

# BOWNE HOUSE ARCHIVES



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## BOWNE FAMILY PAPERS - TRANSCRIPTIONS

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Document ID: #2018.1.3-8A

Document Title: Letter from Joan Brocksopp to "Rulers of Boston," c/o John and Hannah Bowne

Date: 23rd day of 6th month, 1677.

(August 23, 1677 - Old Style) / September 2, 1677 - 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, Joan Brocksopp to the rulers of Boston, c/o John and Hannah Bowne**  
**23rd of 6th mo. 1677**  
**BFP #2018.1.3-8A**

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Derby Shier: the 23 day : 6 : month : 77 :

ho all yee rulers of boston in new ingland<sup>1</sup> feare and dread the lord of  
hosts who mad[e] heaven and earth the sea and all that theerin is. and hath  
all pouer {*power*} in his one hand and can doe whatsoever it pleaseth him for hee  
hath all men's harts in his hand and can torne [*turn*] them as pleaseth him. for  
with him their {*there*} is mercy that hee may be feared theirfore bee yee mercifull  
even as your heavenly father is mercifull unto you. in giving you things  
convenyent for the outward man. and likewise for the inward. in giving  
unto every one of you a mesure of his pure spirit to prophit with-  
all for the lord our god hath fulfilled his promise and is in fullfilling it  
which he spoke by the mouth of his prophit saying in the last days  
I will power {*pour*} out of my spirit upon all flesh and my sons and daughters  
the[y] shall prophisie: now is the scriptures fullfilled in this his  
mighty day wherein thousands and tenn thousands cann witnesse these  
scriptures to be fullfilled in their mesuers {*measures*} glory unto the lord for ever  
and it is the desier of my soule and the breathing of my spirit unto  
the lord for you all that yee all may com to witnesse the same  
every one in your one pertic[?]culers that soe the inosent may goe free  
and the just may be releevd in you all all that soe their may bee noe  
compleaning in your streets for want of pouer for as many as become  
sons to them hee gives pouer. from one that desiers your souls everlasting  
good: knowne by the name of Joan Brocksopp

D<sup>r</sup> John Bowne & Hanna,

I desire thee to take care that this be delivered to y<sup>e</sup> rulers of  
Boston and allsoe the other, this night came with: Story and

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<sup>1</sup> Joan Brocksopp and her friend Elizabeth Hooten had been jailed and expelled into the New England wilderness when they attempted a missionary visit to Boston in 1661.

Letter, Joan Brocksopp to the rulers of Boston, c/o John and Hannah Bowne  
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brought a letter for thee from Widow Scott wch. signified a  
shipec may be readie for going for New Yorke wee are pretie  
well at present and all our de[ar] loves is to you both w<sup>th</sup> friends'  
lov[e] rests

thy De[ar] friend  
Joan Brocksoppe

Normanton  
y<sup>e</sup> 23 of y<sup>e</sup> 1 m / 77

D<sup>e</sup> John I desire thee to be carefull to let these  
be sent w<sup>th</sup> [care]<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Joan Brocksopp wants John and Hannah Bowne to bring this letter with them, along with her letter of the same date to Anne Easton of Rhode Island (BFP #2018.1.3-08B), when they return to Long Island.