

DAVIS BOTTOM IN THE 1890S BACKGROUND ESSAY

After the Civil War, many African Americans moved to cities like Lexington, KY. They hoped to find homes and jobs. Not many white people would sell homes to African Americans. Most African Americans who moved to Lexington lived in segregated neighborhoods. *Segregated* means that only people of the same race lived in the neighborhood.

One white man named William “Willard” Davis bought some land at the edge of Lexington. He divided his land into 43 lots. He built houses and sold or rented them to African American families and to white families. This was unusual at that time. What made it even more unusual was that the white families and the black families got along with each other. Davis Bottom was one of Lexington’s first *integrated* neighborhoods. *Integrated* means that people of different races lived in the neighborhood.

