A History of Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas.

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A History of Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas

being

A thesis presented to the Graduate Faculty of the Fort Hays Kansas State College in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

by

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Date July 21, 1950 Approved Raymond T. Welty
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Generous thanks is extended to my wife, who unselfishly sacrificed that this thesis might be written.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Across the state of Kansas there are hundreds of small towns and hamlets. The history of the state is made up of the history of each of these communities. The story of Nicodemus is the story of the colored man in a habitat to which the negro race was not accustomed. As far back into the distant past as our knowledge of man goes, he has been on the move. Sometimes only small groups took part in these migrations while at other times whole tribes or nations swept down across a continent. Some migrations were warlike and death and destruction was the result of them. Other migrations were peaceable and the barbarians were absorbed into the general population and became a part of the country which they had invaded. The negroes came to Kansas and found their places among the white man as farmers, day laborers, gardeners, redcaps, chauffers, private business men, and even public office holders. The skin of the colored man is still black but he has taken on many of the traits of the white man. His vote on any committee or at the poll is equal to that of his neighbor. The negro took his place as a pioneer and helped to hew from a rebellious frontier a mighty empire. Like almost every community, the negro community of Nicodemus, Kansas, has a history of success and failures. The colored pioneer dreamed of the day his new town would become a great
city of the plains where his race could live in peace and freedom. His dream of a large city soon faded but the peace and freedom he longed for became a reality.

The problem

The purpose of this research was to gather, from reliable and authentic records, data necessary to write a history of the community of Nicodemus, Kansas. The purpose of the writer of this study was to (1) find out who the people of the Nicodemus colony were; (2) to determine from what section of the United States they came; (3) to answer the question of land ownership both as to early landowners and present landowners; (4) to try to determine the reason why the negro migrated; and (5) the author wished to give to the reader the original records in such a way as to depict the whole picture from the first of the migration to the present time.

Reasons for the study

This study is of personal interest to me having observed negro people since childhood in my own home town. Today the white-black problem is before the general public and this issue has intensified my interest in this race. The records of this community are to be found in a number of places. It was felt that there was a need to have a compilation of these facts. The negroes of the Nicodemus community are anxious to have such a work done and perhaps
others will find information of interest. W. J. Belleau of Fort Hays Kansas State College wrote a thesis in 1943, "The Nicodemus Colony of Graham County, Kansas," in which a part of the history of Nicodemus appears. However, Belleau was interested in the educational and social phase of the community rather than a complete history. In this present research, the author desires to write a complete history of the community as nearly as the existing records will permit.

Limitations

The limitations to such a study are obvious. Some of the early records are incomplete. An example of this may be found in the county superintendent's records for school statistics of the early period. Only the names of two persons who attended the schools of the Nicodemus community appear in the records up to 1912. The newspapers of that period seem to be biased at different points. The members of the original colony are all deceased and they left no written records. The testimony of others cannot be relied upon completely for such things as dates. It is the limitation of all studies of this kind that after the thesis has been written there may be data in existence which have not been found but which might make the study more complete.
Related studies or research

This study is not the first to be made on the community of Nicodemus as has been pointed out in the section dealing with the reasons for the study. William J. Belleau in 1943 wrote a thesis in the Education Department on the subject "The Nicodemus Colony of Graham County, Kansas." This was done at Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas and is an unpublished master's thesis. This thesis deals to some extent with the period of colonization of 1877-90, the period of decline, and contemporary life of the community. Lee Ella Blake wrote upon the subject "The Great Exodus of 1879 and 1880 to Kansas." This is an unpublished master's thesis, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, 1942. Charles L. Shepard's unpublished master's thesis, "The Educational Status of The Negro in Kansas," mentions the community of Nicodemus. It was written in 1934 at Kansas State Teacher's College, Emporia, Kansas. An account of the negro problem from 1854 to the present time with attention given to the Civil War period and the Exodus was written by L. G. Smith, "The Early Negro in Kansas," of the University of Wichita, Wichita, Kansas, in 1932. The colony in Graham County is mentioned in this study. Nell Blythe Waldron of Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois wrote upon the subject, "Colonization in Kansas from 1861 to 1890," in which a short discussion of Nicodemus appears. No elaboration of
this negro colony appears in this study. It is an unpublished doctor's dissertation written in 1932.
CHAPTER II

THE "EXODUS"

In 1865 slavery was forever prohibited, by an amendment to the constitution, in every place within the jurisdiction of the United States. A Freedman's Bureau was set up and continued in operation for several years after the Civil War for guidance and maintenance to the thousands of colored people. After a period of over a decade, the negroes grew weary of the restrictions and disadvantages under which they continually labored. The stories, of better opportunities for them, coming out of the North was a source of excitement to them. In some sections of the Southland, the ex-slaves sacrificed everything in order to raise money to migrate to what they considered the land of rest and plenty. Some freedmen opposed migration to the North but the thought of a better chance to live was enough to turn aside their arguments. Fredrick Douglas (1817-1895), a reformer and diplomat, was one who opposed this mass migration.1 The movement of the negroes from the South to the North from about 1870 to 1880 was known as the "Exodus."

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The negro migration movement had been under way since the Civil War though it had the appearance of being unorganized and without a system. There were forces at work which kept the minds of the negroes inflamed. Various theories have been advanced to account for this movement.  

One theory insisted that it was due mainly to the loss of political power by the negroes after the reconstruction period. A second theory contended the negroes were encouraged to move by unscrupulous politicians in some of the Northern states in order to secure votes in close elections. A third theory held that land speculators from the states west of the Mississippi River circulated alluring reports with fantastic promises. Governor John Marshall Stone, in his report to the state legislature of Mississippi in 1880, attributed the movement to a partial failure of the cotton crop in portions of the state, and the low prices received for it. This, he said, created a feeling of discontent among plantation laborers and caused some to abandon their crops and seek homes in the West. A fifth theory was that the colored people who had found homes in the North and West had written

to their friends in the South and encouraged them to leave.

The Senate of the United States appointed a committee in 1880 to investigate the causes of the "Exodus." The committee was composed of Danile W. Voorhees of Indiana, George H. Pendleton of Ohio, Zebulon B. Vance of North Carolina, William Windom of Minnesota, and Henry W. Blair of New Hampshire. The committee printed 1667 pages of testimony. The majority report held that the principal cause of the migration was the colonizing of the negroes in some of the Northern states for political purposes. It was made to appear that Governor John St. John of Kansas had been instrumental in inducing many of the negroes to come to Kansas. A colored witness, formerly of Texas, produced a letter from the governor in which he advised him that if his people were coming to Kansas, they should come in their private conveyances and bring their own household goods and plows. Governor St. John warned him that he offered no inducements to whites or blacks to come to Kansas. About fifty witnesses were taken from Kansas to Washington. The examination of the committee lasted six months at a cost of thirty thousand dollars. One hundred and fifty nine witnesses were examined.

5. Pickering, _op. cit._, p. 386.
The forgoing theories of the causes of the "Exodus" have not taken into account a very vital reason, that of the oppression of the negroes by the whites. The migration spirit had been growing in the hearts of the ex-slaves for a long time. Colored men met in lonely cabins, in rudely constructed churches with sentinels placed on guard to give warning of the approach of hostile white men. They also met in secret clubs in the dark hours of the night to make plans to escape from their cruel injustices. "There was no hope, bread, or protection for the colored man or his family. Liberty had become a mockery; emancipation, a curse; freedom a delusion." There seemed to be but one opinion among these people. The law and society were against them. For the time being, it looked as if there was no freedom, no safety, or free expression of opinion for the men who had been given their freedom by a constitutional amendment. The Southern whites were suspicious of any meetings of the colored men and believed they were planning to plot mischief against them. The young white men, urged on by the older men, became night riders. In some localities, on cotton land worth ten dollars an acre, the negro tenant had to pay six dollars rent. Many of the negroes

could not read nor write and were cheated out of the small wages the landowners owed them. There were exceptions to this sort of thing but the stories in general were the same. Young negroes were arrested upon the most trivial, trumped up charges and fined from twenty to twenty-five dollars. This fine had to be worked out at twenty-five cents per day and as a result the prisons and poor farms were filled. There are accounts where the property of the negro, worth one thousand dollars, was taxed the same amount as the white neighbor's land worth thirty thousand dollars.

In this period atrocious crimes were committed which would not have been permitted in the days of slavery. The following incidents illustrate this fact: Six colored men rented a small Southern plantation. They worked the land and their crops were good. The time came for settlement and they asked for the payment of money due them. The owner declared that they would be cleaned out. A few days later they were hung. Their bodies were strapped to a raft which was floated down the Mississippi River with a warning attached to it for the benefit of smart "niggers." In another case a farmer and his two sons were asked by a white gentlemen to vote for a certain party with a reward of two

8. Ibid., p. 11.
dollars apiece. They refused to sell out and were murdered. A poor colored man came to Topeka from Mississippi and built a small shanty then returned to the South for his family. The night riders rode around and seized him, chopped off his hands and threw them back in his face with these words, "There, d__ you, take them back to bleeding Kansas with you." The feeling of the negro can be summed up thus: An old ex-slave of the South approached a governor of one of the Northern states with his story of cruelty and wrong. The governor suggested to the old man that the climate was better suited to the negroes in the South and that there were few jobs available and offered to buy the negro's transportation back to the South. Tears filled the eyes of the old man and in agony of soul, he said, "Foah, God, Massa, you can shoot me down in dese here tracks, but to return to the South, I never will."

The work of the Tennessee Real Estate and Homestead Association played a part in helping the negroes to migrate. As early as 1869, they purchased small farms in Tennessee and encouraged the freedmen to become owners of their own property. This undertaking was soon given up by the

11. Ibid., p. 12.
Association and Kansas became the grounds of operation. After a state convention was held, a committee was appointed to visit Kansas. The reports of this committee were favorable and a few families started for Kansas. The President of the Tennessee Real Estate and Homestead Association, Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, was to play a very large part in the "Exodus." In 1873 Singleton came to inspect Kansas.

Movement of the Negro to Kansas

Benjamin Singleton was so active in helping his race get to Kansas that he is called the "Father of the 'Exodus.'" As a slave, Singleton became a carpenter and cabinet maker. He felt as though he was capable of making a living for himself and ran away from his master and went to Canada. After staying in Canada a short time, he moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he became interested in the welfare of his own people. He started the agitation to get the colored families to move. This was in 1869. He took a direct hand in helping to move eight thousand negroes out of Tennessee. When Singleton came to Kansas in 1873, he was so impressed that he returned East and in the fall of the same year he lead a colony of

some three hundred negroes to the state. Most of the negroes of that colony settled in Cherokee County and founded Singleton's Colony. Some of the group went to Topeka and founded Tennessee Town. In 1874, he founded Dunlap Colony in Morris and Lyons Counties. The editor of the *Commonwealth*, a Topeka, Kansas paper, printed a letter July 31, 1879, written to him by Pap Singleton in which the latter said that in his opinion that about eighty thousand to one hundred thousand emigrants would come North from the South that fall, the next spring, and summer. "My people are now woke up to their sense of duty, and the day is past and gone when they can be gobbled up with fair promises and nothing done at the end of the year." He declared that his people had seen the light and was guided by that light which led on to the promised land.

On June 6, 1885, Singleton organized a society known as The United Trans-Atlantic Society. The purpose of this society was to arrange for and induce migrations among the people of African descent from this country to Africa. He felt that they might enjoy a greater political and social freedom by colonizing and at the same time carry the seeds of liberty and

the light of civilization to a benighted country. Singleton spent his last days in Topeka. He was poor and needy. He attempted to raise money at picnics and other public gatherings of negroes for his own personal needs. He died in Topeka in 1892 and except for a news story of his passing in a local newspaper, the Black Moses of his people would have died forgotten and unknown.

The Federal Census of 1870 showed 17,108 negroes in Kansas. Many people of the colored race migrated to Kansas from the South in 1874 but the grand rush of the "Exodus" came in 1879. These people were poor, homeless, trustful, and displayed the traits of their race in unfailing cheerfulness and childlike trust in Providence. An account states that as early as February 1879 every boat up the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers was laden with hundreds of human cargo headed for the free state of Kansas and the home of John Brown. As many as eleven negro colonies were established in the state. Senator Ingalls, of Kansas, is reported to

17. Benjamin Singleton's Scrap Book, in the Kansas Historical Society Archives, Topeka, Kansas, no complete system of page numbers.

18. Garvin, op. cit., p. 23.


have said that there was no class prejudices or any feeling of hostility to the colored people that would prevent them being cordially welcomed as an element of the population. He said the state had an era of about eighty-one thousand square miles, comprising fifty-five millions of acres of arable land, of which not more than one-tenth had been reduced to cultivation. The remainder, he declared, was open to settlement under the Homestead Act, requiring five years residence before title could be secured, and that he was inclined to think the state could absorb one hundred thousand of the negro people without serious injury or inconvenience. 21

The sudden stampede of the colored population of the Southern states northward attracted the attention of the press and through it the attention of the people all over the country. A boat load of negroes were unloaded at the Wyandotte warf in the early spring of 1879. Their arrival in Kansas was unheralded and unexpected. There were reports out to the effect that agents had been sent out to solicit their coming and that the railroads had urged their coming. These reports were absurd and had no basis. Kansas had its hands full to feed and shelter those who came voluntarily.

to the state, and who could not pay their own way. The railroad companies advertised for anyone to come and buy their land, and not those who were objects of charity. Governor John P. St. John, in a letter to one, J. M. Cavaness, dated March 23, 1880, states that the first intimation that he had of such a mass movement to Kansas was the landing of the boat load of negroes at Wyandotte the spring before. He declared that in all communications, to both white and black, he had advised them not to come to Kansas in a state of destitution. Governor St. John's letter also revealed his attitude toward the "Exodus." He said that as long as he was governor, there would never be placed at the portals of Kansas a sentinel to make politics, religion, race or color a condition precedent to the right of any human being to come within its boundary. He stated that, as a rule, the negro was poor and without education but he had yet to see a colored man that did not know enough to love his country. The negro loved his flag and during the Civil War, when the boys were footsore and hungry, he was willing to divide his last crust of bread with them.

The Wyandotte community was at first indignant that


boat loads of paupers should be unloaded on them. These people were too poor to buy the necessities of life and the people of the state looked upon this influx as a calamity. Soon, however, a different spirit began to prevail and meetings were held in Lawrence, Wyandotte, Topeka, Manhattan, and other towns to devise ways to take care of the negroes who had sought here that security of life and labor which was refused them in the South. Kansas, true to her principles which had made her a free state, opened wide her arms to the weary negroes.

At a meeting held in the city of Lawrence, Kansas, the following resolutions were passed to devise ways and means to properly care for and provide employment for the refugees:

Resolved, That we regard the exodus of the colored people of the South legitimate result of the injustice practiced upon them, and since many of these people reach Kansas in poverty and suffering, we should be untrue to our history and to the common dictates of humanity if we did not extend to them a cordial welcome, and, so far as we are able to do so, relieve their distress and aid them to find homes on the free soil of Kansas.

Resolved, That, as citizens of a state secured to freedom through suffering and blood, we protest against the injustice practiced upon the colored people of the South, and will never cease to demand for them the full recognition of their civil and political rights.

Resolved, That, we appeal to the people of the United States to aid in relieving the suffering of, and in obtaining homes for, the destitute colored people who find it necessary to flee from the land of their

oppressors, and seek protection of free institutions and equal laws.

Resolved, That in view of the fact that large numbers of these immigrants are arriving in Kansas in a destitute condition, and need our aid and direction to enable them to become self-sustaining, we believe that a state organization for this purpose should be effected at the earliest possible moment, and this philanthropic work placed in the hands of an efficient and responsible state and executive committee.

Resolved, That a committee of seven persons be appointed by the chair to have local supervision of this matter in our city, and to confer and act with the local committees in securing a central state organization to supervise and direct the whole business. 26

Nicodemus Colony in Graham County, Kansas, was first established in 1877. In the year 1878, Hodgeman Center and Morton City were founded in Hodgeman County. 1879 was a year in which many small negro "towns" were built. Juniper Town, later called Mississippi Town, Redmonsville, Rattlebone Hollow, and Hogg's Town were established in Kansas City. Mudtown and Scuffleton were built at Parsons, Kansas. Wabunsee Colony, northwest of Topeka, was also founded in 1879. There were also small colonies at Lawrence, Wyandotte, and in Coffey County. Little Coney Colony in Chautauqua County was not organized until 1881. It is said that during the spring of 1879, the negroes in the Wyandotte settlement died at the rate of over fifty a day. 27


At different places in the South conventions of colored men were held to discuss the matter of the "Exodus." One of these conventions met at New Orleans on April 17, 1879. About two hundred delegates were there of whom one-third were colored ministers. This meeting was full of contention and was described as being a turbulent gathering. It finally adopted a resolution that it was the opinion of the convention that the colored people of the South should migrate. It closed by appealing to the people for material aid. The next month, May 5, 1879, saw another convention in Vicksburg, Mississippi. This meeting asserted the right of the colored man to emigrate where he pleased but urged the negroes to proceed in their movements as reasonable human beings. The meeting suggested that money for transportation and settlement be provided for in advance. The negro was told to sustain his reputation for honesty by preserving intact, until completion, contracts for labor-leasing which had already been made. The convention made it plain that the reports that lands, mules, and money were awaiting the emigrants in Kansas and elsewhere without labor and without price were false. On the 7th of May, 1879, a group of colored men met in Nashville, Tennessee. This convention was attended by a large number of colored men from the North. Most of the delegates were from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia,
Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and North Carolina. The resolution passed by this meeting was extremely radical. It demanded social and political equality for the colored people. It opposed separate schools for the races and it recommended that the several states enact laws providing for compulsory education. One clause of their resolution asked Congress to appropriate five hundred thousand dollars to help defray the expense of migration of the negroes of the South to those states and territories where they could enjoy all the rights guaranteed by the laws and constitution of the United States.

