

## Part Seven: The Logan Years 1918-1929

### Chapter 23: 1918--Birth of Collins Burton and the Move to Logan

In 1917, Collins changed jobs, leaving the tire business and joining the Lynch-Cannon Engineering firm where his brother Willard was vice-president. Also at this time, Ida May and Collins moved from Martha's house into a lovely home belonging to Espey at 505 B Street, which they rented while Espey served during WWI. Upon Espey's return, the couple moved to 254 D Street, shown left, which they would soon leave but to which they would later return.



This home was very close to the home<sup>1</sup> of Collins' brother Edwin Q. Cannon, who was president of the Salt Lake Stamp Company, which sold office supplies and over the years employed many Cannon

family members. Edwin and his wife Louella, and Collins and Ida May lived in the Twentieth Ward.<sup>2</sup>

The year 1918 began with the outbreak of the Spanish flu pandemic and ended with the death of LDS Church president Joseph F. Smith. The United States had entered the European Great War in 1917 and many American men were being drafted into the War. Although already the parents of two very young children, Ida May and Collins believed a third child would exempt him from service.<sup>3</sup>

Little Collins Burton, right,<sup>4</sup> was not born in his grandmother's home, as Martha was traveling in California

\* \* \*

Mrs. Clarence Neslen and her mother, Mrs. Martha Cannon, will leave the latter part of the week for southern California.

\* \* \*

with her daughter Grace.<sup>5</sup>



Instead, he was born in their new home on D Street in February of 1918.

<sup>1</sup> Twentieth Ward History, by Ruth J. Martin, LDS Film 1059487: Lewis T. Cannon designed Edwin's home, into which he moved in 1913.

<sup>2</sup> Twentieth Ward History, by Ruth J. Martin, LDS Film 1059487.

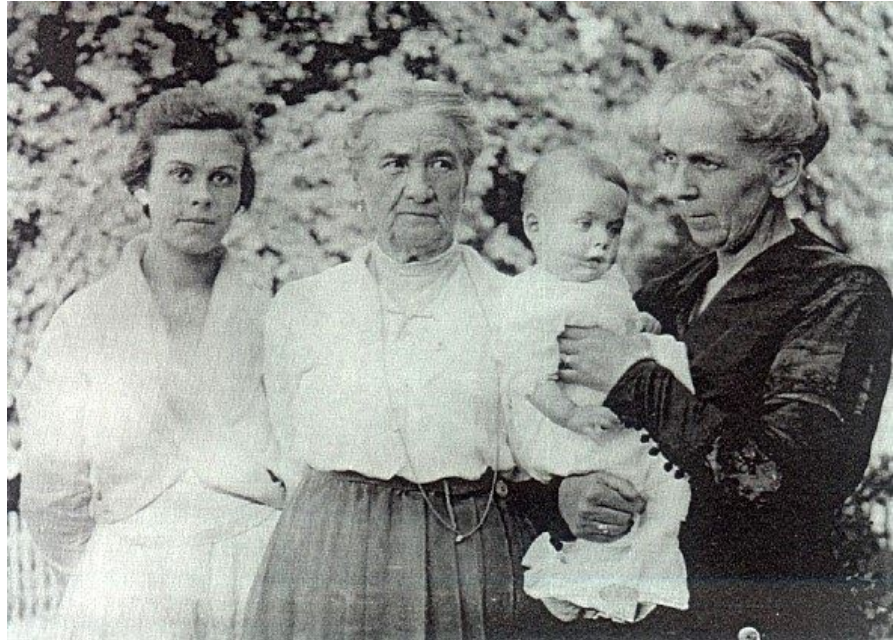
<sup>3</sup> Nana told me this herself.

<sup>4</sup> This photo could so easily be Maydae, but it was taken at the Torgeson Studios in Logan when Dad was a baby.

<sup>5</sup> Salt Lake Telegram 29 January 1918. A second article in the Deseret News in March states that Grace's children were with them, and they were still in California.

Three months later, Louella bore her second child, a son named after his father but called Ted. Louella became very ill and was unable to nurse her infant, but Ida May stepped up and offered to nurse baby Ted. For the rest of their lives, Collins, often called Bud, and Ted referred to each other as milk brothers.<sup>6</sup>

During the summer of 1918, four generations posed for a memorable photograph. Ida May stands on the left, next to her grandmother, Charlotte Boulter Driver. Mary Ann Elizabeth Driver Burton, far right, holds Collins Burton.



Grandson Cannon Randall later shared a fond memory of his grandmother, Ida May, who in 1918, at the age of twenty-three, had three children under two and a half years of age:

A very special memory for me was a day Nana was in Logan visiting and I was there with my own children, who were at the time very young. Kate, my daughter, had two dolls in her lap and was busy feeding both with little bottles, and she and Nana were carrying on a conversation about how to feed babies.<sup>7</sup>

For some time, Collins had been making plans with his former missionary companion, Clarence P. Cardon, to buy and improve the Logan Knitting Factory<sup>8</sup> in Cache Valley. For one meeting, in April of 1918, Clarence had come to Salt Lake City. While in town, he blessed baby Collins.<sup>9</sup> Clarence was from the well-known Logan family of Cardons who had joined the LDS Church in Italy's Piedmont region. Several large Cardon families had immigrated to Utah during the 1850s and sixty years later Cache Valley abounded with generations of Cardons, many of whom were involved to some degree with fabric and knitting businesses.

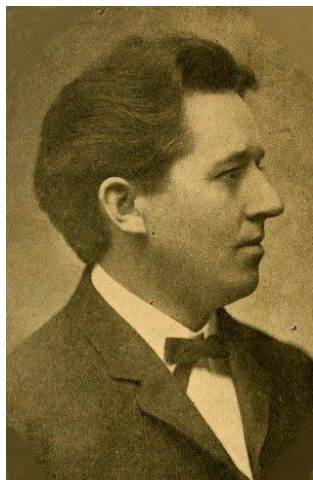
<sup>6</sup> I knew this story, of course, but moments before my father's funeral in 2003, I met Ted for the first time. He identified himself by saying, "I am your father's milk brother," bringing a few reverent chuckles to nearby family members.

<sup>7</sup> "I Remember, 1983," Clarence Cannon Randall.

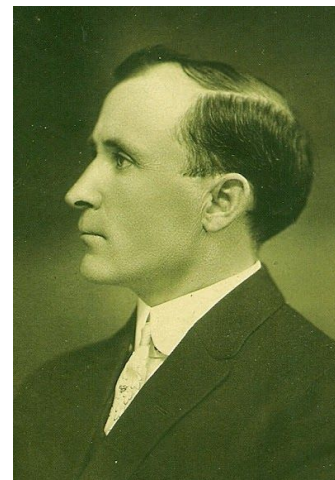
<sup>8</sup> There were at least two knitting mills in Logan. Collins bought the Logan Knitting Factory at 130 South Main.

<sup>9</sup> LDS Film #26084, Logan 5th Ward Records show that Collins Burton was blessed on 18 April 1918 by Clarence P. Cardon. The location is not specified. The timeline indicates this took place in Salt Lake City as Ida May had not yet moved to Logan. The day was a Sunday, but at this time I don't believe baby blessings happened in chapels. This likely took place in someone's home.





