

Submitted but no SUVCW Marker Present Indicating that he is the last soldier. - WEB2025

FORM CVW 1/25

PAGE 1

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

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN BURIED IN COMANCHE COUNTY PROJECT SUVCW

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 OLD ELGIN CEMETERY

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location _____

8TH STREET AND KENNEY _____ GPS Coordinates 34.782139 -98.286181

City/Village &/or Township ELGIN _____

County COMANCHE _____ State OKLAHOMA _____ Zip Code 73538

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name _____

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____ ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) GRAY GRANITE

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled _____ Yes _____ No

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

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

_____ Height _____ Width _____ Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) 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

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

GRAY GRANITE MONUMENT WITH RUSTICATED EDGES --- LEMUEL CARL COFFIN - LAST CIVL WAR VETERAN BURIED IN COMANCHE COUNTY. HE WAS A COMMANDER OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC FOR THE OKLAHOMA DEPT. GRAVESTONE ALSO LISTS HIS WIFE WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE LADIES OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC. ENSCRPTION: COFFIN - LEMUEL C. 1848-1942 - GAR GRAVE STAKE.

Environmental Setting

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

Type of Location

Cemetery Park Plaza/Courtyard "Town Square" Post Office
 School Municipal Building State Capitol Courthouse College Campus
 Traffic Circle Library Other: _____

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 _____

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 9/28/2025
 Your Name SANDRA (SANDY) COLE FLORES
 Address 12201 SE 64TH STREET
 City OKLAHOMA CITY State OKLA Zip Code 73150
 Telephone (405) 863-7226 E-Mail FLORESBRDLDY@aol.com

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

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. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 attached to this electronic file are the Monument's Condition and the Narrative forms. Only the Monument's Condition form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.

>This form may be photocopied.<

©2007-2023 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a Corporation

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT’S CONDITION**

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions.*

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? <small>(Look for signs of exterior rust)</small>	_____	_____
Any evidence of structural instability? <small>(Look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)</small>	_____	_____
Any broken or missing parts? <small>(Look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)</small>	_____	_____
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? <small>(Also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)</small>	_____	_____

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)	_____	_____
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

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

Inspector’s Name SANDRA COLE FLORES

Date 9/28/2025

Veterans, Friends, Relatives At Ceremony

More than 500 war veterans, families and friends attended Memorial day services, honoring Comanche county's war dead, at Highland cemetery here Monday afternoon.

Veterans Speak

Grant Matheny, Lawton, a veteran of the World war, and Lemuel C. Coffin, a veteran of the Civil war, were the program speakers.

"Memorial day services, one of the most beautiful of all American observances, was born May 30, 1867 in Logan county, Mississippi, where the good ladies of the community strew flowers on the graves of their Confederate husbands, sons and brothers, and in the same cemetery, carefully placed wreaths at the tombs of Union soldiers who fell in the same battle with their loved ones," said Matheny.

"Oklahoma joined the other states of the Union in holding Memorial day services 19 years ago, in memory of the boys who laid their lives on the altar of freedom for our nation," he said.

Fought In Virginia

Col. Coffin, who fought with Company D, 175th Inf., New York volunteers, in the Civil war, repeated the Gettysburg address. He has been on the Memorial day service program here for years.

"I fought at the battle of Cedar Creek, in northern Virginia, the only battle lost and won by both the Northern and Southern armies," said Col. Coffin.

The First Field Artillery band from Fort Sill opened the program. Invocation was said by

(See Page 2, No. 8)

Elgin Couple Observes 70th Wedding Anniversary Sunday

Family Gathering Is Planned For Event

Happy After 70 Years Together

BY ANNA RYAN
Elgin Staff Writer

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon the continent a new nation

Without these words repeated by the 92 year old Civil War veteran, L. C. Coffin, Comanche county patriotic or memorial service would be complete. By the speaker's side in his 91 year old wife, his comrade and helpmate for seventy years.

Seventy years together, years full of active living and Sunday, June 23, is their 70th wedding anniversary. Seventy years since they were married in the parlor of her father's home, though Mrs. Coffin says now that she can remember exactly how it looked upon that day.

