

## The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

August 31, 1994

Ivan Nicodemus  
1101 Woodleigh Drive  
Irving, TX 75061

Dear Ivan:

It was a pleasure hearing from you, and obviously interesting!!! Enclosed is one of our newsletters which deals with where the name of the town came from and the song which Henry Works wrote in honor of the first slave to purchase his freedom in the United States. He was said to have come over on the 2nd slave ship and bought his freedom with a bag of gold. Read the lyrics to the song. I've heard that this was a song that was sung on the plantations before emancipation. I don't know if this is true.

Also I met a lady at a festival here in Kansas last year and she gave me her name and address which is as follows: Raye and Christina Nicodemus, 101 N. Streeter, Hesston, Kansas 67062, (316) 327-2904.

Also someone sent me this obituary:

Keith Nicodemus - OBERLIN - Keith Nicodemus, 84, Oberlin, died Saturday, Nov. 27, 1993, at he Decatur county Good Samaritan Center, Oberlin.

Mr. Nicodemus was born July 2, 1909, in Decatur County and was a lifetime area resident. He had been an employee of Anderson Hardware and owned a western auto store, both in Oberlin. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, the Lions Club and the Masonic Lodge, all of Oberlin.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel of the home; two sisters, Ruth Laidig of Oberlin and Lois Haase of Ooltewah, Tenn.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Pauls Funeral Home, Oberlin, the Rev. H. Gene Shoemaker officiating. Burial will be in Oberlin Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Visitation will be from 4 to 9 p.m. today, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and from 8 a.m. until the service Tuesday at the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, 67749.

Oberlin is just west of Norton, so maybe this Keith was related to your great grandfather. I think it is worth investigating.