Joseph E. Cardon, right, a cousin to Clarence's father, had been partnered since 1899 with Melvin J. Ballard, shown left, in the prosperous Logan Knitting Factory. Although Brother Ballard was a mission president in the Northwestern States between 1909 and 1919, he still owned a large share of the business.<sup>10</sup> Joseph Cardon, who managed the business, was a member of the Cache Valley stake presidency. The knitting mill hired hundreds of college students during the



summers to sell suits, sweaters, jackets and hosiery produced at the mill. In 1917, Collins and Clarence purchased this business from Brother Ballard and Joseph Cardon.<sup>11</sup> Upon Brother Ballard's return from his mission in 1919, he was called to be an apostle, filling the vacancy created by the death of Joseph F. Smith, who had died from pneumonia the previous year at the height of the flu pandemic.

Although the purchase of the mill had been finalized, Ida May remained in Salt Lake City with her three little children, shown left about 1920, while Collins worked in Logan and secured the loan. Ida May relayed an experience which occurred in October<sup>12</sup> of 1918:



During the flu epidemic of 1918...Collins was in Logan surveying the territory that the knitting company covered. He phoned me from Logan and said, "What have you been doing today?"

"I've been down town to buy myself a new hat," I said.

"I hope it's black." he said.

"Why do you hope it's black?"

"Because I am coming home to die."

"What do you mean talking like that, Collins?"

"I have the flu, and I'm coming home. I'm a very sick man."

<sup>10</sup> J. Melvin Ballard has his own [Wikipedia page](#).

<sup>11</sup> A History of Wool Manufacturing As it is Related to Wool Marketing in Utah, A Thesis Presented to The Faculty of the School of Agriculture, Utah State Agriculture College, 1935, By George Elwood Spencer, page 19.

<sup>12</sup> I used this article to date Nana's story: <https://www.influenzaarchive.org/cities/city-saltlakecity.html#>

I called the doctor when Collins got back to Salt Lake, and the doctor told me that this was the first case of Spanish influenza that had been reported to the Board of Health. Collins was a very sick man for three weeks, I took care of him along with the help of Dr. William T. Cannon, his brothers and the prayers of all those that knew him.

One night when he was in bed so very sick, I could hear trains whistling and whistles blowing. I went downstairs and called the telephone operator and asked what was happening. She said, "The Germans are pleading for peace." This was the way they announced the end of the war.<sup>13</sup>

Germany signed the Armistice, officially surrendering to the Allies, on November 11, 1918.

## Chapter 24: The Island

Collins fortunately recovered from the flu and in 1919 moved his family to Logan where they enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle. Speaking of the mill, Ida May later said:

It was very prosperous for quite some time.<sup>14</sup>



Their first home, shown above, was near the Logan River in a location called the Island.<sup>15</sup> The porch was the site of many photographs, including one of five-year-old Ida Mae, left, wearing a dress which had been manufactured at the knitting factory. Son Collins Burton, right, later remembered:

We called where we lived the Island because it was between the main branch of the Logan River and a big canal. We had to cross a bridge to get to it. We lived in a



funny little two bedroom house right on the south side of the Logan River. We had a coal

<sup>13</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Lauria Cannon Smith, 1978."

<sup>14</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Lauria Cannon Smith, 1978."

<sup>15</sup> The 1920 Logan city directory shows the Cannon family lived at 58 South 300 East. Carolyn Randall Farrell determined the home is now numbered 84 South, easily identifiable by the porch.

stove in those days--in fact, two of them. One in the living room and one in the kitchen. I remember Mother cooking the cracked wheat mush on the stove in the living room in a double boiler all night long.

It was when we lived down on the Island that I learned to like classical music. I remember very distinctly turning the hand crank on the old phonograph and listening to Harry Louder sing his Scotch songs, and Madame Schumann-Heink, and [Enrico] Caruso... I can remember that the phonograph stood over against the north wall of the front room, and I could reach up and turn the crank--it was a wind-up.<sup>16</sup>

Ida Mae later talked about the Island:

I remember going to Sunday School and Primary in the old 7th Ward down on the Island in Logan. The classrooms being divided by moveable sheets, we took the sacrament water from a glass, passing it to our neighbor (after a sip). I remember a little girl fell out of a tree and got impaled on a fence post and how horrified we were, dragging Bud face down out of the irrigation ditch, Ida Maxwell's goat whom we believed ate tin cans, the Job Larson family who was the city policeman, was also the janitor at dad's factory, and kept cows to sell the milk to his neighbors (we bought our milk from him). Dad drove an open touring car [shown left and again right with Maydae, Bud and Betsy], they didn't have closed cars in those days. Bud always wished Daddy would buy a "wosed war with a wunk on the back" (a closed car with a trunk on the back).<sup>17</sup>



Ida May, who as a child had accompanied her Grandmother Driver as she performed her duties as a member of an early Red Cross organization during the Spanish American War, enrolled in a nursing program offered by the Logan 7th Ward Relief Society<sup>18</sup>, later writing:

<sup>16</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982." Dad's memory was that the family moved to Logan in 1919, and that timing fits with the flu and the end of the War.

<sup>17</sup>"The Life of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997."

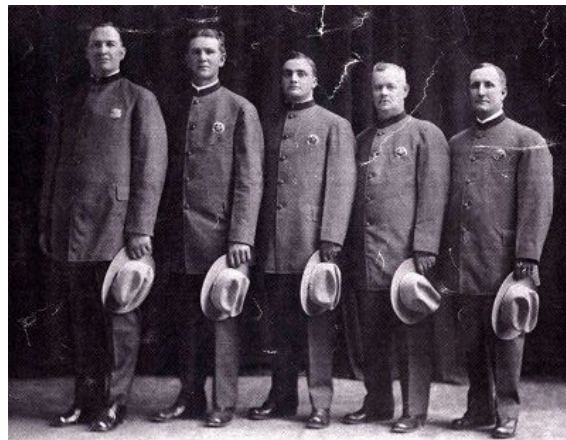
<sup>18</sup> I studied Logan Ward records and learned that they first lived in the 7th Ward. Their records were sent to the 5th Ward on 17 December 1922. These same records show that the family's membership records were sent to the 18th Ward in the Ensign Stake on 13 April 1930.



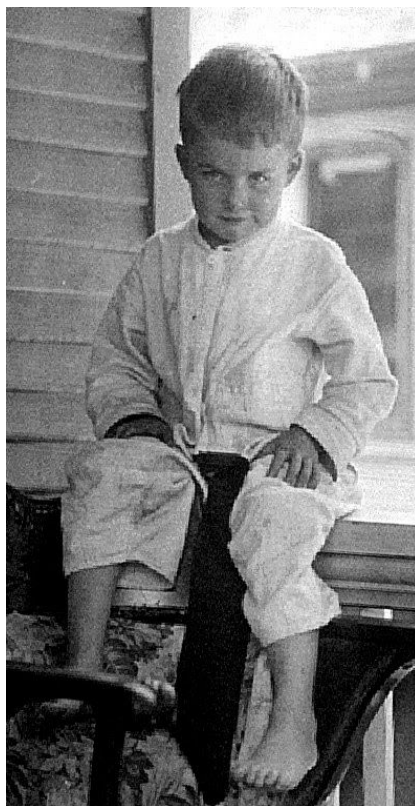
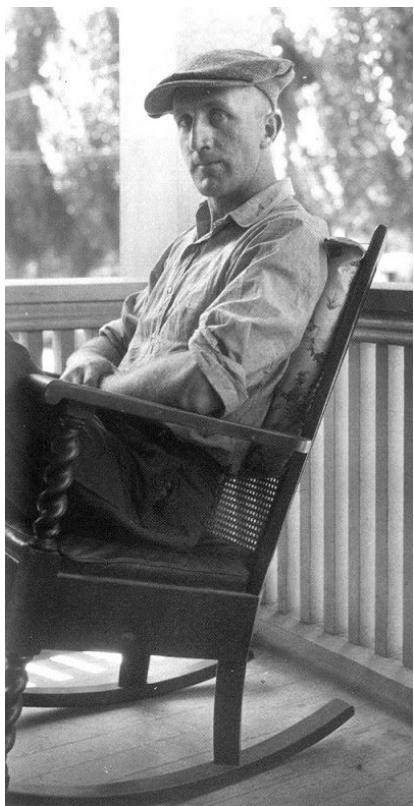
I started to take classes that were offered by the Relief Society in first aid and took their home nursing programs. The Relief Society felt young mothers should know more about caring for their families, so they organized these classes. I took all the classes that were possible for me to attend. This was very helpful in assisting me to raise my family.<sup>19</sup>

