
❖ PARDON'S PROGENY II ❖

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of the
Tillinghast
Family In
America.*

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Fear Not”*

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Editor's introduction:

Our newsletter has a different look in this issue. We have first, a response to last issue which extends the story about the Tillinghast Chest sold at auction. This informal response from Bruce Tillinghast puts a current face on the historical Slocum piece from Kent Watkins in the Winter/Spring 2013 issue

Next you'll find e-mail information from Todd Lawrence referencing two letters from Gideon Tillinghast to his father and brother in the 1850s. The letters follow. To put this communication into perspective, Todd has created for us a genealogical piece that I have included as an attachment. If your heritage runs in that line, you will want to read this in its entirety to help trace your family information. The letters are inserted on pages 4 and 5 of his report for the complete record.

Third is an excellent research article by Donna Casey on Tillinghast history in England. Donna is going where others have only wandered, looking for solid evidence about Pardon's English heritage. In “Discovering Pardon's great-grandfather”, we see her *new evidence to support the connection of the Tillinghast families of Streat, Sussex and Newport, Essex, England*. In an effort to preserve her detailed documentation and footnoting, this editor chooses to send her article as an attachment, also. It is time for me to upgrade my Publisher program so I can receive current material and pass it on without error. I hope to do that before the next issue.

If you are receiving this by email, be sure to download all three parts. If you receive it by regular mail, you shouldn't notice a difference.

Greta T. Tyler, editor

Message from the editor:

In the Winter 2013 issue, Kent Watkins wrote an interesting article about "The Sarah [Tillinghast] Slocum Chippendale Mahogany Block-and-Shell Carved Chest-of-Drawers sold at auction for \$4,732,500! Kent traced the chest from its creation through its sale. In response to that newsletter, I had an email from Bruce Tillinghast, Pawtucket, RI, with such interesting follow-up information that I asked his permission to share it with you. Please read his message below.

Greta T. Tyler

Greta & Kent.....

What a fun edition! I had NEVER heard that story before about the Sarah Slocum "buroe".

I'm a descendant of "Molasses" Pardon who built a house referred to as "The Mansion House" in E Greenwich. And I have always wondered what happened to the furnishings and paintings that must have graced this home and homes of other of our successful ancestors. It was the custom of the day for those with money to furnish the house from local furniture makers and painters. And without-a-doubt Townsend-Goddard furniture from Newport was choice even in its day and scope of the studio's work was pretty much "local" so most of the pieces stayed in RI or nearby MA - Fall River was part of RI at that time.

A note about the bookcase-desk that sold for \$12 mil .

It was made for the first Nicholas Brown c.1760 and at the time of its sale it was owned by his descendant, Nicholas (Nick) Brown, who was one of John Nicholas Brown II and wife Anne's (nee: Kinssolving) 3 children. John N. Brown - in infancy, inherited his father's and an uncle's fortune and was referred to as the richest baby in America at the time....Google him for more info.

JNB owned the family home - Nightingale-Brown House on Benefit St in Providence..... Nicholas Brown Jr bought this house in 1814 and it remained in the Brown family until Anne's death in 1985. (Pat and I catered dinners for the Brown Family at the house) Nick and his older brother, John Carter (Dir National Gallery at one time - now deceased) and his sister, Angela B. Fischer donated the house to Brown U and established the JNB Center for American Studies.

The family discovered the house was in deplorable structural condition and Nick, who had inherited the bookcase-desk offered to auction it to raise money for much needed repairs. They hoped the sale would top \$1 million and there were other Townsend-Goddard pieces in the house that the family was prepared to sell but the sale of the bookcase-desk brought far more than expected at the Christie auction - \$12.1 million.

[www.risdmuseum. HYPERLINK "http://www.risdmuseum.org/art_design/objects/685/bookcase_and_desk"org](http://www.risdmuseum.org/art_design/objects/685/bookcase_and_desk)
[HYPERLINK "http://www.risdmuseum.org/art_design/objects/685/bookcase_and_desk"](http://www.risdmuseum.org/art_design/objects/685/bookcase_and_desk)

And "rumor" has it that Robert Bass bought the desk at the Christie Auction and it was too tall for the space he wanted to put it - this could be cyber fantasy.

Aside from activities for the Center for American Studies the house is rented for weddings/functions and contains most all of the furnishings that the Brown families lived with. Beautiful portraits, rugs, etc. I see

(Continued from page 2)

Nick several times a year at wine dinners and he and Angela were good customers @ New Rivers.

A side note about the desk.....part of the sale "deal" was that an exact replica be made to sit in the space of the original. There are nine known pieces, three of them were in Rhode Island

An almost identical desk-bookcase was made for Nicholas Brown's brother, John, and still sits in The John Brown House across Power St and is part of the RI Historical Society's Collection. There is a third in the RISD Museum's American Furniture Collection in "Pendelton House".

