

William Jared Story
s/o Joel & Mary (Dowell) Jared
Book of Jared
Pgs. 640 – 643

Corporal William Jared
by Grace Heminger Jared

William Jared, son of Joel and Mary (Dowell) Jared was born 3 January 1821, in Breckinridge Co., Kentucky, on a farm on Sinking Creek, not far from Abraham Lincoln's birthplace. When William was 24 years old, on November 27, 1845, he married Susan Robinson, 18-year-old, daughter of Allen and Lucy "Lucinda" (Dowell) Robinson.

In the year of 1848, William and his brother Israel – 13 years his senior—grew restless. They heard rumors of the fertile land in Illinois and longed to try the new frontier. Joel and wife Mary, together with Joel's brother Thomas, a widower, and some of Thomas' children joined the caravan.

William, Israel, and Joel owned several teams of horses, which must have given them quite an advantage.

It was a dull day in November when they reached Yale, Jasper Co., Illinois. Thomas and his band pushed on toward the better land of Edgar Co. Joel and his descendants paid the government a small percent per acre for their land, paying the rest by homestead rights, and settled near Yale.

On a hill overlooking Painter Creek, William felled the trees and built his crude log cabin. He filled the cracks with mud. The furniture was two three-legged stools, a rough table, a built-in bed with hickory bark for springs, a corn shuck mattress, feather beds for covering, a trundle bed underneath the big bed for the children. There was a loft above, reached by a ladder, and here in that one room and loft, which served as a kitchen, dining room, living room, and bedroom, a family of 13 children were born.

On 18 January 1860, identical triplet sons were born to William and Susan. They lived but a day. Then came the election of Abraham Lincoln and the great Civil War. The months lengthened into years and the conflict raged on. In the heart of William Jared another battle raged. There were nine children now, Lewis, the oldest was 15 years old. The soil was not very productive. Would his wife and 15 year old Lewis be able to keep the wolf from the door?

Near the end of the summer of 1862, his country's need forced a decision. Fighting for country became synonymous with protecting his family, so on August 14, 1862, William Jared enlisted. He served as a corporal in the 123rd Illinois

Infantry in Company E under Cpl. James Monroe. On 6 September he was sent to Camp Terry at Mattoon, Illinois. Here, in 13 days he received all the military training he had ever had. On 19 September his regiment was loaded into freight cars and transported to Louisville, KY, where they were at once put to work under General Nelson to fortify the city against Bragg, who was then advancing on it in pursuit of Buell. Eleven days of this strenuous labor and then they started marching southward through Kentucky after Bragg, who had turned back. On 8 October, nineteen days after leaving Mattoon, the regiment engaged in the battle of Perryville. The untrained troops of 123rd Illinois Infantry were at the mercy of the enemy. Their loss was terrible. Corporal William Jared was badly wounded in his right leg. He was sent to the military hospital at Louisville, KY. The days lengthened into weeks—weeks into months while Corporal William Jared fought for his life.

The physical suffering battle with the fear and worry about his family. They were suffering the hardships of war. It is said that at time the children had nothing but cornbread and green apples to eat. The corporal did not improve. When spring approached, he realized that his wife needed him as a new baby was expected. The government would not give him a furlough. They considered him not sufficiently improved to be discharged from hospital treatment.

Finally his nurse came to the rescue. Together they laid their plans. Dressed in the civilian clothes which the nurse was able to smuggle in, he would leave the hospital without detection. He would go home to be with his wife during her coming event, then return to the hospital. About 28 February 1865, he crept out of the hospital disguised in his borrowed suit, and boarded the train for Olney, Illinois. He was a ghost of the strong, hearty man, who six months before had kissed his family goodbye. He reached Olney on 2nd March. The rest of the way had to be made on foot. It was 28 miles to Yale. When he reached home and Susan laid his 5 week old son Joel in his arms, for a few days at least they were happy.

But death followed birth in the little log cabin, for a week later Corporal William Jared, age 42, was dead. The long trip had caused blood poison and death came quickly. His war record kept by his faithful nurse, gives Louisville, KY as the place of his death, March 9, 1863. Susan Robinson Jared was left a widow at 35 years of age with 10 children, the youngest but six weeks old.

Sorrow followed Susanna four months later when wee Joel the war baby died. In 1864 Quincy Adams was laid beside his father. At 70 years the hair of this valiant woman was hardly touched with grey, and her remarkable refinement was still evident.

Children of William and Susanna (Robinson) Jared:

Lewis A. Jared – 26 August 1846, nr. Hardenburg, Breckenridge Co., KY –
19 February 1932, Marlow, IL – md 22 February 1870, Willow Hill, Jasper Co., IL
– Sarah Ellen Phillips. md – ca. 1926 – Anna Stewart

Lewis Jared Civil War Solider
by Grace Heminger Jared

Before he died, William Jared had called his son, Lewis to his bedside and urged him not to enlist. For a while Lewis heeded this request, but it was inevitable that he should go.

On March 16, 1865 he joined the thirty-second Illinois Infantry, and was placed in Company K, but later transferred to Company I. His regiment was sent to North Carolina. They marched north through Richmond to Washington where they participated in the Grand review May 24th. Later they were ordered westward, and while they covered much territory, going as far west as Nebraska, not much active fighting was done. This was a great disappointment to Lewis Jared. I once asked him if he were ever afraid in battle, and the old soldier laughed at my question. Then his eyes had twinkled as he admitted that he was always so anxious to meet the enemy that he could hardly stay in ranks. Lewis Jared was mustered out 16 September 1865. The great Civil struggle was over.

Lucy Enfield Jared – September 1847 – md Martin E. McCord

Mary Katherine Jared – 10 September 1849 – md George Lytle

Sarah Jane Jared – ca. 1850

James Noble Jared – 13 May 1852 – md Rose Luigg

Miriam Elizabeth Jared – 17 February 1854 – md Frank Shacklee

Quincy Adams Jared – 13 January 1856 – 4 December 1864

Emily Frances Jared – 1 January 1858 – md Brooker Alexander

Son – 18 January 1860 – 18 January 1860

Son – 18 January 1860 – 18 January 1860

Son – 18 January 1860 – 18 January 1860

William Allen Jared – 29 January 1861 – md Cora Harris

Joel Jared – 10 March 1863 – 20 July 1863



Children of Lewis Jared
L to R: Pearle K. Haskel, Olive Carr, Ray V. Jared, Etta Jenkins, Susan Bogan



Lewis Jared and Family
L to R: daughter Lara, Roy, Ray (neighbor boy above Ray), wife Sarah Ellen, Pearle beside her father, Lewis Jared, Etta, Olive, Susan on ground and Allen Jared