

PHOTO: NICODEMUS TOWN CO.

On April 18, 1877, they formed the Nicodemus Town Company. Their new town was named after the first black slave in America to have purchased his own freedom. Nicodemus had predicted the day when blacks in America would be free; and an all black town where the citizens would be free Americans was the symbolic and literal culmination of that hope and dream.

PHOTO: NICODEMUS CIRCULAR.

There was, however, the necessity of making a profit on the venture. This meant the promoters of Nicodemus specifically distributed their cheaply printed circulars advertising Nicodemus only to those few blacks in the south financially capable of purchasing land and moving west.

CIRCULAR: "It is the finest country we ever saw. The soil is of a rich, black, sandy loam. The country is rather rolling, and looks most pleasing to the human eye. The south fork of the Solomon River flows through Graham County...and has an abundance of excellent water."

PHOTO: GEORGETOWN COLONY.

NARRATOR: The family of Williana Hickman, of Georgetown, Kentucky, found the pitch for Nicodemus intriguing enough to set out for a new life in Kansas.