

## **Part Four: 1900-1910 The Death of President Cannon and Leaving the Farm**

### **Chapter 17: President Cannon's Death in 1901**

George Quayle Cannon spent his seventy-fourth birthday on the ship returning to the United States. Martha hosted his last birthday celebration a week later.<sup>1</sup> This event was not recorded in President Cannon's journal, as he had for the most part stopped writing.

During the short period that he was home, President Cannon spoke to the younger children on the farm, Margaret Cannon, at the time a fourteen-year-old granddaughter, later wrote:

Shortly before my grandfather's death he bore a most wonderful testimony to his family but mostly to his younger children and grandchildren of events that took place while on his first mission to the Islands and among other things he told us never to forget that he had both "seen" and "talked" with the Savior. This wonderful man, as he stood before us with his hand outstretched bearing this testimony, is something I will never forget.<sup>2</sup>

Two months later, Caroline took George to California with the hopes that his health would improve. Her two youngest children, Anne, age ten, and Georgius, who had just turned nine, and Sarah Jane's nineteen-year-old son Preston traveled with them, as did Carl Wilcken.<sup>3</sup> By the end of March, President Cannon's older sons John Q., and Hugh were en route via train. Upon their arrival in California, they sent word back to the family that they should fast and pray for their husband and father. General Conference took place in Salt Lake City, with President Snow communicating to President Cannon that the Church was praying for him. By the 7th of April, George knew he was dying, and he blessed those of his family who were present, saying:

I have the right and authority from the Lord to bless you, and I do bless you: the Lord bless you and your posterity after you with all the blessings I have in my heart for you.

His death ten days later was followed by a solemn funeral in the Tabernacle. Accolades came from all over the world. The Boston Globe stated, "George Q. Cannon...the recognized brains of the Mormon Church, is no more."

Fellow counselor to President Snow, Joseph F. Smith spoke, saying that it had seemed that he had known President Cannon all his life, that he was like a brother. The fact that they had both served Hawaiian missions was a factor in their close relationship, and also that they had served

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<sup>1</sup> "Recollections of George Q. Cannon Birthdays," by John Q. Cannon, 11 January 1903. George Q. Cannon, *An Apostles Life*, by Davis Bitton, Page 445. Davis Bitton said this party took place on January 19th.

<sup>2</sup> "History of Margaret Cannon Clayton," 1886-1977. Margaret was the daughter of John Q. Cannon.

<sup>3</sup> [George Q. Cannon Journal March-April 1901](#). Preston, Hugh and John Q. Cannon kept the journal in 1901.

as counselors together to three presidents of the Church. President Smith then spoke to George's children, including twelve-year-old Collins:

I say to you, follow your father, love God as he did and God will love and honor you, as you will thereby honor your father. Do not turn away from the truth which he was so valiant in defending.<sup>4</sup>

Much later Collins would write:

Father was a mountain. He wasn't born one, nor was mountainhood thrust upon him. He achieved mountainhood. Some few of his contemporaries were great because of birth. Many of them were great because circumstances forced them -- they just had to be great and it really wasn't difficult among mediocrity. Father was great, not because of, nor in spite of circumstances but very simply because the elements of greatness were in him. I have been assured by my elders who were in a much better position than I to evaluate his true worth, that he would have been great in any age or under any circumstances.<sup>5</sup>



The cortege from the Tabernacle to the cemetery was a mile in length. President Cannon is buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery near Central and Grand Avenues.<sup>6</sup> Early in the spring of 2011, at the burial of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, two great-granddaughters of Collins Telle Cannon, Sara Corinne Markham, left, and Hayley Ann Smith, stood at President Cannon's burial monument. Nearby are the graves of their grandparents and great-grandparents.

News articles at the time of President Cannon's death indicated his cumulative wealth was near \$400,000.<sup>7</sup> Collins, with the rest of his siblings, inherited \$2,000 and an acre of property.<sup>8</sup> Today, the value of Collins' inheritance alone would be over \$60,000.

The George Q. Cannon Association had been organized long before President Cannon's death. His older sons managed this business, which involved railway companies, mining ventures, real

<sup>4</sup> George Q. Cannon, *An Apostles Life*, by Davis Bitton, Pages 449-450.

<sup>5</sup> "A Brief History of the Young Life of Collins Telle Cannon," 11 January 1952.

<sup>6</sup> Five of his wives are also buried here. Collins, his wife Ida May, and four of their five children are buried in the large Cannon plot. Emily was buried with the Little family.

<sup>7</sup> For just one example of many nationwide articles, the *Anaconda Montana Standard* 21 April 1901.

<sup>8</sup> George Q. Cannon, *An Apostle's Life*, by Davis Bitton, Page 446.

estate and other endeavors, well into the 20th century. Numerous newspaper articles in addition to entries in the city directory indicate this business involved many family members. Collins, as one of the youngest sons, did not appear to be involved.

