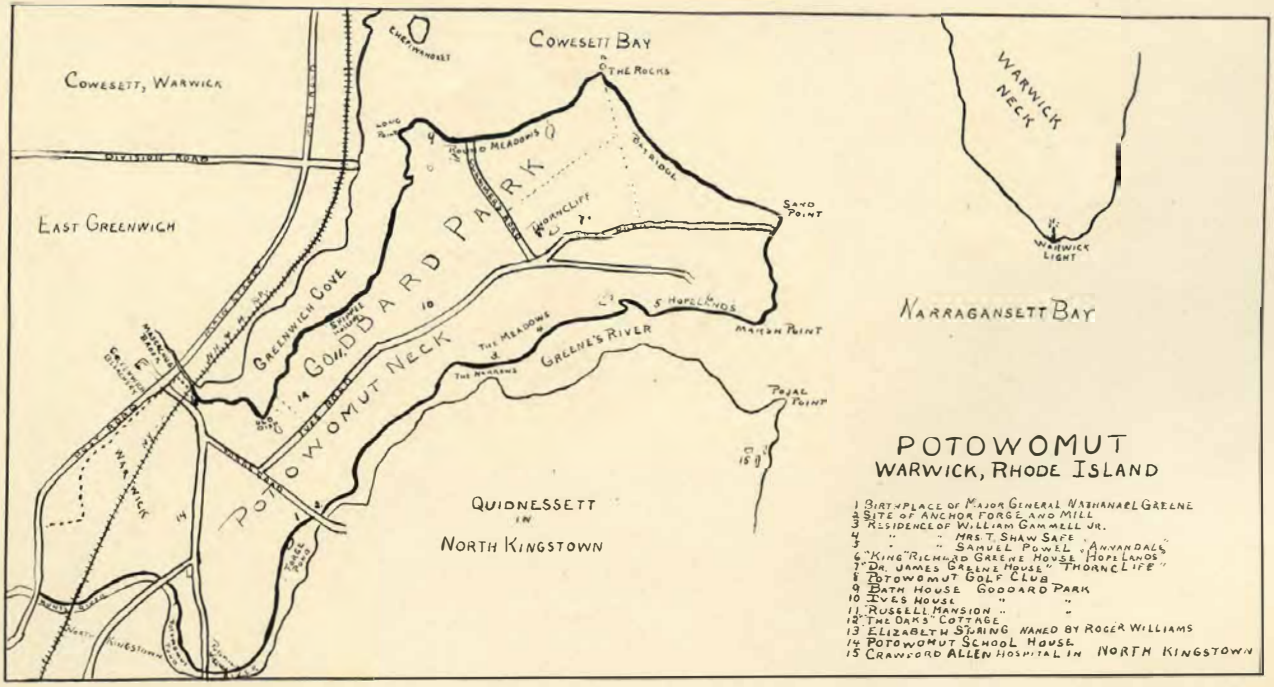
Potowomut


COWESETT, WARWICK
EAST GREENWICH
COWESETT BAY
THE ROCKS
WARWICK NECK
WARWICK LIGHT
NARRAGANSETT BAY
SAND POINT
THORNCLIFF
GREENWICH COVE
GODDARD PARK
POTOWOMUT NECK
GREENE'S RIVER
MAYDEN POINT
POGAL POINT
QUIDNESSETT
IN
NORTH KINGSTOWN
POTOWOMUT
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND
1 BIRTHPLACE OF MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE
2 SITE OF ANCHOR FORGE AND MILL
3 RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM GAMMELL JR.
4 " " MRS T. SHAW SAFE
5 " " SAMUEL POWEL "ANNANDALE"
6 "KING" RICHARD GREENE HOUSE "HOPE LANDS"
7 "DR. JAMES GREENE HOUSE" "THORNCLIFF"
8 POTOWOMUT GOLF CLUB
9 BATH HOUSE GODDARD PARK
10 IVES HOUSE " "
11 RUSSELL MANSION " "
12 "THE OAKS" COTTAGE " "
13 ELIZABETH SPRING NAMED BY ROGER WILLIAMS
14 POTOWOMUT SCHOOL HOUSE
15 CRAWFORD ALLEN HOSPITAL IN NORTH KINGSTOWN

POTOWOMUT

Warwick, Rhode Island

Printed in U. S. A. by
The Greenwich Press

POTOWOMUT

Warwick, Rhode Island

Potowomut is that section of Warwick, Rhode Island, lying across Cowesett Bay, south of Warwick Neck and between the towns of East Greenwich and North Kingstown. The Forge Road runs across this strip of land. Southwest of this road, about one third of Potowomut consists of a broad plain extending from the Boston Post Road to the Potowomut River. On the other side of the road is Potowomut Neck, a peninsula formed by Greenwich Cove, Cowesett Bay and Greene's River.

