


## Color Guard Drill /commands

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Sun, 2010-03-21 08:23

### John Carroll



Offline

Joined: 27 Sep 2009

Our chapter is forming a color guard. We recently recruited several re-enactors into the group and are building the unit around them. I am trying to put an SOP together for the group. The re-enactors would like to be historically accurate in their portrayal. Consequently, one of the difficulties that I am experiencing in establishing our Color Guard SOP is the fact that we are mixing modern military protocols with Revolutionary War period weapons. Obviously, the manual at arms for a Brown Bess does not coincide with modern weapons and commands. Baron von Steben's manual is silent on the presentation of colors. Also the manual does not seem to address squad level drill and is focused on Company/Regiment commands. Can anyone give me any guidance?

Thanks

John Carroll  
General Anthony Wayne Chapter  
Beaver County  
Pennsylvania

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John L. Carroll

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Sat, 2010-05-22 03:01

[#1](#)

### Adam Freeman



Offline

Joined: 13 May 2010

### Color Guard D&C

John,

I have the same questions that you do regarding color guard drill and ceremony. As a newly approved SAR member, I have had the good fortune to be part of a color guard this Memorial Day with my father! While my "about face/left face/right face" heel & toe pivots will come back to me with a little practice, I am interested in learning more about the period d&c commands and movements for authenticity.

Were you able to find any local or online resources for further assistance? Good luck in your quest!

V/R, Adam Freeman

**Patriot Ancestor - John Lugar Wright; Corporal in William Winters' Company, 26th Battalion, Maryland Militia - Charles County, MD.**

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Thu, 2010-10-21 23:36

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### Mark\_S\_Robertson



Offline

Joined: 17 Oct 2010

### Color Guard D&C

Compatriots,

If you have not found your answers yet, I would recommend, "The American Soldier of the Revolutionary War". It is excerpts from Baron Von Steuben's regulations of 1776. Pages 13 through 28 will be the most important for you. The instructions and illustrations are very helpful. The rest of the book does focus on platoon, company and battalion movements, but by studying the rest of the book you should be able to command the movements of a four man color guard.

I would also recommend the DVD "Von Steuben's Continentals: The First American Army". Its' instructions are not as detailed, but there are a few scenes that show how some of the movements should be executed.

I agree Von Steuben does not specifically address the movements for color guard presentations. He does not provide the answers for every possible situation. I believe the imagination and skill of the color guard commander and men of the color guard have to provide some of the answers. The last

three years of our re-activated color guard have proven there are too many variables to put into a manual. Just the parades can be a challenge.

We've been in large, well organized parades with wide streets, proper crowd control and every member of our chapter color guard showed up to march. Five men a breast, marching down the street can take up a wide area.

We've also been in small parades with no crowd control and very few color guard members participating. In one parade we started with four men a breast and were forced to reduce it to two men for about half a block. We then went back to four for the rest of the parade. Calling it a parade may be a bit generous.

Events are even more challenging. Yes there is the basic protocol of flag placement. The US flag will always be on the speaker's right or from the audiences' view, on their left. Getting the flag there and retrieving the flag has been the challenge. No two events have yet to provide the same floor plan. Imagination, adaptability and patience are as important as knowing your left foot from your right foot.

I've gone on long enough. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know at [robertsonm19yahoo \[dot\] com](mailto:robertsonm19yahoo.com).

Mark Robertson  
Lewis and Clark Chapter  
ORSSAR

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Sat, 2010-10-23 17:00

#3

### John Thornhill



Offline

Joined: 17 Oct 2009

### Color Guard Information

JasTownsend and Sons has a booklet named "American Soldiers of Revolutionary ....". It is an illustrated drill manual of Stubens commands. Cost \$6.00. This is used by many people as a source of information. You can look at [Jastownsend.com](http://Jastownsend.com) - look under Books.

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Wed, 2010-12-15 14:29

#4

### Steven Hart



Offline

Joined: 8 Jun 2010

### Point Pleasant Re enactor

We are using the an older book as we were before the 1776 time frame.

It is the "Norfolk Militia Manual" 1768.

I have made a PDF File of it.

Contact me at: [wvridgerunner@gmail.com](mailto:wvridgerunner@gmail.com) and I will see if I can get it to you, if not I can put it on CD and mail it to you.

Thank you,

Steve Hart, WVSSAR Color Guard, Point Pleasant Re enactor

Come and see the drama, 20-22 May 2011 go to the Fort website and look at the Pictures under Gallery.

<http://www.fortrandolph.org/>

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**haasdrums**



Offline

**Joined:** 12 Apr 2011

**The Manual Drill and Movements for SAR Color Guard - DVD**

The John Hancock Chapter, Ohio Society has recently released a DVD training manual for the Ohio Society color guard, which goes through the manual drill step by step, including both manual drill for firelock, as well as movement commands for sections like wheeling, column to line etc. It shows and reads through the VonSteuben text, while demonstrating the motions and movements on the video to follow along. It is being made available to other color guards as a fund raisor for the John Hancock Chapters Colorguard and Educational Programs. You can find an order form as [www.findlaysar.org](http://www.findlaysar.org) or contact me directly.

The Ohio Society has distributed copies to each of it's chapters to allow them to train locally (even at home) and be able to answer to consistent and historically accurate commands at events.

Daniel Haas

Chapter President, John Hancock Chapter, Findlay, Ohio

Ohio Society Adj. Colorguard Commander

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