



## **The Life of Juliet Wells Brier**

**“The Heroine of Death Valley”**

**Compiled by Alane K. Dashner, Explore Lodi**

### **Summary:**

Juliet Wells Brier’s heroic efforts to get her young family and the Jayhawker and Mississippian parties through Death Valley in the winter of 1849-1850 are well documented. With her husband, Methodist minister John W. Brier, and three young sons she left Salt Lake City in early November 1849 for what was supposed to be a nine-week journey of 700 miles to the small town of Los Angeles. By the seven-week mark they had traveled only 250 miles. The party of 160 wagons/290 people split into smaller groups heading west. Some stayed with the leader on the Old Spanish Trail [this later proved the better strategy as this group reached Los Angeles two weeks before the Brier party]. Unheeding of the Donner Party’s warning “don’t take no cutoffs,” around 80 wagons in ever-smaller groups came to the brink of death multiple times in the “dead heart” of Nevada before they even reached Death Valley. Six weeks after they took the cutoff, they abandoned their wagons in the rocky canyon passes. They began slaughtering their cattle and found the meat was covered with a yellow slime due to alkali and sulfur poisoning. James’s weight dropped to 75 pounds. They passed the remains of fellow travelers who had rushed ahead. Near the end the Briers were in a group of around 20 people, and how they continued putting one foot in front of another thought Shoshone tribal lands (including the future site of the Mountain Meadows Massacre) until on February 4, 1850, they finally crested a dry rise to see the Del Valle family’s green, wet rancho full of grazing cattle is a

testament to tiny Juliet. “All agreed she was the best man of the party.” In the end, their nine-week journey from Salt Lake City had taken three months.

This compilation supplements that research by focusing on the family’s time in California leading to their settling in Lodi/Woodbridge in 1890, followed by Juliet’s 1913 death at age 99 and her internment in Lodi Memorial Cemetery. Unfortunately, California marital law at the time did not recognize married women as autonomous agents and their accomplishments were rarely recorded, so we must track her through census records, her husband’s and son’s movements. etc.

## - SOURCES -

### **Sources:**

*Across Death Valley: The Pioneer Journey of Juliet Wells Brier*, by Mary Barmeyer O'Brien 2009 (historical fiction)

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/0762745053?ref=ppx\\_yo2ov\\_dt\\_b\\_fed\\_asin\\_title](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0762745053?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_fed_asin_title)

*Death Valley in '49: The Autobiography of a Pioneer*, by William Lewis Manly.

Reviewed by *The San Francisco Examiner* Sun, Sep 06, 1896

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/457767716/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

Juliet Brier - Death Valley National Park

<https://www.nps.gov/people/juliet-brier.htm>

The Brothers Brier in Goldrush California

In 1851 Rev. J.W. Brier Sr was a founder of the California Wesleyan College at Santa Clara, which today is the University of the Pacific in Stockton. In 1859 he broke from the Methodist Church over the question of slavery and became a Congregationalist. Before settling with his son in Lodi, his pastorates during this long period included Grass Valley, San Francisco, Marysville, and San Jose.

<http://www.lawesterners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/189-FALL-1992.pdf>

Early Lodi Area Churches & the Methodists, by the Lodi Historical Society

Lodi's Oak Grove Methodist Church was founded in 1853. The Oak Grove Schoolhouse was built on Armstrong Road 1.25 miles east of Lower Sacramento. Rev. John W. Brier was appointed to the Calaveras Preaching Circuit and preached at Staples Ranch and at the Oak Grove School [near current-day Lockeford]. Ten years later Rev. Brier became a Congregationalist.

<https://californiarevealed.org/do/e8eccd63-86ac-4bd8-a6f8-35a648a449d3>

**Family Timeline summary, mostly from Find a Grave:**

4/8/1814 Juliet Wells is born in Bennington County, Vermont

10/14/1814 Juliet's husband, James Welch Brier, is born in Montgomery County, Ohio.  
[James is descended from Benjamin Lodge Jr.](#), a lieutenant in the American Revolution

9/23/1839 Juliet and James wed in Michigan

9/11/1841 Juliet's son Christopher Columbus Brier is born in Indiana

5/28/1843 Juliet's son John Wells Brier (called J.W. Brier Jr.) is born in Michigan

