

Janet Jennings

War time nurse and civilian writer

Donna Glynn

Born in Canada in 1839, Janet Jennings grew up on a farm near Monroe. The third of 12 children, she found herself drawn into the Civil War in May 1863, when her brother, Guilford Dudley Jennings, was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville. Janet, who was familiarly called Jane, traveled from Monroe to the Washington, D.C., hospital where Guilford lay wounded. Jennings wished to join the United States Army Nurses, but Nurse Superintendent Dorothea Dix required that nurses be at least 30 years of age to serve. Undeterred, the 24-year old Jennings appealed to Dr. Willard Bliss, head of Armory Square Hospital near the White House and an expert in treating gunshot wounds (Bliss would later treat mortally wounded President James Garfield).



Green County Historical Society

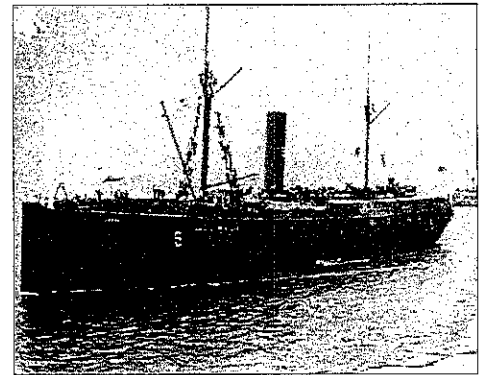
Janet Jennings at the time of the Civil War

Jennings was assigned to a tent hospital, where she gained valuable nursing experience and within a few weeks was given charge of several tents. At Armory Square she might have met Abraham Lincoln, who often visited ailing soldiers on his nightly rounds.

When the war ended, Jennings remained in Washington and worked a short time for the Treasury Department. When her health began to suffer, she returned to Wisconsin and took up writing and penned stories for the next 25 years, writing for magazines, for well-known newspapers including the New York Tribune, and for a number of Wisconsin papers. She authored two books that arose from her Civil War experiences: *Lincoln, The Greatest American* and *The Blue and The Gray*.

During her Civil War nursing days, Jennings became close friends with Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. When Barton sailed to Cuba at the start of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the now 59-year old Jennings joined forces with her. Fewer than 400 US soldiers were killed in battle in Cuba, but as the occupation continued, disease took its toll, ultimately killing nearly

3,000 US troops and sickening thousands more. Jennings sailed on the transport ship Seneca with a group of soldiers who needed further care, including an ailing physician, from



Accessed at <http://spanamwar.com/seneca>

Transport ship Seneca

Cuba's war zone to New York. On a difficult voyage with almost no medical supplies, she meticulously attended to the soldiers' care and gave up her own quarters as needed. At the end of this difficult trip, appreciative soldiers presented her with a scroll naming her "Angel of the Seneca," and this name soon filtered to the press, gaining Jennings national notoriety.

Active in local affairs in her later years, Jennings urged that the new school being constructed in 1916-17 bear the name Lincoln School to honor the president for whom she held deep admiration. Generations of Monroe area children attended Lincoln until it burned on September 5, 1973.



American Association for the History of Nursing

In reminiscing about Janet in later years, Emil Gloege (Monroe photographer 1903-1916) still referred to her as Jane from their childhood years: "Jane was quite talkative, sometimes almost tiresome. When she came to my studio,

I was always ready to drop my work. She was unusually intelligent and it was time well spent to hear her because of her contact with great and noted people because of her being a traveler, but most of all because of what she had under that faded old hat."

On New Year's Eve, 1917, national papers announced that Janet Jennings, the "Angel of the Seneca," had died. A headstone in Greenwood Cemetery, Monroe, Wisconsin marks her grave, bearing the inscription Contract Nurse, U.S. Army.

Her Monroe home, located at 612-22nd Avenue, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the Green County Historical Society Museum are several artifacts and personal items belonging to Jennings, including her two published books and a lap blanket presented to her by the soldiers of the Seneca.

Janet Jennings serves as a remarkable representative of women who came of age during the Civil War period.

