

## **The Mountain Meadow Massacre**

On The Muddy by: Corbett

Mountain Meadows. His (Jacob Hamblin) contract regarding the grazing rights had not yet expired. He had moved his family from Pinto to live on this fertile area, perhaps with the thought in mind of obtaining it through the homestead law. His house was not yet finished; therefore, he engaged some men who had settled near by to finish building it while he was away.

As the company approached Fillmore they met a large company from Arkansas on their way to California. Jacob little realized at the time that his advice to them as to where to stop for the winter would be linked with a tragedy of major proportions. Jacob later mentioned this experience by saying:

“On our way we camped over night on Corn Creek, twelve miles South of Fillmore with a party of emigrants from Arkansas, traveling on what was then known as the Southern Route to California. They inquired of me about the road, and wrote the information down that I gave them.

“They expressed a wish to lay by at some suitable place to recruit their teams before crossing the desert. I recommended to them for this purpose, the south end of the Mountain Meadows, three miles from where my family resides.

“After our arrival in Salt Lake City, news reached here that the company of emigrants on their way south had behaved badly, that they robbed hen-roosts, and been guilty of other irregularities; and had used abusive language to those who remonstrated with them. It was also reported that they threatened when the

army came into the north end of the territory, to get a good outfit from the weaker settlements in the South.

"A messenger came to President Young informing him of these things, and asking advice.

"In reply Brigham Young sent general instructions to the settlements, advising the people to let the emigrants pass as quickly as possible; and stating that there was an army on our borders, and we could not tell what we would be obliged to do before the troubles were over. He said we might be under the necessity of going into the mountains and that he wished all supplies of food to be in a shape to be readily available in such an emergency; and we would do the best we could."

**September 10, 1857**  
**Family Legends Tell Us:**

This is the date of the terrible massacre at Mountain Meadows. It is the kind of experience you would like to sweep under the rug. Oscar (24 years old) and Mary Ann were there!

Mary Ann was near by and taking care of the wounded they say. Perhaps helping Jacob's wife Rachael. Mary Ann learning there was to be trouble the next day, gave to Oscar a double dose of epicac (epicac induces vomiting) which rendered him too ill to be involved in any way.

Tradition says that had either Oscar or Jacob been present they would have been blamed for the whole affair. Tradition says that the family young and old were not allowed to speak of this episode. It was hushed up in the family circle.