

Pike

Association

Newsletter Dec 2015



National Historic Trail

Vol. 9 No. 8



Annual Meeting- 2016

The Pike Association's annual meeting will be held back in the cozy Longhorn Lodge at the Royal Gorge in Cañon City, CO on Friday April 29 at 6:30 pm. This is a change from my Saturday meeting to a Friday evening meeting. Because we're back in the Longhorn Lodge this will afford attendees the opportunity to remain for the evening in the lodge as guests of the Park. We will share dinner at Doritos on Main St. in Cañon City at 5 pm.

1st Expedition Treaty of St. Peters or Pike's Purchase- St. Paul, MN

The September 23, 1805 **Treaty of St. Peters/ Treaty with the Sioux/** or better known as **Pike's Purchase**, was a treaty between the United States and Dakota Sioux [Ojibwa bands] Chiefs "*Le Petit Carbeau*" and *Way Aga Enogee*.

Pike purchased two nine-square miles tracts of land [100,000 acres].

One tract was at the confluence of the St. Croix River with the Mississippi River and the other at the confluence of the Minnesota River [then St. Peters River] with the Mississippi, for the purposes of establishing military posts at these two sites.

Later Fort Snelling was established on the bluffs overlooking the of the Minnesota / Mississippi confluence and Pike Island in St. Paul, MN.

The purchased area is now called Minneapolis/ St. Paul.

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23d September, Monday.- [Minnesota River - "St. Peters River"] Dakota Sioux Purchase date-

Prepared for the Council, which commenced about 12 o'clock. I had a bowery or shade built of my sails on the beach, into which only one gentleman (ye Traders) and the Chief's entered. I addressed them in a speech which though long, and touching on many points, yet the principal ones were the granting of the land at this place, Falls to St. Anthony & St. Croix; and the making peace with the Chippeway's. I was replied to by *Le Fils de Penichon*, *Le Petit Corbeau*, and *L'Original levé*. They gave me the land required, about 100,000 acres (equal to 200,000 dollars) and promised me a safe passport for myself and any Chiefs I might bring down; but spoke doubtfully relative to the peace. I gave them presents to the amount of about 200 dollars, and as soon as the counsel was over, I suffered the Traders to present them with some liquor, which, with what I myself gave, was equal to 60 gallons. In one half hour they were all embarked to their villages. The Chiefs in the counsel were *Le Petit Corbeau*—signed the Grant. *Le Fils de Penichon* —signed the Grant.

Le Grand Partisan *Le Original levé*—War chief—gave from my father's Tomahawk &c &c.

Le Demi Douzen *Le Beccasse* *Le Boeuf qui Marche March*

It was somewhat difficult to get them to sign the grant, as they conceived the word of honor should be taken for the grant, without any mark; but I convinced them, that, not on their account but my own I wanted them to sign.

Witness to Sioux treaty: Mr. Duncan Graham (1772-1847), Scotch pro- British, fought on that side in the War of 1812 and later became a US citizen.

Camp Location: 44.892673, -93.175706 Head of Pike Island, St. Paul, MN



Fort Snelling

Fort Snelling, originally known as **Fort Saint Anthony**, was a **military fortification** located above Pike Island (where the 23 Sep 1805 treaty was signed) in St. Paul, MN at the mouth of the Minnesota River on the Mississippi. The Army sold Fort Snelling to **Franklin Steele** in 1858 for \$90,000.

Fort Snelling in 1844, by John Caspar Wild (Minnesota Historical Society)

The site is now administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

A view of the grounds of Fort Snelling taken from the round tower



Named for Zebulon Pike:

1. There is a Pike County in Missouri north of St. Louis on the Mississippi across from Pike County, IL
2. There is a Pike County in Illinois north of St. Louis on the Mississippi across from Pike County, MO near where the Illinois River enters the Mississippi.

These two counties are just south of Hannibal Missouri. (39.708156, -91.358858)

1. **Pike County, MO** (organized in 1818) and named for explorer Zebulon M. Pike. The folksong Sweet Betsy from Pike is generally thought to refer to Pike County, Missouri.

