

❖ PARDON'S PROGENY ❖

Volume 20, Issue 1

tillinghastsociety.org

Winter 2019

*A Publication of
the Tillinghast
Family In
America.*

*"Be Just and
Fear Not"*

*Subscription
price: \$4 per
year for two
print issues.
PDF no charge*

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Celebration[®]



With this issue we celebrate 20 years of publication of the second generation of Pardon's Progeny. Over 20 years ago when my husband and I lived in a motor home and traveled the United States, my mother received an inquiry from Todd Lawrence, wondering if someone might be interested in restarting the newsletter, Pardon's Progeny, originated by Ann Williams Tillinghast some years before. Mother thought I might be interested in this challenge, and I was. Todd informed me that "Bud" Harold Tillinghast in Eureka, CA, was also interested in being editor. My travels enabled us to visit him and we pitched our hats in the ring.

Thank goodness for computers with word processing, email, printers and quick print shops. I have the greatest respect for Ann. I can't imagine how she and editors who followed her managed to process their missives by mimeograph with no labeler and only snail mail.

Todd provided a mailing list. He, Bud and I wrote articles and the first newsletter by computer was mailed in December 1998. To date, we have had 242 readers over time. Currently 164 receive issues personally. We have moved from snail mail to email/PDF and the newsletter is read on Facebook. At present only 10 readers get print copies. We started by calling this next generation Pardon's Progeny II but dropped the II when we had been in print longer than the original paper.

This edition looks back at 20 years of growth. Todd Lawrence recaptures his quest for family information with wonderful details about others who have kept our information alive. A binding focus for the family has been our common effort to maintain the historic burial site for Pardon Tillinghast and unnamed others. Bruce Tillinghast gives us a grateful report of success.

Happy remembrances,

Greta Tillinghast Tyler, Editor

Tillinghast Genealogy Project

By: Todd C. Lawrence (*Ann, Theose, Pardon, Benjamin, Pardon, Samuel, Pardon, Phillip, Pardon, Pardon*)

My interest in tracing the Tillinghast family began, as it does with most, with tracing my own lineage. My wife and I had relocated to Rhode Island in 1990 and it was not until two years later that my mother (Ann Tillinghast Lawrence) suggested I try to locate our Tillinghast roots. For many reasons, not much was known or shared about our lineage during my mother's childhood and when my grandfather Theose Tillinghast died in 1982, all that was left was a small piece of paper and a long list of names: Pardon, Pardon, Phillip, Pardon, Samuel, Pardon, Benjamin, Pardon, Theose. The search began!

Genealogy and the search for knowledge of one's family is addicting. I never even knew that my grandfather was born in Providence, RI. I had always assumed that he was from Hartford, CT. It turned out after some research that I had been driving by his childhood home every day for two years.

There are many individuals and organizations to thank and recognize. The first is of course the Rhode Island Historical Society Library as they were my first stop and their staff were extremely kind and helpful as I began my journey. They were a tremendous source of information on our family and had many resources which unfortunately did not answer my own lineage questions. There were clues to previous family historians present and I will endeavor to share and detail their work in the order it was done.

James B. Tillinghast, Esq (born 08 May 1822 in Cooperstown, NY, died 25 Oct 1898 in Buffalo, NY). His obituary stated that when Vanderbilt obtained control of the New York Central Railroad, one of his first acts was to name Mr. Tillinghast its superintendent. In 1881, he was appointed assistant to the president of the New York Central Railroad. According to Charles Tillinghast Straight's 1923 genealogy, James B. Tillinghast spent the last twenty years of his life collecting and researching Tillinghast genealogy. His plans were to publish his work but he died before that could be achieved. It was estimated that he had 2000 sheets of data. Leonard Tillinghast, of Woburn, MA, purchased the collection from his heirs and continued to research and add to the collection. Leonard was born 24 Dec 1840 in Coventry, RI, and died 21 Aug, 1926 in Woburn, MA. I have included a copy of correspondence from C. A. Potter to a Mrs. Lee Lawry in 1940 (in the Tillinghast paper collection in the main branch of the NY City library). Mr. Potter refers to the James B. Tillinghast Esq papers as the "Tillinghast Galleys". He had located them with an unnamed "custodian" in Exeter, RI about 1937. This is the last documented report of the existence of the original James B. Tillinghast papers.

