



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

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

Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

December 2013 Vol. 7 No 6



Browns Canyon & Exploring of the Arkansas River Headwaters Dec. 1806

by Allan Vainley

On Wednesday, December 10, 1806, Pike had decided to leave the Cañon City, CO stockade site to travel north to explore what is now southern South Park, CO. They discovered the South Platte headwaters. After leaving their "Hartsel (Santa Maria)" site, they traveled southwest down Trout Creek into the Arkansas River Valley to the mouth of Trout Ck. (Arkansas River) just south of Buena Vista on Dec. 19 in the light of the snow-capped 14,000 ft Collegiate Mountain range.

On Dec. 20, he wrote: **"As there was no prospect of killing any game, it was necessary that the party should leave that place, I therefore determined that the doctor and Baroney should descend the river in the morning; that myself and two men (Miller and Mountjoy) would ascend and the rest of the party descend after the doctor until they obtained provision and could wait for me."**

On Dec. 22, the three found the headwaters of the "Arkansaw". On the 23rd they marched early back south down river and **"at two o'clock, P.M. discovered the trace of the party"** and followed it into Brown's Canyon, **"until some time in the night, when we arrived at the second nights encampment of the party. Our cloathing was frozen stiff, and we ourselves were considerably benumbed."** The encampment was beside the confluence of Brown's Creek and the Arkansas in Browns Canyon. See maps.

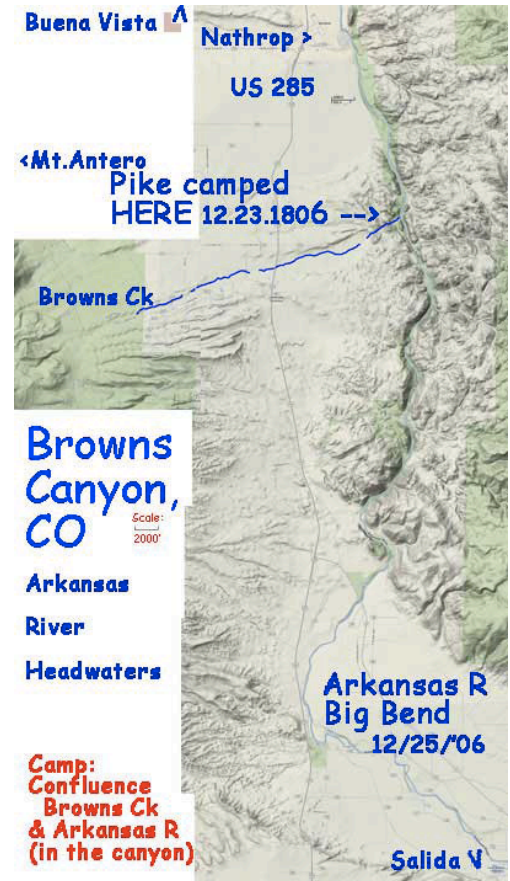
Traveling south through the Canyon on the 24th, at 11 A.M. they met Robinson. They learned that the Party, **"had killed four buffalo."** They camped at the Big Bend of the Arkansas.

On Christmas Day- Thursday, December 25, 1806- **"It being stormy weather and having meat to dry, I concluded to lie by this day."** He goes on to dialog their situation and what had occurred on the Expedition.

They continued to move down the Arkansas arriving at the north end of the Royal Gorge on January 1.

After four days of passing through the perils of the Gorge and Pike climbing up Pikes Gulch out of the Gorge, they arrived on January 5 at their encampment left on Dec. 10 in Cañon City. **"This was my (twenty-eighth) birth-day, and most fervently did I hope never to pass another so miserably."**

Note: Our interest in Browns Canyon is sparked by the fact that Pike and his men were the first Americans to explore Browns Canyon.



Read on

Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area

by US Senator Mark Udall (see maps on page 1)

This proposal would protect some of our most-loved river spots along the iconic Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista by designating the area as a national monument and the adjacent Browns Canyon as wilderness. The official designation would literally put the region on the map, drawing more visitors to its world-class outdoor recreation opportunities and supporting the local tourism economy.

Working with Chaffee County Businesses The public lands that form the foundation of our high quality of life also sustain thousands of jobs that boost our state's economy. Colorado's outdoor recreation economy contributes more than \$13 billion annually to our state, supporting over 125,000 jobs and generating almost \$1 billion in state and local tax revenues.

That is why I can say with confidence that when we work hand-in-hand with communities to preserve public lands, we are supporting jobs, our economy and Colorado's high quality of life. Our world-class natural amenities are one of our greatest economic engines, and preserving public lands helps keep jobs, entrepreneurs, and investment moving to and thriving in our state.

I became engaged in the movement to recognize Browns Canyon because local residents and businesses asked me to.

