



Frontier Freedom Fighter: The Story of Clarina Nichols

Diane Eickhoff

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Clarina Nichols (1810-1885) was set apart from other 19th century women activists—both physically and emotionally. As one of the few feminists to follow the nation's westward expansion, Nichols was separated from the women's movement just as it began to flourish under the leadership of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other Easterners. Unlike many activists, Nichols personally experienced some of the most troubling heartbreaks and hardships that a married woman of her day could know. This hard-won knowledge led her to sacrifice both health and financial well-being to right the wrongs that were tolerated in her time.

Driven by a deep inner need to end the mistreatment of women, Clarina Nichols left the comforts of her Vermont home and moved West to the wild frontier of "Bleeding Kansas," where her sons fought alongside John Brown and she helped shaped the state's new Constitution to free slaves and give women rights they had no where else in America.

Now--for the first time--the story of Clarina Nichols comes alive thanks to Diane Eickhoff, whose meticulous, six-year quest to collect and analyze Nichols's scattered writings and papers has yielded a richer understanding of this remarkable pioneer. Frontier Freedom Fighter: The Life of Clarina Nichols is a unique audio book: It's an original piece of scholarship praised by academic historians as "thorough and illuminating," a "full-bodied" and "exceptionally detailed portrait." Yet it is written for Young Adults who will enjoy the moving account of this brave woman. Eickhoff traveled around Kansas in character as Clarina Nichols in chautauquas, and brings her performance skills to this cd. Frontier Freedom Fighter is more than an engaging biography; it is a window into an unjustly overlooked period in American history about the three great 19th century reform movements—abolition, women's rights and temperance.



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