

Part Three: The Family of Collins Telle Cannon

Chapter 9: Hester Telle Cannon 1870-1936



Martha's first two children, born in 1870 in downtown Salt Lake City, were twin daughters. By the early 1890s, Hester, Martha's oldest child who was named after her own adoptive mother, had obtained a teaching degree from the University of Deseret. At that time, the university was located at Second West and North Temple where West High School is today, easily accessible by streetcar.¹

After graduation, Hester, shown far left with Amelia, opened a private school in Mill Creek, not far from her father's farm.² Upon the creation of the Cannon Ward in 1896, Hester became a leader in the Mutual Improvement Association.³ She was well-trained in music and sang and traveled with the Tabernacle Choir.⁴

In 1902, Hester married Daniel Brigham Hill Richards, right, the youngest son of French Canadian converts, just after his return from a European mission. Hester was thirty-two; Daniel was nearly fifty. Well-educated, Daniel had received degrees from the University of Michigan and also the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He had a teenage daughter and appears to have been divorced. It is unlikely that Daniel would have been called on a mission if Church leaders had felt his past behavior might reflect dishonorably toward the Church.



After a late summer wedding in the Salt Lake Temple, a breakfast was held in the dining room at the farm. Although attendance was limited to immediate family,

¹ The obituaries of both Hester and Amelia stated they studied at the University of Deseret.

² Salt Lake Tribune, 27 July 1939. Daniel Brigham Hill Richards' obituary states that he had attended Hester's private school in Mill Creek. As he would have been in his 40s at this time, it's more likely that his daughter attended the school. However, this sentence in the obituary is the only record of Hester's academy.

³ Cannon Ward Golden Anniversary 1895-1946, page 20.

⁴ In 1900 the Deseret News published a program from a YWMIA event held in the Cannon Ward. Hester had played the guitar and Amelia had performed on the organ. In a 1935 speech to the family, Collins made a reference in jest to a guitar and mandolin club, and he was likely referring to his older sisters. Hester's 1936 obituary states that she had been a member of the Tabernacle Choir. Two news articles from 1901 and 1902 stated she had traveled with the choir.

Society

The marriage of Miss Hester Cannon and Mr. Daniel B. Richards, which took place yesterday morning at the Salt Lake temple, was followed by a wedding breakfast at 11:30 in the morning and a reception from 5 till 7 in the afternoon. Only the immediate relatives of the bride and groom were at the breakfast, and these were seated at one long table spread in the Cannon dining hall which stands near the home. The table was exquisitely decorated with ferns and red asters. Palms were banked around the room, and with streamers of smilax and ribbons the table presented a beautiful picture.

At the reception in the evening the house was artistically decorated, the parlors being done in pink and white and the hall entirely in green. In the dining room red was the color used, and here ices and lemonade were served by the Misses Stella and Louise Cannon. Mrs. Martha T. Cannon, the mother of the bride, was assisted in receiving by Mrs. W. T. Cannon, Mrs. Lewis P. Cannon, Mrs. Lewis M. Cannon, Mrs. I. E. Willey and Mrs. W. H. Chamberlin. The bride was attended by the Misses Mary, Elizabeth, Louise, Stella and Zannie Cannon and Miss May Terry, while Mr. J. A. Baker was the best man.

The bride wore a beautiful gown of white crepe de chine over white taffeta, with applique trimmings, and carried a shower bouquet of white roses. Mr. and Mrs. Richards will leave this morning for a month's wedding trip to New Orleans, and later will make their home in this city.

this would have included a large number of people, as Hester was a member of an expansive family and was the fourth of her immediate siblings to marry.

Hester's widowed mother Martha hosted a reception that evening. Bridesmaids named in the article above⁵ were Caroline Young Croxall Cannon, Willard's wife and step-sister; Martha Howell Cannon, the wife of Lewis; Mary Alice C. Cannon, who was just three years older than Hester and married to their cousin Lewis Mousley Cannon; Emily Hoagland Cannon Willey, a younger sister to Mary Alice; and Hester's twin, Amelia, by then married ten years.

Daniel and Hester had one child, a son, Daniel Sinclair Richards, who was born in 1911, eight years into their marriage. In 1913, Hester, age forty-three, hosted a party for her little boy which was reported in the news.⁶

Mrs. Hester Cannon Richards will entertain a number of little folks with a breakfast this morning at Franklin's, followed by a party at the American theater, in honor of the third birthday of her little son, D. Sinclair Richards, which comes on Sunday. Easter ideas will be carried out in the table decorations.

Sadly, Hester's marriage did not last. By 1920, the couple lived under the same roof but in separate apartments where Daniel, by now sixty-six, could still help with their young son. In 1923, Daniel remarried, but that marriage also ended in divorce, and by 1930 he and Hester

⁵ 4 September 1902 Salt Lake Herald.

⁶ 4 April 1914 Salt Lake Tribune.

again lived in the same dwelling, but not together.⁷ Daniel practiced law and lived in Europe during the 1930s while Hester served as a temple worker.

In 1936, Hester died of cancer at the age of sixty-six, just a few months before her sister Amelia's death. Her brother-in-law, Grace's husband Clarence Neslen, who was bishop of the Twentieth Ward, conducted the funeral, with Apostle Joseph F. Merrill speaking. Collins and his five full brothers were pallbearers.⁸ Their brother William Tenney dedicated the grave. Daniel Richards died three years later. Their son lived to be ninety years old.

Chapter 10: Amelia Telle Cannon 1870-1937

Collins's sister Amelia, shown at right in her wedding dress, was named after Martha's mother. She married William H. Chamberlin in 1892 in the Logan Temple, the year before the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated. Amelia and William were each twenty-two, and both were from large families, William being the oldest of twelve children. Amelia, like her twin sister, was musically skilled, being an accomplished organist. Amelia had studied at the University of Deseret and also at Latter-day Saints' College, which was later known as LDS Business College, and as of

2020 is known as Ensign College.⁹



William was an educator, teaching in local public schools

and at Latter-day Saints' College until he completed his degree from the University of Utah in 1896, which had changed its name from the University of Deseret in 1894. The following year, William was called to serve a mission to the Society Islands, now French Polynesia, where he translated the Book of Mormon into the Tahitian language. While he was away, Amelia and her two little children, Max and baby



⁷ I pieced this detail together using census records, death certificates, marriage records and obituaries.

⁸ Obituary, published in the Salt Lake Tribune 28 October 1936.

⁹ An 1889 society article placed Hester on a program given by students and faculty at the college.

Hester, shown with William before his departure, lived on the farm where Amelia had the help of her mother.¹⁰

William returned from his mission in 1900 and began teaching at Brigham Young College in Logan where their daughter Martha was born. About this time William began studying philosophy with scholars from U. C.

Berkeley and Harvard. In 1906 he earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago. During this period Amelia and the children remained in Salt Lake City, where a son was born in 1904. After his return, a fifth child was born in Logan. These five children are shown at right about 1906, standing L-R, Max, Paul, Hester; seated, Martha and Frances.



Soon after this, William left Logan and began a teaching career at Brigham Young University in Provo. He was a well-liked teacher, instructing courses in philosophy and ancient languages, two popular interests during the Victorian age. He, with his brother Ralph and two other professors, began teaching Darwin's theories of evolution, explaining how these teachings were compatible with the doctrines of the

LDS Church. His brother and the other two men were asked to discontinue their teachings, which seemed too controversial, but instead they left BYU. William continued to teach there.¹¹

Perhaps these details explain a comment by Collins. In context, we must remember his older siblings were each well-educated and that Darwin's teachings were of great interest at this time, as was the Word of Wisdom, which was mentioned occasionally by Collins and also Lewis. Again, Collins was remembering smells:

Our Mother's house was a heterogeny of smells. There were the odors of the finest mince pies, cookies and freshly baked bread, but above all of these was the smell of brimstone. It was especially noticeable during the summer months when Lewis was

¹⁰ The 1898 and 1899 city directories show that Amelia lived on the farm.

¹¹ Fortunately, William Henry Chamberlain has his own [Wikipedia page](#).

home from college and we could almost actually see it when he and Hester engaged in wordy conflict over the Word of Wisdom, Darwin, or it mattered not what.¹²

Collins opened the door for us to imagine young adults engaging in open and animated discussions about the topics of the times, perhaps with a teenage brother standing in a doorway.

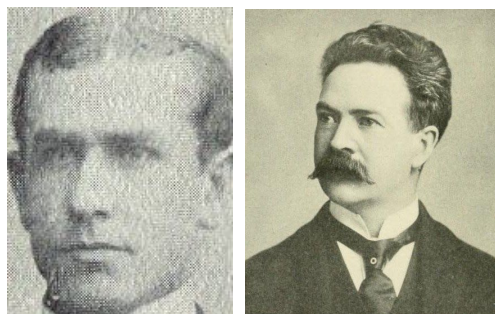
However, during this period when Amelia and William lived in Provo, it appears their marriage floundered. William and four of his five children were enumerated with him on the 1910 census in Salt Lake City. Daughter Hester was enumerated with her grandmother Martha. Amelia was enumerated in the Utah State Hospital in Provo. A letter D by her name indicated she was divorced, although the Salt Lake City enumerator indicated that William was married.¹³ In 1912, Amelia's last child, David, was born in Provo.¹⁴

In 1914, William married Johnetta Hug in the Salt Lake Temple. In 1920, William was enumerated with Johnetta in Logan with their three children, but also with three of his six children by Amelia. Amelia's youngest child, David, was enumerated with William's mother in Salt Lake City where two adult daughters living at home presumably helped with this child's upbringing. William died suddenly from pneumonia in 1921.

Three months after Hester's death, Amelia died in 1937 from skin cancer, one month before her sixty-seventh birthday. Her funeral at a local mortuary was also conducted by her brother-in-law, Clarence C. Neslen.¹⁵

Chapter 11: Lewis Telle Cannon 1872-1946

Collins's oldest brother Lewis, second from right, was named after his Telle grandfather. He was born in downtown Salt Lake City in 1872, two years after his twin sisters' birth and seven years before his family's move to the farm. President Cannon was in Washington D.C. at this time and learned of Lewis's birth via a letter from Franklin Jenne, one of President Cannon's three oldest sons, far right. George immediately wrote Martha:



Forty-second Congress U. S.
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

¹² "Annual Birthday Party Chronicle," by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935.

¹³ To further the mystery, both her obituary and her death certificate state that she was the widow of William H. Chamberlain.

¹⁴ A note in David's Family Tree file says he was born at the president's mansion at BYU.

¹⁵ Obituary, published in the Deseret News, 18 January 1937.

