

SPELL IT WITH A "W."

IT SHOULD NOT BE BEDLOE'S ISLAND,
BUT BEDLOW'S.

Charles H. Blair, of No. 49 Broadway, the attorney and one of the Trustees of the Bedlow estate, writes to THE TIMES to say that the name of the island to be made famous by the statue of Liberty should be spelled Bedlow, not Bedloe. He quotes an article from the *Magazine of American History* in support of his assertion. The writer of the article says that the blunder has been perpetuated because public attention has never been called to it. After the death of Isaac Bedlow, the first proprietor of the island, the article says, his children—Isaac Bedlow, Sarah Burger, Catharine Hassarden, and Mary Smith—agreed, on Dec. 29, 1693, to divide the estate equally. Mary Smith subsequently became the owner of the whole island, and on Aug. 9, 1732, conveyed her whole estate to two Trustees—Adolph Philipse and Henry Lane. In 1746 Philipse, the surviving Trustee, conveyed Bedlow's Island to Archibald Kennedy for £100. Under date of Feb. 10, 1750, John Cruger being Mayor, there is this record: "Ordered, that Aldermen Livingston and Lisenard do immediately wait upon Archibald Kennedy, Esq., and purchase of him for this corporation the island commonly called Bedlow's Island, for any sum not exceeding £1,000, in order to erect a pest house thereon."

Sept. 6, 1769, it was "ordered that Evert Poll occupy Bedlow's Island during the pleasure of the corporation." Jan. 30, 1786, it was "ordered that the Treasurer let out Bedlow's Island." The most important record of that century, the writer says, was in the Mayoralty of Richard Varick, April 21, 1794: "Bedlow's Island granted to the State of New York for the purpose of erecting fortifications. When no longer used as a fortification to revert back to the corporation." The author of the article says the correct orthography is Bedlow. How the error originated the writer could not discover.

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