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By Kansas State Historical Society

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 21 According to an early edition of Webster s Unabridged Dictionary, the word Kansas in the Indian vernacular means Smoky Water. This reference applies particularly to the stream commonly known as the Smoky Hill. Indians who had lived and hunted along this stream for ages considered the Smoky Hill and Kansas rivers one and the same stream. The Smoky Hill river is shown on early maps as the River of the Padoucas, from the fact that the stream has its source in territory occupied for ages by the Comanche Indians, or, as they were first known, Padoucas. The earliest reference to the stream we have located is found on D Anville s map of 1732 which shows the Smoky Hill and Kansas as one river and calls it the River of the Padoucas. A map of British and French settlements in North America, published about 1758, names the stream the Padoucas river. Pike, the explorer, encountered the stream while on his way to the village of the Pawnees on the Republican river, in 1806, and...


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