

Splendid Gift of Land For Park Tendered to City of New London

Senator Frank B. Brandegee and Sebastian D. Lawrence Offer the City
Without Restrictions Tract of Eleven Acres on Bank of Thames River, Known
as Lewis' Grove - Water Frontage of About 500 Feet.

United States Senator Frank B. Brandegee and Sebastian D. Lawrence today sent a communication to Mayor B.L. Armstrong and the court of common council, presenting the tract of land formerly known as Lewis' woods next south and adjoining Riverside Park, to the city of New London for park purposes. The tract consists of about 11 acres and is beautifully situated on the bank of the river. The tracks of the Central Vermont railway run through a portion of the land, but there is from 100 to 200 feet between the tracks and the water. The land has about 450 feet water front and about 140 feet is on Crystal Avenue.

Senator Brandegee has been out of town for the past few days and did not return until this afternoon. He did not care to make a detailed statement regarding the gift. He believes in the city's park system and thinks there is no more beautiful place hereabout than the vicinity of Riverside Park. Both the sentiments of Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Brandegee are contained in the following communication which has been sent the city officials:

To the Honorable Mayor and the Court of Common Council of the City of New London:

Some years ago the city purchased a tract of land on Winthrop's Neck, in East New London, containing about 18 acres, which has since been improved and has come to be known as Riverside Park.

The undersigned own a parcel of land immediately adjoining said park on the south, comprising about 11 acres with a water front on the Thames River of about 500 feet in length.

This land extends westerly from the Thames River and has an approach from Crystal Avenue about 150 feet in width. It also stretches southerly from the present Riverside Park and has an approach from the south by way of what is called Eastern Avenue, which is a road running northerly and approximately parallel to the river. Realizing how great a portion of the water front of our seaside city is occupied by railroad, steamboat and other commercial interests and being impressed with the importance of preserving forever for the people, access to the beautiful waters adjacent to our maritime location and with the value of large even spaces of wooded land to the health and comfort of the public, we

tender herewith as a gift to the city of New London a deed of the above described land heretofore known as Lewis' Woods grove.

If this tract of land were annexed to and used in common with what the city already owns, the entire extent of the combined areas would afford a Riverside Park of about 30 acres of land.

While we hope that the city will always use this land for park purposes we do not impose any inhibition against the sale or exchange of the land tendered herewith inasmuch as future contingencies may arise which cannot now be anticipated, which would make it desirable for the city to sell or exchange certain portions of this tract and acquire other lands in lieu thereof. It is, however, our strong conviction that this land should always be preserved together with that adjacent thereto now owned by the city as a public park for the enjoyment of all the people.

We are, respectfully yours,
Sebastian D. Lawrence
Frank B. Brandegee

New London, Sept. 19, 1907

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