James B. Tillinghast, M.D. (born 01 Jul 1846 in Scituate, RI, died 10 Jul 1899 in Providence, RI). Dr. James Benoni Tillinghast sent letters to family members in the mid 1870's to collect our family lineage with the goal of having it published. I have attached a copy of one of his letters as well as an example of a family group sheet that was returned. Dr. Tillinghast's papers reside in the CT Historical Society Museum and Library in Hartford, CT. There are approximately 200-300 papers and it represents an extensive collection of our family history; much of it is not published elsewhere. Of note, I have often wondered if the two James Tillinghast's were working together or separately on the family genealogy project. I have also wondered if there might have been confusion between the two of them as they were both James B. Tillinghasts. However, I do believe that there is enough written support of James B. Tillinghast Esq work, as well as actually copies from his cousin Dr. James B. Tillinghast to support the conclusion that both of them were working on the family lineage. The Dr. James B. Tillinghast papers were useful in determining the lineage for one of our famous Tillinghasts: Golf course designer Albert Warren Tillinghast. His father Benjamin Collins Tillinghast returned a completed form to Dr. Tillinghast and provided the proof of his ancestry that had been missing for many years.

Charles Tillinghast Straight (born 27 Oct 1860 in West Greenwich, RI, died 17 Apr 1940 in Pawtucket). The torch was next picked up by Charles Tillinghast Straight and I have included copies of the first pages of his genealogy which resides in the RI Historical Society Library.* Charles T. Straight was one of the first to start to organ-

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ize and present the James B. Tillinghast Esq data in genealogical format. His work primarily contains family group sheets with names and dates of birth and death. It is clear that what he published contains just a fraction of the potential total work by James B. Tillinghast, Esq.

William Richmond Tillinghast (born 15 Apr 1858 in Providence, RI, died 07 Dec 1931 in Providence, RI). William Richmond Tillinghast's work consists of 2 volumes and 733 pages. They are located at the RI Historical Society Library and their catalog states that they were a gift from Theodore Tillinghast, with three copies being typed from the original manuscript, 1944. Although I am not sure of the source of his work, it would not have been out of the question for William Richmond Tillinghast to have used the original James B. Tillinghast Esq papers as they were clearly in the area at the time.

Rose C. (O'Brien) Tillinghast (born 23 Aug 1887 in Minnesota, died 26 May 1979 in Washington, D.C.). Rose C. Tillinghast's "The Tillinghast Family 1560 – 1971" was privately published in 1972. According to her family, there were about 200 copies created. A few of us are fortunate to have a copy of her work. There are copies in the holdings of most Northeast genealogy libraries and one of our cousins has also worked to make her work available online. From Rose's notes, it appears that in addition to some first-hand research with vital records, her primary source was correspondence with cousins to submit their lineage.

Anne Williams Tillinghast (born 20 Dec 1914 in Cumberland, SC, died 11 Mar 1996 in Fayetteville, NC). Anne Williams Tillinghast was the editor of our family's newsletter, Pardon's Progeny, from 1974 to 1987. I have enclosed a sample of one of her family questionnaires that was found in the Rose C. Tillinghast papers.* These questionnaires were sent out after Rose Tillinghast published her works. Much of the new information was published in the Pardon's Progeny newsletter.

Wayne G. Tillinghast (born 21 Dec 1935 in Groton, CT). I consider Wayne Tillinghast's "The Tillinghasts in America: The First Four Generations", published 2006 by the Rhode Island Genealogical Society to be one of the more significant advances in our knowledge of our early family history. Wayne's first hand research with original documents has led to the most complete record of the Tillinghast's family first 4-5 generations in America. Wayne in his own words, focused on putting "the meat on the bone". There is so much more to genealogy than dates of birth and death. Wayne strove to capture details of our ancestor's lives and include that in his work. I refer to it often and I am deeply indebted to him for his help and collaboration with my own project.

Donna Tillinghast Casey

Although she has not published yet, she has dedicated herself to our English ancestry and is our expert in that area. Each of us has taken a nice niche of the history. Donna with England, Wayne with the first four generations, and myself with the goal of building the overall tree.

Finally, this brings me back to myself and the beginning of my personal quest. After a very short while, names start to swim in your head and it is hard to keep everyone straight. Genealogy software programs were released at about the same time as I started my research in the early 1990's. I started with my own line and quickly moved to all of the other research and sources that I listed above. I contacted Howard Blount in 1995 who along with his wife Belle were business managers of the original Tillinghast Society and Pardon's Progeny newsletter. Howard had guarded the left-over money in the society for seven years and was gracious to send it to me to help start our next phase. Although not much, it did allow an initial mailing to over 500 cousins across the country. That mailing led to many initial contacts and the creation of Pardon's Progeny II. I am indebted to Greta (Tillinghast) Tyler for her work as our editor in restarting Pardon's Progeny II, as well as to the many cousins who have helped host reunions, write articles, and form our new Tillinghast family society.

