

Jonas Loker
Born 1730, Sudbury, Massachusetts
Sudbury Troop Militia, 6th Massachusetts Regiment

Jonas Loker is the 5th-great grandfather of Paul Murphy. Mr. Loker was born in 1730 in Sudbury, Massachusetts, where he practiced medicine and raised his family until friction with the British reached a boiling point. He then joined the Sudbury Troop Militia, which was under the command of his brother, Capt. Isaac Loker, to serve as a surgeon. The Sudbury Troop was a unit of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment, in which four Loker brothers served. The unit was mobilized on June 17, 1775, and sent to defend Breed's Hill in Charlestown, one of two hills overlooking Boston, where the British troops were stationed. The other one, Bunker Hill, gave its name to the ensuing battle. After the first unsuccessful British assault, Jonas was exposed to enemy fire as he attended to the many American casualties. British ships in Boston Harbor heavily shelled the Colonial positions between assaults, fatally wounding Jonas. The battle was technically a British victory because the Colonial troops quit the field after running out of ammunition. Since British casualties outnumbered Colonial casualties more than two to one, however, history records the Battle of Bunker Hill as a major Colonial success. Jonas Loker's name is engraved in the plaque honoring those killed in the battle at its site.