

Part Two: The Farm

Chapter 5: The History of the Farm and President Cannon's Wives

President Cannon spent the weekend after the historic 1890 October conference at his farm. He was concerned about the poor health of various family members and wrote, "My son Collins, who is only an infant, but a very bright little fellow, has had chills."¹ Collins would have been fifteen months old.

In 1892, when Collins was four, the federal government granted amnesty to all polygamists, allowing men to visit their wives and children. President Cannon chose to set an example for the Church, and rather than show favoritism to one particular wife, he did not live with any.

Family legend is that Sarah Jane, Eliza and Martha decided that Caroline would act in the role of the legal wife. While true, that did not happen until 1898, less than three years before President Cannon's death. After the Manifesto in 1890, George lived separately for eight years in his deceased wife Elizabeth's home until this decision was made.² However, during this decade of the 1890s, after the Manifesto but before his death in 1901, President Cannon traveled with Caroline several times to the east and on Church-related trips outside of Utah. Perhaps the adults in the marriage were content with the arrangement, but as we shall see, young Collins saw what he perceived as a disparity and eventually he spoke up. The other young children in the family were Caroline's children, who did not see the issues Collins saw.

After the Salt Lake Temple dedication in 1893, both Martha and Sarah Jane served as ordinance workers in the Salt Lake Temple, Martha eventually serving for twenty-five years.³ In addition, these two wives and also Caroline attended many meetings in the temple and other venues with George, including private dinners, events which would have been unseen to Collins, and in fact were unseen to those who might have been critical of President Cannon's family relationships.⁴

¹ [George Q. Cannon Journal, 12 October 1890.](#)

² [George Q. Cannon Journal 18 September 1898.](#) As I studied the journal, I observed President Cannon's descriptions of his activities as it related to family life, how careful he was, sometimes choosing to eat alone rather than with only a few family members nearby. I was confused, because I had been told as a child that Sarah Jane, Eliza and Martha had made the decision that George would live with Caroline. When I came across the circumstances of this meeting in 1898, in connection with Collins' outburst which I address later, I was stunned.

³ For just one example, Salt Lake Temple Records for the date 20 August 1895 show that Martha and her aunt, Caroline Rogers Smoot, were in the temple. In addition to other ordinances, two of Martha's children, Grace and Radcliffe, acted as proxies in the baptistery. [Films 183415; 184088.] In a paper titled "The Picture," Margaret Cannon Clayton wrote that Martha "was a regular temple worker and secretary of Relief Society for years." President Cannon recorded in his journal on 24 May 1893 that Sarah Jane was the worker who assisted in the temple that day as he and Martha performed proxy ordinances for members of her family. A third example comes from President Cannon's journal. On the 6th of March, 1898, he addressed Salt Lake Temple workers in a meeting where Sarah Jane and Martha were present.

⁴ "Sketch of the Life of Martha Telle Cannon," by Grace Cannon Neslen. "The day the Salt Lake Temple was first opened for ordinance work, she was set apart to officiate there, and served continuously for twenty-five years, until her health began to fail." [George Q. Cannon Journal 1 May 1898.](#) The journal records several times when Martha,

Collins occasionally gave his posterity glimpses of growing up on the farm. His personal recollections of his childhood, which for the most part was during the 1890s and after the Manifesto, would not have included a father living at home. Collins, born so late in his family's history, may have been unaware that with his father living in hiding for several years, in addition to his years in Washington as an elected representative, a regular schedule of meals, prayers and meetings did not happen until after the 1890 Manifesto.

Large family dinners only occurred with regularity during the last decade of President Cannon's life and the first decade of Collins' life. During 1895-1896, a hired cook handled the families' evening meals where they all ate together in the dining room, relieving the wives, each of whom received a significant allowance, of this burden and expense. However, George felt this became too costly and these large family meals were abandoned in the summer of 1896 for two years, until his wives asked that it be reinstated. In this relatively short interim, President Cannon ate dinner with Martha and her children on Tuesdays.⁵ Collins told this story in the third person:

[Tuesday] was Father's night to dine at Aunt Martha's. What a bustling throughout the house all day long, what a sweeping and dusting. The state table cloth was skillfully mended, the vegetable soup was perfectly prepared and the rolled rib roast was done to a turn. The four candle power globe in the socket over the table was replaced by a sixteen and there were -- napkins!

This earthenware water pitcher at right had a place on Martha's dining table for many years.⁶ Collins continued:

The youngest member of that family's most embarrassing moment occurred this particular Tuesday evening. As usual the more tender bits of the roast had been served towards the upper end of the table, leaving the leathery outer rim to him [Collins] at the foot. After toying with his portion for a while, trying to cut it at this angle and that, without success, he reverted to nature; he was not to be denied. Meat was meat and he knew he wouldn't partake again until next Tuesday. He watched for his



Sarah Jane and often Caroline attended first Sunday fast meetings in the Salt Lake Temple with their husband. Often President Snow, president of the temple and president of the Quorum of the Twelve, would speak. In addition to this date, [4 December 1898](#) and [5 March 1899](#) are good examples. On [10 April 1899](#), Martha accompanied President Cannon to a meeting in the Assembly Hall with all the leaders of the Church, including stake presidents, the Presiding Bishopric, the Seven Presidents of Seventies, the Apostles and the First Presidency.

⁵ [George Q. Cannon Journal 11 July 1896](#). President Cannon's journal entries include several references to his meals with Martha on Tuesdays.

⁶ This pitcher was given to Collins after Martha's death, then to his daughter Janet, then to her niece Georgia Smith Miller, my cousin, who gave it to me.

opportunity and when all eyes were turned elsewhere, he attacked the portion. With one end of the piece in his teeth and the other in his paws--a mighty tussle ensued. Victory was about his for the thing had stretched to its elastic limit when Father's glance chanced his way. Oh! Horrors! If the earth could only have swallowed him. Father's "Look-at-that-child" rings in his ears to this day. Death would have been preferred to Father's scorn.⁷

Collins, decades later as a father, shared a memory of his young life on the farm with his children. His son Collins Burton Cannon related this account:

Father told me that [Martha] always carried a big brass key to the pantry in her apron pocket down on the farm, and he and his brothers Rad and Epps would go up and throw their arms around Aunt Martha and tell her how much they loved her and all the time they were sneaking the key out of her pocket. And then they'd go raid the pantry. And she always knew this. She told Father years later that they didn't fool her for a minute.⁸



The photo above shows young Collins, left, possibly age ten, with his brother Radcliffe, center, perhaps age fifteen, and Espey, right, about age twelve. These three youngest sons of Martha Telle were close throughout their lives.

⁷ "Annual Birthday Party Chronicle," by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935.

⁸ From the Autobiography of Collins Burton Cannon, 1982.

The farm itself was located on the outskirts of Salt Lake City. The original property included farmland which stretched north and south from Ninth South to Fifteenth South, and east and west from Sixth West to the Jordan River.⁹

The first four wives of President Cannon had considerable input on the situation of their new homes. Prior to moving to the farm, they had lived in two different downtown homes. In May of 1878, before the construction of the homes on the farm began, President Cannon, in Washington D.C. with Elizabeth, replied to a letter from Martha:

Your favor of the 1st inst. has just reached me, and I hasten to answer it. I have been waiting with some degree of impatience to hear from you all respecting the business which I laid before you – I mean in connection with your dwellings. You are the first to write me upon the subject; but you do not say much, only to tell me that you have had a meeting and have reached a conclusion which Angus will doubtless communicate to me. It is gratifying to know that you have had this meeting. I now await the receipt of Angus' letter before I can tell anything about what my decision will be. Our stay here will not be so long, I hope, as I thought it might be. It would not surprise me now if we should adjourn before the first of July – a relief that whenever it does come will be most welcome. It is the flight of time that causes me to be anxious to learn what you have decided upon, so that I can know what steps to take.¹⁰

The strong indication of this letter is that Sarah Jane, Eliza and Martha sat down together, likely not an easy task with eleven young children between them. Their discussion perhaps centered on coordinating their efforts toward determining the location of their homes and possibly what other structures they wanted to see on the farm.

Four accounts given here, of many, indicate that these women did not compete with each other, but instead embraced not just the concept of plural marriage, but the practice. In an 1878 letter, Elizabeth reached out to Martha and extended a sincere invitation that Martha move into her farmhouse with Elizabeth and her family so Martha could live on the farm with the other wives and not wait until her home was completed.¹¹ Martha accepted.

Another example comes from an 1880 letter, in which Martha defended this way of life to her half-sister Sarah Ann Telle King, using the phrase, “beauties of the Mormon faith.”¹² The four women worked together to make life on the farm better for everyone.

⁹Cannon Stake History 1847-1972, by Margaret Clayton Cannon.

¹⁰ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon dated 10 May 1878.

¹¹ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon dated 16 June 1878. This letter mentioned a sincere proposal Elizabeth had for Martha that accompanied his letter. In context, I believe it was Elizabeth's choice to invite Martha and her children to live with her on the farm. The timing is perfect, and that is in fact what happened.

¹² Letter from Sarah Ann Telle King to Martha Telle Cannon dated 19 April 1880. Sarah quoted Martha's words in her reply.

A third example became evident a few weeks after Elizabeth's death when Martha wrote her husband about Elizabeth's children. Unable to be in Utah at the time of her death, he replied:

I am glad to hear from you respecting Mary Alice, David and Emily feeling cheerful. Do what you can for them, as I know you will. I know the lonely feeling which frequently takes possession of the motherless, and makes hearts sad and tears flow freely in solitude. The Lord bless you.¹³

In a fourth example, Grant Cannon, a grandson of Sarah Jane Jenne Cannon, was raised in a home in the Avenues near the home in which Martha lived during her later years. He wrote:

I remember this fourth wife, Aunt Martha, who caused the move to the farm, very well, for she lived near to us. Whenever we met she always recognized the Cannon look of me and asked, "Now let me see, who are you? And I would say, "I'm Joseph's son." And then she invariably said, "I hope you'll be as good a boy as your father," which always vaguely embarrassed me.¹⁴

Two points from this last example are striking: one is that Martha knew Grant's father well enough to know he was a "good boy," an obvious conclusion being that each wife knew and cared for all the children on the farm. Second, Grant stated that Martha "caused the move to the farm." This likely means that after Martha's marriage, the Big House no longer sufficed.

In an 1879 letter to Martha concerning the progress on the farm, President Cannon, in Washington D. C., indicated that his son Abraham was building the homes:

I am glad the improvements of which you speak are progressing. Abraham writes me encouragingly about the mission I gave him – the building of the houses. Under the blessing of the Lord, if our lives and liberties are preserved to us, the place will apt be made attractive and delightful. I think it has proved as healthy thus far as we hoped it would be.¹⁵

By the time Collins was born a decade later, the homes were built and a new wife who would move to the farm had been added to the family. In addition, various properties had been given to older children with acreage set aside for the younger children. Collins wrote:

It was a fun place, filled with adventure and romance. There were lots of us to participate in its pleasures -- think of it, fine families, each yielding young people who lived

¹³ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon dated 6 March 1882. A month later, Martha wrote a second update. It was clear George had not been able to return to Utah so far that year.

¹⁴ "Pioneer, Prophet, Politician, Prisoner," by Grant Cannon, 1911-1969. Grant was born in 1911, his association with Martha being in the Avenues, where he lived on C Street, Martha living on E Street.

¹⁵ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon dated 5 February 1879.

harmoniously and pleurably under conditions perhaps never existing before, certainly not in our generation and likely never to exist again.

