

## Luna Warner Diary – Card #0 – Use for modeling the lesson

### Introducing the family and friends who traveled west with Luna Warner.

Most of the people Luna traveled with were part of the Warner or Cleveland families. Three Warner brothers married three Cleveland sisters. Walter, Frank, and Eli Warner married Alice, Julia, and Lucia Cleveland. All three of these families traveled to Kansas. Alice, Julia, and Lucia's brother, Ephraim Cleveland, made the trip with them.

Walter and Alice (Cleveland) Warner

- 2 children – Luna and Louie

Frank and Julia (Cleveland) Warner

- 4 children – Oramel, Arabella, Alton and May

Eli and Lucia (Cleveland) Warner

- 1 daughter remained in New York to teach – Viola
- 3 children traveled west with them – Velma, Venela, and Vesteen (also known as Teen or Tene)

Ephraim Cleveland (widowed)

- 1 daughter remained in New York to teach – Genelia
- 1 daughter traveled west with her father – Gena

Alpheus Cleveland (Alf), a relative of Alice, Julia, Lucia and Ephraim Cleveland.

Howard Holden, brother of Ephraim Cleveland's wife

Daniel Wilson, a friend

Henry Everett, a friend

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. The diary begins as Luna and her family prepare to leave Massachusetts for Kansas.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

Thursday, February 23, 1871–Cool. The day of our auction. We were pretty busy. The sale commenced between 10 and 11 o'clock. Almost everything went very low. There were not a great many here.

Friday, February 24–Papa went to West Brookfield [Massachusetts] to settle up his affairs. The rest of us worked just as hard as we could packing all day. We are to go to Gilbertville [Massachusetts] tomorrow to take the **cars**. It rained in the evening. Mama and I are to sleep at Mr. Snow's tonight. The rest sleep on the floor here.

Saturday, February 25–Pleasant. . . . Mr. Snow [friend] took our baggage and us on a large corn wagon. Mrs. Snow, Emma and Francis Newton [friends] came to Gilbertville to see us off. We started to load the cars before 5 o'clock and loaded until 9 or 10, then not even done in fact.

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Sunday, February 26–We got into New York City this morning. It was raining. We rode over to Staten Island on the boat, then to Uncle Henry's on the cars. They were all there but Uncle Eli, Venelia, and Teen [Uncle & cousins]. Arabella and Alpheus [cousins] went over to Wilsons. They were married this afternoon.

Tuesday, February 28–In the morning we all started for New York bag and baggage. When we got there all the girls got into the **horse cars** and rode up to 8th Avenue. The girls got their pictures taken. Then we went back to the Astor House and stayed until night when Aunt Abbie, Lamartine, Viola, and Genelia [aunt and cousins] went back to Staten Island and the rest of us went over to Jersey City on the boat and took the cars for Kansas. We had a car to ourselves.

Wednesday, March 1–I was sick of riding in the cars this morning. I vomited on my handkerchief. We stopped at Harrisburg [Pennsylvania] three hours. We girls all took a walk. We crossed the river before noon, then rode nearly all day by the Juniata River and past the Blue Ridge mountains and through the Alleghenys. We passed through two tunnels -- one a mile long.

Thursday, March 2–Pleasant out of the cars but not inside them. It is so smoky and dusty. . . . I do not eat more than a spoonful of **victuals** a day, and that does not taste good. The cars stop quite often.

Friday, March 3–Every day is the same, only each is more tiresome than the last.

Saturday, March 4–. . . We got to Solomon City about 7 a.m., washed up, and had breakfast. We had buffalo meat. We do not like it very well. . . . There are eight of us to sleep in one room. There are three beds in it.

Bivans, Venola Lewis, ed. "The Diary of Luna E. Warner, A Kansas Teenager of the Early 1870s." *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 35 (August 1969): 276-311. Print.

