

❖ PARDON'S PROGENY II ❖

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*A Publication
of the
Tillinghast
Family In
America.*

*"Be Just and
Fear Not"*

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TIME TO GET ORGANIZED

By Blair Pointe Cashmon (Sandra Ellingwood, Evelyn Underwood, Viola Cornell, Mary, Clarke, Clarke, Stuteley, Pardon, John, Pardon, Pardon)

Time has come for the Tillinghast Society to formally organize, incorporate, and apply for IRS tax exempt status as a non-profit group, 501c3. This action will allow us to be officially recognized by the State of Rhode Island and be able to accept donations that can be counted as charity on personal income tax filing by the IRS.

Our first immigrant, Pardon Tillinghast, was an integral part of Rhode Island history. He is known for his leadership as minister to the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Rhode Island (and thus America). The businesses he was involved in included many with other prominent colonial Rhode Island families, such as the Browns, Hopkins, Watermans, Greenes, and intermarriages with the Carpenters, Arnolds, Rogers and others.

We are a very fortunate family, as our founder's grave site is still intact in its original location. All others on the same street were moved to the North Burial Ground farther into Providence. This grave site was preserved and a beautiful obelisk style stone was erected in the late 1800's. This area, which we affectionately call "Pardon's Plot," is now in desperate need of structural repairs and we are going to need to do major fundraising to cover the costs. We Tillinghasts own the site as his descendants.

A small group comprised of Blair Cashmon, Bruce Tillinghast, Jeannine Dietz, Claire Hauerstein, Greta Tillinghast Tyler, Donna Tillinghast Casey and Kent Watkins, has been formed to start the process of incorporation. We will elect board members, file the paperwork and set up the initial structure to build the framework to preserve our family heritage for future generations.

Another colonial-founders family, "The Roger Williams Family Society," has already organized and presents us with an excellent example to use as we progress. They have a board and committees representing important topics, such as genealogy, physical



**Blair Cashmon
and daughter Meghan Elizabeth**

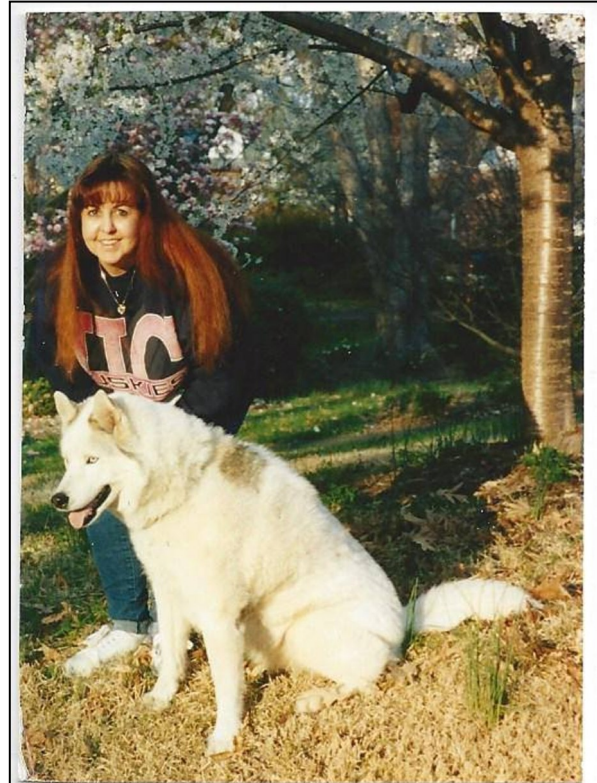
properties (they also have a monument and grave plot to maintain), and historical information/publications. We also have much to preserve and offer to Tillinghast descendants all over the world. The Roger Williams Family Society has a great webpage that can be accessed by anyone interested (<http://www.rogerwilliams.org/index.htm>). We may also do this after our organization is established. As many of you know, Todd Lawrence has preserved our family in a genealogy data base. We need to be proactive and find a way to save this cache of knowledge for our children and theirs. The formal organization of our family will help us find a safe place for this information and allow access for research.

So let us move toward the future, and as our ancestor and founder Pardon Tillinghast's motto says, "Be just and fear not"!

I can be reached at lobstabeat@cox.net, if you have questions or would like to be involved in a family committee after we have completed the set up.