Collins Burton remembered:

I have one other vivid memory of those early years in Logan. Old Job Larsen was a cop of some kind [shown second from left at right]. He lived a couple of doors south of us. I remember him coming to the back door one night, with the scalp off the side of his head hanging down over his ear. He'd gotten in an argument with somebody over irrigating water and the other guy had hit Job with a shovel. Of course, nobody had telephones on the Island, so Mother bundled him up, Father had a car and took him to



the hospital.<sup>20</sup>



The porch of the home on 300 South continued to be a favorite place for taking pictures. Collins is shown far left, with Bud, center left, on the porch railing.

Memories of Collins Burton and Ida Mae include neighborhood friends. Below, on left, is Miriam Stewart next to Ida Mae, then Bernice McCracken, with Betsy on the right. Bud, in rumpled clothes, appears to have found his way into this picture.

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

<sup>20</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982."



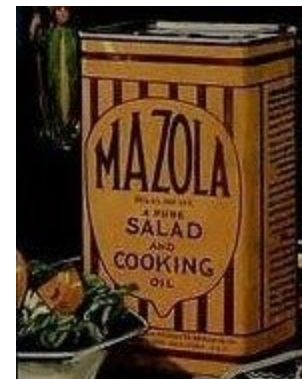
Martha Telle, always called Aunt Martha by her grandchildren,<sup>21</sup> made occasional trips to Logan to visit Collins and his family. An early visit was noted in the Deseret News on the 26th of July, 1919 after Martha had celebrated the 24th of July holiday with Collins' family.

Mrs. Martha T. Cannon of Salt Lake is in Logan as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Collins T. Cannon.

Collins Burton  
later

remembered one of Martha Telle's visits, likely about 1926. An important detail in this story is that in the 1920s, Mazola corn oil was sold in cans, not bottles.

Father was a lot of fun--he enjoyed playing with us kids. I got a train set for Christmas that was worn out when I opened it because Father had been up all night long playing with it. Father also made excellent aerial bombs out of Mazola cans. One Fourth of July, when I was about 8 or 9, he had us, and all the neighborhood kids, in the back yard with him. He'd put a handful of shotgun powder in the end of a can, and wrap it in wax paper, and then pack it with mud in the bottom and leave the open end of the can down. Then he'd light it. It would scream up into the air absolutely out of sight. We never saw lots of them come down. Well, Aunt Martha was visiting us. She heard the first one go off and by the time she gathered her wits and got out into the backyard the second and third had gone off and into the sky. She grabbed Father by the ear and said "Collins Cannon! You come in the house right now! I've told you for years and years and years you're not going to make those horrible things!"



<sup>21</sup> The children on the farm used the affectionate title "Aunt" when referring to their father's wives. Apparently this carried to the next generation, as Dad always referred to Martha Telle as "Aunt Martha." In this generation, my cousins and I refer to her as Martha Telle.



It appears that about this time, family members stepped in to help care for Martha as she aged. By 1918, son Lewis and his family were living in her home, as Martha had moved downtown to the Kensington Apartments.<sup>22</sup> By 1920, Martha was living with Grace.<sup>23</sup> Collins Burton shared another memory of her:

Aunt Martha was very prim and very proper. She was short. She was small. It's hard to say how short she was because I was only about four feet tall myself when I last saw her. She lived with Aunt Grace as long as I knew her. She was always highly respected, extremely loquacious, and always, always well dressed, well groomed. I think she was raised that way.<sup>24</sup>

## Chapter 25: Logan Society, Business Clubs and Janet's Birth

Collins and Ida May lived a public life where both were involved in civic and social events. As mentioned earlier, Ida May was involved with her ward Relief Society. At this time, new clubs were formed in Logan for social and civic interests. In 1920, not long before the presidential election in which Republican Warren G. Harding would win in a landslide, Collins became a charter member of the Lincoln Republican Club to promote support for their candidate.<sup>25</sup>

Bridge came into popularity in the United States during the 1920s, and Ida May and Collins were among the first to embrace the game and share it. Avid bridge-playing remained in great popularity



A very attractive social event of the week was a bridge tea given by Mrs. Lewis T. Cannon and Mrs. Collins T. Cannon at the banquet hall at the Hotel Eccles. Pink and white sweet peas and cosmos were used to decorate the hall. There were fifty two guests present.

through the 1970s, and social events were planned around bridge luncheons, bridge dinners and bridge tournaments. In 1920, Ida May and her sister-in-law, Martha Howell Cannon, hosted an elaborate bridge social at the Eccles Hotel in downtown Logan, shown above, with over fifty women attending.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>22</sup> The city directory for this year gave Martha's address for Lewis and listed the Kensington as Martha's address.

<sup>23</sup> The city directories through the 1920s show Martha living with Grace except for the year 1922, when Martha was listed in the Caithness Apartments.

<sup>24</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982."

<sup>25</sup> 3 October 1920, Logan Politics Tribune. C. P. Cardon was also a charter member, as was the mayor.

<sup>26</sup> Two newspaper articles about this event in September of 1920 indicate that people came from Salt Lake for this event, and that prizes were given.



Ida May found additional avenues where she could pursue her interest in home nursing, which she carried throughout her life. A 1920 article from the Logan Journal<sup>27</sup> shows her participating with the Utah Agricultural College Women's group.

Society articles from the Logan newspapers provide a colorful window into Ida May's life. These news items reported on family visiting

**Miss Margaret Burton of Salt Lake is the guest for the week of her sister, Mrs. Collins T. Cannon.**

\* \* \*

The U. A. C. Woman's Club met Monday afternoon with Mrs. C. P. Cardon. Miss Ethel Nielson gave a most interesting talk on "The Public Health Nurse". Mrs. Collins T. Cannon was a special guest of the afternoon. Tea was served at the conclusion of the afternoon.

\* \* \*

in Logan and reciprocated visits to Salt Lake, two examples are shown.

By this time Ida May's father was in a wheelchair and Ida May frequently took her children to visit her parents. Son Collins Burton later shared:

I remember that Grandma Burton's house always smelled good and clean. I remember going down the stairs to the basement. The shelves along the side of the stairs were always lined with jams and preserves. I guess at the time I knew her these had been made by Pearl and Mary and Charlotte, Mother's younger sisters. I don't remember Grandfather Burton except in a wheelchair. I don't remember it, but Mother tells me he used to teach me all kinds of little kids songs.<sup>28</sup>

**Mrs. Collins T. Cannon and little daughter, May Day, returned from Salt Lake Sunday, after a week's visit with Mrs. Cannon's mother, Mrs. J. M. Burton.**

Ida Mae remembered visiting Grandmother Burton's home. She later told of a memory of being in a room in her grandmother's house

with a large wooden chest on a desk. An adult opened the chest and removed a pistol, and underneath where the gun had lain was a pink baby sweater, right. After asking about the sweater, Ida Mae learned that her grandmother had worn it in 1866 when her family left England and crossed the Atlantic and then the plains of Iowa and Nebraska. The sweater was a family treasure.<sup>29</sup>



<sup>27</sup> 2 October 1920 Logan Journal.

