

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF

THE LIFE OF

MARY ADALINE BELNAP JEPPSON



Mary Adaline Belnap was born on Oct. 5, 1905 in Salem, Idaho, at home. Dr. Shoupe from Sugar City came out to attend her birth. Her father was elated at finally having a daughter after 9 boys. He painted his wagon red and drove around Salem waving his hat and cheering so that his neighbors would know of his good fortune.

Addie's father was Augustus Weber Belnap. He was born on Mar. 25, 1860 in Ogden, Utah to Gilbert Belnap and Adaline Knight Belnap. Addie's mother was Mary Read Belnap. She was born on June 21, 1866 at West Weber, Utah to Thomas Read and Jane Rowley Read.

Addie was the tenth of eleven children born to her parents. She had one sister and nine brothers. In addition to these brothers and sister, Orpha Gertrude Stephens was raised as a member of this family because of her mother's death.

Augustus Ruben Belnap	Aug. 07, 1887
Charles William Belnap	July 12, 1889
Thomas Gilbert Belnap	July 13, 1892
George Belnap	Aug. 07, 1894
John Belnap	Sept. 27, 1896
Earl Read Belnap	Aug. 21, 1897
Joseph Francis Belnap	Oct. 26, 1899
Ezra Leonard Belnap	Jan. 21, 1902
Elmer Durling Belnap	Jan. 04, 1904
Mary Adaline Belnap Jeppson	Oct. 05, 1905
Lola Ethel Belnap Sommers	Dec. 02, 1907
Orpha Gertrude Stephens	Dec. 26, 1892

Addie was blessed in 1905 by Harvey C. Roylance in the Salem Ward in Salem, Idaho.

When Addie was about 3 or 4 years old, her grandparents on the Belnap side of the family traveled from Hooper to Salem by covered wagon. One day her mother and grandparents went into Sugar City to do some shopping. Addie crawled up on their wagon seat while they were gone and found a box of matches. She had observed her brothers lighting matches by rubbing them across their overalls so she decided to try it on her silk dress. After lighting the matches, she laid them down on the wagon seat next to her. In this process, her dress caught on fire. Her brother Elmer heard her screaming and ran into the house to tell her father. Father came running and used his hands to rub out the fire. Addie suffered severe burns to her right thigh and hip. Addie's father also suffered severe burns to his hands. His hands were never the same after that. Addie spent many days in bed recuperating. As she recuperated she would ride in the back of a horse drawn wagon lying down because she could not sit. She learned to get around the house using a little red chair to put her leg on. This chair was used as a crutch. Addie had scars for the rest of her life and the skin was as tough as leather. In today's world, extensive skin grafting would correct this problem.

She was baptized on Oct. 5, 1913 by Brother James F. Shirley in the Salem Canal near her home. In preparation for the baptism, the ice had to be broken and warm clothes were taken to the baptismal site. She was then rushed home so she could be dried and warmed up for church and her confirmation. She was confirmed by Amos Virgin.

Addie started school at the age of six. Her first school was at the Salem Dance Hall. After the first year, she went to Sugar Salem Elementary School located between Salem and Sugar City. There was no bus service in those days so she walked to and from school. When the weather was bad, she would ride to school in a horse drawn buggy or sleigh.

One of their school field trips was to the grain elevator in Sugar City. The class climbed to the top of the granary. Some of the kids dangled their feet over the edge. Addie thought they were dumb nuts and she stayed as far away from the edge as she could.

Sugar City only had two schools in town, Addie graduated from Sugar Salem Elementary School and Sugar City High School.

She has always been active and participated in church activities. As a young lady, she participated in road shows, sports, speech contests, and dance festivals. Taught primary from 1921 to 1922. She taught Beehives and was the Secretary of the Salem Ward Sunday School from 1922 to 1927. When Addie was serving as the secretary of the Sunday School, the organist did not show up for one of the Sunday School meetings. The Sunday School Superintendent was trying to figure out what to do. Addie said to him "If you can find some one else to take care of the rolls, I'll play the organ for you". He looked at her for a minute and said "You mean it don't you" and she nodded her head. Addie played the organ that day and within a short while she was sustained as the Sunday School organist. The organ she played required the organist to continually pump a pedal with the foot. Addie took lessons for a short while from a man who came to Salem and taught a class in the Salem dance hall. Addie also had a school teacher who gave her some hints on playing but never had formal classes. Most of her skills were self-taught. She also played for the Salem Ward choir. She was the organist for Sunday School until April 1, 1931.

