

INVENTORY AND GUIDE
TO THE
MARY BUTLER BROWN PAPERS
COLLECTION NO. 85
COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Processed by
Kim Keiser

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MARY BUTLER BROWN COLLECTION

INTRODUCTION

Mary (May) Ann Butler Brown was born on October 15, 1860. She was one of the first white baby girls born in Denver. Her parents were John and Jane (Davies) Butler, who journeyed to the United States from South Wales, England in 1856. After four years in the Great Salt Lake area, the Butlers were lured to Colorado after hearing of the gold strike on Cherry Creek.

John Butler owned a tailor shop on Thirteenth and Blake Streets, and the family resided above this shop until John's death in 1870. While growing up, Mary spent much of her time with her Aunt Mary (Mrs. Llewellyn Rees) because her mother was often ill. The first school that Mary attended was termed the "dug-out" and was located on the corner of Sixteenth and Curtis Streets. Later, Mary attended the Episcopal Seminary and the Arapahoe School.

For the July 4th 1876 celebration of Colorado's entrance into the Union, Mary Butler was chosen by the Rocky Mountain News as the first "Miss Colorado." A parade down Larimer Street boasted decorated wagons carrying Mary and other girls who represented the rest of the Union. Mary cites this parade as one of the most thrilling events of her life.

On December 8 1879, Mary and William Phillips Jr. eloped to Golden to be married. Phillips ran a livery stable. The couple had three children: Emma Mary, born in 1880, died in infancy; Edith Rose, born October 7 1881; and Ralph Edwin, birth date unknown.

William Phillips Jr. died in 1893 of pneumonia during the time of the Alaska Gold Rush and was buried in San Francisco, California. A year later, on August 23 1894, Mary married George Walter Brown in Ouray, Colorado. Brown, who

had been a banker in Durango, set up a building contracting firm in Denver, the Brown Contracting Company. Mary and George had no children. George Brown died in June, 1931.

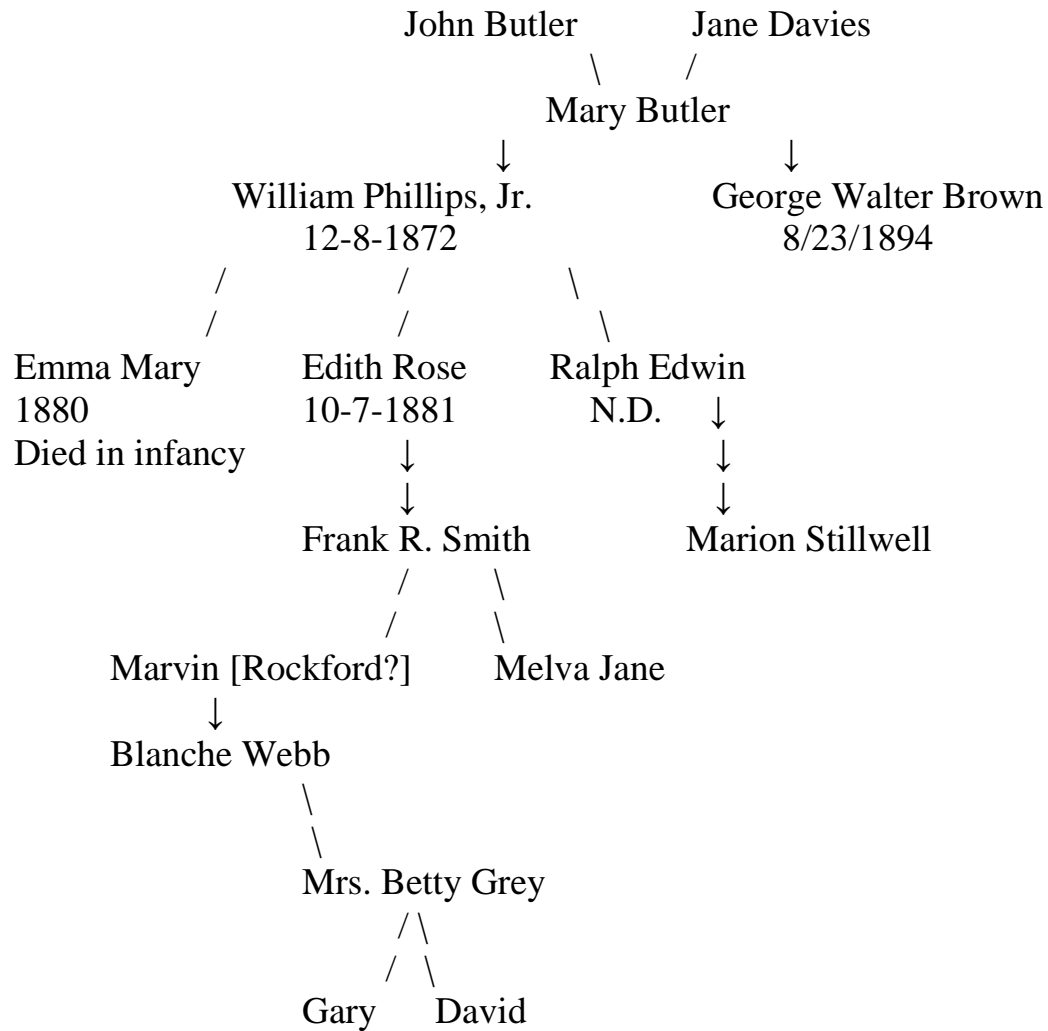
Mary Butler Brown was very active in the Pioneer Ladies Aid Society, often serving as president. She was also involved in various other pioneer societies. Mary died at age 96 on January 7 1957.

