Kansas Governors

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Published by University Press of Kansas

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NEHEMIAH GREEN

Manhattan (Republican), 4 November 1868–11 January 1869

Born 8 March 1837, Grassy Point Township (Hardin County), Ohio; son of Shepard Green, a farmer, and Mary A. Fisher Green, 4 brothers and 4 sisters; educated at subscription schools and Ohio Wesleyan; military experience in Civil War, 1861–63, first lieutenant, 1864, sergeant major in Ohio National Guard; married (1) Ida K. Leffingwell, 1860 (died 1870), 3 children, (2) Mary Sturdevant, 1873, 2 children; religious preference Methodist; died 12 January 1890 of long illness brought on by war service, in Manhattan; buried in Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan.

When Gov. Samuel J. Crawford resigned on 4 November 1868 to take command of a Kansas regiment, Nehemiah Green became governor for the final sixty-nine days of Crawford’s term. A “caretaker governor” during a period when the legislature was not in session, there was little business for Green to attend to.

Green first arrived in Kansas territory in 1855 with several of his brothers, when he staked a claim at Palmyra (Baldwin City). He returned to Ohio in 1857 to enter the Methodist ministry. After service in the Civil War, he was sent to Manhattan, Kansas, as minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. The 1866 Republican party convention nominated him for lieutenant governor, and he was elected and assumed his post for Governor Crawford’s second term.

After his gubernatorial stint, Green became presiding elder (dis-
The Winchester Model 1866 Presentation Rifle given by Samuel Crawford to Nehemiah Green in 1871, now in the possession of the Kansas State Historical Society. The engraving reads “To Nehemiah Green from S.J.C.” Behind the breech appears “Wichita, Oct. 21st, 1871.”

 distint superintendent) of the Methodist church for the Manhattan district. For a while he taught close-order drill to military tactics students at Kansas State Agricultural College. In 1873 he retired to his farm in the Blue Valley, north of Manhattan, which he acquired after selling a farm in Pottawatomie County. He was a regent of the Kansas State Agricultural College from 1873 to 1874 and was elected to the Kansas house of representatives in 1880, serving as speaker pro tem during 1881–82. Green, in Clay County, was named for him, and he provided a church bell to the first church built there.56

REFERENCES: Crawford, 1911; Plummer, 1971; Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976.