Tradition tells us that Potowomut was the favorite hunting ground of the Narragansett Indians. Its name signifies "land of fires" and it is probable that beacon fires often lighted the sky above this small neck of land long before the coming of the white men. From the surrounding higher hills and across the bay such beacon or signal lights might have called the tributary tribes of the Narragansetts to great council meetings.

There are many fresh water ponds and springs in sheltered valleys near the shore such as those at The Old Dish and Shippee Hollow which made Potowomut an attractive place for the Indians to establish villages. Some have considered that apparent remains of ancient fire-places indicate the sites of "long houses" which the Narragansetts were accustomed to build. They were located near the Old Pequot Trail.

Copyright, 1931, by Anna M. M. Lawrence

The Narragansetts were more advanced in the art of agriculture than many of the other Indians. In the early spring of each year there was a migration of members of the tribes from far inland to the sea-shore at Potowomut and elsewhere along the coast. Here they built their wigwams, planted their gardens with corn, squash and other cultivated crops and fished in both salt and fresh water.

While the men hunted and fished the women and children dried and smoked portions of meat and fish for winter consumption. Clams were strung on sinews and then dried over the fire or in the sun. Berries and wild fruits added variety to their food. From the reeds and slender withes were fashioned durable baskets to carry the harvest home in the autumn.

With the abundance of shell fish, the Indians found plenty of material for making beads. These were called wampum. First made for ornament and decoration of their costumes they were later used as barter with the tribes inland and after the arrival of the Dutch, became currency. The wampum peage was of two kinds: the white made from the periwinkle shell was more common and valued at six for an English penny; the black, made by cutting the round purple spot from the hard shell of the quahaug was worth twice as much or three for an English penny. These peage beads were polished by rubbing and then pierced and strung. A string of 720 white or 360 black beads made a fathom valued at 6s. As the supply of furs increased in the markets of Europe the value of wampum decreased to the consternation of the Indian and when the European with his metal tools began its manufacture there was no further use for wampum as currency. A few rare specimens are prized in museums today.

It would be interesting to contemplate the probable life at Potowomut before the white man came. No doubt the word of Roger Williams' arrival at Providence was quickly brought to those who gathered around the Potowomut Campfires. It is more than probable that he visited in their wigwams while he studied their language and customs.

There is a spring at the head of the Cove which Roger Williams named Elizabeth's Spring in honor of the wife of Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts.

Near the end of his life when the Narragansetts were making the supreme effort to drive off their enemies, as they had come to consider the white people, Roger Williams journeyed to the Block House of Richard Smith at Cocumcussoc to confer with white and red men in an attempt to keep peace between them. While at Smith's he wrote to Governor Winthrop, whose wife had died sometime previous, mentioning his regard for Mrs. Winthrop and his sorrow at his friend's loss.

> "Sir, I constantly think of you, and send up one remembrance to heaven for you, and a groan from myself, for myself, when I pass Elizabeth's Spring. Here is the spring, say I, with a sigh, but where is Elizabeth? My Charity answers, she is gone to the eternal spring and fountain of living waters."

Not for Elizabeth alone did Roger Williams grieve but for the passing of the Red Man who had always been his faithful friend.

Soon after the settlement at Warwick was made the lands south of the Pawtuxet River were divided among the settlers. From the southern shore at low tide Potowomut Neck stretching out into Cowesett Bay, seemed very near.

The meadows and grassy fields made it appear most desirable for the quickly increasing stock of "creatures" which the thrifty colonists were raising.

Nearly all of the surrounding territory had been sold or mortgaged to the white men by the Indians, when Taccomanan, Sachem of Potowomut, and his two sons, Awashocncs and Wawanockeshan signed the deed, drawn up by the English, on July 13, 1654, conveying Potowomut, "to Randall Holden and Ezekiel Holliman, both of Warwick, for themselves and for all the rest of the inhabitants," of said town.