<sup>28</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982."

<sup>29</sup> Aunt Maydae told me this story. I have the sweater carefully wrapped with an apron and a baby bonnet which also belonged to Mary Ann. Aunt Maydae couldn't tell me anything about the gun or the adults in the room.

Late in the summer of 1922, Ida May gave birth to her fourth child, Janet, in the William-Budge Hospital, shown below, which was just a few blocks from their home on the Island.

Interestingly, one of the doctors who opened this hospital was Clarence Crenshaw Randall, who

would later become Janet's father-in-law.<sup>30</sup>

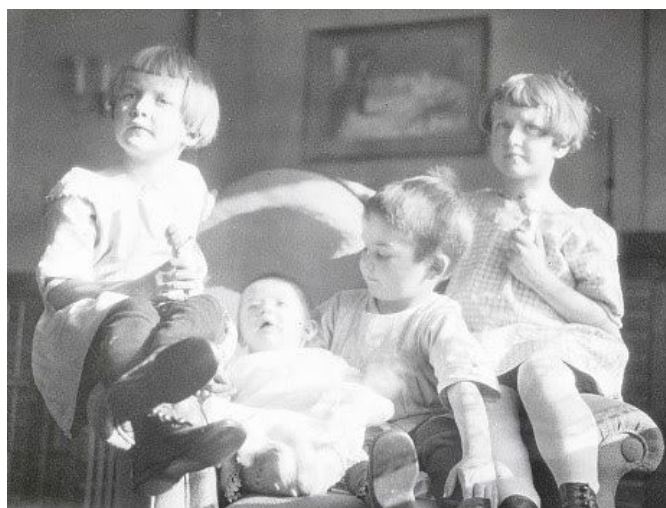


Collins is shown at right holding Janet in front of the home on 300 South. Janet's

older siblings, below right, were delighted. Ida May kept Janet warm near the stove, below left.



On August 10th, 1922, the week following Janet's birth, Collins' older half-brother Sylvester Q. Cannon, left, who at that time was the president of the Salt Lake Stake, blessed Janet.<sup>31</sup>



<sup>30</sup> Cannon Randall shared these details with me on 5 April 2020. Cannon was one of the last babies born in that hospital, delivered by his grandfather. The building now houses offices. Janet was frequently called Polly, her Grandmother Burton's nickname, but her Logan membership record shows her name as Janet Cannon.

<sup>31</sup> The ward record shows that Sylvester Q. Cannon blessed Janet on August 10th, but it did not show whether this ordinance happened in Logan or Salt Lake. The day was a Thursday. My guess would be that this event occurred in Salt Lake in the home of Ida May's parents so they could see their new grandchild. Sylvester was later called as the presiding bishop and then as an apostle.



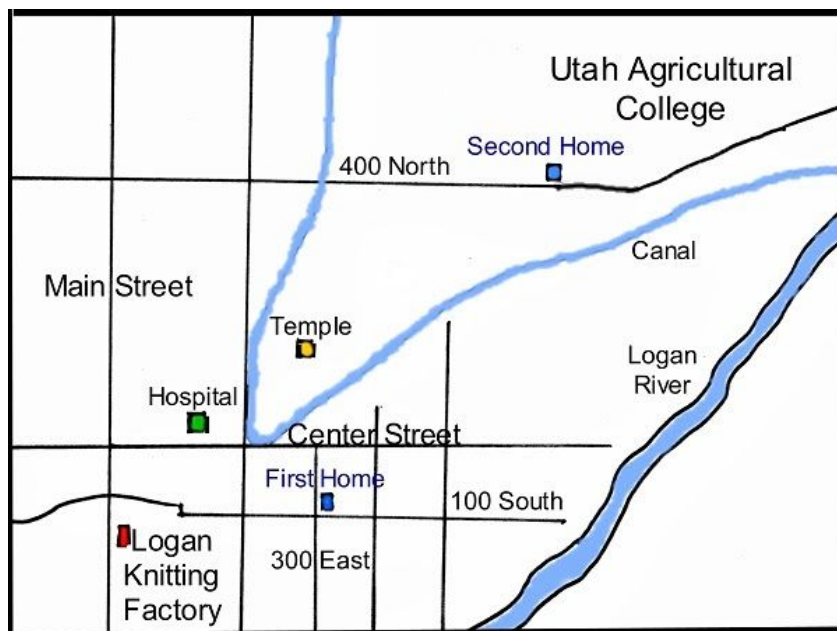
Not long after Janet's birth, the family purchased a home on the hill, shown right, near the Utah Agricultural College. Daughter Ida Mae later remembered:



In the fall of 1922, after the birth of our beautiful Janet, we moved to 619 E. 4th N. Our wonderful Norwegian live-in helper, Anna Nielson, moved with us and stayed with us for several years until she married. We had a string of hired girls and we were pesky kids, but they all seemed to love us anyway.<sup>32</sup>

Son Collins Burton said:

When we lived down on the Island, Father was just struggling, getting started. But in 1922 we moved up on the hill to kind of a swanky house on Fourth North Street.<sup>33</sup>



Janet was born in August of 1922. Maydae said they moved to the new house in the fall. The 5th Ward on the hill received the records on 17 December 1922. The map on the left shows the location of the Cannon family's first and second homes. A very steep incline is between the college and the area known as the Island, between the canal and the river.

The Logan Knitting Factory is also shown on the map, at 130 South Main. This structure, shown below, is now an office building. A refurbished piece of knitting equipment left behind in the factory stands in the entrance, also shown below.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> "Life of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997."

<sup>33</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982."

<sup>34</sup> I am in debt to Carolyn Randall Farrell who scouted out these locations and took the pictures. I am also grateful to Cannon Randall for help with the map. Annette Randall Haws took the picture of the current home.



With help to assist at home, Ida May and Collins were able to fully participate in Logan society. A 1923 article showed that Ida May attended a study group which reviewed Willa Cather's "My Antonia." In the 1920s, the Carnegie Foundation provided grants for new libraries all over the United States, including money for a library in Logan. In 1924, Ida May headed a committee which

**The Clio Club met Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Joseph R. Jensen. Mrs. Collins T. Cannon read and discussed the play "Right You Are if You Think So", by Pirandello. Tea was served. Mrs. Alma Sonne and Mrs. Fred Dahle were special guests.**

planned a large dance for raising additional funds.<sup>35</sup>

Also that year, Ida May read Luigi Pirandello's play "Right You Are if You Think So," to the Clio Club, and then led a discussion.<sup>36</sup>

In October of 1924, Ida May traveled to Salt Lake City where she hosted a large event with her sisters Rachel, Vilate and Charlotte at the Hotel Utah in honor of two other sisters, Margaret and also Mary Ellen, the latter visiting from California. The previous week Ida May had hosted a bridge luncheon for Mary Ellen in Logan.<sup>37</sup> The room for that event was decorated with silver candlesticks and white chrysanthemums.<sup>38</sup>

In December of 1924, Collins was elected vice-president of the Kiwanis Club.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>35</sup> 4 October 1924 Logan Journal.

<sup>36</sup> 1 November 1924 Logan Journal.

