

#### ④ Little Neck Cemetery, East Providence



Little Neck Cemetery at the south end of Read Street below Allen Avenue in Riverside contains the graves of John Brown, Jr. who purchased Wannamoissett from Massasoit in 1643; Elizabeth Tilley, a passenger on the 1620 Mayflower voyage to Plymouth; and Captain Thomas Willett, who settled in Rehoboth in 1643 and later served as the mayor of New York City in 1665 and 1667.

Elizabeth Tilley Howland (c. Aug 1607 – December 21, 1687) participated in the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth and was present at the first meeting between the Pilgrims and the Pokanoket Tribe, later known as the First Encounter. She was one of the few original Pilgrims to live to see King Philip's War. She died in Swansea.

#### ⑤ Sowams Woods, Barrington



The area around Sowams Woods is believed to be an area set aside hundreds of years ago by

the indigenous population for women and for childbirth, a place of peace.

In 2011, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust 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 frontage on Echo Lake and is located near the PIC-WILL Nature Preserve, Big Mussachuck Creek salt marsh and Narragansett Bay.

If approaching by car, park on Tallwood Drive, Spinnaker Drive or Lighthouse Lane. On bicycle, use the East Bay Bicycle Path.

#### 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.

This latter name it received as early as 1653. The appendage of "Hampden" to the New Meadow Neck area was given by the Rhode Island Historical society, in honor of John Hampden, who visited Massasoit with Edward Winslow in 1623.

The main trail begins on Linden Road off of New Meadow Road from the East Bay Bike Path 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.

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#### ⑦ Tyler Point Cemetery



In 1680, following the King Philip War, a meetinghouse'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 eastern shore of the point from his father-in-law, Edward Luther, in the 1750s and developed a shipyard, giving Tyler Point its name.

It is easily accessed from the Bike Path by taking Tyler Point Road from County Road, Route 103, between the Warren and Barrington bridges.

#### ⑧ Burr's Hill Royal Burial Ground



Burr's Hill on the Bike Path across from the Town Beach in Warren, RI, was an aboriginal burial ground that once contained

dozens of grave sites of the people who occupied the area in the 1600s, including many chiefs.

Used as a sand and gravel source for a railroad that was constructed next to the site in 1853, many graves were looted. In an effort to protect the remaining 42 graves, librarian and amateur archaeologist Charles Carr exhumed the contents and donated them to museums in Providence, New York City, and Warren.

Following the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in 1990, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council retrieved the artifacts and reburied them at the site in Burr's Hill Park in May, 2017.

#### ⑨ Bristol's 17th Century houses



Two 17th century houses, both privately owned, still stand close to the end of the East Bay Bike Path in Bristol, RI.

The Joseph Reynolds house at 956 Hope Street is the oldest three-story house in Rhode Island. It was built by Joseph on land his father, Nathaniel Reynolds, a leather worker from Boston, had bought in 1684. It is a full three-story house, unusually large for its time.

Deacon Nathaniel Bosworth constructed the first house in the town in 1680-81 at 814 Hope Street using material shipped over from England. It began as a typical two-room, two-story house. Religious services for members of the First Congregational Church were held in the house shortly after it was built in Bristol.

# Take a Bicycle Tour of 17th Century Rhode Island



Including:

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- Buld Point, East Providence
- Wannamoissett Marker, East Providence
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- Sowams Woods, Barrington
- Hampden Meadows Greenbelt, Barrington
- Tyler Point Cemetery, Barrington
- Burr's Hill Burial Ground, Warren
- Two 17th Century Houses, Bristol

Visit nine 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)

**M**any 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.



In 1680, Providence's first wharf was erected near today's Transit Street.

Originally called Tockwotton by the aboriginal tribes, the point along the Seekonk River became known as India Point after John Brown began to bring tea and spices from the East and West Indies. India Point Park replaced the wharf after Route 195 was constructed. During the 18th century, Providence was transformed from a rural hamlet into a seaport, trading with other colonies, the West Indies, Africa, and England. India Point remained an important trade center until the end of the Great Depression.

**① India Point Park, Providence**



- ④ Little Neck Cemetery**
- ⑤ Sowams Woods**
- ⑥ Hampden Meadows Greenbelt**



**② Bold Point, East Providence**

Bold Point sits across the Seekonk River in East Providence and has views of Upper Narragansett Bay and the Seekonk River. Aboriginal people used the shallow water by the Point as a ford across the Seekonk River.

India Point, located on the other side of the river, was Providence's first port. It remained active from 1680 until the Great Depression. Its success was in part due to the large trading businesses of John Brown and his partner, John Francis, with both the East and West Indies. Bold Point is now a public park owned by the City of East Providence and is the state's largest outdoor concert venue, with the capacity for about 4,000 attendees.

**③ Wannamoisett Marker**



This granite marker sits in the sidewalk next to the Silver Spring Golf Course on Pawtucket Avenue in East Providence.

One side marks the original boundary between the town of Rehoboth and the Wannamoisett section of the Pokanoket Tribes "Sowams" land in 1620. The other side marks the town line. This purchase by John Brown from the Massasoit Osaumeguin in 1643 was the first of a series of purchases from the Pokanoket Tribe that occurred over the next twenty-five years. From the East Bay Bike Path, take Fuller Avenue east to Pawtucket Avenue and head north for a few blocks. The marker is on the west side of Pawtucket Avenue at Wheeler Avenue.

- ⑦ Tyler Point Cemetery**
- ⑧ Burr's Hill Burial Ground**
- ⑨ Bristol's 17th Century Homes**