April 29, 1872

My Dear Wife:

By a letter from Franklin, just received, I learn the gratifying news that you had a boy born to you this morning of the 22nd inst. at 10 o'clock. The receipt of this intelligence relieved me greatly, for I have been watching with great desire, not however with any uneasiness, for the word, for I thought it time to hear from you on this subject. That God may bless you and the little new comer, and spare your and his life to be of great age, is my prayer. How do Hester and Amelia like their little brother? Are they jealous of your attention to him? I should think that Amelia would make a disturbance over your neglecting her and taking him under your care. I hope that you will be careful of yourself, and not be too eager to get to work. You ought not, even if smart, to think of going about, and then very carefully, until the little fellow is two weeks old. Who does he look like? Is he fair haired or dark? How heavy was he?¹⁶

By Lewis' eighth birthday in 1880, his family had moved to the farm. Again, George wrote Martha from Washington D. C.:

House of Representatives
Washington D.C.
April 11, 1880

My dear Wife:

. . . Lewis will be eight years old this month, and my principal thought in writing this letter is to urge you to have him baptized on his birth-day. I would like the ordinance attended to on that day without fail if it be possible. I would like Uncle Angus to attend to it if not too much trouble for him. By seeing him and arranging for it beforehand, he will doubtless be able to come down himself or have someone else do so. I should like to have this privilege myself, but as I cannot, I do not think it well for the ordinance to be deferred.¹⁷

The aforementioned carriage accident [pages 14-15] occurred when Lewis was nine. George was again in Washington D.C. and Martha informed him by letter. He responded:

House of Representatives
Washington

¹⁶ The original letter and others had come into the possession of my aunt, Ida Mae Cannon Smith. I transcribed them in 2003. Before her death in 2011, I delivered them at her request to BYU's Special Collections.

¹⁷ The original letter was also one which belonged to Ida Mae Cannon Smith.

Jan'y, 15, 1882

My dear Wife:

Your very welcome favor of the 1st and 8th inst. has just been received. I read it with great interest. My only fault with it is it is too short. You cannot think how anxious I have been to hear from you. If you could feel for me as I do myself I am sure you would either write or have one of the girls write to me. I have had dispatches and letters in which I am informed that Lewis is doing as well as could be expected. Very satisfactory no doubt if one only knew what was expected. I do not know what may be expected. It is provokingly tantalizing to me in my position to be told this. Is it a stiff leg that is expected? Is it partial lameness? Or what is it? If I knew that a perfect restoration was expected, I would then be satisfied. Your letter gives me the best idea of its present condition and prospects. I am grieved to know that the knee is deformed and that you cannot effect any backward movement with it. This is what I have feared. Rubbing and movement ought to be followed up perseveringly. This treatment, if any, will do it good. I know how you must feel. You have my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy. The effect of this accident upon you I have feared very much. Still, I desire you to remember that this might have been much worse. The loss of a limb, or of life, would have been much more serious. My reflections upon such occurrences are, that, as not a hair of our heads can fall to the ground unnoticed by our Heavenly Father, he knows about this accident, and will overrule it for good. We must acknowledge his hand in times of trouble and affliction as well as in times of prosperity; at the same time it is our duty to exercise all our own powers in preserving ourselves and in taking that care which is necessary for health and happiness. I feel assured that the Lord will bless Lewis and will overrule this accident, difficult as it may be for him or us to perceive how it can be done, for his good and his eventual happiness.¹⁸

During the summer of 1889, President Cannon described an outing with some of his children, including fifteen-year-old Lewis. George's brother Angus attended as a member of the Salt Lake Stake presidency:

In the evening I took my daughters Mary Alice, Hester, Amelia, Rose Annie and Emily, and my sons Angus, Lewis and Preston to Calder's Farm, having been invited there, in company with Presidents Woodruff and Smith and the Presidency of the Stake. We had a very interesting sail on the lake in a small steamer that he had recently obtained. I enjoyed this visit very much. It is the first time I have been there. Before we separated we were invited into the room, and Presidents Jos. F. Smith, myself and President Woodruff

¹⁸ This letter was also in the possession of Ida May Cannon Smith. I asked my father about this (he died later that year), and he didn't know any details except that Lewis always walked with a cane.

spoke, and we had singing and music, with refreshments in the shape of soda water and cake. It was half past twelve when I returned.¹⁹

An entry late in the summer of 1890, when Collins was just two years old, mentioned that the Cannon children now attended school in the city. President Cannon wrote:

My son Lewis and my daughters Hester, Amelia and Emily intend going this afternoon to Farmington for the purpose of taking a sail on the lake for two or three days, to which they have been invited by a young man by the name of Miller, who was their schoolmate at the Academy.²⁰

An 1891 journal entry shows the respect President Cannon had for Lewis, and also indicates the scale of Lewis's mechanical skills. Mr. Badlam had come from California to install machinery for the gas house. President Cannon wrote:

Mr. Alexander Badlam and son Edgar came down to my house this morning. Edgar is the inventor of the improvements in the gas machine, and it was from him and his brother that I bought my machine for making gas, which my son Lewis has made all preparations for by laying pipes and putting up chandeliers, etc. I have built a gas house according to a plan that Mr. Badlam furnished me. They expressed themselves pleased with the appearance of my place, and thought the gas house was a good structure and would answer the purpose.

The following week President Cannon wrote:

Mr. Edgar Badlam called on me to take his leave today. He has been here fitting up gas machines for Bp. Clawson, Col. Trumbo and myself. Mine gives excellent satisfaction. It is a hundred light machine, and my son Lewis has laid all the pipes, done all the gasfitting, part of the time assisted by Brother David Wilcken [a son of George's driver, Carl Wilcken]. Mr. Badlam was very much pleased with what he has done, and said to me that he thought he would make a very fine mechanical engineer. He is desirous that Lewis, if any more machines are sold here, shall set them up, as he was quite satisfied that he could do so. It is quite a change for the better to be able to burn gas in our houses, instead of using coal oil lamps, of which I have quite a fear. Mr. Badlam and his assistant returned to California this evening.²¹

¹⁹ [George O. Cannon Journal, 26 June 1890](#). After a little internet research, I believe this farm was where the current Nibley Golf Course is, near 2700 South.

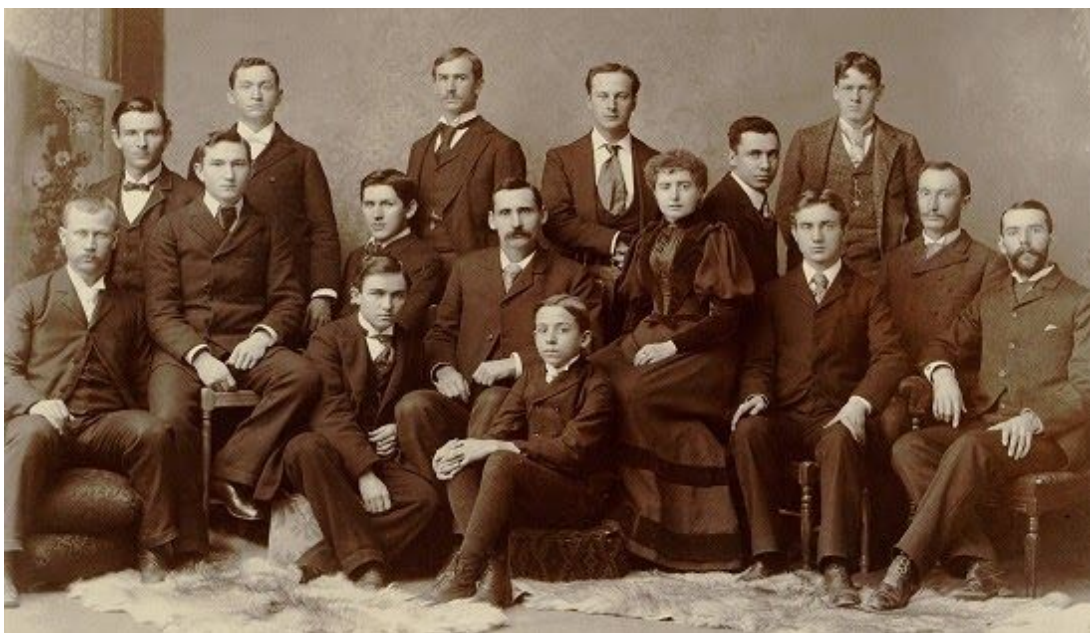
²⁰ [George O. Cannon Journal 8 August 1890](#). The lake near Farmington is the Great Salt Lake.

²¹ [George O. Cannon Journal 22, 28 September 1891](#). In December, President Cannon reported that Lewis had set up "a heating apparatus" in Elizabeth's home.

In the fall of 1892, Lewis left Utah to attend M.I.T. A photograph taken during this period, below, shows Lewis standing just left of center. Joseph M. Tanner is seated in the center. Brother Tanner was named by President Cannon in the journal entry below and later became a prominent educator in the Church.

President Cannon wrote:

My son Lewis expects to leave for Boston on Wednesday to enter the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in that city. I have been desirous to give Lewis the full advantage of education, because of the injury which he received when a child through getting his leg under the wheels of a carriage, which has shortened his leg and crippled him. He has been working in the office of the Architect of the Temple for some time, and has gained considerable skill and experience in that business; but I felt that he ought to have a better



opportunity than could be obtained in our schools here. I submitted his case to Captain Willard Young and Dr. Talmage, and they both agreed that it would be better for him to go East, as he could not obtain that which he needed at the present time here. There are a number of our young men now at Harvard University, among whom is Brother J. M. Tanner, who with his wife is keeping house, and our young men live with them. I would not like to send Lewis, or any of my sons, to any institution where he would be alone, but in society such as they have there, I think I can send him with some degree of safety. I have written to Brother Tanner upon the subject. I thought that he had better study electrical engineering, and Brother Tanner suggests that instead of taking that course he take a course of architecture in the school of technology. This agrees with my view, and I

am making arrangements for him to go. This evening, Carol, a daughter of my wife Carlie, made a party for him, to which a number of his young friends were invited.²²

In the summer of 1894 President Cannon mentioned in his journal that Lewis and Willard had worked to improve the drainage of water from Caroline's home. He wrote:

I find the boys very skillful at this kind of work. They seem to be natural mechanics.²³



After receiving his degree in 1896, Lewis returned to Utah where he taught higher mathematics at Utah State Agricultural College.²⁴ During this period Lewis was called to serve a mission in Germany. Shown above about this time, he was set apart in July of 1898 by President Woodruff just a few weeks before Elder Woodruff's death. Four months later Lewis' younger brother Preston, shown at left, was also called to Germany. However, Preston became critically ill and Lewis accompanied him on the ship back to the States after serving thirteen months.²⁵



The following year Lewis returned to the mission field, this time serving in Switzerland, and was released in early 1901. That summer, Lewis married Martha M. Howell, shown left, the daughter of U.S. Representative Joseph Howell, in the Salt Lake Temple, with whom he had six children. For two years, Lewis worked in Washington D.C. for Congressman Howell.

Lewis, shown later in his life below, designed and built a home for his family on 2nd Avenue, between D and E Streets, which was within the large Twentieth Ward boundaries. Lewis worked as an architect for the rest of his life, part of that time operating a business with John Fetzer, the LDS Church architect. They

²² [George Q. Cannon Journal 5 September 1891.](#)

²³ [George Q. Cannon Journal 16 June 1894.](#)

²⁴ Information about Lewis came from his obituary, published in the Deseret News on 11 Oct 1946, and from an entry about him in the Twentieth Ward History, 1856-1979, by Ruth J. Martin, LDS film 1059487.

