



THE HUNT FOR ZEBULON PIKE

by Stuart Pike



There are 10 counties in the US named for General Zebulon Montgomery Pike- Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio have towns named for him as well as Pikeville in Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky. North Carolina, Tennessee. Townships, a road and ships have been named for him. Pikes Peak and the Pike National Forest are named for General Pike.

Where are his remains? Stu Pike sent us this article —

A Historical Mystery

General Zebulon Pike is the legendary explorer after whom Pike's Peak in Colorado was named. Zebulon is a much-celebrated individual and historical figure who every child may learn about when studying American history. His death was not terribly glorious: he died during the War of 1812, April 27, 1813 at the age of 34 outside Fort York, after being wounded while attacking York [now Toronto, Canada]. Upon his death and burial, the mystery begins.

By various accounts Zebulon's remains were brought to Sackets Harbor in Jefferson County, NY and buried there. He is believed to have been re-interred at least two more times since then. This most recent burial was in 1909, and the speculation is that laborers probably didn't keep all that good of records. Consequently, just where Zebulon now lies is something that is apparently not known with certainty and history buffs have debated the issue for years. In 2003 the Army tried to confirm his place of rest, and they believe they have identified his likely grave, and yet a cloud of uncertainty still exists. Just where is Zebulon buried?

Science combines with a hobby

Segue then on to genealogy or the tracking of your family ancestors which some people say is the second largest hobby second only to gardening. For thousands of years amateurs have been using paper trails, snips of record, relative's accounts and photos to track and document their family histories. A major leap in this process occurred in early 2000 when the frontiers of biological science introduced the concept that DNA could be used to discern just who was, or was not, an ancestor of yours. Essentially, along with the family paternal surname, markers in the male Y chromosome are passed down, little changed, from ancestors to descendants.... Great-grandfather to grandfather to father to son. Over the years, slight mutations in these markers have allowed people to differentiate separate clans within a surname. This passing down of slowly changing markers in the paternal line has allowed people to track ancestors back to the 1300. PBS /Frontline's *Jefferson's Blood* highlighted the ability of DNA to identify ancestors with the case of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings.

This new genetic tool soon became available to lay people and a PIKE DNA SURNAME project was formed by David Pike. Soon amateur genealogist throughout the world were using a \$120 dollar, mail order, test kits much like in the CSI shows, and scraping the inside of their cheeks with a Q tip, then returning the kits to a lab for DNA analysis. The family historians observed that approximately 25% of the Pikes in the US were part of a single, large clan and that Zebulon was a member of that group. It is known that Zebulon did not have any sons who lived beyond childhood, and so his Y-DNA has not survived among his direct descendants. However, each of his distant cousins living today would have an identical DNA to his, with minor variations for the mutations.

ANNOUNCEMENT: We have decided to change the Newsletter publication to a Quarterly. We will attempt to publish more 'blogs' on our website- zebulonpike.org and do Special Issues when useful.

As the tested DNA data base of people grew with known paper trails back to Zebulon, it became possible to extrapolate their DNA markers back in time and with a great deal of certainty, guess at his DNA.

In April of 2009, while researching his own family tree, the film's producer Stu Pike, (who ironically is not related to Zebulon), stumbled upon an old newspaper article describing the misadventures of Zebulon's grave, and that it was still not conclusively identified. He casually emailed the article off as an item of interest, to his friend and fellow genealogist, David Pike, the founder of PIKE DNA Project, and to Roy Pike, a retired minister and President of the PIKE Family Association. David is also not related to Zebulon but Roy is a distant cousin as documented by a solid paper trail. So Stu and David Pike would have different DNA markers than Zeb's... but as a cousin, Roy's would be virtually identical to Zebulon's!

David in a flash of brilliance, noted that he was in touch with scientists at the US Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab, and that newfangled, advanced DNA techniques, too sophisticated for amateurs, could be used to extract Y- DNA (or a similar mtDNA) from bones depending upon the condition of the grave. In fact that's the method Army scientists use to identify remains of soldiers from Vietnam and other wars.

David drafted a letter to the Army inviting them to use their high power techniques, combined with the amateur genealogist DNA results to conclusively identify Zebulon Pike's grave. *The Hunt for Zebulon Pike* film tells this story. Did they succeed?

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Footnotes:

See PIKE descendants and Zebulon's place (blue square, Group 1) at the Pike DNA site

http://www.math.mun.ca/~dapike/family_history/pike/DNA/index.php?content=results.html

See an article about the Army's hunt for his grave.

http://www.drum.army.mil/sites/postnews/blizzard/blizzard_archives/news.asp?id=9&issuedate=10-9-2003

Hear NPR about the Army's hunt for his grave.

