

Be mindful of ya jobs. Don't forget nothing'.

(They all put they hands together.)

FAIRFAX (Cont.)

We gonna be free.

(The lights fade down on FAIRFAX and the others. Lights up, WOMAN.)

WOMAN

Well, Reverend Fairfax led them to freedom. Once free, the Reverend joined the Union army and fought against the South. One of the Sergeants became friends with the Reverend and taught him to read. He had a sharp mind and how they call it . . . a thirst for knowledge. After the war, he studied the bible and became a Baptist minister. During Reconstruction, Negroes had many opportunities. He returned to Louisiana and was elected a parish commissioner. Then in 1874, he was appointed assistant appraiser of the Port of New Orleans. A successful man, he decided to return home to northwest Louisiana.

Around 1878, the Union troops left the South and them southern democrats took over, their right hand was the Ku Klux Klan. Night-riders! So when the troops left there was nobody to protect the rights of black folks. So it wasn't surprising when the Republicans nominated Fairfax for congress that he was denied a seat. Fairfax had gotta too uppity, too independent, too strong, the Klan had to call.

(Fade out ORA, fade up, FAIRFAX, TOM, HOSEA, SISTER MEAD. TOME has suffered a bullet wound in the arm that SISTER MEAD is attending. HOSEA holds a rifle. FAIRFAX is crushed, feeling responsible for the attach and death of a friend. He sits in a chair his face in his hands.)

HOSEA

Alfred don't do this to yourself.

FAIRFAX

Don't do what! Hosea, Josh is dead. Ben Miller is shot through the back. Crippled! They wouldn't be in the position there in, if they hadn't followed me. Would they!

HOSEA

Josh and Ben knew what they was doing. They was with us 'cause they knew that's where they needed to be. Where they had to be!