

William Darke Astor Worthington (1816-1850)

William was born June 15, 1816, after Eleanor endured a difficult pregnancy. He was named after two of his father's friends, General William Darke of Virginia and John Jacob Astor of New York. William and brother Francis were raised with little guidance or discipline as father Thomas died when they were young.

Although he attended school at Ohio University in Athens, William never graduated. He inherited 120 acres of land from his father's estate, which he mostly rented to tenants. Records show his brother James paid him for splitting fence rails. He worked briefly as a cattle drover and also in the family pork packing plant in Portsmouth. William lived most of his life in the Ross County area.

In her journal, his sister Margaret mentions William numerous times as a part of their Chillicothe social group and family gatherings such as dinners at Eolia, home of sister Ellen Watts. William had problems with alcohol and repeatedly promised to stop drinking. He attended temperance meetings and took the Cold Water Pledge but failed to comply. William was frequently ill and died at the age of 34 at Adena.

