

Edward Randall Pike

Edward Randall Pike was born 8 December 1857 in Brigg, Lincolnshire, England. He was the youngest of seven children of Peter Newman Pike and Mary Hendrie Randall. As a young boy, he was known as Peter Asa Pike. The family lived in Scawby (near Briggs), Lincolnshire, England, until 1871¹, when they immigrated to America and settled in Brooklyn, New York.² He lived for a time in Corinne, Utah, when it was a booming mine town.³

Edward and his brother John went to Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, in 1877.⁴ They were the editors of the *Silver Reef Miner* newspaper. In March 1880, John and his brother Edward published an article in the *Silver Reef Miner* concerning the two-reef, one-fault theory of silver ore placement in the Silver Reef area.⁵ The article quoted Louis Janin and Charles Hoffman, mining experts, as well as two local mine superintendents. However, Mr Janin was available for comment and said he had no opinion on the subject.⁶ The article elicited numerous requests for copies from Salt Lake City, New York City, and other cities. It also provoked a libel suit against the Pike brothers. The case of the People vs. John W and Edward Pike came up for trial in July 1880. Even though it was titled the “People”, it was really the Christy Mining and Milling Company that hired the attorneys and paid the court costs.⁷

Henry S Lubbock, part owner and superintendent of the company’s mines, was in New York City trying to sell the entire company for the sum of \$320,000. Gibson Clark, secretary of the company, telegraphed a synopsis of the article to Lubbock, who instructed him to seek the arrest of the Pike brothers for libel to Lubbock. The Pikes were arrested, and after a preliminary examination were held under bail of \$4,000 (the same justice of the peace set bail of \$1,000 for an alleged murderer a short time later).⁸ The case was held in the Beaver court.⁹ Lubbock and Clark testified that they article was detrimental to the interests of the Christy Company, and that the published theory was in in direct conflict with the theories and opinions of some of the best experts who had visited the camp.¹⁰

Clark “denied having paid Justice Paddock the sum of \$200 in gold or any other sum of money for the purpose of influencing his action in the preliminary hearing of the case, but admitted having given an “open order” to George Miller, proprietor of a saloon kept next door to the court-room, to furnish liquors and cigars to anyone calling for the same during the examination, ant that the same during the examination, and that the bill of cost for drinks, etc., had on said order, amounted to \$145, which sum was paid by the Christy Mining Company. He also admitted having requested John W Pike to make favorable mention of the Christy [Company’s] mines during the months of January and February; that he had requested him to publish “a hypothetical visit” through the company’s mines, meaning thereby that he should publish a fictitious or what might be considered a false statement of the condition and value of the property, which Pike refused to do.”¹¹

¹ England and Wales Census, 1861, 1871.

² *Salt Lake Tribune*, 22 September 1943, p. 18.

³ *Ogden Standard Examiner*, 22 September 1943, p. 12.

⁴ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 22 September 1943, p. 18.

⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 July 1880, p. 3.

⁶ *Engineering and Mining Journal*, 1880, Vol 29; p. 351.

⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 July 1880, p. 3.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Southern Utah Memories: Newspapers of Washington County, Utah, 1864-1994.*

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 July 1880, p. 3.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

Lubbock claimed that he was being blackmailed by the Pike brothers for \$3,000 not to publish the articles.¹² Lubbock, upon being asked “whether he regarded the article as a libel upon his character, he replied that he did not know the meaning of that, but had come to court for the purpose of finding out whether the article was libelous or not. In answer to the question whether he would knowingly sell a mine for more than its value, he replied, with much emphasis, that he would “sell a mine for the last dollar he could get.”

The Pike brothers received a letter, threatening to “clear out the Miner”. They answered, “we will permit no man nor any number of men to clean out this shebang while a round of ammunition can be procured wherewith to defend it.”¹³ Colonel E A Wall testified in their defense, and Judge Van Zile against, with John M Macfarlane testifying as surveyor. A verdict of not guilty was rendered and the directed that a fault did exist between the two reefs. The editor of Engineering and Mining Journal did not accept toe Pikes’ fault concept nor the jury’s decision.¹⁴ The Silver Reef Miner published an extended synopsis of the testimony in the libel suit.¹⁵

On the 1880 census, Edward was a printer, living with his brother John (editor) and John’s family in Silver Reef.¹⁶ In April 1881, the Pike brothers sold the newspaper to James N Louder and H H Steele¹⁷ and moved to the new mining district in Wood River, Idaho.¹⁸ By 1886, Edward was in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Utah Territory, where he patented a new invention for saving quicksilver and amalgam lost from stamp mills.¹⁹ He attended the University of Utah and worked as a correspondent at the *Salt Lake Tribune*²⁰, *Salt Lake Herald*²¹, and *San Francisco Chronicle*²² newspapers. In 1889, he married Minnie Mary Lethia Foster in Wayne, Michigan (Edward was listed as a printer in Detroit).²³ Mary was a teacher at the Proctor Academy of Provo. They moved to Eureka, Juab, Utah Territory²⁴, where they had two sons.

