

Mada Elizabeth Peck History

It was a spring day on May 28th, 1902, that Mada Elizabeth Peck came into the world. She was the third child and third daughter of Elisha Peck Jr. and Elizabeth Jane Wilson. As a young adult she was 5'3", with warm blonde/brown hair, and blue eyes.

Eventually, Elisha and Elizabeth had five children. Three girls were born first and then the two boys. The children's names were Elmina Jane, Hazel Charlotte, Mada Elizabeth, Elisha Odell, and Emery Virgil. Mada was named for the month of May and her middle name was Elizabeth, after her mother. She loved her parents and family.

She was blessed August 3rd, 1902 by her father. She was baptized in the Mitchell Hollow Ditch by her grandfather, Elisha Peck Sr. She was confirmed the same day which was July 23, 1910. Uncle Lott Russon assisted her grandfather in the ordinance. Mada's father was in England serving a mission.

Mada was a sweet child and a joy to her parents. She received this letter from her parents on May 28, 1941.

As today is your birthday we want to take the time to wish you many happy returns and say happy birthday to you. You were born in the most beautiful month of the year, the flowers were blooming, the birds singing and mating, and all nature looked lovely. And your life has been that way to us as parents. You have never caused us a minute's unhappiness. You brought sunshine into our home and lives. Although born under trying conditions, at the time we were in debt thousands of dollars, living in a log house and fighting the Union Pacific Railroad Company. You brought love into our hearts and our hope for you is that your future life will be full of happiness, will always fill your loving soul and your path will be strewn with flowers. Your husband will appreciate your loving kindness and your children will be a great honor to you and grow up and be a noble man and woman and always love their darling mother. God bless you our dear daughter. Love to all,

Dad and Mother

Mada's father had been badly hurt at the Grove crossing when a train failed to whistle. His horses were killed and he jumped from the wagon to safety. He was severely injured and spent several years in a wheelchair. He had a long legal fight with the Union Pacific Railroad. Elisha eventually won the case which helped pay for the medical expenses and his inability to work several years.

One of the early memories of Mada was her father being gone to Samoa on a mission. Elizabeth moved her children to Elisha Peck Sr.'s house near State Street while Elisha Peck Sr. and his wife moved to Elisha Peck Jr.'s unfinished farm house. This log farm house was in the process of being built and had no

doors or windows. Elisha Peck Jr. returned from his Samoan mission a sick man. Mada remembered not liking his mustache when he kissed her. She would have been three years old.

Mada attended Sege Lily School at the age of six. It was a three-mile walk to school each day. In her history she recorded "I loved every part of school. It was exciting."

The Peck family lived very close to the Spirit and the gospel. They were a prayerful family and relied on the Lord for direction and help. The youngest son, Virgil, became very ill and was not expected to live. He had fluid in both lungs. His father, Elisha, gave him a blessing. After "many minutes" Mada recorded that "Mother put her hand on his head and said his head was not as hot and soon after that he turned his head to Father, opened his eyes and said, 'Papa, I got the blessing. I'm going to get well.'" Mada wrote, "We all burst into tears and from that time he started to improve. How happy we were and we dearly loved him."

Mada had a happy childhood. They were surrounded by farmland and she felt they owned the world. Their light came from a kerosene lamp for many years. They used coal, wood, and sagebrush for heating and water was carried into the house from the well outside. Later the family got electricity, a telephone, and indoor plumbing.

The farm kept the family busy. Elisha raised cattle, horses, pigs, and chickens. They raised fruit trees, berries, grapes, grains, sugar beets, alfalfa, and garden vegetables. Her mother was a "wonderful homemaker, cook, and seamstress." She made burial clothing and dressed the dead before there were undertaking parlors. Many times Mada made quilts, crocheted, embroidered, and even made carpets. Mada sewed quilts for people her whole life. She counted 37 that she remembered. The children were raised in a home filled with love and security. The gospel was center in their lives and the gospel principles were taught by example.