1846 Juliet's son, Kirke White Brier, is born in Indiana

11/27/1852 Juliet's daughter Mary Brier Moores is born in California

1853 Juliet's daughter Helen Brier Martin is born in California

1/14/1883 Juliet's son Kirke White Brier dies in Sacramento, is buried in Oakland

11/2/1894 Juliet's husband, James Welch Brier, dies in Lodi, CA

12/7/1907 Juliet's son [Christopher Columbus Brier dies in Oakland](#)

5/26/1913 Juliet Wells Brier dies in Lodi, CA

2/24/1914 Juliet's son John Wells Brier (called J.W. Brier Jr.) dies in Lodi, CA

6/23/1927 Juliet's daughter Helen Brier Martin dies in San Francisco, is buried in Colma

11/27/1937 Juliet's daughter Mary Brier Moores dies in San Francisco, is buried in Fremont

**In the News – note that after Junior becomes a Congregationalist minister it's not always clear whether “Rev. J.W. Brier” refers to Juliet's husband or her son:**

The Nevada Journal Thu, Apr 15, 1852 ·Page 2

Methodist Episcopal - The Rev. J. Brier of Marysville will be preaching in Nevada City

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/848818986/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Nevada Journal Fri, Mar 03, 1854 ·Page 2

Methodist Episcopal conference, Sacramento District: J.W. Brier has been appointed for the coming year to Sonora and Columbia

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/848820754/?match=1&terms=brier>

History of 1852 Sonora Methodist Church: <https://www.sonora-umc.org/history>

Columbia Gazette Sat, Mar 25, 1854 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier will deliver a lecture on the topic of “Primary Education.”

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/905452793/?match=1&terms=brier>

Columbia Gazette Sat, May 06, 1854 ·Page 2

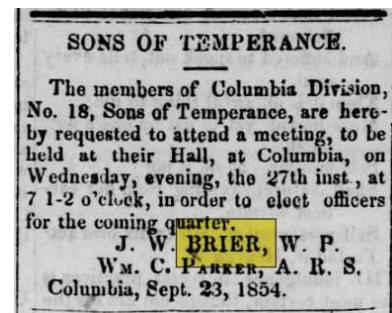
Ladies Festival at the M.E. Church

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/905453243/?match=1&terms=brier>

Columbia Gazette Sat, May 06, 1854 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier is the pastor of the Columbia and Springfield M.E. Churches

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/905453265/?match=1&terms=brier>



Columbia Gazette Sat, Aug 19, 1854 ·Page 5

J.W. Brier in the Sons of Temperance

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/905454496/?match=1&terms=brier>

Amador Ledger Sat, May 16, 1857 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier, independent preacher, will be pastor of the M.E. Church in Volcano

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/925417958/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Sacramento Bee Sat, Sep 18, 1858 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier is an elder of the M.E. Church

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624051963/?match=1&terms=brier>

Santa Cruz semi-weekly sentinel Fri, Aug 31, 1860 ·Page 2

J.W. Brier is mentioned as an early Protestant minister in the San Juan area

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1100791253/?match=1&terms=brier>

Petaluma Argus Wed, Nov 05, 1862 ·Page 1

J.W. Brier describes the formation of Table Mountain in Tuolumne County

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/218174975/?match=1&terms=brier>

Petaluma Argus Wed, Dec 03, 1862 ·Page 1

J.W. Brier explains the difference between progression and fanaticism

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/218177154/?match=1&terms=brier>

Petaluma Weekly Argus Thu, Oct 13, 1864 ·Page 2

J.W. Brier is a speaker at the Healdsburg political jubilee

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624359085/?match=1&terms=brier>

Petaluma Weekly Argus Thu, Dec 29, 1864 ·Page 2

On January 2 1865 **Mrs. J.W. Brier** will open a school in the Church on Main and C Streets. The Rev. J.W. Brier will preach at the Independent Chapel (same address). Mr. J.W. Brier junior will lecture at the Baptist Church on the absurdities of modern infidelity.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624360046/?match=1&terms=brier>

Petaluma Weekly Argus Thu, Aug 24, 1865 ·Page 2

Mr. J.W. Brier junior is giving speeches for the Union cause

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624363215/?match=1&terms=brier>

Petaluma Weekly Argus Thu, Sep 14, 1865 ·Page 2

Mr. J.W. Brier junior will deliver a lecture on the Philosophy of Reform at the Congregational Church

