



PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter April— 2018 Vol. 12 No. 4



OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 19 at 9am

We invite you to the Board Meeting followed by the *Pike National Historic Trail Association* Annual Meeting. Each year we meet at the **Royal Gorge Bridge and Park** which is west of Cañon City on County Route 3A.

We will discuss these items- Completion of the Pike Trail in Colorado, Moving to Phase II Pike Trail in CO, our website, our smart phone app, and the national legislation for the Pike National Historic Trail.

Directions: 1. Head northwest on US-50 W/Royal Gorge Blvd and continue to follow US-50 West for 7.2 miles.
2. Turn left onto Co Rd 3A (4.4 miles to Park) 18 min (11.5 miles) 4218 County Road 3A, Cañon City, CO 81212

The Royal Gorge Bridge and Park has graciously allowed us to meet at their Bighorn Lodge or Visitor Center for 11 years. The location is in Cañon City [Fremont County] on the Arkansas River. It is especially significant because this is where the Pike Southwest Expedition made many decisions. They first was to travel north (see accompanying article) only to return. The decision was then made to travel south (see our *Newsletter- Feb. 2018*, Pages 2-4 for a description of Pike's trip up Grape Creek into the Wet Mountain Valley. <https://www.zebulonpike.org/docs/news/02-18.pdf>)

Pike climbed out of the Royal Gorge one day before his 28th birthday on January 5, 1807.

We moved the meeting to May because for the last two years we have had snow and it was difficult for people to make an April meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee reports that we have two new life members. Welcome Kendal and Karson. We now have 5 Life Members- Category- Zebulon Montgomery Pike. Only 2 other memberships were received for 2018. We received a donation. However, we would value your 2018 membership.

Please renew your membership or become a member for the first time using the membership blank at the bottom of this Newsletter.

Donations can be claimed on your income tax. If you need a letter for the IRS, please request one. Our Treasurer Laura Pope will be glad to acknowledge the donation.

As you can see in the lead article we will need funds for these projects. Please help us out.

THE MYSTERIOUS DR. ROBINSON

 by Virginia Simmons, the Rabbitbrush Rambler

Originally published in the Valley Courier, Alamosa, CO". amosanews.com 6 February 2018

As always at this time of year, I write something about the expedition of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, and this year I have chosen to consider Pike's companion, the mysterious Dr. John Hamilton Robinson, the expedition's surgeon. A suspicion persists that the entire expedition was tied to devious goals of Aaron Burr and Louisiana Territory's Governor James Wilkinson, but it is impossible to deny that in the course of such an expedition medical needs would arise and he would have been indispensable.

Burr, the former vice president (1801-1805), was involved in a scheme to free Mexico from New Spain and set up a province with Burr and his cohorts in control, and it is strongly suspected that Wilkinson was collaborating with Burr. Burr had a friendship of many years with Wilkinson, who had become the governor of Louisiana Territory.

[Continues on Page 2](#)



The mysterious Dr. Robinson continues

Which leaves a question about whom Robinson, if not Pike himself, was working for when they departed St. Louis in July of 2006. Perhaps we never will know. Ostensibly, Robinson was supposed to collect some money for someone that was owed by a trader, Baptiste La Lande, who was living at Santa Fe. From the beginning, then, Robinson's destination was the Spanish city of Santa Fe, although Pike's expedition itself was ordered to reconnoiter the Arkansas and Red Rivers, not Spain's Rio Grande.

Robinson is described in Pike's published journal as being an excellent companion. The doctor accompanied Pike on his unsuccessful attempt to climb Pike's Peak, helped with hunting desperately-needed game for food, cared for the suffering party, and, being educated, could share pleasant conversation and thoughts with the expedition's officer.

When the doctor left Pike at their encampment on the Conejos River on February 6 and headed alone to Santa Fe, the question of the entire expedition's purpose becomes acute. Why was Robinson expecting to get to Santa Fe by heading south downriver if Pike professed that he was on the Red River (and was on the west side of it at that, which obviously would be in Spanish territory)? After all, Pike and thus Robinson too had seen Humboldt's rough map that offered some clues that they were on the wrong river, although it is true that the sketch erred about the Red's location.

When Robinson left Pike on February 7 to go to Santa Fe, only a gullible person could believe that Dr. Robinson (and Pike too) was not spying. After Pike himself was arrested at the stockade on the Conejos in March and taken to Santa Fe, Pike said that he was alone, meaning that he allegedly did not know Robinson who already was in custody, and exposed the obvious ruse.

