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 #2018.1-8A

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

ho all yee rulers of boston in new ingland 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 therefore bee yee mercifull even as your heavenly father is mercifull unto you. in giving you things conveyent 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 fulfild 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 releved in you all that soe their may bee noe compleaning in your streets for want of pouer for as many as beecome sons to them hee gives pouer. from one that desiers your souls everlasting good: knowne by the name of Joan Brocksopp

Df John Bowne & Hanna,
I desire thee to take care that this be delivered to y^e rulers of Boston and allsoe the other, this night came with: Story and

1 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.
brought a letter for thee from Widow Scott wch. signified a
ship 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^th friends'
lov[e] rests

thy De[ar] friend
Joan Brocksoppe

Normanton
y^e 23 of y^e 1 m / 77

D^e John I desire thee to be carefull to let these
be sent w^th [care]^2

^2 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.