

PIKE NEWS



Vol. 16 No. 3 JUL-SEP 2022

FEASIBILITY STUDY TEAM REPORT- We and the NPS

Feasibility Team are awaiting recommendations from the National Park Service.

CONTINUING TO FULFILL OUR EDUCATION MISSION

In 2010, through the efforts of Kit Shy, Dorothy Urban and Bob Pratt all of Westcliffe, CO, 17 Pike Informative Roadside panels were placed in the Upper Arkansas River Valley, Wet Mountain Valley, and San Luis Valley to inform the public about General Zebulon Montgomery Pike. Four informative panels were installed by the National Park Service at the Sand Dunes National Park through the efforts of Fred Bunch.

Continuing to fulfill our education mission to inform the public about General Zebulon Montgomery Pike, we are renewing our effort to place additional roadside panels in Colorado with Bob Pratt and Linda Balough's help. Noticeably missing are panels at the Border of Kansas and Colorado, Pikes Peak and the Border of Colorado and New Mexico.

Reviewing our knowledge about Pike, here is the proposed text for those panels.

Reaching the Border of Kansas and Colorado

After asserting American sovereignty with a Republican River Pawnee and traveling south on the Pawnee Trail to Great Bend, KS; bidding farewell to Lieutenant Wilkinson (who traveled down the Arkansas River), the party ascended the south side of the Arkansas near today's Larned, Dodge City, Cimarron and Garden City.

In the middle of November, Pike's band of explorers reached what is now the border of Colorado and Kansas.

A week before, the group had encountered a herd of bison cows and calves he estimated to be over 3,000 head. Up until that time, they had not see one bison and suddenly, "the face of the earth was covered with them" and they traveled alongside herds for the next two days. The next day, they ran out of grazing area as they made their way along the Arkansas River, encountering abandoned camps of both the Spanish military and Native Americans.

By the 11th of November, the landscape had changed from flat prairie to rolling hills as they made around 20 miles per day. Realizing that the expedition had already taken much more time than they had expected, Lt. Pike resolved to "spare no pain to accomplish every object even should it oblige me to spend another winter, in the desert."

They pressed on from this camp near what would later become the town of Holly toward Carlton and Lamar and on Saturday, the 15th of November, they would reach the site where Pike noted in his journal that he had spied a mountain that "appeared like a small blue cloud". He had just been introduced to the mighty Rocky Mountains and his namesake mountain that later bore the name of "Pikes Peak."

Little did the party, outfitted in only light, summer-weight clothing, realize just what would lay ahead in the days to come as they made their way into the uncharted land ahead.

Pikes Peak

Having trudged across the vast plains of Kansas with his party of explorers, late fall began to accompany the small band of men who were simply not prepared for the conditions they would face in the months to come. Having passed what is now the border of Colorado and Kansas four days before, Zebulon Pike spotted a mountain in the distance what looked like a "small blue cloud" on the horizon. On Saturday, November 15, 1806, this first glimpse of the mighty Rockies, part of which his cheering men called the Mexican Mountains [the two Spanish Peaks], became the introduction to their trek through what we now call Colorado.

Covering about 20 miles a day, Pike thought that by Tuesday they might reach the mountains. However, he was disappointed that by Monday night [11/24], the mountains looked no bigger than when they first spotted them on Saturday.

By November 24th, Pike's men put up a log shelter near Fountain Creek on the Arkansaw, while he, [Dr. Robinson, Privates Miller and Brown] "marched" toward the 'Blue Mountain' to be able to climb to the top to get his bearings. They reached the base of the mountain on the 25th. Pike expected to summit the mountain and return to their camp by the evening of the next day. They reached the top of the peak in front of them, but discovered the "Grand Peak" (Pike's name for the mountain that would later bear his now name) was at least 8 to 15 or 16 miles further away and one half a mile above- twice as high as the mountain on which they stood. (Almost certainly to have been Mt. Rosa.) He lamented that "it would have taken a whole day's march to have arrived at its base, when I believe no human being could have ascended to its pinicle."

He noted that his soldiers had only slight coveralls on with no stockings and were ill prepared to attempt to go toward the mountain, he returned to where they had left provisions and gear at the base of Mt. Rosa, and headed down Turkey Creek as quickly as possible in snow and increasing cold. By the time they got back to the rest of his men at the shelter (at Pueblo), Pike reported the temperature was 2 degrees below zero.

Determined to complete their mission, the party struck out following the Arkansas River and headed northwest with the 'Grand Mountain' to the east still overlooking the expedition's trek into the cold and snow toward winter in the unforgiving Rockies unaware the peak would later be known as Pike's Peak and become famous as "America's Mountain".

