

**HISTORY OF KANSAS
CITY: ILLUSTRATED
IN THREE DECADES**

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History of Kansas City: illustrated in three decades by William Griffith

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WILLIAM GRIFFITH

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CITY: ILLUSTRATED
IN THREE DECADES**

History
..of..
Kansas City

Illustrated in
Three Decades.

Being a Chronicle Wherein is Set Forth the
True Account of the Founding, Rise,
and Present Position Occupied
by Kansas City in Mu-
nicipal America.

By
William Griffith.

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INTRODUCTION.

In the cradle of Time the city was often the empire. Babylon was Babylonia; Nineveh was Assyria; Athens was Greece; Rome was the world. Only for generic purposes of defense were ever founded the capitals of the early world. Since then—and especially in more modern times—the founding and growth of cities have depended more on their superior location, with reference to commercial distribution, than on their easy defense and impregnability. The history of a modern metropolis is essentially the history of its transportation facilities.

Since the American Revolution, cities have ceased to owe their origin to the dictates of the State—especially so in America. And in the vast field west of the Alleghany Mountains the private individual has in nearly every instance sown the seed from which has sprung a multitude of cities unparalleled for their prosperity and rapid development. The world has never seen an empire as compact and solidly built as are these United States; and from their exact center radiate the thousand channels of commerce that have fostered the growth of Kansas City.

In writing this brief municipal history, an effort has been made to tell the story of Kansas City as completely and succinctly as possible, without any indulgence in personalities, or dwelling too long on events only possessing a restricted and local interest.