
❖ PARDON'S PROGENY II ❖

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Fear Not"*

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1969 Explosion takes life of Stanton Stacey Tillinghast, says grandson *to Greta T. Tyler, editor*

In 2001, the Tillinghasts in West Virginia invited readers of Pardon's Progeny II to come to our three homes on Random Road in Ripley, West Virginia, for a family reunion. We explained that we were in a rural setting and would simply get acquainted and make our own fun and excitement. A total of 31 people got together, some arriving from as far away as California and New Jersey. We gathered at different times in each of our three homes; we had a Sternwheeler ride on the Ohio River and a weenie roast on Mill Creek. Many of us went to church together. Our big night was a banquet meal and a talent show. Participants had been warned ahead of time to expect to offer their best, and several brought things to display or share. I recall that Bob Tillinghast of Gillet, PA, brought samples of his beautiful photography and displayed it. He also recited poetry, as did my dad, Jack Tillinghast. Lori Tillinghast Ferrell (now deceased) and her family sang gospel music and brought all the necessary sound system for our show.

At this gathering were Robert A. Tillinghast, Sr. and his wife Joanne from Earleville, MD, and their son Robert A. Tillinghast, Jr., "Bobby" and his wife, Wanda. Bobby said he liked to sing and would be in the show if he could borrow a guitar. David Ferrell had just the instrument for him and Bobby opened the show with two or three nice pieces.

Recently I heard from Bobby with news that he has been researching his family history. He also attached a nice recording of himself singing. With his permission, I am sharing two notes from him and a newspaper clipping about his grandfather, Stanton Stacy Tillinghast, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Hi Greta, Recently I researched my grandfather's death at the Philadelphia Atlantic Richfield Refinery explosion on September 8th, 1969. I was able to find this fair size article of the account and am sending it to you. After the depression ended, my grandfather, Stanton Stacy Tillinghast, went to work for Atlantic Richfield in the thirties and helped design the stills that made everything from motor oil to propane. He could have retired at the age of 62.5 but wanted to "stay for that extra five bucks," as he said. There is a conflicting account for what happened that night. Some say a lightning strike caused an explosion. Others say human error caused it, but one thing is for sure. Stanton Stacy Tillinghast was said to be the greatest engineer in the Philadelphia refinery field and knew that entire plant inside and out. If it were not for his hard work the world would not be as advanced in oil refinery as it is today.

I asked Bobby if he could give me additional information about his family line and here is his reply:

Hey back to you Greta and thank you so much for considering Pop Pop's story. He was born July 7, 1907, the son of Charles Tillinghast, a farmer of Ovid, New York. He graduated from Ovid High School in 1924 and went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he started a large auto repair shop. He married Martha Ann Butt from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in Elkton, Maryland, in the early thirties, shortly after the depression. This is when he went to Atlantic Richfield to become, according to then plant manager Norman H. Penells and complex Forman John H. Eneford, "the man who knew every part of that dang plant." He had four sons: Stanton S. Tillinghast, Jr., of New Castle; Richard Edward Tillinghast of Claymont, Delaware; Robert A. Tillinghast, Sr. (Robert became the President of the City counsel of New Castle, Delaware, during the Bicentennial 1776-1976 events of 1976); and James B. Tillinghast (A hero and Bronze Star awarded veteran of the Vietnam War). He had two daughters: Martha Ann Tillinghast (who married Edward E. Weatherlow) and Joann Conway whom he adopted and raised as his own. Beside his mechanical skills, he was a Past Master of the Masons and loved to spend his free time at the family retreat at Crystal Beach Manor, where his son Robert Tillinghast, Sr. and children still abide today. There was also a rumor he liked to spend hours looking across the Chesapeake River with a cold quart of Old Reading beer and a glass in his hand. I, his grandson Robert A. Tillinghast, Jr, could not find positive proof of this, but God bless him anyway.

Thank you so much for this Greta. I do have some bad news. My wife, Wanda S. Tillinghast, passed away to glory on December 17, 2009, of small cell lung cancer. So please keep me in your prayers. I am glad you liked my song. I always loved to sing and did so at my wife's funeral. I may try to take on Nashville again, or not. Jesus is driving and you never know where he plans to stop the car along life's way.



**Robert A. Tillinghast
Junior and Senior
in
West Virginia, 2001**

Robert A. Tillinghast, Jr; Robert, Stanton, Charles, Charles Charles Charles, Charles, Charles, Philip, Pardon

Oil Production Is Cut By Blaze at Refinery

Production of lubricating motor oil at the Atlantic Richfield Co. refinery in South Philadelphia continued Monday despite a five-alarm fire that killed one man, injured two others and destroyed one-fifth of the oil production capacity.

Norman Penells, manager of the plant, said a team of Atlantic Richfield scientists and engineers were examining the burned section to determine the cause of the blaze, which broke out early Monday.

Penells said the fire was confined to the northern part of the motor oil complex and reduced by 20 percent the plant's output of 165,000 barrels a day. The rest of the plant continued in operation.

PHENOL TANKS BURNED

The blaze, which raged out of control for nearly two hours, involved three 600-gallon phenol tanks and two five-level towers 100 feet high. One tower was used to extract phenol from petroleum and the other to withdraw propane. The phenol tow-

er contained 4500 barrels of petroleum and the propane tower 6000 barrels. Each of the three tanks was one-sixth full.

The body of Stanton Tillingast, 63, of 18 Legion terrace, Lansdowne, one of the five men on duty, was found on the third level of the phenol tower after the blaze was brought under control.

TREATED AT HOSPITAL

Another workman, William Wenton, 47, of Ridley Park, was treated at Methodist Hospital for a shoulder injury. Fireman John Heinafer, 43, of 2728 N. Lawrence st. was taken to Philadelphia General Hospital with a left foot injury.

John H. Eneford, the complex foreman, said he was working in a trailer when he heard an explosion. He ran outside and rounded up four of his workmen but could not find Tillingast.

Find Tillinghast Society on Facebook

Computers enable us in so many ways to polish genealogy searches. Good researchers have improved their speed and access immeasurably through internet searches and long range contacts. Sending finished articles as attachments to your editor has greatly reduced copying mistakes and editorial delays. Just last year, we began sending Pardon's Progeny II as email attachments to those who had shared their addresses. Not only does this reduce your editor's time for copying and sending the newsletter, but it also keeps costs within reasonable limits. We have not raised annual subscription costs from the original \$4.00 in the 11 years we've been in print.

Several years ago, Deborah Richardson established a Tillinghast website with MyFamily. You may access that site with tillinghast.myfamily.com. More recently, Facebook has come into our lives and several groups for Tillinghast have been created for public use. You may join Facebook easily. I searched with Google and simply followed instructions for becoming a member. Once you've become acquainted with procedures, you can do a search for groups by name and choose those you'd like to join.

Already there are these groups:

Pardon's Progeny which was created by Kelvin Tillinghast in London, England. He created the group "For all things Tillinghast." This group has 111 members.

TEAM Tillinghast was created by Ray Tillinghast from Kingston, RI. He says "any tillinghast can join and become a part of the awesomeness that is....TEAM TILLINGHAST." This group has 53 members.

Tillinghast Family was also created by Ray Tillinghast from Kingston, RI. For this group, he says "anyone with the last name Tillinghast can join" .This group has 48 members.

Clan Tillinghast has administrators at Iowa State. They say Clan Tillinghast is "For all of you that have ever been asked, "Hey, are you related to <blank> Tillinghast?" and answered, "yeah, probably," and for those of you whom have never met another Tillinghast you're not related to, this group is for you. Either way, come meet your family." They have 74 members.

Tillinghast Society has just been created by your editor. It says, "This group is open to all persons interested in connecting with anything having to do with Tillinghast. The Society has a newsletter called Pardon's Progeny II with stories old and new about descendants of Pardon Tillinghast. We organize contacts like reunions and special events to unite cousins." The group has only been alive for a couple of weeks and we have 34 members, many of whom also belong to the other groups.

Your Editor, Co-Editor, Genealogist and other important Tillinghasts are discussing the likelihood of being more web-based. Hard copies would always be available to non-email users. Stay turned for coming attractions.

