

Francis Michael Sullivan

Foreword

This short biography of our father, Francis Michael Sullivan, is meant to honor him and to give him the credit he deserves for his contributions in making the Veterans' Readjustment Act of 1944—commonly referred to as the G.I. Bill of Rights—a reality.

There are significant gaps in the narrative. For instance, we know little if anything about him as a young newspaper man in Massachusetts and Connecticut, but it was in Waterbury, Connecticut where, as a court reporter, his writing skills impressed Congressman James Glynn who hired him in 1924. Our father came that year to Washington, D.C., and worked as an aide for Congressman Glynn and his successor, Thomas Goss, until 1935. Between 1935 and 1940, we know only that he was an attorney presenting appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia and the Federal Communications Commission, but the cases and the details of his work during that period have been lost over time.

What is not lost, however, is the memory of our father as a man of grace and endurance, especially during his last years, a man of faith throughout his entire life, and a talented writer whose skills were needed at one, pivotal point in time—between 1943 and 1944—in support of America's veterans.

Francis Michael Sullivan was a gentleman, first and foremost, whom people found charming and likable. He was deeply spiritual and practiced his faith in spite of crippling disabilities late in life. He was elegant, but he never felt or acted superior to anyone, and he was far too generous to demand the credit he rightly deserved for his greatest accomplishment—drafting and advocating the G.I. Bill of Rights.

Many have made this narrative possible. (Please see "Acknowledgements.") This short biography cannot do justice to our father's life, but it is our hope that what follows will shed light on a life of honor and grace.

Acknowledgements

Many people helped us as we did research on our father's life, and very little of this narrative would be possible without their help. Listed alphabetically are those whom we thank for their time, skills, and encouragement.

Fran Anderson, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in North Chelmsford for the Baptismal records of the Sullivans.

David Christiana, the Town of Westford's Fire Department, for vital records, records search, and local history.

Helena "Mickey" Crocker, friend and life-long Forge Village resident. (See the description that follows this list.)

Patty Dubey, the Town of Westford's Clerk's Office, for obtaining vital records. Ms. Dubey got us started in our research and put us on the right track and in touch with Westford's most knowledgeable people.

Father Eamon Dignan of St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, Maryland, for clarification and advice on all matters "Irish."

Penny Lacroix, Museum Director, the Westford Museum, for priceless pictures of our father while he was attending the Westford Academy.

Nora Newhard, Acting Director, the Westford Museum, for devoting time on our behalf and for making the resources of the Westford Museum available to us during our visit to the Museum in August 2010.

Bob Oliphant, Westford resident and historian. (See the description that follows this list.)

Marguerite Sabatino, friend and genealogist, who resides with her family in Westford. (See the description that follows this list.)

Stuart Schept, the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, for his diligent search of records for the Columbus School of Law prior to 1954.

Howard Trace, Historian, the American Legion Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, for identifying reference materials on the American Legion and the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

Ben Walsh, George Washington University Registrar's Office, for his diligence and persistence in finding records on our father's attendance at and graduation from the George Washington Law School.

Sister Mary Frances Wynn and the other members of the Benedictine community at St. Scholastica Priory in Petersham, Massachusetts, for giving us a safe haven during our visit to Massachusetts from August 2-5, 2010.

Sister Donna Zielenska of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate for obtaining records of our grandmother Nora Sullivan while she was under their care at the Sacred Heart Home in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Staff of St. Catherine of Alexandria Cemetery for researching records of our grandfather's interment.

Our Gratitude

We owe a special thanks to Helena “Mickey” Crocker, Marguerite Sabatino, Bob Oliphant, Penny Lacroix, and Nora Newhard. Without their help, very little of the early portion of our father’s biography would have been possible.

“Mickey,” friend and life-long resident of Forge Village, shared with us her fondest memories of living there, of John Sullivan, our grandfather, and of the Sullivans’ Pond Street home. Her evident love of Forge Village and its people, of St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church, and of the Abbot Worsted Company brought to life the place where our father was born and raised.

Marguerite Sabatino, friend and genealogist, was extraordinary. She took the initiative and devoted *countless* hours of her own time to research the background of our family. Her investigation of public records on our behalf, her detailed knowledge of Westford’s history and of St. Catherine’s Cemetery, and her professional insights enabled us to offer with complete confidence the details about the Sullivan family and our father’s early life.

Bob Oliphant spent numerous hours performing research in the Westford Museum for us. He also took time from his scheduled vacation to guide us on a tour of Westford, Forge Village, and Graniteville. His detailed knowledge of the history of Westford is remarkable and was most helpful in assembling this biography.

Ms. Penny Lacroix, Director of the Westford Museum, Nora Newhard, and the Museum’s staff accessed and made available to us the Museum’s extensive collection of records, documents, and photographs during our visit in August 2010.

We are truly indebted to them all for their kindness and generosity.

Anne Hillyard
Dan Sullivan



FRANCIS MICHAEL SULLIVAN
December 18, 1897—January 24, 1954

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I

The Arrival and Early Days

Our father was the son of Irish immigrants so we begin his story with his parents' journey to America.

On June 28, 1895, John Sullivan, his wife Nora, and a number of his in-laws boarded the *S/S Gallia*, a passenger ship of the Cunard Company, and sailed to America from the southern coast of Cork at Cobh. The Sullivans reached Boston on July 5.

From the ship's manifest, we learn a number of things about John. He was 24 years old, married, a laborer, and in good health. His last residence in Ireland was in County Kerry, probably Killalan near Tralee, although we cannot rule out Kilorglin. (Thomas Hewiston, Master of the *Gallia*, who recorded John's information spelled "Keelalan" which was the phonetic spelling of how John pronounced his home in Kerry.) John could neither read nor write at the time, but once in America he would learn both skills at night. John paid for his own fare, had eight dollars in his pocket and a clear destination in mind: Forge Village, Massachusetts, in the Town of Westford in Middlesex County where he, his wife, and his in-laws would "join" his sister-in-law, Nellie Sullivan.

With John was his wife Nora who was 25 years old and expecting their first child. With Nora were Ellen (O'Brien) Sullivan, Nora's widowed mother, 48 years old, and Nora's brothers, Patrick (22), Michael (20), and Daniel (18) as well as her younger sister Katie (16), also known as "Cate." A cousin Michael Sullivan, also 20, completed Nora's side of the family making that voyage.

Ellen identified herself as "a matron." Nora and Katie said they were "servants," most likely maids or cooks. The men, like our grandfather John, said they were laborers, and all of them, save cousin Michael, were headed to Forge Village where they would also join Nellie Sullivan who had paid their fares. All of Nora's family, like John, claimed that their last residence in Ireland was "Keelalan" as written on the manifest. (We were unable to find "Keelalan" on any map or directory for County Kerry.)

The Sullivans arrived in Boston on July 5, 1895, and headed to Forge Village. It was there that John and Nora would settle and start their family. We learn from the birth record of their first child, Dan, born on November 14, 1895, that John had found work as a mill hand, undoubtedly at the Abbot Worsted Mill, the Town's major employer.

A little more than two years later, our father was born at home in the early hours of December 18, 1897. The Town of Westford's birth registry identified our father, at first, as "Mike Sullivan." Later, "Mike Sullivan" would be lined through and replaced neatly by hand with "Francis Michael Sullivan." When and why Westford's Town Clerk, Gilman J. Wright, made that change is unclear. The footnote to

the official record indicates that the authority for the change was “Deposition 13.” Time has scattered that record as well as several others that might have given us a clearer picture of our father’s early days.

The day after our father was born, the Reverend James J. Shaw of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church travelled roughly eight miles from North Chelmsford to Forge Village to baptize the infant at home. In attendance at our father’s Baptism, besides John and Nora, were our father’s godparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Sullivan, and more than likely the McDonalds (Nora’s older sister Nellie and Nora’s brother-in-law Joseph.) Other members of Nora’s family who had also emigrated from Ireland in 1895 were likely there as well. Our father was baptized with the name “Michael,” most likely after his grandfather, Patrick *Michael* Sullivan, Nora’s deceased father. Home baptisms were not uncommon given the severity of New England winters, the walking distance to the nearest church, and the health risks for infants at the time. In fact, at least one of today’s residents of Westford was herself baptized at home in nearby Lowell as late as 1942.

When our father was born, John, Nora, and their growing family, may have been living with Nora’s sister, Ellen “Nellie” McDonald (nee Sullivan), and her husband, Joseph, although there are no records to support that assumption. By about 1900, however, John and Nora and their three sons—Dan, our father, and John—had moved into 7 Pond Street in Forge Village. It was a two-story, clapboard home, one of the more than five hundred housing units —modest, decent, and affordable housing that the Abbot Worsted Company built for and rented to its workers. John and Nora would live there until the house was destroyed by fire on January 25, 1943. Below is a recent photograph of a home in Forge Village, which, according to Helena “Mickey” Crocker, a friend and life-long resident of Forge Village, resembles the Sullivans’ home on Pond Street.



Within two years after their arrival in Forge Village, our grandfather John had changed jobs at Abbot, from a “mill hand” to a “fireman,” which our father’s birth record lists as John’s occupation. Three years later, during his interview for the 1900 U.S. Census, John was again listed as a “fireman.” Because of those record entries, we had assumed early in our research that John was a “firefighter.” David Christiana of the Town of Westford’s Fire Department, who found no record of John Sullivan’s employment with the Department, however, explained that the term “fireman” at the time meant not only “firefighter” but also one who stoked the fires and tended the boilers at the mills in that part of Middlesex County. That explanation clarifies what we found on the 1900 Census report for Forge Village: the entry for the John Sullivans describes John’s occupation as a “fireman (stationary)” at a “factory.”

As the name suggests, “Pond Street” fronted one of the ponds—the largest in fact—in the area. It’s not surprising then that some of the residents at that time called Forge Pond, “the lake.” The photographs below were taken on August 3, 2010, from the back of what was once the Sullivans’ property. What is left is only the paved-over footprint of the house. Forge Pond was literally in the Sullivans’ backyard, and in at least one article of *The Westford Wardsman*, the area behind 7 Pond Street was referred to as “Sullivan’s shore.” The views below are what my father saw every day as he was growing up.



View from the back of the Sullivans’ Pond Street home.



Just a few steps from the backdoor of the Sullivans' brought you to a small boat launch where John Sullivan would rent the rowboats he made and repaired in his sanctuary, a small outbuilding at the back of the property. (As a boy, John had acquired the skill of boat-making in County Kerry.) Helena "Mickey" Crocker remembers renting boats from our grandfather at fifteen cents an hour, and she tells us he would turn a blind eye whenever "Mickey," and most likely everyone else, returned his boats a bit after the appointed time. (We suspect, however, that she was one of his favorites being the daughter of Thomas McKiff, close friend and one of the wool-sorters with whom John worked at Abbot from about 1920 until he retired.)

