



Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail

We are a Charitable nonprofit organization Our website is www.zebulonpike.org - Thomas Jefferson "Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country."

Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

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Interpretation and Route Committee progress

These two committees of the Association are in the midst of creating some very interesting materials. Our Board wishes the two committees to concentrate our efforts on Pike in Colorado although not exclusively to Colorado. Here are some of their efforts.

Interpretation Committee

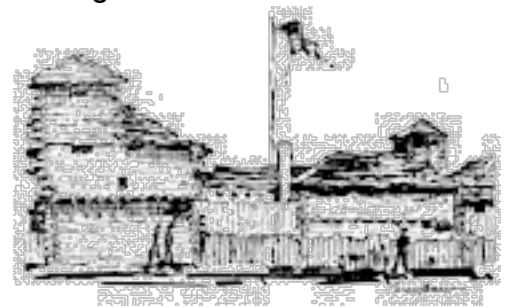
The Association's Interpretation Committee is charged with providing Pike educational materials for the public. Let's start at the very beginning. We present parts of a PNHTA brochure about the starting point of the 2 Pike Expeditions- Fort Bellefontaine.

Fort Bellefontaine - near St. Louis and West Alton, MO on the Missouri River

History of Fort/Cantonment Belle Fontaine

The first "Fort" Belle Fontaine (or Cantonment Belle Fontaine) was built on a flood plane on the south side of the Missouri River overlooked by a high bluff at the mouth of Cold Water Creek. The post was established evidently because of the commanding position of both the Missouri and the Mississippi.

By 1810, the Cantonment had been flooded numerous times and fell into disrepair. The 2nd fort, on the top of the 125 foot bluff consisting of 30 buildings, several block houses and a rectangle palisade, was completed.



Belle Fontaine served as an instrumental starting and stopping point for several notable explorers and expeditions. From 1805-1808, Cantonment Belle Fontaine served as a trading post or "Indian Factory" for the local Indian tribes.

The property was abandoned on July 10, 1826 with the establishment of the St. Louis Arsenal and Jefferson Barracks. Today, the property is the Missouri Hills Home estate, a residence for both boys and girls.

Pike left the Cantonment two times- 9 Aug 1805- Mississippi Expedition and on 15 Jul 1806 for the SW Expedition.

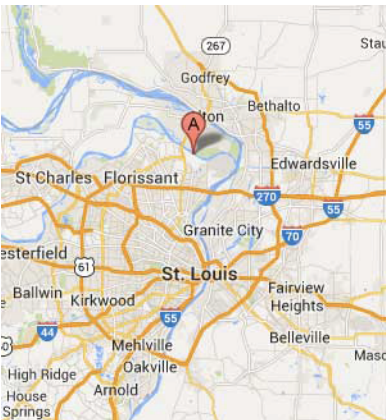
Pike (9th August 1805) ***"Sailed from my encampment near Saint Louis at 4 O'clock P.M. on Friday the 9th Augt. 1805, with one Sergt. two corporals and 17 privates in a Keel boat 70 feet long; provisioned for four months: with orders to explore the source of the Mississippi making a general survey of the river and its boundaries, and its productions, both in the Animal, vegetable and mineral creation: also to include observations on the savage inhabitants of its Banks- Water very rapid- encamped on the E. side at the head of an Island."*** (at the head of Chouteau Island)

Pike ***"15th July, 1806, Tuesday.- We sailed from the landing at Belle Fontaine, about 2 o'clock P.M. in two boats. Our party consisted of two lieutenants, one surgeon, one serjeant, two corporals, sixteen privates, and an interpreter. We had also in our charge, chiefs of the Osage and Pawnees, who, with a number of women and children, had been to***

Washington. These Indians has been redeemed from captivity among the Potowatomies, and were now to be returned to their friends, at the Osage towns. The whole number of Indians amounted to fifty one.

We ascended the river about six miles, and encamped on the south side behind an island. This day my boat swung round twice; once when we had a tow rope on shore, which it snapped off in an instant. The Indians did not camp with us at night. Distance 6 miles." (Camp- S of Car of Commerce Chute behind Pelican Island.)

More text, maps and pictures exist for the brochure.



Route Committee John Murphy, Dave Walker and Harv Hisgen

What was the likely route of Pike's [and Pike's 'Damned Rascals'] Southwest Expedition 1806-1807? We have been considering a route for three types of transportation, to visit as many Pike sites along the 3664 miles of the SW Expedition.

Our source information: Pike's field maps, the Pike 2006 Bicentennial Committee's work [by Hal Jackson, Clive Siegel, and Leo Oliva], Glen Scott's USGS Colorado map series, and others.

