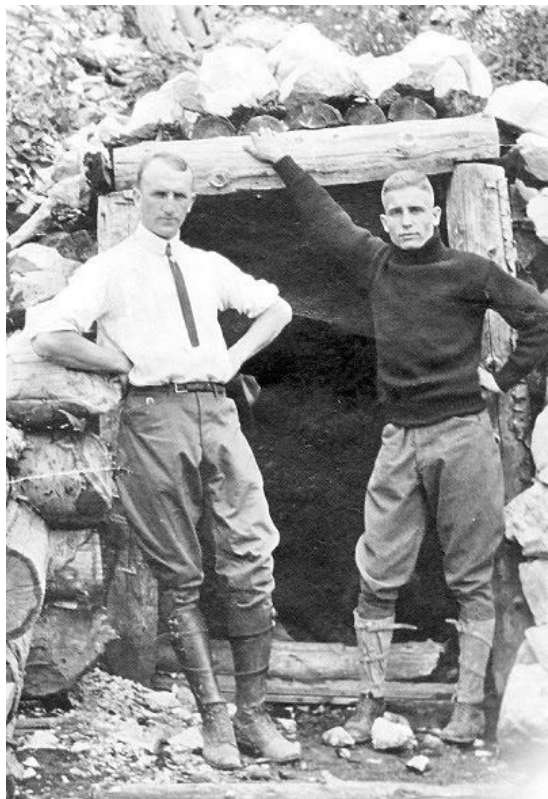


## Part Six: Ida May Burton, Marriage, Family

### Chapter 21: Ida May Burton



Collins returned to the mining business after his mission. This 1914 photograph, left, shows Harry Jessen on the right with Collins at an unknown mine. These two men would have used their engineering skills to improve safety and efficiency, with the intent to improve the mine's profitability. Collins is on the right in the photo below.



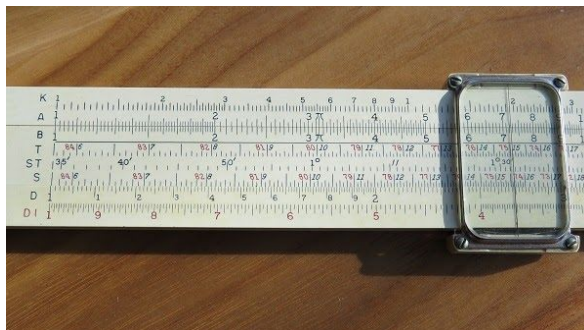
In addition to their work with mines, Harry and Collins were both employed at the city engineering department as computers, which today would perhaps be called a computational analyst. Collins and Harry are pictured, top center, side by side, in this newspaper photo of their large, shared office.<sup>1</sup> Collins would be fortunate in being able to return to this job during the Depression after working more than a decade in Logan.



**AS A COMPUTER IN 1914**—Cleve G. Wolley, right foreground, is shown in the computing room of the Salt Lake City engineer's office back in July, 1914. At this time, engineers made their rounds in white top wagons. Extreme rear, center, is Harry C. Jessen, and on his right, Collins T. Cannon.

<sup>1</sup> This 1914 photograph surfaced in 1952 and was published in the Deseret News on the 17th of March.

Collins acquired his own tools of his trade, and they were of the highest quality. He owned a Keuffel & Esser slide rule with a clam finish, shown right and below. The ruler was protected from decades of wear and tear by a leather case, shown. He also bought his own draftsman's brush for cleaning eraser rubbings from his engineering drawings.<sup>2</sup>



Likely in conjunction with his work with mines, Collins also worked for his brothers at their engineering firm.<sup>3</sup> Their offices were on the fourth floor of the Templeton Building, shown below; the Cannon

Association offices were on the fifth floor. Collins' brother-in-law, Clarence Neslen, was the office manager of Kimball-Richards, a large real-estate firm in the same block. Ida May Burton, shown below left, worked in this office as a stenographer.

