

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

LEGISLATION SUBMITTED TO Congress

The Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study Legislation is being introduced in the Senate by Senator Michael Bennet of Colorado. A similar bill will be introduced in the House. Both pieces [at this printing] have not been assigned a number, and we print the draft form below for your reference. We will consider your help to be useful and essential in supporting the passage of this legislation.

Pike National Historic Trail Study Act

DRAFT

111th CONGRESS

1st Session S. R. or H. R.

AN ACT

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico Texas and Louisiana which the Pike Southwest Expedition traversed in 1806 and 1807, for study for potential addition to the National Trails System.

- *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

- This Act may be cited as the 'Pike National Historic Trail Study Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

- Congress finds the following:

(1) Beginning in July of 1806 and ending in July of 1807, Lt./Capt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike led an Expedition of the southwest United States to return Osage Native Americans, seek peace among Plains Indians, and explore the headwaters of the Arkansas River and Red River watersheds.

(2) Pike noted natural features, geography, flora, and fauna of the Missouri, Osage, South Platte and Arkansas River watersheds.

(3) Lt. Pike and Lt. Wilkinson returned 51 Osage Native Americans (captured by the Potawatomie) to their homeland in southwest Missouri.

(4) Pike negotiated peace between the Osage, Kans, and Pawnee as well as asserting the new American authority over lands purchased from France in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

(5) The Expedition discovered, mapped and explored the headwaters of the Osage, South Platte and Arkansas rivers.

(6) After "capture" by the Spanish in February 1807, the 1806-7 Pike Southwest Expedition observed the geography and political climate in New Spain being brought through Santa Fe, El Paso del Norte, Chihuahua, Torreón, Guerrero, San Antonio, and Nacagdoches (TX) to Natchitoches, LA.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.

- Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

- ~~(XX)~~ The Pike National Historic Trail, a route of Lt./Capt. ZM Pike's 1806-07 Southwest Expedition from Fort Bellefontaine (St. Louis), returning Osage Native Americans to their homeland; negotiating peace between tribes in Nebraska; exploring the headwaters of the Osage, South Platte, and Arkansas rivers; and brought by the Spanish through El Paso, TX., Chihuahua Mex., Torreón, Durango Mex., Guerrero, Coahuila Mex., and San Antonio TX., to Natchitoches, LA.

We have in mind gaining a core of cosponsors in both the Senate and the House with your help especially in the 7 Pike states, setting up personal contact of Congressmen, writing personal letters to your Senators and Representative [rather than an email,] contacting members of the Congressional Trails Caucus, etc. A set of sample letters will be available.

Officer Pike by

DAVE PHILIPPS [THE GAZETTE- Colorado Springs] Lieutenant or captain? Zebulon Pike didn't know.

When he marched through the Rocky Mountains in the winter of 1806-1807, he wore the uniform of a lieutenant, introduced himself as a lieutenant and believed he was a lieutenant. In fact, he had been promoted to captain three months before, but because he had been wandering around in the wilderness, he didn't learn of his promotion until almost a

year later.

Pike became a career military man. He was made a major in 1808, shortly after he returned to the United States. By the time he fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811 he was a lieutenant colonel. He was promoted to full colonel on the eve of the War of 1812 and to brigadier general in 1813, just weeks before the battle that ended his life at the age of 34.

Which Mountain Did Pike Climb? By John Patrick Michael Murphy

continued from the February, 2009 issue Part 6 of 6

The Verdict Pike climbed Mt. Rosa to its summit by establishing a base camp near the foot of Agony Hill on Little Fountain Creek at today's Ft. Carson, and ascended Goat Mountain; then the south summit of Gray Back Peak; then north along its ridge line to Sugarloaf mountain which was skirted on its east side to the St. Peters Dome ridge; and then on to the south ridge of Mt. Rosa to near the ridge top, where the four men bivouacked the night of November 26. The next morning, on Thanksgiving Day, they achieved the summit of Rosa and retreated down to today's Wye Campground area where they met the north fork of Little Fountain Creek. They followed it through today's Bear Trap Ranch, Cather Springs, Emerald Valley Ranch and back to base camp. The next morning they ascended to the south side of Deadman Cañon and started their retreat march down Little Turkey Creek to its confluence with Turkey Creek, where they camped at the Shelving Rock. On Saturday, November 29 they continued down Turkey Creek until it ran too far to the south, here they left Turkey Creek and went cross country back to where they had left 12 men at the confluence of Fountain Creek with the Arkansas River. It was the first recorded ascent of any peak in the American West and it was the first climb recorded to the Alpine Zone in the United States. The highest point east of the Mississippi River is Mount Mitchell in North Carolina at 6,684' about the elevation of Pike's base camp.