Addie went on a temple (Logan) excursion with gleaner girls and was baptized for 28 people. She took a class of Beehive girls to temple at Logan and was baptized for 34 people, June 12, 1926. She served as first counselor of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association from 1928 to 1929. She was again the Beehive teacher from 1929 to 1930.

Salem Ward had a Young Women's basketball team. This team played other Wards in the area including Sugar City, and Teton. Addie played on this team and enjoyed the sports program very much. She, also, participated in several plays.

Addie first saw her future husband in the Madison County Court House at Rexburg, Idaho. Another day, she was going into J. C. Penny as he was coming out. He held the door shut so she couldn't get in. She felt like kicking him. He used to wink at her and she thought he was kind of fresh. He liked to tease her and make her blush. She remembered going to Rexburg for Stake Conference and was sitting by several of her friends in the middle of the row. All of the sudden there was Orrin down at the end of the row passing a note to her. She said that all of the girls were giggling as the note went by them. It embarrassed her to death. She said that she could have crowned him. Another time she was sitting in her car with a bunch of girl friends, and spied Orrin coming down the street toward her. He had been out shoveling coal in the mud and was a real mess. Addie thought he looked like a 'black man' and was hoping that he wouldn't see her, but he did. He just came waltzing up to the car like nothing was wrong. She could have died. The girls teased her about the dirty guy that was making eyes at her.

Orrin went courting on his horse from Archer. Most of their dates were spent around the homestead. The trip from Archer to Salem was about 16 miles one way. Sometimes Addie would feel sorry for Orrin having to ride his horse so far and she would drive her car to Rexburg and meet him there. Addie could not figure out why a guy would ride a horse that far just to see some dumb girl.

Several dates were spent in Archer with the Archer crowd. One of their favorite activities were "chickerees". Addie remembered, a time, when Orrin, Addie, Eugene Erickson, and Sam Grover were going out on an activity and one of these guys asked Zelda Harris to go with them.

Zelda's mother said that the only way Zelda could go was if Addie went. Apparently, Zelda's mother wasn't sure she could trust the guys.

Some members of the Jeppson family were not too happy with them seeing each other. They felt that Addie was too modern. She worked, chased around too much, she wore up to date clothes, cut her hair short, and wore makeup. The family would get Orrin dates and a cousin would try to get him to do other things instead of going out with Addie.

Orrin and Addie were engaged in Sept. 1930. They went to Rexburg and picked out the ring. Addie wore the ring for awhile but her finger swelled up so they took the ring back to have it made larger.

During this time, Orrin was working in Idaho Falls at the seed plant. Orrin stayed in Idaho Falls all week and rode the train home on the weekends. Many weekends they would not see each other but they wrote letters. One weekend, Orrin borrowed his father's car and picked Addie up in Salem for a date. On the way home after the date, Orrin got tired and ran off the road. His parents gave him the dickens.

When Orrin asked Addie to marry him, he got down on his knees and said in a wavering voice, "Please marry me". Orrin didn't ask Father Belnap if he could marry Addie but left that up to her. She was the last one at home in the Belnap family and was very concerned about leaving her father all alone. She asked her father what he thought about her marrying Orrin. Her father said, "Charlie Jeppson from Archer is all right so his son must be all right, too."

Orrin lost his job at the seed plant in January before they married in April. Addie's old car had broken down. Addie purchased a little red car from her brother Elmer. She didn't know whether to buy this car or not because Orrin had lost his job.

Addie and Orrin traveled to Salt Lake in Addie's red Chevrolet. This was an all day trip and only a portion of the roads were paved. They spent the night at Harvey and Elva Hansen's home. The next day they went to the temple and did not remember any family members going with them. Addie received her endowments on April 3, 1931 in the Salt Lake Temple. She was married on April 3, 1931 to Orrin Blackburn Jeppson by Apostle George F. Richards. Addie remembered being scared to death. She did not have any family or friends along to help her through. The lady assigned to help her, kept encouraging her to hurry because they were waiting on her. She remembered that the temple worker took her to the front of the room and sat her on the front row. Addie didn't understand why she was being taken to the front. They spent that night at the Hansen's home and returned to Idaho the next day to continue on with their life. They made their first home in Archer.