The price as stated in the deed was "the just sum of fifteen pounds dewly paid and received all ready in wampum peague." It then adds that Taccomanan is to receive the value of one coat, "of such cloth as ye indeans do commonly use to wear," as an annual gratuity.

The next year the Warwick Town Council ordered that "the little Neck of land next Richard Carders land, on the north side of the creek (on the Warwick shore) should be reserved for a landing place for hay from Potaomet or for the landing of anything else----." Thus the wharf for Potowomut produce was designated.

The land at Potowomut was surveyed at once and divided into thirty-six shares. These shares on May 17, 1655, were allotted for one year to thirty-four freemen of the town of Warwick. Later these allotments were made permanent.

The price of these shares is not indicated but on September 1, 1663, the town council ordered that all the inhabitants of the town who had shares of meadow at Potowomut should bring their "peage" due for each share at the rate of 4s 2d a string. An additional amount was to be paid if Amos

Westcoket, the sergeant, was obliged to demand it after the date due. It is doubtful if many of the shares were ever occupied by their original owners. During the years between 1656 and 1680 the records show frequent sales of shares on Potowomut. To John Greene and his family four shares were given in the first allotment and before the end of the century they had acquired the greater part, if not all, of that section of Warwick.

The first settlements on Potowomut were made during the decade which followed the extermination of the Narragansetts or King Phillip's War. They were made by James Greene, at the head of the tide and by his nephew, Thomas Greene, at the mouth of the Potowomut River. Because of the activities of this family the section of the river between their homes has long been called Greene's River.

James Greene was born in England before his father, Surgeon John, brought the family to New England and associated with Roger Williams. James Greene had established a home in Warwick from which he wisely removed his family to Portsmouth during an early Indian uprising. He was well advanced in years when in 1684 he came to Potowomut. His two youngest children were born after that year. His home was on the crest of a hill looking east to the river at its base and westward across the plains of Potowomut.

His son, Jabez Greene, in company with Thomas Hill, who owned the property on the opposite bank, built a dam across the river, using the power to run a saw and grist mill. Later his descendants acquired the whole property and established an anchor forge which was succeeded by a cotton mill. Sailing vessels owned by the Greenes carried their merchandise to ports on the Bay, to Providence and as far away as Albany, New York. The Forge Factory of seventy-five and more years ago was a busy community. There were



Washing Sheep at The Old Forge Mill 1878

at least eight dwelling houses and a small store connected with the mill on the west bank of the river just below the bridge. Sabbath School, social gatherings and entertainments were held in the second story of the mill on occasions. The grist mill, where the "very best Johnny cake meal" was ground was the last industry. During the years just following 1880, nearly all of the houses were removed to other locations and the mill taken down by Rufus Waterman, a descendant of both Elihu and Christopher Greene. George H. Waterman was the last of the Greene family to own the site of the Forge Mill. It is now owned by Dr. Arthur M. Potter. The forge name still clings to the entire surroundings with the historic interest due to the activities of those early Greenes one of whom, Nathanael, born in the house on the hill, became Major General Nathanael Greene, second only to Washington in the Revolutionary War.

Across the plain at the western boundary of James Greene's estate others of his descendants erected cotton mills on the same winding river that flowed by his homestead.

They also built a small village. This village was always known as Puttywum. Even as great a person as Gilbert Stuart, referred to it thus, "When in England he was once asked where he was born, he answered with no less humor than loyalty 'In Narragansett six miles from Pottawoome'---."

Potowomut Post Office was maintained by the government from February, 1880, to October, 1894, and the trains on the railroad stopped at Potowomut Station which was erected in 1878 at the bridge above the Forge Road. Two fires, one in December, 1893, and the other the following May, which destroyed the mill and several of the dwelling houses, reduced the village to a neglected site.

A few years later, the remaining buildings were purchased by William U. Farrington, and a part used in the manufacture of starch. This is the only industry in the once thriving village of Potowomut.

