

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Collections Department
MSS 016
William Arnold Autograph Collection
1655-1922

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number:	MSS 016
Title:	William Arnold Autograph Collection
Creator:	Multiple sources
Dates:	1655-1922
Media:	Correspondence, poems, ephemera, portraits, legal documents, business records
Quantity:	.25 linear feet plus oversized box

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

William Arnold

Son of Nicholas Arnold and Alice Gully Arnold, William Arnold was born June 24, 1587, in Ilchester, Somerset, England. He married Christian Peake in 1610, and they had four children: Elizabeth, Benedict, Joanna, and Stephen. Arnold sailed with his family from Dartmouth, England to America on May 1, 1635. With Roger Williams, Arnold was one of the founding settlers of Rhode Island, and settled in Providence. After several years, he moved and formed the settlement known as Pawtuxet, now a part of Cranston. Arnold died during King Philip's War sometime between 1675-1676.

Frederick Augustus Arnold

Son of Russell G. Arnold and Sarah P. Arnold, Frederick A. Arnold was born March 21, 1841. He served in the Second Rhode Island Infantry Regiment during the Civil War and later served as Secretary for the Second Regiment Rhode Island Voluntary Infantry Veteran Association. He worked in the water department for the City of Providence, and was a well-known figure among Providence Public Library users of the time. He was also a member of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Arnold died August 8, 1924.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The William Arnold Autograph Collection is part of a larger collection of books and manuscripts dealing with American, especially Rhode Island, history. The entire collection was donated to the Providence Public Library in 1923 by Mr. Frederick Augustus Arnold. In an effort to support collections at other Providence libraries, the following transfers of materials were made: items representing "Americana" before the year 1801 were transferred to the John Carter Brown Library; items relating to American poetry were transferred to the John Hay Library; and publications concerning the Arnold family were transferred to the Rhode Island Historical Society. The remaining materials constitute the William Arnold Autograph Collection. The collection was named for William Arnold, an ancestor of Frederick A. Arnold.

The collection consists mainly of legal documents and correspondence, but also includes poems, portraits, business records, and ephemera dating from 1655 to 1922.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by name/document title, and is housed within two boxes.

SEE ALSO

Providence Public Library Special Collections: Rhode Island MSS 010, 1723 - 1939.

Providence Public Library Special Collections: Rhode Island Ephemera

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access:

This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers are requested to cite *William Arnold Autograph Collection MSS 016* and *Providence Public Library Special Collections* in all footnote and bibliographic references.

Processed By:

The collection was processed in 2013 by Stephanie Knott.

Property Rights:

The Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

* Located in oversized folder

Author or title	Recipient	Further information	Dates
Aguinaldo, Emilio	Unknown	In Spanish. Letter to an unknown recipient. Stamped "Presidencia, Republica de Filipinas."	1897-11-03
Allyn, Thomas	Unknown	Letter to an unknown recipient. Statement of debt.	1664-04-04
Allen, William	Drake, Samuel Gardner	Concerns sales of his American biographical and historical dictionary.	1868-01-07
Anonymous	Unknown	Aboard His Majesty's Sloop of War Ring Dove. Letter mentions both Bristol and Newport.	1813-11-04
Anonymous		Poem about daughter's marriage.	1700s?
Anthony, Henry*		Commission of Henry Anthony, Esq. as Rail Road Commissioner in Rhode Island. Signed by Governor Henry B. Anthony, and Secretary Chris B. Robbins. Certified by Charles Hart, Justice of the Peace.	1850-05-15
Anthony, Henry Bowen	Rousmanière, H.	Request for information on the Pawtuxet region.	1858-09-14
Arnold, Jonathan		Order of payment to Daniel Branch for attendance at RI Superior Court.	March, 1769
Arnold, Oliver		Receipt for a bond from William Wood to Reuben Sprague.	1769-06-03
Arnold, Russell Greene*	Arnold, Susan S.	Letter to daughter visiting Uncle Whipple.	1837-09-11
Arnold, Samuel Greene	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Request to meet to discuss a common ancestor, William Arnold.	1861-03-07
Arnold, Stephen	Waterman, John	Letter concerning his poor eyesight. Request to leave service?	1777-09-28
Arnold, Richard		Draft. Payment ordered to Timothy Phelps. Address listed is that of Gen. Benedict Arnold in London, father of Richard.	1792-10-24
Arnold, Richard*		Draft. Filled out printed form. Payment ordered to Timothy Phelps. Address listed is that of Benedict Arnold in London, father of Richard.	1792