In the North, and especially in Kansas, there were conventions but these meetings were for a different purpose. The convention in Lawrence has been described. On April 24, 1879, an immense crowd assembled at the Opera House in Topeka, Kansas, to consider the perplexing negro problem. The interest of the people was apparent by the number of people at the Opera House, which was crowded to capacity. Governor St. John was in charge of the meeting and in a few-well-timmed and appropriate remarks stated the object of the meeting. It was well known at this time that there were several thousand colored

people, who, finding it unbearable to live in the South, had quietly, under cover of night, abandoned their homes to seek protection and new homes on the soil of Kansas. St. John explained that there were thirteen hundred colored people in Wyandotte without shelter, bread, or money and that they were depending upon the charities of the Kansas people. It was necessary, he said, that the meeting take immediate action. There were other speeches made by Rev. J. E. Gilbert, Hon. Sidney Clarke, Rev. T. W. Henderson, Miss Susan B. Anthony and others. Five hundred and thirty-three dollars were taken up by subscriptions. The report of the committee on resolutions, which was almost unanimously adopted read as follows:

Whereas, Large numbers of colored people from the Southern States are daily coming into this city and state, many of whom are destitute and dependent; therefore, Resolved, That as the state government affords no means of extending special aid to immigrating freemen, therefore it becomes necessary for individual citizens to contribute their respective shares of the expense necessary to keep such as come from suffering, and transport them to localities where they may enjoy equal rights and privileges with us, and we request the chairman of this meeting to appoint what shall be known as the Central Freedman's Committee, of which the governor shall be chairman; to receive such contributions of money, food, etc., as charitable citizens in all parts of the country shall contribute for distribution to said committee, or its agents as occasion may require, and this committee shall have authority to devise such other means as the urgency of the occasion, and the needs of the people shall demand. 30

By April, 1879, it was difficult to pick up a newspaper published in an Eastern state which did not have a notice of one or more persons or families who had left for Kansas. People had learned to believe in the future of the state and it was not necessary to coax the oppressed Southerner to come to Kansas. Kansas had demonstrated to the world time and again its ability to provide for each citizen all the necessary items of life, a grand commonwealth, growing and prosperous.31

The first refuges to Kansas reached Wyandotte in the beginning of April, 1879, and by August 1 of the same year there were over seven thousand in the state.32 The Kansas Freedman's Relief Association was organized as a corporate body at Topeka, Kansas, May 8, 1879, and finally dissolved April 15, 1881. A Mission House and Barracks in North Topeka were closed after May 1, 1881. The officers of the Kansas Freedman's Relief Association were: John P. St. John, Chairman; John Francis, Treasurer; P. I. Bonebrake, auditor; Albert H. Horton, Chief Justice; C. G. Foster, United States District Judge; James Smith, Secretary of State, J. C. Herbard, Secretary; Willard Davis, Attorney General; N. C. McFarland, T. W. Henderson, and J. B. Jetmore, Board of Directors.33

33. Ibid., p. 292.
The directors of the Association for the relief of the freedman made public their addresses and most of their correspondence so as to keep the need before the people. The problem of the negro "Exodus" had grown to national significance by this time. In organizing the association, they were prompted by two motives. The first motive was one of humanity. Many of the negroes were old and decrepity, many were young and helpless; and with few exceptions, all were destitute. In the chilly days of early spring, hundreds were landed on the banks of the rivers after a long weary journey in which hardships and privations were their lot. Many of them were sick. Hundreds were in need of food, clothing, and medical aid. The second motive of the association was to maintain the honored traditions of the state which had its conception and birth in the struggle for freedom and equal rights for the colored man. There was no effort on the part of the association to encourage migration to Kansas, but it did put before the colored people plain facts in hope of restraining a hegira based on delusions. An effort was made to let them know that other Northern states had equal advantages for homes and for the laboring man. 34

Wabaunsee Colony, north and west of Topeka, was

34. Andreas, op. cit., p. 291.
established by the association. The land could be bought for $2.65 per acre. About thirty families moved to Wabaunsee and settled on tracts of land of forty acres each. The land settled upon was university land; one-tenth of the cost of the land had to be paid down and the balance in nineteen years at seven per cent interest. The association furnished teams, some agricultural implements, built barracks to be used in common, and furnished rations for the negroes. The first payment was made by the association. This was an experiment and required a great amount of money. The association was not responsible for the colonies in Graham, Hodgeman, and Morris counties. By the last of June, 1879, the association had aided about three thousand negroes and had received from all sources almost six thousand dollars, ($5,819.70). On June 26, when this report was made, the need was for money with which to obtain shelter, medical aid, and transportation for the negroes to such places where they could find employment. A large amount of clothing and blankets had been received and given to the needy.\(^{35}\)

The barracks in North Topeka became over-crowded in spite of the efforts of the association; the "Exodus" continued unabated through the winter of 1879-80. During this period about twenty-five thousand dollars were expended in relieving the negroes and in aiding them to secure employ-

\(^{35}\) Andreas, op. cit., p. 292.
ment. In March of 1880, from two to three hundred negroes landed in Topeka each week. There had already immigrated into Kansas between twenty thousand and twenty-five thousand. By the close of 1880 the number had increased to forty thousand. The association was greatly aided by Mrs. Elizabeth L. Comstock, Mrs. Laura S. Haviland and Mr. John M. Brown. Without the aid of both negroes and whites, the conditions would have been deplorable. During the first year of the negroes' residence in Kansas, about one hundred fifty thousand dollars were contributed for their help. Perhaps the total earnings of the negroes during this period was about forty thousand dollars, or $2.25 per capita. Most of the earlier refugees were from Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia, and Alabama. All but a few of these people were field hands and could not do skilled labor. Most of those who came to Kansas during the winter of 1879-80, were from Texas. Some of these were forwarded into other states. 36

The percentages, as to states, of the total number of immigrants for the years 1879 and 1880 were as follows: Thirty percent from Mississippi, twenty per cent from Louisiana, five per cent each from Georgia and Alabama, and the remainder from the other Southern States. During this period, 1879-1880, the negroes had built some three hundred

cabins and dugouts, counting those which yet were without roofs and floors. They had plowed and fitted for grain-growing about three thousand acres. By the spring of 1880, about one-third of the refugees were accounted for in the above mentioned occupations. Of the two-thirds remaining, about half congregated in the towns of the state and the other half had found work as farm-hands. About one out of every twenty became the owners of a small homestead. 37 "On the whole, the negroes seem to have improved their circumstances by the flight, though at the expense of much temporary discomfort." 38

Not every thing connected with the people of the "Exodus" was unorganized. A few days prior to June 17, 1879. A group of one hundred leading colored men from the states of Mississippi and Alabama met with Governor St. John in the Senate Chamber of the State House to discuss the possibility of more of their people coming to Kansas. They had been visiting other states for the same purpose. The governor talked with them for an hour and told them what they could and what they could not expect in Kansas. The opinion of the group was that they had born their oppression so long that they would die in the attempt to reach the land where they could be free

than to live in the South any longer. 39

Finally the plantation owners of the South became alarmed about the loss of labor and began to hold meetings to take steps to prevent the migration of more negroes. A dispatch from Natchez, Mississippi, dated May 3, 1897, stated that the negroes of Tensas and Concordia Parishes were very anxious to leave for Kansas. The anonymous writer of the dispatch declared the negroes felt that Mississippi was not a safe place to live. They were not afraid of the immediate present but they felt there would be bloodshed at the time of the presidential election. Thousands of negroes were working at day labor, and contrary to their usual custom were waiting for a boat to carry them away. At a moment’s notice, they would throw down their hoes and rush to the river bank. The whistle of a steamboat would send scores of them from the fields. The boat captains now refused to take them on board. The landowners and the businessmen had placed a restriction on the steamboat companies and tried to keep the negro in the South for field work. The negroes had been waiting for two weeks and had been refused passage by almost every captain on the big river. Money was not the item, the planters had seen to it that the negroes would be kept in the South this way. 40


40. Ibid., p. 385.
Rust described the situation as follows:

Today there are from 10,000 to 30,000 people scattered along the banks of the great river destitute and starving, appealing with outstretched arms to every passing boat to carry them to the North, and they are told to stay where they are and die. 41

In spite of these things, the negroes kept coming.

In the records of the proceedings of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Freedman's Relief Association, 1879, is an account of the desperation of the group. A Mr. Cary stated that he thought it would be well for someone to go to Indiana to persuade that state to absorb some of the "Exodus" and to try to turn a portion of the refugee emigration to that state. He felt that "Pap" Singleton was the one to send. Singleton was present and stated at some length that he too thought he should be the one to go. He said that he had a pleasing face, was old and perfectly reliable, that the people of Indiana wanted to see his face, and that they should have the opportunity. He said he represented several hundred colored people in and about Nashville, Tennessee. An amount of fifteen dollars was voted for the purpose of purchasing a ticket to Evansville, Indiana. The motion was changed to let old "pap" buy his own ticket and use the rest of the money as he wished. 42

41. Rust, op. cit., p. 46.

traveled back and forward between Kansas and Tennessee regularly every year and was instrumental in bringing to and finding homes for about ten thousand of his people in Kansas.\textsuperscript{43}

As early as June of 1879, it was being suggested that the Freedman's Relief Association disband. However, the more thoughtful felt that to do so would be dishonorable to the men composing it and dishonorable to the state. The force of circumstances had caused the organization of the committee and therefore it was a product of the times. The work of this committee was a matter which could not be ignored and its continuance seemed to also be a necessity.\textsuperscript{44} On July 29, 1879, the Freedman's Relief Association received word from Mr. Armour—meat packer, of Kansas City, that one hundred and fifty more refugees had arrived and would be forwarded to Topeka unless he heard otherwise. Capt. J. M. Brown left on the afternoon train, July 30, for Kansas City with instructions from the committee to use all efforts to have them sent up the river into other states. The committee felt that it could not take care of any more refugees.\textsuperscript{45} The same day, July 30, 1879, Governor St. John of Kansas sent a letter to the Denver, Colorado, Tribune. He had received a telegram

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{43} Andreas, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 292.
\item \textsuperscript{44} News item in \textit{The Commonwealth}, June 28, 1879.
\item \textsuperscript{45} Ibid., July 30, 1879.
\end{itemize}
from the editor of that paper on July 29. The editor wished to know if there was anything Denver could do to help in a financial way. Governor St. John stated that while the association for the relief of the negroes was still in need of funds, the greatest need was homes for the destitute freemen. The Governor said that he hoped the good people of Denver would be inclined to furnish employment for a hundred negroes. That, he said, would be worth a donation of one thousand dollars to the committee. At this date there were one hundred and fifty negroes at the barracks in North Topeka, one hundred and fifty at Kansas City, and three hundred more on boats between Topeka and St. Louis.

What is needed for them is homes or employment to enable them to provide for themselves. Kansas, as you are aware, having already furnished homes for over five thousand, we find it somewhat difficult to procure places for them as fast as they arrive. In fact we have been unable to do so, and find quite a large number accumulating on our hands, which, of course, must be provided for.

In January of 1880, the secretary of the Freedman's Relief Association, Elizabeth L. Comstock, sent an urgent letter to Horatio N. Rust, Secretary of the Southern Refugee's Relief Association of Chicago. At this time the Kansas Association was in need of warm bedding and clothing. Lumber was needed to enlarge the over crowded barracks. There was

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46. A letter from Governor John P. St. John, of Kansas, to editor of a Denver, Colorado newspaper, in The Commonwealth, August 5, 1879.
a special need for money and lumber to build a hospital as many of the negroes were sick and needed to be separated from the others. Lumber was needed to finish small stone cottages the negroes were building for themselves. These remained unfinished up to that time because lumber was so costly in the prairie state. During the winter, many of the poor people had their feet and fingers frozen. Some were living in tents without blankets or beds. The urgent need was for lumber, money, warm bedding, overcoats, shoes and all kinds of clothing. The winter was very severe, many lost their lives. There is one account of a negro, Joseph Jefferson, whose feet had been frozen off and who had to walk around on his knees.

By now the "Exodus" problem had reached wide proportions. The people of England sent tons of packages to America to aid the negroes. On January 9, 1880, Mr. Ryan of Kansas, introduced a bill to exempt all contributions from England of import duty.

On February 7, 1880, The Freedman's Educational Society Incorporated was organized. The purpose of this organization was to inaugurate a system of free night schools for all

47. Rust, op. cit., p. 59.
48. Ibid., p. 51.
50. Ibid., February 20, 1880.
negroes who, because of age or business, were not permitted to attend day schools. A second purpose of the society was to organize industrial schools for women and girls. They were to be taught cooking, household work, chambermaid work, sewing, and housekeeping. Third, the society was to erect plain, substantial buildings to be used as school houses. Fourth, libraries and reading rooms were to be established for the advancement of the colored people in general intelligence and useful information. The Board of Directors was composed of James E. Gilbert, President; F. W. Giles, Vice President; Mrs. Juliet M. Clark, Cor. Secretary; A. Prescott, Treasurer; Mary E. Griffith, Supt.; E. H. Blake, James Sury, J. R. Swallow, and A. B. Jetmore.

The Exodists were blamed for coming to Kansas at such an unreasonable time of the year. It was hard to find employment and shelter in the country or even in town. It seems that the colored people should have waited until spring in every case but it must be remembered that they were obliged to make their contracts at Christmas time for the year. If they leased land at all or made any sort of labor contract, it had to be for the entire year. The "Exodus" of the negro people continued until the spring of

Crop failures in the state of South Carolina in 1881 caused a few negroes to migrate to Kansas. Another migration took place in 1886 but it was insignificant when compared to the great negira of 1879.54

Negro population of the state

In 1860, when the United States was in an upheaval over the place the negro was to occupy in its democracy, the negro population of Kansas was 625 free and 2 slaves: the slaves were in Anderson County. Ten years later, in 1870, the negro population had increased to 17,108. During the decade of the great "Exodus," 1870-1880, the negro population of the state was more than doubled to 43,107.55

Negro population of Graham County

and Nicodemus township

By 1880, there were 484 negro people in Graham County compared to 3,774 whites: 452 colored people were in Nicodemus township. In 1890, there was an increase over the previous census report in the number of colored people in Graham County: there were now 529; however, there was a decrease

55. Taken from The Census of the United States, population for the years 1860, 1870, and 1880.
in the number in the township, the number being 300. There was an increase in the county of 2 and an increase of 4 in the township by 1900; the census gives the county population as 531 negroes and the township as 304. By 1910, the negro population of Graham County had reached its peak. In that year, for the county there were 595; and for the township 402. The negroes now comprised 10.3 per cent of the county population. By 1920, the colored people had decreased in number both in the county and in the township. The number stood at 413 for the county, and the "population of Nicodemus township, March 1, 1920, was 244."56 The negroes in that year comprised only 5.4 per cent of the total population of Graham County. In 1930, the county had 429 negroes, 230 of which lived in Nicodemus township. The lowest population since 1880 was recorded in 1940. That year the county had 365 negroes while the township had but 206.57 These facts are presented in tabula form in Table I.


57. Taken from The Census of the United States, population for the years 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940.
TABLE I
NEGRO POPULATION OF GRAHAM COUNTY
AND NICODEMUS TOWNSHIP
FROM 1880 to 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Graham County</th>
<th>Nicodemus Ts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER III

SETTLEMENT OF NICODEMUS

Geography

One hundred years ago the Western part of Kansas was considered a part of the great American desert. No agricultural future was thought possible for western Kansas. Washington Irving, an American historian, 1783-1859, toured the vast tract of country of which Kansas was a part. He thought that it would always form a lawless interval between the abodes of civilized man. Here would spring up new and mongrel races, civilized and savage. The descendants of these new races would be children of wondering hunters and trappers, of fugitives from the Spanish and American frontiers, of adventurers and desperadoes of every class and country, yearly ejected from society into the wilderness.58

A half century later this territory was to be settled by hardy homesteaders whose livelihood depended on agriculture. Nicodemus is located in Graham County which is in the second tier of counties from the northern boundary and the fourth from the western boundary in northwestern Kansas. It contains some 576,000 acres of land.59 The county is named in honor

58. Spring, op. cit., p. 308.

59. An editorial in the Western Cyclone, May 13, 1886.
of Captain John L. Graham of Company D, Eighth Kansas Infantry. He was killed in action at Chickamauga, September 19, 1853. Graham County was one of the thirty-four counties to be created by the legislature of 1867 and was organized for civil purposes, April 1, 1880. The Comanche tribe of Indians occupied this territory previous to the coming of the white man. In 1879, one could ride in any direction and never be obstructed by a wire fence. The roads did not follow section lines but were trails that followed the best route. The whole country was covered with buffalo grass. 60

The principal timbered stream in the county was Bow Creek. Oak, Ash, Boxelder, Cottonwood, and Elm trees could be found along its banks. The county is abundant in sandstone and a magnesiam stone, which may be used for building. The latter is a yellow magnesiam limestone which may be sawed or planed soon after coming from the quarry but hardens somewhat by exposure. Much sand is to be found in the county for building purposes. The soil is a dark loam, has a tendency toward being a little sandy, and is adapted for corn, wheat, rye, millet, and all kinds of vegetables. The natural grasses were buffalo, which was the most bountiful, and blue stem. 61 Graham County is well adapted to agriculture and to stock

60. A historical account in The Hill City Times, August 22, 1940.
raising. The land is well watered. The surface of the land is undulating. About 80 per cent of the county might be classified as upland and the other 20 per cent as bottom land.\(^62\)

The Solomon River runs across the county from west to east. In an article published in a county newspaper in 1879, the editor said there were some indications of coal in the county. The climate, he said, is healthful, consumption cannot originate here and such diseases as malaria are unknown. He said that the idea of continuous high winds and parching droughts, that so troubled the early settlers, had been exploded.

