

RAYMOND E. STOTTS

Project consultant – Finney County

See Finney County Stories
HISTORICAL SPOTS and BUFFALO PRESERVE
For more details about Raymond E. Stotts

MANY THANKS TO
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RAYMOND EARLE STOTTS
Newspaper Photograph

RAYMOND EARLE STOTTS, son of Benjamin L. Stotts (1841-1902) and Margaret Emma Gunn (1850-1932), was born on 22 Jun 1876 in the Bijou Basin area of Elbert County, County, Colorado Territory. (*Colorado became a state on 1 Aug 1876 and the town of Bijou Basin became extinct in 1907.*) The family soon moved to Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado and then to West Las Animas, Bent County, Colorado. In 1881, when he was only five years old, he moved with his parents to the area of Garden City, Kansas. (*In 1883, Finney County was established.*)

In 1910, Raymond was working as the County Clerk Deputy in Garden City, Kansas. He married **LEANNA LAVINA GALLOWAY**, daughter of William Meek Galloway (1851-1920) and Frances “Fanny” Armstrong (1853-1941), on 10 Dec 1913 in Washington County, Iowa. Leanna was born there on 22 Sep 1884.

In the early 1900s, Leanna moved to Garden City, Kansas and worked as a secretary and as an abstractor. The Finney County Commissioners approved her abstractor bond on 17 Dec 1909. In addition, this is where Raymond was the Deputy County Clerk. She advertised as a bonded abstractor with Gorham Realty and Loan Company in Garden City.

Raymond had been working as a Deputy County Clerk for several years when an announcement in the Garden City, Kansas Newspaper revealed that he was the Deputy in Charge of the County Clerk's Office "INDEFINITELY." Leanna once said that Raymond "read the law" while working as a Deputy County Clerk. She explained that this was how he was able to study and learn to become a lawyer.

In late June 1911, he took the Kansas State Board of Bar Examiners test, which he passed, and became a practicing lawyer in Garden City, Kansas.



LEANNA LAVINA (GALLOWAY) STOTTS
Photograph provided by Ann Galloway Oliphant

(Ann Galloway Oliphant, who provided the photo of Leanna, revealed that in 1975, she visited with Leanna at her home in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She learned that when Leanna and Raymond first met in Garden City, it was where he worked as the County Clerk Deputy. Leanna, working as a bonded abstractor, went to where he worked to file a document. The fire bell went off and Raymond leaped over the counter and raced out the door. Joking... She said his athletic ability impressed her so much that she later married him. Leanna also said that she once had "carrot orange hair" in her younger years.)

From 23 Dec 1913 – 5 Aug 1922, Raymond was the Post Master of the Garden City Post Office. In 1926, he was the secretary for the Chamber of Commerce in Garden City, Kansas.

Raymond Stotts died on 12 Apr 1944 in Garden City, Kansas and the burial was there at the Valley View Cemetery. Leanna was buried there on 22 Dec 1976. She passed

away on 17 Dec 1976 in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska. She moved to Scottsbluff after Raymond died, to be close to their son, Dale and his family.

Raymond and Leanna had three children:

BENJAMIN LOGAN STOTTS was born on 28 Apr 1915 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. He traveled to many different countries working for the United States Government and as a journalist.



BENJAMIN LOGAN STOTTS

In 1950, Benjamin was living in Washington, the District of Columbia. He never married. Benjamin passed away on 20 Feb 2005 at the age of 89, in Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida.

RAMONA DALENE STOTTS, born 29 Dec 1916 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, married Samuel Broder, son of Harry Broder and Annie Weiss, on 4 Mar 1939. Samuel was born on 6 Apr 1913 in Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and in 1930, he was living in Providence, Rhode Island. About 1935, he moved to Garden City, Kansas. Samuel and Ramona had two children: Janet Broder and Michael Broder. Samuel passed away on 29 Oct 1989 in San Diego, San Diego County, California, and Ramona died on 5 Apr 1990. Burial for both was at the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California.

