When a student committed a crime and served his time Mary stood up for him when others avoided him. Mary’s story came to a tragic end when she was 16 because of a horseback riding accident. She died a few days later on May 13, 1921.

Kathrine Klinkenberg White was born to Peter Henry and Frances Buckner Klinkenberg in Cawker City, Kansas, on July 9, 1903. She was raised in Ottawa, Kansas, and attended the University of Kansas and the University of Wisconsin. Kathrine worked in the editorial department at *Time* magazine until her marriage to William Lindsay White in New York in 1931. She divided her time between their homes in Emporia and New York until William Lindsay became ill, at which point she stayed in Emporia to keep the *Gazette* going. After William Lindsay’s death in 1973 Kathrine became the editor. She died in Emporia in 1988.
Although William Allen White may be the most famous of the Emporia Whites, he is one of a distinguished family whose stories are woven into Kansas history. From his father, Allen White—a businessman, civic leader, and mayor of El Dorado—to son William Lindsay who followed in his father’s footsteps as editor of the *Emporia Gazette*, the White family’s story is filled with triumphs and tragedy.

Allen White was born in Huron County, Ohio, to John and Fear Perry White on April 20, 1819. Their family line traces back to Massachusetts in 1643. Allen attended Columbus Medical College and practiced medicine in Ohio before moving to Kansas in 1859. He married and divorced Elizabeth Kitts, then met and married Mary Ann Hatten in 1867. Together they had two sons, William Allen and Frederick Hatten, the latter dying at five months. The family moved to El Dorado, Kansas, in 1869. Dr. White became one of the town’s leading citizens and was mayor when he died in 1882.

Mary Ann Hatten White was born in Canada to Frank and Ann Kelly Hatten, on January 3, 1830. After moving the family to New York, her parents died, leaving 16-year-old Mary to care for her younger siblings. She moved to Kansas in 1864 and became a teacher in Council Grove. After inviting an African American girl to her classroom, Mary lost her job due to the Southern sympathizers. She then met and married Allen White in 1867. Mary died in Emporia in 1924.

William Allen White was born to Allen and Mary Ann Hatten White on February 10, 1868, in Emporia, Kansas. He grew up in El Dorado and attended the College of Emporia and the University of Kansas. He worked for several newspapers including the *El Dorado Republican* and the *Kansas City Star*. William Allen married Sallie Moss Lindsay in 1893. In 1895 William Allen bought the *Emporia Daily Gazette*. He was a longtime advocate of social reform and individual rights and was active in politics. Through his writings he influenced people and politicians nationally. He died on Kansas Day, January 29, 1944.

Sallie Moss Lindsay White was born December 3, 1869, in Nicholasville, Kentucky, to Joseph Moss and Frances Batchelder Lindsay. The family moved to Kansas City, Kansas, and at the age of 16 Sallie began teaching school. Through a mutual friend she met William Allen White and married him in her family’s home in 1893. Together they had two children, William Lindsay and Mary Katherine White. Sallie was the writer of the local society news for the *Gazette* and when her husband was out of town she took charge of the newspaper. Sallie died in Emporia in 1950.

William “Bill” Lindsay White was born to William Allen and Sallie Moss Lindsay White on June 17, 1900 in Emporia. He attended the University of Kansas but received his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University in 1924. Bill married Kathrine Klinkenberg in 1931 and they adopted a European war orphan, Barbara. Bill served in the Kansas Legislature, was a war correspondent for 40 American daily newspapers, and represented CBS as a European correspondent. He became the editor and publisher of the *Gazette* after his father’s death in 1944. Bill died in Emporia in 1973.

Mary Katherine White was born to William Allen and Sallie Moss Lindsay White in Emporia on June 18, 1904. She enjoyed the outdoors, horses, reading, drawing, and helping others. When she learned that African American girls at school felt threatened by white girls when using the school’s restroom, she pushed the school to create a separate restroom and lounge for them.

Photos are from the Kansas Historical Society and the William Allen White Collection, Emporia State University Archives, Emporia State University, courtesy of Chris Walker.