## Luna Warner Diary – Card #1

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins as their train arrives in Solomon City, Kansas. They bought a wagon and team of horses there, loaded part of their household goods into the wagon, and started up the Solomon valley in search of homesteads.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

Sunday, March 5–The weather is just about perfect. We all took a long walk up the river this morning. Some people went to church this forenoon. We have been to see two or three dugouts. . .

Wednesday, March 8–There was quite a severe snow storm this afternoon. It makes it very muddy.

Thursday, March 9–This afternoon we came about three miles from Solomon and put up the tent by a creek. We built a campfire and made tea. Uncle Howard and Henry Everett [friend] each shot a rabbit. We are all to sleep on the ground. We all went to a store in Solomon City and were weighed. I weighed 106 lbs.

Friday, March 10–This morning we cooked the rabbits and some potatoes and had a nice dinner.

Saturday, March 11–Cold and rainy. We loaded up, pulled down the tent and started up the valley. We ride on Uncle Eli's wagon on top of **goods**. There are so many of us that some have to walk all the time. We passed several prairie dog towns. . . . Gena [cousin] is sick. She rode all day. We had a good supper.

Sunday, March 12–We ate breakfast and loaded and started, came to a creek, and just as they were across the **whiffle-tree** broke, but they got a new one and went on. We came through Minneapolis about noon. We camped on a creek. They put the tent up on trees. We are beginning to have good appetites and nothing to eat. Gena and Arabella [cousins] slept in a log house near by.

March 13–Cold this morning. Mama, Velma [cousin] and I started walking. We stopped at Delfoss [Delphos, Ottawa county] and got warm. We stopped at 2 houses, bought some bread and eggs, ate our breakfast and waited for the wagon to come along. At dark we came through Asherville and stopped at Mr. Gates's log house and had supper. The women slept in the house and the men in the haystack.

## Luna Warner Diary – Card #1

March 14–At noon we stopped at Beloit. It was a warm day but at night it blew up cold and we went into a store to stay tonight. We are hungry most of the time. We do not have much that is good to eat. We are to sleep on the store floor.

March 15–Cold and stormy. We moved into a dugout. It is a nasty, dark place. We went to most every house but could not find a warm place. We froze all day and starved too. In the afternoon Mama and I started out to find a place to sleep. We are to sleep in the Post Office. I am awful homesick.

March 16–We went to the dugout again and ate what passed for a breakfast, then the men had a jaw and the women a cry, then we started on a-foot as usual. It is most all prairie dog towns all the way. We left Mr. Wilson [friend] at Beloit under the doctor's care. At night stopped at Glen Elder on Asher Creek. It is quite a pretty place for Kansas.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #2

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins after traveling for several days from where they got off the train in Solomon City, Dickinson and Saline Counties. They filed on land near where Downs, Osborne County, is today.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

March 17–We started early this morning, arrived at Cawker City about noon. It consists of 4 or 5 finished houses, one store and 2 or 3 unfinished houses. The men **hired** a little **frame house** with two rooms about as big as closets. The cracks between the floor boards are a half inch wide. We shall be pretty well crowded. All the men sleep on the floor in one room and the women in the other.

March 18–All the men started off to **hunt up claims**. The 3 boys went hunting. They got back at dark with 5 lbs. of buffalo meat which they bought at 3 cents a lb. . . . We bathed for the first time since we started from home.

March 19–We are awfully crowded in the two little rooms. The men got back towards night. They have not decided upon any claims. There are wild geese flying over every day. We are right in a prairie dog town.

March 21–Very warm. Some of us walked down to the forks of the river. We wore no coats but almost melted. It is quite pretty by the river. We took off our shoes and stockings and waded in the river.

March 22–The men went to look at some claims. They found 6 [claims] just the other side of the river about 5 miles from here. They went over to the **land office** and **filed on their claims**.

March 23–Quite warm and pleasant. Uncle Frank hitched up his team and most of us went to the Great Spirit [Wacanda] salt spring about 3 miles away. It is a beautiful place. We went past the soldiers' camp. Uncle Frank says every day that he is going back to Massachusetts but he doesn't start.