After the financial panic in 1897, Joseph Fielding Burton, below right, left a failed business in Ogden and moved to Salt Lake City where he

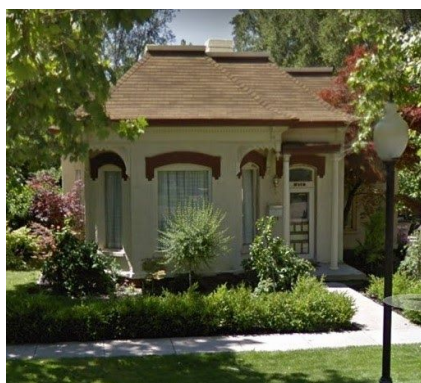
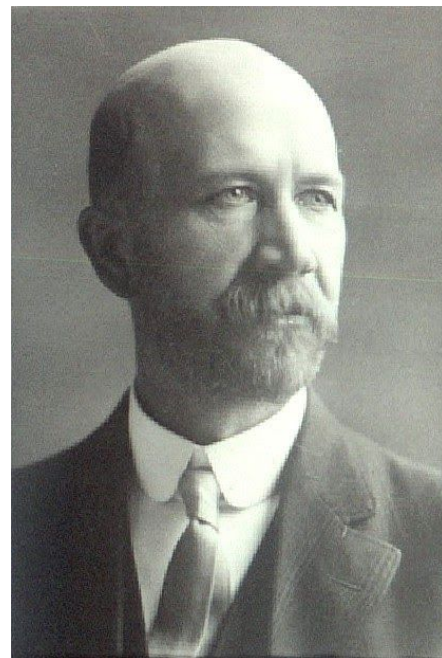


<sup>2</sup> I began my first algebra class in junior high in 1965. I came home from school and told Dad I needed a slide rule and he gave me Daddy Cannon's to use. Even at that young age, I was honored, and I still have it. The draftsman brush came into my hands in 2003 after Dad's death.

<sup>3</sup> The Salt Lake city directory does not list Collins in 1914, indicating that he was not in the city at the time that information was gathered. Based on other pictures in the photograph album which belonged to Collins, I can date the mining photo to the summer of 1914. Ida May told Laurie Cannon Smith that Collins was employed by the Cannon Brothers when she met him, which would be consistent with him being in the mining business.



obtained work as a buyer for an implement company which later did very well.<sup>4</sup> His family with six children first lived in a small home at 29 F Street, but the following year, after Joseph was promoted, they moved to 474 2nd Avenue, below left.<sup>5</sup> This home still stands and is across the street from the current location of the Twentieth Ward Chapel.



In 1901, Joseph moved his family for the third and last time to an adobe home at 385 5th Avenue, shown below left, where two more children were born. Joseph later remodeled and updated the house,



creating a beloved family home. Joseph and Mary Ann Elizabeth, both shown right after a trip to New York City, lived here for the rest of their lives.



Joseph was the son of William Walton Burton, a convert to the LDS Church in England who crossed the Atlantic and the United States alone in 1854, meeting an older brother in Kaysville, Utah, where they prepared a home for their younger siblings and widowed mother,

<sup>4</sup> “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978.” “...he was a very prosperous businessman.”

<sup>5</sup> The 1899 and 1900 city directories provided Joseph’s addresses and employment. His first job was as a buyer; the next year he was a purchasing and traffic agent.

who followed. Two years later, twenty-three year-old William married sixteen-year-old Rachel Fielding, both shown right in their later years. Rachel had crossed the plains from Nauvoo as a child of nine. At Rachel's request, William later married her two sisters.



Rachel's father, Joseph Fielding, was among the first seven missionaries sent by Joseph Smith to England in 1837.

While in England, Joseph married Hannah Greenwood, the granddaughter of a Methodist minister. Rachel and her sister Ellen were born in England during their father's mission. In an important family connection stretching back three generations, Ida May's great-grandfather Joseph Fielding was with John Taylor in Liverpool when the latter carried a letter from his wife, Leonora Cannon, to her brother George Cannon, the grandfather of Collins, introducing the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Cannon family.

