

HISTORICAL SPOTS

Finney County, Kansas

Written by Bernice Crooms

Consultant: Raymond E. Stotts

** Additional information added about certain people mentioned in this story*

One of the most outstanding historical spots in Finney County is the “Point of Rocks.” It is where the railroad passes through, nine miles east of Garden City. Indians occupied it in the early days.

In 1881, Captain Benjamin L. Stotts* bought the land where the Point of Rocks is located. In recent years the son of Captain Stotts, Raymond E. Stotts, has dug up many things in this historic spot. The most outstanding was the body of an Indian. A friend of Colonel Stotts dug into the grave first and found only the head, but the Colonel found the remaining bones of the Indian. The body was in a sitting position with two long strings of beads, which was the custom of the natives to bury personal belongings with the body.

Point of Rocks stands about thirty feet above the plains that surround it. It is composed of limestone, sand, and silt.

When the settlers came here, the government stationed troops along Pawnee Creek to protect them. In those days, people used guns that were called the “Flintlock”. These guns were very different from the firearms now used. They used a piece of flint to set off the powder, and that is why the guns were called “Flintlocks.” In recent years flint has been found along the creek. It is the same flint that was used by early settlers in their battles.

The settlers dreaded passing the Point of Rocks because they were sure to be attacked by the Indians. Due to this reason, the settlers always traveled close to the creek, where the government troops would protect them, stationed about ten miles apart.

White Mount is another historical spot in Southwestern Kansas. It lies thirty miles from Garden City in the northeastern corner of Finney County. In the fall of 1876, twelve thousand Indians camped there all winter. Some of these Indians fought in the battle when General Custer lost his life. Ten miles north of White Mount, found in a nearby creek, was a sword that had the name of one of Coronado’s officer’s on it. This sword is now likely to be in the State Historical Society in Topeka.

Additional Information
BENJAMIN L. STOTTS

A few details from the book, "History of Finney County, Kansas, Volume 1"



BENJAMIN L. STOTTS

*Photograph provided by Sharon (Bucklew) D'Anna
(Great-granddaughter of Benjamin Stotts)*

BENJAMIN LOGAN STOTTS, son of John R. Stotts (1810-1886) and Mary Schults (1814-1881), was born on 14 Feb 1841 in Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky. When Benjamin was ten years old, his parents moved the family to Marion County, Iowa. In March of 1860, he left for Colorado, having many adventures in the Bijou Basin area. He married MARGARET EMMA GUNN, daughter of John D. Gunn (1827-1889) and Darlene Delia Allison (1832-1912), on 2 Nov 1870 in Cooper County, Missouri. Margaret was born on 19 Oct 1850 in Olin, Iredell County, North Carolina, and was a graduate of Bethany College in Lindsborg, McPherson County, Kansas.

In 1873, Benjamin and Margaret made their home in Bijou Basin, Colorado, where Benjamin started in the cattle business but quickly shifted to sheep raising. In late 1880, they moved to Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, and Benjamin arrived with five thousand heads of sheep. While he was establishing his business, Margaret and their children spent time with her parents

in Missouri. They joined him again in Garden City in 1881. There, Margaret opened a Millinery Shop and operated the business for several years.

Benjamin L. Stotts died on 5 Oct 1902 in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, and his wife Margaret passed away on 24 Oct 1932 in Garden City, Kansas. Burial for both was at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

Benjamin and Margaret had the following six children:

EUGENE BRAMLETTE STOTTS was born on 26 Feb 1872 in Windsor, Pettis County, Missouri. In 1897, he married Daisy F. Sampson, daughter of Charles B. Sampson and Mary Elizabeth Heywood. Daisy passed away in 1903, and Eugene married again to Lida Louise Bristol, daughter of William S. Bristol and Lydia M. Crawford, on 24 Dec 1906 in Anthony, Harper County, Kansas. Lida was born on 22 Jul 1884 in Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas. Eugene and Lida had five children: Eugene Jr., Philip, Margaret, William, and Mary. Eugene was editor of the Garden City Kansas Tribune and later operated a paper known as the Santa Fe Trail at Santa Fe, Kansas. At one time, he was a writer for the Topeka State Journal and was the city commissioner of Topeka for several years. Eugene Stotts passed away on 19 Jul 1934 in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, and buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Lida died on 15 Jun 1966 in Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico. The burial took place at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas.

