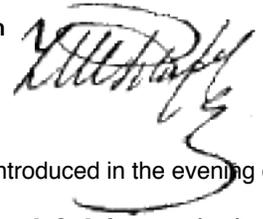


Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter Sept. 2010 Vol. 4 No 7

Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail 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



Wonderful News

The bill to study the feasibility of designating the Pike National Historic Trail as a National Historic Trail was introduced in the evening on Wednesday, September 29th by US Senator Michael Bennet.

We will need your help. See page 2 & 3 for particulars.

The bill number is S. 3926 and it reads:

FLO10704 S.L.C. 111THCONGRESS 2DSESSION

S. 3926

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Senator Bennet introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on IIIIIIIII

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the "Pike National Historic
5 Trail Study Act of 2010".

6 SEC. 2. WESTERN STATES TRAIL STUDY.

7 Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16
8 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

2

FLO19704 S.L.C.

1 "(46) PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.— The
2 Pike National Historic Trail, a series of routes ex-
3 tending approximately 3,664 miles, which follows the
4 route taken by Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike during
5 the 1806-1807 Pike expedition that began in Fort
6 Bellefontaine, Missouri, extended through portions
7 of the States of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New
8 Mexico, and Texas, and ended in Natchitoches, Lou-
9 isiana."

The Senator's office released an immediate news release on Friday, October 1st with the title:

Bennet Bill Would Start Process To Give Pike's Trail National Historic Trail Designation

Denver, CO – Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator for Colorado, announced today that he has introduced a bill to review a possible national historic trail designation to Pike's Trail, which follows Zebulon Pike's expedition into the American Southwest that began in 1806 and runs through stretches of southeast Colorado and the San Luis Valley.

Bennet's bill would amend the National Trails System Act to request that the National Park Service conduct a feasibility study. If the results of the study lead to a National Park Service recommendation of National Historic Trail Designation, a bill formally designating the trail would be introduced and Congress would then vote on adding the trail to the National Trails System.

"Pike's expedition is an important piece of the history of Colorado and of the American Southwest as the first American-led effort to explore the Rocky Mountains," Bennet said. "Historic Trail definition would ensure the trail's recognition for generations to come and would create more opportunities for heritage tourism and related economic development in surrounding communities across Southern Colorado and the San Luis Valley."

A National Historic Trail designation does not make the trail federal land. It does ensure that historic trails and surrounding areas, including remains of significant overland or water routes, are officially protected and recognized to reflect the history of the nation.

The National Trails System is a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968. National Historic Trails commemorate historic routes of travel that are of cultural significance to the entire country.

Pike's Trail follows Zebulon Montgomery Pike's expedition into the American southwest that began in 1806, about the same time of the Lewis and Clark expedition across the Northwestern United States to the Pacific coast.

Reaction - Monty's Remarks Pike National Historic Trail Association Vice President

Zebulon Montgomery "Monty" Pike is the 5th removed nephew and closest living relative of Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

"The Bill [S. 3926] is something that is necessary to making people aware of our history. Pike's expedition accomplished the gaining of knowledge of the American Southwest and, in part, gave Jefferson the tools for the extension of the US boundaries. His travels opened up doors.

What the Pike, and Lewis and Clark missions were all about was the expansion of US. Both expeditions were accomplished without the necessity of a fight. On the Southwest Expedition, Pike established peace on the Great Plains, drew new maps and gained for the United States a wealth of information about the central and southern regions of the Louisiana Purchase. [Continued on next page]

Monty's remarks- continued "It is impressive to realize the conditions under which the Pike Expedition endured. Drastically cold, snow, high terrain, hunger and dangerous conditions. Since Pike was one of the earliest explorers of the Southwest, we add to these difficulties their sketchy knowledge of the Rockies, with no good fall back map. They were making the maps.

I live in the area where Pike spent Christmas. Snow and cold is commonplace here, year after year. I've been in those areas Pike and his men were, at same time of year, several times. I've felt their feelings, and walked in their footsteps."

I have felt the conditions they endured in the upper Arkansas River Valley, the Wet Mountain Valley, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the San Luis Valley.

The Expedition was absolutely remarkable.

