

KANSAS - KENTUCKY CONNECTION

"Black Kentuckians in the Promise Lands of Kansas"

Historic Nicodemus, Kansas

Slide Presentation and Lecture

Presented By

Angela Bates

President

Nicodemus Historical Society

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With the use of slides, the dramatic tale will be told of how Black Kentuckians left the oppression of the blue grass state and ventured into the western frontier of Kansas after the Civil War. Named after the first African to purchase his freedom in the United States, they establish in 1877, on the high plains of Kansas, a home they called their own, Nicodemus. Nicodemus is the only remaining all Black town west of the Mississippi River established during the western migration of African Americans from the oppressive South to the promise lands of Kansas during the 'exodus' years. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976, and efforts are currently underway for National Historic *Site* designation. If designated, Nicodemus will become one of the most prominent and nationally significant African American sites within the National Park Service.

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The slide presentation and lecture will provide the citizens of Scott and Fayette Counties and surrounding areas, an opportunity to learn about the African American slave experience in Kentucky and specifically in their areas up to and during the Civil War. They will also learn how the economic, political and social climate during reconstruction precipitated the mass migration of African Americans out of the blue grass country of Kentucky to the promise 'free' lands of Kansas in 1877.

The story of the migration of hundreds of these Fayette and Scott County African Americans out of Kentucky to their new home of Nicodemus, Kansas will unfold. The re-connection with the remaining descendants from Kentucky and Kansas who are linked by slave masters and/or through their genealogy will also be discussed.

Lastly, the history and story of the continued survival of Nicodemus will be told, with a focus on how this tiny, but giant of a historic town struggles to be designated by Congress to become a part of the National Park System as a National Historic Site.

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The story of the migration of hundreds of Fayette and Scott county African Americans out of Kentucky to their new home of Nicodemus, Kansas will unfold. The connection and re-connection with the remaining descendants of both Scott and Fayette Counties, and Nicodemus, linked through slavery by the former masters of their ancestors, and/or by their genealogy, will also be discussed.

This slide-lecture will also provide an opportunity to learn about the settling of these African American Kentuckians in their new home of Nicodemus. The general history of Nicodemus and how it continues to survive after 115 years of constant struggle will be shown. The current proposed National Historic Site project for Nicodemus and how it will impact and affect the Fayette and Scott counties as it relates to possible historical interpretive programs, will also be discussed.



kentucky humanities council

and
The National Endowment for the Humanities

PRESENTATION FORMAT OPTIONS

I have done this presentation in several different formats, however the best format for college students is a large college forum, where even the general public is invited and usually during the evening. This would be a general slide/lecture presentation, followed by smaller class lectures.

The slide/lecture presentation deals with the general history of slavery and the African American slaves in Kentucky up to the western migration, then Nicodemus' history from 1877 up to the present. The slide presentation, also includes a short video from Good Morning America and The Sunday Today shows that were tape during the 92 and 93 Emancipation Celebrations.

The amount of the material to be discussed and presented lends itself to a follow up lecture in the class whereby the student is allow a more intimate class room setting to discuss various social, economic, religious, or political aspects of the African American migration from their southern homes to the promise lands of Kansas and settlement in Nicodemus.



This program was funded in part by
the Kentucky Humanities Council
and the National Endowment for
the Humanities.

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Slide Presentation and Lecture



William McIntyre

Angela Bates

President

Nicodemus Historical Society

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For More Information
(913) 674-3311

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

**Kansas Kentucky Connection
Migration Exhibit**

EXHIBIT SPECIFICATIONS

- Total Number of Pieces: 20 photos and history panels
(10 historic sepia tone prints)
(10 accompanying plexiglass history panels)
- Size of each piece: Photos and panels are 26 x 22
- Hanging Instructions: On wall. Each photo is framed and has its own hanging assembly. Each plexiglass panel has its hanging hook.
- They are numbered and should be hung in numerical order.

Rental Cost: \$500.00

Rental Duration: 1 week, unless special arrangements are made.

A lecture and slide presentation is also available to accompany the exhibit. Cost is \$300.00/1 hour presentation, travel and accommodations. (Special arrangements and cost for more than one presentation).

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

EXHIBITS
with
Slide & History Presentation

The Women of Nicodemus

\$300.00 (Exhibit Fee)

10 22" x 24" historic (turn of the century photos)
sepia tone prints with accompanying narrative captions.

The Kansas Kentucky Connection

\$500.00 (Exhibit Fee)

10 22" x 24" historic sepia tone prints of people and churches who were a part of the migration of the African American from central Kentucky and their settlement in Nicodemus, Kansas. 10 22" x 24" narrative plexiglass panels with accompanying text, photos, certificates, maps, etc.

Lecture and slide presentation to accompany either exhibit, by Angela Bates-Tompkins, President of The Nicodemus Historical Society - \$500.00 + travel/hotel.

SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

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Tuesday
February 16, 1993
Lexington Public Library
Lexington, Kentucky
7:00 PM

Wednesday
February 17, 1993
Morehead State University
Morehead, Kentucky
7:00 PM

Thursday
February 18, 1993
Georgetown College
Georgetown, Kentucky
7:00 PM

Friday
February 19, 1993
Zion Baptist Church
Georgetown, Kentucky
7:00 PM

Saturday
February 20, 1993
1st African Baptist Church
Lexington, Kentucky
1:00 PM