

Pardon¹'s youngest brother Charles came to America...or did he?

By Donna Tillinghast Casey (William, Carl, Francis Marion "Frank", Dwight Joseph, Joseph Gorton, Joseph, Charles, John, Pardon², Pardon¹, Pardon^A, John^B, Robert^C)

There has been some question as to whether a certain Charles Tillinghast who begins to appear in Rhode Island records in 1687 is the youngest brother of Pardon¹ or an unrecorded son of Pardon¹. This paper provides support for the speculation that this Charles Tillinghast¹ is perhaps the youngest brother of Pardon¹.

Background. Pardon¹'s father, Pardon^A (*John^B, Robert^C*), died in England sometime in 1644², perhaps in one of the battles of the Civil War. At his death, the land and buildings of Alfriston, East Sussex, within Lullington Manor, held by Pardon^A, were passed to his wife, Pardon¹'s mother, Sarah (Browne). Nine years later at Sarah's death that land then passed to Charles, the youngest son. Parish records list the date of Sarah's burial as 18 June 1653, St. Pancras Parish Church, Arlington, East Sussex³, four miles north of Sarah's home village in Alfriston⁴. That record lists her as a "widow", re-confirming that Pardon^A pre-deceased Sarah, and refuting a commonly seen death date for Pardon^A of 1665. Sarah was 53 years old when she died (bp. 24 August, 1600, Ifield, West Sussex⁵).

It is not fully clear why Sarah was buried in Arlington. Though she may have been living there at the time of her death, it seems curious she would have taken ten-year-old Charles and moved to Arlington after Pardon^A's death (1644), where she may have known no one. No immediate family connections appear in the parish records of Arlington within a 20-year period before or after Sarah's death⁶. Four years after his mother's death in 1657, Charles surrendered⁷ the Alfriston property to William Kinge, a cooper, and his wife Elizabeth. This surrender supports unbroken "ownership" of the Alfriston property by the family from 1637 to 1657, and makes it doubtful that Sarah and Charles moved to Arlington at any time. More logically, based on property records, after Pardon^A's death Sarah would have continued to maintain the house and cooperage in Alfriston. It seems more practical that she would have hired or allowed another cooper, perhaps William Kinge, to work the business and apprentice Charles, who was of the proper age at the time of his father's death (10 years) to have already begun an apprenticeship. In 1644, Sarah is annotated on the Alfriston property rental agreement as "widow" and therefore "holder" of the property. The more probable reason Charles buried Sarah in Arlington may have been linked to religious preference, a fundamental aspect of this family's life, and another reason to consider why it was he who appears in Rhode Island.

¹ Bp. 4 January 1634/35, St. Margaret's Parish Church, Ifield, West Sussex – d. after 8 November 1657 (perhaps Newport, Rhode Island, USA). East Sussex Record Office (ESRO), The Keep, Brighton, East Sussex, England. PAR 488 1/1/. Pre-1812 Registers.

² Annotation on 1637 Alfriston, Sussex, England property rental agreement for Pardon^A and his wife Sarah (Browne) states in Latin "*(now), Sara Tillingherst (is a) widow (dated) 1644*". ESRO [Note 1], Ref. ESRO ADA 46.

³ Ibid. Ref: ESRO, [Note 1] AMS 5909/2.

⁴ Ibid. Ref. ESRO, [Note 1] PAR 232 1/1/1: Arlington St. Pancras Early Records 1607-1904. "Widow".

⁵ West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, West Sussex, England (WSRO), Ref: PAR/109/1/1/1 ff 1-14. Baptisms 1568-31 MAR 1643/4. Sussex Family History Group (SFHG), St. Margaret Parish, Ifield, West Sussex Index, 1568-1653.

⁶ No immediate family connections have been found, however, two family surnames appear in the Arlington registers near the time of Sarah's burial; Browne, Elphick.

⁷ Land was owned by the Lord or Lady of the Manor and rented by the tenant/holder. When the holder wanted to rid himself of the land he would surrender it back into the hands of the Lord or Lady of the manor. The Lord or Lady would then admit the new tenant/"holder" to the land in exchange for rent.

