George Q. Cannon in Hawaii
Excerpts from a report by Alice Cannon Hicken (granddaughter)

A Mission in Hawaii

In 1850, Elder Charles C. Rich, of the Council of Twelve, and President Young’s representative in the Pacific Coast area, called George Q. Cannon and nine other men (GQC being the youngest) to fill a mission in the Sandwich Islands [Hawaii]. He set them apart and gave them special blessings to fill missions and preach the gospel in Hawaii. They arrived in Honolulu on December 12, 1850. Steerage passage on sailing vessels at that time provided the worst of accommodations, and besides the dirt, grime, and foul smells of the long voyage, GQC also always suffered from seasickness. It must have been glorious for them to set foot in the strange new land of great beauty.

Early in the morning of December 14, these elders walked up Nuuanu Valley to the beautiful King’s Falls.... At the falls they bathed, their first real bath in a month, and then hiked another mile up the valley. In a secluded place about a thousand feet above sea level, in an area now called Pacific Heights, they built a stone alter about three feet high and three feet around. Together they sang hymns and prayed. After sharing their feelings about their mission, they knelt together as President Clark offered a prayer dedicating Hawaii to the preaching of the gospel.

Elder Cannon wrote: “One of the Elders spoke in tongues and uttered many comforting promises, and another interpreted. The Spirit of the Lord rested powerfully upon us, and we were filled with exceeding great joy.”

Miracles on Maui

Lahaina

George Q. Cannon would arrive in Lahaina each time he returned to Maui from trips to Honolulu or other islands. It was where the missionaries assigned to Maui first arrived, where they discovered the work among the whites would be unsuccessful and where Elder Cannon was inspired to know that his labors were to be among the natives. It was here also that he received a revelation that the Hawaiian people are of the House of Israel.

Several weeks after their arrival, most of the missionaries decided to return home and the mission president tried to convince them to follow him on to the Marquesas. George Q. Cannon felt he could not leave this field of labor without being condemned. He wrote:
The editor was able to translate the book of Mormon into the Hawaiian language, and within five weeks he was able to converse reasonably fluently in the language. This did not leave him, but from that time forward, he was able to understand the written and spoken language.

Excerpted from a letter dated 1836:

"My desire to learn to speak was very strong; it was present with me night and day."

It was also about this time, three weeks after their arrival in Lāhainā, that he received a letter which I hope has continued to grow stronger from those days to these.

"My dear friend, I have been much surprised and have written a few lines to you. I trust that all is well with you and that your health is good."

In his Journal, George Q. Cannon wrote:

"In the Sandwich Islands Mission reads a romance with the young man."

As described by a writer:

"It is a higher authority. The Lord answered his prayers and he was satisfied that he should headquarters and back in those early days, Elder George Q. Cannon took this problem to heart and determined to resolve it."

Excerpts - Article from the journal of the Church:

"...exercise of authority was an act from which we naturally recoiled."

Our position, then, was a peculiar one. Here was our President, the man whom..."
Poi was the staple food of the natives, but it was detestable to most non-native people. GQC described his reaction:

*Before leaving Lahaina, I had tasted a teaspoonful of poi but the smell of it and the calabash in which it was contained was so much like that of a book-binder's old, sour, paste-pot that when I put it to my mouth I gagged at it, and would have vomited had I swallowed it.*

Traveling among the people he found that if he did not eat poi it would be a great inconvenience to the people. He recorded:

*I determined to learn to live on their food, and, that I might do so, I asked the Lord to make it sweet to me. My prayer was heard and answered; the next time I tasted it, I ate a bowlful, and positively liked it....It may sound strange, yet it is true, that I have sat down to a table on which bread was placed, and though I had not tasted the latter for months, I took the poi in preference to the bread; it was sweeter to me than any food I had ever eaten.*

**Wailuku & the Iao Valley**

**GQC's meeting with Jonatana Napela**

During poor weather one day in the area of Wailuku, he fell into a stream and got all wet. He was tempted to return to Lahaina, but the Spirit told him to remain. As he passed the churchyard, two half-white women came from a hut and called to the men inside, "E ka Haole," meaning "Oh, the white man!" They repeated this two or three times; and it was unusual since white men passed their home occasionally — but they seemed to be expecting this one. Three men came out in response to their calls and invited him to stay. GQC wrote:

*The moment I entered into the house of this native and saw him and his two friends, I felt convinced that I had met the man for whom I had been looking.*

The man was Jonatana Napela, the friend it had been made known to him that he would find in Wailuku. Napela was a great man, a prominent member of the community, and a judge. He became George Q. Cannon's dearest friend and a great Church stalwart in Maui. It was in Napela's home and with his help that much of the translation of the Book of Mormon was done by GQC.

