



Separate News Release
 1 Chief Petty Officer
 Zebulon Montgomery Pike III's retirement
 2 Annie's retirement
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Pike and Total Solar Eclipses through U.S. History by Allan Vainley

In my lifetime I have only seen 3 total solar eclipses where the moon's Umbria shadow completely blocks the sun.

Zebulon Montgomery Pike may have witnessed only one such event on October 27, 1780, but it is unlikely since he was only 1 year 10 months old. [He was born on January 5, 1779 so he missed the June 24, 1778 event.]



The summer of 2017 brought the very first **total solar eclipse exclusive** to the U.S. since before the nation's founding in 1776. [AUGUST 21, 2017]

These events are extremely rare as seen in the US. Eight total solar eclipses that have hit American soil since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. They have occurred on June 24, 1778, October 27, 1780, July 18, 1860, August 7, 1869, July 29, 1878, March 7, 1970, February 26, 1979, and August 21, 2017.

I can remember bringing my students to the south lawn of Downers Grove South High School with pin-hole boxes on **March 7, 1970** and **February 26, 1979** to view these Total Solar eclipses.

Some trivia...

June 24, 1778. The total solar eclipse of June 24, 1778, began in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and swept eastward, passing close to Philadelphia. There, it was observed by prominent astronomer David Rittenhouse,

Thomas Jefferson, who was in Virginia at the time of the eclipse, wrote in a letter to Rittenhouse that "[we] were much disappointed in Virginia generally on the day of the great eclipse, which proved to be cloudy. In [Williamsburg], where it was total, I understand only the beginning was seen." Jefferson went on to humbly request that Rittenhouse send him a more accurate timepiece—one designed to be "for astronomical purposes only."

February 26, 1979. ... The last **total** solar eclipse—where the Sun is completely blocked by the Moon—occurred over the United States on February 26, 1979. However, an **annular** eclipse—where the Moon only blocks the center of the Sun, resulting in a bright ring—occurred on May 10, 1994, and went directly over Illinois.

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To make you aware- The Next Total Solar Eclipse by Allan Vainley

FEATURE ARTICLE



I am particularly attracted to an article in the current issue of *Sky and Telescope* magazine published one year before the next **total solar eclipse**.

So much of Pike's journeys will come close to the center line of this eclipse. In fact the point of greatest eclipse at 12:17: 20 pm CST is just northwest of Torreón, Mexico where Pike was on Monday May 11th, 1807.

He is buried below the center line in Sackets Harbor, NY.

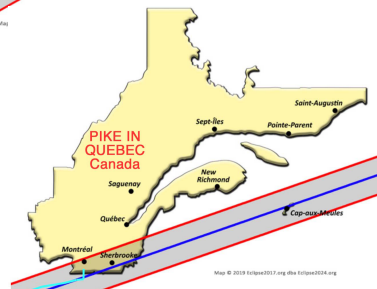
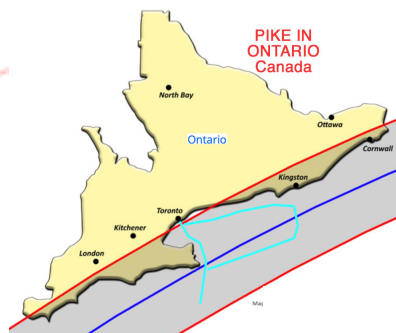
During the month of May 1807, after leaving Chihuahua, Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men were being escorted by the Spanish through New Spain/ Mexico toward the frontiers of Old Mexico from Jiménez to Mapimi on what is called today- the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. From May 1st to May 11, they traveled through arid country west of the Bolson de Mapimi, and then east toward Torreón, Parras and Saltillo on what we call The Monterrey Road to avoid Old Mexico.

And Northeast toward Monclova and the Texas border from the 21st to June 1 on what we chose to call The San Antonio Road.

If he were to travel on his life path today he would cross the solar eclipse center line 4 times and ride it between LaColle Creek, QB, Canada [S of Montreal] and Sackets Harbor, NY.

