

Silas Thomas searching for his children and Annie Thomas searching for her family

Silas Thomas 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.

In this ad Silas Thomas is searching for his children while his wife, Annie, is searching for her family who were left in South Carolina when she was sold and taken to Alabama as a child.

DEAR EDITOR—I wish to find my children and my wife's people. There are two sets of my children. The first, three boys and four girls. Boys names are Tom, Silas, and Joe Thomas (Tom and Silas were twins); girls names, Lucy, Martha, Nancy, and Caroline Thomas. Their mother was Mary Fuller. They belonged to Fuller, Sinclair county, Alabama. The second set, three boys, Arneral, Stewart, and William Thomas; girls, Catherine, Mary, and Henrietta. Their mother was Maria Thomas. She belonged to James Thomson, Sinclair county, Alabama, twelve miles south of Ashville. My wife's people were: Father, Walton Harly; mother, Pamena Harly; brothers, Handy, Lewis, and two twin boys, Eugene and McDuffy; sisters, Hagar, Tangel, Johanna, Almelia, Virginia, and Pamen. They belonged to Captain Joe Harly, in Hamburg county, South Carolina, near Augusta, about nine miles on the Obarleston road. We left father in South Carolina and went to Alabama. where we were all sold to a negro trader (Jackson), but mother was left at the trading house. My name then was Annie America Harly. I was ten years old and have never seen any of them since. Address me at Huntsville, Walker coun y, Texas.

SILAS THOMAS.

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