

Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter Nov. 2009 Vol. 3 No 9

Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail A Charitable nonprofit organization zebulonpike.org



Santa Maria Ranch Hartsel Colorado

Photo: PNHTA

Pike's Most Northern point in Colorado by Allan Vainley

Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men, on his 1806-7 southwestern expedition, decided to travel north on Four Mile Creek from their fortress in Cañon City Colorado and into South Park. We believe he camped on what is now an island in Eleven Mile Reservoir. He had discovered the headwaters of the South Platte River. They followed the Middle Fork to a location 3 1/2 miles north of Hartsel Colorado on CR 439.

Many anglers know the location well as Santa Maria Ranch and Lt./Capt. Pike may have been the first American to fish the Middle Fork. After hours of checking Pike's field map, this placement lines up perfectly with this location. They had a supply of water. According to his field map they encamped near the bottom of the hill behind the present day red barn, entering from the right [southeast] and leaving left [west.] The bush before the barn is the Middle Fork of the South Platte River. We can say with certainty this is as far north as Pike and his men traveled in Colorado.

Got a Question for You

Would you allow a guy dressed like the fellow to the right to climb Pikes Peak without paying the 50 cents?

Even when he is showing you his drivers license bearing the name Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Jr.?



In 1956, Monty, dressed in Pike's [similar] uniform and our Vice President, attempted to enter the path leading to the top of his distant uncles' peak. He paid the funds and marched to the top.

Next month: Christmas in Salida, more on our Legislative drive, this year's index, 10 Reasons why Pike Can't Get Up His Mountain, and more.

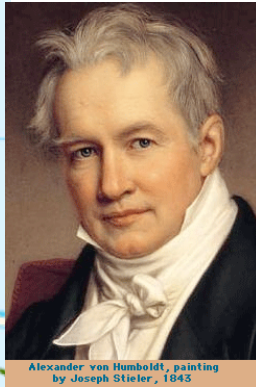


Pike's connection with Baron Alexander von Humboldt

Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich Alexander Freiherr von Humboldt was born in Berlin on September 14, 1769. He was a German [Prussian] naturalist, cartographer and explorer. His quantitative work was foundational to biogeography. Between 1799 and 1804, Humboldt and Aime Bonpland, a botanist, traveled widely in Latin America, exploring and describing South and Latin America for the first time in modern scientific manner ^{1,2}.

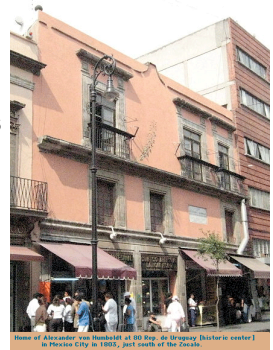


They resided for a year in Mexico City, and traveled to different cities in Mexico at the pleasure of the Mexican government ³.



He wrote about his findings, both in the scientific arena and also in other various fields of interest ⁴.

His map of New Spain is of interest to the Pike Expedition.



After their residence in Mexico, Humboldt and Bonpland were convinced to visit Philadelphia and Washington DC and were guests of President Thomas Jefferson from May to July, 1804 (just prior to Pike's Mississippi River exploration and two years prior to Pike's southwestern expedition). Pike presumably had access to Humboldt's map [right] of New Spain ⁵. Thomas Jefferson: "I consider him the most important scientist whom I have met."

A man held in high esteem ⁶, he died in Berlin on May 6, 1859 at the age of 89.

Notes

¹ -Some **species** named after Humboldt: Humboldt penguin, squid, and lily.

-Geographical features: Humboldt River [western United States], Humboldt Peak

[14,060 foot mountain in Custer County, Colorado], East and West Humboldt Range, Humboldt Sink [Nevada], and the Humboldt Current [Pacific Ocean [Peruvian Current]]— off the west coast of South America

-Numerous **university, forest and town** names in North and South America, even the Mare Humboldtianum **lunar** mare are named for him.

² While on the west coast of South America, von Humboldt measured and discovered the Peruvian Current, which, over the objections of von Humboldt himself, is also known as the Humboldt Current. Thor Heydahl [KonTiki & Aku Aku books & expedition] theorized the use of this current by ancient peoples on balsam rafts to people the South Pacific.

³ Alexander von Humboldt was offered a position in the Mexican cabinet but he refused. The then President of Mexico, Benito Juarez, gave him honorary Mexican citizenship.

⁴ Political Essay of the Kingdom of New Spain, Vol. IV; "The roads of Mexico are either carried along the central table land itself, from Oaxaca to Santa Fe, or they lead from the table land towards the coast." von Humboldt.

⁵ Some accounts relate that von Humboldt loaned Jefferson his New Spain map. He in turn showed and loaned it to General Wilkinson, who, under the table, made a copy of it.

⁶ Charles Darwin said of him: "He was the greatest traveling scientist who ever lived." – "I have always admired him; now I worship him."