The Firelands Tillinghast Clan of Berlin Heights, Ohio: How an Explosion Destroyed Priceless Artworks; A Licorice King Has His New Mansion Traded for 12 Jeeps; The Underground Railroad; and Many Other Interesting Tales of Yankee Cultural Migrations

By Kent Watkins, copyright March 2010, kent.watkins@yahoo.com

Author's family background: Elberta Parker, E.W. Parker, Mary Maria Tillinghast, m. Isaac Wilson Parker, Thomas (p. 363 WT)> Henry (p. 362 WT), Benjamin (pl 359 WT) Philip, Pardon, Pardon

1.0 Introduction and Framework Approach

I have been honored to have two articles published by Greta Tyler, the editor and publisher of Pardon's Progeny, family history newsletter of the Tillinghast Family in America and England. The first, in the July, 2007, issue, was a summary of my research to date on the life and artworks of Mary Elizabeth Tillinghast (1845-1912) of New York City. Hopefully, that book will see its first edition published and launched this year.*

*This article is an adaptation from *Mary E. Tillinghast*, Chapter xxx, Central Congregational Church, Toledo Ohio, a Work in Progress

The second piece appeared in the Summer 2009 issue and chronicled the life and death of Captain Otis Tillinghast and the Civil War fort that was named for him. I am planning to expand that into a monograph for the National Park Service as part of its 150th Anniversary of the War.

I've also started research files in several other areas of Tillinghast history:

- the African-American Tillinghasts, including the slavery issue;
- the Jews of Newport and the Tillinghasts of Rhode Island; and
- the Tillinghasts of Long Island, especially their relationship to Huntington's Disease
- my Tillinghast clan in the context of Yankee Cultural Migration mapping

But, the many chapters of the MET book currently occupy most of my spare time and energy. And frequently, during the course of my research, I find myself going down the 'rabbit hole' of serendipity and what starts in one direction soon opens up into a number of other different fields of related inquiry to Tillinghastiana. Although fascinating to some of our clan, this arcana may not be as welcome to the general public, or even some specialized audiences.

So, I welcomed Greta's invitation to supply some 'filler' for this issue, and hopefully, it will be as much interest to you as it has been for me. Many questions remain, but so begins the journey.

The 'Story' will start with my original research perspective of MET in her Toledo, Ohio, artwork commissions in the early 1900s and then segue (the 'rabbit hole') to possible local Tillinghast connections and then it just opens up without care of discipline to a clan of Tillinghasts, who came from Connecticut some time after the 1812 War, to settle on what is called the Firelands portion of the Western Reserve. Descendants of that same clan still live today on the original homestead that will hopefully tell its own story more fully on Facebook and other sites.*

*A special acknowledgment should be noted for Karen Hakel, a former D.C. lawyer, who now lives in Toledo. I sent her material on Mary Tillinghast through a mutual friend, Dee Peterson, and Ms. Hakel, with her Harvard Law School research background, provided many items about the church, A.B. Tillinghast, and other relevant materials about Toledo. I am also grateful for the Tillinghast family history information submitted by Mary Ann Knittel Tillinghast and her husband, Timmy, both of Berlin Heights, Ohio, dealing with their 'clan', including Alvin B. Tillinghast, his sister who married into the Woolson family, and other items of interest.

2.0 The End of the Story First (Sort of) – A Winter’s Tale



The picture I inserted from the newspaper is of poor quality, having scanned it from copy of a printed microfilm copy, but in some ways, it may be the appropriate aesthetic. See the original building when it was dedicated in all its glory, p. 8.

‘TWO DEAD IN CHURCH FIRE’ screamed the page one headlines from the 2-cent Saturday evening edition of the *Toledo Blade* on February 5, 1927, in a font-size usually reserved for the beginning of world wars or presidential assassinations. It was late in the evening of Friday, February 4, when two women caretakers, Mrs. Kate Wilt and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald, entered the church annex of the First Congregational Church on fashionable Collingwood and Acklin avenues. This annex was a separate building that was once the main sanctuary of the Central Congregational Church before the merger in 1913. This was just after Mary Tillinghast’s death in NYC at the end of the previous year, and three years after her last artwork, a panel dedicated to Mrs. Eliza C. Bailey, was installed to complement her previous stained glass window memorials. When a new church, called only First Congregational, was built next door in 1920, the Central Congregational edifice was relegated to offices, meetings, banquets/suppers, Sunday school, and social work.* Since MET had died by the time of the new church, its merged congregation had turned to the Tiffany studios for two memorial windows on either side of the altar.

*See Edward Johnson’s *First Congregational Church, St. Clair St. to Collingwood Blvd*, published in 1987, when he was 87. He was a member of the church since 1916, and worked many years writing this 538-page tome.

What the women did that Friday night, we do not know – perhaps they were cleaning up from any meetings from the day or locking up after the building committee meeting that night. An ice and snow storm had hit the Toledo area earlier. Apparently, they had an altercation of some sort before entering because they reported to the chairman of the building committee at some point that a loitering man had tried to enter the building and accost them, but they had locked him out. The chairman later said he had seen no one.

Nevertheless, they returned early the next morning. Mr. Clyde Wilt, a garage man, had driven his wife from their home at 935 Pinewood Ave., and Mrs. Fitzgerald arrived shortly after. By 6 a.m., the storm had knocked out the electricity in the area, a power outage not uncommon to us today, so there was darkness outside and within. Mr. Wilt accompanied his wife inside, both wearing their galoshes and overcoats, while he lit a match, perhaps to get a candle started to illuminate the interior and the kitchen.

At that point, a massive explosion occurred. According to the later report by the fire district manager, John Schultz, the gas meter under the heavy stone stairway to the basement had been leaking and had formed a gas pocket there. So, most likely a match would have detonated the explosion that ensued, followed by a terrible fire. The Wilts had no chance of escape. The explosion wrecked the kitchen and store basement stairway, blew a heavy door across Collingwood Ave., melted down the marble steps, and rocked the surrounding neighborhood breaking many windows. The flames spread almost instantly throughout the building.

Mrs. Fitzgerald was only a bit behind the Wilts, which may have saved her life momentarily. It knocked her into a chair and she sank unconscious while flames swept over her body with falling beams around her. Later, firemen would come upon her and think her dead as they carried her to the street. Upon discovering otherwise, she was rushed to Mercy hospital, but...to no avail.

There are many other details captured by the several reporters that roamed around that morning, collecting information for their stories – “hundreds go to blaze in scant attire,” “2 make vain attempt to save victims,” “firebug is hinted.” Firemen were posted in the tunnel between the old and new Congregational buildings and no harm was done to the latter, including the two Tiffany windows installed in November. *We have no information as to the whereabouts of the Tillinghast artworks, whether they had remained in the old building and were destroyed, or moved. That will remain a mystery to be solved upon a future visit by the writer.* However, rare books and manuscripts belonging to the pastor, Rev. Allen A. Stockdale, were lost. He was in New York that weekend, and Rev. Richard O. Ficken, the Assistant Pastor, and the members of the congregation were left to watch the fire and make plans for the immediate future. Other churches offered their space for whatever purposes, but by the following Sunday, the existing new structure was ready for services, at least.

As the *Blade* summed it up, “Rain-clouded skies reflected the glow of the fire for miles around in the last minutes before daylight, and the glow was visible to residents in East Toledo, while its reflection was seen in Maumee.” The total loss came to \$60,000.*

*The several articles cited were all from the *Toledo Blade*, Feb. 5, 1927.

3.0 The Tillinghast Artworks in the Central Congregational Church – What were They and What Happened to Them?

A New York newspaper (unknown, but dated Tues., Oct. 18, 1910) reporter found a novel theme for the Tillinghast painting that was on display at her studio, No. 3 Washington Square N., and destined for the Central Congregational Church in Toledo, Ohio. “Paints Christ from Letter,” shouted the headline. To gain further attention, the writer further burnished her credentials as “the foremost woman artist in America” and the panel as “remarkable.”

“The representation,” he went on, “is entirely new, and was made from a description of the Saviour written in a letter by Lentulus Justinian, a Roman Senator, who saw the Nazarene.” Apparently, the letter “was preserved by a Greek historian, and eventually fell into the hands of Rene Menard, the French scholar. M. Menard incorporated the letter in his ‘Histoire de Beau Art,’ published almost a half century ago.”

We suspect Tillinghast is giving her usual adept backgrounder via an interview with the reporter for the marketing impact it would have on other potential clients, as she explained how she got the idea of the ‘new Christ’. She had been in France where she “picked up” the book by Menard, read the letter, and when she “received an order” from the church in Toledo, hit upon the idea of using this theme for her panel. She went on to explain that the picture represents Christ just after the resurrection. Mary Magdalen is at the right of the elliptical composition and the Angel of the Broken Sepulchre at the left. Although, the illustration provided by the newspaper does not include these two figures, we do have another full pictorial representation available (see below).