At the border of Colorado and New Mexico

By the time Pike's Southwest Expedition had reached what is now the border of Colorado and New Mexico, his party had endured trials and tribulations few can even imagine. He'd been required to leave some of his men in camps along the way from the area around Pike's Peak to where he constructed a stockade near the Conejos River in order to provide shelter from the bitter Colorado winter. By February 16th, Pike had only himself and four other men at his stockade as the others were scattered along his route encamped in places where they hoped to be recovering from frozen feet and weakness. Pike's boon companion, Dr. Robinson, had set out for Santa Fe with a letter for the Spanish governor. (It may be that both he and Pike hoped to appeal to the generosity of the Spanish to rescue the party from what may well have been death if they continued to remain in the area due to their lack of warm clothing and dwindling ammunition with which to hunt for food.) Pike believed that he was along the Red River, and thus still in American territory per the provisions of the Louisiana Purchase.

On the 17th of February, some of his men found their way back to the stockade, but at least two could not make the journey and remained in their camp with feet so frozen that they could not travel.

While some of the men remained with Pike in their fort, he sent others to find a route that would allow him and his party to follow the Red River toward Nachitoches and the completion of his mission.

When some 100 Spanish dragoons and mounted militia arrived on Thursday, February 26th to the little stockade, Pike met them with some trepidation, but invited their commander into the fort for breakfast of venison, goose and biscuits. Pike wrote that he was shocked to learn that instead of being alongside the Red River that would lead his party back East, he was actually on the Rio Del Norte (now called the Conejos River) - and inside Spanish territory! He was told that the Governor sent provisions and pack animals to bring the Pike party to Santa Fe and was expected to leave with them immediately.

Pike refused to leave the fort until the other men who had been left along the route and those sent out to look for a safe route, could join them. The Spanish lieutenants, Don Ignatio Saltelo and Don Bartholomew Fernandez agreed to leave 50 dragoons to escort the missing men so Pike could leave at once to meet with the governor in Santa Fe.

Thus Zebulon Pike, now a Captain, became a guest of the Spanish and was escorted to Santa Fe in the company of 50 Spanish military and Lt. Fernandez.

PAINTING OF CLARISSA

We located what we think is painting of Clarissa Harlow Brown, Zebulon Montgomery's wife. It is difficult to authenticate because Ancestry.com did not provide a source. We now have something. If it is instead the daughter Clara, our apologies.



SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION

Many have signed- If you have not signed on our website or on the Support sheets- It is crucial for our success IN PASSING DESIGNATION LEGISLATION that you add your support for designation.. How?

Go to: <https://www.zebulonpike.org/designation-support/> and create your e-signature using your mouse. IT IS EASY.

Please support our Effort

KENDAL KRUSE FOR MAT-SU SCHOOL BOARD

Pike NHTA Life Member, Kendal Kruse is running for Mat-Su School Board in Palmer, Alaska. Kendal is the daughter of Brian and Stacey Pike and therefore the DIRECT LINE 5x Grandniece of General Zebulon Montgomery Pike.



Kendal & Michael, with their children Renner Gray and Steele Drake.

Kendal became a resident of Nome, Alaska in 2014 after completing a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Northern Colorado in 2013. In 2018, she and her husband Michael fell in love with Palmer, Alaska, & relocated to Chugiak. They have 3 young children.

Kendal is passionate about a rigorous, quality and comprehensive curriculum that produces actual results; parental rights and choice; medical and religious freedoms and privacy, and fiscal responsibility.

Children and their intellectual capitol should be the primary focus of the school system and accountability is key to achieving educational goals.

PIKE-ZEBULON TRADITION

The Pike Family carried the tradition of serving our country heroically in the US Military, naming their children

Zebulon Montgomery Pike [1799-1813]— Brigadier General US Army



Zebulon Montgomery Pike Sr [1900-1985]-US Army
Zebulon Montgomery Pike Jr [1922-2019]- Rank of Captain US Army- Europe WW2
Zebulon Montgomery Pike III [1976- living]— current Senior Chief Petty Officer

Zebulon Montgomery Pike III US Navy [1976- living]— current Senior Chief Petty Officer

Zebulon Montgomery Pike [holding to the nickname "Monty"] to follow their ancestor General Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

Zebulon is a Hebrew name meaning "dwelling of honor". Biblically: Zebulon was one of Jacob's sons. To this day, Pikes are of honor. There were also Montgomery s and females named Zebuline in the family.