²⁵ President Cannon's journal entries in the fall of 1899 indicate that doctors believed Preston's illness was related to a severe appendicitis attack he had suffered a few years earlier.

designed buildings throughout Utah, many schools and even LDS chapels. Lewis also served as a director on the board of Zions Bank.²⁶

In 1922, Lewis was called to serve on the general board of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. He served with notable men such as Melvin J. Ballard, George Albert Smith, B. H. Roberts, John A. Widtsoe and Bryant S. Hinckley.²⁷ Lewis also served in a bishopric for several years.²⁸

In 1946, Lewis died of a heart attack one evening in his office at the age of seventy-three. George Albert Smith, president of the LDS Church, and Apostle John A. Widtsoe both spoke at his funeral, which was held in the Twentieth Ward Chapel.



Chapter 12: Brigham Telle Cannon 1874-1954



Brigham Telle Cannon, shown left, was born in downtown Salt Lake City in the large Cannon residence on August 3rd, 1874. He was baptized exactly eight years later, but his father was absent on both occasions. President Cannon was elected to the House of Representatives two months after Brigham's birth and spent considerable time in the nation's capital over the next two decades. Brigham was named after his father's close associate, Brigham Young.

At the time of Brigham's birth, his home was a busy and active place. John Q., Abraham H., and Frank, Elizabeth and Sarah Jane's older children, were teenagers, although it is possible that Sarah Jane had already moved to the farm by this time. Ten other siblings lived in the house, including Elizabeth's newborn daughter Emily, and three older children of Martha's: Hester, Amelia and Lewis. Brigham was five when his mother moved into Elizabeth's farmhouse in 1879, and during that short span four other children had joined his large family, including his full brother Willard.

Brigham was ten when the federal marshals raided the farm in early 1885, and he was likely among the children who helped aid and abet polygamous husbands as they hid from authorities.

²⁶ Lewis Telle Cannon has his own [Wikipedia](#) page. I also used details from his obituary. A 1915 advertisement for Zions Bank named Lewis and Willard Cannon as directors. At the time of Lewis' death 31 years later, he was the oldest serving director.

²⁷ From an article published in the Deseret News 1 June 1922.

²⁸ This information came from one of several obituaries, this one being the Salt Lake Tribune, 11 October 1946.

Brigham's early schooling was on the farm, but in the late 1880s he attended an academy in town, traveling back and forth on the Dinky. Between 1889 and 1900, President Cannon often named Brigham in his journal as a driver, taking his father and other family members to and from meetings in town, picking his father up at the depot, and even taking President Cannon and others to meetings and then attending with them.

President Cannon gave considerable thought to the education and future of his sons, often discussing his ideas with older siblings or associates in the Church. In the spring of 1891, when Brigham was sixteen, his father approached Brigham, asking him to consider an option:

I went with my son Brigham this morning to the Deseret Woollen Mills and had an interview with Frank Jennings, who is the manager and one of the proprietors, and Mr. Platt, the superintendent. My object in visiting there was to make an arrangement for my son Brigham to go there and learn the business. It was arranged for him to go to work on Monday next and to be taught by Mr. Platt the business. He is to get no wages, and I told Mr. Platt that if he would push him forward I would make it right with him for doing so. He is to be made familiar with all the branches, so that if he proved capable he might be a manager. I impressed upon Brigham the importance of taking a right course and behave himself properly; that his future was now to a great extent in his own hands; he had a good start, and being my son would be an advantage to him, as people would respect him on account of his parentage.²⁹

This opportunity to learn a business did not abdicate Brigham, or his siblings, from responsibilities on the farm. The following month President Cannon wrote:

When I reached home this evening my boys were anxious that I should consent to their going to the mountains for a week or ten days, as a recreation. They were: Brigham, Read, Joseph, Sylvester, Willard and Mark. I told them if they would finish the painting of the kitchen and the outside of the schoolhouse, I should be willing for them to go on Saturday.³⁰

This little account paints an interesting window into their family life. Brigham and Willard were Martha's sons, ages 15 and 12. Reed was Eliza's son, age 15. Sylvester, Elizabeth's son, and Joseph, Sarah Jane's son, were both 14. Mark was their step-brother, age 13, a son of Caroline's. That the expectation in 1891 was that these six teenage boys would paint the schoolhouse kitchen and then be allowed to take a wagon and horses, gather their supplies, including guns, and prepare for a camping trip in the mountain and hunt their own food for ten days is just one indication that they lived in a completely different time. Before they departed, President Cannon wrote:

²⁹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 23 May 1891](#)

³⁰ [George Q. Cannon Journal 29 July 1891](#)

My sons Brigham, Read, Joseph, Sylvester, Willard and Mark are preparing to go to the canyon today and are in high glee. I spoke to them about attending to prayers while they were gone, and to exercise great caution about the use of firearms. I hoped they would have a good time, and come back in safety.³¹

As fall began, President Cannon made additional arrangements for Brigham, shown right, who had been attending the University of Utah:



It had been arranged for my son Brigham to go to work in the Juvenile Instructor Office, to learn press work. He has been working for some time in the Jennings Woollen Factory; but as that establishment is closed up, and will remain so for an indefinite period for the want of funds, I thought he had better go to school again, and he did so, and was commencing the study of chemistry, in which study he takes great interest. He stood at the head of the class at the close of the last term. On this account he felt a little reluctant at first to leave the school. I left it entirely with himself; told him I did not wish him to go into any business he had no taste for; and after serious consideration and prayer, as he told me, he had decided to go to the Juvenile Office.³²

By the fall of 1894, Brigham was twenty years old. He was especially close to his brother Sylvester, who at this time was seventeen and was the youngest son of Elizabeth.³³ Sylvester would later attend MIT with a degree in mining engineering, and he and Brigham worked

together as adults after their missions. Sylvester would later also serve as the Presiding Bishop and then as an apostle. However, as young men, their interests included young women, and in October of 1894, they hosted a party at their father's home.³⁴

A dancing party was given by Messrs. Brigham T. and Sylvester Cannon at the residence of President George Q. Cannon on Friday evening. Among the young people who participated in the pleasures of the evening were Miss Kate Hardin, Miss Mary Price, Miss Winnie Jones, Miss Alice Clawson, Miss Minnie Hardy, Miss Della Daynes, Miss Edna Lambert, Miss Cannon, Miss Emma Young, Miss Edith Midgley, Miss Kate Clawson, Mr. Alex C. Pyper, Mr. Fred Daynes, Mr. Joseph Daynes, Mr. Austin Whitney, Mr. Geo. Morris, Mr. Z. Derrick, Mr. James Lambert, Mr. George Lambert, Mr. Jay Lambert, Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Ed Midgley.

This particular party at the Cannon Farm was covered in the news, shown left. The article named attendees at the party. Alice and Kate Clawson were granddaughters of the late President Brigham Young, and Alice was a first cousin to Brigham's adopted step-siblings. The Lamberts were the grandchildren of President Cannon's sister, Mary Alice.

³¹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 1 August 1891](#)

³² [George Q. Cannon Journal 4 September 1891](#)

³³ It was interesting for me to observe that in President Cannon's references to his son Brigham, Sylvester was almost always mentioned.

³⁴ 14 October 1894 Salt Lake Herald.

Much later, Collins wrote:

During the nineties on the farm the family entered a period of comparative prosperity. Mercantile, Banking and Mining ventures of Father's turned out well. Some of the boys and girls were sent East to college. We were able to dress better though never quite so well as Father. He was always immaculate and really stylish. Life was easy -- I might say idyllic for us youngsters. There was rafting and boating on the pond, swimming in the Jordan, skating in season and horses to ride. We had parties - dances - we were becoming old enough to take interest in that. We had a really good tennis court and there were always enough of us to form two teams for rounders of shinny. We had night games - run sheep run and the like -- everything in fact to delight youngsters. Oh it was a happy period in our young lives. There was lots of work to be done around such a place as ours. We didn't have to do much of it though. There were hired men for that sometimes as many as four or five to look after the extensive lawns and flowers, to put up the hay in summer and the ice in winter - to take care of Father's team and elegant closed coach and to drive him to and from his office in the city. Our personal chores were few and easy -- easy to neglect too and it didn't seem to matter much. Oh it was an easy life.³⁵

Presumably Brigham had been working at the Juvenile press office for several years. However, in December of 1894, when Brigham was twenty years old, he approached his father about serving a mission. President Cannon wrote:

My son Brigham has been called to go on a mission to Germany. He came to me upon my return home this morning and said he had been before the priesthood meeting of the Stake and it had been carried by motion that he should be ordained an Elder, and he desired me to ordain him. I told him if he would come to the office during the day I would have it attended to. He came in and I explained the matter to Presidents Woodruff and Smith, John Henry Smith³⁶ also being present, and President Woodruff thought it proper that I should ordain him. We laid our hands upon him, and I was mouth in ordaining him an Elder, after which we ordained him a Seventy, and at my request President Woodruff ordained him to that office.³⁷



Brigham is shown right at a photo taken about this time. On New Year's Day, President Cannon wrote:

³⁵ "A Brief History of the Young Life of Collins Telle Cannon," 11 January 1952.

³⁶ John Henry Smith was an apostle and also the father of George Albert Smith.

³⁷ [George Q. Cannon Journal 17 December 1894](#)

I dined with my wife Martha, it being my daughter Grace's birthday and our son Brigham expects to go in the morning on his mission to Germany, to which he has been appointed. In the evening a number of his young friends came and the time was spent very pleasantly in music, singing and recitations, and about an hour or two in the dance. I blessed Brigham this evening, as a father.³⁸

In 1897, President Cannon wrote:

I was greatly delighted this morning to meet my son Brigham T., who has just returned from a mission to Germany, having been absent three years. The family were very much excited and pleased at his return. He looks healthy and strong, and of course is delighted to get home. From all I can learn, he appears to have been a very energetic and useful missionary. He has acquired German, and for four months has been laboring in Geneva, preaching in French. He seems to have been gifted in acquiring languages. He has mastered the German very thoroughly, and is a pretty good French scholar also. He attended the German meeting this morning.

At 2 o'clock I attended the meeting in the Tabernacle, and four returned missionaries were called to the stand – Orson Hyde, David Edwards, Charles Dinwoodey, and Brigham T. Cannon. The three first named have been laboring in the States, and spoke excellently. I enjoyed their testimonies very much. Brigham followed, and I was pleased with what he said; but he found it difficult to speak in his mother tongue, as his thoughts ran in German and French, and he had to translate as he went along. His remarks were quite interesting. He did not speak so loud as the others, and probably was not heard by the entire congregation. My brother Angus followed in a few remarks and bore a strong testimony to the people.^{39 40}

The following month President Cannon wrote:

I spent the evening at my wife Martha's. Brigham had Miss Alice Clawson down there visiting. I was greatly pleased to see the improvement Brigham has made in other directions than missionary labor. He has, besides acquiring the German and French languages, learned to play on the zither and on the piano, and to sing.⁴¹

Four weeks later, President Cannon wrote again about Brigham:

³⁸ [George O. Cannon Journal 1 January 1895](#)

³⁹ [George O. Cannon Journal 20 February 1898](#)

⁴⁰ German Mission Manuscript History, under date January 15, 1898.