Joseph Fielding Burton's wife, Mary Ann Elizabeth Driver, right, had celebrated her first birthday on the plains in 1866 as her family immigrated from England. Their daughter Ida May later said:

My mother was Mary Ann Elizabeth Driver Burton. We used every name she had but, she was called Polly for short.<sup>6</sup>



Mary Ann's father, William Driver, far left, was a wealthy and well-known druggist in Utah who had served on the 1895 constitutional committee for Utah's statehood. He was one of three delegates who successfully pushed for the inclusion of a provision enfranchising women's suffrage in the 1896 Utah constitution. Resistance came from those who feared, ultimately in vain, that the clause would keep the federal government from approving the constitution, as the 19th amendment would not

be approved for twenty-four more years. William's wife, Charlotte Boulter, center left above, was an advocate for women's rights and an early member of Ogden's Red Cross. The Driver family lived in a mansion in Ogden where they employed several servants. They doted on

<sup>6</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978."

Joseph's daughter Ida May, shown right at age four, who always believed she was their favorite grandchild. Train trips to Ogden for visits with her Driver and Burton grandparents were frequent.



Joseph Fielding Burton's name occasionally appeared on sparse Twentieth Ward records.<sup>7</sup> Brother Burton would have surely been aware when someone as prominent as Martha Telle Cannon moved into his ward and neighborhood in 1910. Perhaps Martha knew the Burton family, perhaps not.<sup>8</sup>



However, in 1905 Grace Cannon Neslen was called to be the Primary President in the vast Twentieth Ward. Certainly she would have known eleven-year-old Ida May Burton, shown left.<sup>9</sup>

Ida May attended the Lowell School, shown below, on 2nd Avenue and D Street, about three blocks from her



house. The school was created in 1892 and built next to the new Twentieth Ward Chapel which can barely be seen in the background on the left. Before 1924, this chapel was at D Street and 2nd Avenue.

Ida May later recalled:

It was this time that I was six years old. Mother took me down to start school at the Lowell School. She put on her very fashionable black voile skirt and a beautiful blouse.

<sup>7</sup> Twentieth Ward History, by Ruth J. Martin, LDS Film 1059487. One particular 1907 record shows that Joseph ordained a young man to the Aaronic Priesthood, and this page also shows that Elliot Airmet lived in this ward. He would later marry Norma Grover, a cousin to Beth Innes, my mother. Ida Mae Cannon Smith told me she knew Norma, with whom she went to high school, and later her husband Elliot, several years before she knew my mother.

<sup>8</sup> There is no mention at all in any history (or in my memory) that Collins knew young Ida May before his mission, or that he met her at any church event after his mission, even though they lived in the same ward and just a few blocks from each other.

<sup>9</sup> Twentieth Ward History, by Ruth J. Martin, LDS Film 1059487, page 20.

This skirt had a black taffeta petticoat which rustled when she walked. I was so proud when I walked down E Street with her to be started in school with this lovely lady with this rustily skirt.<sup>10</sup>

The small map of the Avenues shows the Burton home at 385 5th Avenue. Two homes would

				254 385 D 5th	
			231 D	5th Avenue	
A Street	B Street	C Street	D Street	4th Avenue	E Street
		313 3rd		3rd Avenue	
20th Ward Chapel after 1924				20th Ward Lowell before School 1924	
			69 D	77 E	
				2nd Avenue	

later be occupied by the Cannon family, 254 D Street and 69 D Street. Martha Telle Cannon lived at 77 E Street. Grace Neslen and her family lived at 313 3rd Avenue. Edwin Q. Cannon would later live at 231 D. Street. This map covers an area on a mountainside, with the top of the map higher on the hill than the lower streets.

After her education at Lowell, Ida May attended the new Salt Lake High School, shown below, where she learned shorthand in their business program.<sup>11</sup> This high school was built on the block between 200 and 300 West North

Temple, at the site of the old University of Deseret, and is now the site of West High School. It would be some distance to the left off the above map. Ida May later said that she was anxious to “get out to make some money. This was uppermost in my mind, so when I completed these two years, I quit school.”<sup>12</sup>

In 1912, at the age of eighteen, Ida May’s first job was at a hardware store as a stenographer where she made what she felt was a wonderful salary of \$20 a month, worth \$500 today. She then began working for a storage company, making \$55 a month. By 1913, Ida May worked at the



