

THE SULLIVAN'S

Grant County, Kansas

Written by Eunice Rumford

*Consultants: Mr. Dan C. Sullivan, Ulysses, Kansas
Mrs. Charles E. Rumford, Johnson, Kansas*

Reference: The Kansas and Kansans

** Additional information added about, Dan Sullivan the IV, Daniel Sullivan the III,
and Jeremiah P. (Jerry) Sullivan*

Dan Sullivan IV, Jr., was the first white child born in Grant County. He first saw the light of day in his parent's home on the prairies, on December 22, 1885. He grew up in the same locality where he still lives, was educated in a little country school, and at the age of sixteen, was sent to the State Agricultural College. He took the general science course with particular classes on animal husbandry, and early in 1908, he graduated. Before graduation, he worked with the government in the Bureau of Animal Husbandry and off and on for a period of two years was employed in New Mexico and Arizona. His inclinations have run along the same practical lines as those of his father, and he has had the advantage of adequate theoretical scientific training. He grew up in the atmosphere of his father's ranch and was his business associate for many years.

After leaving school, Dan IV spent a summer in the Southwest, and when he returned to Kansas, he entered actively into the ranching business with his father. He was acting head of the Sullivan Estate until 1917 when he took charge of his own property. He was well known as a dealer in livestock, shipped many carloads in his time both into and out of the country, and was well known in the Kansas City markets.

Daniel C. Sullivan III, Sr., who died June 16, 1913, was one of the last survivors of that group of real cattlemen of Grant County. It is on reliable authority that Daniel C. Sullivan III, Sr. never plowed a furrow in all his life. He was not a farmer; but his heart and soul were engaged in the business of raising stock, first on the free-range stock and afterward on the land of his own. He was also a competent businessman and a citizen whose life meant much to Grant County during its formative era. Another distinction that belongs to him is that he was the second permanent settler in Grant County, second only to Richard Joyce, who enjoys the premier distinction.

Daniel C. Sullivan III was born in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland on March 1, 1849. His father, named Dan M. Sullivan, brought his family to the United States when Dan C. III was seventeen years of age. In later years Dan M. moved to Colorado. He was located on the Mud Creek area and died there. He was a cattleman in Ireland, and that vocation is almost a matter of inheritance with the different generations of the

Sullivans. Dan M. Sullivan married Julia Canty (1812-1895) in Ireland. Their children were Jeremiah (Jerry), Mrs. Nell Malloy of Los Animas, Colorado, Mrs. Felix Cain of Butte Creek, Colorado, and Dan C. III.

Dan C. III lived with the family for several years in Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. He followed his brother, Jerry, to Omaha, Nebraska, and found employment there until he secured enough money to take him to Colorado. His first experience in Omaha was being robbed, and that opened his eyes to the danger and vicissitudes of Western life. It was during the 1870s that Mr. Sullivan went to Colorado, traveling by stage from Omaha to Denver. He found employment as a hay contractor at Fort Lyons and finally located near Mud Creek and engaged in Ranching. From Los Animas, he came directly to Grant County, Kansas in 1881. He brought with him a portion of his stock and along with John O'Loughlin, had cattle in this region before anyone else became established as permanent citizens.

Dan C. Sullivan III filed on a homestead and his first home was no more than a hole in the ground. It was a humble abode where his son, Dan C. Sullivan, IV, was born, the first native white child in Grant County. Around this dugout was his developed ranch headquarters, and the chief incidents of his Kansas life occurred here. Besides stock raising he became a merchant at old Ulysses and later became a banker, being one of the founders of the Grant County Bank and president of the institution. For a time he was engaged in shipping Oregon horses into Western Kansas, and then to market in the eastern part of the state. He always had supervision on his cattle ranch. His merchandise establishment burned in 1892, and this loss, together with his investment in the bank, broke him financially. About 1893 he had to begin all over again. He was a true Westerner in courage and spirit and was undaunted by a disaster. His recuperation was rapid. He made his second start by buying and selling cattle on commission and finally was able to invest his own capital again. At the old ranch, he gradually rounded up a herd and from that time forward was prominent in the cattle, horses, and mule business until his death.

