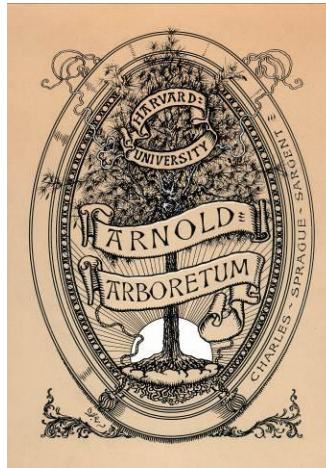


Archives I B-1 JA

**Arnold Family Collection: Guide.**



**The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University**

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## **I B-1 JA**

**Arnold Family Collection: Guide**  
**Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University**  
**125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts**

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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

**Call No.:** I B-1 JA

**Location:** Archives.

**Title:** Arnold Family Collection: Guide.

**Creator:** the Arnold Family

**Quantity:** 6 linear inches

**Language of material:** English

**Abstract:** Arnold's will specified that a portion of his estate was to be used for "...the promotion of Agricultural, or Horticultural improvements." In 1872, when the trustees of Arnold's estate transferred \$100,000 of the estate to Harvard College, Arnold's gift was combined with 123 acres of the former Benjamin Bussey "Woodland Hill" estate to create the Arnold Arboretum.

**Note:** Access to Finding Aid record in [HOLLIS](#).

**Preferred Citation:** Arnold Family Collection. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

**Additional Material:** See also [The Genesis of the Arnold Arboretum](#) by Hugh M. Raup

### **Processing Information**

Lisa Pearson 2001, revised Larissa Glasser, Sheila Connor 2012. Revised Larissa Glasser 2023.

### **Acquisition Information**

**Provenance:** The material was assembled, over time, as Arboretum staff either wrote about James Arnold and his family or received information from other sources.

### **Terms of Access**

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### Historical Note

James Arnold (1781-1868), son of Thomas and Mary (Brown) Arnold, was born in Providence, Rhode Island on September 9, 1781. His parents were members of the Society of Friends and he was raised in the Quaker faith. He came to New Bedford, Massachusetts as a youth to enter into the business of William Rotch, a merchant whose family had established the whaling industry in New England prior to the American Revolution. Arnold later became a partner and married Rotch's granddaughter Sarah on October 29, 1807. Sarah Rotch Arnold (1786-1860) was very well respected in her time as a woman of impressive intellect, culture and who had a great compassion for the poor. She is also credited with the creation of the Arnold's extensive gardens. In 1821 Arnold erected a Federal style brick mansion in New Bedford (now the Wamsutta Club). He was among a number of successful businessmen from the area who became interested in agriculture and horticulture and he was one of the founders of the New Bedford Horticultural Society in 1847. He opened his private gardens to the public, at the time an unusual and highly regarded act.



*Arnold, James (1781-1868) and Family*



Sarah Rotch Arnold

The Arnolds entertained John Quincy Adams in 1835 and again in 1843. Arnold and his wife and daughter, Elizabeth Rotch Arnold (1809-1860) traveled in Europe for three years beginning in 1836. It was during this trip that the painting "James Arnold and Family" was completed.

James Arnold died in 1868 in New Bedford, outliving both his wife and daughter. Arnold's will specified that a portion of his estate was to be used for "...the promotion of Agricultural, or Horticultural improvements." One of the trustees of his will, George Barrell Emerson (1797-1881) suggested the sum be paid to Harvard University to found an organization devoted to that purpose on the land in Jamaica Plain that had previously been willed to the College by Benjamin Bussey (1757-1842).

In 1872, when the trustees transferred \$100,000 of his estate to Harvard, Arnold's gift was combined with 123 acres of the former Benjamin Bussey "Woodland Hill" estate to create the Arnold Arboretum. In the deed of trust between the Arnold trustees and the College, income from Arnold's legacy was to be used for establishing, developing, and maintaining an arboretum to be known as the Arnold Arboretum which "shall contain, as far as practicable, all the trees [and] shrubs ... either indigenous or exotic, which can be raised in the open air of West Roxbury."

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists primarily of secondary source information about the Arnold and Rotch families of New Bedford. Also included is an oil painting and a portrait as well as Pietre Dure table and correspondence between the administration of the

Arnold Arboretum and various donors as well as with other Harvard entities dating from the 1950s-1990s.

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 1 series:

**Series I:** Biographical Material

### Container List

#### Box 1

#### Series I: Biographical Material

#### Folder

##### 1: James Arnold,

- "James Arnold" by Hartley Spencer, written in hand at end, manuscript, typed 3p., date stamped May 13, 1935, embossed Arnold Arboretum Library
- "Introduction to an Arboretum." *The Bulletin of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society and Whaling Museum*, Winter 1964, 4p.
- "The Man whose Name Arboretum Carries" newspaper clipping, undated
- Listing of archival holding Dartmouth Historical Society pertaining to Arnold, printout, 1p.

