

# Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail September 2011 Vol. 5 No 7

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



• **Legislation** - We are approaching US Senator staff members from the Pike states in Washington in October to allow them to be knowledgeable about the Pike Expedition and S 276 [the Pike Feasibility Study legislation.] At those meetings with Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana staff persons we will request that their Senator cosponsor our legislation.

**If you live in those states, we are asking you to again contact your Senator regarding co-sponsorship.**

Regarding costs of conducting a Feasibility Study- We talked with staffers at the Omaha National Park Service office a number of years ago about cost and were told "It is our job to do Feasibility Studies and would be a part of the NPS budget." Similar responses were gained elsewhere.

A Feasibility Study does cost money, of course. Our latest communication states- "*Congress provides NPS planning with a single amount for planning annually and we are responsible for allocating those funds among the large numbers of planning efforts that are ongoing across the system. Trails have been fortunate in receiving strong support from this planning fund in the past, but the amounts have been decreasing in recent years, and the progress of studies has slowed in direct relationship to the amounts of funding available.*"

During these times of economic uncertainty, the Pike National Historic Trail Association feels that an estimated cost of \$600,000 [for the Study] is low in comparison to the economic benefits your state would gain from tourism as well as the educational and preservation benefits privately gained with the Pike National Historic Trail.

We are seeking your knowledgeable contact with both of your US Senator's persons responsible for National trails. You can find your Senators' DC phone number with this link- [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm).

**Please call both of your US Senators DC office and ask for the person responsible for trails. Your contact is vital since you are their constituent.** [US Senators Michael Bennet and Mark Udall of Colorado are Sponsors of S. 276.]

Should you wish to read the legislation here is the link- <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>

**Membership** - Thank you for our new members and those who have renewed their membership in the Pike National Historic Association! Many have not. To be able to continue to be effective we must request that, if you have not done so, memberships be renewed yearly.

The life members have helped us greatly, some giving well over their one-time share. See the web site for a membership form.

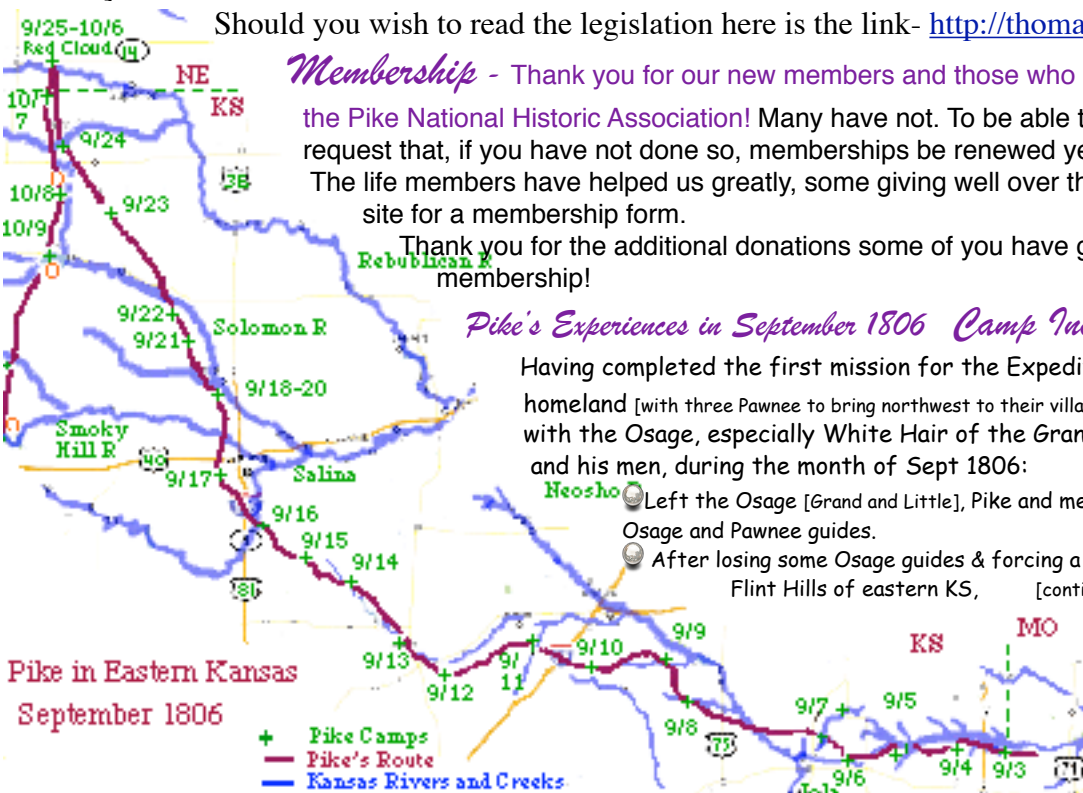
Thank you for the additional donations some of you have given in addition to your membership!