Water can be found less than 40 feet below the surface most any place in the county.\(^63\)

The first settler came to Graham County and settled on Bow Creek, May 18, 1872.\(^64\) He was W. E. Ridgely, Sr. from Indiana. He settled on the southeast quarter of section 1, township 6, Range 21.\(^65\) His closest neighbors were at Logan, Kansas, some eight miles away. In November, 1876, when a census was taken, there were but seventy inhabitants in this territory. After Ridgely came to Graham county, he was followed in the same year and in 1874 by some herdsmen from Rooks

\(^{62}\) Western Cyclone, May 13, 1886.
\(^{63}\) The Western Star, May 22, 1879.
\(^{64}\) Andreas, op. cit., p. 1060.
\(^{65}\) The Hill City Times, August 22, 1940.
and Norton counties. They too settled along Bow Creek. Among these early comers were Dr. A. Wilkinson, H. M. Wisdom, Fred Freyman, J. Morrison, T. C. Deshon, Chas. Smith, Mose Spear, Sr., Thomas Pool, O. G. Nevins, Wm. Stretch, James Griffie, Robert Boys, J. W. Henry, and Z. T. Sperry. In 1873, the first crop was raised by three of these men, Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Wilkinson, and Mr. Pool: the crop consisted wholly of corn. Another of these men, Mr. Wisdom, established the first post office and became the first postmaster in Graham County; the post office was on Bow Creek. On May 10, 1874, a small group met at the home of J. A. Holloway and organized a sabbath school and elected Nett Spencer as Sunday School superintendent. That same year, school was held in what was later called the Nevins District No. 45. Miss Anna Smith became the first teacher. Two years later on July 30, 1876, a group met near the Houston post office and organized, under the direction of J. M. Brown, the first church society of the county. It became the first Presbyterian Church of Graham County.

From the summer of 1879 until April 1, 1880, the county was a part of Rooks County as a municipal organization. A census was taken March 6, 1880. It was found that the area

66. The Hill City Times, Sept. 8, 1949.
now called Graham County had its required number of people to form a county. So on April 1, 1880, by proclamation of Gov. John P. St. John a county organization was established with Millbrook as the temporary county seat. John P. Inlow, O. G. Nevins, and A. E. Moses were chosen as commissioners. E. P. McCabe became county Clerk.

The plan to settle Nicodemus

The settlement of Nicodemus was before the great "Exodus" of 1879. It was first settled in 1877 by the Nicodemus Town Company. That organization was formed that same year in the city of Topeka. The company first settled at Nicodemus, July 30, 1877. The town company was composed of W. H. Smith, President; Berry Clark, Vice-President; S. P. Roundtree; Secretary; and the Trustees were Jerry Alsup, Jeff Lindsey, and William Edmonds. The object of this organization was to:

Induce these people of the overcrowded East to emigrate to a free and independent land, where every man, woman and child could think speak, and worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience" and none would molest, hinder or make afraid. To such a land they have come; here they are, free and happy, enjoying that which the Creator had intended for all,—Liberty.

68. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1060.
69. The Western Cyclone, May 13, 1886.
70. Andreas, loc. cit.
71. The Western Cyclone, May 13, 1886.
The first settlement

There were at least five groups of negro people who came to Nicodemus to make up the early settlements in 1877 and 1878. The first and second groups came in 1877 and the other three the next year. The first group of 30 came from Topeka. W. H. Smith was president and Z. T. Fletcher was secretary of the group. All 30 of these people were originally from Kentucky. They arrived in July of 1877. The second group was the largest and consisted of some 350 negroes.

W. R. Hill, after whom Hill City was later named, was the one responsible for getting this group to Graham County. The group was under the leadership of Rev. M. M. Bell. This group came in September of 1877. The third group of 150 negroes from Kentucky, in charge of Hill, arrived in March of 1878. The fourth and fifth groups came later that same year, 1878. The fourth group was made up of 50 members all from Missouri. The fifth group of 25 members, under the leadership of Rev. S. P. Roundtree, came from Kentucky.72

W. R. Hill, perhaps the most picturesque man in the negro colony, was a white minister73 and a real estate dealer. Hill tried his hand at developing other communities before he

73. Garvin, op. cit., p. 17.
decided upon trying to get the negro to come to Kansas. He was born in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, in 1840. He died February 21, 1905 at East Lynne, Missouri. His burial was in the Hill City Cemetery. He engaged in the development of Hill city and of the county from this early date until 1896 after which he entered the mining business in Colorado. Hill landed in what was to be Graham County on September 6, 1876. On his first trip to the county he met James Henry, a rich cattleman. Two days later, he was five miles north visiting the Collins ranch and on the evening of the same day visited O. G. Nevins on Bow Creek. He, no doubt, was talking over plans for the negro at this time. He returned to Topeka via Ellis and got together a number of negro people having in view the location of a city where Hill City now stands. On the 13th of December of the year of 1876, 13 wagons pulled out of Topeka westward bound. January 13, 1877 found the company one mile east of Stockton in the worst blizzard the region ever experienced. When the first colony came to the site of Nicodemus many of them were extremely disappointed with what they found. Some had left good jobs and homes

74. Nettie Craig, "Nicodemus," a manuscript obtained from W. L. Sayers, Hill City, Kansas. Future citations will appear as-Nettie Craig.

75. Clippings to be found in the Hill City Library, Hill City, Kansas.

76. Clippings on early Graham County, Hill City Library.
back at Topeka. A few of the negroes became angry with Hill and decided to hang him. He took refuge in the home of a friend he had known in earlier days in the South and finally escaped out the back door and made his way to Coon Creek to the home of one, Mr. Rueben Lawlis. The story is that they hid him in the house and put the children outside to listen for the approach of the negroes. When the children gave the alarm Mr. Lawlis ordered Frank Webb, who lived with them, to hitch up the team while Hill hid under some hay. He was then taken in a wagon to Stockton. A quaint story is told of how Hill decided upon the location of his negro town. He had walked all afternoon trying to find the most favorable spot on which to locate the town. As the sun was dropping below the western horizon, Hill was admiring the beauty of the Western sunset. He lingered until night had settled around him. Then the tired man lay down to rest and think. He was awakened the next morning by the sun shining upon his face. He had found the perfect place.

The trip of the settlers to Nicodemus has been described by a lady, Mrs. Willianna Hickman, who came to Graham County with the second group in September of 1877. They left Ellis for Nicodemus traveling with (rented) horses and wagons. They were two days on the way with no road to direct them. They traveled by compass. At night the men built fires and sat

77. The Hill City Times, August 22, 1940.
78. Nettie Craig.
around them. They fired their guns to keep the wild animals away. When they were almost there, Rev. D. Hickman, husband of Willianna, pointed out various clouds of smoke coming out of the ground and declared it to be Nicodemus.\textsuperscript{79}

There are many estimates about the population of Nicodemus in those early days. The State Board of Agriculture estimated for the year 1877-78 that there were 600 in that place. This figure included the entire negro community.\textsuperscript{80} The \textit{Seneca Weekly Courier} says, "there are 800 in the colony and are all doing well."\textsuperscript{81} In a report of Nicodemus by the \textit{Kansas City Star}, 500 was given as the number who came to live at this negro town.\textsuperscript{82} Mrs. Ola Wilson, of Nicodemus, reported to the \textit{Hill City Times} that there were 800.\textsuperscript{83} Nettie Craig gave the number as between 600 and 700.\textsuperscript{84} Other estimates have been given but the official census does not show any such number. One thing that has very often been over-looked in some of these reports is the number who left and did not stay to become a part of the community. One report is given to the effect that when the large group under Mr. Hill came to the site of Nicodemus, many of them were so disappointed that

\textsuperscript{79}. \textit{The Topeka Daily Capital}, August 29, 1937.
\textsuperscript{80}. Kansas State Board of Agriculture, \textit{First Biennial Report} (Topeka: State Printer, 1877-78), p. 463.
\textsuperscript{81}. \textit{The Weekly Courier} (Seneca, Kansas) Sept. 17, 1880.
\textsuperscript{82}. \textit{The Kansas City Star}, January 26, 1905.
\textsuperscript{83}. \textit{The Hill City Times}, September 5, 1940.
\textsuperscript{84}. Nettie Craig.
the very next morning 60 families began the long journey back to the railroad points to go back to eastern Kansas. It would seem that the writers upon the Nicodemus story either did not know about such facts or wished to conceal them.  

It has been said that Nicodemus, in the history of the colored people of this country, is what Jamestown is in the history of the White colonization of this continent. It was the first place where black men, once slaves, tried the serious experiment of settling upon public lands of the United States. News spread through the Southland as to all the merits of this vast prairie but perhaps little was said of the plagues and sufferings to be encountered. About the same time the little group was starting out from Topeka for Hill City, mentioned before in this study, a group who had come from Lexington, Kentucky, started from Topeka by rail to Ellis, Kansas, then by wagon to the site of Nicodemus, some 40 miles north, "to establish a town of black men, by black men, and for black men."  

The writer does not know any list of the names of the members of this first colony. There were seven families in the group and they had organized in Topeka. So many small

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85. Nettie Craig.
86. The Weekly Champion, (Atchinson, Kansas) September 1, 1883.
groups came to help organize the town that writers have been prone to group them together as one group. In this first group were W. H. Smith, Berry Clark, and S. P. Roundtree, who went back to bring the fifth group out. In that group were Jerry Alsup, Jeff Lindsey, and William Edmonds. Soon after this a few others joined this first group. Most likely these, came a few days or weeks after the first families had settled. Among the newcomers were Rev. Silas Lee, and the families of Randall Smith, Lewis and Henry Williams, Sam Garland, John Samuels, Manuel Napeu, and Merrit Sadler. Some traveled from Ellis on foot, others in wagons they had shipped from Kentucky, and some hired freighters to haul them and their effects to their destination. They finally reached their goal just north of the south branch of the Solomon River.

In this pioneer settlement there was no shelter of any kind, and no wells for water. Winter would be setting in in only a few weeks so the first thing to do was to dig in. There was no lumber and no money to buy lumber if it could be had. The next best thing would be to dig holes in the muffs or in the side of the hills. With pick and spade,

88. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1061.
89. Garvin, op. cit., p. 17.
they dug holes in the dry ground. They called these holes dugouts. They covered them with brush and dirt and moved in. It was not very good for human occupation, dirt, walls, ceilings, and floors, but it was home. No one under the laws of the great United States could move them out. They were not tenant people now but home owners, even though it was a hole in the ground. One thing seemed a big problem, how to get work. There was no one to employ labor. This was a country dominated by cowboys and occupied by cattle ranches. One man who was disappointed with his lot described it as a country infested with rattlesnakes, coyotes, and tarantulas, pestered by fleas and damned by Kansas drouths. It has been often said that the early pioneer of the plains was visited with all the plagues that were sent against the ancient Egyptians but of course this is an exaggeration. There were, however, hot winds and cold blizzards. Once in a while someone would start an alarm about the Indians. These same settlers were to know what it meant to put out a crop of corn and labor with it until mid-summer and then have the hot winds from Texas and Oklahoma burn it to dry and withered leaves in a day. Then again in winter the northern blizzard would come down from the Dakotas upon the dugouts, the sod houses, and the unprotected livestock and take its toll of life. These were some of the tests of the pioneer. Those who were willing to go through privations and hardships stayed. Those who were faint hearted went elsewhere to labor for
Later settlement
and pioneer hardships

After getting the first group to Graham County, Mr. Hill went to the Southland. There he told the negroes of the advantages of western Kansas. He told them that 160 acres could be had for the asking. He said that horses were running wild and could be tamed and turned into beasts of burden for doing farm work. Wild game was plentiful. The colored man clasped hands with the white man and was his equal. There were no Jim Crow Laws to humiliate the race. He declared that the land could be reclaimed with little effort and would yield a bounteous harvest. When the negroes got to the negro colony, they found it a bit different from what had been described to them by Mr. Hill. Much of the wild game had passed on to other territory. For the most part, the white man was not there. The buffalo disappeared at a very rapid rate from Graham County. In 1874 they were gone. Mr. William Kirtley who came to Kansas in November of 1878, reported that he had seen only one buffalo in his life.

91. The Rooks County Record, March 29, 1934.
92. The Hill City Times, August 22, 1940.
Mr. Hill's story of wild horses had some basis, for there was a herd of wild black horses which ran in the flat just east of Bogue and south of Nicodemus. They were large horses and had manes and tails which were so long they dragged the ground. Not one of this herd was ever captured by the early settlers of the colony.\(^93\)

The town company chose Nicodemus as the name of the new negro town in Graham County. Nicodemus was the name of an African Prince. The prince was brought to the shores of the United States in 1620 and sold as a slave. He declared that the white people would some day regret having enslaved the colored people. He became famous as being the first slave set free in America. He bought his freedom.\(^94\)

There has been a popular belief that the name Nicodemus was taken from the Bible because the negroes were religious people. The evidence points to the fact that this is not true.

One of the original members of the first colony observed in later years that he never saw a colored man in the early days who was not grinning, singing or playing. They sang plantation melodies, long since forgotten, while they cooked their food on campfires.\(^95\)

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\(^93\). The Hill City Times, September 5, 1940.

\(^94\). Nettie Craig.

\(^95\). W. L. Chambers, "Niles of Nicodemus," in The Oakley Graphic, December 4, 1931.
Among the negroes who came to Nicodemus was John Niles. He was a leader in the days when the town was built. Niles was a big, brown man, with a large head and two rows of very white teeth. He had an unceasing flow of conversation. The blood of two races was mixed in him. He had the energy of the white man but had preserved the gayety and the "devil-take-everybody" laugh of the African. He did much in those days to keep the negroes on their claims. The sight of his big frame, the twinkle of his eyes, and the shine of his teeth seemed to sustain the failing courage of the dusky colonist. Mr. Niles claimed to be the underwriter of the colony. At public gatherings, Niles was an agitator for the recognition of the negroes in all phases of life. He believed the black race to be equal if not superior to the white race. He was noted for his personality and his ability to fan-fair it. On one occasion he borrowed money from the Rooks County Bank at Stockton, Kansas, on the pretense of having 1,500 bushels of corn. Mr. Jay J. Smyth of Iowa, the owner, was in the bank at the time but Mr. C. C. Woods, his brother-in-law who ran the bank for Mr. Smyth was away. He knew Mr. Woods would not let him have it for no one had

any corn in the country. When Mr. Woods returned, he swore out a warrant for Niles. A chase which ended in northwest Nebraska resulted in the return of Niles to Stockton. Niles plead his own case for three hours. He used the old theme of rights for everyone and won his case. Niles called a state convention of the negroes and friends of the race to convene September 17, 1880, for the purpose of bringing suit against the United States government. He felt that the life of the negro had been damaged as well as his property. Under these conditions, he thought that there should be compensation given to the race. The convention never convened. Niles finally went to Washington but soon made his way to Arkansas. There, he became involved by posing as an agent of emigration and as a salesman for railroad lands. This was in 1882. Because of the agitation and unrest he caused among the colored people he landed in jail. He was fined eight hundred dollars and the privilege of working out the fine at twenty-five cents per day.97

It was not long until many of the colonists began to build sod houses. These had one room, one door, and usually two windows, eight by ten inches. Usually the negro managed to get glass for his windows. The inside of the houses were

97. The Oakley Graphic, December 4, 1931.
Plastered with magnesia mixed with sand. The negroes got the magnesia along the banks of the river. The floors were dirt. 98 Cheap pictures were on the walls. In 1881, The Weekly Champion stated that one saw there the colored print clothing, the "Janes" and "Elizas," banished from town a good while ago. In the yard were numerous chicken coops made of corn stalks. Marigolds, bachelor Buttons, and four o'clocks grew in the front yard. 99 Fleas were a source of discomfort to the early settlers. It was next to impossible to keep the fleas out of the dugouts and sod houses. The negroes would sprinkle the walls and floor of the house with water then sweep out all the fleas that they could. At different seasons, they were so thick that one dared not lie down on the grass. 100

The settlers made most of their living the first two or three seasons by gathering buffalo bones. "Hide Hunters" accounted for the many tons of bones in Graham County. They hauled them to Wakeeney where they received about six dollars per ton for them. In 1879, a long sod stable was built that would take care of about twenty wagons at a time. A camp house was also built. Many times twenty wagons would be kept there all loaded with bones ready to go to Wakeeney. It was

98. The Hill City Times, September 5, 1940.


100. The Hill City Times, September 5, 1940.
a common sight to see piled along the railroad, ready to be shipped, ricks of buffalo bones twenty feet wide and two hundred feet long and as high as they could be thrown. The bones were ground and used for fertilizer back East.  

The "plowing" season presented a problem. One writer declared that the settlers of Nicodemus had but three horses in the community in 1877. Other writers mention a few teams. Nevertheless, those who had teams broke for themselves and others. Some were able to have a little work done for them by outsiders. Those who could not do better broke the ground with spades and grub-hoes. By the help of the women some families were able to get two or three acres by this slow and laborious process. The amount of land under cultivation averaged about six or seven acres per family, ranging from twenty acres to one or two acres. One negro had a cow with which he broke an improved twelve acres of prairie and cultivated eight acres of corn. His wife drove the cow and kept the flies off. Another colored man spaded a four foot hedge row around a quarter section of land. Some of the men would use an ax to make holes in the hard ground.

101. The Hill City Times, September 5, 1940.
103. The Daily Journal (Lawrence, Kansas), April 30, 1879.
104. Ibid.
105. The Weekly Courier (Seneca, Kansas), Sept. 17, 1880.
in which to drop the seeds. 106

By the time the negroes came to Graham County, there were cowboys herding cattle up and down the banks of the river. They were not too happy about the negro coming and taking over and on a few occasions became so angry they set fire to the prairie. 107 When the colonists had taken over on the north side of the river, it shut a certain group of cowboys off from their portion of water. This resulted in a dispute. The cowboys drove off some of the cattle which belonged to the negro settlers. Finally the negro men retaliated by capturing one of the herdsmen and holding him as a hostage until the cattle were returned. 108 Outside of a few minor incidents, this trouble was soon settled among the cowboys and the negroes.

