

“BROKE THE ICE”

Richard Smith’s Blockhouse and the Origins of North Kingstown

Follow the story of Smith’s Castle, from Richard Smith’s Blockhouse, described as “the first English house” in Narragansett Country, to the platting of Wickford by Smith descendent Lodowick Updike. Learn how Richard Smith “broke the ice” in building the first permanent dwelling in North Kingstown and the history of the early years of the town that begins with Roger William’s arrival at Cocumscussoc around 1637 and ends with the founding of Updike’s Newtown in 1709. During those formative years, Smith’s Castle was not only the center of much of the activity of Kingstown, but also the most recognized residence in southern Rhode Island where public officials and dignitaries often met. While the early history of Smith’s Castle is at times unfortunate, much of what took place there contributed to forming the beginning of the 350 year history of North Kingstown.

A recording of this talk will be available online following the event.

Presented by John Dower, Public Historian and President of the Cocumscussoc Association/Smith’s Castle



Thursday, February 29 at 6:30 p.m.

VENUE CHANGE:
NORTH KINGSTOWN TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS (2nd Floor)
80 BOSTON NECK RD



Donations to support 350th Anniversary activities are welcome on-site.

Seats are limited. The lecture will be available shortly after its conclusion on YouTube: **@NorthKingstown350th**

This program is sponsored by the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee