

OUR MOTHER

Biography of Elizabeth Anne Wells Cannon
(Annie Wells Cannon)

December 7, 1859 - September 2, 1942

by Margaret Cannon Clayton

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PART I - CIVIC ACHIEVEMENTS

At the time of father's death, in an article referring to the survivors, someone wrote, "Eleven children, thirty-seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild are the immediate descendants of the Cannons'. A family such as this provokes an interesting query." Just what is a million dollar family? Loyal, affectionate and courteous the Cannon Family was and is an ideally happy family.

Of father and mother, friends have said that the home life of the Cannons' might serve as a pattern for devotion, compassion, companionship, and mutual understanding. Such was the home in which we were privileged to grow.

What more could any of us ask than that we might leave such a legacy to our children and grandchildren than our parents left to us. The sight of our old home, though now much changed, never fails to bring back fond memories as we pass. The sacredness within these walls, the spirit of love and unity, we will never forget.

So, as I have read through the many clippings, newspaper items, letters sent to her and parts of her own autobiography, I have begun to realize what a wonderful person our mother was, not only to us her family, but to the Church, City, State, and Nation. And I marvel how little we knew her! I have read and listed many of the things she did, the part she played all her life, always with such modesty, that we who were closest to her failed to realize her greatness.

She was born December 7, 1859 to Daniel Hanmer and Emmeline Blanche Woodward Wells in a two-story adobe house on State Street between Second and Third South in Salt Lake City. Her father was a direct descendant of Thomas De Wells, the fourth Governor of Connecticut, and of Daniel Chapin, a soldier in the American Revolution. Daniel H. Wells, himself a military man, acted as Commissary General under the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Nauvoo Legion, and on arriving in Utah, organized a Nauvoo Legion here; was appointed Major General and led the forces in the Indian War in 1853 and again in 1856. In 1856 he became Lieutenant General, an office he held until 1887, when the Legion was abolished by the Edmunds-Tucker Law. Her mother's family was also represented in the early American Wars by her grandfather and great grandfather. Her mother's family had a long line of names distinguished for literary ability. From these parents she inherited much, for in this home she spent the first twenty years of her life. As a little girl she evidenced characteristics of leadership, which were very pronounced in her later life. As a child she organized little girls' clubs, dramatic groups, and held meetings among her playmates in her home. From here she watched the wagon trains and the hardcarts come into the valley. From this home, also, she attended the very best schools there were at that time -- the Deseret University, a forerunner of the University of Utah. In this home, she learned early the useful and beautiful things of life; the appreciation of good books, good music, of drama and opera, and was encouraged to write. The best books and papers that could be had were brought into this home where, with her dear mother whom she adored, she and her sisters read, studied, and dramatized together.

Naturally a religious child, she had an almost perfect attendance at Sunday School, once wading through deep snow only to find one member of the Superintendency who had braved the storm. On her tenth birthday her father gave her a New Testament. It was a large volume, clear type and no pictures. Because it was given to her by her father, whom she held in deep reverence and great love, she felt it her duty to read it, but ever after it became an inspiration and a guide throughout her life.

At fourteen she became a member of Relief Society, a membership she held until the time of her death. One of her first tasks was learning to braid straw in the home of Sister Annie Musser. She also acted as a visiting teacher at times. Her days counted back from those of candle-light to electricity; from the wagon trains to the air planes; and she saw the city and state grow and visited most of it as well as many parts of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

At twenty she became the wife of John Quayle Cannon, a prominent and public-spirited man. In 1881 he was called to fulfill a mission in the British Isles; first in England and later he was transferred to Germany. In 1883 she joined her husband and spent a delightful year attending operas, visiting art galleries, museums, and sight-seeing as well as doing missionary work. While there she wrote the "History and Objectives of the Relief Society," which was published and translated into several languages.

Her husband was always interested in military life. He became active in the National Guard, organizing a Cavalry troop (I think the first in the State) and for many years was Adjutant and Brigadier General of the Guard. He was a volunteer in the Spanish American War, organizing Company I -- a group made up mostly of young L.D.S. boys from the southern part of the State which joined Torrey's Rough Riders, officially known as the Second Volunteer Cavalry of the United States. While with Company I, he was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; the same rank held by his close friend, Theodore Roosevelt of the First Volunteer Cavalry. Father was proud of this title and was known as Colonel Cannon from then on. With this background and mother's own descent from a long line of military leaders, it seemed only fitting that three of her fine sons signed up for service in the First World War; Cavendish Wells in the Marines, Abram Hoagland in the Army, and David Woodward in the Navy.

With the war came many new activities for mother. She became actively engaged with the Red Cross, writing to Steven Barton, a brother of the famous Clara Barton, for instructions in organizing and directing Red Cross Chapters in Utah. She helped to gather supplies, and organized the Pioneer Gauze Room where many women worked learning to make and roll bandages. She became affiliated with the War Mothers' Group where she was elected President. She was also twice State President of the Service Star Legion, and was active on the committee for the establishment and development of the Memory Grove Memorial. During this time the members had asked for twenty acres of ground in the lower City Creek Canyon area for the memorial and for the planting of hard wood trees -- mostly of the flowering variety. The City Commission granted this request and a gateway to the park was erected. A box, made of Utah copper, containing a history of the War Mothers,

the Service Star Legion, the Gold Star Mothers and other valuable and interesting papers were placed in this box, which was deposited in the cornerstone of one of the pillars. Mother's contribution to this box was the history of the War Mothers from the beginning until 1919.