Married In Iowa

Lemuel Carl Coffin, already a veteran of the war between the states, and Miss Fannie Gish were married in Maquoketa, Ia., and went to live on an Iowa farm. There they planted the trees under which they picnicked on their 10th anniversary. From there they moved to Rolfe, Ia., and entered the real estate and livery stable business. Later they operated a hardware store in Lyons, Neb., and from there came to Oklahoma, drew the farm west of Elgin, and opened a general store in Elgin, drove back and forth from the farm for 25 years. It is of these years with horse and buggy. They never missed a day on account of sickness or bad weather. Well was this store named "The Old Reliable."

On June 23, 1920, the Masonic hall above their store was filled with friends and relatives who came to help them celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. At this celebration the grandchildren took an active part in the program. Sunday several of the 12 great grandchildren will be present. Among them will be three year old Neal Coffin, the oldest great grandson and the only one by the name of Coffin. Neal will inherit a family heirloom, a sword over 100 years old which was used by his great great grandfather.

New York Native

Mr. Coffin was born on French mountain, near Lake George, N. Y. He is a descendant of sea-faring men, some of the first to settle in America, and one time owner of Nantucket island. The family history shows many who died at sea and who fought in the war for Independence.

Coffin is past department commander of the G. A. R. of Oklahoma and is now one of the two surviving veterans of the Civil war in Comanche county. Mrs. Coffin is a member of the ladies of the G. A. R. and together they have attended the national encampments of the G. A. R. until the last few years. In attending these they saw most of the United States.

As a Mason he has organized three lodges, Pilot Lodge No. 367, Rolfe, Pilot Lodge No. 240 Lyons, Neb., and Pilot Lodge No. 467, Elgin, Okla.

He was made a Mason in Humboldt, Ia., in 1884, a Royal Arch in 1892 at Rolfe, obligated Cryptic Mason on top of Pike's Peak in 1896 for work done in the Denver Opera House, made Six Knight in Lawton and is a Charter member of Lawton chapter 44, also of Lawton Commandry, 18. He is a member of Rolfe Lodge No. 94 I. O. O. F.

Active Church Member

Mrs. Coffin is an active member of the Methodist church and of the Eastern Star. Sunday she did not feel so well but said, "It is Father's Day. I must go with him."

With Mr. Coffin she can look with loving pride upon their four sons, all of whom are now grandfathers. George, with whom they live, Roy of Lyons, Neb., Dr. A. B. of Hutchinson, Kan., and C. G. of Elgin. The daughter, Beatrice, Mrs. W. W. Brunskill, died a few years ago in California, and two sons died as small children of typhoid in Rolfe.

Of the sixteen grandchildren, those who are best known here are: Mrs. M. J. Johnson, Caragita and Mrs. Herman Peeper, Apache, who both taught in Elgin, Mrs. C. C. Creamer, Okmulgee, Mrs. Char-



MR. and MRS. L. C. COFFIN
L. C. Coffin Store At Elgin



L. C. COFFIN operated a general store at Elgin, shown above, from the farm he drew west of the northeast Comanche county town. The Coffins drove back and forth with horse and buggy 16 of the 25 years they operated the store. Mr. and Mrs. Coffin are shown above standing on the porch of their store. This old store building has since been demolished.

les Bailey, Los Angeles, Elizabeth Coffin, Elgin, Howard Coffin, Cyril, Carl Coffin, Los Angeles, and Don, Hollis, Mills and Homer Brunskill of California.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Coffin are active. He walks at least a mile a day, sometimes more. When well east he painted the barn, climbed a ladder to reach the cables some 20 feet high.

Recently a sunny bedroom was added on the west side of the house (until then they had always used a room on the second floor) and from the windows they watch the sun set beyond the mountains, finding some new beauties to exclaim over each evening.

PERMIT GRANTED

The Southwestern Bell Telephone company, 416 C, was issued a city permit to make \$350 floor repairs, records disclosed Saturday.

EAT—
SUNDAY DINNER AT
SLAYTON'S

better fried chicken, ham and turkey . . . choice of meats, fresh vegetables and ice cream.

