

Soon after the start of the Civil War in 1862, Polly son, William Frank Weiser (wives were Mary E. Allen and Catherine McCallum) enlisted Company I 9th Regiment, Minnesota Infantry. Her next son, Joel Schroeder Weiser (wife was Louisa Cleaver) also enlisted Company I 9th Regiment, Minnesota Infantry and was at once ordered to Memphis to engage in fighting the Confederate forces. And Mary Polly Schoeder Weiser other son, Dr. Josiah S. Weiser (wife was Eliza Victoria Hunt), joined the Company S First Minnesota Calvary Mounted Rangers commanded by General Henry Hastings Sibley, to pursue the Dakota Indians in the Dakota Territory.

Polly's son, Dr. Josiah S. Weiser, was killed on July 24, 1864. Her other two sons, Joel and William, returned to Shakopee in the fall of 1865.

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. With the completion of his contract in 1874, he relocated 12 miles east of St. Paul to work on a farm. Polly and Louisa and children moved with Joel.

After working as a mason and farmer in eastern Minnesota for over 20 years, Polly's son, Joel Weiser and his family packed up their belongings and traveled by train to Worthington, a railroad stop located 60 miles west of Fargo, in northern Dakota Territory, not too far from where Polly's other son, Dr. Josiah Weiser, had been killed 14 years earlier. Joel 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. Polly moved there



with the family. Joel would later change the name of Worthington to Valley City, according to a column written by Curt Eriksmoe.

Mary Polly Schoeder Weiser made her home with her son Joel and family until the end of her life.

She passed away at the age of 84, in Valley City, Dakota Territory on December 11, 1879. She had the distinction of being the first white woman to be buried there, according to <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/111756168/mary-weiser>.



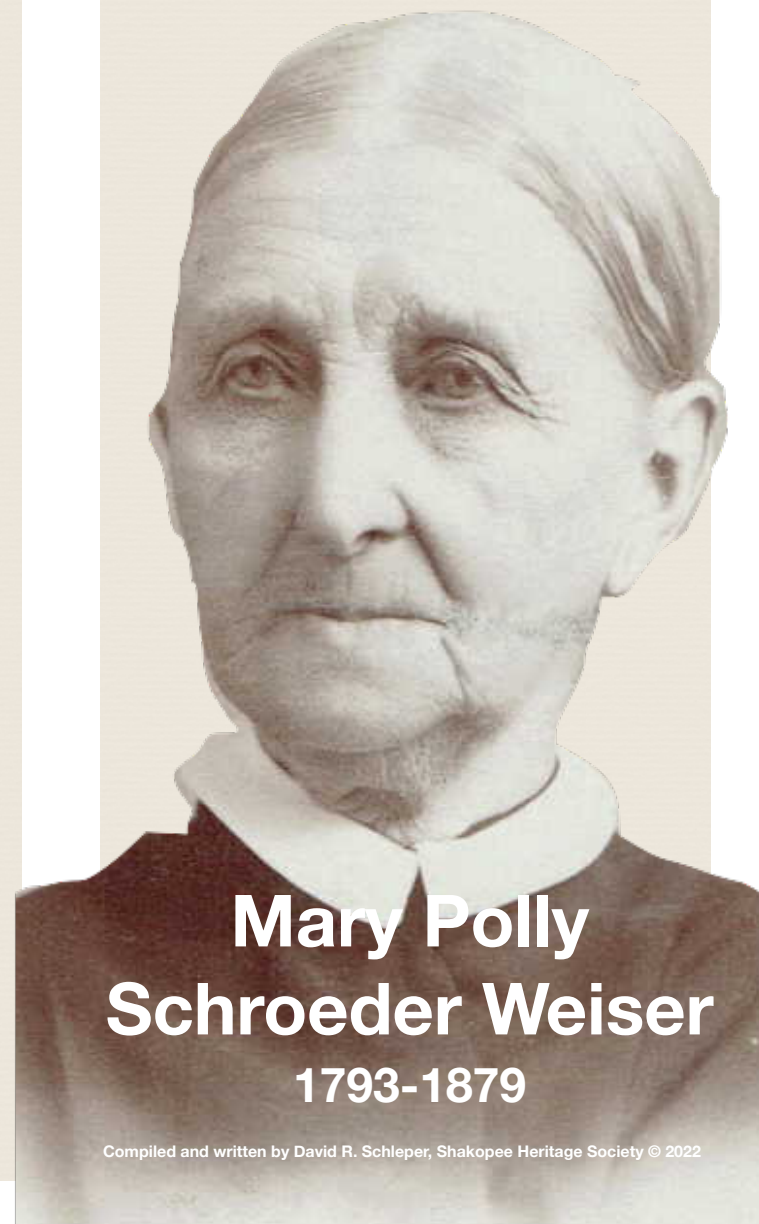
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**Mary Polly
Schroeder Weiser**
1793-1879