**Pike's Experiences in September 1806 Camp Independence onward** - by Allan Vainley

Having completed the first mission for the Expedition, namely returning Osage to their homeland [with three Pawnee to bring northwest to their village in September,] and gaining friends with the Osage, especially White Hair of the Grand Osage, Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men, during the month of Sept 1806:

Left the Osage [Grand and Little], Pike and men now on horseback, to head west with Osage and Pawnee guides.

After losing some Osage guides & forcing a turn northward they travel through the Flint Hills of eastern KS, [continues on Page 2]



Pike in Eastern Kansas  
September 1806

+ Pike Camps  
- Pike's Route  
- Kansas Rivers and Creeks

- 🕒 Arrive 9/25 in today's **Nebraska** at the Republican Pawnee village between Red Cloud & Guide Rock, **NE**, to:
  - 🕒 Accomplish with some diplomacy, the second mission- Establishing American sovereignty and peace between the Osage, Kans and Pawnee.
  - 🕒 Learn of Spanish presence in the Pawnee village a month prior.

September 1, 1806, *"We left the place about twelve o'clock with 15 loaded horses, our party consisting of two lieutenants, one doctor, two sergeants, one corporal, 15 privates, two interpreters [George Henry left on the 3rd and a Noel alias Mautgaine had joined as the second interpreter], three Pawnees, and four chiefs of the Grand Osage, amounting in all to 30 warriors and one woman."*

They were joined by Sans Oreille and 7 Little Osage late on the 1st. The Osage were concerned throughout these days about the perceived presence of the Kans Indians possibly choosing a southern route to avoid them. On Sep. 15 *"Halted at one o'clock, very much against the inclination of the Osage, who, from the running of the buffalo, conceived a party of Kans to be near."* The Osage were having second thoughts about the journey to the Pawnee Villages- Sunday September 21- *"We were informed by an Osage woman that two of the Indians were conspiring to desert us in the night and steal some of our horses, one of whom was her husband. We engaged her as our spy."* *"In the evening, finding that the two Indians above mentioned, had made all preparations to depart, I sent for one of them, who owned a horse and had received a gun and other property for his hire, and told him 'I knew his plans, and that if he was disposed to desert, I should take care to retain his horse; that as for himself, he might leave me if he pleased, as I only wanted men with us.' He replied 'that he was a man, that he always performed his promises, ...'*

It *"commenced"* to rain on the 19th and 20th and they encamped near what Eliot Coues believes was the Covert or Salt Creek, a branch of the Saline or Smoky Hill River(s).

Dr. Robinson and Frank, a young Pawnee, left for the Republican Pawnee village on the 14th near the main branch of the Cottonwood River. A Pawnee hunter met them on the 21st and informed them of Robinson's arrival at his village, but also of 300 Spaniards who *"had lately been as far as the Sabine; but for what purpose was unknown."* Frank and other Pawnee met the party on the 24th.

On Thursday 9/25/1806, the Pawnee Chief Characterish, his two sons and a number of warriors met them ceremonially as the party approached the Pawnee village on the Republican River. Peace pipes were smoked as well as on the 26th when the Kans arrived. A Grand council was held on the 27th. Speeches were given, with Pike delivering several demands as the representative of the new American government. *"After the chiefs had replied to various parts of my discourse, but were silent as to the flag [the Spanish flag unfurled at Chief Characterish's door], I again reiterated the demand for the flag [to be removed], adding 'that it was impossible for the nation to have two fathers; that they must either be the children of the Spaniards, or acknowledge their American father.' After a silence of some time an old man rose, went to the door, took down the Spanish flag, brought it and laid it at my feet; he received the American flag, and elevated it on the staff which had lately borne the standard of his Catholic Majesty. This gave great satisfaction to the Osage and Kans. both of whom decidedly avow themselves to be under American protection."* Pike allowed the Pawnee the Spanish colors to help them avoid possible future embarrassment with the Spanish.

