



UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

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Pike Conquers the Peak (or, does he?) **From *Guide to the Colorado Mountains (1974)*** **by Robert Ormes** **with the Colorado Mountain Club**

Denver's mountain historian Louisa Arps has supplied many items of interest for this book, including the following information on Pikes Peak.

The mountain was the first 14,000-foot mountain in the United States to be climbed. This was on July 13, 14, and 15, 1820, in beautiful mid-summer weather with a sky so blue that Dr. Edwin James, botanist, wondered if the blue of the tundra flowers was not partially acquired from the blue of the sky. Dr. James' companions were a soldier and a civilian employee of the Long Expedition. The climb was successful in spite of the fact that the climbers broke most modern mountaineering rules; the soldier, instead of "going light", carried a gun (in case of hostile Indians); they carried no emergency rations; they left their warm clothes in camp; the party did not stay together—the civilian got tired and took a nap below timberline, causing Dr. James to lose time and patience hollering for him. But the worst thing they did was fail to put out their fire from the morning after they bivouacked on the ascent. When they came off the mountain they found their cached supplies burned and a good part of the forest with them. Colorado's first careless campers!

Fourteen years before, in 1806, the man for whom Pikes Peak was named, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, left his main party in a breastwork built of 14 logs on the present site of Pueblo, and, with three companions, set out to "ascend the north fork (Fountain Creek) to the high point of the blue mountain, which we conceived would be one days march, in order to lay down the various branches and positions of the country." Legends have grown up around this attempt—one that Pike actually climbed Cheyenne Mountain; another that he said Pikes Peak would never be climbed.

Mountaineering scholars now think he came up South Turkey Creek and climbed one Blue Mountain or another of the summits southwest of Cheyenne Mountain. Starting with an entry of November 24, 1806, his account reads thus:

We marched at one o'clock with an idea of arriving at the foot of the mountain; but found ourselves obliged to take up our nights lodging under a single cedar, which we found in the prairie, without water and extremely cold...Distance, 12 miles.



Pikes Peak from Woodland Park
Photo by Judy Perkins

Continued on Page 4

A Good Time Was Had By All!

On January 25, 2015 UPHS showed our appreciation for our loyal patrons with the Annual Patron Luncheon. The traditional soup, sandwich and dessert buffet provided by UPHS volunteers was better than ever as shown by patrons' repeated trips to the serving tables. Thanks to all of the cooks and bottle washers!



Jimena Yantorno, wife of new UPHS Board Member John.
Welcome to the Yantorno Family!

Donna Finicle presented the annual "State of the Organization" message that included a summary of the organization's finances, projects and what's to come in 2015.

Patrons who own iPhones were excited to hear Dave Martinek and Marion Vance from Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition tell about the new Tour Teller iPhone app. The app was developed by THE Coalition and the Heritage Tourism Committee of which UPHS is a member. It guides you on a series of Teller County driving tours made up of seven distinct routes. To download the app, check UPHS' website or Facebook for link to Peak Historic

Driving Tour in the Apple Store. An Android version of the app will be available sometime this year.

Local author Ken Valles presented the program, "Rare Facts of Colorado." The public was also invited to the wonderfully entertaining, often humorous and always informative talk. Ken's knowledge of Colorado is impressive as is his digital collection of photographs and documents that added interest to his talk. Unfortunately, we cannot include all of the "rare facts" in this newsletter, but here are a few tidbits to tickle your curiosity ...



Ken Valles presenting "Rare Facts of Colorado"

- Pueblo, our neighbor to the south, is home to four Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. The city honors its hometown heroes with a four-mile mural along the Arkansas River levee.
- The highest-scoring regular season NBA game was the triple-overtime game between the Detroit Pistons and the Denver Nuggets on December 13, 1983 in the Pepsi Center. The two teams combined to score 370 points, with the Pistons defeating the Nuggets 186–184.
- Jolly Rancher candies originated in 1949 in Golden. The Jolly Rancher Company was sold to Beatrice Foods in 1966 and is now owned by Hershey Foods.
- The Grammy Award trophies are made in Ridgway.
- Grand Mesa is the largest flat top mountain in the world.
- There are 1,500 ghost towns and 23,000 abandoned mines in our state.
- Steamboat Springs, Ski Town USA, has been home to over 80 Winter Olympians since 1932.
- And so on ...

The Old Curiosity Gift Shop carries a varied inventory of books about Colorado. Stop by to pick up one or two, and see if you can discover your own collection of "Rare Facts of Colorado." Remember, UPHS patrons receive a 10% discount on most items in the store.

Thank you to ...

Our new and renewing Family and Associate Patrons

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And to our Amazing Volunteers!

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Get
in VOLved
unteer!

UPHS volunteers
make history,
in a good way!

Continued from Page 1

25th November, Tuesday. Marched early, with an expectation of ascending the mountain, but was only able to encamp at its base...Killed two buffalo. Distance, 22 miles.

26th November, Wednesday. Expecting to return to our camp that evening, we left our blankets and provisions at the foot of the mountain...We commenced ascending, found it very difficult, being obliged to climb up rocks, sometimes almost perpendicular; and after marching all day, we encamped in a cave, without blankets, victuals, or water...