In 1686, two years after James Greene settled at "The Forge", his nephew, Thomas Greene, brought his bride from the Warwick shore and made his home at the mouth of the river just above Marsh Point. The original house is probably included in Hopelands Mansion, yet there have been so many changes and additions that it is not certain. Thomas Greene was not permitted to enjoy this home for long. In the winter of 1698-99 while returning from Newport to his home his boat capsized and he was drowned. His wife and seven children continued living on his estate. His only son, John, inherited the property. John Greene became a very prosperous man. Not only did he carry on the Potowomut estate but also acquired large land holdings in Coventry, Newport and elsewhere. He raised and imported large numbers of cattle, sheep and horses. One of his sons was lost at sea while returning from trade in the West Indies.

Before his death, John Greene gave to his sons estates of their own and the Potowomut homestead became the property of Richard Greene.

Richard Greene had married and established his family at Potowomut several years before his father's death. He carried on the estate with a lavish hand and generous hospitality. On account of this he was called by many "King Richard". Of his family of fourteen children, four died in childhood and were buried in the family burial ground on the southern part of his land near "The Narrows" of the river. Tutors were employed to educate his family until they were old enough to attend boarding schools.

During the twenty years preceding the Revolutionary War, King Richard Greene's home was the scene of much gaiety and guests from the colonies as far south as South Carolina were entertained there. General Greene, in his youth, was one of the young people who enjoyed the pastimes provided. Here he formed a deep friendship for King Richard's niece, Penelope Greene, of Newport. One of the few guests bidden to Nathanael Greene's marriage to Katharine Littlefield was Mary Greene, a daughter of the house and the one on whom her father depended in his last days.

Life at Potowomut took on a different aspect with the coming of the Revolution. No longer were red coated hunting parties seen dashing through the fields; the cordial exchange of greetings with his neighbors also ceased, for the Revolution was to Richard Greene "a rebellion against lawful authority." In a letter written by his granddaughter we learn "that he never purchased soldiers certificates nor paid a debt in continental money."

When the British warships anchored in Narragansett Bay, the officers soon learned that a friendly welcome awaited them at the spacious home at the mouth of the Potowomut

River. They were not slow to accept this hospitality and frequently returned. Not only did they enjoy the food served at King Richard's table but freshly killed beef and lamb from his farm were served aboard the vessels in the bay. Although his patriotic neighbors and relatives remonstrated he did not desist until the legislature empowered an agent to purchase his corn, oats, rye, pork, sheep and beef and remove them to places of safety. This must have been a sad blow which even the memory of his generosity to the poor and his hospitality to the well-to-do could scarcely assuage.

He had suffered for some time with a most painful disease and at length, accompanied by his daughter Mary, visited Newport which was then occupied by the British, that he might have the advice of an English surgeon. While there on the nineteenth of July, 1779, his death occurred.

Richard Greene's estate was heavily in debt and for the years during and following the close of the Revolution little is known concerning it. His creditors finally, however, appealed to the legistature for a settlement of the estate.

Among the creditors were the Brown Brothers of Providence. They had often been entertained at King Richard's Potowomut home and it is probable that its nearness to the water had reminded them of their own homestead across the bay on Pappoosesquaw Point. It is certain that Nicholas Brown had intended to purchase it for his daughter, Hope.

It is said that when Nicholas Brown discovered that a romance was being enacted between his daughter and a youth who had recently entered the Brown Brothers' Counting House he spoke to her in a somewhat disapproving manner. She asked his objections to which he replied that he wished her to marry a gentleman. Quite surprised at this since she considered Thomas Poynton Ives, the young man in question, to be exactly that, she inquired what her father's requirements

of a gentleman were. "Money, wit and manners," was his answer. Hope Brown quickly responded, "I've the money and Mr. Ives has the wit and manners. Isn't that sufficient?"

That it was, is proved by their marriage, with her father's approval, in the spring of 1792. Nicholas Brown did not live to see the marriage nor to purchase the Potowomut property for a wedding gift as he had planned. However, his executors, who were his brother Moses Brown, and his son, Nicholas Brown (the benefactor for whom Brown University was named) consummated the purchase in September, 1792, and the property at Potowomut came into the possession of Hope Brown Ives, in whose family much of it remains after nearly one hundred and forty years.

When Nicholas Brown required that his daughter marry a gentleman, he expressed the ideal of the family. To be a lady or a gentleman was no meaningless title rather it was a responsibility to be carried with due respect. In their home life, in their religious life, in their interest in civic affairs and in the welfare of the city, state and country they must be an example. Their lives have exerted an influence for world betterment which will never be lost.