They would:

- throw 6 fandangos in Torreón and Monoclovo, in Coahuila, Mexico; Eagle Pass, San Antonio, Austin and Waco in Texas.
- serve him Kentucky bourbon at his father's Fort Maddox near Paducah, KY, Carbondale, IL [becoming a Saluki, as I am], St. Louis, Evansville, IN, and Cincinnati, OH.
- treat him to a Steeler's game in Pittsburgh, PA using Bradshaw's and Harris' press box.
- He would visit Niagara Falls, Canada/NY; Rochester, NY as well as the 3 plaques lauding his victory over the British in York-Toronto, Canada in 1813.
- He would visit the Cantonment his men built on Cumberland Bay - Lake Champlain in Plattsburgh, NY to access British strength during the War of 1812.



Comparison 2017 to 2024- The Solar eclipse of April 8, 2024, compared with 2017, will be wider- 197.5 km across versus 114.7 km- 1.72% wider. The moon will be closer to Earth in 2024.

The duration will be nearly twice as long- up to 4 minutes 28 seconds versus 2 minutes 40 seconds. The total eclipse path will touch 15 states, 3 Mexican provinces and six Canadian provinces.

The Path of 2024. Eclipse- The umbra reaches the point of *greatness eclipse* [the instant when the moon's shadow passes closest to the center of the earth] at 12:17 CST about 150 km north east of the city of Durango. At that moment the Sun's altitude is 70°, the duration of totality is 4 minutes 28 seconds, and the path of totality is 197.5 km wide. *So Pike's path on 5/11/1807 was directly below the 2024 point of greatness eclipse on.*

When the path reaches the [Rio Grande and Texas](#), at 1:30 CDT the totality lasts 4 minutes 24 seconds [4m 24s]. The eclipse track crosses Texas diagonally from southwest to northeast. Among the larger cities in the path or San Antonio [on the southern limit], Austin [1m 43s], Waco [4m 12s], Dallas [3m 51s], Fort Worth [2m 32s], and Texarkana [2m 22s]. Houston, the largest city in Texas, is located 200 km outside the path and experiences a partial eclipse in which the moon covers 94.3% of the sun's diameter.

Pike crossed the Sabine River and on into the US and Louisiana on July 1, 1807. He likely remained in Natchitoches, LA for some recreating his confiscated notes and creating maps of his journey. He likely crossed Louisiana to Natchez on the Mississippi. He then returned north on the Mississippi returning to Fort BelleFontaine and his sweetheart and daughter.

Approximately half of Arkansas is within the path as we move toward the Mississippi River and the mouth of the Ohio River.

The southeastern corner of Missouri, including Poplar Bluff, falls within the totality track, which receives 4m 8s of totality as well as [Cape Girardeau, MO](#) and [Carbondale, IL](#). Totality touches Tennessee and moves into Kentucky at the mouth of the Ohio River. *This area on the Ohio near the Land Between the Lakes and Paducah, KY [1m 35s] was familiar to Pike since he joined his father's Army [age 17] here, piloted supply boats down the Ohio from Pittsburg at/to his father's Fort Maddox [Paducah], and was later stationed at Cantonments Kaskaskia and BelleFontaine on the Mississippi/Missouri, as well as returning from Louisiana up the Mississippi from his SW Expedition in 1807.*

[Cape Girardeau, MO](#) is Mississippi's largest city in the path and will be in the moon's umbral shadow for 4m 6s.

The central line crosses the Missouri/Illinois border near [Cairo, IL](#) at approximately 2 PM CDS. The path width is 186 km, the central duration is 4m 10s, and the Sun's altitude is 57°.

The world's Saluki capital- [Carbondale, IL](#) gets its 2nd total eclipse in less than seven years, being a major designation for the August 2017 eclipse thanks to its position near a point of greatest eclipse. This time it experiences 4m 8s of totality.