In 1890, Edward was examined for admission to the bar at first district court in Provo (Salt Lake Tribune, 16 November 1890, p. 5). He and his brother Walter began their involvement in the mining claims at Tintic District in Juab County, Utah Territory.²⁵ In 1891, Edward as appointed US commissioner for Juab County, a post which he held until 1896 when the state was admitted to the Union.²⁶ Beginning in 1892, he began incorporating mining companies in Utah Territory.²⁷

¹² *Silver Reef Miner*, 22 September 1880.

¹³ *Silver Reef Miner*, 10 April 1880.

¹⁴ Silver, Sinners, and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, pp. 56-7.

¹⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 23 September 1880, p. 3.

¹⁶ United States Census, 1880.

¹⁷ Southern Utah Memories: Newspapers of Washington County, Utah, 1864-1994.

¹⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 April 1881, p. 3; Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 105.

¹⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 24 April 1886, p. 8; Mining and Engineering World, 1911, Vol 34, p. 841; Specification and Drawings of Patents Relating to Electricity, 1885, Vol 33.

²⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 30 August 1890, p. 8; 5 October 1890, p. 6; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 22 September 1943, p. 18.

²¹ *Ogden Standard Examiner*, 22 September 1943, p. 18.

²² *Ibid*, p. 12.

²³ Michigan Marriages, 1868-1995; Michigan County Marriages, 1820-1940. NOTE: this marriage is crossed out in the marriage book; it makes more sense that they married in Utah Territory.

²⁴ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 22 September 1943, p. 18; *Daily Herald* [Provo, Utah], 23 September 1943, p. 7.

²⁵ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 16 December 1890, p. 5; 18 July 1896, p. 6.

²⁶ *Salt Lake Herald*, 4 October 1891, p. 25; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 September 1893, p. 12.

²⁷ See *Salt Lake Herald*, 24 December 1892, p. 14; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 15 March 1896, p. 5; 24 January 1899, p. 6.

Edward was a member and often an officer in several social societies in Eureka, including the Knights of Pythias²⁸, the Democratic Club²⁹, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks³⁰, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.³¹ He also served on the editorial board of *Webster Bulletin*, issued by the Webster Literary Society (debate and literary works) of the University of Michigan³² (where he presumably received his law degree). In 1894, he won election as the prosecuting attorney in Juab County, Utah Territory³³ and served in that capacity until 1940.³⁴ He prosecuted a variety of people for forgery, burglary, prostitutes, shootings, etc.³⁵

In 1894, he was elected as a state representative in the Utah Legislature.³⁶ He was also a justice of the peace in Eureka.³⁷ In 1900, he brought suit against the Telluride Power company of Provo for \$250 for services in securing a franchise from the city for electric lighting.³⁸ He and his family continued living in Eureka for the next 40 years.³⁹ In 1917, Edward was treasurer of the newly organized Eureka Metallurgical Company, which had plans to erect and operate a custom milling plant in Eureka.⁴⁰ Edward was naturalized in 1925.⁴¹ He served as president of the school board⁴² and as mayor of Eureka from 1924-1928.⁴³

Edward died 20 September 1943 in Eureka, Juab, Utah.⁴⁴ He was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.⁴⁵ Mary preceded him in death by two months; she died in Ogden, Weber, Utah, and was buried with him in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.⁴⁶

²⁸ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 8 February 1892, p. 3; 22 September 1943, p. 1; *Salt Lake Herald*, 22 June 1898, p. 5; 10 July 1898, p. 6. The Knights of Pythias was the first fraternal organization to receive a charter under an act of the US Congress; founded in 1864 (Wikipedia: Knights of Pythias).

²⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 7 May 1894, p. 4; 22 May 1894, p. 6.

³⁰ *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, 30 March 1910, p. 3; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 30 March 1913, p. 20; *Ogden Standard Examiner*, 6 June 1919, p. 6.

³¹ *Deseret Evening News*, 2 May 1903, p. 15.

³² *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 September 1894, p. 8.

³³ *Salt Lake Herald*, 5 December 1894, p. 5.

³⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 5 November 1895, p. 5; 29 May 1897, p. 3; 24 January 1899, p. 6; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 22 September 1896, p. 3; 24 January 1899, p. 6. 8 April 1900, p. 5; *Daily Herald* [Provo, Utah], 23 September 1943, p. 7.

³⁵ See *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 March 1900, p. 5; 5 December 1891; 21 February 1900, p. 5; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 7 April 1893, p. 7.