Immediately after the estate at Potowomut came into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Ives they sought to add to it by purchasing the adjoining land. From Elihu and Christopher Greene, of "The Forge" they purchased, in 1802, a strip of land extending across "The Neck" at its narrowest part from the Greene's River to the Cove, southward, from The Narrows and Shippee Hollow, to the line of their southern boundary, now a stone wall forming the northern boundary of the estates of Geo. B. Emmons and Mrs. Chas. E. Bentley.

"The Meadows" lying between "The Narrows" and the Hopeland estate, as the Richard Greene Homestead was renamed, was purchased of Richard Greene's granddaughters. Thus that entire section of Potowomut Neck came into the Brown and Ives family except one tract, the Paul Greene farm, which included the present Thorncliffe property of R. H. Ives Goddard with the intervening land to Long Point and The Rocks.

For many years after the death of Thomas P. Ives his wife kept an active interest in the management of the estate spending much time at Hopelands. Her children and grandchildren grew up in these surroundings. After her death, the property in 1857 was divided among her three children. Her daughter, Charlotte, who had become the wife of Professor William Giles Goddard, received the homestead, Hopelands; her son, Robert H. Ives, the land on Greene's River; and the two children of her son, Moses B. Ives, whose death had occurred soon after his mother's, received the property on the west side of Ives Road bordering on Greenwich Cove.

Upon Mrs. Goddard's death her estate, which included all of the shore line from The Rocks around Sand Point and beyond Marsh Point, was divided among her five sons and two daughters. It was expected that they would desire to build and make summer homes on their inheritance. However, only two built, William Goddard and his sister, Elizabeth. William Goddard erected a large residence, Warwick Lodge, where he entertained many notable guests. After his death his house was destroyed by fire and the property was later sold by his daughter, Mrs. C. Oliver Islin. The prosperous summer colony of Bayridge now occupies the estate.

Colonel Robert H. I. Goddard received the land north of Bayridge. During the World War, it was used as a flying field, one of the first in this part of the country. As the public were in this way drawn to Potowomut they sought it for building of homes. For years people had come to these shores for clams, quahaugs, and a day's outing. Some came for seaweed to bank their houses in winter but with the sale of the land at Sand Point, houses were built not only for summer but as year-round residences.

Moses B. I. Goddard received Hopelands, where his mother and grandmother had lived. He greatly improved the house and added many other buildings to those already on the estate. Rose houses, graperies, beautiful gardens, cultivated fields and spacious tree-shaded lawns, extending to the river, made it one of nature's most lovely pictures. Even a clock in the tower kept the machinery of his small village running on time. This estate is now owned by his niece, Charlotte Goddard Shaw, (daughter of his brother, Francis W. Goddard).

Elizabeth Goddard, Mrs. Thomas Shepard, built a home on her share of the estate which adjoined Hopelands. This is now the property of her sister's grandson, Samuel Powel, whose children are the sixth generation to enjoy the wedding gift of their great-great-great grandmother, Hope Brown Ives.

The land along the river received by Robert H. Ives was later inherited by his daughter, Elizabeth A. Ives, wife of Professor William Gammell. Upon her death in 1897 her summer cottage and farm came into the possession of her daughter, Harriet Ives Gammell, Mrs. Thomas Shaw Safe. During the past year (1930) she has conveyed to her nephew William Gammell her farm, "The Meadows", on which he is erecting a large brick colonial residence.

Moses Brown Ives, the second child of Thomas Poynton and Hope (Brown) Ives, was a public spirited man. He was associated with Providence enterprises and in his private life was most devoted to his mother and family. His wife was Anne Allen Dorr, a sister of Thomas W. Dorr. By his death less than a year after that of his mother, his property at Potowomut was inherited by his son, Thomas P. Ives, and his daughter, Hope Brown Ives.

Thomas P. Ives continued the family interest in public affairs. He was directly instrumental in the establishment of the Rhode Island Hospital and promoted other welfare activities. In 1858 he began the development of his Potowomut property. The house and barn at the farm were built that year. His love of beauty prompted him to plant the elms and maples which line Ives Road and the drives in Goddard Park. Nearly all the older evergreens in the park were set out at his direction. He was also much interested in yachting.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he offered his services to the government and was assigned to the Navy with the rank of captain. His yacht, the Hope, was also placed at the disposal of the government and was used throughout the war. Captain Ives commanded this vessel, which was stationed in Chesapeake Bay. Associated with him on the Hope was Henry G. Russell of New Bedford who became a very intimate friend.