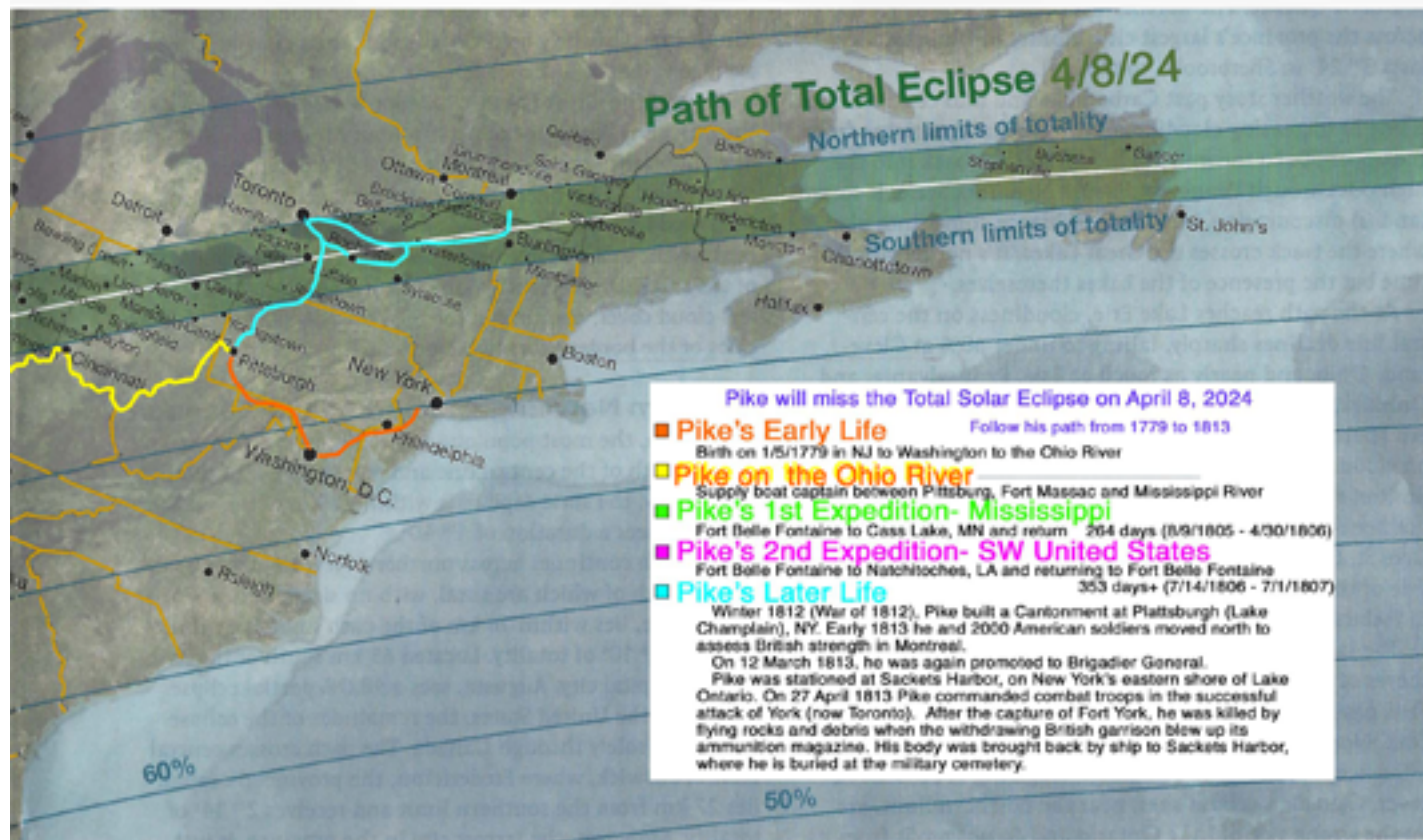
The southern half of Indiana including Pike's path on the Ohio River from [Cincinnati, OH](#) [99.4% totality] stands in or near the umbra's path. [Memphis, TN](#) will view 97% totality, [St. Louis, MO](#) and [Fort BelleFontaine](#) 98.7% and [Louisville, KY](#) 98.9%. [Detroit](#), on the northern edge, will view a 99.1% partial eclipse.