During the English Civil War (1642–1649) and period of the Commonwealth (1649-1660) there was great disruption to a range of services throughout the country. First, Commonplace ceremonies and the registration of those events fell victim to the turmoil of war. The method by which birth, marriage, and burial records were to be collected and recorded was significantly changed by parliamentary procedural acts. Civil officers, often with less reverence for the responsibility than parish vicars, were placed in charge of recording vital events, leading to the loss and omission of many records. Of further disruption to these ceremonies for many was a lack of Parliamentarian-approved (Puritan⁸) clergy.

At this time Alfriston was a community transformed from the religious certainties of the fifteenth century to that of one with strong-minded godly men with dissenting theologies whether of the Arminian establishment line or of independent thought and divergent religious beliefs⁹ who met in secret conventicles. In spite of this, Alfriston had no parish minister. Alfriston's parish church, St. Andrew's, was without clergy throughout the Civil War and Commonwealth period (1642-1662)¹⁰. While a small number of ceremonies are recorded in that parish register, parish registers of surrounding villages show a larger number of Alfriston entries¹¹. This imbalance occurred due to the lack of a minister, but more importantly it happened because there were those with a deliberate intention to have ceremonies performed by a minister with a religious conviction that mirrored their own, as opposed to a traveling curate¹². This seems to be what happened in the case of Sarah's burial. It was not uncommon for families to travel to a neighboring ministered parish aligned with their own religious leanings where church rites such as baptisms, marriages, and burials, would be performed¹³. It would not be unexpected that Charles and Sarah had the same independent preferences as Pardon^A, son Pardon¹, and brother-in-law and uncle, John^A (*John^B, Robert^C*), the well-respected Fifth Monarchist/Baptist minister of London, Norfolk, and Suffolk, England.

Arlington's St. Pancras parish had a Parliament-appointed minister, and their registry shows no omissions of baptisms, marriages, or burials between 1642 and 1662¹⁴. A "John Manninge" was placed by Parliament into the Arlington rectory in 1643 and remained there at least until 1657 when Shaw places him with the parishes of Sibton and Peasenhall in Suffolk^{15,16}. According to Cambridge Alumni records, this seems to be the same John Manning (1615-1694) of Suffolk and Norfolk England, who was brother to William and Samuel Manning,

⁸ This included Independents and Separatists, which included those with personally held Baptist "leanings".

⁹ *Alfriston: A Sussex market town and its makers.*, 2011, Juliet Clarke. Rooker Books, Lewes, East Sussex.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Sussex Family History Group (SFHG) Index, Alfriston, St. Andrew Parish 1547-1849.

¹² An assistant to a vicar, rector, or parish minister who traveled from village to village administering pastoral responsibilities.

¹³ *Kent Timeline: 2004-2014 Kent Online Parish Clerks*, <http://www.kent-opc.org/History.html>.

¹⁴ SFHG [Note 11] Index, Arlington, St. Pancras 1602-1899.

¹⁵ *A history of the English Church during the Civil Wars and under the Commonwealth, 1640-1660*, William A. Shaw, Longmans Green & Co., New York and Bombay, VOL II, Pg. 317, 595. House of Commons' Journals, 9 October 1643, VOL III, Pg. 271.

¹⁶ As a result of The Great Ejection which followed the Act of Uniformity (1662). An Act established when Charles II was restored to power, in which an oath was to be signed by all ministers to agree to a new "uniformity of" prayer (Book of Common Prayer) and the "uniformity of" administration of sacraments & other rites & ceremonies in the Church of England. Two thousand Puritan ministers, who refused to sign this oath, were removed from their positions as Church of England clergy. This mass ejection was a consequence (not necessarily intended) of the Savoy Conference of 1661, which was initially established to attempt a reconciliation (between Puritans and Episcopalians) within the Church of England.

all known for their strong Puritan preachings¹⁷. In his will (1655)¹⁸, Sarah's brother-in-law, John^A, appointed this same John Manning, and his brother Samuel, as guardians for his daughter, Mary, by whom he had issue with his third wife Marry Manning, perhaps the sister of John, Samuel, and William.