SIGNIFICANCE

This collection consists primarily of newspaper articles and memorabilia that illuminate the pioneer groups of Denver. Also of note are a number of photographs of Mary's family and of various pioneer groups.

Source: A Biography of Mrs. Mary Butler Brown, 1860-1949, by Ellen Rankin.
Mary Butler Brown Collection, Box I, FF 8.

FAMILY TREE



/ \ = sons or daughters

↓ = married

This tree was devised from information in the collection and the biography and is not complete.

MAY BUTLER BROWN COLLECTION

Box No. 1

- FF1 Correspondence, 4-22-1919—11-24-1955
- FF2 Correspondence, n.d.
- FF3 Memorandum Books: Pioneer Ladies Aid Society, 1907; Misc. Payable / Receivable, 1913 – 1922.
- FF4 Personal books: Contain genealogy of the Butler family, c. 1858
- FF5 Committee Book: Pioneer Ladies Aid Society's Relief, 1905
- FF6 Thank You Book: Given to Mrs. Brown by the Colorado History class of Lakewood Junior High School, 2/1954.
- FF7 Receipts: Horace W. Bennett and Co., 7-1-1939; Olinger Mortuary Assoc., 4-22-1922; Pioneer Ladies Aid Society, 6-28-1904—1/1933; Pioneer Men and Women of Colorado, 12-20-1945; and Pioneer Women, 1-8-1940.
- FF8 Typescript: Biography of Mrs. Mary Butler Brown, 1850-1949, by Ellen Rankin.
- FF9 Typescripts: The Gospel According to Adolph, n.d.; Your Lucky Star, Astrology, n.d.; Amelia R. Sigi Warwick, n.d.
- FF10 Certificate: Honorary Membership to George W. Brown to The Society of Colorado Pioneers, 1-15-1907.
- FF11 Dedications: The Colorado Pioneers, n.d.; The Pioneer Mother, 1935; Colorful Colorado Notebook, n.d.; The Pioneer Ladies Aid Society Funeral Service, n.d.
- FF12 Proclamation: The Opening of the Colorado State Fair, 8-19-1951, by the Governor.
- FF13 Report of the Hay Fever Research Committee of the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado, 1926.

FF14 Programs: Crystal Palace, 1-19-1893; Inaugural Reception for Hon. A.W. McIntire, Governor of Colorado, 1-8-1895; Union Lodge No. I Annual Reception, 1896; Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association Second Annual Ball, 2-15-1897; Calico Ball, 4-23-1898; Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association, 5-5-1914; Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association 13th Annual Ball, 5-16-1916; Colorado Day, 8-1-1927; Colorado Day, 1928; Colorado Pioneer Society Banquet, 12-19-1935; Dedication of Historical Marker by the Pioneer Women of Colorado, 8-26-1939; Golden Anniversary of the Pioneer Women of Colorado, 10-3-1939; Colorado State Fair, 8/1951; Grand Railway Charity Ball, n.d.

FF15 Membership card, tickets and business card.

FF16 Tour publications: Historic Denver, 7-28-1946—5-23-1948.

FF17 Club pamphlets: Daughters of Colorado/Native Daughters of Colorado, 1934-1951; The Pioneer Ladies Aid Society Rosters, 1904-1932; The Pioneer Men and Women of Colorado, 1944, 1954; Pioneer Women of Colorado, 1940, 1942; The Social Union Club of Denver, 1926-1927.

FF18 Club pamphlets: Territorial Daughters of Colorado, 1928-1955; Women's Relief Corps, 1917, 1933.

FF19 Club pamphlets: The Woman's Club of Denver, 1910-1940.