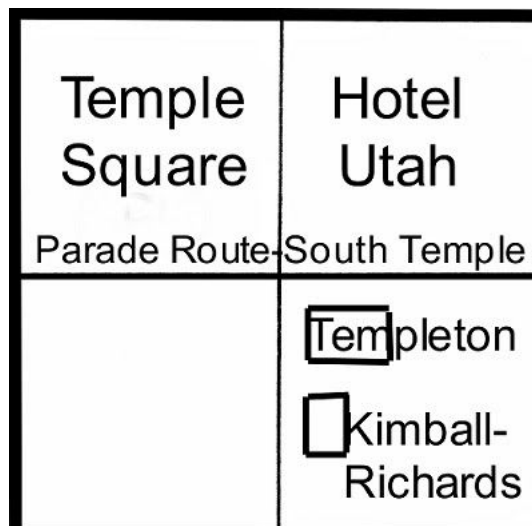
<sup>10</sup> “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978.”

<sup>11</sup> At the time Ida May attended high school, the school was known as Salt Lake High School. She used the name of West High, by which it was known in 1978.

<sup>12</sup> “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978.”

Kimball-Richards Real Estate Office on Main Street next to the Templeton Building.<sup>13</sup> In front of these buildings in 1913, Ida May Burton met Collins Telle Cannon.

The photographer who captured the 1905 photo below



stood with his back to the Hotel Utah, now the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, with Temple Square behind him to his right. The camera is facing south with the Templeton building on the

left edge of the picture and the Kimball-Richards Real Estate office farther south, unseen. This area would have been very familiar to both Collins and Ida May. Tracks for street cars are visible. A simple map of this area is above right.

Collins' grandchildren were always intrigued with the story that their grandmother had been a circus performer when Collins first saw her. Granddaughter Georgia recalled:

...all of us remember the picture Daddy Cannon found in a magazine of a lady riding a circus horse. I remember so clearly standing there with Daddy Cannon and listening to the story of how he first saw Nana, and how he fell in love with her. I still believe the story....<sup>14</sup>

Laurie Cannon Smith Priano remembered:



<sup>13</sup> The 1911 and 1912 city directories list Ida May Burton as a student, likely while she attended Salt Lake High School. In 1913, the city directory listed her as a stenographer for Kimball-Richards.

<sup>14</sup> "I Remember, Memories of Collins T. and Ida May Burton Cannon by Their Grandchildren." Georgia Smith Miller.

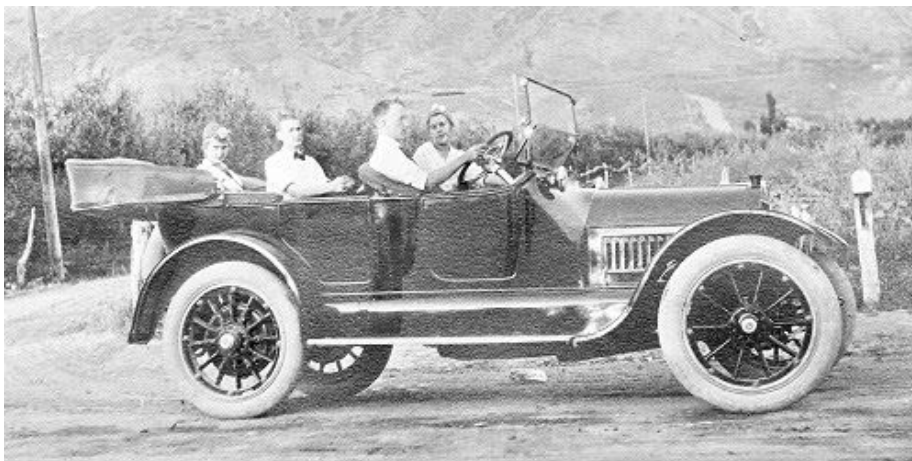
Nana...told me that Daddy Cannon met her riding on the back of a white horse riding in the circus parade.<sup>15</sup>

**—Ida M, stenog Kimball & Richards, b 385  
5th av.**

The 1913 city directory shows Ida May as a stenographer for Kimball & Richards, living at home. Contrary to family lore, the city directory never listed Ida May as a circus performer.

