

SINCE THE 1970S NICODEMUS HAS THRIVED AS A RESULT OF ITS HISTORY. DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IN 1976, THE COMMUNITY SOUGHT TO PRESERVE ITS ARCHITECTURAL, PHOTOGRAPHIC, WRITTEN AND ORAL HISTORY. IN 1989, FIVE DESCENDANTS ORGANIZED THE NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ANGELA BATES, ITS PRESIDENT, BEGAN A LONG, ARDUOUS JOURNEY TO REDISCOVER ITS PAST. HER RESEARCH UNCOVERED SOME OF THE FORGOTTEN KENTUCKY SEEDS. THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS AS WELL AS THE HISTORY HAD BEEN FORGOTTEN IN THE DARK YEARS OF THE 1930S AND 1940S. CLARK MOORE, A BARBER IN GEORGETOWN, WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO BE GENEALOGICALLY CONNECTED TO RESIDENTS OF NICODEMUS. HIS GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS WERE GEORGE AND EFFIE MOORE, TWO OF THE FIRST MIGRANTS TO KANSAS. WILLIAM MCINTYRE, A SCOTT COUNTY HISTORIAN AND PHOTOGRAPHER, WAS THE FIRST SCOTT COUNTY RESIDENT TO VISIT NICODEMUS, MARKING A RENEWAL OF THE KANSAS-KENTUCKY CONNECTION. MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAD SETTLED IN WAKEENEY, TREGO COUNTY BUT RETURNED TO KENTUCKY AFTER FACING MANY HARDSHIPS ON THE PLAINES.

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WILLIAM MCINTYRE BELIEVES HE IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF COLONEL RICHARD M. JOHNSON, HERO OF THE BATTLE OF THE THAMES AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HIS GREAT GRANDFATHER, ANDREW MCINTYRE, MARRIED SUSAN LIGHTFOOT, THE DAUGHTER OF HATLEY LIGHTFOOT OF THE JOHNSON PLANTATION. THEIR SON MILTON WAS BORN IN WAKEENEY AND LATER BECAME MINISTER OF THE ZEBULAH BAPTIST CHURCH OF WHITE SULPHUR, SCOTT COUNTY. THE MARRIAGE OF ANDREW AND SUSAN ON DECEMBER 29, 1873 WAS WITNESSED BY REV. SILAS LEE, WHO MIGRATED TO NICODEMUS WHERE HE ORGANIZED THE NICODEMUS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN 1879.

THE MEETING OF WILLIAM MCINTYRE AND ANGELA BATES UNCOVERED A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN FORMER SLAVES ON THE JOHNSON PLANTATION AND THE FAMILIES OF NICODEMUS. IN 1993 BARRIE THOMPSON, A RESIDENT OF LEXINGTON, BECAME THE FIRST KENTUCKIAN TO MOVE TO NICODEMUS SINCE THE INITIAL MIGRATIONS OF THE 1870S.