

**WILLIAM BOWNE, OF
YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND
AND HIS DESCENDANTS**

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William Bowne, of Yorkshire, England and His Descendants by Miller K. Reading

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MILLER K. READING, M. D.

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PREFACE.

In the beginning we intended to write a genealogical sketch of William Bowne of the Revolutionary War and his descendants only, giving *his* line of descent back to the emigrant ancestor. After much of the Bowne matter was already in print, finding that we had collected considerable data of general interest to the Bowne family, we decided to include it. This somewhat breaks the arrangement of the genealogical records, but the data of the Bowne family thus collected and preserved is considered of greater importance than literary style. The records of William Bowne, son of James and Elizabeth O. (Hartshorn) Bowne, and his descendants are fairly complete. The other lines are not. The Bowne family is large and hard to trace, so many have the same name.

Whenever one mentions the name of Bowne to a genealogist, he sends up a groan that sounds like the wail of Hagar in the wilderness! We are particularly indebted to Mr. B. E. Bowne, of Sergeantville, N. J., to Miss Mary Bowne, of Phila., Pa., to Mr. J. Addison Bowne, of New York City, for valuable assistance in furnishing family records, and to Mr. James G. Lee, of Trenton, N. J., for kind favors.

To Mr. H. E. Dents, Editor of *The Jerseyman*, Flemington, N. J., belongs all the credit for the publication of these records.

M. K. READING.

Aden, Prince William Co., Va., Feb. 13, 1903.

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BOWNE.

THE first settlement at Salem, Mass., was begun in 1628. The Colonists obtained a patent from the Council of Plymouth in March 1628; and Charles I issued a charter of incorporation to the proprietors under the name of "The Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England" in 1629. "In 1630 about three hundred of the best Puritan families in the kingdom came to New England. Not adventurers, not vagabonds, were these brave people, but virtuous, well educated, courageous men and women who for conscience sake left comfortable homes with no expectation of returning."* "Of these persons, all were respectable, and many were from illustrious and noble families."† Among these came William Bowne and Ann his wife. They emigrated from Yorkshire, England, where a majority of the inhabitants were descendants of the Romans and ancient Britons, and settled at Salem, Essex county, Massachusetts in 1631. William and Ann Bowne left England on account of the cruel religious persecutions so prevalent in that country at the time. He was granted forty acres of land at Jeffries Creek in 1636.‡ He remained at Salem for some years, and then removed to Gravesend, L. I. This was probably in 1645, as Gravesend was settled by English emigrants from Massachusetts about that year. Among these early settlers at Gravesend, we find William Bowne and his son John. William Bowne was granted a "planter's lot" Nov. 12, 1646;‡‡ and John Bowne, his son, Sept. 20, 1647. In 1691, Capt. Andrew Bowne, son of William Bowne, sold a "fifteen acre lot. No. 11, in town of Gravesend—wh. did formerly belong to my father." William Bowne was one of the Magistrates of Gravesend, L. I., in 1657. William Bowne and his sons John, James and Andrew emigrated to

*History United States. Ridpath, page 126.

†History United States, Hale, page 30.

‡Satter's History of Monmouth Co.

‡‡Ibid.

Middletown, Monmouth county, N. J., in 1664.

Brief mention of a few historical facts may be of considerable interest to the Bowne family at this time. They occurred nearly two hundred and fifty years ago.

"In 1663 a company of Puritans, living on Long Island, obtained permission of Governor Stuyvesant to settle on the banks of the Karitan."*

"A party of about twenty English, all or nearly all of whom had previously lived in the New England colonies, but most of whom were then settled on Long Island, set out in a sloop from Gravesend, L. I., in December, 1663, and sailed across the bay to what is now Monmouth County, for the purpose of purchasing lands of the Indian sachems, with a view to settlement."†

The men composing this party were John Bowne, William Golding, Richard Gibbons, James Holbert, Charles Morgan, Samuel Spicer, John Totman, Thomas Whitlock; and others—twenty in all. They made two or three more journeys from their homes on Long Island to the southern shores of the bay, and finally purchased from the Indian chief, Poppomora and his people, the three "necks" of land known to the Indians as Newasink, Navarunsunk and Pootapeck. Having purchased the land of the Indians, "John Bowne, Richard Stout and three others, with their families, five families in all, came and made their settlement in the spring or summer of 1664, nearly a year before the patent was issued."‡

Charles the Second, King of England, made a royal grant and patent of land, dated March 12, 1664, to his brother James, Duke of York, which included all of the present State of New Jersey. King Charles sent out a fleet, with a military force under command of Sir Robert Carr, and Colonel Richard Nicolls, who had been commissioned Governor by the Duke of York.**

*History United States, Ridpath, page 203.

