

# ❖ PARDON'S PROGENY ❖

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the Tillinghast  
Family In  
America.*

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Fear Not"*

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## Exploring in "the trunk"

*By Greta Tillinghast Tyler (John Fox<sup>9</sup>·Clark<sup>8</sup>·Henry Clay<sup>7</sup>·Clark<sup>6</sup>·Daniel<sup>5</sup>·Pardon<sup>4</sup>·Philip<sup>3</sup>·Pardon<sup>2</sup>,  
Pardon<sup>1</sup>)*

In my family, we have "the trunk", keeper of family history and some mysteries. Within this dome-top carrier are clippings, memorabilia, tintype pictures, locks of hair and much more that good family stewardship won't allow us to discard. This article is an effort to pull together my family's story as it was collected. Readers' help with filling in the blanks will be welcome.

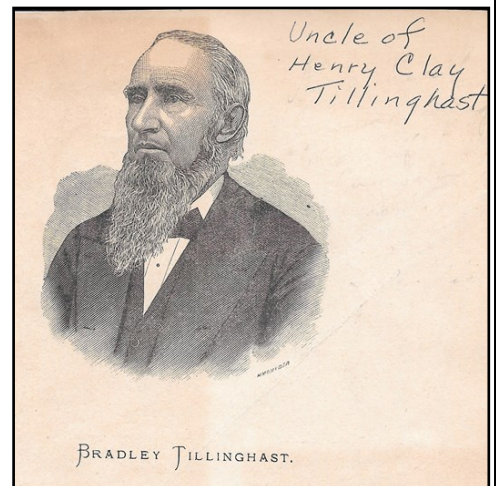


Daniel F. Tillinghast (Pardon<sup>4</sup>, Philip<sup>3</sup>, Pardon<sup>2</sup>, Pardon<sup>1</sup>) was born in East Greenwich, RI, on June 5, 1756, and eventually settled in Morrisville, NY. He was a cooper and then a farmer. Of his several children from two marriages, three will be mentioned in this article: Ruth, Clark and Bradley.

Bradley, the youngest of 13 offspring of Daniel, is buried in Morrisville Rural Cemetery. His success was richly depicted in the article below when he was about 73 years old.

## Bradley Tillinghast

The subject of this sketch was born March 8, 1807, in the town of Mansfield, Windham county, Conn. His parents were Daniel and Mary (Weaver) Tillinghast, natives of Rhode Island. The former was born June 5, 1756, and the latter April, 6, 1768. They were married Oct. 26, 1788. Mary was Daniel's second wife. By his first wife he had two sons, Daniel, born Sept. 26, 1780 (died Oct. 27, 1802) and Christopher, born Aug. 21, 1783 (died May 22, 1828.) The children by his last wife (Mary) were nine in number, all of whom except Bradley, who was the youngest, are now dead. Their names and dates of birth are as follows: Penelope, Oct. 16, 1789; Deborah, Sept. 20, 1791; Mary, Aug. 21, 1793; John, Dec. 5, 1795; Antipass, Nov. 11, 1797; Clark, Dec. 5, 1799; Eunice, Jan. 21, 1802; Ruth, March 6, 1804; and Bradley. These parents settled in the town of Nelson in 1821. The father was a cooper by trade. He was a captain in the Revolutionary War and was in the



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service of his country until the close of her struggle for the independence. He then engaged in farming, which business he followed before and several years after his settlement in Nelson. His wife died on the farm in Nelson, Aug. 22, 1827. He moved to Morrisville some years afterwards where he was living at the time of his death which occurred March 22, 1839. He was a man possessed of sterling qualities of mind and heart and was esteemed by all who knew him for his strict integrity and high moral worth.

Bradley lived at home with his parents until he was seventeen years of age, assisting them on the farm and receiving such an education as could be obtained in the common schools of his town. At that age in 1824, he was bound to C. & O. S. Avery shoemakers and tanners and curriers, at Perrysville, Madison county, for four years. He remained with them until the expiration of his term of service, securing a perfect knowledge of his business in all its branches. He then started out for himself, with a kit of shoemaker's tools on his back and traveled through Central New York, accepting work wherever it was offered. But in those days it was not an easy thing to get a job and he was forced to plod along sometimes many days before he could find employment. In this manner two years was spent. He then returned to Perrysville and accepted the position of foreman in the establishment in which he learned his trade, remaining one year. He then came to Morrisville and worked at shoemaking for himself, and carried on that business until the next spring (1831) when he commenced the business of tanning and currying, the business that he is now engaged in, and which he has carried on uninterruptedly for nearly fifty years in the same location.