The Family Militarily

- √ Captain John Pike (Pyke) [1613–1689], Zeb's 3x Great Grandfather, brought Pikes [Pyke] to Middlesex, NJ, America from England.
- √ Judge John Pike III [1639-1714], Zeb's Great Great Grandfather, was lieutenant in the Military Company of Woodbridge, NJ.
- √ Zabulon Pike [1692-1762], Zeb's Great Grandfather, seems to have been the first Zebulon. 'Zabulon' our spelling- correct.
- √ Colonel Zebulon Pike [1751-1834], Pike's father, [no middle name] served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War and as commander [Lt. Col.] of Fort Massac near Paducah, KY, where Pike joined the army.

PIKE'S PROMOTION TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Courtesy: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Donated by Lillian L. Harney of Trenton, NJ, November 24, 1984



Transcription-

The President of the United States of America To all who shall see these presents Greeting:

Know Ye, That reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Patriotism, valor, Fidelity and Abilities of Zebulon M Pike, ... I have nominated, and by and with

the Advice and Consent of the Senate, do appoint him to Lieutenant Colonel of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry... in the services Of the United States: to take rank as such from the thirty first day of December Eighteen hundred & nine.

He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of Lieutenant Colonel, by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under his Command to be obedient to his orders as a Lieutenant Colonel. And he is to observe and follow such Orders, and Directions from time to time as he shall receive from me, or the future President of the United States or the General or other superior Officers set over him according to the Rules and Discipline of War. This commission to continue in Force during the Pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

Given under my hand at Washington this first day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight Hundred and ten in the thirty fourth Year of the Independence of the United States.

James Madison

By command of the President of the United States of America W Eustis, Secy of War (William Eustis)

PIKE, JEFFERSON AND THE BEARS

We found this letter from President Jefferson to Captain Pike regarding the bears Pike brought back from the southwest expedition. It could accompany the painting "Pike Gifts President Jefferson" done by Ed French noting this event.

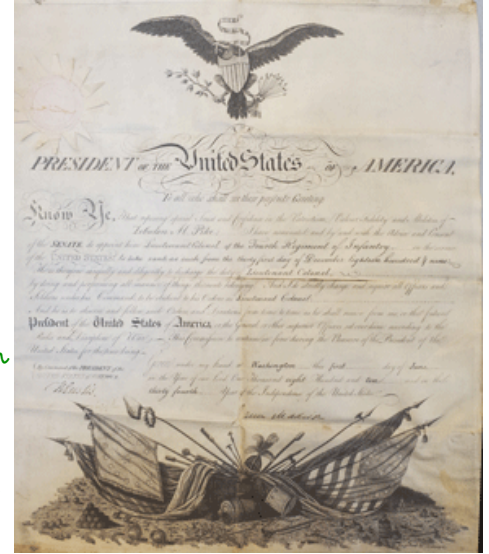
Transcription:



Sir Washington November 6, 1807

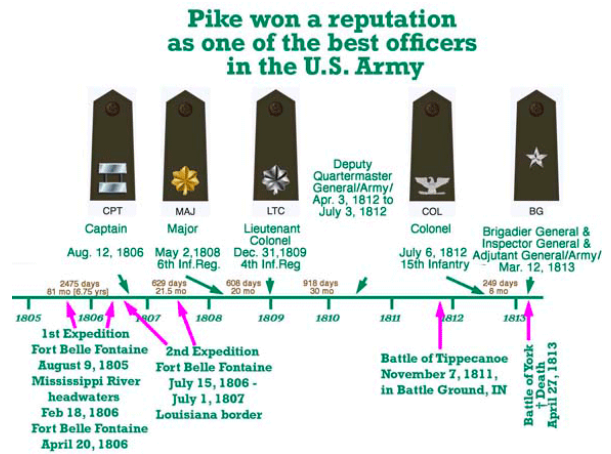
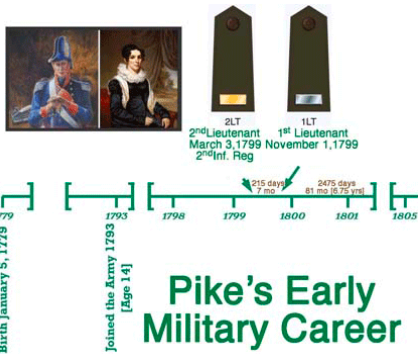
I beg leave to return you my thanks for the bow and arrow you were so kind to send me, so also for the two Grisly bears which I have since received & now have here in good health. The most formidable animal of our continent is so little known in the U.S. that I have thought I could not do better further your views, & turn to it's proper account in the great trouble you have had in bringing them so far, than by proposing to send them to Mr. Peale. He is always glad to receive living animals which are rare, and to nourish them for exhibition to the numerous visitants of his museum. He is attentive too in watching their manners and other circumstances which enter into the history of their species. I have not yet received from him an answer to my letter on the subject. I beg leave to salute you with esteem and respect.