Dan C. Sullivan III spent several winters in Old Mexico, speculating on the land around San Luis Potosi. Besides his own cattle, he furnished a market for other people and was a purchaser of stock as far away as Clayton, New Mexico. For several years he was one of the leading figures and most distinctive personalities of the Kansas City market. To protect his cattle and his pastures, he bought extensive lands in Grant County and developed a ranch of 4,000 acres in a single body.

Politically Dan C. III supported the Democratic party and he was one of the old-school cowmen of the West and was noted for his practical business sense, his good judgment, and his integrity. He was an excellent penman and acquired a fair education. He was a member of the Catholic Church and was affiliated with the Knights of Pythias until it disbanded at Old Ulysses. At Kansas City, Missouri, on February 14, 1894, he married Miss Mary R. Sullivan, daughter of Patrick and Catherine Sullivan. Her father was a tailor by trade and came to the United States

several years before the Civil War. Her mother died in New York City. The children of Patrick and Catherine Sullivan were Mrs. Ellen Benson of New York City, Mrs. Dan C. (Mary) Sullivan, and Mrs. Jennie King of New Jersey. *(Mary Sullivan was born March 6, 1853, in New York and died on September 19, 1929, in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. She was buried at the Mount Olivet Cemetery, in Wheat Ridge, Jefferson County, Colorado.)*

The late Dan C. Sullivan III had two sons, Dan C. IV and Jeremiah (Jerry). Dan C. IV was born on the old ranch in Grant County and was well educated taking one year of a law course at Kansas City School of Law. He made an effort to join the United States Marines at Denver but was rejected when he applied to the local exemption board. He finally was requested to report to Topeka, and after a third examination was accepted and led active service with the 33rd Infantry in France.

Mr. Dan C. Sullivan IV began voting as a Democrat and he was a member of the Kappa Delta Pi college fraternity. He married in Grant County on February 3, 1915, Miss Ellen Marguerite Hickok, eldest daughter of Charles D. Hickok, one of the prominent old timers of Ulysses.

Charles D. Hickok spent his boyhood in the rural districts of Northwestern Missouri. He was one of the first homesteaders in Grant County, twelve miles south of the new Ulysses. Fighting poverty, he shifted work a great deal to make headway. He taught school, was a farm hand, a well-digger, and eventually found work of a clerical nature making transcripts of the records for Stevens County and the new county of Grant. This work led to his becoming connected with the Court House offices and he was a semi-professional man from then on. He was in the County House for thirteen years as County Clerk. He was the first president of the Grant County State Bank and one of the original stockholders. As a Democrat, he cast the first ballot in Sumner County Kansas, and helped nominate L. D. Lewelling for Governor in 1894. In religious convictions, he was a sound churchman, active in the Baptist denomination and had also identified himself with several fraternities. In years past, Mr. C. D. Hickok has helped promote practically every enterprise that has been undertaken for the development of this region. Mr. C. D. Hickok passed away in April 1936.

The Sullivans handled a lot of cattle on the north fork of the Cimarron River five miles southwest of the present townsite of Ulysses, Kansas. They lost a lot of cattle during the hard winter of 1885. When Dan C. Sullivan IV was born in 1885, there were no doctors in the county and the nearest post office was at Lakin. There was plenty of antelope in the meadows. There were no trees in the county. The first trees planted were planted by his mother, Mary R. Sullivan. She brought 103 trees from Colorado when she came as the bride of Dan C. Sullivan III. She carried water to keep them alive. The Sullivan Dam and trees on the north fork of the Cimarron, stand as an old landmark due to their efforts. They had wonderful grass in those days; which now lies in the present-day "Dust Bowl". Mrs. Mary R. Sullivan was the first woman in the county until the arrival of the settlers.

Dan C. Sullivan IV and Ellen M. Hickok were the parents of three children; Dan C., who was born November 27, 1915, and today is a senior at Notre Dame in Indiana; Mary Ellen, born in February of 1918 and graduated from the Ulysses High School in 1936; and David J., was born March 4, 1920, and will be a senior this fall (1936) in the Ulysses High School. Mrs. Sullivan passed away in 1920, leaving Mr. Sullivan to raise the family.

