



Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail

Our website is www.zebulonpike.org - Thomas Jefferson
We are a Charitable nonprofit organization
"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country."

Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

April 2014 Vol. 8 No. 2



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The Association's Annual meeting-

The Annual meeting of the Association was held on **Saturday, April 26, 2014, at 9:35 am in Cañon City**. We discussed our legislation. We are moving ahead with our projects- including Interpretive Materials, with our new committee (see details below); Preservation Funding options (Erwin Young's Committee); and routing details for our tourist routes - auto and hiking/bicycling. The next Board and Membership Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2015 in the Big Horn Lodge- Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, Cañon City, CO.

Pictured (left and clockwise)- Brian Pike, Dave Walker, Stew Brown, Monty Pike, Carol McNew, Dorothy Urban & Erwin Young



Hisgen, Brian Pike, Dave Walker, Stew Brown, Monty Pike, Dorothy Urban, Erwin Young



Harv Hisgen, Mike Bandera & Brian Pike



Pictures- Carol McNew



Monty Pike's Retirement as Association Vice President

After seven (7) years serving as the Association's First Vice President, Zebulon Montgomery Pike retired that position. He has agreed to remain on the Board as an advisor. Monty is a past President of the Pike Family Association and the closest living relative to our explorer- Zebulon Montgomery Pike. He lives in Salida, CO with his charming wife- Grace.

Interpretation Committee

The Association's Interpretation Committee is charged with

- Publications- Fliers - Interpretive signs and
- The educational efforts of a) teachers, b) rein-actors and c) the Association in schools, the general public and in state parks.

With the very recent addition of a resource person, the Committee is comprised of 15- 12 from numbers of locations in Colorado with 3 map and resource individuals. Two members are related to Zeb Pike. The Board voted use topics concentrating on Colorado (13 currently on the list), and 8 general topics. Writing, funding and distribution of fliers- is currently being worked on. (Your membership would help.)

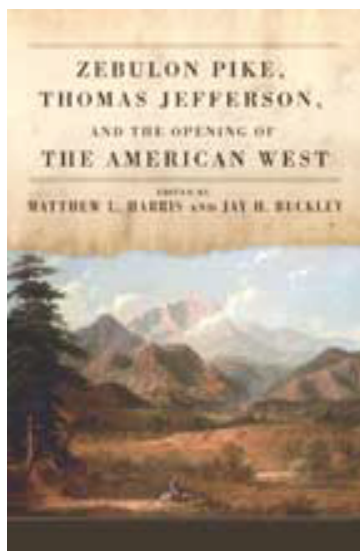
Should you wish to join this team, please contact Committee Chair- Pat Surrena through the Assoc..

Viewing progress at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park- Cañon City, Colo.

Following the Annual Meeting, and a leisurely lunch in downtown Cañon City, we went on a special tour of the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park with Mike Bandera. We saw that all of the fire damage has been removed, & the landscape has been cleaned and reseeded. Water holding ponds and fire hydrants have been installed. The Playhouse (on the south side), the Big Horn Lodge, the black locomotive, and the Pike Gulch sign survived the



fire. We were impressed by the 2 new facilities - The yellow Administrative building and the new Royal Gorge center. Yes, you see a bus crossing the bridge as we did on a cart. The facility is being toured by visitors and is scheduled to open by August 15 (Phase I).



Congratulations Mike.

University of Oklahoma Press - Book about Pike Edited by Harris and Buckley

Zebulon Pike, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West. Edited by Matthew L. Harris and Jay H. Buckley. Colorado Book Award Finalist! 7 prominent historians reassess the explorer for whom Pikes Peak was named.

In life and in death, fame and glory eluded Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779–1813). The ambitious young military officer and explorer, best known for a mountain peak that he neither scaled nor named, was destined to live in the shadows of more famous contemporaries—explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. This collection of thought-provoking essays rescues Pike from his undeserved obscurity. It does so by providing a nuanced assessment of Pike and his actions within the larger context of American imperial ambition in the time of Jefferson.

Pike's accomplishments as an explorer and mapmaker and as a soldier during the War of 1812 have been tainted by his alleged connection to Aaron Burr's conspiracy. This

book moves beyond that controversy to offer new scholarly perspectives on Pike's career.