Capt. Pike Th Jefferson



“PIKE WON A REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE BEST OFFICERS IN THE ARMY.” ¹

Pike and Pike’s advancements in rank by Allan Vainley



In the 5.7 years following Pike’s return from his Southwest Expedition, Pike was advanced in rank 4 times from Captain to Brigadier General.

Second Lieutenant March 3, 1799- 2nd Infantry regiment
First Lieutenant November 1, 1799
Captain in August 12, 1806
Major May 2, 1808- 6th Infantry Regiment
Lieutenant Colonel December 31, 1809- 4th Infantry Regiment
 [After training men for the victorious Battle of Tippecanoe]
Deputy Quartermaster General [Army] April 3, 1812 to July 3, 1812
Colonel July 6, 1812- 15th Infantry
Brigadier General and Inspector General and Adjutant General [Army] March 12, 1813

Legacy and Accolades

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

“Know Ye, That reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Patriotism, Valor, Fidelity and Abilities of Zebulon M Pike, ... I do appoint him to Lieutenant Colonel...”
 - James Madison

Pike's death, military accomplishments and heroic demise in battle were widely remembered; with Songs, poems, biographies, even paintings of his likeness outside pubs. Some opine that Pike may have become President of the United States had he lived. Similar to Dwight David Eisenhower, he was a war hero, only one of two to win a battle on British soil during the War of 1812.

Towns, counties, locations and ships were named in his memory. During the centennial of his Southwest Expedition in 1906, men, women, and children focused on his exploration, His name appeared on natural features, such as dams, islands, lakes, and parks. In 1901 General William Jackson Palmer honored Pike with a marble statue in Colorado Springs, CO. In 1926, Palmer remembered Pike and Pike’s Sioux friend Tahama with a bronze medallion portraits in the pavilion at Tahama Spring in Monument Valley Park, Colorado Springs.

The Pike National Forest in Colorado was named for him. The best known namesake is the 11,400 foot Pikes Peak- ‘America’s Mountain’ in Colorado Springs. One wonders if Katharine Lee Bates as she wrote “America the Beautiful” in 1893 from the summit was mindful of Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

The Military [5] Remembers

- Fort Pike- Fort Pike, New Orleans, was named after Brigadier General Zebulon Pike. It was built following the War of 1812 to guard the strait of the Gulf of Mexico.
- Camp Pike, Arkansas.
- USS *General Pike*- was a US Navy corvette launched in June 1813.
- A building at Fort Knox and in Madison Barracks at Sackets Harbor, New York is named in his honor.
- Liberty ship- SS *Zebulon Pike* (appears in Episode 1 of *Victory At Sea*, and also in footage at the end of the film 'Action in the North Atlantic')

Landforms [4] named for Pike

- Pike Bay on Cass Lake (Minnesota).
- Pike Creek (Mississippi River tributary- Minnesota).
- Pike Island [St. Paul, MN] at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers in Fort Snelling State Park- Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Zebulon Pike Lake Reservoir [Little Falls, MN] in Morrison County, Minnesota.

Pike Counties [10] in:

Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and its county seat Zebulon, Illinois on the Mississippi, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri on the Mississippi, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Communities [5]

Pike, NY; Piketon, OH; Pikeville, KY; Pikesville, KY (historic); Pikeville, TN; and Pikesville, MD.

Townships [5]

Pike Bay Township, Cass Co., MN.; Pike Creek Township, Morrison Co., MN.; Pike Township, Marion Co, IN.; Pike Township, Wyoming Co, NY; and Pike Township, Stark Co, OH.

Other [6]

- Pikes Peak State Park in Clayton County, IA, on the Mississippi,
- Pike Trail League, Kansas high school activities league,
- Pike Valley School District, Kansas School District, U.S.D. 426
- General Zebulon Pike Lock and Dam No. 11 in Dubuque, IA- Mississippi River,
- Zebulon Ice, a Colorado Department of Transportation snowplow, in a winning name submitted by a Colorado child as part of a 2021 contest.
- Many plaques, monuments and roadside panels including DAR, State and City memorials in states like Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, New York, and Texas.