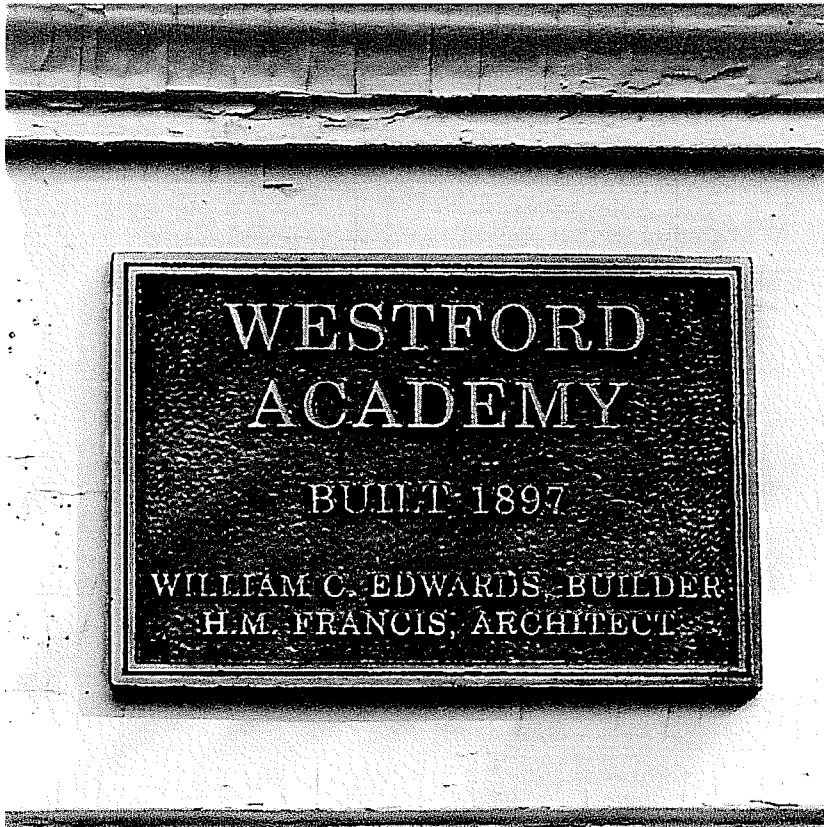
Water, then, played an important role in our father's life from an early age. It was on a frozen Forge Pond where he learned to skate and play hockey. It was in Forge Pond where he learned to swim. And this is how our father told us he learned.

When our father was about four years old, John rowed our father and his older brother Dan, then six at the time, out onto "the lake" and chucked both boys into the water. It was literally sink or swim for the Sullivan boys. Thankfully, for all of us, our father swam.

II

Cameron School and the Westford Academy

Our father started school in the fall of 1904 at the Cameron School in Westford. From Cameron, he went on to study at the Westford Academy beginning in the fall of 1912.



He graduated from the English-Business Course at the Academy in June 1916. During his high school days, he mastered typewriting, "sight" (or what actors call "cold" reading), composition and rhetoric, business math, and stenography. All of these skills would serve him well in his professional life, first as a secretary in Boston, then as a court reporter in Connecticut, later as a staff member on Capitol Hill, an attorney, and, most significantly, a writer. And while probably public speaking was a required subject for him, our father confessed that he was always uneasy speaking in public.

One can only imagine then what he must have felt on the morning of June 21, 1916, awaiting his presentation of the Westford Academy's "Class Will" to the gathering at Westford's Town Hall where the graduation ceremony was being held. His uneasiness about public speaking is ironic given his stature, looks, impeccable grooming, and command of the language. *If he could have only seen himself...* That uneasiness is even more ironic in the light of the careers and accomplishments of his grandchildren. Among them are a professional actor, an inspiring homilist, a national convention facilitator and presenter, a school principal, and two teachers. He would indeed be proud.

On the following two pages are a copy of the program for our father's graduation ceremony in 1916 and a copy of the list of graduates that year from the Westford Academy. Both are taken from the Town of Westford's Annual Report for 1916.

GRADUATION EXERCISES OF WESTFORD ACADEMY

AT THE TOWN HALL,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1916, AT 10 O'CLOCK, A. M.

PROGRAMME.

PART ONE

March with Overture

ORCHESTRA

Class History

ARTEMAS GAGE GRIFFIN

Song of Illyrian Peasants

SCHOOL

Schnecker

Class Will

FRANCIS MITCHELL SULLIVAN

Class Prophecy

LEO JAMES CONNELL

Little Boy Blue

SCHOOL

Brackett

GRADUATES

ACADEMIC COURSE

FREDERICK SULLIVAN HEALY JOHN JOSEPH PROVOST

ENGLISH-BUSINESS COURSE

ETHELE AMY BURLAND

ARTEMAS GAGE GRIFFIN

LEO JAMES CONNELL

FRANCIS MITCHELL SULLIVAN

Class Motto—"Animo et Fide"

Class Colors—Green and Gold

Class Flower—Lily of the Valley

WINNERS OF PRIZES GIVEN BY THE ACADEMY TRUSTEES FOR YEAR 1915-1916

Public Speaking

LEO JAMES CONNELL, Five Dollars

FRANCES ELIZABETH WRIGHT, Five Dollars

Essay

ELVA TRIPHENA JUDD, Five Dollars

Stenography

ETHELE AMY BURLAND, Two Dollars and a Half

Typewriting

JOHN JOSEPH PROVOST, Two Dollars and a Half

Sight Reading

HELEN SARAH BERRY, Two Dollars and a Half

Oral Theme

CLAIRE BEATRICE PAYNE, Two Dollars and a Half

III

Stint in the Navy

On June 13, 1918, our father applied for enlistment in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force. At that time, he was twenty years old and a “correspondence clerk,” working for the City of Lowell, most likely for Edward Fisher, the City’s Food Administrator, who appears as a reference on our father’s application to the Navy. Our father’s enlistment paper identifies “John Albert Sullivan” of Forge Village as his next of kin, and “Nora Annabel Sullivan” as insurance beneficiary in case of his death. On a later beneficiary form, he would identify his mother as “Nora Frances Sullivan.” (See “WHAT’S in a NAME?” for the curious inconsistency of names within our father’s birth family.) That same day, our father returned home to await orders. This is what *The Turner Public Spirit’s* “Forge Village Column” said about his enlistment:

Francis Sullivan,... a graduate of Westford Academy,
class of 1916, left for Boston on Tuesday, June 25, 1918,
where he passed all examinations for the Navy.

From there, he spent seven weeks in training at the U.S. Navy Training Center at Hingham, Massachusetts and on a training ship in Boston Harbor. From August 5 to August 26, 1918, he took small arms training at the U.S. Rifle Range at Wakefield, Massachusetts. From there, he was assigned as a clerk at Section Headquarters of the First Naval District in Bar Harbor, Maine, from August 26, 1918 to December 6, 1918, where he was working when he was separated honorably from active duty.

He began his brief stint in the U.S. Navy at the rank of Sea2c (Seaman Second Class.) He left at the same rank. The reason for his separation and the separation of many others from active duty at the time was a reduction in funding by Congress for the Naval Reserve Force. It was after the Armistice, and while fighting on a few fronts would continue, most of the American armed forces were to be sent home. Our father’s “disenrollment orders” say, “owing to the Congress having reduced appropriations for the present fiscal year...the Department (of the Navy) finds it necessary to institute immediately a drastic reduction of the Naval Reserve Force.”

After he had honored his four-year commitment to the Naval Reserve Force, he received his honorable discharge papers. Before then, however, in August 1920, our father petitioned to be returned to active duty. This is the text of his correspondence to the District Detail Office in Boston, Massachusetts:

“SUBJECT: Cruise of the U.S.S. St. Louis and Destroyers to Mediterranean Ports.

1. I am employed in a civilian capacity as a private secretary. I am interested in the Cruise of the U.S.S. St. Louis. My rating in the Naval Reserve is Seaman Second Class. Is it possible for me to take an examination for the grade of Yeoman, while I am still on the inactive list, with the view of ‘signing up’ for the Cruise on the U.S.S. St. Louis?
2. My address on your records shows Forge Village, Mass., but I would like to have the reply to this letter sent to 78 Pinckney Street, Boston, Mass.”

The reply from the First Naval District dated August 21, 1920, denied our father’s request to be promoted and to see the world.

What is informative about the correspondence is that by August 1920, our father was working in Boston. Sometime within the next four years, he would get experience as a reporter in the Boston area and eventually move to Waterbury, Connecticut to work as a court reporter for a newspaper there. It was there that he met Representative James P. Glynn of Connecticut who hired our father in 1924 to be a member of the Congressman’s staff in Washington.

IV

The Law and Lawmaking

Our father's profession from the time he arrived in Washington, D.C. in 1924 until he died in 1954 was lawmaking. He worked for Congressman James P. Glynn and later Congressman Edward W. Goss, both lawyers and lawmakers, who would help shape our father's career, a career that would culminate in his drafting of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, or the G.I. Bill of Rights. That was the crowning achievement of his 28 years of service in Washington.

Once established in Washington, D.C., our father enrolled in the George Washington (G.W.) University School of Law (at the time it was known as "the National University Law School") and started taking courses at night in the spring of 1926. He earned his LLB degree (a Bachelor of Laws degree) from G.W. Law School on June 13, 1929. From there, he was admitted to present cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia on October 19, 1929.

In order to be admitted to present cases before that Court, he had to have had "at least three years under the direction of a competent attorney, provided that study in an approved law school, to the extent thereof, be computed as a part thereof." (That quote is taken from A. M. Hendrickson's "Admission to the Bar," *American Law School Review*, 797.) Our father went far beyond that minimum requirement by working for a number of years for Congressmen Glynn and Goss—both attorneys—and by virtue of the law degree that he earned in 1929. The one who "moved" or recommended our father to the U.S. Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia was G.B. Springston, also an alumnus of George Washington University.

From 1935 until he joined the American Legion on their legislative staff in about 1940, our father presented appeals before the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. The exact date when he joined the American Legion is uncertain. The American Legion, for privacy protection, would not release any of our father's personnel information, for example, when he was hired, etc., or the exact date when he left to start working for the Disabled American Veterans in 1947.

V

The Francis M. Sullivans

After moving to Washington D.C., our father met Katherine Anne Schrider of the Takoma Park section of Washington D.C. It was on St. Valentine's Day in 1927, and even in the years following his death, almost thirty years later, our mother kept the day special. That our father was so readily accepted by the Schrider family is a testament to his grace, courtesy, and genuine Catholic faith, a faith he shared with our mother and the rest of the Schrider family. The Schriders were sociable and friendly, but our mother was, after all, the only daughter of Benjamin Schrider, the last commercial blacksmith in Washington, D.C. , and her eight brothers were understandably more than a little protective of her. So acceptance of a suitor by her family was not automatic.

On June 9, 1928, our parents were married in Annapolis, Maryland, at St. Mary's Catholic Church; Father James J. Lynch of the Redemptorist Order presided. They spent their honeymoon in Atlantic City, New Jersey. When the couple returned from Atlantic City, they lived for at least the first year of their married life with the Schriders at 6918 6th Street, in Takoma Park. Our father continued to work on Capitol Hill while attending classes at night. A year later, in June 1929, he earned his LLB degree, five months before the birth of their first child.