##### 2: Photographs

- "Arnold, James (1781-December 3, 1868) Founder of the Arnold Arboretum," on verso seated in chair, 3½"x2" print mounted on board, faded
- "Arnold, James (1781-December 3, 1868) Founder of the Arnold Arboretum," on verso, seated in chair, close-up and slightly different pose from previous image, ½"x2" print mounted on board, also 9"x6" b&w enlargement
- "Arnold, James (1781-December 3, 1868) Founder of the Arnold Arboretum. Photograph of 1. Bust; 2. Portrait [both?] in the Free Public Library, New Bedford, Mass. Photo. Obtained through Mr. Geo. H. Tripp, January 29, 1927," on verso, both images mounted on board, image of bust 5½"x2½", image of portrait 5"x4½"
- "Arnold, James (1791-1868) Separate print from Arnold Arb. Bull of Pop. Info. ser. 4, 8:5. 1940," on verso, paper, appears to have been removed from the publication, another copy Arnold with George B. Emerson, both mounted on same board, nothing on either recto or verso, published in [The Genesis of the Arnold Arboretum](#) by Hugh M. Raup, *Arnold Arboretum Bulletin of Popular Information*, Ser. 4, 1940, Plate 1 copy of publication included.
- [James Arnold] mounted on board, nothing on recto, only "James Arnold return to Arnold" handwritten in crayon on verso 5"x3¾" print, appears to be a photograph of taken of image of James Arnold published in [History of New Bedford and its vicinity, 1620-1892](#) by Leonard Bolles Ellis
- Portrait of James Arnold, by Narcisse Othon, drawing, Fogg Museum, 9"x7" b&w print. May be reproduced with permission only, see verso of print

**3:** [Will of James Arnold](#) [spine title], 2 copies, 1 bound volume, library accession number 30345, acquired August 1915 and one photocopy annotated by Ida Hay

**4:** [Potter, William James]. [A Tribute to the Memory of James Arnold](#) Funeral Sermon, 2 copies, one bound, 1 photocopy with annotations by Ida Hay

- 5:** [Potter, William James]. [To the memory of Mrs. Sarah R. Arnold, this Discourse Preached in the First Congregational Church, New Bedford, Sunday, May 13 1860 is Reverently inscribed W.J. Potter](#) Sarah Arnold Funeral Sermon, 1 pamphlet 17p. 1 photocopy annotated by Ida Hay
- 6:** Arnold, Rotch, Crapo Families
- [The Rotches](#) by John Bullard, excerpts, annotated and organized by Ida Hay, photocopies
  - [Seafaring in Colonial Massachusetts](#) excerpts, annotated by Ida Hay, photocopies
  - [Lumberman from Flint](#) by Martin Deming Lewis, excerpts, annotated and organized by Ida Hay, photocopies
  - *The Story of Henry Howard Crapo 1804-1869*. [New Bedford, Mass.]: the author, 1933, excerpts, annotated by Ida Hay, photocopies
  - The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, New Bedford Mass., colored brochure
  - "William Rotch Junior" handwritten at top, typed document [by] Arthur G. Rotch, 1p., photocopy  
[University of Michigan-Flint, Frances Willson Thompson Library, Genesee Historical Collections Center Henry Howland Crapo Family Papers](#), printout of webpage, 14p.
- 7:** Arnold Mansion
- ["The Arnold Mansion and its Traditions"](#) by Zephaniah W. Pease, *Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches*, 52, June 1924, bound copy
  - *Brave Houses and Flowery Gardens of Old New Bedford*, Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, 1976, includes photographs of William Rotch, Jr., and James Arnold houses [48p.] Gift of John L. Thorndike, includes letter from Thorndike to Bob [Cook], March 7, 2003
  - "The Wamsutta Club" [formerly the James Arnold house], pamphlet
  - National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form. Includes bibliography
- 8:** Elizabeth Arnold, portrait, and correspondence
- Alice E. S. Bliss, New Bedford, MA to [Karl Sax, Director], Arnold Arboretum. May 21, 1952
  - Karl Sax to Alice E. S. Bliss. May 26, 1952
  - Miriam [Stewart?], Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA to Carol [David?], [Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library]. September 24, 2001. attached photocopies from Mongan, Agnes. *David to Corot: French Drawings in the Fogg Art Museum*. Edited by Miriam Stewart. Harvard University Press, 1996
    - Title page
    - p. 262, Narcisse Othon, active in Paris 1837 (?) - 1847
      - Figure 289: Portrait of James Arnold, 1837
      - Figure 290: Portrait of Mrs. James Arnold, 1837
      - Figure 291: Portrait of Elizabeth Arnold, 1837
    - three pages of photocopied enlargements: Figures 289, 290, and 291
- 9:** Arnold, James (1781-1868) and Family, portrait, correspondence

