



PIKE

NATIONAL HISTORIC
TRAIL ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER



— 2020 Vol. 14 No. 1 Jan.–Mar.

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

REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S SUPERVISOR

Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study

Aaron Mahr, supervisor for NPS Pike feasibility study, reported that

The feasibility study process is underway beginning in October 2019.

Since October, 2019

- a the Park Service offices has signed off on a letter of agreement to conduct a study.
- b A call for persons to conduct a study resulted in a large number of applicants,
- c Interviews will be conducted and a person will be hired in the new near future and begin work as soon as hired,
- d The virus restrictions may delay the hiring process as well as a study,
- e Expertise from other NPS offices will be called in when needed to assist this person,
- f Scoping meetings may be scheduled for the late summer.

He was pleased with our plan to make persons aware that the feasibility study is being conducted. He has been impressed that the Pike Association is attempting to locate additional Pike sites.

MAKING PEOPLE AWARE

The first steps in working for Congressional passage of the Pike National Historic Trail designation are now being implemented by the Pike National Historic Trail Association. We are making people aware that the feasibility study by the National Park Service is now being conducted.

The database Linda Balough and Harv have created contains 1096 entries with 958 email addresses.

We will be sending email to 130 County Commissioners, 342 mayors, 208 Chambers of Commerce, 261 Historical/ Preservation/ Heritage Societies and 17 Indian tribes.

Each of these groups can be tagged to make the email specific to the five groups and to the state.

There are four types of letters:

County commissioners and mayors will receive the main general letter,
 Chambers of Commerce will receive the Chamber letter with a definite economic bent,
 Historical/ Preservation/ Heritage Societies will receive the history letter which is aimed toward historic preservation,

The Pueblo, Pawnee, Osage, Ute and Louisiana tribes will receive letters specific for them.

We thank Stacey and Brian Pike for their writing and editing text.

All first letters makes them aware of the feasibility study being conducted by the National Park Service. Other purposes served in the letter are:

- a) indicating the benefits of national trails,
- b) asking for their continued support,
- c) making them aware of the Pike National Historic Trail Association and the website with all sorts of educational material as well as the Association Store with items related to them, and
- d) asking for their enthusiastic support at the National Park Service scoping meetings and eventual designation bill in Congress.

The Association plan for passage of the Congressional designation bill calls for keeping people informed and getting their support.

In calling some of the historical societies and others we have learned that they are happy about our efforts, have already spread the word about the Park Service Study and are enthusiastic in their support. This is very rewarding for us building the database and drafting/ editing the letters.

The National Park Service supervisor for the Study has indicated his pleasure in what we are doing.

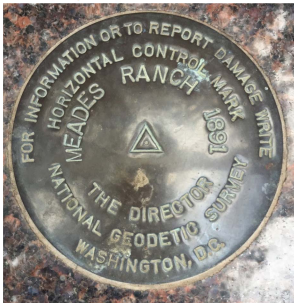
AMAZING COINCIDENCE- Pike's Camps near US Centers by Alan Vainley

- Pike camped **14 mi E** of the US geographic center (lower US) on 9/24/1806
- On 10/8/1806 Pike had passed **11 mi E** (traveling S) of the US geographic center.
- Pike camped **6 mi ESE** of the US geodetic center on 10/10/1806

On 9/24/1806 the Pike party encamped **14 mi due East of the geographic center (lower US)- 39.83333, -98.58333** near Lebanon, KS on approaching the Republican Pawnee Village in South central Nebraska (North central Kansas).

10/10/1806 four days after leaving the Pawnee Village, Pike camped **6 mi ESE of the US geodetic center- 39.22408, -98.54215** near Osborne Kansas also in central Nebraska (North central Kansas).

