Evidence Card 8

MEETING OF COLORED PEOPLE IN CONVENTION AT RICHMOND, VA.

A convention of colored delegates met in Richmond, Va., Monday for the purpose of considering matters connected with the welfare, rights, and improvement of the condition of their race. W. C. Roane, a colored lawyer of Richmond was made permanent chairman. After an address by ex-Congressman Kain, the following preamble and resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, We see that we cannot get our rights here in the midst of this class of uncompromising oppressors of our race, and since by the decision of Judge R. W. Hughes, of the United States Court of this district (the Kinney-Hall intermarriage case), the State can oppress and abridge our privileges as citizens of the State, and that there is no law of the United States to protect us from said abridgement and oppression; therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend to our race throughout the State to organize themselves into emigration societies for the purpose of leaving the State, provided our condition is not bettered by the authorities of the State.

A lengthy debate ensued.

Article published in the Topeka Daily Capital on May 23, 1879.
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.

Witness:
HENRY ADAMS.

DE SOTO PARISH,  
State of Louisiana:

My name is Anthony Witch. I live in De Soto Parish. I had to pay this year, 1874, twelve dollars tax, and I only had one horse and one cow and calf. Do not own any land, nor never owned any land, and a large number of us have been made to pay that much on three horses and cows; and if we do not pay the money right away they take our stock, and then make us pay a great deal more as taxes. We have all been prosecuted about taxes again this year, but we don’t know what the amount will be, as we have only a few horses and cows.

ANTHONY X WITCH.
mark.