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/624363470/?match=1&terms=brier>

Daily Evening Herald Sat, Aug 07, 1869 ·Page 3

Tomorrow Rev. J.W. Brier, Jr., will occupy the pulpit of the First Congregational Church, Miners' avenue, in place of Rev. James A. Daley

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/488536306/?match=1&terms=brier>

Daily Evening Herald Mon, Aug 09, 1869 ·Page 3

Wedding performed by Rev. Brier

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/488536310/?match=1&terms=brier>

Daily Evening Herald Fri, Dec 16, 1870 ·Page 3

A shakeup at the Congregational Church – the new pastor is Rev. Dr. Holbrook. Rev. Mr. Brier read a prayer.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/488532373/?match=1&terms=brier>

Daily Evening Herald Thu, May 22, 1873 ·Page 2

Rev. J.W. Brier will read a poem he wrote for the occasion of Oakland's 6<sup>th</sup> annual reunion of the Tuolumne Reunion Association

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/488632968/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Evening Mail Wed, Sep 08, 1880 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier of Merced will speak at a Republican mass meeting in San Francisco.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609461904/?match=1&terms=brier>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, May 06, 1882 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier will preach at the Lockeford Congregational Church next Sunday, morning and evening

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036197646/?match=1&terms=brier>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, May 13, 1882 ·Page 3

In Lockeford the oration of Rev. J.W. Brier was forcible and *exhaustive*

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036197697/?match=1&terms=brier>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Jan 20, 1883 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier Sr. who has been here [Lockeford] holding meetings through the week of prayer was suddenly called away to Stockton by the sickness of his son [Kirke White Brier, a native of Indiana, aged 37 years], who has since died

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036199328/?match=1&terms=brier>

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1140753680/?article=20267ed8-455b-4316-86c2-9170a005081d&terms=brier>

The Los Angeles Times Tue, Dec 21, 1886 ·Page 4

Rev. J.W. Brier, who preached the first Protestant service in Los Angeles, tells the ghastly story of his Death Valley horror in '49 (many details in this first written account). He's written a 100-page book about the experience but doesn't have the money to publish it.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/378328826/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Morning Press Wed, Apr 27, 1887 ·Page 3

In Iowa, the first reunion is held of the "Jayhawkers," which is what the entire party is now known as. Ub this telling from the young men's perspective, it's said that they resorted to cannibalism in Death Valley.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/995510930/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Valley Review Thu, May 02, 1889 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier is the new pastor of the Congregational Church of Galt

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141004494/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Valley Review Thu, May 23, 1889 ·Page 5

Rev. J.W. Brier [probably Jr.] is also the new pastor of the Congregational Church of Lodi. [Following this point, it appears he alternates preaching in Galt and Lodi week to week.]

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141004585/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Valley Review Thu, Dec 12, 1889 ·Page 5

Rev. J.W. Brier has been chosen by the Pacific Theological Seminary in Oakland to be their Orator of the Day for their annual conclave.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141005118/?match=1&terms=brier>

Ventura Free Press Sat, Feb 22, 1890 ·Page 1

Another account of the Death Valley journey, reprinted from the Kansas City Times

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/925926062/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Valley Review Thu, May 29, 1890 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier Jr. and wife accompanied by their two sons returned from a visit with friends at Palermo yesterday

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141005489/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Valley Review Thu, Jun 12, 1890 ·Page 1

Notes from Oroville: Rev. J.W. Brier Jr., who was formerly of the Congregational church of Oroville and now officiates at Lodi, delivered a lecture here last night on Bellamy's dream. The lecture was brilliant throughout. The revered gentleman said that humanity is depraved, and that no social reform could be inaugurated that would redeem it. Every social reform that has ever been set on foot has failed.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141005511/?match=2&terms=brier>

The Valley Review Thu, Jul 24, 1890 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier preached that the world is full of stuffed dunces – men educated, men saying weak and foolish things, bringing to the front a great many glittering things, men fit for dress parade but not fit for actual service in life. Mr. Brier referred to the public school

system and declared it to be half fraudulent because a false system from beginning to end.  
Etc.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141005586/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Valley Review Thu, Nov 13, 1890 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier Sr., late of the Congregational church at Palermo, Butte County, has located in Lodi and will make his future home with his son, our popular and efficient pastor of the Congregational church [of Lodi].

