

David and Elizabeth Carrothers Family, John, William and Infant

The Carrothers family lived in the Beaver Creek settlement in 1862. Their cabin was located on section 22, township 113, range 35, near the present day town of Morton, MN. David was a brother to James who lived on an adjoining claim; both were employed as carpenters for the government at the Lower Sioux Agency. On August 18, families were warned that the Dakota were killing whites. The Beaver Creek neighbors rallied together and met at the Earle home to plan their escape. They loaded their two wagons and a buggy, hitched up their horses, and twenty-seven men, women and children headed for Fort Ridgely when they were attacked by the Dakota. They were told by one Indian, "We are going to kill you." The men negotiated and were able to keep one buggy and one team.

The women, including Elizabeth with her baby, John and William, walked ahead, and for some reason, the Dakota had a change of heart and demanded their horses. The men would now have to pull the buggy by hand. Elizabeth was then in the buggy shielding Clarissa Henderson with an umbrella as she was ill. The Dakota began shooting, Elizabeth jumped out of the wagon, and two bullets cut through her dress without hitting her. The settlers scattered for safety and ran for their lives. Elizabeth was now carrying her baby, was exhausted, but continued running. The Carrothers family had now split up, Elizabeth with her baby, David with 6-year old son, John and 7-year old William who had fled with the other boys. Thinking that son John would be safer with his mother, he ordered him back to her side. As young David stood there crying, trying to decide what to do, an Indian killed him. William was picked off next as he attempted to flee. The Dakota took Elizabeth and her baby hostage, along with ten other women and children. David made it to safety, and when the family was reunited, he built the first house in Beaver Falls.