Arnold, Richard		Draft. Payment ordered to Timothy Phelps. Address listed is that of Benedict Arnold in London, father of Richard.	1793-12-25
Backus, Joseph		Bill of sale of a negro man named Harry.	1729-10-06
Bainbridge, William	Smith, Robert	Letter accompanying the application of Edward William Brown for a gunner's warrant. Refers to Captain Stephen Decatur Sr.	1809-01-26
Bancroft, George	Appleton, John	Concerns Bancroft's arrival on Monday. Expresses thanks to J.Y. Mason.	1846-10-18
Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss	Bates, Phineas Jr.	Regarding him sending a copy of speech made at dedication of monument in Plymouth to Bates.	1878-06-19
Barras, Jacques Melchior Saint-Laurent, comte de*		In French. Draft on the French Navy. Includes small etching of Count de Barras.	1781-08-01
Bates, Louise Prosser	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Inquiring about burial place of Susannah (Staples) Arnold, wife of Philip Arnold. Mentions their daughter Hannah (Arnold) Edmunds.	1908-11-25
Battle of Bunker's Hill		Song about the Battle of Bunker Hill. Signed at end "Mr. Almy Arnold present".	1770s?
Biddle, Owen		Draft on the Committee of Safety for payment to Miles Wister for two tons of iron.	1775-12-18
Black-Eyed Susan		"Black Eyed Susan", a poem.	1700s?
Bourn, Augustus Osborn	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Acceptance of invitation to attend reunion of Second RI Volunteers and the Battery A Veterans Association.	1885-07-16
Bowler, Mat		Record of account with post office.	1764-11-14 to 1765-06-19
Brigham, Clarence Saunders	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Request to borrow RI manuscripts for RI historical exhibit at Jamestown Tercentenary celebration. Mentions John T. Blodgett. Written on yellow paper with letterhead. Four pages.	1907-08-08
Brigham, Clarence Saunders	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Inquiring whether Arnold had ever seen a copy of the first Providence edition of Matthew Bunn's Narrative. Includes newspaper clipping.	1909-09-02

Brigham, Clarence Saunders*	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Includes inquiries regarding the Warren Association Minutes and the Charter of the 1730 Rhode Island Digest. Typed letter.	1909-10-27
Brown, John		Bond posted for privateer James Munro, commander of the Ship General Washington. Signed by both Brown and Munro.	1780-05-12
Brown, John*		Deed of sale of a parcel of land in South Kingston to Walter Watson.	1786-10-28
Brown, John		Draft on RI General Treasury to be paid to Edward Bosworth for transporting stone to the court house.	1769-12-22
Brown, John	Gorman, John and Bangs, Samuel	War Office instructions regarding examination of shoes.	1780-01-20
Brown, Nicholas		Bill of sale. Signed by John Crane.	May, 1779
Burnside, Ambrose Everett		Proclamation of Thanksgiving Day in Rhode Island as Nov. 28, 1867. Printed text including a red seal with the word Hope.	1867-11-06
Byfield, Nathaniel		Warrant for Ebenezer Pitts for selling alcohol without a license to Mary Rowland.	1703-03-09
Carnan, Christopher*		Lease. Signed by John Brown, Mordecai Gist, and Benjamin Rogers. Includes small etching of Gist.	1769-06-20
Case, John		Action for debt. Signed by James Honeyman.	1756-01-22
Chace, Jonathan	Rhodes, Elisha Hunt	Acceptance of an invitation to a Veteran Association dinner. Written on House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. letterhead.	1882-02-10
Children in the Wood		The Children in the Woods, poem. Based a true story of two orphans, Jon and Jane, who were killed by "ruffians" at the order of their uncle, who hoped to inherit the estate. Signed "Sally Ann Arnold's".	1798-05-05
Clarke, Joseph		Receipt for a draft.	1792-06-21
Clay, Henry		Certificate of a patent granted to Elisha Miner Pomeroy.	1826-09-23
Clinton, Sir Henry*		Warrants for expenses owed.	1780-09-28 and 1780-12-31