The gang from Archer was trying to shivery Addie and Orrin after their marriage. One night when they were at Orrin's parents house, they heard a commotion. Orrin's sisters and Addie beat it out the back door and hid in the orchard. Orrin was caught by the shiverers. Addie stayed in the orchard while the gang was looking for her. After a while she decided to give herself up and get it over with. She walked out of the orchard to the road and then down to where the group was. Nobody saw her coming so she just stood in the midst of them. It took them a few minutes before they realized she was there. The group put Addie and Orrin in the back of a truck with a wheelbarrow. Down the road a ways was a canal so Addie and Orrin pushed the wheelbarrow out of the truck into the canal. The gang stopped and retrieved the wheelbarrow and headed out for Rexburg again. In Rexburg, Orrin was forced to wheel Addie up the streets in the wheelbarrow with all kinds of commotion going on about them. There were all kinds of threats about what the group was going to do to them. Addie realized that she was getting close to her brother's house so she ran to his house. Eugene Erickson caught her on the stairs and dragged her back to the fun. These times were remembered with fondness.

After their marriage, Orrin and Addie's first home was in Archer. Then they moved to: Salem Ward, Dec. 24, 1932; Malad 2nd Ward, Feb. 17, 1934; Preston 4th Ward, prior to Sept. 21, 1934; Preston 2nd Ward, Sept. 15, 1935; Idaho Falls, April 20, 1936; Archer Ward, Sept. 3, 1936; Rigby 1st Ward, Sept. 6, 1938.

They were blessed with six children, four living and two who died at birth. They are Mary Lou, Charles, Thomas (deceased), Gilbert (deceased), Orvid, and Lola.



Front row: Lola, Addie, Orrin
Back row: Charles, Orvid, Mary Lou

Addie held the following church positions during her married lifetime: Beehive teacher 1933 - 1934 in the Salem Ward; moved from ward on February 17, 1934; on February 26, 1935, called as Beehive teacher in the Preston 4th Ward of the Oneida Stake; moved from Preston 4th Ward on Sept. 15, 1935; sustained as organist of Rigby 1st Ward Relief Society Sept. 12, 1938; January 1939 became organist of the Rigby 1st Ward Primary; organist of the Rigby 1st Ward Sunday School Sept. 1 1939; released from Primary in February 1941; released from Sunday School May 11, 1942; sustained First Counselor of Primary May 18, 1942; served as the Lark teacher for two years; sustained as organist of Relief Society May 18, 1942 and set apart May 31, 1942; sustained 2nd Counselor of Rigby 1st Ward Relief Society Aug. 12, 1946; released Sept. 1st, 1948; organist of Primary Sept. 1948; on January 6, 1956, Rigby 1st and 4th Wards were divided to make the Rigby 5th Ward; put in 4th Ward Jan. 22, 1956; sustained as Rigby 4th Ward Organist and as Primary Organist; called to the Relief Society Board in 1960 under Catherine Cromwell, President, for two years; served under Audra Peterson, President, for two

years and released August 23, 1964; released from Primary (organist) Sept. 1966; sustained as Primary Organist 1977, released Aug. 27, 1978; sustained Relief Society Organist Aug. 29, 1982, released June, 1983; Addie served ten years as the Ward Organist in the Rigby 4th ward. One of Addie's favorite callings in the latter years of her life was as a temple worker. She was asked to assist one day a week in the clothing distribution section of the temple. She really enjoyed the association with the temple workers and the patrons, and loved the atmosphere of the temple.

She passed away on Sept. 3, 1995. Services were held in the Rigby 4th Ward on September 8, 1995. She was buried that day in the Sutton Cemetery in Archer, Idaho. Eckersells handled the funeral arrangements

Items of Interest

The following are some memories of Addie's from the time she was a young girl to a grown woman.

Addie is the second youngest in her family. Her older brothers were men when she was a little girl. Some of her fondest memories were playing with her oldest brother's (Gus) children. One time they were playing in the barn swinging on a rope when Dennis got the rope caught around his neck. He just about hanged himself before they got him loose. It scared them anyway. This barn was in Kilgore.