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141005762/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Valley Review Thu, Jan 08, 1891 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier Sr. writes letter to the editor advocating for welcoming a Sanborn cannery in Lodi

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141005856/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Valley Review Thu, Mar 19, 1891 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier Jr. will preach Sunday evening. There will be no morning services as Rev. J.W. Brier Sr. will be away

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141005987/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Valley Review Thu, Dec 17, 1891 ·Page 3

Rev. J.W. Brier Sr. will preach both services on Sunday

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141006524/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Valley Review Thu, Feb 11, 1892 ·Page 5

Rev. J.W. Brier Sr., one of the survivors of the original Death Valley Party, will narrate those experiences of the great desert

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141006640/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Evening Mail Mon, Jun 27, 1892 ·Page 5

Real estate transfer: Rev. J.W. Brier Sr. and his wife, Juliette, to Rev. J.W. Brier Jr. – three acres, more or less, on the Woodbridge Road [now Turner Road] leading west from Lodi; love and affection.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609421921/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Evening Mail Thu, Mar 16, 1893 ·Page 1

J.W. Brier Sr. and others have signed Mokelumne irrigation contracts

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609461533/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Valley Review Thu, Mar 30, 1893 ·Page 5

J.W. Brier Sr.'s account of the 52-day struggle of crossing Death Valley. The Woman Was the Strongest. (The publisher apparently has no idea that the Briers are in fact living in Lodi at this point.)

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141007131/?terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Valley Review Thu, Dec 07, 1893 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier Sr.'s cows produce a lot of milk and butter

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1141007464/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

Los Angeles Herald Tue, Feb 05, 1895 ·Page 2

In Illinois the annual Jayhawker reunion is held to celebrate their Feb 4 arrival in the Santa Clara (Clarita) Valley

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80564697/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Evening Mail Wed, Jun 26, 1895 ·Page 4

Mrs. C.E. Dickerson to James W. Brier Sr. – release of a mortgage for \$800 made July 18 1891, on three acres of land adjoining Lodi

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609364013/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

Oakland Enquirer Wed, Feb 05, 1896 ·Page 1

This year's Jayhawker reunion is held in Iowa

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/998193837/?match=2&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Evening Mail Wed, Aug 03, 1898 ·Page 2

J.W. Brier Sr. to S. Braghetta – mortgage made July 30 1898 for \$200, due in two years, and \$200, due in one year, interest at 9 percent, on 3 acres on Woodbridge road [now Turner Road] near land of Laura DeForce Gordon.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609376516/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The San Francisco Call Bulletin Fri, Nov 04, 1898 ·Page 7

Rev James Welch Brier Sr. dies at his Lodi home, "Oak Place," on 2 Nov 1898 (aged 84). "Old Man Eloquent." He will be buried tomorrow from Lodi's Methodist Episcopal Church, which by coincidence he founded when Lodi was first born.

REV. J. W. BRIER SR.  
PASSES AWAY AT LODI



THE LATE REV. J. W. BRIER SR.

LODI, Nov. 2.—Rev. J. W. Brier Sr. passed away at his home, Oak Place, here yesterday. He was one of the earliest pioneers to this State and figured prominently in the ghastly drama of the historical Death Valley party of '95.

Mr. Brier was born in Dayton, Ohio, on October 14, 1814, of Scotch parentage. He early entered the ministry and for the past sixty years had been an active worker for the church. In 1838 he married MissJulia Wells, who survives him. Of this union six children were born, four of whom are living. With his wife and two children Mr. Brier joined the now famous Death Valley party, and after a veritable ordeal of privation brought his family through to make history for the Golden State. The deceased had for many years taken an active part in politics, having stumped the State for Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, and Hayes. He was a member of the Legislature for a number of years in California and his speeches were fiery utterances, he being a veritable "Old Man Eloquent." Two years ago he would have stumped the State for McKinley, but failing health prevented; nevertheless he was a man of great ability.

