



Thomas Greenough (1852-1911)

Major businessman in Missoula's lumber history, providing the ties for construction of the railway between the Dakotas and Washington. He built Missoula's first and largest mansion which was an icon of the valley for many years. His Christmas gift of Greenough park to the City of Missoula remains a Rattlesnake area treasure.

- **1852-Birth.** Approx. 1852 in Davis County, Iowa but raised in Kansas.
- **Marriage.** Spouse was Tennessee.
- Although not one of Missoula's earliest families, the Greenough family was among its most important.
- He left home to work in railroad construction and gold mining. He worked in the Black Hills of Dakota Territory prior to coming to Missoula and homesteading in Clinton.
- **1882.** Thomas arrived in Missoula and began a wood-cutting business. His business grew rapidly and he went on to purchase land and build the lumber mill at Bonner, Montana.
- **Lumber.** He contracted with Northern Pacific Railroad to provide them with the ties for the railroad's line from the Dakotas to what is now the Idaho-Washington state line. The tamarack trees of the lower Rattlesnake Creek proved to be one of the best stands of timber so Greenough harvested these to fulfill his lumber contracts.
- **Mining.** His next major business venture was mining in the Missoula, Butte, Anaconda, and Idaho areas. It seemed whatever he touched, turned to gold.
- **Banking.** Thomas was on the board of directors for many of the largest banks throughout Montana, Idaho, and Washington.
- **1894-Greenough mansion.** As he had now amassed a great fortune, he wanted a home befitting a family of such wealth. He hired Missoula architect, A. J. Gibson to design and build the "Mansion" situated on the Rattlesnake Creek near the Van Buren interchange of I-90. The home was decorated by an Englishman, Willie Morris. Wrought iron fencing surrounded the grounds. The home had 22 rooms with six baths and two fireplaces.
- **1902.** As a Christmas gift, the Greenough family donated land adjacent to their mansion to the City of Missoula for a public park. Greenough Park still remains one of the most cherished, beautiful, and well-used picnic and park land in Missoula.
- After Thomas' death, his wife and children continued to live in the mansion and the home was used for many local social events. Eventually, the home was sold to a family member, Arthur and Ruth (Greenough) Mosby in the 1960s. The Mansion suffered fires, moves, and a replica of the original mansion now sits on the south side of Missoula and is a bed and breakfast stop.
- **1911-Death.** July 23, 1911 in Spokane, Washington.



Note: The Greenough monument is one of the largest in the entire cemetery. Thomas even ordered individual monument for himself and his wife shaped like cash registers.