The family's mode of transportation was by horse and buggy. The Belnap's drove to church and Sugar City in a two seater white top buggy.

Addie remembered a Mr. Hershey when she was a small girl. Every time he saw her he would say, 'Lets see now, what is your name'. When she would tell him that it was Addie Belnap. He would tell her that it couldn't be Belnap because Belnap's didn't have any girls. This really upset Addie and she would run home and tell her parents.

Addie's father was a farmer. In the wintertime the family spent their time in Salem. In the summer, the family moved to Kilgore where they grazed cattle. Those were fun times and were looked forward to with great anticipation. The house at Kilgore was a log cabin with no luxuries. Water was obtained from a nearby creek and the men were gone most of the day. One of Addie's and brother Elmer's chores was to catch nine fish every day for supper. There were very few garden crop's available and of course no store in the vicinity. The fish were a major part of the diet. Ethyl (Addie's sister) liked to stay and help with the housework which suited Addie just fine. Addie was more of a tom boy and housework was not her favorite. Addie's brother Frank stayed in Salem and took care of the farm. The farm was across the river and north of the homestead..

While in Kilgore, the kids from down the road would come and play. Then they would go fishing. They would get willows and take the branches off except for a few at the end. The stream was narrow (about 2 ft.). They used the willows with the branches on the end to trap the fish. They picked up the trapped fish with their hands.

The house, barn, and fences are gone now but a white house on a hill and where the creek crosses the road mark the spot where the Belnap children spent their childhood..

Mosquitos were a problem in both Salem and Kilgore. In order to go outside to play, they wrapped their legs with brown paper bags for protection.

The economy was pretty tight in those days and Addie remembered her brother making shoes for her.

When Addie was small her mother was sick so her father braided her hair for school. He pulled her hair so tight that her eyes were pulled back. She said that she looked like a china man.

Addie's mother died when Addie was about 20. Her mother had high blood pressure. Addie watched her Mother die. Blood came from her mouth and nose and it was Addie's job to clean up after the death. It was one of those unforgettable experiences of life.

After Addie graduated from high school, she started working at a laundry in Rexburg. She remembered the electricity in folding the clothes and their hotness after she pressed them. Later, she worked at a seed plant in Rexburg. Addie enjoyed work and did quite well in the work force. She was recognized for being a good worker. Her job was to inspect peas as they came across a conveyor belt and remove the bad ones. Her salary for this job was \$29. per week. Her brother Charlie was the supervisor and liked the way she worked so he put her in charge of the other pickers. She also kept the books and sent out the bills for the Belnap Brothers Garage.

In order to get back and forth to work, she obtained a car. She used to haul several girls to Rexburg. One day she was almost hit by a train which made a big impression on her. In the winter time, Addie's Father would warm the car up every morning for the girls. He would heat up rocks and put them into the car. The girls would put their feet on the rocks to keep warm. Each night he would put a blanket on the hood to keep it from freezing. He built a garage for the car. When he went to put it in the garage, the car would not WHOA and went through the garage. He wouldn't drive it after that.

Addie and a bunch of girls (6) went to dances, movies, roller skating, and just running around. She enjoyed being with these girls. They had lots of fun.

Addie used to drive her father to Rexburg for his church meetings when he served on the High Council. She waited at the tabernacle until he was finished and then drove him back home.

Addie's first car was an Overland 2 seater. Her brothers ran an auto repair shop in Rexburg called Belnap Brothers Garage. They had this car in the shop and sold it to Addie for \$250 (used). Addie later had a Red Chevrolet that was used for her and Orrin's trip to Salt Lake to get married. After the young couple were married the car was sold and used a horse and buggy. They used a one seat buggy to drive to Rexburg for shopping and to Salem to see and help Addie's father.

