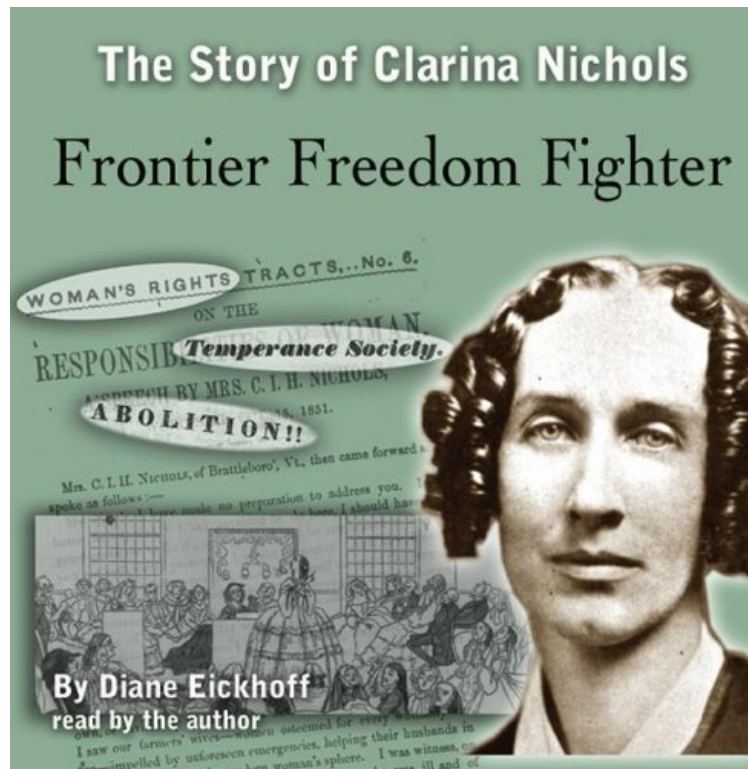


(Free pdf) Frontier Freedom Fighter: The Story of Clarina Nichols

Frontier Freedom Fighter: The Story of Clarina Nichols

Diane Eickhoff

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Diane Eickhoff : Frontier Freedom Fighter: The Story of Clarina Nichols before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frontier Freedom Fighter: The Story of Clarina Nichols:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I've enjoyed listening to this CD. In fact, I have it in my car and listen to it every time I start the car up. It's a great bit of regional history, a lot of which I'd not known before. My hat's off to the author for all her excellent research and presentation. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Remarkable Woman Fights for Change By Virginia Allain This audiobook brings to light a contemporary of Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Nation. Clarina Nichols (1810 - 1885) wasn't content with a woman's lot in her era. She couldn't vote, speak in public, have a say in the custody of her children, or own property. Other evils of the day such as slavery and the effects of alcoholism on families also gave her concern. In this CD, Eickhoff brings this unknown heroine to life. Clarina lived in Vermont and came to Kansas during the struggle for it to become a free state before the Civil War. Having grown up in Kansas, I found that part particularly interesting. The narrator, who also wrote the book, presents Clarina's life in pleasant tone and some sections are enhanced with pioneer tunes and voices raised in a spiritual. The events of her life fall into sections which would be easy to use in a classroom setting. Clarina's experiences give a personal feel to such topics as the abolition of slavery, Kansas frontier days, the temperance movement, women's roles in the 1800s, and women's suffrage. The phrasing is lively and the description of early Kansas was almost poetic. The book, that the CD is based on, is listed as a young adult title, but I expect that few teens would voluntarily select this from a bookshelf. Hearing a selection from the CD might intrigue

them into reading the book. A more likely audience is anyone interested in Vermont or Kansas history or women's studies. I could see a book group having a lively discussion after hearing this CD or reading the book.

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 shape the state's new Constitution to free slaves and give women rights they had nowhere 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.

From School Library Journal
Grade 5 Up
Author/narrator Diane Eickhoff brings a lesser-known leader of the 19th-century women's rights movement to the attention of students. Based on the author's *Revolutionary Heart* (Quindaro, 2006), a biography of Clarina Nichols, the CD opens as Nichols reaches out to shake the hand of presidential candidate Ulysses S. Grant. That's just one of the bold moves made by this Vermont native. At a time when a woman didn't even own the clothes on her back, Nichols overcame the difficulties of caring for three small children while dealing with an irrational husband and, finally, a failed first marriage. A second, happier union, with editor George Nichols, was troubled by illness, hard work, and relocation. Traveling to emerging states such as Wisconsin and Kansas, Nichols became a recognized leader in the battle to change the laws that oppressed women. The first child of community-minded Baptists, she was unflinching in her determination and often traveled alone to participate in rallies. Acquainted with notable social activists such as Horace Greeley, she included Susan B. Anthony among her correspondents. Even in semi-retirement in California, Nichols continued to support the Temperance movement and her last letter warned of the dangers of second hand smoke. Eickhoff's straightforward narration matches Clarina Nichols's direct but caring personality. Well-chosen music, carefully placed throughout the recording, adds just the right emotional tone. Extensively researched with many quotes from Nichols's writing, *Frontier Freedom Fighter* offers middle and high school students information about a lesser-known figure in the women's rights movement. The CD will be even more effective combined with Eickhoff's book.
Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT
Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Diane Eickhoff has written a very readable history of the life of one of America's unsung heroines." -- Ambassador Madeleine May Kunin, former governor of Vermont
"Diane Eickhoff's biography of Nichols is a thorough and illuminating treatment of one of the most instrumental and underappreciated of American feminists." -- Nancy Isenberg, author, *Sex and Citizenship in Antebellum America*
"Eickhoff shows how the history of westward expansion was more than a story of men, horses, and guns." -- Jonathan Earle, author, *Jacksonian Antislavery and the Politics of Free Soil*
"This deserves to reach as wide an audience as possible." -- Barbara L. Watkins, continuing education coordinator, University of Kansas
"What I found most interesting about the book is the number of directions a teacher could take it." -- Kendall Taylor, public school teacher, Chicago, Illinois
From the Author
Diane Eickhoff was doing research for a book about the Underground Railroad in Kansas at the Wyandotte County Museum when she came upon Clarina Nichols's activism to free slaves, her fight for women's rights and temperance, during the tumultuous period called Bleeding Kansas. "I decided to plunge into writing Clarina Nichols's biography. I've worked as an editor in the educational publishing field for years and have been struck by the dearth of quality historical biographies written about women and the scant coverage given to one of the greatest social reform movements in history: the 19th century women's rights movement," Ms. Eickhoff recounts.