March 24–Some men went to the claims with rifles and shovels to work. All the men and boys that were left started off buffalo hunting. We all eat nothing but **spider bread** and meat and **sorghum** until yesterday we had beans. We eat more all the time and are just as hungry.

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March 25—We all went up the river to see the claims. I like ours best. Papa brought some potatoes -- the first we have had for a long time. They were \$2 a bushel.

March 27—We started for a log house just opposite [across the creek from] our claims to live till we get houses built. I walked. We crossed Oak Creek. It is a very bad crossing. The log house is one little room. The men went back to Cawker after another load of goods. Gena [cousin] took Henry's [friend] revolver and I took Louie's [brother] and we waded across the river and went over all the claims. We saw 5 wild turkeys and 2 ducks. I shot at a turkey but did not hit it. We waded back across the river and went home. It was dark when we got there and the folks were out hunting for us. We got some gooseberries. I shot at a large animal in the dark but did not hit it. When we went to bed we had to pack as tight as we could. Some slept out.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #3

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins soon after her family filed on land, a claim. Until they get a house built they're living in a log house across the river from their land. They left some of their belongings at the train station in Solomon.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

March 28–Mamma and I went over to our land and **set out** some gooseberry bushes. The men got a prairie chicken

March 29–Our family went out onto our land and commenced to dig a **cellar**. All the men have been at work on Uncle Eli's dugout. It is the south side of the river. We girls get lots of funny stones along the river. We all played **drop the handkerchief** in the evening. There are lots of flowers around here.

April 1–Gena [cousin] and I put on old dresses and went bathing in the river. The water was above our waists.

April 2–Very windy. We looked out this fore noon and saw bows and ribbons of all colors flying over the prairie. Arabella's [cousin] trunk had blown open. We saw 7 buffalos across the river. Uncle Frank went after them but did no good. We went over to Uncle Eli's new dugout. It is very nice. In the evening there was a splendid prairie fire northeast of us. There is a prairie fire in sight every night almost and sometimes 5 or 6.

April 3–The men went buffalo hunting. They got home in the evening with a buffalo in the wagon.

April 5–Mercury was at 92 through middle of the day. Uncle Frank's family started for Solomon City on their way home to Massachusetts. Alpheus [cousin] will take them to Solomon and bring our goods back.

April 6–Temperature 98. We planted peas, turnips, and squash on the claim.

April 7–Papa got some early rose potatoes and planted them on the claim in **buffalo wallows**. Velma [cousin] came over and baked bread in our stove. It sits outside the house.

April 9–It rained and hailed this evening. The fireplace smoked so we could not stand it. This morning we saw 6 buffaloes coming down the river. Louie took the rifle and I took the revolver

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and went under the bluff until we got opposite them. They came toward us and we lay down and waited until they got near, then Louie fired. He shot 5 times. How they did run!

April 10–The snow sifted into our faces all night. Our fireplace smokes very badly. It keeps our eyes crying all the time. Toward night it cleared off and the wind went down. I have found 8 kinds of flowers here. The cabin is full of mice.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #4

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins soon after her family filed on land, a claim. Until they build a house on their land they're in a log house just across the river. Their land is five miles from Cawker City. They stored some of their possessions in Solomon when they arrived in Kansas.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

April 11–Louie [brother] and I started for Cawker on foot. The other side of Oak Creek, Vesteen [cousin] overtook us with the wagon. We went on to the store and bought 20 pounds of **provisions**. I bought a gallon of **sorghum**.

April 12–We picked **dock greens** for supper. They were very good but made us sick.

April 13–Uncle Eli's folks have made a bridge across the river. Alpheus [cousin] came from Solomon with part of our freight. All of it came to over \$90. He has bought a hen and a rooster. The Indians have permission to go all through this valley. There are a lot of them down below us.

April 14–Rainy. I dug fish worms and went fishing. Waded in mud up to my ankles. Every speck of mud sticks to your feet. There have been Indians seen in a good many places. We have to be very careful.

