

Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter



Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail July August 2011 Vol. 5 No 6

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

Pike National Historic Trail Legislation-

The Pike National Historic Trail legislation, sponsored by US Sen. Bennet and Udall & in committee before the US Senate, is pending. We are beginning a push to gain Senate cosponsors. Your President will be in Washington to visit Pike state US Senators in October. We will be working with the SFTA, SHTA and ADTS to gain similar state resolutions to CO (see the April issue.) **Please, if you live outside Colorado, call your US Senator again to request they cosponsor S 276! Now is the time.**

• *Cowboys & Aliens* - On July 29, the block buster film [Cowboys & Aliens](#), starring Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig was released across the United States. We have a famous movie star on our Board- Rex Rideout. "I'm playing fiddle for the saloon scene in the trailer. What a ride!" Rex muses.

"I think I've seen him somewhere before," you say. Well Rex has played his fiddle throughout Colorado and Kansas, including Santa Fe Trail Association meetings. Make sure to catch Rex at a local movie theater.



This spar and sail plan for the *General Pike* was drawn by Charles Ware and shows the vessel's appearance when completed after the battle. Courtesy of the National Archives.

• *Duckett Fire* - The Duckett Fire in the Wet Mountain Valley near Westcliffe/Silver Cliff, CO has been extinguished.

• *Membership* - Thank you for our new members and those who have renewed their membership in the Pike National Historic Association! Many have not. To be able to continue to be effective we must request that, if you have not done so, memberships be renewed yearly.

• The life members helped us greatly, some giving well over their one-time share. See the web site for a membership form.

• *The General Pike* - In the spring we published song words about the fleet of paddle boats on the Mississippi which bore Zebulon Pike's name. The Zebby Pike song words we published in March came from Rachel Marsh in Crowthorne, England. We are attempting to gain permission to make the music available [also composed in England.]

• *The General Pike - However...* The drawing

printed here - the GENERAL PIKE - is the craft built by the American government to commemorate and remember Brigadier General Zebulon Montgomery Pike after 1813.

THE DEATH OF ZEBULON MONTGOMERY PIKE

by Tom Rollings, Upper Arkansas Area Coordinator of the Pike NHTA

After exploring the Louisiana Purchase and returning to the United States, Zebulon Pike rushed to publish a book containing information gathered during the expeditions. He remained in the military and lobbied the U.S. Congress for stipends for his "Dam'd Rascals."

Later promoted to Brigadier General, Zebulon M. Pike was held in high regard by his men, who bravely fought under his command at the Battle of York in the War of 1812. It was at this battle (one of the only major successful land battles for the American Army) that Pike was mortally wounded and died. There has been some question as to where he actually died and why he is buried in New York. [continued on page 2]



Tom beside Pike's Monument at Sackets Harbor, NY - Brig. General Covington's grave marker is behind Pike's. Yes, he is wearing a Denver Bronco's shirt.

My wife and I toured his final resting place and stayed in Sackets Harbor, New York to investigate the matter. Sackets Harbor is a beautiful deep-water port on the eastern edge of Lake Ontario. It became the U.S. Navy's base of operations for the War of 1812. Hundreds of the nation's finest carpenters flooded the port during the war, building some of the finest ships in the world. Many hundreds of soldiers and sailors also lived there at the time. The port was attacked twice, but managed to survive. It was never taken.

Zebulon Pike was severely wounded when a powder magazine was ignited in an attempt to cover the British retreat at the Battle of York (Toronto). General Pike was immediately taken to the shore, transported by small boat to the flagship, which sailed east across the full length of Lake Ontario to Sackets Harbor. He died early in route to the American base. As he was dying, a British flag (or possibly American flag) was folded, tri-corned fashion, placed under his head as a pillow. He was aware that this was done. This flag was lost in a fire that destroyed Pike's home and nearly killed his destitute widow.

Pike was buried with five of his men. A couple of generals and close comrades now rest in a concrete memorial in the small Sackets Harbor military cemetery. The remains have been moved from the original site when the entire cemetery was relocated. Then the men were moved again to a central location where they were honored with a wooden memorial, which tilted badly and rotted. Finally, a pot bellied concrete canon marks the resting place of Zebulon Pike, his generals, and fellow soldiers from the Battle of York.

A huge, triple mast sailing ship was built and named the "General Pike" in honor of one of America's greatest explorers and military heroes. The barracks in Sackets Harbor are named "Camp Pike."