AIR-CONDITIONED

Private Dining Room
2 doors east of P. O.



**Jet Black with
Crisp White**

Comanche County's Last Veteran Of Civil War Dies New Year's Day

Lemuel Carl Coffin, 93, Was Pioneer Elgin
Merchant, Organizer Of Masonic Lodges

Someone else, other than a Civil War veteran, will have to deliver Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg Address at future Comanche county Memorial Day services.

Ninety-three-year-old Lemuel Carl Coffin, the county's lone survivor of the war between the states and traditionally the venerable soldier called upon to repeat Lincoln's words, was dead today.

The former Union soldier died suddenly of a heart attack at 3 p. m. Thursday, New Year's Day, on the steps of his farm home two miles west of Elgin. He had enjoyed reasonably good health for his extreme age until he was stricken. He died instantly without regaining consciousness.

* * * * *

'Four Score And ...

Wife And Son Present

His wife of almost 72 years and a son, George, were at home at the time. The body was brought to Becker Funeral home here, pending completion of burial arrangements.

A pioneer of this county, proprietor of a general store at Elgin for 25 years and a leader in Masonic lodge work, Mr. Coffin was born Feb. 23, 1848, on French mountain, near Lake George, N. Y. He was a descendant of seafaring men, some of the first to settle in America, and one-time owners of Nantucket island. The family history shows many who died at sea and who fought in the war for Independence.

Volunteered At 16

At 16, he volunteered for service in the war between the states, enlisting with the 171st New York Infantry on Sept. 5, 1864.

After the war, on June 23, 1870, he was married to Fannie Gish in Maquoketa, Ia. They lived on an Iowa farm for 10 years, moved to Rolfe, Iowa, to open a real estate and livery stable business. Later, they operated a hardware store in Lyons, Neb., and from there came to Oklahoma at the opening to draw a farm west of Elgin.

Opening a general store in Elgin, Mr. Coffin, for 16 years, drove from his farm home to town with horse and buggy. He and Mrs. Coffin never missed a day, despite some bad weather, and their store earned the name: "The Old Reliable."

Observed 70th Anniversary

The Coffins celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the Ma- (See Page 9, Col. 1)



One of the last pictures in public of L. C. Coffin, above, was made by The Constitution at the 1941 Memorial Day Services at Highland cemetery north of Lawton. This picture is shown above. It was taken after his

Blizzard Hits Middlewest

Warmer Weather Seen In Oklahoma Tonight

(By United Press)

The coldest temperatures in almost two years put Oklahoma in ear flaps and mufflers today as the first widespread midwestern blizzard of the winter blocked roads with snow and ice in four states and the west was under a covering of white from Canada to Mexico.

More than twenty four inches of snow was reported at Des Moines, Iowa.

Temperatures in Oklahoma hit a low of four degrees early today at Elk City and Ponca City, two degrees below the previous minimum of five degrees recorded on Jan. 27, 1940.

Warmer Weather Seen

Lemuel Coffin Is Buried At Elgin

Last Civil War Vet Of County Succumbs

Seventy-six years after he was discharged from the Union Army because of physical disability, Lemuel Carl Coffin, the last Civil War veteran of Comanche county, was buried Monday at Elgin.

Services were held at 2 p. m. at Elgin Methodist church. The Rev. W. W. Martin, pastor officiated. Burial was in the Elgin cemetery.

Masonic services were held at the grave, conducted by Pilot lodge No. 367, Elgin. Becker Funeral home, Lawton, was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Coffin enlisted Sept. 5, 1864 in the Union Army when he was 16 years old and was assigned to Company D, 175th New York Volunteers, an infantry unit. He was discharged June 25, 1865, for reason of physical disability, his genealogy records show.

Memorial day services will not be the same in this military area with Mr. Coffin dead. For years, he had delivered Lincoln's Gettysburg address at the annual services. He was a pioneer in this plains country, having operated a general store in Elgin for 25 years. His wife, to whom he had been married nearly 72 years, and a son, George, are among the immediate survivors.

Mr. Coffin was born Feb. 23, 1848 on French mountain, near Lake George, N. Y. He and his wife lived in Rolfe, Iowa, and Lyons, Neb., before moving to Oklahoma.