In 1859, his son George S. was given an interest in the business and the firm is now B. Tillinghast & Son. They have acquired an enviable fame in the manufacture of their good, known as wax leather, and the extent of their business is very large, averaging nearly one hundred and fifty hides per week the year round. The leather is marketed entirely in Boston, Mass.

Mr. Tillinghast has identified himself with every enterprise that seemed to be for the benefit of Morrisville since his residence here. When the First National Bank of Morrisville was established he was chosen one of the Committee on Finance and held that position several years, and has been one of the Directors since its organization up to the present time. He has been President of the village several terms and has been entrusted with other offices of responsibility by that integrity of purpose and honest dealing which have characterized his whole life. Mr. Tillinghast is a plain, unassuming man, having the full confidence of his fellow men, and now at the age of seventy-three years retains an active mind and business ability apparently unimpaired.

March 9, 1831, Mr. Tillinghast married Rebecca, daughter of Peter and Mary (Petit) Smith, of Jefferson county. She was born May 22, 1809. There have been born to them six children, viz: Mary Eliza, born May 27, 1832; died Sept. 13, 1858; Julia Ann, born Nov. 4, 1834, died April 1, 1853; George Smith, born Dec. 11, 1836; Adelaide Sophia, born June 2, 1843, married to Dr. C. E. Pinkham, of Boston, now living in California; Eunice Blanche, born March 30, 1845, died Aug. 24, 1848; and Emma Blanche, born Dec. 1, 1850, married to Frederick Starr, now living in Brooklyn, N.Y. [*Copied as published, including spelling of the name Antipas. That spelling is also in the family Bible in the trunk.*]

Source "History of Chenango and Madison Counties, NY, page 630

Bradley's brother Clark was about five years older than him. My mother, Janet Johnson Tillinghast, wrote an article for the original Pardon's Progeny, Volume IX, Number 1, in which she said:

Clark Tillinghast was born in Mansfield, Conn. on December 5, 1799, started a tanning business with Dr. Isaac Hovey about 1814, which his younger brother, Bradley, took over in 1830. Clark then established a

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woolen mill in 1851 in Madison Co., N. Y. Census records place Clark in Eaton, Madison, Co., N. Y. in 1850 where he was listed as a manufacturer and a member of the school board. However, his wife Ann's letters of 1853 were written at Morrisville, N. Y. and mention of his frequent travels for business suggest that he was away much of the time. His mill was one mile south of Morrisville, near the center of Madison County. Damaged by two floods in the autumn of 1851, the mill was not rebuilt and Clark Tillinghast took up another business in Chicago, Illinois, his family joining him in 1854. We have found no other information about the kind of business he began in Chicago.....Clark and his sons all participated in a business listed as L. C. and H. C. Tillinghast (Lucien Clark and Henry Clay) which dealt in hides and leather and other related products – salt, fat, furs, even grains and varnish, at times. Clark continued to buy for his sons and traveled up and down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers ..... Clark was a respected member of the Chicago Board of Trade.

It may be speculated that Clark became bankrupt in New York State and sought a new life in Chicago. New York Supreme Court records (Onondaga General Term, Oct. 3, 1853) ruled in an appeal where Clark Tillinghast was “under assignment” to pay John S. Tillinghast, NY, and others “for the benefit of creditors.” It seems the question of calling Clark's non-payment at the time (he was already arranging to sell all personal goods for repayment) had been called *fraud*. The appeal ruled the purpose of non-payment was *not fraud* and a new trial was granted. Clark was not released from his debts.

In 1861, Bradley wrote to Clark (now in Chicago) advising him of their sister Ruth's death. Bradley suggested “it might be well for you to resign your right in Sister Ruth's property to someone to avoid it being levied on by some of your old creditors. It will not amount to much but some of these land sharks might think it worth the trouble or would like to make a little more trouble.”