After the crops had been taken care of, the men would scatter out to other localities to find work. They were known to have walked to Colorado and to eastern Kansas. The women of the colony held down the claim while the men were gone. 109 On one such occasion, the women of the colony were nearly out of food. They had a little rice and boiled, grounded, and fried it to keep alive. A group of Osage Indians

106. The Hill City Times, Sept. 5, 1940.
107. Ibid.
came through the settlement on their way back to eastern Kansas from their annual hunt in the Rocky Mountains. The Indians had just received their quarterly subsistence supplies at Fort Ogallala and they shared with the negroes. Many stories are told of heroic fights with blizzards to obtain flour and supplies from Stockton, Ellis, or Wakeeney. It was not uncommon for a negro man, in good weather to walk to Ellis, thirty miles away, and carry a sack of flour and other provisions on his shoulders back to his family. In the early days, the men spent much time in gathering fuel for the winter. The fuel consisted of buffalo chips, sunflowers, and willows of the thickness of a man's thumb.

1880 was the year of the drought. The negroes suffered. The colored man had been accustomed to the sheltering woods of the Southland. The brown prairie, the shallow Solomon, the fire-scorched and wind-twisted cottonwoods must have looked desolate to the colonist but they did not flinch. Earlier in the spring a distribution of aid, food and clothing, took place at Gettysburg and at that time many of the negroes were in poverty and in want. The crop failure was a heavy blow to the community which had had no chance of building up any kind of reserve. The local paper issued the following appeal:

110. Nettie Craig.
111. The Kansas City Star, January 26, 1905.
113. The Lever (Gettysburg, Kansas), February 27, 1880.
An appeal to the people of central and western Kansas:

We, the committee of Graham County Central Aid Association, would respectfully call your attention to the present condition of our county (Graham).

We here state facts as they actually exist. In most parts of the county the small grain for this year is a total failure, and today, the eighth of May, with very little corn up and still very dry, except in the north and the northeast part of our county, we may look for little or no corn unless we have rain soon. And such vegetables as are usually grown in gardens will be a total failure.

Graham County has a population of nearly 4,000 persons most of whom came into the county one year ago finding the county in a state of nature and have raised nothing— or nearly nothing. And all, generally speaking, are poor and are ill-prepared to face the ordeal which they are now passing through, and today we have many families in our county who have nothing to eat but corn bread and water, and but very little bread. In consideration of these facts we desire you to early consider this question, and if you disbelieve our statement, we ask you to send someone to investigate the matter for you, and when you are satisfied of the suffering which actually exists among us we implore you to aid us in our dire extremity. We, the committee have been appointed by the citizens to devise some means to bring immediate relief, and we have taken this means to call your attention to the matter, hoping that you will open your hearts to a suffering and starving people. Any aid sent us at our nearest railroad stations, either Wakeeney or Logan, directed to the Graham County Aid Association, will reach us. Dr. Blatchly, President; T. J. Garnett, Sec'y; J. C. Steward, Treasurer; R. T. Strivers, G. W. Graham, S. Knowlton, and John Scott.

In the spring of 1878, Z. T. Fletcher purchased a very small stock of goods from a Mr. Keeney who had set up a store near Nicodemus. Mr. Fletcher used this stock of goods to open up the first business of Nicodemus. This store was on Spring Creek. In 1880, Fletcher was appointed postmaster.

114. The Western Star, May 20, 1880.
115. Nettie Craig.
of Nicodemus by President Arthur. The story is told that in those days the volume of mail was so small that Mrs. Fletcher carried all the mail in her apron pocket for safe keeping when they were away from the small office. Nicodemus was put on a star route. The mail carrier's pay was very small and at times it was hard to find anyone who would take the job. Mr. Fletcher would then walk to Ellis, after the mail had accumulated, and carry it to Nicodemus on his back.117 The first post office at Nicodemus was a stone structure dug three feet in the ground and extended three feet above ground.118 For a long time the colored people believed their post office to be the only one in the United States with a negro postmaster but there were others.

By the close of 1878 there were ten schools in Graham County. Six of these were in the Nicodemus community and all were held in dugouts. Of the other four, one was at Houston, two were on Bow Creek, and one was in township 21, range 6. All four of these were held in log houses.119 School district number one was bounded as follows: commencing at the northeast corner of section 24, township 7, range 21; thence south to the

116. The Western Cyclone, May 13, 1886.
118. The Hill City Times, Sept. 5, 1940.
119. The Kansas City Star, January 26, 1905.
southwest corner of section 34, township 7, range 21; then west to the northwest corner of section 4, township 8, range 21; thence south to the Solomon River; thence easterly along the course of said river to the east line of range 21; thence north to the place of beginning. 120

In April of 1879, W. R. Hill brought another colony of negroes to WaKeeney for Nicodemus. There were only six families in that group. Hill told them before leaving Louisville, Kentucky, that the freight bill would be paid in advance and they had nothing to do but get off at WaKeeney and move along to their destination. When they got to WaKeeney, the bill was not paid so they had to camp there for a few days. One of the negroes grew very angry with Hill when the latter tried to pawn some of the goods to pay the bill. Hill left and the station agent said that the goods had to be sold to pay the freight bill. No account could be found as to what happened over this affair but the report is that the freight bill trouble came up every time Hill brought a group by rail. This small colony lost a team of horses which became frightened by an approaching train and ran away. 121 It was reported that Hill paid expenses by collecting from more fortunate families, as much as thirty dollars for locating on a hundred

120. "Record of School District Boundaries," in the office of County School Superintendent Graham County, Kansas.

121. The Commonwealth, April 9, 1879.
and sixty acres of land that was being given free by the government. 122

In March of 1879, Rev. Silas M. Lee pastor of the Baptist Church, was sent out to solicit funds for relief. He went as far east as Osborne, Kansas and while there he declared that Nicodemus had thirty-five dwelling houses, one general store and post office, one real estate office, one hotel, two livery stables, and two churches. The Baptist Church had forty members and the Methodist had twenty-five. Rev. J. Meyers was pastor of the Methodist Church. 123 The First Baptist Church was organized in 1878 at Tom Johnson's farm. Later, the church was moved into town and in 1907 the present church building was built during the pastorate of Rev. G. T. Ramsey. 124 The Methodist Church was organized in 1879 with five charter members: Charles Barter, Moses Wims and wife, Kitty, Mrs. Jennie Fletcher, and Mary Meyers. The church building was built by Rev. Charles Brown in 1888. 125

By May of 1879, The Western Star declared that the choice claims of government land in Graham County had all been homesteaded and good land could only be had by buying out some prior settler. There was, however, land inside the

122. The Wichita Beacon, October 1, 1933.
123. The Pioneer (Smith Center, Kansas), March 21, 1879
The name of Rev. Myers appears incorrectly as Rev. Miles.
124. The Hill City Times, Sept. 5, 1940.
125. Nettie Craig.
railroad grant's limits for sale. By an amendment of March 3, 1879, the limit of eighty acres for railroad land was extended to one hundred and sixty acres. The immigrants were instructed in that issue of the Star how to proceed to obtain government lands. Every American citizen or alien who had declared his or her intentions of becoming a citizen, who was the head of a family or over twenty-one years of age, was entitled to one tract of land. There were three laws under which one might obtain land from the United States government. They were the Preemption, Homestead, and Timber Claim laws. The negroes were told to be sure they selected a piece of land which suited them before filing on it. When one entry of any kind was made, the individual exhausted his rights under the law. The government fee for filing of a Timber Entry of eighty acres or less was five dollars. Over eighty dollars cost ten dollars to which a commission of four dollars was added regardless of area or value. The fee for eighty acres on a Homestead Entry was five dollars. For more than eighty acres, the fee was ten dollars plus a two per cent commission on price of the land. 126

126. The Western Star, May 22, 1879.
At a meeting of the Graham County Commissioners on April 13, 1880, O. G. Nevens moved that the second commissioner's district be divided into three townships. The name of the first township to be Nicodemus and that it should be bounded thus: commencing at the northeast corner of section 24, township 7, range 21 west; thence west to northwest corner of section 24, township 7, range 22, thence south to southeast corner of section 2, township 9, range 22 west; thence east to county line, then north to the place of beginning. He moved that the voting place be at the town of Nicodemus. 127

On May 12, 1880, the town plat was brought before E. P. McCabe, to be notarized. The plat contained the names of D. N. Minor, surveyor, L. L. Dike, and I. I. Vanorsdall, chainmen, and Hiram Burley, axman. The names of the streets of Nicodemus from east to west are: First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh. The names of the streets from north to south are: North Avenue, Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and Jackson. 128 The blocks were three hundred by three hundred and twenty feet. The lots were twenty-five by one hundred and fifty feet except one

127. "Commissioner's Docket," number one, in Graham County Records, Hill City, Kansas.

and twenty-four in blocks 12, 17, 26, 31, 40, and 45 which were less than twenty-five feet wide. The blocks were numbered one to forty-nine. 129

One June 1, 1880, the first election in Graham County was held. Officers elected were: Representative, J. L. Walton; Commissioners, A. Mort, G. W. Morehouse, and J. N. Glover; County Clerk was John Depard; County Attorney, J. R. McCowen; Register of Deeds, H. J. Harrvi; Treasurer, L. Thoman; Surveyor, L. Pritchard; Sheriff, E. A. Moses; Coroner, Dr. Butterfield; Probate Judge, James Gordon. 130

There was very little need for law enforcement among the peace-loving negroes. From the time the first negro came to Graham County until 1882 there was not a death by violence among them. Other communities could not boast of such a record. Mitchell Hopson, a colored man, killed Theodore Rudman in 1882. The difficulty was over Rudman putting up some of Hopson's hogs. Hopson shot his victim with a Colt's pistol. He was tried by Justice Currie and bound over to the next term of the District Court of Graham County. He was confined in the jail of Ellis County. On the 4th of December, 1882, he was struck on the head with a hammer by one of the officers while trying to escape and died the same day. Some

129. "Plat of Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas," in the Plat Book, number one, of Graham County, Hill City, Kansas.

130. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1060-1061.
outside friends tried to effect his escape by giving him a large hammer, a knife, and a large package of red pepper. 131

Where the negroes came from and early land owners

At the time of the taking of the Federal Census in June, 1880, there were at least one hundred and forty-nine families in the Nicodemus community. The average number of members in the families was between four and five. This number included the parents. The largest family, that of Mr. William Brown, a stone mason, had eleven members. Several families boasted of nine in the home. The families of Rev. Silas Lee and Rev. Daniel Hickman were two of those with nine members. Of the children in the colony, thirty-six had been born in Kansas. The average age of men in the colony, over twenty-one years of age, was forty years and four months. The men who came to western Kansas were comparatively young men and this was a factor in helping to conquer this new land. Dr. C. H. Newth, a white man, who played an important roll in the early days, was but twenty-three years old at the time of the census. There were only a few old men at this time among the colonists. The oldest was eighty-five years old. Ninety-two families were from Kentucky. Virginia

131. Andreas, op. cit., p. 1061.
was represented by ten families. Seven families came from Missouri, Six from Tennessee, and Five from Ohio. There were three families each from Illinois, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Vermont. Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina was represented by two families each. One family each came from Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York. Two families came to the Nicodemus colony from Italy, two from Sweden, one from France, and one from England, Dr. C. H. Newth. Of those whose names appear on the census of 1880, only about forty secured patents for the land from the United States Government. Of this number, all had at least a quarter section of land and two colored men had a quarter and a half apiece. The earliest date of transfer on the record books is August 2, 1884. Hiram Travis had the record of transfer recorded on that date. His land was the northeast, northwest, and southwest, forty of the northwest quarter of section 19, township 7, range 21, and the northwest forty of the southwest quarter of section nineteen. Less than thirty people whose names appear on the books of the tenth census in 1880, bought lots in the town of Nicodemus as original owners. All those who bought lots did so

132. See Appendix A, page 96.

from James Gordan, Probate Judge, who secured the entire one hundred and sixty acres for the benefit of the inhabitants of Nicodemus township. From the names of land owners and lot owners of the present day, there is reason to believe that many more of the original colonists bought up land from those who secured the patent. Such names as Scruggs, Williams, Wilsons, Moores, Garland, Napue, Switzer, Robinson, and Smith are still to be found along with many other names. Much of the land belongs to the descendants of these early settlers and has never passed out of the family.

CHAPTER IV

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY

Outstanding citizens

Frederich Douglas, famous leader of the negroes once said, "The black man must not be measured from the height, but from the depth he has come." He further said that when a man was hungry he could not study his books. No doubt the colored people were emancipated under unfavorable conditions. The freedom did not come altogether from sacred moral choice but by conflict. The colored man was equal to the task of adjusting to his society. Nicodemus has produced men of character and personality of which any community would be honored to claim. In 1880, E. P. McCabe, who had come to Nicodemus in 1879 along with Abram T. Hall, became temporary County Clerk to help organize Graham County. November 8, 1881, McCabe was elected to a state office becoming the first colored man to be elected to a state office in a Northern state. He served as State Auditor from 1882 to 1886. After McCabe was elected to the office of state auditor, Sam Garland had

135. The Western Cyclone, September 9, 1886.
to deed him eighty acres of land in order that he might go
to Topeka as a property owner. Property ownership was a
requirement in those days for an office holder. In 1889,
McCabe went to Oklahoma to become Clerk in the Territorial
Office. He expected to receive a big job from President
Harrison. He went to Washington D. C. a wealthy man but
clever negroes fleeced him of his money. He died a pauper
in Chicago. 137

Dan Hickman was elected Coroner November 5, 1880.
He was so efficient in his work that he served on the board
of County Commissioners from 1884 to 1888. J. R. Hawkins
served as clerk of the District Court from 1886 to 1890.
In the year 1886, S. G. Wilson, a white business man from
Nicodemus, was elected to the office of County Treasurer.
He served until 1900. J. E. Porter was elected to be clerk
of the District Court to follow J. R. Hawkins. He became
clerk in 1890 and served until 1894. In 1896, G. W. Jones
began serving as County Attorney. He served in this office
for two terms. The Sayers family has been very prominent
in Graham County. There were two sons and a grandson of
the early Sayers family who have practiced law and engaged
in abstracting in Hill City. W. L. Sayers has been one of
the most prominent lawyers in Graham County for many years.
He served as clerk of the District Court from 1894 to 1900.

137. Garvin, op. cit., p. 15.
He was elected to the office of County Attorney in 1900 and served for two years. In 1912, he was again elected to the same office and served until 1916. He serves both negro and whites and his services and advice are sought for miles around. The writer sat on the porch of the big "steepled" house of Mr. Sayers in Hill City a short time ago. His speech was the language of a man of education. His eyes became dreamy as he thought of those early days. He talked of W. R. Hill and others and declared that Hill was very good to the colored man and worked continually for their interests.

From the community of colored people, there have gone many to take their places in life. Some have gone away to work in large businesses for other people, others have gone away to study medicine, law, farming, and home economics. While these have gone away and found important places it must be remembered that farming, too, is important. The colored people stayed on their farms while many of their white neighbors left because of hard times. These colored men have been a real asset to the county.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The social and cultural development of the negro people

138. "Nicodemus" Unpublished material in the Hill City library.

who came to the Nicodemus community was quite like that of the Southern Whites. For years subjected to close contact with the white man the negro consequently took on many of his characteristics. Perhaps the one word which characterizes these colored people was religion. They were a peace-loving people. The Nicodemus Enterprise gives an account of a fight in Nicodemus between two men who were visitors in the town and declared it to be the first public disturbance of any kind in nine years. It seems that a few of the editors of newspapers of surrounding towns had made quite a point of emphasizing this fight. The editor of the Nicodemus paper declared that a more peaceable set of people were never together than those which dwelled in and around Nicodemus.

"We do not claim sanctification, gentlemen, but we do claim to be a peaceable, and even a little more virtuous, than some of our howling neighbors."

One of the important events in Nicodemus for many years was "Demus" day on August 1. The celebration takes place on this date because it commemorates the emancipation of slaves in the West Indies, which occurred August 1, 1834. Again, it has a further meaning for the negroes. It was felt

140. The Nicodemus Enterprise, August 17, 1887.
that August 1 was a stepping stone to the September 22, 1862 proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln that in a hundred days slavery would be abolished, on January 1, 1863. It was so cold in January that it seemed necessary to have the celebration in the summer, hence the date.\footnote{To get some idea of the crowds which attend these celebrations, The Western Cyclone states that on August 1, 1886 between four thousand and five thousand people were in Nicodemus for this date.} These celebrations were held for three days, the first day in preparation for the big day and the third day to recover from the celebration. The negroes met in Scrugg's grove.

For recreation, the usual small town affairs were enjoyed. These were concerts, programs, band music, dancing, baseball, foot racing, horse racing, fish fries, and hunting trips. In those days, the village of Nicodemus had many visitors. Two authors came there to write, people from more populated areas came there to rest. Nicodemus hotels were the best in that part of the country. Traveling salesmen and those going across country made it a point to stay at these hotels.\footnote{The dances were the largest public}
affairs outside of special days. They danced in the different groves on a dirt floor. For music they used a straight necked fiddle and a bow. The old timers confessed the fiddle made real music. 144

One of the things the negroes took great delight in was the literary society. This was a source of cultural development. 145 The colored people wished to take advantage of everything that would help them in an educational way. The churches' influence was greatly felt all through the years from the beginning to the present time.