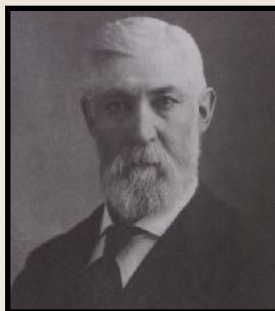


Mary Polly Schroeder was born in 1793 in Reading, Pennsylvania. Her neighbor in Oley was Samuel DeTurk Weiser.

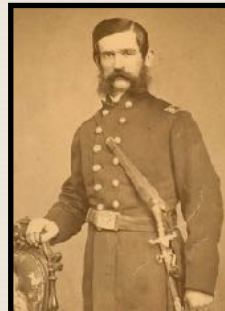
Lenni-Lenape, of the Delaware tribe, called this area *Olink*, means kettle, which is roughly the shape of the valley. Oley was an important meeting place for Native Americans. The Sacred Oak, which is located about one mile from Main Street is a more-than-500-year-old Oak tree at which the Lenape made treaties and settled differences according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oley_Valley.

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 settlers were primarily German along with French Huguenots and Swiss seeking religious freedom. Pennsylvania Dutch was still the primary language of the settler-colonists until World War I.

Samuel DeTurk Weiser was born on November 5, 1783 in Oley, Pennsylvania, son of David Weiser Jr and Maria DeTurk. Samuel DeTurk Weiser's grandfather was David Jayner Weiser, Sr. who was born in Worms, Stadtkreis Worms, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany and came to America on



William Frank Weiser was enlisted in Company I 9th Regiment Minnesota Infantry.



Dr. Josiah S. Weiser was enlisted in Company S First Minnesota Calvary Mounted Rangers.



Joel Schroeder Weiser was enlisted in Company I 9th Regiment Minnesota Infantry.

Mary Polly Schroeder Weiser had three of her children involved in the Civil War.

The three Weiser men were living in Shakapee City, Minnesota Territory since 1854. Each of the three men became activity engaged in business life of the place: Josiah as a doctor, William as a farmer, and Joel as a mason. Dr. Josiah and Eliza Ella Victoria Hunt Weiser, William and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Allen Weiser, and Joel Schroeder and Louisa Cleaver Weiser were doing very well and made many friendships with some other settler-colonists and some Dakota Indians.

Loyal Judith from Rotterdam, arriving on September 3, 1739. He came to America because his brother, Peter, who had arrived earlier. Peter was a laborer, and in 1738 he wrote a will that said he was "very sick and weak in Body, but of perfect Mind and Memory, Thanks her given into God therefore, calling into Mind ye Mortality of my Body, and knowing that it is appointed me each amen once to Dye, do macke and ordain the my Last Will and Testament." Peter died at 24 years old.

So David Weiser Sr. headed to America, married Maria Catherina Weidner in 1740, and acquired land as a settler-colonists, which was passed on to his son, David Jr., and then his grandson, Samuel DeTurk Weiser, according to ancestry.com at <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/178055336/recent>.

Polly married Samuel DeTurk Weiser on January 22, 1815 in Reading. Polly and Samuel had seven children: Esther, 1816; Christian, 1824; Theresa, 1828; William Frank, 1830; Dr. Josiah Schroeder, 1832; Joel Schroeder, 1834; and Annette Marie, 1839.

Mary Polly Schroeder Weiser husband, Samuel, a miller, was in failing heath. When talking to their son and daughter in-law Joel and Louisa after their marriage in May of 1854, decided to give up their comfortable place in the east and cast their lot with Joel, Louisa, and the other two boys who now lived in Shakapee City, Minnesota Territory, according to Curt Eriksmoen column *Assassination in central ND likely was the spark that ignited the Dakota War* in the **Did You Know That** on May 29, 2020.

The group immediately started for the west, via Niagara Falls, the Ohio and upper Mississippi Rivers. However, before they reached St. Paul, Samuel died on May 17, 1854 on the boat, leaving Mary a widow before she reached her new home.

Mary Polly Schroeder Weiser prevailed upon the kindly Captain to allow her to bring the body to her destination where she buried him in St. Paul's oldest cemetery, at the age of 68.

Mary Polly Schroeder Weiser lived with her son, Joel, and his wife, Louisa Cleaver Weiser in Shakopee, while she enjoyed the grandchildren who were living in Shakopee.