<http://northcountrypublicradio.com/news/story/3694/zebulon-pike-grave-may-be-in-sackets-harbor>

PBS/Frontline's Jefferson story

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/jefferson/>

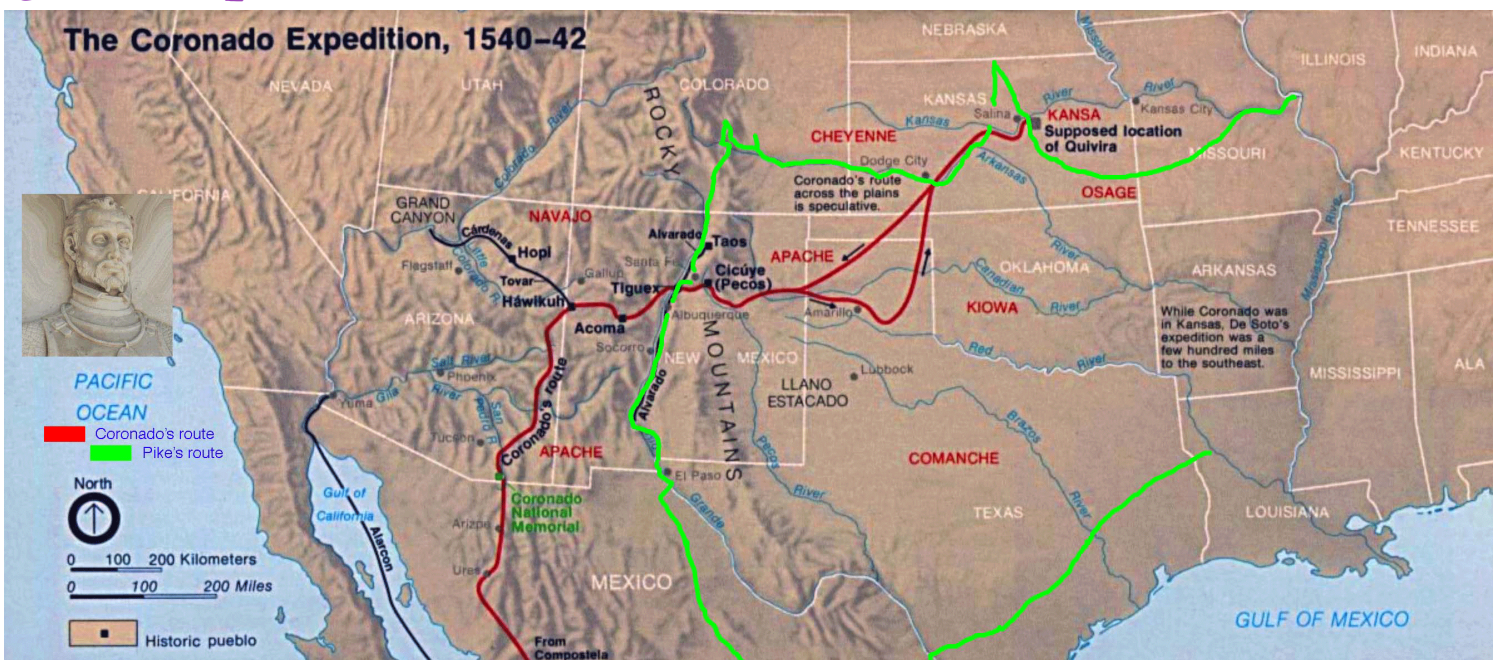
See a book about the War of 1812, Zeb and his grave

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wcarr1/Lossing2/Chap28.html#e020a>

DNA resources

<http://www.familytreedna.com/books-and-videos.aspx>

CORONADO EXPEDITION The Coronado Expedition (1540–1542) from Mexico north to the future southwestern United



States and east through the modern states of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas.

THE FRANCISCO VÁZQUEZ DE CORONADO Y LUJÁN EXPEDITION 1540-2

Nearly 300 years before Zebulon Pike stepped onto our Great Plains, the Spanish were out exploring and trying to find gold. **Vázquez de Coronado** was one who led a large expedition in 1540.

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado y Luján (1510 – 22 Sept. 1554) was a Spanish conquistador and explorer who led a large expedition from Compostela, Mexico to present-day Salina, Kansas (see map) between 1540 and 1542. Coronado was seeking the mythical Seven Cities of Gold (or Cities of Cíbola). The expedition sighted the Grand Canyon and Colorado River, the first for Europeans.

The Coronado Expedition

Vázquez de Coronado left Compostela, Mexico (then New Spain) on February 23, 1540, with about 400 European men-at-arms, 1,300 to 2,000 Mexican Indian allies, four Franciscan friars, and several slaves (both natives and Africans) and family members and servants.

