



### *Purposes of the Pike NHTA*

The proposed purposes of the **Pike National Historic Trail Association** include:

- a) Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail  
(for the 1806-1807 Zebulon Montgomery Pike Expedition.)
- b) Promote historic/heritage investigation of aspects of the 1806-1807 Zebulon Montgomery Pike Expedition and of the Pike National Historic Trail.
- c) Conduct and/or participate in educational opportunities regarding the legacy left by the Pike 1806-1807 Expedition.
- d) Provide educational materials regarding the Pike Expedition.
- e) Cooperate with federal state & local agencies, and trail organizations on which the 1806-07 Pike

Expedition overlies, (such as the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and de Tejas National Historic Trails,) and other federal, state and local trail and heritage entities. *We invite your comment on these proposed purposes.*

### *Association Needs Budget*

The Pike NHT Association projects some of our financial needs to include: \$400-\$500 for filing the Not for Profit papers, \$500 for establishing our interactive website, \$100 for membership in the Partnership for the National Trails System, \$1000 promotional costs for the passage of the bill authorizing the Feasibility Study, \$500 organizational costs. Needless to say, we will be announcing our membership drive soon.

### *The Louisiana Territory*

Suppose you just bought almost a million acres of land for \$11,250,000 (+ French debts to US citizens = \$12,000,000) from France. Suppose you had some loose change and wanted to size up your purchase. Who better than your military? Well, send Pike north along the Mississippi River, send Clark and Lewis to size up the northwest, and when Pike gets back, send him to the southwest and others west. The Louisiana Purchase included land from the Mississippi River to the Rockies, the Gulf to Canada with the exception of land claimed by Spain. This included all or part of 13 states, doubling the size of the US.

#### *A little history*

The French claim to the center of America dates back to 1682 when Cavelier and de La Salle (and later Marquette and Joliett), claimed for France all river basins which drained into the Mississippi River for King Louis XIV.

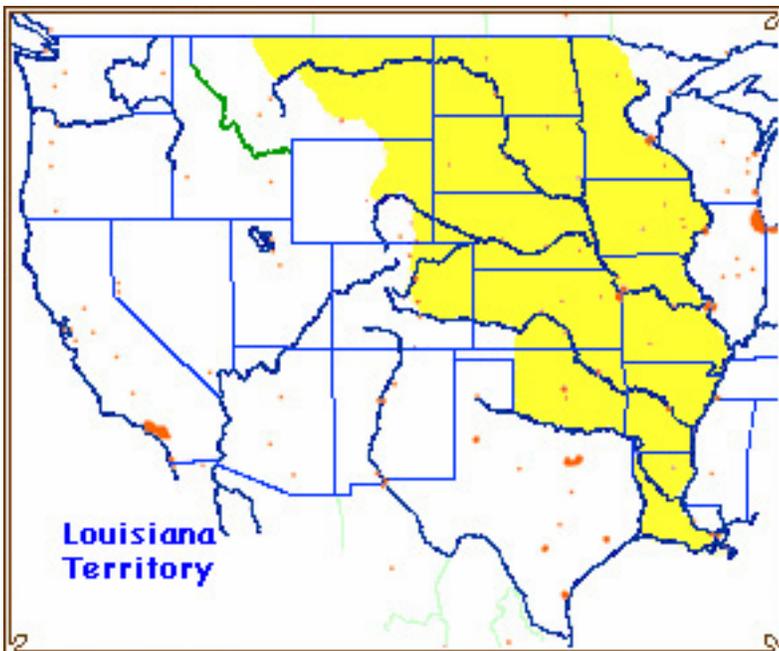
The French settled their new world empire along the Mississippi, up the Wisconsin/Illinois River basins, up through the Great Lakes, past Halifax, Nova Scotia, in towns which still exist today with French names.

In 1718, the French lost their claim in the French and Indian War with land east of the Mississippi going to Britain, and west to Spain. France gradually gained much of it back, and purchased the Territory from Spain in 1800, with the provision that France not deal the land to anyone but Spain.

Mark Twain in Tom Sawyer explains that "To promise not to do a thing is the surest way in the world to make a body want to go and do that very thing."

Spain blockaded traffic on the Mississippi at New Orleans. There was no love loss for Spain either by the French or the US. Jefferson knew that even though Spain claimed control of New Orleans, the French really controlled the area. He sent James Madison to offer Napoleon \$2 million for the port. Napoleon came back with the proposal for the US to purchase the Louisiana Territory. Fly a kite Spain.

Three years after agreeing not to sell, Napoleon, on April 30, 1803, sold to the US the Louisiana Territory, with control exchanged on December 20, 1803 and Gen. James Wilkinson (Pike's boss) placed in charge of New Orleans. Manifest Destiny's biggest boost!



