

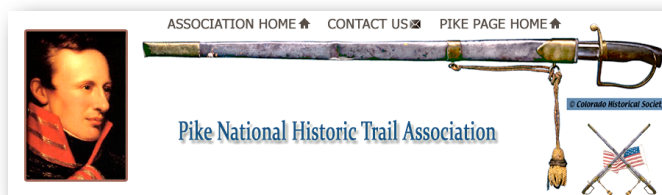
Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail. A Charitable nonprofit organization

www.zebulonpike.org Website

The Zebulon Montgomery Pike website was originally designed for the Pike Bicentennial. When the Santa Fe Trail Association allowed the Pike National

Historic Trail Association proud rights of possession to the site, we hired Holly, the best Web Designer, to resign her work of the site. For those who have gone on the site, and please do so, we have kept it an tool for educators (more resources as well as material available since 2005), but added our association's footprint. Yes, you are greeted with a new banner and new choices, but the content of the old site has been maintained. We are still looking for a person to volunteer to keep the website up to date.

Here are the sections of the Association section (<http://www.zebulonpike.org/pike-national-historic-trail-association.htm>) with some explanation:



G1- Association Home Page

About Us:

G2- Mission

G3- Association History

G4- Officers and Directors

G5- Supporters and Partners

G6- Contact Us

Provides a link to contact us by phone, mail or email allowing you to select which of your email accounts you wish (Your Password, if asked, is not shared with us.)

Membership:

G7- Join or Donate

Allows you to print our membership brochure with membership form G8- Member Resources Makes the hottest resources available G9- Member Only Area Login Provides a blogging area for members as well as other areas being developed

G10- Newsletters (PDF)

This newsletter will be added to the previous 12 newsletters posted in PDF form.

Maps and Photo Gallery:

G11- Maps

Pike field maps- aligned and enhanced

G12- Photos

Photos of Pike sights and the terrain over which they traveled for Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and soon Hal Jackson's photos for Mexico and New Mexico. G13- Attractions / Historic Sites

A preservation listing of sites and locations for the Pike 1806-7 Expedition and associated points of interest, historical importance, etc. G14- Events / Calendar

A listing of Association meetings, events, etc.

† Our NEW DISCOVERY TERRITORY will be launched soon and G13 (above) will be posted. Our newsletters are posted monthly. See what's new on zebulonpike.org



Which Mountain Did Pike Climb? By John Patrick Michael Murphy



Zebulon Pike's failed attempt to climb the mountain known worldwide as Pikes Peak was an historic mountaineering triumph. Many historians do not realize that Pike and his three companions did climb a mountain in their attempt on the great peak. In fact, they were on the top of a mountain when they gave up their attempt to climb Pikes Peak. That mountain was the first recorded to be climbed in the entire American West.^[1]

Captain Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Dr. John Hamilton Robinson, and Privates Theodore Miller and John Brown started recorded mountaineering history west of the Mississippi River. The climb and retreat took a full five and a half days, involved a hike of near 100 miles, and an elevation gain of almost a mile and a half. Most mountaineering mysteries involve a known mountain with the question being who ascended it first. Did George Mallory and Andrew Irving make it to the summit of Everest before Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay? In the United States there have been controversies concerning who first climbed Denali, Frémont Peak, Grand Teton, Mount Whitney, and a host of others. Pike's controversy is different. We know they were first to record a climb, but which mountain was it?

Over the decades, Pike has been moved about like an undeliverable package from summit to summit in the mountains located southeast of Pikes Peak. Because of the general disagreement among historians, the significance of his accomplishment has waned. He has been treated harshly by uninformed historians who thought that Pike claimed the great mountain named for him would never be climbed, when he was only stating that, under the conditions that existed during his ascent, no one could have done it and survived.

As a retired trial lawyer, I looked at the matter as if it were a criminal case. Pike and his men could have been killed by the attempt had they not been favored with fine weather and Pike's decision to take a different descent route, a valley and canyon retreat, rather than retracing his ascent route, which was a face and ridge climb. To my mind, the various mountains advocated by the earlier historians were in a criminal line up— as if they were possible defendants answering to the charge of crime for attempting to kill Pike,

Continued on page 3

PIKE'S SOUTHWESTERN EXPEDITION: OUTFITTED OR ILLFATED By Don Headlee Part 3 of 4

In Pike's letter to Sergeant Meek in Chihuahua dated April 26, 1807 he gives him permission to sell the telescope and theodolite along with all the tools in his possession. The sergeant was to keep an exact accounting of the money and to be responsible for it. He further instructed the sergeant to consult Dr. Robinson or Mr. Walker if the instruments were damaged so a lower price could be established. In the inventory of arms, equipment and other things that remained in the barracks belonging to the Americans and inventoried by Lt. Don Facundo Melgares, there was an achromatic telescope with a broken lenses and the theodolite lacking several lenses and a broken leg which did not sell.



