

PRENTIS

I did know that. but it's the only one I've visited.

ESTHER

(Photo.) This is Willianna. She's been here three years.

WILLIANNA

As I traveled toward Nicodemus in 1878 with my group, one of them shouted "Look! There is Nicodemus!" I looked with all the eyes I had. "Where is Nicodemus? I don't see it." My husband pointed out various smokes coming out of the ground . . . the families lived in dugouts . . . I began to cry.

(Esther has exited quietly with her quilt and has been replaced by the contemporary WOMAN.)

(Prentis exits before she begins.)

WOMAN

There was another black settlement know as the colony of Fairfax down in southern Chautauqua County. Started by Reverend Alfred Fairfax. Reverend Fairfax was ALSO the first black legislator in Kansas. Sho' was. Yes sir, he was an extraordinary man.

(Fade out, ora, lights up Fairfax.)

FAIRFAX

My name is Reverend Alfred Fairfax. I was born into slavery in Loudon County, Virginia in 1840. As a young man of 18, I rebelled against my master and attempted to escape. I was caught and whipped like a mule. I tried to escape again. They tracked me down, this time, selling me to another man. But I was not a very cooperative slave, and I was sold to another master and moved to Louisiana. I would lay at night and wonder . . . would I ever be free. All I knew was that I would never be free unless I made it happen. No one was going to come a rescue me. For a black man to be free you must seize it?

(Fade up, ora.)

WOMAN

To be somebody in this life you can't wait. You've got to move ahead. Reverend Fairfax knew that. He also knew no matter how many times he was caught tryin' to escape, he'd try again. And one day, ONE DAY, he'd get away from bondage and you know, that day came. The year was 1862 and Reverend Fairfax was organizing his fellow slaves.