Blair Cashmon, Committee Chair

Jeannine Dietz with Nika, a purebred Siberian Husky, who also had lineage papers. Nika's mother ran the Iditarod in Alaska. Family pride runs strong in the Dietz household.



HISTORY OF 398 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS HISTORICAL CEMETERY #PV013, TILLINGHAST LOT

By Jeannine Jacaruso Deitz (*Ruth, Willis, Thomas, Thomas, Pardon, Charles, John, Pardon, Pardon*)
(*and Ruth, Willis, Jennie, Charles, Joseph, Charles, John, Pardon, Pardon*)

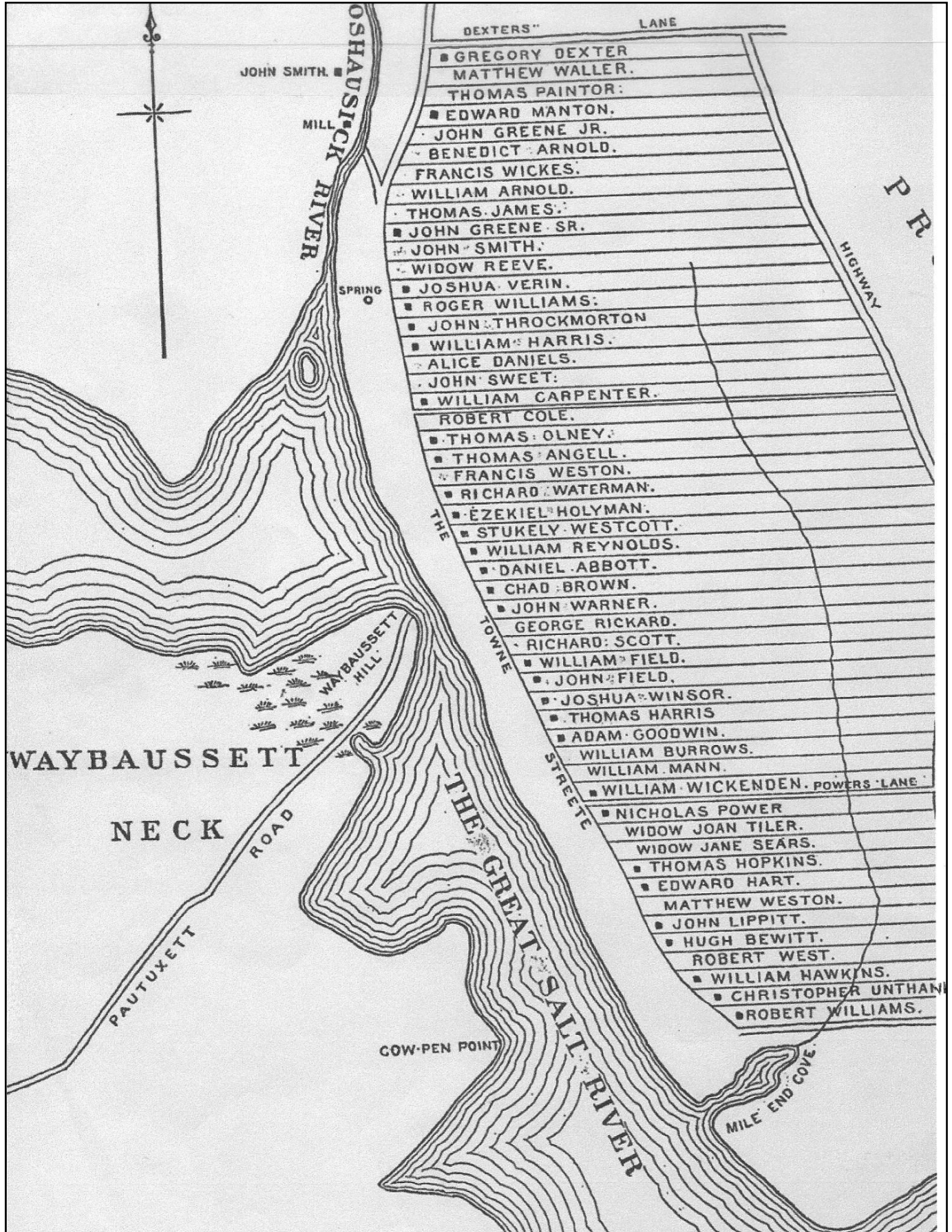
The property that is commonly known as the Pardon Tillinghast Burial Ground has a long and interesting past. This parcel of land is the final resting place of Reverend Pardon Tillinghast and represents the heart and soul of the Tillinghast Family. This is not the original lot on which Pardon settled when he first came to Providence in 1643-45. The original homestead was located near Olney Street, near the north end of the town, and was likely a story or a story and a half tall. This home was sold sometime after May 1658 and before November 1659, when Pardon and family relocated to Newport.

