

WHO IS EDWARD JEROME PIPES?

John Hawkins, Lenoir N Carolina - 2025

On 11 August 2022, I received a newspaper item with picture dated 17 November 1953 from the *Rapid City Journal*, Rapid City South Dakota. Even though the birth location was right, and the subject was a Pipes, his first name was not familiar. I put it aside for later consideration.

The following is the newspaper item:

Episcopal Pastor to be Honored

Special services will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church for Rev. E. Jerome Pipes. The services honoring Rev. Pipes will be followed by a reception at the (unreadable word) center at 315 Kansas City.

Rev. Pipes was born in Lenoir, N. C. and attended school at Arden, N. C. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and attended the General Theological Seminary at New York. Rev. Pipes also acted as missionary in the mountains of North Carolina for five years and was minister at the chapel of Colorado Mines at Golden, Colo., before coming to Rapid City.

As part of his progressive efforts in the Episcopal Church, plans are forging ahead for an enlargement of the parish house and the building of a new auditorium to take care of activities at the church.

Recently when I came across the item again, I determined to learn just which of the Pipes families in the Lenoir area could lay claim to him. The only clues I had were his name and his birthplace. Thanks to the internet, I am able to put together some basic facts about him.

The 1930 Census: Edward J. Pipes, age 35, Episcopal clergyman, with wife, Lois N. age 38, son Edward J. , age 5, in Golden, Jefferson County, Colorado. Birthplace of father and mother, NC. He was a veteran, and 28 years of age when he first married. That would place his marriage about 1922. *Find a Grave* gives his birthdate at 27 September 1894 in Lenoir County, North Carolina and his death date as 2 June 1965, in Rapid City, South Dakota. *Ancestry* states that his wife, Lois, was born in 1891, in Missouri, and died 4 November 1961. They were married on 29 May 1923 in Manhattan, New York City, NY. They were living in Rapid City when the 1935 state census was taken.

Find a Grave shows his birthplace as Lenoir County, North Carolina. However, during my over forty years of researching the Pipes family, I did not find a Pipes living in Lenoir County during the 1890's. There have been instances where I have had to redirect researchers to Lenoir County who had contacted the town of Lenoir in Caldwell County erroneously.

Find a Grave also shows his wife's name as Lois Edwards Noel, but that is the only place where she is listed that way. Perhaps the transcriber accidentally made her husband's given name part of hers. Incidentally *Ancestry* shows his name as "Ederome Pipes" in the printed copy of the 1950 census, although the written copy is clearly "E. Jerome."

Edward Jerome Pipes' World War I Draft Registration Card confirms his birthdate and states that in 1917-1918 he was living in Buncombe County, NC. His physical build is described at medium, his height at medium, his hair color as light, and his eyes as blue. In 1942 during World War II, he registered again in South Dakota. Again, his birth date is confirmed, and his birth place is listed as Lenoir, Cataba (sic), not Caldwell, NC. His occupation is "Clergyman Emanuel Parish." His

height is 5'6", eyes blue, hair, blond, weight 125, and complexion is ruddy. His next of kin is Lois Noel Pipes.

Some information on the son, Edward Jerome Pipes, Jr., is available. He was born 15 October 1924, in Franklin, County, NC, probably when his father was doing missionary work in the mountains of North Carolina. When he registered for the World War II draft, he is listed as being 5'11", weight 140, Complexion light, hair color blonde, and eyes blue. No evidenced of his serving as been found. He was an Aeronautical Engineer for North American Aircraft Co. He married on 31 January 1953, Nancy Ellen Blair, daughter of Dr. John H. and Clara M. (James) Blair in St. Louis Missouri. He died 29 August 1993 in Santa Clara County, California, and is buried in Atla Mesa Memorial Park. Nancy died 31 May 1997, and is buried in the same cemetery. They do not seem to have had children.

My challenge was to find just which Lenoir, NC, family is his. While there were several Pipes families in the county, the only Pipes living in the town of Lenoir at that time of his birth was Mary Alice Pipes (called "Alice"), daughter of my ancestor, Thomas Pipes by his second marriage to Elizabeth Winkler. None of the older people who knew the oral history and who helped me in my initial efforts to gather information even knew Alice existed. It seems that, despite having the Pipes name, she never was part of the extended Pipes family. There is some evidence the marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth was not a happy one. They may have separated, because he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a 42-year-old man. His children with his first wife, Julia (Barlow), lived with various relatives. He died when Alice was about two years old. so she probably never knew him or her Pipes kin who lived in another community. They obviously did not know her.

