

# Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter



*Our Purpose:* To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail March 2011 Vol. 5 No 3

We are a Charitable nonprofit organization Our website is [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org)  
"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country." -Thomas Jefferson

## Annual Member and Board Meeting- April 30, 2011

The Pike NHT Association

Third Annual Meeting will be held outside Cañon City, CO at the Royal Gorge on Saturday, April 30 at 10 am.  
You and your guest are welcome to join us at 4 pm on Friday or on Saturday at 9:30 am.

We have been offered accommodations for the evening of April 29th, overlooking the Royal Gorge, and we will be dining, as on last Nov. 5th, at Merlino's Belvedere in nearby Lincoln Park. We will visit the site of the Cañon City stockade on our way. You are welcome to join us for the evening.

Our first two meetings have been in this pleasant atmosphere with spectacular scenery where the Pike party struggled just prior to New Year's eve 1807. Ride the inclined railway in Pike's Gulch where Pike climbed to exit the depths of the Gorge.

As many of you realize Cañon City is the location where the Pike Expedition made substantial decisions and discoveries heading in all directions to explore their course of travel. We are grateful to the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park for their generous offer of meeting facilities and accommodations on April 29 & 30.

We will look forward to a lively discussion regarding strategies and future plans for the Association. A special guest will make an announcement which will have an impact on discussion.

Goodbye Earth, Hello Sky.

### • For our supporters outside Colorado-

- Please, call your US Senator's office in Washington requesting that the Senator co-sponsor our bill- S 276.

Click on <http://zebulonpike.org/docs/news/01-11.pdf>  
or <http://zebulonpike.org/docs/news/02-11.pdf> for  
phone numbers and more information.

### • Five Association Committees-

Association Committees are forming for Membership, Legislative Support, Social Network, Site Information and Preservation and the Newsletter. Your location is not important. A great deal is done using various media. Contact us at 303/816-7424 or by email (addresses at end of this newsletter) to join one or more committees.

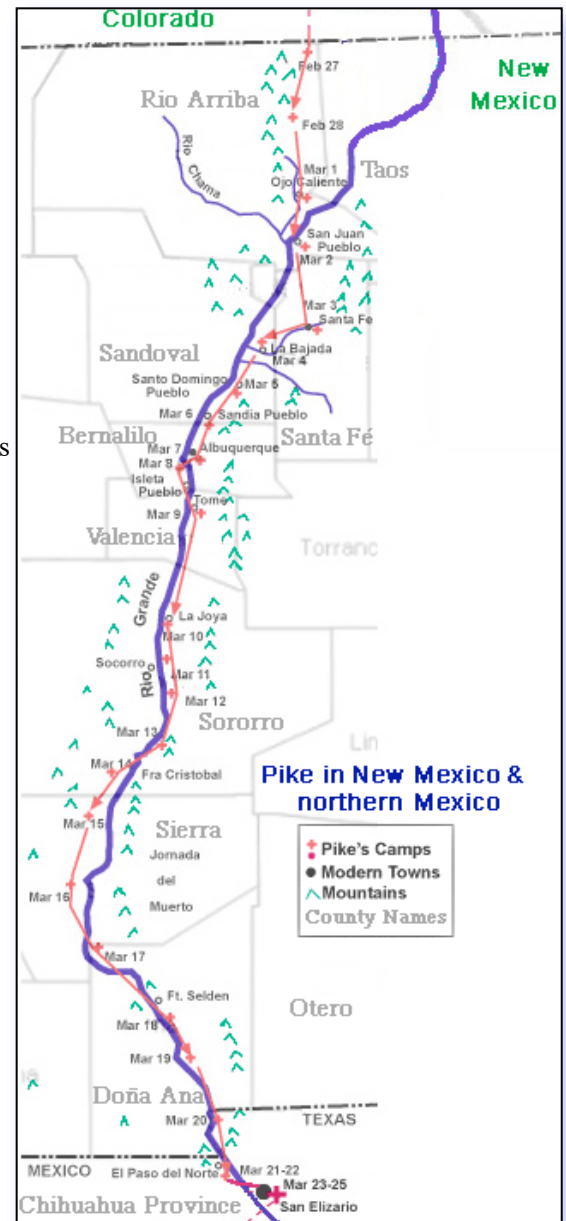
### • Pike's Experiences in March 1807- Santa Fé, Rio Grande, El Paso, Chihuahua-