The first school was held in the Nicodemus community in 1879 and there has been school continuously since then. The first teacher to teach in the town was Miss Lizzie Miles. There have been a few less than 100 negro children from Nicodemus who have graduated from the elementary school. About 50 of this group have graduated from the Bogue, Kansas High school since 1920. 146 The first school officers on records in the county court house were elected in 1884 and 1885. The officers were Z. T. Fletcher, Director, S. G. Wilson, Treasurer, Henry Johnson, Clerk. 147 The first eight grade graduate on record is Frank Barber and the second is

144. The Hill City Times., Sept. 5, 1940.
145. Nettie Craig.
146. Ibid.
Cecil Scott, who was in the class of 1912. 148

Political and economical development

As early as 1880, the people of Nicodemus were becoming interested in political development. On April 12, 1880, a convention of colored men met in the Senate Chamber at Topeka and, among other things, resolved that the negro people be entitled to representation on the ticket of the coming state election. Another resolution passed was that the colored people support the principles of the National Republican Party as long as that party advocates the just rights for negroes. The Nicodemus delegation did not make it to the convention but sent a letter in which they endorsed the resolutions of the convention. The delegates from Nicodemus were E. P. McCabe, Abram. T. Hall, Granville Lewis, and L. T. Fletcher. 149 The Nicodemus Enterprise gave the views of the majority of the negro people in the eighties. It quotes Hon. A. H. Clark of Chicago as advocating loyalty to the Republican Party. He declared that the party had split over James B. Blaine and spoils and lost the race because of theft and dishonesty. At this time there was some talk of organizing an independent political party among the negroes


149. The Commonwealth, April 13, 1880.
but this was frowned upon by Clark and by the Nicodemus negroes. Clark said, "The Mugwamps can't amount to much as they merely form a company of scoreheaded reformers."\textsuperscript{150}

The editor of the \textit{Nicodemus Enterprise} on August 17, 1887 declared that there never was a reform party that was not a fraud.

The negro who deserts the Republican Party is a traitor to the living and the dead. It is a wonder that the spirits of the past departed statesmen who founded the party do not come forth and confront them. \textsuperscript{151}

There has been much discussion about the attitude of W. R. Hill in regards to the colored man. Hill's enemies felt that he did not care too much about the negro. The \textit{Gettysburg Lever} quoted Hill as saying that Hill City should win the vote for county seat because he (Hill) had brought the colored man there to see to it that Hill City did win. Hill declared that his ambition was to divide every quarter section into four equal parts and place a colored man on each of these parts. \textsuperscript{152} N. D. Minor in a statement to the \textit{Lever}, said that Hill told him, "We will have to make concessions

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{150} \textit{The Nicodemus Enterprise}, August 17, 1887.
\item \textsuperscript{151} \textit{Ibid}.
\item \textsuperscript{152} \textit{The Graham County Lever}, September 4, 1879.
\end{itemize}
to the niggers and give them a few little offices, but when we get the county seat at Hill City, they may go to _______.”

Eight years later in 1887, the Hill City affair was still an important political issue. The Republican Convention met September 8, at Millbrook. James Justus, President and W. L. Wallace, Secretary, made themselves a committee on credentials and began to dictate what delegates would be seated. Justus and Hill were determined to be nominated. On September 7, Justus called a secret meeting in Hill City and there decided upon the seats of the convention. A great deal of friction resulted from these doings. The main plank of the Justus-Hill platform was Hill City for the County seat. This one ordeal caused a Split in the Republican Party in Graham County, however, this split had been in evidence since the previous year.

The first Democratic Caucus meeting was held in Nicodemus on September 21, 1887 at the Hays Drug Store. Eight Democrats attended the meeting. J. C. Parish was chairman and F. M. Lewin was secretary. They chose delegates to the county convention to be held at Millbrook on September 28. The delegates elected were S. E. Hays, J. C. Lowery, and J. C. Parish. The political feelings of the early negroes were expressed by H. K. Lightfoot,

153. The Lever, November 28, 1879.
154. The Nicodemus Enterprise, September 14, 1887.
155. Ibid., September 21, 1887.
Editor of the *Nicodemus Enterprise*, in his very first issue, August 17, 1887. The caption read: Published to advance the interest of Nicodemus, Graham County, and the Principles of the Republican Party.

In the early eighties, the wages paid to laborers reminds one of the depression day. The pay for farm labor was thirteen dollars to sixteen dollars per month, plus board, carpenters received two dollars to three dollars per day, as did the bricklayers and masons. Wagon makers and blacksmiths pay was from two dollars to two dollars and a half for a day's work. Washerwomen received seventy-five cents to one dollar per day and domestic servants worked all week for one dollar and a half to two dollars and a half.

In 1881 the citizens of the town of Nicodemus felt there should be a City well so one was dug in main street west of the Masonic Hall. At about sixty feet a stream of water was struck. The current was so strong that it was almost impossible to build a wall up inside the well. During the night, what wall had been built during the day washed away. The wall was finally finished but it kept caving in at the bottom. The men repaired it twice but the work was dangerous and they decided to fill it in. It sank several times and

loads of rock and dirt were used to fill it up. The last time the fill caved in was in 1906, William Scott drove over the spot and the horses went down several feet. In spite of the low wages the Nicodemus community began to take pride in civic affairs. Early in 1886 a public appeal was made through the town's paper to get home owners to level off the ruins of the old sod houses. The people were asked to plant trees and devise other means of making the town a more beautiful place to live. New businesses were being established and the town's people looked forward to a boom. The town had now grown until it had become the second largest town in Graham County. In June of 1886, there were between twenty-five and thirty new buildings in the process of being completed. The farm people enjoyed a degree of security also. Some of the farms yielded as much as thirty-two bushels of wheat per acre. John W. Lored was probably the king of the colored cattleman and owned a herd of over forty head of cattle. By August of 1887, Nicodemus contained four general stores, two grocery stores, two drug stores, two

157. Nettie Craig.
158. Western Cyclone, May 13, 1886.
159. Ibid., July 15, 1886.
160. Ibid., June 17, 1886.
161. Ibid., August 26, 1886.
hotels (the Gibson Hotel later the Commercial House and the St. Francis Hotel) two livery stables, two millinery stores, and one bank, two land and loan agents, one law firm, one physician, two blacksmith shops, one shoe shop, one barber shop, two implement dealers, two church buildings, and a fifteen hundred dollar school house in the process of completion. It was said that money invested in Nicodemus sometimes returned one hundred per cent in twelve months.

Nicodemus was on a mail and stage line by this time, 1887. The stage left Nicodemus daily, except Sunday, at 1 p.m. and arrived in Stockton, by way of Alcona and Webster, at 6 a.m. Each morning it left Stockton at 7 a.m. and arrived in Nicodemus at 11:30 a.m. The stage ran from Millbrook to Nicodemus and back by way of Fogan. It left Millbrook at 7:30 a.m. and arrived in Nicodemus at 11 a.m. At 1 p.m. the stage left for Millbrook and arrived there at 6 p.m. Another route was to Ellis from Nicodemus by way of Kebar, Cresson, Amboy, and Mendota. This stage arrived in Nicodemus on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and departed on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Passengers and mail were carried on all these lines. Post office hours at Nicodemus were from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. except Sunday and holidays. A. N. Harper was postmaster and Miss Mary Moor was assistant.

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162. The Nicodemus Enterprise, August 17, 1887.
163. Ibid.
The town boasted of two newspaper offices. The *Western Cyclone* ran from 1886 to 1888. The *Nicodemus Enterprise* had its big day in 1887. The subscription price of these papers was one dollar per year sent anywhere in the United States.

The principal agricultural products, as given by the *Nicodemus Enterprise* in 1887, were wheat, rye, corn, barley, oats, buckwheat, sweet potatoes, irish potatoes, sorghum, caster beans, flax, hemp, broom corn, and millet. All this was raised in a country that ten years before had been mostly prairie fit only for coyotes and rattlesnakes.

The negro people did not wish to enjoy their freedom for liberty alone. They were desirous of having others come and partake of their good fortune. The days of the starving colored man were now in the past. The negroes organized an association to mutually benefit and assist those who were wanting to come to Kansas and to Graham County. They called their organization The *Nicodemus Emigration Association*. The officers were: H. K. Lightfoot, editor of the *Nicodemus Enterprise*, was President, J. H. Patterson was secretary, H. R. Clayton, Corresponding Secretary, J. R. Hawkins, Assistant

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164. The issues of these papers are to be found in the archives of the Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

165. The *Nicodemus Enterprise*, November 16, 1887.
Secretary, and Sam Garland, Treasurer. No account of formal business of this association could be found by the writer. By talking with some of the negroes in the community, the writer gathered information to the effect that the association was active in sending information to leaders of the colored people in the South and to friends of those who were living in Graham County.

Religious development

Two churches, the Methodist and the Baptist, were already organized in the Nicodemus community before 1887. On Sunday, August 14, 1887 a group of ten negroes met at the Garrett school house and organized a third church. This was the Christian Church and the officers chosen were John Samuels, pastor, Jonas Moor, Elder, Henry Napue, Deacon, and Oscar Talbott, Clerk.167 This church played an important roll in the religious development of the community. Most of the early negroes were religious people. In their sorrow and distress, they turned to a source of help in which they had been taught to believe. They built their churches and held their Sunday Schools to help train the young minds of the negro children and to solace the hearts of the adults. Many accounts have

166. The Nicodemus Enterprise, November 16, 1887.
167. Ibid., August 17, 1887.
been found by the writer of the negroes praying to God for food and for protection. They felt the whole affair from the Southland to their present home compared to the wanderings of the Children of Israel of the Bible. To them, their new home was the land of Canaan. The oppressor was gone, the iron hand of the "Egyptians" was no longer felt. The pioneer optimism for the future of the town of Nicodemus in 1887 is shown in this quotation from the local paper:

Nicodemus! Compare it and its present prospects with one year ago and see how favorable they are. Now, church spires point heavenward, and the whistle of the iron horse is heard in the distance, our population is ten times more. Glorious town! Glorious country! What inspired hand can write your future, who can estimate your wealth ten years from today? God,—He who rules the destination of this Nation. He alone can tell. 169


169. The Nicodemus Enterprise, August 17, 1887.
CHAPTER VI
DECLINE OF NICODEMUS

Reasons for the decline

The great crowds of negroes did not come to the northwest part of the state as the early colored people had dreamed. The large metropolis did not develop. The negro influx which troubled the Freedman's Relief Association of a decade before had been absorbed in the state elsewhere. By the winter of 1886, only about one hundred and fifty people lived in the town. Even then, the predictions were that it would some day be a large trading center. The second reason, and no doubt the major one, was the fact that the railroad failed to come to Nicodemus.

In 1887, A. L. McPherson, a prominent member of the Nicodemus community made a trip back East to interview some of the head officials of the Missouri Pacific railroad. There was a possibility that the line would be extended west from Stockton. On his return home, McPherson, said the line could not be extended that season but there was a possibility of it coming through the next fall. At the same time there was a plan to get the Union Pacific railroad, being built through Plainville, to come

170. The Western Cyclone, December 9, 1886.
through Nicodemus. The plan then was to bring the line through Stockton, Webster, Nicodemus, and Millbrook from Plainville. The railroad lines never reached Nicodemus. The Missouri Pacific railroad failed to secure the bond-vote necessary to finance the building of the road. The Union Pacific finally built its line several miles south of the Nicodemus community, on the other side of the river. The colored people then began to move to Bogue, Hill City, and other towns. At that time, many of the businesses moved to towns where transportation would be better and where there would be a greater demand for their goods.

Present Nicodemus

Today there are only two small businesses in the town of Nicodemus. Mrs. Leo Williams opens up her cafe on Sundays only. The cafe is in one of the stone store buildings. There is no one in town through the week who cares to eat at a cafe but on Sundays a large crowd gathers in Nicodemus and thus a demand is created for the cafe. Mr. A. T. Bates has a repair business. He repairs cars, tractors, and radios. The rest of the colored people in Nicodemus are engaged in farming with the exception of one of the Ministers. There are still two

171. The Nicodemus Enterprise, August 17, 1887.
churches in the town. Rev. J. D. Wilson is pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal church and Rev. W. G. Williams is the Minister of the First Baptist church. Years ago there was a split in the Baptist church. There were then the First and Second Baptist churches but as population grew less, the two churches united. There are thirteen occupied homes in Nicodemus today with one home being built. Several broken down shanties still remind one of former days. A few rock remains of houses of the eighties still stand. The home of Z. T. Fletcher, the first postmaster of Nicodemus, still stands and is in use. The postmaster of the town is Rev. J. D. Wilson. Mail arrives by car twice a day at 11:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. There is no natural gas in the town. The principle fuel is coal. Two stone store buildings on the north side of Jefferson street still stand. Besides these buildings there is a small Masonic hall, a larger township hall, a Priscilla art club hall, and a school house in Nicodemus. Five pupils attended the school last year, 1949-50. There is today, electricity in the town and community, supplied by the Rural Electrical Association. The town's people are now "signing up" for a telephone system. Up until this time, the nearest telephone was Bogue.
The negroes of this community still have a spirit of progress about them. Today there are six organizations, not including the churches, which help keep up a civic spirit. A Priscilla Art Club with twenty-five members is very active. Each year the ladies do fancy work at all their meetings. They then sell this "art" at a Pre-Easter and Pre-Christmas bazar. They have electricity and propane gas in their club house. Last January, 1950, they celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary. The Willing Worker's Bureau, a unit of the Home Demonstration Association, has twenty-five members. Most of the men are members of the Masonic Lodge while the women are active in the Order of Eastern Star. The men's club has twenty-five members, the women's club has twenty-six. The Young Matron's Club, for young married women, has fourteen members. The club hour is spent discussing passages from the Bible and its application to present day living. The San Sonci Club is a social club which meets regularly. The members play bridge and other card games and are served by one of the members.

There are fifty-six negroes today living in Nicodemus. The names of the families along with the number in each family are as follows: H. H. Napue (2), Jerry Scruggs (1), Clarence Sayers (3), grand nephew of W. L. Sayers, Effie Moore and son (2), Rev. W. G. Williams (3), A. T. Bates (5), Fred Switzer, Sr. (5),

The writer stood in the doorway to the small post office in Nicodemus. On the wall was a small plaque which seemed to depict the simple hope of the negro people, it read "Trust in God." One of the bystanders pointed out a low gap in the low rolling hills to the South. In the early days when the railroad was being built, the lights from the iron horse would illuminate the entire town. The colored people thought of this as a good omen which promised success for their community.
CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

The colored man came from the South to the North because of oppression. A period of over a decade since emancipation had gone by and the negro was not free. The white man still used him much as he had done in the time of slavery. Nicodemus was also settled in the late seventies by negroes who had heard of the economic advantages of living in "free" Kansas. The great majority of the early settlers of Nicodemus came from Kentucky. W. R. Hill had the greatest influence in getting them to Graham County. The writer has tried to present in this study who the early land owners and lot owners of this community were. As far as found in existing county records the original owners have been given. An effort has been made to depict the hardships of these early negro pioneers. The negro stayed on his land while many of the white men left because of unfavorable conditions. It is hard to understand how the colored people were able to live on such meager fare.

The organizing of the community was simple. The colored man was a peace-loving individual and he was easily satisfied by simple procedures. Nicodemus has reason to be proud of the outstanding men it has produced. The negroes have shown their ability in political offices. In farming and the professions many negroes have been successful. The social and cultural development of the community advanced as
more negroes came to live in this negro town. A civic pride still exists among the dusky inhabitants of the once proud town. For the most part, the early settler was Republican in his politics. The feeling was that the negro who deserted his party was not worthy to remain free.

The economic development of Nicodemus was slow. The very earliest negro pioneer had very little money and it took years of hard work to make him independent. The negroes who came into Graham County were religious in nature and their faith and trust in God is portrayed in their songs and what little writings they have done. Today the churches are the most important social group in the Nicodemus community. The prospects of the village becoming a large town ended when the railroad missed the town. At that time many negroes moved away to larger places where better opportunities could be found. Since that time, no large group has come to the community to enlarge its population. Nicodemus still exists as a township. They have their township officers and school officers. With improved transportation, it is but a few minutes drive to the nearest trading center. The people are farmers, even though they live in town. Today, business houses in Nicodemus are unprofitable.

The author of this study was not able to find the names of all members of the first five groups of settlers in 1877-1878, who came to Nicodemus. It is recommended that an attempt should be made to secure these names and a record made of what happened to these people.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Material on the Negro Exodus, including statistics on the matter, and given in detail.


Account of the coming of the negro to Kansas from the South from 1874 to 1879.


The colored Exodus material, emphasizing the coloniza-
tion of the negro in the state of Kansas, is given.


Account of the early day schools in Graham County, Kansas.

Scale of wages is given for Graham County, Kansas for 1880.


A short account is given of the settlement of the negroes in Nicodemus, Kansas.


An account of the flight of the colored man from the South along with an estimate of their advantages and disadvantages.


A story of the conflict between the cowboys and the negroes in Graham County, Kansas.


The population of Nicodemus township is given in this statistical report for 1920.

Growth of population in the United States by states, counties, cities, and townships.

B. PERIODICAL ARTICLES


An account of the flight of the negro from the oppression of the Southland to the freedom of the North.


This article deals with the Exodus of the colored men.


This article deals especially with the Exodus of the negro to Kansas and his adjusting to his new home.


An account of the many negro colonies which was established in Kansas. The article gives a background of some of the leaders of the Exodus.


An account of the "Father of the Exodus"-Benjamin "Pap" Singleton. This account also gives Governor John P. St. John's attitude toward the negroes.
Taft, Robert, "The Pictorial Record of the Old West," The
Historical Quarterly, XIV (August, 1946), 247.

An account of the influx of the negro into Kansas and the statements of Senator Ingalls on the migration of the negro.

C. UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Craig, Nettie, "Nicodemus," an unpublished manuscript obtained from W. L. Sayers of Hill City, Kansas.

Mrs. Craig is one of the early settlers of Graham County. She has collected material since 1880 for her manuscript. She is a former school teacher of the Nicodemus community.


O. G. Nevins made the motion which set the boundaries of the Nicodemus township.

Graham County Clerk. "Plat of Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas," in plat book number one, court house, Hill City, Kansas.

This plat gives size of lots, number of lots, width of streets and alley-ways, and the date of filing of the plat.


These records give the first land owners in Nicodemus township which are recorded in county record book.

An account of early lot owners in the town of Nicodemus.


A duplicate of the final receipt for the town site of Nicodemus issued to James Gordon, Probate Judge, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Nicodemus township.


The names of the first and second eighth graders to graduate from the community of Nicodemus.


Boundaries for school district number one-Nicodemus.


In this account appears the names of the first school officers on record in the court house.

An account of the business of the association to try to curb the migration to Kansas of the negroes.

"On Early Graham County, Kansas," clippings and unpublished material in the Hill City Library, Hill City, Kansas.

