

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[DATE] [Insert your information here:

Local Project Director, Title and Organization

Phone Number and Email

Website]

**Presentation Explores Lives of Free-Born Children after Civil War**

[Community Name] – [Organization Name] in [Community Name] will host “Children of the Promised Land,” a presentation and discussion by Angela Bates on [Date] at [Time] at [Location and Address of Presentation]. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. Contact the [Host Organization Name] at [Phone Number] for more information. The program is made possible by Humanities Kansas

[List any details about local event here]

Nicodemus, a small, unincorporated town in Graham County, is the only remaining western town established by African Americans during the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. Today the town is a National Historic Site. This pictorial history explores the unique experience of mothers and their children in Nicodemus, some of whom were the first members of their families born free.

Angela Bates is the executive director of the Nicodemus Historical Society. She presents educational programs across the nation covering Nicodemus, Exodusters and black towns in the West, Buffalo Soldiers, and black women in the West.

“My great uncle, Henry Williams, was the first baby born in Nicodemus just a month after my great-grandmother Emma arrived with the first group of settlers in 1877,” said Bates. “He was one of the first in his generation born on the free soils of Kansas. He represents the many children of his generation that were reared by parents who were former slaves.”

“Children of the Promised Land” is part of Humanities Kansas's *Crossroads* Conversations Catalog, featuring presentations, discussions, and workshops designed to spark conversations in the Sunflower State.

This program is part of the *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* initiative anchored by the

Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition of the same name. *Crossroads* promotes fresh thinking about the history, culture, and future of Kansas.

**-MORE-**

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For more information about “Children of the Promised Land” in [Community] contact the [Host Organization] at [Phone Number] or visit [Website].

**About Humanities Kansas**

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, our pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with our partners and supporters, we inspire all Kansans to draw on history, literature, ethics, and culture to enrich their lives and serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit humanitieskansas.org.

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