We were isolated -- three miles from town, and so we developed a high degree of self-sufficiency. Can you imagine, no telephones, no automobiles, no movies, no electrical lights, no TV, and no P.T.A? These were the ideal conditions under which we grew up on the farm. Horses we had aplenty, boats, rafts, skating and swimming. A few chores, mighty few, though, and they could be neglected without causing too much reprisal.¹⁶

Initially, after Elder Cannon¹⁷ and Elizabeth returned from presiding over the British mission in 1864, they lived in the center of the Salt Lake City with Sarah Jane and their children in a home at 255 West South Temple.¹⁸ When Eliza Tenney married George in 1865, she moved into this home.

Within a few years, with five or possibly six children, the family moved to a new home on the corner of South Temple and First West called the Big House, shown right.¹⁹ This home was divided into four apartments, two on each floor. The family was living here when George married Martha Telle in 1868.



¹⁶ "A Trip Back to the Farm," by Collins Telle Cannon. This incomplete and penciled draft came into my possession after the death of Joan Cannon Innes, youngest child of Collins Telle Cannon, in 2018.

¹⁷ George Q. Cannon was ordained an apostle on August 26th, 1860, after his first mission to England. He filled the vacancy created by the murder of Apostle Parley P. Pratt in 1857.

¹⁸ I have studied old fire maps which were used for insurance, and have learned that the location of the early 14th Ward Meetinghouse was on the south side of South Temple a half block west of West Temple. In his journal on 5 February 1892, on the occasion of a reunion of 14th Ward members, President Cannon mentioned that he had originally owned the property where that building stood and considered himself an original member of the ward along with his cousin George J. Taylor. To me, this implies that George Q. Cannon was able to acquire property upon his arrival in the valley in 1847, presumably along with his uncle John Taylor and other family members who also arrived that year. Eliza's biography in the Cannon Family Historical Treasury provides the address of the first home as "the old Ivins house at 255 West South Temple." With a reference by grandson John H. Cannon stating that the second downtown home was on South Temple near 1st West, I have assumed the homes were on property which George had acquired early on and were near the 14th Ward meetinghouse.

¹⁹ "Down by the Jordan," by Abraham Hoagland Cannon. 1899-1992. Abraham was a son of John Q. Cannon and described the early homes of his grandfather and the farm in this undated paper.

The wives of George Q. Cannon were each accomplished women. George had known Elizabeth Hoagland, shown right, since 1847 when they crossed the plains together as teenagers. Both of her parents were of Dutch descent, her ancestors having lived on Manhattan Island before the British took it over in 1664. Her father Abraham Hoagland was the bishop of the 14th Ward when George's growing family lived in the Big House downtown. Elizabeth served a mission to England with her husband and then lived in Washington D.C. as he served in the House of Representatives.



Sarah Jane Jenne's heritage also included multiple generations of ancestors born in New England. She was resourceful and apparently very supportive of her sister-wives, keeping Elizabeth's children twice and even financially supporting them by sewing while Elizabeth served missions with their husband. She likely continued to live in the Fourteenth Ward and received aid from the members with whom she had associated before her marriage.²⁰ Sarah Jane, shown left, was active in the 14th Ward Relief Society before the family moved to the farm. After the move, she served as a counselor in the Relief Society in the Farmer's Ward and was the first Relief Society president of the Cannon Ward. Sarah Jane was also on the General Relief Society Board during her last decade on the farm which provided ample opportunity for her to travel and teach throughout Utah.

Eliza LaMercia Tenney's heritage included seven generations from New England. A favorite family story illustrating her strength and courage comes from an incident in 1871 when a train hit her carriage in a heavy storm. Eliza, shown right, put her baby William on her hip and led the terrified horse back to the barn. Eliza loved the farm; she moved there about 1871 where she raised horses and cared for her own cows and chickens.²¹



Caroline Partridge Young was born in 1851 and raised in Brigham Young's stately home known as the Lion House in downtown Salt Lake City. She received an excellent education under the tutelage of teachers such as Karl G.

²⁰ LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, by Andrew Jensen, states that Sarah Jane arrived in the valley in 1848 and settled in the 14th Ward, which is very likely where she became acquainted with Elder Cannon and Elizabeth.

²¹ Cannon Family Historical Treasure, 1971. Eliza moved to the farm before the grand homes were built.

Maeser. She was talented in both music and acting; she also designed and sewed costumes.

Caroline is shown seated second from left in this photograph of the older daughters of Brigham Young. Caroline was later a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a charter member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.



Caroline married

Mark Croxall in 1868. He had earlier married Caroline's older sister Mary, shown standing second from right in the picture above. Mary died in childbirth in 1871 and Caroline raised her

two children plus her own eight, although three died young. After her divorce from Mark Croxall, Caroline married President Cannon in 1881, who adopted her three youngest children.



The interior and exterior of the original Fourteenth Ward Chapel are shown left and below. This chapel was a hub of downtown activity and

was where Sarah Jane Jenne and Martha Telle were living when they met George Q. Cannon. Martha Telle taught school in this building before and after her marriage, which was just a block from The Big House.

Martha Telle was an experienced teacher, and after her marriage she immediately returned to



LADIES' SELECT SCHOOL.

:o:

Mrs. Martha T. Cannon
Will open a LADIES' SELECT SCHOOL.
in the West Wing of the
FOURTEENTH WARD SCHOOL HOUSE,
ON MONDAY, the 13th of APRIL,
 For the Instruction of young Ladies who desire
 to obtain a sound English education.
 SHE WILL THOROUGHLY TEACH THE
 FOLLOWING BRANCHES, VIZ:—
Mental and Practical ARITHMETIC,
GRAMMAR,
COMPOSITION,
GEOGRAPHY
 and
ELOCUTION.

Having been engaged in Teaching during the
 last four years, she will, if required, give in-
 struction to a class of young Ladies who may
 wish to acquire the art of government in
 School with a view of becoming Teachers.

TERMS:
 Those entering Teachers' Class, \$7 00 per Quarter
 All others, : : : : \$6 00

Should any wish to study
ALGEBRA,
ASTRONOMY,
PHILOSOPHY
 and
HISTORY,
 ARRANGEMENTS can be made for forming
 a class in those Branches.

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teaching in the Fourteenth Ward meetinghouse. The advertisement on the right was published in the Deseret News on the 28th of March, 1868, less than two weeks after her marriage to President Cannon. From a later advertisement, shown below, it appears she continued to teach throughout the year.

LADIES' SELECT SCHOOL.

Mrs. Martha T. Cannon's
SELECT SCHOOL FOR LADIES
Will Re-open in the
West Wing of the 14th Ward School House,
On MONDAY, Sept. 7, 1868,
For Terms apply at her residence.

Collins would later wonder about the three decades of family life before he was born. At an annual family gathering in 1935, held on the anniversary of President Cannon's birth where many of his older siblings would have been present, he said:

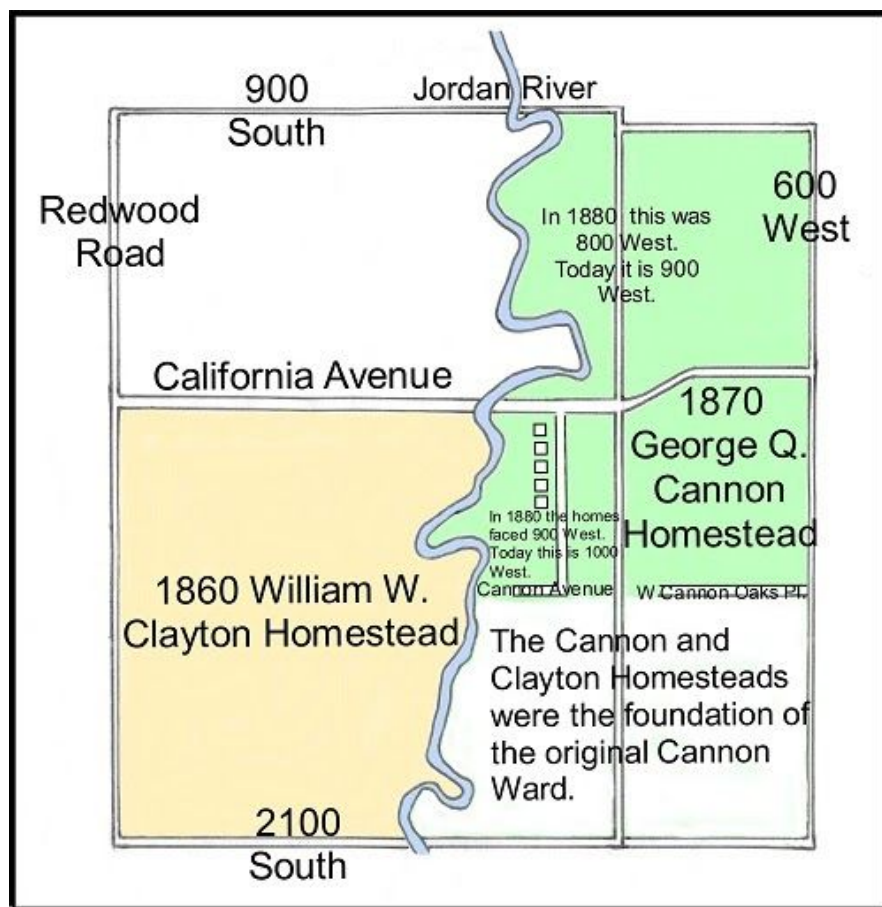
This is Father's birthday and we should return to him.... You had the privilege of intimate association with him for many years, and you knew his domestic traits. You have neglected to tell these things to us who had such a pitifully short association with him. You knew of his humanesses, his weaknesses, if he had any. We know nothing of these things.... We can't imagine his ever being youthful. We have heard of the tremendous cares and responsibilities that were thrust upon him at the death of his mother in his early life. History tells us of the vicissitudes of those early days. We know of the very oddness of the marriage relation as then practiced. We know of the vast number of his children, the variety of his wives and the consequent diversity of his children's natures. Was he close to you when you were children? Tell us! We didn't romp with him, nor ride on his back. We didn't rumple his hair nor put our sticky hands on his clothes. We didn't kick him around as our own children do us. Did you do these things? Tell us! We didn't impetuously importune him for nickels, dimes and quarters, we didn't

overwhelm him with requests divers and sundry as our own children do us. Is the present system wrong or was that one?We never once sat on his knee. We never saw a child there, even bottom side up.

We wonder if this feeling of awe extended to his wives. At one time shortly after our marriage, Ida May was seated on our lap in the living room. Mother entered and said, "Do you think that is a proper display?" Ida May said, "Well, didn't you ever sit on Mr. Cannon's knee?" Mother's reply, "Now, don't be absurd," spoke volumes to us.²²

President Cannon acquired the homestead surrounding the farm during the 1860s. This acreage was east of the Jordan River, across the river from the homestead of William W. Clayton.²³

Sarah Jane was the first to leave the Big House and settle with her children on the farm, apparently before 1870. About that time she and her children moved into an already-established log house south of where the homes would eventually be built.²⁴ President Cannon supervised the



²² "Annual Birthday Party Chronicle," by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935.

²³ Brother Clayton served as a counselor to Joseph Fielding in the British Mission after his conversion and then immigrated to Nauvoo, arriving in Salt Lake City in 1847 with Brigham Young's company. He is the author of the well-known LDS hymn, "Come, Come Ye Saints." He purchased his homestead about 1860. In 1910, William's grandson David H. Clayton married Margaret Cannon, a granddaughter of George Q. Cannon. This couple lived on the farm. Much of the information known about the farm today comes from Margaret Cannon Clayton.

