

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Collections
086-02
Thomas Arnold letter book
1794-1825

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 086-02

Title: Thomas Arnold letter book

Creator: Arnold, Thomas, (1751-1826)
Arnold, James, (1781-1868)

Dates: 1794-1825

Quantity: 1 volume (.6 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Unknown.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Unknown.

Processed by: The item was processed by Janaya Kizzie in 2012 as part of the RI Manuscript Collection. Reprocessed as distinct collection by Kate Wells in 2019.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

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:
Thomas Arnold letter book, Special Collections, Providence Public Library

Property Rights: Property rights have been assigned to Providence Public Library.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material None

Published description Not applicable

Location of originals	Not applicable
Location of copies	Not applicable
Publication note	Not applicable
Subject headings	Providence (R.I.) - History - 18th century. Providence (R.I.) - Commerce - History. Merchants - Rhode Island - Providence. Records (documents). lcgft

SEE ALSO

017-02, Arnold Family papers

029-02, James N. Arnold collection

HISTORICAL NOTE

Thomas Arnold (1751-1826) was a lawyer with varied business interests. He was the son of Obediah Arnold and Abigail Smith and the younger brother of Welcome Arnold and Jonathan Arnold (who is a correspondent). He was an early graduate of Brown University and a member of the Society of Friends. He was an active in the anti-slavery movement through the Providence Abolition Society which worked to enforce abolition of slavery through legal intervention.

He married Mary Brown, the daughter of Obadiah Brown and had two children, Anna (1779-1865) and James Arnold (1781-1868). He lived in Smithfield, North Providence and is buried in Lincoln, RI.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection consists of a single bound volume titled "Letter Book, No. 2, Commenced [illegible] 1796". The volume contains copies of business correspondence from June 6, 1794 - Dec. 29, 1826 consisting of letters from Thomas Arnold to various business associates. The bulk of the correspondence relates to shipments of agricultural trade along the East Coast and the market for assorted trade goods including wheat, hemp, lime, cheese, barley, flour, indigo, and coffee.

Some of the more frequent correspondents include Underhill & Buckley, Spencing & Spalding, his brother Jonathan Arnold, Francis Bull and Samuel Dexter. Toward the end of the volume, many of the letters are written by his son James Arnold on behalf of Thomas Arnold.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The item is maintained in its original bound volume. Letters are chronological.