

John William Pike

John William Pike was born 23 September 1853¹ in Barnetby le Wold, Lincolnshire, England. He was the sixth of seven children of Peter Newman Pike and Mary Hendrie Randall. The family was living in Scawby cum Sturton, Lincolnshire, England, in 1861.² John immigrated at age 17 from Liverpool to New York on the ship *Manhattan*, arriving 7 October 1869. His intentions were to travel to Utah.³ He was a reporter for the *New York Gazette*.⁴

John moved to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, where he was a type setter, living with his sister, in 1870.⁵ He worked as a printer at the *Salt Lake Tribune*.⁶ He was a reporter for the *Salt Lake Herald*, the *Salt Lake Democrat*, and the *Salt Lake Independent*, of which he was editor and business manager. He was also connected with the *Salt Lake Herald-Republican* and the *Virginia City Enterprise* in Nevada.⁷

In 1876, John married Anne Maria “Amy” Tuckfield in Salt Lake City; they had seven children.⁸ They moved to Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, by 1877. On the 1880 census, John was an editor, living with his wife, two daughters, and his brother Edward, in Silver Reef.⁹ The two brothers owned and published the *Silver Reef Miner* from October 1879 to April 1881.¹⁰ It supported the business owners and miners and advertised the advantages of the town. It opposed the Chinese and their businesses, the Mormon authorities, and ridiculed other newspapers in the area.¹¹

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.¹² 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.¹³ 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.¹⁴

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

¹ Utah Death Certificates 1904-1964.

² England and Wales Census, 1861.

³ New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957.

⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 24 January 1904, p. 6.

⁵ United States Census, 1870.

⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 11 May 1913, p. 32.

⁷ *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, 24 Jul 1910, p. 20; 31 July 1910, p. 24.

⁸ *Familysearch.org*

⁹ United States Census, 1880.

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 April 1881, p. 3; *Silver Reef Miner*, 6 April 1881; *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 105.

¹¹ *A Historical Study of Silver Reef: Southern Utah Mining Town*, by Alfred Bleak Stucki, 1966, p. 41.

¹² *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 July 1880, p. 3.

¹³ *Engineering and Mining Journal*, 1880, Vol 29; p. 351.

¹⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 July 1880, p. 3.

time later).¹⁵ The case was held in the Beaver court.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

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.”¹⁸

Lubbock claimed that he was being blackmailed by the Pike brothers for \$3,000 not to publish the articles.¹⁹ 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.”²⁰ 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.²¹ The Silver Reef Miner published an extended synopsis of the testimony in the libel suit.²²

John became a naturalized citizen in March 1881.²³ In April, the Pike brothers sold the newspaper to James N Louder and H H Steele²⁴ and moved to the new mining district in Wood River, Idaho.²⁵ John was back in Salt Lake City by 1885, when he was appointed a court reporter and stenographer for the Second District Court.²⁶ He traveled to court sessions in Beaver, Provo, and Ogden.²⁷ He was an

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Southern Utah Memories: Newspapers of Washington County, Utah, 1864-1994.

¹⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 July 1880, p. 3.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Silver Reef Miner*, 22 September 1880.

²⁰ *Silver Reef Miner*, 10 April 1880.

²¹ *Silver, Sinners, and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, pp. 56-7.

²² *Salt Lake Herald*, 23 September 1880, p. 3.

²³ *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 March 1881, p. 3.

²⁴ Southern Utah Memories: Newspapers of Washington County, Utah, 1864-1994.

²⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 April 1881, p. 3; *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 105.

²⁶ *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 4 March 1885, p. 3; *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 March 1885, p. 5; 8 September 1885, p. 8.

²⁷ *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 27 March 1885, p. 4; 3 September 1885, p. 4; 7 September 1885, p. 4; 17 November 1886, p. 1; 19 November 1886, p. 4.

inaugural member of the Pleasant Hours Club²⁸, an officer in the Democratic Club²⁹, a representative of the International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No 14³⁰, and a member of the Salt Lake School Board.³¹ He managed the floor at the printer's ball at the Opera house in Salt Lake City.³²

John moved to Provo, Utah, Utah Territory, in 1893³³, was appointed as a court clerk³⁴, and served as stenographer of the First District Court, with his office in the court house building in Provo.³⁵ He helped incorporate the Provo Boat Club and served as boat captain.³⁶ He was a member of the Monday Night Club.³⁷ He moved his family to Salt Lake City in 1895³⁸ but stayed in Provo to finish his official duties there, visiting his family occasionally.³⁹ He was accused of illegal voting in Provo when it was decided he was a non-resident.⁴⁰

He joined his family in Salt Lake City in 1896. He was an incorporator of the Peepstone Centennial Gold Mining Company.⁴¹ He was admitted to practice in the circuit and district courts of Salt Lake City⁴² and admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court in 1897.⁴³ He served as court stenographer in the criminal division of the Third District Court.⁴⁴ One of the cases was retried and he had to read the entire day of testimony from the prior case. When his voice faltered, he rubbed his throat with St Jacob's Oil.⁴⁵ He traveled with Judge Norrell to Coalville almost every month for court sessions there from 1897-1899.⁴⁶

On the 1900 census, John is a stenographer, living with Amy and seven children in Salt Lake City.⁴⁷ He sang as second base in the Tabernacle Choir⁴⁸ and served as choir leader in the First Ward.⁴⁹ He often went fishing in Provo.⁵⁰ In 1902, he was an incorporator and the president of North Gemini Gold Mining Company.⁵¹ He took a leave of absence in 1903 to spend six months of vacation in Europe.⁵²

²⁸ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 July 1890, p. 7.

