

Mary Malden  
21 December 1821 - 29 August 1888  
by Elaine Johnson

Mary was the daughter of Henry and Mary Martin Malden. The family was had lived in Soham, Cambridge, England, and other parts of Cambridgeshire for several generations. She married Thomas Peek 7 September 1836 in Soham. He was twenty years old, she was fourteen. He worked as a farmer, miller, and merchant. Her first child, a girl, died at birth. Mary's second child, a son, was born in Fordham but christened in Soham. All of her remaining children were born in Soham including her twins. The girl died in her first year but the boy lived over eighty years. On 11 March 1850 Mary's thirty-four year old husband died. Their youngest child was not quite six years old.

Mary learned about the LDS church when she was twenty-nine years old. She was baptized on the 6th of April 1851 by George Ward. Her two oldest living children were baptized a year later. Another, her second son, joined the church in 1854. Finally, her eleven year old son was baptized in 1855. There was no branch of the church in Soham and the branches inside Cambridgeshire were on the other side of the shire. It would have been too far for a widow to take her children regularly. The two closest branches were in Suffolk and Norfolk but the family's memberships were not located there or in the Cambridgeshire branches. Mary brought three of her children to the United States in 1857. They landed in Boston and can be found in the 1860 U.S. census in ward three of the city. Mary took in a young orphan girl who was born in Boston in 1859. Her surname was Martin and was probably a cousin on her mother's side. She raised this girl as her own and she was eventually sealed to Mary.

Mary traveled west to join the Saints in Utah. She made the last leg of the journey with the Joseph Horn Company which arrived in the Valley 13 September 1861. Her daughter Mary had already gone west and was married before she arrived. She settled near her daughter's family in South Weber and remained there when they moved to Riverside. Mary and her sons are listed with the members of the South Weber ward. Her son Thomas was assistant clerk. Mary married William Firth 18 March 1864. They were living in Kaysville in 1870. The census asked if each person was able to read and write. Mary could do both. In the 1880 census their neighbors are the same and the place is given as South Weber. Mary was Endowed in the Endowment House 15 October 1885 and sealed to her husband William Firth. Mary died in South Weber, Davis county, and was buried there.

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