Addie's first child (Mary Lou) was born premature. The baby was small and weighed less than 6 pounds. Being a young mother, a lot of people wondered if Addie could take care of a premature baby. The baby was so small that she could fit inside a shoe box. A teacup could be placed over her face and the eyes, nose, and mouth would be covered. Addie remembers that there was some gossip as she brought the baby home. The baby was born less than 9 months after Addie and Orrin were married. After people saw the baby and saw that she really was premature, the gossip stopped. When Addie and the baby came home from the Hospital, neither mother or daughter were doing very well so they stayed with Addie's brother (Charlie) and his wife (Lula) in Rexburg. Her brother lived over the Belnap Brother's Garage. After a short period of time they were able to return to their home in Archer.

Sometimes this small family would travel to church in Archer on horse back. All on one horse. This was in the early 1930's and times were tough for all.

In the early 40's, Addie's father could no longer take care of himself. He moved into the Jeppson home. During this time he was becoming senile and wanted to go home to Hooper. He became very difficult to handle. Addie and Orrin bought a small trailer house and fixed it up.

They fenced it so that he couldn't get out. The trailer was parked in the pasture behind the orchard. Eventually, Addie could not handle him any more. Her brother Frank came and moved Grandpa to his place. Grandpa Belnap passes away while living with Frank.

One time Addie was very sick, she was crying and yelling in her sleep, Orrin woke her up. She told him that her father had come to get her. Her father had kissed her on the forehead and the spot on her forehead was still burning.

Addie had her hands full raising four children and chasing after their needs and wants. In addition to being a Mother she assisted Orrin in running Jeppson Hardware. She took care of the books and handled the banking for the store. Certain times of the year were busier than others and she would be there waiting on customers. Other times, she was needed only during lunch hour and after school to help meet customer's needs and to protect from school children shoplifting. Many times she was asked to run to Idaho Falls to pick up needed supplies.

Addie has always been an active and willing participant in the Primary program and the Relief Society. During most of her lifetime church meeting were not held on the block schedule but during the week. She received a special award for her many years of devoted service to the Primary organization. Most of these years were spent as Primary Organist.

Her music abilities were used in Sunday School also. For several years Addie served as the Ward Organist. One of the Ward Music Directors while she was organist was Bro. Davenport. He used to call during the week to let Addie know what Hymns were going to be sung the next week so she could practice. Addie's children used to call Bro. Davenport, Bro. Couch. Addie was so used to hearing Bro. Couch, that she almost called him that one day. She was not to happy with her children for that.

Addie enjoyed artsy/craftsy type activities and has spent many years developing these talents. She has been involved in and directed many RS Homemaking activities. She served as the RS quilting chairman.

Addie knitted and crocheted. Most of these activities were for her own pleasure but she has taught these skills in Primary, YWMIA, Relief Society, and to individuals interested in learning. Many of her pet projects went to local county fairs and to the Eastern Idaho State Fair where she won many Grand Prize, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons.

Other talents she developed were textile painting and within the last few years, classical painting. She has took several classes and had paintings hanging all around the house.

Addie was always willing to share whatever talents she had with those around her.

A funny incident her children remember is they picked up a 'Whoopee' cushion some where and used to leave it laying around under the cushions of the couch or chairs in the living room. One day Addie was getting the house ready for visiting teachers and set down on one of the chairs waiting for them to come. The "Whoopee" cushion cut loose. Addie kept thinking about what would have happened if she had not set down when she did. That cushion was never seen or heard again.

Another time the Jeppson Family was in Kelly Canyon picking huckleberries. Addie was off by herself sitting in the bushes. She heard the kids coming down the trail. She scrunched down so that they could not see her so she could scare them. She waited until they were nice and close and jumped up and yelled. To her great surprise, it was not the kids she heard but a black bear. The bear hurriedly stood up on its hind legs to see what was going on. Both Addie and the

bear quickly turned around and run off in opposite directions as fast they could go. From then on Addie never strayed very far on the huckleberry trips.

She had the following faith promoting experiences: When either Gilbert or Thomas was stillborn, Addie was concerned about whether stillborn children have a spirit or not. She had heard stories that the spirit entered the body when the baby was in the womb and other stories that the spirit entered the body only at birth. She was trying to figure out if she would get a chance to raise this baby in the hereafter. She and Orrin talked to the local church leaders and never felt like they knew for sure. These were trying times for a young mother. Addie relates that one day she was on the back porch of her house washing clothes. She was thinking about this baby she had lost and pondering. She felt a tug on her apron and looked down. There was a cute little boy standing there for a short period of time and then he disappeared. Addie then knew that there was a son waiting for her and the grief and sorrow she had felt began to disappear.

