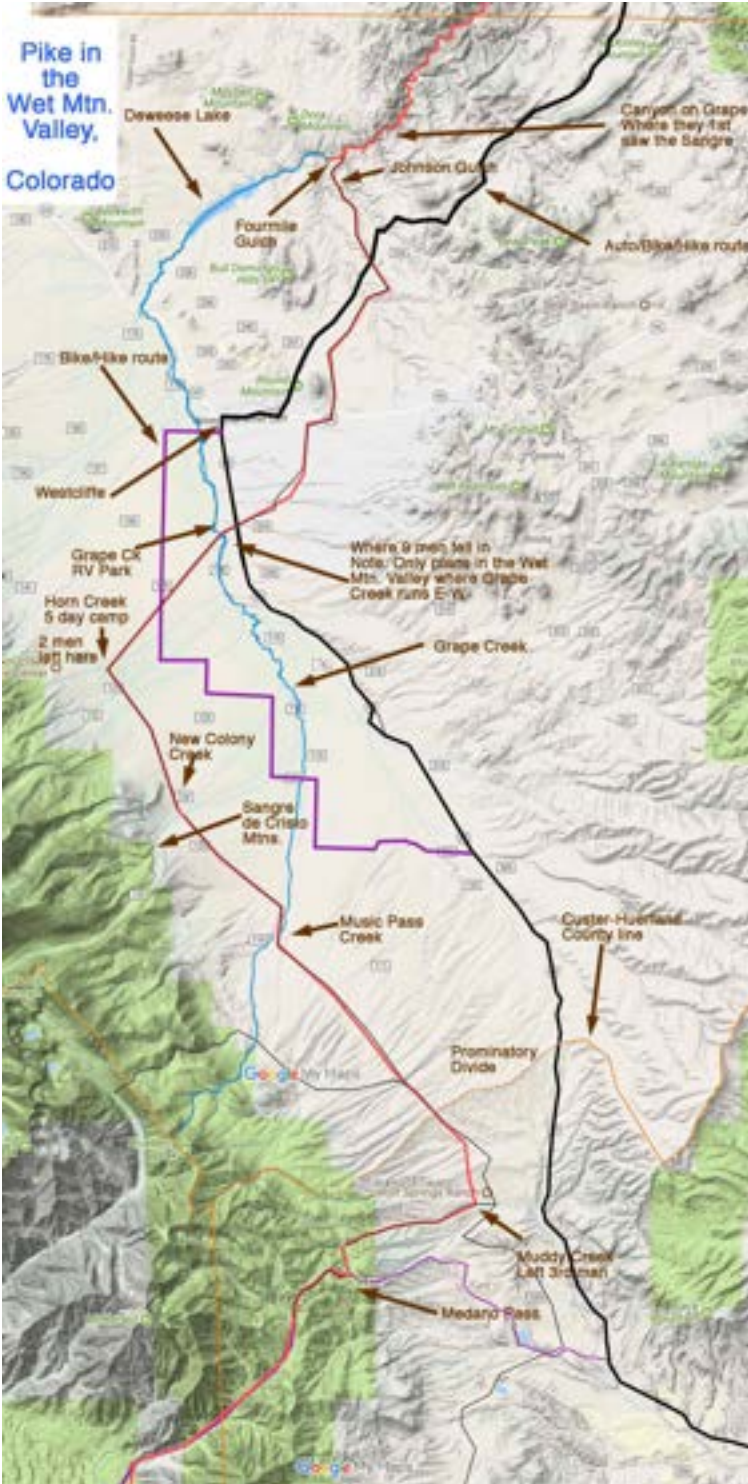




PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter November— 2017 Vol. 11 No. 10



THE WORST 11 DAYS OF THE SECOND EXPEDITION

After spending time today with our artist in his preparation for a future painting about Frozen Feet, it was decided to let you in on the discussion about what happened in the Wet Mountain Valley during the second expedition's 11 worst days.