My community-driven proposal designates 22,000 acres along the Arkansas River canyon and surrounding backcountry as the Browns Canyon National Monument, including 10,500 acres as Wilderness. This bill preserves visitor access and protects existing legal uses as they are now, so fishing, hunting, livestock grazing, commercial outfitting, mountain biking and motorized use will all continue as they have been. I'd also like to note that this will not be like a National Park Service monument. Instead, this monument will stay under the same management as it has now — the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

Our mail

Helping Students - Was Zebulon Pike's right to travel in the Spanish territory.

From Deborah Espinosa, Director of El Pueblo History Museum Regarding Pike's right to cross the border.

He had a right to try and survive, he did not have a right to enter new Spain. Those are two different things.

Of course borders were not marked on the frontier. He knew he was in the "Mexican Mountains" and had crossed over them to the south. Spanish authorities knew he was moving towards Spain before Pike made it to Nebraska territory.

Unmarked borders does not have anything to do with Pikes right to be in another country - either he was in New Spain or he wasn't.

He was and he would most certainly be arrested. Zeb knew he was close to Santa Fe. Pike entered another country illegally. It saved his life and that of his men, but their entry was illegal.

The "right" went to the dragoons to arrest him. The Spanish authorities had a "right" to protect their country and to interrogate him.

11/21/13

From Pat Surrena Yeah Harv, I enjoyed Rex's Pike story telling/concert and meeting the Park County Historical people. I joined the group and will attend more of their functions.

From Jim Dooley 12-9-2013- I am a ggggg grandson of David Robinson and Miriam Hamilton Robinson, the parents of Dr. John Hamilton Robinson. Dr. John Hamilton Robinson was born in Augusta Co. VA on 01/24/1782. I have found that within the WV Archives in Charleston, WV., there is a series of letters, dated 1805, that a David Robinson wrote to President Thomas Jefferson regarding the donation of his journal of travels through the Louisiana Territory. The collection # is MS 80-129 (note:in box with manuscript collection 80-87 – 80-130). ***Did David Robinson accompany his son on the Lt. Zebulon Pike Expedition? Does your organization have any information regarding the lineage of Dr. John Hamilton Robinson beyond his parents? Any information would be helpful.***

Note: Dr. John Hamilton Robinson's mother, Miriam Hamilton Robinson was taken captive in the 1763 Kerr's Creek Massacre, Augusta Co. VA (now Rockbridge Co). She was held for 2 years along with her sister, Marry Hamilton and possibly a brother. They were held in an Indian camp in Ohio. Miriam was 10 years of age at capture and returned in 1765 to her father, Robert Hamilton in 1765. The return was at Fort Pitt. Some accounts say that Miriam was scalped. There was also an Kerr's Creek Indian Massacre in 1759 and the Hamilton's had 5 children killed. The Kerr's Creek Massacre's are well documented on line.

The Association's next meeting for Members and non-Members Date correction

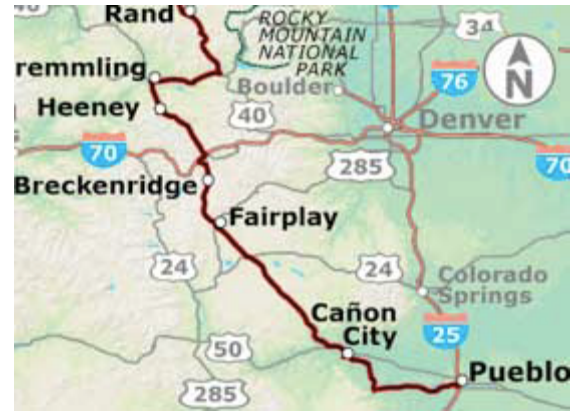
Date correction- The meeting on **Saturday, April 26, 2014**, not 27.

New Supporters

Adventure Cycling now supports our Feasibility Study bill and eventual Trail designation. Their route and ours is contiguous in part in Missouri, Kansas, mostly along the Arkansas in Colorado and from Pueblo to the Arkansas River Valley. See map.

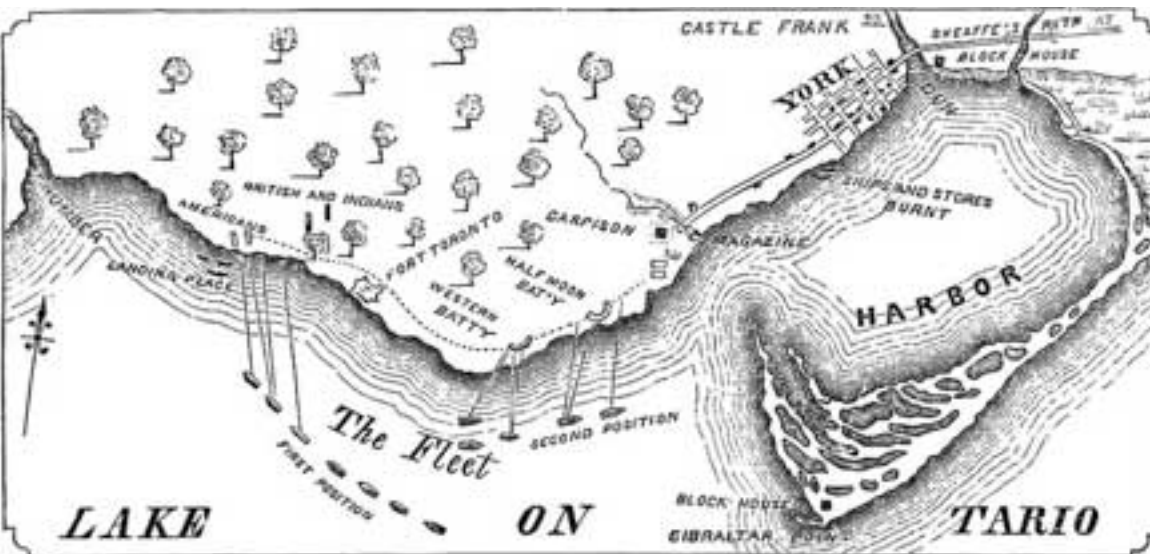
Two Battles on Lake Ontario- One in April, the other in December

