

2021 KSDAR Chapters Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail

I am proposing a statewide project to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail during 2021. It would involve our compiling a single notebook in which all participating chapters would provide a 1- page summary of any of their activities or ceremonies (suggested template follows) as well as some memento of the event such as a picture(s), letter from the Chamber of Commerce, or proclamation from the mayor if in a town that the Trail passed through. For each Chapter there will be a plastic sleeve for the document(s) plus 4"x6" sleeves for pictures. In a nod to the Santa Fe Trail Association's "trail swags", which are given when someone contributes to their geocaches, I will provide a small memento for the chapters that participate.

As we remember, former Kansas State Regent Shirley Coupal had as her state project the refurbishing of the DAR monuments along the trail in Kansas. She and Pat Traffas, the State Regent before her, had visited all the markers and then wrote a book about them. If your chapter has a photo of a marker, it would be great to include it. Our notebook, highlighting what we did for this 200th anniversary, will be sent to the KSDAR library as another way to commemorate our state's contribution to the memory of this historic trail. It does not replace a report for the CMR.

The National Vice- Chair for the Santa Fe Trail part of the Commemorative Events Committee is Dee Sadler, who is from Kansas. Pat Traffas is on the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Trail Association and is chair of a Santa Fe Trail Association- DAR task force. We owe it to them to be the outstanding state among the 5 along the trail. We are also the one with the most miles of it.

Wherever your chapter is located, you can find a way to commemorate this important part of Kansas history. A celebration does not have to include one of the DAR Santa Fe Trail markers. Perhaps you have members who are quilters. The Santa Fe Trail Center in Larned is inviting DAR chapters to submit quilts for a traveling exhibit. They have very specific requirements. You can contact the Director, Seth McFarland, at director@santafetrailcenter.org for more information or the Larned Chapter which is partnering with them on this project. The Santa Fe Trail association website, santafetrail.org, has a wealth of suggestions. And most importantly the Commemorative Events Committee page on the NSDAR website has ideas for programs and "trail" minutes" which are often updated.

Whatever you do, I suggest that, once your event is completed, you go ahead and write a report about it, whether it is this simple 1 page one for our KSDAR book, or the notebook required by the national committee for judging at the Division or National level. It is so much

easier when the event is fresh in your mind than waiting until the same time as you are involved in the time consuming CMR. If we are able to meet in person for the State September meeting, I would appreciate your bringing any completed reports to the Committee Fair and I will place them in the book.