



*Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail*  
 We are a Charitable nonprofit organization [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org)  
 Our website is  
 "Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country." -Thomas Jefferson

# Pike National Historic Trail Association

Newsletter September 2015 Vol. 9 No. 6



## Membership Drive Report

We now have 18 new members, and \$2218 was contributed above and beyond memberships at various levels. Furthermore, one of our new coin sets are now on display in the Fremont County Museum courtesy of one of our membership recipient's donation.

**If you have not- Please join us!** Please encourage your friends to visit our website- [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org) inquiring about membership. Printed membership brochures are available via snail mail from the Association address.

We will need matching funds should we acquire additional grants for projects. If you have Corporate Contacts regarding partnerships- contact the Association at 303/ 816 7424.

## Eagle project Monty Pike interview-

We are cooperating with the Boy Scouts to provide Eagle projects including video and other items which will be linked to the smart phone app 'Pike Legacy'. We talked with Monty on Sep 4 and he is anxious to be involved with the interviews regarding his great, great, great Granduncle and his own life.

Monty will be asked these questions by Zander Scarbrough, Troop 780 Castle Rock, CO, for his Eagle project—

- Why were you named Zebulon Montgomery Pike?
- Are you the GGG Grandnephew of the famous explorer?
- ZM Pike was also called Monty. Is that a family thing?
- To what extent has your uncle influenced the actions in your life?



Pictured are Erin [Zander's mom], Zander and Pat Surrera [Zander's grandfather]

## President's Report

On Friday, 4 Sep (2015) we met with the in the Executive Director of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area [SdCNHA], the Director of the Fort Garland and Pike Stockade and the Director of the San Luis Valley Museum in the San Luis Valley Museum, in Alamosa CO. The most significant item coming from this meeting was the need for cooperation of all entities in the Valley to work for "We're Cool in the San Luis Valley."

Items shared-

- **Federal (US Senate)** The Pike legislation sponsored by Sen. Bennett and Sen. Udall has not gone beyond a hearing in Senate committee for six years.

- **Colorado Pike State Trail-** Under the leadership of Linda Balough, Executive Director - South Park National Heritage Area, State Sen. Newell, Sen. Grantham and Rep. Jon Keyser, are drafting the Colorado Pike State Trail legislation.

**Background-** Since the federal legislation is going nowhere and we have so much support in Colorado, Linda suggested that we go for this legislation. In 2010 the Colorado State legislature passed a unanimous resolution to support the national legislation. We will also be going after mayors, Chambers, historical and heritage societies in the 15 counties Pike traversed to renew their commitment in Colorado.

- **Smart phone app-** "Pike Legacy"- Many of the sites and historical venues in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado will be featured on our smart phone app. It is scheduled to be published at the end of October.

- **Roadside Panels-Grant applications-** The Pike Association is currently attempting to increase the number of Pike roadside panels from 18 to 31 in Colorado. This is principally being done in the Pike's Peak area, the upper Arkansas, and in the San Luis Valley. We have applied for a \$6800 grant for 8 additional Panels in the San Luis Valley from SdCNHA. We thank those who sent letters of support and for the cooperation we have received thus far.

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President's Report continues

- **Pike Memorabilia Preservation**- Erwin and the Association are in charge of preserving Pike memorabilia. To fund this effort principally at the San Luis Museum, we are offering at various venues Pike commemorative coins.

**In the afternoon** we met with Superintendent Lisa Carrico and two staff members at the **Great Sand Dunes National Park** in the National Park Administration building.

We went over most of the items mentioned above. A warm relationship was established.

**Later in the afternoon** we met with the Director of the Western Nat. Pks. Assoc. In the visitor Center. He was very receptive regarding the sale of the Pike coin set in the Visitor's Center.

**In the evening** we visited with Monte and Grace Pike in Salina, CO. He is doing well from his fall!

He emphasized the need to involve school districts in our various projects, all the way from Holly, on the eastern KS border to Antonio, on our NM border. HH

### *We will need your help-*

**Help from Colorado residents**- When the Colorado legislation is about to be introduced both in the Colorado house and senate, Linda or Harv will notify you so that you can contact your State Senator and Representative to cosponsor these bills. Let us know if you will help so that we can call you.

