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## Exodusters

Exodusters are the name of thousands of African Americans from the south who migrated to Kansas. Even though homesteading is over, we still should learn about it. You will be learning about what Exodusters are, what they do, and their towns, Nicodemus and Dunlap along with Benjamin Singleton. These next 3 paragraphs will inform you about Exodusters. Read more to learn about Exodusters.

Exodusters are black homesteaders that migrated to Kansas. Benjamin Singleton, a former slave that wanted to free his people and start homesteading on free soil but was unsuccessful his first try. Basically the Homestead act means you can claim land in the Western United States, but there are requirements like having to be the head of your family that is older than 21 years old. Benjamin Singleton visited Kansas a number of times and bought a part of the Cherokee reservation. Then they advertised to start an all black community and before long there were 800 Homesteaders in Dunlap and Nicodemus, By the turn of the century there were 8000 Exodusters there. Now that you know what they are, it's time to find out what they do.

What Exodusters are, aren't that much different from what they do. Exodusters have to maintain an unclaimed piece of land with no resources. Often they lived in Sod Houses which are houses made out of material from the ground. Some of the materials they used to maintain the land are horses, a milk cow, and things that white families donated because of how hard they worked like a team of Oxen, and a plow. But keep in mind that the piece of land is hundreds of acres and in every acre is 10 miles! Exodusters were successful because of how they worked as a team and how much

effort they put into it. The hard work payed off that they even have 2 towns, Nicodemus and Dunlap.

Dunlap is one of their major towns that the maintained and built a community. They had tons of things like schools, stores, and doctors. I think the town was successful because they started of from scratch and came this far. Dunlap and Nicodemus also had their own holidays. They celebrated the day of their freedom and Benjamin "Pap" Singleton's birthday, August 15, 1809. These Homesteaders were successful and now the town of Nicodemus and Dunlap are historical sites.

In conclusion, these Exodusters were successful and worked hard for their progress. Benjamin Singleton is a huge part of the Exodusters and Dunlap and Nicodemus. You learned about what Exodusters are, what they did, and Dunlap. Even though a lot of people don't know about Exodusters, It is still history. Now you know about Exodusters.