



## Thomas L. Green

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THOMAS L. GREEN

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**T**HOMAS Lightfoot Green was born at Beatrice, February 1, 1884, the son of Albert L. and Sally Lightfoot Green.

He died in Scottsbluff, October 23, 1954. He attended the public schools in Beatrice, and Haverford College in Pennsylvania, after which (in 1905) he entered the banking business at Adams. From 1906 to 1912 he was cashier of the Blue Springs State Bank; and from 1912 to 1915, cashier of the First State Bank of Pawnee City. He moved to Scottsbluff in 1915 to become vice president of the Platte Valley State Bank, a position he held until 1933. He also served as vice president and manager of a chain of banks in the Platte Valley; and, from 1921 to 1933, as president of the Platte Valley Loan and Investment Company. He was president of Group 7 of the Nebraska Bankers Association, 1931-1932. From 1933 until his death he occupied himself with the management of his farms and other real estate interests.

Mr. Green was active in civic affairs in Scottsbluff. He served as secretary of the Scottsbluff Chamber of Commerce, and later was a member of its board of directors. He was president of the Scottsbluff Rotary Club. He was a member of the Society of Friends Church.

Mr. Green's hobby and one of his greatest interests was western history. His distinctive contribution to the study of western history—both as historian and as the genial host of historians—will be long remembered. He was for many years secretary and prime mover of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Pioneer Trails Association. In 1931 he discovered and brought to the attention of archeologists the Signal Butte site near Scottsbluff. He worked actively to mark and preserve significant historic sites in the North Platte Valley.

Much of Mr. Green's historical work was centered around the activities of the Nebraska State Historical So-

ciety. In 1934, he presented a significant collection of Indian materials to the Society, materials acquired by his father who was agent for the Missouri and Otos. He became a member of the Society in 1936 and was elected to the Executive Board in 1945, serving continuously from that time until his death. He served as second vice president of the Board from 1953 until his death. He was chairman of the Society's territorial centennial committee, and a member of the Territorial Centennial Commission.

Mr. Green's contributions and character were summed up in the following editorial, published in the *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald*, October 24, 1954:

With the death of Thomas Lightfoot Green of this city, the state of Nebraska, and particularly this section of the North Platte Valley, has lost one of its finest citizens.

To one who knew him intimately, and you had to know him that way to appreciate him, it would seem that he had inherited from his forebearers a quiet dignity, a gentleness and kindness of association and a manner of life that separated him just a little from those around him.

Mr. Green was a composite man who was practical but at the same time had his dreams and his ideals largely a part of the early days. Probably few knew more of the early history and the lives of the Nebraska Pioneers than did Tom Green.

Tom loved those people who pioneered Nebraska. In his dreams he lived among them, shared their hardships, was one of them. It is the hope of the writer that he may find many of them and be with them as he travels along the trail to the undiscovered country.

His historical writing included:

"A Forgotten Fur Trading Post in Scotts Bluff County," *Nebraska History*, XV (January, 1934), 38-46.

"Scotts Bluff, Fort John," *Nebraska History*, XIX (July, 1938), 175-190.

(Compiler) *Scottsbluff and the North Platte Valley* (np, nd).

(Editor) "Notes on a Buffalo Hunt—the Diary of Mordecai Bartram," *Nebraska History*, XXXV (September, 1954), 193-222.

—James C. Olson