ETHEL DALENE STOTTS was born on 29 Dec 1873 in Granada, Prowers County, Colorado, and she married Edward W. Waite, son of Alfred and Martha Waite, on 14 Feb 1902 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Edward was born on 22 Aug 1872 in Ripley, Bond County, Illinois. Four children were born in their marriage: Raymond, Ronald, Ethel, and Kenneth. Ethel passed away on 20 Aug 1962, and Edward died on 28 Dec 1962, both in Garden City, Kansas. Burial at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City.

RAYMOND EARLE STOTTS, (See *Raymond E. Stotts, Project Consultant – Finney County*)

HERBERT ELMER STOTTS was born on 4 Jul 1880 in Bijou Basin, El Paso County, Colorado, and died one year later on 6 Mar 1881 in Adonis, Polk County, Missouri.

INEZ MARY STOTTS, born 2 Sep 1882 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. She was a graduate of Bethany College in Lindsborg, McPherson County, Kansas, and married Ellsworth Lee Bucklew in 1911. Ellsworth was born on 23 Dec 1879 in Dallas Center, Dallas County, Iowa, and was the son of William J. Bucklew and Mary Ann McCullough. They lived in Iowa for a few years and then moved to Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, where Inez taught piano lessons. After Ellsworth passed away on 15 Apr 1948 in Kansas City, Missouri, Inez moved to Brooklyn, Maryland, to live with her only son, Robert, and his family. Inez died on 6 Jul 1964 in Fort Meade, Anne Arundel County, Maryland and burial was at Glen Haven Memorial Park, Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Ellsworth was buried at the Mount Moriah

Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri.

WALTER LESLIE "TED" STOTTS was born on 29 Mar 1889 in Garden City, Kansas. In 1910, Ted was living in Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas working as a Telegraph operator. He married Nellie Rebecca Hood on 14 June 1917 in Polk County, Missouri. Between 1920 and 1930, they lived in Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas, where Ted continued working in a telegraph office. By 1940, he was the manager of the Postal Telegraph office in Hutchinson. Ted and Nellie had two sons, Bernard and Wilbur. Ted passed away on 25 Apr 1973 in Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas and Nellie died there on 18 Jan 1978. Burial for both was at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Hutchinson.

Newspaper Obituary

BENJAMIN L. STOTTS

The Garden City (Kansas) Herald – Saturday, 11 Oct 1902

DEATH OF COLONEL STOTTS

Colonel Benjamin L. Stotts, a pioneer of this city, died in Topeka Monday night, and his remains were brought to Garden City for interment. He went to Topeka a few days before his death and entered a hospital for treatment, but he was beyond human help.

Benjamin L. Stotts was born in Kentucky in 1841, went to Colorado in his early years, and finally settled in Garden City in 1881 when there were but few houses in the city. He became engaged in the sheep business and continued until his health failed. Mr. Stotts was an active and successful businessman. He was fair and honorable in his dealings, always ready to concede to others' rights, but at the same time demanding his just dues. A man of considerable force in character, Mr. Stotts also had opinions of his own, which were fearlessly maintained, which perhaps made him some enemies. Yet others had to respect a man who was ready to defend what he thought was his right. His long residence in the West had much to do with forming that sturdy, self-reliant nature, which he possessed. Mr. Stotts leaves five children, E. B. Stotts of Topeka, Mrs. Ethel Waite of Haskell County, Raymond (*See Raymond E. Stotts, Finney County Consultant*), Teddy, and Inez, of Garden City. They have the sympathy of many friends during their sorrow.

The funeral took place from his late residence on Wednesday, and many attended.