²⁴ "Cannon Stake," by Margaret Cannon Clayton, page 3. "On the east side of the river where George Q. Cannon had purchased his property, there was a different story. Unlike William Clayton, President Cannon began immediately to move his family down onto the farm. Very soon after buying, Aunt Sarah Jane moved into the little adobe house on Seventh West." During the 1870 census enumeration, Sarah Jane and her three oldest sons were not enumerated with George, Elizabeth, Eliza and Martha in town. In fact, I can't find them on the 1870 census. Because of this, I have assumed that she had already moved to the farm by 1870 and was missed by the enumerator.

digging of the trenches for the foundations of the homes and then poured the concrete.²⁵ The home for Eliza was completed first, in the mid-1870s.²⁶ By 1879, the house for Elizabeth had been completed. That home, where Martha also lived for a short time after accepting Elizabeth's invitation to live with her, was called the Farmhouse.

Martha, who had taught the Cannon children in town, became their teacher again on the farm.²⁷ When the school house was completed in late 1879, it seemed logical to move Martha next door into that structure with her children. Each of President Cannon's wives shared his feelings about education. In an 1879 letter to Martha, he wrote from Washington D.C.:

You are doing well, I hope, with your school and scholars. In this I feel exceeding great interest. Education is a subject which we must pay attention to. Our people have to cope with the world, and I desire my children, as well as the children of all our people, to be fitted for the contest. That this lies before us becomes more apparent every day; it appears particularly so to me since this recent decision of the U.S. Court. Not only the boys, but the girls should receive the best possible education in every thing that will develop their abilities and qualify them to meet the world.²⁸

In response to Martha's next letter, George wrote:

Respecting a dictionary, I shall try and bring a large one home with me for your school use. Should other maps be needed please inform me. If you need slates, pens, ink, writing books, or any class books, I think I can obtain...at wholesale rates.²⁹

In the summer of 1880. George again wrote Martha from Washington D.C.:

I hope your quarters in the School House will be more pleasant hereafter and will not annoy you with dust, flies, etc as in the past. By this time I suppose the plastering and wood work have been finished....I am pleased you are so fortunate as to keep the school going.³⁰

²⁵ [George Q. Cannon Journal 11 May 1889](#), "When I first attempted to build [at the farm]...I superintended the foundation, however, myself; had a good trench dug which I filled with concrete, and then had good broad fittings, and I erected my first house, and up to the present not a crack has appeared in the walls. I proved it is quite possible to build houses if care is taken in laying the foundations." George wrote this in context of adding an addition to Martha's home in 1889.

²⁶ "Cannon Stake, by Margaret Cannon Clayton, page 3. Margaret implied that Eliza's home was the original farmhouse but her house lost that moniker when Elizabeth moved into her home a few years later.

²⁷ "Sketch of the Life of Martha Telle Cannon," written by Grace Cannon Neslen in 1937. Lewis and Grace both remembered that their mother taught school on the farm.

²⁸ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon dated 29 January 1879.

²⁹ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon dated 5 February 1879.

³⁰ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon dated 2 June 1880.

Grace, a sister always close to Collins, was born in the schoolhouse on New Year's Day of 1880. Lewis, age seven, later remembered being sent to Sarah Jane's home in the middle of the night.³¹ The record of Grace's blessing when she was ten days old was created in the Farmer's Ward, which covered five square miles of mostly farmland. All four wives were enumerated on the farm in June of 1880:

Cannon J. Martha	W	F	34	Wife	1	Keeping house
— J. Hester	W	F	10	Daughter		at school
— J. Amelia	W	F	10	Daughter		at school
— Lizzie	W	m	8	Son		
— Brigham	W	m	6	Son		
— Willard	W	m	3	Son		
— Gracy	W	F	6 ^{mo}	Daughter		
Evans Elizabeth Mary	W	F	18	Servant		
Cannon H. Elizabeth	W	F	44	Wife	1	Keeping house
— A. Mary	W	F	12	Daughter		at school
— H. David	W	m	9	Son		
— Emily	W	F	6	Daughter		
— Sylvia	W	m	3	Son		
Cannon J. Sarah	W	F	40	Wife	1	Keeping house
— J. Angus	W	m	12	Son		at school
— Hue	W	m	10	Son		at school
— A. Rose	W	F	8	Daughter		
— Joseph	W	m	3	Son		
Jones Henry	W	m	20	Hired-help		Farmer
Neilson Peter	W	m	20	Hired-help		Farmer "
Richards Minnie	W	F	16	Servant		
Shumford Elizabeth	W	F	19	Servant		
Cannon L. Eliza	W	F	35	Wife	1	Keeping house
— J. William	W	m	9	son		
— J. Reid	W	m	5	Son		
Jenney Eliza	W	F	76	Mother	1	

From the census we learn that Martha's youngest daughter, six months old, was called Gracy. Eliza's mother lived with her on the farm. Several hired servants are named.

³¹ "Reminiscences of the Old Cannon Farm" by Lewis Telle Cannon, presented 1 January 1942.

The Farmer's Ward was created in 1877 with Lewis Henry Mousley as its first bishop.³² Bishop Mousley was an older brother to Wilhelmina Mousley, a plural wife of George's brother David. The Farmer's Ward was part of the original Salt Lake Stake, the president being Angus M. Cannon, another brother to George. Two of Angus's wives were also sisters to Lewis.

One evening in the spring of 1881, President Cannon arrived at the farm after working in the city all day. The Jordan River had overflowed its banks due to the snowmelt, and he'd left his buggy in the lane because the horses couldn't pull it to the house. Church associates had asked why he chose to live on the farm rather than in the city, and in his journal he recorded his logic:

...when I get down there, I leave strife and trouble behind me. My life for years past has been one of conflict, and I have been under considerable of a strain when at home, but when I turn my face homeward I have left all this behind. I have had peace in my family, and my children are growing up attached to each other, as brothers and sisters should be, and this is a cause of great happiness to me. Besides, I am absent from the Territory at Washington more than half my time, and when I am in the Territory I spend but a very small portion of my time at home. If I lived in the city my children might form associations over which I would have no control, and they would be exposed to temptations which they are free from at present, and they would be in danger of growing up in idleness; but as I am now situated they learn to work, they grow together, and have their own companionship, and I have my nephew George M. Cannon as school-teacher, so that they have the advantages of a good school. My little son David last fall, when he was only nine years old, milked three cows, and when his mother went up to town, he could hitch up the team and drive her there. My son Lewis, who is only eight years old, also milks two cows. My daughters Mary Alice and Hester have also learned to milk and take pleasure in the work. If they were in the city they would be apt to think this work too menial for them, as this is a feeling too common among girls brought up in the city; so that while there are some disadvantages in my residing out of the city, there are also some advantages.³³

Work began on Martha's house during the summer of 1881³⁴ and she moved into this new home on November 20th. President Cannon wrote in his journal:

My wife Martha is moving into her new house, the lower rooms of which are all finished. It gives me great pleasure to see her in more comfortable quarters. She has not had a place of her own scarcely since her marriage, upwards of thirteen years ago. While we lived in the large house in the city, she had her rooms, but with that exception she has been living in makeshift quarters, and since being on the farm has been living in the

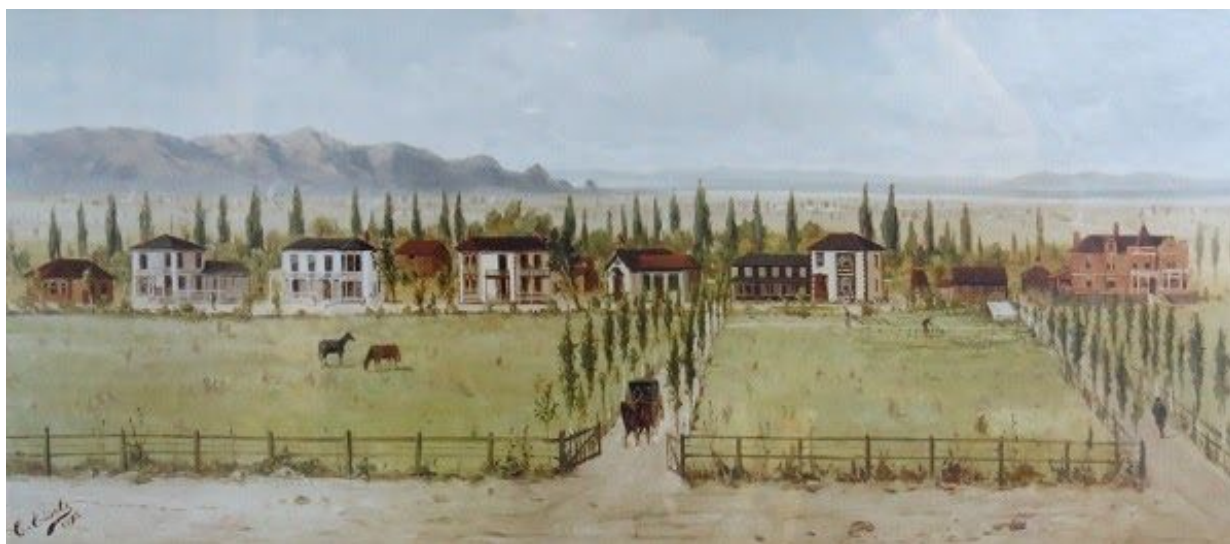
³² This information was included in Farmer's Ward records on LDS film 016895.

³³ [George Q. Cannon Journal, 25 April 1881.](#)

³⁴ [George Q. Cannon Journal, 12 May 1881.](#)

school house, which has been very inconvenient on account of it only being one room, and the only partition a cloth one. She has never complained and bore all with great patience and equanimity but appreciates none the less the privilege of having a house such as she has. When I get the upper rooms finished, it will be a very nice residence, and will contain eight rooms and a bathroom, and water closet. I breakfasted with her this morning, my nephew, George Lambert, being with me.³⁵

The farm homes all had two stories, each built with adobe bricks and then plastered. Porches surrounded the homes on several sides, leading into the main floor with a parlor, a kitchen, dining room and pantry. Bedrooms and a bathroom were upstairs. A secret room had been built into an upstairs closet of Elizabeth's farmhouse. One entered this room by pulling the shelves in the closet forward and climbing behind. There, a ladder led to a small attic. The family hid many men in this attic during the years of the federal marshal raids.³⁶



In 1892, President Cannon hired German artist Charles Christian Eisele to paint a picture of the farm. On the far right is Caroline's home, which was the last to be built. Next is the stable for the prize horses; other stables and outbuildings are not depicted. Elizabeth's farmhouse is shown in white and black, although Elizabeth was deceased by this time; President Cannon lived in her home with her children until 1898. By 1892, the school house, shown in the center, was used as a dining room, and in 1896 this structure served as the meetinghouse for the newly created Cannon Ward. Martha's home is the third white home from the left, next to Sarah Jane's home. Eliza's home is left of Sarah Jane's. Next to Eliza's home is the newly constructed home built for her son William and his wife Ada, an older daughter of Caroline's. President Cannon is shown in the surney with a driver taking him to town. The homes face east; the Jordan River runs north and south behind the homes. The Great Salt Lake can be seen in the background north of the Stansbury Mountain Range.

³⁵ [George Q. Cannon Journal 15 November 1881](#). George Lambert was the son of Mary Alice Cannon Lambert.