In the trunk, we have a letter following Clark's death that is attached to a resolution of respect from the Chicago Board of Trade, sent to J. S. Tillinghast. Dated March 18, 1874, it says in part, “Resolved: That in the death of Mr. Tillinghast we recognize the loss of a man whose reputation and character both personal and commercial were of the highest order, and whose demise creates a vacuum in our business circles that we shall long recognize as unfilled.” [Underlining theirs]

*Frankly, I see the letter from the Board of Trade to J. S. Tillinghast as a final “gotcha”, saying you sued this good man and we found him worthy in all respects. Otherwise, why would they have written specifically to the person who sued him?*

Clark is buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago. There are also markers there for Clark's wife Anna Lamb and their children Lucy Ann, Lucien and Harrietta. See pictures at the end of this article.

Did Clark have his own business in some way related to hides or leather? Nothing in the trunk tells us. But his son, Henry Clay Tillinghast, was successful in that area of trade.

Henry Clay married Sarah Louise Kitchell from Newark, New Jersey, on August 25, 1859. When their first two children were just small, Henry was invited to join a group traveling to Europe as their French interpreter. The trunk holds his passport issued in 1865. It says he was age 24. His health was not good at the time and it was thought that the trip might improve his condition, which it did. The couple referred to each other as Harry and Lou and saved their letters as a diary of their time apart. My mother typed the contents and my sister-in-law, Rachel Tillinghast, compiled the contents into an article. You may read it in Pardon's Progeny II, Volume 3, Issue 1 (Winter 2001). Harry saw the rivers, mountains, castles and churches of Europe....and his new trunk went with him. At one point when he crossed the Alps on horseback, his luggage was lost. But it returned and the trunk continues to enchant us.

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News clippings in the trunk tell us that Henry Clay Tillinghast (b. December 1, 1837 in Chicago) owned H. C. Tillinghast & Company, a hide house, in Chicago with branches in Dubuque, Iowa; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Fort Benton, Montana and perhaps others. He traded for buffalo hides with Sioux Indians at Standing Rock in the Dakotas where he ran a trading post for some time.

This article from the Bismarck Tribune gives the flavor of life in the developing west. I've kept their unique writing style:

From Bismarck Tribune  
Vol. VII, Bismarck D. T. Saturday, June 28, 1879

#### UP-RIVER INDIAN USURPS.

#### PEACEFUL AT PRESENT BUT UNEASY FOR THE FUTURE

Thompson's Recent Visit to Poplar River --- Bird's Fear of an Outbreak Unfounded --- A Bad Scare  
SUGGESTIVE OF FUN

The arrival and departure of troops for the Fifty Infantry; the advance from Fort Keogh of Gen. Miles' expedition; the appearance of four companies of the Seventh Infantry under Major Ilges at the mouth of Musselshell river; the presence of Adjutant Gen. Whipple, of Gen. Sheridan's staff; the dispatch of war correspondents of the great Chicago and New York dailies

#### TO THE FRONT,

the expected arrival of fresh agent and supplies for the Indians at Poplar River, are straws that indicate that there is something in the wind—that possibly there may be Indian trouble brewing. The Chicago *Times* claims Gen. Whipple has been ordered to Poplar River to investigate the state of affairs there and then pass on to Assinaboine(*sic*). The general says he is only on a pleasure trip.

#### THE LATEST

from Mr. Thompson, who came down on the Dakotah last night, it is learned that the Indians are quiet at Poplar River and Wolf Point. Mr. Thompson gave them a feast and Black Catfish an eighty dollar blanket. Mr. Catfish was so well pleased with Miss Thompson that he gave her his buffalo robe embellished on the inside with the characters that mysteriously narrate the incidents of his life. It looks as if Major Bird was

#### MORE ALARMED THAN HURT,

when he called for the troops at Fort Buford. **Mr. Tillinghast**, Mr. Thompson's partner, took Stanley Huntley across with him to Woody Mountain post, Major Walsh's headquarters. There he left Huntley in the care of Walsh, who promised to send him to Sitting Bull's camp with a squad of his police and an interpreter. Bull was seventy miles distant and twenty miles on the south side of the boundary line. Walsh had recently sent his

#### INTERPRETER TO BULL

demanding his return to British soil and the surrender of all the American horses in his possession. He sent back twelve horses and a promise that he would soon be in.