This material gives some history of W. R. Hill and an account of the railroads in Graham County, Kansas.


This is the original plat of Nicodemus and gives the names of the streets of the town.


This is a collection of newspaper clippings, letters, and personal comments of Mr. "Rust.


This is a collection of newspaper collection, letters, handbills and advertisements of Nicodemus which was gathered by Mr. Singleton.
D. NEWSPAPERS

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An account of the early settlement of Nicodemus, Kansas.

The Lever (Gettysburg, Kansas), September 4, September 26, October 3, 1879; February 27, 1880; September 14, September 21, 1887.

Accounts of W. R. Hill in the Graham County community.

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A history of Nicodemus in brief is given in these papers.

The North Topeka Times (North Topeka, Kansas), April 25, 1879.
This account is an appeal for relief for the negroes.

The Oakley Graphic (Oakley, Kansas), December 4, 1931.
W. L. Chamber's account of "Niles of Nicodemus."

The Pioneer (Smith Center, Kansas), March 21, 1879.
An account of the progress of the town of Nicodemus.

The Rooks County Record (Stockton, Kansas), March 29, 1934.
W. F. Hughes' article on W. R. Hill.

The Salina Journal (Salina, Kansas), February 19, 1950.
This is a feature story of some of the people of the Nicodemus community.

The Topeka Daily Capital (Topeka, Kansas), August 29, 1937.
An account of Mrs. Willianna Hickman's first trip to Nicodemus.

The Topeka Daily Journal (Topeka, Kansas), January 7, 1922.
A list of the first five groups of settlers who came to Nicodemus.

The Weekly Champion (Atchinson, Kansas), July 23, 1881;
September 1, 1883.
These articles deal with early Nicodemus. A short account is given of John Niles.
The Weekly Courier (Seneca, Kansas), September 17, 1880.
This article gives information to emigrants.

The Western Cyclone (Nicodemus, Kansas), May 13, June 17, July 15, August 2, August 26, September 9, December 9, 1886; September 2, 1887.
These articles give short historical sketches of the negro community in Graham County.

The Western Star (Hill City, Kansas), May 22, 1879; May 20, 1880.
An account, written for the benefit of the negroes, of the requirements to obtain government land.

The Wichita Beacon (Wichita, Kansas), October 1, 1933.
W. R. Hill is reported to have collected larger amounts of money from more fortunate negroes to pay his expenses.
## APPENDIX A

**FEDERAL CENSUS OF NICODEMUS TOWNSHIP**

**JUNE 1, 1880.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>From State</th>
<th>Place of F. Birth</th>
<th>Place of M. Birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Edmond, Mary</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>wife</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Ky.</td>
<td>Ky.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark, A. M.</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Teamster</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>Penn.</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Housekeeper</td>
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<td>Boarder</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Va.</td>
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<td>Laborer</td>
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<td>N.Y.</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
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<td>Henry, Handy</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Shoemaker</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Wilson, S. G.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Retail Grocer</td>
<td>N. H.</td>
<td>N. H.</td>
<td>N. H.</td>
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<td>Miles, John W.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Wooddealer</td>
<td>Miss.</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Ga.</td>
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<td>Wright, John</td>
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<td>Son</td>
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Lilly, Amanda    M  F  20  Wife  Kentucky  Ky.  Ky.
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Grebles, Louisa  W  F  39  Wife  Canada  Canada  Canada
Grebles, George  W  M  16  Son  Illinois  Sweden  Canada
Grebles, Pauline  W  F  14  Daughter  Illinois  Sweden  Canada
Grebles, Beala   W  F  7   Daughter  Michigan  Sweden  Canada
Serena, Louis   W  M  29  Farmer  Italy  Italy  Italy
Grebels, George  W  M  35  Farmer  Italy  Italy  Italy
Thouvinot, Leopold  W  M  76  Farmer  France  France  France
Thouvinot, Caroline  W  F  58  Wife  France  France  France
Thouvinot, Margaret  W  F  16  Adopted  Illinois  Germany  Germany
Grebles, Frederick  W  M  18  Laborer  Illinois  Sweden  Canada
& Servant
Bradford, Maria  M  F  18  Step- Kentucky  Ky.  Ky.
daughter
wks.  son

June 5

Foster, Sam'l   B  M  85  Farmer  S. Carolina S.C.  Africa
Foster, Olive   B  F  75  Wife  Tennessee  N.C.  N.C.
Isaacs, Nancy   B  F  52  Daughter  Tennessee  N.C.  Tenn.
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173. Taken from *The Census* of the United States, population for the year 1880.
APPENDIX B

FEDERAL CENSUS OF NEGROES IN GRAHAM COUNTY

NOT IN NICODEMUS TOWNSHIP, JUNE, 1880.

Johnson, George

Barbour, Maggie
B F 16 Step-child Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Hicks, Lucy

Carter, Florida
B F 9 Step-child Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Johnson, Mary
B F 6 Daughter Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Johnson, Willie
B M 2 Son Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Grant, John
B M 53 Farmer Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Harris, Grant
B M 37 Farmer Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Harris, Ellen
B F 31 Wife Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Harris, John H.
B M 6 Son Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Harris, Tabitha
B F 2 Daughter Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Harris, Robt.
B M 11 Son Kansas Ky. Ky.

Hawkins, Thomas
B M 10 Adopted Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Scott, John

Scott, Caroline
B F 48 Wife Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Lewis, Granville
B M 12 Servant Missouri Ky. Mo.

Simpson, Vincent

Mills, William
B M 63 Farmer Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Lewis, Grainville,
B M 30 Uncle Farmer Kentucky Ky. Ky.

Lewis, Amanda
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Relationship</th>
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**Hill City Township**
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### Gettysburg Township

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### South of South Fork Solomon River

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### South of So. Fork Solomon River (Micoedmus Township)

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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Gender</td>
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**Millbrook Township**

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Bryant Township

174. Taken from The Census of the United States, population for the year 1880.
# APPENDIX C

## TRANSFER RECORDS OF EARLY LANDOWNERS OF NICODEMUS TOWNSHIP

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<td>P.* James Kennedy</td>
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<td>Jan. 12, 1889 N.E.</td>
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<td>P. Andrew J. Lovelady</td>
<td>U.S. Nov. 26, 1892</td>
<td>Mar. 15, 1884 N.W.</td>
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<td>P. Ann White</td>
<td>U.S. Aug. 19, 1890</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 1889 S.E.</td>
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<td>P. Ola E. Ginther</td>
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<td>P. George Hall</td>
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<td>Aug. 1, 1889 se &amp; sw of S.W.</td>
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<td>P. John Bucher</td>
<td>U.S. May 5, 1902</td>
<td>Aug. 8, 1895 N.W.</td>
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<td>P. Frederick Mahurin</td>
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<td>Dec. 20, 1884 nw &amp; sw of S.E.</td>
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<td>P. Frederick Mahurin</td>
<td>U.S. Apr. 7, 1885</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 1884 ne &amp; se of S.W.</td>
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<td>P. Frederick Mahurin</td>
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<td>P. Nona B. Blackburn</td>
<td>Ks. Nov. 17, 1913</td>
<td>Nov. 8, 1913 N.E.</td>
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<td>P. Anna Belle Flynn</td>
<td>U.S. Oct. 24, 1911</td>
<td>Feb. 12, 1891 ne &amp; se of N.W.</td>
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P. Patent F.R. Final Record
P. L. D. Worcester U.S. Dec. 26, 1888 June 1, 1886 S.E.
P. L. R. Worcester Ks. Oct. 9, 1912 Sept 20, 1899 se of S.W.
P. L. R. Worcester Ks. Aug. 9, 1913 Aug. 4, 1913 ne & nw & sw of S.W.

Sec. 4, T. 7, R. 22.
P. Michael Murphy U.S. Mar. 30, 1889 Sept 24, 1887 N.E.
P. Nancy M. Cook U.S. Nov. 30, 1898 Aug. 9, 1889 ne & nw of N.W.

Sec. 5, T. 7, R. 22.
P. James J. Hedden U.S. Dec. 6, 1886 Dec. 20, 1884 nw & sw of N.W.
P. Mary D. Hunter U.S. Feb. 28, 1905 Aug. 24, 1891 ne & se of N.E.
P. James J. Hedden U.S. Dec. 6, 1886 Dec. 20, 1884 ne & se of N.W.
P. Russell J. Richards U.S. Feb. 28, 1905 June 21, 1890 nw & sw of N.W.
P. Mary D. Hunter U.S. Feb. 28, 1905 Aug. 24, 1891 ne & nw of S.E.
P. Leander H. Troutman U.S. May 23, 1893 Jan. 14, 1888 se & sw of S.E.
F.R. Leander H. Troutman U.S. Sept 22, 1886 Aug. 30, 1886 nw & sw of S.W.

Sec. 6, T. 7, R. 22.
P. Lewis D. Broadbent U.S. Nov. 22, 1921 Mar. 4, 1890 N.W.
P. Leroy C. Cook  U.S. July 20, 1900 Jan. 27, 1900 S.E.
P. John T. Smith  U.S. Nov. 17, 1920 Dec. 31, 1890 S.W.

Sec. 7, T. 7, R. 22.
P. Paul VanWyck  U.S. Nov. 14, 1893 Mar. 4, 1890 N.E.
P. Cynthia C. Broadbent  U.S. Mar. 14, 1889 Dec. 29, 1888 N.W.
P. Heirs of James Woods  U.S. Mar. 9, 1889 Jan. 12, 1889 S.E.

Sec. 8, T. 7, R. 22.
P. James Latridge  U.S. Apr. 15, 1889 Jan. 5, 1889 N.E.
P. David B. VanWyck  U.S. Nov. 5, 1920 Nov. 1, 1890 N.W.
F.R. Wm. Tobie  U.S. Mar. 14, 1889 Jan. 5, 1889 S.E.
P. Abraham B. Wood  U.S. Dec. 23, 1887 June 29, 1887 S.W.

Sec. 9, T. 7, R. 22.
P. Stephen VanWyck  U.S. Apr. 26, 1911 Mar. 4, 1890 nw & sw of N.E.
P. John R. Latridge  U.S. Nov. 4, 1901 May 5, 1899 N.W.
P. R. Frank Richards  U.S. Dec. 4, 1890 Aug. 5, 1890 nw of S.E.
P. W. T. Dudley  U.S. Apr. 26, 1911 Mar. 15, 1884 ne & se & sw of S.E.
P. Elizabeth Kelsey  U.S. Feb. 16, 1887 June 14, 1887 S.W.

Sec. 10, T. 7, R. 22.
P. Leverett D. Worcester  U.S. June 10, 1892 June 29, 1891 N.E.
P. Martha J. Worcester  U.S. Oct. 20, 1890 Dec. 12, 1887 ne of N.W.
P. Daniel P. Davis  U.S. Jan. 27, 1902  Mar. 15, 1884  se of N.W.

Warranty, Amanda O. Gara
Ann Spaulding &
husband
July 24, 1885  July 9, 1885  nw & sw of N.W.

P. Hanson Wells  U.S.  Oct. 27, 1890  May 16, 1888  S.E.

P. Daniel P. Davis  U.S. Jan. 27, 1902  Mar. 15, 1884  ne & se & sw of S.W.

No Record

Sec. 11, T. 7, R. 22.

P. Josephine Campbell  U.S. Apr. 3, 1886  Mar. 15, 1884  N.E.
formally Josephine Stonehocker
Warranty, Perry Stonehocker  Alonzo Stonehocker  March 23, 1886
(no Patent secured to present date)  March 15, 1886  N.W.

P. Perry Stonehocker  U.S. Apr. 3, 1886  Dec. 20, 1884  S.E.

P. Perry Stonehocker  U.S. July 5, 1888  Feb. 11, 1888  S.W.

Sec. 19, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Benj. Dawson  U.S. June 21, 1889  June 14, 1889  N.E.

P. Hiram Francis  U.S. Nov. 5, 1889  June 14, 1887  ne, nw &
F.R.  Aug. 2, 1884  July 29, 1884  sw of N.W.

P. Alfred Grebles  U.S. Jan. 9, 1892  Aug. 8, 1890  se of
F.R.  Mar. 27, 1889  Mar. 2, 1889  N.W.

P. Clay Bradford  U.S. July 30, 1886  Dec. 20, 1884  S.E.

P. Hiram Travis  U.S. Nov. 5, 1889  June 14, 1887  nw of
F.R.  Aug. 2, 1884  July 29, 1884  S.W.

P. Alfred Grebles  U.S. Jan. 9, 1892  Aug. 8, 1890  ne, se,
F.R.  Mar. 27, 1889  Mar. 2, 1889  sw of S.W.

Sec. 20, T. 7, R. 21.

Sec. 21, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Lewis A. Chamberlin
F.R.  Nov. 11, 1903 June 14, 1887 S.E. July 24, 1884 July 22, 1884
P. Silas M. Lee
F.R.  June 14, 1887 N.W.
P. Ernest Taylor
F.R.  May 28, 1887 May 17, 1887

Sec. 22, T. 7,

P. Daniel H. Goodnow
F.R.  Oct. 24, 1903 Feb. 12, 1891 N.E.
P. Geo. W. Chamberlain
F.R.  Apr. 28, 1885 Dec. 10, 1880 ne & nw of N.W.

P. Henry Smith
F.R.  Nov. 1, 1880 se & sw of N.W.
P. Abby Cook formally Abby Kenyon
F.R.  Oct. 13, 1891 Mar. 4, 1890 S.W.

Sec. 23, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Charles Williams
F.R.  Oct. 29, 1892 June 14, 1887 ne & nw

P. James P. Pomeroy
F.R.  Nov. 3, 1904 Oct. 26, 1904 nw & sw of N.W.
P. J. A. Weaver
F.R.  Aug. 21, 1912 June 28, 1912 ne & se of N.W.
P. Charles Williams
F.R.  Apr. 4, 1899 Dec. 12, 1898 S.E.
P. James P. Pomeroy
F.R.  Mar. 21, 1893 Mar. 22, 1893 S.W.
School Patent

P. Ellen Johnson
F.R.  May 9, 1906 Sept 28, 1889 se & sw

P. Thomas Johnson
F.R.  June 26, 1889 June 14, 1887 ne, nw,

July 24, 1885 Apr. 3, 1885 se of S.E.
P. Henry Johnson
U.S. June 12, 1889 June 14, 1889 sw of Mar. 9, 1886 Apr. 3, 1885 S.E.
F.R.

P. Charles Williams
U.S. Oct. 29, 1892 June 14, 1887 ne of Mar. 15, 1886 Apr. 3, 1885 N.W.
F.R.

F.R. Silas M. Lee
U.S. Dec. 5, 1902 Apr. 22, 1902 nw of S.W.

P. Henry Johnson
U.S. June 12, 1889 June 14, 1889 se of S.W. Mar. 9, 1886 Apr. 3, 1885
F.R.

F.R. Silas M. Lee
U.S. Dec. 5, 1902 Apr. 22, 1902 sw of S.W.

P. Ellen Johnson
U.S. May 9, 1906 Sept. 28, 1889 se of Mar. 15, 1886 Apr. 2, 1885 N.W.
F.R.

F.R. Silas M. Lee
U.S. Dec. 5, 1902 Apr. 22, 1902 nw of N.W.

F.R. Silas M. Lee
U.S. Dec. 5, 1902 Apr. 22, 1902 sw of N.W.

P. Thomas Johnson
U.S. June 26, 1889 June 14, 1887 ne of July 24, 1885 Apr. 3, 1885 S.W.
F.R.

Sec. 24, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Oliver Gurley
U.S. July 17, 1888 Sept 17, 1887 N.E.
F.R.

P. Lounds Franks
F.R.

P. Charles Williams
U.S. Oct. 29, 1892 June 14, 1887 nw of Mar. 15, 1886 Apr. 3, 1885 N.W.
F.R.

P. Lounds Franks
F.R.

P. Ellen Johnson
U.S. May 9, 1906 Sept. 28, 1889 sw of Mar. 15, 1886 Apr. 12, 1885 N.W.
F.R.

F.R. Margaret Watt
U.S. May 13, 1890 Apr. 26, 1890 S.W.

Sec. 25, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Chaney Hall
U.S. June 15, 1903 June 31, 1903 N.E.
F.R. Apr. 3, 1902 Mar. 24, 1902

F.R. Richard L. Latham
U.S. Oct. 3, 1885 Mar. 27, 1885 N.W.
Copy of P.

Apr. 10, 1899 June 1, 1886
P. Peter Coleman   U.S. Nov. 3, 1887 June 14, 1887 S.E.
F.R.               Apr. 2, 1886 Apr. 2, 1885

F.R. Moses Wimms   U.S. July 24, 1884 July 22, 1884 S.W.
Copy of P.         Apr 10, 1899 June 14, 1887

Sec. 26, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Henry Johnson   U.S. June 12, 1889 June 14, 1887 ne & nw
F.R.               Mar. 9, 1886 Apr. 3, no of N.E. date

P. Lewis E. Reed   U.S. June 18, 1917 Feb. 9, 1898 se & sw
                  of N.E.

P. F. M. Empson    U.S. Jan. 8, 1900 Oct. 23, 1894 S.E.

P. James P. Pomeroy Ks. Mar. 31, 1893 Mar. 23, 1893 nw & sw
                     of N.W.

P. Jacob Coleman   Ks. Dec. 9, 1909 Nov. 24, 1909 ne & se
                     School P.

P. Lewis Wilson    Ks. Sept. 7, 1886 Sept 1, 1886 ne & sw
                     of S.W.

P. James P. Pomeroy Ks. Mar. 31, 1893 Mar. 23, 1893 se & sw
                     School P.

Sec. 27, T. 7, R. 21.

                     School P.

