

**Zebulon Montgomery Pike**  
**biographical materials, 1780-1956**  
**1780-1956**  
**Mss.B.P63**

American Philosophical Society  
105 South Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, PA, 19106  
215-440-3400  
[manuscripts@amphilsoc.org](mailto:manuscripts@amphilsoc.org)

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Background note .....	4
Scope & content .....	5
Administrative Information .....	6
Indexing Terms .....	6
Other Descriptive Information .....	7
Bibliography .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	8
Papers and material.....	8

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Title</b>	Zebulon Montgomery Pike biographical materials, 1780-1956
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1780-1956
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.B.P63
<b>Extent</b>	0.25 Linear feet
<b>Extent</b>	51 items, photostats.
<b>Location</b>	LH-B-22-1; LH-SB-Black Case-29 (OS Military docs.)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Container</b>	1
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779-1813) was an explorer and soldier, most often remembered two exploratory trips to the newly acquired Louisiana territory. The first of these trips was to the source of the Mississippi River in 1805; the second was to explore the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers in 1806. Because General James Wilkinson was responsible for organizing Pike's two expeditions, when the conspiracy charges against Aaron Burr implicated Wilkinson, suspicion was, for a short time, also focused on Pike. Pike worked his way up the ranks of the United States Army, becoming a brigadier-general during the War of 1812. He was killed in the Battle of York in Upper Canada (now Toronto) in 1813.</p>

## Background note

---

Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779-1813) was an explorer and soldier, most often remembered two exploratory trips to the newly acquired Louisiana territory. The first of these trips was to the source of the Mississippi River in 1805; the second was to explore the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers in 1806. Because General James Wilkinson was responsible for organizing Pike's two expeditions, when the conspiracy charges against Aaron Burr implicated Wilkinson, suspicion was, for a short time, also focused on Pike. Pike worked his way up the ranks of the United States Army, becoming a brigadier-general during the War of 1812. He was killed in the Battle of York in Upper Canada (now Toronto) in 1813.

Zebulon Montgomery Pike was born in Lambertton (now part of Trenton), New Jersey in 1779. His father was also named Zebulon Montgomery and his mother was Isabella Brown. His father served in the Revolutionary Army under Washington and remained in the Army after the Revolution, eventually reaching the rank of Major. Pike entered the Army early, joining his father's company as a cadet. At the age of twenty he was commissioned a first lieutenant.

In 1805 Pike was chosen by General James Wilkinson to head a company of twenty men to explore the source of the Mississippi River. After the onset of winter, Pike reached what he mistakenly declared the source of the river. In 1806 he was chosen to lead a longer expedition to the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers. Part of his mission was to reconnoiter the Spanish settlements in New Mexico. After Pike crossed the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in 1807, Spanish authorities arrested him for crossing their border. Pike acquiesced freely, welcoming the chance to see the territory of Santa Fe and Chihuahua, where he was questioned by the commandante general.

After his return to the United States, Pike found himself under suspicion by some of being part of the Wilkinson-Burr conspiracy to acquire land in the Southwest. Henry Dearborn, the Secretary of State, cleared Pike of all charges related to the conspiracy, and Pike continued military duty. He was commissioned major in 1808 and colonel in 1812. When the second war with Great Britain started in 1812, Pike was made brigadier-general. He led the attack on York (now Toronto), Canada in 1813. While the campaign was successful, Pike was killed when a powder magazine exploded. Pike is best remembered for his expeditions to the Southwest, for which his journals have been published in several editions. Several counties are named for him in various states, and Pikes Peak, a mountain in the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, is named in his honor.

## Scope & content

---

This collection includes transcripts and photostats of letters, maps, and some original manuscripts collected by W. Eugene Hollon for his biography of Pike, *The Lost Pathfinder* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949). Correspondents include John C. Calhoun, William Clark, Richard Rush, John Sibley, and James Wilkinson. Subjects covered include military authority, escaped slaves, Pike's expeditions, Texas, Aaron Burr and James Wilkinson. Copies of materials from the National Archives, the Chicago Historical Society, and the Missouri Historical Society.

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

## Provenance

---

### Acquisition Information

Presented by W. Eugene Hollon, 1950; accessioned, 1958 (1958 1627ms).

### Processing Information

Only map is noted.

## Indexing Terms

---

### Genre(s)

- General Correspondence
- Maps.
- Research Records and Reports

### Personal Name(s)

- Calhoun, John C., (John Caldwell), 1782-1850
- Clark, William, 1770-1838
- Hollon, W. Eugene, (William Eugene), 1913-
- Rush, Richard
- Sibley, John, 1757-1837
- Wilkinson, James, 1757-1825

### Subject(s)

- Exploration.
- Explorers.
- Travel

## **Other Descriptive Information**

---

The Zebulon Montgomery Pike Biographical Material Collection contains research data on Pike that Eugene Hollon compiled for his biography of Pike. There are some photocopies and transcriptions of correspondence and other primary sources.