The essayists—all prominent historians of the American West—examine Pike's expeditions and writings, which provided an image of the Southwest that would shape American culture for decades. John Logan Allen explores Pike's contributions to science and cartography; James P. Ronda and Leo E. Oliva address his relationships with Native peoples and Spanish officials; Jay H. Buckley chronicles Pike's life and compares Pike to other Jeffersonian explorers; Jared Orsi discusses the impact of his expeditions on the environment; and William E. Foley examines his role in Burr's conspiracy.

Together the essays assess Pike's accomplishments and shortcomings as an explorer, soldier, empire builder, and family man. Continues- p. 3



Jay H. Buckley

Harris and Buckley continues- Pike's 1810 journals and maps gave Americans an important glimpse of the headwaters of the Mississippi and the southwestern borderlands, and his account of the opportunities for trade between the Mississippi Valley and New Mexico offered a blueprint for the Santa Fe Trail. This volume is the first in more than a generation to offer new scholarly perspectives on the career of an overlooked figure in the opening of the American West.

Cañon City and Pike details

Cañon City is a location where many of Pike's decisions were made and where he spent a great deal of time. We are investigating several areas:

- What precisely was their likely route and when?

- Where was the blockhouse? - Where is the best route for the Association's Auto/Bike/Routes?

Pike's general timeline is- Dec. 5, 1806-Enter Cañon City area Dec. 5-9 Cañon City encampment

Dec. 10- Jan. 4 South Park and Arkansas Headwaters Jan. 5-13 Cañon City and the building of the Blockhouse

Jan. 14 Left heading south into the Wet Mountain Valley with Baroney and Smith left with ailing horses.

John Murphy, Dave Walker and Harv Hisgen have been looking at different scenarios for Pike's entering and egressing the Royal Gorge. As John puts it - this is a fascinating enigma. Here are some of Dave Walker's writings-

Following Pike's Footsteps in the Royal Gorge- D. Nelson

The following are my thoughts concerning Pike's movements after he descended into the Royal Gorge in early January, 1807. The descriptions of his movements are contained in the journal entries for January 4 and 5 (pages 160-162: The Southwestern Journals of Zebulon Pike, 1806-1807, edited by Stephen Hart and Archer Hulbert). I have also relied on the route of Pike's Expedition as depicted on maps produced by the U.S. Geological Survey, entitled Historic Trail Maps of the Pueblo 1 Degree X 2 Degree Quadrangle, Colorado, by Glenn R. Scott.

The diary entries for these two days are very complicated and require careful analysis. As I understand it, after several very difficult days descending the Arkansas River, at 3 P.M. on January 4 Pike and eleven of his men emerged from Big Horn Canyon onto the open plain several miles west of the present-day Parkdale Bridge. Four of his men, including Dr. Robinson, were somewhere out in front of the main party. At this point, Pike sent Mr. Baroney and two men with horses to scout ahead to find some way for the party to get out of mountains. Next, he divided the remaining men into four pairs and gave them instructions on how to proceed. Finally, he went forward along the Arkansas River alone to hunt for game and to try to catch up with Robinson and the other three men. After departing from the main party, Pike estimated that he had marched about 5 miles, and just as night was approaching he met two of the men from the advance scouting party (not the Robinson or Baroney parties). Loaded with some of their "baggage", Pike and the two men followed Robinson's tracks up a narrow ravine to Robinson's abandoned campsite. Pike then ordered the two men to bring up the remaining baggage from the river while he went ahead to hunt for game. Pike said that he wounded a deer but was unable to track it down because of approaching darkness.

The five miles that Pike estimates he traveled before encountering the two men matches well with the distance from the west end of the Parkdale "prairie" to where note 188 suggests was the present-day site of the "hanging bridge". Also, the time that it would have taken him to cover this distance (two to three hours) fits well with the detail about meeting the two men just as it was beginning to get dark. However, it is my personal belief that the place where Pike met the two men was not at the hanging bridge, but more likely at some point west of it. Here are the reasons for this belief.