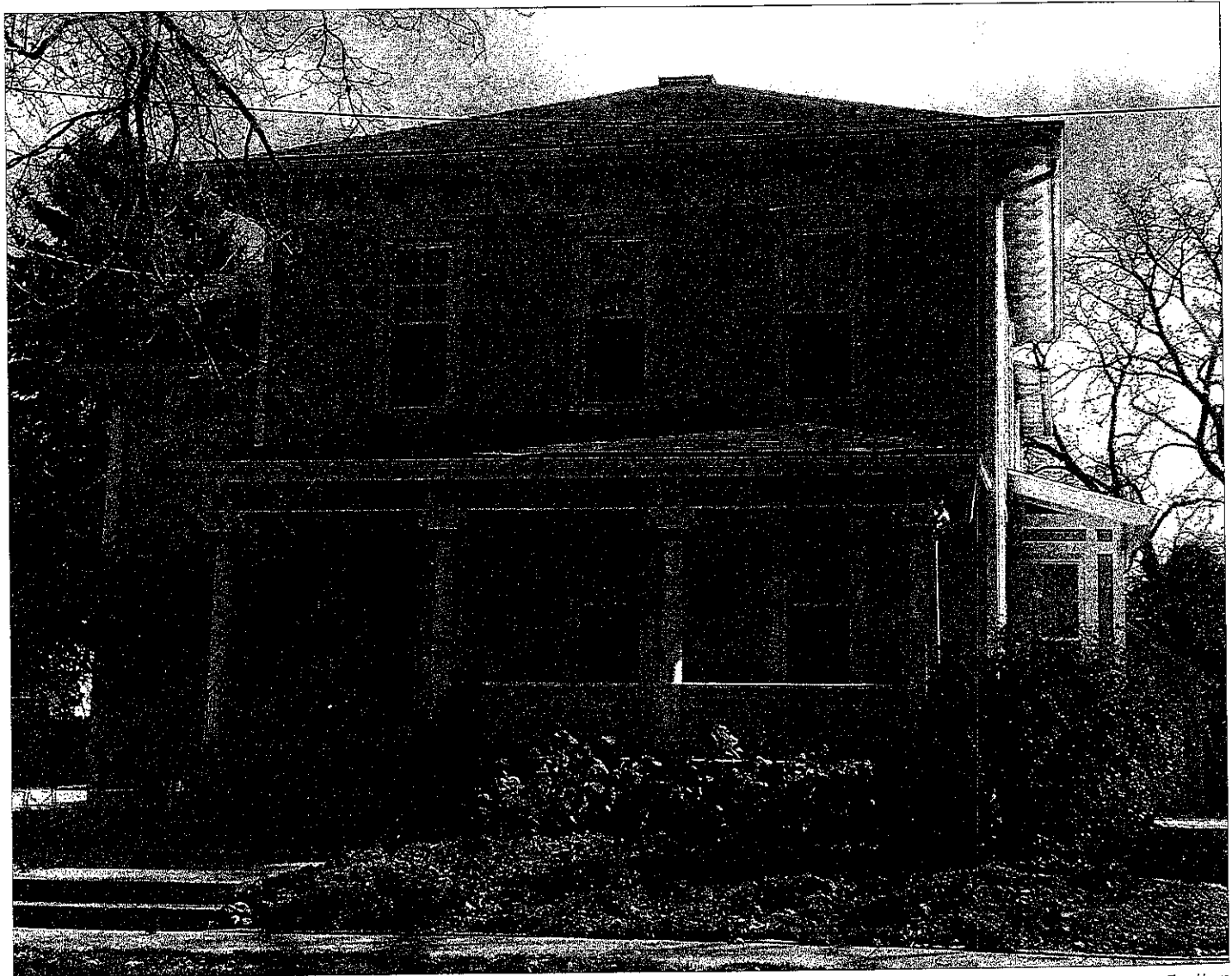
Most parents and churches taught women to operate in the domestic sphere, where they learned that their highest calling was as dutiful wives and nurturing mothers, in service to the greater good of society and the republic. Jennings, like other women of the time, expanded their traditional roles in the war's upheaval and acted in new and more public ways in their society.

References:

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Tom Howe

Janet Jennings home in 2014

JANE JENNINGS
Author—Nettie Jennings
Monroe

**MONROE (WI) -
JENNINGS,
JANET**

Jane Jennings was the daughter of John and Ann MacIntyre Jennings, and the third child of a family of twelve children. They lived on a farm about two miles from the village of Monroe, Wisconsin.

Jane's mother often said "Jane was once a little girl but never a child". She never romped and played as the other children did.

At the age of five Jane assumed responsibilities and duties in caring for the children younger than herself, she was her mother's constant helper. She was the leader of the family.

At the age of sixteen she taught in country schools, she was a great reader and constantly improving herself; she never read cheap literature, the best to be had was her choice and in this way perfected her own English which was faultless.

Courage, charity and self-sacrifice were her greatest characteristics with innate refinement that gave her retiring nature a manner which appeared unresponsive and cold. It was difficult to understand why her thoughts were always for others and never for herself.

In 1864 there were thousands of wounded and sick soldiers lying in Armory Square hospital, Washington, D. C., one of these soldiers was her brother, Dudley. Jane made up her mind that her brother and other wounded soldiers needed her help in nursing them, she had had experience in nursing members of her family.

Her preparations were few, she put her wearing apparel in an old valise and started for Washington. It meant something in those days to take such a trip and especially by one who had not been a hundred miles from home.

She took sufficient lunch to last her to Washington,

her trip was in a day coach and she was two days and two nights on the train. She landed safely (she always did) and after finding a room to deposit her valise, she started for the hospital, she found it, presented herself to Miss Dorothy Dix, who was head nurse. Miss Dix heard her story, then asked her how old she was, Jane told her. Miss Dix shook her head and said "We do not take any one under thirty years of age." Jane was disappointed but not discouraged. Miss Dix asked her if her mother approved of her coming. Jane told her she did, her mother prepared her lunch.

Jane's splendid courage never deserted her, she sought her brother and talked it over. He told her Dr. Bliss was in charge of all the army hospitals in Washington.

Jane found Dr. Bliss, she told him her story. He was greatly impressed with this serious and determined young woman, who was tall and so slender she almost looked frail. Dr. Bliss told her he would give her a chance to nurse the soldiers in tents; there were many of them from the over-crowded hospitals. She began as an assistant nurse; in two weeks she was placed in charge of a number of tents directing others. For over a year she gave her entire time to the soldiers (without compensation) until all tents were vacated by soldiers going home and being removed to main building. Dr. and Mrs. Bliss became her life-long friends.

She was given a position in the United States Treasury; she did not remain here long on account of her health, which had been over-taxed by her constant nursing. She took up journalism; her first letters were published in the Janesville (Wis.) Gazette, then the Milwaukee Sentinel, Chicago Tribune, Inter-Ocean, Springfield, (Mass.) Republican, Boston Transcript, New York Times, New York Tribune and New York Independent. The latter two papers she wrote for for many years, the Independent until a few weeks before her last illness.

In 1872 she bought a home in the town of Monroe and moved the family into it. This was a very comfort-

able home and beautifully located. She retained this home for any of the family as long as she lived.

She made several trips abroad, traveled in Austria, Belgium, France, England, Scotland and Ireland. She spent a winter in Italy, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harris, our American Consul at that time. During all her travels she wrote for New York papers; her graphic descriptions of scenery, folk-lore, environments, etc. were exceedingly interesting. She also visited Alaska, and much interested in the development there.

Later she went to Hawaii, where she was much disappointed in being unable to visit Father Damien, who was in charge of the leper colony on the Island of Molokai. The conditions for landing on the Island at that time were uncertain and dangerous; women were not permitted to take the risk.

