

◆ PARDON'S PROGENY ◆

Volume 18, Issue 2

Summer Fall 2017

*A Publication of
the Tillinghast
Family In
America.*

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Fear Not"*

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Editors comments:

In this issue of Pardon's Progeny, we have a new request from you. I hope many of our men readers have had your DNA tested and are willing to share information with us. We could gain interesting insights and perhaps some surprises in accumulated findings. See our request on page 2. Stay tuned for follow-up on that.

Kent Watkins has submitted a portion of his book-in-progress about Mary E. Tillinghast. Besides being an accomplished stained glass artist, she was also a woman of free spirit who promoted other women to be successful. I hope you'll enjoy reading about her launching "tea" for two cousins. You'll find the beginning of this article in this issue on page 4 and the second part in the coming winter issue.

Tillinghast Society President Bruce Tillinghast highlights our fund raising efforts to keep family assets secure and protected. Earlier generations preserved Pardon's and others' burial grounds. We may now assure continuation of their remarkable job. Please read Bruce's comments with care and humble attention.

As you consider writing articles, please think first of the interest our readers may have in your story. Does it focus on accomplishments of someone in the family who is extraordinary or has received recognition? Be as factual as possible, citing dates, sources, and proper references that confirm the story. Please be succinct as length is a concern. We like to keep the paper under 20 pages just so readers won't dump something too long to read through. Thus single stories should be no longer than 10-12 pages. If you have many references that take a lot a room, feel free to offer to share upon request. Word documents are the easiest to insert into the paper. Our board have talked about guidelines for this family paper and we agree that it must continue to be a forum for us to communicate all sorts of information together. Thus, while we have some articles that border on being "scholarly", we are not a scholarly organization and do not offer that exposure to writers.

I invite you to enjoy sharing documented family stories, surprise findings from old letters or Bibles, news about a new award for a family member. In all cases, identify the person you write about as a Tillinghast and as often as possible, give the lineage. Todd Lawrence will help with that. If your article must be lengthy to be complete, please know that it can be separated into more than one part as we have done in this issue and have done before. Documenting photos, letters, graphs and the like may be added to the length of the article and will certainly add interest. Interesting stories about yourself are welcome.

So, good readers, please send articles. I look forward to hearing from you.

Greta Tillinghast Tyler



Greta Tillinghast Tyler

(Continued from page 1)

HAVE YOU DONE A GENEALOGICAL DNA TEST?

If you are a Tillinghast male of a blood-related direct male descendent line back to Pardon¹ the immigrant (1625-1718) and have completed a genealogical DNA test, we would like to hear from you. If you are willing, we would like to share the “ancestral origins” results of that test with our Tillinghast family in an upcoming *Pardon's Progeny II* newsletter article. The person we are looking for must be a Tillinghast male of a blood-related male-only direct line back to Pardon¹, the first Tillinghast to migrate to America (1644). We are happy to keep any volunteer anonymous, and are only interested in the segment of the test which reports ancestral origins.

Most all DNA tests provide *some* information about ancestral origins for any male or female submitting a sample for DNA testing. However, the most fruitful and far reaching results will come from a *blood-related direct male* descendent having taken a DNA test which included examination of their mitochondrial DNA. That test is designated on results as “mtDNA”.

Currently we have confirmed Tillinghast ancestral origin information for Pardon¹ that reaches back 500 years to about 1500, in Sussex and Essex, England. Anyone responding to this request would ideally have taken a DNA test of the type that provided ancestral country/ies of origin for Tillinghast ancestors beyond that time period, say 1,000 to 10,000 years ago or beyond.

Apart from the specific request above, if you are a male *or* female blood related Tillinghast and have Tillinghast ancestral origin information from any DNA test that provides results beyond 500 years, let us hear from you. Our ultimate goal is to write an article about Tillinghast ancestral origins supported by primary sources and DNA results.

Please respond to Editor (see information on front page).

Donations to Tillinghast Society, Inc. should be sent to:
Claire Hauenstein, Treasurer
309 Ferris Hills
Canandaigua, NY 14424

You may email questions to her at: edith3@aol.com

2017 - Fall Edition Pardon's Progeny – President's message

TESTING, TESTING...1-2-3

If you subscribe to the email editions of Pardon's Progeny you have already received a solicitation request for the Tillinghast Society, Inc.(TSI), our official Fund Campaign for donations to help pay for much needed repairs to the historic burial ground on Benefit Street in Providence, RI.

In early September, TSI did a test run using the data base for the email subscribers to Pardon's Progeny. The TSI Board hopes this test run shows us what percentage of people respond and an indication of what our success will be on step two of this campaign.

