

THE STEVENS PARK

Garden City, Finney County, Kansas

Written by Bernice Crooms

Consultant: Benjamin Logan Stotts (1915-2005)
Reference: Records found at the Garden City Clerk's office



STEVENS PARK
The early years

STEVENS PARK was given to Garden City by John A. Stevens* and deeded to Finney County in 1885.

It is shaded with a blanket of grass and trees to make a lovely shade over it regardless of where the sun may be. It is a block of 300 square feet (*later to measure three acres*).

When it is scorching hot in the summer months, there is nothing as refreshing as being at Stevens Park.

On hot afternoons, one can find men and women lying on the cool grass asleep or women who take their sewing to the park, where it is nice and cool. Mothers take their small children to the park for their afternoon naps.

The biggest attraction in the park is the bandshell. It was built in 1931 by C. E. Blood, and is made of lumber and reinforced with concrete. It has a full-size basement with a restroom for the women and one for the men. It furnishes entertainment during the long summer evenings with music, lectures, preaching's, and often very popular performers entertain in the bandshell.

Additional Information & Newspaper Obituaries



JOHN ANDREW STEVENS

Newspaper Obituary

The Garden City Telegram, 12 Apr 1902, Saturday, Page 4

JOHN ANDREW STEVENS was born in Illinois on 22 Dec 1852 (*some records give his birth year as 1850*) and died in Garden City on 8 Apr 1902.

Mr. Stevens came to Kansas in the early days, and for some years was engaged in the furniture business at Sterling. In the spring of 1878, he came to where Garden City now stands, when the Indians, buffalo, and wild horses still roamed these plains, spending one 'Fourth of July' a few miles northwest of here and fighting single-handed a bunch of Indians intent on securing his scalp.

He was married on 10 Feb 1879, to Miss **SADIE "CIDDIE" ANNETTE FULTON**, daughter of W. D. Fulton the founder of Garden City, and from this union, two sons were born, **ORVILLE FULTON**, now aged 21, and **GLENN FULTON** aged 18.

Mr. Stevens was one of the principal figures in the building of Garden City, erecting the Winsor Hotel and opera house buildings of the kind in Southwest Kansas. When the boom collapsed, he was reduced to financial straits, but with his indomitable energy and lasting faith in this country, he began the battle again, and at his death had laid the foundation for another fortune.

John Stevens was a quiet unassuming man, yet in him was embodied the persistence and endurance which distinguishes the early and successful pioneer. In defeat and victory, he was the same, as he fought off the Indians, a dozen or more to one, so he met the vicissitudes of life and courageously faced the grim destroyer, death, the only thing that ever conquered his buoyant spirit.

The funeral conducted at the Union Church and held on Wednesday at 2 p.m., had the Rev. Severance preaching the funeral discourse, and the mortal remains were laid to rest in the cemetery north of town. (*Valley View Cemetery*) Mrs. Stevens and the sons have the sympathy of all in their bereavement.

SADIE "CIDDIE" ANNETTE FULTON
Wife of John Andrew Stevens

Sadie "Ciddie" Annette Fulton was the daughter of William D. Fulton and Luticia "Lettie" Skinner. She was born in about 1862. She was married to John A. Stevens on 10 Feb 1879 in Dodge City, Kansas. They made their home in Garden City, Finnup County, Kansas. After John passed away in 1902, Ciddie moved to Seattle, King County, Washington to be with her sister, Ellen Ross, and her family. Ciddie died there on 17 May 1949. John and Ciddie were buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Kansas.

ORVILLE FOLSOM STEVENS
Son of John Andrew Stevens and Sadie Annette Fulton

Newspaper Obituary

The Garden City (Kansas) Herald, Saturday, 24 Jun 1905, Page 4

Orville Stevens died in Kansas City, where he had been taken for medical treatment, Tuesday morning. About two weeks ago, he developed what was then thought to be some mental trouble, but this quickly manifested itself as brain fever. The best medical attention here and in Kansas City was employed, but nothing could check the progress of the disease.

Orville Folsom Stevens was born on 6 Jul 1880 and was one of the first children born in Garden City. At the age of twelve, he united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and ever since, he lived up to the obligations of the Christian life. A young man of good habits, good morals, and always ready to fulfill the tasks set before him, he possessed the friendship and esteem of everyone.

Upon the death of his father, he took charge of the affairs of the estate, and the cares being heavy he gave way under the strain and worry.

The funeral was held at the Union Church on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Riley of the Methodist Church officiating and the burial was under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias. The sympathy of our people goes out to the mother, brother, and family in their sad affliction.

GLENN WILLIAM STEVENS

Son of John Andrew Stevens and Sadie Annette Fulton

Glenn was born on 30 Apr 1884 in Kansas. On 9 Jan 1922, he married Esther Maurine Dill in Bellingham, Whatcom County, Washington. Esther, the daughter of William M. Dill and Sarah Almina McCoy, was born on 29 Apr 1899 in Nebraska. Glenn and Esther were divorced before 1940.

Glenn passed away on 3 Jan 1967 in Snohomish County, Washington and Esther died on 29 Jun 1981 in Seattle, King County, Washington.

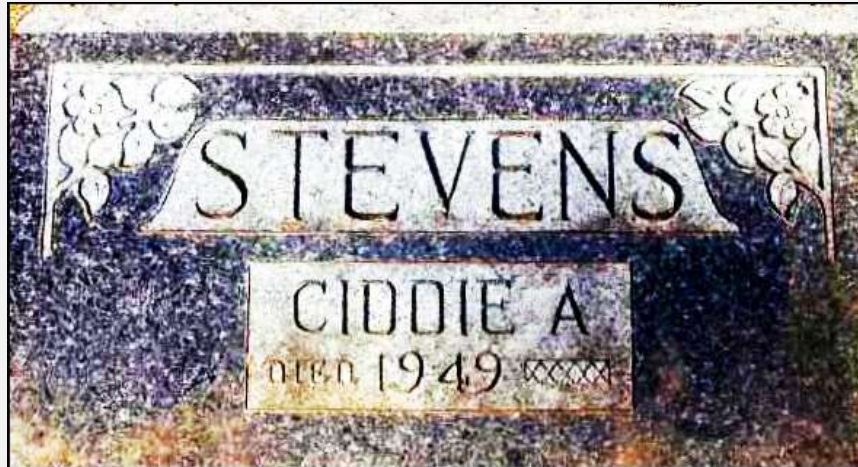
Glenn was buried at the Valley View Cemetery in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Esther was buried at the Acacia Memorial Park and Funeral Home in Lake Forest Park, King County, Washington.

Cemetery Headstones



Burial place for John A. Stevens and his son, Orville F. Stevens

All buried at the
VALLEY VIEW CEMETERY
Garden City, Finney County, Kansas



Burial place for Sarah "Ciddie" A. (Fulton) Stevens



Burial place for their son, Glenn W. Stevens