

LIFE OF WILLIAM DUNCAN SULLIVAN

On the morning of June 4, 1859 about the time the cocks were starting to crow a small white haired baby boy was brought into this world by Mrs. Archibald Sullivan. This was the third child of a family of 13 children. He was named William Duncan Sullivan. His parents lived at Santiquin, Utah until he was 3 years old. They then decided to come to Utah's Dixie, so several other families and Archibald Sullivan, William's father, and all the family left Santiquin in a steel-tired wagon in the spring of the year. They struggled south over mountains, down valleys, and across streams always looking forward to the time that they would reach Utah's Dixie. It took them 3 weeks to make the jounery of about 260 miles. They stopped at Washington, Utah for four months before continuing on to St. George, Utah.

When William D. Sullivan became 6 years old he started school in a log hut under George Bergin, who taught him reading and writing. His second teacher was John Macfarlane in the Whitmore school house. As he advanced he had new teachers; Sam Miles and Daniel Thomas gave his first arithmetic lessons. His last teachers were Edward Brown and Mr. Peck. He finished his schooling when he was 15 years old, in the 3rd ward school house. His parents paid for the different teachers as other parents paid for their children to be taught.

While at school under Edward Brown, two of his school mates Don and Al Robins sis something they weren't supposed to do. Mr. Brown tried to punish them, but it ended in a

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fight. Stove wood, books, and rulers were flying about the room, making the school a dangerous place for the other students, so they had to find shelter some other place until the fight was over. After the fight Don and Al were both expelled and never attended school again.

His teacher John Macfarlane enjoyed trying to kill Richard Bleak with his ruler and he nearly did it a number of times.

William D. Sullivan first started to dance a bowery of leaves, on the bare ground and without shoes. They had violin and banjo music to dance to. Their first dance hall was the school house. From the school house they danced in the Wine Cellar which was located where the Utah Idaho Sugar Beet Factory stands today, one block north of the Big Hand Cafe. When the court house was built they danced in it until Foster's store hall was used. The city of St. George finally built a dance hall just across the street from where the Utah Idaho Sugar Beet Factory stands today. They danced such dances as the square dance, and were only allowed two round dances such as the waltz in one evening. This was because the church prohibited them from dancing more and also society was against the round dances.

While going to school and the few years after, he worked on his father's farm with the other boys of the family. In the fall of 1876 his father, he, and Feb. Barrin took the first sheep to the Arizona Strip which lies southeast of St. George. This country was populated with the piute Indians at that time and only explorers, traveled through. The Mountain Meadow Massacre happened a few years before the

time they went to Arizona and William D. Sullivan was shown by some of the Indians where Haight, Higbee, and Cameron lived in hiding from the government officers. Haight, Higbee, and Cameron were the last men alive who were implicated in the Mountain Meadow Massacre. The next spring they took the first cattle to the Arizona Strip. They stayed in this country for one year. At this time the Cannors Herd which lived south of Hurricane, Utah went to the Arizona Strip. This country changed hands until Tony Ivins went into it. It kept changing down the line until it stands the way it is today.

Southern Utah was being explored, Silver Reef located north of Leeds where silver was found in sand stone. After minning started it influenced William D. Sullivan to leave home and he got a job, hauling ore with team and wagon from the mines to the mills. One of them was the Ten Stamp located on the Virgin River southeast of Leeds. When ore hauling was slacking he went to work in the mines named the Buckeye and the Savage shaft.

When he was 25 years old; like all other normal men he fell in love and October 22, 1883 he married Mary Ann Mc Mullin, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Mc Mullin of Harrisburg, which is now a ghost town. Mary Ann Mc Mullin was a nice looking, pleasant, happy woman who made him a faithful wife as long as she lived.

After he was married he left the mines and moved to St. George with his wife. Here they lived for one year. Their first son was born October 26, 1884. They named him William D. Sullivan, Jr.