<sup>37</sup> 11 October 1924 Logan Journal.

<sup>38</sup> 19 October 1924 Salt Lake Tribune.

<sup>39</sup> 18 December 1924 Logan Journal.



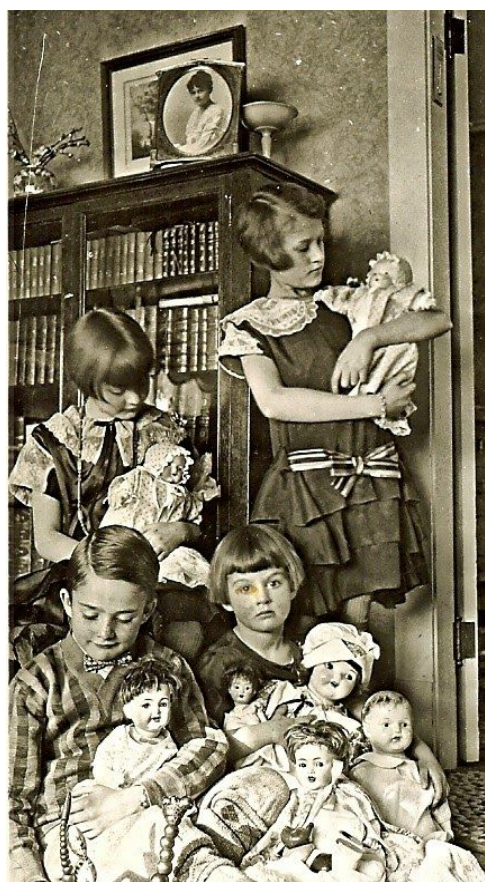




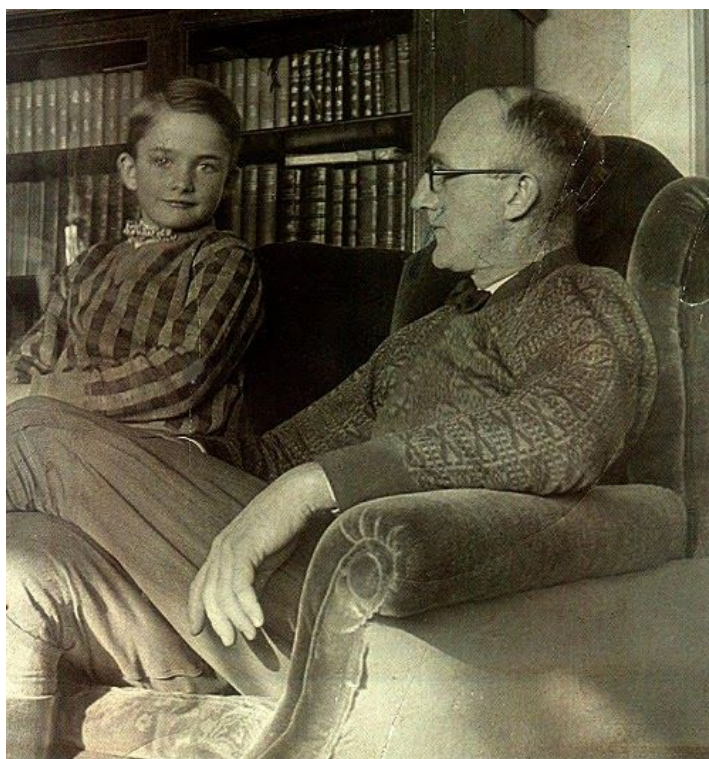
Ida May and Collins lived very well in this second home in Logan, and in fact they never lived more comfortably or more lavishly. In 1924, Ida May purchased an upright piano and Ida Mae and Elizabeth began taking lessons.<sup>40</sup> The colorized photo at left shows the Cannon family during Christmas of 1926. That year, dolls were

plentiful, as shown in the picture at left. Bud is seated next to Janet. Ida Mae and Betsy are standing. Son Collins Burton, below with his father, both in sweaters from the mill, later remembered:

By this time Father owned two cars, a Buick and a Chevrolet. Mother wore long beaded formals on occasion and Father had a tuxedo. Christmases in Logan were



very festive affairs. There was always a big tree and lots of visiting people in and out of the house and--lots of toys.<sup>41</sup>



<sup>40</sup> The upright is now in the home of Georgia Smith Miller, who told me this detail.

<sup>41</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982."





The silver tea set at left belonged to Collins and Ida May, although the lid of the pot used to have a bone handle. Ida May's tableware included enough silver salt and pepper shakers that the person setting the table could put a set at the place of each guest.



In 1923, upon the death of her grandmother Charlotte Boulter Driver, Ida May inherited the Driver silverware, below, with twelve place settings.



Included with the Driver silver was this small gravy ladle, below, which Charlotte had brought with her from England, along with a beautiful set of China dishes.<sup>42</sup>



Each member of the Cannon family had their own personalized napkin ring. Ida May's is shown below. In her later years, Janet received the 1926 Christmas photo of her childhood family in the

<sup>42</sup> My father inherited the silver and this ladle, which I have and occasionally use. One of my cousins has the Driver bowls.





living room of the Logan home, shown above, sent by her niece Georgia Smith Miller. Janet's son Cannon Randall recalled his mother's reaction upon seeing this photograph:

Mother was thrilled! She then proceeded to describe every room, the furniture in each, right down to the drawer in the kitchen where the napkin rings were kept. "My job was to put

the napkin rings on the dinner table, and Mother told me it was an important job. I thought so, too. There was one napkin ring for each of us, all different, with our first initial on them."<sup>43</sup>

Cannon added that in the early 1980s, the family living in that home found a sterling napkin ring engraved with the initial "B" in the back garden. The family reached out to Janet, who lived in Logan. She recognized it as having once belonged to her sister Betsy. A non-family member might wonder how a precious silver napkin ring could be lost. However, any grandchild who ever helped clear the dishes in their grandmother's home would know that after every meal the silver was carefully counted and washed by hand, the cloth napkins were removed from the table and laundered, and the linen tablecloth was taken outside and shaken. Certainly, it was a sad day when Betsy's napkin ring went missing, and surely the dining room and trash were frantically searched. The recovered napkin ring was given to Betsy's daughter, Karen.

Janet also remembered that their home was only two blocks from the creamery at Logan State University:

On Saturday mornings Daddy would walk with all of us up to the college for ice cream cones. It was so fun. I think Daddy liked them more than we did.<sup>44</sup>

Janet also remembered that she was slight when she was young. Her daughter Carolyn said, "One day her father told her that if she didn't get a little fatter, the next breeze would blow her away and he'd have to catch her with a butterfly net." When told this, Carolyn immediately conjured up a vision of "Daddy Cannon, long thin legs pumping, wearing his beret, waving a butterfly net toward my tiny mother, drifting on a breeze toward the mouth of the canyon."<sup>45</sup>

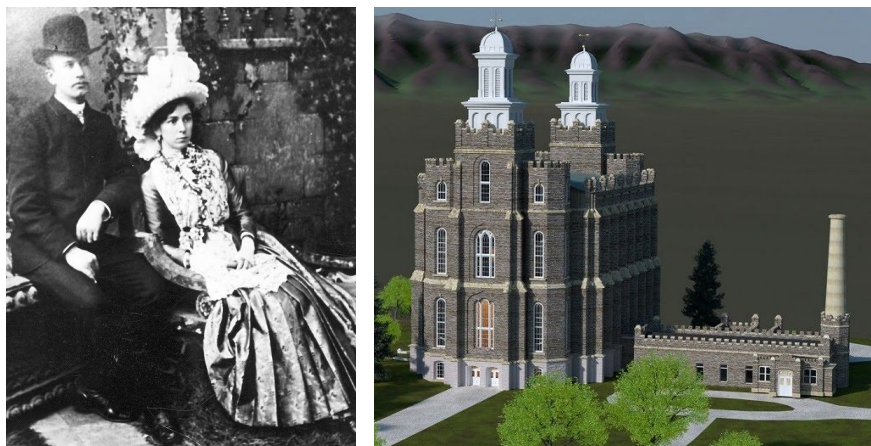
<sup>43</sup> Cannon Randall to Julie Cannon Markham, March 2020.