[Brother Napela's wife was later stricken with leprosy and banished to the island of Molokai and he chose to go with her. The ship in those days didn't dare go into shore, so the victims of this dreaded disease had to leap from the ship some distance out and swim or wade into their new home. Brother Napela contracted the disease and died before his beloved wife.]
Of one experience in Keanae, Joseph J. Cannon wrote about CCC:

"Hundreds and thirty people were baptized..."
GQC writes of his first visit to Keanae:

_The Spirit of the Lord was powerfully poured out; I never enjoyed myself so well before in my life._

**Pulehu**

On the slope of Haleakala is the little village of Pulehu, where a small frame church stands on private grounds with a sign indicating: LDS PULEHU CHAPEL. There is a monument on the grounds at the Pulehu chapel that reads:

ERECTED BY
THE L.D.S. HAWAIIAN MISSION IN
GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH
IN HAWAII
NEAR THIS SPOT THE FIRST
BAPTISM WAS PERFORMED
AND THE FIRST BRANCH OF THE
CHURCH ORGANIZED IN 1851
BY
GEORGE Q. CANNON
AND
JAMES KEELER

In 1921, Hugh J. Cannon accompanied President David O. McKay on his famous tour of the missions around the world. They had an exceptional experience on this spot. As Hugh J. Cannon wrote:

_I felt that I was treading on holy ground, that the veil between me and my father was very thin. Indeed, I felt that there was no intervening veil. The brethren partook of the same feeling. We had prayers under a tree back of the building and Brother Keola Kailai says that while we prayed he saw two men shaking hands. He thought I was shaking hands with Brother Hurst and was surprised when he opened his eyes to see me standing with my hands at my sides. I do not know the significance of what he saw but I do know that Father and Pres. Joseph F. Smith were there_” (Personal Journal of Hugh J. Cannon, 1921)

He described the significance of this hallowed site.

_Where George Q. Cannon and Brother Napela preached with such power that 97 of the 100 people who came to hear them were converted. The tradition is that Brother Cannon was not standing on the ground on this occasion, but was in the air and that a great light shone about him. Under a beautiful tree on the lot where this occurred and_
On another occasion, Brother Cannon was visiting in the Waialua Valley when many people asked him for advice. He gave them a blessing, but the people asked him one more question. He told them he would come back another time. He then went on to say that he would see them again in the future.

In General Conference, October 1896, he stated:

I know that the Lord Jesus Christ, for I have seen Him and heard His voice.

On November 4, 1889, President Wilford Woodruff spoke at a conference,引用了Amasa Cheesebrow的话：“Brother McKay was a great man, but his death was his own. He was a faithful and devoted church member. He has been an inspiration to many. Brother McKay was a great pillar of the church and his death is a great loss to the church.”

President McKay was the first President of the Hawaiian Mission, accompanied around the world by Joseph Smith. He was also the first President of the church in Hawaii.

When I came to Hawaii, I asked them if they could give them a blessing. He told them he would come back another time.

Many years ago on the island of Maui, George Q. Cannon came as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He taught the people about the gospel and helped them to understand the principles of the Church.

The people were inspired to continue to search for truth and to live a life of devotion to God. They were encouraged to be faithful and to follow the teachings of the Prophet.

I know that God lives. I know that Jesus lives. For I have seen Him, and I know that this is true.
couple replied that all their needs were fulfilled. Bro. Cannon knew that deep in their hearts they always prayed for children and had never had any. So Bro. Cannon said that he desired to bless them — and he did. He told them that they would have as many children as the Christ had disciples. The following year their greatest wish was fulfilled. In time they had their twelve children plus two more.

The lao Valley is still peopled with this couple’s descendants.

In Hugh J. Cannon’s journal, Trip Around the World, he refers to the importance of the island of Maui to the Church, and also something of his father’s labors there beginning in December 1850, and then continues:

Fifty years later, and but a few months before his death, he again visited the Islands, at the great Jubilee which was held in the fall of 1900. After his return to Salt Lake, he met with his family and related some experiences of his life and particular of his recent trip. His impressive words were those of an honest man who knew his earthly days were numbered and who desired to leave final testimony as a legacy to his posterity.