I have carefully studied the Royal Gorge area with the purpose of identifying the likely places where Pike and his men could have easily exited the gorge without risking life and limb. Over a period of several years, my studies have included hiking the railroad tracks along the entire length of the Royal Gorge, as well as hiking several of the "ravines" that would have afforded Pike and his men an easy egress. Based on these studies, it is my opinion that there is no rational reason why Pike could or would have chosen to exit the gorge at, near, or below the site of the "hanging bridge". Continues Page 4

My belief is supported by the fact that there are five ravines located on the north side of the river between the western entrance of the Royal Gorge and the site of the ravine for the Incline Railway. Any one of these ravines would have offered Pike and his men a safe exit from the bottom of the gorge. As measured from the present-day site of the Parkdale Bridge (where US 50 crosses the Arkansas River), the distances to each of these ravines are: Ravine #1, 1.1 miles; Ravine #2, 1.5 miles; Ravine #3, 1.6 miles; Ravine #4, 2.6 miles; Ravine #5 - 3.1 miles. Of the five ravines, #'s 1 thru 3 do not appear to be likely routes because they are all too close to the west entrance to the Royal Gorge, and do not match well with Pike's mileage estimate or with his description about when he, "...came to a place where the rocks were perpendicular on both sides, and no ice (except for a narrow border) on the water." In addition, all three of these ravines lead due north onto the broad plain of present-day Eight Mile Park, a feature that Pike fails to mention in his diary entry for January 5.

This leaves ravines 4 and 5, which are much closer to the location of the "hanging bridge". Both 4 and 5 fit closer with Pike's distance estimate and the amount of time that it would have taken to reach them; however, like the previous three ravines, number 4 also leads directly northward onto Eight Mile Park. This leaves ravine 5, which fits both the distance and time references, as well as Pike's description about the precipitous character of the canyon walls that lay below this point. Indeed, below the mouth of ravine 5 (which enters the river about 0.3 miles above the hanging bridge, the river is squeezed down to a single narrow channel and the canyon walls become substantially steeper. Furthermore, ravine #5 only heads north for about 1,000 feet, but then turns abruptly eastward. It then continues east for approximately 600 feet to where there it forks into two branches. Both forks continue eastward approximately 3 miles and lead to the picnic grounds and overlook located on the northeastern side of Royal Gorge Park from where Pike would have seen, "...the unbounded space of the prairies again presented themselves to my view, and from some distant peaks, I immediately recognized it to be the outlet of the Arkansas, which we had left nearly one month since!". I have personally hiked both branches of this ravine from the Arkansas River to the picnic area overlook, and can attest that men burdened with packs could have negotiated either branch with little difficulty. I can also say that from the vantage point afforded at the picnic grounds, that the "distant peaks" he recognized would have included the present-day peaks of Pikes Peak (29 miles northeast of Canon City), Mount Pisgah (a very distinctive cone-shaped peak on Four Mile Creek, 22 miles north of Canon City), Tanner Peak (6 miles southwest of Canon City), and Twin Mountain (6 miles northwest of Canon City). In addition, he would have seen and recognized the distinctive hogbacks that extend both north and south from the Arkansas River, and near the campsite where the expedition had departed from a month earlier. [To be continued]

Here are some photos taken from the mouth of Ravine #5 and up the ravine which Pike probably followed.



Looking downstream towards the Royal Gorge Bridge with railroad tracks and river below. The aqueduct (foreground), located upstream from the Royal Gorge Bridge on the north side of the River, carries runoff water from Ravine #5 across the railroad tracks.

Photo taken from a point located about 100 feet from the north end of the aqueduct looking northward up ravine #5.



Photo of impressive rock outcrops located along the eastern side of ravine #5.



Notice the stacked rock walls in the center of this picture. The structure has nothing to do with Pike but is located overlooking the railroad tracks on the west side of ravine #5.

Known as a DeRemer Fort, it was one of a series of rifle pits built by General Palmer's men during the so-called railroad war (1878-80) between D&RG and Santa Fe. Palmer's head of security was a civil war veteran named DeRemer.

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Reminder notice- PLEASE Join or Renew Memberships Now!

Aside from those holding a life membership, those who regularly attend meetings and those already keeping up with their dues, we need your help to proceed with the projects we have in mind. [See articles above.] Please renew your membership or, if you have never joined, consider membership in our organization. If you have paid disregard this and we thank you.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Amt.</u>	<u>Level Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Amt.</u>	<u>Level Name</u>
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 _____ Address _____

Town _____ State ____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

e-mail _____

I will be able to help with:

☐ The Pike Assoc. website ☐ Historic/heritage investigation ☐ Providing educational opportunities ☐ Producing educational materials

☐ 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)

Additional gifts are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: *Pike National Historic Trail Association*