

J. W. Williams seeking information of his grandparents Joshua and Mahala Williams or any of their descendants

J. W. Williams placed this ad in *The Christian Recorder* in 1893, twenty-five years after emancipation. 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.

Williams describes the multiple sales that broke his family apart. Able to trace some of their paths from South Carolina to Louisiana, the string of transactions, any one of which might result in the changing of her mother's name, indicates how difficult it was for formerly enslaved people to find one another after emancipation.

INFORMATION WANTED—Of my grand parents or their descendants.

My grandfather's name was Joshua Williams; his wife was named Mahala Williams. They were owned by James Harving at Wedgefield, S. C., who sold them to Governor Manning of S. C. He carried them to the State of Louisiana. The owner having failed to sell my mother whose name was Lendonia Williams, one of the two children of my grandmother, her only brother, David was sold with my grandparents and carried to Louisiana.

My mother, some years after the surrender, received letters from them in Louisiana, at which time they were all alive. In one of the letters they stated that my uncle David had lost two of his fingers in a sugar mill. Their younger son by name James H. Addam Williams did the writing of the last letter that we got from them.

Any information as to their whereabouts will be gladly received and highly appreciated.

Address J. W. Williams, Cedar Keys, Fla.

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