

JOHN LEASIL BRASHER

Grandfather John Leasil Brasher was the first of seven children born to Andrew Jackson Brasher and Temperance Goodwin Stone, offspring of sturdy pioneer people, who left Virginia and South Carolina and came to Kentucky. Here they cleared forests and made large plantations in the district known as Lyon or Caldwell County.

As a boy Grandfather grew up like many other Southern children where Negroes did the work. His father was a prominent man and policeman at the time of his death. John Leasil was then twelve years old.

When the Civil War broke out, John Leasil, like many other teenagers, must go to fight. He was under Captain Wilcox in General Forest's division and took part in the battle Donelson, then under the division of General John H. Morgan. He served under General Morgan for about two years and then was given his discharge because of a bullet he received. He carried this bullet until his death. General Morgan gave the boy a pistol, bullet mold, and a photo of himself. These were always cherished possessions of Grandfather, and were given to his son Leasil upon Grandfather's death. Leasil's son Frank now has the pistol and bullet mold.

Not being able to fight after being wounded, and not liking the conditions of the country at that time, John Leasil decided to join caravans going to the new country out in the west. His mother gave her consent and gave him one hundred dollars, and that, as his cousin Ida Goodwin said, "was a very large sum in those days." He came in the company of Elias Ferry's freight train and drove a six-mule team. He stopped in Salt Lake City in 1864, tried many occupations, finally becoming a policeman and County Sheriff.

April 6, 1865 he married Eliza Cheshire, daughter of George Cheshire and Elizabeth Keys. Mr. Cheshire was a maker of bricks. Eliza was one of eight children who came with their parents from Bedfordshire, England, to be near the Latter-day Saint Church, which church John Leasil Brasher joined.

John Leasil and Eliza made their first home on the southwest corner of what is now the City and County Building block. John Leasil built two adobe rooms, one closet and pantry. In this house they lived for three years. By the time Eliza was not quite twenty years old she was the mother of two children, Clara and John. Her husband John Leasil then married a second wife, Ann Butler, who was eight years older than Eliza.

Soon after, the family moved to Kamas, Summit County, Utah. While living there, Grandfather worked in the timber. He got his leg broken just before Thomas, his second wife's son, was born.

Later they sold their two homes and bought cattle and moved from Kamas to Bear Lake, County. Bear Lake was a good cattle country. For awhile they prospered. Then they moved on to Randolph, Rich County, Utah. That winter was a very hard one and people were very discouraged. John Leasil and his two families, William Howard and his three families, and Randolph Steward and his three families were counseled to move to Castle Valley. They made preparations to move, which took them nearly all summer.

In Randolph, Rich County, there still is a lane or canyon road called Brasher Road, and a farm or ranch has one log shack on it. Formerly there were two shacks, but now only one stands. Whether these ever belonged to Brashers was not known by a Mr. Crouch, who related this to me in 1954.

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In September 1880 the three families left Randolph for Castle Valley. They were two weeks coming from Salt Lake City to Price, Carbon County, Utah. The roads were very rough and rocky. Some afternoons they could travel only two miles.

When John Leasil settled in Huntington in Castle Valley, he bought one hundred-sixty acres of land and engaged in general farming. The second summer, in 1882, he raised twelve acres of corn, seven hundred bushels of wheat and a lot of potatoes, although the first year in Castle Valley was extremely hard on them.

John Leasil traded a horse for a city block and built cabins for his two families. As time went on his sons, all hard workers, took over the farm, while he worked for the Co-op Wagon & Machine Company. Later he helped around the Brasher Hotel, owned by his son Reuben. He also took care of a very pretty horse for a company and it seemed like he never enjoyed anything more than to hitch the horse up to a pretty little cart and give it the daily outing. He, like his folks and his sons after him, always loved pretty horses. When I'd see him drive by I'd think how he looked like a Southern Gentleman I'd seen on the stage.

At Huntington, Utah.  
April 19, 1962.

Kenneth J. Brasher

April 19, 1962

A Credential

The foregoing brief history, with its accompanying photographs and genealogy sheets, is intended to serve as the John L. Brasher family credential, that this family, if found acceptable, may be constituted a power house in the Service System of the Ward Family Record.

To this end I submit it, having been regularly authorized to do so.

Kenneth J. Brasher

Date April 19, 1962

Lily Brasher Pierson

Date April 19, 1962

Action on the Credential

The John Leasil Brasher family Credential is acceptable to me. I recommend it for the action of the Judge.

Lilly Engle

April 19, 1962

Judicial Action:

Acting temporarily in the judicial office, in lieu of Kenneth John Brasher, I, too, accept this credential, and provide that the form of it as it here stands approved shall not be changed, unless change shall be duly authorized and regularly made.

Signed

Henry C. Woodward

April 19, 1962.

Action on the Credential  
certified by

John Mill

Secretary of the Record

April 19, 1962

Office copy, 103







No. 2. Andrew Jackson (Beasher) <sup>step father</sup> Jackson Beasher  
children:  
Thomas  
Belle  
Elizabeth Crauch

- From a letter written by Ida Goodwin,  
Feb. 23, 1933



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