Coote, Eyre*		Certificate for payment of the Deputy Pay Master of the Forces, William Salmond. Sent from Spanish Town, Jamaica.	1806-02-01
Coxe, Tench	Kilty, John	Acknowledging the receipt of vouchers.	1797-10-02
Chapin, Howard Millar	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Regarding a catalogue enclosed. Refers to G.L. Shepley. Mentions Arnold Cemetery in Newport.	1922-08-05
Chestnut Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Providence*		Deed for a pew for Theodore B. Talbot. Signed by James Lewis.	1862-03-17
Crossing, William		Lien against Sylvester Woodman. Signed Josias Lyndon. Includes a card with a portrait of the Prince of Wales on reverse.	1760-02-04
Curtis, George William	Anthony, Henry Bowen	Praising his memorial address to A.E. Burnside. Includes portrait of Curtis.	1882-02-11
Davis, George A.		Statement concerning Robert M. Fryers and his process of refining noble metals.	1874-12-24
Davis, John William	Rhodes, Elisha Hunt	Declining attendance at the annual meeting of the 2nd RI Volunteers.	1887-07-18
Dearing, Ebenezer*		Certificate stating that his company did not draw any supplies.	1777-07-26
Destouches, Charles Rene Dominique Gochet, chevalier*		In French. Draft on French Navy.	1781-01-31
Dibblee, Thomas Bloodgood	Governor of the State of RI	Petition for appointment to the office of Commissioner.	1800s?
Dyer, Elisha	Bowen, Henry Chandler	Regarding inability to attend Republican rally. Mentions Henry Clay. 3 pages, each page with small embossment in upper left hand corner.	1888-08-25
Estaing, Charles Henri, Comte D'	Jefferson, Thomas	In French. Includes portrait of Charles Henri Comte D'Estaing.	1787-06-21
Fenner, Arthur*		Survey of land.	1699-03-08
Fulton (Ship)		Requisition for the payment of the officers and crew of the ship. Signed Isaac Chauncey.	1826-04-11
Garrison, Wendell Phillips	Foster, William Eaton	Appreciation for praise of his <i>Parables</i> .	1898-02-17

Garrison, William Lloyd	Nell (Dear friend)	Letter accompanying tickets in aid of the Home for Aged Colored Women.	1873-04-01
George II, King of Great Britain*		Signature mounted on larger sheet with engraved portrait of George II.	1731
Getty, George Washington	Randolph, Theodore Fitz	Requesting copies of Proceedings in court martial of Fitz-John Porter.	1879-12-09
Gladding, John	Greene, Stephen	Asking for date of enlistment of Cyril L. Morse and Jonathan Nichols.	1814-01-02
Gray, Edward*		Deed.	1687/8-02-06
Great Britain Privy Council		Report of petition of Charles Dudley for an appeal. Signed by Henry Ward and Stephen Cottrell.	1774-01-15
Greene, Stephen		Account with O.C.W. Arnold.	April, 1825 to December, 1825
Hadden, James Murray	Major French	Regarding military affairs, particularly removal of militia from Sheerness and enlisting soldiers from German prisoners of war.	1813-11-12
Hall, Lovice (Louise?)	Andrews, Sarah	Family letter inquiring after several relatives.	1797-01-22
Hastings, Francis Rawdon	Sinclair, Sir John	Appreciation for information received in prior letter.	1788-01-27
Hazard, Rowland Gibson	Fessenden, William Pitt	Regarding proposals for relief of U.S. treasury. Held together by a grommet in upper left hand corner.	1864-08-20
Hopkins, Samuel	Anthony, Miss Susa	Stating he will not leave town unless starved out. Religious theme.	1771-03-25
Hosford, Benjamin		Deed.	1734-01-21
Howard, Martin		Bill. Signed by William Greene.	July, 1746
Jackson, Andrew		Record of provision return.	1813-03-01
Jenckes, Thomas Allen		Military pass for Charles Muencheur.	1842-06-27
Jenckes, William*		Bill of sale.	1717-04-19
King, Jonathan		Draft for payment to Major Ball for restrained rations.	1778-12-12

