

History Is Here!



Santa Fe National Historic Trail
National Trails System

National Park Service
3 - Trails West, Inc.
Board of Parks and Recreation
Commissioners - Kansas City, Mo.

Marking the Santa Fe Trail

The wagon wheels stopped rolling and the trail dust started to settle when the westward-expanding railroad reached Santa Fe in 1880. Although the rails brought an end to the Santa Fe Trail, this era of our nation's past was kept alive due to the farsighted efforts of a remarkable group of women, the Daughters of the American Revolution—the DAR.

Within two decades of the last trade wagons passing through this area, the DAR embarked on a mission to locate the original trail route and install granite markers to serve as a tangible link to the memories of the people, places, and events that shaped history.

Modern developments made it necessary to relocate this marker several times from its original location on 87th Street. As the Schumacher family planned this park in 1991, they offered this site back on the historic Santa Fe Trail as a permanent home for the marker which continues to serve as an indication that “history is here!”



Courtesy Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society Archives
Gary Plowman-Studio Three Collection of P. H. Grinter Photographs

A total of 179 granite markers were installed along the Santa Fe Trail. DAR members organized their installation and partnered with historical societies and local govern-

ments to acquire funding. Marker dedications, like the one pictured here, were social events attracting DAR members, citizens, dignitaries, and politicians.

“The DAR always insisted on proven accuracy of information before beginning a project to mark a historic trail site. Because of this, the original DAR

markers still serve as a primary source for trail research today.”

—Jane Short Mallinson, 2000
National DAR Representative for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Advisory Council

Patriotism • Preservation • Education



Founded in 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-political, non-profit, volunteer women's organization serving to promote patriotism, preserve American history, and secure America's future through better education for children. Four women, who each had fathers or grandfathers who

were patriots of the American Revolution, created this organization to “perpetuate the memory and spirit of the women and men who achieved American independence.”

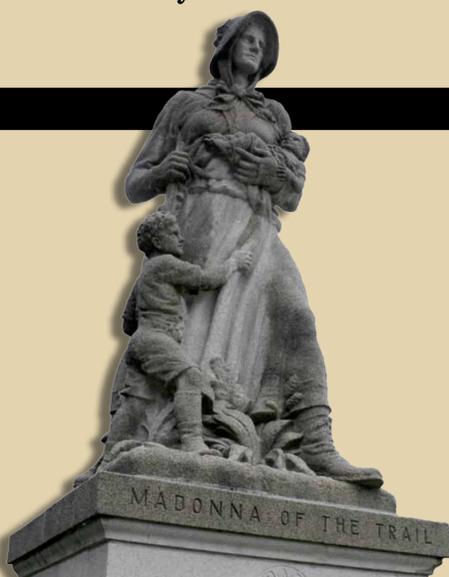
The DAR, still very active and relevant, currently has 165,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States as well as 11 international chapters. With over a century of service, DAR members have volunteered thousands of

hours annually to veteran patients, awarded scholarships and financial aid to students, and supported schools for the underprivileged. They sponsor literacy programs and help immigrants prepare for their citizenship exam.

In recent decades the DAR have contributed funding for high-profile projects such as the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Independence Hall, and construction

of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The DAR National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., houses one of the nation's premier genealogical libraries, one of the foremost collections of pre-industrial American decorative arts, and an extensive collection of early American manuscripts.

Funded by the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund - Kansas City, Mo.



Madonna of the Trail

The DAR was also responsible for the placement of the Madonna of the Trail statues—a memorial to the pioneer mothers of the covered wagon days. They were placed in the 12 states that had routes of westward expansion and the coast to coast route of the National Old Trails Road. The heroic ten-foot tall figure of a woman with her children represents the strong and determined character of the pioneering spirit.