

MY PARENTS**MARY ELVIRA GILLISPIE BRASHER
AND JOHN WILLIAM BRASHER**

By Clara Brasher Jorgensen

My mother Mary Elvira Gillispie Brasher was born on April 15, 1875 in Fountain Green, Utah. Her parents were Mary Elvira Sherman Gillispie and Alpheus Monterville Gillispie. They were separated by divorce when she was still small and her mother was married a second time to Elias H. Cox. Ten children were born from the second marriage, Mary Elvira, (my mother) being the only child from the first marriage. Her stepfather had been married prior to his marriage to my grandmother and had a son as old as grandmother was. My mother had the highest regard for Elias Cox. He was a grand old man and she loved him as she would have had he been her father. I recall my mother saying that he treated her with more compassion and concern than her mother did. Grandpa Cox died when I was 2 years old so I knew nothing first hand about him.

My grandmother was very bitter toward her divorced husband but, about all my mother ever quoted her as saying about him was that, "There was no good in him." Others gave mother good reports of her father and since she had been born under the covenant mother had no desire to be sealed to her stepfather and never was. My mother was never to my knowledge adopted by Elias Cox but went by the name of Mary Cox until her marriage.

My mother Mary Elvira Gillispie (Cox), married my father John William Brasher, in 1805 in Salt Lake City. They were both born and raised in the church and were married in the Salt Lake Temple.

My father was born in Salt Lake City but lived there only as a child. His father and two wives and two other men with plural wives were the first to settle in Huntington in Emery County.

I'm not sure how the Cox family got into Emery County from Sanpete county where my mother was born in Fountain Green but they raised their large family in Huntington.

I think my mother and dad met when they both worked on a cattle ranch between Price and Huntington owned by Rueben C. Miller and always spoken of as "Miller's Ranch". Mother worked in the ranch house and Dad helped with chores and cattle.

My parents had little education but possessed wisdom far above what I ever hope to attain regardless of the educational opportunities that are mine. My dad worked away from home at an early age, but all his earnings he gave to Grandfather Brasher until the time he (Dad) married. Mother told of working for hire for \$0.50 a week.

Mother and Dad were the parents of eleven children. The first child died at about a year and a half of Spinal Meningitis. I think this demonstrates the greatest sorrow and crisis they knew in their lives. I include here the story in my mother's own sweet gentle way. (page #62) Though her heart was broken from their loss she entitled her deepest feelings; "The Lord is Righteous in all His Ways and Holy in All His Works." They adapted to this crisis by saying "Our Father knows best."



For sometime after the death of this child no more children came to them and I'm sure they were weighed down with their sorrow. Then Rueben G. Miller gave my mother a blessing and promised her that she would have more children, even as many as she would desire. Ten children were born after this loss. Each child grew to call these sweet, gentle wonderful parents blessed.

Their family, I am very sure, they would have considered their greatest achievement. No child was perfect but they all became honorable citizens who were respected in the society in which they were nurtured. They became teachers, bishops, high councilmen, and parents of a righteous posterity. I think they also considered the missions performed by their family a great achievement. The first of these was my father's mission to the Northern States after he and mother had five children. The youngest of these was only one year old when he left. Mother provided for her family of small ones and her husband while he was on his mission by selling baked goods. Two sons and two daughters went on missions.

(1891) Returns I write to Mark August 20. 1872
 (A Blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch
 upon the head of) John William Brewster and John
 and Elizabeth Brewster were Salt Lake City, U.S.A.
 Utah Dec. 10th 1869
 I learn by virtue of my office that you
 hands upon my head and pronounce that you to put
 your blessing upon these which is also put in a
 name and by the word and instruction therefore
 you up in grade and in the knowledge of the truth
 by obedient to the laws of God and they say, and you
 shall be many and then shall fill up the measure
 I they create and be sure a my ^{to} man in word
 me they name shall be handed down in honorable name
 made and written in the Lamb's book of life then
 of the lineage of Ephraim and in heir to the
 promise with the gifts of the new and everlasting
 covenant seek to improve thy mind for thou shalt
 be called in an early day to labor in the ministry
 thou shalt also prophesy and I say shall see thy

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 counsel and wonder at thy wisdom for the spirit of
 the Lord shall rest upon thee in my own power when
 thou art administering among the people listen to
 the voice of the spirit and the angel which say
 you that all they shall not forsake their
 will ward off the shafts of the adversary which say
 be turned off these, and give thee power over the
 sick and their soul the mighty in healing the sick
 who shall also speak fluently the words of life and
 salvation in the tongue of the natives among whom
 thou shalt journey and thou shalt find friends among
 strangers and shall have power over those enemies
 against thee and shall prosper which may be said
 the time of scarcity and famine with spiritual and
 temporal food and thy name shall be known far
 and near. This blessing I seal upon thy head with the
 blessings of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, be comforted
 in the promise of the first redemption with all thy
 father's name & never do amiss.