⁴¹ [George O. Cannon Journal 1 March 1898](#)

My wife Martha and her girls had invited a number of young people to meet at the house with Brigham, in honor of his return. There was a very delightful gathering, and the evening was spent very pleasantly. Brother Arthur Shepherd, a young man of 17 years, who has been studying music in Boston for five years (he went when he was only 12 years of age), played several pieces on the piano. They excelled anything I ever listened to in private company, and in fact I never heard anything on the stage that pleased me as much as did his playing. He is a remarkable performer. My son Brigham was the youngest in the company, excepting Brother Shepherd, and I was greatly pleased to see how well he appeared among his friends. I think he has made use of his opportunities since he has been away, and comes back to us greatly improved. I trust that his improvement will continue, and especially that he will keep the harness on so far as his religious duties are concerned.⁴²

As the year 1898 progressed, President Cannon gave Brigham the management of a 400-acre dry farm he owned. Brigham also managed \$2000 worth of sheep which his father had purchased, and Brigham continued to oversee this property after his father's death.⁴³



In 1899, Brigham, shown left, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board of the Brigham Young Trust Company, a significant responsibility.⁴⁴ During this period, Brigham became involved in several ventures, some with his father's capital, and others with his own funds. For a time he and a few brothers operated a grist mill. Another venture took him to Canada to buy sheep to sell. A third venture, also with his brothers, was a business which manufactured liquid air for ships.⁴⁵ Ultimately, Brigham became president of Utah Roof Cement Company.⁴⁶

In the early fall of 1905 Brigham married Elaine Cecelia Farrell in Omaha, Nebraska.⁴⁷ Cecelia's father, Daniel Farrell, Jr., had worked as a paymaster in the Navy, and Cecelia had

⁴² [George Q. Cannon Journal 3 March 1898](#)

⁴³ [George Q. Cannon Journal 24 November 1898](#). Several advertisements in Salt Lake papers, including one published in the Salt Lake Tribune on 13 February 1906, show Brigham as the manager of this property.

⁴⁴ [George Q. Cannon Journal 21 February 1899](#)

⁴⁵ President Cannon mentioned these three enterprises in various 1899 journal entries. He did not believe the grist mill would turn a profit. Some he was impressed with, such as the liquid air opportunity. Dirigibles used hydrogen and began operating about this time. It is possible that the concept was not explained well to President Cannon.

⁴⁶ Brigham's 1954 death certificate provided this information.

⁴⁷ Intermountain Catholic 14 October 1905.

been born in Japan. Mr. Farrell and his wife Annie ultimately settled in Omaha where he was a respected and involved citizen. Daniel had died unexpectedly in 1897, leaving a young widow and four children, including Cecelia.⁴⁸

After their marriage, Brigham and Cecelia toured Europe and returned to Salt Lake City at the beginning of 1906. A son, Howard, was born in 1908. In 1912, Cecelia hosted a social event for her sister Irene, shown at right, when she visited Salt Lake City that year.⁴⁹ In 1914 the couple moved to Los Angeles⁵⁰ where a daughter, Patricia was born the following year. Cecelia died in California in 1918 during the worldwide flu pandemic, and Brigham brought his two children back to Utah where he lived for a time in the Hotel Utah.⁵¹



Brigham's second marriage was in 1923 to Margaret Schramm, who had been born in Prussia and had possibly known Brigham during his mission, as her mother had been baptized during the time he served. Margaret, her brother Paul and mother Marie had immigrated to Utah after the turn of the century, where her mother soon married a widowed pioneer, Benjamin Lamoni Alexander, who adopted Margaret and Paul. Margaret's mother and step-father were faithful members of the LDS Church. Unfortunately, Brigham's marriage to Margaret did not last.

In 1943, Brigham married Melva Bawden, shown right. Brigham died from a heart attack in Salt Lake City in 1954 at the age of eighty. Melva outlived him by almost thirty years.



Chapter 13: Willard Telle Cannon 1877-1937

Martha's third son and fifth child, Willard Telle Cannon, named after Apostle Willard Richards, was not born in Salt Lake City. In the fall of 1876, Martha traveled to St. George with her husband in the company of Brigham Young, Wilford Woodruff and other Church leaders who desired to inspect the progress of the nearly-completed St. George Temple. Loading their horses and carriages onto the train, the party traveled as far as Nephi, where the leaders preached to

⁴⁸ Newspaper articles from the Omaha Bee indicated Daniel Farrell's death was accidental and showed that he was a man loved and respected by the community.

⁴⁹ Salt Lake Telegram 24 February 1912.

⁵⁰ A society article published in the Salt Lake Telegram 21 March 1914 told of their move to Los Angeles.

⁵¹ My aunt Ida Mae Cannon Smith told me that Brigham returned to Utah after his wife's death and lived in the Hotel Utah. His son Howard went by the name of Nick. Ida Mae knew both Patricia and Nick, her first cousins.

members and where they spent the night. The next day they continued traveling by carriage, and Martha, in the early weeks of her fourth pregnancy, became very cold. George wrote:

President Young kindly pressed upon me the use of his fur coat and boots for my wife, who was much affected by the cold. He said he would not use them himself. I felt greatly obliged to him for his thoughtful kindness.

The group arrived in St. George after nine days of traveling and visiting with members. Everyone was thrilled to see the St. George Temple, shown here.⁵² After a recent storm,

...it stood out in bold relief and in marked contrast with the black and red hills which surround the little valley in which St. George stands. The temple is pure white, and is a massive, unique building. It excited peculiar emotions in all the party to witness once more a temple erected to the Most High God.



Leaving Martha in the care of the family of George's sister Ann Cannon Woodbury, shown far right, President Young and Elder Cannon spent the evening with his brother David, shown center right. The next day the leaders visited the temple. George wrote:



The font is being bronzed. From the basement we ascended into the grand hall; and here our emotions -- or I will speak for myself, my emotions almost overpowered me. I felt as though I did not want to talk to but yield [to] the sweet impressions of the occasions....A person who can enter that room without feeling peculiar sensations and being impressed that it was a holy place must be either very thoughtless or dead to all sensibility.

After a weekend of meetings in the tabernacle, Apostle Brigham Young, the son and namesake of President Brigham Young, set Elder Cannon apart before George's departure for Washington D.C. They discussed Martha's situation, as she was clearly not feeling well. Elder Cannon wrote:

⁵² This render of the 1877 St. George Temple was made by my friend [Brian Olson](#) and is used by permission.

My wife's health scarcely permitted her to travel without risk. I submitted the matter to Prest. Young, and he advised me to leave her here for the winter, and she might be able to help in the Temple; and have the children sent down to her.

George returned to Salt Lake City and then went on to Washington D.C. by train.⁵³

The following month, on Christmas Day, Martha wrote George:

I have had three letters from you since I wrote; the first written at Salt Lake City Nov. 28th; the second written Dec. 3rd soon after your arrival in Washington. Your last letter dated Dec 8th found us together again, mother and children united once more. The children arrived safe on Monday afternoon in eleven days from home in tolerable health...my health is much better than when you were here. We are still living with David's folks. You can imagine how thick we are with six of us and eleven of theirs. And with nine children under seven in one room there is plenty of wise and stir you may be assured. The rooms are nearly ready for me to move into -- but it may be some time before I can verify them as there has been a call made for the plasterers to go to the Temple to work.⁵⁴

Elder Cannon returned to St. George in April of 1877 for the dedication of the temple and was reunited with Martha for a short time before he returned to Salt Lake City. He wrote her on the 10th of June to let her know of the recent births of Sarah Jane's and Elizabeth's sons, Joseph and Sylvester:

Elizabeth was safely delivered of a boy on Sunday morning (the 10th). It was born at 7.20. I was surprised when I got up to see the baby being washed. He is a promising child. I hope every day to get a dispatch respecting yourself and your safe delivery. I hope you do not allow yourself to get the least despondent. You must keep cheerful. The hot weather I hope will not oppress you too much. I feel very hopeful concerning you, and expect to hear good news when I hear any. Sarah Jane and baby are doing well. We call him Joseph. The children are much delighted with their new brothers. If you and the children were here the family circle would be complete. I hope you will be soon.⁵⁵

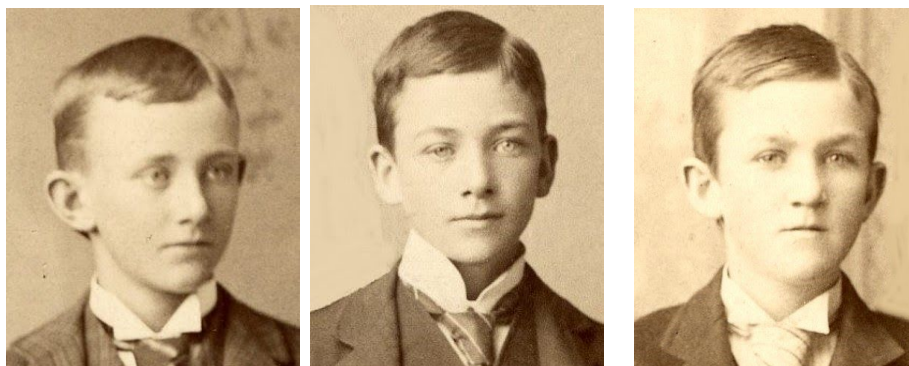
⁵³ [George Q. Cannon Journal November 1876](#)

⁵⁴ Martha Telle Cannon to George Q. Cannon 25 December 1876. In a letter dated the next day, Martha told George that "the Mansfield's" brought her children from Salt Lake City to St. George, charging \$30, which her brother-in-law David said was very reasonable.

⁵⁵ Letter from George Q. Cannon to Martha Telle Cannon 12 June 1877.

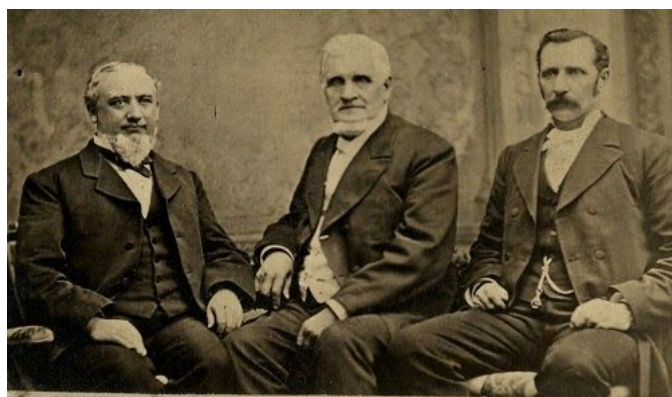
These three sons, Sylvester, Joseph and Willard, shown left to right, were born so close together that they were known as “the triplets.” About fifteen years later these three received an admonition from

President Cannon after setting turkeys on fire, although no other details are known.⁵⁶



President Young, age 76, died a few months after the St. George Temple dedication. President Young was succeeded

by Elder Cannon’s uncle, John Taylor, who was the president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He is shown, center, with his counselors George Q. Cannon, far left, and Joseph F. Smith.



