Frontier Manhattan: Yankee Settlement to Kansas Town, 1854-1894

By Kevin G. W. Olson

University Press of Kansas. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Frontier Manhattan: Yankee Settlement to Kansas Town, 1854-1894, Kevin G. W. Olson, When Isaac Goodnow and five fellow New Englanders arrived at the junction of the Kansas and Big Blue rivers in March of 1855, they pitched a tent and launched a town. Harassment and homesickness almost drove them back east, but they held their ground to establish an antislavery and educational stronghold: the town of Manhattan, Kansas. Kevin Olson's lively history of Manhattan's founding illuminates the divisive forces that had to be overcome amidst the turbulence of the Civil War era and the sheer drama of building a town from scratch on the Great Plains frontier. With an eye for vivid detail and reflecting a native's deep knowledge of the city, Olson chronicles the first four decades of Manhattan as it grew from tent to town. Although spared much of the Bleeding Kansas violence, Manhattan saw its share of shootouts and lynching in its Wild West days. Olson evocatively recaptures those rough-and-tumble times and effectively describes the town's key social and economic transformations. He also highlights the emergence of a college town and "New England village" by 1866, followed...

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