Central Congregational Church, Toledo, Ohio, The Resurrection, Panel 7'x13', in Memory of Mrs. Eliza C. Bailey, 1910, by Mary Tillinghast

Tillinghast must have provided the reporter with the contents of Justinian’s letter as he quotes from it liberally,

At this time there appeared a man who is still living and is endowed with great power. His name is Jesus Christ. His disciples call him the son of God. Others regard him as a powerful prophet. He raises the dead to life and heals the sick of all sort of diseases and infirmities. This man is tall and well proportioned. His expression is severe and full of virtue, color of wine, and from crown to ears straight and brilliant. Merely gazing at him, one fears and loves him. The hair on his head is to the shoulders full and curly. His hair is divided into two parts after the manner of the Nazarenes. His forehead is broad and smooth. His face is without a mark and bears a slight flush. His nose and mouth are irreproachable. His beard is abundant, and in color the same as his hair. His eyes are blue and very brilliant, his speech amiable and convincing, his expression grave and marvelously gracious. No one has ever seen him laugh a single time, but he has been seen to weep. Slight of figure, he has charming hands and arms. His hands are straight and long and his arms delightful. He is grave and measured in his discourse, conservative of speech. His face is that of the most beautiful of the children of men.

So, once again, Tillinghast is willing to push boundaries in iconography, to use various disciplines beyond the Bible in finding novel aspects for her decorative art. We do not know if there were any adverse reaction from the minister or congregation as there was with the Wingless Angel in the St. Mark's Episcopal church in Syracuse, NY.*

*This was ultimately rejected by the minister, even after installation, and despite the support of the Bishop for that area, it was removed the next week, and Mary T. was forced to sue for compensation. Currently, I have not been able to find the location of the window itself, or what the results of the lawsuit were, but it was debated hotly and with some sarcasm by the national press as to the theology of whether angels had to be winged or not.

But, she felt confident that it would find a receptive audience at least in NYC because she delayed shipping it northward until it had been publicly exhibited. She indicated that it could be seen "any afternoon until next Tuesday [Oct. 25, 1910], from 2 until 5 o'clock." There is no record of this particular invitation, but I have inserted one below that would have probably been a template for that.



3.1 The Rose Envelope

I am indebted to a dealer on eBay, Katrina Kerrick Sullivan, Roanoke, Va. 24018, for making available the above article and two other articles, plus copies of the painting. In this case, they were all enclosed in an envelope dated Feb. 14, 1911, with the sender being A.E. Rose, Sycamore St., Newport, R.I., and the receiver being Mr. George L. Rose, 4 Valley Place, Upper Montclair, New Jersey. Julie Sloan, the nationally-renowned stained glass window restoration expert, has identified Rose as one of the craftsmen, who worked for LaFarge and stayed with him after the breakup of the company. He probably joined George Wright, LaFarge's chief craftsman, when he worked from Montclair around 1911 (the dates are not sorted out entirely at this point). They may have both been at the stained glass factory that Tillinghast used, along with LaFarge. It was at 46 Washington Square South where the NYU Law School now is situated. Sloan also speculates that "Wright broke his leg or something around then and couldn't commute into the city, I guess."*

*Email sent to Watkins, Oct. 6, 2006. The Rose envelope was part of a bizarre research bonanza, when I was in China and received notice of a posting on eBay about a Tillinghast archive being located in an estate sale in Roanoke, Va. It turns out that the minister at the Episcopal Church in East Orange, NJ, where Mary's parents had belonged, had taken custody of some items of Mary's sister, Caroline Tillinghast March, through her daughter, Carolyn (Mary's niece). When he retired to Roanoke, he must have taken these with him, and his heirs turned them over for sale, rather than throwing them away. I was also able to retrieve some photo albums of the March family, a notebook containing the distribution of Mary's mother's household goods, and documentation of Mary's two brothers' trip to Europe where they purchased jewelry and other items of value on commission by clients in NYC. I have not had time to investigate this trove further other than utilize a few of the cited newspaper articles. But, it was a thrill to hold some of the items and realize that these were actual possessions of Mary's immediate family, as there is so little of their history intact. Another person I interviewed, Edith Evans Asbury, had actually gone to New Jersey to see the person, Carolyn, who was probably involved in the hand-over to the minister of these important family items. This will also be presented in another article sometime, when I see if there are any progeny left in this clan.

***New York Herald* Article Sheds Further Light**

The second Rose newspaper article, from the *New York Herald*, provided additional information about the painting. Because it also contained some of the same information as the first paper, such as the exhibit times, it is assumed that this article came out at the same time. Perhaps she sent the information to her contacts at the papers; perhaps she asked each of them to come around singly or together; or perhaps she invited them to one of her noted breakfasts, teas or soirees. Such marketing practices were common especially for a woman competing in a male-dominated society. And, after all, she was the daughter of a sharp Yankee trader migrating from Rhode Island!

This reporter also describes the painting as having three figures – “Mary Magdalen kneeling before Him and bearing the vase of spices she had taken to embalm the body. At the other side of the picture is the angel at the broken tomb.”

We learn from the writer that the composition is elliptical and the panel itself is seven feet high and thirteen feet long. The medium is a wax paint that closely resembles the pigments used by the painters of the old frescoes. “The methods of the old masters are closely followed in color and treatment, although in the background the influences of modern art are apparent in the treatment of the olive trees, the glow of the rising sun, the flowers in the foreground and the soft verdure. The impression of air is admirably conveyed.”

It is also gratifying to have the information about the frame, *viz.*, “the panel is surrounded by a hand carved frame in the Italian gothic style, and is also the work of the painter, covered with gilt which has been modified to represent the mellowing touch of time.” But even more importantly, we learn for the first time in whose memory it was commissioned – Mrs. Eliza C. Bailey, presented by her two daughters.

And finally, we learn that “*Miss Tillinghast, who also works in stained glass, made the windows for the church.*” How many? We are left guessing until more documents show up (see another section).

A Third Article from the Rose Envelope

Again unknown in source and date, another newspaper article dramatizes the Tillinghast message in its headline – Paints a New Christ from Roman Letter: Miss Tillinghast’s Portrait, Drawn from Contemporary Account, Curiously Saved. The lead sentence is no less sensational. “The chance whim of a Roman Senator who happened to be making a pilgrimage 1,000 years ago through Palestine has led to an entirely new representation of the Christ. The Senator, by name, Lentulus Justinian, saw the Nazarene, and was so impressed by the great teacher that he wrote a letter back to the Roman Senate describing his appearance.”

3.2 Background of the Church in Toledo that Commissioned Mary Tillinghast’s Art

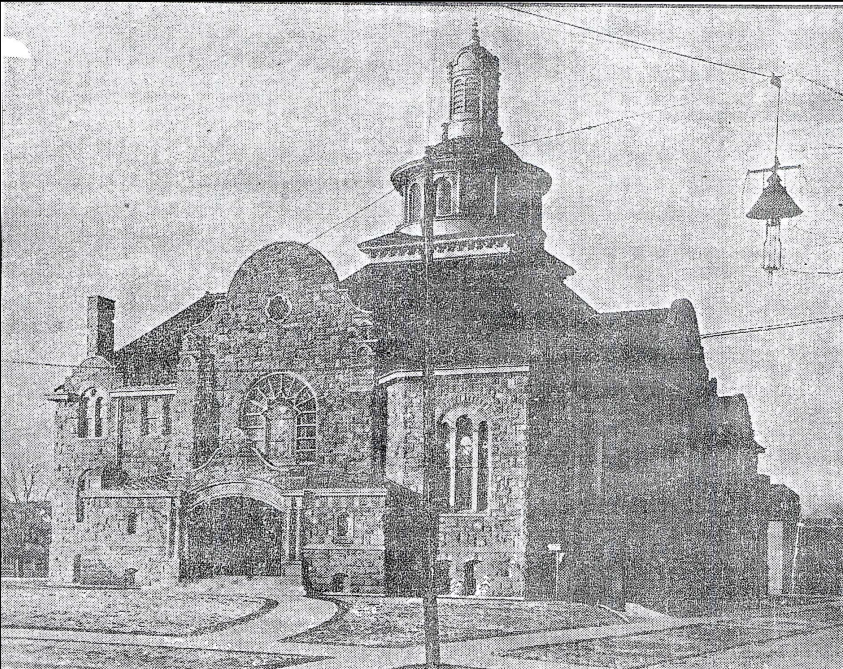
The Central Congregational Church was organized February 5, 1881, its membership consisting mainly of persons bearing letters from Westminster Presbyterian Church. Reverend Henry M. Bacon, D. D., for 15 years Pastor of the latter Church, was chosen to like position in the new organization. The membership in 1887 was 265.* But, this history is a bit simplified, since the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church came originally from the First Congregational Church, which would eventually merge with the Central one in 1913, as we shall see. And those two churches would each be drawn to different artists – one to Tillinghast, and the other to Tiffany. The confusion in the media would take a while to sort out who, what, and when, though.*