In 1898 she joined Clara Barton in Cuba, and again devoted her time to nursing soldiers lying in hospitals at Sandiago. She remained here until a ship load of convalescent soldiers were sent to New York; the boat was over crowded. Miss Jennings was the only woman nurse on the vessel. When they were well out at sea an operation was performed on one of the soldiers. She was present and assisted at the operation; she insisted upon this soldier being given her state room, saying "A cot will do for me; put it anywhere, this man must be made comfortable." She gave him constant care; she saw him placed in an ambulance in New York to be taken to a hospital. Again she declined compensation for her services as a nurse to soldiers.

About four years later, she was passing the Ebbitt Hotel one day when a big bronzed and healthy fellow came dashing after her and called her by name. She turned and looked at him. He said, "Miss Jennings don't you remember me, you saved my life." She could not recall ever having seen him before. He laughed and said, "Do you remember the man on the Seneca, the one that was operated on and you gave him your state-room—They took about a gallon of pus out of my lungs at that time—I'm the man."

She never lost interest in her state or her home town. She was interested in every project that had an uplift to it. She was interested in the schools, and served on the school board, she was called to Madison a number of times when the legislature was in session for consultation on educational matters. She believed in the practical education that would lead to useful development and not the theoretical kind; she believed in community interest for all the children and their education. Her great sympathy was always with the poor and down-trodden and believed 99 per cent of unfortunates were victims of circumstances.

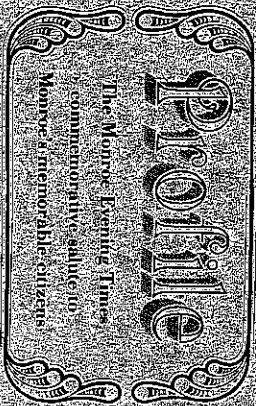
She believed the Red Cross was one of the greatest blessings given to humanity; she also believed that Clara Barton was the founder of the Red Cross in America. She and Miss Barton were devoted friends for many years. She taught and demonstrated First Aid to all ages from ten years to thirty years.

In 1910 she published two books, one the "Blue and the Gray," the other "Abraham Lincoln, the Greatest American." The latter named book was from the depths of her heart, she cherished the memory of Lincoln with great devotion; she thought him one destined by God to do a great mission, he was her ideal of an American.

Jane Jennings was always a busy woman. She looked upon idleness as a sin, industry a virtue, work a blessing that all might share. Reading was recreation for her, and especially newspapers. She believed a good newspaper was a great educator, and every home should have one for the family to read, it kept them in touch with the topics of the day. She never lost interest in government affairs, she was 100 per cent pure American.

The beginning of her last illness was in Monroe, July 7, 1915. One of her sisters came from Washington and remained with her until October, when she had sufficiently recovered to make the trip to Washington, here she was given every attention and comfort to be had. She died December 30, 1917. She is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Monroe, Wisconsin.

'Jane' nursed needy worldwide



By PHIL TSCHUDY
SALP-25
TIMES News Team

Monroe's most famous nurse, Janet Jennings, led a rewarding and productive life although most of her dedicated work was done for others rather than for herself.

Jennings served as an army nurse in both the Civil and Spanish-American wars, receiving national acclaim for her work in the latter war. She became a close friend and associate with American Red Cross founder Clara Barton.

In addition to her work in nursing, Jennings was also an author and journalist. She wrote two books, 'Abraham Lincoln, the Greatest American' and the 'Blue and the

Gray,' a novel about the Civil War. Known simply as 'Jane,' she learned early that life had its share of obstacles. Jennings was the third of 12 children born to John E. and Ann MacIntyre Jennings. After the family moved to Monroe from Canada, Jennings had to take care of her younger siblings when her mother became ill.

During the Civil War in 1863, her brother Guilford Dudley Jennings was wounded in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. and was taken to Washington for treatment. Jane immediately boarded a train to Washington, despite the fact that she had never been more than a hundred miles from home.

When she arrived, she was informed by the head nurse, the well-known Dr. Thea Dix, that she could not serve as a nurse since she was only 24 and the age requirement was 30.

Disappointed, but not beaten, Jennings appealed to a Dr. Bliss, who was in charge of all Army hospitals in Washington D.C. Bliss was impress-

ed and made her an assistant nurse in charge of caring for wounded soldiers in tents. Jennings served in this capacity without compensation for more than a year until all of the wounded were either moved into regular hospitals or sent home.

A tall, frail woman, Jennings' own health suffered during this period, and she was forced to give up nursing after the war. She went to work for the Treasury Department for several years with her sisters Nettie, Mary and Harriet, after which she began her writing career.

In addition to her two books, Jennings wrote for 25 years for a variety of newspapers, including the New York Tribune, Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Jamesville Gazette and New York Independent. She traveled abroad several times to research her stories.

When the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, Jennings went to Cuba to join the Red Cross group of Clara Barton. On July 14 of that year she sailed on the 'Seneca' with a

group of wounded soldiers headed back to New York City. Although many of the men suffered from fevers and infections, Jennings gave the men constant care and even gave up her own quarters to the more seriously wounded.

According to F.C. Hamilton's 'The Story of Monroe,' she was wounded and the ship's crew told the story to the press upon arrival in New York, and Jennings became known as the 'Angel of the Seneca.'

After the war, Jennings published her two books and then returned to Monroe where she served on the school board and entered 'intensely' disputes with the City Council over ordinances which, which she disagreed. Hamilton wrote

Jennings suffered a stroke at her home in October 1915, and was taken back to Washington by her sister Nettie. She died Dec. 31, 1917. Her grave in Greenwood Cemetery bears an official U.S. military marker recognizing her service as a war nurse.

Janet Jennings: "A Bit Queer"

[These two pages contain excerpts of a letter written by Emil H. Gloege to a Mr. Brown on May 20, 1930. Mr. Brown was interested in finding out more about Miss Janet Jennings. Emil was a Monroe native who had personal remembrances of Miss Jennings. At that time, there was a sister, Mary Jennings, who lived Washington D. C.]