Ida May later explained that Clarence Neslen was the office manager at Kimball-Richards. Clarence and his wife Grace were still living with Martha Telle Cannon during this period. Collins was also living in his mother's home. Ida May said:

One day Collins brought the Neslen family down to the circus parade in Grandmother's Buick, and I went out with the office force to see the parade. The Neslen family was parked in front of the office and Mr. Collins T. Cannon was driving. That is how I met him. From then on, I was his circus girl. We always told the children after they arrived that he had met me while I was standing on the back of a white horse in pink tights, riding in the circus parade.<sup>16</sup>



The picture at left dates to 1914, with Collins driving and Ida May in the front passenger seat. An unknown couple is in the back. Surely this was the automobile Collins drove when he took his sister and her family to the 1914 parade.<sup>17</sup>

With Ida May and Collins both employed and yet still living at their respective parents' homes, and with Collins perhaps receiving an annual pension from the Cannon estate, they had discretionary funds to spend.

<sup>15</sup> "I Remember, Memories of Collins T. and Ida May Burton Cannon by Their Grandchildren." Laurie Smith Priano.

<sup>16</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1978."

<sup>17</sup> This photo and others taken before Collins' and Ida May's marriage are from Collins' missionary photo album.



Saltair, a resort and amusement park built on the southern edge of the Great Salt Lake, shown right, was a popular recreation destination in the early 1900s. A dedicated train from Salt Lake City took passengers directly to the resort. In this context, Ida May said:



Collins was always in for fun and dancing and going to dinner to Saltair three times a week. We spent enough money to float a battleship....it was at Saltair that Mr. Cannon proposed to me by writing, “Will you marry me” on the railing overlooking the lake. I replied, “Yes, if you will get me home by six as I have another date...”<sup>18</sup>



The 1914 picture at left was taken during an outing to Saltair. Collins and Ida May are in the center back. Ida May’s sister Vilate is in the center, laughing.

Ida May also wrote:

[Mr. Cannon] had a spy glass set on the window facing 56 South Main so he could watch my comings and goings. One

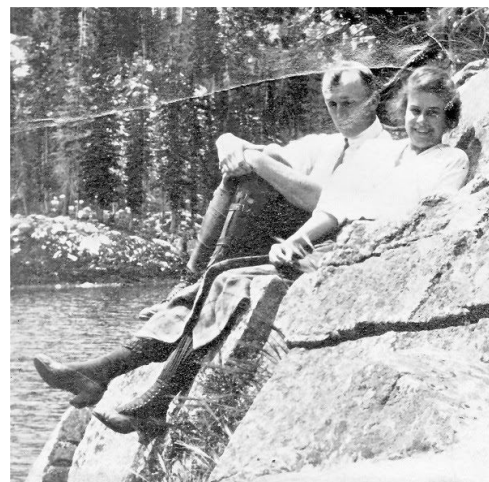
day, he watched me leave the office and return in a couple of hours. I had been to the depot to see Mr. Griener off. I felt it was the least I could do after breaking his heart. Mr. Cannon had to know everywhere I had been that day, so I told him and also I told him I had decided not to marry Mr. Griener. He said that was wonderful, that cleared the field, and furthermore, he had always believed in patronizing home industry. We were very much in love and were engaged for two years as was proper at that time.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1978.” Nana also told me this story, so sweetly. I can smell her perfume as I remember this.

<sup>19</sup> “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978.”

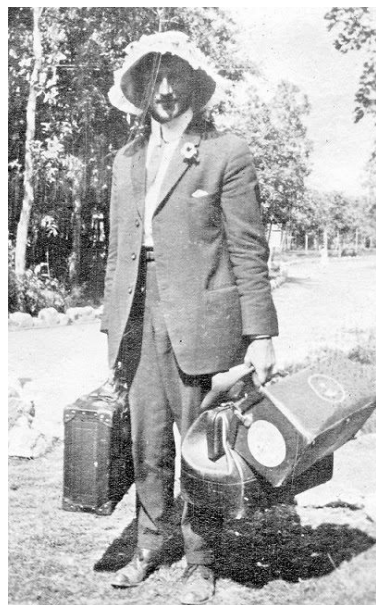


Pictures on this page are from a 1914 outing in the mountains where Collins and Ida wore appropriate clothing of the time. Harry Jessen and his fiancée Anna Russell are also shown, left. It is likely Collins and Harry had taken Ida May and Anna to see the mine where they worked.



