

Time line for Martha Telle Cannon 1846 - 1928

Intense persecution of the Mormons in Nauvoo peaked in the winter of 1845-6. Lewis and Amelia did not cross the Mississippi River with the rest of the Saints heading West in February of 1846. It's probable that Martha's father Lewis took his sons and pregnant wife 120 miles south to St. Louis for safety where Martha was born on 28 May **1846**. Likely Amelia's pregnancy was a factor in that decision. Perhaps Lewis' daughter Sarah Ann's account of his disenchantment with Church leaders also played a part. We will never know if Sarah's animosity towards the Mormons was influenced by the Oakley family's hurt and disappointment after Tabitha's death in 1840, or if Lewis' dissatisfaction with the church was as intense as she believed. Another important piece of information to consider is that Amelia's parents and most of her siblings did not stay with the main body of Saints, either. Rather than live in Winter Quarters, her family members settled in small communities in Iowa. Even so, two sisters, two brothers and her parents were in Utah by 1852. The family of George and Hester Rogers Beebe, who raised Martha, did not move to Utah until 1876. Lewis and Amelia might have intended to join the Saints later, as the Beebe family eventually did.

Summer **1847** Martha's mother Amelia was shot.

29 Nov **1847** Martha's mother died.

Spring of **1848** Lewis gave Martha to Amelia's sister Carolyn Rogers Daniels, who had come from Polk City, Iowa for her. Upon her return to Iowa, Martha was adopted by Amelia's sister Hester and raised there.

1 Jan **1856** Martha's father died in Illinois.

1860 the Beebe family traveled to Utah by ox cart and had ordinances performed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They returned to Iowa after seeing difficult conditions in Utah.

About **1865**, Martha graduated from Iowa University.

1866, Martha went to Utah by herself.

1867 taught school in the 14th Ward Schoolhouse.

16 Mar **1868**, Martha married George Q. Cannon.

1870 - 1888 nine children were born to Martha.

1888 Because of intense persecution against polygamist wives, Martha took eight of her nine children to Colorado and lived under an assumed name.

Abt **1879** Martha moved to the Cannon farm in SLC.

12 Apr **1901** George Q. Cannon died.

About **1903** Martha moved to 77 E. Street in SLC.

~**1880 - 1927**, Martha did genealogical research and was a worker in the Salt Lake Temple.

5 Feb **1928** Martha died in Salt Lake City, age 82.

In her autobiography, Amelia's sister Caroline Rogers Daniels Smoot wrote, "My father and mother, Mrs. Beebe and husband, and myself and husband and my baby boy were all living in Iowa . . . 10 miles from what now is Fort Des Moines, the capitol of Iowa. At that time, 1847, it was just a small city. At the time my sister was shot and commenced to get better, she would not let anyone write to us. She said 'wait till I get better, Mother will feel so bad about it.' So the first we heard about the accident was the day she was buried, for after her relapse she went very quickly and we were 200 miles away, and no means of reaching her, only by a lumber wagon. Amelia, on her death bed, made her husband Mr. Telle promise to let her mother have her little baby girl named for her mother. The next spring in April of 1848, I engaged my passage with a couple of neighbors . . . who were going to Keokuk for goods. I started with my baby on what seemed a very big undertaking for me at the time, camping out by the roadside or in a farmhouse, sometimes rough roads, rain or shine, sometimes quite sick. My daughter Maria was born in a few months after I returned home. . . . My sister Hester . . . had lost her baby at 17 months old. When I brought the motherless one home, she asked mother to let her take the baby and raise the motherless baby in the place left vacant by her own little Martha, both named for Grandma Rogers. . . . Mother let her keep her, [Martha] is living today, 1910."

Obituary: "Funeral services for Mrs. Martha T. Cannon, 81, widow of the late Pres. George Q. Cannon, who died Sunday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. Clarence Neslen, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7, [1928] at 1 p.m. in the Twentieth ward chapel, G. street and Second avenue. Mrs. Cannon had been in good health until Jan. 24, when she suffered a partial stroke from which she did not recover. She was born May 28, 1846, in St. Louis, Mo. Her father,

Lewis Telle, and mother, Amelia Rogers Telle, both died in her early childhood and she was adopted into the family of her aunt, Mrs. George Beebe. With them she went to live in Polk City, Iowa, in which place she spent her girlhood. Her people having joined the Church, she accompanied them to Utah when she was about 15. Shortly thereafter the family returned to Iowa, where Mrs. Cannon entered college. In 1866, she again set out for Utah without her family. On arrival in Salt Lake, she engaged in school teaching and continued therein until her marriage in 1868. There have been born to her nine children, all living Her sons, Willard and Espy were absent in Los Angeles until Saturday evening when in response to news of her serious condition, they left at once for Salt Lake, arriving Sunday evening." At her funeral Orson F. Whitney said of her, "I presume there are many here who knew Sister Cannon much better than I did, but I doubt if there are any who had more respect for her. She always struck me by the dignity of her appearance, her personality, and by her amiable disposition. She was a woman among women. She had a queenly dignity and was a genuine lady."



Martha Telle Cannon