

General Zebulon Montgomery Pike
Tri-national Historic Trail



PIKE NEWS
The Pike Association

A presentation of the
Pike International Historic Trail Association

Vol. 18 No. 1 Jan-Mar — 2024

We are the Brigadier General Zebulon Montgomery Pike International Historic Trail Association, dba the Pike Trail. [\[BGZMPIHTA\]](#) We are based in Conifer Colorado with a winter office in Mesa Arizona.



Pike's "Rascals" collage on both expeditions

Our mission is to make the public, foreign and domestic, aware of the heroic life of General Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

We serve the American people & international visitor information about American History and the Pike Legacy.

Tourism is a sustaining factor in the Pike InterNational Historic Trail Association's mission

PIKE FACTS

- "He did more for this country than most others in early America." - JM
- *"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country."* -Thomas Jefferson
- He was a wise leader of men as his father was.
- He was a self educated family man.
- He traveled in service to his country over 9000 miles during his lifetime,
- He died serving his country in Toronto Canada at the Battle of York,
- Like General Christopher Kit Carson, he was a shorter man that possessed charisma.
- From his birthplace in Lamington, NJ one travels through Trenton, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore to Washington DC,
- His logical route between Washington DC to Pittsburgh PA was beside Rivers- Monongahelia, Youghiogheny, Casselman, Flaugherty, Jennings Run, Laurel Run, Wills Creek, and onto the North Branch Potomac River and Potomac River,
- As a young army officer, he piloted boats on the Ohio river from Pittsburgh to his father's Fort Massac in Metropolis IL,
- He traveled from Fort BelleFontaine to Cass Lake MN on the Mississippi River. His Southwest Expedition route was from Fort BelleFontaine through Colorado, northern Mexico, Texas to Louisiana,
- His route from Pittsburgh to Sackets Harbor NY followed the Allegheny River and near today's Great Lakes Seaway National Scenic Byway
- Pike carried the Star Spangled (15 Stars) American Flag.



We regret to announce the passing of one of our Board Members.

California State Coordinator Betty Andrews passed away at age 98 in the evening of January 10. She accompanied us on many trips and has a special place in our hearts.

The Association announces the creation of the Zebulon Pike International Historic Trail. ZPIT

The Pike InterNational Historic Trail Association is the creator, designator and manager. Join us in celebration.

The Pike InterNational Historic Trail Association **created the Zebulon Pike International Historic Trail [ZPIT]** on September 14, 2023. We are designating it, developing it, and managing it.

Recorded 4123.6 miles Pike traveled. Adding cargo trips and surveying would bring the total to 9000 miles.



Our current efforts to achieve our mission-

One – request that each state legislature designate the Pike Trail in their state AS COLORADO HAS two times unanimously.

Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

- request that the Ontario, Canada and Quebec, Canada legislatures designate the Pike Trail in their province.

- request that Chihuahua, Mexico; Durango, Mexico and Coahuila, Mexico legislatures designate the Pike Trail in their province.

Second - Request that Public Radio stations on the Pike InterNational Historic Trail across the US include Pike history segments other station.

Examples Kansas Public Radio [KANU-Lawrence U of Kansas] operates stations KANH [Emporia], KANV [Olsburg], KANQ [Chanute]; K210CR [Atchison], K258BT & K250AY [Manhattan].

Hutchinson Community College [Hutchinson] broadcasts on KHCC-FM as well as KHCD [Salina] & KHCT [Great Bend].

Third - request that each county that Pike explored declare Pike Day or month as BOURBON COUNTY KANSAS [See information below.] has already done.

Fourth - request financial support for the placing of Wayside Panels describing Pike's activity in each county or province.

The wayside panels would contain information the public would receive- therefor supporting our mission to make the public- foreign and domestic- knowledgeable about the heroic life of General Zebulon Montgomery Pike. We hope to bring economic [with the tourist dollar] and educational value to their communities.

First white men in America

The Pike Association president recently visited

Champlain's September 1615 landing location in Henderson and is in contact with the president and Elaine, secretary of their historical Association.

Samuel de Champlain [Father of New France] and his soldiers entered Henderson Bay, New York [just south of Sackets Harbor NY] in the fall of 1615- approx. 1 September 1615.

Pike passed through here as he was living in Sackets Harbor.

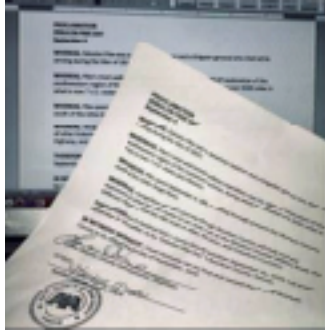
Samuel de Champlain (13 August 1567– 25 December 1635) was a celebrated French explorer, navigator, cartographer, draftsman, soldier, geographer, ethnologist, diplomat, and chronicler.

The Pike Association annual meeting May 4, 2024 10AM.

