

PHOTO: WAGON TRAIN.

We left there for Nicodemus, travelling overland with horses and wagons. We were two days on the way, with no roads to direct us save deer trails and buffalo wallows. We travelled by compass. At night the men built bonfires and sat around them, firing guns to keep the wild animals from coming near. We reached Nicodemus about 3 o'clock the second day."

PHOTO: PRIMITIVE NICODEMUS.

When we got in sight of Nicodemus the men shouted, 'There is Nicodemus.' 'Being very sick, I hailed this news with gladness. I looked with all the eyes I had. I said, "where is Nicodemus? I don't see it.' My husband pointed out various smokes coming out of the ground and said, 'That is Nicodemus.'"

PHOTO: NICODEMUS DUGOUTS.

WILLIANA: "The families lived in dugouts. We landed and once again struck tents. The scenery to me was not at all inviting, and I began to cry."

PHOTO: SETTLERS ON THE BARREN PLAIN.

NARRATOR: Williana Hickman's reaction upon seeing the raw townsite for the first time was not unusual for new arrivals. Sixty families, who had migrated from Lexington, Kentucky, were so bitterly disappointed they returned eastward the day after they arrived.

PHOTO: NICODEMUS HOMESTEAD.

NARRATOR: Those settlers, like the Hickmans, who homesteaded in Nicodemus, soon learned how hard survival in Nicodemus was going to be.