**CANNON GEORGE Q ASSN, Wm T  
Cannon Pres, John M Cannon V-  
Pres, Radcliffe Q Cannon Sec and  
Treas, Rentals and Investments,  
505 Templeton Bldg, Bell Tel 1805.  
—George Q Estate, 505 Templeton  
Bldg.**

An entry for the George Q. Cannon Association from the 1911 Salt Lake City Directory, above, shows that this particular year, William Tenney Cannon was the president. In his missionary ledger, right, a few entries indicate Collins received funds from this association, which he referred to as “the pension.”<sup>9</sup>

More time  
needed to be used  
later  
started Pension  
Letter to

## Chapter 18: Life on the Farm 1901-1909

After President Cannon’s death, his widows initially chose to remain on the farm, which had become a vibrant and beautiful place. In the summer of 1901, May Wright Sewell, left, the president of the International Council of Women and a highly respected advocate of women’s rights and suffrage, visited Salt Lake City. Many events were held in her honor and she was shown the finest of life in Salt Lake City. Ephramina Snow, right, known as Minnie, a wife of Lorenzo Snow, hosted a luncheon on the edge of the Great Salt Lake to which the guests traveled by private rail car. Later that night, a dinner was



<sup>9</sup> 1910-1913 Mission Ledger of Collins T. Cannon, in my possession. The ledger notes many letters from “Bill,” who I have assumed was William Tenney Cannon, the president of the association at that time.



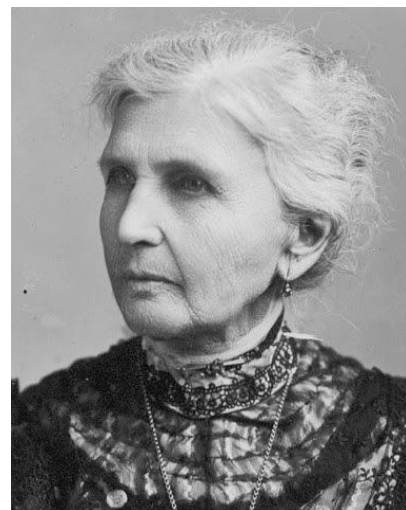
held at the lovely home of George Mousley Cannon, the president of the Utah State Senate, far left. Prominent men and women of the city attended that event, including President Joseph F. Smith, center left, and Augusta W. Grant, center right, the wife of apostle Heber J. Grant.

On the last day of Mrs. Sewell's visit, a tea in her honor was held at the Cannon farm. Emmaline B. Wells, right, who was also a women's advocate and would later become the General Relief Society President, attended. Sarah Jane, Eliza, Martha and Caroline Cannon opened their homes to the visitors. The

article describing Mrs. Sewell's visit stated, "Later in the evening Mrs. Sewall was shown through the beautiful grounds and some of the residences of the family of President George Q. Cannon, and Gen. John Q. Cannon<sup>10</sup>



[left] gave her a brief history of the planting, cultivating and beautifying of the grounds now so delightful and so much admired; how this spot near the banks of the Jordan had been converted from a slough of weeds and thistles, had been made habitable and beautified by the thrift, energy and perseverance of his father's efforts and determination."<sup>11</sup>



In the fall of 1901, President Lorenzo Snow died. His counselor, Joseph F. Smith, replaced him as president of the LDS Church.

### **Carolyn Partridge Young Croxall Cannon**

In 1901, Caroline was called to be the secretary of the Cannon Ward Relief Society, a position she held for two years until her death. She passed away from tonsillitis in 1903 and died in her home on the farm at the age of fifty-two.

<sup>10</sup> John Q. Cannon served as an officer in the Spanish-American War.

<sup>11</sup> "Mrs. Sewall's Visit," *Women's Exponent* published 1 August 1901.



### **Emily Hoagland Little Cannon**

Emily, who never lived on the farm, died from heart disease in 1906. She was sixty-nine and spent the previous twenty-five years at her downtown home where she had cared for her older sister Elizabeth at the time of Elizabeth's death in 1882.<sup>12</sup>

Emily was not a commonly known wife of President Cannon during her lifetime. She was not included in the Cannon Family Historical Treasury published by the family in 1967. Her death certificate gave her name as Emily H. Little. Although she was buried in the Little plot, the name on her gravestone is Emily H. Cannon. President Cannon mentioned her frequently in his journals, although often in his personal Hawaiian code, but the federal marshals knew her status, and the 1904 city directory identified her as a widow of George Q. Cannon.

