

# BOWNE HOUSE ARCHIVES



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## BOWNE FAMILY PAPERS - TRANSCRIPTIONS

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Document ID: #2018.1.3-05

Document Title: Letter of Introduction by George Fox for  
Hannah Bowne in London

Date: 11th day of 5th month, 1675.

(July 11, 1675 - Old Style) / July 21, 1675 - 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 of Introduction: George Fox for Hannah Bowne, 11<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 1675

BFP #2018.1.3-05

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My dere f[ren]ds you may a sy[st] {assist}  
hannah boune in her jorne to lon[d]  
on {London} & help here {her} forward thether  
for shee came from long  
island in newingland to see  
mee<sup>1</sup> & frends—  
& mary :e:<sup>2</sup> to whom is my  
love thy [h]usband & the  
rest of frends as tho[ ] I  
named them I deser {desire}: thee &  
som of your womenes meeting  
to a sist hanna boune when shee  
goeth be yond the seay<sup>3</sup> for shee  
is an onest woman & I know  
her well<sup>4</sup> & soe the lord god  
all might[y] preserve you &  
give you dominion in his po[wer]  
& spirit

[written sideways]

I have not ben well since i came in to the north<sup>5</sup>  
but the lordes power is over all & wee got prete well  
into the north but somthing wery & weake but blesed  
be the lord the seed reaneth<sup>6</sup> {reigneth}

G F mo: 5: day 11: 167<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> George Fox (1624-1691), founder of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

<sup>2</sup> Reference is most likely to Mary Elson and her husband John, London Quakers living at the Sign of the Peel in St. John's Lane, Clerkenwell, who hosted the Peel Monthly Meeting. Hannah Feake Bowne died at their home in January 1678 during her preaching tour.

<sup>3</sup> "when she goeth beyond the sea": Hannah's extended religious visit and preaching tour took her to England, Ireland, and the Low Countries

<sup>4</sup> Fox had stayed with the Bownes in Flushing on his 1672 tour of the Colonies

<sup>5</sup> the north: presumably the north of England

<sup>6</sup> "the seed reigneth": the Seed was a central metaphor for early Quakers, referring to spiritual potential or the presence of God within all human beings