

West Virginia Room at DAR Headquarters

West Virginia is fortunate to sponsor one of the State period rooms in Memorial Continental Hall at DAR Headquarters in Washington, DC. It is set up like a school room in the parlor of a house in 1820 where parents or a tutor could help children learn. In keeping with DAR Museum policy, the furnishings reflect American craftsmanship and decorative tastes prior to 1830. And while to our modern eyes the patterned carpet and the decorated wallpaper may seem busy and in conflict with each other, they are typical of pre-1830 tastes. Most of the furnishings were generously donated.

Among the furniture you will see in the room include a fold-top writing desk that belonged to Robert Rutherford, a Virginia delegate to Congress; a barrel organ; a Pembroke table; a needlework fire-screen; and an American piano. The piano was carried over the mountains by horse-drawn wagon and is said to be one of the most valuable items in the DAR Museum.

In addition to the items on display, many more items are stored in temperature-controlled areas. These items can be pulled out to replace items currently showcased in the room or put on temporary display.

The West Virginia room serves as a wonderful reminder of our country's heritage. Although many of our ancestors, especially in the frontier of western Virginia, could not afford the beautiful fittings of this room, we must keep in mind our ancestors' important contributions. Because of their service and sacrifice they made it possible for more of us today to live the type of lifestyle that this room portrays.

So, the next time you are in Washington DC, our Nation's capital, be sure that you visit the West Virginia room for a delightful and informative look at our country's history! Daughters are

encouraged to visit the room which is located on the balcony of the library during Continental Congress and pick up a brochure depicting its history and restoration.

Submitted by

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