One of the most interesting instruments to be carried by Pike was his Reaumur thermometer. The Reaumur thermometer was invented by Rene Antonie Ferchault de Reaumur and introduced in 1731. It saw widespread use in Europe, particularly in France and Germany. The Reaumur thermometer used 0° as the freezing point and 80° as the boiling point. It was this thermometer that Pike used to take his temperature reading. We know that he carried a Reaumur on his journey up the Mississippi, he gives us a reading of 27° below 0° (-29° below 0°F) on January 8, 1805 while in the present state of Minnesota. He gives a reading of 25° Reaumur (88° Fahrenheit) on August 11, 1806 when he noted that the party found the heat to be very oppressive, but this was August in Missouri. Perhaps the most historically significant reading came on November 27, 1806 when he took a reading of 9° above 0° Reaumur (52°F) at the foot of the mountain he was climbing, then he reports a reading of 4° below 0° Reaumur (22° F) at the top of the mountain. Here he states that the Grand Peak was still 15 or 16 miles from their location. In his journal we find the often quoted statement, "...and would have taken a whole day's march to have arrived at its base, when I believe no human being could have ascended its pinical." In the Sangre de Cristo mountains on January 17th he speaks of nine men having frozen feet. He gives us a reading of 18.5° below 0° Reaumur (-10° below 0°F). As he travels through Mexico on his journey to Natchitoches, he gives a reading of 30° Reaumur (99.5° F) in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, a town in the Coahuila Province. He speaks of the dust and drought which obliged them to march at night and to encamp without water. The thermometric observations made by Pike offer us another aspect of this historical journey.

A few other instruments always a part of any exploration party that were often mentioned in Pike's writings are the compass and spyglass. On January 23rd he sates, "...when I found it impossible to keep any course without the compass, continually in my hand, and then not being able to see more than 10 yards." On May 26, 1807 Pike writes in his journal, "and from a hill took a small survey, with my pencil and a pocket compass which I always carried with me." On June 2nd he records, "In the day time were endeavoring to regulate our watches by my compass, and in an instant that my back was turned some person stole it; I could by no means recover it, and I had a strong suspicions that the theft was approved, as the instrument had occasioned great dissatisfaction." Of course the most famous use of his spy glass was on November 15th when he states, "At two o'clock in the afternoon I thought I could distinguish a mountain to our right, which appeared like a small blue cloud; viewed it with my spy glass, and was still more confirmed in my conjecture." This sighting was to lead him in quest of this "blue mountain" later to bear his name.

The importance of firearms on an expedition during this time period goes without debate. A careful search of the Pike journal about his trip through the Southwest will reveal terms like: gun, rifle, two-barreled shotgun and pistol. We are not given any manufacture's names or caliber of the weapons mentioned and the term gun is used in most general references. We do know that the standard infantry weapon at this time was the .69 caliber Springfield musket. This weapon was used by the military for many years to come. This is a smooth bore flint lock that has a range for fairly accurate marksmanship up to 50 yards. We can assume with some degree of certainty that this was probably the weapon carried by the soldiers on Pike's expedition. It was a military expedition and with little doubt it was equipped with military weapons.

Of course, the most important use of their weapons was in procuring meat. Numerous journal entries end with an accounting of the game killed on that day. On September 14th Pike states, "I prevented the men shooting at the game, not merely because of the scarcity of ammunition, but, as I conceived, the laws of morality forbid it also." When Pike and Lt. Wilkinson divided the party and Wilkinson returns down the Arkansas to the post on the Mississippi, Wilkinson writes a letter to Pike dated October 26th in which he vents some of his frustrations, particularly regarding the equipment that he was allotted. On the back of the letter Pike makes remarks relating to the distribution of powder and lead and ball. He had given Wilkinson's party of five men 19 lbs. of powder and 39 lbs. of lead and ball along with four dozen cartridges. Pike kept for his party of sixteen 35 lbs. of powder, 40 lbs. of lead and 10 dozen cartridges. Assuming that most of Pike's men were equipped with the aforementioned .69 caliber musket, forty pounds of lead would produce approximately 600 balls. This with the ten dozen cartridges would give around 45 rounds to each of the sixteen men in the party. With the prospects of facing a long and unknown journey into an area about to undergo its coldest season and with the necessity of hunting food and the need for possible defense against an enemy, the whole scene takes on a forbidding aura.

