

10/17/95

Facts concerning the father and mother of
Mrs. Grace King Ingersoll as told to me by her
in October 1935.

Grandma was the daughter of Joshua King Skinner and Elizabeth
H. Carrier. Joshua King ^{SKINNER} was born in Ridgefield and his uncle
lived in Ridgefield. When Joshua King Skinner was a young man,
and we'll call him "King" hereafter to make it easier, he was
living in Albany with his family. His father was Elisha Webster
Skinner.

Grandma's great, great grandfather was the Honorable Joshua King
who during the Revolutionary War entertained Major André.

King visited Uncle Joshua in Ridgefield. Uncle Joshua had very
dark hair and dressed very carefully and had a remarkably small
foot. He also went to church every Saturday morning, and had a
habit of turning around to watch the singers instead of the
minister. The minister there was a King who was related to
^{Jared?} Jered Ingersoll who was the first Presbyterian minister to ever
be in Ridgefield. While King was visiting Uncle Joshua they went
to church one morning and during the services, King looked over
at the Ressaque pew and saw a very lovely looking girl who was
then 15. Her name was Miss Carrier. She had come from Bridgeport
where she had lived with her father and had been very carefully
brought up never having been allowed to go out to parties or
anything of that kind. So she decided to go and see the world
and went to Ridgefield. When she arrived there she asked for a
hotel and they told her that the Ressaque House was the best place
to stay. This is the house now called the "Cannon Ball House" as there

is a cannon ball in the walls fired during the Battle of Ridgefield in the Revolution. Before that, this place was called "Keelers Tavern" but a Mister Ressaque married ^{Miss} King's daughter and the name thus became changed.

After the services that morning when King was on the way home with Uncle Joshua, he said "Who was that very pretty girl in the Ressaque pew?" Uncle Joshua answered "Now don't you mind, that's my girl!"

However, Uncle Joshua told King that this was Miss Carrier. After lunch that day, while Uncle Joshua was napping, King put on his best clothes and went to the side door of the Ressaque house and knocked. When the maid answered the door, he asked for Miss Carrier and was let in. He sat in the parlor and rocked and rocked and thought Miss Carrier would never come down. Finally, she came down and the following conversation took place.:

King: "Is this Miss Carrier?"

Miss Carrier: "Yes. Is this Mr. Skinner?"

King: "Yes. I just came over to see if I might not have a talk with you."

They talked for a little while but Miss Carrier was so timid that she excused herself to go up and finish her studies. King went back to Uncle Joshua's house very much excited but disappointed because Miss Carrier did not stay longer. He told Uncle Joshua where he had been and the old gentleman was very interested.

King evidently then went back to Albany but Uncle Joshua continued to keep an eye on Miss Carrier for ^{one} day he saw her going to the Post Office with a letter and said, "Good morning, Miss Carrier," and she answered "Good morning, Mr. King." Uncle Joshua

said "Would you like to come in and see my garden. It's ^{very} beautiful." Miss Carrier said "I'm very sorry but I must go right down and mail this letter," and when she came home she walked on the other side of the street so she would not have to see Uncle Joshua.

King did not dare say anything to his father about meeting Miss Carrier although he told the story to his mother. He worked hard at his studies but finally went to Mr. Rufus King and told him all about Miss Carrier. Rufus King said that he certainly had had pluck to go and call on her but that he thought he was much too young to think seriously about girls. Mr. Rufus King asked King if he was going to marry Miss Carrier and King replied that he did not know, he was going to correspond first. ^{Rufus} So King said, "Look here, King, they are going to build a railroad from Ellicottville to Lake Erie. Now, I have invested in this and am interested in it, and perhaps I can get you some work in it."

Eventually, Rufus King got King a job in a bank so King wrote Miss Carrier and after some correspondence asked her if she would be willing to go out West with him and settle down. She answered that she would, went to Bridgeport and packed all her clothes, made all her clothing (sewing them herself) and wrote him that she would meet him at the station at Fairfield.

King took the train, saying "Good bye" to his mother but not ~~saying~~ ^{saying} anything to his father, and got off at Fairfield, where he saw Miss Carrier sitting. He walked up to her and said, "Now Miss Carrier, are you willing to marry me and if you are, shall we live here or go west?" She said she would go anywhere with him so he went down and found the clergyman and they were married as

records show, "J. K. Skinner, and ElizabethH. Carrier." They were married with a silver ring and Grandma thinks that King paid the clergyman \$5.

So they took the train and went to Olean, N. Y. and after walking all around the town, found a nice little home where they stayed for 3^{1/2} and during this time a little boy named "Alva" was born, who died when he was still an infant. Then Grandma was born and her father said to her mother, "Elizabeth, you called the first child after your father, and what shall we name this little girl?" Grandma's mother said, "O dear King, anything that you want to call her," so King wrote to his mother and asked her what name Grandma should be called.

His mother wrote back and said "I congratulate you, my dear King. You must call the little girl after my sister, Grace King Skinner."

Grandma's mother was not very active in the west. Grandma remembers her sitting a good deal in her rocking chair and she did not live long, *dying* of pneumonia at the age of 26 years.