In Search of Canaan
Athearn, Robert G.

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In Search of Canaan: Black Migration to Kansas, 1879-80.

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Harper's Weekly showed its readers scenes such as this one depicting Exodusters preparing to leave Vicksburg. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.
Life in the barracks at Topeka (1879) was austere and apparently boring, as witness the occupants, who seem to be waiting for something. *Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka*
Of the numerous Negro conventions that met in the exodus year of 1879, the Vicksburg Convention was the only gathering that was managed by whites. Harper's Weekly for May 31, 1879, had some reservations regarding the sincerity of white southern planters. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.
The cover of Harper's Weekly for January 31, 1880, depicted a mythical station called Free Soil, Kansas, with an Irishman saying to an Exoduster (who is holding a carpetbag): “An' what right have you, sure, to be after leaving your native place an' coming here?” Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.
The Real Estate & Homestead Association, Will Give a Festival at the Benevolent Hall, Cor. Spring & Bass Sts., Edgefield, Wednesday Night, Aug. 29, 1877

Our Platform
Peace, Good Will and Harmony to all Mankind.

Our Motto
Sincerity of Heart and Not many Words Loudly Spoken.

This Association was gotten up for the benefit of the Colored Laboring Classes, both men and women, to purchase them large tracts of land, peaceful homes and firesides undisturbed by any one. To do this we must be prudent and save our little means and blend together as a band of brethren and sisters; when we do this we will then march onward to peace and prosperity.

Addresses will be delivered by Members of the Association

Prices of Admission
Adults, 15cts. Children 10cts.

Houston Solomon, Supt.
Washington Antony, Marshal
Stokely Walton, Asst. Supt.
Benj. Singleton, President
Alonzo Defrantly, Secy.

Mass meetings, such as this one held at Edgefield, Tennessee, helped to generate the rather small colony movement that preceded the exodus. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.
The object of this Association is the purchase and improvement of lands for the mutual benefit of its members. At a recent meeting BENJAMIN SINGLETON and ALONZO DeFRANZ, were appointed Land Inspectors with instructions to report as early as convenient the location, surroundings, soil and price of desirable lands that may be purchased in Kansas or other States. We therefore, in that capacity, recommend them to all whom it may concern.

J. M. M. STOKES, PRESIDENT.
P. H. MURRAY, SECRETARY.

St. Louis, Mo., May 15, 1879.

A leaflet circulated to encourage the purchase and improvement of land. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.
COME!

To the Colored People of the United States of America:

This is to lay before your minds a few sketches of what great advantages there are for the great mass of people of small means that are emigrating West to come and settle in the county of Hodgeman, in the State of Kansas—and more especially the Colored people, for they are the ones that want to find the best place for climate and for soil for the smallest capital. Hodgeman county is in Southwestern Kansas, on the line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad.

We, the undersigned, having examined the above county and found it best adapted to our people, have applied to the proper authority and have obtained a Charter, in the name and style of "THE DAVID CITY TOWN COMPANY," in the County of Hodgeman, State of Kansas.

TRUSTEES:

A. McLURE. STEPHEN ESSEX.
JOHN YATES. THOMAS JACKSON.
THOMAS BIEZER. JOHN GOTHARD.
HENRY BRILEE.

A. McLURE, President.
J. WOODFORK, Secretary.

The Hodgeman Colony was the western-most of these efforts, and its members suffered from drouth and frontier conditions generally. Courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society.