

Daniel Sherman searching for his former wives Allie Mason, Sarah Berry, and Bitha Fason and their respective children

Daniel Sherman placed this ad in the *Southwestern Christian Advocate* in 1880. 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.

Sherman’s ad details the multiple relationships enslaved people constructed as they were sold and moved from one household to another, often hundreds of miles away from friends, family, and romantic partners. In each instance, the children Sherman sought were described as belonging to their mother, not him. It is not clear if some or all of the named children were Sherman’s.

DEAR EDITOR—Please let me inquire about my relatives, whom I left behind when I went to Texas. I came here with a man by the name of John Mattix. My first wife’s name was Allie Mason. She had three children with her. The name of the oldest was Daniel Monroe Mason, and the others were named Jesse and Levinia. I left them in 1846 in Lawrence county, Georgia, near Dublin. My next wife’s name was Sarah Berry. Her guardian’s name was Judge Berry. She lived in Alabama, but moved to Georgia. I left her in 1850. My next wife’s name was Bitha Fason. She had two children, one named Daniel and the other Jesse Daniel Fason. I left them in 1852 in Barber county, Alabama. I used to go by the name of Daniel Mattix. My name now is Daniel Sherman. Address me at Jefferson, Texas.

DANIEL SHERMAN.

DEAR EDITOR—Please let me inquire about my relatives, whom I left behind when I went to Texas. I came here with a man by the name of John Mattix. My first wife’s name was Allie Mason. She had three children with her. The name of the oldest was Daniel Monroe Mason, and the others were named Jesse and Levinia. I left them in 1846 in Lawrence county, Georgia, near Dublin. My next wife’s name was Sarah Berry. Her guardian’s name was Judge Berry. She lived in Alabama, but moved to Georgia. I left her in 1850. My next wife’s name was Bitha Fason. She had two children, one named Daniel and the other Jesse Daniel Fason. I left them in 1852 in Barber county, Alabama. I used to go by the name of Daniel Mattix. My name now is Daniel Sherman. Address me at Jefferson, Texas.

DANIEL SHERMAN.