

# 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:

ERECTED BY JAMES SHIELD POST #57 G.A.R.

**Original Dedication Date** APRIL 22, 1995 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** DAVID LEWIS PAYNE GRAVESITE PARK AND BOOMER LAKE

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location N WASHINGTON STREET & W LAKEVIEW ROAD GPS Coordinates 36.14586 NORTH.... 97.069202 WEST

City/Village &/or Township STILLWATER

County PAYNE COUNTY State OKLAHOMA Zip Code 74075

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.) DARK GREY 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

6.2 FEET Height 26 INCHES Width 26 INCHES 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.

PLAZA COURTYARD WITH RAISED CONCRETE PLANTERS CREATING A 4 SIDED WALKWAY WITH CEMENT FOUNDATION IN CENTER WITH TWO STEPS UP TO MONUMENT BASE FROM EACH SIDE.  
BASE IS LIGHT GRAY GRANITE WITH RUSTICATED EDGES. IT IS 13 INCHES IN HEIGHT AND 26 INCHES WIDE X 26 INCHES DEP  
DARK GRAY GRANITE PLINTH -- IS 13 INCHES IN HEIGHT AND 19.5 INCHES w X 19.5 INCHES IN DEP  
THE TOP OF THE PLINTH BEVELS UP TO THE OBILISK. SMOOTH EDGES WITH NO CHIPS  
THE OBELISK IS DARK GRAY GRANITE 4 FEET IN HEIGHT AND 14 INCHES IN WIDTH AND DIAM.  
THE CAP IS FOUR CORNERED -

**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: SINGLE GRAVESITE

**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 9/1/2025  
Your Name SANDRA (SANDY) COLE FLORES  
Address 12201 Se 64TH STREET  
City OKLAHOMA CITY State OKLAHOM Zip Code 73150  
Telephone (405) 863-7226 E-Mail floresbrldy@aol.com

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?  
DUVCW SALLIE PEACHEATER TENT #18 OKLA - WRC NIM OKLA - LGAR MAL OKLA

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.

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed?; Any evidence of structural instability?; Any broken or missing parts?; Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes?.

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: 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).

SURFACE APPEARANCE & CONDITION IS VERY GOOD - THE MONUMENT IS STRUCTURALLY SOUND.

Inspector’s Name SANDRA COLE FLORES

Date 9/2/2025

## Stillwater Best Location for David L. Payne Monument

Revived by a move on the part of the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce in its beautification plans for Highway No. 40, south of Stillwater, a status of Capt. David L. Payne, the boomer leader, may be erected in Payne county. District Judge Freeman E. Miller, who has done much to preserve early Payne county history, has the following to say concerning the idea. His views are expressed in a letter to Thurman G. Burns, president of the commercial club. The letter follows:

July 4, 1931.

Mr. Thurman G. Burns,  
President Chamber of Commerce,  
Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir: I desire to express my personal appreciation of the interest which the chamber of commerce is taking in regard to the beautification of Highway No. 40, south of Stillwater, and in the proposed erection of the monument in the memory of David L. Payne, whose pioneer activities had so much to do in opening Oklahoma to settlement.

In the matter of procuring a monument in memory of David L. Payne, I call myself a pioneer. While a member of the territorial council, and on March 4, 1901, I introduced in the territorial council, as appears on page 315 of the Council Journal, Council Bill No. 190. An Act providing for the erection of a monument to perpetuate the memory of David L. Payne, and making appropriation therefor, which "was by unanimous consent presented, read first time, and by unanimous consent read the second time, and referred to committee on ways and means," of which committee I was a member.

And on page 319 of the Council Journal the following appears:

"Mr. President, the committee on ways and means of the council, having had under consideration Council Bill 190, entitled "An Act providing

for the erection of a monument to perpetuate the memory of David L. Payne, and making appropriation therefor, reported back to the council with the recommendation that the same be passed." Signed, Sidney Clark, chairman, and J. P. Wolsey, Richard E. P. Messell, Freeman E. Miller, F. L. Winkler. The report being a unanimous report.

The above bill provided for the erection of a monument for Mr. Payne, to be located on the southeast corner of the A. and M. college campus, and made an appropriation of \$1,500 from the territorial treasury, the same to be matched by an equal sum to be contributed from other sources. The legislature adjourned on March 8 and the bill failed to receive further consideration because of lack of time.

