



General Zebulon Montgomery Pike
Z. Pike



General Zebulon Montgomery Pike and Clarissa Harlow [nee Brown] Pike

Serving the American people & international visitor with American History and the Pike Legacy. Tourism is a sustaining factor in the Pike National Historic Trail Association's mission.

September 14, 2023-

The Association would like to announce the creation of the Zebulon Pike International Historic Trail. ZPIT Story below on page 3



The Pike Association celebrates its 16th anniversary/birthday.

In September of 2007 the Association founders agreed to form this organization and agreed with the basics of the association. Dr. Clive Siegel [Texas]; Dr. Leo Oliva [Kansas]; John Patrick Michael Murphy [Colorado Springs] and Harv Hisgen [Conifer, CO.] all founders are still with the association after 16 years. Indeed We all talked on Saturday, November 4 — roosters roost.

Wishing you a **Merry Christmas** and a Prosperous New Year.
 [Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year]

Ich wünsche Ihnen ein frohes *Weihnachtsfest* und ein erfolgreiches *neues Jahr*.
 German

[Frohe **Weihnachten** und ein gutes **neues Jahr**.]

Nous vous souhaitons un joyeux *Noël* et une *bonne année*.
 French

[Joyeux **Noël** et **bonne année**.]

Linkime linksmy *Kalėdu* ir sėkmingų *Naujujų metų*.
 Lithuanian

[Linksmų **Kalėdu** ir laimingų **Naujujų metų**.]

Le deseamos una Feliz *Navidad* y un Próspero *Año Nuevo*.
 Spanish

[Feliz **Navidad** y próspero **Año Nuevo**.]

Бажаємо вам щасливого *Різдва* та процвітання в *Новому році*. Ukrainian
 [Щасливого **Різдва** та щасливого **Нового року**.]

Hau'oli **Kalikimaka** a hau'oli **makahiki hou**. Hawaiian

The winter solstice, also called the hibernal solstice occurs on Thu, Dec 21, 2023, 8:27 PM Mountain Standard Time



Jesus was likely born in April See page 7

The Pike Association annual meeting May 4, 2024 10AM.

The Pike Association [Pike National Historic Trail Association] Annual Meeting will be held **virtually** on **May 4, 2024 at 10AM.**

We will let you know the credentials that are needed to join the meeting. Please request credentials.

To correct an impression that some people had from our last newsletter-

We appreciate the recent additions to the park service and BLM:

Amache National Historic Site [Japanese-American Relocation Center], Granada, CO,
Browns Canyon National Monument, Salida, CO,
Camp Hale National Monument, between Red Cliff and Leadville Colorado
Chimney Rock National Monument, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

FYI: There are 81 national monuments administered by the National Park Service, 13 by BLM and 5 by the Forest Service and at least one other jointly.

Notes to the National Park Service:

- **National Parks, National Monuments and Historic Sites cost more to administer, operate and manage than**

National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails, and National Recreation Trails.

The National Parks budget provides **\$844.2 million.**

The budget includes \$10.5M for National Scenic and Historic Trails plus \$3.15 million to operate historic trail interpretive centers= **\$13.65M.** You do the calculations — that's quite a difference.

You people are dead wrong.

- **Pike's expeditions were historically and nationally significant, significant by anybody's definition. Potential for recreation, visitation and research efforts cannot be questioned.**

Pike found the headwaters of major rivers [Mississippi, Cottonwood, South Platte, Arkansas] which are recreationally and economically used today. Several states can claim statehood because of his explorations [Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, & Texas]. His reconnaissance during the expeditions contributed to US war efforts.

Three new blogs on our website- ZebulonPike.org

Introducing the General Zebulon Montgomery Pike INTERNational Historic Trail [ZPIT]

<https://www.zebulonpike.org/introducing-pike-international-historic-trail/>

Reactions to NPS Non-recommendation of the Pike Trail

<https://www.zebulonpike.org/reactions-nps-non-recommendation-of-trail/>

Amazing Events by State on Pike's Southwest Expedition

<https://www.zebulonpike.org/events-by-state-on-pikes-southwest-expedition/>

Our mission is to make the public, foreign and domestic, of the heroic life of
General Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

The nickname 'Monty' is common in the Pike family for those named Zebulon Montgomery Pike including our General, current ones and one yet to be born in Bemidji. To avoid any confusion other nicknames were used like Zeb and June [for Junior], etc.