³⁶ "The Painting," by Margaret Clayton Cannon.

After Martha moved into her own home, the school house was used for its intended purpose, but only for a few years. In 1942, during the height of WWII and just four years before his death, Collins' older brother Lewis recounted a few experiences from the early 1880s at the annual birthday gathering honoring their father:

Well, along about that time children of a school age were beginning to be fairly numerous down on the farm, so it fell to my mother's lot to carry on a school, she having been, previous to her marriage to my father, a school marm for a couple of years; my first school days, and possibly they were the first for a number of the other children, were those with my mother as teacher.

Most of the incidents connected with that experience have now faded from my memory, but I recall one that created a diversion: we were all engaged one afternoon reciting out lessons when Mamie [Mary Alice], our oldest sister, noticed that the cat, which had been curled up on a chair nearby, was acting very strangely. Mamie continued to watch the cat and finally could not restrain herself; she burst out with, "I wonder what is the matter with that cat." I was sitting near and I spoke up immediately and impulsively saying, "Oh, nothing, she's just having kittens." I didn't realize at all what I was saying and I do not know what caused me to say it; but a few minutes investigation proved it to be true. The excitement was too much for us kids; it was impossible for us to get back to study, so Mother Cannon dismissed school for the day.

After living a time in the old school house, Mother's house was completed immediately to the south and we moved in. Thereafter the school house was converted back into a real school house and our cousin, George M. was installed as teacher, he having recently finished a teaching course at the University of Utah. I seem to recall, however, that between my mother's school and George M's, we did attend school for a short period at Aunt Sarah Jane's house with Frank as the teacher. The only definite recollection of that period that remains with me is the word "jocund," and Frank's drilling us in a poem which contained the line "Jocund that the morn is nigh."

George M. was our teacher for, was it one or was it two years? I am not sure. One incident which concerns him and this period stands out more vividly in my mind than others. He was just at the age when girls interested him and we used to kid him about them and about getting married; one day, however, it got to the point where he offered to bet us (there were four of us just then present, Angus, Hugh, David and myself) \$2 each (a large sum for those days and especially for us kids) that we would be married before he was. We took the bet but he did not embarrass us by insisting that we "put up or shut up." The bet was simply recorded in our memories and there were no stakes or stake holders. Actually it was not long until George did become engaged and then married to Addie Morris [this occurred in 1884]. We boys were happily surprised shortly thereafter,

and tickled beyond measure, when he sent down \$8 to be distributed to us four, \$2 to each; that seemed a lot of money to us in those days.

George M. was succeeded as teacher of our school by Sondra Saunders, just out of the University; he taught two or three years, I am not sure which. He in turn was succeeded by an Englishwoman, Emily Batt, a cripple who walked with the aid of crutches. The most definite thing I can remember about her is the use of the word “dawdle”; it was new to us. She used to say to us, Brig particularly, “Don’t dawdle.”³⁷

Toward the end of the 1880s, Church leaders, including President Cannon, worked to improve the public school system in Salt Lake City.³⁸ At about this time, he closed the school on the farm and began sending his children to school in town. However, the schoolhouse remained in use as a venue for meals and family events. In the spring of 1889 President Cannon wrote:

I drove home hastily in order to be present at a performance which my children and some associates were to give this evening in my school-house. The little play is called “Esmeralda.” President Woodruff and wife and a few other friends were present. I enjoyed it very much, not altogether, however, because of the good acting. There were three tableaux presented after the play was ended. My folks distributed ice cream to the audience and the performers.³⁹

President Cannon recorded the events of a memorable Christmas Day held in the school house in 1891. Collins was three years old:

This is Christmas Day. I had invited all my children and grandchildren to take Christmas dinner with me, and they were all present today excepting my son Hugh.... My dining room was full. There were sixty-five sat down to dinner, each branch of my family at a separate table. All enjoyed themselves very much. We had a beautiful Christmas tree, and it was loaded with presents for the children, and in the evening the little wax candles were lit, which made the tree very brilliant. My gardener, John Young, plays very excellent music, and we all had a dance, which kept up till about 10:30. This has been a day of very great enjoyment to me, and I think it has been to the entire family, as all expressed themselves to that effect.⁴⁰

Collins, although very young, remembered this Christmas. He wrote:

³⁷ “Reminiscences of the Old Cannon Farm,” by Lewis Telle Cannon, 1942. The word jocund is from an 1825 British poem.

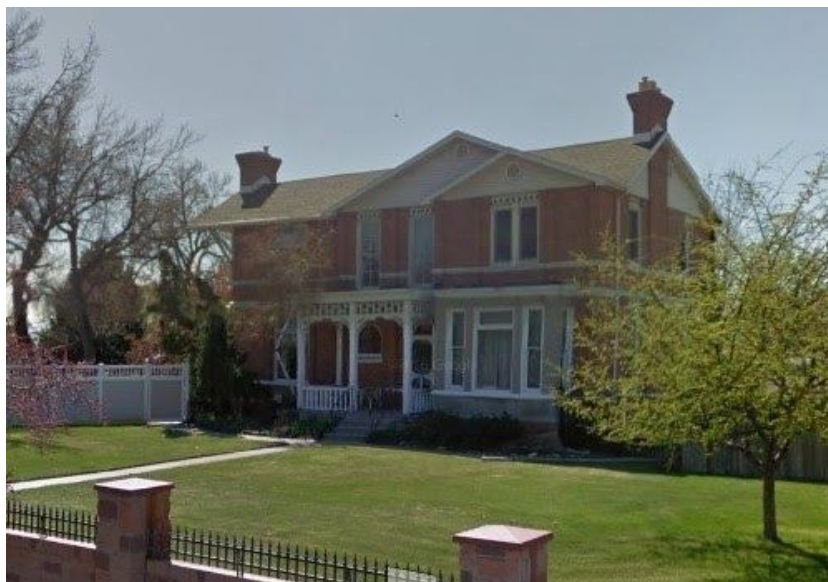
³⁸ [George Q. Cannon Journal 1 May 1889](#). President Cannon wrote, “I trust that before long we shall have a system of schools that will be worthy of us and our faith.”

³⁹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 10 May 1889](#)

⁴⁰ [George Q. Cannon Journal 25 December 1891](#)

The dining hall was the scene of many memorable and happy events. There were wedding feasts in the old time grand manner. We vaguely recall a family Christmas party with a beautifully decorated tree. There were more formal family meetings where we were so excellently counseled.⁴¹

Caroline Young Croxall, who had married President Cannon in 1884, did not move to the farm with her children until her stately home was completed in 1890, shown right as it stands today.⁴² Considered a mansion at the time of its construction, it has fourteen rooms, including six bedrooms. Caroline, the only wife to die on the farm, passed away here in 1903.



Chapter 6: Collins Telle's Childhood

Being one of the youngest in such a large family, it's easy to imagine that little Collins might have been overlooked. However, George casually named young Collins as being among five sons who met him at the train station upon his return from Washington D.C. in March, 1893.⁴³ The older brothers included Abraham, who at this time was the husband of three wives and father of fifteen children. Angus and Hugh were both newly married, Hugh having one child. Tender feelings arise in imagining the scene with these three older brothers at a busy depot

holding the hands of their two much-younger brothers, Wilford and Collins, both just four years old.



President Cannon had returned to Utah for the final preparations of the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple, which was held in conjunction with the April 1893 general conference. After the second session on Tuesday April 4th, President Cannon took most of his family on a tour of the temple,

⁴¹ "Annual Birthday Party Chronicle," by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935.

⁴² George Q. Cannon, *An Apostle's Life*, by Davis Bitton, Page 392.

⁴³ [George Q. Cannon Journal 16 March 1893](#)

“as I thought that they would have a better opportunity of seeing the building than they would when it was so crowded. They were all delighted with what they saw.”⁴⁴



The world room of the Salt Lake Temple was photographed early in the next century by Charles Savage. This picture, right, would have been one of the rooms the Cannon family members admired.

The following year, Margaret Cannon turned eight. A granddaughter of President Cannon, she was

the daughter of John Q. Cannon and lived in a home on the farm. Much later, she wrote:

President Snow was President of the temple when I turned eight. My birthday happens to be the same day as his, so he had the water in the temple font especially heated and Father baptized Brent Sears and myself there. After this ceremony we went up to the presidents' office, (they were then in the little building between the Beehive and the Lion Houses) and here President Snow, Joseph F. Smith and Grandpa Cannon laid their hands upon my head and Grandpa confirmed me a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.⁴⁵

Young Collins was raised in an environment where he was surrounded by family, including his niece Margaret, who was two years older than he was. To be precise, Collins had sixteen older nieces and nephews. In addition, Karl, the adopted son of George and Sarah Jane, was actually the illegitimate son of Frank, making Karl an additional nephew of Collins, technically not a sibling. Perhaps this was a well-kept secret then, but as time passed, probably about the time of the death of Karl's wife in 1972, family members who had known the truth made this known. The month following Karl's birth, President Cannon wrote:

Sunday, 5 June 1881: This morning I called my wives Elizabeth, Eliza and Sarah Jane together, John Q. and wife Annie being present, also, to talk over the introduction of a baby into my family. I did not wish it to be distinguished if it could possibly be prevented

⁴⁴ [George Q. Cannon Journal 4 April 1893](#). On the 6th, a few who had missed were given a tour with the families of the other two members of the First Presidency. "...they...enjoyed the sight of this glorious structure and its furnishings very much."

⁴⁵ "History of Margaret Cannon Clayton," 1886-1977.

from Sarah Jane's babe; that is, I would like no one but my sons John Q. and Angus to know which was my own begotten son and which the other; but for each to be brought up alike. I made no explanations of any length, as I remarked I did not want anything to be quoted as coming from me.⁴⁶

Another sibling was introduced to the family a year and a half before Collins' birth. President Cannon had married Caroline Young Croxall in 1884, but because of the constant threat of arrest, this was kept very quiet. Surely President Cannon's wives knew of the marriage, but since Caroline lived in town, most of the children weren't aware of her status in the family until this news was announced at a party for President Cannon's sixtieth birthday, held on the 11th of January, 1887. Mary Alice, at that time age nineteen, had planned this event for her father. President Cannon wrote:

Ample preparation had been made by my daughter Mary Alice, assisted by Sister Davey, the housekeeper, for the entertaining of the family. John Q. had shot some turkeys through the head, of which we all heartily partook. My wives Sarah Jane, Martha, Eliza and Carlie were present, and all my children, excepting Frank and Abraham. Carlie's son, [Clawson, who was a toddler], was introduced for the first time to the children (excepting Mary Alice and David) as their Brother and as my son. They appeared greatly delighted with him. It is seldom in my life that I have enjoyed myself so much as I have to day and through the evening, and all present enjoyed themselves similarly. Sister Davey made a very nice birthday cake, which I divided and of which all partook. My son John Q. brought Carlie and David took her home.⁴⁷

Collins saw family relationships that most people never see. Besides his parents, three of his older siblings, John, Abraham and Hugh, lived in polygamous marriages. His brothers William and Willard married their step-sisters Emily and Caroline. His older sister Mary Alice married her cousin Lewis, a son of Angus.

Young Collins had six siblings close to him in age. Edwin, a son of Sarah Jane, was two years older, as was Espey, a full brother to Collins. Caroline had four children with President Cannon: Clawson and Wilford were born in 1885 and 1888. Anne and Georgius were two and four years younger than Collins, respectively.