Step two will be letters sent - USPS "snail-mail" - to a data base of Tillinghast descendants we have compiled for this campaign. This will be a far larger group than the email group. In getting this appeal out to the "family" we hope recipients of this appeal will pass this on to other descendants of Pardon Tillinghast – those people whom you may know that would be interested in giving but who, through marriage, now have a different last name.

As you have read, the estimated cost for work to repair an abutting wall and repair or replace rusted iron fencing will be approximately \$40,000. Improvements may run above that figure. I am encouraged by the success of early donations and pledges that total \$14,700 as of this writing.

As a point of reference:

When improvements were made to the original hillside burial ground in 1887, the committee's goal was \$5000. That accomplished the work we see today. Family members generously made contributions to the 1887 campaign in donations ranging from \$1.00 to \$500. In 2017 dollars, the equivalent of that \$1.00 donation today would be \$25. The \$5000 raised in 1887 would be \$125,000 in today's dollars. If we could be as successful as the 1887 campaign (in 2017 dollars), we would be able to complete the repairs and improvements AND establish a perpetual maintenance fund to care for the historic Tillinghast Burial Ground as well as insure stewardship for our genealogical archives for future generations. A wonderful goal!!

While the \$125,000 figure may seem unattainable, I remind you that the 1887 campaign relied on contacting descendants only by post mail and word of mouth. Today, 125 years later, the number of Pardon's progeny has grown tremendously and we have technology; a website, email, and social media such as Facebook available to assist us in getting our message and appeal out to far more people than the 1887 committee could even imagine reaching.

I encourage you to reach out to all your family members in any manner in effort to seek support for this project. With broad family support, along with some small grants, we look forward to completing the repairs and providing a solid base for our rich genealogical history for future generations.

Donations in any amount are welcome. And I speak for the Board of the Tillinghast Society, Inc. in expressing our appreciation for your consideration.

W. Bruce Tillinghast

W. Bruce Tillinghast, President



MARY TILLINGHAST HAD A TEA IN 1912 FOR TWO YOUNG COUSINS; THOSE 'BUTTERFLY WINGS' CREATED A TSUNAMI TO THIS DAY: THE UNTOLD STORY OF FOUR TILLINGHAST WOMEN

By Kent Watkins (kent.watkins@yahoo.com). A work-in-progress, excerpted from a forthcoming chapter of the biography of Mary E. Tillinghast. Intended only for limited distribution with the Tillinghast Society, as additional permissions may be needed for a larger audience. My ancestral line: Pardon Tillinghast, Sussex, England and Providence, R.I.: Pardon, Pardon, Philip, Benjamin, Henry, Thomas, Mary Maria Tillinghast, m. Isaac Wilson Parker, E.W. Parker, Elberta Parker Watkins (my mother). Copyright 2017 by Kent Watkins. Material may not be published, rewritten or redistributed without link to original content. N.B. Endnotes and full references will appear in the chapter itself.

Mary Elizabeth Tillinghast, the famous artist, held a tea for two young cousins one Saturday afternoon in her elegant New York City, Washington Square apartment less than two weeks before suffering a fatal and unexpected heart attack nearly 105 years ago. Recently, I had seen a Broadway play called, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, and it reminded me of when, nearly a decade ago, I first had come across an intriguing description of that tea being reported in the December 8, 1912, Sunday issue of the *New York Times*.



At the top of the page, beneath the *Times* masthead, were two large and compelling photogravure illustrations: on the left, a young singer sat in a chair of Jacobean style. She was dressed in an antebellum dress, with flounces, and wearing a huge hat from which flowed blonde ringlets of hair. To her right, in a separate oval box, a hatless black-haired young woman posed in a more kinetic mannerism, arms outstretched and left leg cocked. She wore an outfit that suggested an exotic Egyptian dancer. Underneath those frozen tableaux was...no lead line. Already we have a feeling of a parallel universe. What are they doing in Manhattan, of all places, and why is Mary T. sticking her neck out for these heretofore unknown

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Tillinghast cousins.

Although the article itself had many other items about various social activities (“At the Ritz Carlton,” “January Weddings,” “Princeton Triangle Club,” “Plan for Annual Charity Ball” and so on), it was this brief description that gave us our beginning of a subsequent quest.



Miss Betty Lee and Miss Donna Bain, two young Southerners, made their New York debut on Wednesday [December 4] at a musicale and tea given by Miss Mary Tillinghast at her home, 3 North Washington Square [*Mary T, above, in her apartment in 1893 – it would have changed considerably in 19 years, as would she, but it’s the latest one we have found of her and her apartment*]. Miss Lee sang Southern dialect songs and Miss Bain danced while a Southern orchestra played. Tea was served after the entertainment.

