

Rev. H. S. Roberts seeking information about his son Wm. Lewis Johnson

This ad appeared in *The Christian Recorder*, the oldest continuously published African American newspaper in the United States. Although the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) published *The Christian Recorder*, much of its content focused on secular issues that affected the African American community.

Reverend H. S. Roberts placed this ad in 1902, thirty-seven years emancipation. Roberts's ad reveals that his son left Virginia in 1865, presumably after the conclusion of the Civil War. Although he does not identify a specific destination, he knew that his son went "North," likely in search of economic opportunity.

Information wanted of my son, Wm. Lewis Johnson. He left home in 1865 to go North. We all belonged to Dick Shelton in Campbell county, Va., and lived then near Bethel station on the N. & W. Railroad. His mother's name was Rebecca Woodroft, but is now Rebecca Johnson, and is living in Lynchburg, Va. Address, Rev. H. S. Roberts, corner Fourth and Wise Streets, Lynchburg, Va.

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