With the Gulf of California to their west they reached the northernmost Spanish settlement in Mexico, San Miguel de Culiacán, about March 28, 1540, and went inland. Coronado, finding a lack of forage and food divided the expedition into small groups with different departure times so that grazing lands and water holes along the trail could recover.

In April 1540, at Chiricahua and the Chiricahua Mountains, Vázquez de Coronado found simple Zuni pueblos instead of the supposed Cíbola (nothing like the great golden city).

Coronado traveled north between Chichilticalli and Zuni into future Arizona and New Mexico. They traveled north along today's Arizona–New Mexico state line, from the headwaters of the Little Colorado River to the Zuni River.

The Zuni refused to feed the starving expedition. Coronado and his expeditionaries attacked the Zunis. The skirmish is called the Spanish "Conquest of Cíbola". During the battle, Coronado was injured and never led subsequent battles.

Scouting parties were sent. The first went northwest and found Hopi villages and resorted to force to enter to acquire food. They learned of the Colorado River to the west.

Exploration of the Colorado River

A second scouting expedition traveled overland and reached the Colorado River and explored the region being the first Europeans to view the Grand Canyon at the south rim and the River thousands of feet below.

After this, the main body of the expedition traveled east to the Rio Grande River in New Mexico. Several Pueblo villages were found. Coronado commandeered one for his winter quarters in Sandoval County, which is across the Rio from present-day Bernalillo near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Tiguex War

During the winter of 1540–41, his army fought the brutal Tiguex War with the pueblo. This war destroyed the Tiguex pueblos and killed hundreds of Native Americans.

Search for Quivira

In the spring of 1541, Coronado led his army, priests and Indian allies onto the Great Plains to search for Quivira to the east. They found buffalo and a featureless steppe called the Llano Estacado in the Texas Panhandle and Eastern New Mexico, near present-day Hereford and Canadian. "The country they [the buffalo] traveled over was so smooth that if one looked at them the sky could be seen between their legs."

Coronado commented about the large herds of bison, "I found such a quantity of [bison] cows ... that it is impossible to number them, for while I was journeying through these plains ... there was not a day that I lost sight of them."

They found one thousand Apache Indians (Coronado called them Querechos) who were not awed or impressed by the Spanish, their weapons, and their "big dogs" (horses). "They did nothing unusual when

they saw our army, except to come out of their tents to look at us, after which they came to talk to the advance guard, and asked who we were."

Querechos and Teyas

Vázquez de Coronado left the Querechos behind and continued southeast. He and his army descended onto the tabletop of the Llano Estacado into the caprock canyon country. They met with the Teyas Indians.

With the Teyas (Coronado's name) likely Cheyenne to the northeast, Coronado's met with an old blind bearded man (a Teyas) who said that he had met many days before "four others like us". The four were likely Cabeza de Vaca, Esteban and two other Spanish survivors of the Narváez expedition to Florida. (They had made their way across southern Texas six years before Coronado).

Upon reaching thirty days travel south of today's Great Bend and the Arkansas River, Coronado seems to have lost his confidence that fortune awaited him. He sent most of his expedition back to New Mexico and continued with only forty Spanish soldiers and priests and an unknown number of Indian soldiers, servants, and guides. Vázquez de Coronado, thus, dedicated himself to a reconnaissance rather than a mission of conquest.

They found the Arkansas River and followed it northeast for three days and reached Quivira itself after a few more days of traveling. Quivira was in central Kansas with the western-most village near the small town of Lyons on Cow Creek, extending twenty miles east to the Little Arkansas River, and north another twenty miles to the town of Lindsborg on a tributary of the Smoky Hill River.

Coronado spent twenty-five days among the Quivirans trying to learn of richer kingdoms just over the horizon. He found nothing. The Quivirans were almost certainly the ancestors of the Wichita people.

Expedition end

Vázquez de Coronado returned to New Mexico from Quivira and was badly injured in a fall from his horse "after the winter was over", probably in March 1542.

During a long convalescence, he and his expeditionaries decided to return to New Spain (Mexico). Vázquez de Coronado and his expedition departed New Mexico in early April 1542, leaving behind two friars. His expedition had been a failure and he was bankrupt.

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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

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Make checks payable to: Pike National Historic Trail Association Mail membership and donation checks to:

Pike National Historic Trail Association, c/o Brian Pike, Membership Chair, 5357 Bristol; Arvada, CO 80002

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

Pike December 2019 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.

Our Vision is **TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PIKE AND
CELEBRATE HIS MEMORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Membership Form

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