³⁶ *Salt Lake Herald*, 25 September 1895, p. 7.

³⁷ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 December 1895, p. 5.

³⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 22 July 1900, p. 5.

³⁹ United States Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940.

⁴⁰ The Salt Lake Mining Review, 15 April 1917, p. 37; 30 November 1917, p. 42.

⁴¹ United States Census, 1920.

⁴² *Salt Lake Tribune*, 22 September 1943, p. 18.

⁴³ *Ogden Standard Examiner*, 22 September 1943, p. 12.

⁴⁴ Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961.

⁴⁵ Utah Cemetery Inventory.

⁴⁶ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Cemetery Inventory; *Daily Herald* [Provo, Utah], 23 September 1943, p. 7.

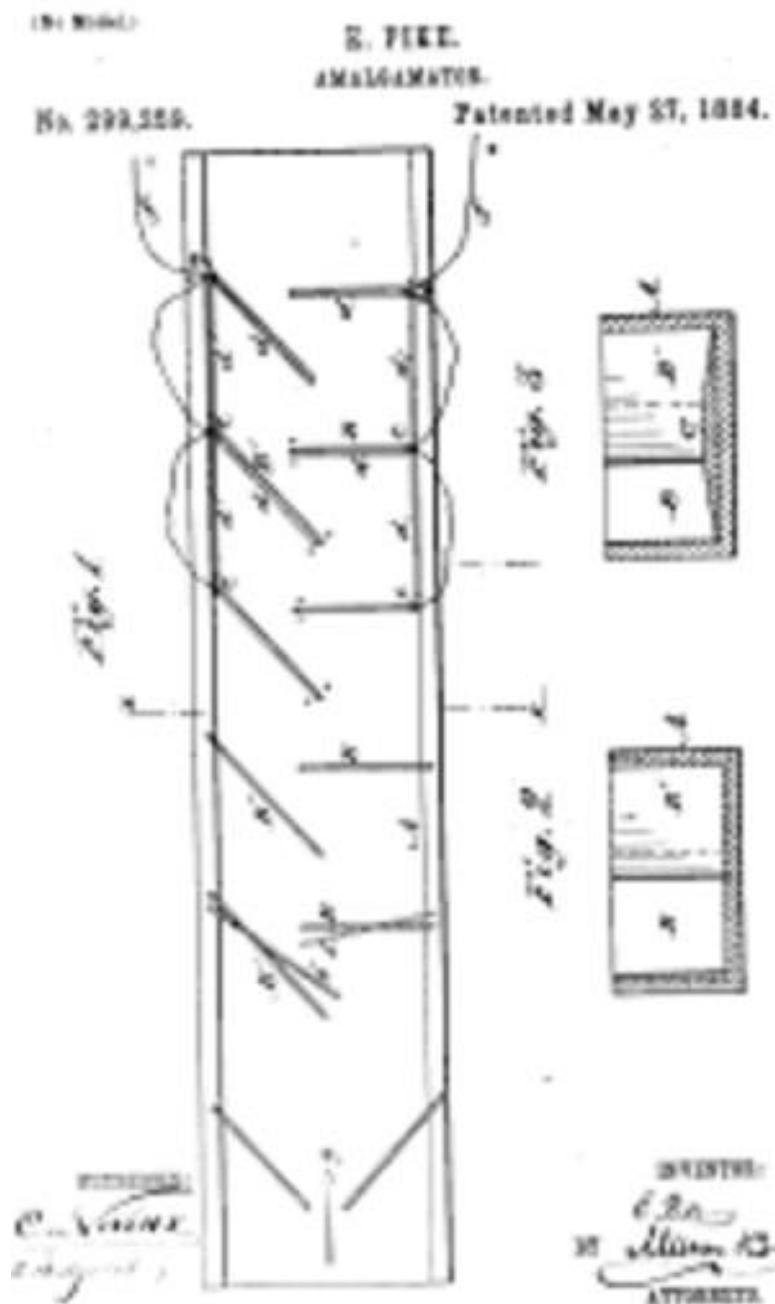


Edward Pike (image from *Salt Lake Herald*, 22 June 1898, p. 5).



Family of Edward Randall Pike and Mary (Minnie) Lethia Foster (about 1929).
 (L-R) J. Alan (son), Edward W. (Ray's son), Raymond C. Pike (son), Robert C.
 (Ray's son), Minnie, Leah (Alan's wife) holding her daughter Dorothy,
 Edward R., Douglas R. (Ray's son), Marybelle Hardy Pike (Ray's wife).

(Image from *Familysearch.org*)



Edward Pike's 1884 patented amalgamator
(image from Specification and Drawings of Patents
Relating to Electricity, 1885, Vol 33)