### **Eliza Tenney Cannon**

In 1906, at the age of sixty-one, Eliza Tenney Cannon sold her home.<sup>13</sup> Her son William brought her into his downtown home where she died from bronchitis two years later.<sup>14</sup>

### **Sarah Jane Jenne Cannon**

In 1902, Sarah Jane Jenne Cannon was part of the Utah delegation which traveled to Washington D.C. for the First Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. While Utah women had received the right to vote in 1896 as part of Utah's new constitution,<sup>15</sup> Sarah Jane had long been an advocate for women with her steady involvement with Relief Society since she was eighteen.

In 1908, Sarah Jane's daughter Rosannah, right, took her mother into her home, with Sarah Jane having the distinction of being the last wife to leave the farm.<sup>16</sup> Later she moved to California where she lived with her son Preston.<sup>17</sup> Sarah Jane passed away there in 1928, the last of President Cannon's wives to die.<sup>18</sup>



<sup>12</sup> The address where Emily died was 213 W 2nd South.

<sup>13</sup> LDS Film #26862, Cannon Ward Records, shows that Eliza's records were moved from the Cannon Ward into the 12th ward on 16 February 1907.

<sup>14</sup> Cannon Family Historical Treasury; 1908 death certificate.

<sup>15</sup> Utah women had been given the right to vote in 1870; the government disenfranchised all Utahans in 1887.

<sup>16</sup> LDS film #26862, Cannon Ward Records, show that Sarah Jane's membership record was sent to the 18th Ward on the 20th of January 1909. The records took some time to be transferred. She probably moved in late 1908.

<sup>17</sup> Preston's nickname throughout his life was Bish. He was presumably named after Presiding Bishop William B. Preston.

<sup>18</sup> Cannon Family Historical Treasury.

## Martha Telle Cannon after the Death of George Q. Cannon

**FAMILY GATHERING.**

Descendants of Prest. George Q. Cannon Honor His Memory.

Following the custom that has been in vogue in the family for many years, the descendants of the late President George Q. Cannon are this afternoon celebrating the 78th anniversary of his birth, with a gathering at the home of Mrs. Martha T. Cannon near the corner of Eighth west and Tenth South streets. The reunion began at 4 o'clock and will continue well into the evening, during which time the following program will be carried out:

Opening prayer ..... Sylvester  
 Piano duet. .... Tracy and Grace  
 Little Boy's song. . . Ten Grandchildren  
 Characteristics of Father:  
 Method and Industry ..... Edwin  
 "Doing things at the proper time he always found time to do many things."  
 Hospitality ..... Ann  
 Indian Sun dance ..... Ten Little Girls  
 Address, "Fifteen Years a Missionary" ..... Joseph  
 Song ..... Hazel

Letters from Absent Ones . . . Preston  
 Military Drill ..... Eight Little Boys  
 Characteristics:  
 Faith and Reverence . . . . . Hester  
 "His implicit reliance in and respect for sacred things."  
 The Bright Side ..... Karl  
 "His enjoyment of proper sports, recreation and amusement."  
 Piano solo ..... Tracy  
 Chronicle ..... John Q.  
 Song and chorus from Mlle. Napoleon ..... Hazel and older girls  
 Characteristics:  
 Devotion to Duty and Family..... Mary Alice  
 Sincerity ..... Clawsen  
 "His practises conform to his teachings."  
 Song..... Carol

In 1905, the family honored George Q. Cannon at what had become and would continue to be an annual birthday gathering. That year, according to an article published in the Deseret News on the 11th of January, the celebration was held on the farm in Martha's home,

perhaps the last event she would host there.

By this time, Martha and Eliza were the only wives still living on the farm. The farm was still a busy place, with the other homes occupied by adult children and their families. It is likely that Willard and his wife Caroline, who had returned from their mission in the Netherlands in 1905, were still on the farm,

although they would soon move to the Avenues.<sup>19</sup> Martha's son Radcliffe would return from his mission in 1907, but Espy was halfway through his mission in Switzerland and intended to study in Berlin afterward.<sup>20</sup> Grace and her husband Clarence were living in a small home two blocks from the farm.<sup>21</sup> Preston J. and Joseph J. also lived on the farm with their families.<sup>22</sup>

Elizabeth's son John Q. moved into the farmhouse in 1901 with his young family, including his two youngest children, toddler twin boys Abraham Hoagland, right, and David Woodward Cannon, who were born in 1899.<sup>23</sup> A few years after Caroline's death, John Q. purchased her home from her children, where he raised his family.<sup>24</sup>



<sup>19</sup>Willard and his wife were at 516 2nd Avenue in the 1906 city directory, where they lived for many years.