Here is a list of the five children born to Francis Michael and Katherine Anne Sullivan:

Katherine Anne (b. 1929)
Frances Marie (b. 1934 and died in infancy)
Francis Michael (b. 1936 and d. 2003)
Richard Leo (b. 1939 and d. 2008), and
Daniel Joseph (b. 1942)

Here are the grandchildren of Francis and Katherine Sullivan:

Born to Katherine Anne (Sullivan) and John Hillyard:

Stephen Francis Hillyard,
Robert Brian Hillyard,
Matthew Joseph Hillyard,
Kathleen Anne (Hillyard) Aschmann, and
Mary Patricia (Hillyard) Rakowski

Born to Francis Michael Sullivan and Maureen (Hogan) Sullivan:

Colleen Patricia (Sullivan) Bushby,
Catherine Anne (Sullivan) Johnson,
Eileen Lorraine (Sullivan) Nelson, and
Mary Elizabeth (Sullivan) Westerhold

Born to Richard Leo Sullivan and Sheila Ann (Gallagher) Sullivan:

Kevin Michael Sullivan,
Brian Joseph Sullivan, and
Timothy Patrick Sullivan

Born to Daniel Joseph Sullivan and Linda Joan (Birch) Sullivan:

Laura Eileen (Sullivan) Friel and
Mark Jude Sullivan

Here are the great grandchildren of Francis and Katherine Sullivan:

Born to Kathleen (Hillyard) and Frank Aschmann: Benjamin and Alfred

Born to Mary Patricia (Hillyard) and Thomas Rakowski: Emma

Born to Colleen (Sullivan) and Wilke Bushby: Brayton, Garrett, Pierce, and Keely

Born to Catherine (Sullivan) and Eric Johnson: Paige and Mackenzie

Born to Eileen (Sullivan) and Eric Nelson: Blair and Blake

Born to Mary Elizabeth (Sullivan) and William Westerhold: Tyler, Kaitlyn, Madelyn, and
Ella

Born to Kevin and Brigit (Shea) Sullivan: Conor

Born to Brian and Kerrie (Gemme) Sullivan: Margaret, Emily, and Elizabeth

Born to Timothy and Margaret (O'Mara) Sullivan: Elizabeth, Caroline, and Katherine

Born to Laura (Sullivan) and Kevin Friel: Kyleigh, Erika, and Gavin

VI

1943-1944

1943 was perhaps the most stressful yet most productive year of our father's life. On January 25, 1943, fire destroyed 7 Pond Street—the home that he and our mother had bought the year before from the Abbot Worsted Company for John and Nora. By then, John was bed-ridden. The climb to the second floor was beyond him so he slept on a daybed in the kitchen where the fire ignited. John died of second- and third-degree burns but not before Nora had summoned Charles Lamy, their next door neighbor, to call the Westford Fire Department. She then reentered the house in a vain attempt to save John. She was overcome by smoke and badly burned about the face and arms for her efforts. This is how *The Lowell Sun and Citizen Leader* in a January 26, 1943 article titled "Aged Man Fire Victim" reported the incident:

It was shortly before 10 o'clock that the fire broke out and Mrs. Sullivan rushed to the home of Charles Lamy, a next door neighbor, to sound the alarm. He notified the Westford and Forge Village fire companies and then discovered that the aged woman had gone back into the home, which, by then, had filled with smoke. After a search of the premises, he found the woman in the living room and took her to safety. His efforts and those of firefighters to reach Mr. Sullivan were blocked by a sheet of flame and it was not until the fire had been extinguished that the body could be removed.

Our father boarded a train that day in Washington, D.C. for Massachusetts. Upon arrival in Westford, he made arrangements for his father's funeral and burial and provided information to the Medical Examiner for the certificate of death. The stress was obvious from the details our father gave about John. Our father identified his own father as "John Francis Sullivan" and that he was 76 at the time of his death. We know that on his enlistment papers for the Naval Reserve Force our father had identified his father as "John Albert Sullivan." (That latter name, or "John A. Sullivan," would be found on a number of other documents, especially the birth records of his children.) Also, if the manifest of the *Gallia* can be trusted, when the Sullivans emigrated from Ireland in 1895, John was 24 years old. That would mean that John was 72 the year he died rather than 76 as our father said.

A Requiem Mass for John Sullivan was said at 9 a.m. on January 27, 1943, at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Westford. These were the pall-bearers, the wool-sorters, the men with whom John had worked for years at the Abbot Company: Thomas McKiff, John Daly, Marighan Socha, Raymond Canterra, John Kelly, and William Smith. John was buried that day at St. Catherine's Cemetery in Graniteville.

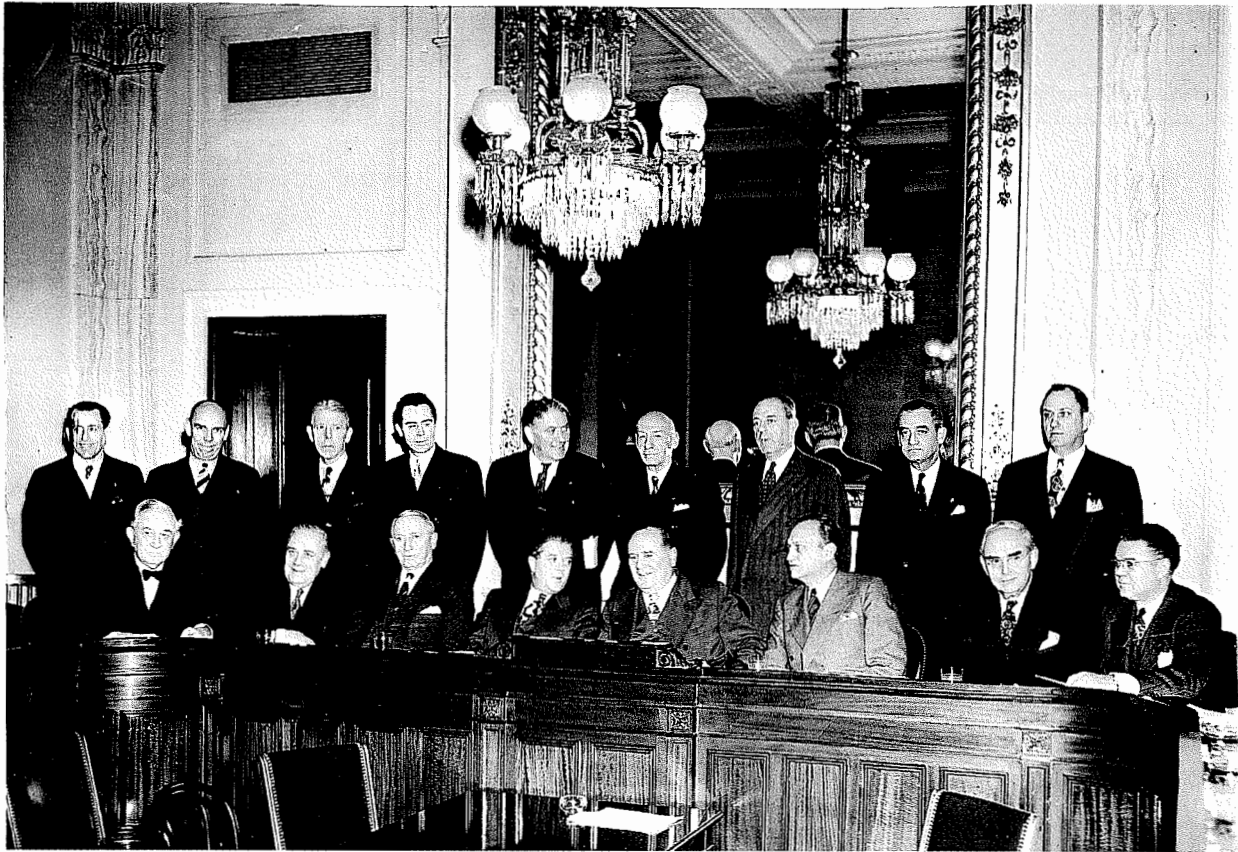
Our father made arrangements while he was in Westford for his mother Nora to come live with us in Silver Spring, Maryland. After the funeral, she returned with our parents. Suddenly, our place on Sligo Avenue was home to—not only our parents, but the four of us, an invalid uncle, and our grandmother, still scarred from the loss of her husband and from the effort to save her husband of nearly 48 years. Our grandmother, Nora, lived with us from 1943 until November 11, 1947, when she was placed under the care of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate at the Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Hyattsville, Maryland. Nora stayed under their care until her death on April 9, 1950.

The first few months of 1943 were also the period when our father, in his capacity as Acting Legislative Director for the American Legion, drafted individual pieces of legislation to address the most pressing needs of returning disabled veterans from World War II. This is how R.B. Pitkin in “How the First GI Bill Was Written,” *The American Legion Magazine* (January 1969) describes the efforts of our father who had written individual pieces of legislation before he finally drafted the omnibus bill in the fall of 1943:

Sullivan had had to proceed to introduce bills to Congress. Thus the Omaha Convention’s mandate (i.e., a mandate from the American Legion at its annual convention) that the Legion seek college aid for all WW2 servicemen had already been put in as a separate bill.

The urgency of his work for veterans, the death of his father, the destruction of the house he grew up in, and the sudden expansion of his family all took its toll on our father. In April 1943, he suffered the first in a series of heart attacks that would recur over the next ten years. Bed rest was the prescribed treatment at that time for recovery from heart attacks, a prescription he reluctantly followed. By June, he was back on the job at the American Legion as its Acting Legislative Director. Calls for one piece of comprehensive legislation to address *all* of the returning veterans’ needs were gathering momentum, and the final drafting of such a product would fall on our father. Earlier in his career, he had gained the experience of drafting legislation while working for Congressmen Glynn and Goss. It had also been his job for several years to draft the individual pieces of legislation that the American Legion sponsored and pressed for legislative action.

By January 1944, just a year after he had lost his father, our father’s work on the omnibus veterans legislation would be validated. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 would be passed by both chambers of Congress. It would be sent to a joint House-Senate Conference Committee for further action and eventually signed into law on June 22, 1944, by President Roosevelt.



March, 1944. The G.I. Bill had passed both chambers of Congress, and, after minor adjustments, it was sent to the White House for signature. President Roosevelt signed the Bill into law in the summer of that year. This photo is of our father with the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and several other executives of the American Legion. He is the fourth from the left in the back row. The others in the photograph beginning with the FRONT ROW moving from left to right are: Senator Tom Connally, Texas; Senator Alexander Wiley, Wisconsin; Senator Walter George, Georgia; Senator Robert LaFollette, Wisconsin; Senator Bennett Clark, Missouri; Senator Scott Lucas, Illinois; Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Michigan; Senator Wayland Brooks, Illinois. BACK ROW: Unknown, Senator Brewster, Maine; James Ringley, Illinois; F. M. Sullivan (our father); John Steele, American Legion and former Governor of Illinois; General Frank Hines; National Commander Warren Atherton, the American Legion; "Bob" Sisson, Arkansas; Omar Ketchum, the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

VII

1944-1954

The last ten years of our father's life were marked by contrasts: professional success and failing health.

Prior to the passage of the G.I. Bill of Rights, he had become a familiar figure in the halls of Congress helping to secure enough votes for the Bill's passage in January 1944. His skill in drafting legislation and his knowledge of the workings of Congress, while not celebrated, were givens while he was the Acting Legislative Director at the American Legion. In 1947, he left the Legion to accept an offer by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to become its Legislative Director, a position he held until his death in 1954.

But it was also during this period of professional success and validation that his health buckled. He suffered two more major heart attacks and a crippling stroke that paralyzed his left side and all but robbed him of his speech. In the winter of 1952, an infection in his paralyzed left leg went undetected and became so dangerous that his leg had to be amputated. For the last year of his life, our father was confined to a wheel chair. In spite of this, he attended Mass every Sunday and reported for work at the DAV every day until his final illness in December 1953. Our father died at Doctors' Hospital in Washington D.C. at 10:50 p.m. on January 24, 1954.

What drove him in the last year? No doubt, it was the example of his father John who had labored for more than forty years at the Abbot Mill in Forge Village to provide for the Sullivan family. The example of his mother who in her 70s tried in vain to save her husband from their burning home on Pond Street must have played a part as well. Perhaps it was also the memory of his brother Dan who had been in the trenches on the Western Front in World War I, or the disabled veterans for whom he had fought before the passage of the G.I. Bill of Rights. Whatever the motivations, he set a humbling example for all of us.

It is our faith that assures us that on the night he died, he rejoined John and Nora Sullivan and all the other Sullivans from "Keelalan" in County Kerry, Ireland, who had arrived before him.

VIII

Success Has Many Fathers

Look at any number of current sources—print and on-line—regarding the authorship of the G.I. Bill of Rights and several names recur: Harry W. Colmery of Kansas, Warren Atherton of California, John Steele of Illinois, Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers (R-Massachusetts), and U.S. Senator Ernest W. McFarland (D-Arizona). In addition to what most readily available sources have said about the Bill's authorship, the Luther B. Easley Post No. 128 of the American Legion in Salem, Illinois claims that the Bill was born in Salem and drafted by no fewer than eight of its members in 1943. *The American Legion Magazine* in Part III of its Anniversary Feature, "How the First G.I. Bill Was Written," pictures another eight men identified in the article as members of the "original team that drafted the first of the GI Bills 25 years ago."

