

3) Finally, we are thinking of sponsoring an "exchange program" of sorts, where we would sponsor a visit by representatives from other African American sites to Nicodemus during Homecoming, and then representatives from Nicodemus would reciprocate the visit at a later date. For example, Buxton National Historic Site in North Buxton, Ontario, Canada is a community whose history and physical layout is very similar to Nicodemus. Slaves fleeing oppression in the United States prior to the Civil War founded the community and Buxton has a homecoming celebration over the Labor Day weekend. The federal government of Canada designated the town as a national historic site. Other communities that may be appropriate to invite would include Langston and Boley (Okalahoma) or Allensworth (California). It may also be desirable to invite representatives from the new Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio and from the planned National Museum of African American History and Culture (Washington, D.C.). We will need a grant to finance this networking effort, so we will begin the application process in the near future. Because the grant is not secured, the "exchange program" may not happen. But, one option that we would like to discuss with the Homecoming Committee would be to have these representatives provide an overview of each of their sites or organizations as the program on Saturday afternoon that the National Park Service usually provides. As I mentioned, we are just beginning to explore this idea and would like to have your reaction and input on how or whether you think this is a desirable idea.

As always, we will reduce the impact of our presence in the Township Hall and will assist you by providing extra dumpsters and porta-potties for the weekend. Please call me at 785-839-4321 or visit me at our office (Apartment 4B, 510 Washington Avenue, Nicodemus) if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting with you as the Homecoming Committee begins planning for the 2005 celebration!

Sincerely,

Sherda K. Williams
 Sherda K. Williams, Superintendent
 Nicodemus National Historic Site

Cc: Superintendent, Fort Larned (NICO Files)
 Executive Director, Nicodemus Historical Society
 Interim Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
 Superintendent, Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site

Angela would NHS be interesting in collaborating on this grant?
Sherda