Pike County, MO Mile 258.2 to 297.4 **39.2 miles**

In part across the river from each other.

2. **Pike County, IL** (organized in 1821) was named in honor of Zebulon Pike, leader of the Pike expedition in 1805-6 to map the Mississippi and the south and west portions of the Louisiana Purchase.

Pike County, IL Mile 276.8 to 312.4 **35.6 miles**

Pike's encampments: 15th Aug., Thur. Corp of Engineers Mile 300

Lock & Dam # 24 Clarksville, MO Corp. Mile 273.4 Both IL & MO Pike Counties

Lock & Dam 22 Cincinnati, IL Corp Mile 301.2 Pike Co., IL only

Pike encampments in these counties:

13 Aug, 1805 in Hamburg, IL Corp. Mile 258.6 (opposite Pike Co., MO)

GPS: 39.230808, -90.718377

14 Aug., 1805 on Crider Island Corp Mile 279.8 (in both counties)

GPS: 39.428108, -90.004475

3. **Pike State Park** in Iowa- is opposite the mouth of the Wisconsin River in McGregor, IA Corp. Mile 632.8. He recommended a fort be built on bluffs across the river, at what is now Pikes Peak State Park near McGregor, Iowa.

4. **Zebulon Pike Lake** in Little Falls, MN formed after the Blanchard Dam was built.

Pike orchestrates the passing of peace pipes in Minnesota

As a Pike expedition traveled up the Mississippi River in 1805 and on their return in 1806, Pike was able to establish agreements, albeit temporary, between the Sauteaux [Chippewas], Sacs, Reynards [Fox], Puants [Winnebagos], Fols Avoine [Menominee], and Sioux- Bands: Yanktong and Sussitong.

Zebulon Pike puts his foot down- British Incursions in Minnisnowda/Minnisocold

Pike, having established peace agreements and purchasing land for the United States, dealt effectively with the British fur trade establishment. From 1803 [Louisiana Purchase] until early in 1805, the British had some bad habits while living on US soil, which Pike corrected.

Here are some excerpts from Pike's letter to Hugh McGillis, proprietor of the British Northwest Establishment and director of the Fond du Lac department in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota on February 6, 1806:

{Duties} Mr. Jay's Treaty, it is true, gave the right of trade with the savages to British subjects in the United States territories, but by no means exempted them from **paying the duties, obtaining licences, and subscribing unto all the rules and restrictions of our laws.**

{Our traders} Our traders to the south, on the lower Mississippi, complained to our government, with justice, that the members of the N. W. company, encircle them on the frontiers of our N. W. territory, and trade with the savages **upon superior terms**, to what they can afford, who pay the duties of their goods imported from Europe, and subscribe to the regulations prescribed by law.

{Flags and Medals} The transactions alluded to, are they **presenting medals of his Britannic majesty, and flags of the said government**, to the chiefs and warriors resident in the territory of United States. If political subjects are strictly prohibited to our traders, what would be the ideas of the executive to see foreigners making chiefs, and distributing flags, the standard of an European power. The savages being accustomed to look on that standard, which had been the only prevailing one for years, as that which alone has authority in the country, it would not be in the least astonishing to see them revolt from the United States.

{Ammo} your establishments, if properly known, would be looked on with an eye of dissatisfaction by our government, for another reason, viz., there being so many furnished posts in case of a rupture between the two parties, the English government would not fail to make use of those places as places of deposit of arms, ammunition, &c. to be distributed to the savages who joined **their arms; to the great annoyance of our territory**, and the loss of the lives of many of our citizens. Your flags, sir, when hoisted in inclosed works, are in direct contradiction of the laws of nations.

That you will make representations to your agents, at your head quarters, on Lake Superior, of the quantity of goods just wanted the ensuing spring, for your establishments in the territory of the United States, in time sufficient, or as early as possible, for them to enter them at the C.H. Michilimackinac, and obtain a clearance and license to trade in due form.

2d. That you will give immediate instruction to all your posts in said territory, under your direction, at no time and on no pretense whatever to hoist, or suffer to be hoisted, the English flag. If you can see the flag necessary, you may make use of that of the United States, which is the only one which can be admitted.

