

Esther Turner searching for her mother, sisters, brothers, aunts, and uncle

Esther Turner placed this ad in the *Southwestern Christian Advocate* in 1884. 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, Turner recalls being separated from her family as they followed the United States Army out of North Carolina. She also recounts her family separation upon the death of their enslaver when they included in the property divided among the heirs.

MR. EDITOR—I wish to find the following named persons: My mother Sally, (father Abraham Turner, died during the war), brothers Isaiah, George Washington, often called Lit, and one whose name I cannot remember; sisters Sally Eliza, Nancy Franklin and Matilda; aunts Eliza, Phillis, and Winnei; and uncle Mack. I am the oldest child and got lost from her and the children during the war, as she stopped to get some meal from a mill, and the army of soldiers moved on. I have never seen or heard from them since. I think it was Sherman's raid in North Carolina. Before the war we were owned by Gary Druhorne, in Simpson, N. C., and after his death his widow married a Mr. Hudson, and at her death we were divided off to the children of Gary Druhorne. His children were George T., one I cannot remember, Martha Jane, Francis Ann and Nora. Uncle Mack was sold to Blaney Williams, near or in Clinton, N. C. I was called by the names Nettie, Nep, Hetty and Big Sister by my brothers and sisters. Their whereabouts will be gladly learned by me. Address me, Ester Turner, New Haven, Conn.

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