P. James P. Pomeroy Ks. Jan. 16, 1905 Jan. 6, 1905 ne & se
                     of N.W.

P. J. A. Deprad     Ks. Mar. 15, 1909 Mar. 9, 1909 nw & sw
                     of N.W.

P. Mary Jane Sayers Ks. Sept 26, 1887 Aug 8, 1887 S.E.

P. James P. Pomeroy Ks. Apr. 1, 1904 Mar. 11, 1904 ne & nw
                     of S.W.

P. William Sissal   Ks. July 30, 1908 July 27, 1908 se & sw
                     of S.W.

Sec. 28, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Henry Buckner    U.S. Sept 21, 1888 Sept 15, 1888 N.E.
F.R.                Mar. 9, 1886 Oct. 6, 1885
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>F.R.</th>
<th>Sec. 29, T. 7, R. 21.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John H. Deprad</td>
<td>Oct. 17, 1887</td>
<td>June 14, 1887</td>
<td>N.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles H. King</td>
<td>Jan. 19, 1888</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 1884</td>
<td>N.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. E. Grebles</td>
<td>Dec. 10, 1892</td>
<td>Mar. 14, 1892</td>
<td>S.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford Bradford</td>
<td>June 29, 1889</td>
<td>July 21, 1888</td>
<td>N.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willis Neal</td>
<td>Apr. 14, 1888</td>
<td>June 14, 1887</td>
<td>N.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldridge Combs</td>
<td>May 5, 1885</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 1884</td>
<td>N.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Williams</td>
<td>Mar. 13, 1889</td>
<td>June 14, 1887</td>
<td>N.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dudley W. Miles</td>
<td>Apr. 24, 1895</td>
<td>Dec. 5, 1890</td>
<td>S.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Neal</td>
<td>July 11, 1888</td>
<td>June 14, 1887</td>
<td>N.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Lilly</td>
<td>Oct. 7, 1891</td>
<td>July 21, 1888</td>
<td>S.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Griffey</td>
<td>May 1, 1895</td>
<td>July 24, 1894</td>
<td>S.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Scruggs</td>
<td>Aug. 9, 1897</td>
<td>Oct. 8, 1892</td>
<td>N.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. P. Hockersmith</td>
<td>Oct. 13, 1891</td>
<td>May 5, 1890</td>
<td>N.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Fox</td>
<td>Dec. 3, 1889</td>
<td>Sept 28, 1889</td>
<td>S.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Griffie</td>
<td>Sept. 19, 1894</td>
<td>Feb. 28, 1892</td>
<td>S.W.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sec. 32, T. 7, R. 21.

P. Eldridge Combe U.S. May 5, 1885 Dec. 20, 1884 ne & se of N.E.
P. Thornton Williams U.S. Mar. 13, 1889 June 14, 1887 nw & sw of N.E.
P. Austin Smith U.S. Sept 9, 1908 Apr. 1, 1907 N.W.
P. George Tucker U.S. June 13, 1895 Mar. 12, 1890 S.E.
F.R.
P. Effie Scruggs U.S. Jan. 21, 1909 Sept. 9, 1892 S.W.

F.R.

Sec. 33, T. 7, H. 21.

P. Joseph W. Griffin U.S. Oct. 13, 1887 June 14, 1887 N.E.
F. R.
P. Graves Scruggs U.S. July 7, 1897 Aug. 24, 1891 N.W.
F.R. Caroline Washington U.S. May 25, 1886 Mar. 27, 1885 S.E.
P. Jerry Scruggs U.S. Feb. 7, 1912 June 14, 1887 S.W.
F.R.

Sec. 34, T. 7, A. 21.

P. David Johnson U.S. Nov. 21, 1887 June 14, 1887 N.E.
P. John Taylor U.S. Jan. 25, 1893 Apr. 1, 1892 N.W.
P. Ann Easton U.S. Apr. 27, 1889 June 1, 1886 S.E.
P. Jarett Smith U.S. Feb. 9, 188 U.S. June 14, 1887 S.W.
F.R. Aug. 6, 1886 Oct. 13, 1884

Sec. 35, W. 7, R. 21.

P. Jerry Alsop U.S. Mar. 2, 1912 Aug. 6, 1899 N.E.
F.R. Apr. 22, 1887 Sept 22, 1886
F.R. June 28, 1888 June 27, 1888
P. Gorge Moore Ks. Apr. 4, 1903 Mar. 30, 1903 S.E.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Transfer</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P. John Vaughn</td>
<td>U.S. May 23, 1912</td>
<td>21, 1888 S.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.R.</td>
<td>Mar 11, 1887</td>
<td>1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(no date)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 36, T. 7, R. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. Francis P. Daniels</td>
<td>Ks. May 23, 1910</td>
<td>Apr. 28, 1910 N.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Ellen Coleman</td>
<td>Ks. Dec. 9, 1909</td>
<td>Nov. 24, 1909 nw of N.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. S. G. Wilson</td>
<td>Ks. Mar. 27, 1899</td>
<td>July 6, 1891 se of N.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Record</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. David Williamson</td>
<td>Ks. Feb. 25, 1887</td>
<td>Feb. 21, 1887 S.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. G. M. Sayers</td>
<td>Ks. July 10, 1918</td>
<td>July 8, 1918 S.W.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## APPENDIX D

### TRANSFER RECORDS OF ORIGINAL

#### LOT OWNERS OF NICODEMUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee</th>
<th>Grantor</th>
<th>Date of Transfer</th>
<th>Date of Instrument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Block Number 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees, Baptist Ch. Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.</td>
<td>Prob. Judge</td>
<td>Jan. 28, 1887</td>
<td>Nov. 30, 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. N. Harper Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.</td>
<td>Prob. Judge</td>
<td>Nov. 4, 1886</td>
<td>Oct. 25, 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Combs Lot 18.</td>
<td>Graham Co.</td>
<td>Apr. 17, 1907</td>
<td>Apr. 17, 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Block Number 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. N. Harper Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.</td>
<td>Prob. Judge</td>
<td>Nov. 4, 1886</td>
<td>Oct. 25, 1886</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Samuel Garland
Lots 13 and 14.

J. C. B. Lewis
Lot 15.

Mrs. A. Crow
Lot 16.

C. C. Crow
Lots 17 and 18.

Earnest Taylor
Lot 19.

Ed McNulty and E. E. Chipman
Lot 20.

John Vaughn
Lots 21 and 22.

Clarissa More
Lot 23.

Frank Riley
Lot 24.

Block Number 3

C. H. Newth
Lots 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 14.

Nancy J. Woodward
Lots 4, 5, and 21.

James A. Campbell
Lots 8 and 17.

W. R. Hill
Lots 9 and 10.

Jennie Riley
Lots 15, and 16.

Eliz. Scott
Lot 18.

Prob. Judge Dec. 8, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 13, 1886 Nov. 13, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886 Nov. 13, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886 Nov. 13, 1886

Graham Co. Feb. 14, 1907 Feb. 4, 1907

Prob. Judge Dec. 6, 1886 Dec. 2, 1886

Prob. Judge Dec. 8, 1886 Nov. 30, 1886

Graham Co. Oct. 3, 1908 Dec. 13, 1892

Sheriff Oct. 20, 1945 July 13, 1943

Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 22, 1886 Nov. 20, 1886

Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1893

Graham Co. Aug. 20, 1921 Aug. 2, 1921

Prob. Judge June 16, 1887 Oct. 30, 1886
B. P. Moreland
Lot 19.
Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886 Nov. 30, 1886

Alson Woodward
Lot 20.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Hilhard Hawkins
Lots 22, 23 and 24.
Prob. Judge June 12, 1897 Nov. 30, 1896

Block Number 4

Nellie Woodward
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Foster Williams
Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17.
Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886 Oct. 25, 1886

Trustees, Baptist Ch.
Lots 11, 12, 13 and 14.
Prob. Judge Jan. 28, 1887 Nov. 30, 1886

Elizabeth Scott
Lots 18 and 19.
Prob. Judge June 16, 1887 Oct. 30, 1886

M. A. Warner
Lot 20
Prob. Judge Feb. 22, 1887 Jan. 5, 1886

S. G. Wilson
Lots 21, 22, 23 and 24.
Prob. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

Block Number 5

Eliza Smith
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

S. P. Roundtree
Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
Prob. Judge Dec. 11, 1886 Dec. 10, 1886

George Moore
Lots 13 and 14.
Prob. Judge Nov. 25, 1886 Nov. 25, 1886

Henry Hawkins
Lots 15 and 16
Prob. Judge Nov. 30, 1886 Nov. 20, 1886

Eliza Smith
Lots 17, 18, and 22.

Samuel G. Wilson
Lots 19 and 21
Prob. Judge Oct. 18, 1887 Oct. 17, 1887
R. L. Latham
Lot 20.

Humphrey Moore
Lots 23 and 24.

Block Number 6
Trustees, Baptist Ch.
Lots 1 through 24.

Block Number 7
M. A. Warner
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Benevolent Society
of Nicodemus
Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Trustees, Baptist Ch.
Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24

Block Number 8
Alson Woodward
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Foster Williams
Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

J. C. Parish
Lots 13, 14 and 15.

J. C. Parish
Lots 16, 17 and 18.

C. H. Newth
Lots 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Block Number 9
Eliza Smith
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
James A. Campbell
Lots 7 and 8.
Prob. Judge Nov. 22, 1886 Nov. 20, 1886

John B. Hawkins
Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16.
Prob. Judge Dec. 23, 1886 Nov. 5, 1886

George B. Wooster
Lots 17, 18 and 19.
Prob. Judge Nov. 15, 1886 Nov. 15, 1886

Trustees, Baptist Ch.
Lots 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.
Prob. Judge Jan. 28, 1887 Nov. 30, 1886

Block Number 10

Jonas Moore
Lots 1 and 2.
Prob. Judge Apr. 28, 1887 Nov. 15, 1886

Alson Woodward
Lots 3 and 7.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

S. G. Wilson
Lots 4 and 5.
Prob. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

Moses Dabuey
Lot 6.
Prob. Judge Dec. 24, 1886 Dec. 24, 1886

Lee Lored
Lot 8.
Prob. Judge Aug. 20, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

Samuel Garland
Lot 9.
Prob. Judge Dec. 8, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

Allen Thomas
Lots 10 and 11.
Prob. Judge Nov. 9, 1886 Nov. 3, 1886

C. H. Newth
Lots 12 and 23
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Kitty Scruggs
Lots 13 and 14.

Jefferson Lindsey
Lot 15.
Prob. Judge Dec. 11, 1886 Dec. 11, 1886

Leonard Scruggs
Lots 16 and 17.

B. P. Moreland
Lots 18 and 19.
Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886 Nov. 30, 1886
Eliza Smith
Lots 20 and 22.
John Welton
Lot 24.
Prob. Judge Nov. 24, 1886 Nov. 22, 1886

Block Number 11
Lizzie Lord
Lots 1 and 2
J.A. Weaver Oct. 3, 1911 Sept. 20, 1911
and wife

R. L. Lathan
Lots 3, 14, and 15
Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886 Nov. 30, 1886

Frank Turner
Lot 4.
Prob. Judge Dec. 6, 1886 Nov. 29, 1886

Sanford Craig
Lots 5 and 6.
Prob. Judge Dec. 6, 1886 Nov. 29, 1886

Grant Burnside
Lot 7.

C. H. Newth
Lots 8 and 18.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 13, 1886

Orlin D. Harding
Lot 9.
Prob. Judge Nov. 24, 1886 Nov. 23, 1886

A. N. Harper
Lot 10.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 25, 1886

George Dorsey
Lot 11.
Z. T. Fletcher Sept. 17, 1887 Aug. 19, 1887

W. R. Hill
Lots 11, 17 and 16.
Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1893

E. J. Donnell
Lot 12.

Lewis Allen
Lot 13.
Prob. Judge Apr. 9, 1887 Jan. 5, 1887

Foster Williams
Lot 19.
Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886 Oct. 25, 1886

The Benevolent Soc. of Nicodemus
Lots 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.
Prob. Judge Nov. 10, 1886 Nov. 10, 1886
Block Number 12

Eliza Smith
Lots 1 and 2.

John C. Parish
Lots 3, 21 and 22.

Robert M. Chase
Lot 4.

H. C. Hawkins
Lot 5.

John R. Hawkins
Lots 6 and 7.

S. P. Roundtree
Lot 8.

Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Christine White
Lots 15 and 16.

T. J. Fletcher
Lots 23 and 24.

Block 13

John Clark
Lots 1 and 2.

John Clark
Lot 22.

Phillip Hayden
Lots 3, 4 and 13.

W. R. Hill
Lots 5 and 16.

S. Warner
Lots 7 and 8.

George B. Wooster
Lots 9, and 10.


Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Prob. Judge Feb. 10, 1887 Jan. 5, 1887

Prob. Judge Dec. 23, 1886 Dec. 23, 1886

Prob. Judge Dec. 23, 1886 Nov. 5, 1886

Prob. Judge Dec. 11, 1886 Dec. 10, 1886

Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886 Nov. 29, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 26, 1886 Nov. 25, 1886

Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886 Nov. 29, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886 Nov. 13, 1886

Sheriff March 2, 1916 Apr. 29, 1902

Prob. Judge March 23, 1887 Dec. 21, 1886

Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1893

Prob. Judge Nov. 17, 1886 Nov. 10, 1886

Prob. Judge Nov. 15, 1886 Nov. 15, 1886
J. C. Parish
Lot 11.

Z. T. Fletcher
Lot 12.

H. G. Fowler
Lots 14, 15, 16 and 17.

John A. Gregg
Lots 18, 19, 20 and 21.

R. L. Latham
Lots 23 and 24.

Block Number 14

C. H. Newth
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Burleigh Allison
Lot 11.

Juda Going
Lot 12.

M. A. Warner
Lots 13, 14 and 15.

S. G. Wilson
Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Block Number 15

C. H. Newth
Lots 1 through 24.

Block Number 16

Schuyler Warner
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
J. C. Parish  
Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Eliza Smith  
Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Block Number 17
Schuzler Warner  
Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Phillip Hayden  
Lot 2.

Schuler Warner  
Lot 3.

C. H. Newth  
Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8.

J. V. Flynn  
Lots 9 and 10.

B. Vanluck  
Lots 11 and 12.

George J. Babcock  
Lots 13 and 14.

S. P. Roundtree  
Lots 15, and 16.

Z. T. Fletcher  
Lots 17 and 18.

W. R. Hill  
Lot 19.

S. G. Wilson  
Lots 20, 21, and 24.

C. H. Brown  
Lots 22 and 23.

J. C. Parish  
Prob. Judge Jan. 5, 1887 Jan. 5, 1887

Eliza Smith  

Schuzler Warner  
Prob. Judge Nov. 17, 1886 Nov. 10, 1886

Phillip Hayden  
Prob. Judge Mar. 23, 1887 Dec. 21, 1886

Schuler Warner  
Prob. Judge Jan. 5, 1887 Jan. 5, 1887

C. H. Newth  
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

J. V. Flynn  
Prob. Judge Dec. 1886 Dec. 1886

B. Vanluck  
Prob. Judge Nov. 26, 1886 Nov. 25, 1886

George J. Babcock  
Prob. Judge May 17, 1887 Dec. 19, 1886

S. P. Roundtree  
Prob. Judge Dec. 11, 1886 Dec. 10, 1886

Z. T. Fletcher  
Prob. Judge June 16, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

W. R. Hill  
Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1893

S. G. Wilson  
Prob. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

C. H. Brown  
Prob. Judge Sept. 1889 Jan. 8, 1887
Block Number 18

M. E. Hickman
Lot 1.

Graham Co. Feb.23, 1910 Feb.23, 1910

Alson Woodward
Lots 2 and 3.

Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct.18, 1886

John C. Parish
Lot 4.

Prof. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct.18, 1886

Trustees, Methodist Ch.
Lot 5.

Prob. Judge May 14, 1887 Jan. 5, 1887

Foster Williams
Lots 6 and 7.

Prob. Judge Nov.16, 1886 Oct.25, 1886

W. R. Hill
Lots 8,9,22 and 23.

Graham Co. Dec.19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1893

C. H. Newth
Lots 10,11 and 12.

Prof. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct.18, 1886

S. W. Wilson
Lots 13,14,19,20 and 21.

Prof. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

James A. Campbell
Lots 15 and 16.

Prof. Judge Nov.22, 1886 Nov.20, 1886

Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 17 and 18.

Prof. Judge Dec. 1, 1886 Nov.29, 1886

Jefferson Lindsay
Lot 24.

Prof. Judge Dec.11, 1886 Dec.11, 1886

Block Number 19

Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 1,2,3,4,5 and 6.

Prob. Judge June16, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

S. G. Wilson
Lots 7 and 8.

Prof. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

Eliza Smith
Lots 9,10,11 and 12.

Prof. Judge Feb. 7, 1887 Dec.14, 1886

John C. Parish
Lots 13 and 14.

Prof. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct.18, 1886
M. A. Warner
Foster Williams
Lot 17.  Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886  Oct. 25, 1886
C. H. Newth
Trustees of A. M. E. Ch.
Lots 22, 23 and 24.  Prob. Judge Nov. 26, 1886  Nov. 25, 1886

Block Number 20
Eliza Smith

Block Number 21
W. R. Hill
The Benevolent Soc.  Prob. Judge Nov. 10, 1886  Nov. 10, 1886
of Nicodemus
Lots 13 through 24.

Block Number 22
Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 1 through 12.  Prob. Judge June 16, 1887  Jan. 8, 1887
C. H. Newth
Lots 13 through 24.  Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886  Oct. 18, 1886

Block Number 23
Trustees of Baptist Ch.  Prob. Judge Jan. 28, 1887  Nov. 30, 1886
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
John Taylor
Lot 7.  Prob. Judge Nov. 26, 1886  Nov. 24, 1886
C. H. Newth
Lots 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.  Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886  Oct. 18, 1886
Nellie Woodward  Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886  Oct. 18, 1886
Foster Williams  Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886  Oct. 25, 1886
Lots 16, 17, 18, and 19.
Josie Sayers  Sherriff Mar. 30, 1944  Aug. 26, 1943
Lot 20.
Lots 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Block Number 24
Lots 1 through 12, 23, and 24.
Z. T. Fletcher  Prob. Judge June 16, 1887  Jan. 8, 1887
Lots 13, 14, 15, and 16.
C. H. Newth  Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886  Oct. 18, 1886
Lots 17, 18, 19, 21, and 22.
Jennie Barbour  Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886  Nov. 29, 1886
Lot 20.