†History Monmouth Co. N. J.—Hills.

**Historical Coll. of New Jersey, page 14.

The fleet arrived at New Amsterdam in August, 1664, and that place and all the New Netherlands were surrendered by Governor Stuyvesant to the English on the 27th of the same month.

Governor Nicolls, in the fall of 1664, issued a proclamation, for the purpose of promoting the formation of new settlements in the country under his jurisdiction. A part of which was as follows:

"The Condition for new Planters in the Territories of his Royal Highness, the Duke of York. The purchases are to be made from the Indian Sachems, and to be recorded before the Governor. * * * All lands thus purchased and possessed shall remain to the Purchasers and their heirs as free lands, to dispose of as they Please. * * * In all Territories of his Royal Highness Liberty of Conscience is allowed, provided such Liberty is not connected to Licentiousness, or the Disturbance of others in the Exercise of the Protestant Religion. R. Nicolls."*

This English company of Puritans, living on Long Island and in New England, having obtained permission of Governor Stuyvesant to settle on the banks of the Haritan River, commenced their negotiations with the Indian sachems December 5, 1663; and concluded the first Indian purchase of land, which was made from Poppomora, chief of the Navesink Indians to John Bowne, James Hubbard, William Golding, Richard Stout, Samuel Spicer, and John Tilton, Jr., all of Gravesend, Long Island, by deed dated January 25, 1664—the original record of which is at Albany, N. Y., Liber 3, page 1. The second purchase—of Navarmanunk and Pootapeek—is dated April 7, 1665; and the third purchase is dated June 5, 1665. The original record of these deeds is at Albany, N. Y., and copies are also recorded at Perth Amboy and Trenton, N. J.

Having already complied with the first conditions of Governor Nicolls' proclamation, the company made application to the Governor for a grant to cover the purchase already made and others which they intended to make. This grant embraced all of the present county of Monmouth, and a part of Ocean and Middlesex counties. It is dated April 8, 1665. It is known as the famous

"MONMOUTH PATENT."

"To all whom these presents shall come: I Richard Nicolls, Esq., Governor under his Royal Highness the Duke of York of all his Territories in America send greeting. Whereas there is a certain tract or parcel of land within this government, lying and being near Sandy Point, upon the Main: which said parcel of land hath been

*Salter's History of Monmouth Co., N. J.

with my consent and approbation bought by some of the inhabitants of Gravesend upon Long Island of the Sachems (chief proprietors thereof) who before me have acknowledged to have received satisfaction for the same, to the end that the said land may be plauted, manured and inhabited, and for divers other good causes and considerations, I have thought fit to give, confirm and grant, and by these presents do give, confirm, and grant unto WILLIAM GOLDING, SAMUEL SPICER, RICHARD GIBBONS, RICHARD STOUT, JAMES GROVER, JOHN BOWNE, JOHN TILTON, NATHANIEL SYLVESTER, WILLIAM REAPE, WALTER CLARKE, NICHOLAS DAVIS, OBADIAH HOLMES, patentees, and their associates, their heirs, successors and assigns, all that tract and part of the main land * * * to have and to hold all and singular the said lands, hereditaments and premises with their and every one of their appurtenances hereby given and granted, or therein before mentioned to be given and granted, to the only proper use and behoof of the said patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assigns forever, upon such terms and conditions as hereafter are expressed, that is to say, that the said patentees and their associates, their heirs or assigns, shall within the space of three years, beginning from day of the date hereof, manure and plant the aforesaid land and premises and settle there one hundred families at least. * * * I do likewise grant unto the said Patentees and their Associates, their Heirs, Successors and Assigns, and unto any and all other Persons who shall Plant and Inhabit in any of the Land aforesaid, that they shall have free Liberty of Conscience, without any Molestation or Disturbance whatsoever in their way of Worship. * * * Given under my Hand and Seal at Fort James, in New York, on Mauhatans-Island, the 8th Day of April in the 17th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., and in the year of our Lord God, 1665.

RICHARD NICHOLLS."

Having purchased the land of the Indians, and having secured the Patent from Governor Nicolls, the patentees and their associates began their settlements immediately. The Bowne family had actually settled at Middletown fully a year before the patent was granted. The Bownes contributed toward buying the land in Monmouth of the Indians, and for incidental expenses in treating with them, a greater sum than any other family with only two exceptions. The Town Book of Old Middletown, in its first entry dated Dec. 30, 1667, shows that William Bowne was granted lot No. 8 at Portland Point.