Another time early in the morning while everyone was still in bed, Addie woke Orrin and told him that her father had just died. Orrin asked Addie how she knew that and she told him that her father has just been in their bedroom standing at the end of the bed. He didn't say anything but she knew that he was telling her good-bye. Within a couple of hours, she received a phone call from her brother telling her that her dad had died about the same time that she had seen him in her bedroom.

One day Addie was washing the windows on her front porch. She was standing on a stool on top of a planter box when she slipped and fell. Her collar bone was broken and she was incapacitated for a while.



Addie's Patriarchal Blessings

Patriarchal Blessing on the head of Mary Adaline Belnap, daughter of Augustus Weber Belnap and Mary Read, born October 5, 1905, at Salem, Idaho. Given May 30, 1926, by John Donaldson, Patriarch.

My dear sister, I lay my hands upon your head and as a patriarch I seal upon you the blessings of God. You are of the lineage of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim and will receive all the blessings of that lineage in due time.

You are beloved of God because you was faithful in the past, and you left his presence to come here with his blessings and promise if faithful to the end you shall return and dwell in his presence forever.

You are a noble spirit, blessed to come through a noble lineage on this earth. You have a great and mighty mission yet to fulfill. You shall proclaim the gospel in the face of great trials and you shall behold the judgment of God, upon the wicked of this generation.

Your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and if faithful it shall never be taken there from.

I bless you at this time with the blessings of the heavens and of the earth also.

You shall yet preside over many of your sex and great wisdom and faith shall be given you and you shall have power to turn the hearers of more than one (who are straying away) back to the truth and service of God.

I seal you up against the power of the adversary unto the day of your redemption, and if faithful all your days shall you pass by the Gods to your exaltation and receive the glad welcome of your Father in Heaven and have sealed upon your head the gift of endless live and shall reign as a queen forever. Which I seal upon your head in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

John Donaldson

I think that the following blessing was requested by Addie after the deaths of Thomas and Gilbert. As I understood the story she was deeply troubled by the loss of these two children and was seeking information about stillborn children and whether the parents would be able to raise the children in the next life.

No. 14, Book B. Rigby, Idaho October 30, 1940

A patriarchal Blessing given by Josiah Call, Patriarch, upon the head of Mary Adaline Jeppson, daughter of Augustus W. Belnap and Mary Read, born October 5, 1905, at Salem, Idaho.

Dear Sister Jeppson by your request, as a patriarch, I lay my hands upon thy head and in the authority of the Priesthood, I confer upon thee a Patriarchal Blessing. I pray God for inspiration to grant unto you through your faithfulness.

Through your faithfulness in the pre mortal state thy spirit has been held in reserve until the ushering in of this the greatest of all Dispensations and have been made a partaker of the Gospel with its blessings. The Lord is pleased with thee because of the clean life and of thy devotion to Him. The blood of Israel flows through thy veins, thou art of the lineage of Joseph and Asenath whom the great Patriarch made the firstborn in Israel because of his faithfulness. Rejoice in that birthright and see that that blood shall never be contaminated with sin and the Lord will withhold no blessing from thee that shall be for thy good. The time will come when thou shalt have a desire to assist in the redemption of thy dead ancestors and I promise you that if you will put your trust in the Lord the way will be opened up whereby you can enjoy that sacred privilege and you shall receive joy and comfort and feel the presence of those for whom you officiate.

I bless you with the Blessings of life and health and strength, I bless you with every blessing necessary for your welfare. I bless you with power to go through motherhood successfully and bring other choice spirits unto this world. Put your implicit trust in the Lord Sister Jeppson, use care and good judgment and you shall not be disappointed in your righteous desires. Your children shall be a comfort unto you in your declining years. Thou shalt not taste the pangs of death. The passing shall be as a pleasant dream. Thou shalt lie thy body down in peace, honored, beloved and respected.

I bless you, through your faithfulness with power to come forth in the first resurrection and receive a well earned reward and shall live and reign as a princess in the Kingdom of our God. I seal these blessings upon thy head and through your faithfulness they shall be fulfilled to the letter in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Josiah Call