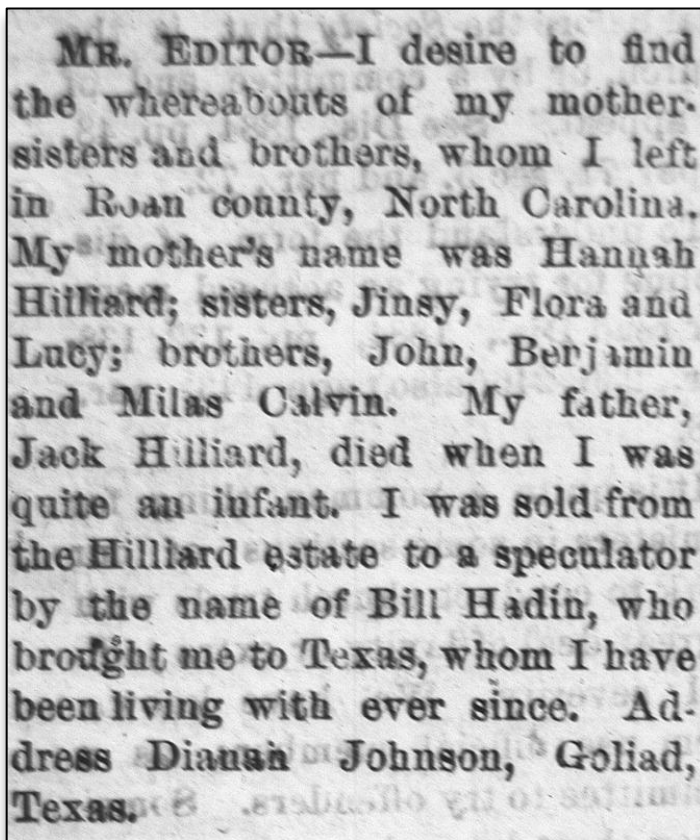


## Dianah Johnson searching for her mother Hannah Hilliard and siblings

Dianah Johnson placed this ad in the *Southwestern Christian Advocate* in 1885. The Methodist Episcopal Church published the *Southwestern Christian Advocate* every week from 1877 to 1929. This African American newspaper published thousands of "Lost Friends" ads between November 1879 and November 1896, as formerly enslaved people tried to reconnect with their families and friends.

Dianah Johnson placed at least four ads in three different newspapers over the span of five years looking for her parents and family members. Each ad contains different information (including the spelling of her name and Rowan County, NC) and provides historians incredible insight into how her family was torn apart through the Domestic Slave Trade and her quest, that likely spanned decades, to put it back together.



MR. EDITOR—I desire to find the whereabouts of my mother, sisters and brothers, whom I left in Roan county, North Carolina. My mother's name was Hannah Hilliard; sisters, Jinsy, Flora and Lucy; brothers, John, Benjamin and Milas Calvin. My father, Jack Hilliard, died when I was quite an infant. I was sold from the Hilliard estate to a speculator by the name of Bill Hadin, who brought me to Texas, whom I have been living with ever since. Address Dianah Johnson, Goliad, Texas.

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