



PIKE

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Mar-- 2017 Vol. 11 No. 3



UP OUT OF THE GORGE

NEW PAINTING

It was January 4th, 1807. Zebulon Pike and two of his men had descended down what is now called the Royal Gorge near what is now Cañon City, Colorado about 3 miles. Finding further progress downstream virtually impossible they climbed out of the gorge nearly 1,000 feet to the north rim. The ravine (at one time name Telegraph Gulch but was renamed by the Governor Pike Gulch) up which they climbed with great danger to life is just up river to the west of today's Royal Gorge Bridge. The party of approximately 22 men were strung out in the mountains at this point in 8 different groups and they made their ways to the flats where they had previously built a stockade in early December.

From Pike's journal, "We at length discovered a narrow ravine,... It was one continuous sheet of ice. We I ascended it with the utmost difficulty and danger loaded with the baggage."

See how you can order this painting in poster form in our separate Preservation Fund email.)

PIKE'S CHARACTER BY Dr. Clive Siegel August 31, 2008 Santa Fe Trail Assoc office Larned, KS

Pike was one of the only officers who bothered to hang around while the project was being completed. All the other officers had left for New Orleans, but not Pike. He stayed. (he was a major then)

He never left his men.

In the war of 1812, when the war broke out, Colonel Pike was arguably the most competent Army officer in the United States Army. Why? Because he had read. He had practiced. He was in an army that was largely sputtering to a halt and was largely full of people who are reaching retirement age. Pike on the other hand was young. He read almost all the tactics books from Europe. He drilled his regiment in the newest tactics. He was literally the man on the field.



The 15th infantry was the best drilled in the army. When he came to shore at York, it will carry the day, largely because of what Pike at done, he was constantly improving himself.

If you wonder why Pike was always tooting his own horn, and applying for promotions. He was in the army as a career. He would regularly send letters inquiring about positions. Impatience, or the least overzealousness, was part of Pike's character.

In spite of all obstacles, he would forge ahead and this was part of his character which would eventually get him into trouble. Pike's self confidence often caused him to set high standards which may or may not have led him to over estimate the capabilities of the men he led.

On January 24 remember, Pike and his men (deep in Colorado) attempted to find a way across the Sangre de Cristo mountains. They've got to get across. They're in trouble. One blizzard and they're gone. They would starve to death. They tried Music Pass, they can't get across- too much snow.

Pike writes in his journal for the first time- "for the first time in the voyage I found myself discouraged;" Now think about what he's been through- he climbed up the Royal Gorge and for the first time he finds himself discouraged. He'd been through tremendous challenges. It's an amazing admission because when he says discouraged it must

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PUEBLO COUNTY HONORS PIKE TRAIL WITH ROADWAY DESIGNATIONS

The Pueblo Chieftain

BY ANTHONY A. MESTAS MAR 8, 2017

http://www.chieftain.com/news/pueblo/pueblo-county-honors-pike-trail-with-roadway-designations/article_1e2c0f22-b9bc-5d89-931b-91d90eb12e7a.html

The shadow of "America's Mountain" as well as the history of the man who discovered it stretches into Pueblo County and other Southeastern Colorado counties.

To commemorate the epic journey that Zebulon Pike and his men conquered to get to Pikes Peak the Pueblo County commissioners on Wednesday designated portions of highways that run within the county as part of a pioneer trail.

County officials said a pioneer trail consists of public roads that follow as closely as possible the original trails or routes of travel of a national historical significance.

"We are designating basically the route that Zebulon Pike took through Pueblo County -- what later became Pueblo County -- in his expedition in 1806," said Commission Chairman Terry Hart.

"We are pretty thrilled about that and the history of the Pike Expedition in Pueblo County. This is one step towards elevating the Pike Expedition to start trying to receive the same recognition -- as much as we can -- of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that has gotten a lot of recently."

The sections designated are:

- U.S. 50 from the Pueblo/Otero county line west to the intersection of Colorado 47 and Colorado 96 (Fourth St.).
 - U.S. 50 from its intersection with Colorado 45 (Pueblo Boulevard) west to the Pueblo/Fremont county line.
 - Colorado 96 from the Pueblo/Crowley county line to its intersection with Colorado 45 (Pueblo Boulevard).
- Santa Fe Avenue from the intersection with Colorado 96 (Fourth Street) south to the Arkansas River.
Colorado 45 (Pueblo Boulevard) from the intersection with Colorado 96 north to U.S. 50.
Stone City Road from its intersection with U.S. 50 north to the Fort Carson boundary.

Hart said there is no up-front cost involved for the designation. He said there will need to be signage for the road and that the county will be working with state and federal governments for those expenses.

"There may be some local expenses, but I think it is probably going to be absorbed into our typical highway expenses, which are mostly state and federal monies," Hart said.

Hart said the county also is looking into creating an interpretive center in Pueblo to show the community the history of the expedition and how it went through the area.

Hart, a self-proclaimed history buff, said the designation will bring to light more of the fascinating things that have happened in this part of the state over the course of time.

"That's literally what it is. It's to recognize and to engender the amount of pride that comes along with knowing that this part of the United States, this part of Colorado had a huge role in the history of the United States -- the development of the United States," Hart said.

Hart said Pike and his men were encamped near the confluence of the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek before they marched north.