Although John Manning became a radical staunch Fifth Monarchist by 1655, his deep-seated views may not have been as developed in 1643 or were unknown to the Parliament when he was placed in Arlington to replace the sequestered vicar, John Wilson. Based upon the religious sympathies in Arlington at the time of Sarah's death, it becomes clearer why she was buried there. Sarah and her son Charles likely knew John Manning and were favorably disposed to his religious preachings. It appears the strength of Charles' religious beliefs took him to Arlington to bury his mother.

Nine months after her death, on March 20, 1654, Sarah's property was transferred to Charles. Three-and-a-half years later, when Charles was nearing his 23rd birthday, he surrendered his "ownership holding" of that property. Below is the translation (Latin to English) of the document describing Charles' surrender of the property to William Kinge and his wife Elizabeth on 31 October 1657¹⁹ of Alfriston.

Surrender of Tillinghurst to Kinge

(Translation of original document): Surrender of Tillinghurst to Kinge

LULLINGTON *The Court of the Right Honorable Anne Countess Dowager of Pembroke Dorset and Montgomery Lady of the said Manor there holden the eighth day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and seven.*

By Edward Raynes, gentleman, steward there.

Homage²⁰: Henry Goodday
 Thomas French } Sworn by
 John Clerke

Surrender of Tillingherst To Kinge

At this Court it is presented by the homage that out of Court and since the last Court that is to say 31st day of October last past, Charles Tillingherst did surrender into the hands of the Lady of the Manor by the acceptance of Henry Goodday and Thomas French two copyhold tenants of this Manor present in court upon their oaths according to the custom of this Manor testifying the same, A tenement or cottage and a garden thereto with the appurtenances in the Town of Alfriston late of (John) Parsons and paying yearly 12d. To the use and behoof (benefit) of William Kinge and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of the said William whereupon nothing happened for a heriot²¹ because the said Charles had no beast And the said William and Elizabeth present in Court pray to be thereunto admitted according to the form and effect of the said surrender to whom the Lady by the said Steward granted seisin thereof by the rodd To have and to hold to the said William and Elizabeth and to the heirs of the said William forever by the rent custom and service therefore due of right accustomed And they are admitted.

Fine 26s 8d Tenants as aforesaid give to the Lady a fine 26s 8d, and did therefore fealty.

The disappearance and appearance of Charles. When Charles surrendered the Alfriston property to William Kinge and his wife Elizabeth on 31 October 1657 he was 23. At aged 23 Charles would have already achieved his master cooper skills. At the time, Charles

¹⁷ A Cambridge Alumni Database (ACAD), venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/, accessed December 1, 2011.

¹⁸ The National Archives (TNA), Kew, Richmond, and Surrey, England: Ref. PROB 11/251/617.

¹⁹ ESRO [Note 1] Ref: AMS 5909/2. Translation by Juliet Clarke, 2011.

²⁰ Respected men of the community whose job it was to make presentations to the court and act as a jury when necessary.

²¹ A duty paid in the form of a "beast" (horse, oxen, etc.) to the Lord or Lady of the manor at the decease of a tenant, or the surrender of property, as in this case.

had a brother Benjamin, aged 27, who isn't seen in British records after 1658. He apprenticed and became a master cooper in London and may have married in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, an adjacent suburb of London, where he is recorded as father to a son, John, in December 1656²². The only other immediate family member other than Pardon¹, possibly still living at the time, was a sister Sarah, of whom no marriage or burial records can be found after her baptism in 1627, Cowfold, West Sussex²³. Perhaps she married, or perhaps she did not survive past infancy or early childhood. Of Charles' immediate family, apart from Pardon¹ and these two siblings who seem to be missing, all members were deceased. This may have been another possible reason for the young brother Charles to head to America.

The questions to be asked are, why did Charles surrender the Alfriston property, and where did he go? After 1657 no marriage, death, or land acquisition records for Charles have been discovered in Britain. Burchall has suggested,²⁴ and it is this author's opinion, that Charles followed his brother Pardon¹ to America. There are documents and anecdotal clues to support speculations and assumptions that Charles immigrated to America after the surrender of the house and cooperage property in Alfriston.