About this time the Service Star women, with the heads of the national leaders of the American Legion, unitedly stressed the idea that Armistice Day should be a day dedicated to America and the finer things that we have been privileged to enjoy in this great country of ours.

She spent many hours organizing and placing canteens at various stations for the local boys, or other boys just passing through who were meeting trains day or night. This was always a work of comfort and cheer, often for the mothers as well as the boys. During her two terms as President of the Service Star Legion she attended a convention in Atlanta, Georgia and a convention of the National Council of Women held in Washington, D. C., with which a number of her organizations were affiliated. Later, in 1931 she attended a convention of the Service Star Legion held in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1932 she was asked to prepare the history of the Service Star Legion for the National Council of Women, to mark 100 years of women's progress for the "Century of Women's Progress Exposition" which was to be held in Chicago in the summer of 1933. She also prepared a chart of the Service Star Legion and wrote the accomplishments of the society for the then official magazine which was distributed at the Fair.

She was chosen by Herbert Hoover, who later became President of the United States, to be Utah's Chairman for the European Relief Drive, and received personal and complimentary letters from him. As each State was assessed a certain quota to raise, mother consulted, as always, with the Church Authorities on important matters, and at this time it was decided to set aside the day January 23, 1921 as a special fast day to raise this vast sum for the starving children in Central Europe. In a campaign of only one month, to quote from the Millennial Star of March 1921, "The Church asked its people to abstain from two meals and donate the equivalent to this fund. Under Church organization and the auxiliary associations, every Ward (nearly one thousand) and nearly every Sunday School participated, and the grand total of cash contributions sent in amounted to \$109,834.42."

" . . . The contribution from the Primary Association of sixty thousand little children, who gave their pennies, nickles and dimes, reached the splendid sum of \$4,230.21. Mrs. Annie Wells Cannon, the Utah Chairman of the Relief Council was the only woman chairman in the United States. She was exceedingly happy in making the announcements to Mr. Hoover of this wonderful result, which in proportion to the population put Utah in advance of any of the States, and the Mormon people above any church or philanthropic organization in America." The money was sent directly to the Presiding Bishop's Office where it was distributed under the direction of President Grant. As the Church had many members in Europe, some of this was sent directly to the Mission Presidents. The funds were distributed as follows: Near East Relief Fund \$30,000.00 of which \$6,000.00 went directly to the relief of Latter-day Saints;

\$5,516.21 went directly to President George Albert Smith for relief of the poor in the European Missions. This sum was collected from the American, Canadian, and Mexican Missions. The donations from the Stakes outside of Utah amounted to \$22,431.77 and was remitted directly to the General European Relief Fund, which also received the Utah contribution of \$45,887.44. This vast sum for the starving children of Europe in an international campaign of only one month, under her leadership, more than doubled its quota. After the completion of this drive she was invited to become a board member of the American Relief Association Children's Fund, Inc. with headquarters in New York City, a position she held for many years.

In 1918 she was elected an Associate Vice President of the American Flag Association, a national organization. She was appointed by the Governor to the committee for the official welcome to the State's 22,000 heroes at the end of World War I, and was asked to give the address in behalf of the mothers at the Memorial Exercises held in honor of the soldiers who died in service for their country. The memorial exercises were held at the University of Utah.

She was called again by the Governor to be on the reception committee on the occasion of President Wilson and his party's visit to Utah. She recalled with much pleasure that this was not the first time she had greeted a President of the United States. As a little girl, dressed in white, with a wreath of flowers on her head and a flag in her hand, she stood in line with hundreds of Sunday School children, waving the flag as President Ulysses S. Grant rode through the streets of Salt Lake; and later in 1880 she was one of those chosen to go out on the train to meet President Hayes and his party on the occasion of his visit to Utah. It was her delightful honor to be seated beside General William T. Sherman, and conversed with him on the way into the City. Later she met other Presidents or those who were elected Presidents later.

In 1934 she was awarded a medal and given a testimonial as one of the seven outstanding women in Civic Service in the State of Utah. (I think this was the first year this was done.)

She served for twenty-three years as a member of the Salt Lake Public Library Board. She was assistant editor of the Women's Exponent, the first women's paper published in the Mountain States, and also held the position of Honorary Member for Utah of the American Women's Association of Professional and Business Clubs. She was a contributor to prose and poetry in popular magazines; was co-author of the Relief Society Handbook and author of biographical sketches of many prominent women. All her life she was interested in political action and woman's suffrage. In 1883 she was a delegate and assistant secretary to an important political convention, and prior to this, when still a young girl, read before a large audience in the Salt Lake Theatre a series of resolutions adopted by a vast mass meeting of women.

As a member of the Republican Party in 1921, she was elected to the Utah State Legislature, was one of the three women largely responsible for the passage of the extensive social program for the betterment of women and children; the minimum wage for women, better working conditions, rest

periods, also cooperated in the passage of the Dependent Mother's Pension Law. She helped with the law creating the office of a woman deputy in the department controlling the employment of men and women. One of her associates remarked that, "Mrs. Cannon was always doing things for women." If there was a position where either a man or woman could do the work, her vote would be given to the woman, with equal pay for training and ability. One law of which she was very pleased to see pass was for the building of a girls' dormitory at the University of Utah, the first law of this kind ever introduced into the legislature. "With her usual thoroughness, she never missed a roll call during the entire session," according to the newspaper.

