Col. Ron Barnes will share the history of the Pawtuxet Rangers and their involvement with the Fort at Pawtuxet Neck -- at the Governor Sprague Mansion on May 21 at 7:00 p.m. In 1775 as British incursions along Narragansett Bay became more frequent, it was thought that coastal defenses should be erected to combat these incursions. Following the British bombardment of Bristol in October 7, 1775 the earthworks fort at Pawtuxet Neck was built with assistance of the Pawtuxet Rangers on land owned by Captain Thomas Remington in October 1775. The peninsula where the fort was located has had various names through the years: Long Neck, Fort Neck, Cranston Neck and (currently) Pawtuxet Neck. The Pawtuxet Rangers helped to protect Rhode Island during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Fort Neck was initially garrisoned by the Pawtuxet Rangers with 50 men and other units throughout the war, though the principal responsibility of the fort rested with the Rangers. The Rangers garrisoned the fort again during the War of 1812. Not a lot of Rhode Islanders know about this Fort ~ Come learn about its fascinating history!

By 1896, the Fort disappeared; a memorial plaque erected by the Cranston Historic District Commission in 1972 marks the site today.