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For us, there is plenty that we can do too, individually and as an organization.

For those who prefer to make a financial contribution to the effort, there are several ways this can be accomplished, at state and national organization levels. As Former President General Wilcox explained, NSSAR's Center for Advancing America's Heritage program (CAAH) has as its primary goals the resurrection and promulgation of patriotic education of the public, most notably young Americans. And, here at VASSAR, a little closer to home, there is a new way to fund such historical education programs within our Virginia public schools. At this point, I give full disclosure of my bias and conflict of interest: the new way is a VASSAR memorial trust fund close and dear to my heart, established in memory of my son Mark, Jr. Ninety (90%) percent of the annual income from that fund will be used by VASSAR to fund not only the established youth activities/programs of VASSAR, but also to finance the education of Virginia public school children on the American Revolution. This new trust fund will be kicked off with an initial principal investment of \$10,000.

But, there are also many non-financial ways to contribute to the effort to revitalize the teaching of American history in our schools. These non-monetary ways are even more important and useful to the cause. Plan a program or a short talk on an interesting historical topic and present it at your local school. Dress in period garb as many of you do on other occasions and give the kids a color guard show, or become a Culpeper Minuteman, an Overmountain Man, John Marshall, or Thomas Nelson, Jr. for a few minutes. Bring in slides, movies, pamphlets, do as much or whatever the schools will allow you to do in your hometown. If you need money, apply to the new trust fund's trustees to finance an educational program. Please become involved. You can never be too elderly or too retired for this effort, as Ret. Justice O' Connor has shown (she turns 80 years old next March and traveled from her

native Arizona to Virginia to spread the word). So, please, get out there and be a part of the mix!



SAR Trustees Approve Resolution in Support of Improved History and Civics Teaching Standards

Trustees attending the 2009 Fall Leadership Meetings in Louisville approved a resolution drafted by the National Legislative Committee that resolves, in part,

"...that the U.S. Congress is urged to enact legislation that provides adequate funding for student education and teacher training programs designed to promote historical literacy and responsible citizenship."

The National Legislative Committee is chaired by VASSAR President-elect Bob Bowen.

Lafayette Road Sign Dedicated on Rt. 20



About 30- members of the SAR, DAR, county officials, history lovers and just plain curious gathered at the corner of Rt. 20 and Brigadier Lane in Orange County on October 24 to dedicate a roadside marker remembering the 1781 Campaign of French Gen. Marquis de Lafayette prior to the Battle of Yorktown.

President Bill Simpson conducted the ceremony. VASSAR Color Guardsmen Larry Alexander, Andy Johnson, Commander Larry McKinley and Francis Lay presented the Colors. Chapters in attendance were: Colonel Fielding Lewis, Culpeper Minute Men, George Mason and Fairfax Resolves. The Knight-Patty Trust funded the project.



Fincastle Resolutions Chapter visits Patriot Home in Blacksburg

Compatriots and guests of the Fincastle Resolutions Chapter visited the Smithfield Plantation in Blacksburg in mid July. Smithfield, which is surrounded by the campus of Virginia Tech, was one of the homes of Revolutionary Patriot Col. William Preston.

The Docents at the plantation house obviously knew the history of Smithfield and the family who lived there from before the Revolution and presented it well. The knowledge that the SAR group brought with them led to many interesting conversations, much to the delight of the Docents.

After the tour of the house and grounds, most of the group enjoyed lunch at the nearby Skelton Conference Center. After lunch, about half of the group proceeded to the Preston Family Burial Ground, where an archaeologist explained what had been discovered in careful exploration and mapping of the cemetery. Col. Preston's grave has been marked by the DAR.

The Chapter was pleased with the visit and has suggested making plans for a multi-chapter meeting, a VASSAR outing, or tours by small groups of compatriots and guests in Blacksburg to visit this inspiring and educational site. The Chapter is already looking at another visit to accommodate members who were not able to attend in July.

The Fincastle Resolutions Chapter is especially interested in Col. Preston's two homes. It has committed itself to a project to join with Botetourt County to erect a monument to Col. Preston at Green Field, a second Preston home near Daleville. The Virginia State Society of DAR has already made a sizeable contribution to its funding.