

Jerry Williams searching for his parents Jerry and Sophia Thompson and siblings

Jerry Williams placed this ad in *The Christian Recorder* in 1901. 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.

Thirty-six years after emancipation, Williams continued to search for his family. He recalled his parent's and sibling's names and even the name of their enslaver—important details used to forge connections with his family, who like Williams might have changed their names since they had last seen each other. It is possible that Williams's name was changed by his new enslaver when he was sold south to Mississippi. Or it is possible that Williams adopted a new name after emancipation as a way to assert his own personhood.

1921 N. Carey St., Baltimore, Md.
Information wanted of my people—my father's name is Jerry Thompson, mother's name Sophia Thompson, sisters were Sallie and Mary Thompson, my brothers are Washington and Samuel Thompson, my name is Jerry Williams. I was sold by Mr. Storcks at Lumkins traders yard. My master's name was John Storcks and I was sold at Richmond, Virginia to go to Mississippi. My Post Office is Dickerson, Miss. Any information will be gladly received by my pastor, Rev. J. S. Campbell, Sheriff Ridge Circuit.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS LOST

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