



ADA BODEL JENSEN TAYLOR 1901–1990

Ada was born in Stone, Idaho, on March 1, 1901 to Lars Peter Jensen and Elizabeth Cottam. Lars and Elizabeth were married in Brigham City, Utah, by Oliver Snow. They started their married life in Snowville, Utah. The couple lost two babies at birth, Lars and Clara, and a daughter, Chloe, died of whooping cough when she was 15 months old. The couple took the two living children, at the time, Geneva and Bertha to the Logan Temple to be sealed as a family. Children born later were: Rae, Alonzo, Ada, Melba, and Vernice. Below is a family

picture:

After Ada was born, in Stone, Idaho, the family moved back to Snowville where her father ran a store for six years. They then moved to Buhl, Idaho, where her father homesteaded some land. Soon after, her father traded the land for property and a store in Tremonton, Utah. Ada started school in Tremonton, and was baptized in Elwood, Utah, in a canal March 1, 1909. The first ward in Tremonton was organized soon after she was baptized.

In 1910, the family moved to Blue Creek, Utah, where they ran a store. They soon moved to Thatcher, Utah, where they farmed. Ada and her brother graduated from the 8th grade in Thatcher. They also lived in Garland, Utah, for one year, where Ada said she had a teacher, Parley Christensen, whom she enjoyed and who influenced her to read good books. She attended Box Elder High School. While still in high school, Ada's family moved to Ogden. Her family was struggling, and she did not finish her education, a fact she regretted all of her life. However, she continued her love for learning and reading good books.

At the age of 17, Ada worked for W. H. Wright and Sons Mercantile in Ogden. She worked for the company until she was married. During this time, her parents moved to Harrisville, Utah, where Ada met Nephi Green Taylor. They dated for two years and were married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 21, 1922. Joseph Fielding Smith performed the marriage and sealing. Also, Virga Webster and Melvin Swenson were married on the same day and they all became close friends throughout their lives.

Ada and Nephi rented the David Crowther adobe home [992 North Harrisville Road]. They painted and wall papered and put new floor coverings down. They bought new furniture, and lived in the house for two years. Then they moved into the north side of the Pleasant Green Taylor home [1225 North Harrisville Road]. Pleasant Green Taylor was Nephi's grandfather and Jane Narcissus Shurtleff Taylor, his grandmother, passed away making the north side of the house available. Another wife of Pleasant Green Taylor, Sarah Jane Marler Lake Taylor, and her daughter, Millie, lived in the south side of the house. Ada loved living in the house and talking to these women about early pioneer life and plural marriage. Both homes have since been torn down.

In her young adult life, Ada faced much sickness and lost several babies. Bishop Richard R. D. Brown gave her a blessing in which he promised that she would raise a child. Also, Nephi's uncle, Levi J. Taylor, gave her a blessing and promised her that the baby she was carrying at the time would be a boy and that she would raise him. The baby, a boy, was born May 20, 1926, the birthday of Levi J. Taylor. He was given a name and a blessing by his grandfather Lars Peter Jensen on July 4, 1926, in the Harrisville church. Nephi and Ada named him Nephi Junior Taylor, and called him Junior.

When Junior was 2 years old, Ada started going to construction sites with her husband. Nephi, his brothers, and father were all working road construction away from home. The first trip she went on was in Salmon Idaho. They loaded up their Ford with all the needed furnishings for what she called their "little rag house." They had many interesting experiences, but since the men were working long days, she spent many lonely hours. The next year some of the other Taylor wives joined their husbands on the construction jobs, which helped with the loneliness. After Salmon, Idaho, they went to different construction jobs and lived in tents in Pocatello, Idaho, and Bryce Canyon. The men built the road around the rim of Bryce Canyon. After that they went to Coalville, Cove Fort, and Randolph, Utah.

On April 22, 1929, Ada gave birth to a baby girl. She was born at Nephi's parents' home. She only lived four hours, but before she died her grandfather Jensen gave her a name and a blessing. They named her Beverly. She was a beautiful baby with dark like Junior. Nephi was working in Salem, Idaho, at the time, but came home for the funeral, which they held at Nephi's parents' home. Ada had multiple miscarriages, which was a trial in her life. Ada later remarked: "I lost several babies, and when I get to thinking of that and feeling bad, I then think how thankful I should be to have one wonderful son. Many women don't even have that privilege."

In 1930, Ada and Nephi built a new home on the old Taylor estate at 1265 North Harrisville Road. They moved in December 1, 1930.

Ada was always a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and served in many positions. She was a primary teacher and a teacher in a religion class; in 1934 she was called as a counselor to Florence Brown in the Young women's Mutual Improvement Association, where she served for four years. In September 1938, church leaders called her to be the Relief Society president of the LDS Harrisville Ward. She loved those who worked with her and was thankful for the blessings and all she learned in this position. When she was released as ward Relief Society President, she served on the Relief Society Stake Board, under the direction of Stake Relief Society President, Nellie Neal. She later served as a counselor in the ward Relief Society to Ellen Crowther, and later to Irene Crowther. In 1946, she served as the literary teacher in the ward Relief Society. In the mid 1960s, she went on a trip to Europe with the LDS Relief Society "Singing Mothers." Although Ada didn't sing with this group, Ada's good friend Sadie Parker arranged it so Ada could travel to Europe with them. Traveling to Europe was a dream of Ada's. Some of the

highlights were seeing the home of William Shakespeare, Italy, and the Alps in Switzerland. She was thrilled to have traveled on the Queen Mary.