After relating many details of his visit and the memories awakened, he wrote:

We were riding in a carriage with President Samuel E. Woolley when we came to a spot which to me was very sacred. Leaving the others behind and with the request that I should not be disturbed, I walked into a garden among the banyan and banana trees and stood on the spot where I, as a young and inexperienced man beset by problems which I myself could not solve, had prayed with the Lord for guidance, promising Him I would do His will if He would but reveal it to me. There in that garden, the Lord talked with me as one man talks to another, telling me I should remain, for a great work was to be done among that people.

NOTE: Years later, Elder Spencer W. Kimball, while speaking in a zone conference in Brazil, referred to three modern apostles who had seen the Savior. He mentioned Melvin J. Ballard, George Q. Cannon, and George F. Richards.]

From Lavina Fielding Anderson’s research quoting President David O. McKay’s journal and the experience with Hugh J. Cannon in Pulehu in 1921:

It seemed to me... that we were treading on sacred ground; for surely the Lord was the close companion and guide of that intrepid and faithful missionary.... I shall never forget the emotions that stirred Brother [Hugh J.] Cannon’s heart as we neared the island [Maui] on which his father had translated the Book of Mormon. Brother Cannon told me about some confidences that his father had given him, his son, which had never been printed. I had never heard them before... when George Q. Cannon, crushed and discouraged, heard the voice of the Lord.

In the little chapel in Pulehu, Brother David Keala, spoke in hushed tones and with tears in his eyes as he told how the saints used to gather there and watch for George Q.
President Snow back to health

the name of Makawahi! This was the woman who was given credit for

In a park in late Oahu is a statue of Makawahi in which Hickert's story, she gives


brethren (B. H. Roberts), Comprehensive History of the Church, Vol. 5, Ch. 12, p. 100-

beaten from the water. His resuscitation to life followed the manifestation of the

untimely man, but it was 20 minutes before Lorenzo Snow gave any signs of life after
dangerous undertakings. Natives from the shore, who witnessed the disaster, rescued the

Lorenzo Snow, Elder Ezra T. Benson (the pioneer apostle successor of President

and a L. Smith were all in the boat when it capsized. Elder Joseph L. Smith had rescued

The accident occurred by the capsizing of a boat whenITYing to land while a heavy

The accident occurred by the capsizing of a boat when ITing to land while a heavy

boat with a native woman who missed President Snow back to health

along with a native woman who missed President Snow back to health

When Church authorities were on a boat coming into Pearl to visit the missionaries

Pss. Lorenzo Snow's near drowning in Hawaii

When Church authorities were on a boat coming into Pearl to visit the missionaries

When Church authorities were on a boat coming into Pearl to visit the missionaries

members in the area of Pearl over the years.

members in the area of Pearl over the years.

Nearly everyone and had been seen by others, has been reported by local Church

hear about the accident. In any case, the story that he had walked with a

had referred to his experience in that spring, and also his appearance in walking along the

NOTE: No one knows the exact location where this occurred, but George Q. Cannon

seen them walking along the beach and informed about the identity of the other person.

walking and talked with him as one man and that the land had walked with a

when as a young missionary, he had been discovered by the savoy when he

said, "Eve, I want you to hear this from my own lips." He then told her of the time

later feeling concern over hunting her feelings he invited her to sit down for a talk. He

Another account is from his daughter Rossanah, whom he had chased once when

arrived the was alone and what they saw the companion was a heavenly being.

living as they walked for when they saw him walking with someone and when he

Cannon to come down from a short distance up the slopes of Hualalai when he was
Diamond Jubilee

In 1900, when George Q. Cannon visited the islands for the Hawaiian Mission Jubilee, he received a magnificent greeting. He was crowned with the yellow lei, the emblem of royalty. Several prominent people in the government, past and present, waited upon him.

During his Jubilee visit, GQC prophesied that a temple would be built in Hawaii and this was fulfilled 19 years later.

Ex-Queen Liliuokalani attended a meeting at which he spoke half an hour in Hawaiian, which he was able to recall in a surprising manner. He wrote in his journal on December 17:

The ex-queen Liliuokalani sent me word that she would like to see me at one o'clock today as she expects to sail for Hilo.... She welcomed me very cordially and expressed the pleasure it gave her at meeting me. She also dwelt on the good my visit had done and would do, how the people's feelings had been aroused and their love awakened and strengthened by my visit. Many more remarks of this character were made by her, and when I arose to bid her good-bye, she said she would like me to give her a blessing; then she led the way to another room. Before I was aware of what she was doing, she was on her knees at my feet to receive the blessing. I felt very free in blessing her, and the Spirit rested upon us both. (Gospel Truth, Biographical Sketch)

NOTE: See painting of Queen Lilioukalani in the Iolani Palace in Honolulu. She was the queen who composed the beautiful Hawaiian song “Aloha Oe.” She had also had to abdicate the throne ending the Hawaiian Monarchy in 1895. Prior to that she had been imprisoned briefly for treasonable acts because of her attempt to retain the monarchy. As a baptized Church member, even during her imprisonment she had her visiting and home teachers visit her regularly.