[*http://www.heritagepursuit.com/Lucas/LucasReligiousChapII-584.htm](http://www.heritagepursuit.com/Lucas/LucasReligiousChapII-584.htm). See also Edward Parker Johnson's First Congregational Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan, McNaughton & Gunn, 1987. We have come across the phenomenon of Congregational and Presbyterian denominations trading off governance several times in our research of the Tillinghast windows, e.g., Oswego, Yonkers, and several other places in NY. I am very familiar with these denominations while growing up, and there was fraternity among such mainline church lineages, as well with the Disciples of Christ and Unitarians, but the degree of cooperation and spawning of new 'flocks' on a somewhat reciprocal basis did not exist to the levels it reached in the 19th century. Moreover, the idea of two church buildings with similar congregations (Central Congregational and First Congregational) standing next to each other is very unusual.

The church histories of Toledo work cited above also gave some details about the governance history of the Presbyterians and Congregationalists. In 1841, the First Congregational Church changed its form of government from Presbyterian to Congregational. In 1845, the Church was admitted to the Maumee Presbytery, on what was known as the "Plan of Union," under which many Congregational Churches in Northern Ohio, while retaining their peculiar form of government, were admitted to representation in the judicatories of the Presbyterian Church. As noted, the Central Congregational Church was organized by persons bearing letters from Westminster Presbyterian Church. To buttress this with a more current example, the writer's father was a minister both in the Disciples of Christ denomination, which currently shares foreign missions with the Congregationalists and after he retired, he easily had his credentials changed to becoming a minister for two Presbyterian rural churches.

The next relevant information we have about the church is a new structure being built at Collingwood Avenue and Acklin St., in December, 1905. William Speck's book, *Toledo: A History in Architecture 1890-1914*, tells us that, by the early 20th century, Collingwood Avenue was no longer merely the most sought after residential address in the city, but it became the street of choice for Toledo's most fashionable churches as well. Central Congregational Church was described by *The Toledo Blade* as, "one of the group of three magnificent church structures that have been erected on Collingwood Avenue within the past two years." The Church's vaguely Spanish-Moorish design was by architects Brown and Davis of Chicago and Cincinnati. The tile roof and curved and scalloped pediments were a popular motif in Toledo architecture at the turn of the century, especially in the work of Edward Fallis."*

*Speck, Charleston: Acadia Publishing, 2002. The quote is from *The Toledo Blade*, Dec. 27, 1905, as is the photo, which was scanned from a photocopy (something is better than nothing).



Central Congregational Church, from Toledo Blade, Dec. 27, 1905, dedicated the previous Sunday. Note the electric street lamp at upper right. Many of the stained glass windows, all purportedly by Mary E. Tillinghast, appear to be installed already.

The *Ohio Architect and Builder* had a small note in its annual directory for 1904, which said that Brown & Davis are "preparing plans for a church to be erected at Toledo, Ohio, for Central Congregational church of Toledo. It will be two stories, 100x120 feet, built of brick and stone with composition roof, art glass, steam heat, hardwood finish and floors, plastic ornaments and combination light fixtures. Cost, \$35,000." By the time of the dedication, this had risen to \$50,000, according to the *Toledo Blade*.*

*Feb. 12, 1904, Vol. 3, original from the New York Public Library, digitized, June 19, by Google. *Op. cit.*, *Blade*, Dec. 27, 1905.



A new minister, Rev. C.W. Huntington (l.), and his wife, had come from Lowell, Massachusetts, High Street Congregational church about this time, and presided over what the *Blade* called “one of the events of the year in church circles,” the formal opening and dedication. It is interesting that three different clergy with the Huntington name had been associated with Mary Tillinghast and her artworks – the first being Rev. Huntington at Grace Church, NY, where her first stained glass window was installed; and Bishop Huntington of Syracuse, NY, a stain glass portrait of whom Tillinghast designed and who was an ardent supporter of her during the controversy over the winged angel commission at St. Mark’s Episcopal in Syracuse.*

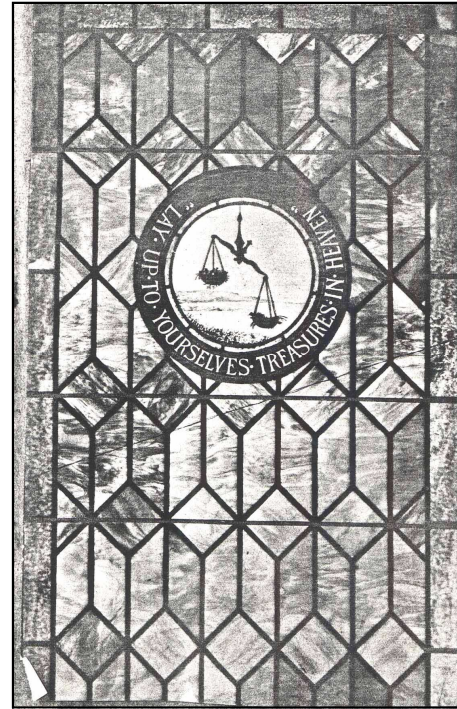
* *The Lowell Sun*, Sept. 7, 1905.

Although the main center of attention for this Christmas week dedication event seemed to be the building and its magnificent pipe organ (see illustration below), what is interesting about this photo is the memorial window to the left of the organ, which was dedicated to the late W.F. Kelsey, and the one on the right to the first pastor of the church, Dr. H.M. Bacon. We are unsure of the artist derivation of these pieces in any direct way. The other windows, which the newspaper described as ‘art glass’ were a memorial to Mrs. D.C. Shaw, and the other, corresponding to it on the east side, is the gift of Mrs. J.E. (Eliza M.) Bailey, a charter member of the church, in memory of her husband. These are purportedly shown on the next page. Another interesting tidbit was the mention of A.M. Woolson as part of the service proceedings, a person and relative-in-law we shall meet in later pages. Nearly 1,200 persons attended the dedication.





"Whatever Thy Hand Findeth to Do, do It with thy Might"



"Lay Up to Yourselves Treasures in Heaven"

3.3 The Broxton Window

Somewhere between the dedication of the church in 1905, and 1910, when the panel in memory of Mrs. J.E. Bailey (remember her earlier commission for her husband), by her daughters (Mrs. H.E. Marvin of Toledo, and Mrs. J.G. Croxton), a son of the latter died at an early age. In his memory, another window was commissioned for replacement within the same wall panel.

On 14 Nov., 1868, Captain John G. Croxton married Gertrude Bailey, the daughter of John Emory Bailey, a successful and prominent business man of Toledo, Ohio. They had one child, Bailey Croxton, who died in 1876.

Croxton, a merchant, was born in Magnolia, Ohio, 17 March, 1839 (and died in Havana, Cuba, on Feb. 3, 1913), son of John G. and Susan (Smith) Croxton. Descended from a long line of American ancestors, he was reared in the free, pioneer environment that existed in Ohio in those days when Indians still went on the warpath east of the Mississippi and all transportation over land was by means of horse or ox-drawn vehicles.

His early education was acquired in the district schoolhouse, supplemented with such books as were then obtainable. He responded to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, and enlisted for the three months' service. When that period expired the war had hardly begun, whereupon he volunteered again and served throughout the war. He was a first lieutenant in a company of the Fifty-first Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, but before the end of his service had obtained the command of a company. After the war, Captain Croxton returned to Ohio, where he was in business for a while But later he went to Philadelphia, where he became interested in the shoe business, being for many years a member of the firm of Croxton, Wood and Company. In this field of enterprise, he gradually worked himself up, being among the most prominent business men of Philadelphia. He was a director and vice president of the Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Market Street Bank. He was second president of the Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Philadelphia and for ten years, he was chairman of the Board of Arbitration. He was also a member of the Loyal Legion for a great number of years.*

*pp. 440-441, *The Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, James E. Homans, Published,1900, original from the University of Michigan, digitized Feb 17, 2006.