Lee, Henry	contracting Commissary at Fort Cumberland	Concerns lack of provisions for troops involved in Whiskey Rebellion.	1794-10-06
Lippitt, Henry	Bradford, W.J.	Accepting invitation to annual meeting of 2nd RI Volunteers.	1876-07-15
Littlefield, Alfred Henry	Bradford, W.J.	Accepting invitation to 11th reunion of 2nd RI Volunteers. Written on State of Rhode Island letterhead.	1880-07-13
Loomis, Stephen*		Deed.	1707-04-07
Louis XVI, King of France*		Requisition for Parliament at Nancy.	1776-07-14
Lyman, Daniel	Major Goodwin	Orders to assemble his detachment ready to march.	1778-10-22
Lyndon, Josias		Draft on the RI General Treasury for payment to Henry Bull.	1752-11-24
Martin, Michael		Deposition. Signed by Edward Rawson.	1655-04-30
Meeting of the purchases...		Meeting of the purchases, moderated by Daniel Abbot. Signed by Stephen Hopkins.	1743-01-02 to 1744-09-17
Nichols, Benjamin		Action for debt against Stephen Larkin of Westerly, RI. Signed by Daniel Updike.	1750-01-24
Oster, Martin		In French. Certified copy of draft on French Ministry of War.	1782-12-07
Porter, Daniel*		Deed of sale of land to John Allyn signed by Matthew Allyn.	1705-04-16
Porter, Daniel*		Deed of sale of land to Samuel Allyn signed by Matthew Allyn.	1715-04-02
Providence Proprietors of the Lands*		Receipts from the founding members of Providence, including genealogical information. Signers include: Valentine Whitman, Richard Waterman, Mercy Waterman, Thomas Walling, Edward Smith, Benjamin Smith, Nicholas Power, James Mathewson, Andrew Harris, Thomas Harris, William Harris, Henry Harris, and Henry Esten. 10 pages.	1718-1723
Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Co.	John Miller	Request to attend meeting.	1835-07-10

Rhode Island (Colony) Committee of War		Draft on the General Treasury for payment to Daniel Jenckes. Signed by J. Gardner, Tho. Cranston, and Peter Bours.	1756-12-10
Rhode Island (Colony) General Assembly		Draft on the General Treasury for payment to Joseph Wanton. Signed by Henry Ward.	July, 1771
Rhode Island General Assembly		Draft on the General Treasury for payment to William Bradford (Deputy Governor).	June, 1777
Rhode Island Militia 5th Regiment		Ten certificates of enrollment. All signed by Robert M. Bennett. Names on certificates include: Samuel Dyer, Christopher Tanner, Calleb Rice, George Well, Rice Miller, G. Capron, Henry Capron, J. Tanner, John Capron, and John Smith.	1843-03-02 to 1843-03-04
Rhode Island Militia*		Muster roll of Captain Asa Prince's company. Signed by Andrew Brown.	1777-12-22
Rochambeau, le Comte de	Governor of Maryland	Letter requesting that important mail be sent express.	1781-12-17
St. Clair, Arthur	Varnum, James Mitchell	Concerns Varnum's refusal to sign law regularizing marriages in the Northwest Territory. Mentions S.H. Parsons.	1788-11-04
Sherburne, Henry	Cuyler, Jacob	Concerns his appointment to settle accounts of New York State with the US government. Will begin in April unless Robert Morris' resignation alters the system.	1783-03-24
Sherburne, Henry	Monroe, James	Requesting pension and giving a history of his military and public service.	1814-11-26
Sherburne, Henry	Clinton, George	Denying acceptance of appointment as commissioner of accounts for New York State. Mentions Robert Morris.	1783-10-14
Sherburne, Henry	[Col. Crary (?)]	Certificate supporting claim of three RI regiments to payment by the US government.	1792-07-25
Smith, James Youngs		Receipt for public document.	n.d.
Spooner, William		Certificate of enlistment in the Regiment of Artillery. Signed by Henry Burbeck and John Crane.	1782-06-18
Sullivan, John		Draft for payment to Jonathan Arnold for service to the hospital.	1778-08-03
Swain, Charles		Morning, noon, and night. Poem.	n.d.

