



# JOHN 'JIM' THOMAS GREEN

- **28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** April 13, 1866 in Crab Orchard, Kentucky.
- **Married.** Olive Tillman on August 16, 1897 in Florence, Montana. (The Tillman family were Montana pioneers in the Bitterroot Valley.)
  - **Died.** February 2, 1943 of heart disease in Missoula, Montana.
    - At 18 years old, Jim decided to head west to Spokane, Washington to seek his fortune. His first job was to drive oxen teams in the lumber camps.
- **1887.** Jim arrived in Missoula, Montana where he worked in the logging business throughout the area. He operated a mill at Taft near the Idaho-Montana border. This was during a boom time and St. Paul Pass tunnel on the Milwaukee Railroad was being built.
- **1907.** Jim sold the mill and came back to Missoula.
- **1908.** Jim and Lou Ellinghouse bought the Charles H. Marsh livery barn and operated this business for seven years. The popularity of the automobile finally brought this business to a close in 1915.
- **1916.** Elected as the 28<sup>th</sup> Missoula County Sheriff. Sheriff Green was widely known, well liked, and emanated a genial nature of fairness. Legend referred to his being known from 'Tin-Cup to Taft.' This references the Tin-Cup basin in the south end of the Bitterroot Valley to the Taft ghost town in the west end of Mineral County.
- **1919.** A group of prisoners attempted to dig their way out of the jail and escape. The jail, which had been built in 1889, was sorely in need of repair. A group of male prisoners used their bare hands to pry away a piece of the broken cement floor and began tunneling. A back section of the open area had a 'blind wall' which sat a few feet away from the outer walls of the jail. This was the location of the tunnel. One day, officers investigated noises in the open jail room. They found the men within a few minutes of escaping. Prisoners were then locked in individual cells. The County Commissioners ordered the jail repairs immediately instead of waiting until spring.
- **1923.** Elected as the 31<sup>st</sup> Missoula County Sheriff.
- **Retirement.** After serving one term as Sheriff, Jim became employed by the Forest Service.
- Politically, Jim was a lifelong Democrat. Socially, he was a member of the Christian Church, the Elks Lodge, and Eagles Lodge.



Grave 6 – Lot 15 – Block 28A

*Jim was buried alongside his wife, Olive. Also in the grave are the ashes of Henry W. Green, who is believed to be his brother.*