Later, I found that the *New York Sun* had picked up on the event item the day after, in its Thursday edition, adding even more intriguing clues. First, “the artists appeared in costume, characteristic of the plantation, and were heard in humorous and interesting songs and dialect” and secondly, the dances were “shown in shadow of the calcium.” **Calcium?** When I looked that up, I found that it was probably “a projector transmitting shadows on a screen or wall, either finger figures or other figures that are created from the calcium carbonate crystals in the projects.” So - a regular mini-sound-and-light entertainment in a Greenwich Village apartment in 1912!

What a ‘curious incident’ indeed, I thought. And as with the protagonist in the play, the questions leapt from me:

- Why was this little song-and-dance salon at Mary Tillinghast’s apartment getting such prominence? We have seen how adept Mary T. was in using the media to her advantage. This certainly seemed to be the case here. (The *Times* had already previewed it on November 24, titled “Debut of Two Southern Girls,” and again the morning of the event.)
- What did Mary T. have in common with Betty Lee, someone 43 years younger than she was and be willing to invest her reputation in such an event with many of her wealthy friends?
- How did she know these two Southern girls dressed in seemingly outlandish garb?
- Were these real names or stage names?
- Curiously, how could a whole orchestra or even a small ensemble fit into Mary’s 3rd floor apartment, sumptuous as it was? [The space is still there, with the fireplace extant, only NYU’s

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School of Social Work uses it for an open office for several professors with their papers piled high on the desks, etc.]

- What were Southern dialect songs and how did one distinguish a Southern orchestra from any other one?

This was certainly a case of “unhiding the hidden,” which the lost papers of Mary T’s might have revealed, but which over time, may be uncovered in some other way.

1.0 Incident #1: Mary Tillinghast’s Cousin Donna Bain’s Interview

In a revealing interview with an enterprising Syracuse reporter, who had tracked down Miss Bain at her residence on 148 W. 79th St., Donna replied without hesitation to his question of date and location, "next Wednesday at the studio of our cousin, Miss Mary Tillinghast [KW underline]." The reporter added that Tillinghast "is well known in the metropolis, especially in theatrical circles. And to drive that point home, he said, "She is now completing a portrait of Mary Garden." Garden was a famous opera singer and Mary T. was rendering it in stained glass, not the usual oils or water color.

Bain reported that her fellow Georgian cousin’s debut in the professional field will come as something of a surprise. The reporter wrote that "so well did Mrs. Welch [Betty Lee] conceal her plans that it was impossible to trace them to an authoritative source"- until now, that is, when Miss Bain, presumably with permission from Mrs. Welch, offered to spill the beans.

"We are both Southern girls, having lived in Georgia for many years, and *we have known each other since we were children* [KW italics]. Miss Lee sings old Southern melodies, such as 'Linda', 'Chloe' and others, also a series of beautiful French *chansons*. She is at her best, perhaps in the Indian songs of Charles Cadman [KW: an American composer who studied Native American music and composed songs based on it], for she sings these with wonderful effectiveness. She plays the guitar well, and that is a great asset."

As for herself, Donna stated that "I dance to the Southern melodies and do aesthetic national dances. Both Miss Lee and I have decided to go into this work for two principal reasons. The first is for the profit, which will naturally come if we are successful - and we will be - and the second is because it is in her and has to come out!" Miss Bain continued to champion her cousin, saying, "she wants to use her talents in the best possible way. She is an exquisite artist. Our friends have been giving us all sorts of encouragement and we are very hopeful." No artist could have had a better promoter!

Donna then concluded her 'press conference' by adding, “We have secured the services of a Southern orchestra, the only one of its kind in the North." The reporter echoed the last words of Miss Bain that they were "simply obeying the call of art.”

While Donna was extolling her cousin’s virtues, she was no slouch herself when it came to credentials, even at her young age of 24. She had a typical stage mom in Mrs. Donald Bain, who watched over her fiercely, as they traveled out of Atlanta. Her father stayed behind to enhance his prominent insurance practice, occasionally straying into his own drama in a later year, when he killed his office mate.

She entered the Gilbert School in Winsted, CT., then the Castle School in England. From there, she studied at the Paris Opera Ballet, and crossed over to be trained by Duque (Carlos Gardel), then the so-called king of the tango, who may have been in Paris at the same time, with the Diaghilev Ballet.

So, while some of the above questions were answered, there next looms a more important one - *Who attended and what were their circumstances?* Let us proceed to tackle that one!

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We scanned the guest list provided by the *Times* social note (the *Sun* had the same list, so it was probably supplied by Tillinghast herself) and could not immediately identify any celebratory names, at least to our present-time eyes and ears. The articles stated, “Among those invited were Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, the Misses Harriet and Janetta Alexander, Mrs. Cornelius C. Cuyler, Mrs. Sheldon Fuller, Mrs. Francis B. Keech, Mrs. James Speyer, Mrs. Herbert Shipman, Mrs. James E. Haggin, and Mrs. Ernest M. Stires.” Some of them are shown below, along with the Alexander townhouse that is now the Paris theater. It sits adjacent to the huge Cornelius Vanderbilt II mansion, at 5th Avenue and 58th St., across from the Plaza Hotel. The Vanderbilt footprint is now Bergdorf’s luxury store. Mary T. had created several famous *portieres* in that house, while working for John La Farge.