²⁹ *Dispatch* [Provo, Utah], 27 May 1891, p. 2; *Salt Lake Herald*, 3 September 1892, p. 3.

³⁰ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 8 July 1896, p. 3; 27 April 1898, p. 7.

³¹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 24 July 1891, p. 5; 20 April 1892, p. 7; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 14 November 1895, p. 8.

³² *Salt Lake Herald*, 14 October 1891, p. 6.

³³ *Salt Lake Herald*, 22 October 1893, p. 3.

³⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 20 June 1893, p. 8.

³⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 January 1896, p. 7.

³⁶ *Salt Lake Herald*, 24 May 1892, p. 3; 8 July 1892, p. 3; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 31 July 1892, p. 3.

³⁷ *Evening Dispatch* [Provo, Utah], 5 March 1895, p. 4.

³⁸ *Evening Dispatch* [Provo, Utah], 7 October 1895, p. 4; 16 October 1895, p. 1.

³⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 January 1896, p. 7.

⁴⁰ *Salt Lake Herald*, 14 January 1896, p. 7; 1 February 1896, p. 5.

⁴¹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 15 March 1896, p. 5.

⁴² *Salt Lake Tribune*, 4 May 1897, p. 6; *Deseret Evening News*, 3 May 1897, p. 2.

⁴³ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 21 February 1897, p. 3.

⁴⁴ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 3 January 1897, p. 5; 12 January 1897, p. 7; *Salt Lake Herald*, 26 December 1897, p. 31.

⁴⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 5 January 1897, p. 5.

⁴⁶ *Salt Lake Herald*, 10 September 1897, p. 6; 30 October 1898, p. 7; 1 March 1899, p. 10; 21 May 1899, p. 7; 9 July 1899, p. 15; 3 September 1899, p. 5; *Utah County Democrat*, 15 July 1899, p. 1; 25 January 1900, p. 5; 21 April 1900, p. 5; 15 October 1900, p. 5; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 30 December 1899, p. 7.

⁴⁷ United States Census, 1900.

⁴⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 August 1899, p. 5.

⁴⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 1 July 1900, p. 14.

⁵⁰ *Utah County Democrat* [Provo, Utah], 16 August 1899, p. 4; *Salt Lake Herald*, 15 July 1900, p. 22.

⁵¹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 March 1902, p. 7.

⁵² *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 June 1903, p. 5.

He visited his old home in London which he had not seen for 34 years⁵³ and returned on the ship *Umbria*.⁵⁴

In 1908, he was living in Los Angeles, where his daughter lived.⁵⁵ But later that year he was appointed “master in chancery”⁵⁶ to take evidence in the Pleasant View Irrigation case. He recorded testimonies of about 70 witnesses about the water rights of Parley’s Canyon.⁵⁷ On the 1910 census, he was an attorney living in home of daughter in Salt Lake City.⁵⁸ He and his wife moved into No 1 of the Kensington Apartments⁵⁹ (which are still on Main Street today). It is interesting to note that there was a 5.5 magnitude earthquake on a Sunday morning in Salt Lake City that year. Some people thought Halley’s Comet had struck the ground.⁶⁰

In 1913, Amy died in Salt Lake City of Bright’s disease, which she had suffered for six years.⁶¹ She was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.⁶² John married Laura Carolina Peterson LeSieur in 1914 in Salt Lake City.⁶³ He was listed as a reporter of the Third Judicial Court, living with Laura in Salt Lake City in 1920.⁶⁴ John died 26 February 1926 in Salt Lake City and was buried there.⁶⁵ Laura died in 1942 in Salt Lake City and is buried in Provo, Utah, Utah.⁶⁶

⁵³ *Deseret Evening News*, 3 September 1903, p. 10.

⁵⁴ New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957.

⁵⁵ Salt Lake Tribune, 24 May 1908, p. 2; *Deseret Evening News*, 26 May 1908, p. 3.

⁵⁶ A *master in chancery* is a senior official or clerk of a court of chancery who assists the Chancellor in various duties such as inquiring into matters referred by the court, examining cases, taking oaths and affidavits, hearing testimony, and computing damages.

⁵⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 28 November 1908, p. 3; 5 January 1909, p. 2; 17 March 1909, p. 12; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 28 November 1908, p. 16; 26 January 1909, p. 7; 17 March 1909, p. 7; 3 July 1909, p. 2; *Deseret Evening News*, 2 July 1909, p. 2.

⁵⁸ United States Census, 1910.

⁵⁹ *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, 4 September 1910, p. 11; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 4 March 1911, p. 5.

⁶⁰ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 24 May 2016.

⁶¹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 11 May 1913.

⁶² Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949.

⁶³ Utah Marriages, 1887-1935; Utah County Marriages, 1887-1940.

⁶⁴ United States Census, 1920.

⁶⁵ Utah Death Certificates 1904-1964; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961.

⁶⁶ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah Death and Burials, 1888-1946.



The above picture represents as fine a group of girls of one name as might be found in any city of Salt Lake's size. It has been aptly called "A Fine String of Pike," and as every girl in it is a Pike, and a fine one, too, it is no misnomer. All except two are the daughters of John Pike, the others being Hattie and Annie, the daughters of Dr. Walter Pike, formerly of Provo. Annie Pike has become known to The Herald readers through her literary work, and the others are counted among some of the best looking, as well as the brightest, girls in the city. They are, from left to right: Hattie, Olive, Annie, Amy, Venice, Bessie and Dixie.

Daughters and nieces of John Pike (Image from *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 December 1902, p. 14).



Kensington apartments in Salt Lake City
(image from wlcdocs.com/historicpreservation/MFDG/P4.pdf)