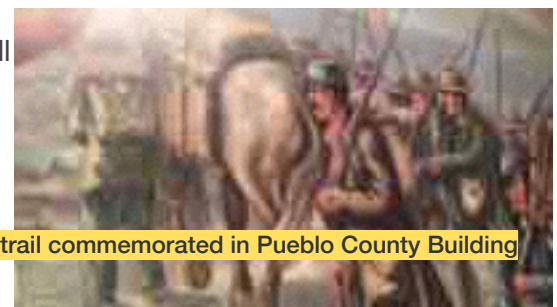
"This (designation) puts a little bit of a face and the facts to the name (of Zebulon Pike)," Hart said.

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John Jaques
Ronald Hadlock (above) takes a water break Wednesday at the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo's Boettcher Education Center after riding his bike along the trail. Earlier in the day, Pueblo County commissioners designated sections of highways within the county as part of the Zebulon Pike Trail.

attention in its bicentennial



Pike's trail commemorated in Pueblo County Building

PIKE'S CHARACTER BY Dr. Clive Siegel continues from Page 1

be really discouraged. And for the first time he had heard an outright mutinous comment from one of his men. Grumbling is one thing but mutiny he can't believe. And Pike of course eventually turned on this man and tells him- I understand things are tough but you can't do this again and if you do I will personally kill you. The only problem is this man was the oldest man on the expedition over 50 years old. His drive it actually got them farther than they had actually thought they would get. He literally was within the deuce of losing the entire expedition. If you look at the Lewis and Clark Expedition- several times Lewis and Clark ran into essentially the same thing- they don't think twice about backing up. In the Bitter Roots for the first time, too much snow, they make the decision if they all parish up there all the records that they are bringing back will be gone- the expedition will simply disappear. All that kind of thing never enters Pike's mind.

So sometimes his character is a little bit too much. He's never quite willing in many cases to believe that people are not up to the same standard that he is. But here we have something of a templet of continuity that applies to his expeditions. Now you all understand that this is his second expedition. His first one was to find the sources of the Mississippi. His first expedition almost parallels his second expedition. You're to find the source of the Mississippi River. If the weather gets bad, you're to turn around and come back. Somehow or other the weather never got bad enough, like the weather never gets bad enough in Minnesota. Pike tends to stretch his orders. Wilkinson says he tends a stretches orders. What happens is when bad weather comes he leaves part of his men at a temporary fort [Little Falls, MN), he then heads on in February. He's close the Canadian border. He finally with a number of his men frostbitten, he finds his way as close as he can come to the source. He arrives back [at BelleFontaine] on April 30th after making a 5000 mile trip, up and back. So now in November, on November 11th as he is near the Colorado border. In finding it impossible to fulfill his orders, he then determines to spend the winter- what a surprise. This is just like his Mississippi expedition. So we shouldn't be surprised that the forges ahead. The question is was he under orders? You could say that he was supposed to get to the the headwaters of the Arkansas. When you think about it he is typically not finished. Winter...

So just like Minnesota he is in Colorado spending another winter like he did the winter before. He's even got the same guys with him. The template is already there.

The question is did Wilkinson assign him to these expeditions knowing full well that he would stretch orders? Did he see in Pike a guy who would go as far as he would go knowing full well he would not come back when the weather is bad? He's not going to come back- he's going to keep on going.

So he's going to New Spain, find the source of the Red River. He's going to come back. What I maintain is that while Pike is a minor of Wilkinson, Wilkinson is a consummate man who is able to orchestrate Pike's trace for his own end without necessarily including Pike in his philosophy. He becomes an engine, a main string, without necessarily being involved philosophically in things that Wilkinson has done. Does he know for example that Wilkinson has sent him the upper Mississippi because he is interested in the fur trade? In economic return for himself as well as the nation? Is he interested in national security and send him out there? Does he send him to Santa Fe because he is interested in some kind of nefarious thing and Spanish activities? He doesn't have to tell Pike that- all he has to do is tell Pike, 'Find the source of such and such, and by the way— it's that direction-' knowing full well that that is what he will do.

Pike had a highly developed personal sense of honor which I find incompatible with the idea that he would somehow be like something that Wilkinson would like him to be. If Wilkinson had told him what he was up to, there is a good chance of Pike would have had nothing to do with it.

We would welcome donations to the Pike Trail Sign Project. Each 2'x2' directional sign and standard is \$30 / sign.

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

We need your help.

DISNEY ARTIST COMPLETES FIVE PAINTINGS IN OUR PIKE SERIES

- Painting #1 **Pike's Christmas 1806**
- Painting #2 **Bighorn "New Animal"**
- Painting #3 **A Small Blue Cloud**
- Painting #4 **Glory-Battle-at-York**
- Painting #5 **Up Out of the Gorge**

Up and coming- CROSSING GRAPE CREEK, STOCKADE ON THE ARKANSAW (Cañon City), Climb the Gorge

MEMBERSHIP-

Will you consider joining us? Membership blank 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?fref=ts>)

INTER-NATION PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION- BORDER TO BORDER (ALMOST COAST TO COAST)
 TOTAL MILES OF Border to Border Pike Trail = **8168 miles**

Our next Annual Meeting will be on April 28th 2017 at the Royal Gorge, CO.

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 MAR 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.