Eight years later, on June 25th, 1885, George wrote about Willard’s baptism which occurred in the presence of Sondra Saunders, a school teacher mentioned earlier:

Monday: Went to my home on the river in the evening. My son Willard Telle Cannon was eight years old on the 20th, and according to my custom, should have been baptized on that day. As I was not at home it was not attended to. I baptized him this evening in the river Jordan and Bro. S. Saunders, Jr., and myself confirmed him, I being mouth.⁵⁷

Late in the summer of 1893, during a nation-wide financial panic, President Cannon called four of his sons together, the group known as the triplets, plus Eliza’s son Reed, age eighteen. Joseph, Sylvester and Willard were each sixteen. George apprised them of his financial difficulties and asked them to postpone school for a year and instead take over the work on the farm. He wrote, “there was a very good spirit manifested, and all acquiesced in the conclusion, and all felt to do what they could to save expense.”⁵⁸ However, their education was not

⁵⁶ “Pioneer, Prophet, Politician, Prisoner,” by Grant Cannon, 1911-1969.

⁵⁷ [George Q. Cannon Journal 22 June 1885.](#)

⁵⁸ [George Q. Cannon Journal 17 August 1893.](#)

neglected. By 1895 Willard and Sylvester had been admitted to Harvard from which they both graduated in 1899.⁵⁹

In 1900, Willard married his step-sister, Caroline Young Croxall, known as Carol. When their parents married in 1884, Willard was eleven years old and Carol was nine. Carol is shown with her mother and sisters, seated second from the right in a photograph taken about 1896. After their marriage, the couple lived on the farm in a home which had been the residence of Carl Wilcken, President Cannon's driver.⁶⁰



By 1902, the couple had a son and Carol was expecting a second child when Willard was called to be the president of the Netherlands Mission. Set apart and ordained a Seventy by Apostle Rudger Clawson, he replaced his brother Sylvester Q. as mission president.⁶¹ Carol's daughter



was born in Salt Lake City a few months after William's departure and then Carol joined Willard in the mission field. A week after their return from the Netherlands, a third child, Phyllis, was born. They later had four more children.

⁵⁹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 28 May 1899](#)

⁶⁰ [George Q. Cannon Journal 28 January 1900](#).

⁶¹ LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, by Andrew Jensen, page 357.

Apostle Heber J. Grant, serving as president of the British Mission in 1905, visited the European missions. He is shown in the center of the photograph, with Willard seated to the right. Hugh Jenne Cannon, seven years older than Willard and who was serving as president of the German Mission, is seated on the other side of President Grant.



After his mission, Willard, shown right, became involved with his brother Brigham in mining ventures, later joining his brother Lewis in the banking business, both sitting on Zions' board of directors. Willard was one of several brothers who directed the George Q. Cannon Association which managed the properties and businesses that belonged to the family.⁶² He bought a variety of stock and was involved with many startup ventures, including a brick business.



By 1917, Willard had focused his efforts on building the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, which produced sugar from beets grown in Utah, Idaho and other western states. Two years later he built a ten-room home near the state capitol.⁶³ At the end of his career, Willard was the vice president and general manager of the company.⁶⁴ He is shown at left about 1936 with his wife Carol.

In 1938, while vacationing with his family on a Christmas cruise through the Panama Canal enroute to Cuba, Willard, age sixty, died suddenly from a heart attack. His funeral was held in the 18th Ward Chapel, two days after his body was returned to the States. Heber J. Grant, president of the LDS Church, and his counselor David O. McKay both spoke at Willard's funeral. Carol lived seventeen more years.



Chapter 14: Grace Telle Cannon 1880-1945

Grace, born on New Year's Day in 1880, was the first of Martha's children to be born on the farm. Grace's early years of education were spent in the schoolhouse with her mother as teacher. She then attended the private school of Camilla Mieth Cobb, a German

⁶² For just one example of many, the 1909 city directory shows Willard as being involved with the family association. Numerous references to this association showed up in newspaper articles and the city directory.

⁶³ An article published in the Salt Lake Tribune on 14 August 1938 described the home and its sale.

⁶⁴ I used news articles culled from many newspapers between 1907 and 1937 to learn about Willard's career.

immigrant who was the sister-in-law of Karl G. Maeser. From there, Grace, shown right, attended the University of Deseret, receiving a similar education as those of her older siblings.⁶⁵

Near the end of the 19th century, Grace attended the Boston Cooking School. In September of 1898, Grace and four of her siblings received their endowments in the Salt Lake Temple before departing for Boston together. Her father with his wife Caroline visited the group of six during the spring of 1899:

Reached Boston at 8 o'clock and I was met at the station by my sons Sylvester Q. and Willard T., who took me to their quarters. We had a very happy meeting – my wife Caroline and Georgius, and the six children who have been living in Boston, viz., Sylvester Q., Willard T., Emily H., Carol Y., Grace T., and Vera Y. I was greatly pleased with the way in which they were situated. They have a flat of six rooms and bath in a respectable quarter of town, a very nice house, and have all the conveniences for doing their own cooking and housework. They look healthy and well-kept, and have no doubt lived very comfortably. I was greatly pleased to hear their expressions. Emily and Grace told me that their residence here had been the happiest in their lives, and all the others seemed to have the same feeling. They appear very grateful for the opportunities they have had. It has been quite a burden to me to furnish the necessary money, but I feel compensated by the pleasure it has given them. Sylvester and Willard have finished their courses. They are having their examinations now and hope that they will be able to graduate in a few days.⁶⁶

Grace returned from Boston and began studies in shorthand at the Latter-day Saints' College, where she received a degree in 1900.⁶⁷ After her education, Grace opened a cooking school in Salt Lake City which she named "Miss Cannon's School of Cookery." Throughout her life, Grace taught cooking skills to a variety of groups. A speciality was making candy.⁶⁸



In 1904, Grace met Charles Clarence Neslen, left, who had recently returned from a three-year mission. Elder Neslen had presided over six branches and 250 members of the Konigsberg Conference within an area that is now part of Russia.⁶⁹ Because of difficulties with political leaders in Germany and Prussia, Elder Neslen spent time in jail on several

⁶⁵ "History of Grace Telle Cannon Neslen 1880-1945," written by Clarence C. Neslen & Leone Rockwood Neslen. Information about Camilla Cobb came from her [Wikipedia page](#).

⁶⁶ [George Q. Cannon Journal 28 May 1899](#)

⁶⁷ Grace's graduation from the business college came from an article in the Salt Lake Herald published 1 Jun 1900.

⁶⁸ An article in the Deseret News on 9 December 1935 advertised a free candy-making class which would be taught by Grace T. Neslen at the Lion House that evening.

⁶⁹ German Mission Manuscript history 1840-1858, Volume 1, accessed via the LDS Missionary database.

different occasions.⁷⁰ In the picture below, Elder Neslen is seated at the lower left. Elder Quayle Cannon is standing top left. Elder Cannon, just two days older than Grace, was the son of Angus Munn Cannon.



Clarence was the grandson of Samuel Neslen, a British convert who had brought his family from England and then returned to serve a mission. After settling in Salt Lake City, Samuel purchased property on South Temple and A Street where he built an adobe house. His son Robert continued to live in the home, later with his wife Eliza. Clarence was born there in 1879.

Clarence loved to learn and was among the first graduates in 1897 of the new Lowell school, which was created in 1892 and built next to the new Twentieth Ward Chapel, which at that early time was at D Street and 2nd Avenue. Clarence then attended classes at the University of Utah, after which he worked for the Deseret News, a job to which he would return after his mission.

After marrying Grace in the Salt Lake Temple in 1905, Clarence consented to his mother-in-law's wishes that the couple live on the Cannon farm instead of in his own family home. In 1906, the couple moved to a home just a few blocks from the farm where their first child Clarey was born.⁷¹

By 1910, Robert Neslen deeded the family home at 313 Third Avenue to Clarence, and he and Grace lived there for the rest of their lives.⁷² Clarence devoted many resources over the next several decades to improving this beautiful home for his family.⁷³ This house was in the boundaries of the Twentieth Ward, a ward created in 1856 where an early pioneer, George Romney, was called to be the bishop in 1888.⁷⁴

In 1913, not long after the birth of their third child, Clarence was called to be the bishop of the Twentieth Ward, where he served for twenty-five



⁷⁰ Prominent Latter-Day Saints of Utah, Charles Clarence Neslen.

⁷¹ "History of Grace Telle Cannon Neslen 1880-1945," written by Clarence C. Neslen & Leone Rockwood Neslen, who indicate the family initially moved to a home near the farm. The history of Clarence by the same authors states they lived on the farm for one year. The 1906, 1907 and 1909 city directories show Clarence at 1224 S 8th West which is near the farm property, but I don't believe it was on the farm.

⁷² The 1910 city directory shows Clarence at the family home on 3rd Avenue. LDS Film 26862, Cannon Ward Records, show that the Neslen family's records were moved to the Twentieth Ward on the 30th of April 1910.

⁷³ Much of the information about C. C. Neslen came from "History of Charles Clarence Neslen 1879-1967" by Clarence C. Neslen and Leone Rockwood Neslen.

⁷⁴ "Short Summary of George Romney," found on his page in Family Tree KWJQ-8GP.

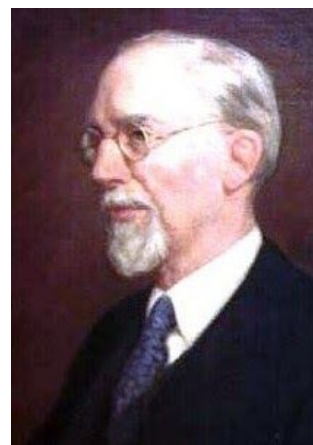
years. In 1938, Clarence was released and Grace's younger half-brother, Edwin Quayle Cannon, shown at right, was called to be the bishop.⁷⁵



Grace was very active in Church callings, serving as president of the Twentieth Ward Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association, known as the YLMIA. Later she was given several stake callings. In 1923 Grace was called to be on the general board of the YLMIA, where she served for twenty-two years. Clarence was a Democrat and mayor of Salt Lake City who hosted U.S. Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding. Grace had come from a staunch Republican family. Their children, four of whom are shown at left with Grace, later quipped that at evening prayers, the Democrats would kneel on the side of the bed next to their father, the Republicans kneeling on the other side of the bed with their mother.⁷⁶

During WWII, with two sons overseas in the military, Clarence served with the 145th Field Artillery Regiment in central California. Later he served as the Chief of Chaplains in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Just after the War, in September of 1945, the Idaho Falls Temple was dedicated by George Albert Smith, shown at right, the newly-sustained president of the LDS Church who had replaced Heber J. Grant earlier that year. Grace and her husband attended this event with other members of the general board. On the return trip, while traveling on the highway through Blackfoot, Idaho, an oncoming car hit theirs, and Grace, age sixty-five, and another passenger were killed. Clarence was wounded but recovered. Their oldest son Clarey, on active duty in the Navy, was on a ship returning to the States and was unable to attend his mother's funeral.



President Smith spoke at Grace's funeral. His remarks were not transcribed at the time, but many felt that his words were too important to be forgotten, so an unnamed family member recorded his impressions of President Smith's talk, which President Smith then approved. These remarks were published that year in the annual Cannon Family Chronicle. In part, this family member wrote:

⁷⁵ Twentieth Ward History 1856-1979, by Ruth J. Martin, page 67.

