

# Pike

Association

Newsletter Oct-Nov



National Historic Trail

2015 Vol. 9 No. 7



## • Add another candle - Our Seventh Birthday



Our Association celebrated it's seventh birthday in October.

From the volume Number of this newsletter we have been around obviously for nine years, but officially for 7 when we were granted not-for-profit status by the IRS on October 28, 2008.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

Date: OCT 28 2008

PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL  
ASSOCIATION  
10060 BLUE SKY TRAIL  
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## Pike in Colorado Life magazine

We have found that Colorado Life is an outstanding magazine. In this month's edition (November December) Nancy Pike Hause wrote an interesting article about her relative- Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

It's worth picking up a copy. Their link to do so: <http://www.coloradolifemagazine.com> .

## Allison, 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Colorado Springs asks:

This is worth repeating

**What was the major significance of Pike's expedition in 1806?**

Picking one- 1st official American to explore the SouthWest US/ 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Here is a list for which I do not have to pick one-

- he made peace possible between tribes on America's Great Plains [ i.e. The Osage, Kans and Pawnee]
- His party found the headwaters of these major rivers- Osage, Cottonwood, South Platte, and Arkansas
- he is the father of the Santa Fe Trail

We believe he:

- did the reconnaissance for the Mexican American War 1846 [being the first American to be allowed to talk with the population, make military observations and keep notes while being brought through Mexico, then New Spain]
- did the reconnaissance for the Alamo [being the first American in Texas]
- like Lewis and Clark, he mapped major river-sheds, discovered, measured and described geographies not known by most Americans, as well as biological items of interest

**What was Pike's reason for going on the expedition in 1806?**

Pike's personal reason's were probably to obey orders as a Lieutenant in the US Army and to give him an opportunity to advance in the Army.

Actually the head of Thomas Jefferson's Army [General James Wilkinson] had many reasons for sending him, some allegedly sinister, others to explore major portions of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

**How did his final expedition impact America forever?**

-Americans learned for the first time about the south west which eventually gained statehood for Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, as well as Oklahoma and Texas.

**Why isn't he as praised as Louis and Clark?**

There are many reasons given by others [other than myself and those in the Pike family]:

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

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

(Continues on top of Page 2)

- Meriwether Louis was the personal secretary of Thomas Jefferson and therefore a favored person *Allison*
  - Gen. James Wilkinson was allegedly involved in a plot called the Burr Conspiracy. This cast the conjecture that Pike was also involved. It would take pages to refute this allegation.
  - The third as a third major argument- Pike's Journal, accounts of his expeditions, biographies, etc. were not written by the famous biographer Stephen E Ambrose as were Lewis and Clark's
- A month ago my wife and I visited Fort Clatsop, Lewis and Clark's Fort near the Pacific Ocean and Astoria, Oregon. It sits in Fort Clatsop National Park, yet another monument to Lewis and Clark.

**Who named Pikes Peak since Pike himself did not?** I'm glad you have this history correct.

The name appeared on Dr. John Hamilton Robinson's ['volunteer' physician on the Pike 1806 expedition] map, published a couple of years after the expedition. People took it from there.

Yes, Robinson did attempt to climb Pikes Peak with Zebulon Pike, Privates Theodore Miller and John Brown.

**Can you give me an overview of Pike's life?** This is given many places including our website- <http://zebulonpike.org>  
Zebulon Montgomery Pike was born in New Jersey.

He served with his father Zebulon Pike, who had served with George Washington during the revolution, on the Ohio River.

He became a lieutenant and served at the US Fort in Kaskaskia, IL when

He was assigned in 1805 to travel to the headwaters of the Mississippi River, attempt to make peace among the Indian Nations there, and to license for the United States the British fur trade at the various Northwest Company forts in the upper Mississippi.

After returning he was assigned to return fifty-one Osage Indians to the reservation in south west Missouri, make peace among the Plains Indians and find the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red rivers.

He rose quickly from the rank of Captain to Brig. Gen. between 1806 and 1812.

He died in the War of 1812 after winning the Battle of Troy (now Toronto) in 1813.

**What are effects of his expeditions that still see today?**

Much of the southwest which he described inspired further exploration by Fremont, Kearny, Long, and others.

Six states owe their statehood in part to Pike.

Many counties are named for him in more than 6 states, Lakes and falls named for him, roadside panels, DAR markers, historical Society markers, including Pike's Peak, etc.

The Pike National Historic Trail Association, numerous Association chapters, the Pike Family Association, the free smart phone app- 'Pike legacy' [soon to be published].