I personally knew Jane very well, yet know little about her life except that she was a much greater woman than Monroe ever knew it had. She was reluctant about talking about herself. She presented me with a volume of each of her books, yet had little or nothing to say about them.

She once told me of having an interview with [Ulysses S.] Grant during his last days when he was writing his memoirs and showed me an autograph he gave her. I believe it was just a card with a few words besides his name.

She also told me of an interview with the Chinese minister or ambassador. If I err not, it was Li Hung Chang. She got him to consent to being photographed with his wife or family; I have forgotten which. The photograph, to be used in connection with an article she was writing for a paper or magazine, but was disappointed just before it was to be done. He sent her word it would be impossible to comply with her request, not that he had any personal objection whatever. The Chinese public was not yet ready to see one of its leading men to lower himself to be photographed with his wife. The Chinese had a custom of a man not being seen with his wife, an inferior creature little above the animals and fit only to be the mother of his children. Li had gotten the American idea of nearer equality between man and his wife, but said his people back home would look with such horror on such a thing. He feared that he would be recalled.

Jane was very close with such women as Susan B. Anthony, Frances Willard, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others who were her personal friends. Clara Barton was a close friend of hers, with whom she worked in Red Cross work and later in International First Aid work. I, personally, took a course in first aid on Jane's insistence and have a diploma bearing Clara Barton's signature, of which I am proud because of Miss Barton's signature on it.

Miss Janet Jennings left this morning for Boston, where she will visit Miss Clara Barton. She will then go to Washington to spend the remainder of the winter.

Monroe Sentinel
December 21, 1905



1898

Janet Jennings

Janet Jennings was a contract nurse in the U. S. Army and died on December 31, 1917. She is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. A 3-page article about her accomplishments was included in the February 2007 newsletter. Among other things, she wrote *The Blue and the Gray* and *Abraham Lincoln, The Greatest American*.

Janet never put herself to the front in any way, nor did she care for notoriety or fame, but preferred to do things quietly, leaving herself out. Since much of her work was done away from here, we did not really know much about her.

I knew her from the time I was a little boy, but she was just and only Jane Jennings. I knew little or nothing about her, except that she was considered just a bit queer, as all old maids and bachelors (including

JENNINGS CASE FAILS.

Issue Decided on Answers Made To Nine Questions By the Jury.

Miss Janet Jennings was defeated in her trespass and damage suit against H. W. Johannott and others in the circuit court, the jury reporting a special verdict in the shape of answers to nine questions of fact, and Judge Grimm deciding the issue on the facts and the law.

The case went to the jury about 5 o'clock after arguments by attorneys, each side taking three-quarters of an hour.

An undated newspaper article supplied by Kathryn Etter.

myself) are supposed to be. She was both not understood and misunderstood. Though very quiet and unassuming, she was aggressive and a fighter when necessary. She had many lawsuits and I recollect that she lost only one. She should have won that one. She was the type who had her battles won before going into them. She usually knew more about the law on the subject than her attorneys; it was her intelligence, and not her attorneys, that won the lawsuits.

In manner of dress, she had the simplest tastes. I recall on one occasion when she went to see the governor on some matter. Instead of getting a new dress, as many a woman would have, she had a tailoress patch an old one. (This information is from her tailoress, who is still living and 90, having just retired from actual work.) Her hat was a joke, twelve or fifteen years out of style, yet worn until it was worn out. Under that old hat was one of the most wonderful brains this town ever possessed.

She was very kind, yet often in trouble with neighbors, not that she was disagreeable, but because they didn't understand her. She wanted nothing that was not hers, but wanted what was

hers, perhaps only to give away or to use for others. It was perhaps more a matter with her of "woman's rights" than anything else. I doubt if she ever made any money out of her books for she was too generous in giving them away.

Jane kept a cow and when the testing law first went into effect and her cow was tested without her consent, she put up a fight, which lasted many years before she finally won. She did not object so much to it being taken as that the test was made without giving her a chance in the matter, illegally, as she put it. She chose to keep her cow and her cow's four generations of descendants in quarantine those many years at a great loss to herself, rather than give up when she thought (and I think so, myself) that she was being imposed upon. I heard the story many times. When I was engaged in photography [1903 - 1916], I periodically was called upon to photograph "Pudgie" and her descendants.

Jane was quite talkative, sometimes almost tiresome. When she came to my studio, I was always ready to drop my work. She was unusually intelligent and it was time well spent to hear her because of her contact with great and noted people because of her being a traveler, but most of all because of what she had under that faded out old hat.

I wish I could give you more, but like the rest of the town who did not really know her, I too did not really know her except as I came in contact with her in her last years when her best days were past and when she lived in semi-retirement.



Emil Gloege
Monroe photographer

[The entire letter is stored in the archives in the Wisconsin Historical Society library building in Madison. The call number is SC 1870 and the location is MAD 4/14/SC 1870.]

MONROE (WI) -
JENNINGS,
JANET



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Janet Jennings 1839-1917

by Signe S. Cooper

Jane (or Janet as she preferred to be called) Jennings served as a volunteer nurse in both the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

Born on a farm two miles from Monroe in December, 1839, she was third in a family of 12 children of John and Mary MacIntyre Jennings. She began rural school at age 16.

In 1863 she went to Washington, D.C., when she learned that her brother Dudley had been injured at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia. She applied to Dorothea Dix, superintendent of the Union Army nurses, for appointment as an Army nurse, but Miss Dix would not accept her because she was too young. (She was 24, but regulations required a minimum of 30.) Undaunted, she next applied to Dr. Bliss, head of all the Washington hospitals, who gave her permission to work one of the tent hospitals in the city. After a few weeks, she was put in charge of a unit consisting of several tents.

When the war ended, she remained in Washington to work at the Treasury Department until poor health forced her to return to Monroe. Seeking something less strenuous, she turned to journalism. She wrote for several newspapers and later published two books about the Civil War:

Abraham Lincoln, the Greatest American and *The Blue and the Gray*, but did not write about her nursing experiences.


