

My name is Aunt Kate Morris.

Like my brother, Henry Hollins, I was born into slavery in South Carolina about 1825, and lived on the plantation of General Mc Lean.

After the Emancipation Proclamation came into effect, I remained on the plantation until General Mc Lean died. Then my husband and I moved to Bennettsville. I worked as a farm laborer, as did Benjamin, my husband.

We joined our friends and family in search of a better life in California, and moved to the Baldwin Ranch, arriving in January of 1886. I worked as a cook.

After my husband died, I supported myself by working for the family of James J. Renaker, early residents of Monrovia.

I was an active member of Shiloh A.M.E. Zion Church, and was instrumental in collecting funds for building the present church in 1915.

I died in August of 1922, and was buried at Live Oak Cemetery. Many of my descendants live in Southern California today.