

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



## The Missing Pieces

- ▲ is contiguous with the Lewis and Clark NHT/KATY/American Discovery Trail from Fort Bellefontaine/St. Charles MO to the Osage River on the Missouri River,
- ▲ joins the Santa Fe NHT in Great Bend KS and follows the SFNHT to LaJunta CO,
- ▲ is contiguous with the Old Spanish NHT- North Branch from the Great Sand Dunes NP in Colorado to the San Juan Pueblo Reservation, north of Santa Fe,
- ▲ continues on the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT from the San Juan Pueblo Reservation, north of Santa Fe, through New Mexico to Torreón, Mexico, south of Chihuahua,
- ▲ follows the El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT from Guerrero [near Eagle Pass] through Texas to Natchitoches LA.

50 to 53% of the 3664 mile Pike footprint is contiguous with federally designated trails and are in **green** on the map.

Trail Contiguity					
State/Prov	# of	Designated	Undesignated		
	tot mi	Miles	Miles		
				tot mi	
<b>Missouri</b>		95			L&C/KATY/ADT
430 totmi	11.7%		335		Not Designated
<b>Nebraska</b>	0.3%		10		Not Designated
<b>Kansas</b>			432	777	Not Designated
648 totmi	17.7%	216			SF/ADT
<b>Colorado</b>		88			ST&S/ADT210I+122)
670 totmi	18.3%		454		Not Designated
Colorado (South of Arkansas River)					
		70	524		Not Designated
		58			Old Spanish
<b>New Mexico</b>		76			Old Spanish
417 totmi	11.4%	341			Camino Real TA
<b>Chihuahua</b>		466			
466 totmi	12.7%	456			Camino Real TA
			11		Not Designated
<b>Durango</b>	2.5%	92	92		Not Designated
<b>Coahuila</b>	11.2%	409	409	512	Not Designated
<b>Texas</b>	13.0%	477			Camino Real-Tejas
<b>Louisiana</b>	1.2%	45			Camino Real-Tejas
				<b>Undesignated</b>	
Mexico	26.4%	967			with ADT
United States	73.6%	2697	1813mi	1935mi	
		<b>3664</b>	49.5%	52.8%	
		#1 Undesignated MO, KS & NE			
		#2 Undesignated CO			
		#3 Undesignated Mexico (Chihuahua, Durango, & Coahuila)			

### Three segments remain [in red on the map]-

Seg. 1 **[Kansas]**: 777 miles (or 21%) lies on the Osage River in Missouri, on into Kansas & Nebraska to Great Bend, KS,

Seg. 2 **[Colorado]**: 524 miles (or 14%) lies in Colorado, and

Seg. 3 **[Durango-Coahuila]**: 512 miles (or 14%) lies in Mexico.

**Missouri**, on the Osage and Little Osage Rivers, includes Lake of the Ozarks, Truman Reservoir and the Osage villages. **Nebraska** takes in the Republican Pawnee village. **Kansas** includes the rolling Flint Hills, Pawnee and Osage trails, Waconda and Wilson Lakes as well as Cheyenne Bottoms.

**Colorado** embraces the approach to Cañon City on the Arkansas River with Pike's attempt to climb his Great Mountain (aka the small blue cloud or Pikes Peak); the Royal Gorge; South Park [and the headwaters of the South Platte River]; headwaters of the Arkansas River near Leadville; the Wet Mountain Valley; the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and the Great Sand Dunes National Park in the San Luis Valley.

**Durango and Coahuila** in Mexico includes an old Spanish trail connecting the Royal Road of the Interior (El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro) near Torreón with the Road to Friendly Tribes (El Camino Real de los Tejas) near Eagle Pass in Texas.

The Pike National Historic Trail Association is seeking help from folks who live in these areas to identify and interpret possible Pike sites, further confirm the Pike route, solidify local support, aid in the field work for our Auto Tour and Hike/Bike Tours and possibly form appropriate chapters. There is, for example, individuals in Olpe KS who possibly have a tent stake found near a possible Pike Encampment.



## Laura Billingsley Imagines Pike's Worse Days

On May 28th 2004, I drove into the city of Westcliffe from Seattle. As I looked down the streets, I noticed 2 to 3 people milling about. I thought to my self why this is a quaint town. As I drove towards the mountains, I was amazed how far the Sangre De Cristo Mountains stretched for miles and miles. The snow on the mountains glistened as we drove slowly along the mountains. As we drove up County Road 130, the top of Horn Creek Mountain looked tall and huge. When we drove up to the conference center there was no one to be seen, and I noticed how fresh the air seemed. [I was to begin work at the Horn Creek Conference Center for 1 1/2 years.]

My first night on the mountain, it seemed a little cold and I noticed the air was a little thinner than in Seattle. I wrapped myself in several blankets trying to stay warm. The next day the bright sun woke me up, and I was excited to see what the day would bring. I ate a small breakfast and decided to walk around for awhile. I noticed how quiet it was because my ears were ringing from being in the city too long. I took a deep breath and was excited to move here to the Midwest from my home in Seattle.

