

PIKE



NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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OUR ASSOCIATION WAS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD IN SEPTEMBER.

The **Pike National Historic Trail Association** was formed late in September of 2007, Founders stood under the Equestrian statue of Kit Carson in Trinidad CO — Dr. Clive Siegel from Texas; Dr. Leo Oliva from Kansas; John Patrick Michael Murphy from Colorado Springs and Harv Hisgen from Conifer, CO.

The Feasibility Study process has given us hope and we currently have over 300 signatures of folks indicating support for the dedication of the [Pike National Historic Trail](#).

THE PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

We continue to meet monthly with Jill Jensen (Acting) Lead Planner, National Park Service- National Trails and other members of the Feasibility Study Team. They continue to be positive.

THE PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION REMEMBERS DOROTHY

Dorothy Urban of Silver Cliff, CO passed away on Tuesday October 12, 2021 in Cañon City CO. She was born Dorothy Lee Freese on January 8, 1933 near St. Louis MO and she grew up in east central Missouri. Before moving to Silver Cliff/Westcliffe she owned with her daughter Stephanie a printing company in Pueblo, CO.

She served on the Silver Cliff town board. She worked diligently with Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway and could be found often volunteering as curator at the Silver Cliff Museum.

She worked to preserve the memory of Silver Cliff silver boom town mining, the history of Custer County and the Pike SW Expedition passing the future towns Jan 16-27, 1807. She with Kit Shy and Bob Pratt in 2008 worked to research, design, gain funding for, purchasing and the placing of 16 Pike roadside panels in the Upper Arkansas, Wet Mountain and San Luis valleys.

She was indeed an encyclopedia of information and stories.

Dorothy was a friend- someone to have conversation with on a personal level. She served for 12 years as Secretary of the Pike National Historic Trail Association.

She volunteered to work to preserve the memory of the Pike SW Expedition Jan 16-27, 1807 with the placing of 16 Pike roadside panel- 8 in in the Wet Mountain Valley.

Fond memories can be shared with the Urban family at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/pueblo-co/dorothy-urban-10398317>

Tom Mertens, originally from Sterling, CO now residing in Mesa, AZ has agreed to serve as our Secretary.

PIKE SEPTEMBER 25, 1806 ENCAMPMENT AND 9/25- OCT 6, 1806



From Jarrod McCartney, Dir.- Heritage Tourism & Economic Development- Red Cloud NE and Teresa Young, Dir, Webster Co. Historical Museum, Red Cloud, NE Jarrod anxiously told me, “ I know where Pike encamped the first night with the Pawnee.” — From Red Cloud: Go back east to Guide Rock on US 136 and turn south on NE 78, turn right [W] on River Road just south of the Republican. And go to 1900 W to the Guide Rock Diversionary Dam on the Republican.” -H Hisgen Elev: 1652ft/504m Among the articles articles recovered at this site:

A Spanish peace metal dating 1797, an American peace metal of the type issued by the Government after 1801; military button bearing the raised figure “1”, the regimental number of Pike’s infantry; European items such as tools, bridals, stirrups, wooden-backed mirrors, and gun parts; a typical pony bone and stone in for blinds implements. The findings coincides with the description in Pike’s journal and on the official map of his exploration.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL BLOG

And crown Thy good with Brotherhood

See it on our Website zebulonpike.org

and Click here

Link: America the Beautiful US Navy Band <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSqVkuTegxY>

‘WHAT PIKE SAW’ - I LIKE PIKE CONTEST ANNOUNCED

You will be receiving a separate email announcing the series of I Like Pike Contest... separate because of email size limits. Our Purpose is: To encourage people to learn about General Zebulon Montgomery Pike, use our website zebulonpike.org and to research about Pike's life.

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

-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.

-In 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.

-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. Pike was commanding the advance guard of the American force.⁵

-Pike was promoted to Brigadier General in March 1813.⁶

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

-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.

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.

How many times did Pike cross the Rio Grande River? Answer at the bottom of this Newsletter.

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE

Mexico gained its independence from Spain effectively on 27 September 1821 in Mexico City [Agustín de Iturbide] after the struggle began with Father Miguel Hidalgo on 16 September 1810 [Mexican Independence Day.] Dissatisfaction overshadowed New Spain for years before 1810 and Pike kept record of it while being allowed to converse with the population on his route.

SPANISH NEPOTISM

Two brothers and a son governed northern New Spain from northern Mexico to Texas to Louisiana. Talk about nepotism. They did not always agree with each other when ruling.

Nemesio de Salcedo tyrannical Spanish governor of New Spain from 26 August 1800 to 1821.

