

With the completion of his contract in 1874, he relocated 12 miles east of St. Paul to work on a farm.

Louisa had 12 children, though only six lived until adulthood.

After working as a mason and farmer in eastern Minnesota for over 20 years, Joel Weiser talked to Louisa, and they decided that the family pack up their belongings and travel by train to Worthington, a railroad stop located 60 miles west of Fargo, in northern Dakota Territory. Joel and Louisa filed a homestead and tree claim of 320 acres, 4 miles northeast of the railroad stop, and built a log cabin in Worthington, which was the second house built there. Joel would later change the name of Worthington to Valley City, according to a column written by Curt Eriksmoe.

PLACE OF DEATH
County of Ramsey
Township of _____
City of Valley City (No. Front St. 1st Ward)
FULL NAME Louisa Cleaver Weiser

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 0084
Registered No. 109

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
SEX Female COLOR White
AGE 74 years 10 months 23 days
MARRIED 19 years 6 months 6 days
BIRTHPLACE Pennsylvania
NAME OF FATHER Johnatan Cleaver
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Pennsylvania
MOTHER'S NAME Sarah Galt
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Pennsylvania
OCCUPATION House wife
BY WHOM KNOWN AND BELIEVED Sara M. Difton
(Informant) Portland

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
DATE OF DEATH (Day - Month - Year) Aug 8 1909
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from April 1908 to August 1909, that I last saw her alive on Aug 8 1909, and that death was caused by the date stated above, at D. C. N. T.
CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Senility
Heart
109 Address 109
Final Information only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents:
DURATION Days
SIGNATURE Leah M. P.
ADDRESS 109
HOW LONG AT PLACE OF DEATH
WHERE WAS DECEASED CONTRACTED
PLACE OF BIRTH OR RESIDENCE
DATE OF BIRTH
UNDECEASED ADDRESS
FILED 109 1909
REGISTRAR

Louisa's death certificate noted that she had 12 children, though Joel had said, a few years later, that they had nine children. Louisa was probably correct that they had 12 children, though when she died she had six adult children.



Shortly after the family arrived, immigration to Worthington began to pick up, and by 1878, there were about 30 people living there. Weiser built a house and a general store in Worthington, and it has been written that although the store was small, it “carried the largest and most complete stock to be found in [Dakota] Territory at that time.” Along with Weiser’s store and house, the town consisted of 11 other houses and a saloon, according to a second column of "Did You Know That" column *Founder of Valley City waged sustained battle to keep his community relevant* by Curt Eriksmoe on June 13, 2020.

After 33 years in Valley City, North Dakota, Louise Cleaver Weiser died, and she was buried in Valley City on August 8, 1909. Her husband, Joel, whose eye sight was poor, lived with his various children, and died in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota on January 17, 1925.



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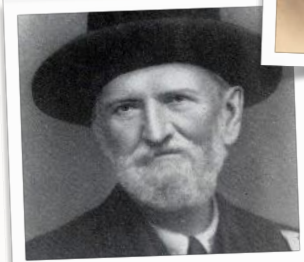
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Louisa Cleaver
Weiser
1835-1909



Louisa Cleaver was born on October 31, 1835 in Oley, in Berks County in Pennsylvania.

Oley was named by a tribe of Delaware, Lenni-Lenape. In Lenape *Olink* means kettle, which is roughly the shape of the valley. It was an important meeting place for Native Americans. In fact, the Sacred Oak, located a mile from Main Street, was over 500 years old, and was the place where the Lenape made treaties and settled differences.

The first European settler-colonists arrived in the Oley Valley in the early 1700s. When they arrived they found prosperous Lenape villages and fields of corn. The settler-colonists were primarily German, along with French Huguenots and Swiss seeking religious freedom, according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oley_Valley.

Louisa's parents were Jonathan R. Cleaver (1802-1877) and Sarah Gabey (1812-1890). In the Oley Village area included Samuel Weiser (1783-1854) and Mary Polly Schroeder (1793-1879) and their family, including Joel Schroeder Weiser, who was born on August 13, 1934.



Louisa Cleaver Weiser and Joel Schroeder Weiser, after living on Shakopee, took a train to Worthington, a railroad stop located 60 miles west of Fargo, in northern Dakota Territory. It later was called Valley City.



It was clear that at some point, Louisa met Joel. When Joel Schroeder Weiser headed to Shakapee City, Minnesota Territory with his older brother, William, he worked as a mason and plasterer, but he never forgot about Louisa Cleaver. In fact, in early May of 1854, Joel returned to Oley, Pennsylvania and married Louisa. After the wedding, Joel and Louisa had a honeymoon in Niagara Falls.

Joel and Louisa talked, and decided that Joel's parents to moved to Shakapee City. Joel's father, Samuel, had health problems and he and Louisa knew that it would be better to move with them. Joel and Louisa, along with Samuel and Mary Polly traveled by riverboat up the Ohio and Mississippi River. On May 17, 1854, aboard the riverboat, Samuel Weiser died. Mary Polly Schroeder Weiser convince the riverboat captain to take her husband to St. Paul, where he was buried before continued on the Shakapee City, Minnesota Territory.

Joel and Louisa Cleaver Weiser and Mary Polly Schroeder Weiser then lived in Shakopee, along with William and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Allen Weiser, and Dr. Josiah and Eliza Ella Victoria Hunt Weiser. During the first few years in Shakopee, the three Weiser brothers and the families were doing very well and made many friendships with some other settler-colonists and some Dakota Indians.

At the start of the Civil War in 1862, Joel's brother, William, enlisted with the Union Army. On October 17, 1862, Then Joel's brother, Dr. Josiah Weiser, was inducted into a local Minnesota army, commanded by General Henry Hastings Sibley, to pursue the Dakota Indians. Finally, on September 31, 1864, Joel enlisted with the 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and was at once ordered to Memphis to engage in fighting the Confederate forces.

Louisa Cleaver Weiser had four children in Shakopee, although Mary Rebecca Weiser (1856-1864) and James Lawrence Weiser (1857-1864) both died in June of 1864. Mary died on June 8, and four days later, James died of diphtheria. The diphtheria epidemic spiked in Shakopee, hitting mostly children, and the scourge devastated entire families.

When Joel Weiser was mustered in 1864, Louisa had 3 little girls at home. It must have been hard, but it helped that others in the area had similar experiences. When Joel was mustered out of the army on August 24, 1865, and discharged in October, Joel and Louisa had 3 more children in Shakopee, according to *Find-A-Grave #111756244*.

Joel returned to his work as a mason in Shakopee until 1870, when he was offered a contract to do construction work in St. Paul.