

**THE RECORDS OF THE  
PROPRIETORS OF THE  
NARRAGANSETT: OTHERWISE  
CALLED THE FONES RECORD,  
VOL. I**

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The records of the proprietors of the Narragansett: otherwise called the Fones record, Vol. I by James N. Arnold

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**JAMES N. ARNOLD**

**THE RECORDS OF THE  
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NARRAGANSETT: OTHERWISE  
CALLED THE  
FONES RECORD, VOL. I**



THE RECORDS OF THE  
PROPRIETORS OF THE NARRAGANSETT,

OTHERWISE CALLED

THE FONES RECORD.

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Rhode Island Colonial Gleanings

VOLUME I.

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BY JAMES N. ARNOLD,

EDITOR OF THE NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER, COMPILER  
VITAL RECORDS OF RHODE ISLAND, ETC.

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PROVIDENCE, R. I.:  
NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1894.

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WORKS BY JAMES N. ARNOLD.

Narragansett Historical Register, 8 Vols., 1882 to 1891.

Aylesworth Genealogy.

Church Genealogy.

Vital Record of Rhode Island 6 Vols., viz:

Vol. I, Kent Co.

Vol. II, III, Providence Co.

Vol. IV, Newport Co.

Vol. V, Washington Co.

Vol. VI, Bristol Co.

The Supplement now in course of preparation

Rhode Island Colonial Gleanings.

Vol. I, The Fones Record.

Other volumes in preparation.

Also in Course of Preparation and will be published when patronage will warrant. A Visitation to the Cemeteries and Burial grounds of Rhode Island.

This will be the authors greatest and most unique work.

## Introductory Note.

The importance of the "Fones Records" require that they should be annotated, but the peculiar situation and condition of our State Records are such that the proper care and attention they deserve cannot now be given them. In order therefore that this record may have the attention it deserves, the compiler publishes them in their present form and intends to publish some time, in the future notes explanatory, historical and critical illustrating the matter here treated. He wishes therefore that all readers who have anything that will aid him or any suggestions or can refer him to any authorities that will be of service to him, to do so. The Narragansett History is of great interest to New England and it is the sincere wish of the compiler that all evidence bearing on the subject may come before him that he may be enabled to present in this work, this historical gem Rhode Island is so justly entitled too.

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## Introduction.

THE FONES RECORDS beyond all doubt, are the most historic Land Evidence compilation extant to day in New England. The fate of our state at one time depended upon the success or failure of the scheme recorded in this work. Samuel Cranston successfully overbrewed the whole matter and to reward him the People of the State elected and re-elected him Governor until his death he serving them in this office near thirty years. If political fortunes were made;

fortunes also were ruined by the exposure. In the whole it was a very severe lesson unto all engaged in it and a warning to these who have not learned the lesson, that even the best laid plans of men go often wrong.

In regard to the preservation in print of our Colonial Records both Town and State, our people have been very indifferent, not to say careless. Such an institution as a Historical Society we have in name only. What has been done in the line of historical and genealogical preservation has been undertaken and carried through entirely by independent sources. We know by our own personal experience that where we should have looked for encouragement, kindly advice, and friendly interest, we found our bitterest enemies and such that even went outside of truth to work us an injury. Our path, not over pleasant at the best, has been rendered very disagreeable by men whose extreme selfishness have given very narrow-minded conceptions of literary qualifications. While we have had many things unpleasant to contend against, we have also had things encouraging and peculiarly pleasant.

One of these pleasant features happened to us in January, 1891, when with the advice of friends we prepared a petition to the City Council of Providence to have the Early Records placed in print. Our petition was also signed by a number of scholarly and thoughtful gentlemen in full accord and sympathy with us in our laudable work and they aided us in our effort. This petition was favorably acted upon. The result was that a start was made and has been since continued until now, ( March 1894, ) the 5th volume is before us in print.

We have always had a pride in this matter that we accomplished the work with our friends, aid of started and putting into successful operation so desirable a work.

To show more fully the matter, we here publish the original papers.



