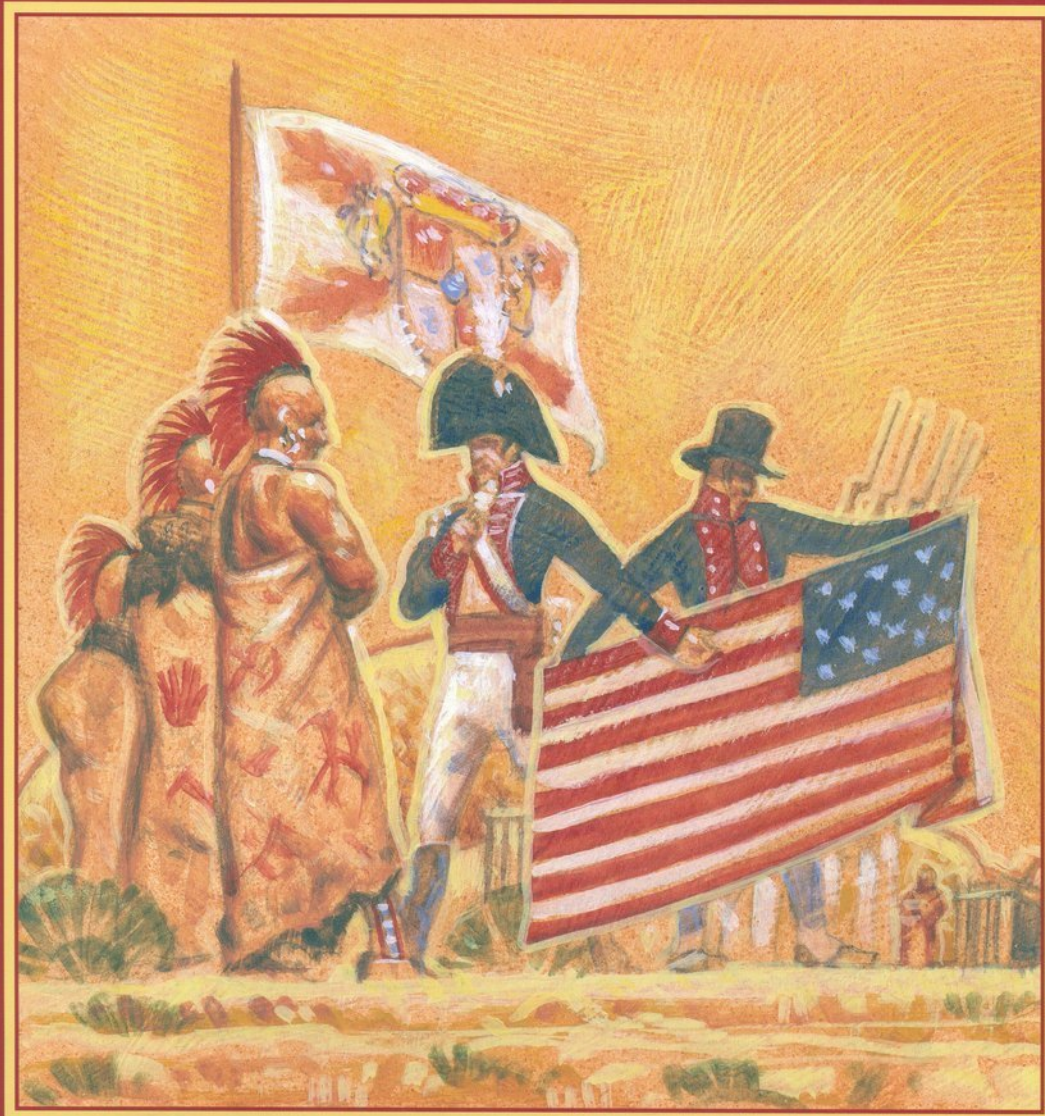


# KANSAS HISTORY

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Central Plains

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SPECIAL ISSUE

THE PIKE EXPEDITION: A BICENTENNIAL REFLECTION



*Pike Monument unveiling, September 1901, Republic County, Kansas*

At the dawn of the twentieth century "the people of Kansas were looking for new ways to define their communities," wrote Amanda Laugesen in "Making a Unique Heritage," an article published in the autumn 2000 issue of *Kansas History*. "They were searching for a historical consciousness, a heritage specifically of, and for, Kansas." They found it in the story of Zebulon M. Pike's Pawnee Village, and five years before the centennial of his famous Southwest Expedition the Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution erected and unveiled a monument (depicted above) to the man and his "heroic" accomplishment. This special issue of *Kansas History* is our modest effort at commemorating the bicentennial of that memorable expedition and reflecting on its meaning to twenty-first-century Kansans.

Pike and his men did indeed hold a "grand council with the Pawnees at a Pawnee village" in late September 1806, explains Michael L. Olsen in one of this issue's essays. "Noting the Spanish flag flying over the village," so the story goes, "Pike demanded that it be taken down and a U.S. flag raised in its place. For some eager Kansans, this became the first U.S. flag flown in Kansas. In 1901, at the supposed site in Republic County, a twenty-six-foot-tall granite monolith was placed to mark the event. Today it is generally acknowledged that the Pawnee village Pike visited actually lay farther north, across the Kansas-Nebraska border, near Guide Rock." Unfortunately, the impressive, if misplaced, marker, which was integrated into the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site for many years, was largely destroyed by a tornado in 2005.

# KANSAS HISTORY

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COVER: Zebulon Pike negoti-  
ates with the Pawnees about  
raising the U.S. flag at their  
village, 1806. Painting by  
Michael Haynes. BACK

COVER: The 1901 DAR monu-  
ment to Pike at Pawnee Indian  
Museum State Historic Site,  
Republic County.

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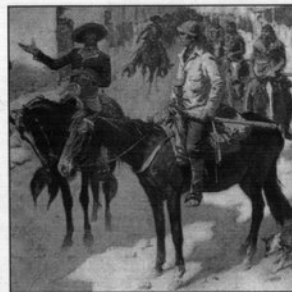
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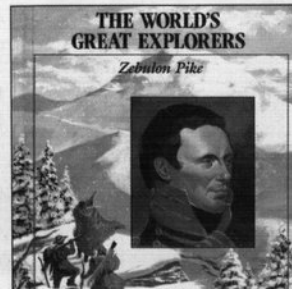
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ERECTED BY THE  
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1901  
TO COMMEMORATE THE  
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OF THE SIGNING OF THE  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE  
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BY THE FATHERS OF THE UNION