⁴⁶ [George Q. Cannon Journal 5 June 1881](#). I cannot explain why Martha was not mentioned.

⁴⁷ [George Q. Cannon Journal 11 January 1887](#). The Davey and also the Hansen children are often named in histories and even show up in pictures from this time, as they were included in the school on the farm. Only after reading President Cannon's journal did I learn that their parents worked on the farm in various capacities. Sarah Ann Butterworth Davey had been abandoned by her husband, and she moved into Elizabeth Hoagland Cannon's home as a housekeeper. Her son Charlie grew up on the farm, attended the school, and later became the bishop of the Cannon Ward.

In this environment, an event occurred which Collins later recounted at a family gathering in 1952:

It was during these full times that I came along. It is easy to understand that I of all Geo. Q's children was the least known to him. There was a disparity of nearly 65 years in our ages. He was intensely preoccupied with affairs of church and state and a strict compliance with a manifesto of his authorship caused him to spread himself mighty thinly around his large families. The very thinnest spreading of all, it then seemed to me, was at our house. How easy it is then to understand a lapse of memory on his part that concerned me.

I was about eight and one day I came upon Father and Uncle Angus M. [shown at right] on Main Street. Before I go further with this anecdote I must elaborate a little for the benefit of younger members of the family who are here tonight. Uncle Angus was a kisser. He kissed all and sundry, young and old, male and female, alike and it didn't matter whether it was on Main Street or wherever. Father was a little like that too. Uncle Angus had grandson twins, sons of Angus M. Jr. They were called Jack and Chick. They were about my age. Now these facts may at this point seem unrelated but they weren't -- listen. I had chanced upon Father and Uncle Angus and I was attempting to slide by unnoticed on account of my dread of the kissing ordeal and my awe of my Father.



Angus spotted me, halted me and you guessed it--he kissed me. It was all right for I was only seven or eight and so small. Father looked on and said, "Angus, which is that, Jack or Chick!!" My world tumbled about me. I was instantly shocked out of my bashfulness and awe and I cried out, "No, no, Pa! I ain't Jack or Chick! I'm Aunt Martha's little boy." To this day, almost, I can see Father trying to cover his embarrassment and at the same time I see Angus nearly doubled up in mirth. As far as I know Angus repeated this episode very few times. It seemed to be a secret between him and me and I often saw in that lovable twinkle in his eyes, something especially for me that made me think he remembered what at its happening seemed such a tragedy. Once later Angus nudged me playfully in the ribs and said "Jack or Chick" and then laughed uproariously. His mirth healed my wounded vanity.

Father's memory of people, their personalities and faces was colossal. He was proud of it. He was noted for it. In extenuation, then, of what seemed a gross and unthinkable memory lapse on his part I should say this of the incident just related: I approached

Father and Angus from the rear. In attempting to pass them I exposed only my rear. I dare say that if Father had ever changed me he would have recognized me.⁴⁸

In 1895, the family held another celebration of the birthday of their illustrious father. That year, President Cannon turned sixty-eight, but the party couldn't be held on his actual birthday of January 11th because he was traveling. Instead, this gathering, which included some of his siblings, was held at Elizabeth's farmhouse on February 7th. President Cannon wrote:⁴⁹

When the folding doors were opened and the curtain raised, after the salutation had been delivered by my son John Q., my children and grandchildren were arranged as a bouquet, in seats one above another, each child representing some flower and expressing a suitable sentiment. It was very delightful to listen to them, because not one of them forgot a word.

The parlor of Elizabeth's farmhouse was used by President Cannon to counsel his children, both in giving religious instruction and also in discussing work on the farm.⁵⁰ An event occurred in a similar setting in 1898 when President Cannon specifically and deliberately invited his youngest sons still living on the farm to a meeting which would be held in Sarah Jane's home.⁵¹ Those in attendance were Sarah Jane's son Preston, age 15; Edwin, Eliza's youngest son, age 12; and Martha's three youngest children, Radcliffe, 15, Espey, 12, and Collins, age 10.

Caroline's four children, Clawson, 13, Wilford, 10, Anne, 8, and Georgius, 6, had not been invited. The previous week, Anne had spoken to her father and said, "Why don't you take your other wives around as you do Ma?" President Cannon wrote:

Coming from a child of eight years, I was impressed with it. I asked her where she had heard such talk -- for I did not think it originated in her own mind -- and she said that Collins said this to her.

The next evening I called all the boys together that were on the place, including Preston, Radcliffe, Espey, Edwin and Collins. I did not ask any of my wife Carlie's children to be present. I drew out from the children what their feelings were concerning my course, and Collins, when I mentioned his name and what he had said, burst out crying and blurted out, with such plainness as to cause the other boys to laugh, what he thought was wrong in his Aunt Carlie being favored. Among other things, she had a better house than his

⁴⁸ "A Brief History of the Young Life of Collins Telle Cannon," 11 January 1952.

⁴⁹ John Q. Cannon remembered this event at the annual birthday party in 1903. President Cannon recorded his thoughts that evening in his journal. [George Q. Cannon Journal 7 February 1895](#).

⁵⁰ "The Painting," by Margaret Clayton Cannon. Sister Cannon wrote, "...boys of near the same age came in two or three different groups at different times [where President Cannon] gave counsel, assignments for work, listened to the boys' reports on work done and always listened to any complaints of disagreements but keeping in close touch with all these boys."

⁵¹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 18 September 1898](#). I first read Collins' version of these events when I was a child. I was truly stunned and yet thrilled to find President Cannon's account.

mother had; the children had money that he did not have, and I took her away with me instead of his mother. He said a number of things of this kind, which I listened to in an amused sort of a way, because the plainness with which the child spoke was rather amusing.

Collins' outburst was met with understanding at the time, but President Cannon's response brought enlightenment more than a century later. He continued:

I asked him a good many questions so as to draw out all the feeling there was in him on this subject. I then talked to him and to the other boys. I told them that Aunt Carlie had means of her own, which she had inherited from her father's estate, and if she chose to live in a better house and to give her children money that my other children did not have, I could not find fault with that, and they must not. It was her own, and she could do as she liked with it.

I explained to them the course I took with all their mothers. I said to Collins, Espy and Radcliffe that their mother had \$1100⁵² a year from me, while Aunt Carlie only had \$600. I did not pay her anything to help her with her first children; but I gave her an allowance for my children, the same as their mothers had for them. I talked for some time on this matter. I was desirous that these children should understand me and my position, and not misjudge me.

The meeting with these five boys led to a second meeting with his wives and all the younger children. President Cannon wished to discuss whether others felt as Collins did, and how they would feel if he chose to live out his days with Caroline instead of alone in Elizabeth's home. In fact, the situation in that home had changed. Elizabeth's youngest daughter Emily, age twenty-five, would soon be leaving the farm. President Cannon felt it improper to share the home with only the housekeeper, and he did not want to live alone. Sarah Jane's son Frank had privately discussed this situation with his father, and in addition to Collins' outburst, those conversations with Frank had led to this second meeting. President Cannon wrote:

Sarah Jane responded first, and she did so to the effect that I could do as I pleased, she would be satisfied. Eliza made the same remark. Martha spoke a little more freely, and Carlie spoke freely also. . . . I talked very plainly to my family. I told them if there was any feeling in their breasts about me and my conduct, I wanted it known; for I wanted love and harmony to prevail in my family, as I believe it always had done. I said I was very greatly surprised to learn that the little folks had made such remarks as I had heard. We had a delightful meeting in many respects. I spoke with the utmost freedom.

He continued to write what he had spoken in the family meeting:

⁵² This would be about \$36,000 in 2020 dollars.

I had always done everything in my power for their happiness. As soon as I had a little property of my own, I divided it with them, so that they would have means of their own to handle. I had followed that up for over twenty five years. I said, you all have your own income. You do not have to ask me for anything. I have tried to give you this and make your lives happy; and to talk about your being martyrs or of making sacrifices for me, I do not want any such thing. If anyone is to make sacrifices, I am the one.

The meeting resulted very pleasantly. It gave me an opportunity to feel of the disposition of my children; and if I had been fond of praise, nothing could have been more gratifying to me than to hear the expressions that were made concerning me and my course by Frank and by all. They praised me to the fullest extent.

One final comment from this entry is critical to include:

I mention this in my journal, because it may be referred to some time in the future, and a little record of this will not do any harm.

Collins' memory of this event over fifty years later is eloquent and touching, even without that background information from his father's journal. With the background, Collins' personal account becomes electrifying. Collins shared his memory of this event at the 125th anniversary of their father's birth, 11 January, 1952. Collins' recollection, perhaps with some literary license, is slightly different than what his father recorded at the time, as Collins remembered a private, third meeting in Elizabeth's farmhouse, between just his father and himself:

A dreaded event in our lives on the farm was the family meeting. Some of these meetings were for all -- some were for specially selected groups. They were always important and were not to be avoided. By means of them Father was able to keep somewhat in touch with us. Opportunities to see us individually so seldom occurred.

One of these meetings I recall vividly. It included only the group then known as the "Farm Kids" -- Rad, I believe, and down to me in age. This meeting was held in the farmhouse. It had a very special purpose.

It seems that some of us were showing some vicious tendencies -- symptoms perhaps of turpitude. Our ages ranged from about seven to twelve and so we were at about the right age for the development of those tendencies. Father was extremely watchful of and alert for such tendencies. He's had plenty of experience doubtless with our large number of elder brothers.

The subject was opened abruptly -- there was no softening of the impact of the whole thing on us. None was intended either. To me, it seemed brutal. We were instructed to confess and express repentance each in turn, commencing with the eldest of us. It was a torture chamber heavy with inward emotion and outward tears. There was no show of bravado -- there never was in Father's presence.

The confessions came forth -- haltingly in some cases but thoroughly in all. There was no equivocation. One didn't equivocate with Geo. Q. Cannon. Too soon my dreaded turn came. I was the youngest, I was little, I was but a lamb. I hadn't sinned. I'd nothing to confess. I hardly knew what it was all about. I was only just emerging from the birds and bees stage. No - there was nothing to confess but there was an opportunity to right all of the wrongs that had been heaped on me and mine all during the seven or eight years of my life. My jealous fires were burning. I had been neglected - my Mother had too. She hadn't fine clothes nor jewels. She didn't go traveling to far away places in fine style and take me along. She didn't have a sideboard in her dining room and she wanted one -- in short she and I didn't belong -- we were not wanted. This was my confession. It all came out of me in soul tearing sobs. Well -- it was earth shattering to our little world.

I can't remember going home. I can't remember how the night passed. I can't remember how the subsequent summons came, as come I was sure it would. ---- It came -----

At the appointed time I walked "the last mile" alone. I mounted the long steps to the farmhouse. I was so alone but it didn't matter. Nothing mattered. It was, to be unique, the only -- only time I was ever to be with my Father alone.

I sat on the edge of a straight chair. Father leaned gracefully at the fireplace with one elbow on the mantle. He was always graceful. No word had been spoken. None had been needed. I knew I was to be dispatched. I knew I wouldn't grow up to be a locomotive engineer or a pirate or a watchmaker. I only hoped they would put me in a little box lined with soft white cloth and bury me on the green hillside. Then perhaps some kind person would pass and scatter some seeds on the little mound and then in the spring after the snow had melted, some crocuses and dew drops might grow up and hide the little stone on which would be inscribed the awful words, "Here Lies the Little Boy Who Sassed George Q. Cannon."