FF20 Newspaper clippings: 6-23-1904—10-21-1917.

FF21 Newspaper clippings: 1921—1-6-1928.

FF22 Newspaper clippings: 8-17-1930—1939.

FF23 Newspaper clippings: 2-11-1940—9-28-1941

FF24 Newspaper clippings: 2-24-1943—10-19-1944

FF25 Newspaper clippings: 4-15-1945—11-17-1946.

FF26 Newspaper clippings: 1-5-1947—5-24-1948.

FF27 Newspaper clippings: 8-2-1948.

- FF28 Newspaper clippings: 11-21-1948.
- FF29 Newspaper clippings: 6-21-1950—1-9-1957.
- FF30 Newspaper clippings: n.d. Obituaries
- FF31 Newspaper clippings: n.d. Related to Pioneer Societies and History of Denver.
- FF32 Newspaper clippings: n.d. Miscellaneous
- FF33 Sheet music: "I Dreamed of OLD HOME SWEET HOME," 1916.
- FF34 Magazine: The Colorado Pioneer, 10/1920.
- FF35 Newsletter: Educational Opportunities, 12/1948.
- FF36 Publication: Cornell's Physical Geography, by S.S. Cornell, 1875.
- FF37 Publications: Authorized Guide to the Tower of London, by W.J. Loftie, 1888; Time Tables and Guide Book, by William Sloan and Co., 1893.
- FF38 Publications: Shadows of the Sunset, by Marion Muir, 1918; Poet of the Trail's End, by Lee Everett Minton, 1944; and a portion of a book.
- FF39 Photographs: 1908—1939. Ashland School Graduation of 14-year-olds, 1924; Cardiff by the Sea, 8-2-1921; Coronado Hotel, 8-4-1921; Tom and Jessie Kilgore, 3-14-1939; Halsey M. Rhoads, 1908; San Diego Bay, U.S. Destroyers, 8-2-1921; Tijuana, Mexico, Sonora Saloon, 8-3-1921.
- FF40 Photographs: n.d. Mary Chrisman and her sister; Mary Chrisman, Dona Richards, May Brown, Long Beach, CA; Mary Chrisman, Brown, Wright, _____, Birch, _____, Babe Costlett; Maggie Costlett; Fanny Hardin; Melva, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Swambly, Edith; Melvin Kerby, Walter Brown Rogers, unidentified.
- FF41 Photographs: Mary Butler Brown and Family; Mary Butler Brown, n.d.; Mary Butler Brown and Herman Blank, 6-14-1948; Mary Butler Brown, Melva Jane Smith, Edith Rose Smith, 8-1-1949; George Walter Brown, 8-7-1925 and n.d.; Mary and George Brown, 1926 and n.d.

FF42 Photographs: Mary Butler Brown Family. Jane Butler (mother of Mary), Mary Butler Brown, Edith Rose Smith, Marvin Smith, Melva Jane Smith, c. 1909-1910; Edith Rose (Phillips) Smith, (daughter), n.d.; Ralph (son), n.d.; Marvin Smith (grandson), n.d.; Melva Jane Smith (granddaughter), n.d.

FF43 Photographs: Mary Butler Brown Family. Grandpa Rees, n.d.; Lu Rees (Mary's uncle), n.d.; Mrs. L.L. (Mary) Rees (Mary's aunt), n.d.; Stella Rees, n.d.; Joe Davies (Mary's uncle), n.d.; Maria McGrath (Mary's cousin), 3/1950; Louise McGrath (Mary's cousin), n.d.; David and Gary Grey (Mary's great-great grandsons, n.d.; David Grey, n.d.

FF44 Photographs: Pioneer groups, n.d.

PORTFOLIO I:

- Item 1 Certificates: Membership of May Butler Brown in The Society of Colorado Pioneers, 1-8-1904; Marriage, Mr. G.W. Brown to Mrs. May Phillilps, 8-29-1894.
- Item 2 Magazine: The Colorado Pioneer, n.d.
- Item 3 Newspaper clipping (mounted), 11-21-1923.
- Item 4 Photographs: Girl Drill Team and Drum Corps, n.d.; Group picture: Mrs. Charles Semper, Mrs. Rebecca N. Hirschfield, Mrs. Mary Chrisman, Mrs. W.J. Phillips, Mrs. Mary Butler Brown, Mrs. James Fountwell, Mrs. Augustine Walters, Mrs. Fannie Hardin, Madame Putz Underhill, n.d.; Pioneers of Colorado, Elitch Gardens, 6-25-1907; Mary Butler Brown and Great-great grandson David Grey, n.d.

SCRAPBOOK: Newspaper clippings.