Most often, however, Harry Colmery, is cited as "drafting" the bill. This is how *Wikipedia* describes his contribution: "Harry W. Colmery, a World War I veteran and the former RNC chairman, wrote the first draft of the G.I. Bill. He reportedly jotted down his ideas on stationery and a napkin at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC" in the autumn of 1943. The story makes for good legend but poor history. Harry Colmery was without question a fearless advocate for the Bill's passage, a formidable man who often gave full-throated support of veterans' needs in the face of opposition, but jotting down ideas on napkins and stationery is the work of inspiration. It's the way frameworks and outlines are created, not the way public policy writing is really done; nonetheless, this is how the *Wikipedia* entry on the Bill concludes the matter:

U.S. Senator Ernest McFarland was actively involved in the bill's passage and is known, with Warren Atherton, as one of the 'fathers of the G.I. Bill.' One might then term Edith Nourse Rogers, R-Mass., who helped write and who co-sponsored the legislation as the 'mother of the G.I. Bill.' Like Colmery, her contribution to writing and passing this legislation has been obscured by time.

Hers was not the only contribution obscured by time.

Along those lines, the published account farthest removed from the actual drafting and passage of the Bill is Thomas A. Rumer's *The American Legion: An Official History 1919-1989*. Rumer's book identifies our father as the Acting Legislative Director for the American Legion, but is silent about his specific contributions toward making the G.I. Bill of Rights a reality.

Closer in time to the passage of the Bill is R.B. Pitkin's three-part article "How the First GI Bill Was Written," *The American Legion Magazine* (January 1969), marking the 25th anniversary of the passage of the G.I. Bill of Rights. The article mentions our father and his position as the Acting Legislative Director for the American Legion. As mentioned above, Pitkin also describes our father's role in drafting individual pieces of veterans' legislation. Pitkin, however, reserves credit for drafting the G.I. Bill itself to Harry Colmery.

The historical account closest in time to the actual signing of the bill into law, however, is Richard Seelye Jones's *A History of the American Legion*, published just two years after the Bill's passage. And this is how Jones, two years after the Bill was signed into law, recounts how it was drafted: John Steele of Illinois proposed that the American Legion draft "a single inclusive statute to govern the major assistance which the Federal Government should give to help re-establish the discharged service men (sic) in civil life. From Stelle's proposal grew the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, known as the G.I. Bill of Rights" (218). But while Stelle had proposed the legislation and Colmery and others had identified and outlined the needs in detail, our father was the one who actually drafted the complex and overarching bill. Jones continues in his 1946 account:

The plan for a single statute was approved by the Legion Executive Committee in November 1943. Within a few weeks **Francis Sullivan, the acting legislative director, had drafted a bill** (bolding added for emphasis) and Bennett Clark had introduced it in the Senate.... The whole force of the Legion was brought to bear, departments and posts and individuals urging action by Congress" (218).

Several factors support Seelye's account identifying our father as the one who pulled it all together and actually drafted the Bill. First, it was our father's job, as Acting Legislative Director at the American Legion, to draft legislation. As mentioned on the preceding page, for several years, he had been drafting individual pieces of legislation as stop-gap measures in response to returning veterans' immediate needs, such as the need for medical assistance for disabled veterans, housing assistance for homeless servicemen back from the front, financial aid for those no longer able to serve in World War II or to find work at home. The end-products of our father's work—the separate pieces of draft legislation—would then be sent by the American Legion for action by the Congressional Committees that oversaw veterans' affairs. So writing one comprehensive piece of legislation and pulling it all together in a short period of time would require one principal writer and Seelye's historical account above identifies our father as that person. Still, in the more recent and popular accounts, others, rather than our father, are credited, and there is no shortage of "authors."

Harry Colmery...Ernest McFarland... Warren Atherton... Edith Nourse Rogers...eight members of the Luther B. Easley Post No. 128 of the American Legion in Salem, Illinois...the eight surviving "authors" from the American Legion in Washington, D.C., pictured in Pitkin's article...how then can there be so many conflicting claims about who "drafted" the Bill? The answer lies in part in the nature of writing public policy (including legislation).

Our brother, the late Richard Sullivan, could tell us a thing or two about how public policy is defined and developed versus how public policy *documents* are actually written. While our father's writing was done in the Legislative Branch of government, Richard's was in the Executive Branch at the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, but the procedure for writing in each branch, as Richard explained to us, is virtually the same: many are involved in shaping the concepts of public policy or legislation, but it is the task of one writer who must organize and consolidate all those ideas, and even early drafts, into a final product. [Ironically, often those who have contributed ideas in the planning consider themselves to be the "author" of the final written product.] So while the impetus for legislation or public policy is the work of many hands, the final drafting of it is the work of one steady hand penning it all, and penning the G.I. Bill was the contribution of our father, a contribution that has been "obscured" over time. Our father never received the credit he truly deserved for drafting one of the most monumental pieces of social legislation in our history. Why?

The answer, in part, lies in our father's personality. He was never one to elbow his way to the front of any line or stride uninvited to center stage for anything he did. He never talked over or through anyone. He did his job for the people he admired—the returning veterans—without fist-pounding insistence that *he, Francis Michael Sullivan*, had done the writing for them. He was what we knew and what others saw in him: a gentleman—never timid, but never self-promoting. We now understand what he meant when he reminded us repeatedly: Never take credit for something you didn't do. He was speaking no doubt from what he had experienced from others in 1944 and beyond. He never wanted us to fall into the trap of exaggerating our own contributions while turning a blind eye to the work of others.

Those closest to the event knew all too well who had been the focal point for making sense of the many early drafts of the G.I. Bill of Rights and who was the author of the final version of this piece of landmark legislation. It is no accident, then, that our father is the one constant from the American Legion to be present at the signing into law of veterans' legislation and to attend the meetings of the Senate Committee that reported the Bill to Congress for passage.

IX

Significance of the G.I. Bill of Rights

Social historians agree that the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (i.e., the G.I. Bill of Rights) changed the face of America. As a result of this legislation, for the first time in America's short history, a college education was no longer the birthright exclusively of privileged Americans, many of whom could trace their families' roots to revolutionary or even pre-revolutionary times. Through government financial help, immigrants' children and grandchildren who had served in the military now had the opportunity to attend college. Social class and old money were no longer what made college enrollment possible. The playing field was becoming level, and the chance for a college education was within reach of millions more Americans because of their military service. This development was groundbreaking since a college diploma was among the most desirable credentials for employers in a competitive job market following World War II and beyond.

Ownership of property also came within the reach of millions of returning American service personnel who in previous generations had been excluded from the housing market. Except for the minority of Americans who would inherit property—most likely owned for generations by their families—millions of ordinary Americans simply had little chance of owning their own home. The G.I. Bill of Rights changed that. Young men and women who had served in the military now had the opportunity to buy their own homes. The Bill provided mortgage guarantees to lenders who would in turn approve veterans for mortgage loans with no down payment and at below-market interest rates. As a result, millions of veterans realized the dream of homeownership.

Finally, the legislation also addressed what had become a national disgrace: wounded service personnel were returning from the war to fend for themselves with little or no government assistance. Disabled servicemen and women were on their own, and their most pressing needs for medical, unemployment, disability, and pension assistance went unaddressed. The Bill corrected that and provided support through one government agency—at the time the Veterans Administration—which would later become the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following is a summary of the millions of American service personnel who have benefited from the G.I. Bill of Rights since it was signed into law in 1944. The summary is taken verbatim from the *VA History in Brief*, the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- **Since 1944**, when the first GI Bill began, more than **21.3 million veterans**, service members and family members have received \$72.8 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training. The number of GI Bill recipients includes **7.8 million veterans from World War II, 2.4 million from the Korean War and 8.2 million post-Korean and Vietnam era veterans**, plus active duty personnel. Since the dependents program was enacted in 1956, VA also has assisted in the education of more than **700,000 dependents of veterans whose deaths or total disabilities were service-connected**.
- **From 1944** — when VA began helping veterans purchase homes under the original GI Bill — through May 2006, VA issued more than **18 million VA home loan guarantees**, with a total value of \$892 billion. In fiscal year 2005 alone, VA guaranteed 165,854 loans valued at \$25 billion and, at the beginning of fiscal year 2006, had 2.3 million active home loans reflecting amortized loans totaling \$202.1 billion. VA's specially adapted housing programs helped about 587 disabled veterans with grants totaling more than \$26 million in 2005.



June 22, 1944. President Roosevelt signs into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the G.I. Bill of Rights. Our father is in the center of the back row with others who made the legislation a reality. Representative Edith Nourse Rogers (R) of Massachusetts, one of the Bill's sponsors on the House side, is in the foreground.



Undated photo. President Harry Truman signs an extension to veterans' legislation. Our father is at the far right. He was at this point more than likely the Legislative Director of the Disabled American Veterans, a position he would hold until his death in 1954.



May 6, 1953. President Dwight D. Eisenhower meets with the executives of the Disabled American Veterans. Our father is at the center of the photograph. This meeting was eight months before his death. During the last year of his life and, in spite of his handicap, he insisted on reporting for work every day as Director of Legislation, the Disabled American Veterans.



**Seventy-fourth Congress of the United States of America;
At the Second Session**

Begin and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the tenth
day of January, one thousand nine hundred and forty-four

AN ACT

To provide Federal Government aid for the readjustment in civilian
life of returning World War II veterans.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may
be cited as the "Veterans' Readjustment Act of 1944".

TITLE I

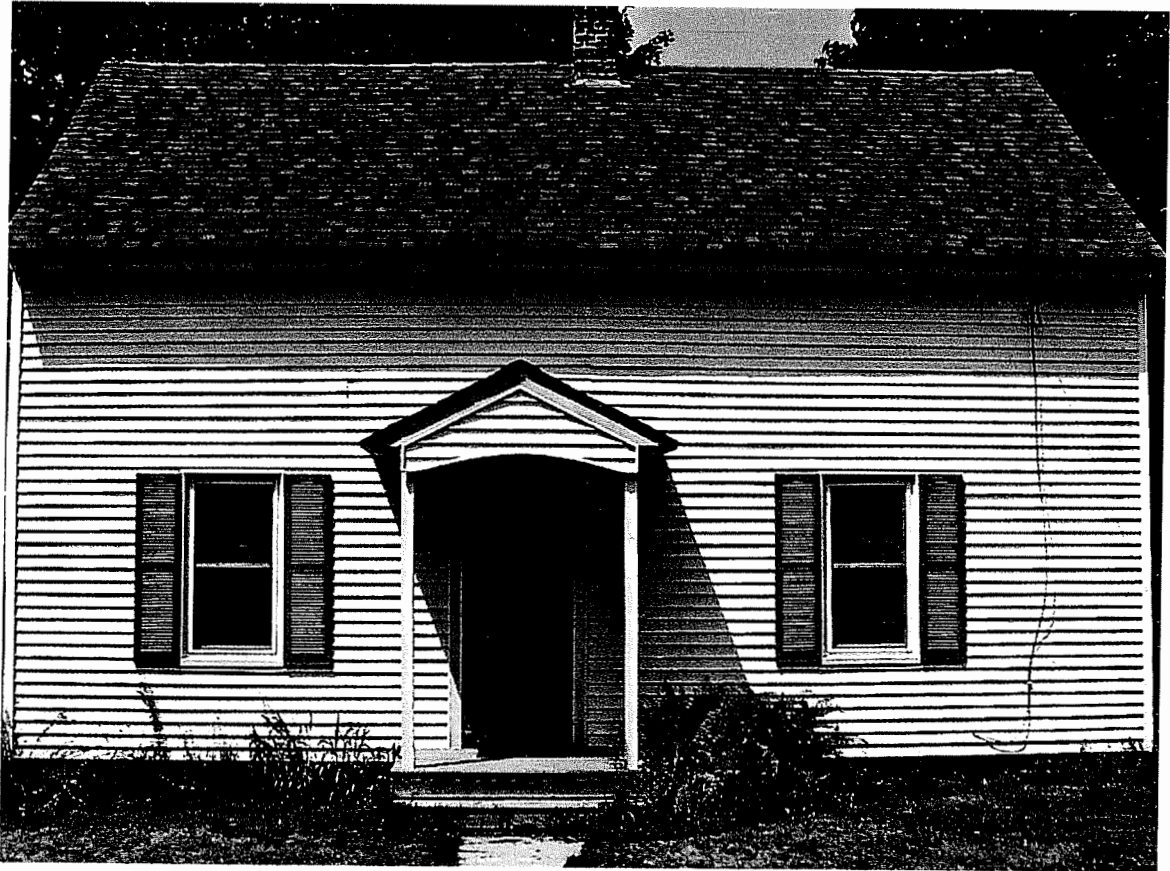
CHAPTER I—REORGANIZATION, COUNCIL, AND PROCEDURES

SEC. 100. The Veterans' Administration is hereby declared to be
an essential war agency and entitled, second only to the War and
Navy Departments, to priorities in personnel, equipment, supplies,
and material under any laws, Executive orders, and regulations per-
taining to priorities, and in appointments of personnel from civil-
service registers. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is hereby
granted the same authority and discretion as the War and Navy
Departments and the United States Public Health Service. *Provided,*
That the provisions of this section as to priorities for materials shall
apply to any State institution to be built for the care or hospitali-
zation of veterans.

