

Kate Billingsby
Gates Mill Road, R.R. #2, Hopkinsville, Ky
Christian County

Kate Billingsby, ex-slave, according to a record in a Bible the Buckners gave her when she married was born in 1828. She was owned by Frank and Sarah Buckner. Born in this County and has spent her life in and around Hopkinsville. She lives on what is known as the Gates Mill Road about one-half mile east of US 41E and owns her own home.

Aunt Kate as she is generally called is a small black negro and in going into her home you will find it furnished in lovely antique furniture in a disreputable state of repair. She met me with dignity and grace that would be a credit to anyone of the white race to copy, illiterate though she may be. Her culture and training go back to the old Buckner family, at one time one of the most cultured families in Christian County. She is not a superstitious negro. Being born a Buckner slave, she was never sold and her manners and ways proclaim that she surely must have been raised in "The white folks house" as she claims, being a maid when old enough, to one of Frank Buckner's daughters.

She stated, "The Buckners were sure good to me, even now their children come to see me and always bring me something. They don't let my taxes lapse and I'm never without something to eat." My man and I were married by Mr. Alexander at McClain College. I was the cook and he was the janitor. My man followed his Master in the Secession War. If he were living now he would be 110 years old, he's been dead around fifteen years."

No, I don't believe in ghosts, haints or anything of that kind - my white folks being "quality". I've been raised by "quality"! Why I'm a "quality nigger". When any of my folks get sick or any of my white folks, the doctor would always be sent for."

(Her address is: R.R. #2, Hopkinsville, Ky.)