At the close of the war, Captain Ives, whose health had suffered due to exposure while in the service of his country, went to Europe. There on October 1, 1865, he married Elizabeth Cabot Motley, daughter of John Lothrop Motley, the historian. Mr. Motley at that time was Ambassador to Austria, at Vienna where his daughter and Captain Ives were

married in fulfillment of an engagement made in Washington. While returning to America, Captain Ives died suddenly at Havre, France, on November 17, 1865.

Mrs. Ives returned to America and visited at Potowomut and in Providence with her husband's family. Several years later she married Sir William Vernon Harcourt of London, England. There was ever a deep regard between Lady Harcourt and the Ives family with pleasant and frequent exchange of visits in England and America.

In 1862 to the great satisfaction of the descendants of Hope Brown Ives, the Paul Greene Farm came into the possession of the family through its purchase, from numerous and widely scattered heirs, by Mrs. Anne A. D. Ives (Captain Ives' mother). The old house built about 1725 on the eastern slope of a ledge was most ideally situated with a view of the bay and islands. Enclosed as it is today with a forest of evergreens and tall elms it is difficult to realize the view that must have been a delight to Dr. James Greene who settled here. James Greene was one of the sons of Jabez Greene, of The Forge, who caring more for his profession than for trade, sold his interest in the Forge property to his brothers and devoted himself to the practise of medicine and surgery. (His son, James, followed his profession and located in East Greenwich.) Dr. Greene's family continued to live at Potowomut until the death of John F. Greene, the last of the name on this estate before it was conveyed to Mrs. Ives.

It had been Mrs. Ives' intention to build a summer home on the elevation just west of the house but the circumstances of her son's death caused her to change her plans and resulted in her purchase of an estate on Warwick Neck where she spent her summers and which her daughter later sold to the late Senator Nelson W. Aldrich. Mrs. Ives sold the Paul

Greene House at Potowomut to her husband's nephew, Thomas P. I. Goddard. He remodelled the house and at his death, it became the property of his brother, Colonel Robert H. I. Goddard.

During Colonel Goddard's ownership the house was enlarged and the grounds beautified. Thorncliffe, as it was called, was the scene of many gatherings of notable people. It is still owned by Colonel Goddard's son, R. H. Ives Goddard. The western acres are leased by the Potowomut Golf Club which has built an attractive club house overlooking the greens and fairways.

The estate which Captain Thomas P. Ives was developing when he was called away by the Civil War was now added to that of his sister, Hope Brown Ives. Miss Ives had married January 1864, her brother's friend, Henry Grinnell Russell of New Bedford and New York.

Mr. Russell's family were interested in the whaling industry, and had also promoted the Arctic Expeditions under Dr. Kane in search of the explorer Franklin. Mr. Russell entered the banking house of Minturn and Grinnell in New York. He gave up this position to enlist in the service of his country in 1861. He was assigned to the Quarter-master's Department and located on the Hope, in Chesapeake Bay. Here he first met Captain Ives and eventually his sister.

Mr. Russell was keenly interested in yachting. His boats, the Elaine, and later the Harbinger, both sailing yachts, were listed in the New York Yacht Club, of which he was a member. He considered it his good fortune to have witnessed the international race which resulted in the America's Cup becoming the trophy of the New York Yacht Club. He



The Russell Mansion

made it an objective to witness each succeeding race for the cup, in later years from the deck of the Corsair, Mr. Morgan's yacht, where he and Mrs. Russell were guests of honor.

When Mr. and Mrs. Russell began the development of the farm at Potowomut the banks above the shore of the Cove were bare sandy stretches with a few cedars and a sparse, coarse grass. The remaining land at the southern end was covered with bayberry and sweet fern. The chief beauty of the entire location was the ancient grove of oak trees in the midst of which was a huge ledge of rock. From this ledge the material for the stone wall which follows the Ives Road on the west side was quarried. Two sections of the ledge are still seen, at the rear and just in front of the Russell Mansion. On the former location of the ledge Mr. and Mrs. Russell erected their summer residence in 1876. They bestowed the title, "The Oaks", upon the entire estate.