The Pike Association [Pike InterNational Historic Trail Association] Annual Meeting will be held **virtually** on **May 4, 2024 at 10AM.**

We will let you know the credentials that are needed to join the meeting. Please request credentials.

Bourbon County Kansas - September 4, 2019



The Bourbon County [KS] Commission Lynne Ohara, Jeff Fisher and Nick Ruhl proclaimed on September 4, 2019 that every September 4th will be Zebulon Pike Day in Bourbon County Kansas.



The Pike Association [Pike InterNational Historic Trail Association] is requesting 205 counties, parishes, or municipalities to

declare Pike Day or month on days when Pike passed through, [as Bourbon County Kansas has already done on September 4, 2019].

We are aware that Pike was in 58 counties on his first expedition in 5 of today's states of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. He was in 103 counties on the second expedition in 7 of today's states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana. In Mexico he was in 11 municipalities [counties] in today's Chihuahua province [state], 4 municipalities [counties] in today's Durango province [state] and 17 municipalities [counties] in today's Coahuila province [state]. In Quebec Canada he was in one Regional County municipality and the four regional municipalities around Toronto, Ontario Canada.

Each Town and County on the Pike InterNational Historic Trail will profit from

- economic [tourist visitation \$]
- educational opportunity
- use of area recreation sites, and
- preservation and research efforts.

Sackets Harbor, New York - declares April 27 Pike Day

The Sackets Harbor Village Board has declared April 27 Pike Day. This allows the future dissemination of facts about Pike and his legacy.

Pike Day this year 4/28 in Sackets Harbor will be a bike/ hike event including Fort Pike, Sackets Harbor-where is a USS General Pike was built and launched in June 1813, as well as Pike's grave in the military cemetery.

On the afternoon April 8 total solar eclipse event- additional facts about Pike will be presented. His grave lies exactly under the line of total eclipse.

Another Zebulon Montgomery Pike [nickname Monte] to bless this world at 11:30 this morning March 23, 2020. Carson and Courtney Pike welcomed Zebulon Montgomery Pike into the world in Bemidji Minnesota. Brian and Stacey Pike are the proud grandparents.

We made the front page of two newspapers with facts about Pike

On Jan 29, 2024, I met with Connie Barone, a reporter and photographer from the **Sackets Harbor Observer and Watertown Daily Times** @ the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site. The next day we made the front page of both newspapers.

-H Hisgen

Here is the well written article reviewing Pike information-

Proposed trail would honor War of 1812 hero who served at Sackets Harbor

By CHRIS BROCK Jan 29, 2024

SACKETS HARBOR — The president of the Pike International Historic Trail Association paid a visit to this historic village on Monday to share his vision for the path that would honor an American military hero and expedition leader who is buried at the Sackets Harbor Military Cemetery.

The nonprofit Pike International Historic Trail Association was created in 2007 to promote and preserve the legacy of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who was killed in the Battle of York (present-day Toronto) in 1813.

His body was then brought back to Sackets Harbor.

Prior to the War of 1812, Pike was a well-traveled explorer of the American West as an army captain, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson. He explored the southern portions of the Louisiana territory. He climbed in rank steadily until being promoted to brigadier general after fighting at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811 during Tecumseh's War, a conflict between the U.S. and Tecumseh's Confederacy, led by the Shawnee leader Tecumseh in the Indiana Territory.

With the War of 1812 underway, Pike was assigned to lead a campaign north from Sackets Harbor to Canada.

"Pike led the easy capture of York after landing his 1,600 regulars across the Lake Ontario against a much smaller combined British force," according to American Battlefield Trust. "Though the garrison was easily captured, retreating British soldiers set fire to its buildings, resulting in a terrific explosion as the flames reached the powder magazine. The explosion wounded 222 soldiers, and killed an additional 38, with Pike among one of the dead."

Pike later died aboard his ship. His body was supposedly returned to Sackets Harbor in a barrel of spirits.

Harv Hisgen is president of the Pike International Historic Trail Association. He lives in Conifer, Colorado, with his wife, Bonnie. On Monday, they met with Constance Barone, director of the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site, where the trail would connect.

From Sackets, the trail would head east to Plattsburgh.

"Our main mission is to let the public know about General Zebulon Montgomery Pike," he said.

The trail, which would be on public highways, would honor Pike's explorations. In 1805-1806, Pike explored the source of the Mississippi newly acquired from France in 1803. He led an expedition to present-day Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. His second expedition was to the American southwest and parts of New Spain (Mexico) in 1806-1807. The Pike National Historic Trail would wind its way through the areas those expeditions visited. It totals 4,123 miles. Adding canoe trips and surveying would bring that total to 9,000 miles.

Hisgen said that Pike discovered and explored the headwaters of five major western rivers: the Mississippi, Arkansas, South Platte, Osage and Cottonwood. Pike's Peak in Colorado is named after him. The trail association is requesting that each state that Pike passed through designate the Pike Trail in their state. Hisgen is also seeking approval on the local level: the towns and counties the trail would pass through. He brought with him a proposed resolution he planned to share with Sackets Harbor and

Jefferson County officials.

