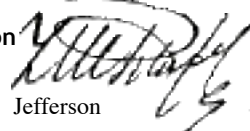


Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter Nov. 2010 Vol. 4 No 9

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



• Annual Member and Board Meeting- November 6, 2010

The Pike NHT Association Annual Meeting was held outside Cañon City, CO on Saturday Nov. 6th. We discussed strategies and future plans for the Association. Officers and Board were reelected. State and regional coordinators and an advisor were approved by the Board. An Association logo was approved [see below.]

Pictured [left to right]: Tom Rollings, CO Upper Arkansas Coordinator, Pat Surrena, Board Member, Monty Pike, VP, Kit Shy, CO Wet Mtn. Valley Coordinator, Dorothy Urban, Secretary and Membership Chair, Mike Bandera, Board Member, and Harv Hisgen, President. Not pictured are members: Grace Pike, Stephanie Urban, & Bonnie Hisgen

• *Passage of S. 3926?* We are looking for the passage of the Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study bill in this 111th Congress. We are not certain if your help will be needed. We are collecting email addresses of the 300 + personal Support Letter writers which we do not

have, so that they can voice themselves directly to their US Senator should the time arise. Perhaps our non controversial, bipartisan bill will be included with other bills in an omnibus bill. If not, the bill will be introduced in the 112th Congress.

• *Association Logo Adopted* The Pike Board adopted the accompanying logo for our Association for use on publications. The Logo Committee headed by Tom Rollings is working with a professional designer to produce logos for the Association and the Pike Trail and sort out appropriate usage and other issues.

• *Today in History*

Monday, November 15, 2010

• On Nov. 15, 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation, a precursor to the Constitution of the United States.

• **In 1806, explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the mountaintop now known as Pikes Peak in present-day Colorado.**

• In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

• In 1966, the flight of Gemini 12 ended successfully as astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. splashed down safely in the Atlantic.

• 1985: The Volkswagen assembly plant at New Stanton, Pa., designed to produce 500,000 cars a year finally produces its millionth vehicle, seven years after opening.

• *Pike's Experiences in November 1806-* by Allan Vainley

During the month of November 1806, Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men:

☉ Traveled up river on the south side of the Arkansas River from near Kinsley KS [Mulberry Creek- SW of Larned and E of Dodge City where the Arkansas heads west], to west of Pueblo CO. in the Pueblo Reservoir 11/1 to 31/ 1806,

☉ Crossed from Kansas to Colorado on November 11 and camped near present day Holly CO,

☉ Spotted the "small blue cloud" which now bears his name on the 15th near Las Animas and the Purgatory River,

☉ Passed near where the Bent Brothers and St. Vrain would build their Fort just east of La Junta and through La Junta where the Santa Fe Trail [northern route] would turn southwest on the 17th,

☉ Were challenged by Pawnee,

☉ Arrived at Pueblo to build a breastwork on the 23rd. The party remained in Pueblo until the 29th while

☉ Pike and three others attempted to climb Pike's "Grand Peak" [Pikes Peak] from the 24th returning on the 29th.

A busy month for the party. One can be inquisitive about several items including his apparent preoccupation about Spanish troops who preceded them by a couple of weeks, how strong was his personal confidence in dealing with the Pawnee, the elation of seeing for the first time the front range of the Rockies, seeing Pike's "Grand Peak", daring to climb Pikes Peak and making it to Mt. Rosa only to meet discouragement.

He perhaps could not have imagined a commercial route along the Arkansas, a route which he fathered. *The Santa Fe Trail*. Or perhaps, did he?

{Continues page 2}



They had some laughs- Upon arriving in Dodge City KS, one views large silhouettes of cowboys attempting to rope animals. Well on Sunday, November 2nd, Pike was one of the first. "In the morning for the purpose of trying an experiment, we equipped six of our fleetest courses with riders and ropes, to noose the wild horses if in our power, to come among the band. ... without success. ... I have since laughed at our folly, for taking the wild horses."