- The Association would like to announce the creation of the Zebulon Pike International Historic Trail. ZPIT on September 14, 2023

The Pike National Historic Trail Association is the creator, designator and manager.
No more requirements

The Pike National Historic Trail Association is **creating the Zebulon Pike International Historic Trail [ZPIT]**. We are designating it, developing it, and managing it.

- * ZPIT is 4200 miles long [4123.6] - requires addition miles on which Pike traveled away from their encampments to discern travel routes or take Jovian observations. Actually more than 9000 miles.
- * One trip was used as a pilot boat captain on the Ohio River in calculations- Add 963 miles for each additional trip and each return Pittsburg to the Mississippi River.

Zebulon Pike International Historic Trail [ZPIT] segments:

Early Life		1441.6 miles
Pike's birth, Jan 5 1779 in now Lamington, NJ [40°39'39"N 74°43'03"W]	to DC	194 mi
Rivers to Pittsburgh and Cargo boat pilot [962.6 mi each way]	to Mississippi River	
1st Exp. Upper Mississippi River		1066.6 miles
Return downriver Cass Lake MN to Belle Fontaine		909.7 miles
2nd Exp. Southwest		
MO 422.3 miles, KS 678.63 miles, CO 711.92 miles, NM 429 miles, Mexico 911 miles,		3661.85 miles
TX/LA 509 miles		
Return up Mississippi river	Return upriver to Belle Fontaine	897 miles

Later Life
Tippicanoe, Pittsburgh, PA to Sackets Harbor, NY to Plattsburgh to 1813 Battle of York 1250.3 miles

4123.6 miles adding five cargo trips on the Ohio river would bring it to 9000 miles



General Zebulon Montgomery Pike knew how to hold them- He knew when how to fold them. He played his cards right all of his life.



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Amazing events by state Part 2- Birth and Early Life

Part 1- Southwest expedition- See Pike Newsletter July through October 2023—soon to be posted on the Website zebulonpike.org

Part 3- 1st Expedition. SOON Jan-March 2024 issue OR see Blog on Website zebulonpike.org

Part 4- later life and heroic death. Apr-June 2024 issue OR see Blog on Website zebulonpike.org

1 Zebulon Montgomery Pike's Birth and Early Life

Pike was born on January 5, 1779, in Lamington, New Jersey. He was the son of Isabella (Brown) and Zebulon Pike, and would follow in the footsteps of his father, who had begun his own career in the military service of the United States in 1775 at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

Zebulon Pike Jr. grew in Ohio and Illinois, learning by reading and learning some other languages.

At the age of 14 he joined the Army and his father's regiment 1793.

He was commissioned second lieutenant of infantry in 1799 and promoted to first lieutenant that same year.

Pike married Clarissa Harlow Brown in 1801. They had one child who survived to adulthood, Clarissa Brown Pike, who later married President William Henry Harrison's son, John Cleves Symmes Harrison.

He piloted **several** cargo boats on the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to Fort Maddox in southern Illinois, his father's frontier fort. He was stationed at Fort Kaskaskia on the Mississippi before being called to Cantonment Belle Fontaine by General James Wilkinson, Territorial Governor of Louisiana.

Pike's birth, Cargo/supply boat pilot and Early life [green], **1441.6 +** miles [several trips on the Ohio River]

Pike was not one of the Beach boys but He got around. "Round, round I get around Yeah"

"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country." -Thomas Jefferson

Zebulon Pike war ein amerikanischer Held, ein Patriot, der für sein Land lebte und starb für sein Land." -Thomas Jefferson

"Zebulon Pike fue un héroe americano, un patriota que vivió y murió por su país". -Thomas Jefferson

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Our current efforts to achieve our mission-

One – request that each state legislature designate the Pike Trail in their state AS COLORADO.

Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

- request that the Ontario, Canada and Quebec, Canada legislatures designate the Pike Trail in their province.

