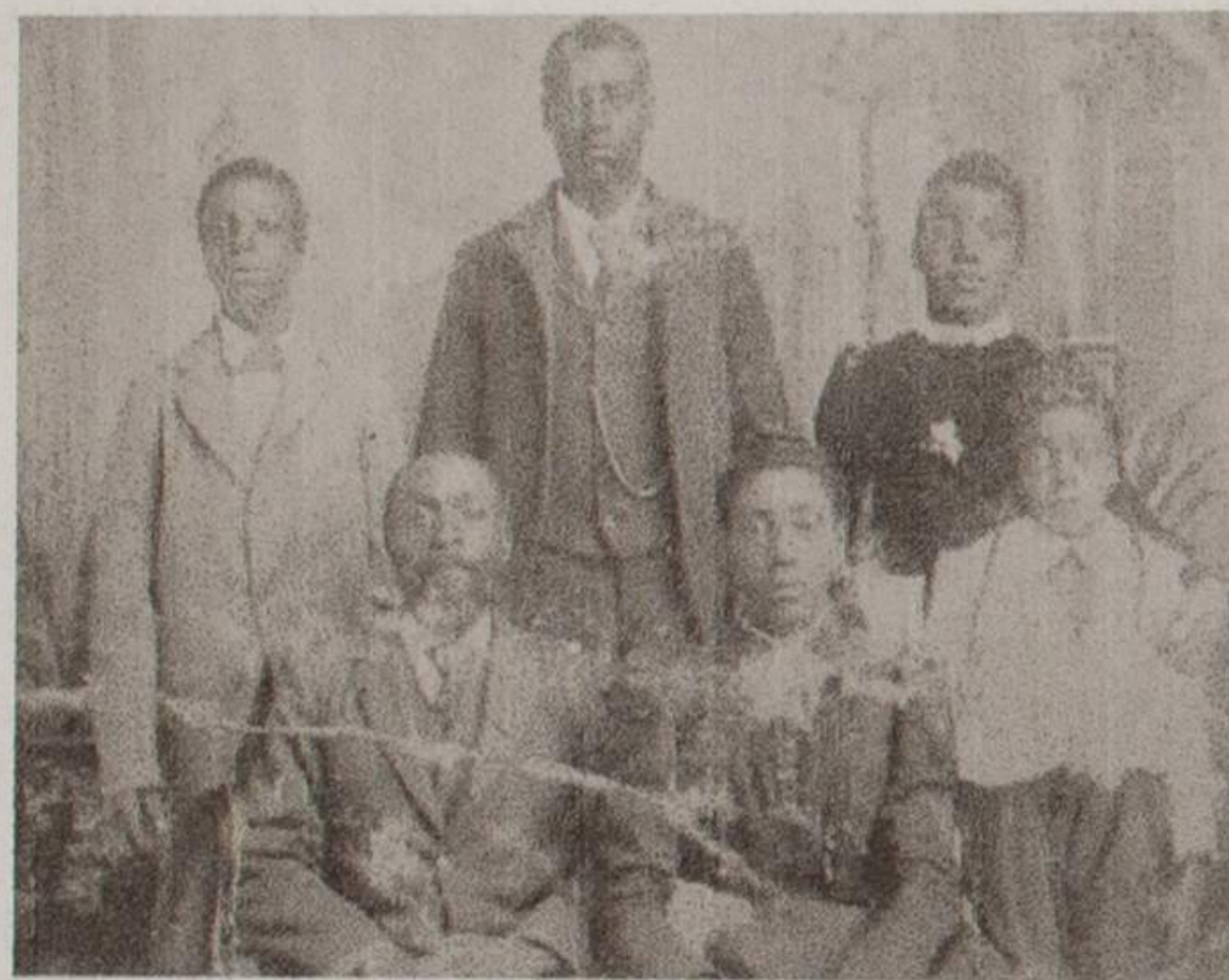


# "THE MASTER HAS ALREADY WRITTEN THE SCRIPT"

## You Are the Future of Your Past

Nicodemus was established in 1877, by former slaves from Kentucky. W. R. Hill a white man from Indiana and W. H. Smith a black pioneer established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black ministers, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Rev. Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince Blacks to escape the oppression of the south by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas, and settle at Nicodemus. In September a convinced group of about 350 reached their new home at Nicodemus. From these few souls a vision of hope sprung and the town of Nicodemus began its journey that has resulted in it becoming the only remaining all Black town west of the Mississippi, still in existence today.



The Charles and Emma Williams Family

Today, with a population of less than 30, it stands as a beacon on the High Plains of Kansas, symbolizing the true spirit of the African Americans, after Emancipation. This tiny town has survived in spite of all the odds and is a national icon to the African American spirit. In 1996 it became a unit of the National Park Service, as Nicodemus National Historic Site. The journey to this designation was envisioned, initiated and pursued by the Nicodemus Historical Society and its founder and President, Angela Bates. In the spirit of their ancestors, and through hard work and pure determination, the members of the Historical Society coordinated with the community and secured this honorable and most distinguished congressional designation. Working with Congress and the National Park Service, the Nicodemus Historical Society has achieved one of our most challenging objectives—assisting in the preservation of our historic architectural remains. The preservation of Nicodemus and its history is not only the responsibility of the community and the Historical Society, but the federal government, through the National Park Service. We continue to collect, preserve and interpret our rich history here at Nicodemus and continue to let our light shine bright as a beacon of African American town survival.



### COMMUNITY HISTORY

### Reasons For Your Membership and Donations

- o To keep your connection with your history alive and current.
- o To assist us in preserving the irreplaceable.
- o To assist us in protecting and preserving our historic town site.
- o To develop a preservation standard that will insure our continued future.
- o To encourage you to become an advocate for the preservation of our history.