SEC. 101. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and the Federal
Board of Hospitalization are hereby authorized and directed to
expedite and complete the construction of additional hospital facili-
ties for war veterans, and to enter into agreements and contracts
for the use by or transfer to the Veterans' Administration of suitable
Army and Navy hospitals after termination of hostilities in the
present war or after such institutions are no longer needed by the
armed services; and the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is hereby
authorized and directed to establish necessary regional offices, sub-
offices, branch offices, contract units, or other subordinate offices in
centers of population where there is no Veterans' Administration
facility, or where such a facility is not readily available or accessible.
Provided, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum
of \$20,000,000 for the construction of additional hospital facilities.

SEC. 102. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and the Secretary
of War and Secretary of the Navy are hereby granted authority to
enter into agreements and contracts for the mutual use or exchange

The first page of the original Veterans' Readjustment Act of 1944



A home in Forge Village, Massachusetts, which Helena "Mickey" Crocker identified as being similar in design to 7 Pond Street where our father grew up. The house at 7 Pond Street was destroyed by fire on January 25, 1943, a fire that took the life of our grandfather John Sullivan, but not before our grandmother Nora was badly burned trying to save her husband.



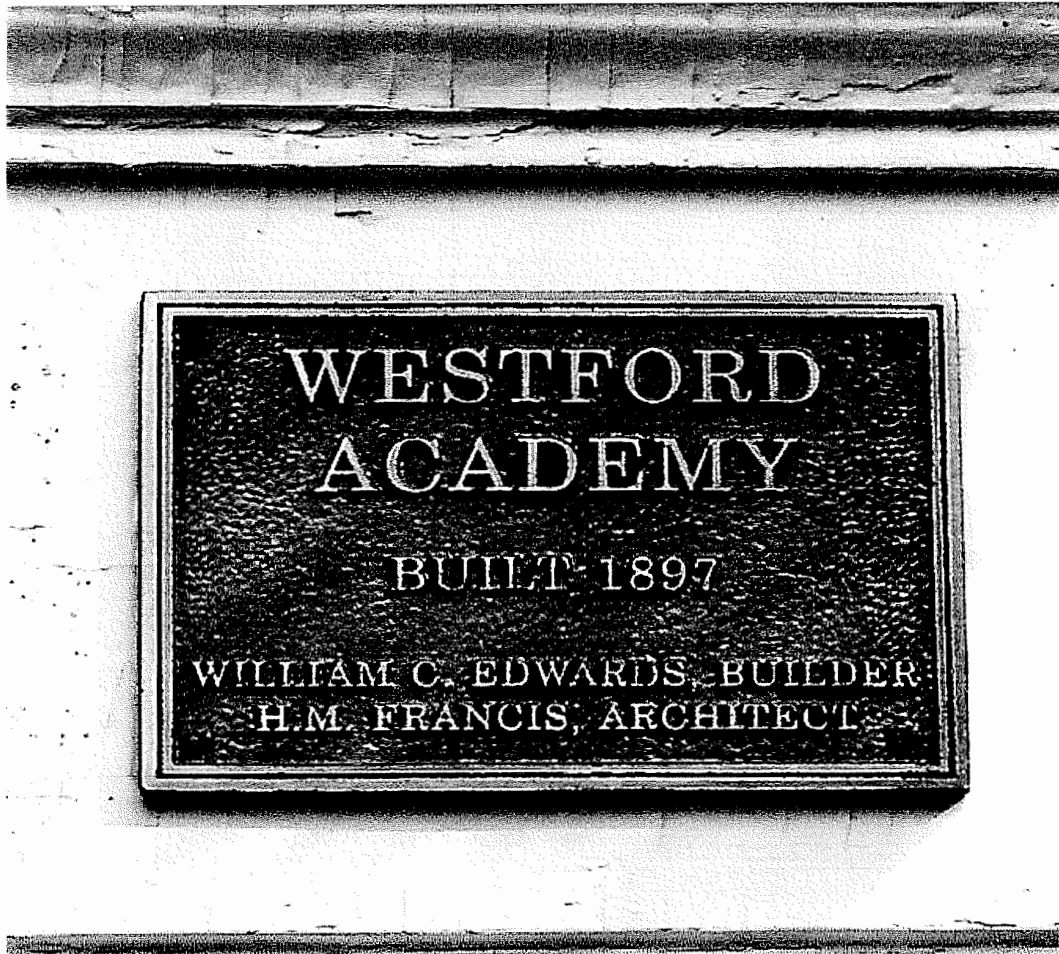
The present-day pier at the back of the property that was once 7 Pond Street in Forge Village. This is the view that the Sullivans would have seen every day. It was near this spot that the boats John Sullivan made and rented to the residents of Westford would push off into Forge Pond.



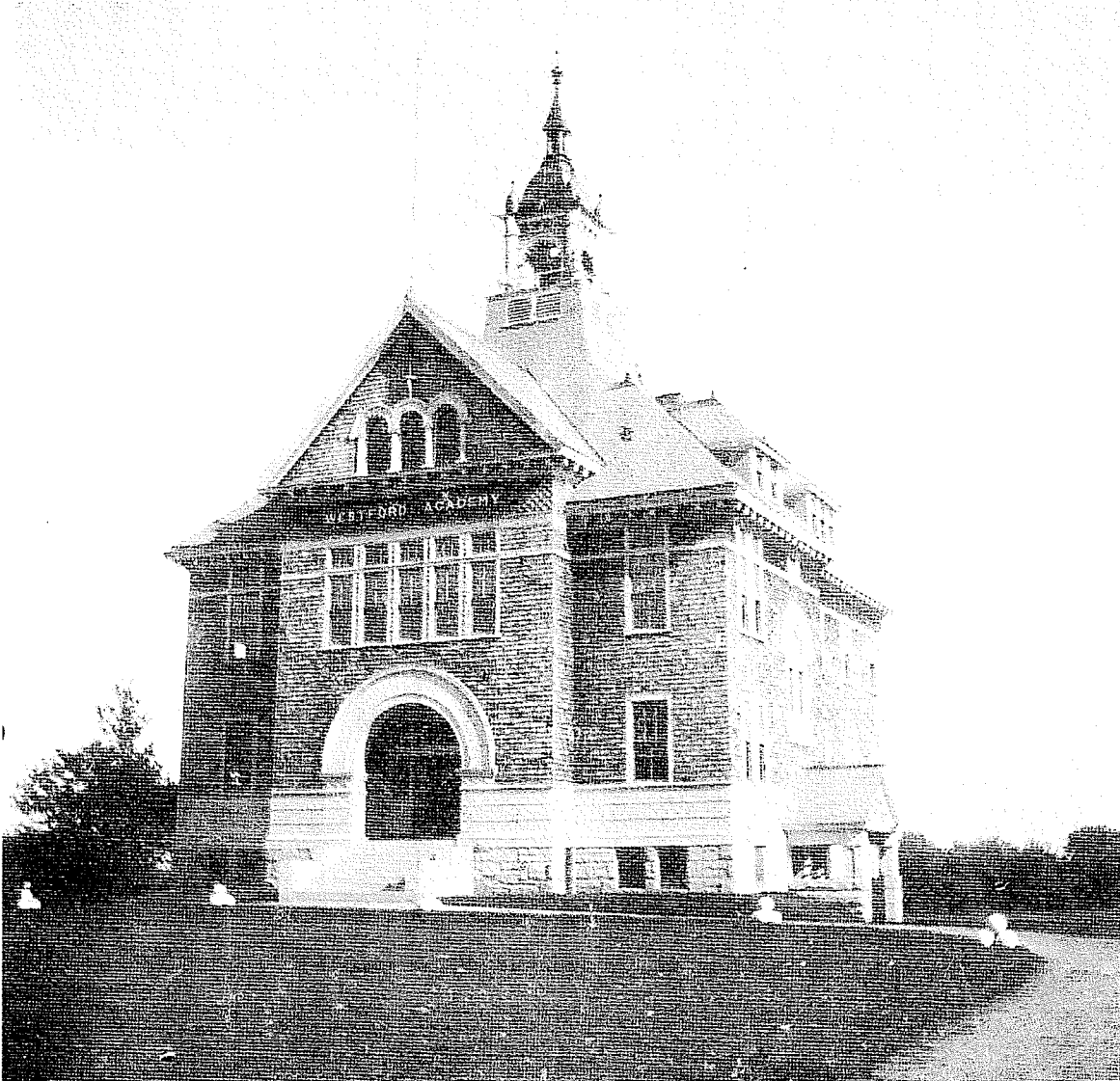
This is the view from the back of the Sullivans' property across Forge Pond, referred to by the residents at that time as the "lake." Forge Pond would be where our father learned to swim. In the winter, the "lake's" ice could be as thick as twelve inches, and this is where my father, his brothers, and other boys in Westford learned to skate and play hockey.



"Sullivan's Shore." This is what this stretch of property at the back of the Sullivans' was called.



Our father graduated from the Westford Academy in 1916. The English-Business curriculum served him well throughout his life first as a clerk, reporter, lawyer, and writer.



The Westford Academy, as it appeared when our father attended. The old Westford Academy building, constructed in 1897, has been converted to the Rodenbush Community Center.



This photograph (courtesy of the Westford Museum) was taken of Westford Academy's Class of 1916 in their freshmen year. It was taken either in the fall of 1912 or the spring of 1913. Our father is in the top row, far left.



This photo (courtesy of the Westford Museum) was taken of students of the Westford Academy. Our father would have been in his junior year of high school. It was taken in the spring of 1915. Our father is at the center of the first row.

7	88	Ellen	do	48	7	M	wife	to to	a
8		Norah	do	25	7	F	Servt	yo yo	a
9		Patrick	do	22	4	S	Labor	yo yo	a
10		Michael	do	20	4	S	do	yo yo	a
11		Daniel	do	20	4	S	do	yo yo	a
12		Katie	do	18	7	F	Servt	yo yo	a
13	90	Mary Hilton	do	17	7	F	Servt	yo yo	a
14		Frank	do	22	4	S	Driver	yo yo	a
15	91	Mary Allen	do	23	7	F	Servt	yo yo	a
16	+	Ellen Shaughnessy	do	18	7	F	Servt	yo yo	a
17	93	Katie Conard	do	23	7	F	do	yo yo	a
18	94	Michael Allen	do	25	4	S	factory	to to	a
19	97	Kate Smith	do	18	7	F	Housew	yo yo	a
20	98	Mary Judge	do	17	6	F	Servt	yo yo	a
21	99	Agnes Burke	do	21	7	F	do	to to	a

A magnified look at the Gallia's passenger list showing Ellen, Norah, Patrick, Michael, Daniel, and Katie Sullivan.