If his sole intent on surrendering the Alfriston property in October of 1657 was to go to America, Charles likely departed England the following Spring of 1658, since sea travel on the Atlantic to America rarely commenced in the fall or winter months due to the danger of storms. If Charles came to America it seems plausible that he headed to Newport, Rhode Island, where his brother Pardon¹ had purchased property in 1658 and to which he soon moved and remained until he returned to Providence in 1666. There are a number of Newport and Rhode Island colony records that indicate the likelihood of Pardon¹'s brother Charles' presence in Newport in later decades of the seventeenth century.

On 13 December 1687 a Charles Tillinghast appears as one of twelve grand jurists for a General Quarter Session in the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, at Newport.²⁵ On 3 June 1690 a Charles Tillinghast was chosen constable of Newport²⁶. On 5 May 1691 a Charles Tillinghast was admitted a freeman of the colony (Rhode Island) and admitted "Generall Seargent" (of the colony).²⁷ There are two manuscripts regarding a court trial in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library dated July and November of 1691 addressed to Charles Tillinghast "Generall Sargant" of the colony.²⁸ From November 1693 to September 1695 a Charles Tillinghast is seen serving as "General Seargent" for numerous trials in Newport.²⁹ On 6 September 1698 a Charles Tillinghast, identified as a "General Seargent", is mentioned as owner of (Newport) land bordering on disputed land known now as Bowen's Wharf.³⁰ These records imply this Charles Tillinghast would have been an adult. Although Pardon¹ had two grandsons named Charles,

²² Hertfordshire Archives Library (HALS), Hertford, Hertfordshire, England, Cheshunt St. Mary Church parish records. Ref. DP29/1/1.

²³ WSRO [note 5] Ref. PAR 59/1/1. Cowfold Baptism Records 1558-1812 (St. Peter's Church of Cowfold).

²⁴ Sussex Family Historian, *A Tillinghast Genealogy*, Michael Burchall, Vol. 1: pp 57 – 59.

²⁵ *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*, 10 Vols. (Providence: Knowles, Anthony & Co., 1856-1865), 3:233.

²⁶ *Newport Town Meeting Records, 1679-1776*, transcribed, Newport Historical Society Library, p. 73.

²⁷ *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*, 10 Vols. (Providence: Knowles, Anthony & Co., 1856-1865), 3:573.

²⁸ Rhode Island Historical Society Library (RIHSL): MSS 9003 R.I.H.S.M., Vol. 1, Pg. 69, Warrant, 4 July 1691. MSS 221, Warwick Town Records, Letter from Joseph Jenkes, 23 November 1691. Referring to an unlawful event regarding John Boorman and a warrant for his arrest.

²⁹ Rhode Island General Court of Trials 1671-1704, Transcribed by Jane Fletcher Fiske, Boxford, Massachusetts, 1998.

³⁰ *Ibid.* Charles' property, and (if the youngest brother of Pardon¹) his nephew John's (*Pardon¹*) property, seem to have been either adjacent to each other's property and/or both adjacent to Bowen's Wharf.

during the period of 1687 to 1698 they were too young to hold civil offices or own land. Charles (*John, Pardon*³¹) was born about 1689³¹. Charles (*Phillip, Pardon*¹) was born in March of 1693.³²

With regard to the above described Charles Tillinghast becoming a freeman in 1691, it should be understood that, ordinarily, and consistent with the voting-rights statute of 1664, Rhode Islanders sought dual freemanship. First, the individual became an inhabitant of a town and acquired a “competent estate” (£100 or £40/year income) in the town they chose to reside. After acquiring the qualified “estate”, application would be made to become a freeman of that town. After being admitted freeman of the town, and at an undetermined later time, the individual would be proposed to the General Assembly of the colony for admittance as freeman in the colony.³³ On 5 May 1691, the Charles recorded as “admitted freeman”, therefore, had already been admitted freeman of the village of Newport, and was receiving colony freemanship. Most men became a freeman in their village no later than the age of 40 years. Acquisition of colony freemanship probably took place no later than at least a few years after village or town freemanship. The date of 1691 meant that if this was Pardon¹’s youngest brother, Charles, freemanship was acquired unusually late, however, “there was no ‘upward’ age for acquiring freemanship for either village or colony”³⁴. If this was a son of Pardon¹ he could have been as old as 34, again, somewhat beyond the average age to acquire freemanship, but not irregular.

