

epitomes of facts but only as a representation of
the spirit which animates the whole history of the State.
with just enough facts scattered along to serve as illustra-
-tions of the several points - So you it will only be
reasonable for the 30th page -

Having thus put you in possession of an authentic
genealogy back to the English ancestor - & supplied
you with the great illustrative fact in the life
of Jonathan Arnold I have only to thank
you for the 2 pamphlets, which shall be duly presented
to the N. J. Hist. Soc. from you, this week, and to
beg that as a member of the family I may not
be forgotten in the distribution of copies of your
address upon the occasion of erecting a monument, as
I presume you will prepare the motion for that occasion

Very R. White Esq
St Johnsbury Vt
Yours obedt servt.
S. G. Arnold

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Providence Oct. 30. 1855

Dear Sir.

I received your favor of 16th with two
pamphlets on my return from a short absence
from home hasten to supply your wants so far
as may be in my power. - From a relative who
has paid much attention to the genealogy of the
family I obtained this morning the accompanying
sketch of the Vermont branch back to the English Tho^s
who never left Eng^d. but whose son Tho^s came to this country
whose son Richard is the common ancestor of my branch &
of the Vt. branch - a half brother of Tho^s, named William
came to N. J. into Roger Williams. English Tho^s had 2 wives
& Wm preceded his half brother Tho^s by some years in coming over.
My great grandfather Jonathan Arnold was our cousin
of Jonathan who settled St Johnsbury & who had 3 wives
of the 3^d wife the sole issue was Samuel H. - who died a few
years ago - & was a prominent man having been Governor
of the State & member of Congress. - The son of Samuel

Hastings Arnold, bearing his Father's name, resided in this city until within a year when he removed to Boston, where you will probably find him if you have occasion to address him —

Our Jonathan was also a very distinguished man in his time — taking a leading part in the preliminary agitations of the Revolution — It has never yet been fully acknowledged by historians, what records prove, that Rhode Island was first foremost in the struggle for freedom. Massachusetts has claimed everything & the claim has been tacitly admitted for want of evidence in behalf of other colonies. We have been strangely, perhaps culpably, negligent in historical matters, & content with the fame of establishing that great principle of Religious freedom which was initiated here in direct opposition to the system of the Puritans. — That was a grand point to be sure, glory enough perhaps for one state — & for such "a little state" as men say who forget that the Grecian republics were greater than Rome in moral & political power, & even smaller than R.I. in territorial extent. — But I am getting on a theme that

would be tedious to you from its amplitude if I attempted to do it justice — To be brief then, & for your sake to set forth what must inevitably be the prime feature of your discourse, as startling to other states as it is honorable to R.I., & glorious to the great patriot whom you are to eulogize, I will state that Rhode Island is by just two months the oldest independent State in America — That on the 4th May 1776 her Genl. Assembly passed an act abjuring allegiance to the British Crown. It was the solemn, deliberate, desperate act of a sovereign State — & that night saw couriers despatched to all the colonies with the thrilling news. That act, the original draft of it, is in the handwriting of Jonathan Arnold who afterwards moved to Vermont. A document so remarkable, & yet for reasons before given so little known, should immortalise its author. The preamble is more terse than the Declaratⁿ of 4th July. The whole thing will speak for itself. That you may see this noble instrument I take the liberty of sending you the only pamphlet in which it is preserved to my knowledge — being an address of my own delivered nearly 3 years ago — of which I can only say that it was not intended as an