

California "Callie" Parrish Carter
1828(abt)-1902
Enslaved at the Carter House

1828 (abt) Calfurnia Parrish was born, owned by a woman named Susanna Parrish.

1843 Susanna Parrish was sued by the state of Tennessee for allowing her slaves Clarissa and Calfurnia to live as free women of color. The State stated it was going against the dignity of society.¹ Susanna was forced to re-enslave them.

1845 Susanna Parrish died. In her estate papers her slave Calfurnia was rented out for 2 months and 10 days for \$5.85.

Callie and Jack's first child was born in 1849. So we can presume between 1845 and 1848 that Callie was purchased by FBC. It is likely that Calfurina was purchased with her daughter Dilsey.

1849 June: Calfurnia gave birth to daughter Clara Carter.

1850 U.S. Federal Slave Schedule showed F.B. Carter owned fifteen slaves. Calfurnia fit the age of the twenty year old female. Note an infant, possibly Clara.

Slave #	Name	Age	Sex
1	F. B. Carter	58	M
2		49	M
3		27	M
4		26	M
5		20	F
6		19	F
7		11	F
8		8	F
9		8	F
10		9	F
11		7	F
12		7	F
13		7	F
14		2	M
15		2	F
16		23	M

1853 (abt) Calfurnia gave birth to son Charles Carter.

1857 (abt) Calfurnia gave birth to daughter Sarah Carter.

¹ Court Records for Susannah Parrish,

² Carter, F.B. 1850 U.S. Federal Census-Slave Schedules, TN, Williamson Cty, District 9 image 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

- 1858 January 2: Calfurnia gave birth to son Frank Carter.
- 1859 February: Calfurnia gave birth to daughter Petronella Carter.
- 1860 April 1: FBC's medical ledger. "odontolgic mxt. Calphurnia"³
- November 17: FBC's medical ledger. "Prescyp. Calph's child & meds & chlo"
- December 15, 16, 17: FBC's medical ledger. "Visits Fannie & Maria & Calph's child & pres. & meds"
- December 18, 19: FBC's medical ledger. "Visits Prescpts & meds Fannie & Calph's child"
- 1861 (abt) Calfurnia gave birth to son Horace Carter.
- February 18, 19: FBC's medical ledger. "Visits Horace, Calph's child"

(WAR BEGINS)

- May 31: FBC's medical ledger. "Extracting tooth Calph."
- July 14, 15, 17: FBC's medical ledger. "Visits Annie & 4oz ? mxt. Calph's child"

1864 BATTLE OF FRANKLIN

By November 30 Jack and Calfurnia would have had at least 6 children together, Clara, 15, Charles, 11, Frank, 8, Sarah, 7, Petronella, 5, Horace, 3, and Calfurnia also had Dilsey, 22. (Calfurnia gave birth to 13 children, so these are the known children) The family huddled in the cellar of the Carter House as the battle raged outside.

1865 War ended.

October 30-December 22: Jack is listed in a group of "potato diggers" as well as picking cotton on numerous days in MBC's war journal. Jack and Calfurnia awee obviously still working and living close to the Carter farm, if not on it.

1866 Jack Carter

October 15: State of Tennessee charged Calfurnia's husband, Jack with stealing a pig worth fifteen dollars. Their son Charles and her daughter Dilsey both served as a witness in the court case.

2nd Witness for Defendant: "Chas Carter testifies as follows: I am a son of Defendant. I was at home upon my father brought the pig home. He said he

³ Medical records kept by Fountain Branch Carter

purchased it from a man named Morgan-it was a small white pig. Defendant had at that time or has had since.”

3rd Witness for Defendant: “Dicey Carter [Dilsey] testifies. I was at Jack Carter’s upon Mr Duff came for the pig Deft. was drunk & didn’t know what he said.”

1870 January 13: Journal of Moscow Branch Carter

“Surveying has occupied my time for the day. First, I ran a line, for father to build a fence by, from the Columbia Turnpike to the railroad, or the line between Fannie Gordon & Annie Baltishwiler. The fence is built of chestnut rail and worm laid by Dan McPhail, Jack, Charles and another negro assisted in building.”

June 21: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Franklin, Williamson County, TN showed Jack, a farmer with \$500⁴ worth of personal estate, and Calfurnia living with their children: Charles, age 17, Sarah, 13, Frank, 12, Petronella, 11 and Horris, 9.

1871 The Common School records for District 9 in Williamson County listed Black parents and how many children they had attending school in the district. Jack Carter was listed as having four children in school. Frank would have been one of those children.⁵

July 25: *“Father gave Mec his bay horse, Bob, in the presence of Rev. A.N.Cunningham and Rev. E.R. Bradley, who were called on by him to witness the transaction. Jack Carter and wife also, witnessed.”*

August 22: Fountain Branch Carter died. Upon his death FBC bequeathed Jack, Calfurnia 100 acres of land. Jack and Calfurnia’s life was greatly impacted by the passing of Fountain Carter. Not only did he bequeath them land, he was no longer around to help when Jack got himself in trouble. By his death Fountain had already helped twice, once getting Jack out of jail and getting him a lawyer and another time securing a pardon by Gov. Brownlow.

September 7: Charles Carter, Jack and Callie’s son, was paid \$14.55 for “hire” from the estate of FBC.

October 5: The Estate of FBC paid Jack Carter and Andy German \$37.50 to build 50 yards of stone fence.

⁴ \$500 in 1870 is more than \$11,000 today

⁵ Williamson County Historical Society Journal, No. 31 2000, pg. 166

- 1879 October 8: Jack Carter sold the land he and Calfurnia had been bequeathed to William Bingham for only \$25.00.⁶ Just a few weeks later Jack was found guilty for stealing two cows and sentenced to ten years in the state penitentiary, thereby leaving Calfurnia with a house full of children and no home or home.⁷
- 1899 In May, Calfurnia's son, Frank, returned to Franklin to visit her for the first time in twenty-three years. This article is quite interesting, as is quite indicative that something traumatic happened to cause the separation.

JOHN D. LONG, Secretary.

"Bear-Fightter" Frank Carter.

Frank Carter, better known about town as the negro "bear-fighter," leaves this morning to visit his aged mother, near Franklin. Frank belonged to Fountain Carter in the days before the war, whose house is on the battlefield of Franklin, and to-day bears the marks of the bullets of that memorable conflict. Frank has not been home in twenty-three years.

- 1900 June 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in District 14, Williamson County, TN showed Calfurnia living with her daughter Clara and her husband Sam. Calfurnia was listed as having given birth to thirteen children with only five of them living at the time of the census. Daughter, Ella, also lived with them.
- 1902 Calfurnia Carter died. She was buried in Toussaint L'Ouverture. She was buried in a square purchased by her daughter Clara Williams. She shares a stone with her daughter Clara and her family. Also buried in the square were Calfurnia's daughters Dilsey and Petronella.

⁶ \$25.00 in 1870 is \$560.00 in 2022.

⁷ NOTE: he sold ALL two hundred acres, half of which wasn't even his!!

⁸ The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee, Sunday, 28 May 1899, pg. 5 (accessed newspapers.com)