

# PIKE NEWS



Vol. 16 No. 4 Oct-Dec. — 2022

**Wishing you a festive Christmas and  
a Joy-filled New Year**

## 1805-6

Pike spent Tuesday and Wednesday Christmas Eve and Day below Brainerd, Minnesota [32 miles north of Little Falls on the Mississippi River] 25th December, 1805 ...-

"Marched, and Encamped at 11 o'clock. Gave out two pound of extra meat— 2 pound of extra flour, one gill of whiskey and some tobacco per man— by way of a little distinguishing mark on Christmas Day." - Pike Journal

On the 26th, they had to fix four of their broken sleds. That took time.

Pike spent Tuesday and Wednesday New Year's Eve and Day another 25 miles north between Crosby and Aitkin, Minnesota with his men's concern for his safety. .

**1st January, Wednesday 1806.-**

"Passed six very elegant bark canoes, on the bank of the river, which had been laid up by the Chipeways... My interpreter came after me in a great hurry, and conjured me not to go so far ahead, as he assured me the Chippeways rencountering me without my interpreter, party or flag, would certainly kill me. But, notwithstanding, I went on several miles further than usual, in order to make any discovery which was to be made—

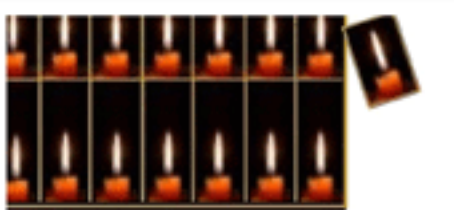
Made some extra presents &c. for new Year's Day." - Pike Journal

## 1806-7

**24th December, Wednesday.- Salida, CO** "The party's provisions extending only to the 23rd, ... [we] killed four cows. ... Some being in the starving condition we had eight beeves [now] in our camp. We now again found ourselves all assembled together on Christmas Eve, and appeared generally to be content, although all the refreshment we had to celebrate that day with, was buffalo meat, without salt, or anything whatever." - Pike Journal

**25th December, Thursday.- Salida, CO** "It being stormy weather and having meet to dry; I concluded to lie by this date. Here I must take the liberty of observing that in this situation, the hardships and privations we underwent, were on this day brought more fully to our mind. Having been accustomed to some degree of relaxation, and extra enjoyments; but here 800 miles from the frontiers of our country, in the most inclement season of the year; not one person clothed for winter, many without blankets, (having been obliged to cut them up for socks, &c.) and now lying down at night on the snow or wet ground; one side burning whilst the other was pierced with a cold wind: this was in part the situation of the party whilst some were endeavoring to make a miserable substitute of raw buffalo hide for shoes &c. I will not speak of diet, as I conceive that to be beneath the serious consideration of a man on the voyage of such nature. We spent the day as agreeably as we could be expected from men in our situation. Caught a new species, having made a trap for him." - Pike Journal

## **Our Association was fifteen years old in September.**



The Pike National Historic Trail Association was formed late in September of 2007. Founders stood in Trinidad, CO under the statue of Kit Carson riding a horse agreeing on the organization and basics of the Association. They were Dr. Clive Siegel from Texas; Dr. Leo Oliva from Kansas; John Patrick Michael Murphy from Colorado Springs and Harv Hisgen from Conifer, CO. All founders are still with the Association after 15 years.

### Feasibility Study and Designation Process

The Feasibility Study process has given us hope and we currently have over 900 signatures of folks indicating support for the designation of the Pike National Historic Trail. We are being asked to be patient as the Park Service completes their work.



### Kendal Pike-Kruse, Mat-Su School Board Member Elect

by Alan Vainley

Pike NHTA Life Member, Kendal Kruse won her seat on the 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.

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

Her main driving force was parent rights and quality curriculum.

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.

Brian, her father commented to us, "Now the time commitment and work starts."

### Corporate Sponsors

We are grateful for the support of our Corporate Sponsors. Apex, Land Title, & Royal Gorge Bridge & Park



### Tom's Passing

Tom Mertens, our Secretary, passed away in September after a motorcycle accident in Colorado. He will be missed in Association affairs and as a personal friend.

### 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

### Requesting you help

Hello to Everyone in the Pike National Historic Trail Association

After all the work that so many have put in over the years to make the Pike National Historic Trail a reality, now begins the exciting work that all of us can tackle to move toward the goal we've all been hoping for. The National Park Service feasibility study is now in the hands of federal departments and agencies for their input before being presented as a bill to Congress for the actual designation.

Over the years, dedicated Association members have provided the research and information needed to bring the efforts this far. The Association has developed educational programs, kept you up to date with newsletters and blogs, and travelled thousands of miles to reach out to communities and places that are historically connected to the route Pike took in his 1806 expedition to explore the Southwestern portion of the Louisiana Purchase. The benefits to each community along a National Historic Trail have proven to be very valuable—both economically and educationally and the designation of the Pike National Historic Trail will prove to be just as important, if not more.