27th November, Thursday. Arose hungry, dry, and extremely sore from the inequality of the rocks on which we had lain all night, but were amply compensated for toil by the sublimity of the prospect below... Commenced our march up the mountain, and in about an hour arrived at the summit of this chain; here we found snow middle deep; no sign of beast or bird inhabiting the region. The thermometer here fell to 4 degrees below 0. The summit of the Grand Peak which was entirely bare of vegetation and covered with snow now appeared at the distance of 15 or 16 miles from us; and as high again as what we had ascended and would have taken a whole day's march to have arrived at its base, when I believe no human being could have ascended to its pinical (*sic*). This with the condition of my soldiers who had only light overalls on, and no stockings...the bad prospect of killing anything to subsist on...determined us to return...We descended by way of a long ravine with much less difficulty than contemplated. Found all our baggage safe but the provisions all destroyed. It began to snow, and we sought shelter under the side of a projecting rock, where we, all four, made a meal on one partridge, and a piece of deer's ribs the ravens had left us, being the first we had eaten in 48 hours.

28th November, Friday. Marched at 9 o'clock. Kept straight down the creek to avoid the hills. At half past one o'clock shot two buffalo...Encamped in a valley under a shelving rock...

29th November, Saturday. Marched after a short repast, and arrived at our camp before night.



Zebulon Montgomery Pike
c. 1800

Ute Pass Historical Society volunteer, Marilyn Trantham Blackwell, will begin teaching *Beginning Genealogy* classes on April 25 and 28th in the second floor boardroom of the Woodland Park Rampart District Library. April 25 is a Saturday afternoon class from 12:30 to 3:30. April 28 is a Tuesday morning class from 10 to 12:30. The class will also be offered on June 20 at 12:30 to 3:30 and June 23 from 10 to 12:30. The cost for UPHS patrons is \$20 per person and \$25 for non-patrons. Class material will be provided upon arrival. A portion of the cost will be donated to the Ute Pass Historical Society. The boardroom will hold ten people per class.

Please RSVP to mj.trantham@yahoo.com or (719) 660-4658. Marilyn will respond with a confirmation or reschedule for a future class.

2015 Activities and Updates

History Park Summer Tours on Saturdays: Beginning June 6 and ending September 12, UPHS offers free Saturday tours at 11 am, (weather permitting, and excluding July 11) of History Park. Free public tours are only offered Saturdays at 11 am. Private tours at other days and times can be arranged by calling UPHS at 719.686.7512.

Old-Fashioned 4th of July: Most buildings will be open for the tour at 11. Gift Shop will be open 10 to 3.
4th Annual Cemetery Crawl Will be from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Woodland Park Cemetery July 4. Tickets are \$5.

2015 Marigreen Pines Tours: Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12.

Bronc Day: Saturday, August 1st, Bronc Day, Green Mountain Falls, UPHS Traveling Bookshop.

UPHS Food Kitchen at Mountain Arts Festival: Saturday, August 1st and Sunday, August 2nd.

Annual Potato Soup Supper: Friday, October 23rd, 5:30 pm at the Pikes Peak Community Club in Divide.



2015 Marigreen Pines Tickets on sale now!

The tours are Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12, 2015. Tours start every 45 minutes beginning at 9am to 3pm on Saturday, and noon to 3pm on Sunday. The final bus returns from MGP at 6pm both days. Tickets for this popular event are only available at the Ute Pass Historical Society Gift Shop, in-person or by mail. You can copy the ticket order form from our website. Patron tickets and groups of 12 or more are \$16; general public are \$18.

Have you been on the tour before? Maybe you'd like to be a docent this year. Call Jane Lass at: 719.687.6975.

Gluten Free Chocolate Cookies

It seems as though every gathering of family or friends includes at least one gluten-free person. These cookies will please everyone at your table, gluten intolerant or not. The recipe serves a crowd, so save your waistline by sending guests home with a goodie bag.

Ingredients

- 2-1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 cups unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350F and line baking sheet(s) with parchment paper
- In a large bowl, combine the powdered sugar, cocoa powder, cinnamon and salt on low. Stir in the egg

whites and beat until batter is well mixed. Stir in the vanilla extract and chocolate chips by hand. The batter will look weird. Don't worry about it. Really.

Using a small cookie scoop or spoon, blob batter onto the baking sheets about an inch apart to allow for spreading.

Bake about 15 minutes until the cookies are cracking on the surface.

Let cool for ten minutes on the trays, then carefully remove to a cooling rack.

Cookies keep for three days in a covered container, but they won't last that long.

No high altitude adjustments needed.

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Office Telephone: 719.686.7512
Email: uphs@peakinter.net
Website: utepasshistoricalsociety.org

UPHS is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization

THANK YOU!

The Ute Pass Historical Society's Board of Directors is grateful to our loyal patrons and enthusiastic volunteers. Without your generous financial contributions and dedicated volunteer service, we would not exist. Thanks to all of you for supporting our mission to preserve and share the history of the families and communities of the Ute Pass area of Colorado. It is an honor to serve you!