They moved to Harrisburg shortly after their son was born. They lived there for seven years. William D. Sullivan farmed and freighted for a living while there. Another son was born January 2, 1887; they named him Frank. Their first daughter was born at Harrisburg December 26, 1888; they named her Ethyl.

From Harrisburg he moved his family to Leeds, where the rest of his children were born and reared. They were as follows: April 30, 1891 Verda, December 9, 1893 Estella, June 4, 1896 Cleo, July 24, 1899 Erma, October 18, 1900 Leland G., February 23, 1903 Evan L., March 29, 1905 Mary, July 29, 1907 Dellas, and September 17, 1909 Lillian their last child. They are all living except Erma Sullivan and she died six months after she was born from the disease spinal meningitis.

When he arrived at Leeds, with his family he started clearing what is known today as the Flat Field, but it wasn't until November 17, 1894 that he received the deed to the property. During his life he raised cattle, his largest herd was 200 head. He run his cattle south of Purrucane, and on the grazing land which is now the Dixie National Forest. At times he put his cattle on top of Pine Valley Mountain.

His folks freighted from Salt Lake to St. George with team and wagon. After he came to Leeds he started freighting from Grand Gluch to Milford, he also freighted from St. George to Desert before there was a railroad station there. Freight consisted of every thing the people of southern Utah

could consume. William D. Sullivan and Sons, also other men of Leeds, hauled the electric light poles to build the first electric light line in southern Utah. They received \$1.80 for each pole they hauled, and William D. Sullivan received \$5.00 for each of the 19 poles which were put in the Leeds street. They put the poles they hauled to the holes, which were already dug, from the black ridge to Farrisburg bench and they hauled them from Lund, the closer point of the railroad. William D. Sullivan and Don Fuller freighted hay from Prump Valley in Nevada to St. George a distance of about 230 miles one way.

William D. Sullivan bought farming land next to the Virgin River in 1908 and farmed it for about seven years, then sold it. He bought one of the first cars that came to Leeds, when roads were only cow trails and toll roads were not uncommon at all.

One day he left Lund with a load of freight, the wind was blowing and every thing was frozen up. By noon he arrived at the California Ranch located on the Lund desert. Here he stopped to put his horses up for noon, and give them hay and rest. The owner came out of the house and said to him and his fellow freighters, "For God sake men come inside and warm yourselves you look like you are nearly froze". But William said, "Get us some bailed hay and let us feed the horses first".

In 1924 he went to Baker, Nevada and was gone for about six months; while there he worked on a ranch, plowing and taking care of the crops. When he returned from Baker he was helping his sons Leland and Evan who own their own farms at Leeds, put up hay. They were rolling the hay onto the stack

and the ropes slipped, picking him up and knocking him to the ground breaking his left leg in the fall. About one year, lacking 9 days, after his leg was broken he was going to his pasture after his milk cows on his horse when Milne's truck hit him, knocking him unconscious for an hour and killing his horse. He was laid up for about 2 weeks because of the accident.

The evening of May 7, 1935 his faithful wife passes away leaving him broken up and lonely. He then sold his property except his home and small plot where he raised his garden for his family.

He likes to travel and on the 5th of June 1938 he boarded the Union Pacific Stage and went to such cities as Los Angeles, California and San Francisco, California, and visited the places of interest near them, also visiting his youngest son at Merced, California. He repeated the same journey in 1939, but went much farther. After leaving California he went to Salt Lake City, Utah and visited two of his daughters. From there he went to Weston, Idaho where he visited another daughter. From there he went to Yellow Stone National Park, returning home after one week in the park.

On December 18, 1939 he was putting around his son-in-law's wood saw and his hand slipped into the saw cutting it off just below the wrist. He was rushed to the hospital at St. George and there they put him in the best of care. They took the hand off which was just hanging by some skin, just above the wrist. Now it is March, he is happy and well except he has no left hand to use in his putting. All through his

he has been ambitious and a very hard worker. He operated his farm alone until about 8 years ago, He still goes to old time dances and seems to be very happy. He is now 81 years of age and he acts as though he was 70.



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