There is no logical reason why a monument should be erected to Mr. Payne at the intersection of Highways Nos. 40 and 33, for the reason that Mr. Payne had no personal activities in that region. On the other hand, Mr. Payne built his pioneer cabin within two miles of the city of Stillwater on the old Stich farm, and settled one of the colonies he lead into the Oklahoma country on Stillwater creek almost within the corporate limits of Stillwater at the present time. I therefore personally feel that Stillwater is not only the logical but the historical place where such a monument should be erected. However, it is a fine movement, and if it cannot be located where he put forth personal activities, the proposed site for it could not be entirely objectionable. Again thanking you and the chamber of commerce for your interest in this matter, and assuring you of any personal assistance I can give to the movement, I remain, very truly yours,

Freeman E. Miller.

**“Navajo Joe is over from Comanche with a decorated wagon. He is raising funds for a David L. Payne monument. Payne was the original Oklahoma boomer, Buckskin or Navajo Joe was his right bower and is now raising funds to perpetuate the memory of his chief.”—Lawton Enterprise.**

Clipped By:  
floresbrldy  
Sep 2, 2025

The only memorial to David L. Payne, the "Oklahoma Boomer" who played an important part in the opening of Oklahoma to white settlement, is the name of Payne county. This county was named for Captain Payne, although he never set foot on Payne county soil. His lieutenant, William L. Couch, once led a band of Boomers to this county, camping on a place within, or near the present site of Stillwater, but "the Prince of the Boomers" was never here.

A recent edition of the Kansas City Star contains a story by Cecil Howes, in which he states that the Daughters of the American Revolution of Newton, Kan., is attempting to raise a fund to erect a monument in Newton to the colorful Kansan.

A picture of Payne hangs in the statehouse at Oklahoma City in recognition of his efforts towards the opening of the Indian territory. J. B. Thorburn, Oklahoma historian, says of Payne: "David Payne by birth, association and experience, was a pioneer but at heart he was a soldier of fortune and his ability as an organizer and his capacity for persistent agitation made possible his leadership of the Boomers. He was outwardly frank and generous, of a robust and picturesque physique and possessed of a personality that was not lacking in magnetism."

The class in history might be interested in some of the statements from the recent Star article and they are set out here:

Payne was a cousin of Davy Crockett, killed by the Mexicans under Gen. Santa Anna after the fall of the Alamo. He was related to Daniel Boone. All his ancestors and relatives were of the pioneer spirit. Payne entered Kansas (he was born in Indiana December 30, 1836) in 1858 and homesteaded in English county. He was a hunter and Indian scout and organized numerous hunting expeditions into the buffalo regions. He served in the Civil war and was with Grant at Appomattox.

Payne served as postmaster at Leavenworth shortly after the Civil war but moved in 1870 and became a merchant in a little drug store he established north of Wichita. Payne's ranch, the Kansas City Star's story states, became a famous place in the early days of that section because the ranch owner furnished the provisions which kept many of the early settlers from starving in the winter of 1870-71. Payne homesteaded the following year near Newton. Newton then was the end of the railroad. He got into politics and was named to the Kansas legislature. Payne was a settler and helped drive saloons and gambling halls out of Newton. His generous nature ruined him, however, and he lost his farm by foreclosure and took a job in Washington.

While studying surveys and treaties establishing the boundaries of the lands of the different tribes in Indian Territory, Payne became interested in Oklahoma. It was about 1880 that he returned to Kansas and started the organization of the different colonies of Oklahoma Boomers. He proposed to organize these colonies and take the men and their families into the territory and have them settle on lands which were not specifically claimed by the Indians.

Payne organized several of these colonies. Each member paid \$2 which defrayed the expenses of Payne into the territory to spy out the lands which were not settled upon by the Indians. Each time the colonists went into the territory United States troops were ordered to drive them out. Payne was the only one of the colonists ever arrested or detained for attempting to "jump" the lands in the territory. He was tried in Little Rock, Ark., on the charge of being a "Sooner" into the Indian lands. He was discharged. In the fall of 1884 Payne began to organize another large colony of Sooners who were to go into the territory the following spring. He died while this colony was being formed. As this writer recalls, Couch led this band into Oklahoma. Troops met the men at Stillwater and escorted them back to the Kansas line. Not many years later, the government decided to throw the land open to settlers and the run resulted. Efforts at Stillwater to erect a memorial to Payne have never resulted in action, although committees have been named now and again to discuss the matter.

Added By James Atchison

**"The Father of Oklahoma"**

**C**ONSIDER the paradox of Capt. David L. Payne. He was the "father of Oklahoma," yet he was a native of Indiana; he was given his first name because of an event which took place in far-away Texas; he died and is buried in Kansas, which state has steadfastly resisted attempts to remove his body to Oklahoma; and the latter state has given him no official recognition beyond naming one of its original counties after him.

