

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Collections
O21-02
William Arnold Autograph Collection
1655-1922

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: O21-02

Title: William Arnold Autograph Collection

Creator: Arnold, Frederick Augustus, collector.

Dates: 1655-1922

Quantity: 2 boxes (1.25 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Gift of Frederick Augustus Arnold, 1923.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from collector. The collection was named in honor of his ancestor, William Arnold.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Stephanie Knott in 2013.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English, Spanish and French.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

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

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item title], William Arnold Autograph Collection, Special Collections, Providence Public Library

Property Rights: Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material The William Arnold Autograph Collection is part of a larger collection of books and manuscripts dealing with American history, with a focus on Rhode Island. 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.

Published descriptions	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Arnold family. Manuscripts--Collectors and collecting. Politics and government--United States Rhode Island--History United States--History United States. Army. Rhode Island Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1865) United States. Army. Rhode Island Infantry Regiment, 5th (1861-1865)

SEE ALSO

002-02-01	Rhode Island Manuscripts Collection
00-04	Rhode Island Ephemera Collection

HISTORICAL NOTE

Frederick Augustus Arnold (1841-1924) was a veteran of the U.S. Civil War and a public servant for the City of Providence. He was born March 21, 1841 to Russell G. and Sarah P. Arnold. 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. Arnold gifted his collection to the Providence Public Library in the name of his ancestor, William Arnold. Frederick A. Arnold died August 8, 1924.

William Arnold (1587-circa 1767) was born June 24, 1587 in Ilchester, Somerset, England to Nicholas and Alice Gully Arnold. 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 of 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.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection consists of materials related to American history with a focus on Rhode Island history. The collection includes legal documents, correspondence, poems, portraits, ship's papers, business records, and ephemera dating from 1655 to 1922.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The collection is arranged alphabetically by creator, or by title if creator is unknown. .

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Author	Description	Dates	Box	Folder
Aguinaldo, Emilio	In Spanish. Letter to an unknown recipient. Stamped "Presidencia, Republica de Filipinas."	1897-11-03	1	1
Allyn, Thomas	Letter to an unknown recipient. Statement of debt.	1664-04-04	1	2
Allen, William	Letter to Samuel Gardner Drake. Concerns sales of his American biographical and historical dictionary.	1868-01-07	1	3
Anonymous	Aboard His Majesty's Sloop of War Ring Dove. Letter mentions both Bristol and Newport.	1813-11-04	1	4
Anonymous	Four poems	18th century	1	5
Anthony, Henry	Commission of Henry Anthony, Esq. as Railroad 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	2	110
Anthony, Henry Bowen	Letter to H. Rousmanière with request for information on the Pawtuxet region.	1858-09-14	1	6
Arnold, Jonathan	Order of payment to Daniel Branch for attendance at RI Superior Court as waiter.	March, 1769	1	7
Arnold, Oliver	Receipt for a bond from William Wood to Reuben Sprague.	1769-06-03	1	8
Arnold, Richard	Draft. Payment ordered to Timothy Phelps. Address listed is that of Gen. Benedict Arnold in London, father of Richard.	1792-10-24	1	9
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	2	111
Arnold, Richard	Draft. Payment ordered to Timothy Phelps. Address listed is that of Benedict Arnold in London, father of Richard.	1793-12-25	1	10

Arnold, Russell Greene	Letter to daughter, Susan S. Arnold, visiting Uncle Whipple.	1837-09-11	2	112
Arnold, Samuel Greene	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold. Request to meet to discuss a common ancestor, William Arnold.	1861-03-07	1	11
Arnold, Stephen	Letter to John Waterman concerning his poor eyesight. Request to leave service?	1777-09-28	1	12
Backus, Joseph	Bill of sale of a negro man named Harry.	1729-10-06	1	13
Bainbridge, William	Letter to Robert Smith accompanying the application of Edward William Brown for a gunner's warrant. Refers to Captain Stephen Decatur Sr.	1809-01-26	1	14
Bancroft, George	Letter to John Appleton. Concerns Bancroft's arrival on Monday. Expresses thanks to J.Y. Mason.	1846-10-18	1	15
Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss	Letter to Phineas Bates, Jr. Regarding him sending a copy of speech made at dedication of monument in Plymouth to Bates.	1878-06-19	1	16
Barras, Jacques Melchior Saint-Laurent, comte de	In French. Draft on the French Navy. Includes small etching of Count de Barras.	1781-08-01	2	113
Bates, Louise Prosser	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold. Inquiring about burial place of Susannah (Staples) Arnold, wife of Philip Arnold. Mentions their daughter Hannah (Arnold) Edmunds.	1908-11-25	1	17
Battle of Bunker's Hill	Song about the Battle of Bunker Hill. Signed at end "Mr. Almy Arnold present".	circa 1780	1	18
Biddle, Owen	Draft on the Committee of Safety for payment to Miles Wister for two tons of iron.	1775-12-18	1	19
Black-Eyed Susan	"Black Eyed Susan", a poem.	18th century	1	20

