

Pike Lumber Company, Inc. Fund

Established in 1999 by the Pike Lumber Company, Inc. to provide support for community redevelopment, support of educational and religious institutions, charitable purposes in Fulton and Clay Counties, Indiana, and such other communities as recommended by the donor to the Foundation.

It was over 100 years ago, in November of 1904 that D.A. Pike entered the hardwood lumber industry by establishing D.A. Pike Lumber Company in Wabash, Indiana. Following a tradition of honesty and integrity established by his ancestors, he succeeded not only in his chosen field but also in instilling his love of the industry in the second of his three daughters.



In 1933, D.A. Pike relocated in the northern Indiana town of Akron. His daughter Helen, sensing his disappointment at not having a son to assume his role in business, decided to emulate him. "I told my dad I wanted a sawmill of my own, and I no sooner said it than I got it - just like that," she later recalled. With a crew of 20, she took the D.A. Pike Lumber Company name across Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan to cut railroad ties.

Eventually, she married Howard Utter, a lumberjack her dotting father sent along with her team to "watch my little girl." Together, the two made an indomitable team.

When D.A. Pike went into another business, the Uppers moved their operation and the Pike name back to Akron, where they purchased an abandoned sawmill and began a program that remains ongoing. They were so determined to succeed that for several years the company continued to cut railroad ties, often managed by Helen Pike Utter, while Howard Utter operated portable mills across Indiana to help pay for improvements to the Akron plant.



In 1978, they broadened the company's base by building a second sawmill at Carbon in west central Indiana. The Uppers' hard work combined with top-notch employees made the business grow. The Pike name had become synonymous with quality hardwoods, excellent service and a strong commitment to forest stewardship.

Pike Lumber Company is now Indiana's largest manufacturer and distributor of quality hardwoods to buyers such as the cabinet, millwork, furniture, and musical instrument industries - companies who have exacting specifications for widths, lengths, color, manufacture, inspection, kiln drying and a great guarantee. They have approximately 200 employees at three plants in Akron, Carbon and Milan, Indiana.