



Richmond Hill (GA) (Images of America)

By Buddy Sullivan, Richmond Hill Historical Society

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When automotive pioneer Henry Ford burst upon the scene in 1925, Ways Station was hardly more than an assemblage of modest residences, a store or two, and a post office. Spurred by the energies and vision of Ford, an army of agricultural, industrial, medical, and educational experts from Dearborn, Michigan, transformed the area into one of the most productive, vibrant communities on the southern tidewater. Ford employed hundreds of area residents to farm 85,000 acres along the Ogeechee River. He also established sawmills, lumberyards, and agricultural experiment stations. He provided the impetus for schools and educational programs and introduced 20th century medicine to the area. By 1941 and the eve of World War II, Ways Station had become Richmond Hill and had attained the peak of its renewed enterprise. Since that time, the community has been called "the town Henry Ford built."

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Buddy Sullivan is a noted Georgia historian and the author of 14 books, including a comprehensive history of Bryan County and Richmond Hill, *From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek*, which received the Lilla Hawes Award as the outstanding book of Georgia local history in 2000. He received the Governors Award in the Humanities in 2005 in recognition of his contributions to furthering the understanding of state history. This is Sullivan's fourth book with Arcadia Publishing.

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