Although she was nearly 60 years old when the Spanish-American War broke out, again she volunteered her services. She arrived in Cuba after the Battle of Santiago, July 1, 1898, where she helped clean out an old building and convert it into a temporary hospital. At the close of the eight week war, she returned home on the Seneca, carrying convalescent soldiers, and she helped care for the ill. In gratitude for her services, the men held a brief ceremony in her honor, presented her a handwritten scroll, and dubbed her the "Angel of the Seneca."

Janet Jennings died December 31, 1917, the result of a stroke. In 1948, the community put up a long-delayed marker on her grave.



Janet Jennings

Photo: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

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**MONROE (WI) -
JENNINGS,
JANET**

Home

Janet Jennings
1839 - 1917



Janet Jennings is one of a multitude of unsung "nurses" who served their nation in a time of war and then returned to obscurity.

Jane Jennings was the third of twelve children raised on a farm in rural Wisconsin. She was 16 before she was exposed to formal schooling. Much like Walt Whitman, when one of her brothers was injured in the Civil War, she traveled to Washington DC to do her part in the war. With no formal training as a nurse she volunteered for the Union Army corps of female nurses but was turned down by Dorothea Dix, because at 24 she was too young. Determined, she appealed to Dr. Bliss, head of all the Washington hospitals, and was put to work in one of the tent hospitals in Washington. Within weeks, she was in charge of several tent hospital units.

After the end of the Civil War she stayed in Washington working at the Treasury Department until she had to return home due to poor health. There she turned to journalism writing for Wisconsin newspapers and publishing two books about the Civil War: *Abraham Lincoln, the Greatest American* and *The Blue and the Gray*.

When the Spanish-American War began in 1898 Jane Jennings was 59 years old but she again felt the call to duty and volunteered as a nurse. She was sent to Cuba. At the end of the brief war, she sailed on the *Seneca* with convalescing soldiers, and two physicians, one of whom was also ill. At the end of the difficult trip, the grateful soldiers presented her with a scroll and called her the "Angel of the Seneca."

Janet Jennings died December 31, 1917, after a stroke. Over a quarter century later the community of Monroe put a marker on her grave.



Janet Jennings

Photo: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Sources:

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**MONROE (WI) -
JENNINGS,
JANET**

Janet "Jane" Jennings

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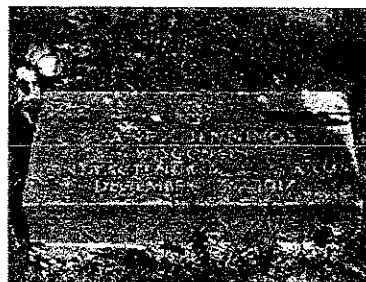
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Birth: 1842
Death: Dec. 31, 1917
District Of Columbia, USA

Red Cross Nurse

"The Angel Of The Seneca"

Jane was originally a teacher in the Monroe schools. She left the school system to travel to Washington D.C. to tend to her brother, Dudley who was recuperating there from injuries during the Civil War. While there she enlisted in the American Red Cross and became an associate of Clara Barton. She was initially turned down by Dorothy Dix because she did not meet the minimum age requirements at the time (Minimum of 35) but appealed and was later accepted. She knew Presidents Lincoln and Grant because of her activities with the Red Cross. After the war she worked at the Treasury Department and became a news reporter. Ill health caused her to return to Wisconsin where she wrote two books "The Blue and the Gray" in 1910 and "Abraham Lincoln - The Greatest American" in 1914. During the Spanish American war, she rejoined Clara Barton aboard the steamer "State of Texas" bound for Cuba with the intent of reporting on Red Cross activities during the war. While in Cuba she left the ship to volunteer for duty on the steamer "Seneca" bound for Washington D.C. The "Seneca" was a commercial steamer contracted to the armed forces to be used as a hospital ship. As a hospital ship it was woefully inadequate and ill equipped. There were two inexperienced doctors and no nurses. There were almost no medical and surgical supplies. The water on board was unfit to drink. The ship was terribly overcrowded with the sick and injured. Although she had no formal nursing training she became the only nurse aboard. She worked tirelessly to tend to the patients finding a few hours to rest when she could. She improvised whenever necessary to make up for the lack of medical supplies to tend to the sick and wounded. Her efforts on the voyage allowed the ship to reach Washington D.C. without any deaths. Upon arrival the ship's captain, crew, patients and passengers issued a commendation to her for her "valiant" effort on behalf of her patients. In a story about her, Harper's Bazaar wrote: "The most conspicuous heroine the war has brought so far." In an editorial the St. Paul Pioneer-Press wrote: "The Heroine of The Seneca" "To Miss Jennings at Sibony came one of those opportunities which tests womanly character and the improvement of which entitles a place on the roll of heroines. The voyage was a stormy one, fever broke out, the tossing of the vessel caused many of the wounds to break open. There was constant call day and night for the services of Miss Jennings and so little to do with.



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Cemetery Photo
Added by: [Larry Jones](#)

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and a note

Bandages gave out. To supply the need she tore up her own underclothing. No sacrifice small or great that it was possible for her to make for the bleeding, forlorn company, but found her ready. From everyone aboard she won the highest tributes of admiration and gratitude. Her name deserves a place beside those of Dorothy Dix, Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton." Upon her return to Washington D.C. she lobbied relentlessly with President McKinnley and United States Congress for better care for the sick and wounded soldiers. She returned to Monroe, Wisconsin where in 1915 she suffered a stroke which left her disabled. She died with her three sisters at her bedside. She was buried at Greenwood cemetery where for 30 years her grave went unmarked until the Veterans Administration placed a small military style headstone.