<sup>44</sup> Cannon Randall to Julie Cannon Markham, March 2020.

<sup>45</sup> Carolyn Randall Farrell remembered this detail as she helped me with the map of Logan on 16 April 2020.

While their lives were full and rich in Logan, they still cared deeply about family members in Salt Lake City, staying in touch and visiting. Sadly, Ida May's father died in 1924 at the age of sixty-two from complications of Parkinson's disease at his home in Salt Lake City.<sup>46</sup> He is shown, near right, with his wife Mary Ann on their wedding day in 1886. The couple was married in the Logan Temple<sup>47</sup> two years after its dedication.

On the day before Halloween in 1923, Ida May drove Betsy a few blocks to the Logan Temple. There, Betsy was baptized, just three days after she turned 8. The following year, two weeks after her eighth birthday, Ida Mae was baptized. She recalled:



It was a bitter cold day on December 16, 1924. I was 8 years old. Mother took me to the Logan Temple where I was to be baptized, I was terrified. I walked up the steps to the font and was put down into the water and baptized. Then, immediately removed from the water and placed in a chair next to the font and was confirmed a member of the Church, I was dripping wet through this. No stream-lined one-piece suits that they have nowadays. I had on long-handled underwear, long stockings, bloomers, petticoat, and a dress. It's a wonder I didn't drown, but I was baptized. Dad gave me a silver dollar for my 8th birthday, wish I'd kept it.<sup>48</sup>

Collins Burton was baptized in the Logan Temple in the summer of 1926, four and a half months after his eighth birthday.<sup>49</sup>

Social events continued. In the spring of 1925, Ida May, with other Logan women, organized two successful floral shows. The first featured local tulips; the second promoted the many varieties of iris, which, to the crowds attending the show, seemed far superior to the more common and formerly popular blue and white flag.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>46</sup> His 14 February 1924 death certificate states he died from paralysis agitans, now called Parkinson's. My son Jeff, a medical doctor, speculated that he likely died from related complications rather than from Parkinson's itself.

<sup>47</sup> This render of the 1918 Logan Temple, which still had pink bands of stone at that time, is by [Brian Olson](#).

<sup>48</sup> Life History of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997.

<sup>49</sup> LDS Film #178051, Baptisms of the Living in the Logan Temple has the records of Betsy's, Ida Mae's and Collins Burton's baptisms. Many eight-year-old children of this era were baptized at age eight in the fonts of nearby temples. In the case of the Logan Temple, records show that living baptisms occurred on Tuesdays.

<sup>50</sup> 29 April 1925, 25 May 1925 Logan Journal.



Collins was still involved with Kiwanis events and led a committee which hosted a dinner dance in January, 1926.<sup>51</sup> Later that year, Collins, surely because of his engineering skills,<sup>52</sup> was selected to join the Cache County Roads Committee to improve the maintenance of the highway through Sardine Canyon.<sup>53</sup>

The knitting mill continued to be profitable. Collins used Bud and Ida Mae as models, shown right, for the sweaters and other clothing which the mill produced, including stockings and caps.



## Chapter 26: The Birth of Joan and a Trip to Yellowstone National Park

Daughter Ida Mae remembered:

On a beautiful Easter Sunday in 1927, Joan made her debut. During the 9 months previous, Mother had worn a black, crepe-back satin dress. I hated it, but do you know what I wore to the music festival in the Spring of 1927? A black crepe-back satin skirt and bolero over a beautiful smocked peasant blouse -- Mother's maternity dress made over.<sup>54</sup>



The four older Cannon children are shown above on the steps of their home on 4th North, holding their new sister Joan. Her name was pronounced "JoAnn," but she was often called Joanni. Left to right: Betsy, Maydae, Janet holding Joan, and Bud.

<sup>51</sup> 20 January 1926 Salt Lake Telegram.

<sup>52</sup> "I Remember, 1983," Collins Philip Cannon. "One Sunday afternoon of accompanying Grandpa on an inspection tour of some work he was supervising, he wrote out for me the equation followed in meeting the grade curvature of the street to the gutter."

<sup>53</sup> 13 August 1926, South Cache Courier.

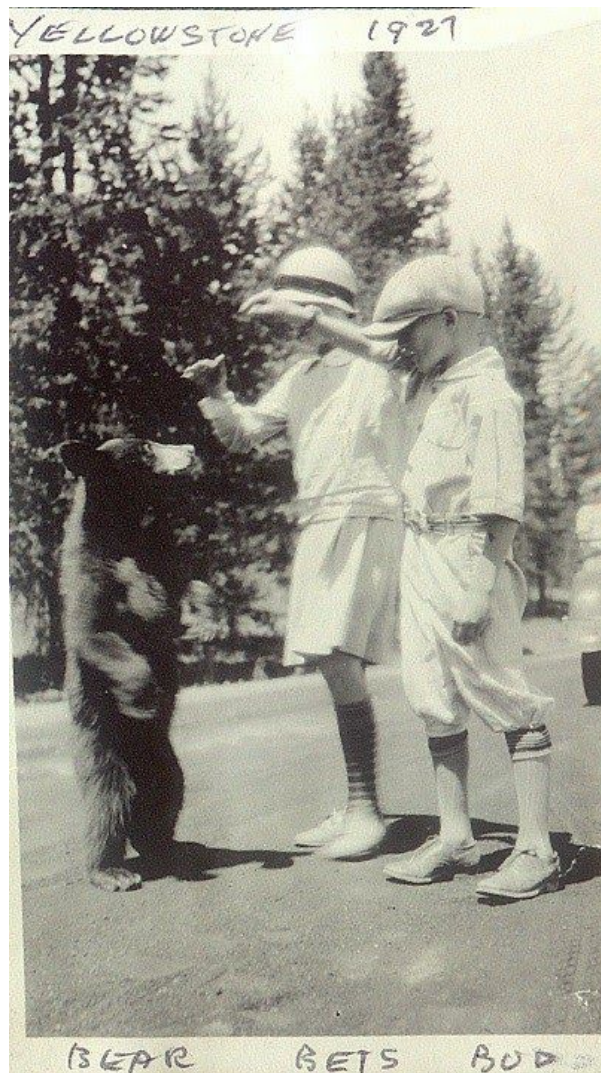
<sup>54</sup> "Life of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997." Although Aunt Maydae didn't specifically say that her mother did the work, I know that Nana sewed well enough to do this and probably did in fact remake it.