What Art-Works was Mary Tillinghast Responsible for in Central Congregational Church?

The simple answer – we don't know. Yet.

The *Toledo Blade* article (Nov. 6, 1910) that described the memorial painting also contained a sentence that stated, "The panel is entirely filled with three magnificent works of art, all the gift of one family." This was followed shortly after with another sentence, "*Miss Tillinghast also designed the beautiful memorial windows in the panel.*" So, it is probable that this included the Broxton window.

3.4 Tiffany vs. Tillinghast

Another interesting pattern that manifests itself is the juxtaposition of Tiffany and Tillinghast windows, if not in the same church as in other places, but being installed in next-door churches of the same denomination. Of course, Tiffany had a factory of people turning out hundreds of windows while Tillinghast did all the work primarily solo, except for the small factory across the street on Washington 46 Sq. S., where they actually produced the finished product for her.*

*We are informed from Johnson's book, in its Notes section to Chapter 38, The Memorial Windows, that these Tiffany windows were installed on November 14, 1926, and the north wall left with five amber glass windows to be replaced with memorial windows. Four companion Tiffany windows were installed seven months later and dedicated on Sunday, June 26, 1927, after the fire next door. These included the three windows below the balcony: The Guardian Angel, given by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Wright in the name of their children, Jane, William and Martha; Christ Appearing to Mary on Easter Morn, in memory of Joseph Milton Spencer, 1850-1920; The Good Samaritan, in memory of Jacob and Elizabeth Bash, by their children, Harry M. and Nellie F. Bash. The fourth window above the balcony called Hope is in memory of the Rev. Francis Duncan Kelsey is side with Inspiration. The two pastoral windows (Kelsey and Bacon, are commemorated in adjacent windows within a single large frame with a half circle heading.

So, given the Tiffany blockbuster reputation of that time, when everyone seemed to want to have Tiffany windows in their church, why did Central Congregational choose Tillinghast, a woman, for providing them with a major painting and perhaps a substantial number of windows?

Other than the previous article from the *New York Times*, we have no other documents – either of hers or in the church archives - to shed any light on this. However, there are at least three hypotheses for speculative purposes.

The first is that Tillinghast had done work in other Congregational churches, as well as Presbyterian churches. Her reputation may have preceded her through the denominational networks. For example, she had installed a window in the First Congregational Church in Attleboro, Mass., in 1905, and drew fulsome praise from that.

Secondly, there were habitual national news syndicated articles, some of which were just small filler items that were picked up by the local Ohio newspapers. But, they provided fulsome admiration for Mary Tillinghast as an important stained glass artist and painter from New York City.

3.5 Hypothesis #3: A Prominent Local Relative, Alvin Brooks Tillinghast?

The greatest one of interest to our family is that another of her prominent relatives (as there were in Buffalo, Troy, and Newport) may have helped her. This was Alvin Brooks Tillinghast, a businessman in Toledo, who made a fortune in licorice! Well, it's a bit more complicated than that. And success turned to farce when, having commissioned a palatial mansion in the Old West End at 2210 Robinwood Ave., he went bankrupt and the builder re-possessed the house and sold it to John North Willys for 12 antique Pope-Toledo cars.

Now called the Tillinghast-Willys Home, it is privately owned by Micheal Vogel and Catherine Kenney. They put it on a tour as part of the two-day Historical Old West End Festival and Home Tours in 2009, after a nine-year hiatus. It was described in a June 7, 2009, article in the Toledo *Blade*, "The home is 8,300 square feet and has an unusual lattice ceiling, mosaic, and stained-glass windows in the enclosed front porch. The foyer features a gold-leaf ceiling as well as quarter-sawn oak, mahogany, and other woodwork, and there is a good view of tiered lead glass windows at the top of the stairs. The eight-bedroom mansion also has five gas fireplaces, a rounded window seat in the living room's turret, a dining-room table that belonged to the Oblate Fathers who occupied the house at one time, a garden room with leaded glass window walls, hand-painted murals, hand-placed floor tile, an original hand-carved Della-Robia chandelier, and original cabinetry in the butler's pantry.





But, the feature of most interest to us (left) is the controversial Tillinghast family crest reading “Be Just and Fear Not,” which adorns the chimney facing out to the right, and on the wide chimney. Wayne Tillinghast approvingly quotes John Gifford Tillinghast’s piece, *The Founder of the Tillinghast Family*, for comment on p. 17, “[N]o authentic published work on Heraldry,” confirms that one was ever granted.’

Alvin had many other interesting characteristics and achievements in his lifetime. He lived to be 98, for one thing, dying on June 6, 1951 (June 3, according to Todd), nearly 40 years after Mary Tillinghast, although being born just shortly after her. His birth on Jan. 24, 1853, was on an Erie County farm near Berlin or Berlin Heights, Ohio, to William Tillinghast and Ann Eliza Squire. William was born in Coventry, R.I., June 29, 1805.

He had eight siblings, born in different places, because his father, also William (A.B.’s grandfather) had migrated westward to Indianapolis as a farmer, then came back east a bit to Berlin Heights, Ohio, before settling in Tolland, Conn., where he remained until his death. This would seem to be a reverse corollary of the Yankee Cultural Migration theory! Two of William’s older siblings had been born at Berlin Heights (Oliver Cromwell (O.C.) and George), so perhaps his mother or parents had returned to Rhode Island after that, and then William re-joined his uncles in Ohio.

*My thanks to Todd Lawrence who provided me with this family information in an email dated June 11, 2009, and pointed me toward Wayne Tillinghast’s record of A.B.’s grandfather, in his book, *The Tillinghasts in America*, pp. 367-8. This grandfather also can be traced back through Wayne’s book to George Tillinghast of East Greenwich, R.I., and a prominent civic person. His wife, a “lady of great beauty and many accomplishments,” died at the home of her son William in Tolland, Ct. (*ibid.*, p. 366). George’s ancestral tree goes through Philip and the two Pardons, for those of our family who are interested.

William and Eliza had four children, all born in Toledo or Berlin, Ohio. William’s father, also William (b. Aug. 6, 1773), came out west. See Part II of this article for more details on this Yankee cultural migration and the Tillinghast behavioral patterns that fit within it.

4.0 A.B. Tillinghast and A.M. Woolson – Their Clans Unite

Alvin came to Toledo as a boy, according to his obituary in the *Blade** and began working as an apprentice in saw-making at \$5 a week. A few years later he became associated with A.M. (Alvin Mansfield) Woolson in a grocery and meat store on Adams St., and after four years in this enterprise, Tillinghast bought a feed mill operated at Monroe and Erie Sts. Mr. Woolson went on to organize the famous Woolson Spice Co., and Tillinghast later rejoined his former partner as manager of the company’s powdered licorice department.

**The Toledo Blade*, June 6, 1951, A.B. Tillinghast: Known in Cultural and Business Life.”

4.1 The Woolson Connection

How were the two Alvins linked? It was mostly the kinship aspect, since Woolson had married A.B.’s sister, Frances Delia Tillinghast on Oct. 12, 1870! And remember that Woolson was mentioned earlier as a member of the Central Congregational Church.

Woolson was born Oct. 21, 1841, in Huron Township, Erie County, Ohio, not too far from the Tillinghast clan, Berlin Township. His family was of old Yankee stock and came from Massachusetts, after landing there in 1630. He served in Company M of the First Ohio Volunteer Heavy Artillery (formerly the 117th Ohio Volunteer Infantry) from 1862 to 1865, most likely occupying ground at one time around Fort Tillinghast in Arlington, Va. (see my previous article in *Pardon’s Progeny*). He attained the rank of sergeant major.