QUEENSTOWN.

CU

B

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN IMMIG

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, an
Commanding officer of any vessel having such

S.S. GALLIA sailing from QUEENSTO

No. on list.	No. of Contract Ticket.	NAME IN FULL	Age Yrs. Mos.	Sex	Married or Single	Calling or Occupation	Able to Read Write	Nationality	Last Address	Support for landing in the United States.	Fr
1	37180	Harry Waters	42	M	S	Seam	do do	Irish	Waterford Boston	do	1
2		Minnie Ryan	49	F	S	Child	do do	do	do	do	2
3	140224	Thomas Hammond	29	M	S	Labor	do do	do	do	do	3
4	2706	Minnie Hall	16	F	S	Seam	do do	do	do	do	4
5	2721	Leath Harney	24	M	S	do	do do	do	do	do	5
6	3	John [unclear]	24	M	S	Labor	do do	do	do	do	6

This is a magnified view of the passenger ship's manifest that records information about our grandfather John. (He is listed at number six.) Queenstown was the British name given Cobh, which is the original Irish name for the port on the south coast of Ireland at County Cork.

GRADUATION EXERCISES OF WESTFORD ACADEMY

AT THE TOWN HALL,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1916, AT 10 O'CLOCK, A. M.

PROGRAMME.

PART ONE

March with Overture

ORCHESTRA

Class History

ARTEMAS GAGE GRIFFIN

Song of Illyrian Peasants

SCHOOL

Schnecker

Class Will

FRANCIS MITCHELL SULLIVAN

Class Prophecy

LEO JAMES CONNELL

Little Boy Blue

SCHOOL

Brackett

This is the "programme" for the graduation exercise for the Westford Academy's Class of 1916. Our father is listed as "Francis Mitchell Sullivan" twice in the Town of Westford's Annual Report for 1916. Either they were typos or "Francis Mitchell" is just another anomaly with regard to names within the family. The program announces the delivery by our father of the "Class Will," presumably expressing the hopes and wishes of the Class of 1916 for Westford then and for generations to come.

GRADUATES

ACADEMIC COURSE

FREDERICK SULLIVAN HEALY JOHN JOSEPH PROVOST

ENGLISH-BUSINESS COURSE

ETHELE AMY BURLAND ARTEMAS GAGE GRIFFIN
LEO JAMES CONNELL FRANCIS MITCHELL SULLIVAN

Class Motto—"Animo et Fide"
Class Colors—Green and Gold
Class Flower—Lily of the Valley

WINNERS OF PRIZES GIVEN BY THE ACADEMY TRUSTEES FOR YEAR
1915-1916

Public Speaking

LEO JAMES CONNELL, Five Dollars
FRANCES ELIZABETH WRIGHT, Five Dollars

Essay

ELVA TRIPHENA JUDD, Five Dollars

Stenography

ETHELE AMY BURLAND, Two Dollars and a Half

Typewriting

JOHN JOSEPH PROVOST, Two Dollars and a Half

Sight Reading

HELEN SARAH BERRY, Two Dollars and a Half

Oral Theme

CLAIRE BEATRICE PAYNE, Two Dollars and a Half

Here is a list of the graduates of the Westford Academy's Class of 1916 for both the "Academic Course" and the "English-Business Course." Our father was one of four graduates that year from the latter curriculum. It is taken from the Town of Westford's Annual Report for 1916.

BIRTHS

Recorded by the Town Clerk of Westford, A. D. 1897.

DATE.	NAMES.	PARENTS' NAMES.
June 30....	Archibald, James Bedford	William A. and Margaret (Curry).
Aug. 11....	Baker, Lillian Myrtle	George H. and Catherine (Hughes).
Dec. 18....	Bean, Dorothy Wealthy	Minot A. and Clara Belle (Locke).
Sept. 3....	Burnham, Frederick Wesley	Arthur H. and Addie M. (Morse).
Apr. 13....	Callahan, Mary Isabella	John F. and Annie (Bradley).
Feb. 6....	Comey, Gertrude Elmira	Arthur H. and Susannah (Mellor).
Sept. 20....	Conrey, Edith May	George E. and Rebecca J. (Reed).
Oct. 8....	Cote, Eugene	Almede and Melani (Melan).
June 20....	Couture, Edward Richard	Charles B. and Delerna (Penesno).
Jan. 10....	Defoe, Lillian May	Phillip and Elizabeth A. (Crockett).
June 19....	Demaris, Alphonsine	George A. and Mary Ann (Allard).
Feb. 23....	Field, William Judson	Adelbert L. and Gertrude L. (Hunter).
Dec. 3....	Flagg, Irving Clement	Elbert H. and Lucy (Warren).
July 9....	Flavell, Charles William	Charles L. and Florence (Dane).
Oct. 23....	Fletcher, Hazel Mildred	Herbert E. and Carrie D. (Hill).
Aug. 26....	Furbush, Helen Marie	Frank L. and Margaret (Murphy).
Apr. 21....	Griffin, Charles Matthew	Charles M. and Nellie M. (Collins).
Sept. 2....	Hodgson, Violet Mildred	James and Clara (Dracup).
Apr. 12....	Hoyt, Violet	John W. and Polly (Flannery).
Nov. 28....	Hulslander, Annie Ellen	Peter and Della (Dupres).
May 1....	Jarvis, Mary	Alexander and Rosa (Barlow).
Aug. 5....	Kenworthy, Louise	Fred J. and Carrie (Bennett).
July 25....	LaBerge, Arthur	Alfred and Evangeline (Lord).
Nov. 7....	LaFranc, Joseph	Alfred and A. (Kabsau).
Mar. 22....	Lawton, Herman Ellsmere	Luther and Mabel (White).
Mar. 17....	McCoy, Everett Howard	Fred L. and Lottie (Cann).
Nov. 26....	McLeod, Walter Ellsworth	Donald J. and Gertrude M. (Adams).
Nov. 12....	Morton, Everett Fletcher	Fennimore and Lillian (Northrop).
May 4....	Newton, Mary Josephine	James and Julia A. (Werren).
Oct. 9....	Noble, Henry Clifford	Hiram F. and Hattie A. (Heald).
Oct. 5....	O'Brien, Julia	James E. and Nellie (Goggin).
Jan. 11....	Osgood, Effie Alberta	Charles E. and Effie J. (Hulsaver).
Apr. 26....	Parker, Carrie	Winslow W. and Ida M. (Lackey).
Nov. 8....	Payae, Joseph Edmund	Alma and Flora (Garcears).
Apr. 4....	Payne, James Henry	Thomas P. and Sarah E. (Davie).
May 30....	Prinn, Katherine Carrie	Alfred T. W. and Mary E. (Ledwith).
June 27....	Prior, Leonard Alden	Arthur L. and Jennie A. (Woodbury).
Feb. 9....	Rafferty, James Joseph	Thomas and Mary (Elliott).
Oct. 25....	Raymond, Margrate Alice	John H. and Julia M. (Quinland).
Feb. 8....	Rothbaum, Annie	Max and Rosa (Durfman).
July 26....	Sargent, Virginia Maude	Charles G. and Maude E. (Smith).
Oct. 21....	Savard, Edward Ernest	Ulysse and Theodora (Dion).
Feb. 14....	Sevinearr, Mary B	Napoleon and Ella (Rabichau).
Oct. 16....	Sherburne, Herman Samuel	George J. and Ada A. (Blodgett).
Oct. 1....	Spinner, Edith Ellen	John and Elizabeth (Wheeler).
Mar. 10....	Stirk, Vialo E	Frederick and Ellen (Brown).
Dec. 27....	Sullivan, Michael Joseph	Timothy and Margarette (Sullivan).
Dec. 18....	Sullivan, Mike	John and Nora (Sullivan).
July 17....	Sutherland, Alfred Alonzo	Alonzo H. and Mattie L. (Cass).
May 6....	Taylor, William Arthur	John P. and Fanny (Tyler).
July 18....	Whidcen, Waldo Albert	Walter A. and Bessie (Parker).
Nov. 22....	Whigham, Theresa Cecelia	Thomas and Annie (O'Connor).
Apr. 8....	Whitney, Herbert E	George H. and Ida F. (Woodman).
July 4....	Whitney, Lilla May	Julian and Sarah (Gray).
Jan. 5....	Wright, Ernest Tebbetts	Gilman F. and Alma G. (Tebbetts).
Sept. 2....	Wright, Persis Jessie	Bradley V. and Mabel (Baldwin).
Nov. 23....	Illegitimate	

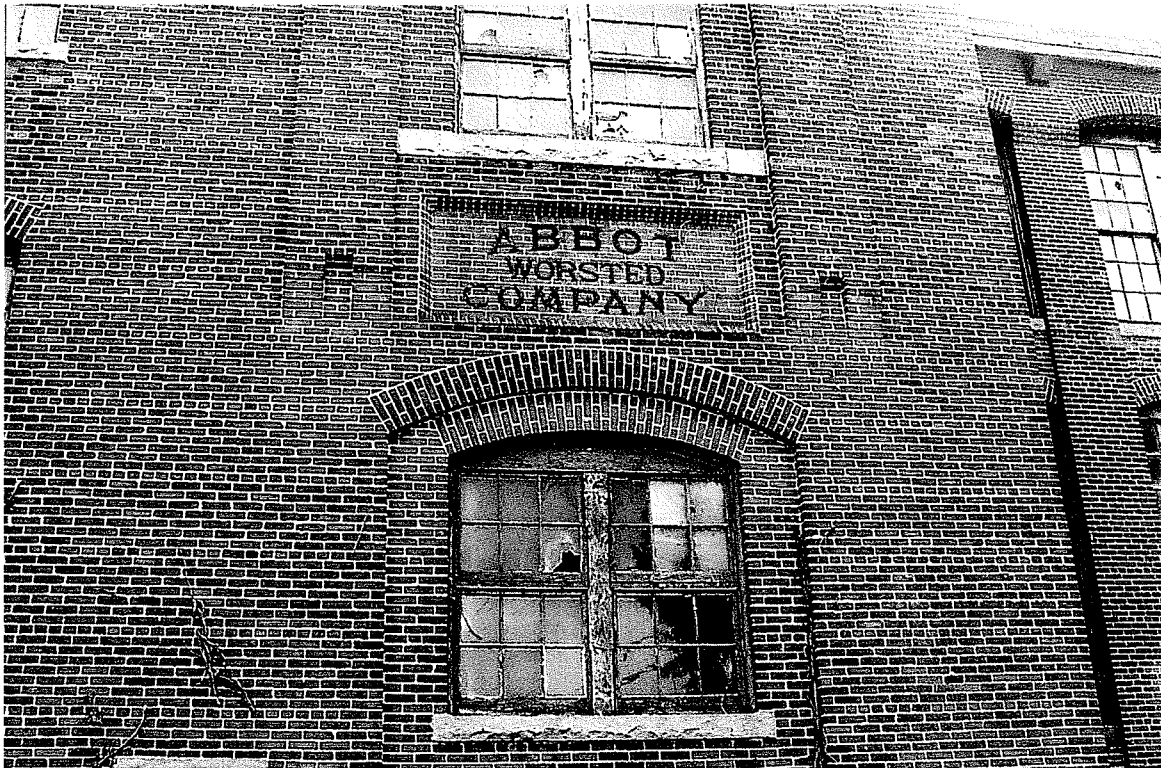
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number recorded	28	29	57
Born in Westford	27	29	56
Of Westford parentage	27	28	55

Of American parentage, 24; foreign parentage, 19; American father and foreign mother, 7; American mother and foreign father, 5.