In addition, it may be apt to repeat in chorus at the end of each vignette, the famous phrase, *sic transit Gloria mundi* (“worldly things are fleeting), in case we get too envious of the life-styles of the rich and famous...[Because of space limitations, the fascinating details are omitted from this article, but I would be happy to supply the avid PP reader with the entire chapter draft.]

1.1 Mary Tillinghast Passes Suddenly, Leaving an Artistic Legacy, and Her Family

I decided to pause in trying to answer all the above questions, and simply note that, with hindsight, this was probably one of the last social engagements reported in Mary T's 'short' life, as she was to die before two more weeks had elapsed. She of course did not know that, and continued to work on the Trinity Episcopal church in Asheville, N.C., windows design and the stained-glass portrait of her friend, the opera singer, Mary Garden. We briefly mention her family background below (see box), those many siblings and their families, with whom she stayed close, but they and her work and friends had kept her busy for all her 67 years. These are all covered extensively in the work-in-progress of a 3-volume biography and a *catalogue raisonne*, due out sometime soon! This article will be transformed into the penultimate chapter.

But, in focusing on this special legacy, Mary Tillinghast had given her cousins the launching pad they needed to be accepted by high society for their entertainment in private houses, banquets, and

MARY ELIZABETH TILLINGHAST – A BRIEF BACKGROUND PRIOR TO THE TEA

Mary was born on December 31, 1845, in NYC (Washington Square, actually, just around the corner from where she eventually lived and died). Her parents were Philip Tillinghast and Julia Titus. Philip came from the following line #6 Pardon; #35 Philip; #172 'Preacher' Pardon; and #667 Philip; and Joseph Reynolds. The first five generations lived in and contributed greatly to the Rhode Island towns of Providence, Newport, E. Greenwich, Exeter, and Wickford (North Kingston). Joseph Reynolds (JR) was the first in his line to leave Rhode Island and settled near the Erie Canal in NY. One of his sons, Philip (Mary's father) migrated to NYC in the 1840s and became a merchant in the rising middle class. Mary's siblings were Crawford Titus, Joseph Reynolds, Julia Anna, Harriet, Frances, William, Caroline, Henry Wilbur, Sarah, Walter, Anna, and Mathilda – not all of whom lived even to childhood. Mary was raised in a well-off environment, until her father had to declare bankruptcy during one of the economic 'panics'. Then, she came home from her artistic pursuits in Paris (1872-1876) to help support the family. Her embroidery and other artistic skills, along with the right timing and connections of her father, got her into leading roles with the boutique design firms of Louis Tiffany and John LaFarge, who had commissions to decorate the mansions, clubs, churches, and other structures of the new Gilded Age. Mary's entrepreneurial talents gave her a wide network of clients and acquaintances and she grew her 'brand' well. By the time of the tea party, she was nationally known for her interior designs, architecture, painting, embroidery, and particularly her stained-glass windows in many churches and residences. For further information on these topics, see the writer's related articles in previous Pardon's Progeny issues re Mary Tillinghast generally and another of her sojourn in Paris; Pardon and Coopering, the Tillinghast/Slocum chest; Capt. Otis Tillinghast and the Civil War; and A.B. Tillinghast and Toledo, OH.

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entertainments under the auspices of women's clubs and major hotel venues. One newspaper pointed out that Miss Tillinghast's two performers that day were "well-known in the social and artistic world," but this was hyperbole, if we recall Donna's remark about its being their debut at the salon that December weekday. In any event, now it was up to Betty Lee and Donna Bain to capitalize on Mary T's risky gift, and use their talents and ambitions to reach the goals they had set for themselves. As we shall see, Betty Lee, at least was certainly full of surprises in bringing the Tillinghast heritage to the national stage - literally!

And did anyone realize that the only one at Mary Tillinghast's tea – leaving aside the entertainers – who was single and had never relied on the wealth and social status of a husband was...the hostess herself. She made sure you knew that through her numerous interviews during her career. She was the role model for her two Tillinghast cousins, if anyone could be, for a woman professional in a man's world.