Of all the experiences in the intervening years there are none more dear to my memory than the blessed experiences of those years upon the Islands, where I saw the miracles of the Gospel repeated in the healing of the sick, by faith and the laying on of hands; where I grew strong in my own duties and certain of the divine help of God; where the sewing of the seed brought so bountiful a harvest.

July 29, 1854: GQC and four faithful elders who remained with him in the Islands, sailed for home, carrying with them the love, almost adoration, of literally thousands of people who had believed their words and been baptized. (Gospel Truth, Biographical Sketch)
one of the brightest.

disposition shall be made up the record by Pres. George. Q. Cannon shall stand our as
accomplished...What profound and speaking during the lifetime he removed
inches and quietly. If one looks to think of all that he has
have in common, with a man possessed of such a remarkable capacity to remember faces and
the English might have wished to have been written down. Never had I
the English might be discussing different men and were elucidating as to who were
Heber J. Grant. There has been no other man in Utah who has shown such marked

President Cannon was a man of varied gifts and wide experience.

Hugh J. Cannon (son of George Cannon and President McHenry)

American Indians were George Q. Cannon accomplished more in the 74 years of his life than any other
the only photos of noble men from different nations whose duty courageously
and justice, and as a speaker were the
a national counselor. His influence and influence has been well co-ordinated, as an orator.
Hugh J. Cannon (son of George Q. Cannon and President McHenry)

Amidst the influences, we have George Q. Cannon in his Pioneer Father's

1891. The only

President Cannon was a man of varied gifts and wide experience.
Speaking for himself

George Q. Cannon, while serving as a territorial delegate to Congress:

I am here without a man who is in sympathy with me: but I have a Friend more powerful than they all. In this I rejoice. I feel there are angels with me, and as one of old said, "They that are for us are more than they who are against us." When I pray, I feel comforted and filled with job. Of myself, I feel very weak; but in my Lord I feel strong.

George Q. Cannon article in the Young Women's Journal: "Did you ask how I got my testimony...why I never got one....The reason I never received one was because I did not need to get one. It was born within me."

On his mission to Hawaii: "Dreams, visions, and revelations were given to me and the communion of the Spirit was most sweet and delicious."

(This was the little boy who would cry in the dark because he hadn't lived in the time of the Savior and couldn't associate with Him as the apostles did. As he grew older he knew the Lord as a Friend and believed in Him implicitly.)

Visited others after his death

Hugh J. Cannon, September 26, 1901 journal entry: "President Lyman...told me that he had received a very pleasant visit from Father and Apostle Franklin D. Richards, who came from the other side and expressed their approval of this work."

Pres. George Albert Smith explained that George Q. Cannon had appeared to him and asked him to please do all he could to encourage his family to be faithful and active in the Church. This so impressed him that he attended Cannon Family Reunions at the Lion House for a couple of years to address the Cannon family members and repeat the message from their ancestor. Pres. Smith also stopped one of George Q.'s son on the temple grounds one day and told him about the visitation by George Q. and the great love he had for his family and the fact that he is concerned about our welfare in this mortal probation.

Aunt Zan (Rosannah Cannon), biographical writings:

My earliest and most impressive recollection of my father is his gathering his children together and explaining to us the principles of the Gospel. In those frequent meetings are exemplified his two outstanding characteristics: first, his love for the Gospel, for which he would willingly have given his life, and what was even more important, for which he suffered privation, indignities, and persecution; and second, his love for his family.

She also describes him as:
and he served in the Church capably for more than 40 years.

George A. Cannon once reported that it had been made known to him in an early age

seemed to tell away as he came in sight of home.

It is a sweet remembrance to his children, and is often expressed in his memories that

world or a look from him was sufficient.

without losing dignity.

Church work. He had a keen sense of humor and joy of living... He was jovial, but

always ready to help those who seek Him.

him how much you appreciate His blessings and go to Him with your troubles. He is

unmistakable. Prayer was his comfort and security. He taught his family to pray

in spite of his exceptional intelligence, his faith was simple and childlike. Service to

a genuine family man, a leader, loving father and husband, who was most content.