The present day burial lot is included in the First Division of Home Lots in Providence, R.I., circa 1640's.¹ This lot was a portion of the land conveyed to Roger Williams by the Indian Chiefs, and was by common consent, divided into fifty-two narrow lots. All lots bordered on "The Towne Street" so called, which is presently North and South Main Streets between Olney and Wickenden. At that time the street was merely a shore road running from Fox Point meandering along the eastern shoreline of the Great Salt River (now Providence River), then went generally north towards Pawtucket. Each property consisted of a "home lot" which was a thin slice of land that ran from the waterfront up the present day College Hill to the flat land on top, which today is Hope Street. Also included was a six-acre lot for planting located at a distance from the "home lot". This unusual land distribution led to a clear naming system for the future east-west streets of Providence, including Olney, Angell, Waterman, Wickenden and Power.²

See map next page

The Tillinghast Burial Ground was part of the original home lot of Hugh Bewitt, which was the fifth lot from the southern end of town on the map. He then sold the property to William Hawkins in 1644. Upon Pardon's return to Providence from Newport, between March and September 1666, he purchased the property from Hawkins. The lot was located near the corner of the present day South Main Street between Transit and James Streets. It extended from the shoreline on the west to Hope Street on the east and contained about six acres, which was an average size lot. A typical lot was narrow across the street front and rear of the property. The north and south sides, and the east-west property boundaries, were quite lengthy and divided by a narrow lane. This allowed for the passage of cattle to graze upon the hill.

A home would be set back from the street front so there was a "strip of greensward around it."³ Generally an orchard was planted behind the house and "extended up the western slope of the hill. Near where Benefit Street now runs, each proprietor laid out a graveyard where the family proposed to keep its dead, as isolated and independent of all communion with other mortality, as the owners, in their religious views, had been in life."⁴ Pardon followed the example of his neighbors and created such a graveyard, where he and some of his descendants are buried. The graveyard location remains virtually unchanged to this day. The burial ground established by Reverend Pardon Tillinghast in 1680, originally measured approximately 40 by 100 feet⁵ and today it measures about 45 by 80 feet⁶. Abutting Benefit Street, the size reduction is due to sidewalks, street paving and a later site improvement.



(Continued from page 3)

As the population of Providence increased, so did the need for expansion. The affluent were seeking exclusive and unique housing locales that would reflect their financial status and set them apart from the ordinary population. What better location than the steep hillside overlooking the Providence River, which reflected their lofty positions in society. The original hillside lot became boxed in when land from the original six-acre home lot was sold for house lots as the town grew from a village to a town.

In 1743, the Congregational Society members and most merchants who resided in the north end of the town initially proposed a back street which would parallel Towne Street, in order to allow the residents easier access to the meeting house. Towne Street, the main thoroughfare, was deemed inadequate for the increasing population, the majority of which lived on the north end and most Providence residents desired having another street.⁷ “When Benefit [*sic*] (Back Street) was proposed to be laid out for the “benefit” of those who had built their homes on the side slope of the hill some distance up from The Towne Street, there was violent opposition, since such a street would run right through the graveyards of all the original owners of the Home Lots.”⁸ The objecting residents quashed the 1743 proposal and in 1746 it was revived. Eventually, the opposition yielded and a compromise was reached. The southern end was constructed first and by the summer of 1758, Back Street in its entirety was completed. The street “wound and crooked about, so as to avoid, as far as possible, disturbing the graves.”⁹ It was during the 1770’s, that the city did indeed straighten and widen Back Street and rename it Benefit Street as it was deemed to be “a benefit for all.” Today, Benefit Street remains lined with the most authentic and remarkable examples of original Colonial architecture anywhere and is a “must see” attraction.

