

HISTORY OF PLUM CREEK MASSACRE
&
CAPTIVITY OF MRS. THOMAS F. MORTON

Preface

First Trip to Denver

Nancy Jane Fletcher, daughter of Samuel and Charlotte Fletcher was born Feb. 8th, 1845, Clarke County, Indiana and there resided until four years of age, when my father, with his family, emigrated to Sidney, Iowa, where he made his future home.

Here I remained until I was fifteen years of age, when I married Thomas F. Morton.

We lived in Sidney, for almost four months, when we decided to go with an emigrant train across the plains, to Denver City Colorado.

The twentieth of April 1860, was the time appointed to start.

We were accompanied by my brother, William Fletcher and several friends. It was for me a most delightful thought to travel, and the country beyond all, doubt was beautiful.

Long trains of emigrants, westward bound, extended along the great highway, from the Missouri River, to the rugged mountains of Montana, and Colorado, to the fertile valleys of the great basin of Utah. The rich lands of the Columbia and the grassy slopes of California.

These emigrant trains consisted of people, who had come from various states, toiling onward with one aim, seeking new fields of labor and greater room for expansion. Pioneers of civilization, the founders of western empire. The hardy sons of toil whose foot steps drove from his abode the grisly bear and limited the ranges of the buffalo, braving the vengeance