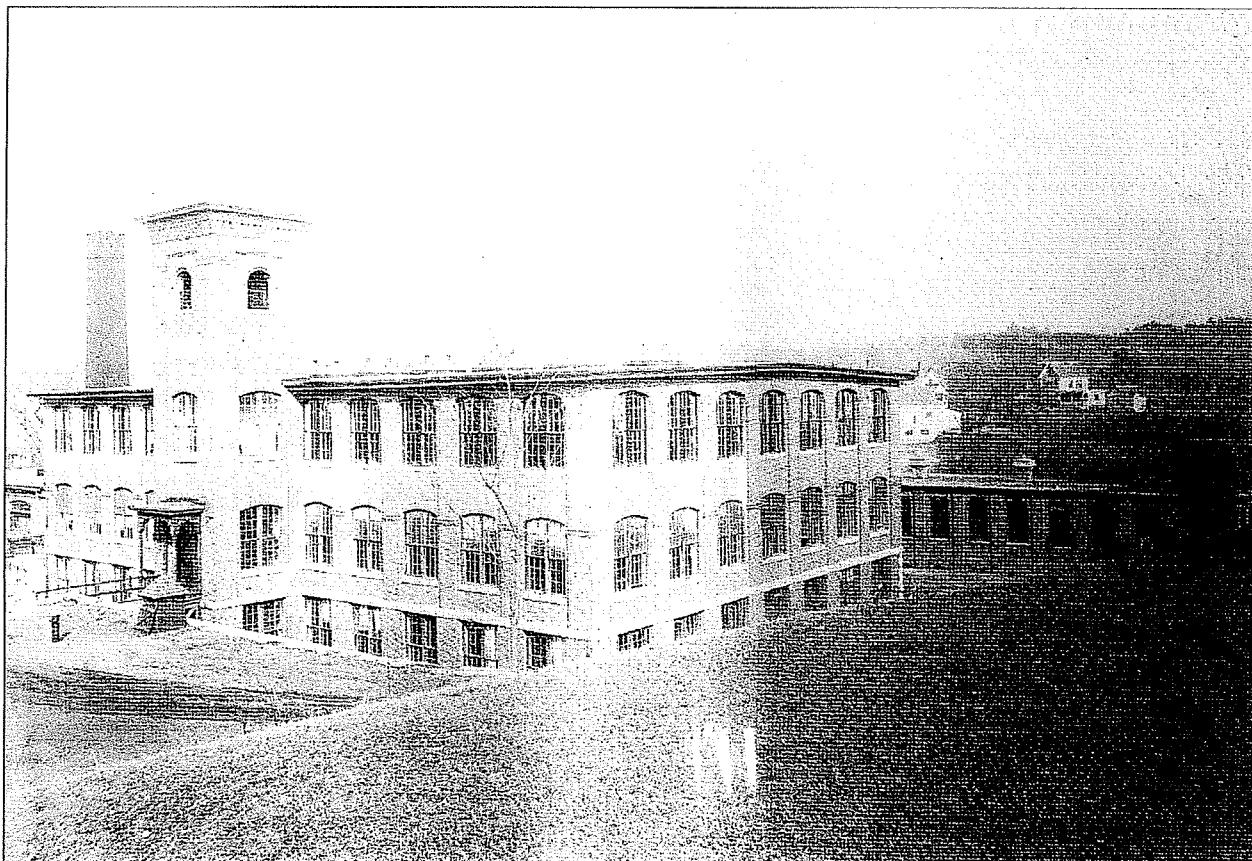
Corrections of last year's report: The name of the Leighton child is Frances and not Francis. The parents of the Tully child are Charles E. and Bertha (Wright). Number of males recorded, 25; females, 26.

GILMAN J. WRIGHT, *Town Clerk.*

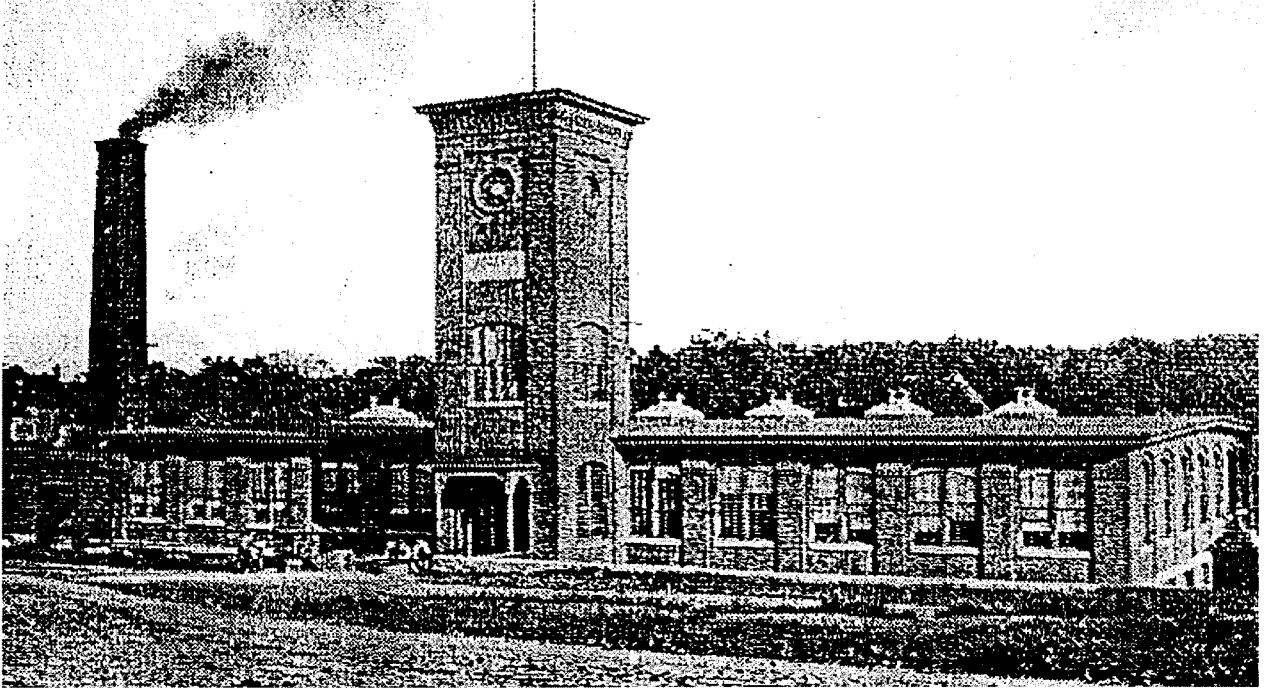
Here is the entry for births in the Town of Westford for the year 1897. Our father was listed as "Mike Sullivan," son of John and Nora Sullivan. The official record would later be amended to read "Francis Michael Sullivan." Note the distinction between children of "American parentage" and "foreigner parentage." Our father would have fallen into the latter category.



The Abbot Worsted Company (August 2010). The Town of Westford has approved this property's conversion and redevelopment for residential use. The photo was taken on-site by the family on August 3, 2010.



The south façade of the Abbot Worsted Mill, Pleasant Street, Forge Village, in 1905. Our paternal grandfather John Sullivan worked at the mill for roughly forty-five years, first as a “mill hand,” then a “fireman” in the boiler room, and later as a “wool-sorter.” (Penney photograph, Fletcher Library collection, copied from *Images of America: Westford*, by the Westford League of Women Voters, Ellen Harde, Text, and Beth Shaw, Photo and Caption Editor.)



1 Pleasant Street, Forge Village, the Abbot Worsted Company, before the 2nd story was added (Q. Day photo, 1903, courtesy of the Westford Museum)



At least by 1910, John Sullivan had started working as a wool-sorter at the Abbot mill. (The U.S. Census for that year records our grandfather's occupation as "wool-sorter.") Here is a photo of the wool-sorters at Abbot. We can't tell if our grandfather is in this picture, but this is the type of work he was doing for most of his life. These were the men with whom he worked. The wool-sorters were close-knit. The pall-bearers at John's funeral on January 27, 1943, at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, were either wool-sorters, the men with whom he worked, or their sons. ((Penney photograph, Fletcher Library collection, copied from *Images of America: Westford*, by the Westford League of Women Voters, Ellen Harde, Editor, and Beth Shaw, Photo and Caption Editor.)



Our mother, Katherine Anne Schrider, of Takoma Park in the District of Columbia. She was 21 at the time the photo was taken. Our parents would meet on St. Valentine's Day in 1927 and marry on June 9, 1928 at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, Maryland.



Our father and mother on their honeymoon in June 1928 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



At a General Session
of the

Federal Communications Commission

held at its office in Washington, D. C.,

the 7th day of May, 1940

It appearing that the applicant

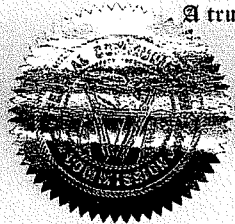
Francis M. Sullivan

possesses the qualifications prescribed by the Rules,
and has taken and filed the required oath;

Ordered: That the applicant be admitted to
practice as prayed, and be enrolled.

By the Commission.

A true copy:



F. J. Plaine
Secretary.

One of a number of certificates recognizing our father as eligible to present cases before the various courts and agencies in Washington, D.C. At the time, there was no D.C. Bar Exam per se, and attorneys would have to apply for and be admitted on a case-by-case basis to the various courts and Federal agencies. Other certificates have been lost.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

John A. Boehner
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1954

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.
Rev. William Hendry Day, pastor, Methodist Church, Yates City, Ill., offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we come to Thee as we enter upon the duties of this day for Thy blessing and presence. We realize our need of Thee as we meet the complicated problems of the world. We thank Thee for the statement that "Men ought always to pray and faint not." Give us faith to trust and confidence that Thou wilt respond to our supplications.

We do not ask to be relieved of our responsibilities, nor our obligations be less, but we seek Thee for wisdom to clearly understand the problems, and for guidance as to how to deal with them, and we desire above all that Thou wilt give the faith to give courage to dare to live and act our convictions.

Give us a clear understanding of the greatness of our Nation, and make us appreciative of the high honor we have as citizens in the freedom and liberty that is ours. May we live such lives as citizens and officials in discharging our duties and filling our place in life that when the evening comes we will have much to rejoice in and little to regret.

Heavenly Father, breathe Thy holy spirit upon these officials, help them to be cooperative in a constructive program for prosperity, expansion of peace, and creative of greater opportunities in freedom and liberty for our Nation and throughout our Nation for the nations of the world.

Hear us and grant our prayer in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The Journal of the proceedings of Monday, January 25, 1954, was read and approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Carrell, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to a bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 987. An act to authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the tercentennial celebration of the founding of the city of Northampton, Mass.

The message also announced that the Senate had adopted the following resolution (S. Res. 198):

Resolved, That Mr. McCARTHY, of Wisconsin, be, and he is hereby, elected a member on the part of the Senate of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, vice Mr. FURTELL, of Connecticut.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL SALARIES

(Mr. REED of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REED of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Public Law 220 of this Congress authorized the creation of a Commission on Judicial and Congressional Salaries. Under the law the Commission was charged with the duty of determining "the appropriate rates of salaries for justices and judges of courts of the United States and for the Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Members of Congress, in order to provide fair and reasonable compensation to such officials," and to "report its findings on or before January 15, 1954." The Commission, composed of distinguished men and women from the fields of business, the professions, agriculture, and labor, conducted public hearings and designated seven task forces to gather factual material and do extensive research into their respective fields of inquiry.

The Commission's findings and recommendations were incorporated in an excellent report which was submitted on January 15, 1954, and which has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed—House Document No. 300.

