

WILLIAM BOWNE

— OF —

YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND

— AND —

HIS DESCENDANTS

— BY —

MILLER K. READING, M. D.

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FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY,

H. E. DEATS

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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."¹ "Of these persons, all were respectable, and many were from illustrious and noble families."² 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 1636.³ 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, 1646,⁴ and **John Bowne**, his son, Sept. 20, 1647. In 1691, Capt. **Andrew Bowne**, son of William, sold a "fifteen acre lot, No. 11 in town of Gravesend-wch. did formerly belong to my father." William Bowne was one of the Magistrates of Gravesend, L. I., in 1657. William and his sons, **John, James, and Andrew** emigrated to 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 **Raritan**."⁵

"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."⁶

The men composing the 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, **Poppemora** and his people, the three "necks" of land known to the Indians as **Newasink, Navarumsunk** 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."⁷

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”⁸

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 Raritan 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.**, 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 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 acknowledge to have received satisfaction for the same, to the end that the said land my be planted, 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 mainland. * * * to have and to hold all and singular the said lands, hereditaments and premises with their and everyone of their appurtenances hereby 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 Manhattan 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 NICOLLS**”

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 Patenent given and granted to ye Patentees by Richard Nicolls, Esq., late Governor of New York.”^{9 10}

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 this brothers.”

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 (William¹) 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, 1668, 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 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.”¹¹ 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 1606; died at **Newport, RI** October 15, 1682; married in 1636. He arrived in 1638 and settled in Salem Massachusetts, 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 Rehobeth, about 11 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”¹². He was a second pastor of the second Baptist church organized in America, at Newport, RI, in 1644. Here he remained in the pastoral office from 1652 until 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 for **Judge Obadiah Holmes** of Cohansey, NJ, who was for a long time 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 first **Elizabeth Bowne**, second **Elizabeth Longfield**.

Deborah Bowne, born January 16, 1668.

Sarah Bowne, born November 27, 1669.

Catharine Bowne

Captain Andrew Bowne, son of Will and Ann Bowne, owned a farm of 500 acres on the Raritan

river, now in Franklin township, Somerset county, in 1681.¹³ Governor Hamilton appointed Captain Andrew Bowne of Raritan river a member of his Council September 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.

In 1714, Captain John Bowne's will mentions "**Gershom Mott**, for use of children," etc.

Children of Gershom and Deborah (Bowne) Mott:

John Mott.

James Mott.

Lincoln

Hannah Lincoln is named in the will, dated September 14, 1714, of Captain John Bowne 2nd, **Mordecai Lincoln** is named in a letter dated April 25th, 1716, from **John Salter** to Obadiah Bowne: he speaks of "my brother Lincoln and my brothers Thomas and Mordecai." This letter is preserved by **James G. Crawford**, living near Freehold. **Abraham Lincoln**, blacksmith, of Monmouth, conveyed to **Thomas Williams**, 1737, 240 acres of land near Crosswick, county aforesaid. The consideration money for both tracts contain 440 acres was £590, and furthermore, every year thereafter, forever, upon the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, the sum of one penny, good and lawful money. The sale of this land was preparatory to his removal to Pennsylvania. The will of Abraham Lincoln was dated at Springfield, Chester county, Pa., April 15th 1745. **Mordecai Lincoln married Hannah, daughter of Richard and Sarah Bowne Salter** previous to 1711, as in that year Hannah Lincoln is mentioned in a will of Captain John Bowne, 2nd. The settlement of this estate involved a tedious lawsuit which is noted in Book No. 1, Minutes of Court, Freehold. Mordecai Lincoln's will was admitted to probate at Philadelphia, June 7, 1736. The plantation of Mordecai contained 1,000 acres situated in Exter, now Berks county, Pa. **George Boone**, named as a trustee in the will, was grandfather of the celebrated **Daniel Boone**. Abraham Lincoln, the posthumous son, married **Ann Boone**, cousin of Daniel Boone, the celebrated Kentucky pioneer.