Upon hearing that we were from Colorado, the mood of the museum staffer seemed to change. We were looking at a museum replica of a ship when the phone rang. "O shit," she sputtered, as she answered the phone. When she was finished with the phone call, she returned to inform us that "every year **someone** from Colorado comes to try to exhume the body and take it back to Colorado. We say NO!" As the mayor said in a town meeting, "This man has been through enough, and he is staying here. We say NO!" We assured everyone that we were not there to take Pike's remains back to Colorado. Our less-than-friendly museum staffer stated that she had been working there for 30 years. Apparently 29 years too long.

Should you have an opportunity to visit Sackets Harbor, be sure to walk around the trails and stop at the military cemetery. The best place to see a replica of the sailing ship the "General Pike" is not the museum, however. Go down to Main Street and stop by the Sackets Harbor Brewing Company. They have good food, good beer, friendly people, and t-shirts with a picture of the "General Pike" on the back.

• *Pike's Experiences in July 1806 The Arkansaw Journey- Bellefontaine onward-* by Allan Vainley

During the month of July 1806, Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men:



Hal Jackson, 2007

- Left Ft. Bellefontaine on Tues. July 15
- Spent three days in St. Charles where their interpreter was arrested,
- Sgt. Kennerman deserted on the 19th,
- Reached La Charrette late on the 21st,
- Reached the mouth of the Osage River on Monday July 28,
- On the 31st, Pike lost his dog, Fisher.

July 15, 1806, "We sailed from the landing at Belle Fontaine about 2 o'clock p.m., in two boats. Our party consisted of two lieutenants [Pike & Jas. Wilkinson, their commanding General's son and General of Jefferson's Army], **one surgeon** [to become Pike's friend Robinson, non-military], **two corporals, 16 privates and one interpreter** [Vasquez, volunteer.] We

had also under our charge chiefs of the Osage and Pawnees, with a number of women and children, had been ... redeemed from captivity among the Potowatomies, and were now to be returned to their friends at the Osage towns. The whole number of Indians amounted to 51." - Pike from his Journal [In the Pike party 22-1 dissertation +1 addition = 22] + 51 native Americans **73 in total.**

Thu. July 15, "We were about sailing when my interpreter [Vasquez] was arrested by the sheriff at the suit of Manuel De Liza, for a debt between \$300 and \$400, and was obliged to return to St. Louis." This apparently was not the first time M. de Lisa was up to this trick.

Pike wrote a letter to the General and Vasquez returned to the party on the 23rd. In the meantime, a George Henry was *“engaged, under oath, to accompany me on my tour”* on the 18th. On the 17th Pike had written- *“Mr. Henry, of New Jersey; [Pike’s home state] he spoke a little Spanish and French tolerably; he wished to go as a volunteer.”* Mr. Henry is mentioned later in the Journal in August.

The village of La Charette, the first settlement in present-day Warren County just south of Marthasville, MO, the westernmost settlement of the Louisiana Purchase and about 72 upriver miles from Bellefontaine; was visited after having experiencing *“the rain, was immensely heavy, with thunder and lightning remarkably severe.”*

The party was running into partial days of rain, and a few desertions by the Indians perhaps due to rumors of the presence of Sac. Pike and Wilkinson did accommodate some of the women and children with rides on the boats.

Thu. July 31- *“I this day lost my dog, and the misfortune was the greater, as we had no other dog which would bring anything out of the water. This was the dog Fisher had presented to me at Prairie des Chiens.”* which occurred on Pike’s Mississippi Expedition near the mouth of the Wisconsin River.

• **Pike’s Experiences in August 1806** During the month of August 1806, Zebulon Montgomery Pike with his men:



- Continued up the Osage River
- Thunder storms came and rain slowed the Indians and the Pike escort,
- Wilkinson and others accompanied the Osage cross country to the Grand and Little Osage villages,
- Reached the former fort of Pierre Chouteau on the 17th,
- Arrived at the confluences of the Little Osage, Marais de Cygnes, and Marmaton Rivers with the Osage River on the 18th,
- Remained with the Grand and Little Osage from the 19th until the end of the month.

Hal Jackson, 2007

Because of several days of rain, the Osage River had risen, ensuring passage, however slow in the increased current moving upriver, until the 7th of

August when the river again dropped. Recorded were the site of trout, bear & other creatures swimming in the water, as well as the largest rattle snake Pike had seen and elk.