Well sir, it didn't turn out like that at all. Neither of us had broken the silence. Father left the fireplace and put his hand on my shoulder gently. He spoke -- gently -- not as a brutal man to an imaginative uncouth and rude child, but as a gentleman to a gentleman. He didn't descend to my level -- he raised me to his.

He recounted patiently -- somewhat painfully too, I seem to remember, some of the things he had lived through down the years. He told me of the cruel Edmunds Tucker Act, a thing I'd never heard of. He told of the houndings of the U. S. Marshals, of his being a fugitive with a price on his head like a common criminal, of his attempt to escape by jumping from the train away off in the desert in the Promontory Country. He told me of the resulting injury and of the succor of humble friends away out there. He told me of his subsequent capture and incarceration.

He told of the issuance of a manifesto which he hoped would ameliorate a situation out here in Utah that had become intolerable. He told me of his determination to accept that manifesto to the letter - and then - finally and patiently, oh so patiently, I remember, he told me exactly why he decided to live out the rest of his days in the manner in which he was living it - with one wife only. I was so small to be told these things and I could hardly grasp them but oh how completely soul satisfying it all was. I was in a dream. I retraced the former "last mile." It was a short one now. I had a song in my heart. I knew now that I wasn't just so much polygamous spawn. I was George Q. Cannon's little boy.

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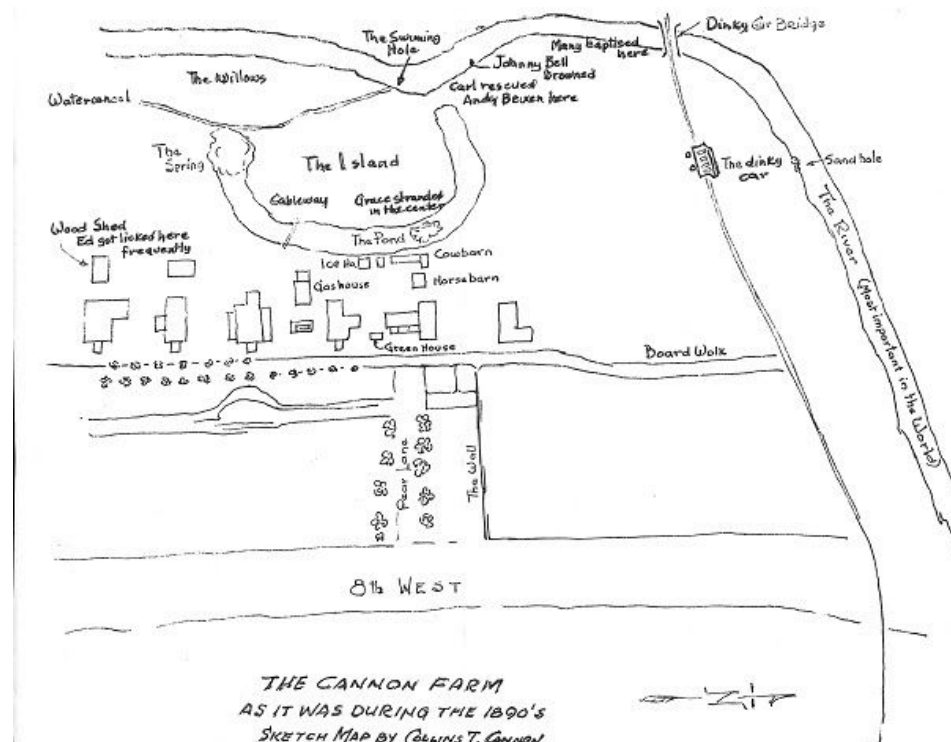
Chapter 7: Collins' Map of the Farm

Collins' life-long fond memories of the farm prompted him to create a sketch. He included numerous features which might create many questions today, such as a gas house, the Dinky car and the island.

Collins' full sketch is shown here, although in this form it is difficult to read.

Elements of the entire map need to be mentioned, and then smaller portions of the map will be discussed.

First, north is to the right, not up. Collins shows the

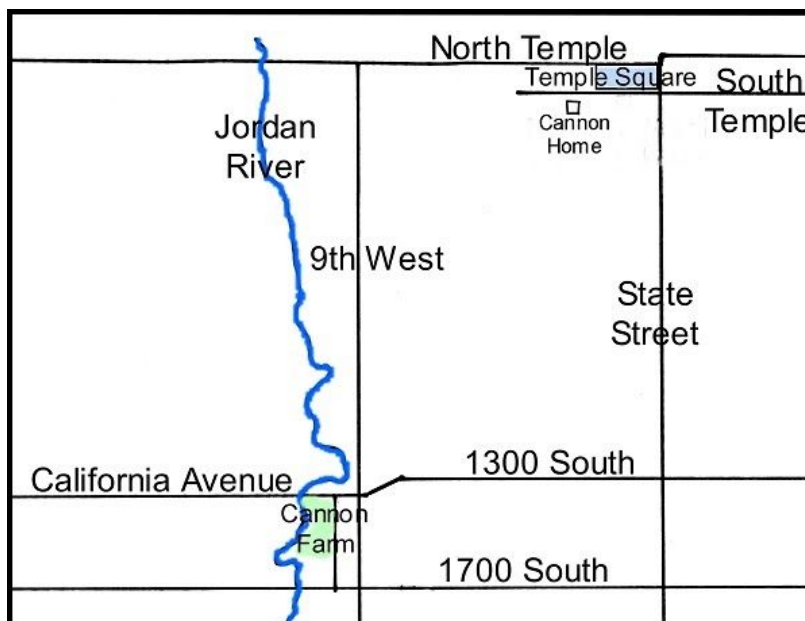


⁵³ "A Brief History of the Young Life of Collins Telle Cannon," 11 January 1952.

island, which was a loop of the Jordan River behind the homes. He sketched the dinky car in the upper right, with its track, a means of transportation into town used by all the family, although perhaps rarely by President Cannon.

Also, notice that the homes face a narrow path which is parallel with what at the time was 8th West. The streets on the west side of town were unpaved dirt roads. These streets had been numbered sequentially from Temple Square. Brigham Young named the first street west of Temple Square as West Temple Street. The next street west was named 200 West. However, the street north of Temple Square was named First North. The next street north was 300 North. As Salt Lake City grew, this discrepancy caused no small amount of confusion to visitors and residents alike.

In 1972, as the city integrated a computerized water system, the street names west of Temple Square were changed, and what was once 8th West on Collins' map became 9th West. Important to note, streets south of Temple Square were also renumbered at this time. The original blocks in the center of town were ten acres, but past Tenth South, the blocks were twenty acres. However, the street numbers had been labeled according to blocks, not distance. The change in street names was significant, for example, what used to be Eleventh South is now 1700 South. These changes must be kept in mind when studying the maps made by Collins and reading old newspaper articles and histories which include addresses.

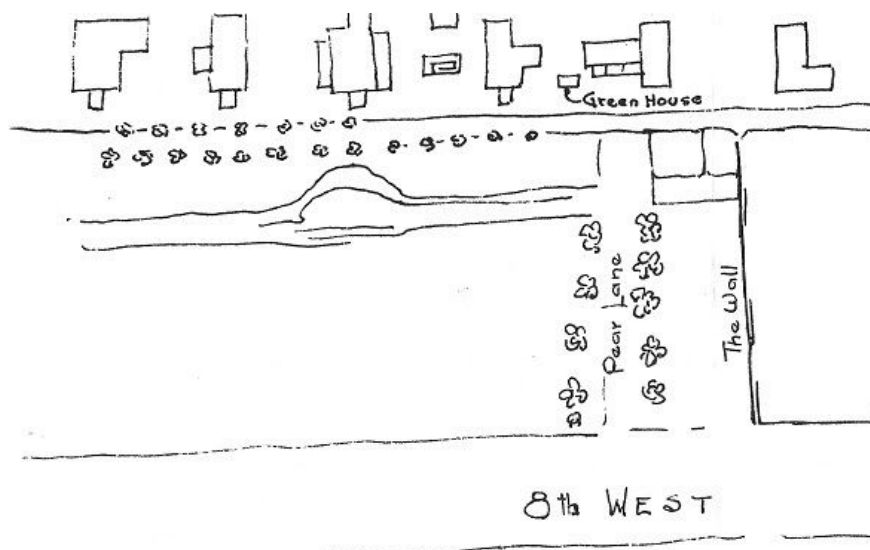


In addition, in 1890, the path or gravel walk⁵⁴ shown in front of the five homes is now 10th West.

During the years between 1864 and the 1870s, the families of President Cannon lived downtown, in the upper right of the map, left, with streets named as they are today. The farm was about three miles away, in the lower center of the map.

⁵⁴ "The Picture," by Margaret Cannon Clayton. Margaret clarified that this walk was gravel.

Collins did not identify the homes, but left to right across the top of the next section of the map, right, they are: Eliza's, Sarah Jane's, Martha's, the schoolhouse, Elizabeth's farmhouse, and Caroline's home, which was often called "the mansion." Pear trees lined the main entrance to the farm.



Collins made note of "The Wall," In the 1860s, the pioneers in Utah built 15-foot defensive mud walls around their cities. The remains of a portion of the mud wall around Salt Lake City were still recognizable during Collins' childhood.⁵⁵



Collins drew "The Island," enclosed by a loop of the Jordan River, shown here. Margaret Cannon Clayton described a variety of fruit and nut trees which had been planted on this island. Collins made note of a cableway on the left side of this loop. Family members or hired workers would stand on a raft and pull themselves across the water to the island. Collins also made note of an area where Grace was once stranded, now a long-forgotten story.

⁵⁵ Cannon Ward Golden Anniversary 1896-1946. "A fragment of the old mud wall that was erected around part of the city extended into our [ward] boundary running in a south-west line near the river about where the train track now is and still another fragment until recent years extended along a portion of the Redwood Road."

Collins drew a wood shed on the far left, barns in the center behind the homes, and both an ice house and a gas house. He also made note of the place in the Jordan River where many in the family, including himself, were baptised.

Collins drew a structure behind the homes which he labeled the “Gas House,” which provided fuel which was used in the homes for cooking and lighting. He later described this by saying:

It was an enchanting place in which to play, with its thick sawdust-filled walls, its rumbling rolling doors, its cables and machinery. What a delight it was to be there in utter darkness and breathe in the odor of rotting apples and the faintly persistent tang of gasoline.⁵⁶

The machinery for the gas house arrived in the fall of 1891. Prior to that, oil lamps provided light.⁵⁷ President Cannon mentioned this update to the farm in a journal entry in the fall of 1890 while he was in California.:

Wrote to each of my wives and to my son Lewis. Called at Mr. Edgar Badlam’s and examined his improved gas machine. He exhibited the gas which he manufactured and explained the principle of manufacture. I arranged with him to make me a hundred-light machine. He is about entering into a contract with a company to sell his machines. By making my contract now I save considerable, as he is at liberty to make it cheaper than he would be.⁵⁸ While the homes were lit and heated with this gas for several years, by the turn of the century electricity had reached the farm. Martha, in 1898, was the first on the farm to have a telephone in her home.⁵⁹

Collins also sketched an ice house. During the winters, ice would freeze along the small loop of the Jordan River which they called the pond. While this was good for skating in the winters, the hired hands waited until the ice was thick and then cut it with saws, dragged it into the ice house, the floor of which was below ground level. The men then covered the ice with straw. The ice would last for months and was used in the homes to cool ice boxes and make ice cream.⁶⁰



The farm also had its own railroad car, known as the Dinky. Collins sketched the track on which the Dinky ran,

⁵⁶ “Annual Birthday Party Chronicle,” by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935.