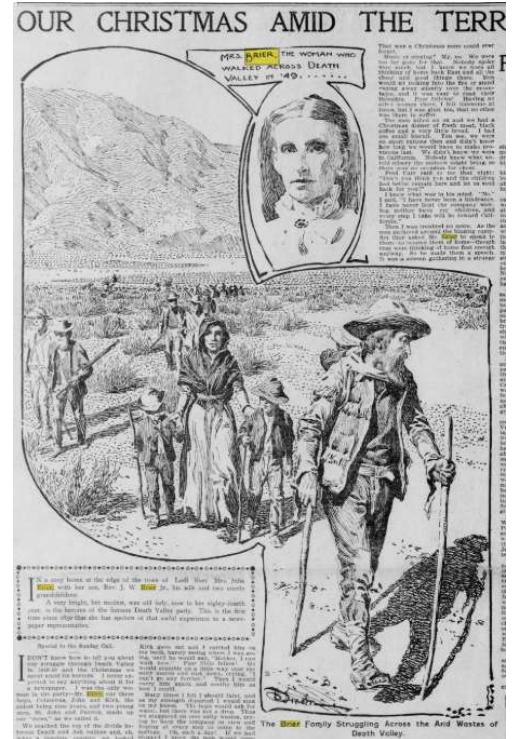
He will be buried to-morrow from the Methodist Episcopal church, which, by a strange coincidence, he founded many years ago, when Lodi was first born.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/77883355/?match=1&terms=brier>

The San Francisco Call Bulletin Sun, Dec 25, 1898 ·Page 19

"Our Christmas Amid the Terrors of Death Valley"

For the First Time Since 1850 Mrs. Julia Brier, the Only Woman of the Party, Relates the Awful Experiences of the Trip. Includes mention of hot and cold springs and the encounter with an old shriveled man buried up to his neck in sand, still alive, apparently abandoned by the Shoshones, who upon receiving food and water kept saying "God bless pickaninnies." They melted snow to drink. The oxen's marrow was just blood and water. James walked with two sticks. Their greatest suffering came as they neared the Borax Lake in the Mohave they saw a mirage.



<https://www.newspapers.com/image/77886816/?match=1&terms=brier>

San Francisco Chronicle Tue, Feb 05, 1901 ·Page 4

In San Jose, three Jayhawkers (including William Manly; Juliet Brier not present) attend annual reunion

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1237508961/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The San Francisco Examiner Sun, Feb 24, 1901 ·Page 28

Full –page recounting of Jayhawkers' Death Valley experience, includes drawing of Juliet Brier

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/459450448/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Evening Mail Tue, May 28, 1901 ·Page 5

Juliet tells her story

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609365683/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Aug 10, 1901 ·Page 2

Long poem by J.W. Brier

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036196639/?match=2&terms=columbus%20brier>

The Los Angeles Times Sat, Jan 31, 1903 ·Page 13

General J.B. Colton is here on his way to Lodi to celebrate the annual Jayhawkers reunion with Mrs. J. W. Brier, whom he says he hasn't seen in 53 years. She was "one of the best and pluckiest little women I ever saw."

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/380032822/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Evening Mail Sat, Jan 31, 1903 ·Page 5

General J.B. Colton of Kansas City and Mr. Stephens will be the guests of Mrs. J.W. Brier Sr. of Lodi. These gentlemen, with Mrs. Brier and her sons, and perhaps two others, are the sole living representatives of the party who first entered the famous desert of Death Valley.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609402282/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

San Francisco Chronicle Wed, Feb 04, 1903 ·Page 3

Description of Jayhawkers reunion at Brier home

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1237508146/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

Bakersfield Morning Echo Fri, Feb 06, 1903 ·Page 4

The experience from Colton's perspective

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609791675/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The San Francisco Examiner Fri, Feb 06, 1903 ·Page 8

William Manley obit

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/458030482/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The Evening Mail Sat, Feb 07, 1903 ·Page 3

Another recounting of the Death Valley experience, this time from J.W. Brier Jr.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609402562/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

San Francisco Chronicle Sun, Feb 15, 1903 ·Page 31

Full-page recounting, with drawn illustrations including one of Juliet. Good description of the Salazar/Del Valle ranch experience. List of party members and where/how they died.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1237531643/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Mar 19, 1903 ·Page 2

J.W. Brier Jr. rails against the U.S. Congress

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036201162/?match=1&terms=columbus%20brier>