In 1903, the Daughters of the Revolution designed and made the first Utah flag and presented it to Governor Heber M. Wells. It was made of white Utah silk with the center as we have it today, and is now in the State Capitol. In 1912 when the Battleship Utah was built, the Sons and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers had an Eastern firm make another flag, with the same insignia, but on a field of dark blue. When the flag arrived, the insignia was circled by a gold ring. Through the efforts of mother, who was in the Legislature at that time, the flag with the gold circle was accepted as the State Flag of Utah and presented to the Battleship. Later when the ship was destroyed, the flag, tattered and torn, was burned according to the regulations governing flags.

Mother was a member of both the Reapers and Women's Press Clubs, but was never particularly active in either one. She was a charter member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and among the first to promote the idea of the saving of relics, restoring landmarks and writing histories to preserve our heritage. She was the tenth president of the group and helped in selection of the site for the permanent building, and from the beginning was active in raising funds for it. While she was president, a tree was planted in her honor in the Pioneer Grove at the Capitol Grounds, a spot set aside for the purpose of a tree for each president. At this ceremony, Governor George H. Dern was the speaker. Rulon S. Wells gave the dedicational prayer, and Winnifred S. Cannon, in her lovely voice, sang, "Utah We Love Thee," and the beautiful solo, "Trees."

In 1910 she and Sister Amy Brown Lyman attended a special meeting of the Daughters of the Pioneers, where all the Charter members were invited guests. Here again she was asked to be the speaker, and dedicated her talk largely to the society's cherishing and preserving the historical narratives of our people and handing them down to our posterity. But with all of these activities, the Relief Society was her foremost interest in life.

PART II

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RELIEF SOCIETY

As I have previously mentioned, mother joined the Relief Society at the age of fourteen in the 13th Ward. Later, while we were living in Ogden, she was a member of the Second Ward in Weber Stake. Sister Jane Richards was Stake President, and though she had known her before, she learned to love her, and often when Grandmother Wells visited us here, she was entertained in our home. In 1892 mother became a member of Farmers' Ward. Sister Emma Woodruff was President, and Aunt Sarah Jane Cannon was 1st Counselor. At this time it was the beginning of the wheat fund drive, and here on her first meeting she paid \$10.00 into that fund. In 1901 she joined the Cannon Ward Relief Society where she held her membership until a few years prior to her death, when it was transferred back to the Thirteenth Ward in which she was then living. Except for her very early days, I think she was never a visiting teacher, but these sisters were always welcome, and many that I knew said how much they enjoyed visiting her, and from her vast store of knowledge, always left feeling inspired and uplifted.

At the October Conference in 1902 she was voted in and sustained a member of the General Relief Society Board, being the twenty-first member, and took the minutes at that Conference. She attended all the meetings, as well as the meetings of the Board of Directors. Her first visiting assignment came very soon, and with father and Sister Carrie Thomas, took a trip to St. George in the interest of Relief Society. Two meetings were held - she spoke in both, and also she was asked to speak at the afternoon general session of the St. George Conference. Uncle David H. Cannon was the Stake President, and Aunt Annie Woodbury was the Stake Relief Society President, and it was here that mother wrote down Aunt Annie's story of her baptism and her early days in the Church -- a wonderful testimony. This was her first long trip out of town, and they were away eight days.

During the next eight years she took more than forty trips visiting through Utah, the Western States and into Canada, often visiting more than one Stake on some of these long trips. In 1902 a step was taken in the direction of definite class work for the Relief Society, and in connection with this, she, Sister Carrie Thomas and Julia Wooley were asked to prepare an outline on Mother's work for the Salt Lake Stake. This was prepared and accepted by Sister M. Isabella Horne, the President, and then, at Sister Horne's request, mother presented it before the General Board and again to the Presidents and Ward officers of the Salt Lake Stake. This was the beginning of class work in Relief Society.

Just before the division of the Salt Lake Stake, Sister Horne, being in poor health and not being able to attend her last Relief Society Conference, asked mother to prepare and read her address, which she did. She visited Sister Horne, got her thoughts, ideas and wishes and put them together as well as she could in Sister Horne's own language and style and then presented it at the Conference.

Mother wrote, "This was entirely a work of love. I took great pleasure in the thought that I could do something for dear Sister Horne, whose life was so exemplary and devoted to the women of Zion."

At the April Conference in 1904, she acted as assistant secretary and had charge of the decorations and music, and was also a speaker in the afternoon meeting.