For some time now we have been investigating Pike's exact route in the Wet Mountain Valley, Colorado. In the past John Patrick Michael Murphy has lent his investigative skills to this investigation as well as those in the commentaries to Pike's journals- Coues and Jackson. For the past two years board member Kit Shy, surveyor and lifelong resident of the Wet Mountain Valley, and your president, have attempted to pin down Pike's route using the materials already accumulated. So here is the discussion-

Pike and 19 of his men [20 total] had traveled up Grape Creek into the Wet Mountain Valley. After passing out of the Grape Creek Canyon at Johnson Gulch, the whole the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range was viewed by them. They encamped at Johnson Gulch, 2 miles east of today's DeWeese Reservoir. They had found snow and headed Southeast up Johnson Gulch Ridge probably because the snow was blown off the ridge. When they reached today's Oak Creek Grade they followed the ridge Southwest on the east side of Bull Domingo Hills, following the grade down toward today's Westcliffe/Silver Cliff and on the east side of Round Mountain.

When they got to the prairie south of Westcliffe, they crossed Grape Creek west of today's CO 69 where it definitely takes a course east to west just south of the Grape Creek RV Park. The ice gave way as they crossed the creek. *"Here we all got our feet wet. The night commenced extremely cold. When we halted at the woods, at eight o'clock, for encampment; after getting fires made, we discovered that the feet of nine of our men were frozen, and to add to the misfortune, of both of those whom we called hunters among the number. This night we had no provision."* - Pike The temperature that evening was -10° F.

It should be remembered that they were traveling in uncharted country in the snow, hungry, and having to scout where they were going to go next.

From this crossing they headed directly for a triangular shaped mountain on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo named Horn Peak and the woods where Horn Creek emerges. They built fires and tried to keep warm. This would be a five day camp where Pike and Robinson spent the next two days in snow and winter storms attempted to shoot and

kill buffalo for food. They have not eaten or for that matter slept for four days until the 19th when Pike and Robinson returned with a buffalo.

On the 22nd they moved south to New Colony Creek, leaving Sparks and Dougherty behind because of the frostbitten feet. "I furnished the two poor lads who were to remain with ammunition [and buffalo meat] and made use of every argument in my power to encourage them to have fortitude to resist their fate; and gave them assurance of my sending relief as soon as possible." - Pike

On the 23rd Pike and Robinson moved south again to Music Pass Creek where it started snowing very hard. "I found it impossible to keep any course without a compass, continually in my hand, and then not being able to see more than 10 yards. ... We lay down and strove to dissipate the idea of hunger, and our misery by the thoughts of our far distant homes and relatives." - Pike

On the 24th- "We sallied out in the morning and shortly after perceived our little band, marching through the snow, (about two and a half feet deep,) silent and with downcast countenances. We joined them and learnt that they finding the snow to fall so thickly that it was impossible to proceed; had encamped about one o'clock the preceding day." - Pike Pike and Robinson again went ahead of the group to hunt buffalo. They killed one buffalo. They encamped that evening on Muddy Creek east of Medano Pass.

Pike found it necessary to discipline John Brown for "use of language which was seditious and mutinous" in Brown's exclaiming during the day, "that it was more than human nature could bear, to march three days without sustenance, through snows three feet deep, and carry burthens only fit for horses" &c. &c." - Pike

On the 25th and 26th they encamped at the confluence of North and South Muddy Creek once again having something to eat. Menaugh had to be left here because of frostbite and on the 27th seventeen camped at Medano Pass and on the 28th entered the San Luis Valley and the sight of the Great Sand Dunes.

Of the 22 on the Expedition 17 crossed the Sangre de Crist Mountains presumably to better weather. They had endured 11 of the worst days of the Expedition. I would be remiss not to point out that the 5 left behind were retrieved in February.

WET MOUNTAIN TIMETABLE

Pike had 'celebrated' his 28th birthday in Cañon City with 21 men on the 5th of January, 1807. "18 soldiers, the doctor and myself" marched from Cañon City up Grape Creek (what Pike called 'Branch Creek') on the **14th January** (leaving Baroney and Patrick Smith to care for the injured horses.)