The Lord watched over the Peck family. One day Elisha and the children were working in the field when a huge storm arose. Father told the children to run to the house. The children ran part way and stopped under a willow tree. Father shouted again for them to go to the house. Minutes after they reached the house, lightning hit that willow tree and split it in half. Part of it toppled over and no doubt they would have been killed.

One illness that Mada experienced was scarlet fever at age 16. She had beautiful, long blonde hair and it had to be cut shorter so that the weight of her long hair did not create baldness for her. This was a hard thing for a young girl.

The children were taught the principles of the gospel. Mada recorded this experience.

One morning the five of us children drove the cows to the pasture east of the home. Near the pasture or Mitchell Hollow there were some old

sheep corrals not being used and boards all over the ground. We decided to drag some of them home so father could make a rabbit pen as he had promised to make for the little boys. Just as we started for home. There in the middle of us and so very near Virgil was a huge snake coiled along the ground and its head as high off the ground as the child's head. We dropped the boards, and Mina, being the oldest, grabbed Virg and we made for home. We knew we were stealing and a lesson I'll never forget.

Mada was an obedient daughter and was raised with high standards. One day after Sunday School, two of her friends invited her to go to Saratoga Resort with them. She told her friends that her parents would not let her go and it wouldn't do any good to ask. Her two friends informed her that they were not going to ask permission. The three girls were 13 years old. Mada stayed home and the two friends went. The next day the two girls were not picking raspberries and Mada was told the girls had been attacked by the man who had taken them to Saratoga. Mada felt sick for her two friends, and was grateful she had been obedient and kept the Sabbath Day standards.

When Mada was seventeen she had an experience that greatly impacted her life. She was walking home from the Sunday-night Sacrament meeting which ended at 9:00 pm. She had gone to a girl friend's home for a few minutes following the meeting. Walking alone at night past the open fields was considered safe. She began walking home which was several miles. Her comment was "it was a beautiful moonlit night, and one could see almost to read, and far in to the distance. I was dressed in an all-white outfit, was happy and not afraid. Suddenly a terrible feeling of fear came over me. I was weak and afraid of falling down. I seemed to know my life was in danger." A man was there and she knew that she couldn't outrun him. Mada began walking faster, all the time praying as she said, "praying as I had never prayed before"

There were some bushes and weeds near the top of the hill. A voice told her to "jump in there." She did and hid in the bushes. The man came near, looked every direction, and eventually left. Mada remained in the bushes until he was out of sight. She began walking home again. She saw a man walking towards her. The mad called to her - this time it was her father. They embraced and Mada recorded that "He was crying and out of breath from running. He said he and mother had gone to bed and were asleep when a voice woke them up, told them my life was in danger, and for him to come to me." She also wrote, "It has given me definite proof that our prayers are answered."

Mada had an uncle named TJ who was the younger brother of Elisha. He was called to a mission in England and had to come home early from heart trouble. Mada spent a lot of time with TJ and had a wonderful friendship with him before he died.

Mada met Harry Peterson August 8, 1920. She was eighteen years old. They met after a meeting at the Tabernacle. Immediately they developed a friendship. Harry left to work in Idaho just one week after they met. They

started going together when he returned. Harry worked in Bingham Canyon and in Salt Lake City for Fleischman Yeast Company, so much of their courtship was done by correspondence. They were married seven years later on January 6, 1927, in the Salt Lake Temple. Their first home was in Salt Lake City. From this union was born their three children. They are Mada Jillene (May 2, 1928), Harry Donl (February 17, 1930), and Peggy LaNae (March 31, 1943).

Mada loved the gospel. She and Harry lived the gospel wherever they lived. They held cottage meetings in their home in Corvallis to assist in sharing the gospel. They next moved to Eugene. The Church organization was bigger in Eugene, Oregon. There she served as a counselor in the Primary, a Sunday School teacher, second counselor in the MIA, and a Relief Society visiting teacher. One of the greatest joys was serving in the Portland, Oregon mission. She served a full-time mission for one and one-half years. This included tracting door to door, arranging cottage meetings, and arranging church meetings. Harry did much of the baptizing. Mada had two small children at the time.