**Where are some good places to find out more about him?**

<http://zebulonpike.org> <http://zebulonpike.org/zebulon-pike-links.htm>

<http://zebulonpike.org/newsletters.htm> <http://zebulonpike.org/member-resources.htm>

14Nov 2015 - Thank you very much for the information. This will be very helpful and I thank you for your time. Allison

*Rex Rideout* Some comments on the September 2015 newsletter:

It seems that Zebulon Pike was at the Battle of Fallen Timbers and young Montgomery was his aid.

The Senior Pike signed his name as Zebulon Pike and son signed his name as Z. Montgomery Pike. Further evidence of what name the young explorer called himself was suggested when he was meeting with Indians on the Arkansas. Their attempt to pronounce his name was "Mongo Gumo Pike" suggesting that Pike was going by the name of Montgomery.

*Matching today's maps with Pike's Field Map to determine the exact route in South Park, CO.*

Discussion with Linda Balough, Executive Director - South Park National Heritage Area

In working on the exact Pike route in South Park, CO, we found an amazing match with Pike's Field Map and today's maps. The Pike encampments in South Park:

Dec. 14, 1806 Middle island 11 mile Res gps: 38.928817, -105.521291

Dec. 15, 1806 just south of US 24 on the N side of the Middle fork gps: 39.026413, -105.760296

Dec. 16, 1806 site under Tomahawk Ridge gps: 39.071438, -105.827529

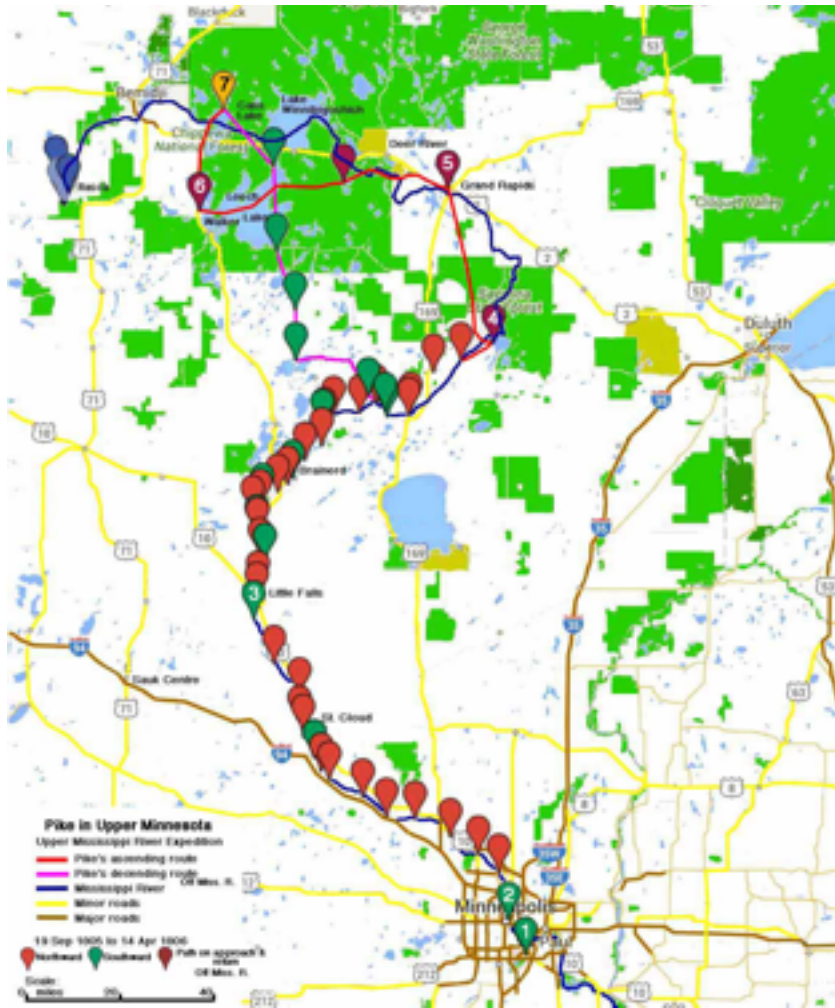
Dec. 17, 1806 SW side of Antero Res. gps: 38.966455, -105.933203

Dec. 18, 1806 On Trout Creek above Johnson Village gps: 38.812909, -106.077734

The only thing that Pike forgot is putting US 285, CO 9 and US 24 on his map. Ho Ho

Yup, would have been a lot easier if he'd just filled in those highways for us. - Linda 21 Sep 2015

*Pike's 1st Expedition- The Upper Mississippi River - St. Paul to Leech Lake, MN*



[See map for location- numbers]

In preparing the smart phone app 'Pike legacy', we decided to include information about Pike's first expedition- the upper Mississippi River 1805-1806. As with the second expedition [Southwest US], maps were drawn, encampment locations noted, Pike Journal entries recorded electronically, accomplishments noted as well as notable occasions, etc. We will begin presenting this information to you chiefly by noting the activity at and north of Minneapolis St. Paul.