We all have the opportunity to work together to make the official trail a reality. In the next few months, you'll be receiving more information of how you can take part in this historic moment, as it become more clear to the leaders of the Association Board, and right now, one of the things that will be needed is funding to help ramp up the work even more.

**Please consider renewing your membership or a tax-deductible donation by visiting our website at <https://www.zebulonpike.org/product-category/membership/> or—**

**send a check made out to: Pike NHT Assoc and mail the check to:**

**Pike NHT Assoc Harv Hisgen**

**8989 E Escalante #399A,**

**Tucson AZ 85730**

**until March 15, 2023.**

**This mail is address is secure and PayPal doesn't take out their 3% cut.**

**If not a member, please consider joining. Help us get to the finish line.**

Another thing that will help tremendously in making the Pike National Historic Trail a reality is for you to encourage as many people as you know to also show their support by signing the support document that can also be found at <https://www.zebulonpike.org/designation-support/>

When the bill comes before Congress, the Legislators and their staff will want to know how their constituents feel about the designation and we want to be able to show them that there is great interest all over the country and even in foreign lands for the establishment of the Pike National Historic Trail. Please encourage your friends, relatives, and associates to sign on.

Cities, counties, towns, schools, businesses, chambers of commerce, historical societies, libraries, and individuals have already indicated their support, but now it is even more important to make this support known.

Again, please reach out and lend your financial support as well as your enthusiasm at this crucial time in making the Pike Trail a reality.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors of the Pike National Historic Trail Association.

Brian Pike

Linda Balough, Association 1st V.P.

Harv Hisgen, President

## Red Canyon/Fourmile Creek [Cañon City, CO] Shelf Rd. [Cripple Creek, CO] by Alan Vainley

Jim Chapman recently contacted me when he was attempting to locate Pike's encampment # 31 on December 11, 1806 in the Red Canyon/Fourmile Creek [Cañon City, CO] Shelf Rd. [Cripple Creek] area where his cattle ranch is located.

Since then I have been made aware of a number of interesting facts about that valley.

They are

- † Indian trails in the valley probably followed by Pike,
- † a 20 foot cliff and a 5 foot waterfall which Pike likely went around on an Indian trail
- † the Espinoza brothers,
- † why 4mile Ck was called Oil Creek at one time and by Pike,
- † the sale of Jim's cattle ranch.

### I. Indian trails, probably followed by Pike, a 20 foot cliff and a 5 foot waterfall in the valley

Pike has been following the Spanish trace of Lt. Facundo Malgares from the Pawnee Village in northern Kansas and along the Arkansas River. He was still looking for that trace as he approached South Park Colorado north of today's Cañon City.

**11th December, Thursday.** - Marched at 10 o'clock, and in one mile struck a branch of the Arkansas, on which the supposed Spaniards had encamped, where there was both water and grass. Kept up this branch, but was frequently embarrassed as to the trace; at three o'clock PM having no sign of it, halted and encamped, and went out to search it; found it about 1 mile to the right. Distance 15 miles. - Pike's Journal.

Jim made me aware that our plots of Pike's route and the story which appeared in the Pike Newsletter of July-August 2014 was incorrect in two locations where a 20 foot cliff and a 5 foot waterfall would have altered his path onto an Indian Trail in the snow and weak horses.

### II. The Bitterness of Felipe and Vivian Espinosa <sup>1</sup>

#### Colorado History related to Pike

**Jose Vivian and Felipe Nerio Espinosa** (c.1827-1863) were notorious Mexican-American murderers who killed a documented 8 'gringos' in the Colorado Territory throughout the spring of 1863 [between March 18 and May 4.] The Espinosa brothers were stealing horses and committing robberies in Conejos County, CO for some years prior to the murder spree. <sup>2</sup> Their property was subsequently confiscated.

Following the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) many Hispanic people, including the Espinoza's, had lost title to their lands [ceded to them by the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty] in territory courts. Some accounts indicate another motive may have been the raping of family members.

Beginning their murder spree on March 18, 1863 in the today's Fremont County near Wetmore [site of a Pike Assoc roadside panel], Colorado; the Espinosa brothers brutally murdered their first victim. During that summer, more anglos were attacked and killed in similar fashion. <sup>3</sup>

The California Gulch Posse, under their own vigilante authority and the US Calvary pursued the two. A posse from Park County, Colorado finally managed to track the brothers in their hideout northeast of Cañon City, Colorado in the Red Canyon/Fourmile Creek [formally Oil Creek]. In May 1863, Vivian was killed on today's Espinosa Creek [see map] but Felipe escaped. <sup>4</sup>

During the following summer, Felipe and Jose Vincente, his fourteen-year-old nephew resumed the rampage. Soon after, legendary tracker Tom Tobin found the outlaws' camp in the mountains west of La Veta, Colorado and killed both Espinosas.