About 1782, Abraham and his brother Thomas

removed with their families to **Beargrass Fort, Kentucky**, near where Louisville now stands, and Abraham's daughters Mary and Nancy were born in the fort. In the spring of 1784, Abraham was planting seed near the fort when an Indian stole up and shot him dead. Thomas, President Lincoln's father, then a boy six years old, was with his father in the field, and on hearing the report of the gun started for the fort. The Indian pursued and captured him and started to run with him in his arms, when Mordecai, his older brother, shot the Indian from the fort and killed him. The Indian fell face foremost upon the boy who struggled from under the savage and ran back to the fort. **Thomas Lincoln**, who was the President's father, married **Nancy Hanks** at or near Springfield, Washington county, Ky., September 23, 1806. The ancestor of Mordecai and Abraham Lincoln of Monmouth was **Samuel Lincoln**, a native of **Hingham, Norfolk county, England**, who came to this country in 1637, and settled at **Hingham, Mass.**¹⁴

Child of Thomas and Ann Hanks Lincoln:

Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809.

William Bowne (James¹, William¹) was born at Portland Point, Monmouth county, NJ; died 1706; married **Rebecca Grover**, 1704. His only child **Hannah Bowne**, a posthumous child, died unmarried before 1720. William Bowne served on the grand jury of Monmouth in 1696. In 1720 his brother "James Bowne of Middletown, yeoman" speaks of William Bowne, and his (William's wife) **Rebecca** as being "now deceased."

James Bowne (James¹, William¹) was born at Portland Point, Monmouth county, NJ 1666. He was administrator of his father's estate in 1695. He served on the grand jury of Monmouth county, NJ, in 1696; and again in 1698, "James Bowne of Middletown, yeoman," was living in 1720.

James Bowne married and had two sons, but we have no record of his marriage, to whom, nor date of his death. Children of James Bowne, son of James Bowne, by his wife **Mary Stout**:

James Bowne, died 1750.

Obadiah Bowne, died 1761.

James Bowne, son of John and Elizabeth Bowne, married **Elizabeth O. Hartshorne** August 17, 1742. She was a daughter of William and Elizabeth Hartshorne. **William Hartshorne**, born February

29, 1678, died February 29, 1717, was a son of **Richard Hartshorne**, the emigrant, by his wife Margaret Hartshorne. Richard Hartshorne, the founder of the family in New Jersey, was born in Heatherne, Leicestershire, England; died in Middletown, NJ, May 1722.

He is said to have been 28 years old at the time of his emigration.

“Richard Hartshorne, an English Friend of Quaker, emigrated to this country in May, 1666, and settled about that time on the Newasink river. This was among the first, if not the first, permanent settlement made in Middletown. His place, called Portland Point, now remains in the possession of his descendants.¹⁵

“The celebrated **Geo. Fox** visited him in the spring of 1672 on his way to Friends’ Meeting at Oyster Bay, LI. In the latter part of June of the same year, Fox again visited him.”¹⁶ Richard Hartshorne was elected Town Clerk of Middletown, NJ, on June 29, 1675, and served as such till January 1, 1677¹⁷

CITATIONS

- 1 History of the United States, Ridpath, page 126.
- 2 History of the United States, Hale, page 30.
- 3 Salter’s History of Monmouth Co. N.J.
- 4 Salter’s History of Monmouth Co. N.J.
- 5 History of the United States, Ridpath, page 203.
- 6 History of Monmouth Co., N.J., Ellis
- 7 Historical of Coll. of New Jersey, page 14.
- 8 Salter’s History of Monmouth Co. N.J.
- 9 Salter’s History of Monmouth Co. N.J.
- 10 History of Monmouth Co., N.J., Ellis
- 11 History of the Baptists (1792) by Morgan Edwards
- 12 History of the Baptists, Benedict, pages 371-377
- 13 Snell’s History of Hunterdon and Somerset.
- 14 Salter’s History of Monmouth Co. N.J., p xxxviii
- 15 New Jersey Historical College, page 354
- 16 Salter’s History of Monmouth Co. N.J., p xxxiii
- 17 Town Book of Old Middletown, page 66?

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