Tousard, Lewis		Dimensions of a vessel load of oak wood to be delivered to Tousard in Newport.	1799-09-24
Trial (Sloop)		Vessel's manifest. Signed by Joseph Crandell, Master of the ship. Certificate for part of cargo signed by Thomas Arnold. Two documents.	1794-06-06
Turner, Peter		Bill for rations.	1778-07-20
Turner, Peter		Signature. Includes portrait of Daniel Turner, MD (Peter's father).	1789
U.S. Continental Congress 1780*		Instructions to captains and commanders of private armed vessels. Eleven numbered instructions. Extract from the minutes of a meeting by Charles Thomson. Signed by Henry Ward and James Munro.	1780-05-02
U.S. Marine Comm.		Regarding signals to be observed by commanders in the Continental Navy. Signed by John Browne and John P. Rathburne.	1778-01-14
Van Zandt, Charles Collins	Rhodes, Elisha Hunt	Regarding the fact that Newport cannot entertain the 2nd RI Regiment except on July 4th.	1880-06-21
Van Zandt, Charles Collins	Bradford, W.J.	Declining attendance at the meeting of the 2nd RI Volunteers.	1877-07-19
Vaughan, Henry		Poem. A Second Psalm of Life.	1838-12-29
Walley, John		Draft. Mentions Taunton, Bristol, and Little Compton.	1689-01-18
Waterman, Nathaniel		Deposition. Signed by John Dexter, Justice of the Peace. Mentions Warwick and Boston. Mentions Gideon Croford.	1698-12-30
Welles, Gideon		Orders from the Navy Department.	1864-05-25
Wheaton, Frank	Benedict, Henry M.	Stating he will obtain requested autographs as soon as possible. He has been very busy in valley of Virginia with Sheridan.	1864-12-13
Whipple, Abraham	General Lincoln	Regarding an obstruction across a channel. The weather is delaying the repair, as the boats cannot work. Mentions the immediate procurement of a memorandum of materials for five ships.	1780-01-27

Whipple, Abraham	General Lincoln	Congratulations on the capture of the Sloops Henry and Swift and many British Troops. Includes list of prisoners captured from both ships.	1780-03-07
Whipple, R.R.*	Arnold, Russell Greene	Regarding safe return from trip to visit him. Includes family details. Whipple is married to Arnold's sister.	1833-11-05
Whipple, R.R.*	Whipple, Job	Family letter to his parents.	1832-12-02
Whitman, Sarah Helen Power		Poem. The Last Flowers.	1855-10-19
Whitman, Sarah Helen Power	Didier, Eugene Lemoine	Requesting to make changes to a manuscript. Mentions articles about Edgar Allan Poe.	1876-09-15
Whitman, Sarah Helen Power*	Didier, Eugene Lemoine	Includes copy of Edgar Allan Poe bibliography, but asks for it returned. Has known of one or two copies of Tamerlane. Includes etching of a bust of Whitman.	1876-09-22
Winship, George Parker	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Regarding sending a check for a book.	1900-05-26
Winship, George Parker	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Asking him to allow George G. Wolkins to see his manuscript of Winslow's Hypocrisie Unmasked. Typed letter on The John Carter Brown Library letterhead.	1905-06-01
Winship, George Parker	Arnold, Fred Augustus	Concerns 1639 Psalter for sale at Libbie's.	1912-01-29
Winship, George Parker	Arnold, Fred Augustus	List of manuscripts which he will keep for exhibition at John Carter Brown Library.	1913-12-03
Winsor, Justin	Unknown	Letter to unidentified recipient. Giving sources for information on early American imprints.	1885-05-14
Winter, William*	Stedman, Edmund Clarence	Regarding joining Century Club if he can find enough money for the fees. Mentions George Arnold. Includes portrait of Winter.	1866-08-26
Wolcott, Charles		Promissory note promising to pay Samuel Allyn.	1721-08-29
Wolcott, Henry		Assignment of balance of legacy to brother-in-law Samuel Allyn.	1710-04-28
Wooster, Daniel		Summons for Jonathan Mit of New Haven.	1775-12-16