The rumors are plentiful and absurd. The Montana and Helena have both been reported captured by the Indians and numerous other ridiculous things. There is one thing an Indian never does—and that is, capture a steamboat. Another rumor, this morning, pictured Fort Keogh, attacked and Gen. Miles with two companies badly whipped.

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And then, an original copy of The River Press of Fort Benton reports on Nov. 21, 1883, that H. C. Tillinghast & Co. recently made assignment, that is, allowed the company to fold. Referred to as “dealers in hides, leather and buffalo robes,” the list of losses showed the company could no longer hold on due to lack of business in the leather trade. The trunk holds several beaded items obtained from Native Americans through trade in the west, some of museum quality. My dad told stories of the women in the family valuing the beadwork highly. They removed decorations from skin shirts for their own use on women’s clothing, thus reducing some of the authenticity of the keepsakes. A knife sheath with blue beads is particularly beautiful and well kept. (Pictured at right)



After the Chicago fire of 1871, Henry’s family moved to Evanston, Illinois, where they built a fine mansion with upstairs and downstairs maids to keep it up. The trunk survived the fire as did most other possessions. He bought a farm for a summer retreat in Douglas, Michigan. When his business folded in 1883, he and Louise moved to the farm. Apparently they returned to Evanston at some point.

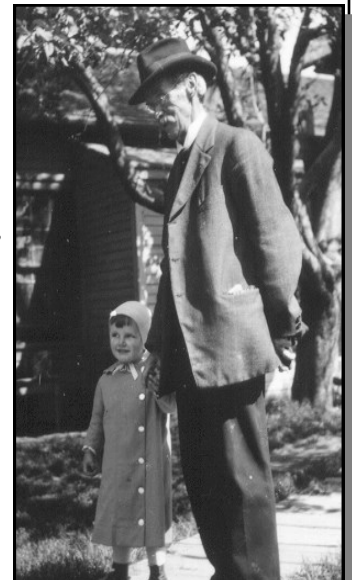
Chicago’s Leather Trade News, August 26, 1920, related the passing of Henry Clay with this article:

#### VETERAN HIDE MAN DEAD

Henry C. Tillinghast, 86, who has been identified with the Chicago hide trade for many years died at his home in Evanston, Illinois, on Friday, August 20. Mr. Tillinghast is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Howard G. Gray [Lizzie] and Mrs. Charles S. Morse [Hattie], also one son, Clark Tillinghast of Saugatuck, Michigan.

Mr. Tillinghast was well known in Chicago hide circles. He came to Chicago in 1850 from New York and was actively engaged in the hide business until 12 years ago when he retired. He has lived in Evanston since 1867. *(Their birth date was incorrect.)*

The children of Henry Clay and Sarah Louise Kitchell Tillinghast were Ruth (Fox), Lizzie (Gray), Hattie (Morse), Ann Lamb (died at 16) and Clark. The children were educated in private schools in Evanston. When Clark graduated from high school, he was given the option of going to college or travelling in Europe. He readily chose to travel. Did the trunk go with him? We believe it did. There is a note in my mother’s writing that says “TRUNK—used by 3 generations of TILLINGHASTS. The horse hair cover burned.” We don’t have letters from Clark’s travels, but he brought back a stack of about 50 pictures. They are sepia prints 9X11 mounted on heavy stock 11X14. Subjects change from Paris through the Alps and south through various cities in Italy. Some are of structures like the Eifel tower. There is well recognized artwork. All seem to be professional photos that reminded him of experiences. I remember fondly as a child rummaging through the trunk and looking at those pictures with great dreams dancing in my young head. Wanderlust was budding.



