Warren County Historical Tidbits
Where did Warren County get its name?

I've found that when you start telling a story, it helps to start near the beginning. So, to launch these tidbits, I'm starting with a question for which I've found a number of people don't know the answer: **"Who was Warren County named for?"**

The simple answer: **Dr. Joseph Warren of Boston, whose death at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 served as an inspiration to the budding American Revolution.** Now here's the important information behind this forgotten Founding Father and his remembrance by our county.

Dr. Warren was an early leader in the push for Independence frequently writing and speaking publically about the cause. His first major act of great importance was sending Paul Revere and William Dawes on their "midnight rides" to warn the patriots in Lexington & Concord of the coming of the British Army. After dispatching them he and a small militia went to fight the British.

Warren's lasting legacy came during the fight at Bunker Hill. While he declined an officer's position, his leadership was vital to rallying the troops during the first two assaults, then allowing the remaining patriot troops to escape when their ammunition ran out and the British stormed their positions. He was killed by a British officer who recognized him and ordered that Dr. Warren's body be mutilated.

Now, how does this patriot connect to Warren County?

Well, the origins of Warren County can be traced back to well before the Revolutionary War, even before the initial settling of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. Native American Indians, the Tuscarora, populated this area prior to the first incursions of white explorers who came to the North Carolina region.

One of the first known settlers to what would eventually become
Warren County, was William Duke in 1735. Warren County was originally known as Bute County, in honor of John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, former Prime Minister and Lord of the Treasury.

As the result of the Revolutionary War, the name of Bute was frowned upon as Lord Bute was the Prime Minister of England. In 1779, the North Carolina Assembly passed a bill to divide the county in half. The northern half was named after Dr. Joseph Warren, hero of Bunker Hill and became known as Warren County with a seat of Warrenton. The southern half was named Franklin County, in honor of Benjamin Franklin.

Have a bit of local history you'd like to know more about? Drop me an email and I'll see what information I can find. In the meantime remember, there's lots for us to be proud of here in Warren County!