

Death of M. D. Coffeen.  
*Danville Weekly News*  
Friday, October 20, 1882, page 3

M. D. Coffeen, of Homer, Champaign county, died at his home in that town last Saturday. He was an uncle of H. A. Coffeen, of this city, and of M. D. Coffeen, Jr., late of this city.

The deceased was one of the best known men in the section of Homer, and in fact the father of the town. Mr. Coffeen claimed to have the longest name of any man in the county—Doctor Michael Dolphin Coffeen—that he was christened by that full name. He was born in 1807, and settled on Salt Fork, then the old town of Homer, one mile north of the present town, in 1835. When the Great Western R R, the present Wabash railroad, was proposed to be built through that section, Mr. Coffeen procured the right of way generally in that section, laying out the present town of Homer. To procure a large settlement, he donated lots to builders. In 1855/6, the old town was depopulated of all but two houses. Mr. Coffeen assisting in removing the dwellings to his new town, by means of ox-wagons and other ways to transfer the buildings. He was engaged in business there fully thirty years, with Samuel Groenendyke, Sr., of Eugene, Indiana, who died about 1865. He was quite active as a politician, having a wide acquaintance with prominent men, some of whom are famous in national and local history. Most of those old-timers have passed away, and a few are living. Among these were Abraham Lincoln, U.F. Linder, O. B. Facklin and Leonard Swett. The deceased was looked upon as “a mighty man” by many in those early days, who were dependent upon his charities and his assistance in several ways. He was married twice, his first wife being a sister of William Elliott, Esq., of Homer, one of the oldest citizens there.

NOTE: M. D. Coffeen's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife was Hellen M. Lyons, m June 5, 1851.

Death of M. D. Coffeen  
*Champaign County Gazette*  
October 18, 1882 page 1

There died at Homer, on Saturday last, M. D. Coffeen, one of the early pioneers of this county, and we believe, the first man who kept a store within the borders of the county. He was born in New York in 1813, and moved to this county in 1836, opening a store at the creek north of where Homer now stands. His was the only store for a long distance, and people came from Peoria, on the west, and from as long distances north and south to trade there. Mr. Coffeen was an active and energetic man, and did much to build up the village of Homer. He built the first frame house in the county in 1837. In 1856 he was one of the board of county commissioners, but never held any other office, so far as we can learn, although he was a very active politician until within a few years. He leaves a family of grown-up sons and daughters, and an estate which is quite valuable. His funeral took place at Homer on Sunday last, Rev. R.V. Hunter, of Philo, preaching the funeral discourse, which was listened to by a large audience. The burial took place under the auspices of Homer lodge A., F. and A. M. of which the deceased has been a member.