The Record Tue, May 19, 1903 ·Page 3

J.W. Brier Jr. and Mersey A. Brier (his wife) and Juliette W. Brier (widow of J.W. Brier Sr.) to Bank of Lodi – mortgage dated May 16 1903 for \$1000, due in one year, interest of 8 per cent

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609700783/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Record Thu, Jul 14, 1904 ·Page 7

J.W. Brier Jr. and Mersey A. Brier (his wife) and Juliette W. Brier (widow of J.W. Brier Sr.) to Stockton Land, Loan and Building Association – deed of trust dated June 2 1904 to secure a loan of \$2,000 on 3 acres near the town of Lodi on the Woodbridge road.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609747142/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Record Sat, Nov 12, 1904 ·Page 7

Stockton Land, Loan and Building Association to J.W. Brier Jr. and Mersey A. Brier (his wife) and Juliette W. Brier (widow of J.W. Brier Sr.) – reconveyance of deed of trust dated June 2 1904

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609737672/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Tue, Aug 29, 1905 ·Page 3

M.A. Brier Co., successor to C.A. Rich Hardware, is selling Hardware, tinware, cooking utensils, stoves, bicycles, sundries, furniture opposite of the post office

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036202823/?match=1&terms=%22M.A.%20Brier%20Company%20%22>

1906 Stockton City Directory

Juliette Brier is living on Woodbridge Rd near Daisy. J.W. Jr. appears to be living with her and is in “hardware.” JW’s son Junius C is the manager of M.A. Brier Co. The M.A. Brier Co. sells stoves and tinware on Sacramento Street near Elm Street. M.A. Brier (Mersey?) is a second-hand dealer on Sacramento Street near Elm Street.

[https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2469/records/225650282?tid=&pid=&queryId=f2b46eb7-2e98-4002-9598-bd7949d05923&\\_phsrc=UOW3&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2469/records/225650282?tid=&pid=&queryId=f2b46eb7-2e98-4002-9598-bd7949d05923&_phsrc=UOW3&_phstart=successSource)

Lodi News-Sentinel Tue, Apr 03, 1906 ·Page 1

M.A. Brier Co. furnished the Methodist church with its beautiful new carpets

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036207746/?match=1&terms=%22M.A.%20Brier%20Company%20%22>

The Evening Mail Thu, Jan 10, 1907 · Page 6

Annual Jayhawkers reunion will be in Lodi again this year (this reunion is covered by newspapers all over California)

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609193160/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Jan 24, 1907 · Page 4

M.A. Brier Co. has furniture and \$20 bicycles

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036065951/?match=1&terms=%22M.A.%20Brier%20Company%20%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Jul 09, 1908 · Page 3

M.A. Brier Co. is selling "Sanitare" beds

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036147029/?match=1&terms=%22M.A.%20Brier%20Company%20%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Dec 03, 1908 · Page 3

M.A. Brier Co. is selling 31-piece sterling China breakfast sets for \$3.25

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036149973/?match=1&terms=%22M.A.%20Brier%20Company%20%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Sep 23, 1909 · Page 2

Three real estate transactions: two releases of their mortgages, and one mortgage of their land to R.B. Teefy.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036157082/?match=2&terms=%22juliet%22%20%22brier%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Dec 23, 1909 ·Page 6

M.A. Brier Company is selling home goods opposite the post office in Lodi.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036164954/?match=1&terms=%22juliet%22%20%22brier%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Nov 17, 1910 ·Page 6

M.A. Brier is now also framing pictures

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036183710/?match=1&terms=%22juliet%22%20%22brier%22>

1911 Stockton City Directory

Juliette Brier is living at 414 N Church St in Lodi with JW and Mercy. Their son Junius C Brier lives at 500 N Church St. M.A. Brier Co.. run by Mrs. M.A., JW, and JC Brier, furn, is at 106 N Sacramento. [At this time, Junius has married Hilde Giles Brier and Juliet's great-granddaughters Dorothy and Lillian are born and presumably living just a few houses down from Juliet]

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2469/records/242205293>

The Record Mon, Feb 06, 1911 ·Page 3

Another Lodi reunion of the Death Valley Jayhawkers, this time led by J.W. Brier Jr. After a while the telephone rang; it was Juliet Brier telling J.W. to come home. The meeting site is described as the workshop at the rear of a second-hand furniture store on N. Sacramento Street.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609772499/?match=1&terms=%22juliet%22%20%22brier%22>

The Sacramento Bee Mon, Feb 06, 1911 ·Page 6

Description of the reunion. Juliet is cheerful and appreciative of the import of the meeting.



