



DISTRICT V HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

BY John D. Sinks, Ph.D

The Annual History Day Competition for District V was held at George Mason University on March 7th. The District V competition has grown, with almost 200 entries this year. In opening ceremonies, the master of ceremony named those organizations that provided financial support to the level of sponsorship to an auditorium full of history students, their parents, and teachers. Four chapters of the Virginia Society were named: Col. Fielding Lewis, Culpeper Minute Men, Fairfax Resolves, and George Mason. Eight Virginia Society members served as judges: Larry Alexander, Lance Lyngar, and Gar Schulin of Culpeper Minute Men; Bob Hampton, Andrew Monahan, John Sinks and Jack Sweeney of Fairfax Resolves; and Dick Austin of George Mason. There were more projects in the field of American History 1750-1800 than in previous years. Fourteen students had nine projects in this category that placed first, second, or third. These students were awarded Bronze Good Citizenship medals jointly by the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter and Fairfax Resolves Chapter.

With ten chapters based within or partly within the District V area, chapters might work at cross-purposes. Three years ago the Virginia Society called for volunteers to serve as facilitators for the various districts in the state. In District V this has resulted in a close, on-going relationship between the SAR and the district's History Day Officials. A level of funding necessary for sponsorship has been agreed upon; district officials contact the SAR for men suitable to serve as judges; SAR is a welcome participant in the closing ceremonies, awarding its medals at the same time the winners receive their history day trophies.

The Virginia History Day competition will be held on April 25th in Williamsburg and the National History Day Competition in College Park, Maryland from June 14th through 18th. Next fall will be an ideal time to establish a working relationship with your district History Day officials to determine what you chapter can do to best provide support in your area.

Further information about History Day, including the Virginia schedule, can be found at: <http://www.history.org/history/teaching/vahisday.cfm>



GUILFORD COURTHOUSE



Photo by Bob Yankle NCSSAR

President Bill Simpson, second from left, attended the Guilford Courthouse program in Greensboro, NC on March 14. The program was forced inside for the first time in more than 10 years because of rain.



In addition to the annual wreath-laying ceremony, new officers of VASSAR's Dan River Chapter are traditionally installed at Guilford Courthouse. Here, President Simpson installs Chapter President Larry Aaron.



Aaron also was presented a Patriotic Service certificate from the President General for taking part in the national SAR 225th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War Program. Aaron wrote an article on the Crossing of the Dan for The SAR Magazine.