April 15–We took the things out of our barrels and dried them. They got wet when it rained. Alpheus and Louie went buffalo hunting this morning. Uncle Ephraim killed a badger and a skunk. There are a good many skunks here. Uncle Eli's folks see antelope every day. . . .

April 16–Alpheus and Louie came home this morning. They brought a buffalo - a very large one. Louie shot it once. The bridge has washed away.

April 17–I saw a prairie squirrel. They have holes in the ground. There are a good many here.

April 18–The wind blew very hard. Everything out of doors blew away, even to two pails of water. Papa salted a tub full of buffalo meat.

April 19–Louie and I went over to Uncle Eli's. The wind blew so hard we could hardly get there. We had to wade the river.

April 23–We went out on our claim and picked out a building spot on this side of the river. We had baked antelope for supper. It is like mutton.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #5

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins soon after her family filed on land, a claim. Until they build a house on their land they're living in a log house just across the river.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

April 24–Uncle Eli plowed a spot for our house and garden and started digging on the cellar. I went out by the river bare foot and came very near stepping on a small rattlesnake.

April 27–I killed 3 snakes today. Helped Papa plant onions and peas, sweet corn and melons. The cottonwood trees are leafing out.

April 29–The men finished **hewing sills** for our house. I planted morning glories and mustard. There are a great many blue violets here. There are swallows.

April 30–We **set out** two young elm trees -- one each side of the house spot. We found 3 new kinds of flowers today -- one beautiful red cup, one pink and one yellow. There is a little plant that smells and tastes very nice. I saw a king bird.

May 1–We set out another elm tree. Louie and Teen [cousin] went hunting. Louie killed 3 ducks and shot at a rattlesnake. We got some flowers and hung **May baskets**. Uncle Eli brought us some fruit trees - 4 apple, 2 peach and 1 pear. Also 3 hens and a rooster.

May 4–Alpheus [cousin] plowed about an acre for us. The men **worked on the timber**. Papa got us some good butter. The first good butter we have had in Kansas. Choke cherries are in bloom on Oak Creek. . . .

May 5–There was a white frost this morning. The water froze in the water pail. Uncle Howard and Henry [friend] got the sills on our house today. Mamma and I planted 81 hills of melons. At night I went and drove Mr. Ray's cattle away from our garden with Buffalo bones. I found some flowers like verbenas. It makes 20 kinds that I have found.

May 6–Uncle Howard and Henry worked on our house. They **raised the frame**. Louie and I went down to the raising. Then went home with them and played **drop the handkerchief**.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #6

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins after the family filed a claim on land and started building a house. Until it is built they're living in a log house just across the river.

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May 7—Several of us started for the bluff, 2 miles and a half. We found 11 new kinds of flowers. The prairie was covered with them. They are beautiful. We went to the top and found verbenas, geraniums, celery, sorrel, and penny royal. Found the queerest stones -- some like turtle shells. Brought some home. We found blackberry and gooseberry vines. Then we went on to Burnses [neighbors], 2 miles above 12 mile creek. Had a splendid supper. On the way home we forded the river. Saw 4 snakes, 4 buffalo and ever so many antelope. We found yellow violets.

May 8—Mamma and I waded the river and went over to our claim. We have peas, potatoes and pumpkins up in the buffalo wallows. We saw 5 buffalos off on a hill about 2 miles. They were lying down. The men went after them. They killed one and broke the leg of another, which they finally killed after it ran down into the river. Then they got the team and cut up the buffaloes and brought them home. The buffaloes smell like skunk.

May 10—We planted potatoes. Saw 2 beavers and a turkey gobbler.

May 13—All the men went to the raising of a log house up on the river 2 or 3 miles. We killed a rattlesnake here. There were 2 in Uncle Howard's cabin and the girls killed one of them. Some **cattle were being driven** past on the road and Papa and Mamma went up & bought a red cow. . . .

