

## ⑥ Hampden Meadows Greenbelt



The land between the two branches of the Sowams River (now known as the Palmer and Barrington Rivers), was

known as Chachacust by the Pokanoket Tribe and New Meadow Neck by the European settlers. It received this latter name as early as 1653.

The appendage of “Hampden” to the New Meadow Neck name was given by the Rhode Island Historical society in honor of John Hampden, the Plymouth colonist who visited Massasoit Osamequin along with Edward Winslow in 1623.

The Greenbelt trail begins on Linden Road and runs half a mile north to the Kent Street Skating Pond which functions during the summer as a long-hydroperiod vernal pool.

The Trail is open daily from dawn to dusk. Parking at the trailhead is limited.

## ⑦ Tyler Point Cemetery



In 1680, following the King Philip War, the meeting house's location was changed from Nockum Hill to what was then called “a place

of trade” and is today called Tyler Point on New Meadow Neck.

A cemetery, now at the end of Tyler Point Road, was established in 1702 adjacent to this second Baptist meetinghouse, led by Rev. John Myles. The center of settlement shifted easterly to Brooks Pasture, platted in 1682, that became the Town of Warren in 1747.

Moses Tyler, a Boston shipbuilder, inherited the east shore of the point from his father-in-law, Edward Luther, in the 1750s and developed a shipyard, giving Tyler Point its name. Access is by Tyler Point Road off County Road (Route 103) between the Warren and Barrington bridges.

## ⑧ Myles Garrison Marker



Though the building is no longer there, the site of the original Myles Garrison House that was used at the opening of the King Philip War in

1675 to house Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colony troops from Boston is marked by a large stone marker and bronze plaque located at the intersection of Barneyville and Old Providence Roads in Swansea. The area later became an important shipyard.

The plaque on the stone monument lists the names of those slain in the War which began in June, 1675, just a few miles from this site, in what today is the Town of Warren. Over 300 troops arrived and marched to what today is the Town of Bristol in search of King Philip, the Pokanoket leader who led strikes on 25 colonial settlements in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The King Philip War ended in August, 1676, with Philip's death in Bristol.

## ⑨ King's Rock on Sachem's Knoll



King's Rock is located on the west side of Market Street (Route 136) near the Swansea-Warren line on Sachem's Knoll where ab-

original people from all over New England used to celebrate their victories in tribal wars and talk about their peace treaties. On the top of this Rock can be seen a long groove where Indian women were said to have ground their corn.

A balanced or “perched” rock that may have been placed by indigenous people sits on private property on the east side of Market Street across from King's Rock. Rocks like this were used to mark celestial events like the vernal equinox and the position of the stars, as well as for ceremonial purposes. Parking is available on the south-bound side of Market Street at Johnson's Market.

## ⑩ Martin House in Swansea



Originally thought to be constructed in the late 1600s, the 1728 Martin House on Stony Hill Road at Route 6 in Swansea offers an opportunity to see

how people lived in the latter half of the 17th century.

The original house consisted of a one-room dwelling with a loft above and an outside chimney. A lean-to, added in the rear, was the first expansion. The early portion of the house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, is now used as a parlor. The later additions to the house include a fireplace with a beehive oven.

A replica of a chair said to be used by King Philip is on display, and armor similar to what was used during the King Philip War are on display in the house which can be visited on Sundays from July through September from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for a small donation to the The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

## ⑪ Abrams Rock



Village Park behind the Swansea Town Hall features several unusual conglomerate rock formations, otherwise known as

“puddingstones”, including Abram's Rock, Wildcat Rock and Lion Rock.

Abrams Rock, the largest of the outcroppings, was named for a Pokanoket Indian who is said to have deserted his tribe. Tribal leader King Philip, the legend has it, agreed to take him back if he could survive three jumps from the top of the Rock. He safely survived the first two leaps but died on the third.

The Rock may be found by following a trail at the back of Village Park behind Town Hall and the Library on Main Street in Swansea Village. Village Park is open from dawn to dusk.

# Take a Tour of 17th Century Barrington & Swansea



Including:

Sowams Woods  
Osamequin Native Preserve  
Joseph Martin House  
First Baptist Church in Massachusetts  
Nockum Hill Cemetery  
Hampden Meadow Greenbelt  
Tyler Point Cemetery  
Myles Garrison Marker  
King's Rock on Sachem's Knoll  
Martin House in Swansea  
and Abrams Rock

Visit eleven unique places that give evidence of Barrington and Swansea in the 17th century.

