

# DEDICATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Of

The lives and losses of those who endured  
The Battle of Jenkins Ferry on  
April 29-30, 1864 and thereafter

By

The descendants of  
Jane McWhorter Jenkins  
And  
Marina Carver

April 30, 2016  
Leola, Arkansas



# ORDER OF DEDICATION

Marker location at the site of the home of  
Jane McWhorter Jenkins

## INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Patty Green Specht

## MEMORIAL READINGS BY DESCENDANTS

Jane McWhorter Jenkins.....Danny Phillips

Marina Carver, Family, Community,  
and the Battle.....Patrick Carver

Keeping the History Alive.....Tommy Green

## RECEPTION AND MORE LOCAL HISTORIES AT LEOLA CITY HALL



# INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Patty Green Specht

About the Marker

## MARKER TEXT

### Fields of Battle

As his army prepared to cross the swollen Saline River during its retreat to Little Rock, Union Gen. Frederick Steele met with his commanders in the cabin of widow Jane McWhorter Jenkins at 2 a.m. on April 30, 1864, to plan the approaching battle. The battle would begin on the Jenkins fields farmed by sons-in-law John M. and Robert H. Carver. Union engineers tore down the home of John and Lucinda Carver to build the pontoon bridge at Jenkins' Ferry that would carry Steele's army to safety as Gen. Samuel Rice's men held off Confederate troops.

### The Price of War

The Union army that fought at Jenkins' Ferry seized supplies from area homes as it fell back to Little Rock. Post-war claims show John M. Carver, a Union soldier who lived near the ferry, lost his home, livestock, 300 pounds of bacon, corn and 5,000 feet of lumber. His mother Marina, a widow with 8 children, lost all of her food, bedding and her last horse, forcing her to sell her farm. Her neighbor Margaret Dement lost 5 cows, 400 pounds of bacon, 50 bushels of corn, 3,000 fence rails, 1,000 feet of lumber, 10 bushels of wheat and a chest of carpenter tools.

## MEMORIAL READING

Jane McWhorter Jenkins

Danny Phillips

*In the little log cabin of the widow Jenkins, the commanding General and his staff stood at 2 o'clock in the morning, seeking shelter from the pelting rain. The dim light of a single tallow candle only deepened the effect of the gloom without. The troops stood or sat in the woods, protecting themselves as best they could with their ponchos.*

*General Rice was sent for to headquarters. Steele said to him, "General, we are sure to hold the enemy in check with your brigade until the remainder of the army can cross the pontoon Bridge." ... But while waiting in that little cabin, standing upon its muddy puncheon floor, discussing the issues of the next morning, neither Rice or Steele for a moment realized the magnitude of the storm that was gathering along the Princeton road ready to burst upon them with the break of day.*

Brig. Gen. Samuel Allen Rice:

"General Samuel A. Rice at Jenkins Ferry"

By John F. Lacey

ANNALS OF IOWA

Vol. II No 1; April 1895 pp32-40





## MEMORIAL READING

### Marina Carver Family, Community, and the Battle Patrick H. Carver

Marina and Abram Carver settled in Dogwood in 1849. Abram and one child died of brain fever in 1860. Sons Robert Hosea and John M. married two of Jane Jenkins three daughters and moved to Sandy Springs. Alone with 6 of her children, Marina watched the Union troops strip her farm of all foodstuffs; livestock; including her last horse; corn and fodder; and even the family bed linens. She protested the taking and went to the camp where she saw her slaughtered sheep hanging. To feed her children after all was taken, she walked to Little Rock with her little boy and carried food home on her back.

Margaret Dement was a close friend of Marina's. She lived within 40 yards of the Union headquarters on the night after the battle. Her husband was off serving in Enoch Vance's company of the 4th Ark Union cavalry, as were R.H. and John Carver. Her testimony described the soldiers burning of all 3000 fence rails on the farm; *I saw the Union soldiers take them and burn them.* Her corn, meat, livestock, food and even some tools were taken by General Steele's army. She testified that *my house was used for a hospital and used for the wounded soldiers.* Son Archibald Dement, 14 at the time of the battle, stated that *we objected to the taking of the property, ... I know that a certain colonel ... of the Union army ... stood at our dwelling house door and protested against the taking of said property that he could not see how women and children thus robbed of their effects could live through the war.* James H. Crutchfield testified *I was on Claimant's premises the day after the fight at Jenkins Ferry and saw the house and farm stripped of almost everything.*