Born in Fairmont, Ind., December 30, 1836, his mother, who was a first cousin of Davy Crockett, named him David in honor of the frontier-relative who had died gloriously at the fall of the Alamo a few months before. At the age of twenty-one Payne moved to Kansas and took up a claim near Atchison. He served in the Civil war in the Fourth Kansas regiment until 1863 when he was discharged.

In 1867 he was elected captain of a Kansas cavalry troop formed to fight the Indians and campaigned actively in the western part of the state. During the next two years he served with Gen. George A. Custer and his Seventh cavalry and, as the boon companion of the famous California Joe and actor in many a hair-breadth escape from death, won great renown as the "Scout of the Cimarron."

The year 1870 found him back in politics again, as a member of the state legislature of Kansas, as an unsuccessful candidate for the state senate in 1872 and finally as door-keeper of the house of representatives in Washington where he remained until 1879. During his service as a scout for Custer, Payne had seen for himself the richness of the land in Oklahoma and in Washington he made the discovery, as he believed, that the lands in the western part of Indian territory, which had been ceded by the Creek Indians to the government for occupation by the other Civilized Tribes and by freedmen, in reality belonged to the public lands of the United States.

So Payne became the first "Oklahoma boomer" and the leader of no less than six of the eight expeditions of homeseekers, all of which tried to settle there and were expelled from the disputed territory by federal troops. Payne died suddenly in Wellington, Kan., November 27, 1894—"poisoned by his enemies," so his friends have said—five years too soon to enjoy the realization of his dream.

December 4, 1884

Added By Gypsy Girl

### PAYNE IS DEAD.

The Night Previous He was in His Usual Robust Health, Delivering a Telling Lecture.

Correspondence in Which Senator Plumb Expresses His Belief that Oklahoma Will Soon be Opened.

We give our readers the following taken from the *Kansas City Times*, concerning the death and burial of Capt. D. L. Payne.

WELLINGTON, KAN., November 28.—Captain David L. Payne, the famous leader of the Oklahoma boomers, died suddenly in this city this morning while eating his breakfast at the hotel De Barnard. He addressed a meeting here last night and was in his usual robust health when he entered the dining room this morning. While eating of his breakfast he was observed to lean forward and utter a subdued sound as if from slight suffocation. He then dropped from his chair to the floor and expired instantly. His sudden taking off has created no little sensation here and profound sorrow among his co-workers and followers in attempting to settle a portion of the Indian Territory.

#### HOW HE DIED.

WELLINGTON, KAN., Nov. 28.—The populace, with one accord, took in the lecture of Captain David Payne at the court house last evening. His address was received in an appreciative manner. After receiving the usual congratulations, he retired for the evening. Awakening in the morning, he went to breakfast with Mrs. Haines. After partaking of the usual fare, he ordered a glass of milk, and drank it. After imbibing he, innocently, was a listener to a conversation across the table where he was personally being handled without gloves. His nature came to the front, and he warmly defended his course. Suddenly he was stricken with something unknown, that caused him to quiver and show signs of faintness. Mrs. Haines rushed to him, tore open his shirt and appealed for help. Assistance arrived the spirit had fled for Beulah land.