Her experience teaching in Relief Society helped Ada find the courage to follow one of her dreams. With her sister, Bertha's faith in her, she began giving book reviews. It was a dream she had always had, but never thought she would be capable of doing. Her first book review was Samuel Taylor's "Family Kingdom." She also reviewed "Lady Laura," and "Persia is my Heart," and other reviews. She was thrilled to be invited to give a book review in Snowville, her hometown.

Ada served as president of the Altruist Club. She was also a member of the Sarah Jane Taylor Camp of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. She gave the lesson in the monthly meetings. In February 1963, company members elected her as president of the North Company of the DUP. In 1984 the Daughters of Utah Pioneers named Ada the Ogden Pioneer Queen. The group annually picks a woman with pioneer ancestry to ride on the DUP float in the July 24th Parade.

Ada and Nephi looked forward to the time that their son, Nephi Junior, would go on a mission for the LDS Church. However, the country was engaged in World War II, and Junior, at the age of 18, enlisted in the Navy.

In 1945, he served in Guam where the battle was raging in the Pacific. He also served in Saipan and Kwajalein. In 1946, he helped install the communication mux for the atomic bomb test on Kwajalein. After his honorable discharge, he graduated from Weber College. On June 21, 1950, 28 years to the day after Ada and Nephi were married, they returned to the Salt Lake Temple to see Junior and his sweetheart, Carma Patterson married for time and eternity.

Ada loved her family. She had dreamed of the day she and Nephi would be grandparents. A good friend of Ada's, Margaret Masters, had a television show. Margaret showed a picture of Kim, Ada's first grandson, on her show much to Ada's delight. Junior and Carma's children were Kim Nephi, Susan Lee, Todd William, and Tracy Ann. They were the joy of Ada's life. She was grateful they lived close by in Harrisville.

In March 1966, Harrisville City appointed Ada as the Beautification Chairperson. She encouraged every citizen to become involved in the project. Using trucks, tractors, power rakes and mowers, the city became clean and beautiful. Committee members landscaped the grounds of the city building and improved roadways. It was a great success under her direction.

Ada had a wonderful sense of humor. The Harrisville Ward had for many years hosted an "Old Folks Day." In the mid 1980's church leaders wanted to change the name to "Senior Citizen's Day." Ada stood up and said, ". . . it has always been called Old Folks' Day. We all know we're old so why should we change it?"

On another occasion, Ada took her famous steamed pudding to a church social. She prepared the pudding by placing the ingredients in a shortening can and placing it in the oven in a pan of water, cooking it for three hours. She arrived at the church with her warm can. When she opened it up she found that there was no pudding inside. She was certain it must have dissolved or mysteriously disappeared, and it mystified everyone in the kitchen. When Ada returned home, she found the ingredients still on the cupboard. She had failed to put them in the can and had cooked the empty can for three hours. When she shared the story everyone laughed; but no one laughed harder than Ada. She had a wonderful sense of humor.

In 1981, Ada and Nephi celebrated their 80th birthdays - Ada having been born in March and Nephi in April of 1901. A year later, June 18, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Ada loved everyone she knew, and kept track of friends, family, and all of Harrisville's citizens in numerous scrapbooks filled with newspaper articles and pictures. Everyone Ada knew was Ada's friend.

Ada Taylor was an icon in Harrisville. She served in the community and church and was dedicated and faithful in all she did. Throughout her life she continued her love for learning and reading good books. Ada was heartbroken when their only surviving child, Nephi Junior, died on January 10, 1990, of cancer. Ada followed him in death ten months later, November 21, 1990. Her husband, Nephi, never really shared the loss of their son with her because his mind was not able to comprehend or remember that Junior had died. However, losing Junior coupled with trying to help Nephi cope with his dementia caused considerable stress in Ada. She began experiencing small strokes following Junior's death, and then she experienced a stroke that debilitated her completely. She joined her husband in a rest home for about one month before she died. Her husband, Nephi Green, followed her in death four years later, December 30, 1994.

SOURCE:

Edwards, Shanna C, Joyce J. Larsson, and Joanne F. Christensen. *Harrisville Horizons*. Harrisville, Utah: Harrisville City, 2004. p. 187, 206, 259.

Ogden Standard Examiner. 27 June 1984 and 1 January 1995.

Taylor, Ada. Autobiography of Ada Taylor. Unpublished manuscript.

<p> Brown, Bishop Richard R. D. Christensen, Parley Crowther, David Crowther, Ellen Crowther, Irene Daughters of Utah Pioneers, North Company Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Sarah Jane Taylor Camp Jensen, Alonzo Jensen, Bertha Jensen, Chloe Jensen, Clara Jensen, Elizabeth Cottam Jensen, Geneva Jensen, Lars Jensen, Lars Peter Jensen, Melba Jensen, Rae Jensen, Vernice Masters, Margaret Neal, Nellie </p>	<p> Patterson, Carma Smith, Joseph Fielding Snow, Oliver Swenson, Melvin Swenson, Virga Webster Taylor, Ada Bodel Jensen Taylor, Beverly Taylor, Jane Shurtleff Taylor, Kim Nephi Taylor, Levi J. Taylor, Millie Taylor, Nephi Green Taylor, Nephi Junior Taylor, Pleasant Green Taylor, Sarah Jane Marler Lake Taylor, Susan Lee Taylor, Todd William Taylor, Tracy Ann World War II </p>
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