On the **15th** they encamped 1 mile N of Fremont/Custer line in Fremont Co., CO 38.280091, -105.353463

16th- they encamped on Grape Creek 2 miles E of Deweese Reservoir 38.210121, -105.447362

Tragedy strikes- **17th January, Saturday**- Marched about 4 miles, when the great White Mountain [Sangre de Cristo] presented itself before us, ... the woods from the skirts of the mountains appeared to be at no great distance, I thought proper to march for it; in the middle of said prairie, crossed the creek, which now bore east. Here we all got our feet wet. The night commenced extremely cold. When we halted at the woods, at eight o'clock, for encampment; after getting fires made, we discovered that the feet of nine of our men were frozen, and to add to the misfortune, of both of those whom we called hunters among the number. This night we had no provision. Reaumer's thermometer stood at 18 1-2° below 0. [-10° F] - Pike.

From **January 17- 21** they encamped at Horn Creek, Custer Co., CO. 38.055312, -105.515472

After two days Pike and Robinson were able to kill a buffalo for sustenance. They were forced to crawl for miles during snow storms which lasted for days.

On the 22nd John Sparks and Thomas Dougherty had to be left behind because of frozen feet.

22nd they encamped at North Colony Creek, Custer Co., CO 38.011455, -105.481082.

23rd they encamped at the extreme headwaters of Grape Creek, due east of Magic Mountain, Custer Co., CO 37.936297, -105.446126

The Brown incident occurred on the **24th**.

The **24th through 26th** they encamped at the confluence of North and South Muddy Creek - Wet Mountain Valley, Huerfano Co., CO 37.885750, -105.361317.

The next day the **27th**, they had to leave Hugh Menaugh because of frost bite.

On the **27th** they encamped on Medano Pass at 'Pike's Gap'- Great Sand Dunes National Park- Mosca, CO 37.856232, -105.432698

Jan. 1807	What occurred?	Location
14th	"18 soldiers, the doctor and myself" departed from Cañon City on Grape Creek	Baroney and Patrick Smith left with cache
15th	Encamped 1 mile N of Fremont/Custer line in Fremont Co., CO	38.280091, -105.353463
16th	Encamped on Grape Creek 2 miles E of Deweese Reservoir	38.210121, -105.447362
17th	Tragedy strikes- 9 men break thru ice on Grape Creek suffering frost bite	38.123841, -105.479378
17- 21	5-day encampment at Horn Creek- Custer Co., CO	38.055312, -105.515472
	Crawling for miles during days of snow storms	
22nd	John Sparks and Thomas Dougherty left behind- frozen feet.	
22nd	Encamped at North Colony Creek- Custer Co., CO- 1 night	38.011455, -105.481082
23rd	Encamped due east of Magic Mountain- Custer Co., CO- 1 night	37.936297, -105.446126
24th	The Brown incident occurred on the 24th for speaking "discontentedly in the course of the day"	
24th-26th	Encamped at Muddy Creek - Wet Mountain Valley 3-day camp	37.885750, -105.361317
27th	Hugh Menaugh left because of frost bite.	
27th	Encamped on Medano Pass at 'Pike's Gap'-Great Sand Dunes National Park- Mosca, CO	37.856232, -105.432698

THE PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION AUTOBIKEHIKE ROUTE

in the Wet Mountain Valley- Custer County Colorado

Pike's Route in January 1807 in Wet Mtn Valley stretches some **38.7 mi.**

Auto route distance 23 miles (+ possible jeep road)

Segment 1- Fremont County line to CR 160 and CO 69 **14.5 miles**

(CR 255 [Oak Creek Grade], CO 96 [Main St.], CO 69 [6th St.])

Segment 2- CO 69 (CR 160 to CR 106) **11.3 miles**

Segment 3- CO 69 CR 106 to Custer/ Huerfano County Line **4.85 miles**

If a jeep is available- they could take the jeep road over Medano Pass to the Sand Dunes

Bike Hike route 36.75 miles

Segment 1- Fremont County line to CR 160 and CO 69 **14.5 miles**

(CR 255 [Oak Creek Grade], CO 96 [Main St.], CO 69 [6th St.])