⁷⁶ Twentieth Ward History, by Ruth J. Martin, LDS Film 1059487, page 64.

As I listened to the voice and the words of president George Albert Smith at the funeral services for Grace Cannon Neslen, I was moved to the point of conviction where I felt that I knew I had heard a prophet speaking under the divine inspiration of his calling.

The occasion itself was beset with many unusual circumstances. Depression of spirit and bewilderment were still upon us because of the unexplained (and, to our minds at least, unexplainable) tragedy of the accident which a week before had taken the lives of Newel F. Josephson and Grace. C. Neslen, and had grievously injured the three other occupants of the car, C. Clarence Neslen, Marba Cannon Josephson [Grace's niece] and Norma Fairbanks Romney, all of whom were returning from the glorious experience of participating in the dedicatory services of the Idaho Falls Temple. We approached the occasion, therefore, as we did the services of Brother Newel Josephson on the day preceding, with thoughts confused and hearts troubled, and with many unanswered questions.

President George Albert Smith began speaking. There was nothing markedly unusual about his opening phrases. His quiet words were of comfort and consolation. His testimony of God's great plan and of man's immortal nature were offered in the sweet spirit of peace and of solace and of reassurance, such as he unfailingly brings to such occasions.

And then, almost imperceptibly, and yet unmistakably, something happened which was at once thrilling and undeniably solemn. I cannot say at what point in his speaking this change occurred, but he had not proceeded far when there came upon us who listened a penetrating conviction that we were hearing a servant of the Lord speaking beyond himself, speaking words that were quickened somehow with meaning beyond their usual meaning. I would not say that it was so much his voice or his manner that had changed. I would not say that even he himself was aware of it – but I do say that there came upon those who sat within that chapel, a feeling of conviction that they had heard a message of advice and counsel prompted by the love of those who have passed beyond for those who still live in mortal life.

I shall not try to quote him directly; I shall record only my own impressions of what he said. However, I am sure in my own mind that some of those things here recorded closely approximate his exact words.

President Smith said that he had known for some time that it would be necessary for him to have a meeting with the Cannon family; but he did not know, of course, that it would be so soon or under these circumstances. Perhaps some three months before, in the quiet of his room at home, he had strongly felt the influence of George Q. Cannon. He said that he did not see a face and he did not hear a voice, but he was nevertheless as

convinced as though he had both seen him and heard him speak that George Q. Cannon earnestly wished him to know that he was concerned about his family.

President Smith then referred to the sudden and unexpected death of Grace as example of the uncertainty of life and as an evidence of the wisdom of keeping our lives in order and of being constantly prepared for whatever unforeseen eventualities may be awaiting us. He referred to Grace as one of the best prepared to go, and as one to whom death at this time might be the least expected. He pointed out that it will not be long before all of us, in the course of natural events, to say nothing of accidental events, will go to the Other Side to meet our Father in Heaven and our loved ones who have preceded us in death, and that great would be our rejoicing with them if we had been faithful to our covenants and to the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He referred to the great concern for us of those who live on the Other Side, because they realize, perhaps more than do we, the importance of faithfulness and diligence in this life.

He spoke of George Q. Cannon's deep love for his family, of his pride in and his affection for his children. He spoke of George Q. Cannon and his brother, Angus M. – that he knew them better than others, and of the notable service they had rendered to the Church. He referred to the many contributions of the Cannon family to the community and to the nation – contributions in business, in civic affairs, and especially of their contributions to the arts, to literature and to the cultural development of their day and generation.

He expressed his respect and admiration and love for all the members of the Cannon family, and emphasized their strength, their noble heritage, their illustrious forebears, their notable service and their glorious opportunities. He referred to them as a worthy posterity of noble progenitors, and commended especially those who had been diligent in the cause of truth and faithful to their covenants and who had followed the way of life for which their fathers had given so much and from which they had gained so much. He spoke of the early missionary experiences of George Q. Cannon and of some of the marvelous manifestations that had been given unto him, and of his great usefulness to the Church and to the nation – and then he reiterated that he knew it was his obligation to speak and to say these things to the Cannon family and that it was his conviction that George Q. Cannon was concerned for his family, and was nearer to them in his thoughts and in his influence, and perhaps in his very presence, than most of them had had reason to suppose.

These are all of President Smith's thoughts on this subject that I can now recall. Words fade rapidly from memory, but impressions do not. As I sat there and listened, a peculiar feeling moved through me. I thought that I should never forget what I had heard, but now I know that even should I forget the words which I had heard, I shall never forget the



things which I felt on that occasion. I thought of those revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants which came by way of counsel and comfort to specific individuals, and which, recorded and preserved, have come down to us for our general instruction and advice – and I could not dismiss the thought that if any family has ever had a message for its particular benefit and counsel from the realm beyond the physical world in which we live, the Cannon family has had such a message delivered to it this day.

At some point in his remarks – again not perceptibly, not as to words nor as to manner, nor as to voice, but most certainly as to my own feelings and the feelings of others who have likewise expressed themselves – I felt that I was hearing

President George Albert Smith in his kindly and comforting way, giving peace and help and assurance to the bereaved.

I hesitate to use the word “warning.” It has implications which are not pleasant to contemplate, and which are disliked, perhaps, by all of us. I think President Smith would not use the word. I am sure that he did not use it on this occasion – but I felt that we had this day heard in very deed a voice of warning and the plea of a great and good father from our of the unseen realm of the kingdom of God, pleading for his children and his children’s children, down to the last generation, so to order their lives that where he is, there they may be also.⁷⁷

At the time of her death, Grace’s half-brother Edwin was her stake president and he dedicated her grave.

Chapter 15: Radcliffe Quayle Telle Cannon 1883-1961

On the first of August 1883, President Cannon wrote:

Just as I was about to leave home this morning my wife Martha informed me that I would have to get a midwife as she thought she would be confined today. I resolved to stay at home and sent my Gardener, Dan Jones, with his buggy to town for Sister Farr, who had

⁷⁷ “Reflections on the remarks of President George Albert Smith at the Funeral Services for Grace Cannon Neslen, held October 2, 1945, in the Twentieth Ward Chapel, Salt Lake City, Utah,” published in the 1945 historical leaflet by the George Cannon Family Association. While the author was not named, I have wondered if it might have been Edwin Q. Cannon, who, as stake president, would have been on the stand as President Smith spoke. Also, on 11 December 1997, after a Messiah rehearsal in Short Hills, New Jersey, I spoke with Clawson Young Cannon, a grandson of President Cannon and Caroline Young Croxall Cannon and who was the first who told me of President Smith’s remarks. (He was the conductor and I was the organist with the orchestra. The tenor was also a Cannon descendant.) Clawson told me that President Smith’s words were considered by all present to be a warning from George Q. Cannon to his posterity.

usually attended my wife Martha at such times. I sent a note to Bro. George Reynolds informing him of the cause of my detention, and stating that I would like to have the business which had been entrusted to us postponed in case I should not be at the Council this afternoon. At 1/2 past 5 o'clock, p.m. my wife was delivered of a fine boy, at which we all rejoice.



The following week President Cannon wrote:

It being the eighth day from the birth of my son I blessed him this morning in the presence of my children. I called him Radcliffe Quayle Telle Cannon. I felt well in bestowing blessing upon him and hope he will live to enjoy it.⁷⁸

Radcliffe, left, had joined a large family and was the seventh of Martha's children. However, in 1883, eighteen older brothers and sisters already lived on the farm, and even older siblings were married and had families of their own. This child had a long and meaningful name, but he was often called Rad by his siblings.⁷⁹

As a child, Radcliffe suffered with vision problems. In the spring of 1891, President Cannon sought medical attention for him in San Francisco which resulted in corrective surgery. President Cannon, who was apparently accompanied on the trip by Apostle Rudger Clawson, wrote:

Friday, 17 April 1891. In the evening, packed my trunk and took leave of my family, and was driven to the train for San Francisco by my son David [shown at right]. My son Radcliffe, who is seven years of age, accompanied me, as I was desirous to have his eyes examined. He has been cross-eyed for four or five years, produced, we think, by a fall. I took a sleeper and went to bed.



Monday, April 20th, 1891. I took my son to an optician by the name of Berteling, who is very skillful in fitting glasses to the eyes of persons of defective vision. After a pretty thorough examination of Radcliffe's eyes, he decided that he had no glasses that he thought would remedy the defect. He gave me the names of two eminent oculists there,

⁷⁸ [George Q. Cannon Journal 1, 9 August 1883](#). The third name Telle seems to have been lost, or maybe forgotten, from Radcliffe's name. LDS Film #26862, Cannon Ward Records, shows his name as Radcliffe Telle Cannon, the Telle name was crossed out and Quayle written above.

⁷⁹ My grandfather called him Rad.

one by the name of Cornwall, whom we visited. He examined Radcliffe's eyes very thoroughly, and after listening to his explanations I decided to have him perform an operation. He put the boy under the influence of chloroform, and cut the nerve of the eye. I left Brother Clawson with the boy until he recovered, and went to meet Judge Estee, with whom I had made an appointment, through Col. Trumbo,⁸⁰ to meet at 3 o'clock.

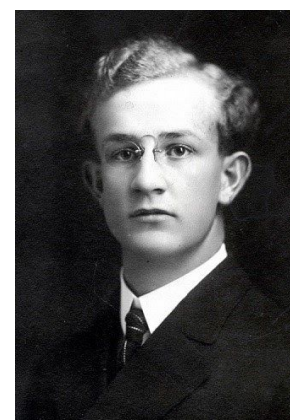
Wednesday, 22 April 1891. In the evening went to the Baldwin Theatre with Brother Clawson, the Manager having tendered us free tickets. I took my son Radcliffe with me.

Thursday, 23 April 1891. Early this morning I took Radcliffe to the Cliff House, to see the seals.

Friday, 24 April 1891. At quarter to six Brother Clawson and myself and son Radcliffe went to Col. Trumbo's to dinner, and had a very elegant meal.

President Cannon and Radcliffe returned to Utah the next week, apparently feeling confident about the success of the surgery.⁸¹ Radcliffe, right, was baptized a few months later on his eighth birthday.

At age twelve, in 1895, Radcliffe and his sister Grace accompanied their mother to the Salt Lake Temple where they performed baptisms for deceased members of Martha's extended family. Radcliffe was the proxy for Martha's grandfather, Ambrose Telle. Grace was the proxy for three of Martha's aunts.⁸²



Radcliffe, at the age of sixteen, joined with Brigham in a venture of the grist mill, mentioned earlier, one example of how he learned about hard work at an early age.⁸³

In the spring of 1900, Radcliffe was just seventeen, but his father gave him a large responsibility, even though he was not the oldest child on the farm.⁸⁴ On the 14th of May, 1900, President Cannon wrote:

⁸⁰ [Colonel Isaac Trumbo](#) was a friend of President Cannon's and member of the LDS Church.

⁸¹ [George Q. Cannon Journal April 1891](#).

⁸² It appears that Martha did not know Ambrose Telle's full name. The records show the deceased was "Mr. Telle." This data is from LDS film 183415.