Asked if there was a timeline for the trail, Hisgen said, "I've got 200 counties where we're trying to get Pike Day when Pike was there. I have a number of people helping me. We're going to take it piece by piece."

"Harv will be getting in touch with the county and village," Barone said. "He's going to be proposing this. This is his actual physical visit today."

The trail would head east on Route 104 and Route 3 to Sackets Harbor.

Barone showed the Hisgens around the key historical points on the battlefield and also highlights of the village on Monday. They also visited the burial site of Pike at the Military Cemetery. Barone thinks the trail and related Pike Day would be good for the battlefield. "It's always great to be put on the map and certainly Sackets Harbor is recognized as one of the top War of 1812 sites in the country."

Barone said that as the trail plan proceeds, she plans to reach out to organizations like the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and Seaway Trail for signage possibilities.

As for proposed Pike Day in Sackets Harbor, Barone had a day in mind: April 27, (1813), when he was killed at York while leading the attack on British troops.

"Militarily, he was a bright young leader," Barone said. "He was recognized for his skills. He probably would have been one of our best leaders in the War of 1812 had he not been killed at York."

Hisgen has experience in trail management. He served as vice president for the American Discovery Trail Society and chaired the Santa Fe Trail Association/American Discovery Trail Society Alliance. He taught chemistry and physics for 33 years in Illinois.

Perhaps due to that scientific background, Hisgen noted an upcoming cosmic connection involving Pike and two locations. Sackets Harbor will be in the path of totality in the upcoming total eclipse on April 8. Pike was in Durango province, Mexico, in 1807, on his Southwest expedition. That area will also be in the April 8 exact path of totality.

For more info on the trail and on the life of Pike, go to zebulonpike.org.

Additional information for the eclipse Even in bad weather

For the eclipse day April 8 event in Sackets Harbor New York.

Even if the weather is bad, you'll still know that the eclipse is happening.

Here's how-

Have you ever been listening to AM radio at night and some very distant station overlaps what you're listening to? All of a sudden you're listening to the public radio station WFMT in Chicago when you're in Denver Colorado.

Here's what happening - The sun's energy causes the ionosphere to produce ions.

When the sun sets, ions are not produced.

Another layer of the ionosphere reflects the radio waves when the ions are not there.

You may be listening to- KPCC [89.3] in Los Angeles California or WBEZ CHICAGO.

The same thing will happen during the eclipse because the sun is not shining on us- it's blocked by the moon [Lūna].

Even if you have inclement weather and clouds overhead, turn on your AM radio.

You know it's happening.

Here's what you do-

Tune in to hear your favorite AM Station about the the eclipse begins [Google this time]

The signals should improve as the Moon's shadow passes by their transmitter.

Joe Rao at **Sky and Telescope Magazine** sends you this:

The key is not to listen for enhancement when the umbral shadow is passing over you . . . but

when the shadow is specifically passing over the transmitter of the radio station in question.
Happy Listening! -- joe

National Trails

Name national trails that do not cross or is not contiguous with the Brigadier General Zebulon Montgomery Pike International Historic Trail.

15 are:

- Arizona National Scenic Trail, California National Historic Trail, Florida National Scenic Trail, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Iditarod National Historic Trail, Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, New England National Scenic Trail, Nez Perce Nee-Me-Poo National Historic Trail, Oregon National Historic Trail, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, Pony Express National Historic Trail, and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

Here are 25 that **do** cross or are **contiguous** [15] with the Pike Trail:

- American Discovery Trail, **contiguous**
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail,
- Butterfield Overland Trail,
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, **contiguous** most
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, **contiguous** all
- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail,
- El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, **contiguous** all
- El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, **contiguous** Ohkay Owingeh [San Juan Pueblo] Española, NM, New Mexico and to Torreón, Mexico,
- Great River Road - the Mississippi River, **contiguous** from Natchez, LA to Cass Lake, MN
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, **contiguous** Missouri River
- Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail,
- North County National Scenic Trail,
- Ohio River Scenic Byway of Illinois and Kentucky, **contiguous** Metropolis east
- Ohio River Scenic Byway of Indiana, **contiguous** all
- Ohio River Scenic Byway of Ohio and West Virginia, **contiguous** all
- Old Spanish National Historic Trail,
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, **contiguous**
- Santa Fe National Historic Trail, **contiguous** - Great Bend KS to LaJunta CO
- Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail,
- The Great Allegheny Passage, **contiguous** all
- The Great Lakes [Lake Erie, Lake Ontario] Seaway National Scenic Byway - NY, PA, **contiguous**
- Three Rivers Water National Rec Tr- Pittsburg Ohio, Mong, Allegheny Rivers **contiguous**
- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail,
- Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail, **contiguous**



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

Our mission is to make the public, foreign and domestic, aware of the heroic life of
General Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

*"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 We are a charitable nonprofit organization. [501-C-3]