



PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter September— 2017 Vol. 11 No. 8



PIKE TRAIL IN COLORADO

The Pike NHT Association is happy to announce that the Pike Trail in Colorado has been designated by County Commissioners in 12 counties.

In November and December 1806, Pike and his men explored the area along the Arkansas River from Powers County to near Leadville in Lake County. They also explored the southern part of South Park in Park County using as their base Cañon City near the Royal Gorge.

In January 1807 they went south away from the Royal Gorge area into the Wet Mountain Valley, crossed the Sangre de Christo Mountain Range at Medano Pass, just northeast of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

In the San Luis Valley they crossed the Rio Grande River near the mouth of the Conejos River.

In February they built a Stockade 5 miles up the Conejos, retrieved 5 men and were confronted by the Spanish who generously helped them in the dead of winter bringing them to Santa Fe, and Chihuahua into New Spain.

The route of the **Pike Trail in Colorado** is actually two routes- one for automobiles and one for hikers and bicyclists. The *northern portion* of the automobile route follows US 50 from the Kansas/Colorado state border to near Buena Vista, and US 24 into Leadville. The pedestrian route portion uses safer roads on either side of US 50. The northern portion route includes visits to Pikes Peak, and South Park.

The *southern portion* is routed through the Wet Mountain Valley, and south along the west side of the Sangre de Christos passing the Sand Dunes and on to the San Luis Valley stockade. Then on US 285 to the Colorado/New Mexico state border.

The route follows as closely as possible to the one described in Pikes Journal and on his field maps. Much of the route has been carefully and repeatedly researched by several members of the Pike Association.

The Pike Association strongly feels that the Pike Trail in Colorado not only helps teachers and visitors learn about Pike but also spurs tourism and economic development in these counties.

PIKE'S ROUTE IN THE WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY EXPLORED

I wanted to report to you that I walked 37 miles of Pike's exploration trail. I had a 50-pound pack, it took three days to walk, and I've never done something so physically grueling I my life.

I started north of Westcliffe and followed Grape Creek, where I could. I spent the first night at Music Meadows Ranch, which, thanks to those GPS coordinates you gave me, is where Pike and his men once camped. From there, I made it to Medano Pass and then to the Dunes.

I know I was walking in the late summer and early fall, but seeing those Dunes brought to mind the awe Pike and his people must have felt at that moment 210 years ago. I also have a tremendous appreciation of what Pike put his body and mind through on his journey.

Robert Sanchez, Senior Staff Writer- 5280 Magazine

PIKE'S CROSSING INTO THE SAN LUIS VALLEY by Virginia Simmons from her January 17, 2017 newspaper column

No question about it. The Rio Frio Ice Fest last weekend was more fun then the trek made by Lieut. Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men over the Sangre de Christo Range on January 27 and 28th in 1807. No Grub n' Pub or ice sculptures greeted them, but at least their leader got to climb a dune, as Pike's Journal attests.

Each year in the season, I write a column about this expedition by Pike into the San Luis Valley. They were not the first people to be traveling through the passes in the Sangres, as these shortcuts had been used for centuries by nomadic Indians, especially the Utes, and by Spaniards and their slaves for about

200 years. In the area of the Great Sand Dunes, the passes they used were Music, Medano, and Mosca Passes, listing them from north to south.

The Prussian explorer and naturalist Frederick Von Humboldt had copied Spanish maps of this region while he was in Mexico City in 1803 and 1804. Pike, in the Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, carried a copy of Humboldt's large-scale map, which did not show the precise details of his route but gave him good clues.

For Pike's route, Mosca seems illogical because he was moving south from the Wet Mountain Valley and already would have been starting downgrade toward the Huerfano Valley when a route to Mosca was passed. Still, several years ago Moscow was suggested as a route by some researchers.

But most other researchers and trekkers who investigated Medano Pass chose Medano. For data from that resulted from a winter-time investigation of the 1970s, one can read Dr. Jack Cooper's monograph, entitled "Zebulon Monterey Pike entered the San Luis Valley via Medano pass on January 27, 1807," at Adam State University's Nielsen Library.

So, what about Music Pass? It's curious name refers to the sound of wind through the trees that some visitors have heard in that area, not a ghostly concert.

Just the other day I read a magazine article, written by a hiker from Salida, who wrote that Pike crossed Music Pass. Let's note, first, that the writer made her hike from the east side only to the top and back, and certainly not in January. And second, I do not know of any researchers or historians who contend that Pike used Music Pass.

