

# Capt. Bart W. Jenkins

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*KENTUCKY CAVALIERS IN DIXIE.*

## CHAPTER XIX.

### CAPTAIN BART W. JENKINS AND HIS TROOPERS.

"He was a stalworth knight and keen,  
And had in many a battle been;  
His eyebrow dark and eye of fire,  
Showed spirit proud and prompt to ire;  
Yet lines of thought upon his cheek,  
Did deep design and counsel speak."

CAPTAIN BART JENKINS, "manly, bold and tall," generous and impulsive, was a military genius. As intimated in another chapter the victory at Limestone must be ascribed to Captain Jenkins, who suggested the strategical maneuvers, and to the dash and hard fighting of the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry.

Captain Jenkins was naturally a leader, never a follower of men. He usually managed to keep his gallant troop independent and free from entanglements with other battalions. His little command, however, was frequently attached to the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry, and his troopers were gladly received in any camp and their banner greeted with joyous acclaim on the battlefield,

For they were clansmen, bold and true,  
Their chief as brave as Roderick Dhu.

Captain Jenkins, always alert and a free rover, headed his horse in the direction of the enemy's guns, often dropping into a fight unexpectedly, but at an opportune time.

Early in the war Captain Jenkins, with twenty-eight men, Nathan Parker one of them, started from Lusbys Mills, Owen County, Ky., for the Confederate lines, and overtook Giltner and Pryor at Munfordsville, where he joined forces with an officer who was recruiting the "Buckner Guards." Captain Jenkins was influential in having Pryor elected first lieutenant and Nathan Parker second lieutenant, Jenkins himself and Giltner enlisting in the "guards" as private

soldiers. Jenkins, however, was soon detached to drill new organizations, constantly forming. Soon thereafter General Simon B. Buckner appointed him chief of secret service, at the same time ordering him to select suitable men to send on secret service missions. Giltner was one of the men whom he selected, Jenkins personally undertaking the most delicate and dangerous mission—that of visiting Lebanon, Ky., where rested the left wing of the Federal army. When he returned from a successful performance of that service and reported to General Buckner, at Bowling Green, he found awaiting him a first lieutenant's commission, which had been forwarded by the secretary of war. He was then ordered to report to General Humphrey Marshall, General Buckner permitting Giltner to accompany him.

When in June, 1862, General Marshall was ordered to Richmond, to meet in council General Lee and other officers, Captain Jenkins, then aid-de-camp, accompanied him, and served on the staffs of Generals Hood and Magruder during the seven days' fighting around Richmond. He was with General John B. Magruder during the desperate and sanguinary battle of Malvern Hill. For his gallant services in those great battles Jenkins was given a commission as captain of cavalry, with authority to recruit a company, a battalion, a regiment or a brigade, and was to be permitted to report for service in any department of the army that he should prefer. It was under that authority that Giltner, Pryor and Parker were enabled to visit Kentucky to recruit the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry Regiment. Captain Jenkins, however, at the earnest solicitation of General Marshall remained on that officer's staff until he resigned his commission in the army and was elected to the Confederate Congress.

The generals around Richmond, recognizing Captain Jenkins' genius in war, admitted him to their councils, notably just before the battle of Mechanicsville, the first of the seven days' battle.

In the closing days of the war Captain Jenkins and his "little army" fought a desperate engagement in Richmond, Va., which the captain thinks was the last battle fought on Virginia soil by organized troops.

The following incident illustrates this superb cavalier's dauntless courage: Before leaving Kentucky for Dixieland a detachment of Federals, probably a company of "Home Guards," led by a United States provost marshal, undertook to arrest him near his home in Henry County. They were well armed and boasted of their prowess and determination to capture the haughty and fiery Southron. Captain Jenkins made no effort to elude them. On the contrary, while the Federals were drawn up in line for some purpose, the gallant Jenkins, unattended, suddenly appeared on the scene, and with his bridle in his teeth and a revolver in each hand he deliberately rode the full length of the enemy's line. He uttered no word, but his cool audacity and flashing eyes effectually quelled the Home Guardian war spirit—not a man of them daring to molest him.

Jenkins' troops represented various Kentucky localities, many of them having been connected with the "little battery." For the most part they were young men of culture—gentlemanly, accomplished representatives of the best families in Kentucky. The "roll-call" was in part as follows:

B. W. Jenkins, Captain.	J. O. Bush.
J. J. Schoolfield, First Lieutenant.	— Bussell.
— Cloud, Second Lieutenant.	James Caldwell.
Augustus Wood, Third Lieutenant.	James Carnes.
Charles Hawkins, First Sergeant.	Wm. Carnes.
Wm. Alanson, Second Sergeant.	Charles Case.
Granville Buzzard, First Corporal.	Wm. Case.
Campbell O'Nan, Second Corporal.	Robert Coleman.
George S. Adamson, Quartermaster Sergeant.	Charles H. Colvin.
George R. Woods, Farrier.	Levi Colvin.
Robert Anderson.	Lloyd Corlis.
Mark Asbury.	— Clark.
John Ashcraft.	Wm. Everett.
Lewis Ashcraft.	Lewis Frazee.
Wm. Alexander.	Thomas Frazier.
D. Brainard Bayless.	Charles Gill.
James Berry.	Samuel Gosney.
Good Bohannon.	Henry Hamilton.
Robert Breeze.	Vincent Hamilton.
Harrison Browning.	Wardner Hamilton.
	Joseph F. Hamilton.
	Charles L. Holton.

Evan T. Howard.	Jack Pavey.
Theodore Hill.	George V. Payne.
Wm. Jones.	Lewis C. Pope.
John Kilgour.	Charles Rice.
Thomas Kilgour.	John Rice.
Charles H. Lee.	Wm. Rice.
John Lenox.	H. Clay Skurvin.
James Litteral.	C. Columbus Stevens.
Wm. Longmore.	Wm. Stevens.
Wm. A. McDonald.	Boone Speers.
Wm. W. Macdonald.	— Spilman.
Wm. T. Marshall.	John Walton.
Wm. Matthews.	Richard Warren.
Amos Meadows.	Mason Webster.
King Woods.	Moses Webster.
Frank Miller.	John Whallen.
George Morford.	John Whitehead.
James W. Morford.	Baker Wiggins.
Alfred Murphy.	H. P. Willis.
Oliver Ogden.	Phares Weis.

There are others whose names should be appended to this "Roll of Honor," but I am unable to obtain them, and the lapse of time has obliterated from my memory many gallant fellows whom I knew.

A number of names on the foregoing list are especially memorable and deserving of the decoration of the "Legion of Honor." Frank Miller, clerk at brigade headquarters; Phares Weis, assistant orderly officer, captured at Mt. Sterling and died in prison, were conspicuous for their accomplishments—brave, dashing boys.

John Whallen of Louisville, Wm. Longmore, H. P. Willis and Brainard Bayless were superbly brilliant youths, model soldiers, graceful courtiers in any society.