## *Rivers of the West Pike's Rivers - Crossed or Navigated Osage River Part 3* by Allen Vainley

*Part 1 March 2011 (Mississippi) Part 2 August 2011 (Missouri) Part 3 (Osage River)*

The Osage River is named by European settlers for the Osage Nation. The Osage River has 7 rivers by which it is fed- The Niangua, Grand, Pomme de Terre, Sac, Marais de Cygnes, Marmaton and Little Osage. Pike's Expedition passed 5 of these rivers and rode along 3 of them.

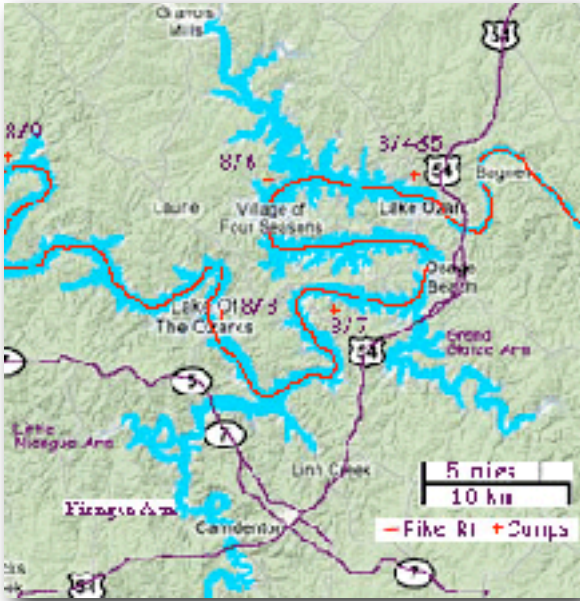
The [Niangua](#) forms one of the arms of the Lake of the Ozarks just south of Bagnell Dam (see Map 1). The Osage is impounded by the Bagnell Dam, a hydroelectric facility build between 1922 and 1931, forming the 92 mile (163 km) Lake of the Ozarks.

The [South Grand](#), [Pomme de Terre](#), and [Sac](#) are above the Truman Reservoir in the Warsaw/ Osceola area (see Map 2). The Truman Dam, forming the 40 mile (60 km) long Truman Reservoir, also a hydroelectric dam built between 1954 and 1979. Both Truman & Bagnell provide power to the St. Louis area and also serve as flood control purposes.

The [Marais de Cygnes](#), [Marmaton](#) and [Little Osage](#) are the source at the headwaters of the Osage River. They are on the border of the **Four Rivers Conservation Area** in southwest Missouri near Butler, Rich Hill and Nevada, MO, Pike's Camp Independence and the Grand and Little Osage villages.

-The **Niangua River** (Mouth-38.081203, -92.761345 +38° 4' 52.33"N, -92° 45' 40.84"W) is in part the southern arm of the Ozark Lake. It is 140 miles long and flows northward into the Osage River. The name is rooted in the Osage Nation language ["many springs"]. The Osage called it Ne-hem-gar ["bear", black.]

-The **South Grand River** (Missouri) (Mouth 38.276731, -93.409882; +38° 16' 36.23"N, -93° 24' 35.58"W) is in part the 39 mile western arm of the Truman Reservoir west of Warsaw, MO. It flows eastward from about 37 mile south of Kansas City, MO and stretches 94 miles emptying into the Reservoir. US 71 passes over it 11 miles north of Butler, MO.



Map 1- Osage River: Lake of the Ozarks & Bagnell Dam Niangua Arm

-The **Pomme de Terre River** (Mouth 38.177211, -93.403015; +38° 10' 37.96"N, -93° 24' 10.85"W) the Apple of Earth or the Potato River is 113 miles (182 km) long, flowing generally northward. It is joined by the short **Little Pomme de Terre River**, forming Pomme de Terre Lake and enters the Truman Reservoir as its southeastern arm.

- The **Sac River** (Mouth 38.015099, -93.719730 +38° 0' 54.36"N, -93° 43' 11.03"W) is a 107 miles (172 km) long river in southwest Missouri. It flows northward and enters the Osage southwest of Osceola, MO. Stockton Lake at times floods large portions of the Sac River and Little Sac Rivers.



Map 2- Osage River: Truman Dam Grand River [above left], Pomme de Terre River [lower right], and Sac River [lower left]

Rivers.

An archaeological dig called the Big Eddy Site, along the Sac, produced a stratigraphy which suggests a nearly constant occupation of more than 10,000 years of by native Americans, potentially pre-dating the Clovis culture.

