



Ivy Joan Coffman

May 3, 1925 - March 21, 2026

Ivy Joan Dixon Coffman, of Kankakee, age 100, peacefully passed away on Saturday, March 21, 2026.

She was born on May 3, 1925 in Walthamstow, London, England, to William and Emily (Russel) Dixon.

A survivor of The Blitz by the German Luftwaffe in World War II, it was during this time that she met her future husband and partner in life, Samuel Coffman, a U.S. GI that was stationed in London. In spite of an auspicious first meeting at a dance at Covent Garden in London, their love quickly blossomed and led them being married on September 15, 1945 at St. Mary's Church in Walthamstow. It wasn't until March of 1946, however, that Ivy was able to set sail for America – quite literally, as she rode the RMS Queen Mary across the Atlantic Ocean to the United States, settling with Samuel in Kankakee, IL. She would be one of 70,000 War Brides to relocate to the USA after the war.

Upon settling in Kankakee, Ivy was employed as a seamstress and a button and belt maker for Singer Sewing Company in Kankakee. For the many women who were making their dresses at home throughout the 40s and 50s, Ivy was the one making the buttons and buckles that they would use to adorn their garments. She also worked for local interior decorators, making custom draperies.

Ivy was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kankakee. She also enjoyed being a member of a local club of War Brides from the United Kingdom. She enjoyed gardening and until recent years, never missed her

daily walk around the neighborhood.

Ivy was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brother and sister-in-law, William and Jean Dixon; son-in-law, Stephen Schmidt; and numerous in-laws from her Coffman family, all of whom welcomed her as one of their own.

Survivors include her daughter, Cassandra Schmidt of Kankakee; grandchildren, Paul Schmidt (Brittany Cushing) and Caroline Leflar (James); great-grandchildren, Ewan Schmidt, Eleanor Leflar, Eli Schmidt, and Ivy Leflar; along with many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations in Ivy's name to Catholic Charities (who provided meals for her for a few years and do so for so many) and Uplifted Care in Bourbonnais.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorial visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the 10:00 a.m. service on Friday, April 10, 2026 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. Inurnment will be at All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais.

“And may we meet again, in the clearing, at the end of the path.”

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 933-2342

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 10. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

APR 10. 10:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

KM

“ My memory of Ivy is *The English Club*--the monthly get together of English Women, including our Mom, Bea.
I was young, but recall coming into the Living Room wanting to join for Tea and the nuts and candy my Mom would have out on the side tables.
I also recall a family trip to England when I was about 5, my sister 13, and the Coffman's were also on the same plane. Back in the early 1970s, air travel was very different, but I recall a story that I went over to Cass and I sat on her lap to look out the window.
Sending our condolences across the miles. But good to know that the English Ladies are setting up their get togethers again --this time in the sky.

Kellie Marsalli - April 02 at 10:10 PM

JB

“ My sister and I moved to 6th Avenue when I was 9 yrs. old. I remember many things especially Ivy, Sam, and Cassie. Our whole block shared cook outs, kids shows, playing hide and seek. Ivy was a classy lady, always so kind and generous. She invited me to visit many times after I moved away.
Sad that she has passed away but now she can be with Sam again. She was a dear.
Condolences to Cass and her family.

Joyette Muehler Boudreau

Jo Boudreau - March 30 at 05:07 PM

PD

“ Sorry for your loss I'm the Daughter of the later Cliff and Jane Custer and my grandma was Leatha Custer.i remember coming to our family reunion one year they would be in Kankakee and next year in Hoopeston.my name is Peggy Custer Davenport and I have a sister Nancy and a brother Doug.i remember Ivy and Samie

peggy Custer Davenport - March 27 at 07:47 PM