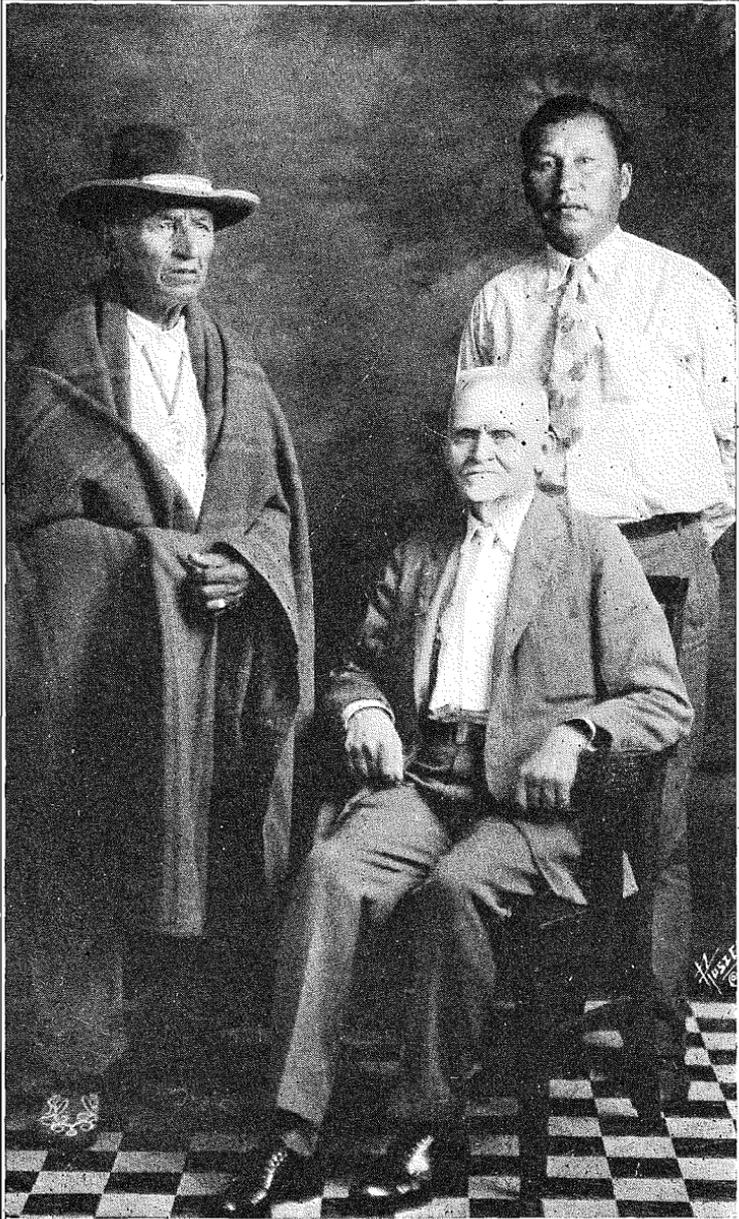

— 0 —

WONDERFUL OTOE INDIAN COLLECTION

Presented to Nebraska State Historical Society by Major
A. L. Green, of Beatrice and His Son T. L. Green,
of Scottsbluff.

Otoe Land was Southeastern Nebraska from the Platte River south to the Big Nemaha, from the Missouri west to the Big Blue. The capitol city of this Otoe Empire was the great Otoe village, about three miles southeast of the present village of Yutan in Saunders county. This was Otoe Land when Lewis and Clark explored the Nebraska coast in 1804.

By treaties made in 1833 and 1854 the Otoe sold his rich domain—all but a reserve in southern Gage county and a narrow strip adjoining it in Kansas. Here they settled in 1855 and remained until the land-hungry white men again demanded their removal to Oklahoma in 1881.



Chief Little Deer, Chief Geo. Pipe Stem (Otoe)
Maj. A. L. Green

The Otoe tribe is closely linked with the earliest coming of the white explorers and white settlers to Nebraska. Their faces were familiar at the log cabins of all who came to southeast Nebraska in the early period.

Albert Lamborn Green, of Quaker birth and rearing, came to the Otoe Agency as agent in 1869 by appointment of President U. S. Grant. He held office until 1872, since which time he has lived in Beatrice. He has been a close friend of the Otoe tribe all his life and has received and treasured many gifts from them. These gifts include some articles of rare historical value. Major Green gave this collection to his son T. L. Green, of Scottsbluff, some years ago. The latter concluded that the right place for the collection was in the State Historical Museum, where they would be placed as the Major A. L. Green Otoe collection, testifying through all the future years to the Otoe place in Nebraska Life.

On March 19, 1934, Major Green appeared with his son from Scottsbluff and personally gave this remarkable collection to the Historical Society.

The following is the list of articles composing the Major A. L. Green Otoe Indian Collection, with story of the origin of each:

ITEMS IN COLLECTION OF OTOE INDIAN RELICS, GATHERED BY ALBERT L. GREEN WHILE U. S. INDIAN AGENT FOR THE OTOE TRIBE AT NOHEART, NEBRASKA IN 1869 AND THEREAFTER.

Bow, in perfect condition and beautifully made, with sinew string still attached, three original arrows, quiver, and wrist guard. Property of James Whitecloud, grandson of Chief Whitecloud of the Iowas. He married an Otoe woman and then became a member of the Otoe tribe. He was considered the best hunter in the tribe. The bow was used in many buffalo hunts in 1869 and 1870. A. L. Green saw it used in killing many buffalo.

Seven other arrows.