May 17—I am 16 years old today. I do not feel so old. Mamma and I went across the river and went all over our claim. It is splendid. The trees are beautiful. The mice or birds or something are disturbing the things in our garden. The mosquitos trouble us very badly when the wind does not blow.

May 20—I have been bringing water from the river. It is hard to get it . It is so slippery. I found a dandelion. We have found 37 kinds of flowers. I milked some this morning. We get 4 or 5 quarts of milk at a time.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #7

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins after the family filed a claim on land and started building a house. Until it is built they're living in a log house just across the river.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

May 26—Two loads of **lumber** came from Solomon City for our house. They **raised the roof** today. We went to a dance in Cawker. Arabella [a cousin] curled my hair and I wore my white dress and slippers. We all went in the wagon and sang all the way. The dance was in a little house with 3 rooms. Two **sets** could dance at once. They had fiddles. The music wasn't very good but we had a good time and danced till 2 o'clock then had refreshments and came home over the trails in the dark. Got home at 4:30.

June 2—The men got back from buffalo hunting. They got a buffalo and gave us a quarter. They went 20 miles. Uncle Eli's folks saw 27 this morning. I went fishing and caught a catfish. I found a sensitive plant in blossom. It is beautiful. It rained very hard in the night. The lightning was splendid.

June 3—The men worked on our house. I went down to the garden and set out turnip plants and some cabbage plants that Papa got of Mr. Ray [a neighbor]. The mosquitoes trouble us nights. We went over to Mr. Coop's [a neighbor] and practiced shooting.

Jun 5—Hotter'n blazes! All the lumber is here so the men can work on our house right along. Gena [a cousin] is 18 today. She and Henry [a friend from Massachusetts] think of being married Sunday. Gena is going to commence teaching school next Monday in Cawker. We plant garden at night because it is so hot.

June 6—When Uncle Howard and Henry went back home from working on our house, the river had risen on account of **showers up above**. It came over the bridge. Henry tried to cross but it was over his head before he got to the bridge and he came near drowning. Uncle Ephraim and Tene [a cousin] had been to Cawker. They all had to stay here and went down to the new house to sleep.

June 8—71 kinds of flowers. Papa and I planted corn. We are teaching the calf to drink. It is a splendid calf. Gena wants me to go with her next Sunday when she goes to be married. . . .

June 9—I waded the river and went over to Uncle Eli's. Alpheus [a cousin] is going to **contest the claim** west of ours. Henry **homesteaded** his.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #8

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins after the family filed a claim on land and started building a house. Until it is built they're living in a log house just across the river.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

June 13—It rained and blew very hard last night with thunder and lightning. We all slept in the new house for the first time. I went bathing in the river. Lately the mercury has been from 90 to 100 and over.

June 14—Last night some wild animal came and caught one of our hens. Alf [a cousin] shot at it and it dropped the hen and ran off. Louie and I went over to Uncle Eli's with Alf and his team. We ate dried buffalo meat all the way back.

June 15, 1871—Gena [ a cousin] came over at 4 o'clock and we went in swimming on boards. We floated from here down to Mr. Ray's [a neighbor] watering place. Had a splendid time. . . .

June 16—It rained all day. At 11 o'clock Venelia [a cousin] came from Mr. Barr's [a neighbor] afoot and alone and brought her large bag. She was done working there. The river is risen so that she can not get home. It is still rising fast. All but Pa and Louie went down to the house to sleep. Uncle Howard has made us two **bedsteads**, a table and **sink**.

June 17—The river is nearly two feet higher than it has ever been before. Uncle Ephraim came horseback and stayed to supper. Venelia and I went over to the river opposite Uncle Eli's cabin and read a letter to Aunt Lucia from Viola [a cousin who had stayed in New York].

June 18—The river is very high yet. Uncle Howard came over. He tried to cross the river on a raft that he made. The raft sank and pitched him into the water. He came near drowning before he could get out of the current. Venelia stays here because she can't cross the river to get home.