Burial:

Greenwood Cemetery

Monroe

Green County

Wisconsin, USA

Plot: Block 10, Row 2, Lot 16

Created by: Ted Beckman

Record added: Mar 06, 2012

Find A Grave Memorial# 86340603

Advertisement**Vital Records Found For Janet Jennings in Wisconsin**

79 Death Certificates
found for Janet Jennings



208 Marriage Certificates
found for Janet Jennings



2 Birth Certificates
found for Janet Jennings



30 Divorce Certificates
found for Janet Jennings

319 Vital Records for Janet Jennings

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1917
J

PASSING AT AGE OF 94 YEARS

J. May — 11-1917
Mrs. Michael Jennings, Formerly
A Resident of Cadiz Town-
ship, This County.

DIED SATURDAY NEAR WIOTA

Funeral Services Here On Tuesday
Morning at 10 O'clock at the St.
Victors Church.—Interment in Old
Catholic Cemetery.

Mrs. Michael Jennings, a former resident of Cadiz township, from 1864 to 1875, passed away at her home in Wiota township, near the town of Wiota, Saturday afternoon at about 4 o'clock at the advanced age of 94 years. Mrs. Jennings was a woman of strong vitality and though afflicted with the loss of eye sight for the past six years, saw very few sick days in her long life and was up and around the house in good health until less than a week prior to her passing away.

Johannah Cotter was born in Cork, Ireland, and had she lived until the 12 day of next July would have reached the age of 95 years. She came to America with her parents when 18 years of age and they settled at Plattsburg, New York state. There she married Mr. Michael Jennings in 1854 and ten years later, in 1864, they came west and located on a farm in Cadiz township, this county. They continued to reside there until 1875 when they moved to the farm in Wiota township, LaFayette county. Mr. Jennings passed away in July, 22 years ago.

There are surviving her six children, about thirty grand children and several great grand children. The children are: Mrs. Anna Lane of Wyoming; Thomas Jennings of Galesburg, Ill.; Mrs. Mary Lane of Waterloo, Ia.; Michael Jennings of Waterloo, Ia.; Will Jennings, on the old homestead in Cadiz, and Mrs. Margaret Foley of South Wayne.

The deceased was one of those women of pioneer timber, strong character and strong vitality and a faithful Christian woman throughout life. She was most faithfully devoted to her home life and she found happiness and content with her home circle as her children and grand children grew to man and womanhood and further was blessed with the love of great grand children. Her greatest affliction in life came about six years ago when her eyesight failed her but still she found much in life to make her declining years happy ones. She had a wide circle of acquaintances and a very large circle of true and faithful friends.

The remains will be brought here for burial on Tuesday, the relatives and friends accompanying the friends across country in automobiles. Services will be held at St. Victors church Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. Father McGinnity of Gratiot, Father Croake of Shullsburg, and Father Dempsey of this city, officiating at the services. Interment will be in the old Catholic cemetery west of the city.

Monroe Jennings

The remains will be brought here for burial some time this week date to be announced later. Services will be held in the Universalist church. The passing of Miss Jennings being deep sorrow to many in not only in this her home city over a much wider circle, including the Washington friends and acquaintances she made during her residence in that city.

Miss Jennings was a daughter of the late John Jennings of this county, one of the early and pioneer settlers of this section. She was born in Maryland Dec. 6, 1836, and came to this county when a young girl. Her residence was divided between this and Washington. At the latter she was employed for a period about fifteen years as newspaper correspondent for papers in New Jersey, Washington and other cities and while engaged in this work many notable in public and private life. She was personally acquainted with every President of the United States from Lincoln to the present time and three trips to Europe. She was the acquaintance of notable generations. She was an able writer possessing exceptional ability in this line.

She was a great admirer of William Lincoln and a personal friend of the late Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. Her book "The Blue and The Gray" is considered authorities and are in the libraries of many schools. Her sister Clara Barton in writing her book, "Work of the Red Cross" mentioned Miss Barton on the dedication says: "To Jane Jennings more than any one else, I am indebted for the history of this book." The book contains letters by Miss Jennings on the Red Cross written for the Chicago Record and Miss Jennings assisted Miss Barton with her Red Cross work and it was a final request of Miss Barton that Miss Jennings write the history. She was engaged in this work when afflicted in October.

Miss Jennings worked hard the State of Wisconsin to celebrate Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12th, a legal holiday. Her home in the old homestead was named "McKerley Place" in memory of her acquaintance and friend for the late President William McKerley.

She was recognized as a woman of high ideals and strong character. Many friends in Monroe will find passing more than others and that a good woman and an esteemed friend is lost to the community.

JANE JENNINGS

DIED THIS A. M.

J. Dec 31-1917

In Poor Health For Past Two
Years, Passing Away At 1
A. M. At Washington, D. C.

REMAINS TO BE BURIED HERE

Was Past 81 Years of Age and Was
Active To Time of Affliction.—Author
of Books and Newspaper Cor-
respondent for Years in Washing-
ton.

Miss Jane Jennings passed away at Washington, D. C. this morning at 1 o'clock. She had come to this well known lady at the home of her sister, Miss Nettie Jennings, where she had made her home the past couple of years.

Miss Jennings after a long life of activity, suffered a stem stroke in this city two years ago. She was cared for at the local hospital and then by her sister at her home in Washington. Since then she experienced other similar attacks and for some time had

JULY-VU

Writer, Patriot Saw Tragic Side

(Editor's note: This is the first in a group of articles on Monroe's distinguished writer and nurse in the Civil War and Spanish-American War, Janet Jennings. The series is in preparation for plans by The Monroe Evening Times to republish her book, "The Blue and the Gray," in serial form soon as a part of our "Civil War Scrapbook" series.)



JANET JENNINGS
Received Tribute as 'Angel'

Green County was one of the most remarkable contributors of manpower to the Civil War, ranging from patriotic privates up to at least two brigadier generals.

There were approximately 2,000 of these Boys in Blue—and some of them weren't boys and many were newly arrived from Switzerland. They wrote a glorious record of service, a record which reflected well on Wisconsin's role in the war between the states.