**Discovery Project #1 Was the crossing at Medano Pass, Mosca Pass, or La Veta Pass on 27Jan1807?** How are you coming on this project? The issue really involves how Pike's Field map (Jackson Vol. 1 Plate 30) compares with Sgt. Nau's rendering. LaVeta looks good on Pike's field map.. Well, if you checked Pike's journal beyond what we gave you, LaVeta Pass just doesn't fit the distances involved.

Remember you have to do some reasoning and find resources in the process of Discovery.

Here are two clues...1. Compare Pike's Field map with the Nau map and 2. Seek out elevation data for Medano and Mosca Pass approach and decent. We'll print our elevation plots next month.

**Web site-** We need suggestions for the construction of our web site. Any Web Masters out there? We intend to include portions of Pike's journals, field maps, Nau maps, the famous Santa Fe Trail map, Humboldt, French trappers, Discovery Projects and answers (if there is a majority agreeing), the latest Association news, Newsletter, educational materials, etc.

**Did you Know?** One may ask- *How hard would it be retracing Pike's Osage River portion today?*

The Bagnell Dam- Lake of the Ozarks in MO has a 95 foot drop and the Truman Dam- in western MO has a 45 foot drop. I still may consider boating it.

*Something for you to write about for the future-*

If you were not aware, there seems to be many questions surrounding the Pike Western Expedition that continue to be raised.

-Was he ever lost? -Was he a spy or would he be a spy today? -Was he aware of the Burr conspiracy?

-Were he and his men captured by the Spanish? -What maps did he bring from St. Louis?

-Did he lie to Gov. of New Mexico Alencaster, while in Santa Fe, New Spain?

-Why was there confusion over the Red River and the Canadian Rivers? And so on---

A reading of just a couple authors about Pike's Mississippi River and Western Expeditions starts one to begin personally answering these questions, raise new questions, and form opinions about Pike's abilities, character, and life's purpose.

*Please blog us on any of these topics or others. We will consider your writing for our newsletter or for the up and coming web site. We will partially tackle the Red River issue.*

## **Which Red River?**

The Red River empties into the Mississippi River at the very southwestern corner of Mississippi where the Mississippi River is no longer the western border of Mississippi and forms the northern border of Texas.

The Canadian (which is what Pike was referring to as the Red) empties into the Arkansas in eastern Oklahoma.

**The facts-** The Red is 900 miles in length, falls 3500 feet, and meanders from Amarillo TX to near Simmesport LA in the 3 states of TX, OK and LA. From the Mississippi River upriver, the Red River -heads through Natchitoches LA where Pike ended his Western Expedition,

-forms most of the northern border of Texas,

-unravels below the panhandle of Oklahoma into 6 forks-

Red Ck, Deep Red Ck, Elm Fork Red,

North Fork Red, Salt Fork Red, and Prairie Dog Town

Fork Red, and

- ends just 7 miles due south of Amarillo TX as the Prairie

Dog Town Fork Red.

The Canadian is over 800 miles long; falls nearly 8400 feet from 42 mi SE Alamosa CO (home of US Sen. Ken Salazar) into the Arkansas very near I-40 and Fort Smith AK; and heads through CO, NM, TX, and OK.

Pike's stockade on the Conejos River was 42 miles NW of the headwaters Canadian River.

The headwaters are -34 mi SSE of Fort Garland where Kit Carson was to serve as Indian Agent to the Ute

-23 mi SSW of the W Spanish Peak

-41 mi S of N Veta Pass found in the 1st Discovery Project

**DISCOVERY PROJECT #2- Why was the Canadian called the Red and which river was Pike assigned to find?**

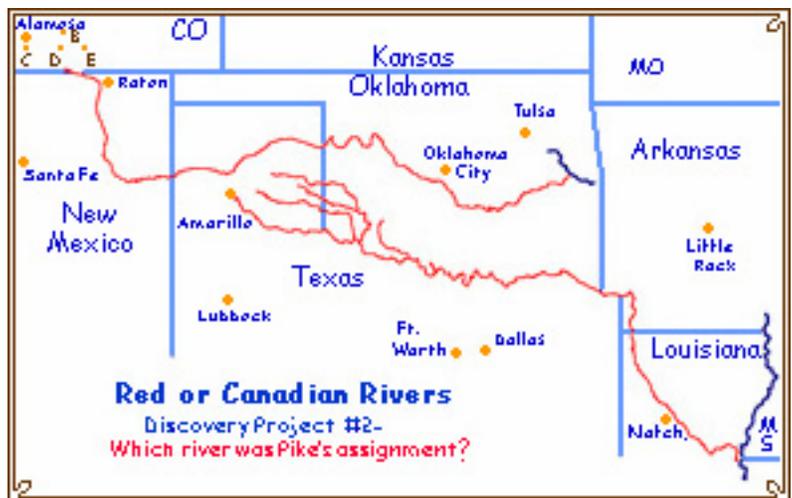
**Give us your answers!**

*Expedition Persons*

**Lt. (Brig. Gen.) Zebulon Montgomery Pike** (1779-1813) was born in Trenton, NJ, on January 5, 1779. He and his beloved wife Clarissa had several children with only daughter, Clarissa, surviving.

