUSE ARCHIVES



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BOWNE FAMILY PAPERS - TRANSCRIPTIONS

Document ID: #2018.1.3-01

Document Title: Letter from John Bowne in New
Amsterdam to Hannah Bowne at Flushing

Date: 5th day of 9th month, 1662.

(November 5, 1662 - Old Style) / November 15, 1662 - New Style

Note on dates: Early Quakers used the numbers, not the names, of the months and days of the week. Prior to 1752, English people mostly used the Julian ("Old Style") calendar, which was 10 days behind the modern ("New Style") calendar and began the New Year on March 25th.

This transcription retains the spelling and punctuation of the original document.

Transcribed by Kate Lynch; reviewed/edited by Charlotte Jackson

Last revised: 3/2024

Letter, John Bowne in New Amsterdam to Hannah Bowne at Flushing

5th of 9th mo. 1662

BFP #2018.1.3-01

My deare and loveing wife. I derly salute thee in the
lord and the brethings of my soule and spierit is unto
the god of my salvation that wee may both bee preserved
in the patience of the sants, feathfull unto the only:
that no temptation may prevale agenst us but that
wee may continewally stand in his will freely
given up to doe or sufer what ever hee requires of us
as hee shall revell {*reveal*} it in us and make it knowne unto us
and now my deare hart as for thy coming downe I leve it
to thy freedom whether thou wilt come this weeke ore
weat {*wait*} a litell further for I would not have thee from
home at the retern of :R: h:¹ (remember my deare love
to him) I thinke it will not bee convenant {*convenient*} for thee
to come downe any more as once this winter:² if there
bee any of yer wood redy I would have some sent if not I can
have it here as I need it. for my mony alsoo I would have
a few raw turnips and when thou comes bring a litell
Indean mell if thou have it: I would have too {*two*} shirts
but as for any thing else ether linenes or vitels I would
have thee send such as thou canst make redy without
much truble: now as for providing for ouer family
If thou see cause to send after the hogs I would ha[ve]
thee hyer Richard wilde³ and if thou see it need[ful] [*page torn*]
I leve it to thee: ether to kill the bull or to exchange
him or a cow for a beast that is more fitt. or if thou
canst buy halfe of a good beast a liufe {*alive?*} for inden

¹ Probably Robert Hodson, Quaker of Maryland and friend of John Bowne

² Hannah was about seven months pregnant at this time, possibly explaining Bowne's caution against a repeat trip.

³ Refers to Richard Wilday, "his home lott bounded by John Bowne" in 1675 deed (BFP #2018.1.1-13)

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5th of 9th mo. 1662

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Corn or for indean corne and pesen {*peas*}: or to doo farther
As thou seese fitt. as for the heay I thinke :S : S:⁴ will
helpe home with it shortly. Tell Richard Stokins⁵ that
I desier him to lend his cart to get it home with. or if
hee cane helpe him selfe: with his cart and oxen wee
shall helpe him agene in some other worke and if soo
then see to borow william haletts⁶ cart or some other
and folow it with too {*two*} carts: brother John⁷ should make redy
some places to sett it on: I thinke it may be best to
sett the greater part of it where we use to doo: if it bee
thoght fitt. and the rest ether by the tobako house syde
or in the grase {*grassy*} place end or over the way by the fresh:⁸
which John and thee thinkes best. for I thinke the catel {*cattle*}
must be housed much as the[y] was last yeare. Seeing wee
are deprived of making beter: when John is not about
othere needfull worke hee may ether bee providing fyer wood
for winter or aclering {*a-clearing*} in the new ground: my hors was

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taken

up att oyster bay and dere Robert hath him to shelter
island I thinke if Nickolise daves vesel⁹ be come
safe from england and he bring goods to oyster

⁴ S.S.: Samuel Spicer (1640-1699), Quaker of Gravesend, Brooklyn, Oyster Bay, L.I., and Monmouth Co., NJ.

⁵ Richard Stokins: Richard Stockton (c. 1635-1701) was a signer of the Flushing Remonstrance.

⁶ William Hallett (1616-1706), third husband of Hannah Bowne's mother, Elizabeth (Fones-Winthrop-Feake) Hallett.

⁷ John Feake (Feke) (1653-1724), Quaker of Flushing and later of Oyster Bay, was the brother of Hannah Bowne.

⁸ "the fresh": fresh-water meadowland, as opposed to "salt meadow" in the tidal marshes.

⁹ Nicholas Davis or Davies was a Quaker merchant and mariner in the trans-Atlantic trade; his ship is also referred to (as "N. Davis vessel") in Bowne's 1663 letter home from Amsterdam (Bowne Family Papers 2018.1.1-02).

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bay as hee did in tend to lett him have my hors and
if hee come to oure hous thee may tell him soo
therefore I would have the hors kept in good case
or also turned up when Robert hath don with him.
remember my deare love to my father and brother
and sister farington¹⁰ and my deare childeren brother
John and Sarie with Jone and all the rest of frends
and neyhbors in generall whos fases I doubt not but
I shall see agenn in the lords time to whome I
comitt thee and rest thy deare husband.

John Bowne

for my deare and
loveing wife hannah
Bowne att vlishing¹¹
these [go]

[Written upside down below address]

I would have my paper booke with the read {red} cover¹²
and if the swyne may be found and gott lete as many
of them be put up to fattig as you shall thinke
fitt I know no likliehoud att present of my cominge out
the governer was intended as I herd to goe a way to
woords {towards} fort Aranje¹³ this night but that ther is a shipe
come in today what newse shee bringe I cannot
yett tell: this 5: of the 9: month :62:

¹⁰ "brother and sister Farrington": Bowne's brother-in-law Edward Farrington and sister Dorothy (Bowne) Farrington

¹¹ "Vlishing": Vlissingen or Vlissing was the Dutch name for Flushing, chartered in 1645 as a New Netherland out-plantation on Long Island.

¹² "my paper booke with the read cover": Probable reference to John Bowne's journal.

¹³ "fortt Aranje": Fort Orange, a Dutch settlement at the site of present-day Albany, NY.