Her brief mention of Pike sent me scurrying my book shelves at the hiking routes and USGS topo maps. Music Pass about 1500 feet higher in elevation than Medano and steeper.

The Pike NHT Association has done some studies

Study 1

Music Pass climbs from 9000 feet on the east side to 11,600 feet elevation in 3.06 mi then drops precipitously to 10200 ft in .307 mi on the west side (to Sand Creek.)

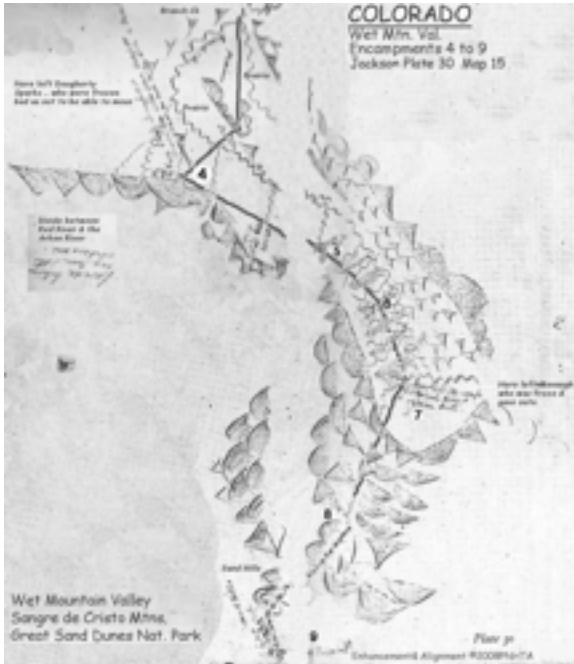
Medano Pass climbs from 8200 feet on the east side to 10,000 feet elevation in 5.19 miles then drops to 9600 ft in 0.534 miles on the west side (to Medano Creek.)

Mosca Pass climbs from 8800 feet on the east side to 9,720 feet elevation in 3.16 miles then drops to 8400 ft in 2.97 miles on the west side (to the Visitor's Center.)

| Pass | East | East | Elev diff | East | gradi ent | West | West | Elev diff | West | gradi ent |
|--------------------|------|--------|-----------|------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| | ft | ft | ft | mi | ft/mile | ft | ft | ft | mi | ft/mile |
| Music Pass | 9000 | 11,600 | 2600 | 3.06 | 850 | 11,600 | 10200 | 1400 | 0.307 | 4560 |
| Medano Pass | 8200 | 10,000 | 1800 | 5.19 | 347 | 10,000 | 9600 | 400 | 0.534 | 749 |
| Mosca Pass | 8800 | 9,720 | 920 | 3.16 | 291 | 9,720 | 8400 | 1320 | 2.97 | 444 |

Study 2

Pike's Field Maps are amazingly accurate-



When [Plate # 30 [Jackson]] is overlaid on today's terrain maps, the match is near perfect distinctly showing Pike's labeled Encampment "4" at Horn Creek "5" near North Colony Creek "7" Muddy Creek which leads to Medano Pass "8" Medano Pass "9" Sand Dunes

Study 3

Approximate distances between Wet Mtn. Val. Encampments:
16th January 1807, Friday -
Johnson or Fourmile Gulch (down Grape Creek from DeWeese Res.) to Horn Creek 14.6 mi.
17th to 21st Sat. to Wed.-
Horn Creek to North Colony Creek 3.49 mi
23rd Thurs-
North Colony to Music 8 mi
Music to Medano 7.81 mi
Medano to Mosca 14.7 mi.

Summation from Studies-

Music Pass was not used as Virginia Simmons pointed out. It is far higher than Medano or Mosca and it's gradient on the west side is impossible (6 to 10 times steeper) especially in the winter.

Medano Pass matches closely Pike's Field Map especially the positions of Encampments 7 to 9 and his "Sand Hills" (lower center) and Menaugh (on right) notes. It is about the same elevation as Mosca and has a reasonable gradient on the west (dunes) side. It's distance from Horn and North Colony Creeks is reasonable.

Mosca Pass is simply too much distance to travel in snow and illogical as mentioned by Virginia Simmons.

WELCOME OUR NEW UPPER MN COORDINATOR

Jim Greer from St. Cloud, Minnesota is our new Upper Minnesota Coordinator. When he accepted the invitation he said he would be honored to serve.