Bourn, Augustus Osborn	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold. Acceptance of invitation to attend reunion of Second RI Volunteers and the Battery A Veterans Association.	1885-07-16	1	21
Bowler, Mat	Record of account with post office.	1764-11-14 to 1765-06-19	1	22
Brigham, Clarence Saunders	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold. 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	1	23
Brigham, Clarence Saunders	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold. Inquiring whether Arnold had ever seen a copy of the first Providence edition of Matthew Bunn's Narrative. Includes newspaper clipping.	1909-09-02	1	24
Brigham, Clarence Saunders*	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold. Includes inquiries regarding the Warren Association Minutes and the Charter of the 1730 Rhode Island Digest. Typed letter.	1909-10-27	2	114
Brown, John	Bond posted for privateer James Munro, commander of the Ship General Washington. Signed by both Brown and Munro.	1780-05-12	1	25
Brown, John	Deed of sale of a parcel of land in South Kingston to Walter Watson.	1786-10-28	2	115
Brown, John	Draft on RI General Treasury to be paid to Edward Bosworth for transporting stone to the court house.	1769-12-22	1	26
Brown, John	Letter to John Gorman and Samuel Bangs. War Office instructions regarding examination of shoes.	1780-01-20	1	27
Brown, Nicholas	Bill of sale and receipt of cannon for the use of Continental sloop Argo. . Signed by Horatio Gates and John Crane.	1779-05-13	1	28
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	1	29
Byfield, Nathaniel	Warrant for Ebenezer Pitts for selling alcohol without a license to Mary Rowland.	1703-03-09	1	30

Carnan, Christopher	Lease. Signed by John Brown, Mordecai Gist, and Benjamin Rogers. Includes small etching of Gist.	1769-06-20	2	116
Case, John	Action for debt. Signed by James Honeyman.	1756-01-22	1	31
Chace, Jonathan	Correspondence to Elisha Hunt Rhodes with acceptance of an invitation to a Veteran Association dinner. Written on House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. letterhead.	1882-02-10	1	32
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	1	33
Clarke, Joseph	Receipt for lodging to William Richmond of Newport.	1792-06-21	1	34
Clay, Henry	Certificate of a patent granted to Elisha Miner Pomeroy.	1826-09-23	1	35
Clinton, Sir Henry	Warrants for expenses owed.	1780-09-28 and 1780-12-31	2	117
Coote, Eyre	Certificate for payment of the Deputy Pay Master of the Forces, William Salmond. Sent from Spanish Town, Jamaica.	1806-02-01	2	118
Coxe, Tench	Letter to John Kilty acknowledging the receipt of vouchers.	1797-10-02	1	36
Chapin, Howard Millar	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold. Regarding a catalogue enclosed. Refers to G.L. Shepley. Mentions Arnold Cemetery in Newport.	1922-08-05	1	37
Chestnut Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Providence	Deed for a pew for Theodore B. Talbot. Signed by James Lewis.	1862-03-17	2	119
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	1	38

Curtis, George William	Letter to Henry Bowen Anthongy praising his memorial address to A.E. Burnside. Includes portrait of Curtis.	1882-02-11	1	39
Davis, George A.	Statement concerning Robert M. Fryers and his process of refining noble metals.	1874-12-24	1	40
Davis, John William	Letter to Elisha Hunt Rhodes declining attendance at the annual meeting of the 2nd RI Volunteers.	1887-07-18	1	41
Dearing, Ebenezer	Certificate stating that his company did not draw any supplies.	1777-07-26	2	120
Destouches, Charles Rene Dominique Gochet, chevalier	In French. Draft on French Navy.	1781-01-31	2	121
Dibblee, Thomas Bloodgood	Petition for appointment to the office of Commissioner to Governor of the State of RI.	n.d.	1	42
Dyer, Elisha	Letter to Henry Chandler Bowen regarding inability to attend Republican rally. Mentions Henry Clay. 3 pages, each page with small embossment in upper left hand corner.	1888-08-25	1	43
Estaing, Charles Henri, Comte D'	In French. Letter to Thomas Jefferson. Includes portrait of Charles Henri Comte D'Estaing.	1787-06-21	1	44
Fenner, Arthur	Survey of land.	1699-03-08	2	122
Fulton (Ship)	Requisition for the payment of the officers and crew of the ship. Signed Isaac Chauncey.	1826-04-11	1	45
Garrison, Wendell Phillips	Letter to William Eaton Foster with appreciation for praise of his <i>Parables</i> .	1898-02-17	1	46
Garrison, William Lloyd	Letter to "Nell" accompanying tickets in aid of the Home for Aged Colored Women.	1873-04-01	1	47
George II, King of Great Britain	Signature mounted on larger sheet with engraved portrait of George II.	1731	2	123