Commandant-general, **General Don Nemesio de Salcedo** (26 August 1800 - 1813), a native of Bilbao, Spain, was the tyrannical Spanish governor of New Spain [Provincias Internas] [hated in Chihuahua, the Spanish Capitol]. He realized that Spain's influence in America was waning and perhaps like Aaron Burr was positioning himself for the coming Mexican Revolution. ¹ **Nemesio** was able to use his position to amass a significant private fortune. ²

Juan Manuel de Salcedo 11th and last Spanish governor of Louisiana, (1801- 30 Nov. 1803)

Juan Manuel de Salcedo y Quiroga, (1743-1810) was the brother of Nemesio Salcedo and father of Manuel María de Salcedo . [France in fulfillment of the Treaty of San Ildefonso gained control from JM Salcedo in 1803]. ³

Manuel María de Salcedo Governor of Spanish Texas 1808 to 3 Apr 1813

Manuel María de Salcedo y Quiroga, (3 Apr 1776 in Málaga, Spain – executed on his 37th birthday April 3, 1813), was Juan Manuel's son, nephew of Nemesio Salcedo & 32nd governor of Spanish Texas- San Antonio de Béjar, Viceroyalty of New Spain (now Bexar County, Texas, U.S.) from November 7, 1808 to his execution by Father Miguel Hidalgo's rebel army on April 3, 1813. ⁴

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nemesio_de_Salcedo .

² Bancroft, Hubert Howe, "[History of the North Mexican States and Texas](#)" pp. 582-4 .

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Manuel_de_Salcedo

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Mar%C3%ADa_de_Salcedo

LEADERS OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

Father Miguel Hidalgo

Father Miguel Hidalgo- A Criollo Catholic priest and leader of the early Mexican War of Independence. Mexican Independence Day September 16, commemorating the [Cry of Dolores](#) in 1810, which initiated the War of Mexican independence from Spain, when Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang the Dolores Mexico church bell CALLING MEXICANS TO ARMS. ¹

Agustín de Iturbide

Agustín de Iturbide (27 September 1783 – 19 July 1824), full name: Agustín Cosme Damián de Iturbide y Arámburu and also known as Augustine of Mexico, was a Mexican army general and politician. During the Mexican War of Independence, he built a successful political and military coalition that took control in Mexico City on 27 September 1821, decisively gaining independence for Mexico. After securing the secession of Mexico from Spain, Iturbide was proclaimed president of the Regency in 1821. ²

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miguel_Hidalgo_y_Costilla

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agust%C3%ADn_de_Iturbide

PIKE MARKER IN KANSAS OF INTEREST

In the Pawnee Indian Museum- Republic KS a 2003 painting "Uncertain Welcome" by Darrell Combs depicting the Pawnee ceremonial charge on the Pike party. It is accompanied by the explanation that "When Lt. Pike with his small company of soldiers and Kaw and Osage emissaries got close to the Pawnee (near present Guide Rock, NE) they were met by over 300 charging warriors as a way of greeting."

A further description states- "Lt. Pike in his usual fur-bordered hat has on his best uniform coat ... and is willing to accept the greeting "Bonjour" being issued by the principal chief (on the black horse, right center) but has his pistol at the ready. The Kaw/Osage headmen with Pike's group show a mixture of stoic acceptance of the situation. One warrior covers his mouth with his hand ... a rather universal Plains symbol for concern or astonishment. Lt. Wilkinson frowns and has his hand on his sword as he watches the howling Pawnees split into two groups to race by the Pike party. A young Pawnee interpreter hastily makes the "Wolf" sign to indicate who he is. Some of the soldiers' uniform jackets have been modified to ease movement and weapons handling and the headgear is a mixture of late 1700s-1804 military and civilian hats. Pawnee headsmen ride to the top of the hill to watch the events unfold."



A PIKE NOTE: The Royal Gorge Bridge is 956 Feet above the Arkansas River, has 4100 steel Cables and 1257 wooden planks. Pike and two others climbed up 956 feet on January 4, 1807. "We at length discovered a narrow ravine, where there was the trace of the doctor and his companion; as the water had ran down it and frozen hard, it was one continued sheet of ice; we ascended it with the utmost difficulty in danger, loaded with the baggage." - Pike

CORPORATE SPONSORS

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



NEXT QUARTER NEWS- LOOK FOR...

Love Back Then following Valentines Day
Contest 1 Winners and Contest 2
The New Interpretative Booklet- Upper Arkansas River- Leadville
The Ancient Rio Grande

NEW BLOGS POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE-

America's Mountain is Pikes Peak Three Glacier Catastrophe & Flood The Ancient Rio Grande
Soon to be posted

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

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

Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org

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Answer to the question posed at the top of page 3-

At least **6 times**

**In the San Luis Valley;..... in Santa Fe;..... at Truth or Consequences NM;..... 2 times in El Paso TX;.....
and South of Eagle Pass TX @ Guerrero, Coahuila Province, Mexico.**