Learn about dozens of other places from the 17th century in the East Bay and nearby Massachusetts on the Sowams Heritage Area website:



[SowamsHeritageArea.org](http://SowamsHeritageArea.org)

Many people think that the 17th century is gone in Barrington and Swansea. No buildings from that time survive intact, and much that was here has been transformed or covered over with new buildings. If you know where to look, however, you'll find evidence of that important time when these two towns were just starting. Each location tells part of the story that can be put together to show what initially took place here 400 years ago. Locate these eleven places on the map in this brochure, and then travel to each one on foot, by bicycle or by car to learn more about how this area started and who was here at the time. Visit the [SowamsHeritageArea.org](http://SowamsHeritageArea.org) website and find over fifty locations on-line that are part of the story of what happened in East Bay RI and nearby Massachusetts in the 17th century.

Support for this project was provided by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



**① Sowams Woods, Barrington**  
Sowams Woods, the area around Echo Lake, is believed to be an area that was set aside hundreds of years ago by the aboriginal population for women and for childbirth: a place of peace. In 2011, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust (BLCT) purchased the Sowams Woods, a pleasantly wooded property of 12 acres and home of the only nesting site in Rhode Island for the declining population of diamondback terrapins. Sowams Woods features 800 feet of front-age on Echo Lake and is located near the PIC-WILL Nature Preserve, Big Musassachus Creek salt marsh and Narragansett Bay. If approaching by car, park on Tallwood Drive, Spinnaker Drive or Lighthouse Lane, or, if cycling, use the East Bay Bicycle Path.



**② Osamequin Nature Preserve**  
The Massasot Osamequin of the Pokanoket tribe until 1661, lived in Sowams, an area that extended from what is today Providence to Bristol. The Osamequin Nature Preserve gives everyone a chance to see what a portion of Sowams may have looked like 400 years ago, while appreciating the natural beauty of the area. The Preserve lies along the northbound Wampanoag Trail, Route 114, that runs through Barrington and East Providence. The area was purchased in the 1960s through the Green Acres Program. It has an extensive trail system that leads to views of Hundred Acre Cove and nearby marshlands, with benches placed throughout. The area was noted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be one of the 50 most important coastal marshes between Long Island and Cape Cod.



**③ Joseph Martin House**  
The original part of the John Martin House at 127 Massachusetts Avenue in Barrington is the oldest surviving structure in the town. The eastern section was built c. 1680 as one of Rhode Island's two-story stone-enders. A brick and stone end chimney replaced the one in an earlier house that was burned in the King Philip War of 1675-76. Captain John Martin enlarged the house to the present-day five-bay facade in the mid-18th century. Research shows that the second floor was used as a ballroom to entertain guests. Martin family members lived in this house from the time it was built until 1863. The house is currently privately owned but can easily be seen from the street.



**④ Nockum Hill Cemetery**  
Nockum Hill is the site of the earliest burial ground in Barrington, containing graves of English settlers who settled the area in the 17th century and fought in the King Philip War. The cemetery was started in 1663 close to the nearby First Baptist Church. A quarter-mile trail leads to the burial ground from an entrance on Warren Avenue marked by a chain between two posts and a Rhode Island Historical Cemetery sign. The path runs to the right of a private house at 671 Warren Avenue, Barrington. Hundred Acre Cove, the only home of the diamondback terrapin in Rhode Island, is easily visible from the cemetery or from the Doug Rayner Wildlife Sanctuary at the end of George Street nearby, located just off of Warren Avenue.



The First Baptist Church in Massachusetts, founded in 1663 and now in Barrington, RI, was the oldest Baptist congregation in Massachusetts and one of the oldest in the United States. The congregation was founded in 1663 by the Reverend John Myles along with Nicholas Tanner, James Brown, Joseph Carpenter, John Butterworth, Eldred Kingsley and Benjamin Albany. A bronze plaque on George Street marks the approximate location of the early church building which was then moved to Tyler Point in Barrington in 1680 and finally, in 1700, to the Church's current location at 21 Baptist Street in Swansea. The monument is next to the entrance to the Doug Rayner Wildlife Sanctuary which is open to the public and affords views of Hundred Acre Cove.

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