The patentees met at Portland Point, July 8, 1670 and voted to admit as associates "a convenient number of purchasers who were the first and principal in the purchase of the three necks: Newasink, Navarumsunk and Pootapeck *** henceforth to have a full interest, right and claim in ye Patent given and granted to ye Patentees by Richard Nicolla, Esq., late Governor of New York."*

William Bowne was the first associate chosen at this meeting.

William Bowne was born in Yorkshire, England, and died at Portland Point in 1677.

Letters of Administration were granted to John Bowne of Middletown, N. J., to administer on the estate of his father, William Bowne, "heretofore of Gravesend," and "late of Middletown in New Jersey, in 1677. John is spoken of as being his "eldest son," and he made application for the letters "with the consent of and good liking of the rest of his brethers."

Children of William and Ann Bowne :

John Bowne, born in England.

James Bowne, born in Salem, Mass., 1636.

Andrew Bowne, born in Salem, Mass., 1638.

Philip Bowne, born in Salem, Mass., 1640.

They also had daughters.

John Bowne (William 's) was a leader in purchasing the land from the Indians; was one of the first five families who made a permanent settlement in 1664; and was one of the patentees of the Monmouth grant. "Until Captain Bowne's death, in the early part of 1684, he seems to have been the most prominent citizen of the county, esteemed for his integrity and his ability. He had been compelled to leave the Massachusetts colony on account of his sympathy with the Baptists, and he was one of the founders of the Baptist church at Middletown. He appeared as a deputy to the first Assembly in Governor Carteret's time, which met May 26, 1688, the members of the Lower House being then called 'burgesses.' He was deputy again in 1675, after Carteret's return from England; and in the first Legislature under the twenty-four proprietors, in 1683, he was a member and the Speaker, and acted until the December following. He held other positions of trust. March 12, 1677, a commission was issued to him as president of the court to hold a term at Middletown. In December, 1683, shortly before his last illness, he was appointed major of the militia of Monmouth county." As stated, Captain John Bowne was one of the founders of the Baptist Church at Middletown, N. J., which was constituted in 1668; being the first Baptist

*Salter's History of Monmouth.

†History of Monmouth Co., N. J.—Ellis.

organization in the State of New Jersey. "The first who preached at Middletown was Mr. John Bowne *** it was he who gave the lot on which the first meeting house was built."† Captain John Bowne died January 3, 1684, and "his universally recognized character was that of an upright, conscientious Christian man."

Captain John Bowne married Lydia Holmes, a daughter of Rev. Obadiah Holmes. He was born in Preston, Lancashire, England, in 1608; died at Newport, R. I., Oct. 15, 1682; married in 1636. He arrived in 1638, and settled in Salem, Mass., 1639, where he engaged with two other persons in the manufacture of glass, probably the first in that business in America. He continued in the Congregational Church at Salem, and then at Rehoboth, about eleven years, after which he became a Baptist, and subsequently joined that church. He is the man who received such a cruel scourging of thirty lashes with a three-corded whip, at the instance of the Puritan ministers of Massachusetts, for undertaking "to preach and baptize!"‡ He was the second pastor of the second Baptist church organized in America, at Newport, R. I., in 1644. Here he remained in the pastoral office from 1652 till his death, thirty years. Rev. Obadiah Holmes was one of the twelve patentees of the Monmouth grant, although he did not settle in that county.

Lydia Holmes was a sister to Judge Obadiah Holmes of Cohasset, N. J., who was for a long time a judge of the court, and a Baptist preacher of that place. He died 1701.

Children of Capt. John and Lydia (Holmes) Bowne :

John Bowne, born April 1, 1664; died 1716; married Frances Bowman.

Obadiah Bowne, born July 18, 1666; died 1726; married Ist. Elizabeth Bowne, 2nd. Elizabeth Longfield.

Deborah Bowne, born Jan. 26, 1668.

Sarah Bowne, born Nov. 27, 1669.

Catharine Bowne.

Captain Andrew Bowne, son of William and Ann Bowne, owned a farm of 500 acres on the Raritan river, now in Franklin township, Somerset county, in 1681.* Governor Hamilton appointed Captain Andrew Bowne of Raritan river a member of his Council, Sept. 14, 1692. He was appointed Deputy Governor of New Jersey by Governor Basse, and was sworn into that office May 15, 1699. On June 7, 1701, Captain Andrew Bowne received a commission, dated March 25, 1701, as Governor of East New Jersey. He was

†History of the Baptists (1792) by Morgan Edwards.

‡History of the Baptists—Benedict, pages 371 to 377.

*Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset.