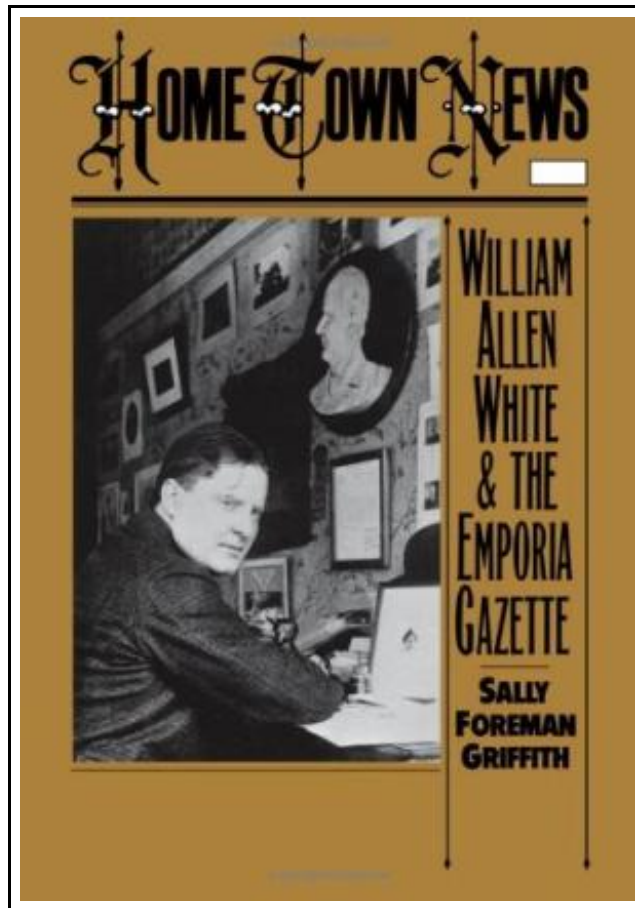


## Home Town News: William Allen White and the Emporia Gazette



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*(Lorena White)*

## HOME TOWN NEWS: WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE AND THE EMPORIA GAZETTE



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Oxford University Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 304 pages. Dimensions: 9.5in. x 6.5in. x 1.1in. In 1895, a 27-year-old journalist named William Allen White returned to his home town of Emporia, Kansas, to edit a little down-at-the-heels newspaper he had just purchased for 3,000. The new editor, he wrote in his first editorial, hopes to live here until he is the old editor, until some of the visions which rise before him as he dreams shall have come true. White did become the old editor, remaining with the Emporia Gazette until his death 50 years later. During his long tenure he gained nation-wide fame as an author, political leader, and social commentator. But more than anything else, he became the national embodiment of the small-town newspaperman and all the treasured virtues that small towns represented in the minds of Americans. *Home Town News* is both a fascinating biography and a compelling social history. As Sally Foreman Griffith shows, White's popular image--kindly yet crusading, fiercely independent yet deeply rooted in his community--doesn't do justice to the man's complexity. Shrewdly carving out a position of leadership in a faction-torn town, White carefully shaped his paper's vision of its community to promote local economic growth, Republican political control, and social harmony. With his emergence as a leader among Midwestern progressives, he carefully adapted the ideas and rhetoric of small-town boosterism to changing economic realities. The book uses White's career to help us understand the role of journalism--and the journalist--in turn-of-the-century American culture. Far from being a simple chronicler of daily events, the small-town newspaperman carried considerable weight in his community. He was a leading force in local business, a galvanizing influence in civic life, and a key political activist. As giant corporations came to dominate the national economy, the newspaperman played a...



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