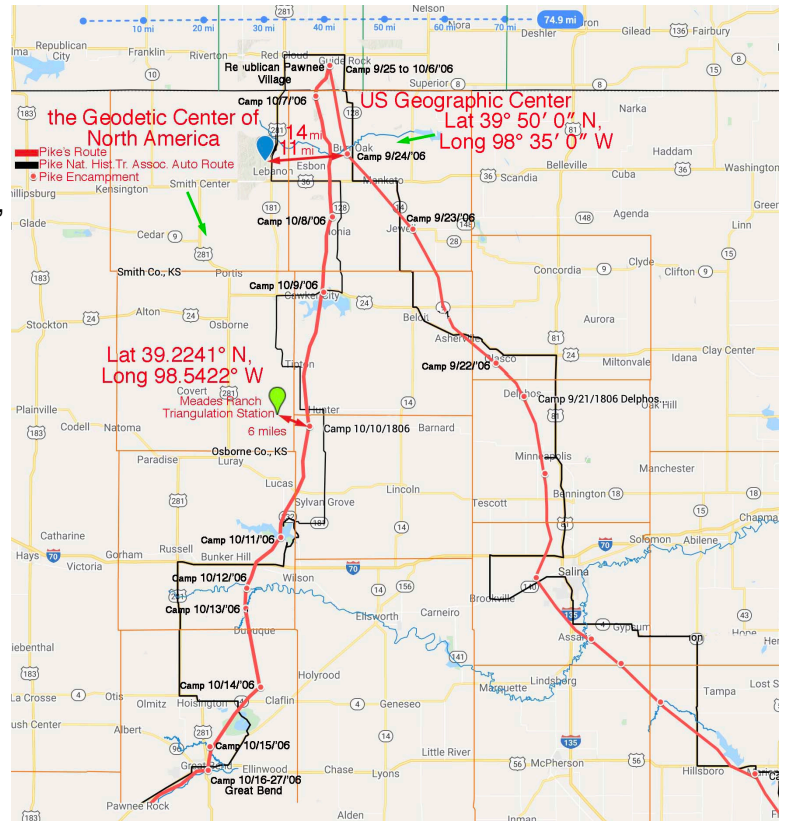
Meades Ranch Triangulation Station
Osborne, Tipton, KS 67485, Salina



39°13'26.8"N 98°32'31.9"W

The Geodetic Center

The Geodetic Center is the point at which all measurements for North America are taken- like the Greenwich Mean Time and Longitude Meridian* for cartographers. This location is referred to as Meades Ranch Triangulation Station marked by the Army Corps of Engineers.



The US Geodetic Center Plaque - in Osborne KS reads:

"On a ranch 6 miles southeast of this marker a bronze plate marks the most important spot on this continent to surveyors and map makers. Engraved in the bronze is a cross-mark and on the tiny point where the lines cross depend the surveys of a sixth of the worlds surface. This is the Geodetic Center of the United States. The "Primary Station" for all North American surveys. It was located in 1901 by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Later Canada and Mexico adopted the point and its supporting system as the base for their surveys and it is now known as the "North American Datum." What Greenwich is to the Longitude of the world, there-fore, a Kansas pasture is to the lines and boundaries of this continent. It must not be confused with the Geographic Center of the United States, which is 42 miles north, in Smith County. " - Erected by Kansas Historical Society and State Highway Commission.

My new friends John and Laura McClure are surely working for the designation / feasibility study project. He is Mayor of Osborne and owner of Blue Hills Bikes & Tours. His wife Laura is responsible for the Carnegie Research Library - Osborne and Chair of the Osborne Genealogical Society. They have really "spread the word" and have helped with the data base referred to in another article. And there is more - He grew up in Jewell County Kansas perhaps on the path taken by Pike and the Spanish from the Republican Pawnee village.

Geographic center of the contiguous United States

This location was determined in 1918. It is about 2.6 miles (4.2 km) northwest of Lebanon, KS, about 12 miles (19 km) south of the Kansas-Nebraska border. Changing shorelines have always made this measurement imprecise. The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) coordinates historical marker can be found in a small park at AA Road and K-191, accessible US 281.

