

November 2, 1993

Mary W. Madden
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Kansas Museum of History
6425 SW 6th
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1009

Dear Mary:

I received the script for the play regarding Nicodemus and must admit that I was disappointed in the lack of general knowledge of the history and sequence of historical events, and above all the overall negativity that seems to be inherently woven into the various scenes. It doesn't ever really address the positive issue of the survival aspect of the town and people, as well as the most important emancipation celebration. I am assuming that little time has been taken to read the enormous amount of information on the history of Nicodemus to get a real concept of when, why, and how Nicodemus was established and how it has survived. It is apparent in the last scene, and I quote, page #15 " Maybe all these young people that's leavin' maybe they'll come back and visit. Have gatherin's at the church or something'." , that the importance of the emancipation celebration was grossly overlooked.

I was out of town and couldn't catch up with Kay before she and Kevin came out to Nicodemus for Pioneer Days on Saturday, October 23, to inform her that there would be no time on the schedule for a reading, and to tell her that I felt before a reading could be done for the community, that the script desperately needed work. I can not in any conscious allow the community to hear such a poorly scripted play of their rich history, without some attempt to have Kay and Kevin work on it. However, when they arrive I appraised her of the situation, and suggested that they watch the 2 documentaries and videos by Good Morning America, Sunday Today Show, and the Sun Flower Journeys, look at the exhibit materials to get a better understanding of the history of the town, and encourage them to talk with people. Within 15 minutes she informed me that she they were not going to stay. I was appalled, however, she must have had her reasons.