3d. That you will on no further occasion, present a flag or medal to an Indian: hold councils with them on political subjects, or others foreign from that of trade: but on being applied to on those heads, refer them to the American agents, informing them that they are the only persons authorized to hold councils of a political nature with them.

There are many other subjects, such as a distribution of liquor, &c. which would be too lengthy to be treated of in detail. But the company will do well to furnish themselves with the laws, regulating the commerce with the savages, and regulate themselves in our territories accordingly. I embraced this opportunity, to acknowledge myself and command under singular obligations to yourselves and agents, for the assistance which you have rendered us, and the polite treatment with which I have been honored. With sentiments of high respect, for the establishment and yourself, I am, sir, your obedient servant.

Hugh Mc Gillis to Pike from Leech Lake, 15th February, 2006

ALL of Pike's demands were met with one exception in red below:

Your address presented on the 6th inst. has attracted my most serious consideration to the several objects of duties on importations, of presents made to, and our consultations with the Indians; of closing our stores and dwelling houses, and finally, of the custom obtaining to hoist the British flag. I shall at as earlier as possible present to the agents of the N.W. company with your representations regarding the pay duties on the importation of goods to be sent to our establishments within the bounds of the territory of United States, it is also they're being entered at the custom house of Michilimackinac, but **I beg to be allowed to present for consideration, that the major part of the goods necessary to be sent to the said establishments for the trade of the ensuing winter, are now actually in our stores at Kamanitiguia**, our head quarters on Lake Superior, and that it would cause us great expense and trouble to be obliged to convey those goods back to Michilimackinac to be entered at the custom house office; we therefore pray that the word of gentlemen with regard to the quantity and quality of the said goods to said establishment, may be considered as equivalent to the certainty of a custom house register.

....

The true sources of the Mississippi River

The Mississippi River is a major river (together with the Nile and Amazon) in the world. It is 2,340 miles long from its primary source- Lake Itasca in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

The actual source has been altered over the years.

In Pike's time (1806) Red Cedar Lake (or Upper Red Cedar) was considered the head of the Mississippi. Pike arrived here on Wednesday the 12th of February, 1806.

Red Cedar Lake was renamed Cass Lake (named for General Lewis Cass) ~ 1820.

In 1832, Henry Schoolcraft determined that Lake Itasca was the river's primary source.

Refining this determination- There are three lakes on the western arm of the lake fed by three streams on its south end. Nicolet Creek (labeled Mississippi River by Google Maps) starts at Lake Nicolet, Hall Lake and another from Elk Lake (both at higher elevation). All are within a mile of Lake Itasca.

The Ojibwa called Elk Lake and the stream Bekegamaag-zaaga'igan and Bekegamaag-ziibi (Sidelake Lake and Sidelake River), respectively.

Modern explorers and geographers consider Nicolet, Hall or Elk Lakes to be the true sources of the Mississippi River.



Elevation Study

The elevation of the Mississippi at Lake Itasca is 1,475 feet above sea level.

Elk Lake Elev. 1470 ft 47.18997, -95.21889

Hall Lake Elev. 1509 ft 47.18187, -95.22433

Nicolet Lake Elev. 1506 ft. 47.18492, -95.23455

Tidbits-

-In Chippewa [Chippeway to Pike] - Chewockomen means Americans.

-Pike on Liquor for the Indians- 16 Feb 1805 Sunday "They attempted to get more liquor; but a firm and manly denial, convinced them I was not to be played with." - Pike Journal

-Today's Mississippi Locks and Dams- There are 29 total between Minneapolis and St. Louis. The Mississippi is navigable today to the lock and dam at Coon Rapids 6 miles North of Minneapolis by River [Mile 854 US Corps.].

-The Minnesota River was called the "St. Peters River" in 1805.

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

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

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 29th 2016 at the Royal Gorge, CO.

Next month- Pike's 1st Expedition- The Upper Mississippi River- St. Louis to St. Paul

Today's Dams on the Mississippi- Corp. of Engineers

Little Falls, MN and Pike's 85 day Stockade

Pike State Park- Iowa

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