Nevertheless, courteous treatment was accorded Pike by the provincial Governor Alancaster, who even gave the lieutenant the gift of a shirt, which was probably badly needed after so many months on the trail. But Pike's papers were taken from him and not returned, with the exception of some personal items.

From there Pike was taken south to Chihuahua, and on the way he and Robinson were reunited at Albuquerque. There, the good doctor had been given some liberty to attend to people needing his care.

As the military entourage proceeded south, both of the Americans had ample opportunity to observe the geography and much more, while also enjoying the hospitality of churchmen along the way. But at the provincial capital at Chihuahua, there was no question about the seriousness of Governor Don Nimeios Salcedo, who kept Pike's papers and had them translated. The governor sternly pointed out that the Americans had caused much trouble but lent them funds to use on their journey back to Louisiana.

The two arrived in July at Natchitoches in July 1807, after a firsthand tour of Chihuahua and Texas. When New Spain's authorities later demanded that the Mexican money be reimbursed, Jefferson's government refused to pay it.

The name of John Hamilton Robinson appears in later generations in Missouri, though the doctor himself disappears. Pike's reputation remains unsullied as a career military officer who died during the War of 1812.

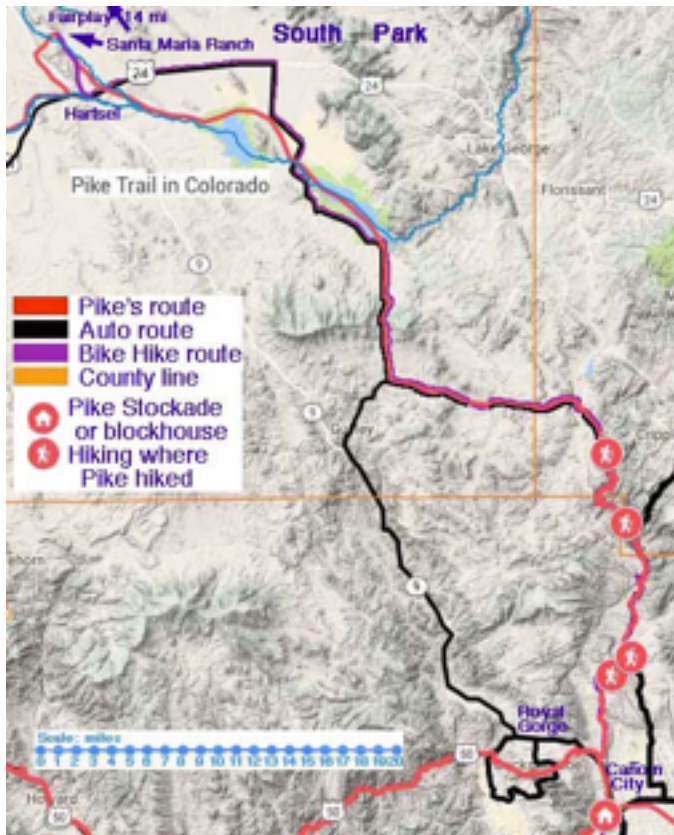
Zebulon M. Pike was a loyal patriot. There is not a shred of evidence that he was anything other than a courageous military man dedicated to the United States and willing to die for his native land.

Of course, Pike knew he was in Spanish territory when he built his stockade in southern Colorado, but he was sure glad to be in the valley, rather than in the mountains. After all, he and his men nearly froze and starved to death while crossing the mountains.

Dr. Robinson published a map of the southwest in 1819 that is one of the rarest and most sought after maps of the early 19th century.

PIKE'S DISCOVERY OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER CAÑON CITY INTO THE SOUTH PARK

by Allan Vainley (WE QUOTE PIKE IN GREEN.)



The Pike Southwest Expedition had been following the Arkansas River west through today's Pueblo to the west side of Cañon City. They arrived on December 5, 1806. They built a stockade (described by some as a blockhouse) on the Arkansas (see our February *Newsletter* for Ed French's painting of the stockade-Page 5 <https://www.zebulonpike.org/docs/news/03-18.pdf>) between the Royal Gorge and where US 50 turns north leaving Cañon City.

The Arkansas presented a formidable obstacle to the west- the Royal Gorge. The decision was made to travel north seemingly to avoid the Gorge. I also believe that they traveled north wishing to avoid Spanish who claimed the land on the south side of the Arkansas.