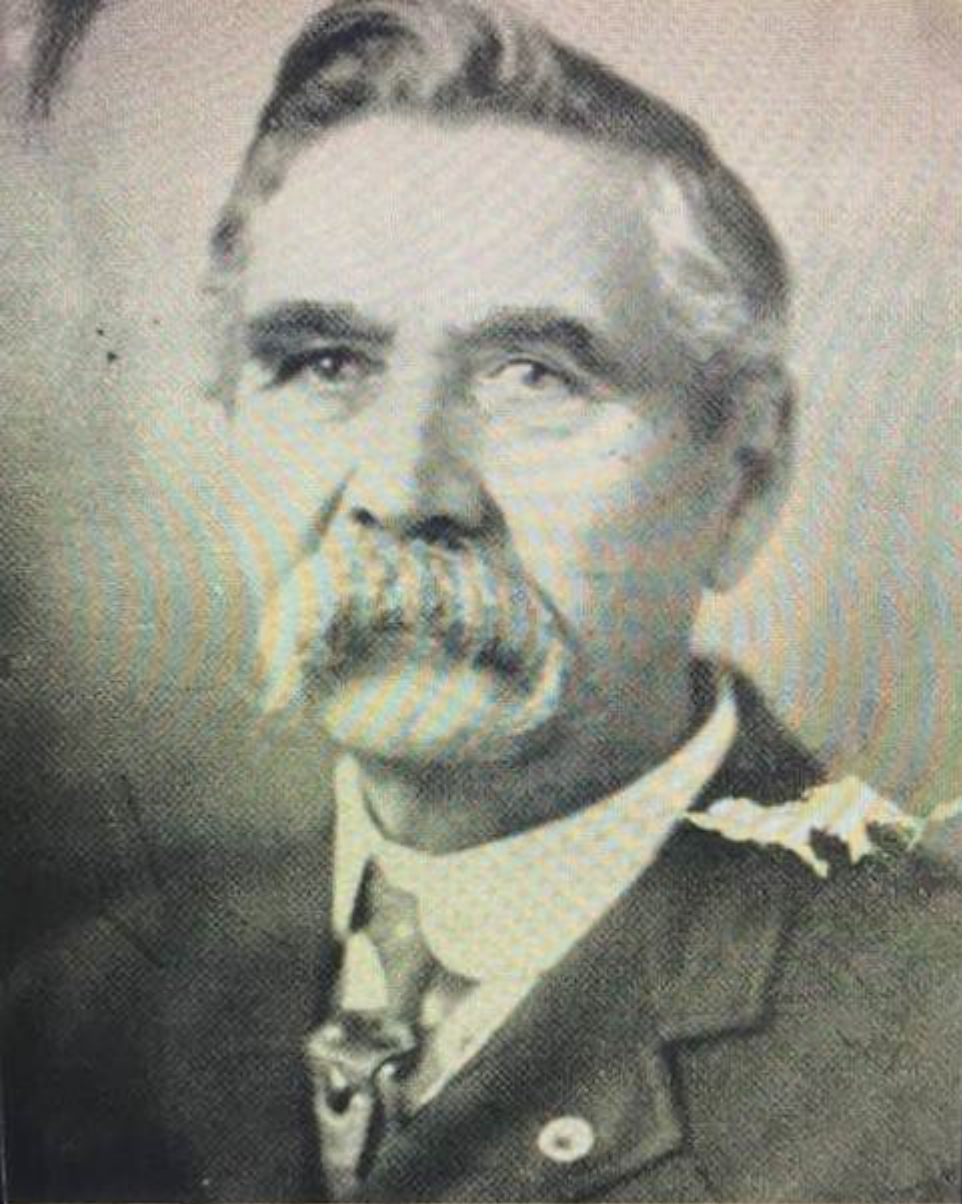
COFFIN

FRANCES G.
1848 — 1942

LEMUEL G.
1848 — 1942

S.A.M.
1921





*L. C. COFFIN, 1913-14, Department
Commander of the Oklahoma G.A.R.*