

CHAPTER TWO

THE CANNAN FAMILY

From the Fresno County Biographies (7), we know that a Dr. David Cannan was born in Brazil in 1863. His father was a Scotsman whom for many years was engaged in business in Brazil and had his family there. When David was 6 years old, (in 1870?) his parents returned to “England”. Possibly it was to Scotland as David was educated at Birkenhead School and Glasgow University. In 1881 he is shown as a boarder in Glasgow with an occupation of student of medicine (7a). He then attended London University and St. Bartholomew’s Hospital where he completed his medical training. Fresno also tells us that David married a Miss. Mary K. Cunningham of London. It looks as if David took up residence in the West Ham area after his medical training as he married Mary K. Cunningham, of 3 Arundel Place, Islington in Oct/Nov/Dec 1888 in Islington (9 & 9a & b). Mary’s parents were Robert and Isabella F. Cunningham (9bi). David’s and Mary’s first son was born in Walthamstow 1889 (10). They named him Horatius James Cannan, not to be confused with **H.J.C.**, David’s brother.

David was registered in the Medical Register in 1889 (10a).

During the same year, due to ill health he moved to California (10b). His wife Mary and son followed him and arrived in New York on 10/03/1890 (10c&d). It shows a Horace aged 9 months. This must have been Horatius, (who in fact was 14 months), David’s son and nephew of **H.J.C.**

Fresno (which is dated 1892) also tells us that David opened a drug store with a Dr. Jarren and practised his medical profession. It adds that David had two children. We know from the 1901 census (8) that a daughter Isobel M. was born in 1892 followed by another son, Robert Keith, in 1894. Both are shown as born in California.

A document by John T. Edsall, in Annex B, refers to a daughter called Marjorie. I have found no other reference to this name. The document also tells us that David and his family moved to Ashville in North Carolina in 1896 but in 1897 they returned to England.

The 1901 census ^(8 & 8a) shows David's family living in West Ham; (*In those days a fashionable area for professional people, in London*). His profession is shown as physician/surgeon, age 37 (*i.e. born in 1864*), born in Brazil. His wife is shown as Mary K. Cannan, age 34 (*i.e. born in 1867*), born in Islington. The census shows his first son Horatius James (Nephew of **H.J.C.**), aged 12, born in Walthamstow, London. A daughter, Isobel M. Cannan aged 9, born in California and a further son, Robert K. Cannan aged 6, born in California. Finally it shows his mother, Maria Cannan (widowed), age 68 (*i.e. born in 1833*), born in Scotland.

The 1891 census ⁽¹³⁾ shows a Maria Cannan, Head of family, widowed, civil parish as Bromley, St. Leonard. Estimated birth year 1833, born in Scotland. I have assumed that this is the same lady as shown as David's mother in the 1901 census. If this is the case then she must also be the mother of **H.J.C.**

In 1911^(10di), it records David Cannan's address as The Laurels, Woodgrange Road, Stratford. In Kelly's Trade Directory of 1912 it shows him as Medical Officer, Forest Gate and West Ham (part of) David Cannan MD, MRCS Eng, LRCP Lond. The Laurels Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate ^(10dii). In the London Gazette ^(10diii) of 5th October, 1915 it announces the partnership between David Cannan and Alan William Holthusen, Surgeons and General Medical Practitioners at No. 49, Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate and 34, Sebant-road, Forest Gate under the name of Cannan and Holthusen had been dissolved from 30th September 1915. The telephone directory of 1920 ^(10div) shows 'Cannan & Balknill, Medical Practitioners at 49, Woodgrange Road'. It also shows 'Cannan David, Physician & Surgeon, 134, Earlham Green, Forest Gate.'

So we know that David, a professional man, resided and was established and I presume reasonably connected in and around the area of Islington, West Ham and Forest Gate from at least 1888 when he married.

Going back to Maria, the mother of **H.J.C.**, the 1841, 1851 and 1861 census ^(11, 11a to 11aii) show a Maria Watson aged 8, 18 and 28 respectively (*i.e. born in 1833*), daughter of James and Mary Watson.