1.2 A Surprising Email from an Unknown Contemporary Tillinghast Cousin

I am beholden to another serendipitous event. One day in 2016, Alane Salierno Mason. She is Vice President and Executive Editor of W.W. Norton & Co. She wrote,

I stumbled on the story of your absolutely fascinating and glamorous predecessor recently while looking around in the history of one of mine, a singer and silent film actress named Betty Lee – who had her New York singing debut in your cousin's living room on Washington Square North. I am trying to suss out [love that word!] how they first knew each other, and can't help but wonder if you've found any letters or journal entries mentioning Betty Lee, or Tuxedo Park, where I'm guessing they might have met? As soon as I saw information about Mary, I looked to see if there was a biography of her, as it seems she definitely deserves one. I am delighted to see that you are writing one, and very much look forward to hearing/reading more.

I invited her to lunch and she brought her sidekick, Stephanie Romeo, who had been helping Alane with the research. So, after we had exchanged information, I wrote Todd Lawrence, family genealogist, asking for help in sorting out the data relating to Betty Lee and the Tillinghasts. Todd replied that there was a link missing in order to construct a family tree. Shortly thereafter, Stephanie's research

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was able to produce it – **Emily Tillinghast Hawkins**, Betty Lee’s grandmother. Bingo, we had our full link, from Thomasville, Ga., to Florida to North Carolina to Pardon Tillinghast’s Rhode Island and beyond!

Todd also gave me the bottom line about the kinship question: “Betty Lee was a 6th cousin once removed of Mary E. Tillinghast. They only share the first generation in common.” Okay, whatever, Betty Lee really knew how to leverage her Tillinghast connections. It still is an intriguing story. Below is Todd’s full lineage from Betty Lee up to Pardon Tillinghast.

Genealogical Lines of Catherine Elizabeth [Betty Lee] Coyle, 9th Generation

Generation 8. Her parents were Caroline (Carrie) W. Hawkins and John Henry Coyle.
 Generation 7, Caroline’s parents were Emily Tillinghast and George Sidney Hawkins.
 Generation 6, Emily’s parents were George William Tillinghast and Mary Ann Chapman.
 Generation 5, George’s parents were Paris Jenckes Tillinghast (Jr.) and (Eliza)beth Vowell Hurley.
 Generation 4, Paris Jr.’s parents were Paris Jenckes Tillinghast and Elizabeth Walker Pearce.
 Generation 3. Paris’s parents were Nicholas Tillinghast and Joanna Jenckes.
 Generation 2, Nicholas’s parents were Joseph Tillinghast and Mary Paris.
 Generation 1, Joseph’s parents were Pardon Tillinghast and Lydia Masters Taber.

Tillinghast Genealogy of [Betty Lee] Coyle (9th Generation) to Alane Mason

Generation 9. Betty Lee married (1) Proctor Welch; (2) Lyman Bowles Lewald Kendall; (3) John Ormond Lawson-Johnston.
 Generation 10. Her daughter, Jane Lee Welch Kendall married (1) G. Grant Mason Jr.; (2) John Hamilton; (3) George Abell; (4) Arnold Gingrich.
 Generation 11. Jane Kendall’s son, Ant(h)ony Mason married Frederica Cunningham Bishop, Apr. 4, 1959. His brother is Philip Mason.
 Generation 12. Anthony’s daughter Alane Salierno Mason married xx.

. Now, let’s continue with Betty Lee, and later catch up with Donna, although she still remains an enigma, concerning her linkage to the Tillinghasts, despite her calling them cousins.

1.3 Betty Lee Welsh – Before and After the Mary Tillinghast Tea

The Vital Statistics: Betty Lee was born as **Catherine Elizabeth Coyle** on July 16, 1888, in Thomasville, Georgia. She was christened in the First Presbyterian church shortly afterwards. Her father was Dr. John H. Coyle, one of the most noted dentists in the State.

As indicated, Betty Lee’s mother, Carrie, was the product of a Southern Confederate background also. Carrie’s mother, Emily Tillinghast (one of several Emilys) grew up in North Carolina and married first a Dr. Henry of Virginia and secondly, a judge and Congressman from Florida, George Sydney Hawkins. He had been born in Kingston, New York, and came to Tallahassee, Florida, after graduating from Columbia University and studying law. He was a Captain in the Indian War of 1837, and afterwards served in a variety of judicial and legal positions from his home in Pensacola, Florida. During the Civil War, he became a judge in the Confederate cause. In 1878, he died and is buried in Mariana, Florida, in St. Luke’s Episcopal cemetery. Emily had other Tillinghast siblings living in Georgia and nearby States. One was probably on a plantation near Wyn(n)ton, Ga., outside Columbus.

Carrie and John Coyle lived with their family (there was one other child, John H. Jr.) in one of the

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more sizeable houses in Thomasville, on Gordon Avenue. Although he was reportedly the original owner, it is also known today as the F.L. Gibson house. Somewhere along the way, Betty Lee (Elizabeth Coyle) picked up the idea that she was related to Robert E. Lee, the Confederate General, so she decided to use the stage name, Betty Lee. I'm still looking for the validation to her new 'ancestor'...