The remains of those buried in their private burial grounds, in the area now occupied by Benefit Street, were exhumed and re-interred in the North Burial Ground just a short distance away with the exception of the Pardon Tillinghast Burial Lot. “The only burial lot which now survives is the one where Pardon Tillinghast and about thirty of his descendants are buried, near the corner of Benefit and Transit Streets.”¹⁰ Some say it was because the “descendants of Elder Pardon organized a successful effort to preserve the Tillinghast Burial Ground”¹¹ but it seems most likely it was a fortunate circumstance. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the construction of Benefit Street first began at the southern end of town. Since the location of Pardon’s lot was the fifth one from the south end of the town, it probably was not in the way when Benefit Street was straightened and widened.

In 1887, some of the Tillinghasts got together and had a meeting regarding the deteriorated condition of the Tillinghast Burial Ground. The hillside burial ground had become neglected and overgrown. The discussion centered on much needed improvements and perpetual care of this cemetery. The results of this initial and future meetings over the next two and one half years resulted in a monograph titled “*The Founder of the Tillinghast Family in the United States, Proposed Monument-Improvements-And Future Care of his Grave and Burial Ground on Benefit Street, Providence, R.I., Prepared by Request of the Committees on Plans, and Subscriptions for the Tillinghast Burial Ground*” by John Gifford Tillinghast (Providence: The Providence Press, 1889).

Prior to the 2011 Tillinghast Reunion in Providence, the planning committee was discussing the cemetery and its unsightly condition. During this discussion, the question arose as to ownership of this lot. Elton Powell mentioned, in an email response to Blair Cashmon’s query regarding ownership of the lot, that a book existed on this very topic.¹² Your writer located the monograph at Heritage Quest Online Books.

The issue of property ownership is addressed on pages 20-21. It says that Mr. Stone from the committee on city property has presented a report and resolution to strike the Tillinghast Burial Ground from the schedule

(Continued from page 5)

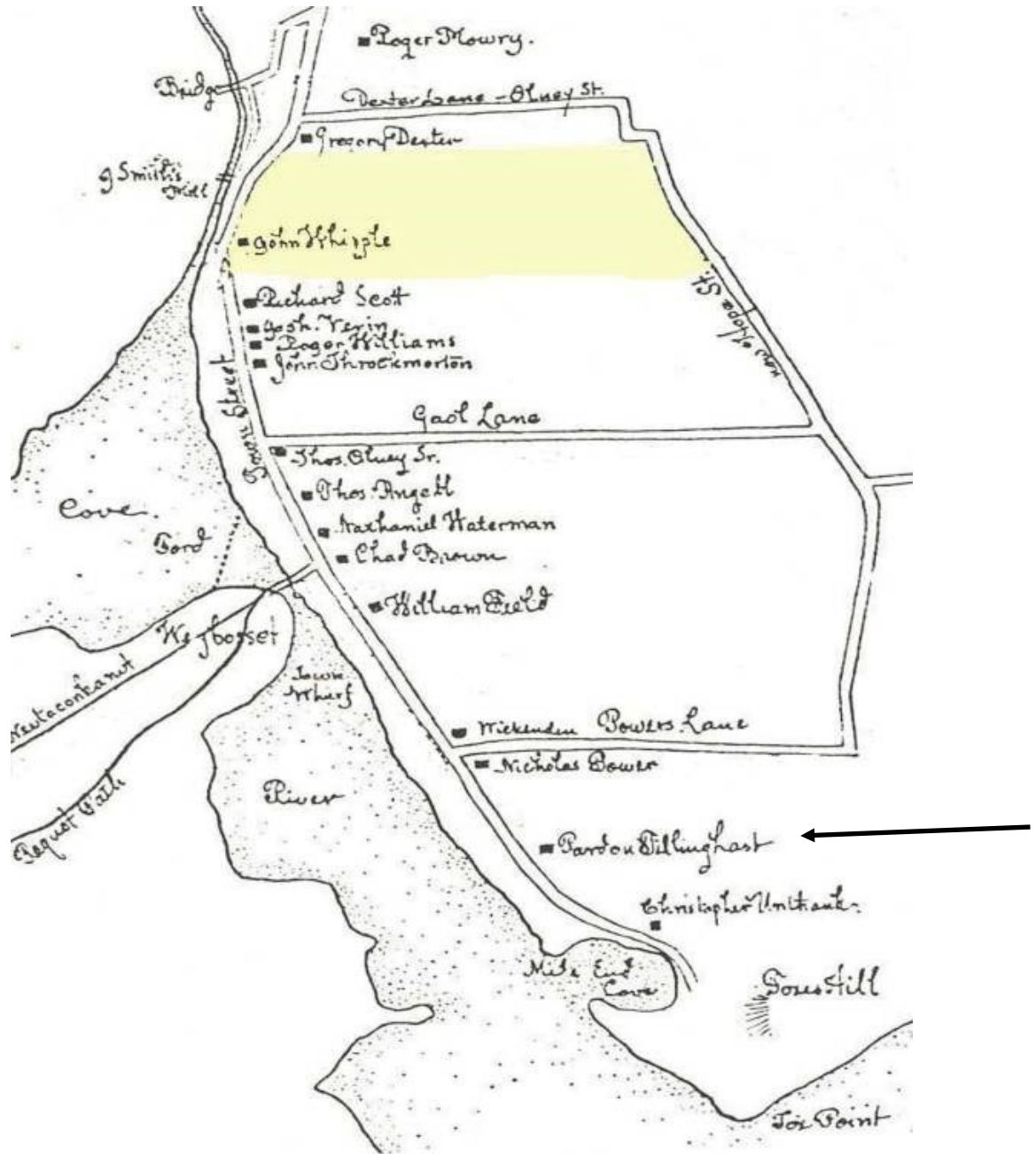
of city property, and moved for passage of said resolution. The main points of the lengthy report concerned property ownership were investigated by William G. Brennen, who was assigned the work by the city engineer at the direction of the committee on city property. "Mr. Brennen's conclusions were, therefore, that the ground belonged to the Tillinghast heirs. Also concluded in the report was a letter from the city solicitor Van Slyk announcing that there was no evidence on the city records of a deed ever having been made in favor of the city. Accordingly the committee on city property recommended, as 'an act of simple justice' that all claim to the property be abandoned on condition that the lot be put in order."¹³ Confirmation of this information was received on May 27, 2011 from Evelyn Wheeler, Chairman of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee on Historical Cemeteries and member of the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission, that indeed "the owners of record are Pardon Tillinghast, the heirs," *et seq.*¹⁴