## **Bibliography**

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Papers and material

### 1780-1956

collected by W. Eugene Hollan for his biography of Pike, *The Lost Pathfinder*. D.and printed items. 51 items (typed, original and photostats), 5 photographs, and 19 leaves of printed materials, including 2 maps. Various sizes. See Film 890 for microfilms which came with this collection. Presented by Hollan, grantee, Jan. 1950, and entered in APS Donation Book, p.229, Jan.23, 1950. Table of contents.

---

#### **Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

July 21, 1780

Letter to Anthony Wayne

Photostat of A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Military information.

---

#### **Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

Aug. 23, 1792

Letter to William Knox, Philadelphia

Trenton, Photostat of A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Requests material for soldiers.

---

#### **Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

Dec. 18, 1793

Letter to John Mells, Greenville

Greenville, Photostat of L.S. 2p.and add.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning the arrest for court martial of an officer.

---

#### **United States. Army**

1795-1812

See OS

Military documents signed by Z.M. Pike and Zeb[ulo]n Pike

Photostats of D. 9 leaves. Various sizes. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

---

#### **Wayne, Anthony, 1745-1796**

Sept. 2, 1796

Letter to [Zebulon Montgomery] Pike

Detroit, Photostat of L. 1p.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Military orders.

---



## Papers and material

**Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

Dec. 31, 1796

Letter to Andrew Ellicott

Massac, Photostat of L.S. 1p.and add. (see Z.M.Pike. Papers...) Concerning "his embassy" and hope for its success.

**Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

May 9, 1800

Receipt to John Wilkins, for military funds

Photostat of D.S. 1p.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

**Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

June 3, 1800

Letter to D[avi]d Henley

For Pickering, Photostat of A.L.S. 3p.and end. (see Z.M.Pike. Papers...) Concerning some negroes who have escaped from slavery from the Indians.

**Mulford, Clarence**

July 19, 1805

11x8-1/2

Letter to William Linnard, Philadelphia

St. Louis, Typed L. 1p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Business. Expense of Pike's expedition to the source of the Mississippi.

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813** 1806

Diary

ca. Photostats of A.D. 5p.of which 3 are maps and 2 are meteorological data. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

**Clark, William, 1770-1838**

May 18, 1807

11x8-1/2

Letter to [Henry] Dearborn

St. Louis, Typed L. 5p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning the Indian of the mid-West. Refers to Pike. Enc.originally in letter; J.Sibley to S.H.Sibley; June 30, 1807.

**Sibley, John, 1757-1837**

June 30, 1807

11x8-1/2

Letter to Samuel H. Sibley

## Papers and material

Natchitoches, Typed L. 4p. Copy. Enc. ( see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Business. Concerning Burr and Wilkinson. Concerning Burr and Wilkinson. Concerning Pikes expedition. Concerning the Indians. For enc., see: W.Clark to H.Dearborn; May 18, 1807.

---

**Fort Bellefontaine, Missouri** Aug. 22, 1808 - May 3, 1810 11x8-1/2  
Order book

Typed D. 2p. Extracts. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Z.M.Pike.

---

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813** Aug. 30, 1809  
Receipt for military stores received

New Orleans; Photostat of D.S. 2p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

---

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813** July 1, 1811  
Garrison orders

Baton Rouge, Photostat of A.D. 1p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

---

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813** 1811  
Garrison orders

Photostat of D.S.: Z.M. Pike, et al. 6p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

---

**Montero, Bernardino** Feb. 20, 1812  
Letter to the Governor of Texas, Manuel de Salcedo

Photostat of L.S. 2p. In Spanish. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Pike's expedition to wipe out the bandits.

---

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813** Feb. 26, 1812  
Letter to Bernard[i]no Montero

Nachitoches, Photostat of L. 2p. Copy. In Spanish (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Printed in part: Hollon. The Lost Pathfinder; 195.

---

**Montero, Bernardino** March 1, 1812  
Letter to Manuel de Salcedo

## Papers and material

Photostat of L.S. 2p. In Spanish. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Pike and his wish to scour the robbers.

---

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813**      March 31, 1812

Letter to James Wilkinson, Washington

Baton Rouge, Photostat of D.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Introduces Lt. King.

---

**Montero, Bernardino**      April 1, 1812

Letter to the Governor of Texas, Manuel de Salcedo

Nacogdoches, Photostat of L.S. 1p.,end. In Spanish. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Forwards letters by Z.M. Pike, et al.

---

**Montero, Bernardino**      April 1, 1812

Letter to the Governor of Texas, Manuel de Salcedo

Photostat of L.S. 2p. In Spanish. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Copies a letter from Pike concerning cooperation in getting rid of bandits.

---

**Overton, Walter Hampden, 1788-1845**      March 21, 1812

Letter to Captain Montero

Nachitoches, Photostat of L.S. 2p. In Spanish. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning the activities of Pike.

---

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813**      March 31, 1812

Letter to James Wilkinson, Washington

Baton Rouge, Photostat of D.S. 1p.and add.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Introduces Lt. King.

---

**Salcedo y Salcedo, Nemesio, 1754-1814?**      May 12, 1812

Letter to the Governor of Texas [Manuel de Salcedo]

Photostat of L.S. 1p. In Spanish. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Pike.

