

THE KANSAS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TRAIL

African Americans began coming to the promised land of Kansas as early as the 1850's. They came — both freestaters and former slaves — to break virgin prairie sod and to build new homes. In doing so, they changed the color of the face of the Kansas frontier forever, joining white settlers and Native Americans in integrating the prairie. Their legacy of courage carried into the 20th century as Kansans spearheaded the effort to end segregation in America's public schools. African Americans are now being recognized through memorials, historic designations and commemorations for their important role in Kansas history.

Story by Angela Bates



This 1879 *Harper's Weekly* illustration, provided by the Kansas State Historical Society, depicts African Americans leaving the South for the free lands of Kansas.