Clara's request for her husband's military benefits

Clarissa Harlow Brown Pike {Clara} became lost in the shadow of her husband's quick rise in the military ranks and after his death on the battlefield in 1813, the shadow grew larger. That is until 1846, when Senator Thomas Hart Benton [MO] ¹ (pictured below), introduced Senate Bill 60 in response to Mrs. Pike's petition for her husband's back pay.

Two excerpts from his committee's report [the report header and the two concluding paragraphs] below are thought-provoking and informative. We searched to end up assuming Senate Bill 60 passed and Mrs. Pike received \$3,000 ². The burning of Washington by the British in August of 1814 had many interesting fall-outs.

29th Congress,
1st Session

[SENATE]

[66]

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

January 15, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Benton made the following
REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 60]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Mrs. General Pike, praying for compensation for extraordinary services rendered by her late husband when a lieutenant in the army of the United States, in conducting two expeditions of a scientific character, one in the years 1805-6 to the sources of the Mississippi, the other in 1806-7 to the sources of the Arkansas and Great Plains, and through New Mexico, respectfully report:



It is thus seen from the contemporary documentary history of the times, that a liberal compensation was considered due Lieutenant Pike and his men, for their meritorious services in the two expeditions mentioned. The next inquiry is whether they received such compensation at the time? and to this inquiry both the widow of General Pike and the accounting officers of the Treasury reply in the negative; and the legislative history of the case, as far as it can be traced, gives the same answer. It appears, from the Journals of the House of Representatives, that a bill was reported for making compensation to Lieutenant Pike and his companions, and that it remained among the business not acted upon by the House. It is considered, therefore, as certain that no compensation was made to Lieutenant Pike for these extraordinary services at the time they were performed, and his glorious death soon after in the public service was the probable cause why no further attention was paid to the case until the present application of his widow. This being the case, your committee can see no reason why that liberal reward should not be allowed to the widow, who has been so long bereaved of the support of her husband, which a committee of the House of Representatives, and the honorable Secretary at War, believed to be due to him as far back as the year 1808; and they report a bill accordingly.

The only point which required further determination from your committee was the amount of compensation which they should recommend; and on this point they have to regret their inability to state the amount recommended by the House committee of 1808, the bill then reported having been destroyed when the capitol was burnt by the British during the late war, and the Journals of the House presenting, as usual, nothing but the title of the bill and the proceedings upon it. Deprived of this reference for funding a measure of compensation, your committee have looked into cases of analogous services on which Congress have acted. and find that in the case of Lewis and Clark, for their expedition to the Pacific ocean, double pay was allowed by law to themselves and their men, with 1600 acres of land each to the commanders of the expedition, and 640 acres each to their men, the whole receivable in payment of public lands at two dollars per acre; and in the late exploring expedition Lieutenant Wilkes was allowed fifteen hundred dollars per annum of extra pay, and his subordinate officers engaged in scientific pursuits were also allowed extra pay, according to their respective grades. The double pay and the land to Messrs. Lewis and Clark would probably not vary much from the compensation, according to time, allowed Lieutenant Wilkes; the annual compensation of each would be near about the same; and taking this as in Mrs. Pike's case, the committee would arrive at the sum of fifteen hundred dollars per annum as the fair amount of compensation to be allowed to her. The committee think it better, in the case of a widow, to make compensation in the simple form of a gross sum, instead of double pay and land, as in the case of Lewis and Clark, and accordingly report a bill for the sum of three thousand dollars for the two years that the late Lieutenant Pike was engaged in the two expeditions for which compensation is asked.

¹ Benton was father-in-law of explorer John C. Frémont. It is said that Frémont admired Pike.

² Buying power today of 1845- \$3000 is in excess of \$85,000.

Membership renewal

Your annual membership dues are requested and needed. The Association membership records were lost in a fire earlier this year. Those who joined in 2007 or 2008 should renew their membership [except for Life Members].

Join Now! Please consider membership or renewal of membership in our organization

<i>Level</i>	<i>Amt.</i>	<i>Level Name</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Amt.</i>	<i>Level Name</i>
Student	\$15	Corporal Jackson	Small Business	\$75	Robinson-Brown-Miller
Individual	\$25	Sergeant Meek	Corporation	\$200 & up	Carter-Gordon-Mountjoy-Roy
Family	\$35	Menaugh-Stout	Benefactor	\$500	Sparks-Daugherty
Non profit organization	\$50	Vasquez-Smith	Life	\$1000	Zebulon Pike

Name _____

I will be able to help with:

Address _____

___ The Pike Assoc. website

___ Historic/heritage investigation

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

___ Providing educational opportunities

___ Producing educational materials

Phone (____) _____ Cell _____

___ I /we will personally contact legislators for legislative support

___ I /we will write letters of legislative support

___ I/we would like to help in any way (Assoc. will contact)

e-mail _____

Contact us: 303/816-7424 harv.pike@gmail.com Additional gifts are tax deductible. Make checks payable to:

Pike National Historic Trail Association

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