[Buffalo, NY](#) is on the centerline bringing 3m 45s of totality. The path here is 179 km wide, and the Sun's altitude is 46°. About 32 km north of Buffalo is the world renowned Niagara Falls, where totality will last 3m 31s.

[Toronto, Canada](#), Ontario's capital city, lies 9 km outside the path, missing totality with a 99.7% partial eclipse at 3:20 EDT. [Rochester, NY](#) stands at the southern shore of Lake Ontario, where eclipse watchers will experience 3m 39s of totality. [Montreal, Canada](#), Quebec province's largest city will see totality for 3m 24s.

General Zebulon Montgomery Pike and several of his men suffered a hero's death in Toronto, Ontario, Canada [then York] on April 27, 1813 after capturing York [War of 1812.] Pike is buried under the center line of the 2024 eclipse.

			Miles
and at least 9,070 miles during his lifetime- at least *			9,070
Pike would have traveled 1445.5 miles within the path of totality during his 33 years.			1445.5
Calculations			
Pike directly below eclipse path if on 4/8/2024	Miles	General Pike in Lifetime	Miles
Pike in Durango Province MEX	79	His 1st Expedition to the Upper Mississippi River to Cass Lake, MN and return to Canontainment Belle Fontaine-	2,055.8
Pike in Mex-TX	252	His trips on the Ohio River-	1,125.6
Pike on the Mississippi River	171	His 2nd Expedition to SW US-	3,608
Pike on the Ohio	160	His return from the 2nd Expedition - SW -	895
Pike Cincinnati- OH River	30.5	His military action to Toronto/York and heroic death-	1,386
Pike in PA	182		
Pike on Lake Ontario	391		
Pike Sachets Harbor to Plattsburgh	180		
	1445.5	* cannot calculate trips to scout for trail, # trips on Ohio River, trips to take astronomical sightings, etc.	9070.4



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GOING FORWARD AS AN ASSOCIATION IS BECOMING FINANCIALLY AND CONCEPTUALLY IRRESPONSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP..

THE FACTS — —

80.3% of folks on our mailing list have **never** 1. become members or 2. donated to the Pike National Historic Trail Association.

75% have **not** 3. signed in support for designation of the Pike National Historic Trail by Congress.

Please support us financially by becoming a member by mail or on our website zebulonpike.org. Our mailing address is PO Box 195 Conifer CO 80433.

Sending a check directly to PO Box 195 Conifer CO 80433 avoids a 3% charge by PayPal.

Since the Association's main MISSION is to designate the Pike National Historic Trail, it is difficult to understand why people will not **sign** their support for designation to be delivered to Congressman and others.

HERE'S THE LINK: <https://www.zebulonpike.org/designation-support/>

DO IT NOW Act on your conviction to support the Congressional designation and the Pike Association financially **DO IT NOW**

Membership Categories

Student- \$15

Individual- Corporal Jeremiah E. Jackson \$25

Family- Sergeant William Meek \$35

Nonprofit Organization- Hugh Menaugh/Freegift Stout \$50

Small Business- Dr. John Robinson/John Brown/Theodore Miller \$75

Corporation- Jacob Carter/William Gordon John Mountjoy/Alexander Roy \$200

Benefactor- John Sparks/Thomas Daugherty \$500

LIFE membership- General Zebulon Montgomery Pike \$1000

Send your check to: Pike National Historic Trail Association
PO Box 195 Conifer, CO 80433

Our **Vision** is TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PIKE AND
CELEBRATE HIS MEMORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our **purpose** is to establish federal designation of the
Pike National Historic Trail.

**"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and
died for his country."** -Thomas Jefferson

Contact us: 303/912-9939 harv.pike@gmail.com PO Box 195 Conifer CO 80433

Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org We are a charitable nonprofit organization. [501-C-3]

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