"We again dispatched parties in search of the [Spanish] trace; one party discovered it on the other side of the river [South], and followed it into the valley of the river at the entrance of the mountain, where they met two [of our] parties who were returning from exploring the two branches of the river, in the mountains; of which they reported, to have ascended until the river was merely a brook, bounded on both sides with perpendicular rocks, impracticable for horses ever to pass them; they then crossed the river on the north side, and discovered (as they supposed) the Spanish troops had ascended a dry valley to the right ... We determined to march the morrow to the entrance of the valley. - Pike 7th December, Sunday

Pike's Trip Ascending Fourmile Creek north from Cañon City

into today's South Park and Santa Maria Ranch Pike CO 5a

"Marched and found the road over the mountain to be excellent. Encamped on a dry ravine. Obligated to melt snow for ourselves and the horses; and as there was nothing else for the latter to eat, gave them 1 pint of corn each. Killed one buffalo." - Pike 10th December, Wednesday

In May through August 2014 (*May-June 2014 p. 3 July-Aug 2014 p. 3*) the Pike National Historic Trail Association published in the *Newsletter* articles by Dave Nelson Walker, hiker, resident of Cañon City and retired BLM employee. <https://www.zebulonpike.org/docs/news/05-06-14.pdf> & <https://www.zebulonpike.org/docs/news/07-08-14.pdf> Dave described Pike's route from the Stockade north along today's US 50 for 4 miles, then east to Garden Park and Fourmile Creek. Pike then followed Fourmile upstream (north) and then on West Fourmile Creek into today's southern South Park. The route on Fourmile aligns with Hal Jackson's Pike route as well as Glen Scott's USGS Historical map of Pike's route. (Dave has hiked this rugged route up Fourmile Creek numbers of times.)

We agree with Dave's location of Pike encampments:

- 10 Dec 1806 Camp 38.549160, -105.241377 6280' **Long Gulch & Fourmile Ck Fremont County, CO**
 - 11 Dec 1806 Camp 38.688514, -105.261075 7040' **High Creek & Fourmile Ck Fremont County, CO**
 - 12 Dec 1806 Camp 38.767653, -105.323826 8000' **Guffey Gulch & W. Fourmile Creek Park County, CO**
- Guffey Gulch** is BLM property on Park Co Rd 102 High Park Rd on W Fourmile

Pike's route continues west from Guffey Gulch on W Fourmile (today's Park CR 102) to today's 39mile Rd (Park Co. Rd 59) where he found the South Platte River.

"... made for the hills to encamp. After the halt I took my gun and went out to see what discovery I could make, and after marching about 2 miles north, fell on a river 40 yards wide, frozen over; which after some investigation, I found ran north east, this was the occasion of much surprise, as we were taught to expect to have met with the branches of the Red river, which should run south east. Quere. Must it not be the headwaters of the river Platte? If so the Missouri must run much more west, than is generally represented; for the Platte is a small river by no means presenting an expectation of so extensive a course." -Pike 13th of December, Saturday

13 Dec 1806 Camp 38.855061, -105.482693 9040' CO 59 (Thirtynine Mile Rd.) & Ranger Station Rd.

On the 14th they encamped on the South Platte River likely on the middle island of today's Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir.

14 Dec 1806 Camp 38.928584, -105.520164 8600' Middle Island- 11 Mile Canyon Res.

On the 15th and 16th they ascended the South Platte River.

"Ascended the river, both sides of which were covered with old Indian camps, at which we found corn cobs; this induced us to believe that those savages although erratic, must remain long enough in one position to cultivate this grain, or obtain it from the Spaniards; from their sign they must have been extremely numerous, and possessed vast numbers of horses. My poor fellows suffered extremely with cold, being almost naked. Distance 10 miles." -Pike 15th December, Monday.

15 Dec 1806 Camp 39.028894, -105.758782 8840' E of Hartsel and S of US24 on Co Rd. 11

"Marched up the river about 2 miles and killed a buffalo. When finding no road up the stream, we halted in dispatched parties different courses; the doctor and myself is ascending high enough to enable me to lay down the course of the river into the mountains. From a high ridge we reconnoitered the adjacent country, and concluded ... to bear our course south west, for the head of the Red river." - Pike 16th December, Tuesday

16 Dec 1806 Camp 39.07797, -105.84159 8920' Co Road 439 Hartsel/Fairplay, CO 80440 Santa Maria Ranch

THE AUTO- BIKE- HIKE TOUR | PIKE'S DISCOVERY OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER



Pike's route through the mountains as described above north of Cañon City (12/10 to 12/06) can be hiked and only hiked. See details in # 6 below to continue to Hartsel.