On the 22nd of April, 1904, after the division of the Salt Lake Stake into four Stakes (Salt Lake, Ensign, Liberty, and Pioneer), Sylvester Q. Cannon came to our home and informed her that at the Priesthood Meeting of the New Pioneer Stake she had been selected to fill the position of President of the Pioneer Stake Relief Society. At the first Stake Conference held May 1, 1904, her name was presented by the Presidency to become the first Relief Society President of the New Pioneer Stake, and at noon she was set apart for this position, along with Lucy Smith Acomb and Rebecca Hill Pettit, as counselors. Later, Clara Little Clawson was chosen as secretary and Amelia Wieler Cutler as treasurer. The first conference was held in June and attended by Sisters Bathsheba W. Smith, Emmeline B. Wells and others from the General Board, as well as the three presidents from the other newly created stakes: Sister Margaret Romney, Ensign Stake; Annie Musser, Liberty Stake; and Hattie Harker, Salt Lake Stake. During that summer mother visited the Wards, selected her Board and planned for the winter work. Pioneer Stake covered a very large territory, consisting of eleven Wards; Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Twenty-Fifth, Twenty-Sixth, Thirtieth, Thirty-Second, Brighton, Cannon, and Pleasant Green. Visiting some of these meant an all-day travel by horse and buggy. In the fall she started with both her Stake and General Board work.

While convalescing after Teddy's birth in November, she wrote the outlines and lessons on the mothers' work for the Stake, which were accepted by the General Board and presented to the sisters of our Stake in December. These lessons were started in January 1905 in our Stake, and used by several of the other Stakes as well.

In 1906 she was asked to take charge of the evening session of Stake Conference, the first held in the Pioneer Stake Hall. All Stake meetings had been held in the Seventh Ward Chapel previously. "It was a glorious meeting, and though I had somewhat feared the evening I was greatly blessed for, to my knowledge, it was the most wonderful meeting ever presided over by a woman in the Church when so many Church dignitaries were present. On the stand were President Joseph F. Smith, John Henry Smith, George Albert Smith, Charles Penrose, the Stake Patriarchs, Stake High Council, and many other Stake Officers. Some of the women present were Bathsheba Smith, Emmeline B. Wells, Julia Smith, Romania B. Penrose, and General Board Members. The meeting was all fine, but President Smith, unusually so, and never in my opinion finer or with greater power."

Following the San Francisco earthquake, April 21, 1906, a special meeting of the General Board was called to consider sending supplies to the sufferers from the great earthquake and fires. After 12:00 noon, and

before 8:00 p.m. the General Board had communicated with Relief Society workers and had collected, purchased, and transferred to the depot a carload of supplies valuing \$1,500.00 to go out that night, consigned to the Red Cross. This was quick and efficient work and illustrates the wonderful and systematic organization of the Relief Society. For the General Relief Society Conference she composed a hymn called "Daughters Of Zion," which was read by Alice Merrill Horne and beautifully sung by Lizzie Thomas Edwards, accompanied by Professor Willard Clive on the violin and a Miss Coray on the organ. This was written to the tune of "Kathleen Mavoureen."

In 1906 she, with Emily Richards, Rebecca Little, and Hattie Harker, prepared a pamphlet on the question of saving wheat, which was distributed among the societies. The First Presidency showed their approval of this historical sketch and sent a letter to her complimenting her for her work.

The Presiding Bishopric made a call on the General Relief Society in 1909, for a supply of linen for the Groves L.D.S. Hospital, then nearing completion. After some discussion it was decided to assess the different Stakes for the amount necessary to be raised to purchase the linen and also for the Stakes nearby to do the sewing. The whole project was turned over to mother, Juliana Smith, and Rebecca Nibley, and the money was raised without any trouble except for two Stakes, Bear Lake and Liberty, who were not willing to give. All supplies were purchased at the Z.C.M.I. Department Store for making sheets, napkins, towels, etc. and then sent to the several Stakes to be hemmed. Pioneer Stake was assessed \$10.00 in cash and made 208 sheets.

On the 22nd of June 1909, Salt Lake City was called upon to entertain all the aged people of Brigham City, on the north, to Payson on the south. Pioneer Stake was assigned five hundred of these visitors. The Stake had the northwest corner of the Temple Block for their tables. They were beautifully decorated, set with the most tempting foods and the "old folks" were most joyously entertained. The women of the Stake were most generous with their time and means and nothing occurred to mar the harmony of the day.

In July of the same year a group of distinguished women who had been in attendance at the Quincentennial, arrived in the City. Mother and Ida Dusenberry were delegated to meet them in Ogden and extend to them the greetings of the women of Utah. Mrs. Willoughby Cummings of Toronto was in charge of the group where several different countries were represented. Among them were ladies distinguished in literature, along the lines of humanitarian work, suffrage, economics, etc. A large group of Salt Lake women had been making preparation for their reception here. They were cordially welcomed, taken to the Tabernacle for an organ recital, a trip to Saltair, and those who wished went into the Lake. In the Lake Refreshment Center a dinner was served and toasts were offered. Emmeline B. Wells was a charming toastmistress and very bright and witty.

On the day before mother's fiftieth birthday, December 7, 1909, the officers of the Stake and Wards came to her home to honor her at a surprise

party. There were about forty present. Sister Clara Causon, for the sisters, presented her with a beautiful cameo brooch and a seal leather handbag (either of which she felt would have been a handsome present). Sister Amelia Cutler sent a bunch of red carnations as did Grandmother Wells. Louise had come down earlier and was there to help mother receive her guests. She felt it was a splendid token of their affection and a red-letter day in her life.

In 1910 she prepared for Appleton's Magazine a brief history of the Relief Society and a biographical sketch of Emma Smith, Eliza R. Snow, Zina D. H. Young, Bathsheba W. Smith, and Emmeline B. Wells. "John Q. edited and revised these articles. We did them for mother. They were all approved by the First Presidency of the Church and are to be published in the Appleton's Encyclopedia. No one knows they are my work."