The current geographic US center was updated in 1959 to include Alaska and Hawaii. It is a point northeast of Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_center_of_the_contiguous_United_States

Confused? The **Geodetic Center** is near Osborne, KS. The **US Geographic Center** was Lebanon, KS and now is Belle Fourche, SD.

*Note: The Mean Time **and** Longitudinal Prime Meridian are both above at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich England. Every time zone (24) heading west starts there. GPS readings are measured from there longitudinally. So **time** and spacial **location in the world** originate there.

PIKES PEAK PLAYGROUND IN SACKETS HARBOR, NY

by Connie Barone, Director- Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site

Feb 18, 2020 Thought you would enjoy seeing this story on a Facebook post by the Sackets Harbor Central School.

“Students in PK-5th grades voted to select a new piece of playground equipment this week. Students overwhelmingly chose the **Pikes Peak** option!

The Sackets Harbor PTO and our school will be working together to raise the remaining funds needed to make this happen.”

HONOR THE SACRED GRAVE OF CLARA PIKE

Lawrenceburg Press Thursday, October 20, 1927 Sent to Cliff Pike's great-grandfather Charles (from a cousin living in Fort Dodge, Iowa).

Sunday afternoon, the editor of the Press, tried to live the days of long ago over again, and visualize them as they were when the incidents connected with them took place, he went to the old Capt. Brown burying ground, in Boone County, Kentucky, just across from Pike's Station, which is on the B. & O. railroad in Hamilton County, Ohio.

We were carried back to the year 1752 when a little boy was born in New Jersey, who was named John Brown, long about the time when the fires of freedom, and independence began to burn in the hearts of the American colonists, who had braved the mighty waters of the Atlantic Ocean to form colonies on the American continent, where oppression would be unknown, where they might get from under that heel of tyranny.

As this little boy grew to manhood, he imbibed the principles of freedom, so much so, that upon the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, he enlisted to become one of the participants therein, and fought until the war closed with victory to the American patriots. Soon after the war, many of the American soldiers desired to leave the confines of the Eastern colonies and embarked to the then Northwest Territory, and among these what is the little boy who had grown to manhood, and who was known as Capt. John Brown.



Sunday we found the following inscription upon his tombstone, "Capt. John Brown, born in New Jersey, October 22, 1752. A patriot and the soldier of the Revolution. Through life he sustained the interests of the true Republican. Braved an emigration to the Western wilds at an early day. He died November 13, 1824." [at the age of 72]

Capt. Brown was no doubt one among the first settlers of Boone County, Kentucky, along the Ohio River where the river Government light No. 247 now stands. At that time he was surrounded by a howling wilderness, infested with all kinds of wild beasts, and through which the marauding bands of Indians roamed, but he who had braved the fire of English guns on the battlefields where he fought for freedom, was not afraid to try to plant the same principles of freedom in the Western wilds. Neighbors were miles and miles apart, but they were laying the foundation in the Northwest Territory and the Territory of Kentucky for the building of mighty states, and among those directly which were being carved out at the time, were Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.

BURIAL- Brown Cemetery,
Francisville, Boone Co., KY.

Time passed, and as the years went by Capt. Brown became the father of a little daughter whom he named Clara. This little girl grew to womanhood in the wilderness around Sugar Grove, Boone County, Kentucky. Capt. Brown had a Revolutionary War comrade who had come west to assist in putting down the Indian uprisings in the Territory of Kentucky and also in the Northwest Territory, whose name was Capt. Zebulon Pike. Capt. Pike had taken the oath of allegiance in Col. Meylon's regiment of the Dragoons in the Continental Army October 13, 1783, and he was present in the battle of St. Clair's defeat near Miami Village and 1791, which was second only to Braddock's in the annals of American history. Washington had particularly warned Gen. St. Clair against surprise attacks by the Indians, yet St. Clair was not altogether to blame for the awful defeat sustained, as contractors had supplied him with worthless powder, the Commissary

Department was a failure, oxen too few and lean, men were on short term enlistment, gathered from the prisons, the scum of the water fronts of the Eastern cities, raw and unused to the gun or the woods. Capt. Pike was then in command of a small number of regulars. Col. Butler was second in command to Gen. St. Clair. The battle with the Indians had been raging, and Col. Butler who was wounded said to Capt. Pike: "I cannot live, you load my pistol and set me up against a tree, and I will die fighting, and you tell my friends so." A white man hidden in the tree top witnessed the death of Butler.