June 19—Uncle Howard, Venelia and I went to the river to cross. Gena and Henry [friend from Massachusetts] came down on the other side at the same time. Venelia went across with her clothes on. Gena and Henry came across. Henry and Uncle Howard went to Cawker to build Henry a house. . . . I made two vases of limestone.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #9

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins after the family filed a claim on land and recently built a house on it. They stored some of their possessions in Solomon City until they had a house.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

June 20—Gena [a cousin] and I went in swimming. Stayed in a good while. Nellie Ray [a neighbor] was fishing just at dusk. Uncle Eli and Alf [a cousin] came with the goods from Solomon. They could not find one barrel. After we had all gone down to the house, a team came with Uncle Ephraim and Uncle Howard. Henry [a friend from Massachusetts] and a boy came and stayed all night. I made another vase of limestone. I am going to send them to Aunt Abby and Ann and Julia [possibly cousins] by Uncle Howard.

June 21—A very hot day. We got up early. Arabella [a cousin] curled Gena's hair. The men went over to Uncle Howard's cabin and got Gena's trunk. After breakfast Gena went down to the house and dressed to be married in her white pique and pink ribbons. Henry was dressed very nice. They are going to Beloit to be married. Uncle Howard and Uncle Ephraim are going to Massachusetts.

June 22—Alf brought home a nest of young birds when he went chopping. After dinner I went over to Uncle Eli's and carried them back. [Cousins] Venelia, Tene, and I went bathing. Had a nice time. I did not get back till dark. Papa got the stove set up[ in the new house]. . . .

June 23—Venelia and I started for Cawker on foot. I went barefoot part of the way. We got the mail. Henry and Gena were married Wednesday [June 21]. They and Uncle Ephraim came up to Uncle Eli's. . . .

June 24—Hotter'n blazes. After dinner Gena and I went into the river. We went upstream and floated on our backs. The fishes bit us. Uncle Ephraim and Uncle Howard thought of starting for New York today. Louie [brother] is sick with boils. Our stove is splendid.

June 25—Very hot indeed. I planted a few potatoes. Mamma went over to Cawker with Alf and Arabella. They got home about one o'clock, brought me a pair of shoes and four kinds of pink **calico**. Papa was cross today. Alf had a chill on the way from Cawker.

June 30—This morning Mr. Coop [a neighbor] came before we were up for Ma to go with him because his wife is sick. She got home just before noon. We went all around Alf's claim. It is very nice.



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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #10

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. This entry begins after the family are living in a house they built on land they filed a claim on about five miles from Cawker City.

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July 1–Alf [ a cousin] went to Cawker with Uncle Eli, so Louie [brother] and I went to water his horses. I rode one and he the other. Then Gena [a cousin] rode one back. It was fun.

July 2–Cloudy and cold. Louie and I went up to the cabin and went buffalo hunting with Alf and Arabella [a cousin]. We went past Mr. Coop's [a neighbor] and up Dry Creek. Louie shot a jackrabbit. We crossed Dry Creek and went over to Twelve Mile Creek, then up the creek 2 miles and ate our lunch, then we started for home. . . . We found 10 new kinds of flowers.

July 3–We had the rabbit for dinner. It was splendid meat.

July 4–Cool and pleasant. Mama, Louie, and I went up to the cabin and started with Alf and Arabella for Cawker. When we got there we went up to the **arbor made of green boughs**. It had a floor filled with seats and the seats filled with people. They had singing, speaking, and reading. After that some played baseball. They had **running in bags** and such things. Then they set the tables in the arbor and had dinner. . . . We danced all afternoon. After the lanterns were lighted they had a **minstrel performance**. Just as it was through, it commenced to rain very hard. We all started for the hotel on the run. It rained about 5 minutes. Then we all went back again but were wet to the skin. We danced on the wet floor until one o'clock, then started for home. We hated to come, the dancing was so nice. Charlie rode home with us and then walked home. He is nice. Venelia, Velma and Tene [cousins] stayed here all night

July 5–I woke up a 7 and was not a bit sleepy all day. I think of the dance all the time.