⁵⁷ [George O. Cannon Journal 28 September 1891](#)

⁵⁸ [George O. Cannon Journal 10 September 1890](#).

⁵⁹ [George O. Cannon Journal 22 August 1898](#)

⁶⁰ “The Picture,” by Margaret Cannon Clayton.

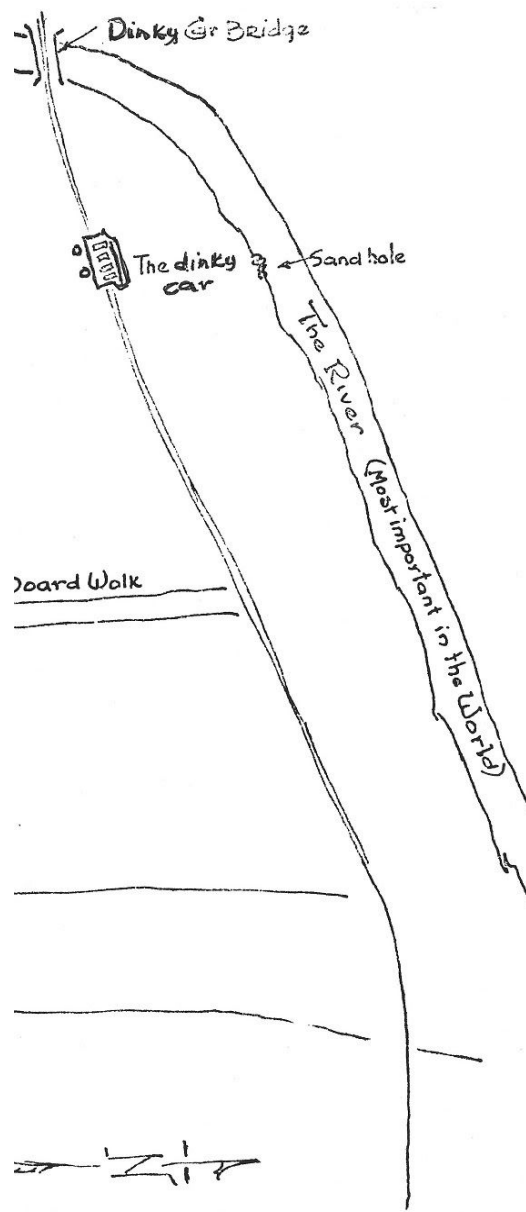
shown above, just south of and mostly parallel with California Avenue until it left the farm.

Quite a bit of information about the farm came from the writings of Margaret Cannon Clayton, mentioned earlier, who, in addition to being a granddaughter of President Cannon, was also a granddaughter of William Clayton who owned the adjoining homestead. A home was built for Margaret, two years older than Collins, and her husband David Clayton, at the south end of the farm. She continued to live on the farm after the death of President Cannon.

Margaret wrote about the history of the Dinky. The tracks originally had been built for an engine with one car which ran thirty miles southwest to the Bingham mine. When that route was discontinued, the track was used for the Dinky into town.⁶¹

Initially, the Dinky was pulled from the farm into town and back again by horses provided by President Cannon. This route connected with the transit system in the city as early as 1872, where trolleys were pulled by mules. By the late 1880s, the city streetcars operated on electricity, and the Dinky became a small electric car. Later the car was replaced with a larger electric car.

Eliza took on the responsibility of procuring all the groceries for her family and for her sister-wives, traveling on the Dinky to ZCMI or to a store operated by 13th Ward members.⁶² The Dinky took young adults and their parents to the city, to the temple and to church events and it also carried young children to school.⁶³ In addition, Margaret wrote that wives on the farm could order goods from a drug store and meat market on Second South and First West. The proprietors would place the items on the Dinky to be retrieved at the other end, all of this being facilitated by the driver. Margaret added,



⁶¹ "History of Margaret Cannon Clayton," 1886-1977.

⁶² Cannon Family Historical Treasury, from the chapter about Eliza. Her children stated she loved the farm.

⁶³ As I studied President Cannon's journal, I came across one reference to him riding the Dinky. On the 29th of July 1891, he wrote, "I have been traveling backward and forward from my home to the Gardo House in a buggy, but have resumed traveling in the cars." In fact, President Cannon often traveled by trains, which ran from Nephi to Ogden. At Ogden, President Cannon could ride the train to California or east to Chicago, New York and Washington D.C.

“The driver was very cooperative. If we had a date and took the last car home, at 10:30, he would wait until we hurried home and the date had a chance to get back to ride as far as the car barn on Ninth South.”⁶⁴

Collins later mentioned the Dinky:

Certain smells of varnish take us back to the old Dining Hall. It was those very comfortable light oak, cane-bottomed chairs that gave forth the scent. It was at these chairs that we knelt during the almost, it seemed to us, interminable family prayers. It was interesting, as we knelt there wondering whether we would be through in time to catch the 8:10 Dinky....⁶⁵

Margaret described a water tank on a platform which stood behind the homes. Water from the Jordan was pumped up to this tank, most likely with the aid of an animal until electricity came to the farm. This provided running water in each home, plus water for the lawns and animals.⁶⁶ All the homes had indoor plumbing; there were no outhouses.

Other structures included a greenhouse for flowers for the homes. Collins remembered:

The smell of cut flowers always takes us back to Aunt Sarah Jane’s house. We weren’t there much, but during one sad week in April long ago we had rather free access to her pleasant and comfortable rooms, which were then filled with the choicest blooms.⁶⁷

The need for flowers during the Victorian age cannot be overstated. Society articles during this time always mentioned the flowers at events, and this interest in all types of blooms was continued into the next generation.⁶⁸

There were also several barns for animals; both Lewis and Collins mentioned the many horses their father had.

Winnifred Cannon Jardine, a daughter of Clawson Young Cannon, spent time on the farm when she was a child. She also drew a map, which is shown here.

⁶⁴ History of the Cannon Stake, by Margaret Clayton Cannon, 1847-1972.

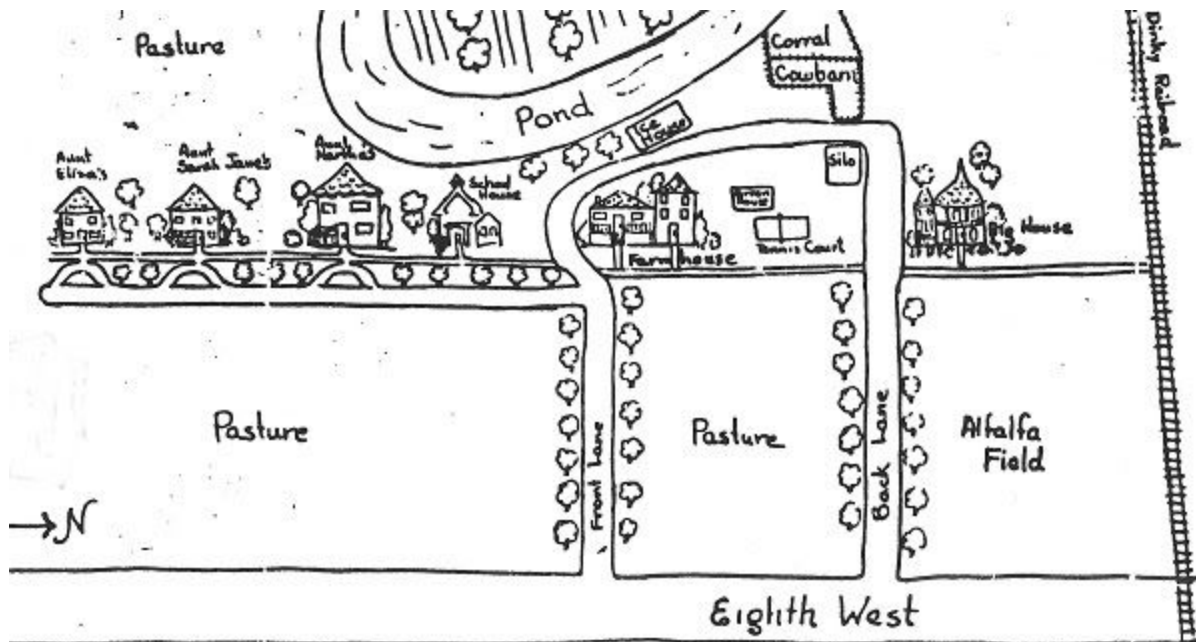
⁶⁵ “Annual Birthday Party Chronicle,” by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935.

⁶⁶ “The Picture,” by Margaret Clayton Cannon.

⁶⁷ “Annual Birthday Party Chronicle,” by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935. President Cannon died in April, 1901. Perhaps Collins was remembering an April event in Sarah Jane’s home associated with that. Surely everyone present at the event in 1935 knew to what he referred. Her home burned in the early 20th century.

⁶⁸ In searching online newspapers for references to Cannon family members, I noticed references to flowers in particular with my grandmother, Ida May Burton Cannon, and also with Maud Riter Cannon, the wife of Radcliffe. My grandmother had a small home when I knew her, but she had an extensive flower garden. My father also took great pride in his iris and he knew the genealogy of the bulbs he used. Older members of our ward in Idaho Falls provided their own gladiolas for the reception of my oldest brother. Flowers were a significant interest of this age.

Winnifred placed a tennis court on her map, just north of Elizabeth's farmhouse. Tennis was a new sport in the United States in the 1880s, and it's possible this court was one of the first in Salt Lake City. Collins later mentioned that the court was good and there were always enough players.⁶⁹



In the summer of 1890, President Cannon wrote:

I had a very delightful time this morning in looking over the farm and its crops. I never saw such heavy Lucerne as is now being harvested here. The grain looks excellent also. Apples will be abundant if the boys don't take them. There will be no peaches, many of the trees having been winter-killed. I shall be under the necessity of fencing this place, as the boys in the neighborhood make a common practice of taking whatever fruit they think they need. A fine cherry tree has been stripped of all its fruit, and they are eating everything nearly as fast [as] it comes. The man that I have employed here is a very industrious, reliable man. I felt to speak words of encouragement and praise to him for what he had done.⁷⁰

While President Cannon worked hard to make this farm a safe and healthy place for his family, there were unfortunate diseases which could affect children and even adults at any moment. In the fall of 1893, Martha fell ill with typhoid. This water-borne disease was easily identified at the time, but the necessary antibiotics to cure it would not be available for another half-century. It appears that the preference of several family members was not to call upon a doctor, whose

⁶⁹ "A Brief History of the Young Life of Collins Telle Cannon," 11 January 1952.

⁷⁰ [George Q. Cannon Journal 28 June 1890](#)

cures might prove to be more dangerous than the illness.⁷¹ Instead, at this time the family had chosen to rely on faith and Priesthood blessings. George wrote several entries in his journal about Martha's illness and the illness of other family members. This situation occurred during the nationwide financial panic of 1893, when everyone's resources were stretched:

Friday 20 October 1893: My wife Martha is very seriously sick with typhoid fever, complicated with pneumonia. Brothers Brigham Young [the son of deceased President Young] and C. H. Wilcken [his driver] were invited by me to administer to her, and Brother Wilcken expressed himself to the effect that I ought to have a doctor. Some of my own family have been of this opinion also; but I cannot do so and maintain my feeling of self-respect and consistency; for I have been speaking considerably of late against the practice which many of the saints have fallen into of sending for doctors when anything ails their children or themselves. I feel to trust in the Lord in this, and this is the feeling of my wife also. We are nursing her and taking as great care of her as we can.