In September of the same year, Aunt Bathsheba Smith passed away. She was eighty-eight years old and though she had been ailing all summer, she was so loved and respected that her death came as quite a shock. A meeting of the General Board was called, and committees appointed to attend to floral offerings, and arrangements for the Board Members to attend the funeral. This was the first funeral of any woman to be held in the Tabernacle.

Mother was on the flower committee, as well as the committee on Resolutions with Annie K. Hardy, Minnie H. James, and Elizabeth Wilcox. Mother wrote the Resolutions and they were accepted without any alterations or criticisms.

With the death of Sister Smith, the Relief Society was left without a President, and on the first day of October, the First Presidency called a meeting of the General Board. President Anton H. Lund and John Henry Smith met with the sisters, and after some lengthy talks, they asked each member to write on a slip of paper their first and second choice for President. After receiving the ballots they left, asking them to meet again on the following Monday morning at 10:00. President Lund again met with them and after a hymn and prayer, he addressed them. He announced that the First Presidency, after dual consideration of the matter, and believing the choice would please them, said that Emmeline B. Wells would be their next President, with Clarissa S. Williams as First Counselor and Julina S. Smith as Second. He made more remarks about grandmother; her worthiness and faith, and then Brother John Henry Smith spoke, saying that it seemed only proper to release from the General Board those sisters who were engaged in Stake work. This came as a complete surprise to all present, especially to those personally affected. This action released five Board Members: Emma Woodruff of Granite Stake, Hattie B. Harker of Salt Lake Stake, mother of Pioneer Stake, Annie K. Hardy and Minnie H. James, counselors in Ensign Stake. Mother was overjoyed at the great honor given to her dear mother, which seemed just the proper thing after all her years of faithful service that she should be thus recognized and crowned with this great honor, but at the same time, she was surprised at her own release.

At the October Conference 1910, Grandmother Wells was sustained by

unanimous vote of the people. It seemed that never had there been an appointment made in the Church that received such universal favor. Hundreds of messages, presents and floral gifts were sent congratulating her. At the Relief Society Conference on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of October all the new officers were sustained and it resolved itself into a congratulatory meeting, mostly for grandmother. The Tuesday afternoon was a memorial for Sister Smith, at which mother, Annie Wells Cannon, read the "Chamber of Peace." Wednesday was a testimony meeting, and Saturday another officers' meeting in the Bishop's Building. Though no longer a General Board Member, at Grandma Wells' request, mother took the minutes of all these meetings. After her release from the Board, she continued to help her mother in many ways, especially with the Woman's Exponent. At this time she was doing nearly, if not all of the writing, editing, proof-reading, taking charge of the publishing and mailing - - tasks that grandmother could no longer do. Then in 1914 came another event that neither she nor grandma could ever reconcile themselves to in the manner it was done. For forty years grandmother had edited and published the Woman's Exponent and for twenty years mother had been associate editor, the last three years doing all of it.

In January of this year (1914) members of the General Board were publishing a bulletin with a guide and so working their affairs so as to "compel the discontinuance of the Exponent." We would have gladly arranged matters had we been allowed a hearing; we, mother and I were not, and so issued the January 1915 number which was already in type. With the February number which was to be the last, the paper was stopped. All this might have been taken care of without any heartaches, but the underhanded and cruel way it was brought about nearly killed mother, Belle and me. It will be a long time before we forget the unkindness and the injustice of those who so offended. President Penrose has proved one of her best friends, as has President Lund and some of the members of the Twelve, and I believe, the Lord will yet bring upon those who so hurt us, His judgment. Some things are very hard to understand.

Towards the last of February, we mailed the last number of the Woman's Exponent. Our mother wrote the editorial for it, as grandmother felt she could not do it.

Mother continued her Stake work and as the years went by many changes came about. When first organized, all Stake meetings were held in the 7th Ward Chapel. In 1910 the Stake purchased the old Whittier School building just west of the 7th Ward on Fifth South between West Temple and First West, and after much remodeling, this became our Stake Hall. It was made large enough to house 600 people. Some of us remember this building, the spiritual feasts and the many good times we had there. We had to get there early to get a seat and often the wide window sills were filled with the youngest to make more room for adults.

I have mentioned the many miles traveled to attend Stake meetings in order for officers to visit and the ground that had to be covered to enable Ward members to attend their own meetings. As a result of the vast geographic area, divisions were forthcoming. In 1908 Poplar Grove Ward was created from parts of Brighton, Cannon, and the Twenty-Sixth Wards. In 1911 Garfield was organized and in 1916, Magna, both of these from Pleasant

Green. The Stake was rapidly growing, numbering nearly 8,000 members. Through all these changes, mother was helping to set in order new Relief Societies, selecting new officers to preside, visiting throughout the Stake, and was beloved and honored by the women. As she recognized their needs she wrote the outlines for the Stake with each of them in mind. She organized a fine choir, established a Stake library, the first of any Stake Relief Society, not only of Church books and lesson material, but good books and magazines for their lessons, or just for their pleasure. I feel quite sure that many of these books came from her own library.

