Evidence Card 4

The Land That Gives Birth to Freedom.

Words by Mrs. Hester Higeman. Arranged by A. D. DeFrantz, Nashville, Tennessee, 1877.

1. We have held a meeting to ourselves, to see if we can't
   Plan some way to live. (Repeat.)
   Chorus.--Marching along, yes we are marching along,
   To Kansas City we are bound. (Repeat)

2. We have Mr. Singleton for our President, he will go on
   before us, and lead us through. (Repeat)
   Chorus--

3. Surely this must be the Lord that has gone before him,
   and opened the way. (Repeat.)
   Chorus--

4. For Tennessee is a hard slavery State, and we find no
   Friends in this country. (Repeat.)
   Chorus--

5. Truly it is hard, but we all have to part, and flee into a
   Strange land unknown. (Repeat.)
   Chorus--

6. We want peaceful homes and quiet firesides; no one to
   Disturb us or turn us out. (Repeat.)
   Chorus--

Song published in pamphlet sold by Benjamin "Pap" Singleton.
In 1880 a U.S. Senate select committee held a hearing to investigate the causes of the exodus. Ten African American men and one woman provided sworn affidavits of events they experienced while living in Louisiana.

No. 6.

PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES,
State of Louisiana:

My name is Henry Albit. I went on board the steamer Col. A. P. Kouns, at Conshatta, and took passage in Red River Parish, and took passage to Grand Ecore, in Natchitoches Parish. But the captain would not land at the wharf for me to get off. I then asked the captain to put me off at Grand Ecore wharf, and he told me he would do so (that was when I took passage and was paying my fare), but when he landed his boat for me to get off it was at Alexandria, and he then told me if I did not get off or pay more fare he would go for me, and he would not be long about it either. So I was put off there, and had to pay my fare back to Grand Ecore on another boat. This February 8th, 1876.

REV. HENRY ALBIT.