Friday, October 27th, 1893: I can discover a slight improvement in my wife Martha's health; am doing all in my power for her, administering myself when at home at least twice a day, and getting some of the brethren also. She has not been at all delirious during the attack.

Wednesday, November 1st, 1893: I keep administering to my wives and entreating the Lord to have mercy upon them, and I feel encouraged that they will soon be well.

Thursday, November 2nd, 1893: I was awakened last night by my son Willard coming to my window and calling me, informing me that his mother was worse. The shock of awakening me suddenly and the news made me feel quite sick. I got up and dressed myself and awakened my son-in-law Lewis, and we went and administered to her. She was a little delirious, but I sat with her and soothed her, and she felt quiet.

Saturday, November 4th, 1893: President Woodruff and wife came to my place this morning to visit my sick people, the President desiring to join with me in administering to them. We visited my wife Martha first and administered to her. We then called upon my wife Sarah Jane and spent a short time at her house, and then went to my wife Carlie's and administered to her. I thought it was very kind of President Woodruff to take this trouble, as he feels that at his time of life it is not wise for him to administer much to the sick.

⁷¹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 5 April 1901](#). In the weeks leading up to President Cannon's death, his legs began to swell. A doctor brought an oven which he heated to 400 degrees before placing President Cannon's legs inside. President Cannon reported the treatment helped "with good effect."

Saturday, November 11th, 1893: I have a very sick household at the present time. Besides my wife Martha, our daughter Hester and Miss Lottie Reese, who is living with us, are in bed, suffering from sore throats, chills and fever. My wife Carlie is unable to leave her room and her health seems very poor. This with our financial embarrassments oppresses me. Just as I was starting home I met my son-in-law, Lewis M. Cannon, who told me that news had come that my wife Martha was sinking. I learned from him that my daughter Mary Alice had just come from home, and I sought her and learned from her that my sister Mary Alice had visited my wife and felt that she was in a precarious condition, and that the nurse had said that she was sinking. I drove home very sorrowful, picturing to myself how desolate my children's home would be without their mother, she having nine children, one of them married however, and what a condition I would be in. I felt to cry unto the Lord with all the faith I had in behalf of my sick family, for my daughter Hester, and her companion Miss Lottie Reese, were also prostrated, also my son Espey. The Lord condescended to hear my prayer and I felt comforted.

Sunday, November 12th, 1893: I was cheered this morning by the changed appearance of my sick ones; my cries last night to the Lord brought help, and improvement is visible.

Tuesday, November 14th, 1893: I was gladdened with the news when I reached home this evening that my daughter Amelia, the wife of H. W. Chamberlain, was delivered of a fine son this morning. This brought great joy to her sick mother.

Monday, December 25th, 1893: [Upon returning from a three-week trip to New York City to handle business related to Utah's statehood,] Reached Salt Lake City at 3 o'clock this morning. Brother Wilken and my son Hugh came up by daylight for me. I found my family all well, excepting Martha. Her disease seems to have settled in her left arm and it is helpless. Although I am cramped for means and unable to make the customary Christmas presents, I felt profoundly thankful that we had good health and could meet together under such favorable circumstances.

Monday, January 1st, 1894: This morning—the first of the new year—I arose with thankfulness to the Lord for the blessings which I and my family enjoy. With the exception of my wife Martha, whose health has not been completely restored but who is tolerably well, we are all in the enjoyment of good health and strength, and we have food, raiment and shelter, our houses are comfortable, and we need nothing to add to our physical comfort. For these blessings I feel profoundly thankful, and in wishing my family a happy new year I felt to bless each and all of them.⁷²

⁷² [George O. Cannon Journal, October-December 1893, January 1894](#)

Chapter 8: Home Life on the Farm and the Creation of the Cannon Ward

After many years of George's frequent absences from the farm, living in Washington as a congressman, traveling throughout Utah and the surrounding areas as a Church leader, and after years of living in the Underground and even a few months in prison, the mid-1890s brought changes to the entire family. Probably the biggest change was that George began having weekly dinners with his four surviving wives. In February of 1895, he wrote:

My wives Sarah Jane, Eliza, Martha and Caroline took dinner with me, and we had a very enjoyable evening together. I have designed for us to dine together at least once a week, so that I can know of their condition and we can exchange views on family matters.⁷³

Occasionally these events turned into performance venues for the children. The following month George wrote:

My wives Sarah Jane, Martha, Eliza and Caroline took dinner with me today, and after dinner the children came in with their mandolins and guitars and gave us some very nice music. Songs were sung by Hester, Emily and Carol, and Rosannah gave us two recitations. We had a very pleasant evening.⁷⁴

The next month, the event was expanded to include George's siblings:

I had invited my brothers and sisters to eat dinner with me this evening, and each of my wives was also present. We had a delightful time. The children gave us a number of selections of music, and we had singing and recitations. There were present, my brothers Angus and David with a wife each, my sister Mary Alice and Anne, my sons John Q. and Abraham with a wife each, my daughter Mary Alice and her husband, Sylvester and Emily, and my wives Sarah Jane, Eliza, Martha, Emily and Caroline.⁷⁵

President Cannon had purchased the guitars and mandolins by 1891. At that time, Carol, Caroline's fifteen-year-old daughter, was charged with teaching the interested siblings whom George named as Amelia and Grace, two of Martha's daughters, Joseph, a son of Sarah Jane's, and Vera, Carol's little sister. George's request at the time of the delivery of the mandolins in the summer of 1891 was that they had to learn six tunes by Christmas.⁷⁶

Eighteen ninety-six was especially significant for the Cannon family. The year began with Utah being granted statehood. Heber M. Wells, the son of a prominent Utah family and also a resident

⁷³ [George Q. Cannon Journal 26 February 1895](#)

⁷⁴ [George Q. Cannon Journal 6 March 1895](#)

⁷⁵ [George Q. Cannon Journal 9 April 1895](#)

⁷⁶ [George Q. Cannon Journal 29 July 1891](#)

of the Twentieth Ward in the Avenues, was elected Utah's first governor.⁷⁷ On January 4th President Cannon wrote:

Word reached us this morning that the proclamation of President Cleveland admitting Utah as one of the sovereign states of the Union was signed by him at 10:03 (Washington time) this morning. On my way up from President Woodruff's I heard the steam whistles blowing and the bellings ringing. It was a most gladdening sound.⁷⁸

A second event that year occurred in the dining room of the schoolhouse on the last Sunday in May. That evening, President Cannon, with two members of the Quorum of the Twelve, plus President Angus M. Cannon of the Salt Lake Stake, met with members from three wards: Farmers, Brighton and the Fifth Ward. The farm was part of the Farmers Ward; Brighton was a commercial and residential area in south Salt Lake at that time; the Fifth Ward had been created in 1849. The room was full, and it is possible that Collins and his siblings were present.⁷⁹

Lewis M. Cannon, the husband of Collins' older sister Mary Alice, was ordained a high priest and also ordained as the bishop of the new Cannon Ward. Ward meetings were held in the dining room during the remainder of 1896, but preparations immediately began for the construction of a building, which was completed before the end of the following year on the southeast corner of the farm.

In August, the Salt Lake Stake Relief Society leaders met with the sisters in the Cannon Ward and organized the Cannon Ward Relief Society. Sarah Jane was chosen to be the first president. Martha and Caroline were trustees, handling funds.⁸⁰

President Cannon's journal during this time period indicates that it was customary for many persons to attend meetings on Sunday at the tabernacle.⁸¹ President Cannon and other general authorities of the Church spoke at these meetings and the Deseret News printed a transcript of their remarks. However, meetings were held at the ward level on Sunday evenings, and frequently President Cannon attended these as well, as they were held in the dining room of the

⁷⁷ Twentieth Ward History, by Ruth J. Martin, LDS Film 1059487. Heber's father was Daniel H. Wells, who had been a mayor of Salt Lake City and also had been a counselor to Brigham Young.

⁷⁸ [George Q. Cannon Journal 4 January 1896](#)

⁷⁹ Cannon Ward Golden Anniversary 1896-1946. President Cannon did not mention this significant event in his journal. He had attended meetings in the Tabernacle during the day and his schedule was full. As I searched the journal for possible references to this ward creation, I observed that all the ward meetings were held on a Sunday evening. I can presume that President Cannon dictated his journal after his meetings in the tabernacle and then participated in the creation of the Cannon Ward that evening. Other journal entries describing social events indicate the dining room of the schoolhouse could hold at least 80 people.

⁸⁰ Women's Exponent, 15 September 1896. In a meeting held August 6th, 1906, Bathsheba W. Smith referenced events she witnessed at the organization of the Relief Society in Nauvoo in 1842 and had repeated at the organization of the Cannon Ward Relief Society.

⁸¹ Joseph Fielding's journal, written 30 years earlier, indicated this same practice.

schoolhouse next door to Elizabeth's farmhouse where he lived. It was common for him to invite visitors to attend, also.⁸²

A third, but very tragic event occurred in July of 1896, just weeks after the creation of the Cannon Ward. Abraham, thirty-seven years old and a very prominent son in the family, became seriously ill with an abscess near his ear which doctors were not able to successfully treat. Journal entries indicate that in the beginning, President Cannon believed Abraham's decline was due to overwork; he was not fearing Abraham's death until near the end.

Abraham, an apostle and a member of the prominent Cannon family, was very well known. At the time, it was estimated that 30,000 people attended his funeral on the 26th of July or watched the procession from the farm to the tabernacle, and then from the tabernacle to the cemetery. Members of the Quorum of the Twelve were pallbearers and President Woodruff and President Snow were among the funeral speakers.

Young Collins would have been very aware of all three of these events that year, statehood, the creation of the Cannon Ward and his older brother's funeral. Considering that the 24th of July festivities that year were subdued due to Abraham's death, surely young Collins' eighth birthday the next week would have received similar treatment. However, on the evening of July 31st, Church records show that President Cannon and young Collins stood together in the Jordan River behind the schoolhouse. There, George baptized his little boy, and then, possibly in Martha's house after they had both dried off and changed clothes, George confirmed him.⁸³

No. 1722	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Cancellation]	Name in Full	Collins Belle Cannon			No. 711		
Father's Name	George Q. Cannon			Mother's Maiden Name	Martha Belle			
Born at	Salt Lake City Salt Lake Utah	DAY	31	MONTH	July	YEAR	1888	
Received from	Logan 7 W. Logan			DAY	17	MONTH	Dec	
Received from	Logan 7 W. Logan			YEAR	1922			
Baptized by	George Q. Cannon			DAY	31	MONTH	July	
Confirmed by	George Q. Cannon			DAY	31	MONTH	July	
Confirmed by	George Q. Cannon			YEAR	1896			
Firsthood when received	Belle	By	George Romney			DAY	19	
By	George Romney			MONTH	Aug.		YEAR	1910
Removed to	18th W. Emery Stake			DAY	13	MONTH	Apr.	
BY				YEAR	1930			
Excommunicated for								
Died of								
Carried [see instructions]								

⁸² President Cannon made frequent mention of these meetings in the Cannon Ward. Usually home missionaries spoke, men appointed for this purpose. They traveled to various wards with the charge to strengthen the members. President Cannon often named the men and recorded some of their remarks.

⁸³ Logan Ward Records from LDS film 26084 provided the detail that George Q. Cannon both baptized and confirmed Collins on his 8th birthday. President Cannon's journal shows he was in meetings all day long.