

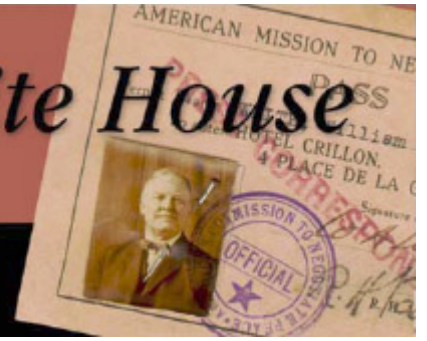


William Allen White House

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William Allen White - A Kansas Portrait

For half a century Emporia newspaper editor William Allen White had something to say on virtually every topic that had anything to do with Kansas or the nation. Born in Emporia in 1868, he grew up in El Dorado, attended the College of Emporia and the University of Kansas and worked on newspapers in Topeka and Kansas City before buying the *Emporia Gazette* in 1895.

Thereafter until his death in 1944 he wrote countless editorials as well as articles and books that earned him the title of the "Sage of Emporia." Yet one of his most lasting pieces dealt not with politics or business but was written in the *Gazette* as a eulogy to his daughter, Mary. Mary died in 1921 at the age of 16 after she was knocked from a horse by an overhanging tree branch. Telling of her zest for life, her interests, her friends, White created an unforgettable portrait of a young girl, forever vibrant and forever young. Later, White wrote: "My baggage for the short trip into posterity, which I may possibly take, will probably consist of one article less than a thousand words. It would please Mary that she and I should go, hand in hand, together, in our little visible journey, before our road turned into oblivion."