NEWS

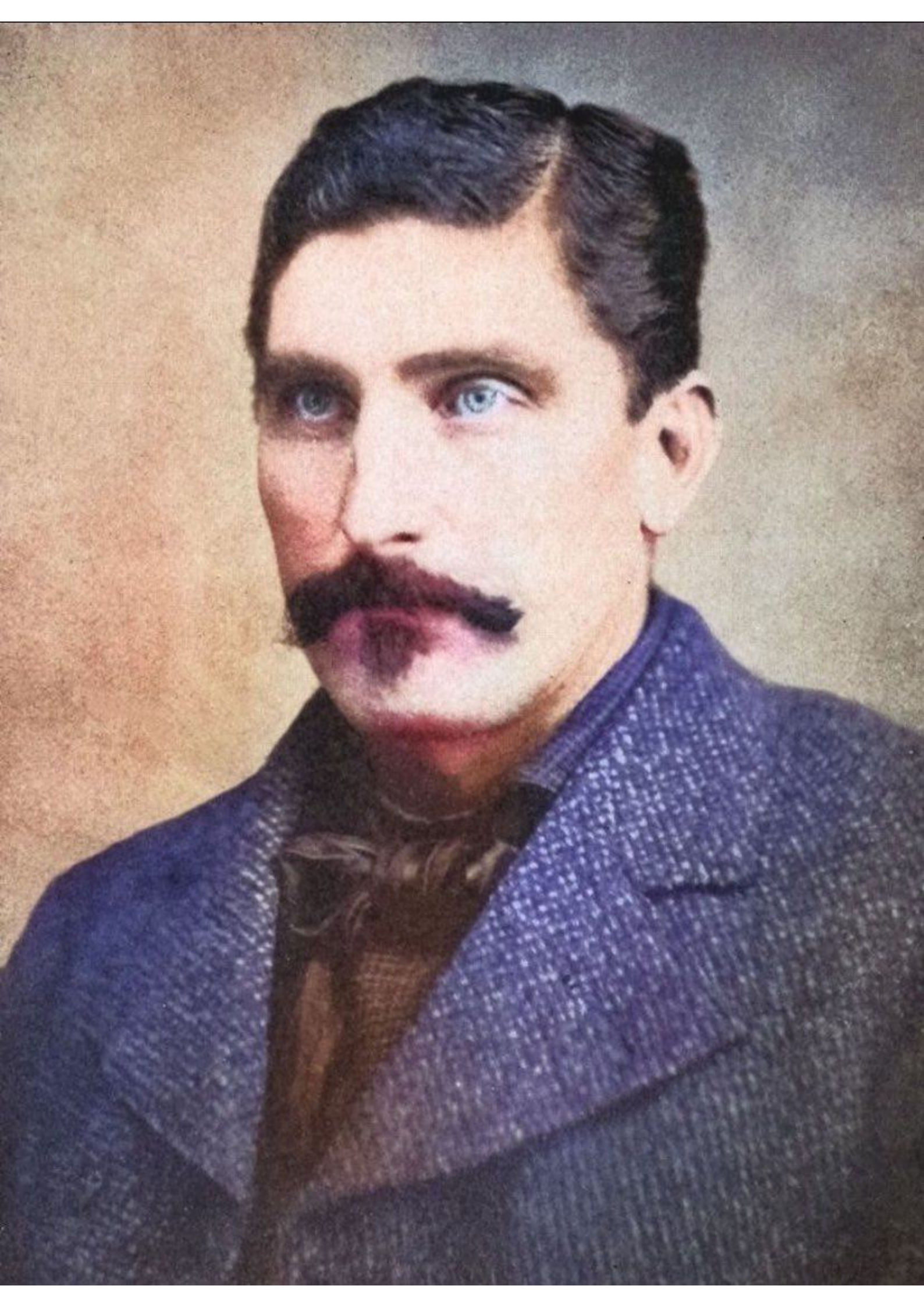
## Boomer Leader's Body, Monument Returning to State Park Memorial Site Planned

**Michael McNutt**

Jan. 29, 1995, 12:00 a.m. CT

STILLWATER - After a century in Kansas, the "Father of Oklahoma" is expected to come home this week.

Descendants of David L. Payne plan to exhume the remains of the man who a century ago organized the Oklahoma Boomers. The remains will be brought to Stillwater where eventually they will be placed in a memorial area being developed at a city park.





ERECTED BY  
JAMES SHIELD  
Post No. 57 G.A.R.  
Wellington Kans  
In Loving Memory of  
CAPT.  
D.L. PAYNE  
JUNE 29, 1836  
NOV 28, 1864  
Co. F, 10th Mi. Kans. Vol. Inf.

CORRECT  
BIRTHDATE  
DEC. 30, 1836

**PAYNE**



CAPTAIN  
DAVID L. PAYNE  
HAD FAMILY  
TIES TO  
DAVY CROCKETT,  
DANIEL BOONE  
AND  
MERIWETHER LEWIS

AFTER WAITING  
110 YEARS TO  
COME HOME TO  
OKLAHOMA, MAY  
THE SPIRIT OF  
CAPT. PAYNE  
FINALLY REST  
IN PEACE



TITLES GIVEN  
CAPT. PAYNE  
THE FATHER OF  
OKLAHOMA  
OKLAHOMA MOSES  
PRINCE BOOMER  
CIMARRON SCOUT  
THE OKLAHOMA  
BOOMER  
OKLAHOMA PAYNE  
OX HEART



CAPTAIN  
DAVID LEWIS  
PAYNE

BORN  
DECEMBER 30, 1836  
FAIRMOUNT, IN.  
DIED  
NOVEMBER 28, 1884  
WELLINGTON, KS.  
MOVED GRAVE  
JANUARY 30, 1995  
TO STILLWATER, OK.  
REBURIED  
APRIL 22, 1995  
AT BOOMER LAKE

CAPT. D. L. PAYNE  
STARTED THE  
OKLAHOMA BOOMER  
MOVEMENT IN 1879  
THROUGH HIS EFFORTS  
THE UNASSIGNED LANDS  
OF OKLAHOMA WERE  
OPENED FOR  
SETTLEMENT WITH THE  
LAND RUN OF  
APRIL 22, 1889

PAYNE COUNTY, OK.  
IS NAMED IN HIS HONOR