A Trip to Fantasyland

Written by Allen, Joy Thursday, August 23, 2018 12:55 PM

During our ordeal, or, more euphemistically, our period of disruption, at Headquarters House, it occurred to me in reporting to you this year I would like to take you on a trip to Fantasyland. Most of us like to dream, so—please share mine:

Let's suppose that ALL of our Museum Houses—Headquarters House, Haywood Hall, the Fourth House, Joel Lane House, Dumbarton House, Gunston Hall, Sulgrave Manor—had temperature control, that all were in perfect repair and sparkling with fresh paint; that all were furnished to the last detail, and constantly scrubbed and shining, every piece of silver and brass gleaming like a looking glass; that fresh flowers decorated all the main rooms; that we had accomplished all archaeological

In the 1983 Blue Book (Annual Report), the President of the NSCDA-NC, Mary Bason Broadfoot, described

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research at all the houses; that demonstrations of 18th century craft skills was a regular process; that each house had lecture series interpreting Colonial living the every Sunday afternoon 18th century music programs entertained our visitors; and that—of course—we had hundreds of visitors of all ages streaming through houses every opening hour.

And let's suppose that gardens at all our houses were immaculately clipped, pea-ed, and weeded; and that our members yied with each other for the privilege of serving as docents at the house and weeders in the gardens.

And let's suppose that our Museum Houses Trust Fund far exceeded our present goal, so that we never had to worry over financing maintenance.

And let's suppose all of us were recording our own little bit of history for the benefit of our children and grandchildren; and researching facts about our ancestors, and that all of our County Committees were keeping their historians up to date, such as Iredell and Durham-Orange Committees have done this past year, thanks to Mrs. Francis Quis and Mrs. Stephens Martin;

And let's suppose our new Parade of Flags were in use every single minute, the program being given at civin clubs and throughout our public and private schools; and the flags displayed in the interim at libraries or other public institutions. And let's suppose we give scholarships to every deserving student in North Caroline; that we are involved in all naturalization ceremonies for new citizens; that we minister to the special needs of all veterans in our hospitals. And let's suppose that we, individually and through our Committees, are all involved in our Quadricentennial celebration.

Oh such dreams! Ladies, if we had indeed accomplished all these things, where would be our goals and challenges? And so, you see, they lie ahead, some within our reach, some still far away, always a little beyond our grasp, but spuring us on and making our striving worthwhile. We are a Society dedicated to the preservation not just of history and patriotism for their own sakes, important as these may be; but preservation of cultural, educational and spiritual values—integral parts of the heritage we cherish.

May our dreams keep us ever alert, working toward fufiliment of our ideals. I thank you all for your role in bringing our dreams closer to reality and for this past year as your President.

Respectfully submitted, Mary B. Broadfoot (Mrs. William G. Broadfoot) President

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