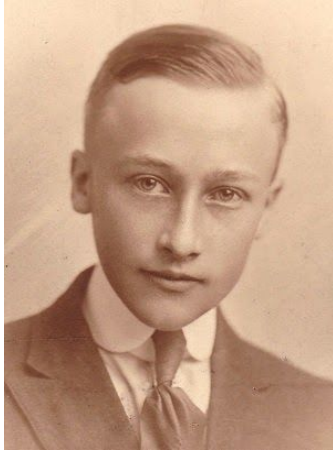
<sup>20</sup>Letter from Espy Telle Cannon to Collins Telle Cannon 19 April 1907. "I doubtless told you of my plans for studying at Berlin after I serve my time here in Switzerland, that idea is taking stronger hold on me every day and is my principle reason for wanting to finish my mission quickly." This is, in fact, what happened.

<sup>21</sup> As mentioned earlier, the 1906 city directory listed Grace's family at 1224 8th West.

<sup>22</sup> The 1910 census shows Preston J. and Joseph J. on the farm. The 1905 city directory shows Preston at the south end of the farm, at 1325 8th West.

<sup>23</sup> They were not enumerated on the farm in 1900, but Abraham later explained in his paper "Down on the Jordan" that they moved there in 1901. The 1899 city directory shows them at 3rd East and the SE corner of Sherman.

<sup>24</sup> The 1910 census shows John Q., Sylvester, Joseph J., and Preston living on the farm. While Abraham Hoagland Cannon stated that Martha sold her home to Lewis and Mary Alice Cannon before she moved, this family was shown living a short distance away in 1910 and possibly moved to the farm after the census.



Young Abraham's older brother Daniel, shown at left, was close in age to Eliza's son Edwin, and also to Martha's sons Espey and Collins, the four boys being teenagers. Abraham wrote:

At the farm I remember some of the tricks some of the older boys used to play on us, particularly Collins and my brother Dan. They were about the same age -- Ed and Espey just a couple of years older. They would fill a tub with water and put a skate in the tub as well as a nickel or dime. If I could pick the skate out of the water, I could have the nickel. I didn't see the wire also in the water. It was connected to a little hand generator, part of an old-time telephone.

Well, with sleeves rolled up, I would confidently reach for the skate.

Would I get a shock! Nothing earth-shaking, but enough to urge me to forget the promised coin, while Collie and Dan would roar with laughter at 'gullible me.' In spite of this and other such tricks of which I was usually an unsuspecting victim, I always liked Collie and believed he liked me.<sup>25</sup>

Abraham later provided other details as to Collins' activities before his mission:

Occasionally Collie would take a weekend job to enhance his financial status. One time he was subdividing the property north of California Avenue for Uncle Lew<sup>26</sup> and he hired me to hold the rod or pull the chain while he lined up and measured the lots on the property. Another time he and Espy were laying out a township for Uncle Hugh at Westover, his place in West Jordan. He probably asked Father if I could help him because it involved working on Sunday. I don't know how much pay I received for these jobs, but whatever it was he never forgot to pay me. I suppose I owe the choice of my career to Collie. When I graduated from high school I had made up my mind to go to the U. A. C. and study agriculture. Early one day Collie called and asked if I would like the job as timekeeper and water boy on one of Uncle Willard's construction jobs in town. I was delighted and he told me to come to the office (he was Uncle Willard's office engineer) and meet the construction superintendent in charge of this job. This I did and was hired at \$2.50 a day. At the end of the summer Father asked me if I was planning on going to Logan and I replied, "No, I have changed my mind. I am going to the University of Utah and study engineering." I had visions of being a successful contractor such as Uncle Willard.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "Down by the Jordan," by Abraham Hoagland Cannon, a son of John Q. Cannon.

<sup>26</sup> I believe Collins was working for the Cannon Brothers at this time, so this would have been Lewis Telle Cannon.

<sup>27</sup> "Down by the Jordan," by Abraham Hoagland Cannon. 1899-1992. The property "north of California Avenue" to which Abraham referred had originally been part of the Cannon homestead.

## Chapter 19: Collins Studies at the University of Utah

In 1902, at the age of fourteen, Collins graduated from Grant School, having completed the eighth grade, which was and had been the standard for American students for more than a century. Many chose to further their education by attending a university. High school as it is known today originated in New England in 1910 and quickly spread throughout the country, but that was not an option for Collins in 1902. Collins is named in the article to the right, which was part of a long list of Salt Lake City eighth grade graduates published in the Deseret News.



The foyer of the Grant School, right, was decorated in the gilded-age style which was popular at the turn of the 19th century.