Lariat rope of buffalo hide with halter attachment. It is 48 feet long with no splices and made by interweaving two strips of hide. It is in perfect condition and shows no evidence of being shortened.

Four throwing sticks used in playing competition games on the ice or frozen snow. The sticks were whirled over the head and then thrown. They consist of an egg-shaped ball on the end of a limber stick twenty-one inches long about the thickness of a wooden knitting needle.

Whip with a carved walnut handle and buffalo hide lash of two strips interwoven the same as in a lariat.

Drum, eight inches in diameter and four inches in thickness. When the Omahas made their last pony stealing expedition against the Otoes in 1869, this drum was among the weapons which the Omahas were commanded to lay down at the door when they entered Mr. Green's hut to make peace.

Wooden ladle four and one-half inches in diameter of the bowl. It is finely carved.

Pair of Otoe beaded moccasins.

Pair of unfinished Otoe moccasins (without soles) with beautiful red and blue porcupine quill ornamentation.

Work bag used by the women made of the dried stomach of some animal. Contains porcupine quills.

Rope made of buffalo hair, 16 feet long, braided round about the size of a lead pencil. Probably ceremonial.

Three head bands or collars made in beautiful designs of colored trade-beads woven on horse-hair, thirteen and one-half inches long, slightly over one inch wide, one bead in thickness, and with leather tie-strings at each end.

Powder measure made of elk-horn. The carved upper portion is seven sided, and the lower portion is in circular ring design. It is beautifully made. Interesting leather fringes and ornaments are at the bottom.

Pipe made of finely carved wood, apparently walnut.

Tubular pipe made of catlinite, thirteen and one-half inches long.

Catlinite pipe of the elbow type, beautifully made with the original stem. This pipe belonged to Wahangaha, Chief of the Otoes. It was 70 or 80 years old when it was given to Mr. Green.

Bleeding-horn used by medicine men. Apparently of antelope horn or buffalo horn.

Small pipe for carrying on trips. It is made of gray stone with finely carved buffalo head in profile with the hump and beard forming bottom of pipe. The right side has a carved turtle, and the left side has two carved horses' heads and necks facing each other. On the front there is carved a human figure wearing long horns, earrings, necklace and medal. It is very old and with heavy patina.

Two scalp plates of German silver with carved ornamentation.

Pouch with three pockets, beaded and with red horse-hair tufts in metal clasps.

Bar of catlinite. It is round, eight and one-half inches long, one and one-half inches in diameter in the middle, and tapers slightly at each end. One end is cut at a slight angle and on that end is a deeply cut cross, all arms of which are the same length.

Plate of catlinite nine and one-half inches long, and seven and one-half inches wide, one-half inch thick. It is rounded oval in shape. On one side there is a deeply carved fist with forefinger extended and

nail indicated. There are also many rows of cuts like tally marks, each series enclosed in oval box. These are disposed very irregularly, and many of them are almost effaced. The other side is a mass of pictographs, many of them very faint and some superimposed over others. There is a bow-shaped deeply cut band near one end extending from one side to the other. There is also a large feathered arrow at right angles to this. There are two horses running abreast and in another place one running horse beautifully executed. There are also various pictographs designs of which I do not know the meaning. Occupying a large portion of this side is a large buffalo head.

This stone was greatly valued by the tribe, and offers of ponies were made to Mr. Green for it. While some of the cuts were made by a sharp instrument, some of them appear to have been made by stone tools. It is believed to be very ancient and both it and the preceding item have had significance in the tribe.

(Triangle of three long white and three small purple wampum. (Genuine)

Necklace worn by "Big Soldier," one of Black Hawk warriors in the Black Hawk war. It consists of five huge blue glass beads each over an inch long and one-half inch wide, ten large black beads over one-half inch in diameter, five large red beads and one green bead. These are strung on leather thong and are believed to be Hudson Bay Company trade goods. This necklace is from the Iowa tribe.

Work bag of conventional flowered design in colored beads on red flannel and lined with a heavy cloth. It is from the Sac and Fox tribe.

Two dolls, a man and woman, with natural Indian hair, beautifully made with leather leggins, breech clout. Every detail is complete, including scalp lock and tiny metal plate on head of warrior. Also a doll blanket. These are from the Sac and Fox tribe who had traded for same from the Winnebago.

Catlinite pipe of the elbow type very beautifully made. The base is eight inches long, and the bowl is three and one-half inches high. This was an official peace pipe used in the Iowa tribe and took part in important treaties.

Belt made in geometrical design of colored trade beads strung on heavy linen threads, three and one-half feet long, two and one-half inches wide and with linen fringe. It was made by the Iowa.

Necklace of porcelain Wampum and Shells.

A Picture of Iowa Bark House at Iowa Indian Agency in Kansas.

Major A. L. Green, of Beatrice, Nebraska, was Agent for the Missouri and Otoe beginning in 1869. At the same time his father-in-law, Major Thomas Lightfoot, was Agent for the Sac and Fox and Iowa, the Agency being at White Cloud, Kansas. The distance between the two agencies was not great and there was visiting and some inter-marriage between the Otoe and those tribes.

The items listed above are all from the Otoe unless otherwise classified. These latter items were acquired during the same years as the rest by Mr. Green from his father-in-law, and have been in the family ever since. As the Sac and Fox and Iowa were much in southeastern Nebraska, they are considered as items of historical interest in this state.

In Volume No. XXI of the Nebraska State Historical Society Report is a history of the Otoe tribe and an account of their customs, language, religion and social organization by Major Green. It is the most important account of the Otoe in print.

