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## HISTORY OF KANSAS.

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### THE STATE.

*1. Location.*—Take a map of the United States, carefully cut away the margins of the sheet, and then fold the edges together, side to side and top to bottom: on opening it, the creases will be found to cross each other near Fort Riley, one of the Western military posts of our country. This is about sixty miles almost directly west of Topeka, the capital of Kansas. This State, therefore, is at the geographical centre of the Union. Occupying a portion of what is known as the Missouri Basin, its marvelous fertility will always find a market in the more rugged, often even sterile, territories lying on the eastern and southern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Its location makes it the grand avenue of trade with the Southwest and with Mexico. To it, and to its sister State, Nebraska, the great mining interests of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona must always be tributary.

*2. Area.*—The State is about four hundred miles long and two hundred miles wide, having a land surface of eighty-one thousand seven hundred square miles, or fifty-two million two hundred and eighty-eight thousand acres; that is, it is larger than Maine and Ohio combined, or than all the New England States together, with Delaware and Maryland. The Island of Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) is but one-tenth larger than Kansas; and there is sufficient territory within the limits of the State to make an allotment of over one and a quarter

acres to each man, woman, and child in the British Isles, or in Germany, France, Austria-Hungary or Italy.

Of this great territory the improved lands include more than twenty-two million acres, or less than one-half of the State,—an area greater than that of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut combined.

**3. Climate.**—The climate is temperate. Breaking the sod, pulverizing the soil, and planting trees have extended the area of the influence of rain, and moisture is retained and utilized more and more each year. The heat of summer, though sometimes intense, is greatly modified by the dryness of the atmosphere and by the almost constant prairie breezes. Autumn is proverbially pleasant; frosts are long delayed; all crops have ample time to mature; and Indian summer often extends till Christmas. January and February are the winter months, and spring opens early and suddenly. Throughout the year, what is known as the Gulf breeze is as mild and balmy as the air of the tropics.

**4. Rivers.**—Few prairie States are so well watered. Rivers and creeks cross almost every township. They move slowly, draining the bluffs and hill-sides and enriching the luxuriant bottom-lands. Forming part of the eastern boundary line is the Missouri, navigable for nearly three thousand miles. The Kansas, or Kaw, which enters the Missouri at Kansas City, runs about one hundred and fifty miles through the State, and is the result of the union of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers—the former being about four hundred miles in length and draining southern Nebraska. Just south of the Kaw is the Wakarusa, which flows some fifty miles through a rich valley. The Big Blue and the Manhattan have each a course of some hundred and twenty-five miles; which is true of the Marais des Cygnes (*Marā d'scen*)—

which, in Missouri, becomes the Osage. The Neosho flows southward nearly two hundred miles, passing into the Indian Territory, and having been joined, near Emporia, by the Cottonwood, with a course of its own of about a hundred miles. The great Arkansas River has five hundred miles of its length in the southern part of the State. These, with innumerable other and minor streams, form a net-work of watercourses rarely surpassed.

**5. Surface.**—The surface is that of rolling prairie. There are no mountains, and but few even respectable hills. The generally recognized divisions are bottom-lands, immediately adjoining the banks of streams; second bottoms, or those which have been the courses of the same streams in earlier days; and the high prairies, which are generally separated from the second bottoms by bluffs varying from fifty to three hundred feet in height. From the south-east corner to the north-west, the State rises about two thousand feet.

**6. Soil and Products.**—The soil in the eastern half of the State is a strong loam. Westward, this grows lighter, but is valuable for grazing, and promises good crops with irrigation. The bottoms and second bottoms are peculiarly rich; while the high prairie, though strong, is not so deep, and is more easily affected by drought.

Almost all grains can be raised with profit, wheat and corn being the staples. Fruit is in abundance, and the varieties are increasing. Coal is the chief mineral, underlying some seventeen thousand square miles. Limestone and sandstone abound, and furnish good building material. The western portion of the State is of peculiar interest to scientists because of large deposits of fossils. It is claimed that there is salt enough to supply the needs of the State. Grain-farming and stock-raising are the leading industries. About forty-four million dollars are

invested in manufactures, the value of the products being upwards of one hundred and ten million dollars.

**7. Cities.**—The cities whose populations exceeded five thousand, by the census of 1890, were Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Leavenworth, Atchison, Fort Scott, Lawrence, Hutchinson, Arkansas City, Emporia, Parsons, Pittsburg, Ottawa, Salina, Newton, and Winfield. Of cities between one thousand and five thousand each the State has not less than eighty.

**8. Transportation.**—The roads of the State are unusually firm and smooth. Bridges are rapidly taking the place of fords, and the ordinary means of communication are equal to those of much older and wealthier States. The State has its full share of railroads. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; Missouri Pacific; and Kansas Division of the Union Pacific railroads traverse the entire State from east to west. The other railroads are the Burlington and Missouri River; Hutchinson and Southern; Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis; Kansas City, Wyandotte and North-western; Missouri, Kansas and Texas; St. Louis and San Francisco; and Wichita and Western.

**9. Population.**—In spite of six years of territorial strife, and four years of suffering during the civil war, Kansas has so well recommended itself to those seeking new homes in the West that it already has a population of nearly one and a half millions, comprising the better class of emigrants from every civilized land, and very large numbers from the Eastern and Middle States.

**10. Conclusion.**—The history of such a State may well be carefully studied under any circumstances. But there are many reasons why the history of Kansas equals in interest that of any of the thirteen original Colonies.

They fought the battle of universal liberty, but when they had conquered they excluded from the beneficent results thousands of human beings because of a darker skin. On the soil of Kansas was begun the conflict which did not end until the old bell of liberty could ring out to all the land, "Proclaim liberty to *all* the inhabitants thereof."

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### THE RISE OF THE SLAVE-POWER.

**11. Prelude.**—To appreciate the struggle which made Kansas famous, one must know something of the rise of the slave-power. The many minor incidents which fanned the sparks of dissatisfaction into a flame cannot be given. But the more important history must be related, though briefly.

**12. Introduction of Slaves.**—The oldest city in the United States is St. Augustine, Florida. It was founded by the Spaniards, under Melendez, in the summer of 1565; and the rude houses and the fortifications were built by negro slaves. Then and there was African slave-labor introduced on our soil. Later, in 1619, a Dutch man-of-war brought to Jamestown, Virginia, twenty negroes, who were sold to the planters. Importation was not very rapid, for at the end of thirty years there was in this colony but one negro to fifty whites. After that it steadily increased, and at the time of the Revolution slavery was a recognized fact in all the colonies. The total number enslaved was about half a million, of whom some thirty-two thousand were in colonies north of Maryland.