As the couple made plans to marry, Collins changed jobs, perhaps to a field where he would be able to

spend more time at home. Henry Ford had produced his first affordable Model T in 1914, costing \$440, the equivalent of about \$10,000 today. Goodyear and Uniroyal mass-produced rubber tires for these vehicles. Collins' older brother Espey was the vice president of the Osborne Tire Company.<sup>20</sup> No doubt Espey was responsible for Collins joining this business, offering him the position of secretary-treasurer.<sup>21</sup>



Before her marriage, Ida May, with the support of her grandmother, Charlotte Driver, traveled to San Francisco to buy her wedding trousseau, with Collins accompanying.<sup>22</sup> Harry and Anna, who married in August of 1915, traveled with them. Harry, Anna and Ida May, far right, are shown on the San Francisco Ferry. Collins is shown carrying Ida May's luggage.



The couple readied their apartment near the new capitol building, which was under construction, by purchasing furniture at Dinwoodey's, a prestigious furniture store, shown below. This furniture included their dining room table and two rockers, one of which is shown below with

<sup>20</sup> The city directory shows Espey in this position in 1914 through 1916, when he returned to engineering.

<sup>21</sup> The city director of 1915 showed Collins at the tire supply company.

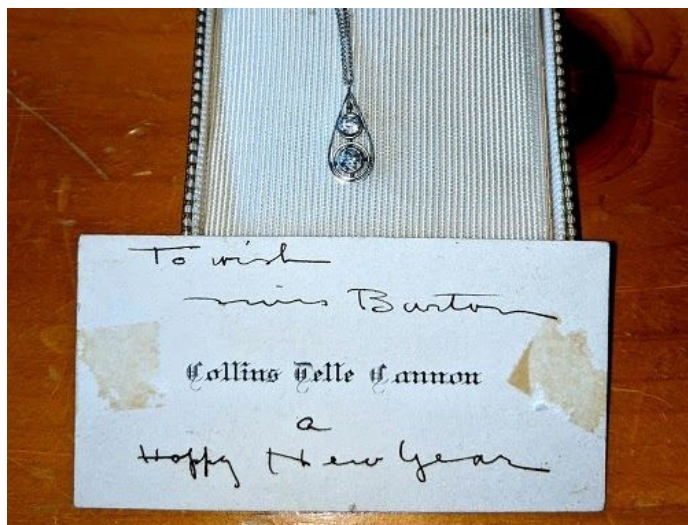
<sup>22</sup> Ida Mae Cannon Smith told me that Charlotte Driver financed the trip and accompanied Ida May.



daughter Elizabeth in about 1921.<sup>23</sup> This furniture lasted throughout their marriage and several of the pieces are now in the homes of their grandchildren.

Ida May decorated their new apartment at 3rd Avenue and F Street, #5 Hill Apartments,<sup>24</sup> below right.

On New Year's Eve, 1914, Collins gave Ida May a beautiful diamond necklace which she wore for the rest of her life.<sup>25</sup>



## Chapter 22: Marriage and the Births of Elizabeth and Ida Mae

Ida May and Collins were married in the Salt Lake Temple by Joseph F. Smith, president of the LDS Church. Ida May later said:

We were married January 20, 1915 in the Salt Lake Temple and had a lovely reception at Mother and Father's home for 200 people. After we were married, Collins's mother asked him, "Well, Collins, you've called Miss Burton, Miss Burton until now, now what are you going to call her?" Collins replied, "I will call her Madame, from now on Mother." And, I've been Madame ever since. We spent our wedding night at Hotel Utah [below left], which was very fashionable. In the morning, Espey, Collins's older brother, met us at the hotel in Grandmother Cannon's Cadillac and took us to the train to leave for a two week honeymoon in California.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup> I have this rocker. It's 105 years old and in perfect condition, a testament to its quality construction. My brother Collins Philip has a matching but taller rocker.

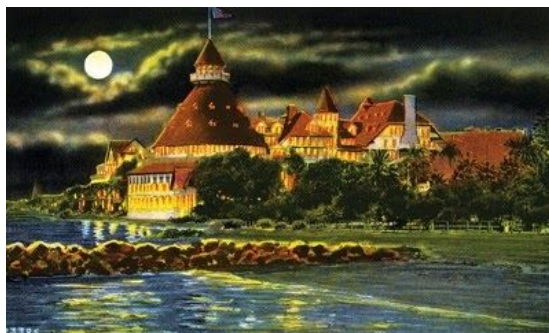
<sup>24</sup> The city directory shows them at 5 Hill Apartments in 1915 and 1916.

