

May, 2023

Question to Karl Ruetling who did the research for The Oldest House for many years

Karl, thanks so much for your offer to ask questions about the Watlington family tree!

I only have one at this point. It looks like daughter Maria Louisa (Lolla) had an out of wedlock child in 1957 when she was 17. It shows up in Ancestry as the 10th child of Francis and Emeline as well as daughter of Lolla.

I found several in the office research papers that talk about the out of wedlock child and that Francis and Emeline "informally adopted" her. She grew up in California and lived to the age of 72.

Do you know anything about her? Can you add any information or validate this story?

Thanks!
Robin

On Thu, Jun 29, 2023 at 5:10 PM Karl Reutling <karl.reutling@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Robin,

I don't know why this story thread keeps getting messed up or lost. Oh well, certainly not your fault.

Maria Louisa Watlington had an out of wedlock daughter 10 March 1857. She was named Ella Earle W. She grew up in Michigan and married Samuel Eby in 1878. They moved around quite a bit, and had a family of 5, at least 3 of which lived to maturity. Ella finally ended up in Los Angeles as a divorcee by 1910. She died 8 October 1929 in San Francisco and is buried in San Mateo County CA..

I think Ella had one of the most diverse and probably interesting lives of any of W's offspring. I think her husband was an itinerant preacher or something the way they moved around, don't ask me why. I also have the idea that Ella ran a boarding house in S.F. Again don't ask me why.

10 yrs after Ella was born, Maria Louisa W married a Canadian, Joseph E King. They had no children in their marriage. They moved to Michigan, living in the same area Ella grew up.. ??? After Mr. King died, Maria Louisa "Lolla" moved back to 322 Duval St.. for the remainder of her life.

So, was Joseph King perhaps the father of Ella, or someone else? What does Michigan signify in the story.. can't be just a coincidence can it?

Is it just a coincidence that l'il Ella went to Michigan to grow up around the same time ol' Francis W became estranged from his wife and family during the Civil War? I could go on. Aren't you glad you asked?