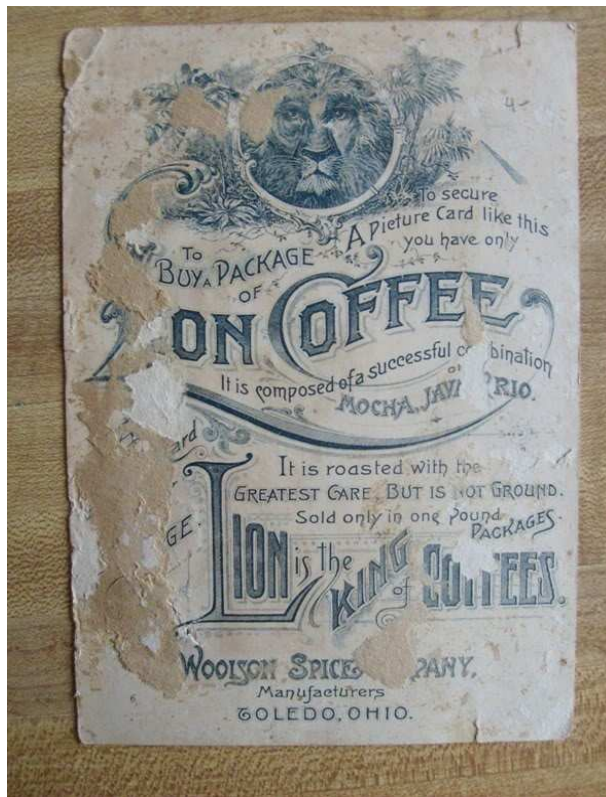
Following his Civil War service, Woolson became an accountant for the Union Pacific Railroad during the construction of track from Kansas City to Denver. He then went back to Ohio and worked in the mercantile business at Berlin Heights. It was most likely that he met Frances there around 1868, and they lived briefly in Wauseon before relocating permanently to Toledo in 1875 and began a grocery. He wanted to start a coffee and spice company but lacked the capital.

In 1882, he formed the Woolson Spice Company with Toledo's wholesale grocers as stockholders in the acquisition of C.C. Warren & Company. Located at 58 Summit Street, the company became the second largest coffee concern in the United States. Advertising trade cards, like the one below, were packaged with purchase of Lion Coffee sold by the company.

This is a very rare Victorian trading card from the Woolson Spice Company, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. It was lithographed in 1890 by Knapp & Co., of NY, NY. How many of you know about commercial trading cards? Well, I used to collect baseball player cards. Lots of values in some of these cards now. Some of the Woolson heirs are trying to find them and buy from other collectors.

(Front)





(Back side of trading card, previous page)

In 1896, H.O. Havemeyer purchased the Company for more than two million dollars. King of the sugar trust, Havemeyer hoped to use the thriving firm to destroy his competitor, coffee titan John Arbuckle. For more than a decade, the “Great Coffee-Sugar War” raged between the two. But, by 1905, Havemeyer had nearly destroyed the Woolson Spice Company and lost more than 15 million dollars in the process.*

*The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, The internet, www.rbhayes.org/hayes/manunews/display.asp. May 3, 2009

In retirement (he was only 55 at the time, but the ‘re-organization’ press release by Havemeyer had the usual rationale that Woolson was in ill health*), Alvin Woolson remained active in the Toledo business community as one of the original organizers of the Lucas County Chamber of Commerce and a member of numerous veteran and patriotic organizations. He served as a director of Toledo’s Second National Bank, Union Savings Bank, and the Northern National Bank. Woolson purchased a farm in Huron Township not far from his birthplace and created a 35-room mansion from the original home. After his wife, Frances (Tillinghast) died, Woolson spent little time in Erie County, living in Toledo until his death in 1925.

*This was the reason given in the *New York Times* article published June 8, 1897.

Yet to be accessed by the writer is the collection of Woolson papers given to the Newberry Library in Chicago by one of his great granddaughters, Weona A. Sutton, in 1989, and only made available in 2009 through a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Ms. Sutton (b. 1925, m. 1944) lives in the Chicago area and is a member of Ballet Chicago’s Board of Directors, where she is listed as ‘Investor and Ballet Instructor.’ Her parents were Weona Charlotte Engle (1902-2001) and William Armstrong. Weona Charlotte’s parents

were Weona Woolson (1879-1970) and Walter J. Engle. She had two sisters, Maude (1873-1929), married to Herman Brand; and Constance (1885-1970), married to John Barney.

Listed in the contents of the collection are scrapbooks “kept by Weona Woolson Engle and her mother and grandmother, Frances Delia Woolson and Eliza Squire Tillinghast”*; a letter from J.C. Tillinghast (nephew) to A.M. Woolson; photographs of O.C Tillinghast and Frances Tillinghast Woolson; and clippings related to the Tillinghast family. I am planning a trip soon and will provide an update of anything of further interest.

*“Inventory of the Woolson Family Papers, 1856-1950, bulk 1889-1910.” Chicago: Newberry Library. Web. <www.newberry.org/collections>.

4.2 Back to Alvin B. Tillinghast

A.B.’s next business move was to set up his own firm, the Toledo Licorice Co., which was incorporated Jan. 1, 1889. It was located at the western edge of the city, Monroe St., near the MC Railroad. The capital raised was \$50,000, with the President and Manager being Alvin, who directed the firm for nearly 15 years. Most of the output went to tobacco manufacturers! On Tuesday, April 2, 1890, the works caught fire from the dry kiln and were entirely destroyed. The loss was estimated at \$25,000, and was fully covered by insurance, according to the newspaper report.

*“*New York Times*, April 2, 1890.

After his bankruptcy (in 1903, there is a record in the Report of the Ohio Secretary of State of its dissolution) that apparently began in 1901, before he could move into his mansion on Robinwood, Alvin adjusted to the circumstances and lived down the street instead, at 2547 Robinwood Ave. Records also show that he was involved with the Buckeye Tonapah Mining Company and also the Ohio Wrecking Company, but at what stage in his life and whether it was just as an active investor, we do not know. However, in 1914, he paid his museum membership listing his office first at Buckeye (1061 Spitzer Bldg.) and later at the latter firm, 3502 Summit St., and listed his residence as 1523 Superior St.

By 1923, he moved from Robinwood Ave. and was living at 435 12th St., according to the membership records of the Toledo Museum of Art, which they sent to me. This continued until the time of his death in 1951.*

*The Board of Trustees expressed its great appreciation for the 50 years of Tillinghast’s gifts in time and money by adopting a “grateful” resolution.

At 29 years of age, he married Eudora Smith (b. Mar. 1856 in Ct.) on June 13, 1882, in Huron, Ohio. They had one son, Harold Alvin Tillinghast, born Dec. 8, 1887, in Toledo. What happened to him, we do not know, but he is not noted in the *Toledo Blade* obituary. A document photocopied for me by the Toledo Museum of Art, however, is puzzling, because it is a card that shows a Mrs. H.A. Tillinghast is getting a complimentary copy of the Museum News during the year of 1923 – at the request of A.B. Tillinghast. There are no other H.A.s in the database that Todd sent me, so this may be the widow of his son? She is listed at different addresses during that year, perhaps reflecting different circumstances – 113 Dudley Ave., Norbert, Pa.; 713 Kenmore Rd., Cynwyd, Pa.; 4526 Osage Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. She may have moved back to Toledo after that for a brief time, because the museum membership card shows the Robinwood address of Henry and then a notation for Jan. 4, 1934, that she has moved away from Toledo.

At 57, Alvin shifted to an entirely new field, and became representative of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. According to the newspaper, “he scored unusual success in the insurance business.” Even before this, he served as one of the original trustees of the Art Museum, starting with his co-founding of the Tile Club. Later, for many years, he sponsored its program of Sunday afternoon concerts. He also gave

scholarships every year to promising young musicians. As a result, he was honored a number of times by the recipient organizations.

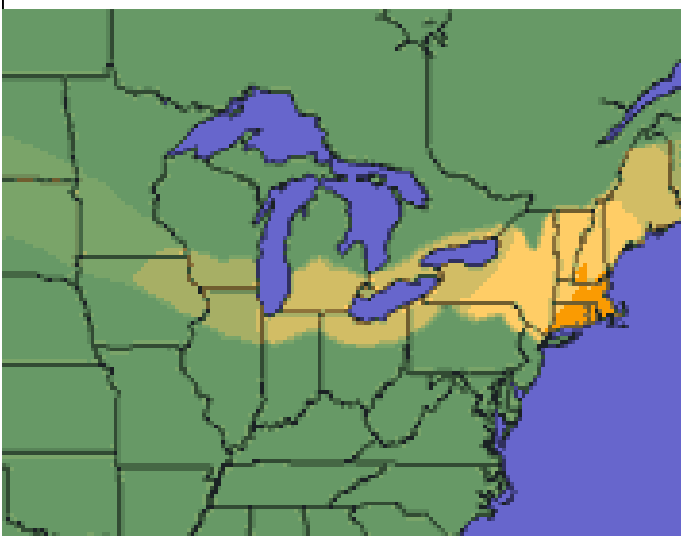
He was also an organizer of the Toledo Businessmen's Club, forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, and was the first person elected to life membership in the Chamber. Not surprisingly, he was active in Masonry, and was a leader for several decades in the Exchange Club of Toledo. Sinclair Lewis would have recognized him as one of his own in *Babbitt*.