The resolution agreed upon was that the claim of title made by the city to the Tillinghast Burial Ground, as it's referred to, on Benefit Street near Transit Street, be released to the heirs of the late Reverend Pardon Tillinghast, on condition that the heirs, or a portion thereof, shall within one years time from the passage of this resolution put the grounds in good repair, and with proper enclosures satisfactory to the committee in city property. It goes on to say that "the time has expired in which the ground was to have been put in order, and an extension of one year has been granted for the agreed upon work to be completed or at least commenced previous to the expiration of next November."¹⁵ At this time, an appeal was made to all descendants to contribute financial assistance rather than abandon the project. Prior to the existence of this publication, which discussed what was to be done with the cemetery including the installation of the current monument, Grace Greenwood Peckham Tillinghast transcribed the gravestones in this burial lot.¹⁶ The graves in this cemetery can also be found on Find A Grave.¹⁷

John Gifford Tillinghast mentions that some of the gravestones are without transcriptions or very deteriorated "by the teeth of time"¹⁸ which suggests information on the gravestones suffered serious degradation due to slate's tendency to easily cleave. When the foundation was dug for the monument, it is said, all remaining gravestones were collected and carefully placed under the pedestal with the monument set atop. As well as can be determined at this time, the current monument was erected in honor of Reverend Pardon Tillinghast sometime after the 1889 monograph was printed. It seems that funds were still being solicited at this time and before "A Little Journey to the Home of Elder Pardon Tillinghast" (1908) was written. The authors state, "Our own burial lot, as a result of the generosity of the descendants of our common ancestor, was recently improved, and a substantial monument erected in place of the original ones, the inscriptions on which had become almost entirely obliterated by the course of time. It is now an historical landmark, not only in the early history of the Town of Providence."¹⁹ This book was written by Thomas Avery Tillinghast and Frederick Wheaton Tillinghast and read on September 4, 1908, at the third reunion of the descendants of Deacon Pardon and Mary Sweet Tillinghast in Providence. Although the initial 1889 plan was to include the establishment of a Perpetual Maintenance Fund, it appears that there were not enough funds to do so.

Just as our ancestors did in 1889, it seems as if the Tillinghast family and it's descendants have come full circle, yearning to raise funds to repair and ensure perpetual care for the Tillinghast Burial Ground in memory of our emigrant ancestor, the Reverend Pardon Tillinghast.