But, there was another Monroe patriot who did not shoulder a rifle and who saw nothing of the Civil War except for the sufferings of the wounded brought to Washington's inadequate wartime hospitals, operated by the "Sanitary Department" and largely staffed with volunteers.

It was in Washington, while nursing her wounded brother, Guilford Dudley Jennings, and other suffering soldiers in the tents which accommodated the hospitals' overflow, that Janet Jennings received the spark of a patriotism and humanitarianism which was to last throughout her lifetime.

A young heroine in the Civil War and a mature Army contract nurse in the Spanish-American War, Miss Jennings knew the grim side of such conflicts often obscured or forgotten in the glamor of the battle headlines.

She lived to earn the praise and grateful tribute of the many wounded evacuated in 1898 from Santiago, Cuba, to New York on the S.S. Seneca, a hospital ship.

Those grateful men called her the "Angel of the Seneca" and presented her with a fine signed scroll and a handworked bedspread (now the property of the Green County Historical Society).

It was in that year of 1898 that Janet Jennings became a close associate of Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross. She had known and admired Miss Barton many years but the Spanish-American War experience brought them warm friendship and respect which endured through the rest of their lives.

Janet Jennings, ever busy and always dedicated to fanning new interest in things American, took up newspaper writing after the Civil War, a career which was to last until the final weeks of her life in December, 1917.

She also was a great writer of pamphlets and letters of national interest and also of the sort which prodded Monroe's civic conscience from time to time.

Her home, once located at the southeast corner of 6th street and 22nd avenue, now has been moved two lots to the south. Extensively rebuilt and remodeled, the house stands today at 612 22nd avenue.

The picket fence which once surrounded the corner property

cerning sidewalks, kept her embroiled with the aldermen for many, many months some 50 years ago.

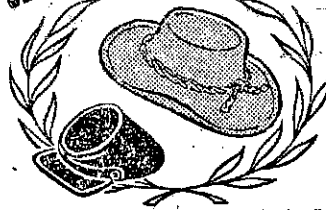
She didn't win those battles, some of which ended in the courts, but Janet Jennings certainly kept Monroe aware of its civic problems—which probably was her objective.

In 1909 and again in 1910, Janet Jennings looked far back in to her Civil War past and wrote two books.

The first was "Abraham Lincoln and Jane Huffman, Clarno

Turn to No. 1 Page Three.

CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL



1861-1865

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coln, the Greatest American." She apparently had seen the Great Emancipator many times in Washington since he often visited the quarters of the wounded.

The second, "The Blue and the Gray," tells of the final stages of the Civil War, a period when she, no doubt, was kept fairly well informed through her associations in Washington at that time. She had stayed on after her brother was returned to duty and continued to care for the wounded.

This second book will be republished in serial form by The Monroe Evening Times. We suggest that Civil War fans keep the clippings. If sufficient demand develops, this newspaper will reprint the complete book in pamphlet form and distribute it at cost.

Janet Jennings also traveled in Europe and to Hawaii between the two wars and enriched her amazing store of knowledge and her great circle of friends.

But, in war and peace, Janet Jennings displayed an active and avid interest in everything that went on in her country, her state of Wisconsin and her hometown of Monroe.

A local historical record, believed written by Mrs. Henry (Lida) Ludlow, said of her: "Janet Jennings was always a busy woman. She looked upon idleness as a sin, industry a virtue and work a blessing that all might share.

"Reading was a recreation for her, and especially newspapers. She believed a good newspaper was a great educator. She never lost her interest in government affairs. She was 100 per cent pure American."

Too old in her 78th year to resume her Army nurse duties when the First World War finally involved the United States, Miss Jennings remained at home in Monroe, continuing her writing for the old New York Independent.

She suffered a stroke July 7, 1917, and her sister, Nettie, came here from Washington to care for her. In October, 1917, Janet Jennings was sufficiently recovered to travel to Washington where she continued her convalescence in her sister's home.

Miss Jennings died at midnight Dec. 30, 1917, and official records list her death as occurring on the last day of the year. That's the way her simple government marker in Greenwood cemetery lists it:

JANE JENNINGS

Contract Nurse U.S. Army

That marker was obtained and installed through the interest of Emery A. Odell, founder of The Monroe Evening Times and a great admirer of Monroe's distinguished woman "veteran."

You will note that her name is recorded as "Jane." That was the one her family gave her but throughout her mature years, especially as a writer, she preferred and used "Janet."

(Next: Janet Jennings: nurse

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Determined Girl Ignored Red Tape

(This is the second in the series of articles on Monroe's famed Janet Jennings, Civil War and Spanish-American War nurse, as well as a newspaperwoman and author.)

Motherhood was one of the few experiences Janet Jennings, Monroe writer and nurse in two wars, missed during her busy lifetime.

But, that did not prevent her from "mothering" her family of brothers and sisters, a talent which led her to travel to Washington to care for her wounded brother, Guilford Dudley Jennings, in 1863.

Janet was the daughter of John and Ann MacIntyre Jennings, the third child in a family of 12 children. The family grew up on a farm about two miles from Monroe. Her name was Jane but she adopted "Janet" in her writing days.

A paper, believed written by Mrs. Henry (Lida) Ludlow many years ago, tells it this way:

"Jane's mother often said: 'She was once a little girl but never a child. She never romped and played as other children did.'

"At the age of five, Jane assumed responsibilities and duties in caring for the younger children. She was her mother's constant helper and the leader of the family.

"At the age of 16, Jane taught in country schools. She was a great reader, constantly improving herself. Only the best literature was her choice and in this way she perfected her own English, which was faultless.

"Courage, charity and self-sacrifice were her greatest characteristics with an innate refinement that gave her retiring nature a manner which appeared unresponsive and cold. It was difficult for others to understand why her thoughts were always for others and never herself."

