



PIKE NEWS



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SPECIAL FEBRUARY ISSUE

LOVE BACK THEN

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Pike Marriage and family

Zebulon Montgomery Pike and Clarissa Harlow Brown, maternal cousins, fell deeply in love. They married in 1801.¹ They remained in love although separated for years at a time. He often longed to return to her during both expeditions.

General Pike was born 5 January 1779 in Lamington, Somerset Co., NJ (Allamatunk) and died on 27 April 1813 at York [Toronto], Ontario, Canada- War of 1812. Age: 34 years [12,530 days]

Clarissa was born 30 Aug 1780 in Canterbury, Wingham, CT and died on 13 Apr 1847 in Francisville, Boone Co., KY (or Sugar Grove). Age 67: years [24,331 days]

The couple had four children, three of whom died before reaching adulthood.

Infant son (1804-1806) Lydia (1804-) Mary Jane (1805-) and

Clarissa Brown Pike (24 Feb 1803-1837), the surviving child who later married President William Henry Harrison's son, John Cleves Symmes Harrison.²

Pike led two expeditions: Upper Mississippi Aug 10, 1805- Apr. 30, 1806 [263 days] and the Southwest Expedition July 15th, 1806- July 1, 1807 [351 days].

In 1811, Pike trained the soldiers for William Henry Harrison's successful Battle of Tippecanoe and fought with the 4th Infantry Regiment. Note that the Pike daughter Clarissa married Harrison's son. More love.

Pike was promoted to brigadier general in March 1813. In the successful attack on York (now Toronto) on April 27, 1813, he lost his life.³

The Pikes were committed to each other and in spite of their separations. They longed for and cherished reunions and each other.

¹ Buckley, Jay H.; Harris, Matthew L., eds. (2012). *Zebulon Pike, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press. ISBN 978-0-8061-4243-2.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebulon_Pike

³ Ibid.

Lt. Facundo Malgares & Dolores Mayner-Malgares

Lt. Facundo¹ Malgares [Castilian [northern Spain] born] & Dolores Mayner-Malgares were partners for life. After a year parted from her on his expedition to intercept Pike at the Pawnee Villages, he was very anxious in approaching Chihuahua to be with her again.

Like most Spanish marriages there was a love match.

Pike met Malgares' wife on the 5th April, 1807. "She was like all other ladies of New Spain, a little en bon point [Jackson p. 415- meaning 'a little gross in her form'], but processed the national beauty of eye in a superior degree."²

Malgares' father-in-law, "lieutenant colonel Mayner, who was originally from Cádiz [southwestern Spain], a man of good information."³

¹ Bennet, Robert Ames (1909), "A Volunteer with Pike- the true narrative of one Dr. John Robinson and his love for the fair señorita Vallois", A.C. McClurg & Co., The University Press, Cambridge MA . Bennet consistently uses the spelling '**Faciendo**' while others like Dr. Leo Oliva and spellcheck uses '**Facundo**' which I prefer.



² Jackson, Don (Editor, January 1, 1966) "The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike with Letters and Related Documents", (2 volumes) University of Oklahoma Press; Norman, OK, 1966, First Edition, p. 415.

³ Ibid, 5th April, Sunday p. 415

Dr. John H. Robinson and Señorita Alisanda Vallois

Dr. John Robinson and Señorita Alisanda Vallois [born in Spain] had met in Washington about 1806 when he was appealing Thomas Jefferson for a volunteer position with Pikes' Second Expedition. He fell madly in love with her and unknown to him she was with him. Alisanda called him Juan [Spanish derivation of John].

[Her uncle and guardian Don Pedro Vallois was conferring in Washington with Aaron Burr regarding possible revolution against the repression of the Spanish in New Spain [Mexico].

She explained to him that a relationship with her had two **barriers**. She was traveling to the home of her uncle Pedro and wife Doña Marguerite Vallois in Chihuahua, so the Sangre de Cristo in the Rocky Mountains and distance was the **first** barrier. The **second** was religion- she being Catholic and he Protestant.

He crossed the first barrier when as a volunteer with the Pike Expedition they crossed the Sangre de Cristo in very harsh winter conditions and left the San Luis Valley Pike Stockade for Santa Fe and Chihuahua for her. In Chihuahua she appreciated his gallantry crossing under extreme conditions the first barrier.

As the padre Rocas in Chihuahua learned, Robinson in not good conscience [believing as Thomas Jefferson in protestant type beliefs] could not turn to her religion. ¹

Bennet continues by relating that she in 1807 also crossed the barrier meeting him on a ship in the Caribbean near Vera Cruz where the two were married.

It is suggested in the literature that Dr. Robinson was involved in the Mexican Revolution. Perhaps the couple resided in Mexico and he respected her and the Mexican's wishes for independence from the yoke of Spain.

¹ Bennet, Robert Ames (1909), "A Volunteer with Pike- the true narrative of one Dr. John Robinson and his love for the fair señorita Vallois", A.C. McClurg & Co. Chicago, [The University Press, Cambridge MA].

Note: Bennet's father Hiram Pitt Bennet, a Conservative Republican, served as the first Congressman (37th and 38th Congress) from the Colorado Territory from August 19, 1861 to March 4, 1865.

• Robert Ames Bennet was born in Denver, CO in 1870. Robert became a lawyer and surveyor before writing his first successful book, "For the White Christ" about Charlemagne. His account of the Pike expedition was written in 1909 and was dedicated to his father, of whom he wrote. "To the one who followed after Pike to the grand peak half a century later, My Father." Bennet died in 1954 at the age of 84.

OTHER ADMIRERS OF SEÑORITA ALISANDA VALLOIS



Surmised as factual by Robert Ames Bennet, (1909) "true" fiction account of Dr. John Robinson

1 Lieutenant Juan Pedro Walker- Lieutenant Walker was attracted to Alisanda natural beauty and charm.

Walker, a schoolmaster and **cartographer**, who also acted as an interpreter and as a transcriber/ translator for Pike's confiscated documents. It was while Pike was housed with Walker that Pike had access [stashed in Walker's closet] to various maps of the southwest and learned of Mexican discontent with Spanish rule.

2 Commandant-general, **General Don Nemesio de Salcedo** was presumably was interested in marriage with Alisanda in exchange with his support in the looming Mexican Revolution.

3 Others in Chihuahua

Credit: Images of Pike, Clarissa, Malgares and Salcedo used with permission from *John Henry Johnson/Tamarack* from the DVD-

Zebulon Pike and the Blue Mountain. It can be purchased on our website: <https://www.zebulonpike.org/product-category/dvd/>



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

We are a Charitable nonprofit organization

Our website is www.zebulonpike.org

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

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