

Hill - Reel 505 5:14:34 (to reshoot)

In early 1878, a white man named W.R. Hill visited a small Baptist church in Georgetown, Kentucky. Hill told the congregation about an all-black town that had been established in western Kansas the previous year. The town's name was Nicodemus.

Nicodemus circular - Reel 506, 6:28:22

Nicodemus Town Certificate - Reel 505, 5:12:37

Hill was an experienced town promoter. He'd formed the Nicodemus Town Company with six black ministers in the spring of 1877. They named Nicodemus after an African prince who'd been sold into slavery in America. According to legend, Nicodemus was the first enslaved black to buy his own freedom.

Nicodemus even had its own theme song:

[REPRISE NICODEMUS SONG]
[just a line or two]
- Jim