⁸³ [George Q. Cannon Journal 29 August 1899](#).

⁸⁴ The 1900 census shows that all of Radcliffe's full siblings lived at home on the farm except for Amelia, who was married with two children of her own, and Willard, who was in Germany on his mission. Caroline's son Tracy, age 19, who had been adopted by George, lived on the farm, as did his sister Vera. Caroline's four children with George were also in the home, all younger than Radcliffe. Emily and Sylvester, Elizabeth's youngest children, were both on the farm and also both older than Radcliffe. Three of Sarah Jane's children lived in her home, each also older than Radcliffe. Two notes: 1) Radcliffe was enumerated as Richard on this census, and 2) the enumerator indicated that President Cannon lived with Caroline in the mansion where he had made his home since moving out of Elizabeth's farmhouse two years earlier.

I have arranged with my son Radcliffe to hold the necessary funds to keep the dining room running and supply in turn each of my daughters who take charge of the purchasing with the requisite funds.

A few months later, President Cannon was moved to action after contemplating the education of his younger sons. He wrote:

Sunday, 23 September 1900. I had a long talk to-day with my son Willard concerning my boys younger than he and the best thing to do about their schooling. Not counting Georgius, I have eight sons younger than he, and some of them are of an age to call for some decision as to what line of work they will pursue, and as the schools are now opening I feel impressed to have them take such studies as will be of benefit to them in whatever pursuit they adopt. The two oldest of the eight are Preston and Karl. Karl has decided on studying electrical engineering. He has been working for some time for the Utah Light & Power Co. and appears to have an aptitude for the business. Preston's sickness through his operation for appendicitis has broken into his life and caused him to leave his mission in Germany unfinished. I have always thought that he would be a stockman. He himself feels that he would rather pursue that calling than anything else in sight. The next oldest is Radcliffe, who desires to be an engineer. I suggest that he be a mechanical engineer. Clawson seems to have a great liking for horses, cattle and sheep. Espy wants to be an electrical engineer. I suggested to him that they must not crowd the engineering profession too much. Willard suggested that I have one of the boys trained to sugar manufacture and give him a good mechanical education, which strikes me favorably. The younger of the boys, of course there is no necessity to talk about their professions at present.⁸⁵

Radcliffe attended the University of Utah while he worked as a bank clerk.⁸⁶ In 1904, he went to Belgium as a missionary where he served for three years. In 1911, Radcliffe married Maud Riter in the Salt Lake Temple. Maud,⁸⁷ a trained vocalist who studied in Berlin, was the daughter of an early convert, faithful missionary and successful banker. She was also the sister of Elsie Riter, who had married Radcliffe's step-brother Tracy Young Croxall Cannon in 1903 but had died in 1907.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ [George O. Cannon Journal 23 September 1900](#)

⁸⁶ His 1904 passport application shows his occupation as a bank clerk.

⁸⁷ An article, published in the *Deseret News* on 20 July 1943 after Maud won a gardening contest, provided a rich description of her background.

⁸⁸ Elsie died in Germany in 1907, possibly where Tracy was studying music. Ancestry has the *Finland* ship manifest of 12 June 1907 with Tracy identified as a student, returning alone, although Elsie's casket was surely onboard.

Radcliffe and Maude's first child, a son, died young. They had three more children, settling into a home at the end of a cul de sac in a quiet neighborhood in Holladay.

Early in his career, Radcliffe worked for Merchants Bank and Deseret Savings Bank, ultimately retiring from Zions Bank. In 1961 at the age of seventy-seven, six years after Maud died of a heart attack, Radcliffe also died from a heart attack, just a few weeks before his younger brother Collins would pass away. Three days after his death, his family gathered at his graveside in the Salt Lake City Cemetery for his burial.⁸⁹

Chapter 16: Espey Telle Cannon 1886-1971

Espey was the child Martha was carrying when she was questioned by federal marshals in 1886, during the time when President Cannon had been in hiding for months with President Taylor. The week before Espey's birth, President Cannon wrote that his driver had received intelligence that the marshals were trailing members of his family. Because it appeared that the marshals had suspicions about where George might be, it became necessary for him to change locations. He added:

I am warned by these reports to be very careful. I would not on any account expose myself knowingly to be tracked or captured by these men.

On the 16th of June 1886, President Cannon wrote:

My wife Martha was safely delivered of a fine boy at six o'clock. This evening Bro. Wilcken, who had been out searching for a place of retreat for us, called at my place and brought me the news.

The following week President Cannon risked returning to the farm in order to bless his newest child:

This evening Bro. Bateman took me down to Cannon's Home. I called my family together at my wife Martha's house and after offering prayer I blessed my new-born son, who has now entered on his eighth day, and called him Espey Telle Cannon. Bro. Bateman joined in blessing him, I being mouth. I felt exceedingly well in blessing him. Partook of ice-cream and other refreshments. We got back to our quarters about mid-night.⁹⁰



⁸⁹ Obituary of Radcliffe Q. Cannon, Deseret News 8 April 1961.

⁹⁰ [George Q. Cannon Journal 7-23 June 1886](#). Both the spellings Espy and Espey were used by Espey and his father. Espey gave his oldest son his given name and spelled it Espey, so I have used this spelling.

Espey's childhood was similar to that of his younger brother Collins. They both spent the winter of 1888-1889 in Manassa, Colorado while their father was in prison. President Cannon mentioned Espey, shown right, in several entries: Espey attended family gatherings, was occasionally ill, and in one instance, President Cannon described what might have been thirteen-year-old Espey's first dramatic role.

This acting event occurred in 1900, on Thursday, January 11th, at the family's elaborate party for their father's seventy-third birthday. The celebration was held at Sarah Jane's home and she had requested that President Cannon return from the city by 2 o'clock. He wrote that at 3 p.m. the large group sat for dinner, with eighty-three people present from his own family. He then described the program, where his younger children represented fairies and elves. His granddaughter Elizabeth portrayed George's mother Ann, and Espey, George wrote, "impersonated me." The actors spoke in rhyme, performing an operetta:

My tears flowed copiously. I had no idea whatever of this being in preparation, and it was a complete surprise; in fact, it took me a little time after it commenced to see clearly that it was referring to me and my life. The children performed their parts admirably. They must have been very well drilled. I sat filled with wonder as to who of my family could have had the ability to do this, because the rhymes and the tunes were so appropriate. I made inquiry about it, and learned that it was John Q.'s wife. It was surprisingly clever, and I was deeply touched by it.

President Cannon included in his journal the printed program from this event. Collins, age twelve, played the role of a missionary, likely John Taylor, who had taken the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to their family in Liverpool in 1840.⁹¹

The menu, with food prepared by his daughters and surely with Grace's influence and assistance, was also printed on the program:

Veal Soup -- Crackers
 Celery -- Salted Almonds -- Olives
 Cold Turkey -- Sliced Ham
 Cranberry Sauce
 Creamed Mushrooms in Timbale Cases
 Thin Bread and Butter
 Celery and Cabbage Salad
 Cheese Wafers
 Bombe Glacee -- Assorted Cakes

⁹¹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 11 January 1900.](#)

Not long after this event, President Cannon's wives proposed that the family meals be re-established. These had been discontinued for two years due to financial constraints. At this time he wrote:

There are various reasons why they wish this. Some think they would see more of myself and have more of my company, and the children would have a better chance to see me. We can get together and have family prayers also; and it is felt that it will be every way beneficial and promote union and love. I was much gratified to have them manifest this feeling; and although it costs me more than living separately I feel as though I will try and meet any additional expense to gratify them and carry out this method of living, which I think is a good example. We took dinner together this evening. The two girls that have lived with my wives Martha and Caroline have undertaken to do our cooking, and I think it will be attended with the best of results. In the first place I believe it will be healthier, because we shall eat regularly, and in courses, and take more time at our meals, and will necessarily live a little better – all of which will conduce to good health. I am very thankful for the spirit manifested in this matter, as it is in the direction that I wish to operate. In attending to prayers I call on each member of the family to pray in turn; the same in asking blessing on the food. I commenced this evening with the youngest, and shall go on to the oldest, in the blessing; and in family praying I shall commence with the oldest and go to the youngest.⁹²

In the month of March, 1900, President Cannon found himself dealing with the crushed feelings of his adopted son Mark, and young Espey was involved.⁹³ In fact, President Cannon had been so upset upon learning about this, on a Sunday morning, that he could not bring himself to travel to the Davis stake conference which was held that day.

President Cannon had learned, over the course of the previous weeks, that Mark, at this time age twenty-two and who had recently returned from a Southern States mission, intended to establish a stock business in Canada. This would entail him leaving Utah, his mother and the farm. President Cannon was concerned that Mark didn't have sufficient knowledge about the business to be successful, and in speaking with Mark, President Cannon encouraged Mark to work on the family farm in Westover where George had employed a skilled farmer who could train Mark.⁹⁴ Mark replied that he didn't feel he could marry until he had his own business, and since he was already engaged, he was anxious to start his own business as soon as possible.⁹⁵

After his conversation with Mark, President Cannon spoke with Caroline, who said that Mark believed that George's natural-born sons "did not feel well toward Mark, and they manifested it

⁹² [George Q. Cannon Journal 16 March 1900](#)

⁹³ [George Q. Cannon Journal 18 March 1900](#). This was a long entry which I summarized.

⁹⁴ This farm was in West Jordan, according to information provided by Abraham Cannon, on page 106.

⁹⁵ President Cannon explained in great detail all that he had done for Mark, schooling and other opportunities.

in various ways, making it very unpleasant for him.” She said that someone had written “Mark Croxall” on a fence, indicating that Mark should discontinue using the Cannon surname. In another instance, someone had “played tricks” with his buggy. President Cannon wrote:

I was surprised at the trifling character of what he had to set forth as a reason for feeling that he was not welcome in the family.... I then related to him about my boyhood; how I had lived with President Taylor, who was my uncle by marriage, and his family, but I had never taken any exception to their course. I had always loved them, and the result was that the Lord blessed me for my course in President Taylor’s family. I worked for years for him for nothing. If he had been my own father I could not have done more for him than I did.....

After I got through with them I sent for Espey and Edwin. My son Clawson told me that he thought they were the ones that had written this name on the fences. I asked these boys what their object was in writing this name. They said they did not know, particularly. I drew out of Espy, in response to a remark that I made to him, some explanation. I said to him, My dear boy, you ought never to do anything that will pain anyone. It is painful to these people to have their names written on boards in that way; they do not like it, and you should not do it. Well, he said, they are only Cannons by adoption. I said, Yes, that is so; but that was the name they bore, and you ought not to do such a thing as this. Well, he said, they ought not to do things towards us. I said, What have they done towards you? He said, I went into the parlor one day, and [Grace] was talking to mother and crying, and I heard Carol’s and Vera’s name used; she was telling something about what they had done. I asked him what it was. He said he could not tell, only Grace was crying. After he told me this, I sent for Grace [who was twenty], and asked her to tell me what had occurred at that time. She could not recall the incident; but she said there was one thing that had hurt her and made her feel badly, and that was that these two girls knew more about my movements and could give them information about me that [she and her full siblings] did not have themselves, and this hurt her feelings. She said she thought the time Espy referred to was when she was talking to her mother about their front hall. She said she felt badly that their front hall was not in a better condition; that visitors who came to see both Aunt Carlie and her mother saw that Aunt Carlie’s hall was nice and attractive and her mother’s was not, and she (Grace) felt humiliated. I asked Grace how she felt towards the girls. She replied, I feel very well toward Carol and Vera, and they do to me; but that occurred and I felt as though our hall ought to be fixed up, so that it would be as nice as their hall, so that visitors going from one house to the other would not see a difference....

