



During the 1990 Annual Meeting of the Blair County Chapter, SAR a motion made by Compatriot Edgar R. Hartt to begin production of a chapter newsletter was approved by the members present. Some of you compatriots who have been members for a number of years may recall that the chapter had a newsletter before. A basic problem that tends to affect any organization such as our own is that any project, such as a newsletter, has to be a volunteer effort. As long as there is an individual or group interested in maintaining the project, it will survive. Compatriot Hartt has offered to print this newsletter, and I have volunteered to do the job of laying it out. Our chapter secretary, Compatriot Bernard R. Smith, will be supplying the necessary business information. Hopefully, between the three of us, and with contributions (in terms of information and/or short articles) from any of the rest of you, this newsletter will be a success.

The format for this newsletter, at least to start with, will be a single sheet, two side copied, size 8-1/2 x 11. Chapter news, information and business brought up at the regular, quarterly meetings will provide the basis of the newsletter. It is hoped, though, that all members will be motivated to contribute short articles for inclusion as space permits. Subjects for such articles could be on patriotic themes, historical or genealogical subjects (e.g. stories about our Patriot ancestors), or historical trivia or anecdotes. All members are encouraged to contribute any item of business for the rest of the members to consider prior to the next quarterly meeting, so that the time required to discuss that item of business during the actual meeting will be reduced.

Anything to be included in a newsletter should be forwarded to the chapter secretary (currently: Bernard R. Smith; RD #1, Box 704; East Freedom, PA 16637). The only things we will require is that you attach a note or cover letter stating that the item is to be included in a newsletter -and- that you let us know if we may make any grammatical corrections to the text.

Larry D. Smith

1991 Meeting Schedule

March 16 (Saturday)	12:00 noon	Quarterly Meeting	to be held at Kings Family Restaurant (3000, 6th Ave. Altoona)
May 18 (Saturday)	12:00 noon	Quarterly Meeting	Kings Family Restaurant
August 10 (Saturday)	12:00 noon	Quarterly Meeting	Kings Family Restaurant
October 26 (Saturday)	12:00 noon	Quarterly Meeting	Kings Family Restaurant
December 14 (Saturday)	12:00 noon	Annual Meeting	Kings Family Restaurant

(The Annual Meeting will include the election of officers, but no other business will be conducted.)

(The Quarterly Meetings will begin promptly at 12:00 noon. The business portion of the meeting will be conducted first, with every attempt being made to conclude by 1:00pm. Lunch will be served and eaten after the business meeting is concluded. If possible, a speaker will be engaged to entertain us after lunch.)

On Friday, December 21, 1990 the Blair County Chapter's Planning Committee met to discuss its aims for 1991. The committee, chaired by Larry Smith, consists of the following Com-patriots: Robert B. Baird, Irvin J. Boslet, E. Merle Glunt, Joseph Ramsey, Bernard R. Smith, Ben F. Van Horn and Alvah J. Williams.

The primary purpose and function of this Planning Committee will be to devise activities for the chapter to become involved with - and then to submit them to the general membership at the quarterly meetings for consideration and approval. Any member may submit suggestions to the committee; in fact, it is hoped that members who live away from this area, and are unable to attend the quarterly meetings will take advantage of this committee to have their voices heard for the benefit of the chapter.

Following are various items discussed, and to be brought up for consideration and approval at the March 16, 1991 quarterly meeting.

1. Patriotic Holiday Observance

Aside from the dinner/celebrations that our chapter, SAR and the local chapters, DAR engage in (George Washington Birthday and Constitution Day) the Blair County Chapter might consider placing an advertisement in various of the newspapers in our region to draw attention to our interest and involvement in the holiday. Costs for such advertisements are being investigated at this time.

2. New Member Package

In order to make new members feel more welcome with the chapter, a package containing a copy of the Constitution and By-laws, a list of current membership and other informative materials could be given to the new member.

3. Gravesite Dedications

A proposed project will be to hold a dedication ceremony at each of the county seats for the area covered when Bedford County was formed in 1771 (and which are not already handled by active SAR chapters). In other words, although Cambria-Somerset encompasses a portion of what had been old Bedford County, the SAR chapter there is already engaged in an active grave registration/dedication program. Centre County also has an active chapter engaged in grave dedications. The area that the Blair County Chapter would be concerned with would include present-day Blair, Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties. District 3 will be contacted (because Fulton is included in that district) to find out if an active grave registration/dedication is now underway; if it is not, we will include that area in our program.

A list of the Patriots buried within the bounds of each individual county would be presented to the county commissioners to be placed in that county's court house, and a formal ceremony would be planned and performed. The particular county's DAR chapters would be invited to participate or simply attend.

The chapter should also encourage all members to suggest dedications for individual Patriots that they are aware of, whose grave sites have not been already formally dedicated. These would be planned for and performed on an individual basis to give attention to that particular Patriot.

4. Constitution Day Celebration

The annual Constitution Day Celebration is planned for September 14, 1991 (Saturday) at 12:00 noon. The location for this SAR/DAR event will be announced in the future.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

This year, the Colonel John Proctor Chapter, DAR will be hosting the George Washington Birthday Celebration, and they have invited the Blair County Chapter, SAR to attend. The dinner will be held at the Calvin House (RD #4, Duncansville) on February 9 at 12:00 noon. The cost will be \$15 per person. You may make checks out to either Col. John Proctor Chapter or to the Blair County Chapter and forward them to Treasurer Larry D. Smith (RD #1, Box 704-A, East Freedom, PA 16637). The Blair County Chapter will then forward its payment to the Col. John Proctor Chapter. The important thing, though, is that you respond if you will attend, and the number in your party prior to February 1, 1991 to Bernard R. Smith, Sec.