- request that Chihuahua, Mexico Durango, Mexico and Coahuila, Mexico legislatures designate the Pike Trail in their province.

Second - request that each county that Pike explored declare Pike Day or month as BOURBON COUNTY KANSAS has already done.

Third - request financial support for the placing of Wayside Panels describing Pike's activity in each county or province.

The wayside panels would contain information the public would receive- therefor supporting our mission to make the public- foreign and domestic- knowledgeable about the heroic life of General Zebulon Montgomery Pike. We hope to bring economic [with the tourist dollar] and educational value to their communities.

Colorado Gator Reptile Sanctuary



Erwin shoving dirt

Pike Newsletter sent a photographer and reporter to the facility on November 4th to talk with Erwin personally. Erwin said, “Reconstruction of the Colorado Gator properties will continue to be delayed to the end of November or perhaps Christmas.” Then smiles. The new building is 300 ft.², have 2 stories for animal displays and looks twice as tall as the original as you will see in the picture. The concrete was just poured around the new steel structure. As of November 11 the green, metal siding has been installed on the north side of the building. We found Jay installing siding.

Layout of the Gator Farm— — The first building you enter is the reception area and store [unburned]. Then you enter the area where all the exotic animals and young gators were housed. That building was burned and being replaced.

After leaving that building you go outdoors to the large alligators in several pools. They were untouched.

The tilapia area [food for the animals] was also not touched by fire.

Jay Young, manager of the property and gator fighter, wishes to send his Christmas greetings. Jay is accepting and adopting exotic animals and storing them temporarily in his home.

The fire at **Colorado Gator Reptile Sanctuary** in Mosca, CO, occurred on April 18th 2023.

Antonito, CO, known for:

Cano's Castle [<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/canos-castle>],

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad [<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Cumbres+%26+Toltec+Scenic+Railroad/@37.0757001,-106.0204707,15z/data=!4m1!1m8!3m7!1s0x8716450c89d99fcb:0x34f5344ec55b8bc9!2sAntonito,+CO+81120!3b1!8m2!3d37.079179!4d-106.0086329!16s%2Fm%2F01zsrk!3m5!1s0x87164576bdf2f209:0x62b88e96e78a21c2!8m2!3d37.0700723!4d-106.0120768!16s%2Fg%2F11x7p7gqd?entry=ttu>],

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Conejos [the oldest church in Colorado. <https://www.southern-colorado-guide.com/colorados-oldest-church.html>], founded in 1858. The church was the first Roman Catholic parish in modern-day Colorado. It was constructed by Father Joseph Machebeuf, a French missionary, and Spanish colonists from New Mexico.

The New Mexico Colorado State border [‘Welcome to Colorful Colorado’ ‘Welcome to New Mexico the Land of Enchantment’], and

San Antonio Mountain [<https://www.google.com/maps/place/San+Antonio+Mountain/@36.85977,-106.0395502,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x8717b31e4cb6bf85:0xc771c3c31f12ebd5!8m2!3d36.8597379!4d-106.0189076!16s%2Fm%2F0wggn3b?entry=ttu>].

It will **now** be known as the **Slowest town in America** – speed limit 20 mph. 10 people were timed walking 2 mph [on November 11, 2023.]

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One of Brian Pike's favorite accounts of his distant Uncle - Zebulon M. Pike adventures:

Lewis and Clark's expedition¹ was followed by an expedition led by Zebulon M. Pike in 1806. This expedition was General James Wilkinson's idea. Wilkinson was a newly appointed governor of the Louisiana Territory. He sent Pike on an expedition towards Spanish territory, possibly to provoke a war or to spy. The Spanish in the New Mexico territory became very frightened about American plans when Jefferson sent out the Lewis and Clark expedition because Spain still claimed parts of the Louisiana Territory. When they learned of Pike's expedition, they sent out troops under the command of Don Facundo de Melgares to intercept Pike and turn him back. Melgares attempted to swing north and intercept Pike at a Pawnee village near present-day Guide Rock, Nebraska. They were unable to find Pike, who had been delayed, but they did reinforce their friendship with the Pawnee