After his education at the Grant School, Collins followed in the footsteps of his older siblings and attended the University of Utah. Several of the Cannon family members living on the farm are listed in the Cannon section of the 1904 city directory, shown at right. Four students at the U, Clawson, Collins, Daniel, Edwin, with Espy at the bottom, are shown. Eliza Lamercia Tenney Cannon and Emily Hoagland Little Cannon, widows of President Cannon, are in this clip, as is a granddaughter of Elizabeth's, Elizabeth H., who attended the L.D.S University. A 1905 image of the University of Utah

GRANT SCHOOL,  
(Mr. A. S. Martin, principal; Miss Randolph and Miss Qualtrough, teachers.  
Mabel L. Casady, Charles M. Fehr  
Blanche Nuttall, Rose L. Moench  
Sarah Elline Shaw, Maud H. Connell  
Charles H. Corless, Harold S. Martin  
Grace R. Richardson, Murray Howard  
Edna Smith, Mary E. Wanless, Bertha Thiede, T. Floyd Bridgman, Lizzie B. Shapiro, Mary M. Berkhoel  
Mabel Bennett, Edith V. Beless, W. Scott Rouse, Collins T. Cannon, Ruby W. Koeber, Hazel E. Heath, Norah E. Fink, Hazel I. Cogan, Wm. H. Woodbury, Lulu A. Shorb, Alfred Cutler, Winifred Sims, Samuel Lachman, Douris A. Raybould, Nellie H. Sherman, Francis Letchfield, J. Ward Elmer, Harold W. Burton, Mary Rogawsky, Mabel Cowan, Roderick W. McDonald, Ada Littlely, Bertha Picknell.

Grant School, shown left, provided eight years of public school education. Located at 600 South and 200 West, the school would have been easily accessible to Collins via the Dinky.



- Clawson Y, student U of U, bds w s 8th West 1 s of 10th South.
- Collins T, student U of U, bds w s 8th West 3 s of 10th South.
- Constantina, domestic, 605 S Main.
- Daniel H, student, bds w s 8th West 2 s of 10th South.
- Edwin Q, student L D S Univ, bds w s 8th West 5 s of 10th South.
- Mrs Eliza L T, res w s 8th West 5 s of 10th South.
- Elizabeth H, student L D S Univ, bds e s 8th West 2 s of 10th South.
- Elizabeth R, student L D S Univ, bds 11 S 1st West.
- Emily H (wid George Q), res 213 W 2d South.
- Espy T, student U of U, bds w s 8th West 3 s of 10th South.



is shown below where it currently stands on the east bench.



In 1905 Martha sold her home to the bishop of the Cannon Ward, Lewis M. Cannon.<sup>28</sup> She moved to a house just a few blocks from the farm, at 1580 S 8th West. The city directory that year shows three of her sons living with her, Brigham, Espey and Collins, the latter two being students at the University of Utah.<sup>29</sup>

The following year, Martha moved to a home next door to Grace's family, who was living a short distance from the farm.<sup>30</sup> By this time, Espey was on his mission and Brigham had married. Collins, still a student, moved with his mother.

In 1907, a small article on the society page referred to a tea party Martha held in her new home on 8th West.<sup>31</sup>

\* \* \*  
Mrs. Martha T. Cannon entertained  
yesterday at a tea at her home on  
Eighth West street.  
\* \* \*

In 1907, Collins' name and nickname, below, appeared on the list of Freshmen students at the U, although he had been attending, possibly not full time, since 1904. It was during this period that Collins met Harry Jessen, who was also a student at the U. Harry's father, by this time deceased, had been very involved in mining throughout Utah.<sup>32</sup>

E. MAURINE COATES.....	"RUBY"	J. B. HUME.....	"No. 7"
COLLINS CANNON.....	"COLLIE"	ANTOINE IVINS.....	"MEX."
ADDIE CANNON.....	"ADE"	O. H. JEPSON.....	"BONES"
CHARLES CARPENTER.....	"MINER"	HARRY JESSEN.....	"HARTENSTEIN"
J. S. DALLEY.....	"DILLY"	HOWARD JONES.....	"HEISZELUFT"

<sup>28</sup> "Down by the Jordan," by Abraham Hoagland Cannon. 1899-1992. The Cannon Ward History states that Lewis Mousley Cannon served as bishop for 22 years.

<sup>29</sup> 1905 city directory. Brigham was employed at Cannon Brothers Engineering.

<sup>30</sup> The 1907 and 1908 city directories show Martha living at 1250 South 8th West. Collins is shown living there in 1907, but not in 1908. Perhaps he was away working at a mine. The Neslen family was at number 1224.

<sup>31</sup> This article was published in Truth on 12 October 1907. The 1905 city directory shows Martha at 1580 South 8th West. Collins, Espey and Brigham lived with her.

<sup>32</sup> Adolph Jessen was listed in the 1903 city directory as the U.S. deputy of mineral surveyors in Utah.