Other Pike Board Member and Advisor Remarks-

"Congratulations! You are off and running and have a good plan for securing Senate support." - Jim Mallory, Pike Advisor & President Lewis & Clark Foundation

"Way to go! Nice work!" - Will Kerns, AICP Transportation Planner

"Way to go! Great work. I am ready to ask my senators to cosponsor the bill and sending out NM Press Releases. I will also follow up with calls to the local office and will get friends and family to push them as well." - Brian Murphy, Pike NHT Association New Mexico State Coordinator

"I can help the phone calls. Talking points are always a big help for me." - Pat Palmer, Pike NHT Association SE Colorado Coordinator

[We have talking points \[see page 3 below\] and will have specific US Senator Staffer's information soon and will disseminate it.](#)

"Fantastic news!!!! With the introduction of bill S.3926 the efforts of so many people have paid off. The establishment of the National Pike Trail is an important step in bringing to the attention of the American public the importance of Pike's achievements in the development of our nation." - Don Headlee, Pike NHT Association Board Member

"This is great news. Tourism is the number 2 industry in the State and adding another historic trail only improves our region as a destination. Heritage Tourism is a real hot button in drawing affluent visitors to a region." - Mike Bandera, Pike NHT Association Board Member

"All Pike states would benefit from increased tourism on the Pike, Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Old Spanish, El Camino Real de Terra Adentro, and El Camino Real de los Tejos NHTs; educational and preservation efforts; and preservation of this part of American early history," said Harv Hisgen, President- Pike National Historic Trail Association. "The Pike designation will enhance all Pike states' heritage efforts."

Thanks- We all are very happy. We wish to thank Annie Oatman-Gardner in US Senator Bennet's Colorado Springs office and Sean Babbington, the Bennet staffer in Washington on a strategy. They assure us that this bill is uncontroversial and that they will "fight" for its passage.

The strategy for passage-

- Press releases- both from the Senator's office and from our Association, [Accomplished this week]
- House companion bill if useful and necessary, [Two US Congressmen approached 10/5 and 7]
- Pike Newsletter release,
- Establish specific US Senator staffer names and phone numbers to call in the 7 Pike states,

We will, in a couple weeks, be having people from other Pike states calling their Senator's staffer to request co-sponsorship and further to support for the bill. [We say staffer because they will be more likely to call if they know it is being received by the right person.] The specific staffer for US Senator Bennet's office is Annie Oatman-Gardner given at the top of page 3.

- Create a list of "Talking points" for callers, [See below]
- Gathering of cosponsors [Members and supporters call their US Senator's Staffer],

We are encouraging our members, those who wrote letters of support, relatives, and acquaintances to contact their US Senator's staffers to not only become cosponsors but also to vote for the Bill in committee and on the Senate floor.

- Create a ground swell- "a Buzz" of support and passage of the bills,
- Have our supporters [members, relatives, friends, acquaintances, etc.] call their US Senator's Staffers in the 7 Pike states on a date to be determined within the next six weeks,
- Have our supporters [members, relatives, friends, acquaintances, etc.] call their US Senator's Staffers in the 30 states we have supporters on a date within the next six weeks,
- Create support for the House Companion bill should this bill be necessary.

Dear Pike National Trail Supporter,

Congratulations! Because of your on-going interest and determination to see the Pike National Historic Trail become a reality, a new feasibility bill is presently being introduced to Congress. It is S. 3926 – The "Pike National Historic Trail Study Act of 2010."

As you know, our association has been collecting, cataloging, and presenting numerous letters of support from various parts of the country for this legislation. There have been meetings, discussions, and informational gatherings to enable governmental entities to see the benefit of such a trail. To the county commissions, private parties, and businesses that have helped us get to this point...THANK YOU.

Our next step is to encourage you to help us get this bill passed by calling your US Senator's designated staffer to ask your Senator to co-sponsor S. 3926 and to vote in favor of this legislation. Phone calls work best, but e-mails count as well. Because of security, letters require time to reach your Congressman.

Please be prepared to contact your Congressman's staffers as soon as possible! We will be contacting you as to when and who to contact.

Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana Residents--- We would like to know of your willingness to call your US Senator's staffer. Please call or email **Annie Oatman-Gardner** Regional Director Pikes Peak Office Colorado Springs, CO 719-328-1100 ph 719-328-1129 fax annie_oatman-gardner@bennet.senate.gov

Colorado Residents--- To voice your support to US Senator Bennet- Call or email **Annie Oatman-Gardner** Regional Director Pikes Peak Office Colorado Springs, CO 719-328-1100 ph 719-328-1129 fax annie_oatman-gardner@bennet.senate.gov

Senator Mark Udall's information will be published soon.

US Senator Mark Udall [CO] is Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and member of the Committee. We have been assured of Senator Udall's support, and are looking for confirmation of his co-sponsorship. It is through Senator Udall's Committees that S. 3926 must pass to get to the floor of the Senate.

Residents the other non-Pike state supporters--- We would like to know of your willingness to call your US Senator to seek co-sponsorship and support. Please email: **Harv Hisgen** President Pike National Historic Trail Association harv.pike@gmail.com indicating your willingness [or if you have questions.]