by Allan Vainley

- During the month of March 1807, Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men:
- Ended February in the village of Warm Springs (Agua Caliente or Ojo Caliente NM) on Sunday, 3/1, after traveling in foot deep snow up the Conejos River from the Colorado stockade.
  - Were questioned by Governor Allencaster in the Santa Fé area about Dr. Robinson and the party's mission 2/3 through 5.
  - Traveled south on portions of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro March 5 through 21.
  - Arrived in El Paso [El Paso del Norte/ Ciudad Juárez], remaining March 21-25.
  - Continued on portions of the El Camino Real reaching El Peñol, north of Chihuahua in Chihuahua Province, Mexico on March 31, 1807.

Pike was not happy that the Spanish lieutenant Ignacio Saltelo remained at the stockade to escort those being rescued to Santa Fé, but rather his group with the two Frenchmen were escorted by Bartolomé Fernandez. To Saltelo on 2/27/07: *"I replied that he had deceived me, and had not acted with candor; but that it was now too late for me to remedy the evil."*

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*(Pike's March 1807 Experiences continues)*

On Tuesday, 3/3, they entered the Spanish capitol Santa Fé (where Gen. Steven Kearny occupied on Aug. 18th, 1846,) to be questioned and entertained by Governor Allencaster. During the 2nd day of questioning- Pike 3/4: *"I would not wish to be impertinent in my observations to your Excellency; but pray, sir! do you not think it was a greater infringement of our territory to send 600 miles in the Pawnees', than for me with our small party to come on the frontiers of yours with an intent to descend Red river?"* Governor. *'I do not understand you.'* Pike. *'No, sir! any further explanation is unnecessary.'* [The incursion of 400+ Spanish troops well into American soil at Red Cloud Nebraska was commanded by Lt. Malgares, who you will meet later.]

*"The dinner at the Governors' was rather splendid, having a variety of dishes and wines of the southern provinces; and when his Excellency was a little warmed with the influence of cheering liquor, he became very sociable."*

Pike's party was assigned Lt. Facundo Malgares to accompany them to Chihuahua leaving on 3/5. *"As it snowed very hard in the morning, we did not march until eleven o'clock."*

He found Dr. Robinson in a small village south of Albuquerque on 3/7. Pike indicated by the wearing of his sword, and that he was not a prisoner. Robinson was being detained was joined with the Pike party.

Pike relates the beginnings of a warm friendship with Lt. Malgares. They would be together in the coming months. *"Malgares, finding I did not feel myself at ease, took every means in his power to banish my reserve, which made it impossible on my part not to endeavor to appear cheerful. We conversed as well as we could, and in two hours were as well acquainted as some people would be in the same number of months."*

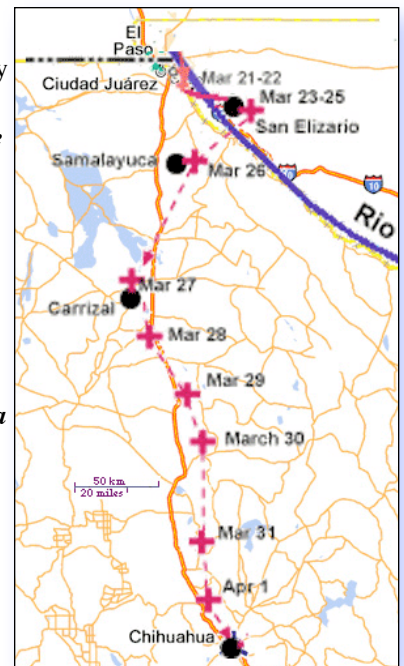
A fandango was thrown for them on 3/8 in St. Fernandez and others were given on their way through New Spain which gave Pike a chance to observe the social and political climate. And Malgares allowed Pike to privately record items in his journal. Entering the wilderness on 3/11, *"the road became rough, small hills running into the river, making valleys"*

They arrived in El Paso/ Ciudad Juárez on the morning of 3/21 and remained at Fort Elisiara (Elizario, just south of El Paso del Norte) until 3/26. *"We were received in a most hospitable manner by Don Pedro Roderique Rey, the lieutenant-governor. ... This was by far the most flourishing place we had been in."*