Dan C. IV and his brother Jerry (*in 1936*) operated the entire Sullivan holding on a 50-50 basis. They owned and operated five elevators. The Ulysses, Milepost, Coolidge, and Hickok were operated by Jerry Sullivan. A storage terminal at Ulysses that held 200,000 bushels was also operated by Jerry Sullivan. They owned 58,000 acres of land in Grant County, Stanton County, and Stevens County. They owned two gas wells that were three miles west and two miles south of Ulysses, one mile west of Hugoton, and had gas and oil holdings in Kingman and Barton Counties. They had 240 head of cattle at Syracuse and had eleven thousand sheep.

Mr. Dan C. Sullivan IV became mayor of Ulysses in 1927. He was a school director of the Ulysses School for five years. He also served as the Vice President of the Grant County State Bank for several years. He had the honor of being appointed by Arthur Capper, as the District roll-call chairman of the nineteenth district of the State of Kansas, which includes six southwest counties. The Sullivan Brothers were highly esteemed and appreciated by all who knew them.

Additional Information
DANIEL C. SULLIVAN, III



Born: 1 Mar 1849 in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland
Died: 16 Jun 1913 in Denver County, Colorado

Daniel married Miss Mary R. Sullivan, daughter of Patrick and Catherine Sullivan, on 14 Feb 1894, in Kansas City, Missouri



Burial place for Daniel C. Sullivan III and his father, Daniel M. Sullivan
Mount Olivet Cemetery
Wheat Ridge, Jefferson County, Colorado
Headstone photograph provided by Valerie Robinson

Additional Information
DANIEL C. SULLIVAN, IV
Son of Dan C. Sullivan, III



Born: 22 Dec 1885 in Grant County, Kansas
Died: 1 Jan 1964 in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas
He was married to Ellen "Nell" Hickok on 3 Feb 1915. She died in 1920

Newspaper Obituary

Garden City, Kansas Telegram – Thursday, 2 Jan 1964

DAN SULLIVAN IS DEAD AT 78

Ulysses – Dan C. Sullivan, 78, the first white child born in Grant County, died Wednesday at his home.

Mr. Sullivan was born Dec 22, 1885, and was chairman of the board of Sullivan, Inc., a grain and investment firm. He also had extensive ranching interests. He was one of the owners of the Grant County Bank. He and his brother, Jerry, owned grain elevators in Ulysses, Coolidge, and Hickok.

Survivors include two sons, Dan C. Jr. and J. David, both of Ulysses; a daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Olson, Ulysses; and a brother, Jerry T., also Ulysses.

The Funeral will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church with the Rev. Gilbert Herrman officiating. Burial will be in the Ulysses Cemetery.

Additional Information JEREMIAH "JERRY" PATRICK SULLIVAN *Son of Dan C. Sullivan, III*



Born: 4 May 1888 in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas

Died: 16 Sep 1973 in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas

He married Goldie A. Warner on 14 Apr 1928 at Garden City, Finney County, Kansas

Goldie was born on 22 Sep 1907 and died on 29 Mar 1998

NEWSPAPER OBITUARY

Hutchinson, Kansas News—17 Sep 1973, Page 2

ULYSSES – Jeremiah Patrick (Jerry) Sullivan, 85, died Sunday at Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital in Ulysses. He was born May 4, 1888, in Grant County and married Goldie A. Warner on April 14, 1928, at Garden City. He was a cattleman, rancher, grain man, and lifetime resident here in Ulysses.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ulysses; American Legion, 353rd Regimental Society of World War I; chairman of the board of Grant County State Bank; and president of Sullivan Investments.

Survivors are the widow; sons: Jerry L. and James H., Ulysses; Tom R., Cholula, Mexico; Dr. W. R., Stafford, Arizona; Michael P., Syracuse; daughters: Mrs. Mary Florence George, San Bernardino, California; Peggy Sullivan, Ulysses; 24 grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

The Funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the church; Rev. Ronald Renner. The rosary will be in Ulysses Cemetery. Friends may call from noon to 9 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home.