**Help from everyone**- We will need your help in making it known that the 'Pike Legacy' FREE app will be available in the Apple Store online. Again let us know if you will do this by calling or emailing the Association. What good is app and all the work that goes into it if no one knows about it, doesn't pick it up for free, and doesn't use it.

### *Jefferson's Islamist threat, slavery, and George Washington* by Allan Vainley

*We are on the lookout for material of current interest connected with Pike. We present the following two articles.*

Jefferson wrote- "Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country."

Washington was Zebulon Pike's commanding general in the Revolutionary War.

Zebulon Pike's son Zebulon Montgomery Pike, explored two parts of the Louisiana Purchase when Thomas Jefferson was president.

**Slavery** As you walk around the grounds at Mount Vernon, you'll run across Washington's slave burial ground. Anyone who has visited Jefferson's Monticello knows that the topic of slavery is discussed. I was interested in exploring the topic of "How many of our country's Founding fathers owned slaves?" The key Founding Fathers- John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington all owned slaves. (Three of these (Hamilton, Madison and Jay) were authors of the *The Federalist Papers*).

David Barton writes, "...While Jefferson himself had introduced a bill designed to end slavery, some of the southern Founders [North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia] were opposed to slavery. ... Yet, despite the support for slavery in those States, the clear majority of the Founders opposed this evil." For passage, an anti-slavery clause did not appear in the Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.

Slaves were common then chiefly for economic reasons. Many slaves were inherited by plantation owners. More humane slave owners either freed their slaves or made deals with them namely- the newly freed people could stay in their homes and actually see a profit, and the plantation owner was able to keep up. Some slaves refused to leave.

Washington, emancipated his slaves in his will. By 1799, when George Washington died, there were 316 slaves living on the estate.

The value of Jefferson's land and slaves was used to offset his debts upon his death.

Today the topic of slavery can be a divisive one.

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George Washington (John Trumbull, 1780), also depicts William Lee, Washington's enslaved personal servant, who for many years spent more time in Washington's presence than any other man.

### Islamist radicals

Thomas Jefferson, **Pike's President**, had a number of encounters with Islamist radicals. Perhaps this will be of interest.

Here are quotes from the Introduction from a book published late in August 2015 — —

With 6500 books being donated by Jefferson to the newly rebuilt Library of Congress was a well-worn two volume set that he believed offered his nation a warning.

Jefferson had bought these volumes, bound in leather and filled with yellowed pages that crackled when you turn them, 40 years earlier when he'd been a young red haired law student in Williamsburg. ...

As a student of the law, Jefferson was curious about the laws of many kinds, including those that had a voice in exotic lands and claimed to carry the word of God. That is why, when he wandered in the offices of the *Virginia Gazette*, the local newspaper that doubled as a bookstore, one day in October 1765, Jefferson found the two volumes set so tantalizing. Printed in London by a British lawyer named George Sale, the books were one of the first English translations of the Koran [Quran]. After paying 16 shillings, Thomas Jefferson held in his hands the holy books of Islam. He kept them among his possessions for the following four decades. ...

We do know that he was the only founding father to have a basic understanding of Arabic. We do know that he promoted and championed the creation of an Oriental languages department at his alma mater, the College of William and Mary. And we do know that he would be the first American president to go to war with the Islamic radicals [the Barbary Pirates].

It is clear, however, that Jefferson was, to put it mildly, suspicious of Islam. ...

In March 1786, after America had won on its independence, Jefferson was serving as Minister to France. ... One of the thorniest issues he had to confront was a growing power of the Barbary States, four North African territories that sponsored marauding pirates who are increasingly confiscating thousands of dollars of American shipping and enslaving hundreds of US citizens in prisons across the Mediterranean.

In London, Jefferson and his fellow diplomat John Adams met with the ambassador from Pasha of Tripoli, a man named Abdul Rahman, to resolve the growing dispute. The war that existed between his nation and America, the ambassador explained, "was founded on the laws of their Prophet." The capture of US ships and people was a just and holy war, sanctioned by the Koran.

... Jefferson's path starts with reading the primary sources and original texts of Islam in an effort to better understand how millions of Muslims interpret their faith.

Every day around the world Islamist fanatics are plotting ways to kill us. They do so under the banner of a supremacist ideology that pits Islam against the rest the world and commands the murder of those who do not willingly submit.

