

Polygamy and Mormon Church Leaders 10
George Q. Cannon
January 11, 1827 – April 12, 1901

George Quayle Cannon was the Church's chief political strategist and served as an LDS apostle in the First Presidency under Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff and Lorenzo Snow.

Born in England, Cannon was baptized into the Church at the age of eight in Liverpool when his parents joined the Church. He was the nephew of John Taylor (his father's sister Lenora married John Taylor) and the son-in-law of Brigham Young.

Like his Uncle John and father-in-law Brigham, Mr. Cannon also participated in the polygamous lifestyles of Mormonism. Between his professional and personal life Mr. Cannon was a busy man with publishing the Book of Mormon into the Hawaiian language, working in DC to further the promotion of Utah's statehood and serving as editor of the Millennial Star in his home country of England.

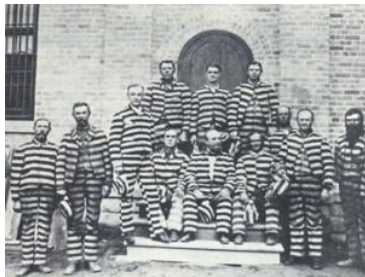
It was under his direction the Deseret News became a daily publication and if that wasn't enough, he also began the magazine Juvenile Instructor which he owned and operated until his death in 1901. Cannon also served as the non-voting delegate for Utah Territory from 1872 – 1882 when it was declared vacant with the Edmunds Act.

Even with all the time Cannon spent at various church and business ventures he somehow found time in his day to marry six wives who gave him no less than forty-five kids.

You can find a plethora of information on Cannon's life via government, family genealogical websites and LDS sources. What I found interesting is how each of the pro-LDS sources will invariably come with the added commentary that Cannon was persecuted for his polygamous ways and "forced" to go into hiding. Does the Church afford the same empathy towards FLDS polygamist Warren Jeffs today? I think not...

From the website of "[Grampa Bill's General Authorities](#)" it stated;

"The autumn of his life was tarnished by Federal persecution of Church members who practiced plural marriage. George Q. and his five wives were harassed by federal agents and in 1885 they were forced to go into seclusion. In 1888 he surrendered himself to authorities and served six months for cohabitation."



After surrendering himself to authorities in 1888, Cannon ended up spending six months in the state pen for breaking the law of co-habitation while his family spent their days looking over their shoulders fearing the long arm of the law.

I ask; is this ordained of the Lord?

Finally, after years of fighting the US Government the Church decided to publish a manifesto in 1890 which Cannon helped write along with Wilford Woodruff. Although their escapading ways didn't end with multiple marriages continuing on until 1904, the treatise warded off further public discontent for the time being (at least in the Church's eyes anyway).

Below is a chart with further info on his wives and kids.

		Wife/ Age @ marriage (George's age)	Marriage Date	Kids	Other Info	Wife's Marital Status
1		Elizabeth Hoagland - 19 (27)	12/11/1854	11	6 kids lived to adulthood	Single
2		Sarah Jane Jenne - 30 (31)	4/11/1858	7	1 adopted child	Single
3		Eliza Lamercia Tenney - 18 (33)	7/29//1863	3	All sons	Single
4		Martha Telle - 22 (41)	3/16/1868	9		Single
5		Emily Hoagland Little Cannon - 44 (54)	7/11/1881	0	Sister of Elizabeth	Widow
6		Caroline Partridge Young - 33 (57)	11/3/1884	4	Married 3 yrs after Elizabeth's death. He adopted her 5 kids	Divorced From Mark Croxall