The most outstanding of her many contributions to the Stake was the organizing of the Emergency Cabinet, fitted out with medical supplies and useful articles. Here was what was known as the maternity bundle. This consisted of articles for the mothers and first baby needs -- sheets, nightgown, syringes, bedpans, hot water bottle, a layette for the baby, etc. These could be given where needed, sold sometimes or rented at a very small fee to be returned, clean and sterilized, ready for use again. Also included in the cabinet were quilts and extra bedding and some clothing for emergencies.

Later, complete temple outfits for both men and women were added for those deserving to go to the Temple and not being able to afford their own. These were loaned or rented or sometimes used for burials. It was not long until every Ward in the Stake had such a cabinet and was a pattern followed by many of the other Stakes before being introduced and endorsed by the General Board. All these things were transpiring during the years mother was so active in her civic and public works. Also, Grandmother Wells was nearing the end of her long and useful life and needed more attention. Mother, Aunt Belle, or our dear sister, Katherine, were with her most of the time. The boys who had left for the service returned. Cavendish left for Washington, D. C. to join the diplomatic service, never to come back to Utah again except for one short visit. The other two boys, David and Abe, returned to school or work.

Mother presided at a Relief Society Conference in November 1919, where grandmother, several General Board members and visitors from several other Stakes were present. Mother says of this meeting, "The remarkable thing of this conference was the influence which predominated. It was almost supernatural. The General Board Choir came to the luncheon and furnished the music for the afternoon meeting. I think I have never attended so beautiful a meeting and everyone expressed themselves similarly."

Just a month later father was given a letter from the General Presidency of the Church to take home to mother and then told her to take it to her own mother to read. The letter read as follows:

President's Office

December 19, 1919

President Emmeline B. Wells and Counselors:

Dear Sisters:

We hereby appoint Sister Annie Wells Cannon to a member of the General Board of Relief Society to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sister Edna May Davis.

Your brethren,

s/ Heber J. Grant
Anthon H. Lund
Charles W. Penrose

It was late when she received the letter, but the following morning she took it to grandmother. Of course, she was overjoyed. Before telling anyone else, she went immediately to the President's Office where she asked for an interview. Brother Penrose, in the outer office, congratulated her, saying, "Justice was being done at last," as he took her into the main office. President Grant rose, came forward and kissed her, then President Lund congratulated her. She told them that she appreciated very much the honor, but hoped it was not because her mother had wanted it. President Grant answered by saying, "We don't make appointments to please anybody when it is the proper thing to do" and also added that he had told grandmother that they considered her the "peer" of any woman on the Board. She thanked them, then asked about her position in the Stake. They advised that she ask to be released, but not immediately, stating that there was no hurry. They discussed her prior dismissal from the Board to some extent then and President Lund surprised her by stating that she had been compelled to suffer in order that they could get rid of someone they did not want!

She was very pleased with the interview and extremely happy, but sad also. She so loved the Stake work and knew she would miss that and the many fine associations there.

Many of those on the General Board made a special effort to congratulate her as did members of other General Boards, Stakes and Wards in and out of the State. On January 8, 1920, she attended a meeting of the General Board and was sworn in as a member of the directorate. For a short time she continued on the Stake Board, but had talked with Sylvester and had asked for her release, which came in March 1920. I think in reading the names of the Relief Society General Board, mother was the only one who was ever re-appointed to serve. At the first meeting after the appointment she was asked to represent the Relief Society in the February Educational Drive and from then on continued her visits to the various Stakes. The longest one was a visit to Alaska with President Heber J. Grant, George Albert Smith, Andrew Jenson, Rulon S. Wells, and others.

In 1931, with a desire of filling a long-felt need, the Relief Society General Board appointed Sister Amy Brown Lyman and mother to gather and compile information for a handbook to be used by the Stakes. Included was the past history of Relief Society, instructions on organizing, and materials to stimulate interest in Relief Society work, as well as to create and strengthen the members' faith and testimonies of the Gospel. While this meant a lot of careful research and reading, with her love and understanding of such things, I am sure mother thoroughly enjoyed this labor. Much of the valuable information was gleaned from old copies of

the Exponent, and later copies of the Relief Society Magazine, old records, books, and information received from efficient and trusted sources. This was the Relief Society Handbook, published in 1932 and used throughout the Church.

Probably one of the last visits she made was to the Pasadena Stake in 1936. This was a wonderful trip. So many of the Cannon family were then living in or near there. David H. (Uncle Abram's son) was Stake President and he and many others entertained for her at parties, luncheons, and family gatherings. She had stayed on after the conference to have this visit and also to take this opportunity of going to see Aunt Mell who was then in her 86th year. Daisy Allen, her daughter, was living with her. She also had a chance to visit with Martin and Berry, to see and enjoy Aunt Mell's lovely garden, the birds and flowers therein. Just a delightful visit. One other long trip was one she took with Bishop David A. Smith, visiting Maricopa, St. Joseph, and Juarez Stakes in Arizona and New Mexico. Bishop Smith remarked on the return, what a wonderful and tireless traveler she was on this long and hard trip; often speaking three and four times in a day.

During these later years she contributed to local magazines and newspapers. Her page of "Happenings" was one of the most popular in the Relief Society Magazine.