Segment 2- County Roads west of CO 69 **17.4 miles**

Hermit Rd (CR160) W from CO69 to Macey Ln (CR129) 1.25mi

Macey Ln (CR129) S from CR160 to Horn Rd. (CR130) 5mi

Horn Rd. (CR130) E from CR129 to Colony Ln (CR125) 1mi

Colony Ln (CR125) S from CR130 to CR118 0.73mi

CR118 E from CR125 to Colfax Ln (CR119) 1.5mi

Colfax Ln (CR119) S from CR118 to CR114 1.75mi

CR114 E from CR119 to Crystal Ln (CR115) 1mi

Crystal Ln (CR115) S from CR114 to CR106 1.5mi

CR106 E from CR115 to CO69 (the Auto route) 3.7mi

Segment 3- CO 69 and CR 106 to Custer/ Huerfano County Line **4.85 miles**

Segment 4- Jeep Road CR near County line [Prom. Divide] to Medano Pass approximately **12.7 miles**

PIKE TRAIL IN COLORADO

The Pike NHT Association is again happy to announce that the Pike Trail in Colorado has been designated by County Commissioners in 14 counties. 3 more to go.

BUY CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND SUPPORT OUR ASSOCIATION

ZEBULON PIKE AN AMERICAN HERO NEW CHILDREN'S COLORING BOOK

Ed French, former Disney artist, has completed his Pike Children's Coloring Book.

The print price for this 48 page coloring book is \$9.57, \$10 for face to face sales in Fremont County. It is now available on www.amazon.com under Zebulon Pike an American Hero under books.

It is also up on Kindle.

DISNEY ARTIST COMPLETES EIGHT PAINTINGS IN OUR PIKE SERIES

You have NOT seen these two newest paintings by Ed French-

They are for sale in many forms just in time for you to order them as gifts for Christmas

Greetings from New Spain Conejos River Stockade and Pikes Peak - Turning Back About Final - Mt. Rosa



Original oil:	\$5995 framed.
24x36" LE framed giclee' canvas print:	\$595
20x30" LE framed giclee' canvas print:	\$455
16"x20" Poster " open edition unframed (pictured)	\$34.95

Who are they? (top to bottom)
Zebulon Montgomery Pike
Dr. John Robinson
John Brown
Theodore Miller

Ordering-

By mail: -Ed French- PO Box 300 Cotopaxi, CO 81223 or -Pike National Historic Trail Association 10060 Blue Sky Trail Conifer, CO 80433
or -by phone 303-912-9939 or email: harv.pike@gmail.com

plus Modest Shipping cost Sales tax (4.5%) added if ordered in Colorado

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If you would like to help or make us aware of your contacts who would donate.

We need your help.

Year end giving Renew your membership and donate to our Association!

We are a 501 (c) 3, so all donations are tax-deductible. We will send you a letter for your taxes. Make sure to include on the envelope: Pike Nat. Hist. Trail Assoc. % Harv Hisgen so that it is not sent back to you.

Won't you join our Association also!
 We need you to renew your membership or join for the first time. Click here for a membership form:
<http://zebulonpike.org/docs/MembershipBrochure.pdf> or
 complete and mail the membership form below.



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

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE- (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pike-National-Historic-Trail-Association/167853563238403?ref=ts>)

COIN SET AVAILABLE INDIVIDUAL COINS- \$3 LOOSE SETS OF SIX- \$20 FRAME SETS WITH PAMPHLET (PIKE'S WORDS AND AN EXPLANATION FOR EACH COIN) \$30. SHIPPING AND HANDLING- \$ 1.00
The Pike Association's vinyl decals- The cost is \$2.50 each with price breaks at 5, 10, or 25 decals, plus shipping.

Join Now! Please consider membership in our organization

Level	Amt.	Level Name	Level	Amt.	Level Name
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

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Historic/heritage investigation

Phone (____) _____ Cell _____

Providing educational opportunities

Producing educational materials

e-mail _____

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)

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

© 2017, Pike National Historic Trail Association Contact: harv.pike@gmail.com Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org

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Pike Nov 2017 Newsletter

We are a tax exempt not-for profit Association under Section 501 (c) (3) IRC. Your contributions are deductible under section 170 of the Code.