Janet later said:

I remember being in bed one morning snuggling up with Maydae and Betsy. Daddy walked in and told us that Mother was going to bring home a new baby sister to our family. Oh, that was very exciting for me. I wasn't going to be the littlest anymore.<sup>55</sup>

Collins Burton later remembered a trip to Yellowstone National Park just after Joan was born, decades before the construction of interstate highways. Collins left Logan on Friday, July 1st, driving on a two-lane highway in an open-air coup with two children in the passenger seat and one lying in the back window, stopping for the night in Pocatello, about 90 miles away. The entire loop from Logan to Pocatello, on to Yellowstone and then back through Jackson Hole is almost six hundred miles:

Father was always suggesting to us kids that we go on fun trips, or do something exciting. And then often he'd come up with some reason why we really wouldn't like to do that. But one time...Father said, "How would you kids like to go to Yellowstone?" It was the Fourth of July--a long weekend. So of course, we all said we'd like to. Mother wasn't going to see us disappointed this time. So when Dad came home from work that day at noon, there we sat, all lined up in a row on the porch steps, with our little suitcases packed. We were ready to go to Yellowstone. And Mother told Father in no uncertain terms that he was going to take us to Yellowstone. So we piled into the little Chevrolet coupe. I remember we took turns lying down on the little shelf up behind the seat. Coupes in those days were just that--coupes. This car had no back seat.



We spent the first night in Pocatello in the Bannock Hotel--first class! When we got to the Park we saw lots of bears, there weren't many people, and the roads were narrow. We stayed at Canyon one night, and Old Faithful one night and on the way back home we

<sup>55</sup> Cannon Randall to Julie Cannon Markham, March 2020

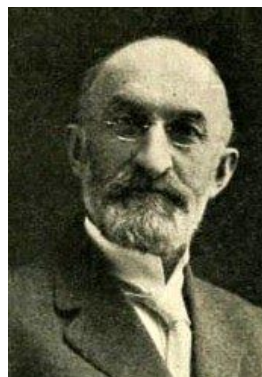


came through Jackson. When we got home, Nana asked us how we had liked the trip and we told her all the experiences. We told her about how all the ladies at Old Faithful Lodge said that Father was the best dancer on the floor.<sup>56</sup>

## Chapter 27: The Death and Funeral of Martha Telle Cannon

In late January of 1928, Collins' sister Grace alerted her eight siblings that their mother Martha had suffered a serious stroke.<sup>57</sup> Collins traveled from Logan to be at his mother's side and arrived before her death, which occurred in the early hours of Sunday, February 5th. Espey, who at this time lived in Los Angeles, and Willard who had been visiting him, arrived Sunday.

On Tuesday, President Heber J. Grant, center right, who had succeeded Joseph F. Smith as president of the Church ten years earlier, spoke at Martha's funeral. Two older half-brothers of Collins spoke, Sylvester Quayle, far right, who at this time served as the presiding bishop, and Joseph Jenne, lower right. Charles E. Davey, lower center, also spoke. He had attended Martha's school on the farm when his mother worked as a housekeeper and had been serving as the bishop of the Cannon Ward since 1917.<sup>58</sup>



Apostle Orson F. Whitney, shown below, who lived in the Twentieth Ward just a few blocks from Martha, also spoke at her funeral:

I presume there are many here who knew Sister Cannon much better than I did, but I doubt if there are any who had more respect

<sup>56</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982." Dad had remembered that his mother was pregnant with Joan (passage not included), but Joan was born on Easter, which is actually too early in the year to go to Yellowstone, as snow would have blocked the roads. In light of that, I have lightly edited his remarks. I have two pictures of this trip and as a result I know Maydae was with them. Janet, age 4, was likely not included.

<sup>57</sup> I have drawn conclusions from two of Martha's obituaries, one from the Deseret News and another in the Salt Lake Telegram, both published on 6 February 1928, and her death certificate, which states that her doctor treated her from January 24th until her death. I have assumed the stroke occurred on the 24th.

<sup>58</sup> 8 February 1928 Salt Lake Telegram. This article stated that Martha's funeral services were "impressive." This brief article named the pallbearers and speakers. Bishop Davey was released as bishop of the Cannon Ward in 1930 and was succeeded by Tracy Y. Cannon, a son of Caroline's.



for her. She always struck me by the dignity of her appearance, her personality, and by her amiable disposition. She was a woman among women. She had a queenly dignity and was a genuine lady.<sup>59</sup>

Six of Martha's grandsons carried her casket from the Twentieth Ward chapel into the waiting hearse: Max Chamberlain, the thirty-three year-old-son of Amelia; Howell Cannon, the nineteen-year-old son of Lewis; Robert Neslen, the nineteen-year-old son of Grace;<sup>60</sup> Sinclair Richards, the sixteen-year-old son of Hester; Gerald Cannon, the twenty-one-year-old son of Willard; and Howard Cannon, the twenty-year-old son of Brigham. Thirty-seven grandchildren survived Martha, including Collins and Ida May's five children.<sup>61</sup>

Martha died just three months prior to the passing of Sarah Jane Jenne Cannon, who was the last of George Q. Cannon's wives to die. Both are buried next to him in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

In April of the following year, young Collins Burton was struck with meningitis during a nationwide epidemic.<sup>62</sup> Collins Burton, whose birthday fell on February 19th, later remembered that he was sick for almost two months:

I got sick with spinal meningitis at a basketball game up at Utah State. I was only 10. It was 1929. I remember being sick when Herbert Hoover was inaugurated because I remember listening to that on the radio and that would have been March 20, 1929, so I got sick in January because I spent my 11th birthday in bed.

Ida May called upon her home nursing skills when her son Bud fell ill:

When Bud was 10 years old, he developed spinal meningitis which was epidemic in Logan at that time. I could help nurse him, although we were required to have a hospital nurse to come and take care of him. I learned a great deal about caring for the sick through her in our home. He completely recovered which was fortunate because so many people died of this meningitis.<sup>63</sup>

Collins' brother Lewis mentioned Bud's recovery in a letter to his son Howell, who had just begun his mission in Switzerland and Germany:

<sup>59</sup> Cannon Family Historical Treasury, biography of Martha T. Cannon by Janath Russell Cannon.

<sup>60</sup> Grace's oldest son, Clarence, was serving in the Swiss-German mission at this time.

<sup>61</sup> Radcliffe and Willard had each lost a young child in 1913.

<sup>62</sup> A Study of Meningococci Recovered in the United States Since 1930 by Sarah E. Branham and Sadie A. Carlin, National Institute of Health, Washington, D. C. Received for publication April 2, 1937, page 1.

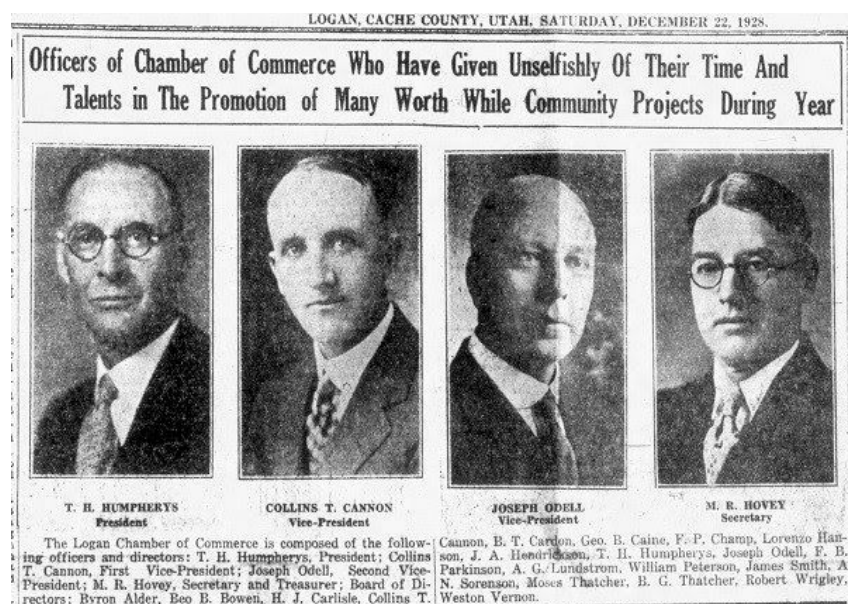
<sup>63</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1978." Lewis' letter was dated 2 April 1929, perhaps a month after Dad had recovered. Contemporary articles show the epidemic passed through Utah in 1929.