Pike arrived at the Pawnee camp after Melgares had left. Pike discovered a lot of evidence of Spanish trade and influence; most notably the Spanish flag flying over the Pawnee village. Pike was a highly patriotic man, some said too patriotic. It bothered him to see foreign flags waving above soil he thought belonged to his country. Consequently, Pike convinced the Pawnee to replace the Spanish flag with an American flag and cautioned them that the Spanish would no longer be allowed to enter the newly acquired Louisiana Territory. As far as Pike was concerned, he had dissolved the Spanish claims. Pike then prepared to travel west from the Pawnee village with his men. However, the chief of the Pawnee informed Pike he could not — the chief had been instructed by the Spanish commander to prevent Pike from continuing his westward journey. The story of what happened was told by the chief himself to an Indian agent a few years later, and the agent recorded the following account in his journal:

"The morning came, and the rising sun found Pike with his men, all mounted, well armed and equipped; their heavy broadswords drawn. The old Warrior Chief had summoned his forces also, and there they stood, more than Five hundred in number, armed with Bows and Arrows, spears and tomahawks, in gloomy silence; each party waiting in painful suspense the orders of their respective chiefs. The chief recalled that he approached Pike and earnestly urged him to cancel his journey. Pike pointed to a spot in the sky just above the eastern horizon, and told the chief he would set out when the sun reached that spot, saying that: ' . . . nothing but death can stop us — it is my duty as I have already fully explained to you — if you think it is yours to obey the Spaniard, so to stop me, be it so: but be assured that the attempt will cost the lives of many brave men — this you may be sure of.' "

The stage was set for a major confrontation and the suspense was almost unbearable. But the good sense and humanity of the chief prevailed. He ordered his warriors to put down their weapons and allow Pike to continue his journey.

Pike entered present-day Colorado, Spanish territory, and stopped off long enough to try and climb, unsuccessfully, the mountain peak later named for him. On February 26, 1807, he was arrested by the Spanish, taken to Santa Fe, and eventually released.

Pike kept a record of his experiences and his journal was published in 1810.

Credit to NebraskaStudies.org.

¹ Lewis and Clark Expedition May 14, 1804 – September 23, 1806.

Zebulon Pike- First expedition August 9, 1805 - April 20, 1806

Second expedition July 15, 1806 - July 1, 1807

Jesus was likely born in April

Jesus was likely born in April when shepherds had to be in the field with their newborn sheep to protect them from predators.

Why is Christmas [Cristes Maesse, the **Mass** of Christ, 1st found in 1038BC] **is held on December 25th?**

"There is no month in the year to which respectable authorities have assigned Christ's birth." -**Catholic Encyclopedia**

- **Reasons why Jesus was probably was not born in December:**

First, Luke 2: 8 states that on the night of **Jesus' birth** "there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." Shepherds would have been keeping their flock under cover during the cold winter months.

Second, In Luke 2: 1-4 it is written that Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem to register in a Roman census. Such censuses were not taken in winter when temperatures often dropped below freezing and roads were in poor condition.

- **Reasons why December 25 was selected:**

Pagan Celebrations Were Happening At That Time- Pagan celebrations [Saturnalia and the birthday of the sun god, Mithra] which occurred around the winter solstice [or near December 25].

Perhaps December 25 was selected to avoid persecution of Christians-

Since pagans were celebrating the birth of their *son God* around the winter solstice December 21, it may have been handy to celebrate the birth of Christ near that date to avoid persecution.

"O, how wonderfully acted Providence that on that day on which that Sun was born.... Christ should be born." Quote of an early Christian -**Catholic Encyclopedia**

Access to: **Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study**

More information about the Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study [46 pages] is available at [ParkPlanning - Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/parkplanning/pike-national-historic-trail-feasibility-study). Warning – a great deal of it is baseless and was dictated by the prejudice of high-level NPS directors. Many people feel unhappiness with the park service.

Unpublished, unsaid and not at all made clear: The NPS public meetings for the Pike feasibility study could have been attended by people from all over the world. Many of them would not have been able to speak English. However they were welcome if we knew and they wished to pay the phone charges.

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

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died for his country."* -Thomas Jefferson

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Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org We are a charitable nonprofit organization. [501-C-3]