

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

Monument *with* Sculpture ___ Monument with *Cannon*
 ___ Monument without Sculpture ___ Historical Marker ___ Plaque

Affiliation

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. _____) ___ M.O.L.L.U.S.
 ___ W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. _____) ___ Other Allied Order
 ___ SUVCW (Camp Name & No. _____) (Please describe below)
 ___ DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)
 ___ Other: _____

Original Dedication Date _____ Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the first dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:
 Street/Road address or site location Riverview Cemetery
 City/Village McCook Township - County Red Willow

The front of the Memorial faces: ___ North South ___ East ___ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...
 Name _____ Dept./Div. _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone ___ Concrete ___ Metal ___ Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Bedford, Indiana

Material of the Sculpture = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) white
If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
Markings on muzzle = _____

Markings on Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? If so, describe _____

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

top

Monument or Base: Height 6' Width 24" Depth 24" or Diameter 1" - under feet of
Sculpture: Height 6' Width 18" Depth 12" or Diameter _____ *see photos statute*

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found _____

The "Dedication Text" is formed: cut into material raised up from material face

X Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

On the top base "In memory of Our fallen Heroes!"

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square" | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

General Vicinity

- Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city)
 Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

- Industrial Commercial
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
 Any other significant environmental factor _____

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.))	<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	___
White crusting	___	___
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	___	___
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	___
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	___
Chalky or powdery stone	___	___
Granular eroding of stone	___	___
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	___	___

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ___ Yes No ___ Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? Yes No Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded Painted Varnished Waxed Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? Yes No Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained Would benefit from treatment In urgent need of treatment Unable to determine

Overall Description

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on).

Monument in fair condition - soldier statue also but rifle or musket stock broken off needs repair or replacement

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

Inspector Identification

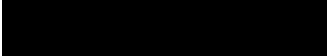
Date of On-site Survey June 24, 2003

Your Name Joseph Mettenbrink

Address 1027 S. 25th Ave

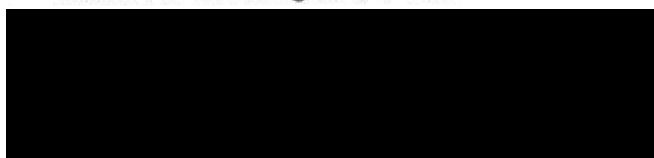
City Omaha

State NE Zip Code 68105

Telephone 

Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PCC



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
National Civil War Memorials Committee

DECORATION DAY



Memorial Day.

Memorial day, this year of grace and victory, had an added interest to the old soldiers of this city and vicinity, being the occasion of the formal dedication of a soldiers' monument, in addition to the usual Decoration day services, and the attendance was large and the interest keen.

At the appointed hour in the morning, the following-named committee of old soldiers repaired to the cemeteries and decorated the graves of the departed and honored veterans: George W. Dillon, J. W. Underhill, John Williams, Jacob Steinmetz, W. S. Fitch, and J. M. Henderson:

RIVERVIEW CEMETERY.
Charles E. Fox, R. S. Cooley,
Chester Ward, Marion B. Brown,
Moses Battershall, Daniel A. Clements,
John D. Gerver, Peter Groves,
John B. McCabe, David Keithly.

LONGVIEW CEMETERY.
C. Luther Nettleton, Smith Gordon,
Elias H. Conrad, Thomas B. Walker.
At Longview the grave of a confederate soldier, Robert R. Stewart, of Albert Hamilton, a son of a veteran, and other dead of soldier families, were decorated. And at Riverview the same program was carried out in a number of cases. Last year the number of soldier dead was 12, but the number has been increased, this year, by two, the remains of Marion B. Brown having lately been moved here from Indiana, and by the death of the late Moses Battershall, making the total now 14. In each instance handsome wreaths and flowers in profusion were placed over the last resting place of the heroes of the rebellion.

DEDICATION OF MONUMENT.

At two o'clock the line of march was taken up for Riverview cemetery, where the handsome soldiers' monument, lately erected by the old soldiers and citizens of this vicinity, was formally dedicated, and where the other exercises of Memorial day were held. The following order of exercises was followed:

PROGRAMME.

Music.....Stayer Drum Corps
Invocation.....Rev. T. L. Mathews
Music.....Stayer Drum Corps
Unveiling of the monument according to the G. A. R. ritual.....

Oration.....Hon. T. L. Mathews
Music.....Stayer Drum Corps
At command the old soldiers present formed a circle around the monument and the adjutant named the following guards: Honor—H. H. Mitchell, W. H. Smith, Jacob Steinmetz and G. W. Dillon. To represent army and navy—R. L. Tinker and J. F. Helm. The flag on the flag-staff was then raised to full mast, and the ceremonies proceeded.

