

## Benjamin Gray searching for his father Geoffrey Gray and several family members

Benjamin Gray placed this ad in *The Christian Recorder*, published by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. *The Christian Recorder* is the oldest continuously published African American newspaper in the United States. Although the AME church published the newspaper, much of its content focused on secular issues that affected the African American community.

Benjamin Gray placed this ad in 1899, thirty-four years after emancipation. Although he does not mention when his family was sold, it is interesting that at a time when slave traders and enslavers trafficked over a million enslaved people to the Deep South and Southwest, Gray's family was sold from Georgia to a man in Virginia.

Information wanted of my father, brothers, sisters and aunt. My father was Geoffrey Gray; Nancy Crier was my aunt; my brothers and sisters were Jefferson, David, Archer, Emily and Detsy Gray. They were sold in Georgia to a man by the name of James Cole who lived in Sarah county, Va. Aunt lived in Washington, D. C., when last heard from. Any information concerning them will be thankfully received by Benjamin Gray brother and son. Address Mary E. Gray, daughter, Snow Hill Postoffice, Worces county, Md.

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