<sup>25</sup> Before her death, Nana gave this necklace to her daughter Ida Mae, who gave it to her daughter Georgia Smith Miller, who recently showed it to me. I recognized it immediately as a necklace I often saw on Aunt Maydae. I did not know its history until now. Daddy Cannon wrote, "To wish Miss Burton a Happy New Year."

<sup>26</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977."



Collins paid quite a bit extra for the train fare so he and Ida May could ride in a private pullman car,<sup>27</sup> a luxurious experience. They stayed at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, right, a very exclusive resort.<sup>28</sup>

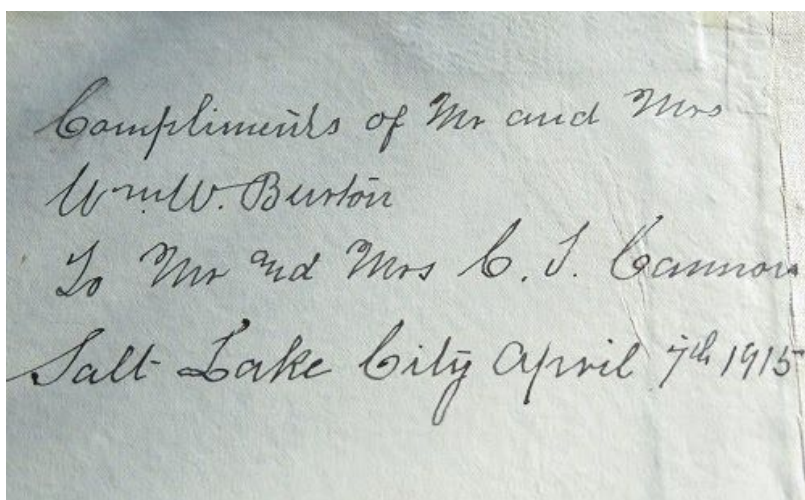


A few months after their marriage, Ida May's

recently widowed grandfather, W. W. Burton, gave her a book in which she could keep her family history, shown right. Ida May cared very much about her family history and later worked side-by-side with her aunt, Josephine Burton Bagley, in compiling, typing and sharing research and family histories.<sup>29</sup>



Grandfather Burton wrote an inscription to Ida May on an inside page of this family history book, right. In Ida May's clear and distinctive handwriting, she recorded birth, death and marriage information for Rachel, shown below.



<sup>27</sup> "I Remember, Memories of Collins T. and Ida May Burton Cannon by Their Grandchildren," Carolyn Randall Farrell. "Ida May Burton Cannon as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978."

<sup>28</sup> In an email exchange with Cannon Randall, he recalled that his mother Janet shared that detail with him during a family trip to San Diego. Today the hotel is operated by the Hilton chain.

<sup>29</sup> Josephine Burton Bagley was the youngest child of W. W. Burton. Josephine was born in 1890 and she and Ida May were very close throughout their lives. Nana did not do research, but she kept careful records of family members and she made sure she had every written family history. Many of the histories that I have today came through her meticulous record-keeping and have been critical and essential in my research.

Rachel Fielding Burton, paternal grand-  
mother of Ida May Burton Cannon  
born Preston, Lancashire Eng. 6-27-1839  
died July 20-1914  
Baptized July 18-1849  
married Salt Lake City, Mar. 28, 1856

Ida May also recorded Rachel's baptism date, the sole source of this information known today.<sup>30</sup>

Ida May ultimately kept vital information in this book about each of her descendants, including each of her grandchildren.

Nine months after their marriage, Martha invited Collins and Ida May to live with her. Her home is shown at right. In Ida May's words:

This was a large home...and she wanted us to be there.<sup>31</sup>

The next week Ida May went into labor. Martha had hired a nurse, and the nurse called the doctor who arrived at 2 am on the morning of October 27th. The doctor felt it best if they did not disturb Collins. Ida May described what happened:



When Betsy was all bathed and put in a sweet little long white nighty, the nurse woke Collins. He came in, and the nurse handed him this sweet little baby. He shook so, I thought he was going to drop her. Then he said, "Well, is this all there is to it?" After that, he was on duty with the other four.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> I was given this journal by my father, unaware of the detail of Rachel's baptism. In the meantime, I had searched many films, records and histories in vain looking for the date of Rachel's original baptism. One day I opened this journal with the intent to ensure that there was no information that I did not already have, and I gasped-- the information I had spent years looking for was on one of the first pages. The LDS Church accepted this record and the date is now part of Rachel's file.