**Henry Clay Tillinghast and grandson John Fox Tillinghast on farm boardwalk to outdoor privie - about 1915**

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Clark married Marguerite (Greta) Fox, a neighbor from across the street in Evanston. It was a long courtship. Not only did he travel, but he also worked at some distance as a bookkeeper in the cotton business in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He suffered from malaria there. He also experienced weakness from an infection after a cut by an axe when he was a teenager. One might wonder if it were MERSA. When his father needed help with the farm in Michigan, Clark returned there. He took over the farm to raise fruit – apples, pears and a few berries. After a five year engagement, Greta finally agreed to leave her widowed mother in Evanston and become a farmer's wife. Their only child, John Fox Tillinghast, was born two years later. He picked up the nickname "Jack" in college. His story about being a consulting forester in West Virginia is told in our first issue of Pardon's Progeny II, Volume I, Issue 1 (December 1998).

When John (my father) was 14 years old, the house on the farm caught fire on the roof. A neighbor with five grown sons helped save things on the first floor, but they lost the contents of the attic. Especially precious were Greta's stored sewing and remarkable handwork. Lost Indian relics included Sitting Bull's riding whip, along with all of the stored furniture of Henry Clay and Sarah Louise.

But the trunk survived with its burned horse hair cover.

When does such a story end? It doesn't. The trunk is a treasure. It captures bygone experiences and points us forward. This summer my brother Mike and Rachel and I will take a European river cruise starting in Amsterdam, ending in Vienna. When we see the castles and churches on the Rhine and the Danube, perhaps we will share the same excitement that Harry and Clark had. It is good to imagine that.

**Clark, his son Henry Clay and other Tillinghast family members are buried in Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago.**

**Mickie Murphy (daughter of author) stands beside grave marker for Clark Tillinghast, her great-great-grandfather. Henry Clay's marker is at right.**



## The 1882 Tillinghast House in Manhattan — No. 26 East 64th Street

By Bruce Tillinghast (*Warren, John, John, Stutely, Clarke, Stutely, Pardon, John, Pardon, Pardon*)

Several years ago when Googling information on a Tillinghast House here in Providence, RI, the following article on the 1882 William H. Tillinghast House in New York City showed up. It appeared in the ongoing blog “Daytonian in Manhattan” in March of 2013. The blog highlights buildings, statues and other points of interest in Manhattan. They are written by Tom Miller. The story of the survival of this Queen Anne building and the original owner, a very successful NY businessman, William H. Tillinghast, are fascinating. Tom Miller has generously consented to let us reproduce part of the article in Pardon’s Progeny II.

Following the completion of Central Park and the construction of The Metropolitan Museum in the 1870’s, the blocks to the east of Fifth Avenue were quickly filling with comfortable rowhouses. In 1881, Theodore Weston began construction on four similar Queen Anne style residences on East 64<sup>th</sup> Street, stretching from the corner of Madison Avenue towards the park.

Weston served as his own architect for the spec homes and utilized up-to-the-minute designs incorporating brick, brownstone, terra cotta and tile work details in his fanciful designs.

Six years after the completion of the rowhouses, Weston, a founder and trustee of The Metropolitan Museum, would design the Museum’s south wing addition in 1888.

The houses were completed in 1882 and No. 26 was purchased by another Museum trustee, William H. Tillinghast and his wife Phoebe Wyckoff Tillinghast. Having made money in coal investments, he went on to become a highly-successful railroad executive with interests and Directorships in several railroad corporations. Later on as his fortune grew he would diversify into banking with seats on several bank boards as well as co-founding the brokerage firm of Tillinghast & Benedict.



Photo by Alice Lum

William and Phoebe had no children and hob-knobbed with the city’s wealthiest citizens including the Vanderbilt brothers, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Stanford White and Henry Villard, amongst others. Their social lives centered around the Metropolitan Opera, lavish events for The Metropolitan Museum, memberships in exclusive clubs and the fashionable summer resorts of Southampton, Long Island and Newport, RI.

In March of 1892, Phoebe died at home. William’s mourning was short lived and in 1893 the *New York Times* reported “The acquaintances of William H. Tillinghast have heard with great pleasure that he is soon to marry Mrs. Edmund D. Stanton.” Louise Babcock Stanton, widowed for 20 years, was well known in New York society. The aging newlyweds continued to live in the Tillinghast house on East 64<sup>th</sup> Street.

In December 1902, William Tillinghast died in the house at the age of 77. Louise suffered quietly through a year of expected mourning and then launched back into the social circuit of New York City and summer resorts. She

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remained at 26 East 64<sup>th</sup> Street until her death there on New Year's Eve in 1913. Her funeral was held in the parlor on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1914.