Tue Aug 12- *“I was obliged to convince my red brethren that, if I protected them, I would not suffer them to plunder my men with impunity, for the chief had got one of my lads’ tin cups [his initials affixed] attached to his baggage...he refused to give it up.”* Through the interpreter, *“I requested him to deliver it up, or I should be obliged to take other measures to obtain it.’ This had the desired effect; for I certainly should have put my threats into execution, from this principle, formed from my experience, that if you have justice on your side, and do not enforce it, they universally despise you.”*

Fri Aug 15- Wilkinson, Robinson, Vasquez and one soldier returned. They brought several Indians to their villages to avoid several bends of the Osage River. *“They had been joined by their friends and relatives from the village, with horses to transport their baggage. Lieutenant Wilkinson informed me that their meeting was very tender and affectionate- ‘wives throwing themselves into the arms of their husbands, parents embracing their children ...’ ”*

Tue Aug 19- After arranging their baggage out of the boats, White Hair, the chief of the Grand Osage arrived with horses and 50 men from his village. *“We loaded and took our departure for the place where Manuel de Liza had his establishment,”* near Fort Carondelet *“and commenced pitching our encampment near the edge of the prairie,”* Pike called it Camp Independence at the of the confluence of the Marmaton and the Little Osage rivers which was between the Little Osage and Grand Osage villages. *“Our reception by the Osage was flattering, and particularly by White Hair and our fellow-travelers.”* Pike shared dinners and lodging with Pawhuska (White Hair) and Tuttasuggy (Wind). See Sept. & Oct. '08 Newsletter issues [archived on our website] for maps & pictures about Pike’s Aug visit & my visit to this area.

If you are into reading Pike’s Journal, we reprint this table from Oct. 2008: The principal Osage Pike and Lt. Wilkinson worked with were:

Osage Person	Indian Name	French Name	English Name
Grand Osage chief:	Pawhuska or Cahagatonga	Cheveux Blanche	White Hair
Grand Osage chief’s son:	Tetobasi	Sans Oreilles	Without Ears
Grand Osage chief’s son-in-law :	Watchawaha	Jean La Fon	John the Fool 2nd Grand Osage chief
Little Osage chief:	Tuttasuggy	Le Vent	Wind
Pike’s Osage Guide-	Shenga Wassa	Belle Oiseau	Beautiful Bird
The son of Shenga Wassa:	Chinga Wassa		Handsome Bird

Rivers of the West Pike's Rivers - Crossed or Navigated Missouri Part 2 by Allen Vainley

August 2011 follows part 1 March 2011 (Mississippi)

Pike, having explored the eastern side of the Louisiana Purchase in 1805-1806- the Mississippi River - and finding it's headwaters, is now on a second mission to explore the southern side of the Louisiana Purchase - The Arkansas and Red Rivers.

Pike's Mission- The southwest expedition had three main purposes, all three of which involved rivers in relative amounts. **The first** - To return 51 Osage and Pawnee Indians to their homelands. This involved moving up the Missouri and Osage rivers. **The second** - To gain American sovereignty on the Great Plains and establish peace. This involved following rivers and creeks to the Republican River and to the Arkansas. **The Third** - Locate the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers.



The mouth of the Missouri into the muddy Mississippi



Zebulon Montgomery Pike's Rivers
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. Pike Crossed or passed all of them.

The Gasconade & Osage Rivers are the rivers which feed the Missouri on Pike's trip.

The **Gasconade River** is 265 miles (425 km) long and is the second longest river completely

Rivers Pike Crossed or were on in Missouri

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

within the boundary of Missouri. It begins in the Ozarks at approximately 37°11'54"N 92°41'44"W, flows generally north-northeastwardly through 7 counties, through part of the Mark Twain National Forest, and into the Missouri River near the town of Gasconade at 38°40'28"N 91°32'55"W just downriver from the mouth of the Osage and Jefferson City.

The plateau elevation at the confluence with the Missouri is 500 feet (150 m) giving an overall drainage basin relief of 1,200 feet (370 m). The Gasconade River has been called one of the world's crookedest rivers.



The **Osage River** is 360 miles (579 km) long, the longest river completely within the boundary of Missouri. The Osage River is one of the larger rivers in Missouri. It's source is the Marais des Cygnes just north of Joplin and Nevada in southwest MO. It drains northwest areas of the Ozark Plateau & flows generally easterly in Missouri, then northeasterly for the final 80 miles where it joins the Missouri River. It is impounded in two major locations, the Harry S. Truman Reservoir [left] and the Lake of the Ozarks at Bagnell Dam [right.]



Next issue [Sept]- *Pike's Experiences in Sept 1806*

and we will continue our Series on Rivers introduced in the March 2011 issue and continued above.

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

© 2011, Pike National Historic Trail Association Contact: harv.pike@gmail.com Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org