A Lecture and Slide Presentation

Presented By Angela Bates-Tompkins

\$300.00 + Expenses

For More Information Contact

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

The Women of Nicodemus An Historic Photographs Exhibit and Lecture



The Women of Nicodemus exhibit features photos of the early pioneer women and the generations of women that followed. The photographs depict groups of women, who over the years gathered for various social and and community affairs. Many of the photos capture the feelings and emotions that they must have felt and shared, even toward each other.

These African American women exhibit a spirit of 'togetherness', a closeness that transcends the social connectiveness or geographic ties with one another. In various photos it is quite obvious that they knew how to have a good time in spite of the harsh environment and social isolation of living on the High Plains of Kansas.

The striking photographs depict the social aspects of the women in the community as well as their love for each other and the fashions of the time. Four generations of women that were a part of this historical all African American town can be seen in four separate, but similar photographs. Dynamic as each photo is, a story unfolds with each.



The exhibit was first conceived as a result of a presentation made by Angela Bates, President of the Nicodemus Historical Society, when giving a program on the women of Nicodemus at Wichita State University, in Wichita, Kansas March 2, 1991.

The slide and lecture presentation is available for booking and includes the history of the Women of Nicodemus and the role of the African American women in the West.

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THE WOMEN OF NICODEMUS

The Women of Nicodemus exhibit features photos of the early pioneer women of Nicodemus and the generations that followed. The photographs depict groups of women, who over the years gathered for various social club meetings or entertainment. Many of the photos capture the feelings and emotions that they must have shared for one another.

These black women exhibit a spirit of togetherness, friendship and love towards one another. In various pictures it is quite obvious that they knew how to have a good time, in spite of the hard times that they must have lived through during troubled times in western Kansas.

The exhibit was first put together by Angela Bates for a presentation to an audiance at Wichita State University. Slides were made from the photographs and used as a part of a women's program sponsored by the Women's Studies Department at Wichita State University, on March 2, 1991.

The exhibit is planned to include photos of individual women, from the early setters to the present residents, from key community figures to housewives and mothers.

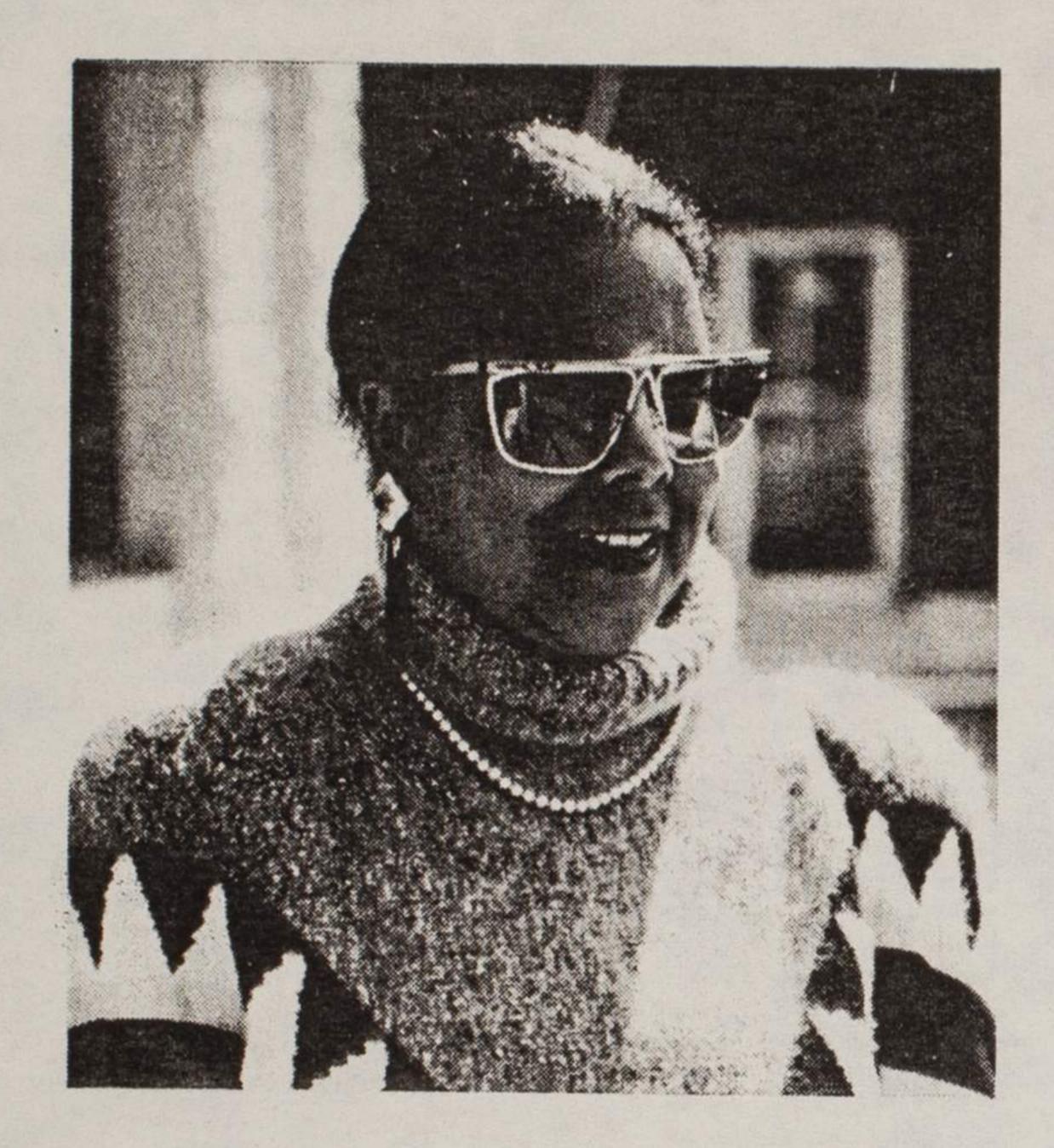
We want to thank Gil Alexander of Nicodemus for the use of these fine photos. Most of these photos were from Bernice Bates' personal collection. Thank God for her interest in taking photos and recording the names and dates on the photographs. Unfortunately she is not seen in most of the photos.

We want to thank the Dane Hansen Foundation in Logan, Kansas for their monetary gift that assisted in enlarging and framing the photos. Also a special thanks goes out to Pioneer Studio in Hays, Kansas for the fine reproduction and sepia tone prints. A special thanks to the Madd Matter of Hays, Kansas for their fine matting and framing work.

The exhibit will be scheduled for libraries and museums around the state, and if interest is generated then around the nation. When the exhibit is completed, the photos will be compiled into a book and made available for purchase.

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.

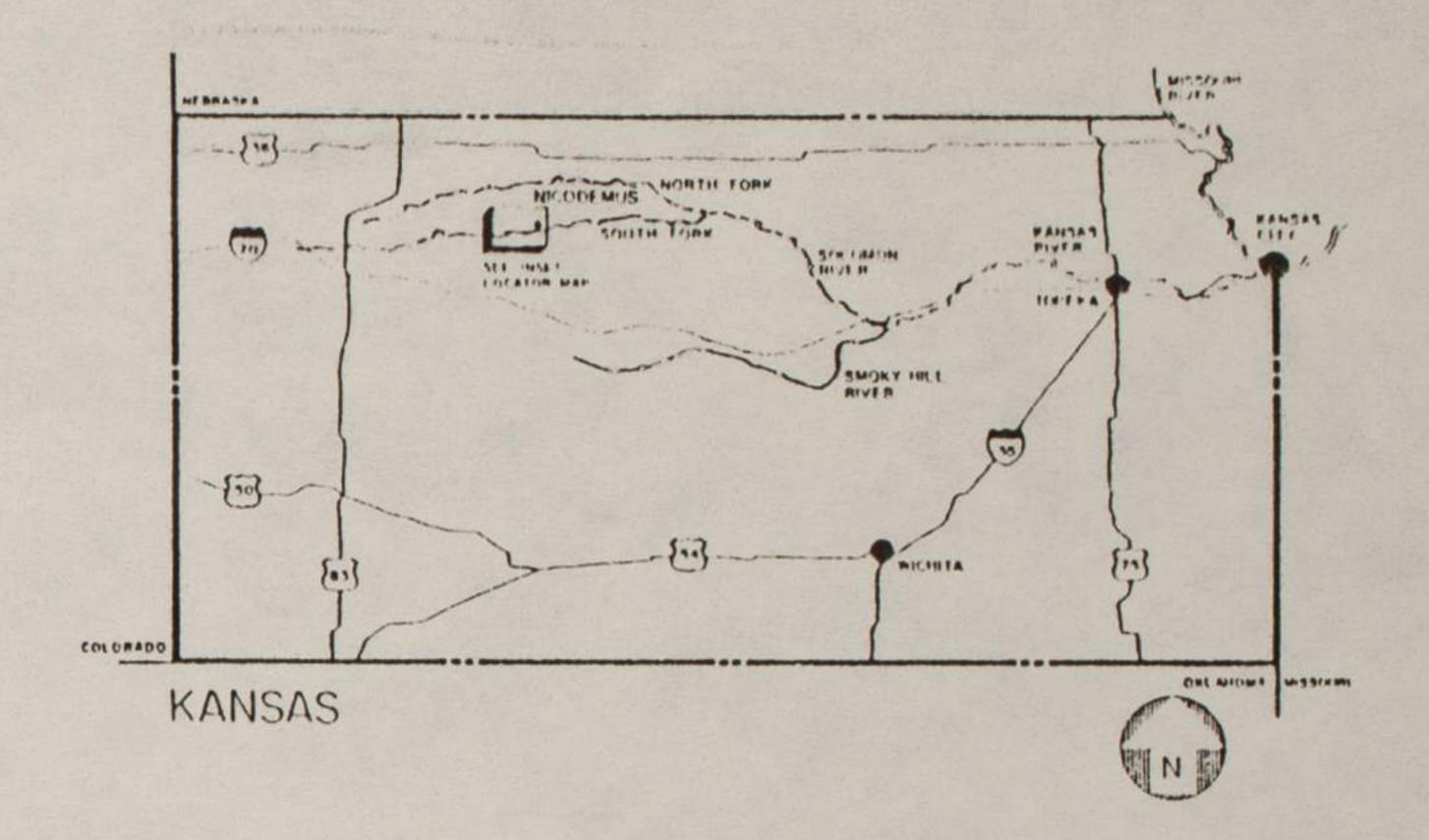
Angela has researched the migration of the African American from their former homes in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi to their new home in the promise lands of Kansas. When these African Americans who were former slaves reached the promise lands of Kansas, many settled in what has become the only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

NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY R.R. #2, BOX 139, NICODEMUS, KS 67625 For Information: (913) 674-3311

PARTIAL LIST HOST INSTITUTIONS

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Wichita State University Wichita, Kansas

Johnson County Community College Kansas City, Kansas

> Washington University St. Louis, Missouri

National Trust for Historic Preservation Washington, D.C.

Wichita Art Museum Wichita, Kansas

Lexington Public Library Lexington, Kentucky

Conferences, Workshops, Seminars Public Schools

These are only a few of the institutions and organizations that have hosted this most dynamic presentation.

This program was funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Western Migration of the African American & Historic Nicodemus, Kansas

Slide/Video/Lecture Presentation

All Colored People

THAT WANT TO

GO TO KANSAS

On September 5th, 1877, Can do so for \$5.00

INAMIGRATION

WHEREAS, We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky, knowing that there is an abundance of choice lands now belonging to the Government, have assembled nurselves together for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED. That we do now organize ourselves into a Colony, as follows:—
Any person wishing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in instalments of twenty-five cents at a time, or otherwise as may be desired.

RESOLVED. That this Colony has agreed to consolidate itself with the Nicodemus Towns, Solomon Valley, Graham County, Kansas, and can only do so by entering the vacant lands now in their midst, which costs \$5.00.

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall consist of seven officers—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Trustees. President—M. M. Bell; Vice-President—Isaac Talbott; Secretary—W. J. Niles; Treasurer—Daniel Clarke; Trustees—Jerry Lee, William Jones, and Abner Webster

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall have from one to two hundred militia, more or less, as the case may require, to keep peace and order, nod any member failing to pay in his dues, as aforesaid, or failing to comply with the above rules in any particular, will not be recognized or protected by the Colony.

Promotional Handbill

Presented By

Angela Bates

President Nicodemus Historical Society

An All African American Pioneer Town

National Historic Landmark 1976 National Historic Site Nomination 1993

Attention - SPEAKERS BUREAU -

THE WOMEN OF NICODEMUS

The Women of Nicodemus features the early pioneers and the generations that followed. The photographs depict groups of women who over the years gathered for social entertainment as well as for social organization meetings, such as the Priscilla Arts Club, Mission, Lodge, etc.

These women exhibit a spirit of togetherness, friendship and love towards one another. In various pictures it is quite obvious that they knew how to have a good time, in spite of the hard times that they lived through during various eras in western Kansas history.

The exhibit was first put together by Angela Bates for a presentation to an audiance at Wichita State University. Sides were made from the photographs and used as a part of a women's program sponsored by the Women's Studies department at Wichita State University on March 2, 1991.

The exhibit will be expanded to include various individual photos of women at various times during Nicodemus' history.

We want to thank Gil Alexander of Nicodemus for the use of these fine photos. Most of these photos were from Bernice Bates' personal files. Thank God for her interest in taking photos and recording the names and dates on the photographs. Unfortunately she is not seen in most of the photos.

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6. Bernice Bates

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Sella Miller, Lettie B. Van DuVall

Mattie Bibb, Sadie Hall, Clementine Vaughn - August 1955

Vivian Coleman, Versella Napue, Delores Cannon

Verna Napue, Eugenia Alexander, Jaunita Redd, Oletha Napue, Marie White, Mabel Clark, Lucy Smith, Nellie Buckner, Velva Williams, Blanch White, Ola Wilson, Mattie Bibb, Helen Dabney February 1952

Armedia Napue, Naomi Alexander, Vernita Napue, Lorene Switzer, Alice Vaughn, Wray Alexander, Maxine Sayers, Ruth Vaughn, Olive B. Alexander - 1941

Sharyn Alexander, Connie Griffie, Carol Alexander, Doris Williams, Norma Jean Switzer, _____ Jones, _____ Jones - February 3, 1962

Blance White, Marie White, Mattie Bibb, Ernestine Van DuVall, Eugenia Alexander, Juanita Redd, Oli Scruggs, Lucy Smith, Verna Napue - August 1955

- 1 Sella Miller, Lettié B. Van DuVall
- 2)
 Mattie Bibb, Sadie Hall, Clementine Vaughn August 1955
- 3 Vivian Coleman, Versella Napue, Delores Cannon
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 Marie White, Mabel Clark, Lucy Smith, Nellie Buckner, Velva
 Williams, Blanch White, Ola Wilson, Mattie Bibb, Helen Dabney
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Armedia Napue, Naomi Alexander, Vernita Napue, Lorene Switzer, Alice Vaughn, Wray Alexander, Maxine Sayers, Ruth Vaughn, Olive B. Alexander - 1941

Sharyn Alexander, Connie Griffie, Carol Alexander, Doris Williams, Norma Jean Switzer, ______ Jones, _____ Jones, _____ Blance White, Marie White, Mattie Bibb,
Ernestine Van DuVall, Eugenia Alexander, Juanita Redd, Oli
Scruggs, Lucy Smith, Verna Napue - August 1955

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- 10 UNIDENTIFIED (HELPUS IF YOU KNOW ANY ON THE PHOTO)

NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIFT ITEMS

(official logo)

Official Nicodemus Logo - Lapel Pens	QT	AMOUNT \$ 6.50				
Nicodemus Book - Promise Land on the Solomon (Not available yet)		\$15.00				
T-Shirts (Small, Medium, (Large, X-Large, XX-Large +\$1.50) (Official Logo)		\$15.00 \$10.00				
Hats with official Nicodemus logo Nicodemus Collage Print (Rick Barkdoll)						
Aerial Photo of Nicodemus		\$22.00				
Old Issues of News Letter		\$ 1.50				
VIDEOS						
"Nicodemus" Documentary (lhr.) (1991/92) - John Mann, Producer						
"Nicodemus Composite Video" (Good Morning America, Sunday Today Show, Sun Flower Journeys)	\$20.00				
"The Exodusters" Documentary (Filmed in 1970 with William Marshall as host)						
Shipping: \$2.50 per video, T-Shirts, hats, book \$1.50 SUBTOTAL \$ SHIPPING \$ TOTAL \$						
Please indicate number of items desired, telephone number and correct shipping additional Ship To:	ess:					
() Total Amount Encl	osed:	\$				

They opened laundries, hotels, they did housekeeping, cooked, taught of organized the vary schools they taught in. By whatever means necessary to with what over they early use - they created a sometimes nearer living ant of the barren high plain of western

They were in dead hard washers of learned to drive teams of mules, oxen, horses, plantice & reassed gardeno & crops then cooled & canned for the harsh days of winter. They plowed fields, patien braking the virgin Ks sad & plantid & harvested crops. Thrashing whent Thucking corn.

They reased & multied cours, feel & fattened hogs, slaughtined & curul their meat; cowhing ham, bacan & chaps for meals.

Total, hardled & shot rupes, pestals & shotguns shooting large ther, coons, readuits, quine & pheasants.

The women of Nicodemus were Visconaries, they were dreamers, They could see the possibilities that the awtisme Western Frontier held. They were ace ventureous, and held within them-selves the spark that motwated then far beyond their own fears. They possessed the courage to set out on a journey that would change their lives, a journey that led them with what lattr become known as the 'Wild West!'

They were persenering and had true strength to carry on inspite of the hardships that confronted them in their daily wies as quoniers.

They were industrous and practical taking little and making much much, turning what withe the desolete preavies offered into big meals for their families, wartooth for their due outs and ween soap for their batta.

Their families.

They were gassonate & faithful in all that they did & compassionite to the in/ ones that they bulped. They healed the sich delivered each athers babies & assisted wy the burials in times of grief.

They seved & made clothes, to guilts & other items to make their family comfortable gowarn and houses rent & beautiful

They were God fearing, up lighting of fearful, selvening it was by gods will alone that they were to survive the hardships of Frontier life.

They were true black pronier women

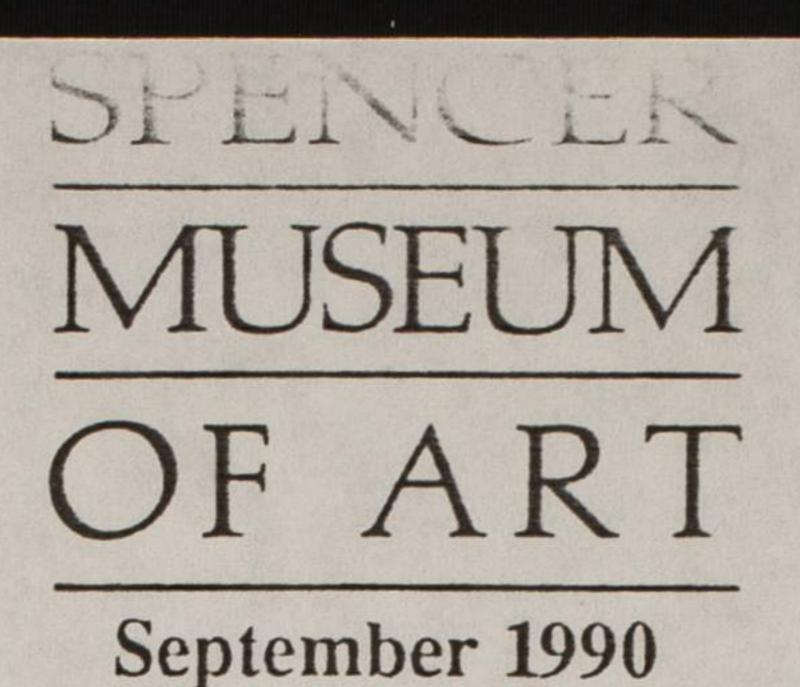
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The women of Nicadomus wille resurries, they were dreamers, they Could see the possibilities that the awesome western Juantier held. Duez mer adnentarion & held writhin themselves the spark mut motivated then the their & blegood their own fears, to be courage to set and possessed the set and possessed them (later) aut on a journey into what become forour as the wild west. They were gersening & have Here strength to carry on insporte of the hardships that sinfusted them, duily lives as proneers their fitters of their fitters. They were endew trous & grations, Haxing ittle of making more at that turning what the stearing offesed \$ Site big meals for their families, wanth Soap for their baths.

They were entrepreneurs using mothers or the Stills that were taught to the transmission oner to orente Dusenesses from themselves x their families where the causactries, hotels, they cooked & fought & sought & gened stroots, what ever it toole to dul nouselvespry what ever ut toole to create a meager living out of western vigor plain of They wake indeed hard workers I learned to drive Hams of oxen, mules + horso, planted & rearried gardeng then and I canned for the winter, they help slaw fields & planted Marvestul wheat corn, fitter. I feel the fatter hop, then stoned then I cured ham & cooked poste chops of they could ruile i nos good as any man of dazed ong Mo enter inte a shortly countest 700+ Toting & handling shotsguns, Priples, & pistols. SHOOTING COONS, rabbits & even dear f antelope.

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I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America

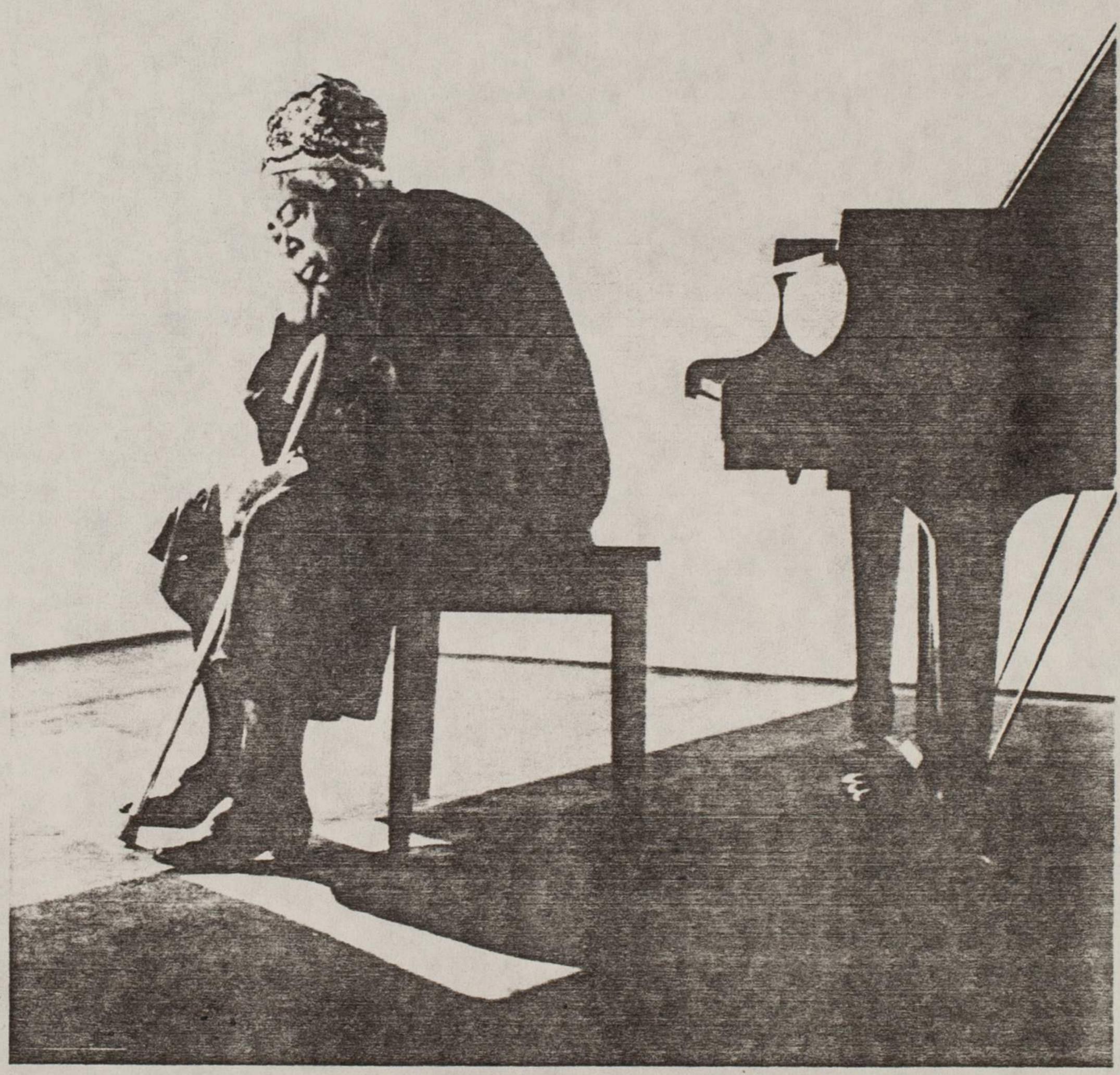
A diverse group of black women—some famous and others less prominent—who have made an impact on twentieth-century America are featured in an exhibition of photographs that will open at the Spencer Museum in September.

I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America, an exhibition of photographs of seventy-five black women by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Brian Lanker, will be on view from September 23 to November 18.

Black-and-white, large-scale photographs of each woman and excerpts from personal interviews give a glimpse into the lives of these remarkable people who have influenced and changed our society in a variety of ways. The exhibition includes well-known women such as Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955; authors Toni Morrison and Alice Walker; politicians Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm; performers Lena Horne, Leontyne Price, and Cicely Tyson; and activist Angela Davis. Less well-known but equally important are women such as Ruby Middleton Forsythe, who taught school for more than half a century in a one-room schoolhouse, and Priscilla L. Williams, who raised fourteen adopted children. Also included are artists, folklorists, lawyers, athletes, a neurosurgeon, a midwise, a bishop, and a brigadier general.

At least two women with Kansas connections are included. Eva Jessye, born in Coffeyville and a graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University, was a choral director and Ambassador of the Arts from Kansas for many years, and Gwendolyn Brooks, first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, was born in Topeka.

Lanker, who spent two years on the project, is a contract photographer for *Sports Illustrated* and frequently has photo essays published in *Life*. He formerly worked for newspapers in Phoenix, Topeka, and Eugene, Oregon and, in 1973, won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography.



Pontrait of Eva Jessye (born 1895), by Brian Lanker

September Events Related to I Dream a World

I Dream a World: Portraits of Black
Women Who Changed America
will be at the Spencer Museum September
23-November 18. A book containing the
photographs and excerpts from interviews
with the women and a poster are on sale at
the Spencer Museum Book Shop.

Openings

Friends of the Art Museum opening and buffet supper Saturday, September 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Public opening

Sunday, September 23, 2-4 p.m.

Performances

Festival 2000:

SenseUs—The Rainbow Anthems
A poetry-music collaboration reflecting
African-American, Latino, and Asian
themes. Poet Sonia Sanchez, whose
photograph appears in the *I Dream a World*exhibition, is among the performers.
Sponsored by the University of Kansas
New Direction Series.
Hoch Auditorium

Saturday, September 22, 8 p.m. \$ (continued on page 4, col. 1)

(continued from page 1)

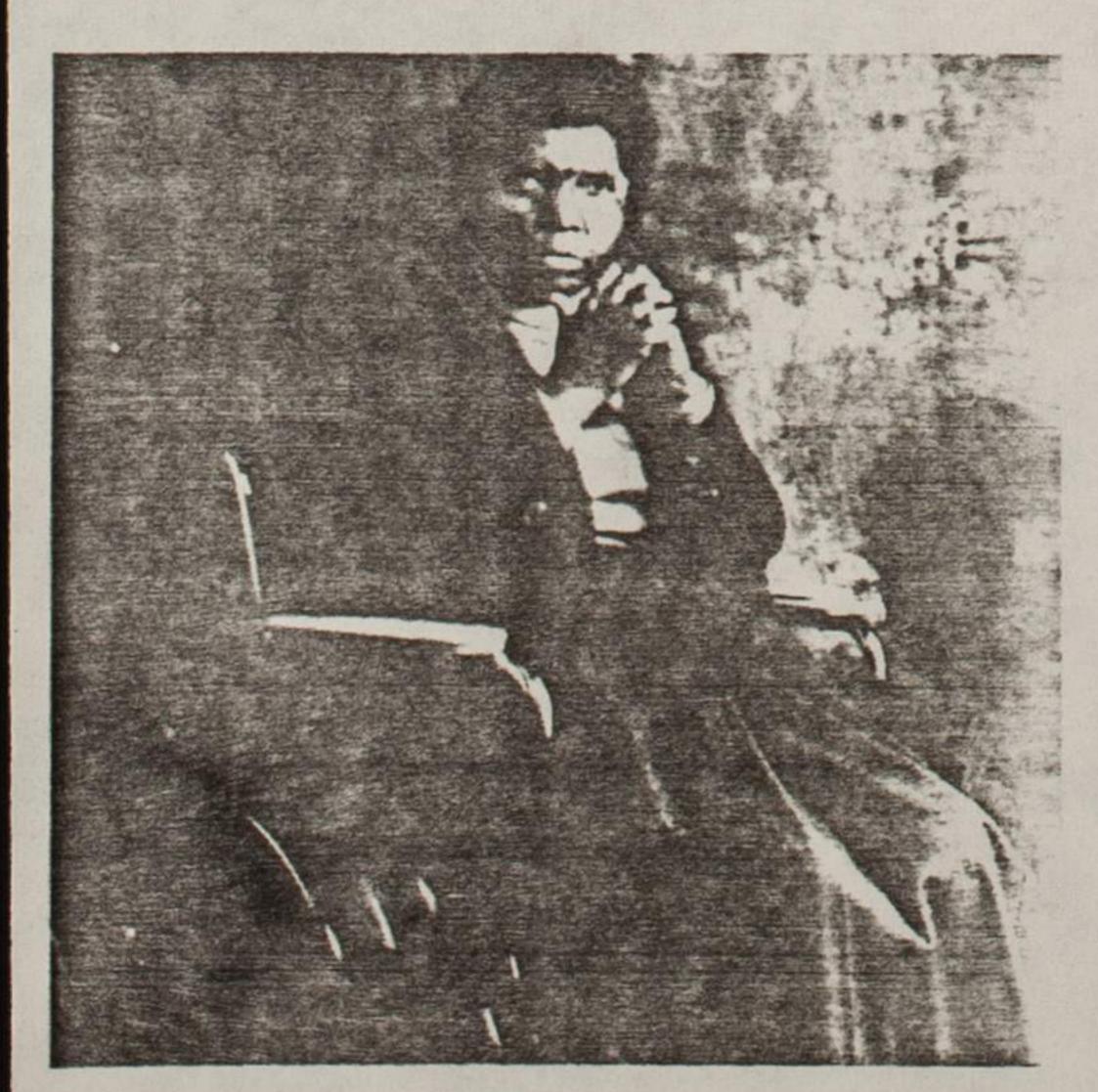
Lectures
(by women featured in the I Dream a World exhibition)

The Honorable Judge Constance Baker Motley. Sponsored by the School of Law. Spencer Museum Auditorium (a reception follows in the Spencer Museum Central Court)
Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Gloria Dean Randle Scott, president of Bennett College. Includes a reception. Sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Black Faculty and Staff Council.

Kansas Union Ballroom
(a tour of the *I Dream a World* exhibition follows the lecture)
Saturday, September 29, 4-7 p.m. \$

I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America was organized by the Corcoran Gallery of Art and circulated by the American Federation of Arts. It was made possible by a generous grant from US WEST and supported by the Professional Photography Division, Eastman Kodak Company. The exhibition photographs were printed by Gary Schneider of Schneider/Erdman, New York City. This exhibition and related programs at the Spencer Museum of Art are supported by Volume Shoe Corporation, a division of the May Department Stores Company, and the Charles A. Frucauff Foundation.



Barbara Jordan (born 1936), by Brian Lanker

September 1990 Calendar

Spencer Museum of Art The University of Kansas

Director Andrea S. Norris

Managing I dates Catherine Evans

Assistant licitor Maggie Stenz

Graphic Designer Janet Moore

Photographer Jon Blumb

Membership Constanting Linda Bailey

Other September Events

Lectures

"Whoso Findeth Wisdom Findeth Life,"
Marilyn Stokstad, University
Distinguished Professor of Art. First of
the Kansas University Heritage Lecture
Series (commemorating 125 years of KU),
this talk is about the academic side of life at
KU.

Spencer Museum Auditorium Tuesday, September 4, 8 p.m.

"Getting It Back: Stolen Art and the Rights of Owners," Constance Lowenthal, Director of the International Foundation for Art Research. For further details see the article on page 3.

Spencer Museum Auditorium
Sunday, September 30, 2 p.m.

Training-

Teacher in-service. Workshop open to anyone wanting to bring groups to the *I* Dream a World exhibition. Led by Katie Armitage, local historian, and Deborah Dandridge from the KU Kansas Collection Library. No charge but advance reservations necessary. Sponsored by Volume Shoe Corp. For information, contact Carissa McKenzie. Saturday, September 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

FAM Call for Volunteers

Friends of the Art Museum members, are you looking for something to enhance your weekends this fall? The Spencer Museum needs Friends volunteers to work weekends at the information desk from September 23 through November 14. These are the dates when the popular exhibition I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America will be at the Spencer. Large crowds are expected, and we think a friendly smile and a welcome would be an excellent way to greet them.

Volunteers will be asked to sign up for two shifts of two-and-a-half hours and attend an orientation meeting in early September. If you want to volunteer, please call the membership office at 864-4710.

IMS Grant

The Spencer Museum has received a \$1,400 grant from the Institute for Museum Services to be used to provide a consultant recommended by the Museum Assessment Program (MAP). The professional consultant will review and make recommendations on long-range planning, public programs, audience development, public relations, and security at the museum.

Join the Friends!

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	New Member	Rene	wal
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	Sponsor \$50		Spencer Associate \$1000
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(May 3-July 24)

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DATE:

May 13, 1991

TO:

The Hansen Foundation

FROM:

Angela Bates

SUBJECT: "Black Pioneer Women - The Women of Nicodemus" A Photographic Exhibit

I am currently writing a book on the women of Nicodemus and hope that your foundation would be interested in the photos that will be used in the book, for an exhibit. The focus of the exhibit would be The Women of Nicoedmus. I hope to use more photos than described, however, I think 10 photo enlargements would work fine for the exhibit.

When: July 22 - August 2

Where: Nicodemus Township Hall

Graham County Public Library

Cost of Exhibit:

Photo Reproductions: 16 x 20 @ \$21.95 each

\$219.50

Photo Framing: Dry mount, metal frame non-glare glass

\$79.22 each

\$792.20

10 Easles: \$50.00 each

(Possible Rental)

\$500.00

Promotional Brochures: 500

\$125.00

Postage:

500 @ 29 cents each

\$145.00

IN-KIND

Refreshments: Cookies and Punch

*\$100.00

Project Coordinator: Angela Bates *\$200.00

TOTAL \$1801.70
TOTAL IN-KIND \$ 300.00

I hope that this is the type of project that you would be interested in funding. The historical society has limited funds and are hoping with the Kansas University documentary scheduled for filming during our Emancipation Celebration (July 26-28) we can have a fund filled and educational program for them to see.