In all, Pike climbed at least 8 summits in Colorado as he started western American mountaineering history. In order they are Lookout Hill (November 18, 1806) southwest of Rocky Ford; Gray Back Peak (November 26, 1806); Mt. Rosa (November 27, 1806); Spinney Mountain in South Park (December 16, 1806); the hill north of Twin Lakes, Colorado (December 22, 1806); Cactus Mountain (formerly Spikebuck Mountain) near Parkdale (January 1, 1807); Frémont Peak on the north side of the Royal Gorge, (January 5, 1807 on his 28th birthday); and Sierró Del Ojito, the lookout hill above his stockade on the Conejos River (February 1807).

Today it is actually impossible to retrace his entire route because part of it lies in the artillery impact zone of downrange Ft. Carson where no person can enter. The only other obstacle is the Louisiana State University Geology Camp. This property lies to the west of Highway 115 on Little Fountain Creek. I have been told by caretaker Dennis Porter, that they require 6 months advance notice of any planned hikes and require a signed agreement that their rules will be followed.

It is easier to climb Gray Back Peak from the north trailhead (Emerald Valley Road high point) and down climb Pike's route to the three summit of Goat Mountain and then come back. It is all within Pike National Forest as is the rest of his climb. From the same trailhead, one can traverse Sugarloaf Mountain to the north (on its east side) and once the north saddle is reached, cross the Gold Camp road, ascend the low point of the St. Peters Dome-Devils Slide ridge and follow it west to its connection with the south ridge of Mt. Rosa at about 10,000'. The south ridge of Rosa has the quarry scar, and by staying on its right side and ascending steep terrain the cave will be found just below the ridge and very close to where the ridge drops precipitously at 10,700'.

Pike's Forgotten Legacy This endeavor, like most of Pike's great achievements has been unnoticed in great measure. While Lewis and Clark surely helped the United States in acquiring the 3 states in the Oregon Territory, Pike just as surely helped us acquire the northern portions of North Dakota and Minnesota (Britain claimed all lands above the Missouri River) due to the hegemony he displayed on behalf of his country. Pike made British traders agree to pay taxes to the United States, take down their foreign flags, and stop giving medals and alcohol to the natives.

Moreover, by publishing his humble book in 1810, he told the world what Spain had been doing in the New World. Pike told how the peoples lives were regulated by the rattle of the drum and the peal of the bell—the military and church that controlled their lives. He put the lie to the idea that New Spain had banished slavery and described the *encomienda** system as nothing but servility. Essentially, Spain set up a system that "commended" the Indians who live on the lands to the landholder, to look after the spiritual and physical welfare, and in return, all their work and products were owned by the landholder who had to tithe 10% to the church.

The greatest landowner of all was the Catholic Church whose hierarchy vied with the military for ultimate control. Pike noted that the minor clergy were at opposition to the hierarchy and when independence came they would lead the way. About the same time Pike published in 1810, Padre Hidalgo was ringing the bell of freedom starting 11 years of revolutions that resulted in the country of Mexico becoming independent of Spain.

After Pike published his book, Spain realized that her borderlands in Mexico and Texas were too vast to be protected and, as a result allowed *impresarios* such as Moses and Steven Austin to claim vast landholdings in Texas so long as they remained loyal, taxpaying, militia-joining, Catholic citizens of New Spain. Mexico would follow Spain's example allowing Americans to colonize only to find they did not remain loyal. Once Texas became a republic and, a decade later, a state in the union, it brought on the War with Mexico, giving the United States California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, southeastern and western Colorado, and even parts of Wyoming. Pike, more than any other, was the one who helped populate Texas that resulted in the great bounty. In addition, he was the grandfather of the Santa Fe Trail as he had told the world that the people of northern New Spain yearned to trade with the United States.



*a grant by the Spanish Crown to a colonist in America conferring the right to demand tribute and forced labor from the Indian inhabitants of an area.