Public Law 220 further requires that "within 60 legislative days after the submission of the report of the Commission the Congress shall consider the report and enact legislation establishing the salaries of justices and judges of the United States and the salaries and mileage of Members of Congress, including the Vice President and the Speaker of the House."

In order that the Congress may comply with this mandate, as chairman of the Committee of the Judiciary, to which the Commission's report was referred, I have today introduced the bill H. R. 7510, to effectuate the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Commission. I believe that the members of the Commission, the advisory members, and the staff deserve the thanks and the commendation of the Congress for the excellent work performed by them. I hope that the Congress will give speedy and favorable consideration to the bill.

CORRECTION OF RECORD

Mr. JONAS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on January 18, 1954, I made a statement on the floor of the House, explaining a bill I had introduced that day to amend a certain section of the Internal Revenue Code.

Due to a mistake on the part of someone, my remarks that day were attributed to "Mr. JONES of North Carolina." I wish to assume responsibility for my own acts and therefore ask unanimous consent that the permanent Record be corrected to show that the statement was made by Mr. JONAS of North Carolina instead of by Mr. JONES.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT TO ARMED FORCES LEAVE ACT OF 1946

(Mr. JONAS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONAS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced a bill to amend the Armed Forces Leave Act of 1946 so as to remove injustices to American servicemen who were held prisoners of war in Korea.

The Leave Act of 1946 prohibits the accumulation of more than 60 days of leave by servicemen. When this act was adopted, it was not foreseen that American servicemen would be held as prisoners of war for months and even years and thereby be denied the opportunity to use their leave as it accumulated.

My bill provides that the 60 days limitation shall not apply to our servicemen who were held prisoners of war in Korea and gives them 3 years after repatriation to take the leave that would have accumulated to their credit while they were prisoners but for the 60 days limitation in the existing act.

The boys who were held prisoners certainly did not have the opportunity to enjoy any leave and I think it is no more than fair to remove the 60 days limitation in their cases.

My bill expressly excludes those who refused repatriation.

THE LATE FRANK SULLIVAN

(Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROGERS of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this morning I attended the funeral of Francis M. Sullivan, the national director of legislation for the Disabled American Veterans.

Most of you, I am sure, knew Frank Sullivan for his long years of unselfish service in behalf of the disabled veterans of all of our wars. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, of which I am the chairman, has for years sought his advice and counsel upon legislative matters

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affecting our disabled veterans. He did much to help members individually and collectively.

His work is beyond praise. The country owes him a great debt. The disabled veterans owe him a great debt. We in Congress owe him a great debt.

Frank Sullivan was a disabled veteran himself. He gave his health in the service of his country and his life in the service of disabled veterans. Despite his extremely poor health in the past few years, he insisted upon going to his office at DAV national headquarters each day and doing his regular work. He would not give up, and he never lost his pleasant disposition and his winning smile and his sense of humor.

Mr. Sullivan came to Washington 30 years ago and served here on Capitol Hill as secretary to two Members of Congress from Connecticut. He had a large part in the writing of the so-called GI bill of rights and the Veterans' Preference Act. He was largely responsible for many laws for the disabled. He had a fine legal mind and a knowledge of veterans' affairs that was a most valuable asset to him in his work. I can visualize him now up in the Senate and House galleries watching and helping us with the passage of legislation.

I shall miss him greatly as a close personal friend. Our committee will miss his valuable assistance and his great friendliness.

In speaking of his having given his life for his disabled comrades, the priest at his funeral could have spoken no truer words of appreciation. He also spoke of the devotion of Mr. Sullivan to his beautiful wife and family and of his wife and family's loving care of him and what a wonderful family life they enjoyed, also of all the good he did in the world. He spoke of his fine Christian character and the fact he never complained.

If the large attendance at Mr. Sullivan's funeral this morning is any indication of the value of the man and his sacredness of soul, we need no further testimony.

To his wife Katherine and his four children go the deep sympathies and condolences of all of us. His passing leaves us deeply moved.

THE LATE FRANK SULLIVAN

(Mr. SADLAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SADLAK. Mr. Speaker, it was my intention to bring to the notice of the Members of the House the untimely death of Frank Sullivan as has just been brought to the notice of our colleagues by the distinguished chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

It was my privilege to have known Frank Sullivan since 1926 when Frank was here as secretary to Congressman Glynn of the Fifth District of Connecticut, subsequently as secretary to Congressman Goss from the same district in Connecticut. Mr. Sullivan subsequently became assistant to the legislative director of the American Legion,

which position he held for 11 years. For the past 7 years he has been himself the legislative director of the Disabled American Veterans here in Washington.

Mr. Sullivan was a man who was well known on Capitol Hill, having spent some 30 years up here. I want to recognize his acquaintance and give some acknowledgment to the vast work that he has done for the veterans and to acknowledge also his great devotion to his family and his friends.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE

Mr. COLE of New York, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Atomic Energy may sit tomorrow, if there is a House session, during general debate.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

OMNIBUS BILL

(Mr. DONDERO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DONDERO. Mr. Speaker, many Members of the House have inquired of me whether or not there would be an omnibus bill in this session of the Congress. We have had no omnibus bill since 1950. There are a number of small projects both river and harbor and also flood control that undoubtedly require and should have consideration. For that reason I am announcing to the House that beginning next Tuesday at 10 o'clock the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. ANGELL), chairman of the Subcommittee on Rivers and Harbors, will begin hearings on these various river and harbor projects which are confined mostly to the Eastern and Atlantic States, and part of the Middle West, and then as he goes on he will take other sections of the country until the entire Nation is covered.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the Appendix of the Record a list of the projects that are ready and eligible for hearing.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDER GRANTED

Mr. ROOSEVELT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 hour today, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT PLEADS FUTILITY ON COFFEE PRICES

(Mrs. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include a letter.)

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, a week and a half ago when I called the attention of the House to the skyrocketing cost of coffee in retail stores and restaur-

rants throughout the country, I said I was addressing a letter to the State Department asking what it is doing—or can do under present authority—to assure fair supplies of the reduced world coffee crop at fair prices for American consumers.

I have today received a reply from the Honorable Thruston Morton, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, which I am inserting in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the conclusion of these remarks. It is a rather remarkable missive, what I would characterize as a plea of futility.

It establishes what we already knew—that Brazil's coffee crop suffered frost damage last July and that world consumption of coffee has been rising in the face of a reduced production.

But what can our Government do, in consultation or negotiation with the supplier nations, to assure a fair share of existing stocks at fair prices? Apparently nothing except stand on the sidelines and cheer for increased plantings which will mean more production 7 years from now.

Why cannot our Government do anything more than that in dealing with these friendly nations—nations whose economies we have done much to support and expand and assist over the past many years? Well, the State Department informs me, after all we have no price control in the United States, so obviously we cannot suggest to Brazil or other exporting countries that they encourage restraint on the world price in order to assure fairness for their best customer—the American consumer.

Perhaps I have oversimplified the Department's position. But I cannot help but be terribly disappointed by this spectacle of our State Department pleading futility on a problem affecting every American household, which is forcing us either to pay exorbitant prices for a decent cup of coffee or drink a watered-down imitation of coffee or no coffee at all.

As I said in my remarks here on January 18, if a similar holdup of the American taxpayer were occurring on vital defense materials which we import from friendly countries, we would, I am sure, see some action—at least we used to see action when a situation of that kind presented itself. I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that coffee is a pretty vital commodity, too.

While waiting for the State Department's report on this matter, I have been prodding the Department of Commerce for the actual facts on coffee supply in the United States. Unfortunately, that Department keeps no records on coffee stocks on hand anymore, although it used to.

But it does have figures on imports and consumption. And what those figures show merely deepens the coffee mystery even more.

These statistics show that coffee was imported into the United States during 1953 at or near the same rate as during 1952 and 1951 and at a substantially greater rate than in 1950. Imports have not been out of line with previous years.

F. M. Sullivan, Champion of Veterans, Dies

They'll blow taps Wednesday at Arlington Cemetery for Frank Sullivan, who championed veterans of three wars.

"Sully," who took the lead role in guiding the GI Bill of Rights through Congress, died Sunday at Doctors Hospital. He was 56.

The tall, gaunt-appearing legislative representative



of the Disabled American Veterans was a familiar figure on Capitol Hill for three decades.

As a "lobbyist" for the American Legion and the DAV, Mr. Sullivan had a hand in the making of every major piece of veterans' legislation since World War I.

In 1944, he was one of the leaders in the fight for the Veterans Preference Act as well as for the GI Bill of Rights. He had been active in veterans affairs to the end, although he was confined to a wheel chair for over a year.

A former Massachusetts and Connecticut newspaperman, Francis M. Sullivan, came to Washington in 1924 as secretary to Rep. James P. Glynn, of Conn. He later served as secretary to Rep. Edward W. Goss, also of Conn.

Requiem mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a. m. Wednesday at the Church of the Nativity. The Holy Name Society and the Disabled American Veterans will hold special services tonight at the Collins Funeral Home, 3821 14th st. nw.

What's in a Name?

One of the areas of our research that puzzled us was the variety of names that appear in records of our father and his parents.

Our father was listed as "Mike" Sullivan on the Town of Westford's birth records. Understandably, he was given the name "Michael" at Baptism. At some point, "Mike" was lined through in the Town's records and replaced with "Francis Michael" Sullivan. One of the stories we heard growing up was that at the Cameron School, one of his teachers did not believe that "Mike" or "Michael" was a suitable name for our father so she renamed him "Francis Michael." Then in the Town of Westford's Annual Report for 1916, our father is listed twice as "Francis Mitchell Sullivan," once in the graduation program and a second time in the list of graduates from Westford for that year. We suspect that "Francis Mitchell" would not have been a name that John and Nora Sullivan from County Kerry in Ireland would have chosen for their son, especially since "Michael" was a name often given in the family. So the "Francis Mitchell" is either a typo or some curious entry that we simply can't explain.

Our grandfather was John Sullivan on the manifest of the ship that left Cork in 1895. He was listed as "John A. Sullivan" in the birth records for our father. On our father's enlistment papers for the Naval Reserve Force, our grandfather is listed as "John Albert Sullivan." Yet on his death certificate, as well as in the newspaper accounts of his death and in his obituary, he is listed as "John Francis Sullivan." The last variation is understandable given the stress that our father was under when he was giving information to the Medical Examiner after our grandfather's death.

Then there was Nora Sullivan. Our grandmother had the most variations in her name. She was "Norah" Sullivan on the ship's manifest. She was listed variously as "Nora C.," "Ellen," and "Nora F." in the various Census reports from 1900 to 1930. She appears as "Nora Anabel" and "Nora Annabel" on two insurance forms filed by our father when he was in the Navy. On a third insurance form, she is listed as "Nora Frances" Sullivan.

There are logical explanations for the variety of names for our father and grandfather. Typos and stress can account for most of the variations, but we simply can't explain the discrepancies in connection with the various names of our grandmother Nora Sullivan.

The Abbot Worsted Company

By all accounts, the Abbot Worsted Company was an ideal employer. While its workers were not unionized, the company made it a practice to keep its wages on a par with those of unionized mill workers in Lowell and other nearby communities. Abbot was among the first companies to limit, voluntarily, the hours minors could work and the maximum number of hours in a workweek its adult employees were required to work. The company provided health and dental care for its workers and their families. It offered English lessons and citizenship training at night for its many immigrant workers. It also built more than 500 decent housing units for its workers and rented them out at below market rental fees. When production hours were reduced and workers' salaries were affected, Abbot made it a practice of reducing or foregoing the rent it charged that week for affected workers. Abbot sponsored sports teams, subsidized holiday celebrations, and offered awards for education and citizenship. The company's generosity was especially evident during the Christmas season when it provided funds to local churches to buy gifts for the children of those congregations. Abbot was in many ways the hub of the community.