After the 2008 "Recession" the RI Historical Society was concerned about their dwindling endowment and based on the successful sale of the Townsend-Goddard bookcase-desk decided to sell theirs to bolster the endowment. There was an uproar from RIHS members and the society received a sizeable challenge grant match from those interested in retaining the cherished desk. It is ongoing and info can be found by contacting the RIHS: www.rihs.org or calling 401-331-8575 ext 135.

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

Family letters reveal hard times and connect the missing relatives

For those new to Pardon's Progeny II, Todd Lawrence is our genealogist. He has collected a massive amount of information about the Tillinghast family and can respond to questions about our history from the time of Elder Pardon to the present. He is always interested in information about new births and deaths. He enters interesting stories into his data base and welcomes your input.

Recently, Todd was contacted by fellow researcher Phillip Schlee from Manhattan, Kansas, who has an interest in historical letters. It seems that Phillip purchased two letters with Tillinghast information. He wrote to Todd,

Attached are transcriptions of two letters from Gideon Tillinghast to his father and brother in the early 1850's. I found the letters to be very interesting and a nice glimpse back into the lives of our family.

Todd reached out to Phil Schlee who transcribed them and gave us permission to print his transcriptions. Then Todd wrote,

I created a genealogy report for Stephen Tillinghast, father of Gideon, and included 3 generations. Stephen was a farmer and banker in Foster, RI. Two of his sons (Reuben and Isaac) were farmers. The other 3 went into various business / political positions. Please read my notes under each of the family for more information. Of note, please also look at the bio for James Tillinghast, son of Gideon. He was a very prominent businessman in NY (Superintendent of railroad) and Tillinghast Place in Buffalo is named after him. There is information on Gideon's cotton mills in his bio, as well as that for his son.

Along with this newsletter you will find attached the genealogy report from Todd. In it you will find repeated the two letters that follow. Note that Gideon's father, Stephen, is listed on page 223 of *The Tillinghasts in America: The First Four Generations* by Wayne G. Tillinghast.

Little Falls Dec 14 1851

De[a]r Brother

It is a Long time since I have herd from you and I think I wrote to you sinc[e] you wrote to me you Doubtless have herd of the Dearth of Brother Isaac his son Pardon wrote to me Dur[ing] his sickness and had it ben so I could have gone I should have gone and seen him but it was Dificult for me to Leave home at the time and soon after I Recd a Letter Informing me of his Death and had I started on the Recpt of the first Letter I could not have got there while he was Liveing our Relatives in this quarter are as well as usual the Last I herd from them Uncle Amos wife Aunt Mary and her Daughter with her husband Paddock was here Last summer I was at Norway at Mr Deboises where Uncle Pardon Boards I think it was in Augst Last Debois Married Uncle Pardons daughter that he had by his second wife who was Robert Crandalls Sister and for her first husband Mared Gideon Reynolds Brother of Jessee Reynolds Dianas Fauther

My self and Famly are as well as usual my health is much better than it was when I was Last at yrs place Diana is much the same as she was the Last time we were down country James is Living at Rome About 40 miles from this Place he is at work on a Rail Road which Runs from Rome to Cape Vincent and passes throug[h] Brownvill where I formily Lived and pases with in ½ a mile of my Farm James is Foreman in the Repair shop sees to Repairing the Ingenes and cars &c James wife had three children the yongest Died Last Febury a girl about 20 months old the Rest were wel a Few days ago. I have a Letter from him Francis and Hannah Ann both Live near by me they have one child Each [---] Eysaman Hannah Ann Husband talks of going on to my Plac[e] next spring he is a Farmer I think I shall Let him go on to it and see what he can do James and me worked together in the Machine business for several years before he went to Rome we hired a shop and have our own tools which we Inventory at twenty two hundred Dollars Suppose they would sell For 15 or 16 hundred our work is Mill work grist mill and saw Mill some Rail Road work and thrashing Machines Machines for Making Chees Boxes &c Since James went to Rome I have cared [carried] on the shop a Lone I have two boys with me working under I[n] struction as Aprintices

we have some bad Luck Before James went By his be[i]ng to Risky we Lost several Debts in amt a Little over a thousand Dollars or I console it Lost though we may get it some time or other James wrote me a few days ago that one of our cr [credits] whose acct [account] was bet[w]een 4 and 500 Dollars came forward and settled the acct by Given his Note to James and told him he woul[d] pay as soon as he could get his business straitided [straightened out] But I think it Doubtful had it not Been for our bad Luck I should hav ben Able to pay you part or all that I owe you but as it is I am under the necessity of asking Further time and Further I am in want of some more money for present use and I will ask if you are willing to help me to some and take a Mortgage on my place in Brownvill as security for the old Debt and the New till I can Bury it Round If so please Let me Know By Return of Mail

