

# His Story

**Harrison Barrett** lived in a small hut with a dirt floor with his slave family on a Texas Plantation. During a birthday celebration for little brother Frank; bad news was shared. A slave from nearby told the family that Harrison had been sold to another slave owner. He would leave that next morning. Harrison was very unhappy because he would no longer be with his family. He wondered if God had forgotten the slaves. Simon, his father, assured him that God was going to set all slaves free; so, keep your trust in Him and be strong. Harrison **promised** his family, as he was leaving, that he would find the family when they were free, and they would all be together again!

When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed on June 19, 1865, it freed the slaves. The slaves on Harrison's Plantation celebrated with song and dancing. Harrison did not take part in the celebrations because he had other plans! The **promise** he had made to his family began. Harrison got a job moving *livestock* from place to place. He worked for ten years, saved money, bought land, rounded up his parents and siblings, except for sister Leathy. He also got married to his friend, Annie Jones that he met on the plantation where they celebrated their freedom. He didn't have time to celebrate then. He had a **promise** to keep, and he did just that! On June 19, 1875 that family reunited near Ricket's Gully and Spring.



They celebrated and enjoyed being together again; as they gave thanks to God.

They lived in two houses. Soon a church was built, and they named it “**SHILOH**” *to symbolize the site of a Holy Place where God's Presence was felt, and revered.* Harrison made sure all family members received land. Then they built an additional five houses. The Community was named **BARRETT'S SETTLEMENT** honoring Harrison who God chose to select it, arrange to buy it, roundup family, and helped them settle on it.

Black people had to meet certain criteria before a white land owner would sell them land. Harrison worked and stayed focused on his goal. It took 24 years before he was issued a deed from Mr. F.N. White for the land after he met all the criteria. The land now belonged to him! The families worked together and made a difference.

Grandfather Harrison is buried on the land in which he chose to raise his children, **THE BARRETT ESTATE @ Journey's End Cemetery.** His beloved wife **Annie Jones-Barrett** is buried beside him along with his youngest son Eddie Barrett, Sr. and his beloved wife, Suwillow Langford Barrett. A host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren are buried there also. **JOURNEY'S END CEMETERY** is a plot of land Harrison chose to be buried on when his journey ended. *This is his short story.*

*Short Story Summary taken from the Book Harrison Barrett- Written by: Addie Barrett-Dixon*

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*(Harrison Barrett's Granddaughters)*