N.Y. town digs Pike, too

Colorado Springs Gazette article from the [Pikes Peak 200th Anniversary Edition](#) May 12, 2006 by DAVE PHILIPPS [THE GAZETTE]

SACKETS HARBOR, N.Y. - The village where explorer Zebulon Pike is buried

Strategic harbor was key

What was an explorer associated with the southwest doing on a lake on the Canadian border in the first place? And how did a town too small to even have a supermarket end up with him?

To find the answer, one has to go back to the War of 1812, when Sackets Harbor was "an assemblage of Grog Shops & houses of depravity," according to the diary of one passing officer, that happened to have the most strategic harbor on the Great Lakes.

In the days before railroads and canals, whoever controlled Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway controlled the war, said Stephen Wallace, a local history re-enactor, as he looked out his office window at Lake Ontario lapping at the edge of town. "If you owned the water, you could beat the enemy to every battle and burn all their towns."

In 1812, the British and Americans were skirmishing over territorial and trade disagreements. War was on the way, and both nations wanted to control Lake Ontario. Pike arrived in Sackets Harbor in the spring of 1813 with 1,700 troops.

Pike, a lieutenant when he set out for the West, had risen to the rank of brigadier general. He was ordered to lead the Americans across the lake to burn British ships anchored in Toronto (then known as York). Pike and his forces took the British and Canadians by surprise. As the enemy retreated, the Americans surged in to take the fort at York. The battle seemed over, but then someone blew up the magazine that held the British gunpowder. Huge blocks of stone shot through the air and one landed on Pike. The wounded general was carried to his ship, where, legend says, he heard a great hoorah go up from the shore. "What is that?" he asked.

"It's the shouts of victory," an attendant said.

Minutes later, the Americans took Toronto, lowered the British flag, folded it and tucked it under Pike's head as a pillow. A few minutes later, he died at age 34.

At least that's the legend.

What can be confirmed is a little less picturesque: After Pike died, he was stuffed into a barrel of whiskey to preserve him and taken back to Sackets Harbor, where he was buried on the edge of the lake in an iron casket full of a salty preservative.

This wasn't the end of the road for Pike. Even after passing away, he moved from place to place. And in death, as in life, he got lost. When Sackets Harbor started to expand, Pike and other dead from the War of 1812 stood in the way, so workers dug them up in 1818 and carted them across the harbor to a military cemetery.

In the winter of 1909, the nearby Army barracks needed more room, so Pike was unearthed again.

The grave diggers had to transport 300 bodies in freezing weather. According to a 1934 news story, "the workmen labored under such a nervous strain that whisky was given them four times a day."

Long story short: it was cold, they were in a hurry, the whiskey made them a little forgetful, and afterward they couldn't say for sure where Pike was reburied. They put a stone marker over what seemed to be the right spot and called it quits.

In a corner, surrounded by old cedars, a large granite marker reads: "BRIG. GEN'L Z.M. PIKE U.S.A AND HIS OFFICERS KILLED IN BATTLE ." "We're not sure if he's under there or not," Cleveland said. Along for the walk was Bob Brennan, the town historian. "I'd read everything we could find concerning where Pike was buried, and never found anything conclusive," he said. At one point, he turned to a dowser. Using two bent wires to sense Pike's presence, the dowser said the general was a few yards west of his monument. Then, in the summer of 2004, Laurie Rush, an archaeologist from nearby Fort Drum, took up the hunt with ground-penetrating radar and an instrument that measures soil disturbances through minute changes in electric conductivity. The data showed fuzzy blobs that could be Pike, lying a yard southwest of his monument. "We can't say we found Pike's for sure, but we found a series of correlating linear anomalies," she said. "It would make sense that it's Pike." Or maybe some of him. When those drunken workers moved the cemetery in 1909, they dropped Pike's casket. The remains, salty brine and all, spilled.



Pike's grave in Sackets Harbor, New York (Colorado Springs Gazette)

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

Name _____

I will be able to help with:

Address _____

___ The Pike Assoc. website

Town _____ State ___ Zip _____

___ Historic/heritage investigation

Phone (____) _____ Cell _____

___ Providing educational opportunities

___ Producing educational materials

e-mail _____

___ 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

Return address until Dec. 2009

13845 Shiloh Dr Conifer CO 80433