During the summer of 1907, Collins worked at a mine outside Denver. Mining had boomed in the western United States since the 1847 California gold rush. Older brothers William and Hugh were at the mine with Collins, and Frank was in the area. Collins wrote his mother late in the summer of 1907, not quite two weeks after his nineteenth birthday:

Cherry Creek, Nevada Aug. 13 1907

My dear Mother,

We have just been out on the hill south of the mine picking wild raspberries and while out there, Bill remembered that it is Ada's birthday, and that he should write her a letter. That also reminded me that I owe you a letter, so I take this occasion to write it.

I was very glad to hear of Rad's arrival home and the way he is fixing things as he used to do before he went to Europe. I hope he will like his position in the bank and the position Clarence is reserving for him in the Sunday School. I have often wondered, since leaving home, if the fence is painted and whether the water wheel has been able to run. How is our little lawn getting along through the drought and how is Denis (?) after his second operation?

Today makes my twenty-third shift since I arrived, and by the time I have put in fifty shifts, I will be perfectly satisfied to come home. I take quite an interest in my work (or at least the boss says so, for he has given me two promotions already.) And rather look forward for each day to begin. The "boss" called me into his office and told me I was a "brick" etc. and said that he was going to give me more money for my work. That means that I am receiving about a 112 dollars a month.

Hugh has been in Cherry Creek for several days and has visited the mine twice and been to mutual once. (Mutual is just a little gathering we have every Sunday night where we sing Church hymns and study "the articles of faith.") Frank J. I am told is up to the biscuit mine visiting Que, but as yet I have not had a chance to see him. At present I can think of nothing more to say, except that I always remember the good examples that have set me, and that I am a son of Martha T. and George Q. Cannon.

I am yours with Love,

Collins Cannon<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> I only have a transcription of this letter which was given to me by Annette Randall Haws. Her mother Janet Cannon Randall read her father's handwriting while Annette typed. They could not clearly read the name "Denis." Clarence was Grace's husband. Radcliffe returned from his mission while Collins was in Colorado.

In 1908, Collins and Wilford were both students at the U, along with Harry Jessen. Collins later said that he would have been the worst student in his class if it hadn't been for his friend Harry. However, Harry was the worst, Collins quipped, saving him from that dishonor.<sup>34</sup> Collins studied civil engineering but left his studies one semester short of graduating because job opportunities abounded. This was a decision he later regretted.<sup>35</sup>

By 1909, Collins, now age twenty-one, worked as a draftsman and engineer for his older brothers.<sup>36</sup> At this time, Lewis, Willard and Sylvester were in business together, operating an engineering and mining company. Collins lived in an apartment known as 2 Sharp Flats.

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<b>LEWIS TELLE CANNON</b> Architect	<b>SYLVESTER Q. CANNON</b> Mining and Hydraulic Engineer U. S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor	<b>WILLARD T. CANNON</b> Mechanical and Electrical Engineer
<h1 style="margin: 0;">CANNON BROS.</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">ARCHITECTS <i>and</i></h2> <h2 style="margin: 0;">ENGINEERS</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">BELL TELL 1805</p>		
<b>OFFICES: 403 TEMPLETON BLDG.</b>		<b>SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH</b>

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In the fall of 1909, Lewis Cannon designed a home in the prestigious Avenues of Salt Lake City for his mother, who was now sixty-three years old. At the same time, Martha moved downtown, renting a home on South Temple much



closer to the temple and within two blocks of 77 E. Street where her new home would be built.<sup>37</sup> Interestingly, Martha's aunt, Caroline Rogers Smoot, who had been a widow since 1895, had moved from Provo and was living with Grace. Caroline and Martha both enjoyed working in the

<sup>34</sup> My father told me this, laughing when he said it. No one in our family believed Daddy Cannon was a poor student.

<sup>35</sup> My father told me this, adding that his father's experience in college was a significant motivation for him to get his degree, also in civil engineering.

<sup>36</sup> The 1909 city directory shows Collins' occupation as a draftsman for Cannon Brothers.

<sup>37</sup> LDS Film #26862, Cannon Ward Records, show that her records were moved from the Cannon Ward to the Twentieth Ward in the Ensign Stake on 3 February 1909, but we know from the city directory that she had already moved off the farm.

temple together, and Grace's graciousness in taking in her great aunt blessed many lives.<sup>38</sup> Caroline died at the home of her daughter five years later.

Halley's comet came into view the following year and could be seen in the sky for weeks. Collins would later tell grandson Mike, gently mocking the gullible, "...that the earth was due to pass through the tail of the comet, and you could buy special pills to protect you from it."<sup>39</sup>

That year of 1910 was also a census year.

A newspaper article in early 1910 reported that Collins, at this time age twenty-one, was employed by the State of Utah to canvass Salt Lake City to allow the state to assess the mining and manufacturing operations as part of the census.<sup>40</sup>

Alvin Borgquist, Collins T. Cannon and B. F. Shepherd have been appointed as special agents to take the mining and manufacturing census in the state. Messrs. Borgquist and Cannon will do general canvassing work in Salt Lake City and Mr. Shepherd will work in the Ogden district.