Following the tracking of Tobin and a gun fight with the Felipe and Jose, a cousin named Julian Espinosa continued their deadly vendetta as more and more men were killed. <sup>5</sup>





### Interesting and accurate reads:

The Felipe Espinosa story is the foundation for Adam James Jones's book, *The Vendetta of Felipe Espinosa* (2014). [Available on Amazon.]

Perkins, James, Tom Tobin, Frontiersman Adobe Village Press, January 1, 2005. [Available on Amazon.]

Price, Charles F., "*Season of Terror: The Espinosas in Central Colorado, March-October 1863*", University Press of Colorado; 1st ed. (Timberline Books), June 15, 2013.

Reportedly there is Hollywood interest in making a movie about this part of American history.

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved 12/1/2022: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felipe\\_Espinosa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felipe_Espinosa)

<sup>2</sup> Several sources document 'an estimated thirty-two people' were slaughtered. "The thirty-two victims mentioned in many accounts of the incident have never been substantiated and is almost certainly an exaggeration." - Dave Walker, December 3, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> The second murder occurred on the next day at a place 10 miles south of Colorado Spring near Fountain Creek; the third killing occurred a few days later near present-day Lake George. The remaining five murders occurred in South Park within 18 miles from the town of Fairplay. - Dave Walker, December 3, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> The posse of Park County volunteers consisted of a group of seventeen miners from California Gulch, which is located near Leadville. This posse may have also been known as the "Colorado Volunteers". Among the latest victims of the murderers were two men who were also from California Gulch and were well known to the members of the posse. The California Gulch Posse and the US Calvary worked independently from each other. Of course, the soldiers were mounted on horses, however, you might be surprised to know that the posse had several pack animals with them, but that all of the men traveled on foot. - Dave Walker, December 3, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/outlaw-espinosagang/>



### III. Oil Creek

Fourmile Creek was originally named Oil Creek. A reason for that is the number of oil seeps along Fourmile Creek.

If you traveled up Fourmile creek from Cañon City or down from Cripple Creek on roads like Red Canyon or Shelf Road and seen the Longhorn sheep above the high bordering cliffs, you might have noticed "Oil Well Flats Trail System" or "BLM Sheep Springs OHV Area" beside Garden Park Fossil Area or near Red Canyon Park.

Pike passed by the BLM managed Sheep Springs and encamped on 10th December, 1806 [Wednesday] on Long Gulch- Fourmile Ck (6280'). It may have been noticed by him. However, snow may have hampered any viewing of the seep.

### IV. Got Some Loose Change?

## COLORADO Mountain Land FOR SALE- Chapman Cattle Ranch

4,500 ACRES Location: Shelf Road, Cripple Creek, Teller County, Colorado  
Asking Price: \$4,600,000 Size: 1540 deeded 2960 B.L.M. lease.

What you will view while on the Ranch:

Kay Chapman's images of Bighorn Sheep on the Chapman Ranch

The [bighorn sheep](#) is the state mammal of Colorado.

Pike discovered the big horn in the Arkansas River Valley near Cotopaxi, CO.



Mike Bosley's video of the Chapman Ranch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR260PbKm5U&t=21s> [click](#)

### Introducing Clarissa

Which one- mother or daughter?

We located an image of 'Clarissa Pike'. It was not sourced, so therefore we could not verify which Clarissa the painting represents.

After some research, Linda Balough would place the photo dress as in the middle 1810s (1810 to 1820s).

Here is information for an age comparison to the painting.

#### **Clarissa Brown Pike** Zebulon and Clarissa Pike's daughter

**B:** 24 Feb 1803 Virginia

**D:** 1 Feb 1837 Boone County, Kentucky

**Pike's daughter would have been 7 to 17 years old.**

**It is unlikely it is the daughter.**

#### **Clarrisa Harlow Brown Pike** Zebulon Pike's wife

**B:** 30 Aug 1780 Canterbury, Windham, CT

**D:** 13 APR 1847 Francisville, Boone Co., KY (or Sugar Grove)

**Pike's wife would have been 30 to 40 years old.**

**This seems a better match.**



Linda looked at a number of resources.. "One particularly comprehensive site showed dresses with nearly identical features and the hairstyle is right. Of course, we can't be 100% sure, but if the age info indicates the portrait is one or the other, then the strong assumption is that it is Pike's wife."

Our conclusion is that the painting is that of Clarissa Harlow Brown Pike, Zebulon Montgomery's spouse. What's your conclusion?

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**

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