They had plenty of food and perhaps salt- They killed buffalo one each on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th 11 and 12 as well as other animals. On 11/3 Pike noted "passing numerous herds of buffalo, elk, some horses &c. all traveling south. The river bottoms, full of salt ponds; grass similar to our salt meadows." They had buffalo most of the month.

Saturday, Nov. 15th " ... At two o'clock in the afternoon I thought I could distinguish a mountain to our right, which appeared like a small blue cloud; viewed it with the spy glass, and was still more confirmed of my conjecture, yet only communicated it to doctor Robinson. ...When our small party arrived on the hill they with one accord gave three cheers to the Mexican mountains." From this point one can easily see the two Spanish Peaks to the south along the front range.

The appearance of the White Mountains- Didn't change for days because of the distance, a hundred of miles.

Noting signs of savages and then- On Tuesday 11/18 "we discovered fresh signs of the savages." and on Saturday 11/22 "we descended into the bottom, the front only; when Baroney cried out Viola un Savage, when we observed a number running from the woods towards us," surrounding them. "but perceiving those in front, reaching out their arms, crouding round, to touch and embrace us. They appeared so anxious that I dismounted my horse, and in a moment, a fellow had mounted him and was off." Pike saw that Robinson and Baroney "were in the same predicament." Tranquility was restored and horses returned, Pike learned that they were a grand Pawnee war party of 60 returning after not finding Tetaus. After eating and smoking peace pipes with Pike's 16 men, the Pawnee began stealing items. Pike declared "I would kill the first man who touched our baggage. On which the commenced filing off immediately. ... After our leaving them; when I reflected on the subject I felt myself sincerely mortified, that the smallness of my number obliged me thus to submit to the insults of a lawless banditti," Two buffalo killed and a deer killed that day and 5 buffalo on the next day.

The Grand Peak- On the 23rd Pike noted that the river "to be dividing itself into many branches... I concluded to put the party in a defensible position; and ascend the north fork, to the high point of the blue mountain." The next day Pike, Robinson, Miller and Brown left to climb Pikes Peak, a two day trip that lasted six, to ascertain the water routes from the pinnacle. On the 26th Pike noted the temperature at 22° F with the 4 of them in light clothing. "The summit of the Grand Peak, which was entirely bare of vegetation and covered with snow, now appeared at the distance of 15 or 16 miles from us. and as high again as what we had ascended, and would have taken a whole day's march to have arrived at its base, when I believe no human being could have ascended to its pinical." Considering their lack of food [having not eaten in 48 hours], lightweight clothing, clouds enveloping the summit, waist deep snow, etc. "determined us to return."

From first observing the 'small blue cloud' from an altitude of 3900 ft on Colorado's eastern plain; to attempting a climb the 14,115 ft Pikes Peak; to a gutsy, assertive encounter [Pike] with indians bend on achieving anything on the way back home; to the thrill of first sight of the Rocky's Front Range- Pike and his men had an eventful month.

Next month- *Pike's Experiences in December 1806*

•*Pike Signatures*- Recently the Association received an inquiry from Larry in Connecticut regarding the authenticity of the Pike signature which appears in Coues, Elliott, The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike,, Ross & Haines, Inc., Minneapolis 1965, Vol. 1, p. LX.

We wrote: "We at the Pike National Historic Trail Association are by no means handwriting experts. What you sent us matches Coues and the facing page of the volume's title page."

"They certainly look similar [slants the same as well as other aspects] and further Coues would not have used these signatures if he didn't believe they were authentic."

An additional question pops up- Why did Coues chose this particular letter?

