

# Abel Johnston-Liberty Man Communiqué VIII

Dr. Joseph Warren Martyr and Founding Father



*Warren County founded in 1836 is named for American Patriot Major General Dr. Joseph Warren.*



Dr. Joseph Warren was born June 11, 1741 and martyred June 17, 1775 at the Battle of Breed's Hill. His death came upon the third siege of the British Army seeking to stamp out the American rebellion. Joseph Warren upon learning of the impending battle to take place at Breed's Hill rode there but declined to take charge of the colonial forces, under Colonial Commanders Israel Putnam and William Prescott, even though holding the rank of Major General. Joseph Warren desired to serve as a private in the trenches with his fellow soldiers. The Americans fought fiercely but being out of powder and musket balls the Patriots were forced back by the third British wave. General Warren rallying the Americans, himself wounded and bayoneted in the leg, fought on encouraging his fellow patriot soldiers to resist. A musket ball to his head instantly ended his life; the British prevailed but lost 50% of their Army. British General Thomas Gage ordered that Joseph's body be further mutilated beyond recognition and quickly buried. Two days later the British dug up Joseph's body and further desecrated it by spitting on it, jumping on it and cutting off his head and again thrown into a shallow grave.

## Unknown History

**Dr. Joseph Warren would have been one of the Nation's foremost founding fathers had he lived. Lost in history are the following facts.**

Penned the *Suffolk Resolves*, one of the first documents, citing the necessity for American Independence.

Ordered the American Army led by Gen. Benedict Arnold to attack Fort Ticonderoga resulting in a great victory for the fledgling American Army.

Dispatched Paul Revere on his famous midnight ride to warn that the "British are coming."

Wore a toga while delivering an oration lamenting the Boston massacre inciting patriots to resist English tyranny in the presence of British officers and soldiers.

Was one of Boston's and the colonies' foremost physicians and scientists.

Designated the first Masonic Grand Master for Massachusetts and the other twelve colonies.

Identification of Warren's body, after being brutally killed and mutilated at Breed's Hill, may have involved the first example of forensic dentistry in America. Paul Revere, his friend, conducted the examination.

Slain widower left four children to be raised by a lady friend and his mother. Several founding fathers helped with funds—Franklin, Adams and more.

General Gage reportedly said, "Warren's death is equal to 500 men." Before the battle Dr. Warren's mother begged him not to risk his life. He answered, "Where danger is, dear mother, there must your son be. Now is no time for any of America's children to shrink from any hazard. I will set her free or die." Dr. Warren, a widower, and Harvard educated Doctor of Medicine, at 34 years of age left four children. The United States Continental Congress voted to support his children until they were of age indicating our nation's appreciation for this heroic patriot. Abigail Adams wrote her husband, John Adams, of her grief at this loss and lamented he would have been our President. In the early days of the American Rebellion his name inspired America, and only later, as General George Washington took charge, did Dr. Joseph Warren's star begin to set. But he remains America's first great hero and a Founding Father of our Independent and Free United States of America.