Getty, George Washington	Letter to Theodore Fitz Randolph requesting copies of Proceedings in court martial of Fitz-John Porter.	1879-12-09	1	48
Gladding, John	Letter to Stephen Greene asking for date of enlistment of Cyril L. Morse and Jonathan Nichols.	1814-01-02	1	49
Gray, Edward	Deed.	1687/8-02-06	2	124
Great Britain Privy Council	Report of petition of Charles Dudley for an appeal. Signed by Henry Ward and Stephen Cottrell.	1774-01-15	1	50
Greene, Stephen	Account with O.C.W. Arnold for agricultural labor	April, 1825 to December, 1825	1	51
Hadden, James Murray	Letter to Major French regarding military affairs, particularly removal of militia from Sheerness and enlisting soldiers from German prisoners of war.	1813-11-12	1	52
Hall, Lovice (Louise?)	Family letter to Sarah Andrews inquiring after several relatives.	1797-01-22	1	53
Hastings, Francis Rawdon	Letter to Sir John Sinclair with appreciation for information received in prior letter.	1788-01-27	1	54
Hazard, Rowland Gibson	Letter to William Pitt Fessenden regarding proposals for relief of U.S. treasury.	1864-08-20	1	55
Hopkins, Samuel	Letter to Susa Anthony stating he will not leave town unless starved out. Religious theme.	1771-03-25	1	56
Hosford, Benjamin	Deed of land in Litchfield, Connecticut	1734-01-21	1	57
Howard, Martin	Bill for impressing seamen. Signed by William Greene.	July, 1746	1	58
Jackson, Andrew	Record of provision return.	1813-03-01	1	59
Jenckes, Thomas Allen	Military pass for Charles Muencheur. Issued during the Dorr War.	1842-06-27	1	60

Jenckes, William	Bill of sale.	1717-04-19	2	125
King, Jonathan	Draft for payment to Major Ball for restrained rations.	1778-12-12	1	61
Lee, Henry	Letter to Contracting Commissary at Fort Cumberland concerning lack of provisions for troops involved in Whiskey Rebellion.	1794-10-06	1	62
Lippitt, Henry	Letter to W.J. Bradford accepting invitation to annual meeting of 2nd RI Volunteers.	1876-07-15	1	63
Littlefield, Alfred Henry	Letter to W.J. Bradford accepting invitation to 11th reunion of 2nd RI Volunteers. Written on State of Rhode Island letterhead.	1880-07-13	1	64
Loomis, Stephen	Deed.	1707-04-07	2	126
Louis XVI, King of France	Requisition for Parliament at Nancy.	1776-07-14	2	127
Lyman, Daniel	Orders to Major Goodwin to assemble his detachment ready to march.	1778-10-22	1	65
Lyndon, Josias	Draft on the RI General Treasury for payment to Henry Bull.	1752-11-24	1	66
Martin, Michael	Deposition. Signed by Edward Rawson.	1655-04-30	1	67
Meeting of the purchases...	Meeting of the purchases, moderated by Daniel Abbot. Signed by Stephen Hopkins.	1743-01-02 to 1744-09-17	1	68
Nichols, Benjamin	Action for debt against Stephen Larkin of Westerly, RI. Signed by Daniel Updike.	1750-01-24	1	69
Oster, Martin	In French. Certified copy of draft on French Ministry of War.	1782-12-07	1	70
Porter, Daniel*	Deed of sale of land to John Allyn signed by Matthew Allyn.	1705-04-16	2	128
Porter, Daniel*	Deed of sale of land to Samuel Allyn signed by Matthew Allyn.	1715-04-02	2	129

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	2	130
Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Co.	Invitation to John Miller with request to attend meeting.	1835-07-10	1	71
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	1	72
Rhode Island (Colony) General Assembly	Draft on the General Treasury for payment to Joseph Wanton. Signed by Henry Ward.	July, 1771	1	73
Rhode Island General Assembly	Draft on the General Treasury for payment to William Bradford (Deputy Governor).	June, 1777	1	74
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	1	75
Rhode Island Militia*	Muster roll of Captain Asa Prince's company. Signed by Andrew Brown.	1777-12-22	2	131
Rochambeau, le Comte de	Letter to Governor of Maryland requesting that important mail be sent express.	1781-12-17	1	76
St. Clair, Arthur	Letter to James Mitchell Varnum concerning Varnum's refusal to sign law regularizing marriages in the Northwest Territory. Mentions S.H. Parsons.	1788-11-04	1	77
Sherburne, Henry	Letter to Jacob Cuyler concerning 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	1	78

Sherburne, Henry	Letter to James Monroe requesting pension and giving a history of his military and public service.	1814-11-26	1	79
Sherburne, Henry	Letter to George Clinton denying acceptance of appointment as commissioner of accounts for New York State. Mentions Robert Morris.	1783-10-14	1	80
Sherburne, Henry	Certificate supporting claim of three RI regiments to payment by the US government.	1792-07-25	1	81
Smith, James Youngs	Receipt for public document.	n.d.	1	82
Spooner, William	Certificate of enlistment in the Regiment of Artillery. Signed by Henry Burbeck and John Crane.	1782-06-18	1	83
Sullivan, John	Draft for payment to Jonathan Arnold for service to the hospital.	1778-08-03	1	84
Swain, Charles	Morning, noon, and night. Poem.	n.d.	1	85
Tousard, Lewis	Dimensions of a vessel load of oak wood to be delivered to Tousard in Newport.	1799-09-24	1	86
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	1	87
Turner, Peter	Bill for rations.	1778-07-20	1	88
Turner, Peter	Signature. Includes portrait of Daniel Turner, MD (Peter's father).	1789	1	89
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	2	132
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	1	90
Van Zandt, Charles Collins	Letter to Elisha Hunt Rhodes regarding the fact that Newport cannot entertain the 2nd RI Regiment except on July 4th.	1880-06-21	1	91

Van Zandt, Charles Collins	Letter to W.J. Bradford declining attendance at the meeting of the 2nd RI Volunteers.	1877-07-19	1	92
Vaughan, Henry	Poem. A Second Psalm of Life.	1838-12-29	1	93
Walley, John	Draft. Mentions Taunton, Bristol, and Little Compton.	1689-01-18	1	94
Waterman, Nathaniel	Deposition. Signed by John Dexter, Justice of the Peace. Mentions Warwick and Boston. Mentions Gideon Croford.	1698-12-30	1	95
Welles, Gideon	Orders from the Navy Department.	1864-05-25	1	96
Wheaton, Frank	Letter to Henry M. Benedict stating he will obtain requested autographs as soon as possible. He has been very busy in valley of Virginia with Sheridan.	1864-12-13	1	97
Whipple, Abraham	Letter to 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	1	98
Whipple, Abraham	Letter to General Lincoln with 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	1	99
Whipple, R.R.*	Letter to Russell Greene Arnold regarding safe return from trip to visit him. Includes family details. Whipple is married to Arnold's sister.	1833-11-05	2	133
Whipple, R.R.*	Family letter to his parents.	1832-12-02	2	134
Whitman, Sarah Helen Power	Poem. The Last Flowers.	1855-10-19	1	100
Whitman, Sarah Helen Power	Letter to Eugene Lemoine Didier requesting to make changes to a manuscript. Mentions articles about Edgar Allan Poe.	1876-09-15	1	101
Whitman, Sarah Helen Power*	Letter to Eugene Lemoine Didier. Includes copy of Edgar Allan Poe bibliography, but asks for it returned.	1876-09-22	2	135

	Has known of one or two copies of Tamerlane. Includes etching of a bust of Whitman.			
Winship, George Parker	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold regarding sending a check for a book.	1900-05-26	1	102
Winship, George Parker	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold 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	1	103
Winship, George Parker	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold concerning 1639 Psalter for sale at Libbie's.	1912-01-29	1	104
Winship, George Parker	Letter to Fred Augustus Arnold with list of manuscripts which he will keep for exhibition at John Carter Brown Library.	1913-12-03	1	105
Winsor, Justin	Letter to unidentified recipient. Giving sources for information on early American imprints.	1885-05-14	1	106
Winter, William*	Letter to Edmund Clarence Stedman regarding joining Century Club if he can find enough money for the fees. Mentions George Arnold. Includes portrait of Winter.	1866-08-26	2	136
Wolcott, Charles	Promissory note promising to pay Samuel Allyn.	1721-08-29	1	107
Wolcott, Henry	Assignment of balance of legacy to brother-in-law Samuel Allyn.	1710-04-28	1	108
Wooster, Daniel	Summons for Jonathan Mit of New Haven.	1775-12-16	1	109