Cannon Martha J	Head H - 007	W	63	W
Radcliffe Q	Son	M	26	S
Espy J	Son	M	23	S
Cannon Collins T.	Son	M	22	S
Chamberlain Esther C	Granddaughter	F	13	S
Peterson Aline	Servant	F	17	S

The 1910 census, shown above and cropped from two consecutive pages, opens a window through which we can see Martha in her rented home. Living with her were her three youngest sons: Radcliffe Q., age twenty-six, who was working as a bank clerk; Espy, enumerated as Espy T, age twenty-three, who had just returned from a mission and also from studies in Berlin; and Collins T., age twenty-two. The enumerator recorded that Collins was employed as a land surveyor, which was likely his profession separate from his census work. As mentioned earlier, Amelia's teenage daughter

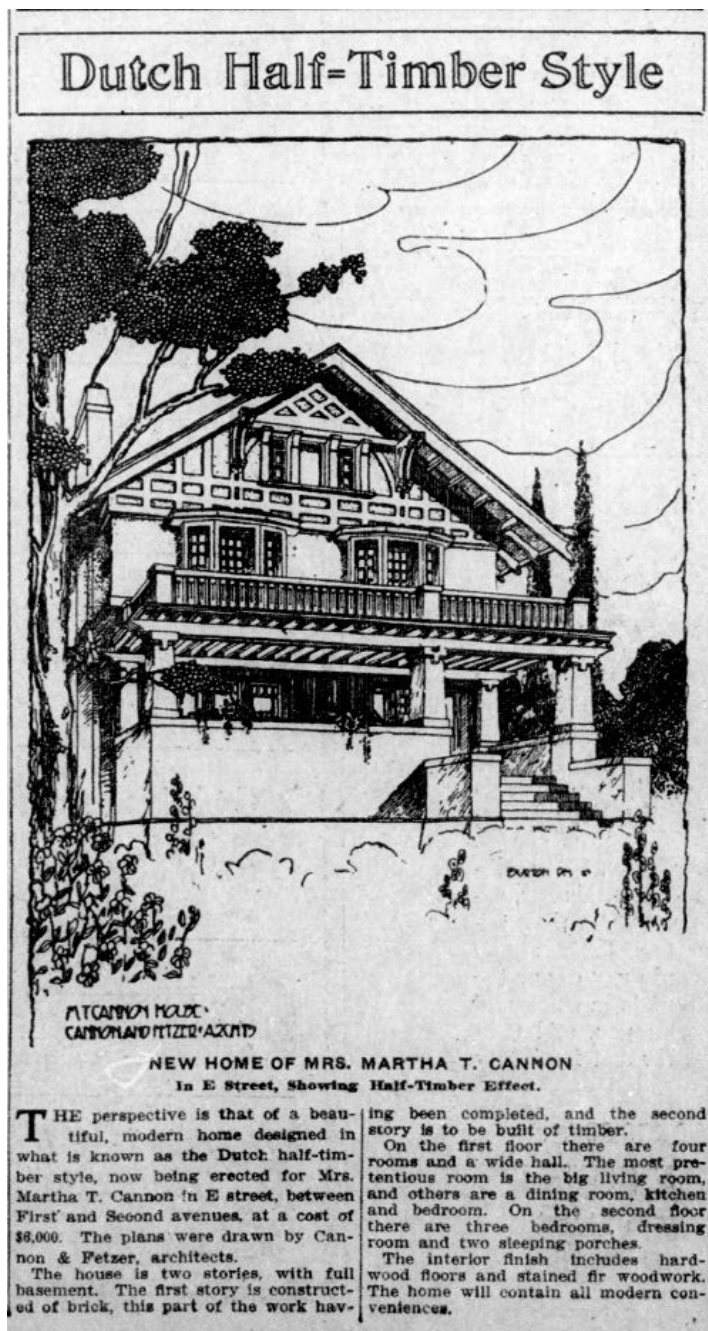


<sup>38</sup> Various city directories show Caroline boarding in different homes after she was widowed. In 1909, the city directory shows her in Grace's home. In a 1911 letter from Collins in Lausanne he wrote, "Your very brief reference to Auntie Smoot is the first I have heard since I came. Is she well and prosperous? Does she still go to the temple every morning? You must give her my love and tell her I often think of her."

<sup>39</sup> "I Remember, Memories of Collins T. and Ida May Burton Cannon by Their Grandchildren, 1983." Thomas Michael Cannon.

<sup>40</sup> Salt Lake Telegram 28 February 1910.





