



PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Aug/Sep — 2018 Vol. 12 No. 7



THE NEW PIKE WEBSITE is about to be checked and will soon be launched we trust in October. Our website designer currently is caring for the technical end of her design.

The website (www.zebulonpike.org) was created by the Santa Fe Trail Association and given to us 10 years ago. We have altered it somewhat but it focuses basically on Pike's 2nd Expedition (1806-7) since the Santa Fe Trail Association owned the website for the Pike Bicentennial.

The new website has been updated with current information about the Pike National Historic Trail Association. Persons on the Board and State Coordinators, for example, has changed over these 10 years. We have altered our MISSION to include Pike's a. Early Life, b. 1st (Mississippi River 1805-6) Expedition, and Later Life as well as the 2nd Expedition. A **great** deal has been added together with Pike Field Maps and modern maps to reflect our Mission.

Because smartphones (iPhones and Android) as well as iPads have evolved over the 10 years, our new look website had to be altered to allow for the use of these devices. You will be able to see our website on your smartphone and it will fit on the phone screen.

The ability to donate and pay for membership by credit card or PayPal has been also been added.

Once the new design and content is checked and approved by us the old website will be taken down and replaced by the new one.

THE FESTIVALS YOU MAY ENJOY- We have enjoyed both these venues this year. Next year:

1. The 17th annual High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival at **The Bluff and Summit Park** in Westcliffe, CO. July 11-14, 2019

2. There were 23 artist/performers entertaining us this year. The 15th Annual Spanish Peaks International Celtic Music Festival in La Veta, CO will be held the third weekend in September (Sep 19-22, 2019).

Moya Brennan and Cormas De Barra- Celtic Fest



VISITING LA VETA, CO AND FORT FRANCISCO BY Allan Vainley

There are several outstanding museums in or near the San Luis Valley (central southern Colorado) that are worthy of your visit. We enjoy their membership in the Pike NHT Association.

We plan to give you a taste of what will be found at these museums and in the area near their communities which we have visited.

We will begin with two interesting locations near La Veta, CO:

Spanish Fort 1819 Nickname: Fort Sangre de Cristo-

In 1819, Spanish Governor Facundo Melgares (Pike's friend in 1807) ordered that a Spanish military fort be constructed near **Sangre de Cristo Pass** (today's Colorado) to protect the Spanish colony of Santa Fe de Nuevo México from a possible invasion from the United States. The fort was destroyed and leveled and was the only Spanish settlement in Colorado. The site of this fort is known today as the **Spanish Fort**.

It was near La Veta, CO and the La Veta Pass-Uptop Historic District (on US160), about 5 mi. north of Sangre de Cristo Pass.



May 1887 Colorado Map. GHS
SKETCH OF THE RUINS OF SANGRE DE CRISTO FORT

Francisco Fort Museum 1862



Francisco Fort 1862 Museum- La Veta, CO
Colonel John Mays Francisco (1820-1902) founded a trading post at the foot of the Spanish Peaks in Colorado Territory in 1862. The small town of La Veta (Spanish for the Vein) (800-pop.) grew up around Fort Francisco. The fort still stands - the last surviving original adobe fort in the state. The Museum displays artifacts and collections from the Historic Huerfano County region including exhibits of Native American traditions, Hispanic legacy, settlement, ranching, coal mining era and MORE! Still growing in the Fort's plaza is a Round Leaf Cottonwood planted by Francisco in 1878.

John Francisco came west on the Santa Fe Trail in 1839. In 1859 he formed a business partnership with French-Canadian Henry Daigre and frontiersman Hiram Vasquez purchasing the 120 mi.² of the Virgil-St. Vrain land-grant. They built this fort in what was named the town of Spanish Peaks as a trading post and for protection of a small population.

Like most 19th-century settlements the fort was built around a central plaza where a well was dug and Francisco planted his cottonwood. 18" thick adobe bricks enclosed the rooms with dirt floors. On three sides of the central plaza there are no exterior openings, with a wooden stockade on the east side. Each room had a fireplace, a door opening to the central plaza and a window. A heavy gate was installed on the north side as a wagon entrance. The fort had a flat dirt roof.

When the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached the village in 1876, the name of the village was altered to La Veta and the railroad depot was built in the south wing of the fort. Descendants of John Francisco deeded part of the fort to the town as a museum in 1957 and Francisco Plaza was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

Museum director Bob Kennemer and Museum Historian David Steffan told me that the openings between rooms were added later as well as the gift shop. More of our discussion will follow in future newsletters.

We will continue next month with:

- Other Pike related material including**
- Denver and Rio Grande Railroad through La Veta 1876 to today**
- La Veta Pass-Uptop 1877 to 1899 Historic District today**
- La Veta, CO and other nearby interests**
- Fort Massachusetts**

CORRECTION TO THE JULY NEWSLETTER: The third word third sentence [lead article]- should read enable NOT "unable".