**General summary-**

On 9 Aug 1806 [Friday] , 26-year-old Lt. Zebulon Pike began his journey as the first official American officer to explore the Upper Mississippi River (@ mile 194-mouth of the Missouri River) of the eastern border of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

He left Fort [actually Cantonment] BelleFontaine with a crew of 21 and a 70-foot keelboat. He returned here on 30 April 1806 [Wednesday]. The trip took 264 days.

**Pike's Mission**

- He was assigned to
- a- find sites for forts,
- b- determine the source of the Mississippi,
- c- make peace between warring tribes and
- d- stop unlicensed British trade on the land just acquired by the Americans.

*Pike's 'favorite' & Important places Minneapolis/St. Paul northward*

**1. Pike Island (44.891992, -93.165362)** (Sioux Village-Little Crow or Chatewaconomani) a large island at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi (44.896430, -93.148558) within the city limits of St. Paul, MN 9/21/1805 to 9/24/1805 (3 days) & 4/11/1806 to 4/12/1806 (2 days)  
**TOTAL 5 days of 264 SIGNING OF PIKE'S PURCHASE**



**2. St. Anthony's Falls (44.982209, -93.255472)** within the city limits of Minneapolis - The falls are no longer discernible and the site is partially covered by a lock and dam between Hennepin and Third Avenues  
 9/26/1805 to 9/30/1805 (5 days) & 4/10/1806  
**TOTAL 6 days of 264 LOTS OF DIFFICULTY GETTING AROUND THE FALLS**

**3. Pike Stockade Little Falls, MN Swan River, MN (45.919288, -94.385258) 10/16/1805 to 12/8/1805 (53 days) & 3/5/1806 to 4/6/1806 (32 days)**  
**TOTAL 85 days of 264 days DEALING WITH CHANGING FROM BIG BOATS TO CANOES AND BUILDING A STOCKADE.**

The Fort - At MILE 969 Upper Mississippi River

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-800 ft. BELOW the mouth of Swan River near the SW shore is now submerged in Zebulon Pike Lake [45.918245, -94.381374] Little Falls. The lake is 6 miles long running N to S past the mouth of the Swan River and was created when Blanchard Dam was built on the Mississippi River submerging the Pike Stockade at the Swan River.

- Pike's Hunting Camp Location (5 miles below the Swan River Fort and above the mouth of the Platte River (Royalton, MN) The Rascals were able to shoot game for 85 days. The Platte is the present name of Pike's Clear River.

**4. Big Sandy Lake NW Co Lodge- (46.765487, -93.321785) McGregor, MN 55760 Workman Township, MN 1/8-19/1806 (11 days) WORKING WITH THE BRITISH.**

**5. Grand Rapids NW Co Lodge - (47.231139, -93.529460) Grand Rapids, MN 55744 1/26/1806 to 1/28/1806 (3 days) WORKING WITH THE BRITISH (NW Co.) AND INDIANS**

**6. Leech Lake NW Co Lodge (47.174930, -94.548670) Leech Lake, Steamboat Bay, Cass Lake Co, MN Leech Lake Reservation 2/1/1806 to 2/17/1806 (16 days) WORKING WITH THE BRITISH (NW Co.) AND INDIANS**

**7. Cass Lake NW CO Lodge (47.470044, -94.514034) Today's Power Dam Rd NE, Cass Lake, MN 56633 2/12/1806 & 2/13/1806 (2 days) & 2/18/1806 (1 day) TOTAL 3 days WORKING WITH THE BRITISH (NW Co.) AND INDIANS AND RETURNING TO ST. LOUIS**

*•Pike Purchases - Fort Sites* He identified Leech Lake, rather than Itasca, as the source of the Mississippi.

He did find and recommend several fort sites-

- At Prairie du Chien, he traded the keelboats for barges & up river canoes. Further north [also more into winter] snow shoes and sleds.

- a fort site on 500-foot bluffs in Iowa, but it was scrapped for a more practical site across the river in Prairie du Chien, WS.

- He purchased the site that became Fort Snelling, though it already was well known to traders. The Purchase is today's Minneapolis- St. Paul, MN.

*Much More Next Month*

Pike's 1st Expedition- The Upper Mississippi River- St. Louis to St. Paul

Tidbits Named for Zebulon Pike

Treaty of St. Peters or Pike's Purchase- St. Paul, MN Fort Snelling

The true sources of the Mississippi River

Today's Dams on the Mississippi- Corp. of Engineers

Little Falls, MN and Pike's 85 day Stockade

Pike State Park- Iowa

**Please join our Association!**

*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.

Our next Annual Meeting will be on April 30th 2016 at the Royal Gorge, CO.

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