

# SHORE FAMILY



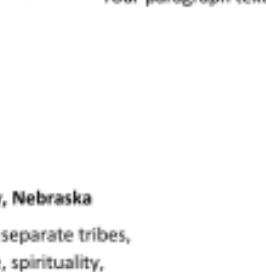
## SUMMARY

In 1870, there were 789 African Americans living in Nebraska. That number exploded to 8,900 by 1890. African Americans settled mainly in Custer, Dawson, and Harlan counties. Charles Meehan formed a black colony at Overton in Dawson County in 1885, which was followed by the creation of other black communities in Cherry County — Brownlee in 1905 and DeWitt in 1907. African Americans were more likely to settle in western Nebraska, as there was more land available for them under the Homestead Act. Let us study the societal factors that inspired the Exodus of 1879. Let us appreciate the socio-economic context in which these decisions were made. Let us understand the risks and opportunities associated with this endeavor. Let them, the families that trekked 1000s of miles simply for a chance at better be an inspiration to all of us to continue striving.

## WHO

Jerry Shores took a claim next to his brothers, Moses Speese and Henry Webb (each had taken the name of his former owner) near Westerville in Custer County. Many of the newly emancipated African Americans settled in Omaha and other smaller railroad towns.

- Ms. Minerva (with enfant)
- Rev. Marks
- Mrs. Rachel Shores
- Mr. Jerry Shores
- Mr. Jim Shores (son)
- Mr. Moses Speese
- Mr. Henry Webb



## WHEN

### July 4, 1881

Dr. Booker T. Washington becomes president of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He receives \$2,000 in state funding for the salaries of Black educators

### March 1, 1880

U.S. Supreme Court rules Black Americans cannot be excluded from a jury because of race in Strauder v. West Virginia.

### 1882

'History of the Negro Race in America' by George Washington Williams is published as the first historical work on black history

### October 15 1883

The U.S. Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional

### September 23 1884

Judy W. Reed becomes the first Black woman to receive a patent for her dough roller and kneader inventions.

### June 2, 1885

Mutual United Brotherhood of Liberty is founded to remove social injustices and protect the civil rights by fighting against the socio-economic and political structures of the Jim Crow Era.

### December 11 1886

The National Colored Farmers' Alliance is founded in Houston County, Texas. This organization teaches members how to improve their farming skills and manage their finances

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## VOCABULARY

**Exodusters** - African Americans who migrated from states along the Mississippi River to Kansas in the late nineteenth century during the Exodus of 1879

**Black Codes** - Laws in United States that enforce racial segregation and limit the power of African Americans

**Sharecroppers** - Credit based arrangement where tenant farmer pays labor and crop harvest as rent to land owner

**Freedmen's Bureau 1865** - Offered education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, to help newly emancipated African Americans

**Kansas Nebraska Act 1854** - Repealed Missouri Compromise created two new territories

**Homestead Act 1862** - Provided 160 acres of federal land to anyone who agreed to farm

**Timber Culture Act 1873** - Allowed homesteaders to get an additional 160 acres if they planted trees on one fourth of the land

## WHY

- To escape racial violence and further exploitation
- To pursue educational and economic opportunities



## WHERE

### Westerville, Custer County, Nebraska

"There were more than 30 separate tribes, each with its own language, spirituality, customs, and way of life."

## HOW



### Requirements

- 2 character witnesses
- 21 y/o +
- Proof of development

### Applying for Land:

\$12 upfront fee

\$10 for temporary claim

\$2 commission to land agent

\$6 for title

\$30 (\$100) total and 5+ years of work

## SOURCE



All Colored People  
THAT WANT TO  
**GO TO KANSAS,**  
On September 5th, 1877,  
Can do so for \$5.00

POOR MAN'S PARADISE!

ARE YOU CONTEMPLATING A REMOVAL FROM YOUR SECTION TO SOME OTHER LOCALITY? IF SO READ CAREFULLY, CONSIDER AND

FERTILE and PICTURESQUE SOUTH SOLONIAN VALLEY.

The town of Nicodemus is located on the South fork of the Solomon river with a gentle slope to the South, half mile from the stream which offers ample water power to operate a good flouring mill. To the west at a distance of half a mile is the celebrated Spring creek which traverses a portion of farming lands unexcelled in western Kansas.

Our building stone can be had in abundance.

Estimated town of any importance is 12 miles away.

Knowing that there are hundreds of other individuals people in the older states, who after years of toil and privation have failed to accumulate more than a meager sum, and that every part of some city and town that may leave them only now and then, and that particular locality

we call your attention to NICODEMUS and vicinity.

Your attention is called to

CHEAP LANDS

which may be had at from \$3 to \$8 per acre with light interest and from 1 to 20 years time and

TOWN LOTS

may be had at from \$6 to \$75 according to location and purpose.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ADDRESS

L. E. FOSTER, Secy., Nicodemus Immigration Union.

NICODEMUS, GRANITE COUNTY, KANSAS