Prior to William's death, one of the striking rowhouses, No. 28, had been remodeled creating a stark interruption in the row of Queen Anne architecture along East 64<sup>th</sup> St. By 1944, alterations or replacement of two of the other four houses left the former Tillinghast House @ No. 26 as the only Weston rowhouse with its original façade.



**The Tillinghast house is at the right.  
—photo collection of the Museum of  
the City of New York.**

The new owners, shortly after purchasing the house in January 1944 with all the original Weston detailing, removed the pyramidal center roof section and much of the fanciful Queen Anne detailing. They also had aggressive plans drawn up to renovate the building drastically altering the façade.



**Photographs from  
collection of the Museum  
of the City of New York**



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For some reason, renovation plans were abandoned. No. 26, East Street 64<sup>th</sup> Street, has been sold many times since the Tillinghasts' deaths. Changes have ranged from residents with a doctor's office, dressmakers shop, public relations offices, upscale beauty parlor, and restaurants.

Historically this building is still known as the William H. Tillinghast House. In 2013, the current owners restored much of Theodore Weston's details as you see in first picture. It now (as of 2013) houses offices on its upper floors and a restaurant in the basement level. It is the sole survivor of Weston's eye-catching Queen Anne row, and No. 26 still causes the passerby to pause.

Surely we all agree that any aspect of our unique Tillinghast history is a treasure and worth saving. And we applaud conservation, preservation and restoration of each and any of the aspects and treasures devoted to our Tillinghast Family.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

If you carry the Tillinghast name – do you know how unique you are?

Current records show that there is only ONE Tillinghast Family in the United States.

We are all descendants of Pardon Tillinghast who finally settled in the town of Providence in the colony of Rhode Island.

Now that the TILLINGHAST SOCIETY, Inc. is up and running, with a formal Board of Directors\* we would like to take advantage of the family newsletter – PARDON'S PROGENY – to bring readers up to date on our efforts. Our mission is to preserve and maintain The Tillinghast Burial Ground on Benefit St in Providence as well as keeping records of all of Pardon's descendants. We also enjoy bringing you interesting stories of the Tillinghast Family, current and historic.

After many years of neglect, The Tillinghast Burial Ground is in need of repairs and maintenance. In addition to wall and fence repairs we envision low maintenance landscaping, and since the site is used by neighbors as a quiet park, benches to rest and reflect, and some signage explaining the importance and history of the site. This is the last remaining single family burial site associated with the early Town of Providence. How the monument came into being and the fact that Pardon Tillinghast built the first commercial wharf in Providence.

Board members have been diligently working on plans for a major fundraising campaign. Mention of this in a previous PP issue resulted in a very generous donation of \$5000. and pledges totaling \$6000. A wonderful inspiration! We are hopeful this generosity will extend into our formal campaign which we plan to launch in the coming months. Watch for mail or email with plans.

Last April we did submit a grant application for \$30,000 to The Champlin Foundations, a foundation dedicated to Rhode Island "brick and mortar" projects. Since many RI cemeteries and burial sites are in dire need of repair we knew this was a long shot. We hoped that the unique historic aspect of the Tillinghast Burial Ground would

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make this an unique request from a cemetery. Unfortunately we did not receive one of the grants in 2016. However, several months after our submission we learned that the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) does historic tours for student groups and regularly stops at The Tillinghast Burial Ground. They annually bring about 1000 students by the site. This adds a unique educational aspect to our appeal – especially planning signage, which RIHS has encouraged us to include. . We anticipate applying to The Champlin Foundations again.

The Board appreciates your continued interest in our Tillinghast Family and welcomes comments.

**OUR ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP THIS YEAR IS SCHEDULED FOR – SATURDAY, MAY 6<sup>th</sup> AT 10 AM.**

Great to have you join us if you can!

W. Bruce Tillinghast, President



**Bruce Tillinghast, 2017**

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If you are interested in supporting the work of the Society, we would greatly appreciate your donation in any amount – please make your check payable to the "Tillinghast Society, Inc.". Please send it to Claire Hauenstein, Treas., 309 Ferris Hills, Canandaigua NY 14424. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.