

F. G. Gilbert searching for his mother Eliza Miller and sisters Sarah Jane and Rosa Miller

Felix Gilbert placed this ad in the *Southwestern Christian Advocate* in 1885, twenty years after emancipation. 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.

We have received the following inquiry from F. G. Gilbert, Bagwell, Texas: "I would like to find my people if possible. I lived in Louisville, Ky., when I was about 6 years old, with my mother and her other four children. Just before the proclamation of freedom we were sold to a trader by the name of Ben. Gilbert. Our former master's name was Geo. S. Miller; he was a merchant in Louisville, Ky., at that time. I had two brothers and two sisters. One of my brothers died before we were carried away. My mother was named Eliza Miller, but she is now named Eliza Baker. My mother's parents were named Hannah and Doc Hall. Hannah belonged to a man named Hall. Doc was a free man. Mother left my two sisters, Sarah Jane and Rosa Miller, in Louisville with George Miller. My mother's people lived in Bullit county, Ky., near Mt. Washington. She had five sisters and four brothers. Her sisters were named Julia, Margaret, Sallie, Susan and Caroline. The first four belonged to Hall. Caroline belonged to a man named Wheeler. The brothers were named Henry, Robert, Clifton and Garland. Robert lived with his father, Doc Hall. My name, at that time, was Joseph Henry Miller, but I have since changed my name to Felix Gilbert. Any information concerning them will reach me if addressed to Felix G. Gilbert, Bagwell, Texas.

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