by Allan Vainley



As we approach Pike's 235th birthday on January 5, and remember his death 200 years ago (on Apr. 27, 1813), we can look back at the Battle of York and another related event which occurred this month 200 years ago- Dec. 19, 1813, also during the War of 1812.

The map shows the area now in Toronto called York and Sackets Harbor, where the dying General Pike was transported by boat. It also shows the location of strategic Fort Niagara as well as roads we would use today to travel between sites.



Battle of York

The **Battle of York** in the War of 1812 occurred on April 27, 1813, at York (today's Toronto) on Lake Ontario. An American force supported by a naval flotilla landed on the lake shore to the west, defeated the defending British force and captured the fort, town and dockyard. The

Americans themselves suffered heavy casualties, including Brigadier General Zebulon Pike. Pike was injured after the Battle when, it is said that a Brit set off one of their magazines. The injured and dying Pike was brought to the east side of Lake Ontario to Sacketts Harbor where he died. It is of some interest to me that Henry Dearborn, who had been Jefferson's Secretary of War, is listed as a leader. He was in charge of the War and it is said that his generals won only two battles on British soil and Pike was one of them. Compare the statistics of Pike's *Battle of York* with those Fort Niagara 8 months later.

Battle of York Statistics

Great Britain	United States
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Commanders and leaders

Roger Hale Sheaffe	Zebulon Pike †
	Isaac Chauncey
	Henry Dearborn

Strength

300 regulars	1,700 regulars
300 militia	14 armed vessels
100 Indians	

Casualties and losses

82 killed	55 killed
43 wounded	265 wounded
69 wounded prisoners	
274 captured	
7 missing	



The Death of General Pike at the Battle of York . American engraving 1839.

The Storming of Fort Niagara - 19 Dec. 1813



Fort Niagara, in Youngstown, NY is the oldest continuously occupied military site in North America.

Capture of Fort Niagara

Belligerents

United Kingdom	United States
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Commanders and leaders

Gordon Drummond,	Nathaniel Leonard
John Murray	

Strength

562	324 regulars,
	unknown number militia

Casualties and losses

6 killed	65-80 killed,
5 wounded	14 wounded prisoners, 344 captured

Fort Niagara, located on the eastern bank of the Niagara River at Lake Ontario, was an early French fortress captured by the British in **July 1759**. It became a Loyalist base during the American Revolution, but was ceded to the United States at the end of the war, although not completely controlled by American troops until 1796.

At about the midpoint of the War of 1812, the fort once again became a British stronghold. After only seventeen years under American control, Fort Niagara was re-captured by the British two hundred years ago this month, on **December 19, 1813**. As a strategically important U.S. garrison on the Canadian border, anyone commanding the fort controlled river and portage access between two Great Lakes—Ontario and Erie. It was a critical portal to Ohio, Michigan, and the American Midwest.

During the War of 1812, the British were garrisoned across the river at Canada's Fort George. Tensions were obviously high between the two forts, occupied by opposing armies, and they frequently exchanged artillery fire. The Americans succeeded in capturing Fort George in **May 1813** yet abandoned it in early December, burning the fortress and the surrounding town. Although in ruins, Fort George was quickly reoccupied by British forces, giving them a prime position to attack the American garrison across the river. Late on the night of **December 18**, five hundred British troops crossed the river south of Fort Niagara, marched north, raiding and burning villages en route, surprising the American defenders, and easily taking the fortress before dawn on the 19th. They held it for the duration of the war.

The Treaty of Ghent, signed to end the War of 1812, declared that captured territory be returned "*status quo ante bellum*," meaning that anything captured by the British during the war was returned to the United States, including Fort Niagara. Although it has not been an active military post since 1940, the site is still in use today. The "French Castle," built by France in 1726 still stands and "Old Fort Niagara" is now an historic site. Its importance in several wars over three centuries is revealed through reenactments, exhibits, tours, and events.

Source: fold3.com: Military records

•*Membership* - Thank you for our new members and those who have renewed their membership in the Pike National Historic Association!

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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