Thanks to the help of many people, I feel that I have a fairly clear picture of the Pipeses in Caldwell County during the needed time frame. Lenoir, NC, as his birthplace, is mentioned too many times for it to be an error. So where does E. Jerome fit? As I searched the information that I have, I came to the conclusion that he must be illegitimate, and the most likely person seemed to be Alice. Despite her recorded illicit activities with T. C. Robbins, there was no indication she had children. (more on that later) But Edward Jerome just does not fit anywhere else. Now I have the task of proving it.

All researchers start with the census. If he was indeed Alice's son, he should be with her in the 1900 census. He is not shown with her in the town of Lenoir where she appears. Neither she nor he have been found in the 1910 census. The last known record of her before her death certificate in Catawba County was about 1907 in the town of Lenoir. She obviously moved to Hickory in the adjoining county of Catawba some time between 1907 and 1915.

I had seen her 1915 Catawba County death certificate and extracted the death date and burial location. However, I had overlooked vital information. The certificate shows her as a widow and that her father's surname was Winkler (no first name given). I found the "smoking gun" I was looking for when I read the name of the informant: E. J. Pipes, of Hickory, NC. Mystery solved. But when a mystery is solved, more questions are raised. Where was Edward Jerome in 1900 and 1910? Did he honestly think his mother was a widow? Was that what she had told him, or did he make a false assumption? Was she protecting him from the stigma of illegitimacy, or was he trying to protect her? Was T. C. Robbins his father? Did Edward Jerome Jr. have children who may be out there somewhere wondering who their ancestors are? Will we ever know?

Below I have cut and pasted the information that I have previously written about Mary Alice. Now that we know about Edward Jerome, the picture is bit more complete.

1-2-7 Mary Alice Pipes, born 10 November 1860. Those who knew the oral family history were not aware of this daughter of Thomas. She is listed as the postmaster at Cilley on 10 April 1887, and she served until 1891. The following deeds are in the office of the Register of Deeds in Caldwell County, North Carolina:

Deed Book 23, page 372. 1 November 1889

Mary A. Pipes to Benjamin and T. E. J. Greer for \$550 on south side of Yadkin River [no acreage shown] adjoining Wm. G. Connelly's old track. J. M. Isbell, W. T. Land, witnesses. Filed 16 March 1891.

Deed Book 30, page 88, 16 August 1897

Mary A. Pipes to G. L. Munday for \$25 on German Hill on waters of Yadkin River adjoining James D. Widby, Bynum Triplett, and others known as Alice Pipes lot. Mary A. Pipes purchased from Patt. Cottrell. [No acreage shown]

A court case in 1891, the State vs. Alice Pipes and T. C. Robbins, was found "not a true bill."

A Lenoir, North Carolina, newspaper item on 13 April 1892:

Thomas Robbins and Alice Pipes, f. & a., guilty, male defendant, 4 months in jail, female \$50 fine. When Thomas Robbins and Alice Pipes were brought into court for judgment in the f and a case, the female defendant fainted when the sentence was pronounced. Robbins is a married man. Note: f and a case is short for fornication and adultery.

The 1900 census shows Mary Alice Pipes living in Lenoir. *A Historical Scrapbook 1849-1979*, a history of St. James Episcopal Church, Lenoir, North Carolina, by Elizabeth McConnell Jarrett, published in 1979, shows on page 269, Alice Pipes listed on an undated roll of the Women of the Church. The only thing that the records show is that Alice was not present for the September, October, or November meetings. Mrs. Jarrett says the Women of the Church rolls ended in 1901, so this roll would have been a listing of member of the organization prior to that time. Mrs. Jarrett also very graciously researched the records of St. James Church and found no further reference to Alice Pipes.

In an item in the Lenoir newspaper which the compiler failed to date, but is believed to be about 1907, the following is shown:

Ordered that Alice Pipes be allowed to list her house and lot in Lenoir township.

A death certificate in Catawba County, North Carolina, indicates that she died 30 August 1915 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. It gives her age as 53 and her date of birth as 1862.

Footnote: *The newspaper article states that he attended school in Arden, N. C. Christ School, affiliated with the Episcopal Church, was formed in Arden in 1900. That was about the time Alice's name was appearing on the rolls of the Women of the Church at Saint James' Church in Lenoir. Her son would have been about six years old at that time, the age when most children begin school. Could this be how they learned about the school? Perhaps he was there when the 1910 was taken when he would have been about 16. Arden is in Buncombe County where he registered for the draft in 1917-1918. Now a college preparatory school for boys, Christ School is still in existence.*