One anecdote that the obituary cited was that, "for almost 40 years, his annual custom on his birthday was to play a game of billiards with his friend, Charles B. Abbott, of the Plaza Hotel. They played old-fashioned, straight-rail billiards in the Masonic Temple."

PART II More Family History: William Tillinghast (father of Alvin) Vs. William Billings Tillinghast – Cleaning up the Discrepancies and Finding the Yankee Migration Context

Rose Tillinghast, in her book, *The Tillinghast Family, 1560-1971*, does a wonderful job laying the foundation for researching our roots. It is amazing how much she covered without the use of the internet and the computer storage systems. However, one person cannot cover the whole waterfront, especially as big as Rhode Island and the Eastern seaboard, and decades later, new research has begun to correct some of the omissions or errors, as well as add new data to the different lineages. I have noted such E&O in my own specific research endeavors and have turned to Todd Lawrence and Wayne Tillinghast for my first lines of support. In addition, I pursue other sources as well and feed back any additions or corrections to both persons who maintain our overall Tillinghast database today with patience, diligence, accuracy, and élan.

One of the major problems I found with Rose's book with regard to this paper was how she confused two William Tillinghast lines, starting on page 113. After some long emails with Todd, and using Wayne's revisions in his new book, *The Tillinghasts in America: The First Four Generations*, plus some independent findings on my own that I fed back to Todd, I think both lines have now been primarily cleaned and are reasonably accurate, with still some exceptions. There is now a William Tillinghast line (George, Philip, Pardon, Pardon) and a William Billings Tillinghast line (Job Himes, Thomas, John, Pardon). If you wish to obtain such information, please email Todd or Wayne separately, or I can provide you with what they sent me.



I won't go over the entire 39-pages of small type that spells out the William Tillinghast line that goes through Berlin Township, Ohio, and beyond, but will touch on some highlights as it pertains to this article, particularly with regard to the migration patterns of the generations who started in Rhode Island and gradually fanned out to Connecticut and then Ohio. The Cultural Migration theory reflects a recent discipline that sees people and the land in migration streams. By the time of the American Revolution, the Eastern seaboard colonies had developed into three main regional cultures: New England, Mid-Atlantic and Southern. The migration streams pouring out of these population centers (geographers call them "cultural hearths") were initially quite distinct. Left is a prototype Yankee migration map,

and the Tillinghasts of Rhode Island were definitely part of this.

I do wish to acknowledge the substantial information that was provided to Todd by Mary Ann Knittel Tillinghast, wife of Timothy A. Tillinghast, living on the original Tillinghast farm homestead in Berlin Township.

- Using Timothy and Mary Ann as a different focal point, Timothy's lineage would be Raymond Sears, Edwin Cromwell, Charles, Oliver Cromwell, and William. His siblings are Michael B. and Susan Lou. Their children are Stacey Rochelle Tillinghast, b. May 28, 1971, and married to Walter Wade Wlodarsky on July 20, 1991; and Jason August Tillinghast, b. June 3, 1975, in Jacksonville, Fl.*

* Michael married Donna Murray and their children are Laminda Marie Tillinghast, b. Jan. 11, 1976, in Sandusky, Oh.; and Latessa Lynn Tillinghast, b. Nov. 29, 1981, in Elyria, Oh. Susan Lou married Paul Wilson, Mar. 6, 1971, in Berlin Heights, Oh., and their children are Terry Paul Wilson, b. Apr. 22, 1972, Sandusky, Oh., and married Sara Rice, Aug. 2, 1997. The other son is Matthew Steven Wilson, b. Jan. 12, 1976.

Note to file, upon reading on page 38 of the William Tillinghast genealogy: I would like to meet Timothy S. Tillinghast and Julie Jacob who named their child born on Nov. 19, 1997, in Fairlee, Vt. – Haley Rain That Lasts for Day Tillinghast! Who said genealogy perusing isn't fun...

5.0 William Tillinghast the Elder (Grandfather of Alvin B.)

William (George, Philip, Pardon) was born August 6, 1773, in East Greenwich, R.I., and died Oct. 17, 1848, in Tolland, Ct. He married Eleanor Baker, March 12, 1797, in Warwick, R.I. She was born Feb. 17, 1767, in Rhode Island, and died June 16, 1851.

After the War of 1812, he came out to Northern Ohio, and under the privileges extended to fire sufferers in Connecticut during the Revolutionary War, entered a tract of land in the district set apart for those parties in the southern part of Berlin Township. His claim was located on what is now the State road southeast of Berlin Heights. He did not remain to permanently occupy this claim, but one of his sons, **Joseph** Tillinghast, came soon afterwards and made the beginnings of improvement on the land. I would be interested in seeing what kind of claim the Tillinghasts had, and would like to look at the documentation sometime. *It is my understanding that Timothy A. Tillinghast's father, Terence Richard Tillinghast and his brother Ned, operated this eponymous Tillinghast Farm south of Berlin Heights and that it is still in the hands of the family.*



Background of the Firelands or Fire Sufferers Land

In 1786, Connecticut ceded most of its western lands to the American government, in preparation for the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The state kept its claim to an area of land in the northeastern portion of the Northwest Territory known as the Connecticut Western Reserve. Connecticut chose to sell most of the land in the Western Reserve to finance the state's educational system. In 1792, approximately 500,000 acres were reserved for Connecticut citizens who had suffered property losses during the American Revolution. This portion of the Western Reserve became known as the Firelands or the Sufferers' Lands. During the Revolution, British troops had burned several Connecticut towns (Danbury, Fairfield, Greenwich, Groton, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, and Ridgefield) and many of their residents had lost everything they owned. They were able to start over again in the Northwest Territory. A company called the Ohio Corporation distributed the land to eligible applicants.

Much of the settlement of the region did not occur until after the War of 1812, however. This was due to the necessity of clearing dense forests from most of the land so that it could be used for farming purposes. Also, there were Indian hostilities prior to and during the War of 1812. After that, the land had to be surveyed and the Indian tribes' claims had to be settled.

During this time, in 1803, the Sufferers, or their heirs, legal agents, and purchasers of their deeds, formed a corporation to manage the lands to which they were entitled in the newly formed state of Ohio. The land was divided into 30 five-mile square survey townships, which were further subdivided into 120 quarters, each containing 4,000 acres. A drawing was held to determine the land received by each individual. Many of the local communities and townships in the Firelands are named for locations in Connecticut. Berlin is presumably named for its counterpart.

This area is now present-day counties of Huron and Erie (except for a small piece in the west) as well as Danbury Township and part of Catawba Island Township in Ottawa County and Ruggles Township in Ashland County. About 30 towns, cities and villages ended up being situated in the Firelands near the southern shore of Lake Erie.*

*Culled from internet sites of the Ohio Historical Society, Wikipedia, Firelands Historical Society, and the Connecticut State Library.

5.1 Joseph Tillinghast

There are two versions yet to be reconciled about Joseph and his activities after that. In the first, we are told that Joseph subsequently married Maria Walker in Berlin Township (no date) "and late in life left Ohio where they spent their last years in Indianapolis, Indiana." The second version, also in Todd's genealogy notes is that Joseph married Laura Walker about 1824 in Indianapolis. This one seems to make more sense because both Joseph and Laura are buried in the same cemetery and their first child, Mary Tillinghast was born in Indianapolis. Joseph died on Oct. 13, 1882. There were two other sons, William and George.*

*An older sister of Joseph was Mary Tillinghast, who married Cyrus Lyman. She was killed in Norwalk, Ohio, hit at a train crossing near her home. There were three children. One of them, Sarah Maria Lyman married James Indicott after his wife (Sarah's Aunt Eleanor and Mary's sister) died.