Jeannine Dietz



Providence, RI in the 17th Century

Compare this map to the earlier one on page 4 and see the transition of ownership. Land owned here by Pardon Tillinghast after his return from Newport was originally owned by Hugh Bewitt and later by William Hawkins.

THE NEXT STEP....THE PRIDE THE REALITY....THE FUTURE.... of THE TILLINGHAST BURIAL GROUND

By Warren Bruce Tillinghast (*Warren E., John Edwin, John Clarke, Stutley, Clarke, Stutley, Pardon, John, Pardon, Pardon*).

PRIDE

Expanding on the history of the Tillinghast Burial Ground described by Jeannine Jacaruso Dietz – that somehow has become known among the family as “Pardon’s Plot”-- I’ll bring you up-to-date with our family obligation. This would include what is necessary to maintain, preserve and insure a future for Pardon’s Plot.

By chance...I am an 11th generation Rhode Islander in an unbroken resident male line. Considering the way our forebears “begat and begat,” establishing a solid and well branched family tree, this is still somewhat of a rarity in the home state of Rhode Island. There are many, many descendants who have sought a new life maybe with fame and fortune beyond our Rhode Island borders. Our family tree is solid, many branched...but we are ONE TREE!

The first memory I have of visiting the Tillinghast Burial Ground on Benefit St was when I was about 14 it was a visit with my father. I grew up hearing wonderful oral stories from him about bits and pieces of Tillinghast history. He’d stop the car during a Sunday drive and tell us about some bit of family history at a site we had driven by (or maybe driven to...mmm) ...Lots of stories to share. He was quite proud of his Tillinghast heritage and instilled in me the same pride. On the visit to the Benefit Street Tillinghast Burial Ground we took some paper and charcoal and made a stone rubbing from the monument. I still have it...a sense of Tillinghast pride for him...passed to me. I now know the coat of arms is not a real thing, but I relish in the words associated with the crest...”BE JUST AND FEAR NOT.”

There are many, MANY “T” burial sites here in Rhode Island, scattered all over the landscape. Ah..you are a cousin from ...???? IF YOU ARE A TILLINGHAST.... it all comes back to “Elder” Pardon Tillinghast... If you carry the name of Tillinghast as a male or female....you are descended from Pardon¹ Tillinghast who emigrated from England and ultimately settled in Providence.

Records seem to prove....THERE IS ONLY ONE TILLINGHAST FAMILY here in the USA

SO....We are all related in some way... have a proud history... A DESCENDENT OF PARDON TILLINGHAST....and it’s fun to figure out this network (Thanks Todd Lawrence!). I hope all Pardon¹’s progeny have the same sense of pride as I do for this very special place we all own.

We need to stick together to preserve this. Our only REAL place of connection as a TOTAL FAMILY.... is the Tillinghast Burial Ground on Benefit Street in Providence....AKA “Pardon’s Plot.” As a family we have issues to preserve this special place. Jeannine has outlined the history of the burial ground. Our recent 2011 query to The City of Providence before the reunion and the 1889 John Gifford Tillinghast report, discovered by Jeannine, includes wording from a City Council Property Committee striking the Burial Ground from City Records, with



**Bruce Tillinghast
at 2003 Reunion**

Tillinghast Heirs as owners, responsible for its care. The heirs of Elder Pardon¹ Tillinghast do own this site. Its care, maintenance and future are all in our collective hands

REALITY

In May of this year (2014) I received a letter from the attorney for our neighbor to the left, The Barker Playhouse. They reported that our wall along their walkway was deteriorating, had dropped two stones (small ones) onto their walkway, and had become a hazard to Playhouse workers and visitors. The tone of the letter was that the Tillinghast Family should fix the wall or the Barker organization would take legal action.



A threatening letter for a not so threatening situation. As you can see, small stones. I tossed the stones into the “T” burial site so they are out of harms way. Be that as it may.....this event brings to the fore that we need to address the reality of maintaining the Tillinghast Burial Ground. Looking at the picture again, you can also see larger stones shifting to fall, apparent victims of the “Teeth of Time”.

