

to build a fort on Plum Island. By request of Newburyport and Newbury, a town meeting was held April 30th to consider the matter. The meeting declined to assist in building the fort as this town was in very little danger from that cause. Newburyport had appropriated £4000 and Newbury £200.

Although few decisive battles had been fought and the prospect for independence was anything but flattering, yet Massachusetts was fully determined to press forward in the cause of freedom and the General Court advised holding town-meetings throughout the colony to consider the subject of independence, and to give instructions to the representatives.

July 1st. The town assembled agreeable to a call to consider the propriety of instructing the representatives to press forward the declaration of independence. The vote was "that they will abide by and Defend the Members of the Continental Congress with their Lives and fortunes if they think it expedient to declare the Colonies Independent of Great Briton." This was no hasty resolution of the people, but the result of long continued and calm consideration. Heartily tired of British rule they were willing to sacrifice property and even life itself, if need be, for liberty. And there was at this time a native son of Amesbury in the Continental Congress, fearlessly advocating this bold measure, and by his influence greatly assisting in its adoption. Dr. Josiah Bartlett born at the Ferry in 1729 was now a resident of Kingston, N. H. and member of Congress. He was a man of more than ordinary talent, a fine scholar, successful physician and determined patriot. Popular with the people of his adopted state, he had been entrusted with their interests at a most critical period, and well did he execute that trust.

While the people at Amesbury were pledging their all to the cause of freedom, he was urging forward the bold measure calculated to separate the colonies from the mother country. When the fearless document was completed he boldly steps forward and places his name at the head of the Declaration. Of such heroic conduct Amesbury may well be proud. In 1790 he was chosen Governor of New Hampshire, an office