After the 6 September 1698 Newport record entry, no other entry for a Charles Tillinghast has been discovered that could be exclusively associated with Pardon¹’s brother or a son Charles. The remaining records to about 1728 could be connected to either Pardon¹’s brother Charles or to either of the two grandsons named Charles, or a son of Pardon¹.

Of further consideration in this dilemma it should be noted that the signature of an Elizabeth Tillinghast appears as a witness at a number of Newport Quaker weddings from 1688 to 1693.³⁵ Pardon¹’s youngest daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1685³⁶; making it unlikely it was she who witnessed these weddings. Identifying the Elizabeth Tillinghast whose signatures are found in the Quaker records would only be speculation according to Tillinghast; however, he finds it likely “*she had some connection to the unidentified Charles Tillinghast*”.³⁷ Tillinghast suggests the Charles Tillinghast who appears as juror and General Sergeant in the Newport records, may be a son of Pardon¹ whose birth or death records have never been discovered.

Conclusion. A number of facts make a stronger case for the mysterious Charles being the youngest brother rather than the son of Pardon¹: the timing of a land transaction, an association of events, and the hint of a religiously based decision. First, the surrender of his Alfriston property and the lack of vital and land records in Britain attributed to Charles after that surrender strongly suggest he left England. Second, the disappearance of Charles in British records after 1658, the appearance of Pardon¹ in Newport in 1658, and the unidentified Charles having settled in Newport, seem to be associated events which lend strong support for this being Pardon¹’s brother. Next, in 1657 those in England who tended to be intolerant of “freedom of conscience” were still a force with which to be reckoned. To make what appears to

³¹ *The Tillinghasts in America: The First Four Generations*, Wayne G. Tillinghast, Special publication #9, Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHSL), 2006. Pg. 13.

³² *Ibid.* Pg. 26.

³³ *The Rhode Island state constitution*, 2011. Patrick Conley and Robert G Flanders, Jr., Oxford University Press, Oxford, England, pg. 12.

³⁴ Joel Cohen, PhD, University of Rhode Island, professor of American Colonial History to 1763, personal communication 31 January, 2015.

³⁵ Rhode Island Monthly Meetings – Newport Book of Marriage Certificates, 1643-1888. Newport Historical Library, Newport, Rhode island.

³⁶ *The Tillinghasts in America: The First Four Generations*, Wayne G. Tillinghast, Special publication #9, Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHSL), 2006. Pg. 10.

³⁷ *Ibid.* Pg. 8-9.

be an unusual effort to provide his mother a burial by a non-conformist minister customary to their/her beliefs, suggests the brother and his mother had a proclivity for religious freedom: another reason for migrating to Rhode Island where those views were vigorously supported and being advocated and proselytized by his brother. Together, these events more strongly suggest the Charles Tillinghast seen in the Newport records exclusively from 1687 to 1698 and possibly some of which are found from 1698 to 1728, the time by which both grandsons would have reached maturity, seems to point to the Newport, Rhode Island, Charles as being the youngest brother of, rather than a son of, Pardon¹.

There is, however, a conundrum that weakens both of the above theories as to which Charles Tillinghast it is that appears in the Rhode Island records of the late seventeenth century. There are documented events that underlie a stronger case for the unidentified Charles as a brother rather than a son. However, a period of time without any recorded appearance for either individual begs the question where is Charles the son or the brother of Pardon¹ for almost 30 years? Neither are found in Rhode Island records from birth in Rhode Island to 1687 (son), or in British records or Rhode Island Colony records after the Alfriston land surrender (1657) to 1687 (brother). Research must continue in order to confirm whether the Charles Tillinghast who appears in Rhode Island records circa 1687 to 1728 is indeed the youngest brother of Pardon¹, or whether he is his unrecorded son.

Respectfully submitted,
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NOTE: This author welcomes any additional information omitted or corrections to any errors which might have been made in this paper, accompanied by a primary reference source. The author will make and publish those corrections. Send additions and/or corrections with their primary sources, and/or comments to donnacasey@yahoo.com.