Dear Howell: Today is the 2nd of April [1929], and having in mind the injunction in your last letter to send you money on the 1st, I am writing you this short letter to accompany the check for \$35.00 which I am enclosing herewith. Your letter of March 18th was very interesting: in fact all your letters are, but most of them are rather brief. However, we must not expect you to spend your time too much in letter writing. You mention Spinal Meningitis; there have been many cases of it here lately; among them Uncle Collie's boy in Logan, Amos McGhie and others. Poor Amos died, but Collie's boy recovered and is now as good as ever. I believe the situation is gradually getting better. Whenever anyone gets sick lately, everybody wonders if it is going to be Meningitis.<sup>64</sup>

## Chapter 28: The Loss of the Mill and the Great Depression

By the end of 1928, Collins had completed his term as vice-president of the Kiwanis and at that



point was devoting his efforts in behalf of the Logan Chamber of Commerce, where he had been elected vice-president.<sup>65</sup> In this capacity, he traveled to see improvements in other Utah cities and he assisted with the creation of a Chamber of Commerce in Ogden.<sup>66</sup> In 1927, Collins undertook the significant responsibility with the Chamber to obtain approval for an airport in Logan.<sup>67</sup>

Collins served as Chairman of the Committee on Aviation from 1927 to 1929. After working tirelessly in bringing to fruition an airfield with two runways, the official opening of the Logan-Cache Airport was held on Labor Day, 2 September 1929.<sup>68</sup> Anticipating the thousands of visitors who would attend, service stations in the area saved their used oil to pave a large observation area.<sup>69</sup> Throngs saw parachuters, listened to high school bands and heard speeches

<sup>64</sup> Letter of Lewis Telle Cannon to Howell Quayle Cannon April 2, 1929. Howell gave me a copy of this letter about 1987. I knew Howell; he also gave me some letters written to Martha Telle Cannon. Amos McGhie was a recently married man from the Twentieth Ward. According to his death certificate, he died within 24 hours.

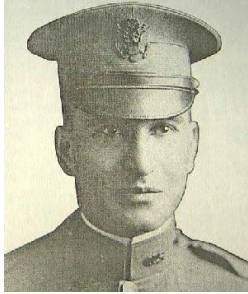
<sup>65</sup> Logan Journal on December 22nd, 1928.

<sup>66</sup> 23 August 1927 Deseret News; 19 October 1928 Logan Journal; 5 December 1928 Logan Journal.

<sup>67</sup> 7 September 1927 Deseret News.

<sup>68</sup> The Salt Lake Telegram published an article about dual runways on 4 July 1929.

<sup>69</sup> 7 August 1929 Logan Journal.



by local and state dignitaries. Seagull Airlines brought four planes, one being a sister ship to the Spirit of St. Louis which Charles Lindbergh had flown across the Atlantic in 1927. Local Logan hero, Lieutenant Russell Maughan, shown left, a deadly dogfighter pilot from WWI and who in 1924 had flown the first cross-country flight over the United States, arranged for a fleet of army planes which landed at the airport. In his remarks, Lieutenant Maughan gave credit to the “untiring efforts of the Chamber of Commerce committee which had made the present field possible.”<sup>70</sup>

Immediately after this successful endeavor, Collins joined a committee to bring a golf course to Logan.<sup>71</sup> After locating a suitable property, Collins used his surveying skills to aid in the preparation of the course. That fall he took along seven-year-old Janet, who later remembered:

Oh, it was so windy and cold that morning, but I just knew that Daddy was doing something important, so I held his stick exactly where he told me to and didn’t complain once.<sup>72</sup>

On October 4th, 1929, less than a week after the successful opening of the airport, the markets on Wall Street began falling. By the end of the month, the markets reached record lows. Cache Valley buyers of the knitting mill’s beautiful sweaters, caps and clothing could no longer afford these items, and Collins was unable to continue making payments on his loans. Ida May recalled this time:

Those years in Logan were very prosperous, but we all milked the company, and when the crash came in October 1929, the bins at the factory were filled with beautiful yarn that had been purchased at inflation prices and then dropped down to depression prices. We had no market for anything, and along with us, many, many people failed. It was a very stressful time.<sup>73</sup>

To stave off foreclosure, the knitting mill was consolidated with another local woolen mill, the Cache Knitting Works, but that effort was short-lived.<sup>74</sup> Collins and Mr. Cardon sold the factory equipment to an outside investor, presumably as security for a loan to keep the business afloat, but that was also not enough to keep the mill running.

Daughter Ida Mae later recalled:

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<sup>70</sup> 2 September 1929 Logan Journal.

<sup>71</sup> 30 September 1929 Salt Lake Telegram.

<sup>72</sup> Cannon Randall as told to Julie Cannon Markham 7 February 2020. Cannon told me that the original golf course was where the current airport is now.

<sup>73</sup> “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1978.”

<sup>74</sup> A History of Wool Manufacturing As it is Related to Wool Marketing in Utah, A Thesis Presented to The Faculty of the School of Agriculture, Utah State Agriculture College, 1935, By George Elwood Spencer, page 19.



In the fall of 1929, along about October, Betsy and I piled in the car with Dad and said, “We’re going to go to a movie.” He responded, “I hope you have the money, because I don’t have ANY money!” We were stunned. THAT was October, 1929 and the Depression was on full-blast.<sup>75</sup>

Son Collins Burton said:

...1929 rolled around and the Great Depression affected everyone. Father came home from work one afternoon and informed us that he had gone busted. He avoided bankruptcy by selling both cars, the house and most of our furniture.<sup>76</sup>

This proved to be a turning point in the lives of Collins and Ida May. They had spent twelve years in Logan as contributors to the community. Collins had provided employment for many people, the quality of the products was high, and their children attended excellent schools. That all came to an end. However, this tremendous tragedy brought to light the sterling character traits of honesty and hard work which Collins and Ida May valued. Collins spoke with the bank manager and committed to pay back the significant loans he had taken out for the mill operation. This has become a legacy in our family, shared with the unspoken and sometimes spoken message to live to a high standard, to always pay back a debt, no matter the struggle.<sup>77</sup>

Daughter Janet later recalled:

Daddy repaid, in full, the original loans made to begin the knitting mill business, which took over 30 years, with as little as \$2 paid in several months. I don’t know how Daddy managed to repay those loans, but he did it. And he never again borrowed money from any person or bank for any reason, not one red cent.

She quoted her father:

I had to do right and live up to my word.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> Life of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997.”

<sup>76</sup> “Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982.”

<sup>77</sup> Since I was a child, I have known that my grandfather paid back everything he borrowed. This was a tremendous point of pride to my father and his sisters, and then to us in the next generation. I can honestly say that this legacy comes up even now with my cousins. Of the several cousins who know I’m working on this biography, each one has made absolutely certain to remind me to tell about the loans being paid back.

<sup>78</sup> Cannon Randall recorded these memories from his mother when she was 93, not long before her 2017 death. He shared them with me in a February 2020 email.