*You'll receive a quarterly newsletter, discounts on gift items, and special offers and invitations.*

Your donations and contributions are tax-deductible and will assist us when we need leveraging funds for potential grant. Donations and contributions will assist in the development of exhibits and programs that will tell our unique story.

### HISTORIC PHOTO COLLECTION

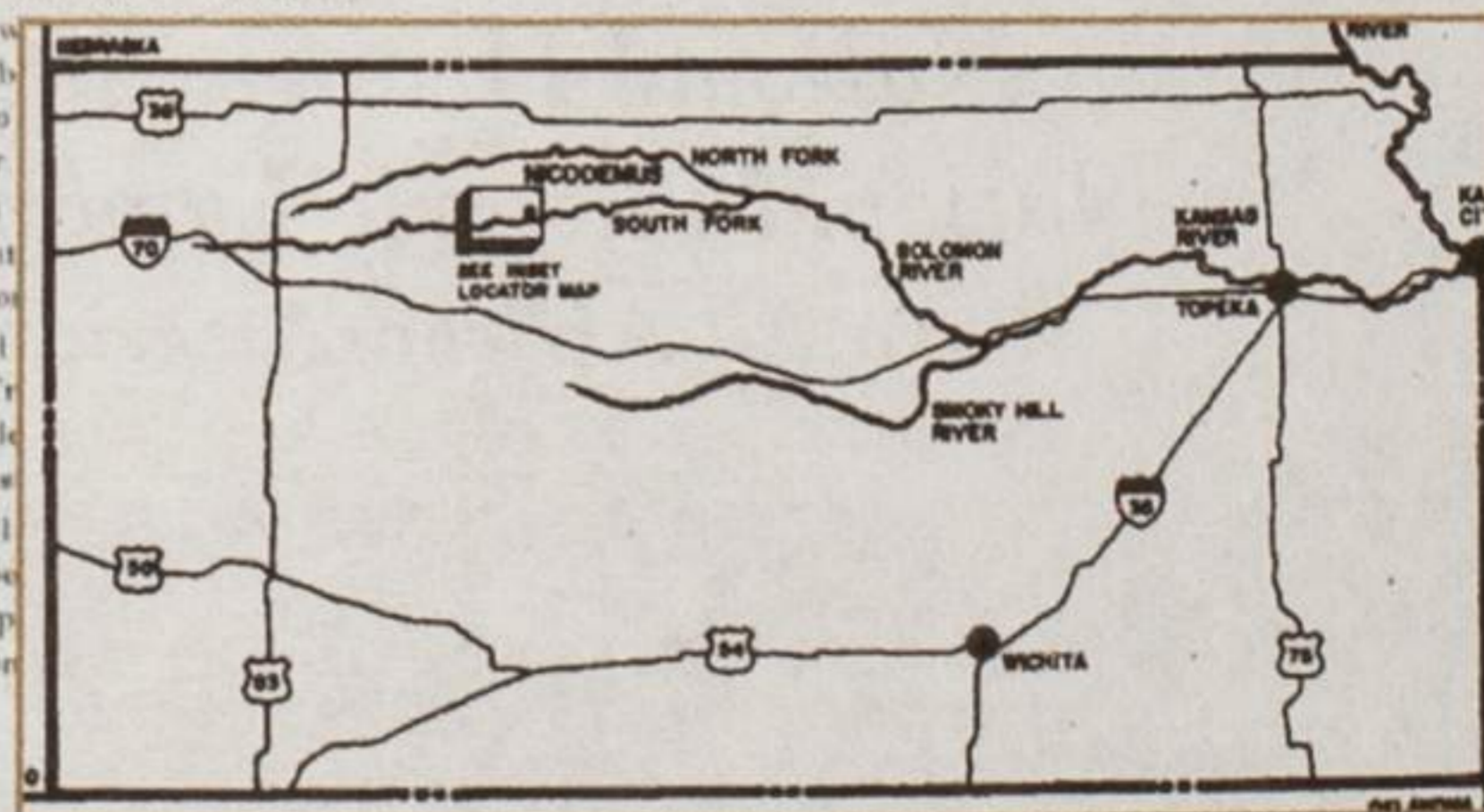


### GENEALOGY FILES



**All Colored People**  
THAT WANT TO  
**GO TO KANSAS,**  
 On September 5th, 1877,  
**Can do so for \$5.00**

**IMMIGRATION.**  
WHEREAS, We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky., knowing that there is an abundance of choice lands now belonging to the Government, have assembled ourselves together for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That we do move  
Any person wishing to become a member  
one dollar (\$1.00), and this money is to  
ments of twenty-five cents at a time, or  
RESOLVED, That this Colony has  
Town, Solomon Valley, Graham Count  
cant lands now in their midst, which co  
RESOLVE, That this Colony shall  
dent, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Tr  
—Isaac Talbot; Secretary—W. J. Nile  
Lee, William Jones, and Abner Webe  
RESOLVE, That this Colony shall  
less, as the case may require, to keep pe  
his dues, as aforesaid, or failing to comp  
be recognized or protected by the Color



### MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Membership renewal is due January 1. Dues received after September will be credited to the next full year. Help us up-date our mailing list by providing names and addresses of your family members.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Please Print  
 Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Descendant Y / N  
 Membership/Annual Dues: \$20  
 Gifts of \$250 or more qualify you for the Friends of Nicodemus Donor Recognition Club. Your support is welcomed!  
 Remember us in your Will or Estate Planning.  
 Enclosed is my check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make checks payable to Nicodemus Historical Society  
 I Want to Help With: Genealogy/Collections/Membership/Fund Raising/Volunteering  
 Family Members (descendants only) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_