- Arnold Arboretum: University Portraits. Robert Scott Lauder (Edinburgh, 1803-1869, Edinburgh). *Arnold, James (1781-1868) and Family*. 1837, oil on canvas. 108.59 cm. x 83.5 cm. Gift of Mr. Arthur Rotch, 1958, to Harvard for the Arnold Arboretum. H574. Harvard University Art Museums [database of objects] laser printed sheet, 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" x 11". March 19, 1998
- Arthur G. Rotch, Secretary and Treasurer, Committee of the Permanent Charity Fund, Inc. Boston, MA to Richard A. Howard, Director, Arnold Arboretum. November 20, 1957
- Arthur G. Rotch, to Richard A. Howard. November 25, 1957
- Richard A. Howard to Arthur G. Rotch, copy. December 12, 1957
- Arthur G. Rotch, to Richard A. Howard. December 16, 1957
- Richard A. Howard to Professor M. Meiss, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. January 30, 1958. 2 items attached:
  - handwritten note [by Howard?] reads "Report to chairman Prof. John Phillips Coolidge, Chairman of Arts. [D]ecide where we want it hung."
  - Receipt, Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University. "Attn. Miss Whitehouse. 1 painting, framed, artist unknown. Portrait of Arnold family. Came by truck. For opinions and to be photographed." January 23, 1958
- Helen C. Morrell, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Assistant to the President, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA to Howard. February 24, 1958
- D.W. Bailey, Secretary, President and Fellows of Harvard College in Cambridge to Howard. copy to Arthur G. Rotch. Formal statement of thanks to Rotch for donation of James Arnold family portrait to Arnold Arboretum. copy. February 17, 1958
- John Coolidge, Fogg Arts Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge MA to Arthur Rotch. February 26, 1958
- Arthur G. Rotch to Howard. February 28, 1958
- Howard to Arthur G. Rotch. copy. February 28, 1958
- Arthur G. Rotch to Howard. March 3, 1958
- Howard to John Coolidge. copy. March 6, 1958
- Howard to Arthur G. Rotch. copy. March 6, 1958
- John Coolidge to Arthur G. Rotch. March 13, 1958
- Arthur G. Rotch to John Coolidge. March 17, 1958
- Richard C. Kugler, Director, Old Dartmouth Historical Society Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA to Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Whittier, Medfield, MA. October 23, 1979
- George Putnam, Office of the Treasurer, Harvard University, Boston, MA to Nathaniel Whittier. October 10, 1980
- Lucretia H. Giese, Acting Curator, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA to Peter Ashton, Director, Arnold Arboretum. November 26, 1980
- Lucretia H. Giese to Peter Ashton. August 4, 1981
- Nathaniel Whittier, Medfield, MA to Richard A. Howard. August 6, 1981
- Peter S. Ashton to Nathaniel Whittier. copy to Richard C. Kugler, George Putnam, and Richard A. Howard. September 10, 1981
- Louise Ambler, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA to Peter Arnold [sic--*Ashton*]. September 29, 1981. attached article, copy:
  - "From an exhibition catalogue of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society Whaling Museum, ca. 1971, sent by Richard C. Kugler, Director."

Lyman G. Bullard, Thomas A. Buffum Associates, Boston, MA to Peter Ashton. May 2, 1984

- Sandra Grindlay, Curator, University Portrait Collection and Manager, University Loans Program, Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA to Robert Cook, Director, Arnold Arboretum. April 21, 1998
  - Illustrated.
- "From an exhibition catalogue of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society Whaling Museum, ca. 1971, sent by Richard C. Kugler, Director." Copy with handwritten annotations by Ida Hay.

**10:** Arnold, James (1781-1868) and Family, portrait, photographic reproductions

- Arnold, James, his wife and daughter. From a painting in possession of Arthur Rotch, 197 Commonwealth Ave. Boston. Photo. By F.A. Saunderson, Boston, Mass. See "The Arnold Mansion and it's traditions," by W. Pease, Old Dartmouth historical sketches, no. 52." On verso of board, 9½"x7½", b&w print, 4 additional 7"x9" b&w prints and 2, 8"x10" b&w prints of the portrait within its frame. Also includes slide of the Arnold Family Table while at the Harvard University Herbaria Building, 22 Divinity Avenue c1980-1994.

#### Arnold Family Table

Pietre Dure Table, mahogany or walnut, various stones and marble inlaid in top, height 30½" diameter 53", 1840s

"Through the interest of Mrs. Augustus H. Eustis and Mrs. Frederic Channing Bowditch, descendants of James Arnold, the Arboretum received as a gift an interesting association piece the form of an elaborate table formerly owned by James Arnold. This is a round table, fifty-three inches in diameter, the top being a mosaic of polished ornamental marbles, semiprecious and other stones, and it now graces the conference room in the Administration Building. *Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941. Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 22, 1941



The table was transferred to the Harvard University Herbaria, 22 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1956 and was returned to Jamaica Plain in 1994 by Robert

Cook, Director of the Arboretum and resides in the Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library's Reading Room.