Mada served her whole life in church service. She served in Lehi when the family returned to Utah in 1943. She spent many hours in the Relief Society, both in teaching and the presidencies. She was Relief Society President and served in both ward and stake callings.

Mada was also a patriotic woman. World War II was happening as Harry, Mada, Jillene and Donl lived in Seattle. Mada certified to be an Observer in the Ground Observer Corps. Part of the job was to watch for Japanese aircraft should they attack the west coast. This corps was dissolved in 1959. She spent many hours volunteering in this patriotic service.

Mada loved Harry and was his support throughout their married life. She had a delightful sense of humor that helped them get through the trials of life. She often accompanied him on his selling jobs before the children came. She was a supportive wife as he was required to spend long hours on the road with his employment.

Mada spent many hours taking care of her parents in their last years. Her mother had diabetes and needed lots of help. Daily Mada spent many hours caring for her. Her father suffered from dementia in his last years and required lots of care also. During the course of his care some land was sold. At the death of both parents, finances needed to be settled. One of Mada's sisters and one brother accused her of stealing from her parents. This broke Mada's heart and upset her greatly. She fasted three days seeking help from the Lord. She recorded,

I was weak, heartsick, and crying. I had prayed earnestly for guidance and assurance for something more than the still small voice. I was standing facing my cupboards ironing, when I heard my mother's voice call my name, Mada, Mada. I burst into tears. She told me to stop crying that they had been sent in answer to my prayers. She also said they lived right here among us and was with Virg and others. She said what had

been worrying us would be all right. She told me tell Jilene and for her to pray also, that there was strength in numbers, not to worry Donl as he was on a mission, and that our last days would be our happiest. She also thanked me for what I had done to help them. She tole me father was here also. Then he began to talk and she said no more. He told me among other things too sacred to write to go ahead and build our home up that it would be a comfort and a blessing to us. For me not to worry, that he would soften the hearts of my sisters and brothers and I would benefit by it. He also said they were live right here among us and that they were only permitted to come under certain circumstances. He said they were happy and with Virg and that they would come again. He thanked me for everything I had done and that they loved me dearly. He told me to go to Brother Clifford E. Young, that he would take care of the problems. Then he said we must go now and be of good cheer my dear. I could feel an empty home and I knew when they left and I followed them up the steps. This happened April 10, 1952 in the afternoon.

Mada followed the instruction given to her by her parents. The bank records proved her honesty. The family members were shown the records and ended up at the attorney's office to settle the property issues. Hazel refused to soften her heart and stormed out, determined to hold up the property settlement. Eventually things were settled, but bad feelings from Hazel lasted for years.

Mada was a wonderful mother and a wonderful grandmother. She was so proud of her family and their accomplishments. She wrote once, "It has been a joy to have witnessed our children and grandchildren endowed in the temple." She often commented how pleased she was that her three children were married in the temple.

Mada had a delightful sense of humor. Mada loved a good joke and enjoyed the visits of her family and friends. Her last years were difficult in that she suffered from dementia, as did her father. However, she was blessed to have her daughter, Peggy, living in the home. Peggy spent endless loving hours taking care of both Mada and hARRY in their declining years. Mada wasn't a tall person, but a woman of great stature in the gospel. She was a valiant daughter of our Heavenly Father. All of Mada's children and grandchildren know that she loved them. She returned to her Heavenly Father on October 26, 1986 at the age of 84. She is buried in the Lehi Cemetery next to her husband and her parents.

Information for this history was taken from Mada's recorded history, notes made by her through the years, and genealogical records. Mada's recorded history has been transcribed by Jacque Peterson and is available. Jacque is responsible for this history and would appreciate any changes or corrections that you might have.