

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

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.