The Ladies Circle was given precedence. The monument was unveiled and a lovely floral garland with the tricolors was placed over the soldier topping the monument, which stood out gloriously in the bright sun-light of heaven in all its plain but solid grandeur, a credit to the old soldiers and the citizens of this vicinity and the pride of us all. The ladies then conducted a beautiful responsive ritualistic service, after which flowers were strewn at the base and on the monument. The formal service of dedication was then performed by the G. A. R., in accordance with the ritual, and this feature of the occasion was closed.

Hon. T. L. Mathews of Fremont, orator of the day, was then introduced and delivered a Memorial day address of great earnestness and appropriateness. Paying a supreme tribute to the memory of our dead heroes and extolling their immortal deeds to the highest. Holding that the war of the rebellion was but the evolution of God's purpose to make of this the greatest nation that has ever walked along the highway of life. Defending war as the paradox of destiny, peace coming by the sword, and righteousness and justice by the shedding of blood.

At the conclusion of the address, the assembled people sang "America," and dispersed, ending in at least one respect, the most notable Memorial day ever celebrated by the soldiers and citizens of McCook.

The monument cost about \$500, and perhaps this part of Nebraska does not possess its superior. The base and statue of the soldier are both of Bedford, Indiana, stone, which has few equals in the land for that purpose. The soldier is life-size and being elevated on a large solid and handsome base, makes a substantial and imposing appearance, justifying all the pride the old vets and others take in it.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY.

Union services were held in the Methodist church, the members of the Ladies Circle and G. A. R. attending in organized bodies, and with the citizens generally crowding the church. Bunting, flags, flowers and potted plants provided the decorative effects for the occasion. The following is the

PROGRAMME.

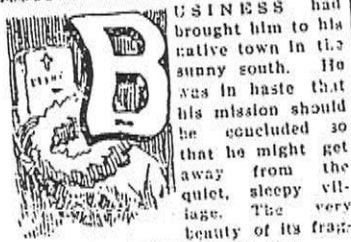
Song—"Gloria".....Congregational Choir
Reading Orders.....J. H. Yarger
Anthem.....Congregational Choir
Prayer.....Elder A. C. Corbin
Thank offering for monument fund.....
Scriptural lesson.....Rev. W. J. Turner
Anthem.....Congregational Choir
Sermon.....H. H. Berry
Prayer.....Rev. W. J. Turner
Song—"America".....
Congregational Choir and Congregation
Benediction.....Elder A. C. Corbin
A quite generous offering was raised for the monument fund.

Goose Eggs Exclusively.

The Statton graves came down from

A Memorial Day Reunion.

By GILBERTE HOLT.



BUSINESS had brought him to his native town in the sunny south. He was in haste that his mission should be concluded so that he might get away from the quiet, sleepy village. The very beauty of its fragrant spring dress saddened him.

In a timid, hesitating way he had made a few inquiries for old friends, but the answer was ever the same. War had scattered most of the old families. Those alone remained who slept in the peaceful cemetery in the dip which formed a vale at the bend in the river.

"And the Ralstons?"
All were gone. Of the impetuous, high spirited family, only Miss Erma was still alive. The Ralston boys—four of them—lay in soldiers' graves beside their gallant father.

Mrs. Ralston had seen her brave boys brought home dead one by one. But she gave them for her country's sake, gladly, but her heart was slowly breaking. She did not long survive her husband.

"Do Miss Erma still live at Ironwood?"
No. The old plantation was desolate and Miss Ralston lived in a little white cottage down the road, the one almost smothered in jasmine red roses.

The gentleman took his cane and with a brisk step which told of some young blood still flowing in his veins, started down the street in the warm spring sunshine. The square shoulders, erect head and firm tread all bespoke the soldier.

As he came in sight of Miss Erma's house his steady walk became jerky and finally settled into an uncertain amble. For the fraction of a second he paused at her gate, then beat a hasty and confused retreat. Completely out of breath he drew up beside the high arched gate which opened upon the soldiers' last resting ground.

"By Jove! It's no use. I couldn't

the dreadful war should deprive her of her lover, without calling him to fight against instead of for her?

How clearly he could see her as she stood then on the low, wide steps, a slim, girlish figure clad in clinging white. Her cheeks were flushed and her mouth tremulous, but the chin was firmly set. All through the war he had carried in his heart the memory of her as she stood in the sunshine, framed by the stately pillars of the gallery; while he, with despair in his heart, but a dogged determination in his eyes, turned, when half way down the broad avenue of live oaks, and lifting his union cap murmured, "God keep my southern sweetheart!"

How often he recalled her words. He could almost hear them now. "Go. You are a traitor. I never want to see your face again."

The old man shook his head sorrowfully. No, she would never forgive him, not even now after all these years. Well, he would go back north on the morrow, so what matter?