"Talking Points"-

Some of the benefits of this new trail would be:

1. historical preservation
2. cultural recognition and documentation
3. recreational and historical tourism
4. educational enlightenment
5. illumination of the American character through exploration
6. Concern regarding costs- National Historic Trails use roads to get from site to site. There is no physical path built. This means that NHT's public costs are extremely low.

We trust you will be willing to call your US Senator staffers from your state when we determine their names, phone number, and email address.

Several of you have told the Pike NHT Assoc. that you are ready with a list of friends you will call to encourage their contacting their Senators when we need to contact Senator's offices and appropriate staffers.

Thanks to: Stew Brown Nathrop, CO- June 4, 2010 Letter to the Editor Colorado Country Life magazine

Stew wrote- There is an effort to create a National Historic Trail for Zebulon Pike. The young officer dispatched from St. Louis, MO to map the Arkansas River for the United States after the Louisiana Purchase in 1806. Of course much of that trail later became the Santa Fe Trail that opened up the southwest territory for trading and eventually the settlement of southern California. But Pike went on to be the first American to explore and map the south central area of Colorado, then penetrate New Spain and gather important intelligence information on the southwest territories and how Spain governed their territory.

A committee of volunteers is gathering support letters from Missouri to New Mexico, Mexico and Texas for the U.S. to recognize this historic mission by federal designation as a National Historic Trail and creating auto routes near the Pike route.

Annual Member and Board Meeting- November 5&6, 2010 [Friday and Saturday]

The Pike NHT Association Annual Meeting will be held outside Cañon City, Colorado on Saturday November 6th. Please contact the Association with confirmation - 303/816-7424 or by email to harv.pike@gmail.com. Please mark this event on your calendar. Plan to arrive on Friday afternoon to share a meal and warm conversation. There will be an evening presentation and lively debate regarding Pike legislation and Pike Interpretive sites. Lodging will be available that evening in the warm Lodge. We had a wonderful experience in this facility last year!

Zebulon Pike: Anglo Interloper, American Hero by Brian Murphy- Pike NHT Assoc. New Mexico Coordinator

Historian Brian Murphy spoke on "Zebulon Montgomery Pike: Anglo Interloper, American Hero." Apr 14, 2010. This is the 3rd and final part of the text of his presentation in Santa Fe.

Pike crosses the Sangre de Cristos- Pike left some of his men behind. They were invalids. The ones who could go on crossed the mountains in southern Colorado across the pass in the area where the Great Sand Dunes are. This is in January of '07. He's got eight men when he comes down out of the mountains. [Actually he had more than 8 with two men returning over the mountains to successfully retrieve the three left in the Wet Mountain Valley with frost bite and two in Cañon City tending the remaining horses. So seven were away from the stockade and 2 were left to wait for them when the 8 were brought to Santa Fe.] On February 1st he begins to build a stockade [in the San Luis Valley] on a tributary of the Rio Grande. He sent back for the men left behind. The stockade was probably more comfortable than the situation he had been in recently. On February 16th, he is approached by two men on horseback. One is a Spanish dragoon and the other was a civilized indian, as he called him, or Pueblo indian. They shared some food with the Spaniards and they left the next day. By this time Dr. Robinson had headed for Santa Fe and these guys were certainly headed back. So the word was out that Pike and his guys were there trespassing in Spanish territory.

There's a very heart wrenching entry in Pike's journal regarding the men who were left behind who were frostbitten. I'll read this from his journal- "Daughtery and Sparks were unable to come. They said that they had hailed them with tears of joy and were in despair when they left them with the

chance of never seeing them again. They sent on to me some of the bones taken out of their feet and conjured by all that was sacred not be left from the civilized world." So they were pleading not to be left there to die.

So the Spanish know that Pike is at the stockade on the Conejos River and sent their men to intercept Pike. About 100 men went up there and took Pike prisoner, although they did let them keep their arms. How was Pike to escape them? They decide to bring Pike down to Santa Fe for questioning and eventually he is sent to Chihuahua where the Governor of the Internal Provinces lived to be interrogated by the Governor there, Governor Salcado [Nemesio Salcedo]. By doing that Pike was able to find out more about the Spanish territories than he could have ever hoped for. Salcado was reprimanded by his superiors for releasing Pike because Pike was escorted into Texas. I believe some of them would have kept him as a bargaining chip, for a formal apology from the Jefferson administration acknowledging that Pike shouldn't be there and that he was trespassing. It was like a God sent, he learned a lot of information which he published in his 1810 book.

