

**ORIGINAL DOCUMENT:
Bill of Sale for Colonial Sloop
Scituate, Mass.,
15 September 1714**

The following text is the content of an original bill of sale which I purchased within the last year. I thought the content interesting enough to share it with you readers. The document is handwritten in a formal script, probably by the equivalent of a lawyer or professional scribe of the time, and is rather tedious to read.

But this is typical of the old records, in Spanish or English, that researchers are required to pore over in order to bring us the information contained in the precious few surviving pages in archives and collections.

In transcribing these two pages, I have left the original grammar and spelling, including any abbreviations encountered...for your edification or amusement. All punctuation and paragraphs are mine—to increase readability—as the document text runs full length without a comma or period until the very end. The note in script at the end is in a second hand, likely that of Mr. William Bailey himself. Please enjoy this enlightening bit of American Colonial documentation brought to life. --ed.

“To all People unto whome this present Bill of Sale shall come, William Bailey of Situate within the County of Plymouth and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Mariner, sendeth greeting. Know yee that I, the said William Bailey, for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred and Thirty pounds in money to me in hand, and before the Ensealing and Delivery

hereof, well and truly paid by Caleb Shaw and Samuel Nudd of Hampton within the Province of New Hampshire, Mariners, the Receipt whereof I acknowledge and thereof do hereby Acquit and Discharge the said Caleb Shaw and Samuel Nudd, their Executes, Adminis, and Assigns for Ever, have given, granted, bargained, and Sold, And by these presents Do Give, grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey, and Confirm unto the said Caleb Shaw and Samuel Nudd The Whole Hull or Body of the good Open Sloop Mayflower, of the burthen of about Thirty five Tuns, whereof the said Caleb Shaw is at present Master.



Together with all Singular, her Main Boom, Bowsprit, Anchor Cables, Tackle, Apparrels, Sails Riggins, Cannons, Furniture, Stores, Appur^{ces} as she is now found, To have and to hold the whole Hull and Body of the said Sloop Mayflower and Appur^{ces}, furniture, stores, and other the premises to her belonging unto the said Caleb Shaw and Samuel Nudd their Executes, Adminis, and Assigns. To their only proper use benefit and behoofe for Ever.

And I, the Said William Bailey, Do Avouch myself at the Ensealing hereof to be the True and Lawfull Owner of the whole Hull or Body of the said Sloop Mayflower and Appur^{ces}, furniture, and stores to her belonging. And for me, my heires, Eexecutes, and Adminis Do hereby Covenant grant and agree to Warrant and Defend the whole Hull or Body of the said Sloop Appur^{ces} furniture and stores whatsoever to her belonging unto the said Caleb Shaw and Samuel Nudd their Executes, Adminis, and Assigns for Ever Against the Lawfull Claims and Demand of all and Every Person and Persons whomsoever, Peril of the Seas, fire, Pirates, and Enemies. Excepted In Witness whereof I, the said William Bailey, have hereunto Set my hand and Seal the fifteenth day of September, Anno Dom One Thousand Seven hundred and fourteen In the First year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith.”

William Baili

Signed Sealed and Deliv^d in the presence of us
Zechariah Philbrick
Jos: Marion

Received on the day of the date above written of the within named Caleb Shaw and Samuel Nudd the Sum of One Hundred and Thirty pounds in full of the purchase Consideration within Expressed.

William Baili