A Blessing given by Patriarch John W. Chase

upon the head of John W. Brasher son
of John L. and Eliza Brasher born in
Salt Lake City ut. Dec. 10th 1848, given at
Huntington Exmo Co Utah. March 22nd 1901.
Bro. John Williams Brasher's now
place my hands upon thy head and give
unto thee the Patriarchal blessing and
do this because thou hast asked for the same
for the Savior said, ask and it shall receive
and I say unto thee Bro. John, because of the
integrity of thy heart and the love of which
thou hast for the truth the Lord thy God
lovest, and as long as thou art
faithful he will fill thee with his love
his obedient children and it is, much as
thou hast covenanted to serve thy heavenly
father in keeping all of his commandments
be sure and keep these covenants sacred and
as loud as thou dost, that the Lord thy God
will never forsake thee but under all
circumstances he will bless thee with his
holy spirit its guide thee in the path of
right that thy feet may never slip but
in all of the trials of thy life he will be near
unto thee and his angels will be near unto
thee to preserve thee from the power of the
adversary of the soul for when dangers beset
thy path thy guardian angel will whisper
good unto thee and will show unto thee the
secret paths of the adversary against
it that thou wilt know what course to
pursue to save thy life from the hand of their
enemies which will in some time of thy
life be in wait to take thy life from thee
unto the living thou art a true blooded
Englishman for thou art of the tribe of Ephraim
and because of this thy living thou art a

lawful heir to the holy Melchizedek's priesthood
and thou wilt hereafter be ordained to a higher
position in the same than which thou now
holdst for thou wilt hereafter be
ordained and set apart to hold positions in
the midst of thy brethren which will be an
honor unto thee for thy brethren will yet
seek unto thee for counsel and they will
receive thy counsel and instructions which
thou wilt impart unto them for wisdom
will be given unto thee to counsel in
rightness in all things for thy mind
will expand and give unto thee wisdom and a
true knowledge of the order and authority of the
holy priesthood which thou wilt hereafter
be ordained the Lord thy God shall fill thee
with spirit in the spirit world for thy benefit for
to give unto thee the privilege of taking thine
earthly tabernacle in the dispensation of the
fulness of times and that too expressly for
thy future benefit now Bro. John I say unto
thee in the name of Jesus Christ that all of these
promised blessings are sure unto thee if thou wilt
not worthy to receive the same for thou art given
unto thee for thy future benefit therefore be thou
faithful and from time to time as it is necessary
for thy benefit the Lord will give unto thee the
fulfillment of the same and I seal these all
upon thy head by the authority of the holy
Priesthood and that thou mayest eternal life
with power to come forth in the morning of the
resurrection of the just and in connection with thy company
enter into their exultation and come unto a fullness
of celestial glory all of which I seal upon thy head
in the name of Jesus Christ and by the authority
of the holy Priesthood even so Amen.
(John W. Chase Recorder)

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(1891) News Service to Utah August 20, 1892
 Upon the head of John William Brown, Minister, Patrons
 and Elizabeth Blanche Brown, Salt Lake City, U.S.A.
 Utah, Dec. 10, 1892

John, I'll learn by virtue of my office I lay my
 hands upon thy head and pronounce thee a prophet
 and a blessing upon thee which is also pronounced upon
 thee and thy brethren and thy kindred in the knowledge of the truth
 to be obtained to the laws of God and thy duty and you
 shall be many and there shall fill up the measure
 I lay there shall be no more death in terrible
 name and written in the Law of Life
 of the lineage of Abraham and in their to the
 covenant with the gifts of the new and everlasting
 covenant seek to improve thy mind for thou shalt
 be called at an early day to labor in the ministry
 thou shalt also prophesy and thy shall see thee.

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 counsel and wonder at thy wisdom for the spirit of
 the Lord shall rest upon thee in mighty power when
 thou art administering among the people listen to
 the voice of the spirit and the angel which
 I give thee at thy birth shall not forsake thee
 will ward off the shafts of the adversary which
 he hurled at thee, and guide thee from the adver-
 sary and there shall be mighty in healing the sick
 and shall also speak forth the words of life and
 salvation in the tongue of the natives among whom
 thou shalt sojourne who shall find friends among
 strangers and shall have power over their enemies
 against thee and there shall be created to feed many
 the time of scarcity and famine with spiritual and
 imperial food and thy fame shall be known far
 and near. This prophecy I seal upon thy head with the
 blessings of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Amen
 in the name of the Father Administration with all thy
 Father's name Amen Do Amen.