The **Sac or Sauk (variant)** are members of an American Indian people inhabited parts of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

**The Osage and the Marais de Cygnes, Marmaton and Little Osage**

Approximately 18 miles northeast of Nevada, MO and 80 miles northeast of Joplin, MO near the Bates/Vernon County line, is the August A. Busch, Jr. Memorial Wetlands at Four Rivers where the Osage and the Marais de Cygnes, Marmaton and Little Osage meet. The Grand and Little Osage villages and Pike's Camp Independence are just outside this conservation area.

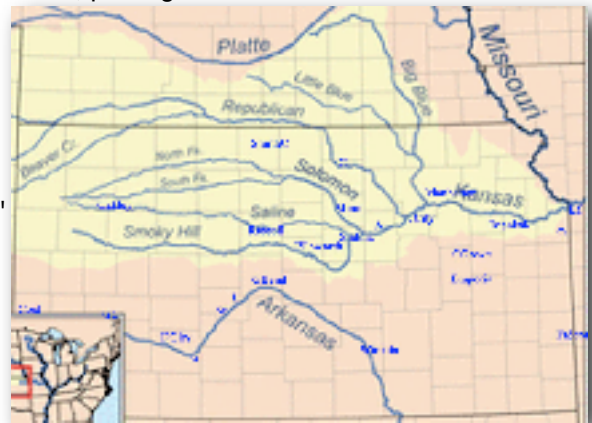
-The **Marais des Cygnes River** is the main source of the Osage and in fact some sources label it the Osage, i.e. Google maps. If it were counted as the Osage, the Osage would total more than 500 miles instead of the 360 miles mentioned in Part 2. Its headwaters are in eastern Kansas and means literally "marshland of swans". Its mouth (Mouth 38.055120, -94.160042; +38° 3' 18.43"N, -94° 9' 36.15"W) is its confluence with the Osage and the Marmaton (Source: MODOC.) Others claim this location is the confluence of the Osage, Marais des Cygnes and Little Osage Rivers, placing the Marmaton's confluence with the Little Osage west within the Conservation Area.

The **Marais des Cygnes River** is 140 mi (225 km) long and flows east-southeastward. A dam in Osage County, Kansas, forms Melvern Lake, where Eisenhower State Park is located. It floods often. In 1844, the Native American legend "Big Water" was created. The Great Flood of 1951 killed 28 people and caused over \$935 million damage (in 1951 dollars).

-The Little Osage River 37.999342, -94.318914 +37° 59' 57.63", -94° 19' 8.09"

The **Little Osage River** (37.999342, -94.318914 +37° 59' 57.63", -94° 19' 8.09") is a tributary of the Osage River in eastern Kansas [Bourbon Co.] and western Missouri [Vernon Co.] in the United States.

Just south of the Vernon/Bates County line, the Little Osage joins the Marais des Cygnes River to form the Osage River, 6 mi (9.7 km) west of Schell City, MO.



Addendum's to "Pike's Aug. 1806 Expedition" article in the July- Aug 2011 Newsletter

1. Fort Carondelet **Fort Carondelet** was built in 1795 by St. Louis' first settler Auguste Chouteau along the Osage River [Vernon County, MO], as an early fur trading post with the Osage Nation and traders. It was also used by the Spanish colonial government. Pierre & Auguste Chouteau were forced to sell it in 1802 to Manuel Lisa\*, who abandoned it and built and closely built his own. By August 17, 1806, Zebulon Pike found the buildings in disrepair and overgrown. The fort was named for Spanish governor general Francisco Luis Hector, Baron of Carondelet.

Although archaeological remains of the fort and its buildings were extant in 1874, a 1874 travel guide describes- the top of Halley's Bluff had "the foundations of three furnaces" and "the remains of works—both earth and stone, covering the approaches. The Church of Israel (affiliated

movement) has occupied the site since the 1940s. [ In the 1980s, the church compound was home to Eric Robert Rudolph, who committed the Centennial Olympic Park bombing in 1996. ]

