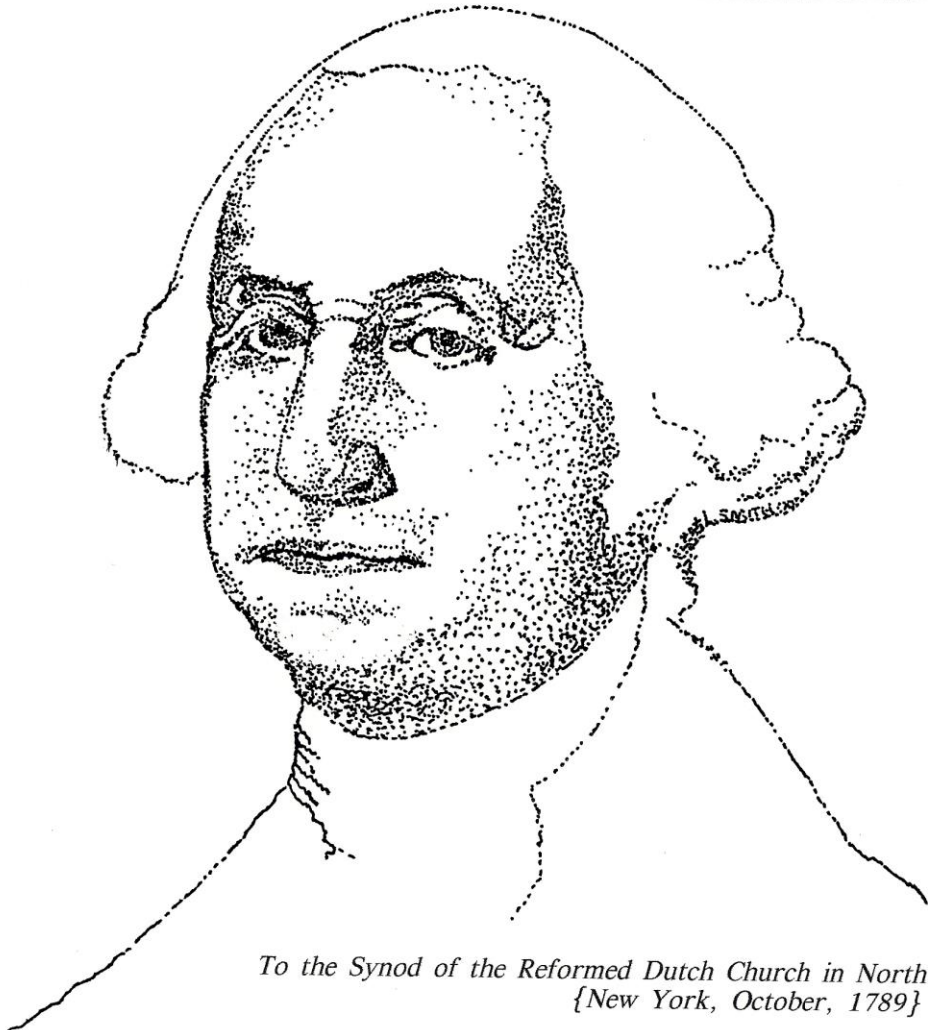




#2 1994

—George Washington's Birthday—



*To the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America,
{New York, October, 1789}*

Gentlemen: I receive with a grateful heart your pious and affectionate address, and with truth declare to you that no circumstance of my life has affected me more sensibly or produced more pleasing emotions than the friendly congratulations, and strong assurances of support which I have received from my fellow-citizens of all descriptions upon my election to the Presidency of these

United States.

I fear, Gentlemen, your goodness has led you to form too exalted an opinion of my virtues and merits. If such talents as I possess have been called into action by great events, and those events have terminated happily for our country, the glory should be ascribed to the manifest interposition of an over-ruling Providence. My military services have been abundantly recompensed by the faltering approbation of a grateful people; and, if a faithful discharge of my civil duties can ensure a like reward, I shall feel myself richly compensated for any personal sacrifice I may have made by engaging again in public life.

The Citizens of the United States of America have given as signal proof of their wisdom and virtue in framing and adopting a constitution of government, without bloodshed or the intervention of force, as they, upon a former occasion, exhibited to the world of their valor, fortitude, and perseverance; and it must by a pleasing circumstance to every friend of good order and social happiness to find that our new government is gaining strength and respectability among the citizens of this country in proportion as it's operations are known, and its effects felt.