Hester, shown as Ester C., above right, was living with Martha. A servant was also enumerated in Martha's home.<sup>41</sup>

During this period of time, while Martha lived in the rented home downtown, her new house was under construction. A news article published in the Salt Lake Herald Republican on 13 March 1910, shown left, stated that the home was being constructed in the Dutch half-timber style of architecture. This style reflected the German influence from her sons' missions. Lewis designed the interior in a fashion which was common for homes built in the Avenues in that era.<sup>42</sup> Two large rooms came off each side of a wide hall on the main floor, including a large living room and dining room. The home had four bedrooms plus two sleeping porches upstairs, which was the trend at that time for healthy sleeping.<sup>43</sup> Martha moved into her new home during the summer of 1910.<sup>44</sup>

Martha Telle Cannon's life after her move to the Avenues was very prosperous due to the judicious management of the Cannon businesses. She owned several automobiles,

including a Buick and a Cadillac, although Martha never learned to drive. Collins was influential in these purchases for her, pushing against his brothers who felt these cars were not a

<sup>41</sup> The 1910 census gave Martha's address as 463 East South Temple and indicated Martha rented the home.

<sup>42</sup> Decades later, my aunts Elizabeth and Ida Mae owned homes in the Avenues. The interior description of Martha Telle Cannon's home fit both of these homes. This design allowed for excellent ventilation.

<sup>43</sup> Salt Lake Herald 13 March 1910. "Ida May Burton Cannon as told to Laurie Smith, 1979," "In those days, everyone had to have a sleeping porch. It was considered unhealthy to sleep indoors."

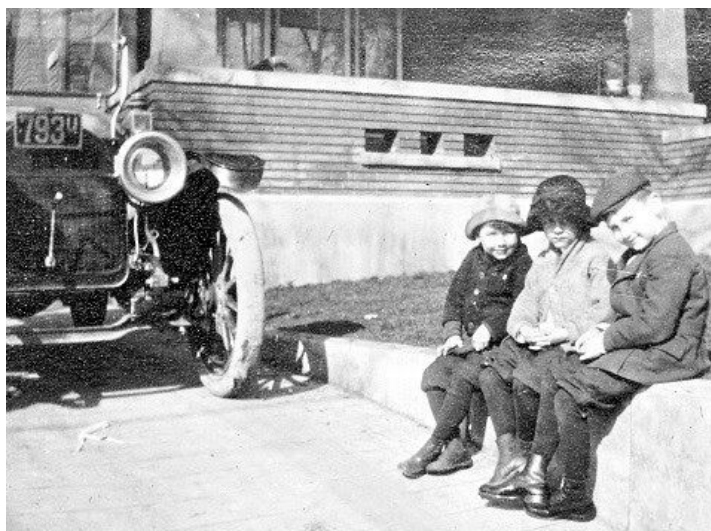
<sup>44</sup> Collins's passport application, filled out on 8 August 1910, gave his address as 77 E Street. H. C. Jessen was the witness, and his brother-in-law C. Clarence Neslen was the notary. Collins would later become a notary; When I saw the image of this document, I remembered back six decades when I lifted his heavy metal stamp and asked why Daddy Cannon's name was printed backwards. That's when I learned what the words *embossed* and *notary* meant.



prudent use of her funds. Collins said to them, “There are no pockets in a shroud.”<sup>45</sup> While Martha did not drive the vehicles, Collins certainly did. The unlabeled photo, left, is from this time period with Collins on the right.

The same vehicle is shown in the photo below which can be dated to 1910. The house in the background is Martha’s newly constructed home on E Street. Bob and Clarey, two of Grace’s children, are on the left. Willard’s son Gerald is on the right.<sup>46</sup>

Martha entertained guests in her home, and in at least one instance, she enjoyed a luncheon hosted by Lewis’s wife Martha and her daughter Grace in her new home. A 1912 newspaper article called this luncheon a Kensington.<sup>47</sup> Today, we might call it a covered dish, or perhaps a potluck.



Mrs. Lewis Telle Cannon and Mrs. Clarence Neslen are the hostesses this afternoon at a Kensington being given at the home of Mrs. Martha T. Cannon in E street.

<sup>45</sup> Janath Russell Cannon, the wife of Edwin Q. Cannon, wrote in the Cannon Family Historical Treasury that Martha “enjoyed considerable prosperity,” and that she owned a Cadillac. Ida May Burton told Laurie Cannon Priano in her life history that Martha owned a Buick. My father told me the account of Collins encouraging his mother to buy the cars against his brothers’ wishes.

<sup>46</sup> The two photos on this page came from a photo album which had belonged to Collins. Shortly before her death, Ida Mae Cannon Smith, with only some success, helped me identify people and places. The picture with the children was labeled with their names. Ida Mae recognized the home. At the time, I did not think to ask about the vehicle.

<sup>47</sup> 10 May 1912 Salt Lake Herald.