The order to retreat ended in a wild rout and panic. Capt. Pike called his regiment around him, and told them their lives depended upon their keeping together and obeying orders, and he directed them to fire on the Indians, and to load their guns as they ran.

Finally Capt. Pike's legs gave out from partial paralysis, (which later in life totally disabled him —he was 40 years old at this time). He sat down on a log to await death, and told his men to go on, do as they had been doing and they would get to the Fort safely. As good fortune would have it, Dr. Ellison, a surgeon came riding up on a wounded horse with a boy behind him. Dr. Ellison said to Capt. Pike, "Don't sit there and be butchered by these devils, take hold of my horse's mane and perhaps the cramp may leave you." And it did, for he hobbled along, gained strength, and they all reached the fort in safety. Later, Dr. Ellison established himself in Cincinnati and kept that horse without work until he was 30 years old, in gratitude for having saved the lives of three men.

Capt. Pike finally became Col. Pike, and in 1803 settled on the Ridge Road northwest of Lawrenceburg, now known as Ridge Avenue, Greendale. Col. Pike had a son who at an early age entered the military service, whose name was Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

Zebulon Montgomery Pike had formed the acquaintance of Clara, the daughter of Capt. Brown, friendship grew into affection, they were married, and became the proud parents of one child, Clarissa. Clara, the wife of Zebulon Montgomery Pike was possessed with the principles of American freedom, and with the brave spirit of a maid of the western wilds. At no time did she try to deter her husband from his work as a soldier, and an explorer, but rather urged him on, while she stayed in their wilderness home caring for her little daughter, with a prayer ever on her lips for her beloved husband. He led an expedition of discovery into the unknown West, and in September, 1806, discovered Pikes Peak in Colorado.

The mountain peak was not named by him in his official report, but others named it in honor of the brave explorer and Pikes Peak will for all time be recognized as a fit monument to the memory of this daring American hero. Thus nature itself has furnished him an eternal solid granite Monument 14,000 feet above sea level well worthy of so exalted a character as Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

He was later was made a prisoner by the Spaniards, escaped*

***Not accurate- He was escorted by the Spanish through New Spain (now Mexico and Texas) to Natchitoches, Louisiana.**

and reached New Orleans where he was employed **[in the Army]** by the Federal Government. The war of 1812 between the Colonies and Great Britain broke out, and he was assigned to duty on the Great Lakes, where he urged the invasion of Canada, and was assigned by Gen. Dearborn to take charge of the troops to make the attack on York, now Toronto, Canada, and on the 27th of April, 1813, they were landed on the beach at York under a heavy fire from the British and Indians commanded by Col. Sheaffe, who retired under the irresistible charge of the Americans. The day before the battle which resulted in Pike's death he wrote the following letter to his wife, Clara, who was at Sugar Grove, Boone Co., Kentucky.

"My dear Clara:

We are now standing on and off the Harbor of York, which we shall attack at daylight in the morning. I shall dedicate these last moments to you, my love, and tomorrow throw all other ideas but my country to the winds. As yet I know not if Gen. Dearborn lands. He has acted honorably so far and I feel great gratitude to the old Gentleman. My sword and pen shall both be exercised to do him honor.

I have no new injunction, no new charge to give you, nor one new idea to communicate, yet we love to commune with those we love, more especially when we conceive it may be the last time in this world.

Should I fall, defend my memory, and only believe, had I lived, I would have aspired to deeds worthy of your husband.

Remember me, with a Father's care, to our dear daughter, and believe me to be with the warmest sentiments of love and friendship.

Your Montgomery."