For President Louisa Y. Robinson's birthday in May 1936 the Board entertained for her at a delicious luncheon. Mother wrote and read "A Garland of Love," for this occasion. This was a series of short verses, comparing each member of the Board to a beautiful flower and was unique and delightful to read. Each year the Relief Society had an Eliza R. Snow poetry contest suggested by mother and carried out in the Magazine. From the time the Exponent was begun, the women of the Church had been encouraged to write and contribute their verses. For many years mother had felt that these poems should be compiled in a volume of verse. This dream came true in 1941 when, then in her 81st year, she was given the task of gathering such material. This meant going through the old Exponents, and Relief Society Magazines, reading, sorting and editing poems most suitable for the book. The first section of the book was mostly prize winning poems in the Eliza R. Snow contests, with several of Sister Snow's own poems; the second part was poems written and printed from 1835 until 1941, that were selected for the portrayal of pioneer life and appealed to the human heart of both young and old, of various tastes and moods. Under the direction of Sister Lyman, a committee was appointed for the compilation, however, practically all the selections of poems was left to mother. The General Board accepted and acknowledged the work and arranged for publication in time to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the organization. She took great pride in this lovely Anthology, and the suggestion of the name, "Our Legacy," I am sure was her creation.

The book was dedicated to Amy Brown Lyman. The verse on the flyleaf of the book is as lovely as could be found anywhere, and was also composed by mother.

Oh rich is life, as down
The vista of the years we look,
 And find
Within time's golden book
The treasures of the human mind.
No satin pearls in ocean depths,
Nor emeralds from Peruvian mines,
Nor rubies rare from southern climes
 Would we compare
With gems of thought enfolded there.

--Annie Wells Cannon

This was a glorious achievement so near the close of her wonderful life.

PART III - PERSONAL AND HOME LIFE

Father and Mother were formally introduced to each other, and on the following New Year's Eve became engaged and were married in the Endowment House by Daniel H. Wells on the 17th of March 1880. This marriage united two outstanding pioneer families, giving us a wonderful heritage. For more than fifty years, they enjoyed love, companionship and mutual understanding, watching the growth and development of children and grandchildren. Twelve children were born to this outstanding couple. One little girl was taken from them at eighteen months, but eleven of us grew to maturity in a home that was loyal, courteous, and affectionate to each other -- a truly happy family. Early there were other homes but for forty years we lived and enjoyed life in the large, spacious home on the Cannon Farm. Someone once asked mother how she managed with her big family and large house: "When the children were small there was always help in the home, but as they grew older they all had responsibilities," she replied. At one time she asked one of the boys, "Do you think you children lost out because I had other than home responsibilities?" The prompt reply was, "No Mother, I don't and that is the wonderful thing about it."

We were a healthy family, having not much sickness excepting childhood diseases, and mother, with all her other abilities, was a good home doctor and nurse, and then too there was always plenty of faith exercised in our behalf. I think we would not have been called a strictly religious family, but we were taught very early to pray, to take our part in family prayers, and to always ask the blessing of the Lord on the food. We were all baptized on our eighth birthday, making it an extra special day for us, and the entire family rejoiced when the boys were ordained deacons and were promoted to higher priesthood quorums. We were active in Ward and Stake organizations and I think none of us ever refused to accept any obligations we were asked to fulfill. Father was a wonderful Sunday School Superintendent; Jack and Ted later held the same position. Father, Mother, Louise, Cavendish, Jack, and Ted all held Stake positions. Mother, for a number of years taught an adult class, or as it was then called, the

parent's class in the Sunday School, and I suppose we all taught in that and other organizations at one time or another. Mother attended the Dedications of the Salt Lake Temple, and with President Heber J. Grant, attended the Dedication of the Arizona Temple at Mesa. She was never called to be a regular temple worker but spent some time in Manti, doing work there while her father was President of the Temple, and again in the Logan Temple, and during all her life went frequently into the Salt Lake Temple.

As I look back I think there was very little lacking in our home life. From our earliest recollection we always had a Sunday evening home night; all of us taking part in song, story, games, or recitations that mother always had time to teach us during the week, and how proud we were to stand up and repeat them. Father and mother always did their part, and then there was popcorn in the winter - which father popped over a bed of red coals in the fireplace, from such a fire as only father knew how to make. In the summer we had homemade ice cream, with our evening closing with prayer. Sunday was always a special day at home, beginning with a very nice breakfast with favorite foods we all like, and all sitting down together; then in the afternoon a delicious dinner - always with the best linen, dishes, and cutlery - nicely served and never hurried. Incidentally, we never ate in the kitchen, and except for a Saturday lunch, our dining room was always used for two meals every day, all members eating together. How did mother find time for all these things -- the big jars of mincemeat she made every fall, the fruitcakes, and always four plum puddings - one for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and one saved for father's birthday in April, and to our delight flaming on the table. She couldn't walk into a store and gather her ingredients ready-for-use as we do. Raisins had to be stoned, currants picked over and washed in many waters, nuts cracked and chopped, peels sliced, and even nutmeg had to be grated, and then long hours of mixing and baking. Always there were bottles and jars of fresh fruits, jellies, pickles, and catsup stored for winter use. I don't remember her ever doing any of this work in the evening, for after dinner she sat in her wicker rocker, reading the evening paper, sometimes helping father with proofreading some of his articles or some of hers, or perhaps just sewing or darning while he read aloud. We listened or did our homework at the big dining room table. Company sometimes dropped in but mostly we just had quiet family evenings.