A few years before this, Mr. Russell had attempted to solve the problem of saving his fields from the sand blows that threatened to destroy all vegetation on this part of Potowomut.

His first attempt was with European larches. These he planted along the bank above the shore. That they did not prove a success was due to a large extent to soil conditions. He next turned his attention to seed planting, preparing a field as for corn and putting the pine tree seeds into the ground in squares. The seeds sprouted, grew and were kept free from weeds. Thus wholly unshaded the greater number were burned by the sun's heat during July and August. The few that survived were transplanted to other locations.

Professor John S. Sargent, of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard, a relative of Mrs. Russell, became interested in Mr. Russell's experiment and though poking considerable fun at his efforts "to plant a forest," then an unheard of idea, did suggest that he might succeed by planting the seeds in beds screened with lattice. With the same indomitable courage that had distinguished his forbears, Mr. Russell turned to raising seedling pine, larch, and other evergreen trees. From the beds the tiny trees were transplanted and shaded until large enough to endure exposure, then they were planted in even rows for a distance of nearly three miles along the winding banks of Greenwich Cove. When the evergreen plantations had become an assured success, Mr. Russell diverted his attention to planting hardwood trees.

It was his custom to fill his pockets with acorns and as he walked through the groves of pine and elsewhere he made holes with his cane into which he dropped the acorns. He reckoned that he would get at least one oak tree for every three acorns that he planted, for he explained that one acorn the squirrels would find, the worms destroy the second and the third should grow into his tree. Thus originated his saying that he planted "three acorns for a tree, one for the squirrels, one for the worms and one to grow." On a few oc-

casions, he found this method too slow; so the acorns were gathered, old broom handles sharpened to points and a squad of men assisted in the planting.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell lived to see their forest grow beyond their fairest dreams. A drive was made, on which only horse drawn vehicles were ever permitted to pass, through more than four miles of forest, a forest planted by man, to protect his fields that they might produce food for his table and feed for his flocks and herds.

In all this he had succeeded. Fields of grain from the vivid green of spring to the golden yellow of harvest made his farm a continuous pleasure; trees laden with fruit and gardens with nearly every variety of vegetable and flower were found on the estate. Generations of horses were raised. Valued and admired, they received the best of care from colthood to old age. Their final resting place is beneath the pines in The Horse Burying Ground. Cattle and sheep grazed in green pastures while pigs and poultry roamed in pens and orchards.

During the summer months between forty and fifty people were employed at The Oaks. Row boats tied at the wharves or beached on the shore carried many to their homes in East Greenwich when the day's work was done. In the harbor the white-sailed yacht, the Harbinger, rode at anchor with her crew ever ready for an outing on the Bay or for the annual cruise with the New York Yacht Club.

Such ideal conditions as those that existed at The Oaks, could not continue forever. In September 1904, after several years as a semi-invalid, Mr. Russell died in the midst of his beloved trees and lawns.

Of a retiring disposition, Mrs. Russell had devoted nearly her whole life to others. In girlhood she had been largely guided by the wishes of her mother and after her marriage her interests were united with those of Mr. Russell. She was devoted to her church and active in charitable work. She and Mr. Russell spent much time in travel, both in this country and in Europe. They were beloved and respected by a host of friends. Mrs. Russell never recovered from the loss caused by his death and five years later she, too, passed away June 1, 1909, at her Providence home, 66 Power Street.

Without brother, sister, nephew, niece or child, after generous gifts to church and charitable organizations, she gave back her earthly possessions to her family. To her cousin Colonel Robert H. I. Goddard, she gave "The Oaks", at Potowomut, a part of which had been the wedding gift of their grandmother, Hope Brown Ives.

Colonel Goddard realized the futility of trying to keep up the farm and at great expense continued the forestation of the less desirable fields. During the years between 1911 and 1913 he planted many thousands of red and white pine, also firs and spruces.

After his death in April, 1916, the section of The Oaks, lying south of Clammer's Road came into the possession of his daughter Madeleine Ives, Marquise d'Andigne and the northern section was added to Thorncliffe, the property of his son, R. H. Ives Goddard.

Madame d'Andigne made her home in France, following her marriage in 1906. Her great love for humanity which caused her, at the time of the Spanish-American War, to enter active service as a nurse, in the World War, which came upon her adopted country, led her to engage in hospital service for the wounded and sick. Here she provided tempting food, sent by her friends in America in answer to her appeal, which helped many to recovery. She entered

actively as a nurse receiving recognition from the government for her services. Colonel Goddard contributed the first American Ambulance which reached Paris in March, 1916.