In 1805, he led an expedition to explore the upper region of the new Louisiana Purchase, namely the headwaters of the Mississippi River, a 2000 mile trip.

He and his "Dam'd Set of Rascals" reached a location near Bemidji MN, just 25 miles from the actual headwaters (at Lake Itasca,) because of deep snow and ice. He bought land for the US from the Sioux 350 miles down river, where the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers converge on the south side of present day Minneapolis/ St. Paul. Not a bad deal!



Zebulon Pike Lake, a 9 mile lake on the Mississippi River, (north of St. Cloud MN, beside Charles A. Lindberg SP in Little Falls MN) was named for him.

Back in St. Louis for three months, he was commissioned by Gen. Wilkinson to lead the expedition to explore the southwest portion of the Louisiana Purchase.

The 3664 mile expedition left on July 14, 1806 from the cantonment at Belle Fontaine (N of St. Louis) and returned to Nathchitoches, LA on the Sabine River on July 1, 1807.

He "celebrated" his 28th birthday near Canon City, CO, while on the western expedition of the Louisiana Purchase.

Over 2000 locations are named for him including the Pike Nat. For. and his "small blue cloud" Pikes Peak.

During the expedition his Army salary was raised from \$30/mo to \$40/mo (WOW) because he was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain.

Died on April 27, 1813 during the War of 1812 at York (now Toronto) Canada, because the British powder magazine blew up, after raising the stars and stripes over Canadian soil.

**Dr. John Hamilton Robinson** (1782-1819) was born in Augusta County VA, arrived St. Louis in mid-1805. He married the sister-in-law of St. Louis' 1st physician, Dr. Antoine Saugrain- Sophie Marie Michau in Dec. 1805

He was not on the US Sec. of War Dearborn's appointment list to the cantonment Belle Fontaine as requested by Gen. Wilkinson, but records show he served there from 7/28/05 to 6/30/06.

Wilkinson said of him- "...He gives great satisfaction both to officers and men..." at the cantonment.

He was 24 when he joined the Pike Expedition as a nonmilitary volunteer.

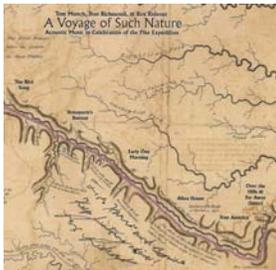
He died at 37 years old.



*Celebration of Pike's birthday Jan. 5th-* No one responded telling us how they celebrated but some of us observed the waning crescent moon beside Antares (300x bigger than the sun & in Scorpio) with Venus near the stinkers.

### *Two Products Available-*

#### *#1 Pike Era Music*



In 2006, Tom Munch, Don Richmond, and Rex Rideout produced a CD with Pike Era Music called

#### **"A Voyage of Such Nature-**

Acoustic Music in Celebration of the Pike Expedition."

The CD includes:

Bonaparte's Retreat, The Girl I left Behind, Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair and 9 others. **Cool.**

It is available at [www.timetravelmusic.com](http://www.timetravelmusic.com).

### *Ten Reasons Dr. Robinson wore purple socks-*

1. He hoped that Sophie (his new wife) could join the Red Hat Society.
2. He wanted to cover his Burr Secret Decoder ring on his big toe.
3. His other socks had holes.
4. He liked purple.
5. Pony Express was very late in bringing other pairs.
6. One could use them as signal flags in white snow.
7. It would match the color of his feet when they got frost bite.
8. Everyone else was wearing Army issue green.,
9. General Wilkinson liked the royal color.
10. He hoped that Governor Alencaster in Santa Fe wanted a souvenir.

#### *#2 Pike NAT Cross Stitch*



The cross Stitch you have been looking at for the first three issues (to the left) is now for sale in kit form. Aida cloth, plans, DMC thread, instructions, all you'll need are included.

**21"x23" pattern size**

Currently a bonus set of plans are included: Pike's portrait, sextant, maps, and more.

\$24.99 w/ postage included.

*Available at 10060 Blue Sky Trail, Conifer CO 80833.*

They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind – Tuscarora

Because the cost of e mail is markedly less- Our Newsletter is being sent attached to e mail in Microsoft Word form.

If you prefer the Newsletter in Macintosh Clarisworks form, please, make us aware of it at:

**Pike National Historic Trail Association; 10060 Blue Sky Trail; Conifer CO 80433.**

If you do not receive this Newsletter on your web site, make us aware of your e mail address, what form (MAC-Clarisworks or PC-Word) you use, **OR** that you have no access to the Internet at the address above.

We know of only one couple does not have a computer. Make us aware of problems with this method.

Starting with the February issue, computer users will only receive an e mail Newsletter, saving the Association \$.