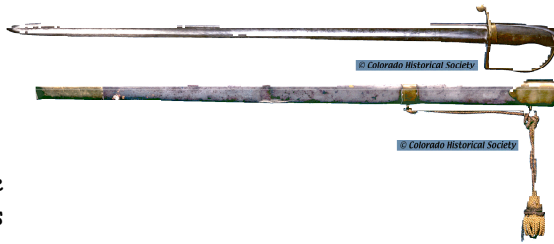
After several months, being on the mountain, I felt lonely and sometimes scared. I tried not to walk around at night for fear of bears and mountain lions, but that was during the spring/ summer time. I remember my first snow on the mountains. The trees were inches thick with snow. Hiking in it during the day even with several layers and well insulated boots on, I was still cold! I was glad that there were buildings with heat!

What would it be like 2 centuries ago hiking and living in the mountains. Zebulon Pike endured hardship while hiking. Losing two men due to frostbite must have been hard. Hiking in waist deep snow without having the luxury we have now! We have clothes, boots, jackets, gloves and hats that are insulated and water proof and what did Pike and his men have? Nothing. [OK- worn, cotton uniforms] and we still complain that we are cold.

**BREAKING NEWS** Our website- [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org) is up and running. The revised website will be up on December 8.



Zebulon Pike not only led the 1805-6 Mississippi River Expedition; the 1806-7 Southwest Expedition to explore portions of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase; and died a Brigadier General after winning the 1813 Battle at Troy [Toronto] Canada; we can catch some glimpses into Pike as a family man.



### Roy Pike's Column-

Here is an 1812 letter Pike wrote to his Aunt Jeanet just prior to his assignment in the War of 1812.

**Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Philadelphia, to Jeanet Pike Gage, 20 May 1812, PFAA.**

**transcription** Philadelphia [Source: Western Reserve Historical Society]  
20 May 1812



Dr. Aunt Jeanet

I found the Bearer Abraham Pike in the Army to the westward and paid his passage round to this City—and have now furnished him with money to go on with—He has a furlough, but must report himself to me monthly—and join any Corps of the army to which he may be ordered—I wish you to advise with him as to the propriety of his getting his discharge as I imagine by a new Law passed lately he will get (I hope) 160 Acres of Land if he serves his time out [crossed out: when he is discharged]. However of this I will inform myself further and write from the seat of Government—Abraham must be punctual in marching to join the Army should he receive order to that effect—as I should be censured for my indulgence to him if he did not—If you all conceive it best to get his discharge write to me agreeably to the address I have given him—And I will use my influence to that effect but the 160 Acres of Land if he should be entitled to it by serving his time out will be an object—I wish you would my Dr. Aunt be so good as to send a copy of the foregoing part of my letter to Aunt Peggy and Uncle James as they likewise may wish to give Abraham some advice--

My Dr. and \_\_\_beloved Mother Departed this life on the 25 Decemb—1809—She had become very religious and after Exhorting the family took her departure calling the name of our Saviour— \_\_\_ looking on the transition from {life} to Eternity as the confirmation of her hopes—My Brother George likewise {crossed out: took his} Deceased the 21 {Feb} last with a Consumption—an early victim to the {shafts} of Death—He had been promoted to Second Lieutenant in the 2d. Reg't and I had fondly hoped to have led him in the field to battle and victory and that we should have conquered side by side, or more nobly died. My father is still {living} but is very infirm he has James & Maria with him the latter of which is married to a Lawyer; but I believe a great \_\_\_

I have my lady and little daughter here with me—the latter is nine years old—she is our eldest—and the only one left of {five}—God in his wisdom having been pleased to take the balance from this Sublunary {sphere}—I expect to leave my little daughter in this City for her education—You {know} whom I married—Capt. Brown is very rich [sic] worth at least 150.000 dollars but as yet I have benefited by it but little—and being obliged to live in a style which costs me from two to three thousand Dollars per Annum—I find myself sometimes scarce enough of money or I would have let Abraham have had more [word crossed out, possibly "money"]—Tell Phillip that I hope yet to have it in my power to visit you all and walk over the old play Grounds together. Make My Love to all Cousins—and believe me to [something illegible inserted above line] be my Dr. Aunt your affectionate Nephew.

[several illegible words; one is possibly "affection"]

ZM Pike

[N.B.] I am going to the Seat of Government for orders if we have war I shall march immediately for Canada and leave Mrs. Pike here—if not I believe we shall go home to see our friends—

---Roy Pike is President of the Pike Family Association and a member of the Pike NHTA Board.

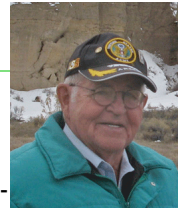
Pike moved on in life after the Southwest Expedition. His family was involved in his command as well as his thoughts. It is also interesting to note the manner in which the language was expressed.

### Monty Pike's Column-

There were suggestions that Pike and his father were not close. As both were soldiers, ZM's military advancements were made and his father did not receive similar promotions. This is a supposition of mine and is not backed by fact other than the dates of promotion and demotion.