She had hoped to return to America and make the Russell Mansion her home for a part of the year, but eventually decided that it would not be expedient to do so. In 1927, she united with her brother, R. H. Ives Goddard of Providence, in presenting the greater part of "The Oaks" to the State of Rhode Island as a park in memory of their father, Colonel Robert Hale Ives Goddard.

A most fitting memorial to a noble gentleman and patriotic citizen. For many years, Colonel Robert H. I. Goddard was associated with and actively interested in the public and charitable affairs of the country and state. In his youth, he enlisted in the Civil War and took part in many historic battles. He served as aide on the staff of General Burnside. Later he held many public offices in the state and city. As an executive in large manufacturing and banking circles he maintained all the attributes of a true gentleman. Would that his life might be better known and admired by the countless hundreds who enjoy the Park provided as his memorial by his children who loved and thus honored his memory.

It is sad that Madame d'Andigne did not live to enjoy the fulfillment of her vision of this gift to the people of Rhode Island and receive their appreciation as shown by the happy, well ordered host that have thronged the Park.

The death of the Marquis d'Andigne, her husband, occurred in September, 1929, and a year later she returned to Providence. She had not enjoyed the best of health for some time, though not ill. In the prime of life she was called from earth in March, 1931.

Yet her works of mercy continue. During the four years since the Goddard Park has been open to the public thousands have driven over the winding drive built by the state. Family groups and large organizations have held outings beneath the shade trees. The lawns, fields and forests have welcomed unnumbered visitors. At the beach, which the state has developed, hundreds of cars have been parked and the new bath house has been taxed beyond its capacity. The salt water, the forests and the fields with their life renewing air and sunshine are here provided without stint to the people of Rhode Island through the unusual generosity of the children of Colonel Goddard whose memory thus lives on.

An attempt has been made in these pages to give a brief outline of the history of Potowomut while in the possession of the red men and the Greene and Ives families. Although entirely separated from the town of Warwick by water it is politically an integral part of that town. In its early history, there was some contention between the towns of East Greenwich and North Kingstown concerning its possession and by Royal decree it was assigned to East Greenwich when that town was Dedford. The possession was not realized for delegates from Warwick hastened to Boston to protest, and while the record of the result of their protest has been lost, the town of Warwick prevailed in its ownership.

It is said that at one time Potowomut asked to be annexed to East Greenwich but the expense of maintaining three bridges and several miles of roads made it seem unwise for that town to accede to the request. Later, in the middle of the last century, the town of East Greenwich petitioned to the Legislature asking that Potowomut be annexed to that town but this time the citizens of Warwick refused. Though at intervals similar sentiment arises, Potowomut is thoroughly a part of the town of Warwick.

Potowomut has had no Main Street, no church (its people attending the churches in adjoining towns), for many years it had no stores; its one community institution has been its school. Even under the old system, District No. 11 maintained a high standard of scholarship with a well patronized school. Some of the pupils have held positions of honor and esteem not only in their own community but in other parts of the country. The first school building is now a dwelling house located in Potowomut Village. The second and present one is soon to be succeeded by a modern two room brick building.

Besides the two families who have exerted the greatest influence in Potowomut there have been many others associated with them, still others who have built homes in more recent years and those who are now building up Bayridge, Sand Point and the Forge Road. The old Potowomut and its exclusiveness is passing, leaving a host of pleasant memories. May the new Potowomut as it welcomes a new group preserve the ideals of the past and may its name Potowomut, "land of fires" in the Indian tongue, still signify the land of peaceful camp and hearth fires.

NOTE:

The preceding pages have been compiled in an effort to answer the numerous questions asked by those who have expressed a sincere interest in the past of Potowomut.—The chart has been added to clarify the explanation in the text concerning the two family lines in whose possession the greater part of Potowomut has been held during more than two hundred years.

Much gratitude is due to those who have given family lines and early facts and we are also grateful for access to the Warwick records and map. To each individual who has assisted in making this booklet possible we extend our thanks.

ANNA M. M. LAWRENCE
OCTOBER 1931

Two Lines of Potowomut Landholders