Then there was the sewing. Again, many articles we take for granted now were made in the homes. Sheeting was bought by the yard or bolt to be torn and hemmed, pillowcases and garments cut and made and, of course, always mending and darning, often new and dainty baby layettes, mostly done by mother's hands. About twice a year, a sewing woman came to our home usually staying a week to do some of these things but also to make nightclothes, shirts for the boys, dresses and underclothes for the girls and always pretty and dainty white aprons especially for Louise and me to wear to school over our woolen dresses during the winter months. While mother was doing these routine tasks, I am sure her active mind was busy planning a talk she was to give, composing a poem, a story, or an article, with a paper and pencil somewhere near to jot down notes or facts for future reference. I have seen her at the ironing board with

papers or book close by reciting poems or memorizing something she wanted to remember or perhaps just reciting aloud just to, as she said, keep her "voice in timbre." Then sometimes she would sing for us some of the songs from "Robin Hood" or "Pinafore," but more often as we stood around and watched her as she bathed and dressed a baby she would teach us some of the children's songs we still remember - "Forget-me-not," "Billy-Boy," "The Hen With Ten Chicks," and we all enjoyed hearing her recite "The Black Berry Girl," and "Proud Charlotte," These were two of our Sunday night favorites.

From father we learned the nursery rhymes with the A.B.C. backward and forward as a chorus while he rocked us in his big leather chair. These are some of the things we would like to hand down to our posterity.

In this home we learned our religion, the Bible stories, the lives of the Prophets of the Book of Mormon, stories of the Pioneers and early days in Utah. We had the best books to read and study, not only church books but the best of everything, besides the wonderful example set for us by our parents.

As the years went by, many changes came into the family. I have already mentioned the boys in the service, but the first break came into the family when in 1900 George Q. was called as a missionary to go into Mexico and South America with an expedition for the B.Y.U. Problems arose and they didn't get as far as intended, but he fulfilled his part well and was away several months. Daniel was called on a mission to Holland, and Abram to the Northwestern States. Along with these came engagements and weddings -- Louise and Katherine both having lovely receptions at home after Temple marriages. I had a small afternoon reception before leaving for a wedding trip, and Emmeline a lovely wedding breakfast after her marriage to Lyman. The outstanding event in this home, however, was the Golden Wedding Reception of father and mother. The home was beautifully decorated and such a wonderfully happy and handsome couple receiving their many guests, some of whom had attended their reception fifty years earlier. Most of the children were present, but the boys who were away telephoned during the evening to make their day complete. Lovely gifts and flowers were received and delicious refreshments were served by their sweet granddaughters.

During the last few years of her life, grandmother came to live with mother. She was 93 years old and General President of the Relief Society, and though she attended and presided at most of the meetings, she was not well enough to live alone, and although she had been living in the Hotel Utah for sometime, someone had to be with her almost constantly until she moved to mother's home in about 1920. She was happy there, and enjoyed being with father and mother. Katherine and the younger boys were still at home and in school. In the large bedroom with a fireplace where, whenever it was chilly, the boys made a fire for her, she spent her last days. And there she quietly passed away on the 21st of April 1921. As had been her request, all arrangements for her funeral and burial took place there and she was not taken from the house until time for the service held in the Tabernacle.

I think this was the first and only death to take place in that house from the time it was built, and there has only been one since then, after the house was sold.

Katherine was married in 1921 and the four boys all in 1928, leaving father and mother alone in the big house. As his health was not too good, and while they kept the big home, they spent the winter months of the next few years in the Hotel Utah. (However, in 1930 the home was again opened, cleaned and lived in at the time of the Golden Wedding.) From the Hotel it was easy for father to get to his office, and mother was freed from many household chores and was close to the things she was so interested in. It was a pleasurable time for both, always so many pleasant and interesting people around, meeting and conversing with Church people and close friends who were also living there.

It was here in 1931 that father was called away from mother and his children, less than a year after their fiftieth wedding date.

Father had been connected most of his life with the Deseret News, and for many years had worked in the old building that stood where the Hotel now stands so it seemed almost like home ground for him to die there.

Mother stayed on at the Hotel for some time but going back and forth to the old home, clearing out many things and getting it ready so that part of it could be rented, or at least a caretaker could live there. During the summer she went East to visit the boys, three of whom were living in Washington, and Cavendish in the Diplomatic Service, coming back to Washington frequently. On coming home, she took an apartment in the Belvedere, renting the family home on 9th West. Here she was quite comfortable, and many persons she knew were living there, among them her brother, Heber M. Wells and his charming wife and daughter, Sister Talmage, Brother and Sister Callis, and many others. She was where it was easy for all her family to keep close to her and easy for her to get to those places where she wanted to go.

A fire in July of 1939 broke out in the old home, entirely destroying the roof and doing some damage inside. Though the roof was replaced, the tall attic windows and the high roof in the front were gone, which resulted in a change in the appearance of the place. The following year an offer was made to buy the house which mother thought best to accept which relieved her of collecting rent and of taxes.

She stayed on at the Belvedere, making it a home with furniture from the old house. She was always busy, still working on the Anthology, continued writing "Happenings," wrote several articles for the Era and other papers, attended all her meetings, and was active in making arrangements for meetings held every Sunday at the Sarah Daft Home. These meetings consisted always of a special speaker. As the women there were of all religions, the speakers were not always L.D.S., but from various churches or were prominent men or women in civic life, and there were also musical numbers. Mother often attended those meetings and several