You, Gentlemen, act the part of pious Christians and good citizens by your prayers and exertions to preserve that harmony and good will towards men which must be the basis of every political establishment; and I readily join with you that, "while just government protects all in their religious rights, true religion affords to government its surest support."

I am deeply impressed with your good wishes for my present and future happiness, and I beseech the Almighty to take you and yours under his special care.

{Taken from: *Washington's Letter Books*, Volume XXIX, Page 50.}

Letter to Martha, 18 June, 1775

"My Dearest, I am now set down to write to you on a subject, which fills me with inexpressible concern, and this concern is greatly aggravated and increased, when I reflect upon the uneasiness I know it will give you. It has been determined in Congress, that the whole army raised for the defence of the American cause shall be put under my care, and that it is necessary for me to proceed immediately to Boston to take upon me the command of it.

"You may believe me, my dear Patsy, when I assure you, in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity, and that I should enjoy more happiness in one month with you at home, than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years. But as it has been a kind of destiny, that has thrown me upon this service, I shall hope that my undertaking it is designed to answer some good purpose."

A Celebration Of George Washington's Birthday

In The Year Of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Four

The Blair County Chapter, SAR is pleased to host the 1994 George Washington Birthday Dinner, with guests from the Col. John Proctor Chapter, DAR and the Adam Holliday Chapter, DAR on February 19, 1994. The officers for 1994 will finally be installed at this event. Incoming president, Jesse Williams will present some thoughts about the Father of our Country.

The dinner will be held at the Altoona Ramada Hotel and will start at 12:00 noon. The dinner will consist of beef tips and noodles, fresh fruit cup, glazed carrots, tossed salad and cherry pie for dessert.

The cost for the dinner will be \$12.00 per person. As always, you may pay in advance via mail, or at the door ~ but please respond with the number who will attend by Wednesday, February 16 so that we can advise the Ramada on how many to prepare for.

Respond to: Larry D. Smith, RD #1, Box, 704-A, East Freedom, PA 16637.

A Chronology Of The Revolutionary War

with emphasis on Bedford County, Pennsylvania's role

Continued

1772

In March of 1772 the *Gaspee*, a British armed schooner appeared in the waters of Narraganset Bay. The ship was sent to American waters by the commissioners of customs at Boston to bring to a stop the illicit trade which was being carried on by the colonials at Newport and Providence, Rhode Island. The people of that colony were incensed at the blockading of their ports by the British ship and in their behalf the deputy-governor wrote to Governor Joseph Wanton at Newport expressing his opinion that Lieutenant Duddington, commander of the *Gaspee*, had no legal warrant for his actions. Governor Wanton, in sympathy with the people, sent a request for Duddington to deliver up his commission to him. Instead of replying to the governor, Duddington sent Wanton's letter to Admiral Montague at Boston, who, in turn, sent a message to the governor that he had no right to question the actions or intentions of the king's navy.

On the 9th of June the packet, *Hannah*, commanded by Captain Lindsey left Newport headed for Providence. The *Gaspee* fired upon the *Hannah* and attempted to force her to halt and give an account of her intended purpose in sailing from Newport's harbor. The *Hannah* kept her colors flying and continued on her course. The *Gaspee* gave chase. Captain Lindsey knew the lay of the waters and zig-zagged through the bay, passing the slightly submerged sandbar known then as Namquit Point. The *Gaspee* was not so lucky and became hopelessly grounded on the bar. Captain Lindsey continued on to, and arrived at Providence just before sunset, where he reported the chase he had been given. With the knowledge that the *Gaspee* could not hope to get free until the high tide after midnight, Mr. John Brown, a leading merchant of that city saw a chance to rid Rhode Island of this pest. Town criers were sent out to call the residents of Providence to gather at the house of Welcome Arnold at Fenner's Wharf. A plan to board and take control of the *Gaspee* was laid out by Brown. Abraham Whipple was chosen to lead eight longboats carrying sixty-four armed men to make the raid on the grounded ship. Between one and two o'clock in the morning the longboats pulled up alongside the *Gaspee*. A sentinel on board hailed them, but hearing no return, he summoned Duddington. The British commander appeared on the starboard gunwale, ordered them to leave, and then fired a pistol over their heads. Duddington's fire was answered by a musket fired from one of the boats which hit him in the groin. The colonials boarded the ship and forced the crew belowdecks with handspikes. Duddington's wound was dressed and he was taken ashore as the rest of the British seamen were tied up and taken off the ship. The *Gaspee* was finally set afire and blew up as dawn broke.

