

(Lights up on WOMAN.)

WOMAN

E.P. McCabe and his wife Sarah were quite a couple. He had big thoughts, big ideas. He even wanted to turn what was then the territory of Oklahoma into a Negro dominated state. On-Lord-have-mercy. Him and his friend, Abe Hall, their first stop was right here in Nicodemus.

(Lights up, ABRAHAM T. HALL.)

HALL

The call west caught us both with our noses wide open. E.P. and myself were friends, we were working in Chicago when we heard of the Exoduster movement. I was city editor of a Negro newspaper in Chicago called The Conservator and E.P. had been working say 18 months down at the courthouse. Well, we cut that loose and headed West! We arrived in Leavenworth, Kansas. That's where we heard about this agricultural colony, an all-black township called Nicodemus, up in Graham County, northwest Kansas. Well, it sounded good to us, so we joined. E.P. had a way of, well...wasn't no use in trying to say no.

(Lights up on WOMAN.)

WOMAN

E.P. and Abe Hall arrived here in Nicodemus in April of 1878. They set themselves up as attorneys and land agents. They would help get new homesteaders located and settled. He was elected County Clerk. McCabe served until November of 1881 and it was the white vote that kept reelecting him! He somehow had a way of getting white folks behind him. So, it wasn't no big surprise when McCabe was elected as State Auditor.

(Lights up, on MCCABE and ELECTIONEER.)

ELECTIONEER

THE RECOGNIZED LEADER OF HIS RACE IN THE WEST. THE HONORABLE E.P. MCCABE OF GRAHAM COUNTY!

(He holds up McCabe's hand in
victory.)

WOMAN

He was reelected in 1884 but in 1886...things changed.

(Lights up on MCCABE and SARAH.)