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## Luna Warner Diary – Card #11

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. The family is living in a house they built on land they filed a claim on about five miles from Cawker City.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

July 6—We had peas, summer squash, turnips, and onions from our garden. Gena [a cousin] and Henry [Gena's husband] started for Cawker afoot. They are going to live in their house.

July 8—Papa went to Cawker with Alf [a cousin]. He got a **churn** and a **keg** to make vinegar in. . . .

July 9—After breakfast the girls started home to go to a meeting up the river at Mr. Jakas's [ a neighbor]. I wanted to go but had nothing to wear. I went across the river with them. I have 22 squares of an **album bed quilt** done.

July 10—There were showers all around us. It rained here about two minutes. We had new potatoes, turnips, onions, and cucumbers for dinner. I found 3 new kinds of flowers and some beautiful grass. Mamma commenced my pink **calico** dress. Papa played the violin and I danced all alone.

July 15—After supper Louie [brother] and I went to Mr. Lamb's [a neighbor] to get some well water. Alf came down to see what day it was. He thought it was Sunday.

July 16—Very warm. The sweat drops off us all the time. I went into the river and had a good wash, then we all went over to Uncle Eli's and stayed to supper. Had rye biscuits and buffalo meat that Uncle Eli got when he went to the meeting up the river today.

July 17—**Hot's mustard**. We went over the river and got 3 pails full of sumac berries to make vinegar. We took the water that they were soaked in and sweetened it. It was good as lemonade or better. It goes good when we have no water to drink but what is milk warm. In the night there was a tremendous shower and the wind blew a gale. The house swayed back and forth and I was frightened.

Bivans, Venola Lewis, ed. "The Diary of Luna E. Warner, A Kansas Teenager of the Early 1870s." *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 35 (August 1969): 276-311. Print.

## Luna Warner Diary – Card #12

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in February and March 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. The family is living in a house they built on land they filed a claim on.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

July 19—We didn't do much of anything today. I rambled around a little and went across the river. We let the cow loose over [on] the other side. I do wish I had somebody to go to 7 mile bluff with me. I picked 6 cucumbers today. We have a great many sweet melons ripe. We had sweet corn.

July 21—Louie [brother] and I went up the river picking berries. We came back past Uncle Eli's and Aunt Lucia came home with us. She waded in the river for the first time. I got the revolver and went back to Uncle Eli's and Velma [cousin] and I went to the bluff. I found 7 new kinds of flowers -- one, a day lily. I killed a devil, and imp, and a scorpion. We found no berries on the current and blackberry vines. Got some transparent stones. When we got back we went into the river but it was cold. Our cow got into the corn field last night and did a good deal of damage. There was an awful shower this evening and the wind blew.

July 22—Comfortably cool. Arabella [cousin] came down and **churned**. Ma churned. At 7 Velma and I started for Oak Creek bluffs. Took our lunch and some sticks to kill snakes with. The rolling prairie we crossed is beautiful. It is a great ways to the bluffs. It is very steep -- almost straight. We climbed to the top and could see our house. We then went down to the creek 1/2 mile, got in the shade and ate our lunch. We had a cucumber that we dug out for a water cup. We came down the creek within a mile of the crossing, then came out to Mr. Comb's [neighbor] and got into the road and came home. Got here about 5 o'clock and were hungry. I went barefoot most of the way. I got a sore heel. Found 2 new kinds of flowers -- 117. Alf's [cousin] dog has 4 puppies.

Bivans, Venola Lewis, ed. "The Diary of Luna E. Warner, A Kansas Teenager of the Early 1870s." *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 35 (August 1969): 276-311. Print.