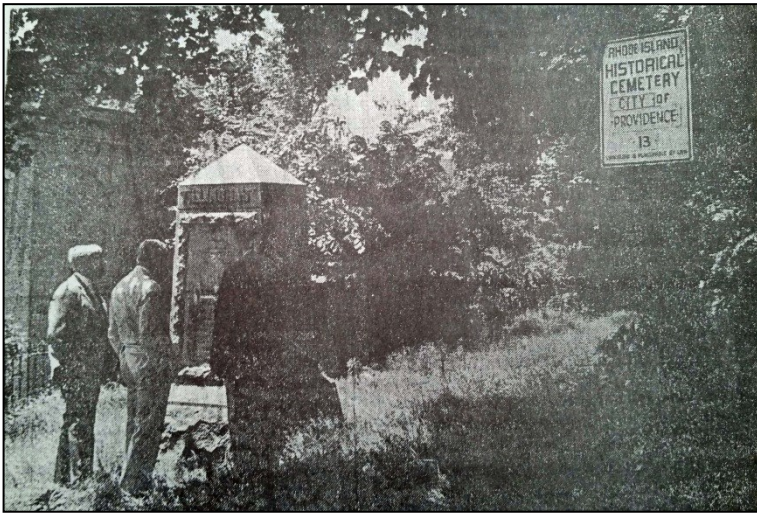
Hoping to find some financial help, in April I attended a Rhode Island Preservation Conference which had scheduled a “Historic Cemetery” seminar. I wanted to explore an avenue of guidance and hopefully some funding for our issues. It was not of much help for our purpose. But I did learn that “Cemeteries” in this country began with the beautiful Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, opened in 1831. Cemeteries are park-like places generally available not just for burials of all but for peaceful, light recreational visitors (like walking) and selective tree and shrub planting for eye appeal. Prior to that time people were interred in “burial grounds”,

usually small family sites – like ours – or perhaps connected to a church, like the small burial site behind the St John Cathedral between Benefit and North Main Streets. North Burial Ground, that Jeannine referred to, where many “Benefit St” burial sites were moved to, opened in the early 1700’s...a burial ground at first...but despite still being called North Burial Ground it has transitioned to being a formal “cemetery”.

Today we often find the terms cemetery, burial ground and graveyard are interchangeable. Later I spoke to Ted Sanderson, head of Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission about possible avenues for financial help. Ted said that there are more than 3,200 recorded “historic cemeteries” in Rhode Island. Most of these are small family burial grounds, as ours is. Of historical importance, Pardon’s Plot is the only remaining family burial ground in The College Hill Historic District and therefore of great significance in representing the fabric of the early Providence settlement. Given this fact, and that there are currently VERY limited public funds, it would open a Pandora’s Box for any state or federal funds to be given to even one burial site.

SIDE BAR....THE SIGN

Most Historic Cemeteries have a sign designating the site as such. Our Tillinghast Burial Ground once had such a sign. This picture taken for a 1986 Providence Journal Series shows the sign in place at that time. The series of 10 articles called “*Coming to America,*” chronicled the waves of immigration to Rhode Island and featured The Tillinghast Family in the first of the series.



...both sign and post have been removed. When/Why...??? The Department of Transportation, who makes license plates also makes and places the cemetery signs. I contacted them and requested a replacement for our site. We were added to the list for this year. The Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries Commission inventories and monitors most recorded burial sites but does not maintain any of them.

THE FUTURE

We do own the site, and we have a problem to address; so the question is, ***where do we go from here?*** I have been in touch with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) and verified that The Tillinghast Burial Ground is located within the College Hill Historic District. This district is listed on The National Register of Historic Places; therefore, it is protected by all such rules and regulations that apply to such sites. A good thing...it insures that it will never be turned into a house lot.

But it has its encumbrances. Any major work we do to the site, such as fixing a wall, needs to be approved by the Providence Historic District Commission, a local arm administering the National Trust's guidelines for preservation. This is not a problem...more of a formality...unless of course we tried to replace the iron fencing with plastic fencing.

The RIHPHC has a list of craftsmen that are certified for preservation work. By chance, a major stone worker was a good customer at my restaurant, New Rivers, and is on that list. I contacted him and asked if he could do me a favor and visit the site and assess and possibly estimate the cost for the work....well actually I tempted him with a "barter" to do this in exchange for a dinner at my house with a couple of friends! But it worked.

Kevin Baker...Stone Mason... sent me a "starter" proposal. As you can see we need estimates for iron work to get a full scope of the job. I have taken photographs, contacted a couple of sources and asked for estimates, so I am still working on that and I was hoping for some answers for this article.

Here is Kevin's assessment. With some notes from me in red.

