

Angela Bates

*Native of Nicodemus and President
of the Nicodemus Historical Society*



Through slides, video and stories of early settlers and residents, and with the dynamic presentation by Angela Bates, the story of the migration of the African American from their former homes in the South to the promise lands of Kansas will be told.

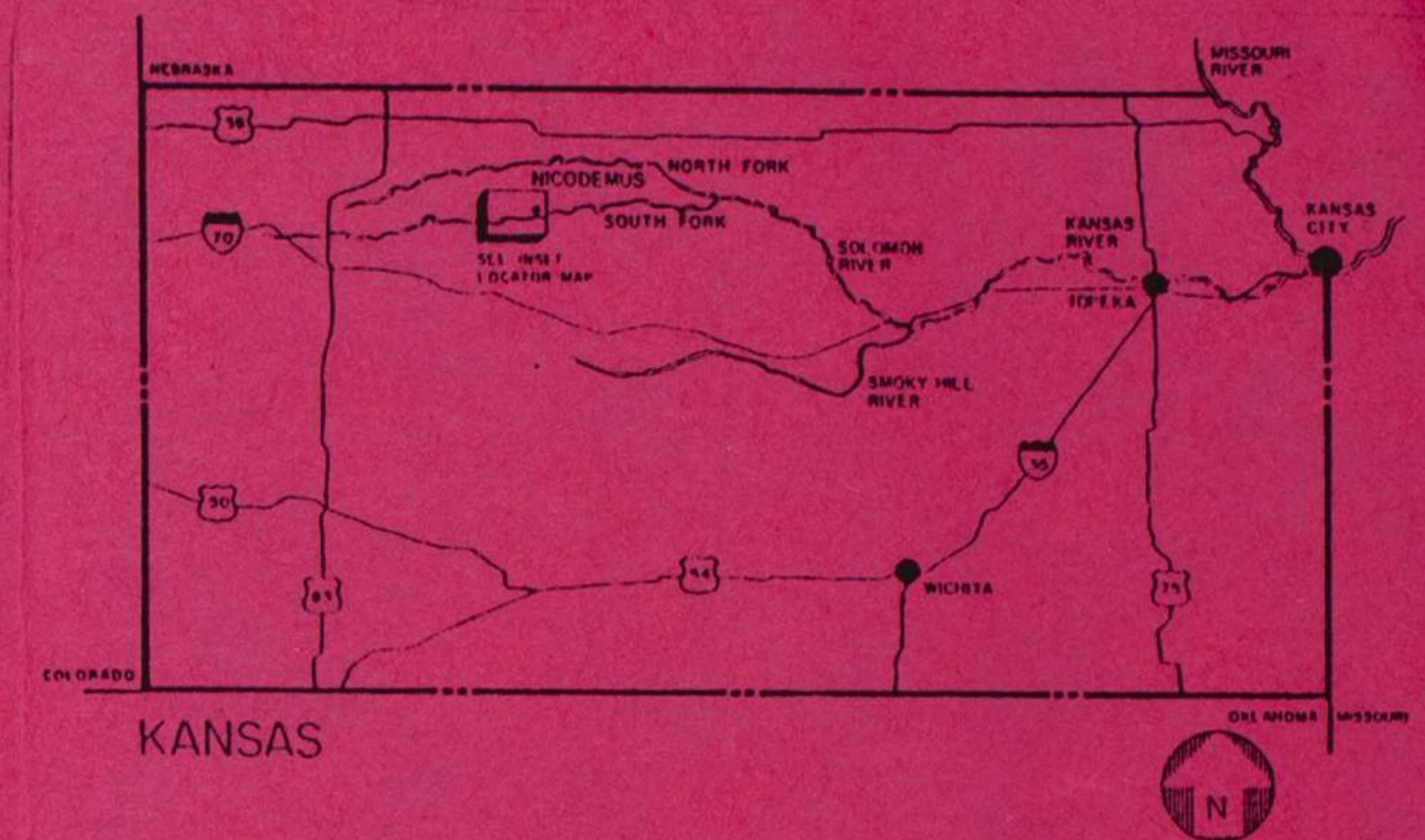
Angela has researched the migration of the African American from their former homes in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi to their new home in the promise lands of Kansas. When these African Americans who were former slaves reached the promise lands of Kansas, many settled in what has become the only remaining all African American town west of the Mississippi River - Nicodemus, Kansas.

A group of Black Kentuckians were the first to settled in the town in 1877. Leaving the oppression of their former bluegrass homes they sought the frontier and the free lands of Kansas to create a place they could call their own.

Angela will intrigue you with her most recent research findings and tell how she has established the Kansas-Kentucky Connection with descendants of settlers who returned to their former Kentucky homes and of descendants of relatives who remained in Kentucky rather than venture out to the western frontier.

Through this connection descendants of former slave owners and slaves are finally reconnected. Photographs from the plantation of former Vice-President, Col. Richard M. Johnson (Martin VanBuren administration) and his family, and their former slaves who migrated to Nicodemus will be shown and their stories told.

With historic photographs and the use of slides and video, Angela begins to unveil this unique and almost forgotten story in American history.



Angela is currently spearheading a project that will change the face of the National Park system in the western region - The Nicodemus Historic Site Project.

Designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1976, Nicodemus is currently being considered for National Historic 'Site' designation. The Nicodemus Bill will be introduced to Congress in the Spring 1993. If passed, Nicodemus will receive federal funds allocated through the National Parks system to restore and preserve this unique pioneer town.

Americans, international tourists, an African Americans in particular, will have the first opportunity to visit this living example of the only remaining all African American pioneer town established during the 1800's.

For more information about Nicodemus, tours, exhibits, videos, and materials, contact:

The Nicodemus Historical Society
R.R. #2, Box 139
Nicodemus, Kansas 67625
(913) 674-3311