<https://www.newspapers.com/image/616685275/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

The San Francisco Call Bulletin Tue, Feb 04, 1913 ·Page 2

At this year's reunion Juliet has to be helped from her bed to a chair but is as interested as ever. Juliet is living in Junior's home at 94 Myrtle Street in Santa Cruz.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/82690703/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

Santa Cruz Surf and Superior California Farmer Thu, Apr 10, 1913 ·Page 5

Juliet is moving back to Lodi after two years here. She is in fair health and has all of her faculties.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1103553874/?match=1&terms=%22jayhawker%22%20%22death%20valley%22>

Juliet Wells Brier dies 26 May 1913 (aged 99). Her death prompted many more retellings of the Death Valley jayhawkers:

- The Modesto Bee Mon, Jun 02, 1913 ·Page 2  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/689175584/?match=1&terms=%22j.w.%20brier%22>
- Santa Cruz Surf Thu, Jun 05, 1913 ·Page 6
- <https://www.newspapers.com/image/1103482136/?match=1&terms=%22j.w.%20brier%22>
- Inyo Register Thu, Jun 12, 1913 ·Page 4
- <https://www.newspapers.com/image/1227968498/?match=1&terms=%22j.w.%20brier%22>
- The Santa Barbara Daily News and the Independent Mon, Jun 23, 1913 ·Page 4  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/929577532/?match=1&terms=%22j.w.%20brier%22>

The Record Tue, Feb 17, 1914 ·Page 9

J.W. Brier and Mersey A. Brier (his wife) to Charles R. Rutledge and Bertha Lee Rutledge (his wife) – deed for 40 acres

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609763509/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Evening Mail Wed, Feb 18, 1914 ·Page 7

J.W. Brier who for the past two weeks has been quite ill at his home on North Church St in Lodi is growing weaker

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609137616/?match=1&terms=brier>

Lodi News-Sentinel Sat, Feb 21, 1914 ·Page 4

Charlie Rutledge buys the Brier Ranch, 20 acres in alfalfa and 14 acres of 9yo Tokays

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036199583/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Record Tue, Feb 24, 1914 ·Page 5

J.W. Brier Jr. dies at his N Church St home, is survived by wife, Mrs. Mersey Brier, and two sons. The body will be held at Hale & Bawden until it's returned to the late home for funeral.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609765352/?article=6ebd2116-8df2-4a5d-9341-d666f166e9da&terms=brier>

The Evening Mail Tue, Feb 24, 1914 ·Page 8

Rev. J.W. Brier died of Bright's disease. He was one of the last of the famous Death valley party that came to California 65 years ago. He was a resident of Lodi for the last 25 years. His wife and sons have been his constant attendants during the last few weeks.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609137766/?article=9580f37e-61a2-4bcb-9d68-6e07eb247158&terms=brier>

The Record Sat, Feb 28, 1914 ·Page 11

Several real estate transactions dated Feb 10, J.W Brier to Mersey A. Brier

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609766788/?match=1&terms=mersey>

The Record Mon, Mar 01, 1915 ·Page 5

Mrs. Mersey A. Brier died in her home on W Locust St. Funeral parlor will be O.H. Wells. Internment will be in the family plot in Lodi cemetery.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609614501/?article=0f51a707-e2fc-41cd-a0fb-88b38ee5639d&terms=mersey>

Lodi News-Sentinel Tue, Mar 02, 1915 ·Page 5

Mersey was born and wed the late Rev. Brier in Suisun CA. They then moved to Solano, then Oroville, before making their home in Lodi 27 years ago.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036208105/?match=1&terms=mersey>

Lodi News-Sentinel Thu, Dec 23, 1915 ·Page 2

From the Springfield Massachusetts Republican – setting the record straight about The Real Heroine of Death Valley. Fond memories from someone who knew J.W. Sr. and Juliette in Lodi.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1036202173/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Record Sat, Sep 06, 1919 ·Page 13

Cornerstone will be laid for new Methodist church in Lodi; originally all of San Joaquin County north of Stockton was under the charge of one pastor, the first being J.W. Brier Sr. He took charge of the Lockeford circuit in 1855. He had an appointment at Oak Grove schoolhouse, eight miles north of Stockton, and several good revivals were held there that winter.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/609893261/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