However, I have copies of the pay requisitions and granting retirement pay that Pike obtained or caused to be awarded to his father. I can also surmise that Pike did his best to get the money even though his father got the money after Pike had been killed at York. Also just before the Battle of York [now Toronto], Pike wrote to his father a very charming letter professing his love for his father and reading between the lines, thanking him for the training he received from his father.

One other item of interest is the Pike of Pike's Peak fame, was named Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his father was named only Zebulon Pike. So when we are talking about Pike, just remember the one we so recognize at Pikes Peak is Zebulon Montgomery Pike and not is father.





## PIKE'S SOUTHWESTERN EXPEDITION: OUTFITTED OR ILLFATED By Don Headlee

Part 1 of 4

On Tuesday, July 15, 1806 Zebulon Montgomery Pike with a company made up of two lieutenants (including himself), one sergeant, two corporals, sixteen privates, one surgeon (civilian), one interpreter (civilian) and fifty nine Indian men, women and children left from the landing at Cantonment Belle Fontaine. Traveling on the muddy waters of the Missouri River they occupied two keelboats. All but two of the soldiers had accompanied Pike on his expedition on the Upper Mississippi in 1805. They were seasoned soldiers who had dutifully served Pike and had been selected by him and ordered to go on this second expedition. They had not volunteered and as soldiers of the United States Army they had no other alternative but to obey a command or face a court martial.

Pike's military career started early in his life. His father had started his own military career as a private volunteer during the Revolutionary War. During the elder Pike's command at Fort Massac, young Zebulon Montgomery was attached to his father's company, but he had served before this time carrying supplies to the military post of the Northwest. He spent several years distributing supplies to the forts up and down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. During 1796 while Pike was transporting supplies, James Wilkinson became the commanding general of the Army. Wilkinson, who was acquainted with Pike and was well aware of his abilities as a soldier, had him commissioned as a second lieutenant in March 1799. Eight months later Pike was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. Pike was not only looked upon in favor by Wilkinson, but it seemed obvious that he had plans for him.

The first task that Wilkinson assigned to Pike was to explore the upper Mississippi River and to find its source. As with other expeditions of this time period, such as the Lewis and Clark expedition to the west, the need to ascertain the boundaries of the newly purchased land referred to as the Louisiana Purchase was paramount. With twenty men, a seventy foot keelboat, equipment and goods costing approximately \$2000 Pike undertook this journey. It is not the purpose of this paper to discuss the importance of this journey and its accomplishments, but only to bring to attention that Pike had previous experience in organizing an expedition before leaving on his second assignment set before him by General Wilkinson in July of 1806.

One major difference between the Lewis and Clark expedition and the Pike expedition was the planning that took place before getting under way. We are aware of the months of activity and preparation that preceded the departure of the Lewis & Clark expedition before it left Camp Wood. Pike's mission was through orders given to him by his commanding officer, General Wilkinson, not from the president. It is not the intent of this paper to determine the much debated and somewhat dubious purposes of the Pike expedition into the southern part of the recently acquired Louisiana Territory. The intent here is to look at the preparation or lack thereof for Pike's expedition. To my knowledge there are no records of the exact items and the amount of these items that were taken on this journey. What has been used to determine these items is an inventory made from Pike's journal and correspondence that relates to the expedition.

Pike received his orders to proceed without delay from Wilkinson in a letter dated June 24, 1806. His objectives were: (1) to deliver the Osage captives and a deputation of Pawnee, Otoe and Osage returning from Washington to their homeland, (2) to try and accomplish a permanent peace between the Kansas and Osage Nations, (3) to create a "good understanding" with the Comanche and if that endeavor was achieved to make a peace between all Indian nations. Wilkinson also mentions that this would probably lead them into the vicinity of the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers approximate to the settlements of New Mexico. He cautioned Pike to take care and not alarm or offend the Spanish due to the delicate negotiations being made between Spain and the United States. He was instructed to take note of the geographical and natural history of the area, the population, and to collect and preserve specimens of everything curious in the mineral and botanical world. He was also instructed to use his compass and watch to note in a field book the course and distance of the day's march.

It was in this same letter that Wilkinson informed Pike he was to send his son, Lt. Wilkinson, back down the Arkansas River properly equipped to take courses and distances. The party was to descend the Arkansas until they reached Fort Adams, a post on the Mississippi. Later it will be pointed out that Lt. Pike brought to his father's attention as to the poorly equipped conditions under which he was to operate. Pike was told to descend the Red River accompanied by a party of "respectable" Comanche to the post at Natchitoches and wait for further orders. In the same letter Wilkinson tells Pike that he is to receive six hundred dollars worth of goods to take on his journey. He is admonished to render a strict accounting, vouched by documents attested to by one of his party. This six hundred dollars is a seemingly small amount compared to the two thousand given Pike for his journey up the Mississippi in 1805.

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- ☐ The Pike Assoc. website  
☐ Historic/heritage investigation  
☐ Providing educational opportunities  
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Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

I /we will write letters of legislative support Yes \_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to help (Assoc. will contact) Yes \_\_\_\_

Contact us: 303/816-7424 harv.pike@gmail.com Make checks payable to: