

The Land that Gives Birth to Freedom

We have held meetings to ourselves
to see if we can't plan some way to live.
We have held meetings to ourselves
to see if we can't plan some way to live.

Chorus-

Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.
Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.

We have Mr. Singleton for our president.
He will go on before us and lead us through.
We have Mr. Singleton for our president.
He will go on before us and lead us through.

Chorus-

Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.
Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.

For Tennessee is a hard slavery state,
and we find no friends in that country.
For Tennessee is a hard slavery state,
and we find no friends in that country.

Chorus-

Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.
Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.

We want peaceful homes and quiet firesides;
no one to disturb us or turn us out.
We want peaceful homes and quiet firesides;
no one to disturb us or turn us out.

Chorus-

Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.
Marching along, yes, we are marching along,
To Kansas City we are bound.

Fleming, W.L. (1909). *"Pap" Singleton, The Moses of the Colored Exodus*.

Extending Our Voices to Heaven

We are on our rapid march to Kansas, the land that gives birth to free-dom.
May God Almighty bless you all.

Chorus-

Farewell, dear friends, farewell.

Many dear mothers are sleeping in the tomb of clay,
have spent all their days in slavery in old Tennessee.

Chorus-

Farewell, dear friends, farewell.

It seems to me that the year of jubilee has come;
surely this is the time that is spoken of in history.

Chorus-

Farewell, dear friends, farewell.

Fleming, W.L. (1909). *"Pap" Singleton, The Moses of the Colored Exodus*.

Ho for Kansas!

Brethren, Friends, & Fellow Citizens:

I feel thankful to inform you that the

REAL ESTATE

AND

Homestead Association,

Will Leave Here the

15th of April, 1878,

In pursuit of Homes in the Southwestern
Lands of America, at Transportation
Rates, cheaper than ever
was known before.

For full information inquire of

Benj. Singleton, better known as old Pap,
NO. 5 NORTH FRONT STREET.

Beware of Speculators and Adventurers, as it is a dangerous thing
to fall in their hands.

Nashville, Tenn., March 18, 1878.

One of the many posters calling on southern blacks to leave for Kansas.

Letter promoting migration

Promoting African American Migration: Nicodemus, Kansas Circulars (1877)

To the Colored Citizens of the United States.

Nicodemus, Graham Co., Kan., July 2d. 1877.

We, the Nicodemus Town Company of Graham County, Kan., are now in possession of our lands and the Town Site of Nicodemus, which is beautifully located on the N. W. quarter of Section 1, Town 8, Range 21, in Graham Co., Kansas, in the great Solomon Valley, 240 miles west of Topeka, and we are proud to say it is the finest country we ever saw. The soil is of rich, black, sandy loam. The country is rather rolling, and looks most pleasing to the human eye. The south fork of the Solomon river flows through Graham County, nearly directly east and west and has an abundance of excellent water, while there are numerous springs of living water abounding throughout the Valley. There is an abundance of fine Magnesian stone for building purposes, which is much easier handled than the rough sand or hard stone. There is also some timber; plenty for fire use, while we have no fear but what we will find plenty of coal.

Now is your time to secure your home on Government Land in the Great Solomon Valley of Western Kansas.

Remember, we have secured the service of W. R. Hill, a man of energy and ability, to locate our Colony.

Not quite 90 days ago we secured our charter for locating the town site of Nicodemus. We then became an organized body, with only three dollars in the treasury and twelve members, but under the careful management of our officers, we have now nearly 300 good and reliable members, with several members permanently located on their claims—with plenty of provisions for the colony—while we are daily receiving letters from all parts of the country from parties desiring to locate in the great Solomon Valley of Western Kansas.

For Maps, Circulars, and Passenger rates, address our General Manager, W. R. HILL, North Topeka, Kansas, until August 1st, 1877, then at Hill City, Graham Co., via Trego.

The name of our post-office will be Nicodemus, and Mr. Z. T. Fletcher will be our “Nasby.”

Rev. S. P. ROUNDTREE, Secretary.



7.1 - Exodusters waiting for a steamboat to carry them westward in the late 1870's. Retrieved April 11, 2011 from http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/seven/w67i_levee.htm

Political cartoon



'The Union as it Used to Be'. Retrieved April 30, 2011 from <http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/7Illustrations/Reconstruction/Illustrations/0878w500.jpg>

The Daily Journal.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1879.

LAWRENCE.

ABOUT NICODEMUS.

A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune has just visited the negro colony at Nicodemus and gives the following items concerning it:

It is the capital or head centre of a negro colony in Graham county, and is located about thirty-five miles north-east of Wa-Keeney, and about the same distance northwest from Ellis. The colony, or settlement, consists of about 125 families, comprising a population of about 700 souls, scattered over an area of twelve miles in length by six in breadth.

NICODEMUS

is the town-site; has its post office, store, hotel, land office, etc.; and, like nearly all new towns, aspires to the possession of the county seat.

The colony had its first start in August, 1877, a few families locating there at that time. In October and November of the same year, large accessions were made by the arrival of new immigrants, who, with the usual want of forethought of the race, pushed out to the then extreme frontier at the commencement of winter, in almost utter lack of the means to shelter, feed, and clothe themselves during the winter. With the opening of the spring of 1878 more came. They were mainly from the farming regions of Kentucky and Tennessee. As the experiences of this colony may shed some light on the very serious problem of

what to do with the multitudes of colored people now coming north from the lower Mississippi States, I have taken the pains to

VISIT IT AND ASCERTAIN THE FACTS, so as to present them to the readers of the Tribune.

As before stated, as a rule they were nearly destitute of means—a few only bringing either teams or money. They located on government homesteads, and set about to provide themselves with shelter, which was easily and cheaply secured by building dugouts and sod houses, roofed with poles and brush, with a covering of earth sufficient to keep out the rain. As lumber floors were regarded as an unnecessary luxury, all the lumber required was for a door and its frame, and one window. A fireplace at one end, in most cases, takes the place of a stove, and serves the double purpose of heating and cooking.

Coming, as most of them did, in the fall of the year, and destitute of means, but one resource was open to them in order to sustain life during the winter; and that was an appeal to the charity of the people of the State. This was resorted to: and agents of the colony, duly authenticated, canvassed the older-settled portions of the State for aid, which was freely given in provisions, seed-grain, clothing, etc.

At the present time, the amount of land under cultivation to each family will average about six or seven acres, ranging from twenty acres as the highest to one or two. The solicitation for aid has been continued to some extent until recently. But, two weeks since, a public meeting was called, and, after full consideration of the subject, it was voted to disband the colony organization. A series of resolutions was passed, thanking the people of the State for the aid that had been so freely given, and stating that from this time no further aid would be solicited, as it was believed that, with proper effort and industry,

THE COMMUNITY COULD BE SELF-SUPPORTING.

'The Union as it Used to Be'. Retrieved April 30, 2011 from

<http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/7Illustrations/Reconstruction/Illustrations/0878w500.jpg>