1. Auto, Bicycle and Hike Routes - Three somewhat different routes...

We have been guided by this question- Where is the best route for the Association's Auto/Bike/Routes? We have created on paper three tentative trip routes for hikers, bicyclists, and automobile. We are now concentrating on Colorado to refine the route particularly in the mountains.

2. Hike Cañon City and Pike details- Part 2 Cañon City to South Park

- Pike's Pikes Peak trip from Pueblo has been considered in several issues of this Newsletter and will be studied in detail.

- Cañon City is a location where many of Pike's decisions were made, where the Rockies were extensively encountered and where he spent a great deal of time. We are investigating his likely route for hikers to build the auto and biking routes.

Pike's general timeline in Cañon City area is-

Dec. 5-9 Cañon City encampment

Dec. 10- Jan 4- Travel north into South Park and the headwaters of the Arkansas River

Jan. 5-14 Cañon City and the building of the Blockhouse

Jan. 15- Travel south on Grape Creek onto the Wet Mountain Valley

We have the good fortune to have a person who has hiked four Cañon City areas- Approach to Cañon City, leaving and returning from South Park, and leaving for the Wet Mountain Valley. It is extremely good to have him. Dave Walker knows the lay of the land and is knowledgeable about property ownership. He has repeatedly hiked these areas.

We featured his 1st of several articles in our April issue.

Here is the second in the series.

Cañon City and Pike details

Following Pike's Footsteps in the Royal Gorge- D. Nelson Walker Part 2 'Dec. 8,9, and 10'

1-**'Camp 29, Dec. 8-9, 1806'**; located 400 feet west of US 50 next to the access road to the Cañon City campus of Pueblo Community College. The coordinates are N 38-26-27.61; W 105-15-17.67. The legal description is NW ¼ Sec. 32, T18S, R70W, 6th PM, Fremont County. This campsite was used again when the expedition returned here in January, 1807, and is designated on Glenn Scott's map as Camp 51, and it was during Pike's second visit that the blockhouse was constructed.

Pike spent a total of twelve days in the immediate Cañon City area at Scott's Camps 28, 29, and 51. More time than Fremont or any other expeditions that passed through the area. Pike's journal entries while camped here indicated that he and his men spent most of their time hunting and exploring the local terrain, including the lower portion of the Royal Gorge.

Scott's map showing that the camp was located on the campus of Pueblo Community College conflicts* with the information recently supplied by Carol McNew, which places the site next to the Arkansas River on D&RGWRR right-of-way. I have no idea how Scott determined the location, but I feel that Carol's location is the proper one because it is supported by documented evidence.

2-**Leaving for South Park- 'Camp 30', Dec. 10, 1806'**; located about 1,700 feet NW of the University of Kansas Geology Camp and 450 feet north of Long Gulch. The coordinates are N 38-36-11.33; W 105-13-49.78. The legal description is NWNE Sec. 4, T17S, R70W, 6th PM, Fremont County. I have serious reservations about Scott's location of the camp, which I will try to explain*.

* **Two recent conflicting information to be weighed**

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The Claim Jumpers- Buena Vista, CO-

We encourage you to see the melodrama "The Claim Jumpers" in Buena Vista, CO this summer.

Claim Jumpers is an old fashioned western melodrama with twists. It's a "who done it" where you participate.

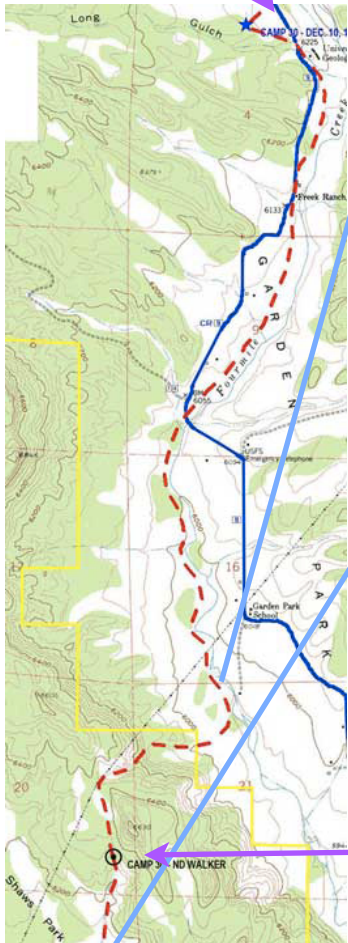
Someone you don't expect killed the villain? The person who wrote this melodrama is the director and plays the bailiff.

The Friends of Pike in Buena Vista is supporting this melodrama as a community civic project.