Betty Lee's other later (married) names were Welch, Kendall, and Lawson-Johnston. Her only child, from her first marriage, Jane Lee Welch, did her mother one better in the married names contest, Mason, Hamilton, Abell, Gingrich. Seven husbands between the two of them! Now let's fill in some those blanks, given space limitations, by pointing out some interesting events to the reader.

1.4 Betty Lee and Proctor Chase Welch, Husband #1

Betty Lee's first husband, Proctor Chase Welch, was born in Orono, Maine, on December 6, 1873 (d. Dec. 18, 1936, in Albany, NY). His father, Uriah, eventually became manager of the St. Nicholas Hotel in NYC. But, it may have been his operating a hotel in Thomasville, Ga., the Mitchell House ((below), which became the reason his son met Catherine or Katie, aka Betty Lee. Proctor had also gone into the hotel management business, working at the Lenox Hotel in Boston, then being superintendent and manager of the Tuxedo Park clubhouse that Mary Tillinghast had, coincidentally, designed. But, it may also have been the eventual connection...



Was her marriage Betty Lee's way of getting out of Thomasville and pursuing her ambitions? The *Atlanta Constitution* carried a brief description of their wedding in Thomasville on Tuesday evening, December 6, 1904, saying it was "the event of the week. She is a young lady of splendid presence and unusual beauty. She [Kathryn, they spelled it here] is universally admired in Thomasville, and has won a great many friends by her sunny disposition and open-heartedness." Newspaper reporters were trained in those days, I guess, to write the type of sentences one sees in high school yearbooks hand-scrawled by your friends. By this time, Proctor was apparently already in Tuxedo Park, although the reporter thought it was in N.J., rather than N.Y., and got the middle name of the father of the bride wrong. Oh well.

Why a weekday and why no mention of the location? And instead of a honeymoon, the paper said that they would instead be hanging around with her parents for a few weeks.

Betty Lee probably observed the display of wealth at the millionaires' enclave of Tuxedo Park with great interest. They stayed there until 1910, and while still in Tuxedo Park, she gave birth to a daughter, Jane Lee Welch, on June 24, 1909. As surmised earlier, did Mary T. perhaps know Betty, when she was returning to design one of the Lorillard cottages? Or did Betty Lee as Catherine Coyle come armed with information about her grandmother and approach Mary? There must have been some pre-contact before the 1912 tea and it is doubtful that it began in Thomasville. If so, it would undoubt-

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edly have continued after the Welches moved to Syracuse, NY, where Proctor, now in his 30s, took on the managership of the new Onondaga Hotel. Mary T. was then designing beautiful stained-glass windows for several patrons in the First Presbyterian church in that city, as well as another one (famously dubbed the Wingless Angel window, after a national controversy) in a nearby Episcopal church.

It was in Syracuse that the Welch marriage appeared to unravel. Betty Lee's ambition to be 'somebody' other than a spouse to a hotelier in the provincial city of Syracuse was growing and growing. For a while, she was content to try out her voice in local venues, "private functions and at entertainments for charity." Along with her cousin, Donna Bain, who by now had moved to NYC and used her regular name as a stage name, she plotted to leave Syracuse and conquer Manhattan. Where would they hold their debut? We know the answer to that already.

1.5 Betty Lee, After Mary's Party and Sudden Death

Now that Betty Lee was spending so much time in New York City, it was probably inevitable that her marriage would not continue to prosper. Although she would occasionally show up in Syracuse and



resume a normal maternal and social life with her daughter and husband, even there, she continued to perform Negro melodies. Apparently, it was endorsed (tolerated?) by such organizations as the NAACP, because its magazine, *The Crisis*, reported without comment in its June, 1913, issue that "A Georgia Lullaby," "Lindy," and "A Spirit Flower" were the Negro songs in a costume recital of melodies given in Syracuse by two American artists, Paul Dufault and Mrs. Proctor C. Welch." Dufault (left) was a famous Canadian opera singer, who must have complemented Betty Lee's style and enhanced her reputation by association.

By 1914, however, it was all over with Proctor. She had sued for divorce and her evidence, whatever it was, was sealed. The referee issued an interlocutory decree on February 14, 1914. It stated that she would receive custody of her daughter, Jane, but Proctor would have her during school vacations, once she was old enough. Jane was not yet five years of age.

1.6 Betty Lee Is the Pop Star of her Time and a Tillinghast to Boot!

As Betty Lee continued to sing, both in NYC, thanks to the tea introductions, and also wherever she could get a 'gig', her fame slowly rose. In addition to Manhattan, one of her next reputational ports of call was Newport, Rhode Island, a very wise strategy, given that's where her #1 target audience resided during the summer. For example, she appeared there in July of 1915, at a benefit called the Pageant of Nations or "Fashion's Passing Show," a charity fete for the Secours National for the relief of the French women and children and Belgian refugees.