Block Number 25
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
James A. Campbell  Prob. Judge Nov. 22, 1886  Nov. 20, 1886
Lots 9 and 10.
Nellie Woodward  Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886  Oct. 18, 1886
Lots 11 and 12.
Lots 13, 14, and 15.
Alson Woodward  Prob. Judge Nov. 1886  Oct. 18, 1886
Lots 16 and 17.
Alson Woodward  Eliza Smith Jan. 4, 1887  Dec. 31, 1886
Lot 18.
Trustees of F.M. Ch.  Prob. Judge May 14, 1887  Jan. 5, 1887
Lots 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.
Block Number 26

Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 1, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
Prob. Judge June 16, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

John Anderson
Lots 2 and 3.
Prob. Judge Dec. 15, 1886 Dec. 12, 1886

W. R. Hill
Lots 4 and 5.
Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1893

The Benevolent Soc.
of Nicodemus
Lots 6 and 7.
Nov. 10, 1886 Nov. 10, 1886

Henry Garrett
Lot 13.
Prob. Judge Aug. 20, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

S. G. Wilson
Lots 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.
Prob. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

Foster Williams
Lots 16 and 17.
Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886 Oct. 13, 1886

Block Number 27

John Anderson
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
Prob. Judge Dec. 15, 1886 Dec. 12, 1886

Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 10, 11 and 12.
Prob. Judge June 16, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

C. H. Newth
Lots 13 through 24.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 13, 1886

Block Number 28

S. G. Wilson
Lots 1 through 24.
Prob. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886

Block Number 29

W. R. Hill
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1892

Alson Woodward
Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 13, 1886
C. H. Newth
Lots 13 through 24.

Block Number 30.
C. H. Newth
Lots 1 through 12.
James A. Campbell
Lots 13, 14, and 15.
S. G. Wilson
Lot 16.
Mabel A. Newth
Lots 17 through 24.

Block Number 31
Bob Lacy
Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4.
Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8.
John C. Parish
Lots 9, 10, and 11.
D. S. Garland
Lot 12.
S. G. Wilson
Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 24.
Joseph Jones
Lot 18.

Block Number 32
C. H. Newth
Lots 1 through 12.
Trustees Baptist Ch.
Lots 13 and 14.
S. P. Roundtree
Lots 15 and 18.
The Benevolent Soc. of Nicodemus
Lots 16 and 17.

Trustees A.M.E. Church
Lots 19 and 20.

B. Vanluck
Lots 21, 22 and 23.

R. M. Burnside
Lot 24.

Block Number 33

S. G. Wilson
Lots 1 through 24.

Block Number 34

Eliza Smith
Lots 1 through 24.

Block Number 35

Simon P. Roundtree
Lots 1 through 24.

Block Number 36

Eliza Smith
Lots 1 through 24.

Block Number 37

S. G. Wilson
Lots 1 through 12.

A. N. Harper
Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

W. R. Hill
Lots 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.
Block Number 38
Mabel A. Newth
Lots 1 through 24.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Block Number 39
Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 1 through 24.
Prob. Judge June 16, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

Block Number 40
Joseph Jones
Lots 1 through 24.

Block Number 41
Nellie Woodward
Lots 1, 2 and 3.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886
Foster Williams
Lots 4, 5 and 6.
Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886 Oct. 25, 1886
S. G. Wilson
Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
Prob. Judge Dec. 7, 1886 Dec. 7, 1886
R. L. Latham
Lots 13, 14 and 15.
Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886 Nov. 30, 1886
Jefferson Lindsay
Lot 16.
Prob. Judge Dec. 11, 1886 Dec. 11, 1886
C. H. Newth
Lots 17 through 24.
Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Block Number 42
Benevolent Society
Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Prob. Judge Nov. 10, 1886 Nov. 10, 1886
Eliza Smith
Lots 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
Margarette Allen
Lots 10, 11 and 12.
A.G. Vanduval Jan. 18, 1887 Nov. 15, 1887
S. P. Roundtree  
Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19.

Prob. Judge Dec. 11, 1886  Dec. 10, 1886

John C. Parish  
Lots 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886  Oct. 18, 1886

Block Number 43  
John R. Hawkins  
Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Prob. Judge Dec. 23, 1886  June 9, 1886

W. R. Hill  
Lots 5, 6, and 7.

Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893  Aug. 7, 1893

Geo. B. Wooster  
Lots 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Prob. Judge Nov. 15, 1886  Nov. 15, 1886

Block Number 44  
Mrs. A. Crow  
Lots 1 and 2.

Prob. Judge Nov. 16, 1886  Nov. 13, 1886

Lucy Smith  
Lots 3 and 4.

Prob. Judge Aug. 21, 1901  Nov. 3, 1886

J. C. B. Lewis  
Lots 5 and 6.

Prob. Judge Nov. 13, 1886  Nov. 13, 1886

B. P. Moreland  
Lot 7.

Prob. Judge Dec. 1, 1886  Nov. 30, 1886

W. R. Hill  
Lots 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893  Aug. 7, 1893

Block Number 45  
(only 12 lots in block 43)

(only 12 lots in block 44)

(only 12 lots in block 45)

(only 12 lots in block 46)

S. G. Wilson  
Lots 1 through 12.

Prob. Judge Dec. 7, 1886  Dec. 7, 1886
Block Number 47
W. R. Hill
Lots 1 through 12.

(only 12 lots in block 47)

Graham Co. Dec. 19, 1893 Aug. 7, 1893

Block Number 48
C. H. Newth
Lots 1 through 12.

(only 12 lots in block 48)

Prob. Judge Nov. 4, 1886 Oct. 18, 1886

Block Number 49
Z. T. Fletcher
Lots 1 through 12.

(only 12 lots in block 49)

Prob. Judge June 16, 1887 Jan. 8, 1887

176 "Transfer Record of Lots," number A, City of Nicodemus, Graham County, Hill City, Kansas. 55-100.
APPENDIX E

NAMES OF BUSINESS MEN AND THEIR OCCUPATIONS
TAKEN FROM NICODEMUS NEWSPAPERS

The Western Cyclone, May 13, 1886.

C. H. Newth
Physician, dry goods, and groceries.
S. Garland
Real Estate agent, and farm machinery.
Jonas Moore
Stone Mason.
Z. T. Fletcher
Notary Public, Land and Loan agent.
Fletcher Brothers
St. Francis Hotel, and farm machinery.
B. P. Moreland
Harness Maker, and shoe repair.
J. A. Weaver
Groceries.
A. G. Tallman
Loan Agent.
Charles A. Wilson
Tonsorial Artist.
S. G. Wilson
Dry goods, groceries, shoes and furniture.

May 20, 1886.

Mrs. Z. T. Fletcher
Millinery and dress making.
Z. T. Fletcher
Insurance Agent.
J. W. Glazier and
Carpenters, contracting and building.
J. L. Dodge
A. G. Tallman and
Cyclone Land agency, Real Estate.
Sam Garland

June 3, 1886.

Garland and
Farm Machinery.
Williamson
June 10, 1886

Mrs. Z. T. Fletcher     Hair Dresser.

June 24, 1886.

W. H. Cotton     Lawyer.

J. T. Young, Vice-Pres.
W. H. Cotton, Sec.
D. Williams, Treasurer.
Z. T. Fletcher and
J. T. Young, Locators.

July 15, 1886.

Garland & Williamson Continental Insurance Co.

July 22, 1886.

W. H. Cotton     Money to loan on improved farms.

August 12, 1886.

Mrs. Eliza Smith     Gibson House (Boarding House).

August 26, 1886.

C. H. Newth     Druggist.

Garland and Williamson Loan Office.

September 30, 1886.

H. S. Henrie     Dry Goods, groceries, and hardware.

October 7, 1886.

Foster Williams     Groceries.
November 4, 1886.
Sanford G. Craig
Meat Market.

December 2, 1886.
Henrie and Craig
Dry goods, groceries, and etc.

December 30, 1886.
A. L. McPherson
Cashier of Bank

January 13, 1887.
Taylor and Barin
Banner Livery Stable, Route between Nicodemus and Stockton.

John T. Young
General Merchandise.

January 20, 1887.
H. Hawkins
Barber and Hairdresser.

W. E. Cotton
Notary Public.

February 10, 1887.
Lightfoot and Hawkins
Law, land and loan.

February 17, 1887.
J. H. Rinehart
Druggist.

February 24, 1887.
J. M. Lewin
Pumps, windmills, and all farm implements.

March 3, 1887.
James Gorze
Meat Market.
March 24, 1887.

Moses Wims
Draying and hauling.

Young and Graven
Dry goods, groceries and shoes.
Woodenware.

March 31, 1887.

Nettie J. Craig
Teacher of Music.

March 24, 1887.

Lightfoot, Hawkins, and Hays.
The Western Land Co. Law, Land, Loan, and Investment agents.

March 31, 1887.

James Buckmaster
Plasterer and Stone Mason

April 28, 1887.

J. B. Crowley
Groceries, Drygoods, Hardware, Tinware, and Woodware.

May 12, 1887.

W. C. Young
Furniture Store.

May 26, 1887.

Mrs. M. A. Warner
Millinery.

G. W. Jones and J. C. Lowrey
Attorneys.

R. T. Duncalf
Furniture Store.

I. N. Owens
Salesman for Furniture Store.

July 15, 1887.

Henrie and Bro.
Groceries and Dry Goods.
July 22, 1887.
Soverns and Hays
T. W. Samples
Williams and Duvell
Druggist.
Dry Goods and Groceries.
The Commercial House (originally the Gibson House).

Sept. 23, 1887.
C. H. Burkholder
Dry Goods and Groceries.

Oct. 7, 1887.
S. E. Hays
People's Drug Store.

Oct. 14, 1887.
H. R. Cayton
Land and Loan Agent.

Nov. 25, 1887.
Lewis Welton
Nicodemus Feed and Sale Livery Stable.
O. S. Talbott, Prop.
J. A. Miller, Pharmacist Pallace Drug Store.

The Nicodemus Cyclone, Dec. 30, 1887.
A. N. Harper
Flour and Feed Dealer.
A. Hall
General Merchandise (Successor to H. S. Henrie).
Lovelady and Craven
Dry Goods and Groceries.

April 27, 1887.
H. S. Henrie
Fisher Hotel.
June 8, 1888.
Mrs. Charles Baxter  Ice Cream and Confectionary Polar.

July 6, 1888.
N. M. McFarland  Prop. of Fisher Hotel.

April 20, 1888.
Hays and Talbott  Palace Drug Store.

Feb. 24, 1888.
William Scott  Blacksmith and Wagon Shop.

March 23, 1888.
A. N. Young  City blacksmith shop.

June 1, 1888.
R. M. Burnsides  Prop. of Palace Drug Store.

June 8, 1888.
J. E. Porter  Prop. of Palace Drug Store.

Aug. 10, 1888.
Joseph Craven  Restaurant and Confectionary.

Sept. 7, 1888.
H. Hawkins  Blue Front Restaurant.

The Nicodemus Enterprise, Aug. 17, 1887.

Homer Charles  Blacksmith, wagon and repair shop.
H. R. Cayton  Land and Loan Agent.
S. A. Boylan | Drugs, Medicines and Paints.
J. B. Lewis | Barber Shop and Commercial Hotel.

Oct. 12, 1887.
J. H. Patterson | Land and Loan Agent.

Nov. 16, 1887.
D. Williamson | The Farmer's Joint Stock Company.

Aug. 17, 1887.
Williams and Garland | Commercial Hotel.

Oct. 19, 1887.
Mrs. E. Smith and H. R. Cayton | Commercial Hotel.
APPENDIX F

APPEAL OF THE FRIENDS OF THE NEGROES

KANSAS FREEDMAN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

To The Friends Of the Colored People: Topeka, Kan., June 26, 1879.

The directors of the Kansas Freedman's Relief Association in view of the present situation, deem it proper to make public this address, and ask the friends of the colored people for further aid in caring for the helpless and destitute refugees.

This is a matter not local to our State, but is one of National concern. It involves the solution of a great Question, important alike to the people of the whole country, and if properly met will go very far to work a cure of the ills of the freedman of the South. If we prove equal to the occasion we can assist these people who are seeking homes in the North, and utilize their labor, those who remain behind will discover a kindlier feeling and better treatment in the South.

In organizing this association, we were moved by two controlling motives the first was one of humanity. Many of them were old and decrepit, and many young and helpless, and with few exceptions were destitute. They were landed on the river banks by hundreds, in the chilly days of early spring, after a long and tedious journey, fraught with hardships and privations. Many were sick and dying from exposure, and many were suffering for food, clothing and medical assistance. The simplest dictates of humanity demand immediate and organized effort for their relief.

Another incentive to meet this emergency was to maintain the honored traditions of our State which had its conception and birth in a struggle for freedom and equal rights for the colored man. She has shed too much blood for this cause to now turn back from her soil these defenseless people fleeing from the land of oppression.

We have not sought to stimulate or encourage their migration hither. We have always endeavored to place before the colored people of the South the plain facts, hoping thus to properly restrain an improvident hegira based upon delusive hopes and expectations. We have also
sought to impress upon them that other Western and Northern states possess equal advantages for homes for the laboring man. In brief, we have undertaken, so far as lives in our power, to provide for the destitute of these people, who come voluntarily among us, the common necessities of life, and to assist them in obtaining situations where they can earn a livelihood.

We have made an effort to establish a colony about fifty miles west of this city in Wabaunsee County. Finding that good land could be bought for $2.65 per acre, we are locating about thirty families of forty acres each. This is University lands, one tenth to be paid down, and the balance in nineteen years at seven percent interest. We have furnished for their use teams and some agricultural implements, built barracks to be used in common, and furnished rations. We also agreed to make the first payment for them. Some ground has been broken and planting done, but it was too late to realize much this season. This is an experiment, and so far seems successful; but it requires more money than we anticipated. The ultimate success of this colony must depend upon future contributions. The refugees have established three other colonies—one in Graham, one in Hodgeman, and one in Morris County. The association is not responsible for these, but they will need assistance.

This association has taken charge of, and aided more or less, about three thousand of these people and there are still here and on the way from St. Louis about four hundred more. We have received money from all sources, $5,819.70. We have expended and incurred obligations for the whole of this fund. A large quantity of clothing and blankets have been received, and we have a large lot of clothing now on hand. What we need is money with which to obtain shelter, medical assistance, and furnish transportation to such places as will give them employment. This we must have, or else relinquish all further efforts at organized assistance to these refugees.

The good people who have already so generously contributed to the cause, have our sincere thanks. All contributions should be sent to Governor John P. St. John.

John P. St. John, President.
John Francis, Treasurer.
P. I. Bonebrake, Auditor.
Albert H. Horton, Chief Justice.
C. G. Foster, United States District Judge.
James Smith, Secretary of State.
J. C. Herbard, Secretary.
Willard Davis, Attorney General.
N. C. McFarland, T. W. Henderson, and J. E. Jetmore, Board of Directors.

177 Andreas, op. cit., p. 291-292.
APPENDIX G

POOR MAN'S PARADISE

Are you contemplating a removal from your section to some other locality? If so, read carefully, consider and come to the Fertile and Picturesque South Solomon Valley.

The Town of Nicodemus is located on the South fork of the Solomon river with a gentle slope to the south, half mile from the stream which offers ample water power to operate a good flouring mill. To the west at a distance of half a mile is the celebrated Spring Creek which traverses a portion of farming lands unexcelled in western Kansas.

Good building stone can be had in abundance.

The nearest town of any importance is 12 miles away, giving Nicodemus the undisputed control of trade for a radius of 10 miles.

Knowing that there are hundreds of sober industrious people in the older states, who after years of toil and privation have failed to accumulate more than a cramped home in a worthless part of some city and feeling that many would leave if they only knew definitely concerning some particular locality we call your attention to Nicodemus and vicinity.

Your attention is called to Cheap Lands which may be had at from $3. to $6. per acre with light interest and from 1 to 20 years time, and Town lots may be had from $5. to $75. according to location and purpose.

For further information address-J. E. Porter, Sec'y.

Nicodemus Immigration Union,
Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas.

178 A hand bill found lying between the pages of The Nicodemus Cyclone, February 3, 1888, to be found in the Kansas Historical Archives.
APPENDIX H

FINAL RECEIPT FOR THE
TOWN OF NICODEMUS

Duplicate
No. 4851 Receivers Office at Kirwin, Kansas.

Received from James Gordon probate judge of Graham Co., Ks.
for the benefit of the inhabitants of Nicodemus Township of Graham Co., Kansas.

the sum of One hundred ninety nine dollars and 70 cents, being
in full for the

Pre. Oct. 1841 D. S. No. 6413
NorthWest
quarter of Section no. 1 in Township No. 8 south of Range
no. 21 west, containing
159 acres and 76 hundredths at $1.25 per acre.
199.70. R. R. Hays Receiver

State of Kansas, Graham County, SS.

This instrument was filed for record on the 14 day
of June A.D. 1886, at 9 o'clock A.M.

C. Fountain

By Ellen F. Fountain Register of
Deeds Deputy.

179 From the Final Receipts, Book A, Graham County, Kansas, Hill City, Kansas.
APPENDIX I

MEMBERSHIP FEE BLANK FOR THE
NICODEMUS LAND COMPANY

No........................................

State of Kansas
Graham County, SS:

This is to Certify, that ........................................
of ...................................... County, State of .................

has this day paid the sum of five dollars, being the full amount of membership Fees in the

Nicodemus Town Company of Graham County, Kansas, and that said .......................... is entitled to any vacant Town Lot on the town site of Nicodemus, Graham County, Kansas, at the time said party arrives at Nicodemus; the said Nicodemus Town Company giving their obligation to make Title to said Lot as required by law. And it is further agreed that no Intoxicating Liquors shall be sold on said lot within five years from this date.

Dated at ....................this........day of...........187....

Nicodemus Town Company

Not Valid until countersigned by W. R. Hill, Gen'l Manager.

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