To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Providence :

The undersigned respectfully represents that it has become a matter of the utmost importance that steps be at an early day taken to preserve the early records of the town of Providence by printing the same after the general form and in the manner pursued by the city of Boston.

The undersigned having had large experience in deciphering and printing old records, would respectfully ask your Honorable Body to raise a special committee, who shall consider this matter ; here your petitioner, in further explanation, examine the printed books of the Boston Records, which your petitioner will exhibit, and report to your Honorable Body the plan found most feasible for preserving our early records, which are of such inestimable value.

JAMES N. ARNOLD.

We, the undersigned citizens of the city of Providence hereby respectfully recommend the foregoing petition to your favorable consideration, fully recognizing the great importance thereof.

J. ERASTUS LESTER.  
 G. M. CARPENTER.  
 E. C. MOWRY.  
 C. H. GEORGE.  
 AMASA M. EATON.  
 E. BENJ. ANDREWS.  
 REUBEN A. GUILD.  
 HENRY R. BARKER.  
 J. O. AUSTIN.  
 GEO. T. HART.  
 CHARLES W. HOPKINS.

Presented by John E. Kendrick and referred to Committee on Education January 19, 1891.

( From Providence Journal and Bulletin Jan. 20, 1891. )

“ Mr. John E. Kendrick presented the petition of G. M. Carpenter et al. to preserve the early records of the town of Providence. Referred to the Committee on Education.”

( January 19, 1891. )

IN COMMON COUNCIL.

Of G. A. Carpenter et al. relative to preserving the early records of the town of Providence. To the Committee on Education.

Read. Thereupon it is ordered that the same be received.

Passed in Common Council March 2, 1891. In Board of Aldermen March 5, 1891.

( Copy of Records of the Common Council March 2, 1891 )

“ Upon recommendation of the Committee on Education a resolution is read and passed appointing a Record Commission to and appropriating the sum of \$1000. Therefore, the roll being call as follows: Ayes 36. Noes none, absent or not voting 4.”

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

John E. Kendrick, Chairman ; George E. Barstow, Edward S. Aldrich, John J. Gilmartin, Alderman Elisha Dyer.

No. 115. Report of the Joint Committee on Education Relative to Printing Old Town Records.

( Presented March 2, 1891. )

To the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence :

The Joint Standing Committee of the City Council on Education, to whom was referred in Board of Aldermen, July 2, 1890, and in Common Council, January 19, 1891. petitions praying that the early records of the town may be printed, respectfully report :

That there are several ancient books of record in the offices of the City Clerk, of the Clerk of the Municipal Court and of the Recorder of Deeds, which are in such a condition, from long use, that the preservation of their valuable contents can be accomplished only by reproducing

them in a substantial and permanent form. These records are highly valuable ; first, as furnishing material for the very important and interesting early history of the town ; and, secondly, as furnishing evidence by deeds, layouts, wills and many other particulars of the greatest consequence in tracing and proving the ownership and descent of property. In their present condition, they are in large part legible only by experts, and they are subject to the changes of destruction from wear and accident.

Your committee are of the opinion that these records should be reproduced by printing rather than by writing. The printed will be more legible, can be examined by several investigators at the same time, will not be subject to mischievous alteration, and the possession of a number of copies will enable the city to make to other Municipal Governments and to Public Libraries such distribution of these monumental records of our early history as may seem proper.

They have endeavored to ascertain approximately the cost of such printed copies, but they find that a careful examination of the record books must first be made in order to determine how many volumes require to be reproduced, and in what style it is best that they be printed. They therefore recommend that this work be begun by the appointment of a Commission, with authority to do the preliminary work, and produce one volume of copies in a manner worthy of the importance of the work. On the completion of this volume, the Commission will be able to report much more definitely than can be estimated, the probable extent and cost of the work, and the City Council can better decide when and how far it is advisable to continue.

The committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the accompanying resolution.

JOHN E. KENDRICK, Chairman.

No. 116. Resolution Appointing a Commission to Print the Old Town Records.