

The first several years were most difficult. Supplies quickly ran out and the nearest town was Ellis 35 miles to the South. The Osage and Potowatomi Indians passed through the townsite and shared game and government provisions that they received. But by 1880 the town had established a business district, with hotels, livery stable, mercantile store, real estate offices, and post office. Several churches were established immediately and school was being held in a dug out.

In 1885 the promise of the railroad prove to be another boost for the town, increasing the population to almost 700. However when the Union Pacific laid tracks just south of the Solomon River by passing Nicodemus, people became dismayed and began to leave. Some of the businesses moved to the newly organized railroad town of Bogue, just 5 miles south west of Nicodemus. Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses, with the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years taking their toll. Over the year since the 1930's the population has continued to dwindle, with youth leaving for larger urban areas after graduation. Although Nicodemus continued to loose its population the Emancipation Celebration, established in 1878 continues even today to draw its family home each year, the last week end in July, to the place where the first African American pioneers laid down deep roots.