Pike Profile

PIKE, ZEBULON MONTGOMERY (1779–1813). Zebulon Montgomery Pike, United States army officer and Western explorer, was born on January 5, 1779, at Lambertton, now a part of Trenton, New Jersey, the son of Isabella (Brown) and Zebulon Pike, a veteran of the American Revolution and a lieutenant colonel in the United States army. After receiving some education in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, young Pike entered his father's regiment, the Third United States Infantry, as a cadet.

He was killed during the Battle of York on April 27, 1813 (aged 34), which the United States won.

-General Zebulon Montgomery Pike began his military career by joining the US Army, following in his father's footsteps.

-In 1796, Pike shadowed the French General Georges Henri Victor Collot's expedition drawing maps for France. Pike arrested Collot at Fort Massac [near today's Metropolis, IL.], but had no legal grounds to detain him.²

-Pike worked on logistics and payroll at a series of frontier posts, including Fort Kaskaskia & Fort Belle Fontaine near St. Louis.

-He was commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry in 1799 and promoted to first lieutenant later that same year.

-Pike was promoted to captain in 1806 while on the Southwestern Expedition.

-Nov. 7, 1811, he served under General William Henry Harrison as Lt. Col. Zebulon M. Pike - 4th Infantry Regiment winning the Battle of Tippecanoe against the Shawnee Indians. The troops were largely trained under Pike. ³

-He was promoted to Colonel of the 15th Infantry Regiment in July 1812. ⁴

-During the War of 1812, Pike served as deputy quartermaster-general in New Orleans and inspector general.

-In November 1812, the poor planning by Pike's Commanding General Henry Dearborn led to Pike losing the first Battle of Lacolle Mills [Lacolle Mills Blockhouse, Île-aux-Noix, Quebec, Canada- 70 miles south of the 1812 British stronghold Montreal]. Pike was commanding the advance guard of the American force. ⁵

-Pike was promoted to Brigadier General on March 12, 1813. ⁶

-Pike commanded troops in 1812 to determine British strength in Montreal from a fort they built in Plattsburgh NY on the NW shore of Lake Champlain. ⁷

-April 27, 1813 General Pike and General Jacob Brown departed Sackets Harbor, New York - Lake Ontario, for his last military campaign. Pike commanded combat troops in the successful attack on York (now Toronto) on April 27, 1813. Although the Americans won a clear victory, the battle did not have decisive strategic results as York was a less important objective in military terms than Kingston, where the British armed vessels on Lake Ontario were based.

-Pike and a number of other American troops were killed by flying rocks and other debris when withdrawing, as the British garrison blew up its ammunition magazine. His body was brought by ship back to Sackets Harbor, where his remains were eventually buried at the military cemetery.

- On the downside, regarding the Burr Conspiracy, General James Wilkinson, Pike's commanding officer, claimed that "Lt. Pike himself was as yet ignorant of the nature of his journey." ⁸

Footnots:

¹ Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Pathfinder and Patriot by Harvey L Carter.

² Eblen, Tom (2017-03-19). Kentucky invasion? Rare spy map shows French plans for frontier America. Kentucky Herald-Leader. Maysville, Kentucky.

³ Cushing, Thomas H. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/zebulon-pike>

⁴ Zebulon Pike Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebulon_Pike .

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Valkenburg, Samuel Van (1976). "Pike, Zebulon Montgomery". In William D. Halsey (ed.). Collier's Encyclopedia. 19. New York: Macmillan Educational Corporation. p 46.

⁷ Conversations with Dr. Tim Abel, Plattsburgh NY conducting archeological research of the fort Pike's men built.

⁸ Statement and Affidavit of Timothy Kibby, July 6, 1807, in *Territorial Papers of the United States*, ed. Clarence Edwin Carter (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1949), 14:133-36.

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Apex, Land Title, & Royal Gorge Bridge & Park



PIKE'S POWDER HORN

Jim Reed from Pahrump, NV called saying he had Pike's Powder Horn. Larry Prugleys of San Diego, CA bought it from a Philadelphia secondhand store in the early 1930s. He sold it to Rod Poulson of Pahrump, NV in 1992. Rod gave it to Jim Reed for donation in Colorado. Our recommendation is to donate it to the Museum in Alamosa, Colorado.



It was authenticated by the Smithsonian Institute.

The inscription knife scratched on the middle of the horn says "Capt Zebulon M. Pike His Horn 1807" [see insert below the horn in the picture]. On the opposite side is scratched the likeness of a native American.

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

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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Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org