Pike is met by the soldiers at the stockade, to backtrack a little. Pike noted that they were armed with lances, escapades and pistols. He doesn't mention the sword which the Presidio soldiers might have had which I have up here in my display. Pike was supposedly a prisoner, but he is treated often as a guest of honor. The Spanish people in the area, the civilians, treat them very nicely. They invite them into their homes. They feed the men. They give them the best bed in the house. The women dress the wounds of the frostbitten ones. They're given fandangos along the way. So they're treated like guests of honor not prisoners at times. Pike mentions in his journal thanking the Spanish for their hospitality. He was very indebted to them for that. And don't forget he had been starving in the cold, it was great.

So as I said he dined with the Governor in Santa Fe. He spent the night with Lt. Bartholemew at his home. He becomes very friendly with the Spanish Lieutenant. They were together for quite a while and both had tears in their eyes when they parted saying goodbye to each other.

So Pike was escorted down the Royal Road to Chihuahua. Governor Salcado interrogates him and confiscates much of Pike's notes and papers. He didn't want Pike bringing them back to the American government. Interesting those papers were discovered by Eugene Bolton, who was poking around Mexico, about a hundred years after this and found them in the Mexican archives. He lobbied the Mexican government to return Pike's papers and Mexico returned Pike's papers to our country. They are now in our National Archives.

As I said, he learned more than he could have hoped for. He describes the Mexican people as "the bravest and most hardy subjects in Spain."

There's an old Spanish soldier- Alamosa, who presents Pike with his cap, a whip and a letter of recommendation, a letter to carry toward Chihuahua. Lt. Melgares now is in charge of escorting Pike south, and although they were advisories, they were very much alike and became very friendly with each other. Pike notes about the Lieutenant that "he was one of the first officers or citizens who were loyal to their King. He felt indignant at the degraded state of the Spanish monarchy and who deprecated a separation of Spanish America from the mother country." Pike pointing that out, many in the Spanish army perhaps were not that loyal.

Post Expedition- Here is a portrait of Pike done by Charles Wilson Peale after the Southwest exploration. Pike was in the War of 1812 rising to general. One of his junior officers called him the Ulysses of New Jersey. He was very highly regarded. He was highly regarded by his junior officers and his superiors, by members of Congress and the administration. That was how he was able to rise so fast through the ranks. He was only 34 when he was appointed Brigadier General. Pike was killed in Canada at the Battle of York (now Toronto). In a quote from one of his junior officers Captain Scott, he held Pike in very high regard. Pike was only one of two generals killed in the War of 1812. They called the Battle of York a victory although we lost a lot of men. It did disrupt the supply line for the British.

This is a plate made in Workshire England in 1815. The War was over and our British friends couldn't wait to pay to our vanity- make items with pictures of our American heroes and ship them back to the United States.

Pike brought back items from his expedition. He brought back two bear cubs that he purchased from an Indian. He sent the cubs to Thomas Jefferson who was very flattered, but what am I to do with them? Jefferson sent them on to Charles Wilson Peale who had a museum in Philadelphia. These grizzly bears get big and one of them escaped to threaten one of Peale's neighbors. Peale had to shoot the bear. The other bear was put down the next day. Peale stuffed them and put them in his history museum.

Summary- Pike doing his reconnaissance in New Spain brought back a lot of information. He gives a good description of the military forces. He was able to realize that there were some morale problems among the Spanish speaking people. Items were not available for trade and expensive when they had to travel so far on the Royal Road to get them. Pike pointed out some things in his book which the Americans were able to exploit. The Spanish knew that Jefferson had designs across the continent to the Pacific Ocean.

Questions- Jefferson did not send Pike, Wilkinson did. He was informed shortly after Pike left, and was kept apprised of Pike's progress.

- Pike admits that he was not a botanist. He was out there doing what military guys do

- I got interested over ten years ago in Pike with some papers written by a Captain in Pike's regiment, the 15th Regiment, called Pike's Regiment. That Regiment was very well respected, which Pike had a lot to do with. We lived in the town where that Captain was from. A town called Amwell, New Jersey.

- What Pike's book did is focus attention on this part of the country. As I said that paved the way to the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. The eastern Anglos, the United States citizens were entrepreneurs and wanted to come down to trade with anyone they could. He brought the knowledge that goods were expensive in Santa Fe. He knew that some of the people were hoping for a change in government. Pike foreshadowed the Mexican independence movement and was encouraging Mexican Independence in his journal.

- Jackson's version of Pike's Journal is in two volumes.

Time to renew your membership- see the membership form on the website.

We will need your help in creating an awareness in Congress for passage of S. 3926!