

IN APRIL 1877 W.R. HILL, W.H. SMITH AND FIVE RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ORIGINALLY FROM KENTUCKY BUT LIVING IN TOPEKA, KANSAS, FORMED THE NICODEMUS TOWN COMPANY. THEY PLANNED THE TOWNSITE ON THE NORTHWEST HIGH PLAINS OF KANSAS AND NAMED IT NICODEMUS, AFTER THE FIRST AFRICAN SLAVE TO PURCHASE HIS FREEDOM. THEY RETURNED TO THEIR BLUEGRASS HOMES TO SOLICIT SETTLERS. REV. ROUNDTREE, SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY, AND W.R. HILL, TREASURER, SPOKE TO CONGREGATIONS IN SEVERAL SCOTT COUNTY CHURCHES. REV. MORRIS BELL, THE FOUNDING MINISTER OF MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF THE 'LEXINGTON COLONY,' LEADING THE FIRST GROUP TO NICODEMUS IN 1877. (SEE HANDBILL). NEARLY THREE FOURTHS OF THE CONGREGATION OF MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH MIGRATED TO NICODEMUS WHERE, IN 1879, THE REV. DANIEL HICKMAN ESTABLISHED THE FIRST CHURCH IN GRAHAM COUNTY KANSAS, NAMING IT MT. OLIVE IN HONOR OF THEIR CHURCH IN KENTUCKY. JERRY SCRUGGS SR., RAS KIRTLEY, THORNTON WILLIAMS AND MINOR LEWIS, DEACONS IN THE MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, GEORGETOWN, MIGRATED TO NICODEMUS WITH A SECOND GROUP IN 1878.