An interesting account on October 24th relates to the shooting of prairie dogs. Pike states, "We killed great numbers of them with our rifles and found them excellent meat, after they were exposed a night or two to the frost, by which means the rankness acquired by their subterraneous dwelling is corrected." It should be noted here that Pike's entry on the prairie dog was the best description of these creatures of that exploratory period. Pike was a military man very familiar with firearms and he certainly knew the difference between a rifle and a musket. He states on July 27th, "...they knew the difference between the report of my rife from their guns." It was not uncommon to have personal weapons with you on an army expedition. We know that the men with Lewis and Clark carried a variety of personal firearms. So we can assume that the same was true with the Pike expedition. The upkeep on their weapons was a problem faced by all expeditions. On January 5th Pike mentions that on examination of his gun he "discovered her bent" and shortly thereafter broke it off at the breach due to a fall on the side of a hill. He went back to camp and returned to hunt with a double barreled gun. These double barreled weapons are mentioned several times in Pike's journal. On October 2nd he tells General Wilkinson in his letter that he had presented the Osage chief a "doubled barrel'd gun, gorget and other articles". In his letter of April 26, 1807 to Sergeant Meek, Pike tells him to present Lieutenant Don Facundo Melgares the better of the two barreled shotguns and to exchange the other for a Spanish gun or one the carbines which the American prisoners were able to procure and to pay the difference in value. Earlier on April 8, 1807 he had been shown the double barreled gun of his host, the treasurer, Francisco Xavier Truxillo. This weapon had been presented to him by William C.C. Claiborne, the governor of the Territory of Orleans.

Continued next month



Which Mountain Did Pike Climb? By John Patrick Michael Murphy *continued from page 1*

Robinson, Miller and Brown. Pike was the one only one who left a victim statement that gave a description of the mountain that could have killed them. If his description was clear enough to rule out all but one, then the oldest American mountaineering mystery could be solved. Here we have an advantage over a normal criminal case in that the real perpetrator could possibly not be in the line up and everyone could be innocent. Not so with Pike's mountain because the real culprit had to remain at the scene of the crime.

The Climbers Zebulon Montgomery Pike was 27 years old when he entered what was to be the State of Colorado on November 11, 1806. He was ambitious, thoughtful, and tolerant. He was selected to lead two expeditions into the newly acquired Louisiana Territory by the commanding general of the United States Army, General James Wilkinson. In 1805 he was sent to find the headwaters of the Mississippi River and, based upon his success, he was again selected by General Wilkinson, in 1806, to proceed to the southwest to find the source of the Arkansas River, which he accomplished. In addition he was to find the headwaters of the Red River (the last tributary to the Mississippi River on its west bank) and return home by following and mapping it back to the Mississippi. This latter order was impossible as he would be nowhere near its source which is in the panhandle of Texas. His side trip toward Pikes Peak was not in his orders but as General Wilkinson noted, "Pike likes to stretch his orders" and accomplish more than he was ordered.

Instead of following the Arkansas River upstream once he reached the mouth of Fountain Creek, Pike decided to climb what he called Grand Peak. He left 12 men on the south side of the river in a small breastwork they erected and took three men with him to climb the great mountain. They left at 1 P M Monday, November 24, 1806, thinking they would climb the peak and return Wednesday evening.

Pike would continue after his climb to explore Colorado from today's Cañon City, north to intersect Four Mile Creek, travel between Cripple Creek and Guffy, then over Ranger Station Gulch to Eleven Mile Reservoir, visit the Garo area, Antero Junction, down Trout Creek Pass, to Buena Vista, upstream to Twin Lakes, then downstream to Salida, Parkdale, Westcliffe, over Medano Pass to Great Sand Dunes and on to the Conejos River where he and his men built a stockade. They were taken on a "forced" tour of northern Mexico [then New Spain] and back through Texas to the United States. This last journey would change the history of our country and the world but that is not the focus of this article. He would become a general and die a hero's death leading his men in the first victory of our War of 1812 at York (today's Toronto), the capitol of Upper Canada. At the time of his death he was described as the most popular officer in the United States Army.