<sup>31</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978."

<sup>32</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Cannon Smith, 1978."



Along with her maiden name, Ida May used one of her mother's names, Elizabeth, and thus, Elizabeth Burton Cannon joined the family. She is shown left about 1917 with Martha Telle Cannon. Betsy was blessed on Christmas day by her grandfather, Joseph Fielding Burton.<sup>33</sup>

Eleven months later, little Ida Mae was born, shown right, also in Martha Telle's home. She was blessed in February of the following year by her uncle, Clarence Neslen, who by this time was the bishop of the Twentieth Ward.<sup>34</sup> This second child was called Maydae, an affectionate name which family members used throughout her life. Ida Mae did not learn her true name until she started school. Eighty-one years later, Ida Mae wrote:



I was born, of course I was! I don't remember just how I felt about that, but nonetheless, it did happen. It happened at Grandmother Cannon's home at 77 E St. in Salt Lake City on November 28, 1916. It was in the upstairs, southeast bedroom. Betsy, and Jean and Gertrude, cousins, were born there too. Grandmother must have had some kind of lying-in hospital.<sup>35</sup>



During the year of 1916, Martha hired the artist Lewis A. Ramsey, left, to paint her portrait, shown below. Mr. Ramsey, who had studied in Paris and was a well-respected member of the LDS Church, had opened a studio in Utah and had painted many images of the Restoration, including one of young Joseph Smith in the sacred grove, below. Martha's painting was framed by the well-known Charles Savage Company.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> LDS Film #26084 Logan 5th Ward Records. The day was a Saturday.

<sup>34</sup> LDS Film #26084, Logan 5th Ward Records. The day was 11 February 1917, a Sunday.

<sup>35</sup> "Life History of Ida Mae Cannon Smith," by Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997. Jeanne Howell Cannon, born in 1917, was Lewis' daughter. Gertrude Neslen, born in 1911, was Grace's daughter. Surely Hester's son Sinclair was born there in 1911, as Collins's letter confirms his parents were living in Martha's home.

<sup>36</sup> Martha was living in Grace's home in 1928 when she passed away. It is most likely that the painting stayed in Grace's home until her untimely death in 1945, when Clarence Neslen gave the painting to Collins. After Collins' death in 1961, the painting remained in his home. When Ida May was moved to a care facility in Logan in 1979, her daughter Ida Mae took possession of the painting. Several years before Aunt Maydae died, she asked her family if she could give the painting to me, and they generously agreed. Shortly after Maydae's death in 2011, I became the new owner of this marvelous painting. It hangs in my dining room, and I am always delighted when friends and even strangers enter the house, ask about the painting, and then do a double take when they notice the strong resemblance between my face and Martha Telle's. Ever since I was a young child, standing in my grandparents' living room looking up at that painting, I have seen my own face.



At the request of President Joseph F. Smith, Lewis Ramsey spent the next two years painting landscapes in the soon-to-be dedicated Hawaiian Temple.<sup>37</sup>



From memories from those who knew Martha, it is apparent that she deeply loved her children and did all she could to help them, but it was also true that her children loved and watched over her.

Later, Janath Russell Cannon would write, “[Martha’s] real satisfaction, however, came from temple and genealogical work, in the pursuit of which she traveled extensively in the East, and in watching her children grow into fine, useful men and women.”<sup>38</sup>

<sup>37</sup> “The Laie Hawaii Temple: A History from Its Conception to Completion Richard J. Dowse Brigham Young University - Provo,” page 126. Brother Ramsey’s murals succumbed to a fungus and have not survived.

<sup>38</sup> Cannon Family Historical Treasury, biography of Martha T. Cannon by Janath Russell Cannon, who was the daughter-in-law of Edwin Q. Cannon.