The press continued to wax rhapsodically about Betty Lee:

The special feature of the two performances was the appearance of Betty Lee, grandniece of General Robert E. Lee, who presented a series of costumes, recitals, featuring Southern songs and dialect stories. Betty Lee, the little Southern beauty, with her silvery voice, sent its message from Georgia straight down into the hearts not only of the guests of honor but of all who listened and understood. Miss Lee has made a distinct success in many of the larger cities of America, both on her regular tours in leading theatres and in a number of drawing rooms and special engagements which she had accepted. With the stars from the Boston Opera Company, Miss Lee had a distinct personal triumph in the Canadian tour last season, as a special feature in addition to the grand operatic concerts.

And from there, she made sure her base in the South was also building. The article above actually

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appeared in the Wilmington, North Carolina, newspaper, as a teaser for her appearance at a festival called *Lumina* in that city. She had appeared there a number of times, with the Don Richardson orchestra. She stated her basic mantra in a long piece as part of a *New York Tribune* series of famous women being interviewed on world topics (yes, she had risen to that level):

So, you see, there is some advantage in being a Southern born and bred. But also, there's the advantage of being a Northerner by naturalization. I'm both, thank heaven! And if that Southern girl of once-upon-a-time does stay down there say, I'm still just beautiful, why let her. But, I'm for the North heart and soul!

1.7 The Southerner/Northerner Meets Her Rich [Non-Fat] Man, Despite or Because?

A fateful evening. You are there. Betty Lee is singing and playing her Southern schtick before the high society of Manhattan and their far-flung summer and winter homes. In the audience is a tall slender older man, who seems entranced by her. This is not unusual, as many men felt the same way, when Betty Lee performed. But, Lyman Bowles Lewald Kendall was a man of action, in many ways, from a quick review of his background.

Kendall was born and grew up as a son of relatively well-to-do parents (Lyman Harens Kendall and Ann L. Bowles Kendall) in Hancock, Maryland, a town that sits in the narrowest and far west section of Maryland.



After college, he left for the Far West, surveying and pinpointing promising lodes of precious metals and minerals. While there, the 30-year old met 20-year old Nellie Ballentine at a party in Boise, Idaho, when her father was running for Governor. Before the evening was over, they were engaged! In 1895, they married. Back in New York, "he teamed up with banker Eugene Meyer Jr. to devise a statistical approach to economic forecasting that revolutionized the world of investing. By the onset of World War 1, Kendall's estimated worth would exceed \$20 million [about half a billion dollars in 2017]." Meyer would take his profits and later purchase *The Washington Post* in 1933.

Now his next goal was to win Betty Lee. He was seen at many of his friends' soirees in the front row applauding her. He helped influence her appearances at the Biltmore Hotel for two years, but stayed in the background.

Then Flash, 1917! "Betty Lee, singer to New York and Newport society, has created a sensation by cleaning up \$100,000 in Wall street, and now says that instead of spending her fortune on the gay white way, she is going back to her home in Atlanta (sic), Ga., to enjoy real life with her parents." Betty Lee has revved up the 'p.r.' engines and they are going full force to create her marvelous brand of false narrative.

For example, "Three years ago [(actually five or more)], Miss Lee came to New York with \$20, a guitar and costumes for use in singing southern folk songs." Huh? Um, I thought she was married to a well-to-do hotel executive and commuted from Syracuse for weekly lessons in NYC. More? "After a hard struggle, she reached society and became popular as a singer of society entertainments."

Hmm. Rewind, and repeat the less fake version after me, "After being introduced by her cousin, Mary E. Tillinghast, to a raft of Gilded Age multi-millionaire wives and widows at a tea, the attendees responded by inviting her as an entertainer into their mansions for their salons and teas, because they were always looking for entertainment gigs." But, the truth was not a favorite currency here.

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The final kicker in the article? “She saved her money, bought stock on the advice of a banker and won her fortune [equals \$2.1 million today!].” Wink-wink. Translate, “Her smitten lover, Lyman Kendall, bought some stock, which he knew would be a winner, as the guise of a billionaire’s suiter gift. Mr. Lyman has bought an estate near her parents in Thomasville and coincidentally, Betty is going back to Georgia for a while.” Well, it sells papers, that’s for sure.

1.8 Betty Lee Goes to the Movies – as Venus!



Betty Lee and the media were seemingly made for each other, and so when another serendipitous event happened, she and it were right there to take advantage of it. ‘Listen’ to this breathless column from M.F. of the *New York Tribune*:

Betty Lee literally sang her way into the films. She came to New York from Atlanta, fully resolved to devote the rest of her life to perfecting her voice, and then one day, when she was singing the “Shadow Song” from “Dinorah [1859 French opera by Meyerbeer],” Captain Edwin Bower Hesser saw her and breathed a long sigh of relief, and now she is a star in “The Triumph of Venus.”