Dr. John Hamilton Robinson, a young physician volunteered to join the expedition. He was an idealistic adventurer who wanted to help liberate the people of Mexico from the yoke of Spain. Pike called him a liberal man with a genius eye. He was from Virginia and left his wife in St. Louis with their young son. Years later he would attempt to raise an army of filibusters to liberate Mexico. He left Pike at the stockade that was erected on the Conejos River and attempted to deceive the Spanish government as to his purpose for being in their territory.^[i]

Little is known about John Brown other than he was a private even though he was in his 50s during this expedition. He died in St. Louis aged 86. Later in the expedition, while the men were suffering terribly in the Wet Mountain Valley in late January 1807, he would openly grumble and say what most only thought. Pike threatened him with "instant death" if he heard any more complaining.

Theodore Miller was Pike's favorite soldier. He called him "agreeable in the woods." He, like Brown, was on both of Pike's expeditions and had accompanied Pike to the headwaters of the Mississippi while most of the men were at the stockade near Little Falls, Minnesota. He was with Pike when they separated from the rest of the group to head upstream from today's Buena Vista to find the headwaters of the Arkansas River. He was chosen by Pike to go all the way to Cañon City to try retrieving the horses left there and return with the two infirm men who were left near Horn Creek west of today's Westcliffe Colorado. He would be the only member to the expedition to die. He was killed by Sergeant Meek during a drunken scuffle while they were prisoners of the government of New Spain at Carazzal, near Chihuahua, Mexico.^[ii]

The Mountains Most area residents are not familiar with the mountains to the west of CO highway 115 which winds its way southwest to Penrose from Colorado Springs with the exception of Cheyenne Mountain. Cheyenne has 3 summits—the south summit studded with an antenna farm above NORAD; the north summit, where Spencer Penrose built a road in 1926 to the beautiful Cheyenne Mountain Lodge (razed in the 60s); and the west summit, which is the highest of the 3 at 9,565' which is above the Broadmoor Stables about 5 miles up the Old Stage Road.

As one proceeds south on Highway 115 the next mountain is Gray Back Peak another mountain with 3 summits. It is separated from Cheyenne Mountain by Rock Creek. The road then descends into Deadman Cañon which is part of the Little Fountain Creek drainage with Blue Mountain (9,766) now appearing on the west. As one climbs out of Deadman Cañon, the waters of Little Fountain Creek are left behind. The road starts a mild downhill, crosses Little Turkey Creek (at the Hitch Rack Ranch), and now Black Mountain (10,132) appears with Turkey Creek on its south side. Mount Miller (9,982), a ridge highpoint of Blue Mountain, is hidden from a Highway 115 perspective.

Much higher and farther to the northwest lays Mt. Rosa (11,499). Between Rosa and the front range of Cheyenne, Gray Backs, Blue, and Black, lies (from east to west) a barrier composed of Sugarloaf, Vigil, San Luis, McKinley, and newly named (2003) Knights Peak (10,490') which rises southeast of Rosemont Reservoir. Above this barrier of mountains lies the St. Peters Dome-Devils Slide ridge which connects to the south ridge of Mt. Ross. Mt. Rosa is twice the climb of any of the others ascending into the Alpine Zone with its summit at 11,499 feet above sea level. It was named for Rose Kingsley, of England who was an early visitor to Colorado Springs and a close friend of General Palmer and Helen Hunt Jackson. General Palmer named Mt. Rosa after her. As one looks to the south of Pikes Peak on the skyline from Colorado Springs, first the rolling summits of Mount Almagre are seen, and then a huge pyramidal peak appears with a long flat north ridge. That is Mt. Rosa, one of the finest climbing peaks in our area. It can be seen from Monument Hill on the north to the Pueblo Reservoir on the south. The best trail to the top starts at Frostys Park on its west side. It is not Pike's route but it will get you to his summit in two hours or less. *Continued next month*

^[i] *Bueler, William M. The Mountaineering Heritage, Guide to the Colorado Mountains*, Revised Ninth Edition, p.23.

^[ii] Jackson, Donald, *Zebulon Pike's Damed Rascals*, Pikes Peak Posse of Westerners, Occasional Papers, No 1.

^[iii] *Ibid*, p.5.



Top 10 Items Pike Would Purchase at Walmart-

- 10. Wool clothing.
- 9. Several Pairs of boots.
- 8. New weapons.
- 7. Porta-potty (portable toilet).
- 6. A GPS (satellite positioning system).
- 5. Cider and Cookies.
- 4. Walkie-talkies.
- 3. New tents.
- 2. Cell phones.
- 1. Trail Mix.

Join Now! 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>
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

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___ Providing educational opportunities

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___ I /we will personally contact legislators for legislative support

___ I /we will write letters of legislative support

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Contact us: 303/816-7424 harv.pike@gmail.com Additional gifts are tax deductible. Make checks payable to:

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