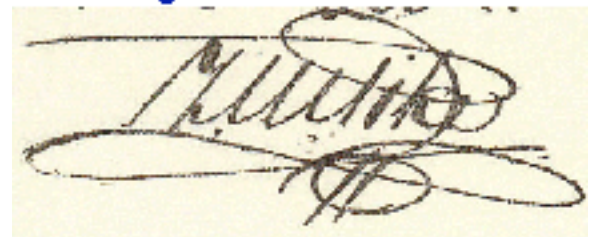
What do you think about these questions?-

Are the signatures authentic?

Why did Coues chose this particular letter?

Please respond to harv.pike@gmail.com

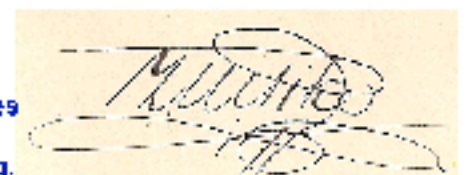
Pike Signatures



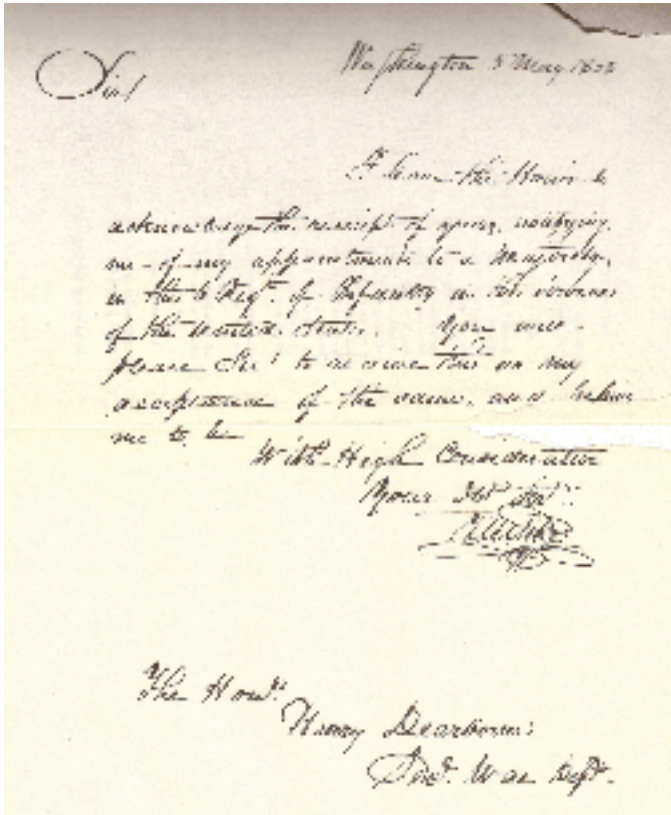
E. Coues
Btw LX
& LXI



Pike NHTA



E. Coues
Title
Face Pg.



•Pike Letter- PIKE is Promoted

Here is the letter and its text.

Sir Washington 5 May, 1808

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours, notifying me of my appointment to a Majority in the 6th Regt. of Infantry in the Service of the United States. You will please Sir! to receive this as my acceptance of the same, and believe me to be

With High Consideration Your Obd. Ser. Z. M. Pike
The Hon'. Henry Dearborne Sec. War Dep.

His dreams were being realized as he is putting together his Journal published in 1810. By April 1808, the manuscript "of my Voyages" was almost completed and he was about to request of the President "the favour of his advice" about publication.

December Newsletter-

- Mountjoy Hill [an article by Tom Rollings],
- Pike's Gulch Honored at Royal Gorge Bridge & Park [an article from the Royal Gorge],
- Decision Time in Cañon City, and
- Pike's Experiences in December 1806.

Time to renew your membership or become a member for the first time.

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 _____ Today's date _____ Membership level (circle above)
 plus an additional tax deductible gift of \$ _____

Address _____ I will be able to help with:
 _____ The Pike Assoc. website
 _____ Historic/heritage investigation
 _____ Providing educational opportunities
 _____ Producing educational materials

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell _____

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:

Pike National Historic Trail Association 10060 Blue Sky Trail Conifer CO 80433