Janet's brother, Guilford Dudley Jennings, who became an officer in the Union Army, enlisted at the age of 20 at Monroe in Company A, Third Wisconsin Infantry. He suffered a hip wound at Chancellorsville, Va., May 3, 1863, and was transferred to the Armory Square hospital at Washington.

Ever concerned about her family, Janet decided Dudley, as he was known—and other wounded soldiers needed her help. She had much experience in nursing members of the Jennings family.

Janet packed a dress or two in an old valise and set out for Washington, quite a trip for one who never had been 100 miles from Monroe. Her mother prepared enough lunch to last her during the two days and two nights on the train.

Once in Washington, Janet hunted up the hospital and offered her services to Miss Dorothy Dix, head nurse. The latter declared no one under the age of 30 could serve.

Rebuffed but not defeated, Janet conferred with her brother who told her a Dr. Bliss was in



DUDLEY JENNINGS
Sister Felt She Was Needed

Number 1 . . .

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charge of all Army hospitals in Washington. She sought out Dr. Bliss, impressed him with her determination and was given a chance to nurse soldiers housed in tents set up around the overcrowded hospitals. Beginning as an assistant nurse, Janet in two weeks was placed in charge of a group of such tents.

For more than a year, Janet Jennings served without pay, leaving only after all the tents were cleared and patients placed in regular hospitals. Dr. and Mrs. Bliss became her lifelong friends.

Meanwhile, Dudley had been released from the hospital June 3, 1864, and returned to duty. He remained in service until July 12, 1865, and was discharged at Louisville, Ky.

Janet obtained a job in the U.S. Treasury but was obliged to give it up to return home because her nursing chores had undermined her health.

She took up newspaper writing and her contributions were published in the Janesville Gazette, Milwaukee Sentinel, Chicago Tribune and Inter-Ocean, Springfield (Mass.) Republican, Boston Transcript, New York Tribune and New York Independent. She wrote for the latter two papers until the last few weeks of her life.

In 1872, Janet bought a home in Monroe (now located at 612 22nd avenue) and moved the Jennings family into it.

She made several trips abroad, visiting in Austria, Belgium, France, England, Scotland and Ireland. Janet spent one winter in Italy as a guest of an American consul and his wife.

During her travels, she wrote for New York papers on European conditions. She also managed to visit Alaska to view the early developments of that new territory. Later, she traveled to Hawaii but was barred from visiting the Molokai island leper colony because she was a woman.

(Next: Another war calls and Janet receives the grateful tribute of other wounded as the "Angel of the Seneca.")

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Troops Saluted Devoted Friend

(Editor's note: This is the last in the series on Monroe's Janet Jennings, Civil and Spanish-War nurse, author and humanitarian.)

When the War with Spain rolled around 33 years after the stillness at Appomattox, no one was very much surprised.

Trouble had been brewing with Spain in the Pacific and Caribbean for years. Cuba actually was a side issue but that's where the ground troops fought.

Janet Jennings, a mature woman now and highly respected writer, was ready immediately to resume her nursing role for military wounded — again without compensation.

She joined her friend, Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, in setting up nursing care for battle wounded in Cuba.

And, again, the new war found the government woefully unprepared for its medical tasks. One almost would believe the War Department thought the Spaniards would be shooting blanks.

Miss Barton and Miss Jennings organized nursing in the "lying in" hospitals for wounded at Santiago after its capture.

She remained there until a shipload of convalescent soldiers was dispatched to Fortress Monroe and New York. This ship, the Seneca, was overcrowded and Janet Jennings was the only woman nurse aboard.

When the ship was well out to sea, one of the soldiers underwent surgery, with Janet Jennings assisting. She insisted the patient be given her stateroom.

"A cot will do for me," she said. "Put it anywhere. This man must be made comfortable."

Miss Jennings gave him constant care and saw him placed in the ambulance to be taken to the hospital when the Seneca docked.

The legend goes that four years later, Miss Jennings was passing a New York hotel when a healthy, bronzed man came running after her and called her by name.

When she failed to recognize him, he said, "Do you remember the man on the Seneca, the one to whom you gave your stateroom? I'm the man."

While the Seneca still was lying off Fortress Monroe July 18, 1898, the officers and other passengers paid Miss Jennings a special tribute, presenting her with a signed scroll and the unofficial title of "Angel of the Seneca."

The ship tribute said in part: "The undersigned . . . have observed with admiration the heroic and self-sacrificing manner in which you have cared for these suffering men.



JANET JENNINGS
She Was Ready for New Task

military expedition to France to defeat the armies of Kaiser Wilhelm.

Miss Jennings' death received little attention, mainly because of that war turmoil.

She will never be completely forgotten, however.

Her grave in Greenwood cemetery, graced with an official government veteran's marker, is decorated with a flag each Memorial Day and occasionally with flowers brought by old friends at other times of the year.

we have seen how unremitting you have been in your attentions to these sick and wounded, who were put on board without the most ordinary provision for their care and comfort.

"We have seen how, at the onset, you took pains to procure from the steamer State of Texas needed supplies which they otherwise would have been without . . ."

"We cannot see this trying journey come to an end without giving you some expression of our admiration for your conduct, and our hope that your devotion will meet with a fitting reward."

This warm and unsolicited gesture probably was considered by Janet Jennings "fitting" enough as a reward for her services. She cherished it the rest of her life.

The years that remained for her after that incident were, as always, busy years. She wrote her two books, "The Blue and the Gray" and "Abraham Lincoln, the Greatest American." She also continued her newspaper articles.

And, in what leisure time remained, Miss Jennings constantly sought to stimulate patriotic and civic interest. She presented a bronze plaque on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to Lincoln school — where it still was the last we saw it.

She also kept the city fathers alert to their duties by criticism, protests, legal battles and her general determination that the rights of the "little people" should not be ignored.

After a stroke in July, 1917, Miss Jennings required some care herself. Recovering sufficiently for travel, she went to Washington with a sister and died there Dec. 31, 1917.

America was in the midst of preparation for its great European adventure, the gigantic

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