

IVAN NICODEMUS  
1101 Woodleigh Drive  
Irving, Texas 75061

August 20, 1994

Dear Ms. Bates:

I read with interest an article on Nicodemus, Kansas that appeared in the Washington Post and from that article found your address and that you have a Nicodemus Historical Society. As you can see by my name I have more than just a passing interest in Nicodemus, Kansas.

About 8 or 9 years ago, I commenced compiling all the available data on the Nicodemus family name which could be found. I was especially interested in this town in Kansas because my great grandfather left Indiana in 1876 to resettle in Norton, KS which is just a few miles away. He did not stay long and returned to Indiana about 1894 - a much poorer and much wiser person. Anyhow, my wife and I drove from Dallas, TX to Nicodemus, KS just to see what was there. After reading the big bronze plaque and taking a photograph of the water tank, we returned home and my wife reminds me of the trip whenever she wishes to make a point when we have a difference in opinion.

Nonetheless, I have assembled a huge volume of data on the Nicodemus family name. We have started a Nicodemus family newsletter called NIC IN TIME edited by Mrs. Judy ( Nicodemus ) Kendall, RD#2, Box 714, Bedford, PA 15522 and send out an issue every quarter. It is an attempt to communicate with all the Nicodemus families and share history of the name with those who are interested - mostly genealogists. We have over 100 subscribers and it is estimated that there are 700 Nicodemus households in the USA. I thought I would write to you just in case someone should contact your Society in hopes of finding the source of their family name. Please refer such inquiries to me or Mrs. Kendall as we respond to all letters.

Our research has proven that 95% of all persons in the US are descendants of a German family that lived near Frankfort, Germany. The history of the name there goes back to 1646 and many with the name still live in Germany. We enjoy our newsletter and the feeling of " family " that goes along with it.

You might be interested to know that the name Nicodemus is Greek in origin. I am sure the biblical Nicodemus inspired the name for your town. One Nicodemus researcher in 1905 made a study of the biblical Nicodemus and found that his name was not really Nicodemus! It seems that fashionable ( and rich ) Hebrews at the time of Christ made a practice of taking a Greek name - in recognition of the fact that the Greeks then were considered the intellectuals. This somewhat akin to the present day practice of accepting a Doctorate from a University ( honorary ) without ever attending a class.

Let me say that I commend you and the other members of your Society in promoting a sense of heritage to the community. In my studies of my many uncles, aunts and cousins all named Nicodemus, we share a common heritage and makes us have a feeling of family. Last year we held a National Reunion of Nicodemuses in Tacoma, Washington and had about 100 attending. By and large none of us had ever met each other before but with our charts we could each figure out our relationship. We had real fun. I said then that our next reunion should be held in Nicodemus, KS ( in jest ).

Please feel free to send any message you might want to appear in NIC IN TIME to Mrs. Kendall at the above address. For myself, I would be greatly honored to have a letter from yourself or the Mayor of Nicodemus for my files.

Very truly yours,

*Ivan Nicodemus*

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