In conclusion, since it’s the 100th anniversary of this film next May, 1918, let’s have another premiere showing at a Tillinghast gathering!

1.9 Divorce and Re-marriage, 1919 was a Good Year for the ‘New’ Kendalls

Kendall received his final decree of divorce for ‘incompatibility’ in May, 1919. At 7 p.m. on the evening of June 10, 1919, he and Betty Lee were married in Thomasville, Ga., not in a church around the corner from Betty Lee’s hideaway cottage, as one source reported, but in the residence of Miss Emma McIntosh on Dawson Street. The Rev. Robert S. Sanders officiated. The local newspaper stated that “The bride wore for the ceremony a handsome dark blue-tailored suit, with close-fitting black hat and her corsage bouquet was of bride’s roses.” Only a few relatives and close friends were reported to be present. There was no mention of Donna Bain and her family, her previously alleged cousins.

Whatever the wedding epilogue, it was far different from Betty Lee’s first one – thank you, Mary Tillinghast!

After a short stay in Thomasville, the new couple took a train to New York, where ten days later, they disembarked at Cherbourg, bound for Paris. They stayed there six months and then divided their time among the social colonies of New York, Tuxedo Park, and Palm Beach/Miami. Kendall continued to head up his Kent Securities Company while they lived at his 410 Park Avenue mansion in Manhattan, with Jane being bundled back and forth to her father, when Betty Lee was not available for mothering, which was a great deal of the time.

In 1924, the Kendalls and Jane established residence in D.C. in a mansion on New Hampshire Avenue. Then, during the winter of 1925, they moved into the Mayflower Hotel, while building on his estate in Potomac, Maryland, which Lyman called “Kentsdale,” after his family’s English origins in Kent, England (you probably noted that also in his naming of his brokerage). Betty Lee and Jane then left on a European tour in the fall of 1926. When they returned, the house and grounds were complete. What was Kendall doing?



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1.10 Kendall's Dream of a New Town in Bethesda, Maryland

Lyman had a dream. Not a real dream, but a business vision. Montgomery County, Maryland, and other 'outer' suburbs had begun to develop on the basis of streetcar technology, combined with amusement parks and resort hotels. One such developer, The Chevy Chase Land Company set a high bar for those who followed.

What Kendall saw was an evolution of this environment in the 1920s in the County's being a recreational playground for the Washington area as well.



Golf clubs nearer to the City were bursting at the seams in membership, as were hunting and horse centers looking for more and cheaper space. Congressional Country Club on River Road and Bradley Boulevard opened its doors in 1924. Country estates were now the currency where central city mansions once held sway among the leisure class. And of course, the automobile had overtaken mass transit.

For the country villa, they worked with a 24-year old architect, Wolcott Clarke Waggaman, to create an Italianate villa (left). The *Washington Post* described the view from the setting of a 400-foot-high hilltop, as the house "dominated one of the most splendid vistas of natural scenery in this part of the country, with a sweeping view to the west and a large valley to the east. Although it is only 12 miles from Washington, one can easily imagine himself hundreds of miles from civilization. No sound disturbs the silence and there is no human habitation in sight."*

* The photo in the text is from a later era, since contemporary ones were not readily available.

While Jane was growing up at Kentsdale and elsewhere, going to college, coming out, and dating, Kendall continued to amass enormous land in Potomac, eventually acquiring more than 3,100 acres. Can you imagine what that would be worth today in the one of the wealthiest suburbs in the country!

Besides the recreational land business, he wanted to build a new suburb to the capital and an English village, filled with shops and stores, surrounded by a ring of small country homes and large villas, fringed with natural green areas "carefully protected in their surroundings by beneficial restrictions." The new village would bear the same name as his new home.

1.11 Kendall's Death Puts an End to the Dreams of Kentsdale, the Potomac New Town, and that Stage of Betty Lee's Life

However, Kendall died suddenly at his Park Avenue residence at age 59 in 1929. Having been born in Hancock, Maryland, he was now returned there, and buried in the cemetery behind St. Thomas Protestant Episcopal Church March 12. He left the Kentsdale estate to his wife, along with other assets and a huge inheritance to his adopted daughter, who would become a fixture in the nation's society pages. Another *Sic transit gloria mundi*.

To be continued in the Winter 2018 issue of Pardon's Progeny.

What becomes of Betty Lee's daughter, Jane?

How does Ernest Hemingway fit into the Tillinghast story?

What takes our author to Cuba in his search for more on Mary's tea fallout?

What became of Betty Lee and that Kentsdale mansion?

The answers will come in your next issue.



Kent Watkins, author. Bio to follow in next issue.