

SISTER MEAD

My sister has been talkin' about this exodus to Kansas. They say that Negroes is makin' whole towns, all their own...It couldn't be no worse than here.

FAIRFAX

(Still frustrated.)

Why? Why do they hate us like this? Why do they want to keep us down? Why destroy us? I hate them.

SISTER MEAD

No Reverend.

FAIRFAX

NO! I do...I hate them for what they do to us. God forgive me. Please forgive me...and forgive THEM Lord, please forgive them, for they know not what they do.

(Fade out, FAIRFAX and the others and Fade up, ORA.)

WOMAN

Kansas was a symbol of hope and freedom to Negroes. John Brown had fought to free slaves here. So Reverend Fairfax went to Kansas and brought with him 200 families, most of them locating in Chautauqua County. They created a settlement like Nicodemus. It was called Fairfax.

(Lights up, FAIRFAX.)

FAIRFAX

I acquired a 200 acre farm. We devoted 20 acres to cotton and operated the Fairfax Ginning Company. As well, I took over the pastorate of the New Hope Baptist Church in Parsons, Kansas. Kansas was providing us a place to be ourselves. To prosper with no reprisals.

(Lights out, FAIRFAX.)

WOMAN

Let me tell ya now. Kansas was not free of prejudice then and it's ain't now. But, by 1880, African American in Kansas had become a force child, we were casting 15 to 20 percent of the popular vote state wide! We were the spoke in the wheel of the Republican party. It wasn't