

John Pike

1891 census, 91 Upper St. James' street, Carisbrooke

John Pike Head

65

Silversmith

Newport; Carisbrooke

HAMPSHIRE TELEGRAPH

28 MARCH 1896

BIG ROBBERY AT NEWPORT

A HAUL OF £1,500

On Wednesday afternoon a daring robbery was reported to the police at Newport, Isle of Wight. At 2.15 **Mr. John Pike**, an aged jeweller and dealer in old silver, occupying a small shop in Upper St. James's-street, Newport, Isle of Wight, found that his shop door had been unlocked and the premises entered during his temporary absence. He at once went to his safe, which he had left unlocked, and discovered that a cash box, containing about £1,200 in gold, was missing therefrom, together with a valuable old French gold watch and gold war medals. A tray of rare gold coins, valued at £300, had been taken away from the window. Mr. Pike, it appears lives alone behind the shop. Shortly before one o'clock on Wednesday he received a visit from a person described as a diamond dealer, who is known to him by appearance, but not by name. This visitor was desirous of purchasing some old silver, and with the object of showing him some Mr. Pike went from the shop, after locking the door, and on returning in about 20 minutes he found that the lock had been picked, and the shop robbed as described. Several persons living near state that for several days past two strange well-dressed young men have been continually passing up and down the street, and a neighbour states that he saw one of the men dressed in a long loose black overcoat, with a black bowler hat, leave the shop shortly before the robbery was detected, and hurry away down the street.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS

3 OCTOBER 1896

NEWPORT

MR JOHN PIKE

We are sorry to learn that this old inhabitant, who has been in somewhat indifferent health since the great money robbery at his premises in Upper St. James's-street, was seized with serious illness on Thursday. Considerable anxiety was occasioned to the neighbours and passers by, as his business premises remained closed during the morning, and an entrance having been effected, Mr. Pike, who lives alone, was found in a state of collapse. Drs. Coombs and Castle attended him and an improvement in his condition was reported yesterday.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS
3 OCTOBER 1896

NEWPORT

MR JOHN PIKE

Mr. John Pike. - who gained considerable notoriety in connection with the extensive gold robbery from his premises early in the year, died on Saturday from apoplectic seizure and senile decay at the age of 76. Close upon half a century ago he succeeded his father in the well-known silver dealer's business at the familiar old fashioned corner shop in Upper St. James's-street, and it is a curious coincidence that he died in the room in which he was born on those premises, where he had lived all his life. In his bachelorhood he had lived alone since the death of his sister in rigidly modest style, though possessed of considerable means obtained by close attention to business. To one of his dispositions the recent loss of over £1200 in connection with the robbery was a great shock, and though his fortune was by no means exhausted, that loss evidently told upon him in his declining days. He lived just long enough to hear of the conviction for another theft of the suspect, Johnson. The funeral took place on Wednesday at Newport Cemetery, the Rev. A.F. Creecy officiating.

note: £1500 in 1896 equates to about £182,000 in 2019

Transcription by Rosemary Stewart for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2019
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