Auto- 2 h 25 min (98.3 miles) Bike- 10 h 2 min (98.3 miles) Hike 33 h (98.3 miles)

Elevation gain 7,205 ft · Elevation loss 3,681 ft
Highest Elevation 9,544 ft Lowest Elevation 5,348 ft

Bike & Hike- For the 98.3 miles **You may only be able to get water in Guffey. Caching food and water is advised.**

FROM: US-50 W & Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City, CO [Pike Stockade area]

- Head west on US-50 W from the west side of Cañon City (where US 50 turns North near the prison) 8.6 mi
- Turn right onto CO-9 N 21.0 mi
Car 32 min (CarBikeHike 29.6 mi)

FROM: CO-9 & Co Rd 102

- Head north on Co Rd 102 toward Guffey, CO 80820 1.5 mi
- Turn left to stay on Park Co Rd 102 (You are at Thirtynine Mile Rd) 3.8 mi
- Continue to head east on Park Co Rd 102 (High Park Rd.) for 8.8 mi (which becomes Teller Co Rd 112 for another 2.3 mi) 11.1 mi

Car 22 min (CarBikeHike 16.4 mi)

Teller Co Rd 112 (High Park Rd.) T's here into Teller Co Rd 11 where you can hike on Pike's route on West Fourmile Ck/ Fourmile Ck or pick hikers coming off of W Fourmile Ck/ Fourmile Ck.

West Fourmile Ck is immediately north on 11 and it's confluence with Fourmile Ck is about 2500 feet SE.

RETURNING WEST toward Thirtynine Mile Rd

- Head northwest on Teller Co Rd 112 2.3 mi which becomes Park Co Rd 102 for 8.8 mi 11.1 mi
- Turn right onto Thirtynine Mile Rd 10.6 mi
Car 32 min (CarBikeHike 21.7 mi)



Middle Island - Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir on Park Co Rd. 59

- 8. Head northwest on Thirtynine Mile Rd toward the north side of the Reservoir 6.0 mi
- 9. At this corner, turn left to stay on Park Co Rd 59 2.4 mi
- 10. Turn right onto San Juan St - Park Co Rd 23 toward US-24 2.8 mi
- Car 18 min (CarBikeHike ~11.7 mi)**
- 11. Turn left onto US-24 W to Hartsel and Mariposa St. 10.7 mi
- Car 10 min (CarBikeHike 10.7 mi)**

Side trip in Hartsel

For this side trip to the 12/16/1806 Pike Encampment from Mariposa St and US 24 in Hartsel, **you must gain permission** (private property) beyond the Santa Maria Ranch gate encountered at 3.2 miles on CR 439.

Town to gate: Car 13 min (3.2 mi), Bike 17 min (3.2 mi) and Hike 63 min (3.2 mi)

- 12. Turn right onto Mariposa St in Hartsel 453 ft
 - 13. Slight left toward Co Rd 439/Elm St 210 ft
 - 14. Merge onto Co Rd 439/Elm St Continue to follow Co Rd 439 to Ranch gate 3.1 mi
 - Car 13 min (CarBikeHike 3.2 mi)**
 - 15. Beyond the gate: If you gain permission walk 12 min (0.6 mi) on CR 439. You will pass through the ranch.)
- After 0,6 miles the encampment is 1500 feet to the west of CR 439.

Santa Maria Ranch Fehringer Number 2 Ditch Colorado

RETURNING TO HARTSEL Retrace

- Head southwest on Co Rd 439 toward town 4.1 mi
- Car 16 min (CarBikeHike 4.1 mi)**

Hartsel, Colorado 80449



MEDANO PASS- SAND DUNES PAINTING AVAILABLE

Ed French, former Disney artist, has completed his Medano Pass - Sand Dunes Painting.

The painting is labeled: Pike's Journal; January 27-28th, 1807 "... determining to cross the mountains, leaving Menaugh encamped with our deposit... through snows, some places 3 feet deep... Saw some sign of elk...28th... Followed down the ravine and discovered after some time that there had been a road cut out, and on many trees were various hieroglyphiks painted; ... At the foot of the White Mountains

(Sangre de Christos), which we were then descending, sandy hills... Their appearance was exactly that of a sea in a storm, (except to color) not the least sign of vegetation existing thereon,.. When we encamped, I ascended one of the largest hills of sand, and my glass could discover a large river." Lieutenant Pike had descended Medano Creek through Medano Pass and believe he was seeing his goal, the headwaters of the Red River which was actually the Rio Grande. Medano is Spanish for sand hills. Zebulon Pike was a contemporary of Lewis and Clark. Thomas Jefferson was President. George Washington had died seven years before.

DISNEY ARTIST COMPLETES FOURTEEN PAINTINGS IN OUR PIKE SERIES

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) \$24.95

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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Will you consider joining us or renewing? Membership blank below.

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?fref=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

e-mail _____

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)

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

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Pike April 2018 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.