NEW PIKE PANEL FOUND IN ST. CLOUD, MN

A new marker can be added to our list of 109 Pike Monuments and Place Names. Our new Coordinator Jim Greer found this monument beside the Mississippi River (First and University in St. Cloud, Minnesota). It is adjacent to St. Cloud State University and reads...

"In 1805, Zebulon Montgomery Pike began exploring the headwaters of the Mississippi for the U.S. government around the Beaver Islands. ..."



PIKE COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENTS- PANELS, MARKERS, STONES, PLAQUES & PLACE NAMES- MINNESOTA

Here is the list of Monuments we have found in Minnesota.

1. Lake Itaska, MN Mississippi Headwaters SP N 47° 14.398 W 095° 12.478
This Historical Marker is located by the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center along the path to the Headwaters of the Mississippi River viewing area
Pike encampment- They were not here, rather to the east at Cass and Leech Lakes (then thought to be the Mississippi's headwaters.)
2/2 to 2/18/1806 (began trip south)
 2. Beaver Island Monument (Thousand Islands) St. Cloud, MN [45.534051](#), -94.149450
- grouping of islands just south of downtown St. Cloud Thousand Islands intact Sept. 2017
Pike encampment- 10/10/1805 (up river) & 4/8&9/1806 (down river)
 3. St. Cloud State University (1st S and University Dr. S, St. Cloud, MN) [45.549435555555 N 94.1488941111 W](#)
Pike encampment- 10/9&10/1805 (up river) & 4/7&8 1806 (down river)
 4. Pike Monument Swan River Little Falls, MN 1 and 2 [45.919527, -94.384441](#)
Great River Rd. and Stanek Dr. marking the The Fort- LITTLE FALLS, MN
Pike encampment- 10/16 to 12/8/1805 and 3/5 to 4/6/1806 **53days & 32days** 13 were there 86 days.
(10 other men remained 176 days)
 5. Pike Island State Park beside Fort Snelling St. Paul, MN Mouth of the Minnesota R at the Mississippi R (then called the St. Peter's River)
MN 5 and MN 55 Fort- [44.892617, -93.180370](#) Island [44.891218, -93.168869](#)
Pike encampment- 9/21 to 24/ 1805 and 4/10 to 12/1806
- NAMED FOR PIKE-
6. Zebulon Pike Lake- Little Falls, MN from the Charles Lindberg Museum to Brainard Dam
Pike stayed here 85 days and Sgt. Kenneman with 9 others stayed here 176 days
[45.954030, -94.387944](#) to [45.860395, -94.360227](#)
Pike, 11 soldiers and the interpreter (13 in all) completed the journey to Cass Lake leaving 9 soldiers with Sergeant Kenneman in charge at the stockade for 176 days.
 7. Pike Bay MN S of Cass Lake [47.355834, -94.568927](#)
 8. Pike Lake, Duluth, MN [46.866448, -92.299627](#)
 9. Pike Bay Township, MN Pike Bay Township was named indirectly for [Zebulon Pike](#), an explorer. [47°22'13"N 94°36'9"W](#) ([47.356765, -94.568927](#))
Source: Upham, Warren (1920). [Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance](#). Minnesota Historical Society. p. 91.
 10. Pike Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota [7°39'27"N 92°22'46"W](#)

4 & 6 Little Falls



2 Beaver I- St. Cloud



5 Pike Island



“The Beaver Islands Lieutenant Zebulon commanding an expedition for the exploration of the upper Mississippi passed these islands and gave them their names October 10, 1805. The channels at their date being choked with fever dams. The expedition returned down river in 1806. Pike later discovered

the western Peak named in his honor and was killed in the war of 1812.”

ZEBULON PIKE AN AMERICAN HERO NEW CHILDREN'S COLORING BOOK

Ed French, former Disney artist, has completed his Pike Children's Coloring Book.

The print price for this 48 page coloring book is \$9.57, \$10 for face to face sales in Fremont County. It is now available on www.amazon.com under Zebulon Pike an American Hero under books.

It is also up on Kindle.

DISNEY ARTIST COMPLETES SIX 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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We would welcome donations to the **Pike Trail Sign Project**. Each 2'x2' directional signs 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.

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?ref=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

| <i>Level</i> | <i>Amt.</i> | <i>Level Name</i> | <i>Level</i> | <i>Amt.</i> | <i>Level Name</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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

___ Providing educational opportunities

Phone (____) _____ Cell _____

___ 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:

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PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION 10060 Blue Sky Trail Conifer CO 80433 303/816-7424

Pike Aug/Sept 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.