Just as Gen. Pike had said in the above letter to his wife, "and tomorrow throw all other ideas but my country to the winds." This was carried out by him on morrow to the very letter, for, "Pike pressed forward with his intrepid soldiery, stormed the fort, captured two redoubts, but while in advance of his men, waving his sword and urging them to attack the main works, the fuse which the British had lighted reached the magazine of the fort, blowing it up with great loss of life to the American soldiery." Gen. Pike was among the injured, and survived his wounds

but a few hours. His words after he was wounded to his men were, "push on my brave fellows, and avenge your General."

As the surgeons were caring the wounded General and his aides from the field, the troops who had just formed, gave a tremendous huzza! Pike turned his head to inquire what it was for, a Sergeant. said, "The British Union Jack is coming down, General, the stars are going up." He heaved a sigh of ecstasy, and smiled amidst the anguish and sufferings from his wounds. As he was "breathing his last, the British standard was brought to him — he made a sign to have it placed under his head, and he died without a groan." Thus passed from this life Brig. Gen. Zebulon Montgomery Pike, one of America's greatest heroes, and one who because of having lived here in Lawrenceburg and vicinity casts a halo of glory over this entire section of country.

His body was embalmed at York conveyed to Sackett's Harbor, New York, where it was interred in the magazine at Fort Thompkins with all the stately pomp of military honor.



Clara Harlow Brown Pike

BIRTH - 1783

DEATH - 18 Apr 1847 (aged 63-64)

Francisville, Boone Co., KY

BURIAL - [Brown Cemetery](#)

Francisville, Boone Co., KY

But alas! How different from that of his wife and daughter. They lived, they died in the wilderness, and on a lonely patch of ground in Boone County, Kentucky, just above the Ohio River they were buried. A plain soft stone slab was placed at their heads with the inscription traced upon that of his wife, "Clara H. Pike, widow of Z. M. Pike, died at her residence in Sugar Grove, Boone County, Kentucky, in the 64th fourth year of her age," and on the daughter, "Clarissa Brown Pike Harrison daughter of Gen. Z. M. Pike, born February 24, 1803, died February 1, 1837."

Since those days great changes have taken place. The great trees which one time grew in that locality are gone, no more does the Indian roam the wooded wilderness, neither do the wild animals keep their nightly vigils, and the one time old homes of the sturdy pioneers have fallen, or are falling into decay. A mighty city of over 400,000 is not far from the spot, great railroad trains run daily in sight of the forsaken graves, mighty steamers daily plow



Clarissa Brown Pike Harrison

BIRTH - 24 Feb 1803

DEATH - 1 Feb 1837 (aged 33)

Boone County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL - [Brown Cemetery](#)

Francisville, Boone Co., KY

the waters of the Ohio River, and also in full view of where sleeps these 2 noted woman of pioneer days may be seen the great power plant of the Columbia Gas and Electric Company, which sends forth currents of electric energy over it wires to all nearby towns and cities. But alone, unknown, their graves covered with

briars and under brush, forgotten, uncared for, rests the wife of one of America's most daring explorers, as well as that of his daughter who married the eldest son of one of the Presidents of the United States.

May not the very knowledge of such desolate conditions awaken a belated response in the Great States of Kentucky, Colorado, Ohio and Indiana, as well as that of the Federal Government, until they arise and do a just honor to themselves by erecting a suitable monument to the memory of this noble mother, and daughter who endured the hardships of early western life, that the husband and father might give his time, his life, his all, to the defending and exploring of these now great and mighty Union of States of the American Republic.

Taken from the Lawrenceburg Press Lawrenceburg, Indiana Thursday, October 20, 1927

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

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

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Now that we are moving toward possible designation of the Pike National Historic Trail

**Join our Association or renew your membership
Donate to our effort**

We need you to renew your membership or join for the first time.

Click here for a membership form on our website (Payment method PayPal):

<https://www.zebulonpike.org/product-category/membership/>

or

complete and mail the membership form below.

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

Membership Form

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>
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