

Eli Harrison lives on a small 10 acre tract of land near Dutchman Creek, in Fairfield Co., S.C. approx. seven miles S.E. of Winnsboro.

I 'blong, in slavery to your step-mother's people, de Harrisons, in Longtown. Don't you 'members us playin' in de sand in front of de old Harrison House? Dat house older than you and me

I belonged to old Marse Eli Harrison, de granpa of your step-mother. I was born and raised on his Waterree River Plantation. They called it Harrison Flats, 'til de Southern Power Co. and de Dukes took over the land, de river, de bull frogs, de skeeters, whoop owls, and everything else down here. De Harrisons owned dat place befo' de Revolutionary War, they say the skeeters run them out and de folks built a string of houses out of logs, all 'long de roadside and call it Longtown.

Old Marse Eli is a quiet man but him have two brudders dat wasn't so quiet. They was Marse Aaron Butt Harrison and Marse John R. Harrison. All of them have race horses. I bein' little, ride de horses in de races at de last. De tracks I ride on? One was up near Great Falls, 'tween old Marse Strother Fords an de Martin place. De other was out from Simpson' Turn Out. De Hamptons used to have horses on dese tracks.

My Mistress' name Mary. My young marters name: Sylvester, Lundstorf David, and John D. They all dead but de ole house is still dere and I alone is live to tell de tale.

"Dere's one thing I wants to tell you 'bout old Marse John. Him was 'swaded by de Hamptons to buy a big plantation in Mississippi. Him go out dere to raise cattle, race horses, cotton, sugar cane and niggers. When hi die, after so long a time they take him out of his grave. De Harrisons done built a long, big, rock, family vault in de graveyard here to put all de dear of de family name in. Well what you reckon? Why when dat coffin reach Ridgeway and they find it mighty heavy for just one man's body, they open it and find Marse John's body done turned to solid rock. What you think of that? And what you think of dis? They put him in the vault in the summer time. Dat fall, a side show was goin' on in Columbia, showin' a petrified man, you had to pay twenty-five cents to go in and see it. De show leave an go up North. 'Bout Christmas, de family go together to de vault, open it, and ~~de~~ bless God dat rock body done got up and left that vault. What you think 'bout dat? What people say? Some say one thing, some say another. Nigger ~~know~~ all 'low 'Marse John done rose from de dead' White folks say 'Somebo done stole dat body of Marse John an makin' a fortune out of it, in de side show line.

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Texas

Doris Ross Brock Johnston — sent by Dorothy Timms Cooper