Our Corporate Partners



PIKE AT THE ROYAL GEORGE by Allan Vainley (WE QUOTE PIKE IN GREEN.) **The Royal George full-color T-shirt is shown on Page 5**

Pike's Trip 1/1 to 5/1807 Our side trips [immediately below] are to either side of the Royal Gorge where Pike, his men and horses struggled. Making sleds after many of their horses carrying loads slipped on the ice and were critically wounded, they slowly made their way through the Gorge only to find they were back where they had left on December 10th. They had not discovered the Red River- Pike's final assignment. We give you Pike's words with gps readings for those traveling on our side trips and exploring the Royal Gorge.

1st January 1807, Thursday.- The doctor and one man marched early, in order to precede the party until they should kill us supply of provision. We had great difficulty in getting our horses along, some of the poor animals having nearly killed themselves falling on the ice. ... -Pike

1 Jan 1807 Camp {between Cactus Mountain or Spikebuck Mountain- head of the Gorge) 38.485590, -105.377949

Elliot Coues notes-Page 478 "it should be noted here that one of the eight straggling parties managed to get through the canyon itself. Some came over the mountains to the North, And the rest over those on the south. Pike alone assayed the gorge, but only got halfway through. Next morning he escaped by scrambling up a small side Canyon which occurs in the northside, came down on the north of Noonan's Peak. This is a mountain that overhangs Cañon City, standing guard at the throat of the gorge. Dr. Robinson and his man came that way too. Vasquez and his men brought the horses the other way, across Webster Park, and had easier time of it. It was three days before all the party got in [to the Cañon City Stockade].

2nd January, Friday.- Labored all day, made only 1 mile, many of our horses much wounded in falling on the rocks. Provision growing short, left Stout and Miller with two loads, to come on with his sled on the ice, which was on the water in some of the coves. Finding it almost impossible to proceed any further with the horses by the bed of the river, ascended the mountain and immediately after were again obliged to please descend an almost perpendicular side of the mountain; in effecting which, one horse fell down the precipice, and bruised himself so miserably, that I conceived it mercy to cause the poor animal to be shot. Many others were nearly killed with falls received: left to more men with loads hand tools to make slides. The two men we had left in the morning had passed us.

Camp Location: Cañon City Fremont County Stockade 38.43456, -105.25752

3rd January, 1807, Saturday.- left two more men to make slides and come on. We pursued in the river, and with great difficulty made six miles by frequently cutting roads on the ice, covering it with dirt, in order to go round precipices, &c. The men left in the morning in encamped with us at night, but those of the day before, we saw nothing of. This day to the horses became senseless, from the bruises received on the rocks, and were obliged to be left.

Camp Location: Cañon City Stockade 38.43456, -105.25752

4th January, 1807, Sunday.- **Royal Gorge** We made the prairie about 3 o'clock, when I detached Mr. Baroney and two soldiers with the horses, in order to find some practical way for them to get out of the mountains light; I then divided the others into two two parties of two men each, to make slides and bring on the baggage. I determined to continue down the river alone, until like could kill some sustenance, and find the two men who left us on the 2d inst. or the doctor and his companion, for we have no provision, and everyone had then to depend on his own exertion for safety and subsistence. Thus we were divided into eight different parties, viz. 1st. The doctor and his companion; 2d. The two men with the first sled; 3d. The interpreter and the two men with the horses; 4th. Myself; 5th. 6th. 7th. and 8th two then each with sleds at different distances, all of whom except the last, had orders, if they killed any game, to secure some part in a conspicuous place, for their companions in the rear. I marched out about 5 miles on the river, which was one continued fall through a narrow channel and immense cliffs on both sides. Near night I came to a place where the rocks were perpendicular on both sides, and no ice (except the narrow border) on the water. I began to look about, in order discover which way the doctor and his companion had managed, and to find out what had become of the two lads with the first sled, when I discovered one of the latter climbing up the side of the rocks; I called him; he and his companion immediately joined me; they said they had not known whether they were before or in the rear; that they had eaten nothing for the last two days, and that this night they had intended to have boiled a deer skin to subsist on. We at length discovered a narrow ravine, where was the trace of the doctor and his companion; as the water had ran down it and frozen hard, it was one continued and sheet of ice; we ascended it with the utmost difficulty in danger, loaded with the baggage. On the summit of the first ridge we found an encampment of the doctor, and where they killed a deer, but they had now no meat. He afterwards informed me that they had left the greatest part of it hanging on a tree, but supposed the birds had destroyed it. I left the boys to bring up the remainder of the baggage, and in went out in order to kill some subsistence: wounded a deer, but the darkness of the night approaching, could not find him, when I return hungry, weary and dry, and had only snow to supply the calls of nature. Distance 8 miles.