He and the Ralston boys had been college students together. He would pay a visit to their last resting place. He opened the gate and slowly made his way among the flower-covered mounds. When he reached the Ralston lot, he looked about him sorrowfully. He felt sadly desolate. He alone was left of all those merry, laughing fellows.

Presently his eye wandered to a grave somewhat apart from the rest. The scarcity of its flowers drew his attention to it. He wandered idly toward it, thinking, "Some poor friendless chap."

He started and then dropped upon his knees in his eagerness to read the simple inscription on the headstone. It ran:

"MERRILL, FREMONT."
"Born 1838. Killed at Gettysburg, 1863."

"Why, that's my name!" and the old man looked about him in a dazed manner as though for a moment he doubted his identity.

"Yes, my name is Merrill Fremont and I was born in '38, but though I was wounded I did not die at Gettysburg. A union soldier in a confederate graveyard. Ah, that accounted for the lack of memorial flowers," and he smiled grimly. "But I'm not dead," and he thumped his cane vigorously upon the gravel path.

He leaned his hands on his stick and stood gazing intently at his own name.

"It isn't me—but it is some union soldier buried for me, and he shall have some flowers. Yes, I'll decorate my own grave," and with a chuckle Merrill Fremont started briskly down the path.

As he neared the gate it opened, and a tall, slender figure clad in black entered, followed by an old negro fairly staggering under the weight of magnolia blossoms. Something familiar in the two figures made Fremont pause. But they did not notice him. The lady turned up a side path and walked quickly toward the end of the grounds. Merrill had just quitted, followed more slowly by the old serving man.

Merrill faced about and watched them. He was certain now that the woman was Erma. He expected her to enter the Ralston lot, but she only paused, waved her hand toward the flower-hidden graves, said something to her attendant and passed on her way until she stood beside the undecorated grave.

Fremont rubbed his eyes and stared. The lady motioned the negro to lay his fragrant burden down.

Merrill hastened up the path. He was near enough to hear the well-remembered voice say, "You may go, Uncle Sorney; I'll arrange the flowers myself."

The servant shuffled away down the path he had come, while his mistress knelt to place the blossoms.

Merrill Fremont paused, hat in hand. Erma believed him dead and forgave him. How would it be when she found him alive? He stood in dumb uncertainty. She was his only love and to lose her again would be more terrible than not to have found her. Dead, she surely loved him; her action proved it. Would he not better go away in the certainty of that love than, by staying, perhaps revive the old bitterness which his return to her unharmed while all her beloved family lay dead, might recall?

He was about to retreat. It was too late, the lady turned and saw him. He stood awkwardly before her. She looked at him in puzzled inquiry.

Suddenly he cried out "Erma."
She moved back a pace in surprise at being so addressed by an apparent stranger.

Once his tongue loosened Merrill gave her no chance to escape. In quick, incoherent words he poured forth the



SUDDENLY HE CRIED OUT, "ERMA."

mistaken report of his death, his love, his sorrow for her grief, and at last a earnest plea that she would prove more kind than in the past.

As she listened a delicate flush crept into the lady's pale, sweet face. The shadow that rested in the deep, blue eyes lifted. She looked searchingly at the man before her. Could this really be her young lover, returned in the guise of this impetuous elderly man? She had never thought of him save as the soldier boy who had gone away at her bidding. At last she seemed to understand. For a moment the corners of the lovely mouth forgot to droop.

By the light of memory the man and woman grew young again.

When his torrent of words ceased she stood silent for some moments, and then held out her hand as she softly said:

"We banish our anger forever
When we laurel the graves of our dead."

How He Won Her.

"If I were a man," she said, "you would not find me here today. I'd be away, fighting for my country."

"If you were a man," he replied, "you wouldn't find me here today either. I, too, would be away fighting for my country."

After that all he had to do was to gain papa's consent.—Cleveland Leader.

Confused Youth.

On one occasion the Prince of Wales had a hearty laugh at a Hindu school-boy in Madras. The youngsters had been drilled into the propriety of saying "Your Royal Highness" should the prince speak to them, and when the heir apparent accosted a bright-eyed lad and, pointing to a prismatic compass, asked: "What is this?" the youngster, all in a flutter, replied: "It's a royal compass, your prismatic highness."



"WHY, THAT'S MY NAME."

face her," and the old man mopped his brow. "Whew, how her eyes did blaze! Facing a cannon is play to standing the fire of Erma's angry eyes."

He leaned against the post. The light died out of his face and he thought of that long away time when he and Erma had been lovers. And then came the war. How quickly had followed that awful day when he went to say farewell and she would not look at him, because he wore the hated blue. He tried to argue, tried to persuade, but she would not listen.

She was a southern girl—Col. Ralston's daughter. If he fought the south, he fought her and was her dead enemy. Was it not cruel enough that



IN MEMORY
OF OUR
FALLEN HEROES