On Friday, March 27, 1807, *"Arrived at Carrizal [Carrizal, Mexico] at twelve o'clock,"* *"Here for the first time I saw the gazettes of Mexico, which gave rumors of Colonel [Aaron] Burr's conspiracies, the movements of our troops, etc.; but which were stated in so vague and undefined a manner as only to create our anxiety without throwing any light on the subject."*

On their approach to Chihuahua, they stayed the night of Tuesday 3/31 in *"a large and elegant house."*

March 1807- The Pike party of 7 began the month beside the Rio Grande on the Old Spanish Trail, which becomes the El Camino Real at the San Juan Pueblo [north of Santa Fé], and ended the month 40 miles north of Chihuahua. In the first days of April, Salcedo clouds formed. Meanwhile, Pike stoutly pointed out that his presence in New Spain was insignificant, reacquired the company of



Robinson, and learned of the Burr Conspiracy. Next month- **Pike's Experiences in April 1807**

- **Zebby Pike** Rachel Marsh (England) I apologize for a rather random e-mail, but when I was a child I sang in a multi-school music extravaganza in Crowthorne, England. The main feature was a song entitled 'Zebby Pike', a song so good it remains rooted in my brain 25 years later! The song is of course about the Zebulon Pike, and the lyrics I remember (close enough) are as follows:

"Gonna tell you about an old steamboat  
Whose name was Zebby Pike.  
Well, not just one but eight there were,  
And all eight looked alike.

Now the first one back in '17  
Alas was soon a wreck.  
Some sparks fell from the smoke-stack  
And they soon burnt up the deck.

I'd be very grateful if you can tell me whether you know the song and can remind me of the rest of the words! It obviously had quite an impact on me all those years ago, and now that I'm a music teacher I'd love to be able to teach it to the next generation.

They weren't all there together,  
But one by one they came  
A-steaming up the Mississippi'  
In search of lasting fame.

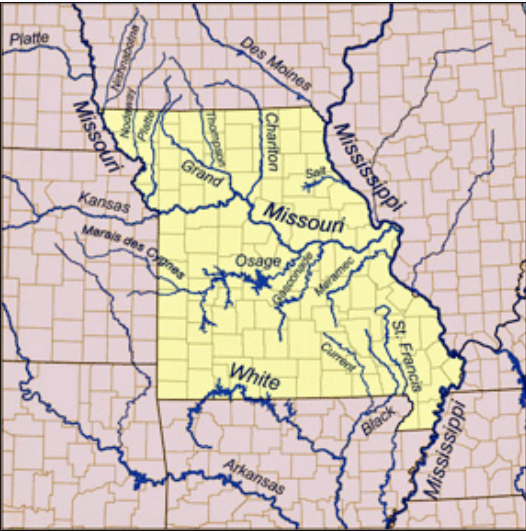
All the folks along Ol' Muddy,  
As they stood along the shore,  
Cried 'Oh Lord a-mercy, neighbour look,  
The Zebby Pike's no more' "

**Please contact the Pike National Historic Trail Association if you can help Rachel and us.**

## Rivers of the West Pike's Rivers -Crossed or Navigated Missouri Part 1

by Allen Vainley

Roads are important in our modern society. For the explorer and pioneer, rivers were important travel routes giving them a sense of location and sources of water and food.



On many modern maps, many rivers are not named and many are missing. The investigation into the *Rivers of the West Pike's Rivers -Crossed or Navigated* is turning out to be an interesting collection of facts and idle history into Pike's association with rivers.

**Ohio River-** In 1799, Zebulon Montgomery Pike received the rank of first lieutenant on the Ohio. He continued his military career in logistics and payroll at Ft. Massac (Metropolis, IL on the Ohio) under the command of his father, Zebulon Pike and at Kaskaskia IL on the Mississippi. When Illinois became a territory in 1809, Kaskaskia was Illinois' capitol. Now it is Illinois' smallest town.

Pike is remembered on the Ohio with locations such as Pike Island Pool and Dam north of Wheeling, WV, and Pike Lake State Park in Bainbridge, Ohio.

**Mississippi River-** Pike's 950 mile, 1805-6 exploration of the Mississippi (the eastern side of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase) from St. Louis reaching to present day Bemidji, MN, occurred in the snow and ice of Minnesota's winter. His party established the location of the headwaters of the Mississippi and American control of the upper Mississippi then controlled by British trappers. His orders were to locate the headwaters of the Mississippi River, identify potential sites for military posts, locate British fur traders, make peace with the Ojibwe and Dakota Indians and to raise the American flag wherever he went.