On May 18, 1794, Auguste Chouteau wrote of his proposal to Carondelet, describing the fort buildings in detail:  
*The said stronghold is to be composed of two parts: The first shall be of brick or stone and the second of logs ten inches square laid horizontally one upon the other, as the Americans practice. It shall form a perfect square each side of thirty-two feet. The second part shall be placed diagonally, that is, so that each side shall cut and correspond to the angle of the first story, and each angle to the middle side of the second story, by which means those defending the top can exterminate with hand-grenades and guns through the holes in the plankwork, all those who attempt to force the door or approach the base of the wall.*  
*The planking of the first story floors shall be at least three inches thick unless the contractor prefer to use tight bricks or stone of same dimensions. That of the second story shall be at least two inches thick and that of the garret shall be of common boards.*  
*The elevation of the first story shall be ten feet between first and second floors, that of the second story nine feet in the same manner. The roof shall have a height of six or eight feet and be covered with tiles, bricks, slate or mud. All the woodwork shall be sustained by four posts, set at equal intervals in the interior of the edifices, on which the beam shall rest to insure greater solidity.*  
*There shall be two embrasures in each facade of the first story, ten by eight inches square, for placing artillery on pillars with a very thick door as on the vessels. The door of the fort of the most solid nature with hinges, bolts and lock of iron, shall be feet high and five feet wide. The stairway to upper story shall be solid and well conditioned; there shall be on each side of second story, ten loop-holes for guns feet over the floor, and two at the extremities of the lower sides at a height of six feet, so that they can be used by mounting on a chair without danger of the enemy being able to insert guns to fire into the lower story.”*

Chouteau received \$2,000 annually to support twenty soldiers at the fort and a six year monopoly on trade with the Osage.

The Osage Nation accepted Pierre Chouteau and his family. By 1796, Pierre with his son Auguste Pierre expanded trade from the fort to other Osage settlements near the Arkansas River.

By 1800 rivals to the Chouteau operation demanding the government break its contract monopoly.

Bending to Chouteau rivals in 1800, Spanish Governor General Juan Manuel de Salcedo gave the Chouteau's trade rights to Spanish rival Manuel Lisa\*, who abandoned the fort and garrison after purchasing it in 1802.

*“We embarked at five o'clock and came twelve miles to breakfast. A four o'clock came to ten French houses on the east shore [of the Osage River], where was then residing a Sac, who was married to an Osage femme and spoke French only. We afterwards passed the position where Mr. Chouteau formerly had his fort, not a vestige of which was remaining, the spot being only marked by the superior growth of vegetation.” —Zebulon Pike, August 17, 1806.*

\* Manuel Lisa is the same individual who has Pike's interpreter arrested in St. Charles in July, 1806. Also see article below on Lisa.

2. Manuel Lisa **Manuel Lisa, Manuel de Lisa** or Liza (b. 9/18/1772- New Orleans, LA – d. 10/12/1820- St. Louis, MO), was a Spanish-American fur trader (a founder/partner of the St. Louis based Missouri Fur Co.), explorer of the upper Missouri River, and US Indian agent [appointed by William Clark, governor of the Missouri Territory in 1814.]



During the War of 1812, Lisa encouraged indian alliance with the United States.

Although already married by 1796 to Polly Charles Chew (d. 1817 while Lisa was away on an expedition) in St. Louis on 2nd St., Lisa married *Mitain* in 1814, of the Omaha people [NE], establishing Fort Lisa about 1813 in today's Omaha, NE. They had two children together, whom Lisa included equally in his will with his children by his official marriage. Nice guy.

He then, on August 5, 1818, married the widow Mary Hempstead Keeny, while still married to Mitain. Nice guy! Pierre Chouteau, old grudges gone apparently, was a witness at Lisa's third wedding.

Lisa had obtained a trade monopoly from French and Spanish officials with the Osage Nation. (See Article 1). But, after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, Lisa lost strength with the US and General James Wilkinson, then-governor of U.S. Louisiana Territory and Pike's commanding general. Wilkinson denied Lisa's requests to establish trade routes to Spanish controlled Santa Fe, NM. Wilkinson also warned Zebulon Pike, to prevent Lisa's efforts to make business connections to Santa Fe. To counter Lisa with 42 men in April 1807, Lisa ascended the Yellowstone some 170 miles, Lisa established Fort Raymond (or Fort Manuel) on November 21 at the mouth of the Bighorn River [today's Montana.]

Lisa's forts: 1. Ft. Carondelet {Osage/Chouteau} purchased and abandoned 1802,

2. Ft. Raymond 1807, Bighorn River, Montana.

3. Ft. Lisa 1809 near Bismarck, ND where *Sacagawea*, the Lewis and Clark Expedition interpreter and guide died on December 20, 1812. She is buried there.

4. Ft. Lisa 1813- Omaha, NE.

Lisa was buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery, the place where Pike's 1806-7 Southwest Expedition began on July 15th.

Next issue [Sept]- *Pike's Experiences in Oct 1806 and we will continue our Series on Rivers introduced in the March 2011 issue and continued in the July-Aug issue and above.*

*Please consider joining us with your membership. The membership form is on our website or contact us at 303/816-7424.*

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