

## Clerry Ann Bertolotte searching for her parents, Susan and Cain Alison, and her siblings

Clery Ann Bertolotte placed this ad in the *Southwestern Christian Advocate* in 1881. 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.

Bertolotte's ad provides incredible details of her family's history and their separation through sale and forced migration. It is possible that Bertolotte ended up in New Orleans, because it was a hub of the of the domestic slave trade.

**MR. EDITOR—I wish to hear from my mother or some of my relations. My name is Clerry Ann Alison. I was born in Greenville Virginia. I was sold sold when I was about sixteen years of age to William Watkins in Petersburg I and all my family formerly belonged to Willian Wyatt. My mother was named Susan Alison my father Cain Alison, Sister Mary brothers Edmund, Peter and Roberson Alison. My mother had three brothers, Joe, George, and Mason Avery and two sisters, Jennie and Lizzie. Jennie lived at Sweed's plantation, 25 miles from Greenville. My mother and aunt Lizzie were sent to Wm. Wyatt's cotton farm in West Tenn. Aunt Jennie had three children, Sandy, Harriet and Nancy Wyatt. My uncle Joe's wife was named Martha. The overseer of Sweed's plantation was McRichardson. My father was a miller and kept his mill on the roadside just at the edge of the river. My father's brother was named Nelson Alison, he was a blacksmith by trade. Address me 226 Ursuline near Claiborne, New Orleans.**

**CLERRY BERTOLOTTTE.**

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