The Record Sat, Nov 20, 1926 ·Page 16

Edson Brier, son of the late Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Brier, died yesterday afternoon in Sacramento after his car collided with a traction car [streetcar]. He was reared in Lodi, where his father was at one time pastor of the First Congregational Church, in after years the parent gave up the ministry and returning to Lodi devoted himself to business.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/843283704/?match=1&terms=brier>

The Record Sat, Sep 28, 1929 ·Page 25

Remembering that the Rev. J.W. Brier Sr. while living in Lodi invented a gold saving machine for washing river gravel. He tried it out somewhere back of Clements on the Mokelumne, where he thought the river bed contained valuable gold deposits but met with no success.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/843395032/>

The Record Sat, Jan 18, 1936 ·Page 20

The writer remembers that when he was a youngster J.W. Brier Sr. told him that in Death Valley he'd come across a wide body of metallic substance at the surface. He broke off a piece and took it with him to Los Angeles where it tested as almost pure silver. He was never able to go back to look for that body of silver.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/843304852/?match=1&terms=%22brier%20sr.%22>

Lodi News-Sentinel Wed, Feb 28, 1940 ·Page 4

The M.A. Brier Co. is now open on N Sacramento St between Elm and Locust

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1033539506/?match=1&terms=%22M.A.%20Brier%20Company%20%22>

**History of San Joaquin County California with Biographical Sketches, by George H. Tinkham 1923:**

entry into Tinkham [*always take Tinkham with a grain of salt as the editors generally did not fact-check the families' submissions*]:

History of Lodi's Congregational Church

<https://archive.org/details/historyofsanjoaq00tink/page/168/mode/2up?q=brier>  
<https://archive.org/details/historyofsanjoaq00tink/page/310/mode/2up?q=brier>

**Find a Grave:**

Juliet Wells Brier <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/126926806/juliet-brier>

Rev James Welch Brier Sr.

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/126926852/james\\_welch-brier](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/126926852/james_welch-brier)

**Censuses:**

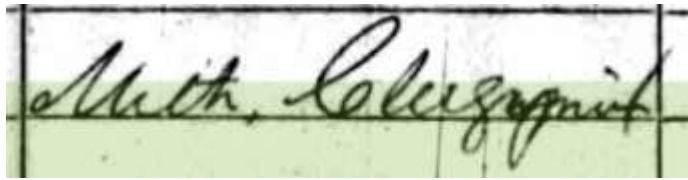
1852 California State Census

J.W. Sr., Juliet, J.W Jr., and other children (illegible), are living in Yuba County. J.W. Sr.'s profession is minister.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1767/records/35903>

1860 Census

J.W. Sr., Juliet, C.C., J.W Jr., Kirk, Mary, Helen, and a male day laborer are living together in Santa Clara CA. No profession is listed for Juliet. J.W. Sr.'s profession is illegible... Methodist Clergy...?



<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7667/records/2757920>

#### 1870 Census

J.W. Sr., Juliet, Mary, and Helen are living in Solano CA. Juliet is described as a housekeeper. J.W. Sr. is a clergyman.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7163/records/12298786>

#### 1880 Census

J.W. Sr., Juliet, and J.W Jr. are living in Grass Valley CA. Juliet is described as a housekeeper. Both men are described as ministers.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6742/records/15782846>

#### 1900 Census

Juliet is living with her son J.W. Jr., his wife Mercy, and their sons Junius and Edson somewhere in Lodi – the house numbers and street names are not recorded on this 1900 census page. J.W. Jr. describes himself as a minister.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7602/records/292140>

#### 1910 Census

Juliet is living with her son J.W. Jr., his wife Mercy and son Edson at 414 N Church St in Lodi (has been torn down for multi-family housing). J.W. owns the home and describes himself as the proprietor of a furniture store. Three of Juliet's six children are still living.

[https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7884/records/187164283?tid=&pid=&queryId=60f39ef0-6d11-48a5-96ff-417c2389c98a&\\_phsrc=UOW1&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7884/records/187164283?tid=&pid=&queryId=60f39ef0-6d11-48a5-96ff-417c2389c98a&_phsrc=UOW1&_phstart=successSource)