5.2 Oliver Cromwell (O.C.) Tillinghast (Sr.)

The next son after Joseph, Oliver C., grew up in Connecticut, received a common school education, and came to Ohio when he was about 21 years of age. It is recounted that his journey to this frontier district was made with a horse and wagon for the entire distance. He spent four weeks on the road, and arriving in the wilderness, his first thought was the erection of a log cabin home. He had brought tools with which he did

most of the labor involved in this construction. The cabin was situated on a part of the land entered by his father, and after its building and after bringing about some improvements that would serve to prepare conditions suitable for a permanent residence, he returned to Rhode Island after his wife, Ruth Aborn, by way of the Erie Canal, the opening of which, on arrival at Buffalo, was celebrated by firing of cannon.*

* Source: History of Erie County, 1916.

He was a member of the Methodist church, but gave up his membership prior to the Civil War, due to the church's stance on slavery. He was a determined abolitionist and could not associate with an organization that assumed a somewhat neutral attitude on this critical problem. He helped many a runaway black to the safety and security found beyond the Canadian border.”*

* *Ibid.*, 1916. Ohio was a very active State in the Underground Railway movement, and the towns along Lake Erie were especially helpful in transporting slaves across to Canada.

He died, May 16, 1884, in Berlin Heights, Ohio, and his wife about four years later. They had four children: Emeline, Oliver Cromwell (O.C.), Charles and Mary C. Emeline married Frederick Otis and they had seven children, most of whom settled in Berlin Township. O.C. Jr. married Eliza Reynolds and had two children. This was whom A.B.'s daughter, Grace, would visit (see below). Charles also was a farmer living in Berlin Heights. He married Alpha Hill and they had four children. Mary married Lemon G. Hine and they had five children.

5.3 George Tillinghast

The next son, George, was born in Wickford, R.I., on Jan., 18, 1803, and died Jan. 31, 1888. He is buried in Poyer Cemetery, Berlin Township, Ohio. He married first Mary Updike Eldred, and then a Maria ? for his second time. He and Mary had 10 children.

5.4 William Tillinghast (Jr.)

The next son, William, was born June 29, 1805, in Rhode Island and died in 1890. He married Ann Eliza Squire, daughter of Captain Joab Squire and Mary Buckley. (The Squires had come to the Western Reserve part of Ohio (west of Cleveland), with Capt. Squire having come out of the Navy with no farming background. His family of nine children was soon faced with near starvation in the forest, but a nearby family with hunting background saved the day, and one of the sons married a Squire as a result. Capt. Squire would have one more child, born in Ohio, and then had five more by a second wife, who brought two more into the marriage.)

The 1870 Census showed William living as a farmer in Berlin Heights, Ohio, with his wife, and daughter Frances and son Alvin. This is probably technically correct, because Henry Buckley Tillinghast, as the older son (b. Feb. 14, 1836) and Ellen (b. Nov. 6, 1837) as the older daughter, were probably out of the household by then.

5.5 Henry Buckley Tillinghast (brother of Alvin)

The first documentation we come across is quite relevant. Edward Parker Johnson, in his history of the First Congregational Church of Toledo, devotes a special section to Henry's religious doubts at 35, after becoming a member six years earlier. The cause was a letter he sent on Sept. 12, 1874, to the Pastor and Standing Committee which read as follows:

Gentlemen: For the last two years or more, my belief in the Christian religion has been gradually changing to more and more liberal views until my present convictions no longer harmonize with what is called orthodox faith. The causes which have led to these conclusions, I will not burden you with. Enough to say in justice to myself that I have arrived at them through not a little study, reflection, reason, and as I trust an honest search after truth. The position occupied by being nominally a member of a church holding doctrines to which I cannot longer subscribe, seems to be dishonest and false. Therefore, I desire my name dropped from your list of membership. Hoping for your prompt and early reply, I am, Yours Respectfully,

H.B. Tillinghast

Johnson reports that the Standing Committee asked for his further views on doctrine and upon receiving them, adopted a resolution, decided there was no hope for his salvation and suspended him from membership until such time as “God’s Spirit will enlighten his mind and restore him to the truth.*

*Johnson, op.cit., pp. 233-4.

His wife, Sarah Willard Merriam Tillinghast, on the other hand, remained a member until May 19, 1881, *when she ‘went by letter’ to the Central Congregational Church.*

Henry B. was employed at the Tillinghast & Co. Saw Works in 1889, in Toledo, according to the City Directory. This was probably his brother Alvin’s company. One of his four children, Jay Cooke Tillinghast, was also a foreman there.

Grace Tillinghast, a daughter of Henry B. Tillinghast, was born in 1868 and married Harry Emory Ballard in 1895, when she was 27 years old. He was from Vermont, as was her mother, so maybe there are some connections there. Ballard graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School and one record shows them living in Waterbury, Ct. He is shown as having done post-graduate study in Elizabeth, N.J. and Brooklyn, NY. He was a member of Odd Fellows and the New Haven, Ct. Medical Society. We found three brief references in the Sandusky Daily Register to Grace, all social notes where she visited one of her uncles in Berlin Heights: July 29, 1890 (“visiting at O.C. Tillinghasts”); unknown date (“visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Champion” – this is incorrect, and there is no name like that in the current genealogy listing that might indicate a relative); and nearly 32 years later, using her unmarried name (was the local correspondent inaccurate again?) June 16, 1922 (“spent the weekend with relative in Berlin Heights”).

5.6 Ellen Tillinghast, sister of Alvin B., was born Nov. 6, 1837, in Berlin, Ohio. In 1859, she married Alson H. Pomeroy of Strongville, Ohio, and they moved to Berea, Ohio, in 1874, where he eventually became president of the local bank and a founder of the first suburban street railway in the State. Eventually, he expanded into the Pomeroy Mandelbaum Syndicate, which is one of the largest in the country, and became president of the Cleveland, Elyria & Western Electric railroad.

5.7 Other Children of William Tillinghast and Eleanor Baker

We have already addressed **Frances Delia Tillinghast Woolson** in a previous section. However, additional items of interest are that she lived at 2057 Parkwood Ave. in Toledo for most of her married life and died at 77, survived only by a single brother, Alvin. *She was a prominent member of the First Congregational church for half a century, joining before the merger with the old Central Congregational Church.*

Additional information will be sent to Todd Lawrence after the trip to Chicago and the Woolson archive is

accessed. Of the other four siblings – Nicholas, Sarah Ann, Susan, Emeline, and Eleanor – we can only spend a passing glance for the purposes of our article here, as they did not live in Ohio, but rather in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

6.0 Further Research Needed

Foremost, may we figure that Mary Tillinghast's works were in the Central Congregational building until 1927 when it burned? Or if not, what happened to Mary's works? And what exactly comprised her *oeuvre*?

Other possible questions to pursue and hopefully answer:

1. Did Alvin Tillinghast or any other Tillinghast have any role in Mary Tillinghast's being selected to do the windows and painting?
2. Do any better photos or articles exist in the Toledo Blade or other sources of the panel or windows?
3. Are there any records in the United Church of Christ (UCC) headquarters archives in Cleveland?
4. What are the names and dates of the unknown newspapers sent by Rose?
5. Does the monograph by Mrs. Charles Hutchinson, History of the Central Congregational Church, a member of Central Church since September, 1881, contain anything relevant?
6. Will the Newberry Woolson Collection reveal anything of interest?
7. Can Timothy and Mary Ann Knittel Tillinghast provide further documentation of the Firelands Tillinghast settlement?

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If somebody called for a Reunion, would anybody come?

In 2001, Tillinghasts gathered in West Virginia. Thirty-one souls sang in the sunshine together. In 2003, Tillinghasts gathered again, this time in Providence, RI. Over 70 cousins checked lineages and hairlines to see our likes and differences.

Do you want to do it again? In Providence?

If so, we need workers who will help organize, plan, do the nitty-gritty and 'getter done'. Your response by **email**: gt Tyler@casinternet.net or **mail**: 333 Random Road, Ripley, WV 25271 or **telephone**: 304/372-9389 will help us know that you are interested and will probably come.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Greta T. Tyler, editor



New Rivers restaurant renewed,

headlines from Providence Journal, February 24, 2010, help Bruce Tillinghast celebrate the reopening of his restaurant after a fire forced refurbishing. Number 9 Steeple Street, home of New Rivers, now looks out at The First Baptist Church in America, founded by Pardon Tillinghast. Bruce (on telephone) and his chef plan their day. If we reunion in Providence, go early and plan a meal in this wonderful eatery.