

PHOTO: RAILROAD.

NARRATOR: By the time families like the Hickmans began the westward migration the railroad had expanded to cross the Mississippi River and reached as far as western Kansas. This expansion was due in large measure to the important role the rails played in the Northern effort during the Civil War.

PHOTO: TRAIN.

NARRATOR: Travel to Nicodemus usually meant taking the train as far as Ellis, Kansas, where the rail stopped. From there the travellers would proceed to Nicodemus, some by wagon, most on foot.

PHOTO: WILLIANA HICKMAN.

WILLIANA: "I left Kentucky with my husband and six children and with a colony of more than 300 families.

PHOTO: FRONTIER FARMHOUSE.

WILLIANA: "We dwelled at a farmhouse [the first] night. They didn't have bedrooms enough, and Mr. Peter Roundtree sat up with my husband in order to allow me and my children a chance to rest."

NARRATOR: The lack of bedrooms at the farm house was only a taste of the deprivation and hardship to come.

PHOTO: TENTS ON THE PRAIRIE.

WILLIANA: "The next night, members of the colony had succeeded in stretching a tent. This was our first experience of staying in a tent. We remained in the camp about two weeks. Several deaths occurred among the children of the colony while we were there.