In 1864 John M. Carver was serving in the 4th Ark Union Cavalry. He and his wife Lucinda had built a new plank home near the Ferry site. He testified *we had one new frame house standing on the bank of Saline River at Jenkins Ferry 16 x 18 feet. It was ready to move into except the chimney. It was there the evening before the arrival of the Union army and the day after it left the house was gone, but there was the butiments of a bridge and other portions of lumber that satisfied me fully that the Union army had appropriated it to their use.....* The Union army also took all of their cattle, hogs, meat, corn, and 5000 feet of pine lumber. Lucinda Carver stated that *I was present and saw the 37 head of cattle, the 300 pounds of bacon and the 30 bushels of corn taken.* She also testified that *No protest was made. I saw it was unnecessary. In fact, did not know what to do.* Jane Jenkins testified that the Union army *left the family without a mouthful to eat.* Mary Ann Tucker recalled that *the Union hospital was at my house at about the center of the battlefield, where they remained for weeks.* She and Lucinda Carver cooked for the wounded and were never paid.

## MEMORIAL READING

Acknowledgements of those who kept the History of  
Those who lived and struggled in the Sandy Springs  
Area alive

### Tommy Green

Jane McWhorter Jenkins, "Granny Jenkins" took over the running of Jenkins Ferry after her husband, William died in 1859. She kept history alive by passing down her adventurous stories to the family. In her later years, Granny lived with my adoptive mother, Ida Bell Green's family. She instilled a great interest of history in my mother as a child, and Mama took joy in retelling the stories to her own children.

My brother, Mavis Jack Green thrived on studying the civil war and family genealogy. Anyone who knew Jack felt his passion for history with special attention to the Civil War and a personal passion of the Jenkins Ferry Battle. Jack enjoyed corresponding with others in his field of research which included Grant County's first museum director, Elwin L. Goolsby, The Civil War Times, and others.

Juanita Hablitzel Green, who I have always referred to as "the inquiring mind of the family." During family outings to Leola, Juanita enjoyed listening to my mother reminisce and all the time would be taking notes.

Joe and Maria Brent of "Mud Puppy and Water Dog, Inc., Paula Davis, with the Stewart Title Co. in Sheridan, and Stacy Hurst and Mark Christ of the Arkansas Heritage Commission who were instrumental in making the production of the marker possible. Also, my close friends, Hays and Florene Swayze for all the many trail ride tours through the battlefield which Hays has seriously studied over the years.

Last, but not least, to Mary Miller, current land owner of where we stand today, for allowing us to place this Civil War Historical Marker on the site of what was the home of Jane Jenkins and the first battlefield.

**FAMILES IN THE SANDY SPRINGS AND NEABY  
AREAS NEAR THE BATTLEFIELD AT  
THE TIME OF THE BATTLE**

**Carver Families:**

Marina (widow and 8 children),  
John M. and Lucinda Jenkins Carver  
R.H. and Susannah Jenkins Carver

**Jane McWhorter Jenkins**

**William and Margaret Dement**

**Signal A. Dortch**                      **Olsey Dortch**

**Cornelius and Mary Jane Murphy Phillips**

**John Phillips**

**Mary Ann Tucker**

**Upton P. Hance**

**Thomas K. Morrison**

**Dr. J.W. Harrison**

**E.H. Vance**

**Nick Tull**

**John W. Smith**

**Warren P. Holliman**

**W.R. Chambers**

**Eli Faught**

**Thomas Parsons**

**William Young**

**Brigs Burk**

**James H. Crutchfield,**

**Rufus Taylor**

**Frances Posey**

**Samuel Shockley**

**William H. Davis**

**Jesse Gatlin**

**James Wiley Gatlin**

**John M. Langston**

**Ann. H. Harberson**

**William Craig**

**Phillip Brashears**

**John Burk**

*These are just some of the families proven by land patent, census, or testimony to the Southern Claims Commission that lived in the area at the time of the battle. Many others not named were also present. Some of those named above were instrumental in the formation of Grant County after the Civil War.*



**Descendants Of  
Jane McWhorter Jenkins  
and  
Marina Carver,  
Whose Contributions  
Made This Marker Possible**

Larry Bencick  
Michal Gordon and Diane Carver  
Michael Hunter and Frankie Carver  
Patrick Hunter and Danna Carver  
Janice Marie Damron Feller  
Mattie Fenter Katz  
Bill Green  
Brian Green  
Mark Green  
Tommy and Deanie Green  
Lisa Green Hart  
Beverly Green Kmiecik  
Shari Green Larkin  
Danica Carver Moyer  
John Daniel and Melissa Phillips  
Karen Green Valencia  
Debbie Green Wallis  
Jackie Green Washington

*A special remembrance is given to the late  
Mavis Jack Green,  
Whose tireless efforts enabled the true history  
of the Battle of Jenkins Ferry  
to be preserved and celebrated. He fed the embers  
of the history enabling the flame to burn brightly.*