DALE RAYMOND STOTTS was born on 22 Jul 1920 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Dale graduated from Garden City's Junior College, and in 1939, he joined the military police, later serving in the United States Army during World War II. He received nurse's training at Newman Hospital in Emporia, Kansas, graduating in 1949. While there, he met and married Ruth Alice Rollins on 4 Jun 1949. Ruth was

the daughter of James Clarence Rollins and Beulah Vivian Colton. She was born on 10 Nov 1927 in Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas. After they were married, Dale attended Grace Hospital School of Anesthesia in Detroit, Michigan. He worked in the anesthesia department at West Nebraska General Hospital in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, for 28 years. In 1945, Ruth was a graduate of the Newman Hospital School of Nursing. They had two daughters; Ramona Anne (Stotts) Olmstead and one daughter died an infant. Ruth died on 1 Oct 1965 in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska. Dale died there on 17 Jul 1999. Burial for both was at the Fairview Cemetery in Scottsbluff.

Newspaper Obituaries

RAYMOND EARLE STOTTS

Published in an Amarillo, Texas newspaper on 13 Apr 1944

RAYMOND E. STOTTS DIED AT GARDEN CITY

Raymond E. Stotts, 78 years old, pioneer newspaper publisher and widely known civic leader, died in Garden City, Kansas last night a few hours after becoming ill at his home.

Mr. Stotts once published a newspaper in Santa Fe, Kansas, now a ghost town, and later, he served several years as Garden City postmaster.

His widow and three children survive. Two sons are in Government service.

LEANNA LAVINA (GALLOWAY) STOTTS

Garden City (Kansas) Telegram, 18 Dec 1976

MRS. LEANNA STOTTS

Mrs. R. E. (Leanna) Stotts, 92 former Garden City resident, died Friday evening in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

She was born on September 22, 1884, in Washington County, Iowa, and moved to Garden City in the early 1900's working as a secretary. She was married to Raymond Earle Stotts on December 10, 1913, in Burlington, Iowa.

Her husband came to Garden City in 1881 at the age of five. He was an attorney, postmaster, and head of the Chamber of Commerce. He and his brother, Eugene, published the Garden City Tribune and the Santa Fe Trail newspaper at old Santa Fe in Haskell County. He died on April 12, 1944.

Mrs. Stotts had been living in Scottsbluff since 1956. She was a member of the Community Church. Survivors include two sons, Dale Raymond Stotts, Scottsbluff, Nebraska and Benjamin Stotts, Miami, Florida; and a daughter, Mrs. Ramona D. Broder, San Diego, California.

Funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the Garnand Funeral Chapel, Ron Cebik Officiating. Burial will be in Valley View Cemetery.

Cemetery Headstones

RAYMOND EARLE STOTTS & LEANNA LAVINA (GALLOWAY) STOTTS



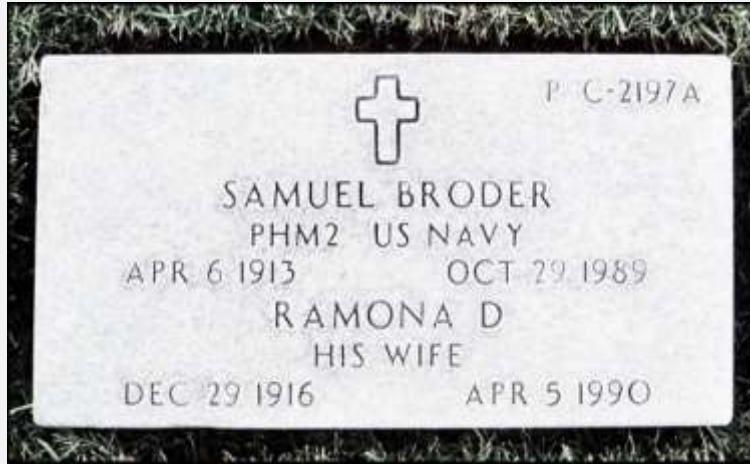
Photograph provided by Deb (Mari) Pittillo

VALLEY VIEW CEMETERY
Garden City, Finney County, Kansas



Photograph provided by Jeremy Ortiz

SAMUEL BRODER & RAMONA DALENE (STOTTS) BRODER



FORT ROSECRANS NATIONAL CEMETERY
San Diego, San Diego County, California
Photograph provided by S. Grove

RUTH ALICE (ROLLINS) STOTTS & DALE RAYMOND STOTTS



FAIRVIEW CEMETERY
Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska
Photographs provided by Sandy