## Luna Warner Diary – Card #13

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. The family is living in a house they built on land they filed a claim on. They left some of their possessions in Solomon City, about 95 miles away. Luna's family lives five miles from Cawker City, a town where her cousin Gena and Gena's husband, Henry, built a house.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

July 24—There was a hard shower in the morning. Velma [cousin] came over barefoot lickety cut to tell Louie [brother] there were buffaloes over the river. Just then we saw one down by Arabella's [cousin] garden. Louie went for it. It came right towards him and he fired and hit it. It ran a little way, then walked as if it was wounded.

July 25—Louie went buffalo hunting with Alf [cousin]. Velma came over to borrow some soap. A black dog came with her. They found it by the haystack this morning. Louie came home about 10. He had a sick headache. Alf killed a buffalo on Elk Creek and Louie had a lot of the meat.

July 26—Uncle Eli's folks came along on their way to Cawker. I got ready and went with them. We went to see Gena. Henry is working quarrying stone. He came home to dinner. They are building several houses, some nice stone ones. There are two lumber yards and one brick yard in Cawker.

July 27—It rained a little in the evening. We picked the first sweet melon off our vines. The grasshoppers were eating it. It was very nice. Ma made mince pies and sausages of buffalo meat.

July 29—Alf started for Solomon City after my piano. We went over to Uncle Eli's to go to the bluff. They could not find the horses so went up the river to look for them. About 3 o'clock after they found the horses we all went to the bluff. Came back through Venelia's claim. Ma read aloud in **Martin Chuzzlewit**.

July 31—Pa went to Cawker with Uncle Eli, and bought two building lots. At night there came up the hardest thunder shower I ever saw. It rained so that you couldn't see an inch, thunder and lightning enough to blind and deafen anybody.

Bivans, Venola Lewis, ed. "The Diary of Luna E. Warner, A Kansas Teenager of the Early 1870s." *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 35 (August 1969): 276-311. Print.

## Luna Warner Diary – Card #14

**About this source:** Luna Warner and her family moved from Massachusetts to Kansas in 1871. The entries on this card are from a diary Luna kept. The family is living in a house they built on land they filed a claim on. They stored Luna's piano, and some other possessions, ninety-five miles away in Solomon City until they had a house. Luna's cousin Genelia had stayed in New York to teach when the rest of her family moved to Kansas in February and March.

Information inside brackets [ ] has been added on this card to clarify information. Words in **bold** can be found in the glossary.

August 1—The river rose in the forenoon quite high and down to its usual level before night. Uncle Eli started for Solomon City after Uncle Ephraim, Genelia and the party of settlers that are coming with them. Mr. Coop and Mr. Ray [neighbors] killed a buffalo on Alf's [cousin] claim. They brought us some meat. We had a melon. There was a hard shower at night.

August 3—Watched impatiently all day for Alf and the piano but did not see them. About half past 9 after we had gone to bed, he came. Soon after he got here it rained hard. Pattie has her puppies in a wolf's hole near here.

August 4—They unloaded the piano and got it into the house. We all worked about all day getting it set up. It was soaking wet and the varnish spoiled but the inside is all right but needs tuning badly. I played all evening. . . .

August 5—I played most all day on the piano. Mama read some and I drew the face of **Madam Malibran**. We had a sweet melon.

August 6—I played a good deal. The piano does not sound swell at all. Ma finished reading **Martin Chuzzlewit**. . . .

August 8—I drew on writing paper a picture of the **Princess of Alexandria of Wales**. The river is very high. Just before breakfast Uncle Eli, Uncle Ephraim and Mr. Root of Staten Island came. . . . There is going to be a dance in the next house Friday night.

August 11—I went over to Uncle Eli's and the girls came home with me. The river is so high we could hardly cross. We went over to Mr. Ray's and had the best watermelon that ever grew. I was crazy to go to the dance at Cawker.

August 14—Genelia, Louie [brother] and I went into the river. We dressed and undressed in the weeds by the river. They are 10 feet high. Mr. Root stays here. He is the hatefulest person that ever lived. Uncle Ephraim is here too. He is very nice. Pa bought a **spy glass**.

## Luna Warner Diary – Card #14

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