

William Henry SULLIVAN was born to Irish parents on August 9, 1864 in Port Dalhousie which is now part of St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Upon working age he became a lumberman, a career that led him to Washington Parish, Louisiana where the Great Southern Lumber Company mill was opened in 1906 by the GOODYEAR family of Buffalo, New York. They built a city around the mill in the same year, to house the sawmill workers. William Henry SULLIVAN was the sawmill manager and was town boss when the city was built (1906–1907). The town grew rapidly and Bogalusa was incorporated as a city on July 4, 1914. The Louisiana Governor appointed William Henry SULLIVAN as the first Mayor. William, ‘The Pioneer’, became known as the Father of Bogalusa and served as mayor until he died on January 26, 1929.

William married on October 4, 1886 to Elizabeth Fitzrandolph CALKINS. She was born August 20, 1866 and died on July 11, 1918. The hospital in Bogalusa is named the Elizabeth Sullivan Memorial Hospital.

Both William and his wife Elizabeth are buried in the Ponemah Cemetery, Bogalusa. A large memorial marker with a plaque placed upon it reads as follows:

William Henry SULLIVAN

A PIONEER

Nature combined in him integrity, ability and / industry, together with a fine loyalty, high ideals and an unbounded / confidence in the future that made him always a leader. / Wherever he lived he was the first man in the community / but nowhere did he find his real place as he did here. / Here amidst a virgin forest he felled the first tree to / mark the site of a great industry and a thriving city. His was the / good fortune to live to see his vision realized, and to see them / both develop and prosper, the one into an outstanding national / industry, the other into a fair city of

contented and prosperous / people whose welfare was ever his chief concern. / He responded to every call of duty, whether of family, / business, city, state or nation: and everyone regardless of race, / creed or color, has benefited by his good will, counsel, and generosity. / He was a human gentleman, an outstanding, constructive / citizen. His was a great spirit long to be remembered and cherished. (end)

A second plaque is also placed here to Elizabeth, the 'Mother of Bogalusa'.

(sources of William's place of birth: Chapter Nine: Noteworthy 20th Century Family; The Book of Sullivan/O'Sullivan; compiled, edited and written by John J.C. Sullivan; rev. 03/29/02 and Bogalusa: The Magic City by William Ginn)