

CAN YOU TRACE YOUR LINEAGE TO A PATRIOT WHO SERVED IN SPANISH AMERICA?

DAR members have traced their ancestry back to more than 500 Spanish patriots of the American Revolution. These patriots were residents of either Spanish Louisiana or Nueva España. Nueva España included portions of the present-day states of Texas, California, New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona, as well as Mexico. Spanish forces also served in Cuba and other parts of the Caribbean. Ongoing research continues to identify new Spanish patriots.

How were these people involved in the American Revolution?

DONATIVOS

In 1780, Carlos III, King of Spain, issued a Royal Decree that all subjects in Nueva España, or New

Spain, make a voluntary contribution, in the form of a donation, to help fund the American Revolutionary War. Every citizen of Spanish America was asked to donate one or two pesos to the cause.



GÁLVEZ EXPEDITION

Many Spanish patriots served under General Bernardo de Gálvez in his Gulf Coast campaigns, including the Battles of Pensacola and Mobile. They were also stationed at militia posts throughout Spanish Louisiana. Some Spanish patriots were at the Battle of Fort San Carlos, in present day Saint Louis, and others were recruited from the Canary Islands to the Louisiana Infantry Regiment.



THE BATTLE OF PENSACOLA

General Gálvez's crowning achievement was the capture of Pensacola. Fought between March 9 and May 10, 1781, it was the longest battle of the American Revolution.

TEXAS LONGHORN CATTLE

Could your ancestor be one of the Texas cattlemen who supplied approximately 10,000 head of Texas longhorn cattle in response to a request by Gálvez in 1779? If so, you may have a Spanish patriot.

USEFUL SOURCES

The following resources are helpful for your research; however, a translator may be required as some are written in Spanish:

- ☆ *The Canary Islanders of Louisiana*, Gilbert C. Din
- ☆ *La Participación Canaria en la Formación y Reclutamiento del Batallón de Luisiana*, Miguel Molina Martínez
- ☆ *Spanish Records, Lists of Men Under General Don Bernardo de Gálvez in his Campaign against the British, 1779*, C. Robert Churchill
- ☆ *Honor and Fidelity*, Jack D. Holmes
- ☆ *José de Ezpeleta, Gobernador de la Mobila, 1780-1781*, F. de Borja Medina Rojas
- ☆ *The Texas Connection with the American Revolution*, Robert H. Thonhoff
- ☆ *New Mexico's Contributions to the American Revolutionary Cause from Original Letters and Documents, 1779-1785*, Harriett McCallum
- ☆ *Cuba 1753-1815, Crown, Military and Society*, Allan Kuethe
- ☆ *The Journal of Don Francisco Saavedra de Sangronis*, Aileen Moore Topping, translator, and Francisco Morales Padrón, editor
- ☆ *Spain and the Independence of the United States. An Intrinsic Gift*. Dr. Thomas Chávez
- ☆ *The Militiamen of St. Louis & Ste. Genevieve, 1779-1783. Original Militia Lists*. Kristine Sjostrom, Mary Ann Long, Mary Anthony Startz

Historic Preservation - Education - Patriotism

TRACING YOUR LINEAGE

When researching a Spanish Patriot, ask yourself the following questions:

- ☆ What do you know about the person?
- ☆ Where did he or she live?
- ☆ What type of Revolutionary War service did he or she perform?

Identifying who would be recognized as patriots through Spain's contribution takes some detective work. It is best to start with the lineage by working your way back through the generations until you find a patriot.



THE LOUISIANA MILITIA OUTPOSTS

When researching a Spanish patriot, you need to be aware of "What was Spanish American during the American?" This includes what is now the American Southwest, the Gulf Coast region and parts of the Central United States, and other areas, such as Mexico, Central America, South America, and Cuba.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR.

There are nearly 3,000 DAR chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries.

For more information, contact
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Researching Your Spanish Patriot



Can you trace your family back to
those living in Nueva España during
the American Revolution
1776 - 1783?

If so, you may be eligible for
membership in the Daughters of the
American Revolution.