

## Louisa Cook Letters, 1860-1866

### Biographical Notes

Louisa Cook was born about 1833 in New York State, and came to Ohio as a child with her parents, Elisha and Eunice Fuller Cook. Her parents owned property in several counties, but most of it was in Lucas County, Oregon Township. Louisa taught school in Oregon in 1850-1851, and in 1853, married Gottlieb Johlin, by whom she had a daughter, Mary. Johlin apparently abandoned the family, as Louisa resumed her maiden name (and had her daughter use it as well), and moved in with her uncle in Manhattan.

In 1862 Louisa, with her daughter, aunt and uncle, moved to Placerville in the Idaho Territory. Louisa was hired as a schoolteacher, first at \$100 per month, then at \$125 per month. In the fall of 1864, Louisa married Mr. Walters, a Tennessean, a staunch Union man, and a devout Bible Christian.

Louisa's letters cover only three brief years. She writes about the journey west, with some unfavorable comments about the Indians. Her five letters from Placerville chronicle illness, society, her new house and frontier violence.

These letters were written to her sister, Emma, who had married Amos Crane and settled in Washington Township, Lucas County. They offer some brief glimpses into the lives of ordinary people, and shed some light on the era of Great Plains expansion and westward movement in United States history.

The second folder of letters was added later to the collection. It contains a photocopy of typed transcripts of letters: one from Louisa to her brother in 1860, while most of the other letters are from Louisa to her mother with a few to her sister. The letters from June and July 1862 form a diary of her experiences on the westward journey. The last three letters, written in 1866, were from Louisa's husband, D. M. Walters, to her mother. The February 27 letter gives details of Louisa's death a few months earlier. The last two letters from Walters discuss sending Louisa's daughter, Mary, back east to Eunice.

## Louisa Cook Letters, 1860-1866 Inventory

Folder 1 Correspondence

1. October 12, 1862 (photocopy of original letter)
2. June 17, 1864 (photocopy of original letter)
3. July 29, 1864 (photocopy of original letter)
4. December 9, 1864 (photocopy of original letter)
5. May 17, 1865 (photocopy of original letter)
6. June 15, 1865 (photocopy of original letter)

Folder 2 Correspondence (photocopy of typed transcripts)

1. May 11, 1860
2. June 11, 1862 (page 1)
3. June 20, 1862 (page 4)
4. June 24, 1862 (page 10)
5. July 15, 1862 (page 17)
6. January 11, 1863 (page 24)
7. February 5, 1863 (page 26)
8. February 22, 1863 (page 29)
9. May 18, 1863 (page 32)
10. June 14, 1863 (page 35)
11. October 4, 1863 (page 36)
12. April 10, 1864 (page 40)
13. No date [note: probably end of 1864] (page 42)
14. January 1, 1865 (page 43)
15. March 7, 1865 (page 46)
16. April 10, 1865 (page 49)
17. February 27, 1866 (D. M. Walters to Eunice Cook) (page 53)
18. September 3, 1866 (D. M. Walters to Eunice Cook)
19. November 10, 1866 (D. M. Walters to Eunice Cook)

(Note: Most of the letters have been typed as a 57-page document. Page numbers above refer to the page on which the letter starts.)