SOURCE: Glenn Beck, 'It Is About Islam,' Sunday- August 23, 2015

### *A Person in Pike's life: James Wilkinson*

by Allan Vainley and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Wilkinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Wilkinson)



**James Wilkinson** (March 24, 1757 near Benedict, MD– December 28, 1825 Mexico City, Mexico) age of 68. He was buried in Mexico City, Mexico. After his death, he was discovered to have been a paid agent of the Spanish crown. "James Wilkinson at pbs.org". Retrieved 2009-09-20.

James Wilkinson and **Ann Biddle** (1742–1807) had four sons: John (1780–1796), James Biddle\* (c. 1783 – September 17, 1813), Joseph Biddle (1789-1865), and Walter (born 1791)] and 2 daughters.

\* officer in the 1806 Pike SW Expedition

**Military Career- 6th Senior Officer of the Army In office - December 15, 1796 – July 13, 1798**  
President - **George Washington & John Adams** Succeeded by **George Washington**

**9th Senior Officer of the Army In office - June 15, 1800 – January 27, 1812**

President- **John Adams & Thomas Jefferson** James Madison Preceded by **Alexander Hamilton** Succeeded by **Henry Dearborn**

**1st Governor of Louisiana Territory In office - 1805–1807**

President - **Thomas Jefferson** Preceded by **William Henry Harrison** Governor of the **District of Louisiana** Succeeded by **Meriwether Lewis**

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U.S. Envoy to Mexico In office - 1816–1825 Political party Federalist Party Wilkinson- continued

Spouse(s) - Ann Biddle Wilkinson, and Celestine Laveau Trudeau

Signature James Wilkinson

Connections with Aaron Burr

In 1804–05, he exchanged communications with Aaron Burr regarding Burr's conspiracy to set up an independent nation in the west. Some embittered associates (specifically, Jefferson's cabinet members)[who?] later claimed that Wilkinson was the mastermind behind the plot of which Burr was accused. Others, namely author Theodore Crackel, played devil's advocate (Wilkinson's advocate), supporting Wilkinson's innocence and declaring that he was a scapegoat for Aaron Burr's reputation. (Crackel, Mr. Jefferson's Army, p. 132).

In 1805, following the Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson appointed Wilkinson Governor of the Louisiana Territory, despite his high-ranking military position. This was unusual; Jefferson gave Wilkinson a startling amount of power and authority. Wilkinson sent Zebulon Pike on expeditions in 1805 and 1806 to discover the source of the Mississippi River and establish American control. He then sent Pike on the other side of Louisiana Purchase in 1806 and 1807.

He was removed from the Territorial Governor's office after being publicly criticized for heavy-handed administration and abuse of power (and replaced with Meriwether Lewis). Noting the lack of support for his new nation with Burr, Wilkinson revealed Burr's plans to Jefferson. Later, he had his own troops arrest Col. Burr. Wilkinson testified at Burr's trial, arousing public accusations against him and inspiring two Congressional inquiries into his private ventures and intrigues. The revelations drove President James Madison to order his court-martial in 1811. Both were found not guilty of the charges, on December 25, 1811.



Zapata - Dave Zalinka's painting

While visiting with Fred Bunch, Resource Management Specialist at the Great Sand Dunes National Park, CO, he showed us Dave's Zalinka's painting of Pike's 29 Jan 1807 encampment site at Zapata Falls [E of CO 150 and S of the Dunes]- Sangre de Christo mountains/ Mt. Blanca.

He explained the meaning of three fires. On the left is the party's fire, a cooking fire in the middle, and the officer's fire on the right. Which one do you think is Pike and Robinson?

Please join our Association!

Visit our Facebook page- ( https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pike-National-Historic-Trail-Association/167853563238403?fref=ts )

Coin set available Individual coins- \$3 Loose sets of six- \$20 Frame sets

with pamphlet (Pike's words and an explanation for each coin) \$30. Shipping and handling- \$ 1.00

The Pike Association's vinyl decals- The cost is \$2.50 each with price breaks at 5, 10, or 25 decals, plus shipping.

Our next Annual Meeting will be on April 30th 2016 at the Royal Gorge, CO.

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