Hi Bruce

Made it up to Pardon T. plot last week. Here are some random thoughts I had.

1. Anything that needs to be done will be difficult and fairly expensive due to lack of access, materials involved, etc.
 2. Wall adjacent to playhouse seems to be of most concern would have to have fence removed, wall reset and then fence repaired and remounted/reattached to stone.
 3. This would involve engaging an iron fence guy.
 4. Job would be easier & cheaper to do if neighbors on our upper side of property allow access off their driveway to get a small excavator into the plot. (Do you have any relationship with them?) **I do know the neighbor to the right, have spoken to her and access from her driveway for work on the site will not be a problem.**
 5. Larger rhododendrons would have to be dug & then re-installed if you want to keep.
 6. Wall adjacent to neighbor's driveway would be almost impossible to fix as large existing trees are causing most of the damage by pushing wall and thus fencing over. I'm sure the neighbor want to keep trees and without removing them and their root system there would be no way to realign & fix wall. That entire side pretty much needs resetting and lots of fence work. **Frankly I see no reason to disturb the stone work here. Yes the stones have shifted but not in such a way to be of any peril or problem. But being in the shade of the trees the iron fencing on top of them has suffered the most of any iron fencing surrounding the site. It is rusted away in places and does need replacement in some sections. (See photo below)**
 7. Tall retaining wall at rear of property seems to be in good shape at this time, some good news!. **All other stone work on the site is minor compared to this 10-12 ft retaining wall so this is indeed VERY good news.**
 8. My suggestion would be to get pricing on addressing Barker Playhouse run. We could do stone portion but you'd need a good fence guy. If you could find out about getting access from neighbor's driveway, I could put together a price for the stone portion and could possibly lead you to a capable fence person.
- Hope this is of some help Bruce, and if you'd like I can meet you sometime up there.
Thanks, Kevin



Fence to the right neighbor – stones shifted by trees and rusting fence.

Just as our forbearers did in 1889 a core group of Tillinghast heirs have been trying to get organized and position our current loose and casual family structure into one with a more formal presence and, hopefully, a tax exempt status to be able to address this problem and prepare for what appears to be a major fundraising effort.

In 1889, the plan was to raise \$6000. \$5000 for the improvements and \$1000 for a perpetual maintenance fund. Included in the 1889 John Gifford Tillinghast publication, there is reference that the fund raising effort fell short of the \$5000 goal and there were some adjustments made to plans for the site. They are evident to me and easily explained to you if we were “on site,” but a bit complex to put into words. By no means do they look second rate even in their 125th year (1890-2015).

I do not have estimates as yet but given that \$1.00 value in 1890 would be worth approximately \$27.00 today... I expect what needs to be accomplished for the site to be put in order will not be as simple as resetting two small stones and will be an expense.



Interesting facts on the recorded “subscriptions and contributions” from the first round (there was a second and no record of those gifts): the largest gift was \$500 and there was just one; three \$250 gifts, and four \$100 gifts. All other gifts that brought the first total to \$2350 ranged from \$1.00 to \$80.00. How much more was raised on the second round is unknown at this time. And it is quite obvious that the \$1000 for the planned Perpetual Maintenance Fund was abandoned.

Quiet frankly.....how or who has maintained the site until our volunteer group in 2011 remains a mystery. We certainly will have a challenge ahead.....\$5000 alone, would not even cover the cost of just the monument today.

Bruce Tillinghast

Dear Readers,

This issue, number 32 of Pardon's Progeny II, alerts you to new purposes for our family. We are tied together by our lineage which we all trace back to Pardon Tillinghast, the immigrant. He arrived in Providence, Rhode Island, in about 1653, and subsequently established his home and our heritage. We have no proven evidence of other immigrants with our name.

You read in this paper that there is need to repair and preserve the burial grounds and marker for Pardon Tillinghast. We have documents to confirm that we, the heirs of Pardon, own this property and are responsible for its upkeep and preservation.

Several who are readers of this paper and count themselves as members of the loosely formed Tillinghast Society have taken steps to form a formal organization of and for the family. Your careful reading of this issue will help you to understand the transition we are undertaking.

Please stay close as we wander through the processes necessary for obtaining Tax Exempt status. You will hear more about formation of a board, a mission statement and your part in this formalized organization.

This is an exciting time in the extended Tillinghast family.

Greta T. Tyler, Editor