Yours Respe[c]tfully
G Tillinghast

There is a man in this place has offered Me what money I want and take security on my place but if you are willing to take it I had Rather you would as I am now owing you

(Letter to Samuel Tillinghast, Foster, "Clay Vill post office," Rhode Island, from his brother, Gideon Tillinghast, Little Falls, New York, December 14, 1851; postmarked Rockton, New York; letter in envelope)

Brownsville Dec 15 1832

Dear Farther

Your Letter of the 4th Sept was Long since recd and I have to acknowledge that I have ben neglectfull in returning an answer I now take this oportunity of informing You that through the Mercies of God that myself and family are enjoying good health at this time – we had an addition to our family in July Last of a fine Daughter and Diana proposes for Aunt Anny [*interlined* “Rathbon”] to send her a name if she pleases I also should be glad if she would take the trouble to send her a name as I have heard her say that it was her intention to have named me ---- Our winter holds of remark[a]bly no snow of consequence Yet, hay is from 5 to 6 Dollars per ton Wheat from 8/-- to 8/6 per bushel Yank money Rye 5/-- corn 4/6 & 5/-- Wood from 7/-- to 9/-- per cord I am engaged in the Factory in this place Pretty much all of my property is in the Factory there is in the Factory about 1500 spindles & to Looms we make a bout 8000 Yds
over

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per week if times was as good as they ware five Years a go it would be a good business but at this time it is a hard business, money is verry scarce in this country and business dull I am owing some money and have money ownin to me but it is almost imposible to collect now a days as there is no imprisonment for Debt the money you sent me by Barber James I have never seen I have got his note forr it and I begin to think that is all that I shall get it is hard for me to say what I am obliged to say of him it is not my wish to harm him in the Least but it is a fact that he has treated me shamefully and I have with in a Year wrote to him several times for the money stating to him my Extreem want of it and have Recd no answer attall Further more I was at his house a Year a go Last November he then promised me that he would send me thirty dollars in one month and the remainder in the spring folowing which was Last spring he pretended that he had the money due to him in that place
over

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and he had sold his place and I Expect he had some money due to him at that time I owe Samuel one hundred & fifty dollars & Interest three years if he is in great want of it I must raise it some way or other but if he could indulge me a Little Longer I should Like it very much -----

I had a Letter from Isaac Last summer and wrote one to him when he wrote they aware all well, he is some thing Like two hundred miles from this place I suppose he is in the state of Pennsylviana & this Place is in the North West corner of New York state about twenty miles from the Line of Pepper Co[unty] James has just been writing a Letter to one of [his] school mates & I give him the privilege of filling the rest of this sheet
Yours Respectfully

Gideon Tillinghast

(Letter to Stephen Tillinghast, Esqr., Exeter, Washington County, Rhode Island, from his son, Gideon Tillinghast, Brownville, [New York], December 15, 1832)

Confirmed baptism date of Pardon¹, the emigrant. This is a confirmation of the date on the original baptism record image for Pardon¹, the emigrant, at the East Sussex Record Office (ESRO), Lewes, East Sussex England. The record reads "1624 Jan Ye 3rd was baptized Pardon the son of Pardon Tillinghast", Streat Parish Church register. ESRO REF: PAR 488/1/1/1. Formerly in this publication the baptism date may have been given as 23rd January 1624. It should be noted that the Julian calendar was in use at the time, therefore, the date should be recognized as 3rd January 1624/25. Donna Tillinghast Casey.

Dear Readers,

I appeal for your assistance. With this issue, we complete 14 years of publication for Pardon's Progeny II. That is a total of 28 issues. Whew! That is a lot of written word about our family and its interesting pilgrimage in this country and England. I am grateful for the contributions many of you have made so that our story can continue in print, email and Facebook.

My appeal is for help in two ways. We need to continue telling stories so they can be recorded here and shared. Please consider writing about your family and your Tillinghast connection. I like to include both the well documented scholarly article and the homey remembrance of family members with unique experiences. Current achievements are worthy of note as well as the historical story that catches our imagination. Please, send me your stories.

Second, I appeal for help with this publication. I need someone who will take the pdf issue that I send to you by email and distribute it by mail to print-only readers. We have about 50 readers who are not email users. For each issue, you would take it to a printer for reproduction, fold for mailing, create labels and mail it out. These readers continue to pay for their publication so your expenses would be covered. The next step would be to determine who would make that collection. We can talk about that part of distribution later.....one step at a time. Where is my volunteer who will distribute mail copies of PPII?

My warm regards to you,

Greta T. Tyler