Most importantly you will be supporting an effort to provide scholarships. The *Claim Jumpers* gives scholarships to the young people involved in the play and the Friends are starting a fund for the establishment of a venue for performances and meetings for anyone in the community.

The Friends of Pike are also helping the young people learn more about the Pike expedition in the Buena Vista area.

Dec. 10 camp ?



Dec. 10 camp ?



Walker Part 2- continues

This leg of the route includes portions of the Gold Belt Byway and offers outstanding opportunities for car-bike-hike trail designations; including along US 50, Fremont County Road 69, existing trails on BLM lands crossing Shaws Park and the ridge between Shaws and Garden Parks, and Fremont County Road 9 (Garden Park Road). There is already an interpretive sign on CR 9 at the BLM's Cleveland Quarry Recreation Site that highlights Pike's route through Garden Park but opportunities exist for additional signs; notably on BLM along the next leg of the route.

According to Scott's map and the editors' footnote in The Southwestern Journals of Zebulon Pike, when Pike's party departed Camp 29 they followed an "Indian trail" that led them due north from the camp up Sand Creek and along the present route of US 50. Within a few miles from Camp 29 (where US 50 turns west) the Indian trail continued northward into Threemile Park and then several miles further north into Shaws Park. In order to reach Fourmile Creek from Shaws Park, the Indian trail that Pike was following would have had to turn east or northeast and cross over the ridge that stands between the valleys of Shaws Park

and Fourmile Creek (Garden Park). Based on my personal knowledge of the terrain in this area (I have literally hiked this ground 100 times) there are only two passes between Shaws Park and Garden Park that offer relatively easy terrain where the Indian trail might have been located. Except for these two passageways, the rest of the dividing ridge that rises along the west side of Garden Park includes sheer vertical cliffs

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Welcome to Boston- Zebulon Doyle Rollings and our wonderful country.

Zebulon Doyle Rollings was just born in Boston to Ryan and Erin Rollings. Ryan and Erin have been members of the Pike NHT Association and Ryan is the son of our Upper Arkansas Area Coordinator Tom Rollings and his wife Colleen.

We asked Tom why they choose the given name- Zebulon...

Tom- "My son and daughter-in-law (née Doyle) knew that I was a Zebulon Pike fan who re-enacts his journey, stays involved in the PNHTA, and enjoys researching Pike sites. They got used to hearing a lot of stories about his exploration and how he deserved much more credit than he got. So anyway, they were determined to give their baby boy a unique name - one that stood out. They honored me by choosing Zebulon for his name because they knew how much I respect Pike's efforts in history. We call him Zeb. He was 6 lbs. 11 oz. and about 21 inches long, with lots of hair, and a knack for making history!"

Walker Part 2- continues

20 to 80 feet in height and present formidable obstacles to foot and horse travel. One of the two passes over the ridge is now part of the right-of-way for the Black Hills Energy power line, and is the pass that I believe would have been a logical location for the Indian trail that Pike was following.

According to Pike's journal entry for December 10, he **camped that night in a dry ravine where there was no water and no forage for the horses**. Scott's map places this camp (Camp 30) near the University of Kansas Geology Camp. I do not believe the camp was near here, however, but rather that Pike was still on the west side of the dividing ridge, and camped somewhere along the northeastern edge of Shaws Park. I base this belief on my familiarity with the local area, and can attest that both Fourmile Creek and Garden Park are readily visible from the crest of the dividing ridge from anywhere along its entire length. Thus, in my opinion it is inconceivable that Pike could have crossed the ridge without seeing the creek that lay only a short distance below, and that upon seeing the creek that he would elect to camp in a dry wash, instead of on the banks of Fourmile Creek where water and forage were available. The only reasonable explanation for camping in a dry ravine is that he didn't see the creek on Dec. 10 because he hadn't gone far enough to reach the summit of the dividing ridge before stopping to camp. This is supported by Pike's December 11 journal entry, in which he reports that they **"Marched at ten o'clock, and in one mile struck a branch of the Arkansaw (Fourmile Creek), on which the supposed Spaniards had encamped, where there was both water and grass."** According to my theory, Camp 30 was located in the ravine situated about ½ mile south of the low pass where the Black Hills Energy power line crosses the ridge, and Fourmile Creek lies ½ mile farther on the east side of the pass.* Pike does not say what time the party departed from Camp 29, nor how far they marched that day, but the distance from Camp 29 to the ravine on the west side of ridge is 8.5 miles, whereas, the distance to the site near the geology camp is about 12.5 miles.

*At coordinates N38-32-58.44, W105-14-29.17. **38.549567, -105.241436**

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