A commission of Inquiry was set up by London in January of the following year, and an investigation party was sent to the colony. The colonials agreed among themselves to give out no information that would lead to the arrest of any fellow American. As a result, the Commission was disbanded in June, 1773 without being able to charge anyone with the crime.

Another important event took place in the year 1772: the formation of the Committees of Correspondence. In the year 1768 an order had been issued which set forth that the salary of Governor Hutchinson of Massachusetts would be paid from the customs revenues rather than by the colonials themselves. That order was followed two in years later by a similar one which stated that the salaries of the lieutenant governor and chief justice of the colony would also be paid in that maner. Then in 1772 the order came that now the salaries of all superior court justices of the colony were to be added to the special payroll. This might, at first glance appear as a benefit to the people of the colony, but the way they saw it was that they were effectively being cut out of having any control over those governing bodies. The only effective way to control public officials was to hold their pursestrings, so these measures took that control away from the people. A town meeting held in Boston on 28 October, 1772 was attended by Samuel Adams, a one-time tax collector who had become quite vocal about resisting Parliament's current tax policies. The assembled citizens voted to

request that Governor Hutchinson inform them if any additional provisions of the salary bill were henceforth to come from London. Hutchinson responded by stating that he was responsible to London and not to Boston ~ and furthermore, he planned to move the seat of government of the colony from Boston to Cambridge. A second town meeting was called on the 2nd of November, at which Adams whipped the people into a frenzy that culminated in the decision that a committee of twenty-one men of the town of Boston would circulate a letter requesting all of the estimated 240 towns in the province to join in their protest of the policies. James Otis, Samuel Adams and Dr. Joseph Warren headed up the committee and drafted a letter that became known as the *Boston Pamphlet*. Six hundred copies of the letter were printed and distributed throughout the Massachusetts as well as the other colonies. Eventually all of the other colonies formed their own committees of correspondence and the "underground" communication network took on a life of its own. If one particular thing could be pointed to as helping to bring the separate colonies together it was the Committees of Correspondence.

Bedford: Pennsylvania was slower than most of the other colonies in setting up Committees of Correspondence. The first appears to have been that of the City and County of Philadelphia in the year 1774, as a response to the blockading of Boston Port. The earliest date for a Committee of Correspondence in Bedford County was 09 May, 1775. More information will be included in an entry for the year 1775, but it might be noted at this time that the Reverend Dr. William Smith, one of the more prominent Bedford County land speculators {and founder of the town of Huntingdon} was one of the forty-three individuals named to Philadelphia's Committee of Correspondence.

This chronological history of the Revolutionary War will be continued in a future newsletter.

2nd QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

Please keep in mind (and mark your calendars) that the 2nd Quarterly Meeting for 1994 will be held on the 16th of April, 1994 at the King's Family Restaurant in Altoona. We hope you will be able to attend; your ideas and suggestions for the good of the Blair County Chapter are welcome and desired.

Obituary Notice

The Blair County Chapter was recently saddened by the passing away of Compatriot Charles Reuben Hetrick. He went to be with the Lord on 11 January, 1994 following an extended illness.

Mr. Hetrick was born on 15 August, 1908 at Marklesburg, Huntingdon County, the son of Charles and Emma Mary (Boller) Hetrick. He was married to Ora M. Barnett on 27 September, 1933 at Huntingdon. They had three children: Betty Jean who married Irvin J. Boslet, Charles Donald, and James Roy. Mr. Hetrick is also survived by a brother, Clair S. Hetrick and nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Hetrick retired as a meat cutter at Garner's Market; he was previously employed at Roy. S. Imler's Homedressed Meats, and he was the owner~operator of Poppy's Snowcones. Charles was a member of the St. James Lutheran Church at Altoona. He belonged to the Blair County Genealogical Society, the Descendants of Civil War Veterans, and had been a Compatriot of the Sons of the American Revolution since 31 March, 1987.



Notice To All Revolutionary War History Buffs:

I am currently working on the production of a book detailing the history of the Blair County Chapter, SAR along with a history of Bedford County (*i.e.* this south-central Pennsylvania region) in the Revolutionary War. I will also be including a complete roster of the Chapter with the help of information supplied to me by our registrar, Alvah J. Williams.