On Monday, September 23, 1805, Pike purchased 100,000 acres of land (price \$0.28/acre today) at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers from the Lakota (or Dakota) in the Treaty of St. Peters, often referred to as Pike's Purchase. Fort Snelling was built in 1819 on this land.

*"I then addressed them in a speech, which, though long and touching on many points, had for its principal object the granting of land at this place, falls of St. Anthony, and St. Croix (river), and making peace with the Chipeways."* *"They gave me the land required, about 100,000 acres, equal to \$200,000, and promised me a safe passport for myself and any [Chippewa] chiefs I might bring down"* Congress funded only \$2000.

Today, Minneapolis and St. Paul are located on this property immediately southeast of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport.



The Mississippi River is thought to be the longest river in North America being 2,320 miles long. However, the Missouri River is 2,341 miles long, and would be longer had it had not been re-channeled.

If the Missouri would have been reckoned as part of the Mississippi, the Mississippi would have been 3490 miles long. Missouri's entry into the Mississippi (on left in the satellite picture) has less width and dumps a great deal of silt into the Mississippi.

**Missouri River-** Missouri River mouth is 1149 miles up the Mississippi. (197 miles above the lower basin of the Mississippi)

There are 48 rivers, creeks, chutes or chases which feed the Missouri River between Ft. Bellefontaine and the confluence of the Missouri and Osage Rivers. 27 are on the north side of the river, 21 on the south side. Many of the chutes and creeks may have been dry in July 1806. Many creeks were crossed 2 times (ones around islands.) Many of Pike's encampments were on the south side of the river. The French had settled generally on the north side of the river as did the Germans in the late 1800's.

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- *Rivers of the West Pike's Rivers - Crossed or Navigated Missouri Part 1* continues

Today the north side seems the more traveled with the presence of Missouri Rt. 93 and the KATY Trail. Perhaps the Osage with Lt. Wilkinson followed the north side, Pike's boats were on the river, and Pike may have been ferried to the south encampments.

There is more regarding the Missouri, it's confluence with the Osage River, and Zebulon Montgomery Pike's *Rivers Pike Crossed or was on*. I'll leave you with this chart for you to see what is coming.

Day Crossed	Rivers Pike Crossed or was on in Missouri					
	Enters From	Latitude	Longitude	River Name	Location	Tributary of
	w	38° 48' 47"N	90° 7' 12"W	Missouri R mouth		Mississippi
		38° 49' 46"N	90° 12' 47"W	Bellefontaine staircase	N of St. Louis	
<b>Fri, Jul 25, 1806</b>	sw	38° 40' 31"N	91° 33' 1"W	Gasconade R	Gasconade	Missouri
<b>Mon, Jul 28, 1806</b>	sw	38° 35' 37"N	91° 56' 52"W	Osage R	E of Jefferson City	Missouri
<b>Fri, Aug 8, 1806</b>	w	38° 5' 4"N	92° 45' 37"W	Niangua R	N of Camdenton, W of Osage Beach above Bagnell Dam	Osage
<b>Tue, Aug 12, 1806</b>	nw	38° 13.5' N	93° 25' W	Grand R [South]	N (above) of Truman Dam Warsaw	Osage
<b>Wed, Aug 13, 1806</b>	se	38° 10' 40"N	93° 24' 17"W	Pomme de Terre R [Potato]	S of Warsaw (above Truman Dam)	Osage
<b>Sat, Aug 16, 1806</b>	s	38° 0' 54"N	93° 43' 8"W	Sac R	SSW of Osceola	Osage
<b>Mon, Aug 18, 1806</b>	w	38° 1' 39"N	94° 13' 29"W	Little Osage R	"6 mi W of Schell City"	Osage
		or 38° 1' 45"N	94° 16' 15"W	<---		
<b>Mon, Aug 18, 1806</b>	n	38° 2' 5"N	94° 16' 3"W	Marais de Cygnes R	"6 mi W of Schell City"	Osage
<b>Tue, Aug 19, 1806</b>	s	37° 59' 57"N	94° 19' 7"W	Marmaton R	7 mi SSE of Rich Hill	Little Osage

Please consider joining us with your membership. The membership form is on our website or contact us at 303/816-7424.

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