Camp Location: Cañon City Stockade 38.43456, -105.25752

5th January, 1807, Monday.- **Pike's 28th Birthday Cañon City** I went out in the morning to hunt, whilst two lads were bringing up some of their loads still left at the foot of the mountain. Wounded several deer, but was surprised to find I killed none, and on examining my gun, discovering her bent, owing as I suppose, to some fall on the ice, or rocks; shortly after received a fall, on the side of the hill, which broke her off by the breach; this put me into desespoir, as I calculated on it, as my grandest resource for great part of my party; return to my companions sorely fatigued and hungry; I then took a double-barreled gun and left them, with assurances that the first animal I killed, I would return with part for their relief. About 10 o'clock rose to the highest summit of the mountain, when the unbounded space of the prairies again presented themselves to my view, and from some distant peaks, I immediately recognize it to be the outlet of the Arkansas, which we had left nearly one month since! Hit was a great mortification, but at the same time I consoled myself with the knowledge I and acquired of the source of the La Platte and the Arkansas rivers, with the river to the north west, supposed to be the Pierre Jaun, which scarcely any person but a mad man would have ever supposed attempt to trace any further than the entrance of those mountains, which had hitherto secured their sources from the scrutinizing eye have the civilized man.

I arrived at the foot of the mountain, and bank over the river, in the afternoon, and at the same time discovered on the other shore, Baroney with the horses; they had found quite an eligible pass, and had killed one buffalo and some deer. We proceeded to our old camp, which we had left on 10th of December, and reoccupied it. Saw the traces the the doctor and his companion, but could not discover the retreat.

This is my [28th] birthday, and most fervently did I hope never to pass another so miserable. ... **Camp Location: Cañon City, CO 81212 38.434625, -105.255755**

AUTO, BIKE AND HIKE ROUTE ROYAL GORGE SIDE TRIP-

We suggest two trips to the Royal Gorge to choose from

Trip 1: From the Pike Cañon City stockade area to the Northeast end of the bridge

19 min (11.7 miles)

(Directions # 1-5 Time Bike 1.5 h, Hike 4h) one way

Starting at Pike Cañon City stockade area - 110 Tunnel Dr Cañon City, CO 81212

1. Head northeast on Tunnel Dr. toward US-50 W 0.2 mi
2. Turn left onto US-50 7.1 mi
3. Turn left onto Co Rd 3A 1.3 mi
4. Slight left to stay on Co Rd 3A 2.1 mi
5. Turn right to stay on Co Rd 3A 1.1 mi arriving at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park (Cañon City, CO 81212 @ the NE end of the Bridge) Cross the bridge.



Return by the above route or continue following to explore the country where Pike entered the Royal Gorge in the New Year January 1807.

About the Bridge and Park

Royal Gorge Length: 10 miles Length of Bridge: **1,260 feet (1/4 mi.)** Longest span: **880 ft (268 m)**

Construction: June 5 to November, 1929 **Construction cost:** \$350,000 **Height:** 956 ft. above the Arkansas River

Cost: Seasonal- May – Sept 2018 \$27- Adult 13 & ^ , \$22- Child (6-12)

Post season- Oct 2018 – April 2019 \$24 / Adult- 13 & ^ , \$19 / Child (6-12)

You can enjoy the Aerial Gondola, Cloudscraeper Zip Line, Royal Rush Skycoaster, Plaza Treater, Tommy Knocker Children's Playland, the Visitor Center, Food, Water Clock, and awe-inspiring panoramic views from scenic lookouts and the Bridge.

Trip 2: From the Pike Cañon City stockade area to the Southwest end of the bridge

Auto: 29 min (17.5 miles) one way

Starting at Pike Cañon City stockade area - 110 Tunnel Dr Cañon City, CO 81212



- 1. Head northeast on Tunnel Dr toward US-50 W 0.2 mi
 - 2. Turn left onto US-50 W 10.0 mi
 - 3. Turn left onto Co Rd 3 2.6 mi
 - 4. Slight left to stay on Co Rd 3 1.1 mi
 - 5. Continue straight onto Co Rd 3A 3.6 mi
- arriving at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park (Cañon City, CO 81212 @ the SW end of the Bridge)
Cross the bridge. Return by the above route.

T-SHIRTS

The Pike National Historic Trail Association are now offering for sale 2 different T-shirts (shown below) with two of our paintings as full color reproductions.

These shirts **\$25 post paid** can be ordered through Ed French (a retired Senior Disney World Artist) PO Box 300 Cotopaxi, CO 81223 Ed is a. Board 719 942 3604 Ed French <edfrench72@gmail.com> or through the Association (address below) All profit is donated to the Association.



Will you consider joining us or renewing? Membership blank below.

Won't you join our Association also!
We need you to renew your membership or join for the first time. Click here for a membership form: <http://zebulonpike.org/docs/MembershipBrochure.pdf> or complete and mail the membership form below.

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



VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE- (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pike-National-Historic-Trail-Association/167853563238403?fref=ts>)

The Pike Association's vinyl decals- The cost is \$2.50 each with price breaks at 5, 10, or 25 decals, plus shipping.

Membership Form

Join Now! Please consider membership in our organization

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 _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell _____

e-mail _____

I will be able to help with:

- The Pike Assoc. website
- Historic/heritage investigation
- Providing educational opportunities
- Producing educational materials

- 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 Mail membership and donation checks to:

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

© 2018, Pike National Historic Trail Association Contact: harv.pike@gmail.com Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org

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Pike Aug-Sep 2018 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**