---

**Sibley, John, 1757-1837**

April 2, 1812

11x8-1/2

## Papers and material

Letter to Major Stoddard

Natchitoches, Typed L. 4p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Mexico, Pike, the Indians, and internal affairs of the U.S. Refers to mineralogy. Printed in part: Hollon. The Lost Pathfinder, 196.

---

**Parke, Benjamin, 1777-1835**

Sept. 5, 1818

11x8-1/2

Statement of need of Zebulon Pike

Typed D. 2p. Certified by Sam. Crane. (see Z.M.Pike. Papers...)

---

**Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

June 12, 1823

10-1/2x8

Oath, declaration of need, and schedule of property

Typed D. 3p. Certified: James Dill. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

---

**Dill, James, 1772-1838**

April, 1824

10-1/2x8

Letter to J[ohn] C. Calhoun, Washington

Lawrenceburg, Ind., Typed L. 1p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Pike's promise of full pay from Jefferson, and his need for funds.

---

**U.S.**

1824

6x8-1/2

Concerning monies paid to Zebulon Pike from the Revolutionary list

Typed D. 1p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

---

**United States**

March 3, 1825

10-1/2x8

An act granting pensions to James Barker and Zebulon Pike

Washington, Typed D. 1p. Approved: James Monroe. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) ---Typed copy. 5x8-1/2.

---

**Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**

July 1, 1828

10-1/2x8

Letter to Richard Rush

Lawrenceburg, Ind., Typed L. 2p.,witnessed by James Dill and John Fist. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Forwards documents for relief.

---

## Papers and material

<b>The Daily Democrat, Doylestown, Penna.</b>	Jan. 8, 1906	11x8-1/2
Zebulon M[ontgomery] Pike. A Hero of the War of 1812		
Typed D. 4p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)		
<b>The Lawrenceburg Press, Lawrenceburg, Ind.</b>	Oct. 20, 1927	14x8-1/2
Concerning Clara Brown Pike, wife of Zebulon Montgomery Pike		
D. 2p. Mimeographed. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)		
<b>Work projects administration. Louisiana</b>	1940	11x8-1/2
Survey of Federal Archives in Louisiana, Book II, (Part 2) Greensburg Land Claims British West Florida		
Typed D. 6p. Extracts. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning a land claim referring to Z.M. Pike.		
<b>May, T. R.</b>	Sept. 16, 1946	11x8-1/2
Concerning Pike's journal of his trip up the Mississippi, 1805-1806		
Locust Valley, Typed D. 6p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)		
<b>Pike Family Association</b>	Oct. 16, 1946	11x8-1/2
Letter to [W. Eugene] Hollon		
A.D.S.: Lilian Pike Packard. 9 leaves. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Z.M. Pike.		
<b>Mills, Edwin</b>	1946	1 map, 21.6 x 35.4 cm
Map of Fort Bellefontaine		
Fort Bellefontaine was the first United States Army post west of the Mississippi River. It was established by General James Wilkinson in 1804.		
<b>Other Finding Aids</b>		
Realms of Gold, 39 (1).		

## Papers and material

<b>Goldmann, Sidney, 1903-</b> Letter to [W. Eugene] Hollon, Norman, Oklahoma  Trenton, Typed D.S. 2p.,end. (see Z.M.Pike. Papers...) Concerning Z.M.Pike's ancestors in New Jersey.	Feb. 13, 1947	11x8-1/2
<b>Evans, David R.</b> Letter to [W. Eugene] Hollon, Norman, Oklahoma  Somerville, N.J., Typed L.S. 2p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning the location of Zebulon Pike's birth.	Feb. 25, 1947	10-1/2x7
<b>Missouri Historical Society</b> Letter to W. E[ugene] Hollon, Norman, Oklahoma  St. Louis, Typed L.S.: Brenda R. Giesecker, Librarian 1p.,end. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Concerning Z.M.Pike material in the manuscript collection.	May 22, 1947	11x8-1/2
<b>Mills, Edwin W.</b> Pike's expedition up the Osage, 1806  Typed D.S. 26p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)	April 29, 1956	11x8-1/2
<b>Dill, James, 1772-1838</b> Statement concerning Zebulon Pike's request for relief  Lawrenceburg, Ind., [ca.1824]. Typed D. 2p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)	Undated	10-1/2x8
<b>Hollon, W. Eugene (William Eugene), 1913-</b> List of issues of the Weekly Chronicle of Natchez  Miss., concerning Z.M.Pike. Typed D. 1p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)	Undated	11x8-1/2

Papers and material

---

**Hollon, W. Eugene (William Eugene), 1913-**                      Undated                      11x8-1/2

List of Letters from W. C. C. Claiborne's letterbooks in which Zebulon M. Pike is mentioned

Typed D. 1p. (see Z.M. Pike. papers...)

---

**Pike, Zebulon, 1751-1834**                      Undated

List of children of Zebulon and Isabel Brown Pike

Photostat of D. 1p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...) Lists Z.M. Pike among them.

---

**Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813**                      Undated                      11x8-1/2

Genealogical material

D. 6p. (see Z.M. Pike. Papers...)

---