In Ancestry.co.uk ⁽¹⁴⁾ it shows the death of a Horatius James Cannan in 1891, age 56, b. 1835 (Father of **H.J.C.?**). Place of death was Poplar, London. *(There is another record that shows a death of Horatius James Cannan in 1891, but birth date as 1822, all other details are the same. This 1822 is incorrect.)* IGI Individual Record ⁽¹⁵⁾ shows a Horatius James Cannan born on 16th April 1834 at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, Scotland. (Father of **H.J.C.**) His parents are David Cannan and Mary Stewart Reid. *(It also shows the same mistake as above but gives a date of 6th March 1825).* Ancestry.co.uk in the 1851 Scotland census, ^(16, ten pages), show Horatius Jas **Cauman** *(other records show the same family Christian names but the surname as Cannan so I presume that **Cauman** spelling is an error.* Details are: Residence Lanark. David Cannan, age 58, (b. 1793), head of family, occupation Licentiate K. C.C. Edinbgh. Genl. Practitioner. Born in Edinburgh, Midlothian. Mary S. Cannan, age 51, (b. 1800), wife, born Leith, Mln. Susan S. Cannan, age 21, (b. 1830), daughter, unmarried, born Edinburgh. Horatius Jas. Cannan, age 16, (b. 1835), occupation Clerk in Insurance Office, born Edinburgh. Austin Cannan, age 20, lodger, occupation Ag. Lab., John Cannan, age 16, lodger occupation Cotton Piece. Peter Cannan, age...., lodger, occupation Railway Labourer.

IGI Individual Record ⁽¹⁷⁾ also shows a marriage between Horatius J. Cannan, (Father of **H.J.C.?**) and Maria Watson of Blythswood, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, on 10th June, 1862. If Horatius James Cannan and Horatius Jas. Cannan b. 1835/34, d. Poplar 1891, was the same person, as this Horatius J. Cannan he would have been 27 years old at the time of the wedding. And if he was the father of **H.J.C.** and David, he would have migrated to Brazil soon after his marriage as David was born in Brazil in 1864. It all fits in!

(I have some other records of people called Horatius Cannan pre this, see Annex B, paragraph 3).

So, accepting that the Horatius James Cannan (father of **H.J.C.**) that died in Poplar ⁽¹⁴⁾ b.1835 is the same Horatius James Cannan that was born son of David and Mary S. ⁽¹⁶⁾, I have assumed that he was the Horatius James Cannan that married Maria Watson ⁽¹⁷⁾ and I have assumed that he was the husband of Maria (widow) who lived in Poplar according to the 1891 census and thus he was the father of **H.J.C.** and David, agreeing with Fresno that David had a Scottish father ^(See family tree Annex A i.).

Except for David Cannan in the 1881 census, I have found no trace of the family of Horatius and Maria actually residing in UK from when 'Fresco' tells us that they returned to England when David was six years old which would have been in 1871 until the census of 1891. Where was the rest of the family at the time of the 1881 census?

We have David's registration in the medical register and immigration records to California in 1889. In 1891 Maria is in the census record as residing in Bromley and the death of Horatius James Cannan, in Poplar is recorded ⁽¹⁴⁾. (The father of **H.J.C.**?). Can we assume that at some-time, most probably before David moved to California that his parents Horatius and Maria moved to the East area of London? Why? The first and obvious reason was to be near a son in their old age. But why did they stay when David immigrated to California?

Were they related to some of the many other Cannan families that are recorded as living in the area? There is a Francis Gordon Cannan, birth 1907, Henry James Cannan, born 1860, William James Cannan born in West Ham in 1896, James Cannan, death Jun 1900 all in West Ham. There is Daniel John Cannan of Bermondsey K.I.A. whilst serving with the 16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) ^(37, 37a, 37ai & 37aii). There is also a death of John James Cannan in 1894 and a Sydney James Cannan born in West Ham in 1889. I have, as yet, failed to make any positive connections between these families and Horatius and Maria.

In conclusion on the family of **H.J.C.**, other than the record of their birth, there is no further sign at all of his sister Janet Mary or his younger brother Francis William.

Now let's go back to **H.J.C.** From the time of the Consular records of 1866 recording the birth of **H.J.C.** ^(6a), I have found no record of him until the 1901 census ^(12 & 12a) where it records an H??? J. Cannan aged 36, (*that is b. 1865*), born in Brazil. I have assumed that this is **H.J.C.**, as he was born in Brazil in 1866. It shows him as single and occupation of *Mining Engineer*. At the time he was a visitor in Reading.

The next record that I have found of **H.J.C.** is a marriage between Horatius James Cannan and Julia Harrietta Dupuis in June 1909 at St. Marylebone, London ^(18 & 19). Julia Harrietta Dupuis was born in Eton in 1866 ⁽²⁰⁾ this is the same year as **H.J.C.** So when they married they were both 43 years old which most probably explains why I have not found any record of children.

I have no more on **H.J.C.**