**ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS OF THE BOWNE HOUSE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**FAMILY PAPERS**

**The Bowne Family Papers of Flushing, Long Island**

**Extent:** 6.72 cubic ft. + 1 oversize box

**Dates**: 1653-1839; undated

This important group of documents dates mostly from the Colonial period, with a small volume of 19th century items. 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, high-resolution digital surrogates are available to researchers at the Museum.

**Parsons and Bowne Family Papers**

**Extent:** Approximately 3.34 cubic ft.

**Dates:** 1716-1980s; bulk 1800-1945

This collection contains personal and business papers, official records, antique photographs, genealogical notes, vintage newspaper clippings and other memorabilia of Bowne and Parsons descendants. The bulk dates from the 19th and early 20th centuries, accompanied by a smaller volume of 17th and 18th century records, most of which are facsimiles or manuscript copies of the originals. Notable items 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.

**18th Century Monmouth County Records**

**Extent:** 7 documents

**Dates:** 1730s-1770s

A small group of original 18th century documents, relating to inheritance and property transactions in Monmouth County, New Jersey, in which the New Jersey branch of the Bowne family had an interest.

**The John Bowne and Early 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This collection consists of facsimiles and transcriptions of historical documents, such as John Bowne’s Diary and Account Book, early Flushing Estate records, and census records, along with secondary sources such as research papers by historians and other researchers from the Bowne House.

**LOCAL HISTORY: FLUSHING AND ENVIRONS**

**Queens and Long Island Map & Real Estate Collection**

**Extent:** 2 cubic ft.

**Dates:** 1870s-1940s

Collection consists of maps, property surveys and real estate listings of developments in and around Flushing, N.Y., dating from the late 19th century through the 1930s. Some may have been donated by Lawrence Halleran, a local real estate agent by trade and an early Trustee of the Bowne House Historical Society; others possibly by Charles Powell, a surveyor who also served as Trustee. Of interest to local historians, residents, and scholars of land use and development.

**See also: The John Bowne and Early Flushing Research Collection**

**ORGANIZATIONAL PAPERS**

**Records of the Bowne House Historical Society, Inc.**

**Extent:** Approximately 63 cubic ft,

Mostly textual materials; some multimedia and audiovisual formats.

**Dates**: 1945-2007

This collection comprises the organizational records of the Bowne House Historical Society 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.