On the whole I felt gratified with the day’s proceedings. I think that I understand matters now better than I did and will be able to repress any wrong feeling. I especially exhorted Mark to have charity. There were three or four of the boys together, and I had my son

Espy read to us the 13th chap. of I Corinthians, where Paul dwells on charity. I told the boys that they must cultivate that feeling and, if they were injured, not think that they must retaliate.⁹⁶

By the end of the year, Mark had married Gertrude Winder in the Salt Lake Temple. Mark initially had asked President Cannon to perform the ordinance, but President Cannon suggested that his wife might be more pleased if her father, a counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, performed the ceremony.⁹⁷ The couple moved to Alberta where they raised a large family. They are shown right with two of their nine children. Ultimately, Mark dropped the Cannon surname.



The year 1900 was the last full year of President Cannon's life, although it doesn't appear that anyone was aware of this as the year began. In his journal on November 18th, he wrote:

I was very tired this morning and thought it better to remain at home and rest. This is about the first time I can recall that I ever did such a thing when I was able to attend meeting; but it became so stormy through the day and the rest appeared so grateful to me that I congratulated myself on my decision. I felt that I was much better in the house than exposed to the stormy weather. It had been my intention to attend the Granite Stake Conference, in Farmers Ward.



On the 12th of December, President Cannon wrote that President Snow, who had replaced Wilford Woodruff as president of the LDS Church in 1898, had asked him to travel to Hawaii to honor the 50th anniversary of the first missionaries' arrival there. The new first presidency is shown at left, with President Snow in the center and his two counselors,

retained from the presidency of Wilford Woodruff, on each side. In 1850, a much younger George Q. Cannon was among the ten elders who sailed from San Francisco to proselyte in the Hawaiian Islands, leaving their ship on December 12th. In his journal, President Cannon recounted a few details as he recalled his mission, that he was the first to learn the language and

⁹⁶ [George Q. Cannon Journal 18 March 1900](#). I loved reading this account, and although lengthy, it demonstrated the fatherly nature of President Cannon to all of his children.

⁹⁷ [George Q. Cannon Journal 27 November 1900](#). Gertrude's father was John R. Winder.

preach the Gospel, that he translated the Book of Mormon into Hawaiian, that during his mission he knew the Hawaiian language better than he did English. Approaching his seventy-fourth birthday, George not only dreaded the voyage. but a larger fear was the loss of his reputation when the islanders realized that he had not kept up his mastery of the language. However, he agreed to President Snow's wish that he go.⁹⁸

Espey, with other family members, was invited to accompany his father on this trip, and near the end of the month, they departed. President Cannon wrote:

At 9.45 o'clock this morning we took our departure from home for the Sandwich Islands. We took a sleeping car on the Denver and Rio Grande. Our party consisted of my wife Carlie and three sons— Clawson, Espy and Georgius—and my wife's sister Emily Y. Clawson and her son Scott Clawson.... I felt very sleepy and tired and enjoyed the rest. I have been working very hard for the past few days.⁹⁹

Their group spent the weekend in San Francisco, attending an opera on



Saturday and then church meetings on Sunday. On Monday they boarded the steamship for Hawaii, and President Cannon noted that Espey was the first to be sick and remained nauseous for their entire week of travel, but several of the others also suffered from sea-sickness. The following Monday, December 10th, they were met at the dock in Hawaii by Brother Fernandez, left, whose father was Portuguese and whose mother was Hawaiian.

The photograph above right was taken outside the Fernandez home. Caroline is seated in the center with President Cannon. Clawson, Espey and Georgius stand behind them.

President Cannon wrote:

⁹⁸ [George Q. Cannon Journal 22 November 1900.](#)

⁹⁹ [George Q. Cannon Journal 29 November 1900.](#)

They appear to be a very fine family and live in considerable style. They have a very well furnished house of ample size, with modern conveniences. The house is furnished with bath room, closet and marble washstands. It stands in the midst of spacious grounds. It is situated about two miles from the city. We were very kindly entertained and President Wooley stopped with us all night. The mosquitoes were very bad and it seems to me that they were much thicker than when I was here before. Being protected by mosquito netting they did not trouble us during the night. The three boys and Brother Wooley slept in one bed and had plenty of room. It was the largest bed I ever saw.

Young Espey was likely having a tremendous experience. On the 12th, a Wednesday, President Cannon wrote:

Fifty years ago today I with the other elders ten in all landed at this place as missionaries to preach the gospel.... while speaking in English the spirit of the Lord would bring the Native Language back to me and I would break out in it to the surprise of myself and the delight of the people for it was a great cause of wonder to them that I should be able to speak in their language at all after so long an absence from the Islands....The meetings were held in a building called the Orpheum and the congregation was made very comfortable.

As the week of meetings progressed, President Cannon began speaking fluently in Hawaiian to the point that his remarks had to be translated into English for those who were not natives. On other occasions, he took Caroline and the three boys on sight-seeing trips and they traveled to other islands.

Upon reaching Honolulu, President Cannon desired to find a particular home which he had remembered from his mission. He wrote:

It was here where the Lord revealed to me the good that should be accomplished here if I should stay and work with this people. So clear was I upon this point that I was resolved to stay here if I had to do so alone. My feelings are indescribable when I see how fully the Lord has fulfilled his words to me concerning that which should be accomplished. We were alone then with no earthly friend but with the gospel. Hundreds and thousands of friends have been raised up as witnesses to the truth. What great cause have I for joy in viewing what has been done. I am profoundly grateful that I was chosen and inspired to perform the part which I did....

I started out this morning to find if possible the place where Nalinaʻnui lived when she gave us shelter. I wanted to find the site of this house and the garden where I sought the Lord in secret prayer and where he condescended to commune with me, for I heard his voice more than once as one man speaks with another, encouraging me and showing me

the work which should be done among this people if I would follow the dictates of his spirit. Glory to God in the highest that He has permitted me to live to behold the fulfillment of his words. I found the place that I thought had been the site but great changes have been made.



Georgius later wrote, “It was delightful to travel with Father because he was full of information, took great care to explain to me about places where we were, about people we met; and we met many of his friends.... I considered the trip to the Hawaiian Islands a great privilege, to see how the Hawaiians loved Father and see his love for the people. I was particularly impressed when the ex-Queen Liliuokalani [right]¹⁰⁰ knelt to him and asked for his blessing.”¹⁰¹

Clawson, age fifteen, and who had kept his father’s journal during this trip, later wrote:

You can imagine how these words would affect me, even as a child. Here was my father, whom I respected greatly and knew to be an honest man, testifying that he had talked to the Lord. It was an impression that molded much of my later life.¹⁰²

They traveled, visiting and speaking with members and friends of the Church until the 5th of January, when they returned to the dock. President Cannon wrote:

At the wharf the saints had assembled there by the hundreds. They loaded myself and wife and children with wreaths and garlands of flowers. My entire person was almost covered. I was loaded down so with flowers, and garlands.... It was a scene which I ought never to forget. We left the wharf shortly after 4 o’clock, the sea being uncommonly smooth.¹⁰³

As they approached the harbor at San Francisco Bay, President Cannon wrote:

The passengers were all lively today in anticipation of reaching land and entering the bay tonight, though probably too late for the health officer to examine us and permit us to land. I cannot express my gratification at being so favored that I have made the trip to and from Honolulu without being the least sea-sick. Both passages have been delightful. Of our party Espy is the only one who has been seasick and that a very little.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰ Queen Liliuokalani was held under house arrest by the United States for several years.

¹⁰¹ Cannon Family Historical Treasury, in the chapter about Caroline Partridge Young Croxall Cannon.

¹⁰² “My Grandfather -- Clawson Young Cannon -- Why he was a Mormon and the Story of Accompanying His Father to the Hawaiian Islands, Compiled by Stephen Jardine, June 2008.”

¹⁰³ [George O. Cannon Journal 5 January 1901.](#)

¹⁰⁴ [George O. Cannon Journal 12 January 1901.](#)

The family returned to Salt Lake City, arriving at the depot at 8:30 in the morning where they were met, as President Cannon wrote, “by some of my boys...with carriage and wagon.” Espey was surely unaware that in a few months his father would pass away. He continued his education and at age nineteen, in 1906, he served a mission in Switzerland and Germany.¹⁰⁵ During part of his mission, he was president of the branch in Lausanne, a position his younger brother Collins would later hold.¹⁰⁶



The week before Espey departed for Germany, the Cannon Ward hosted a farewell party for him. Over two hundred people attended, and at the end, Espey spoke and thanked everyone for attending.¹⁰⁷

At the end of his mission, Espey remained in Germany and studied at the University of Berlin School of Engineering.¹⁰⁸ After returning home, Espey and Radcliffe joined a French Society where Espey was elected president. The society was in connection with the University of Utah, where both brothers were students. Espey was also a charter member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.¹⁰⁹ He graduated from the University with a degree in mining and civil engineering. Espey later studied at Columbia University.¹¹⁰

In 1910 Espey married Alice Yates Farnsworth¹¹¹ in the Salt Lake Temple. The couple initially settled in Salt Lake City where Espey worked for a mining company. Alice taught high school, and the couple had three children. For three years Espey held the position of vice-president of a tire company, but he returned to civil engineering.¹¹² By 1930 Espey had moved his family to Los Angeles where he worked as a civil engineer designing bridges.¹¹³

In 1952, Espey accepted a job with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Mexico City.¹¹⁴ Alice died there the following year. Espey passed away in 1971 at the age of eighty-five while visiting one of his sons in England. His funeral was held in the Twentieth Ward. At the time of Espey’s death, Wilford, Georgius, Clawson and Edwin were the only four of Espey’s siblings still living, although Edwin would die the following week.

¹⁰⁵ Espey crossed the Atlantic in 1906 on the ship *Cymric*. On board with him was Thomas William Innes, whose daughter Beth would later marry Collins’ son.

¹⁰⁶ A 1911 letter from Collins to his mother provides this information. The month and date are missing.

¹⁰⁷ Deseret News, 27 December 1905; Salt Lake Tribune 30 December 1905.

¹⁰⁸ Letter from Espey T. Cannon to Collins T. Cannon, 19 April 1907.

¹⁰⁹ Salt Lake Herald-Republican 11 November 1909; 10 December 1909.

¹¹⁰ Salt Lake Tribune 28 July 1971.

¹¹¹ Alice was a cousin to Philo T. Farnsworth, the inventor of the television.

¹¹² The Salt Lake city directory shows Espey in this position for 1914, 1915 and 1916.

¹¹³ I used census records to learn Espey’s occupation.

¹¹⁴ Deseret News 27 April 1952.