In regards to our genealogy, I continue to enter names, dates, and families as I find them or as they are shared with me. My database, starting with myself, has now grown to a total of 28,874 individuals. Along the way, I continue my search for the original Tillinghast galleys in hopes that they still exist. I was able to locate some pages that look like they are from that work just a few years ago. It represents the descendants of Philip, son of Pardon # 1, and is in the hands of cousins in Western NY.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

I am truly indebted to all of those who started the work before me. My original plans were to publish, but the work has simply grown too large to print in traditional form. Thankfully, the science of genealogy has continued to progress in many ways over the past two decades. Documentation of family is now commonly done online on sites such as Ancestry.com. I will soon start exploring the best way to upload my work to a public site to ensure that everyone has access to it and that it will not be lost. In addition, I have offered copies of the database to our own society and RIGS as soon as they purchase the needed software program.

The onset of DNA testing represents a significant new advance as well. I recently submitted my own test and was very surprised at the power this data has for genealogical research. I was surprised to see that I had 1000 DNA matches and I have made contact with many 3rd and 4th cousins over the past month. I encourage you to consider using your DNA to help your research as well. We still have a few Tillinghast families that we have yet to be able to link back to the main tree. One notable example would be the lineage of William Frederick Tillinghast, born 1834 in Charleston, SC, and relocated to Burlington, NJ. We have not been able to determine the lineage of William, but DNA could very well provide an answer for us and the Burlington NJ Tillinghast group. I wish you all well in own your research. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or with new additions to the database.

* Todd shared several scans of important documents referred to in this article. One follows on this page and another on page 4. Go to pages 14, 15 and 16 to see others. If you want his complete set, please contact your editor to receive them by email.

AUTHORITY FOR FOREGOING RECORDS:

TILLINGHAST GENEALOGY, - BY JAMES TILLINGHAST, BUFFALO, N.Y.
(UNPUBLISHED.)

MR. TILLINGHAST DEVOTED THE LAST TWENTY YEARS OF HIS LIFE IN COLLECTING DATA FOR A TILLINGHAST GENEALOGY AND AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH HAD OVER TWO THOUSAND PAGES OF MSS READY FOR THE PRINTER.

THIS MSS LATER CAME INTO THE HANDS OF MR. LEONARD TILLINGHAST, WOBURN, MASS., WHO HAS ADDED MUCH VALUABLE DATA OF A LATER DATE, AND DEVOTED YEARS OF STUDY AND RESEARCH IN CORRECTING AND COMPLETING THE FAMILY RECORDS.

MR. EDWARD EVERETT BOWEN, BOISE, IDAHO, HAS GIVEN VERY VALUABLE ASSISTANCE AND DATA.

ALL THESE RECORDS COPIED BY CHARLES TILLINGHAST STRAIGHT, PAWTUCKET, R. I., WHO WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GREAT HELP CHEERFULLY GIVEN BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE DIFFERENT FAMILIES IN FURNISHING AND CORRECTING THE RECORDS OF THEIR FAMILY LINE.

OTHER AUTHORITIES AS QUOTED IN THE RECORDS.

CHARLES TILLINGHAST STRAIGHT,

PAWTUCKET,

R. I.

OCTOBER 27,

1923.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., SEPTEMBER 23, 1923

DEAR COUSIN ALICE:

UNDER SEPARATE COVER (VIA REGISTERED MAIL) AM SENDING YOU THE FAMILY RECORDS WHICH I MENTIONED TO YOU LAST EVENING.

THESE RECORDS REPRESENT MANY YEARS OF THOUGHT AND LABOR BY DIFFERENT PERSONS: THE WRITING OF THOUSANDS OF LETTERS, AND MUCH SEARCHING.

IT IS THE MOST COMPLETE RECORD WHICH I CAN MAKE FROM THE MATERIAL IN HAND, AND I GUESS IT WILL HAVE TO PASS AS MY "LAST WORD" IN THAT DIRECTION.

THE REAL FOUNDATION WAS THE "TILLINGHAST GENEALOGY" BY JAMES TILLINGHAST, ESQ. OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK. DECEASED MANY YEARS AGO. HE DEVOTED THE LAST TWENTY YEARS OF HIS LIFE IN COLLECTING AND PROVING THIS VERY VALUABLE DATA.

AS YOU WELL KNOW HE DIED BEFORE HIS WORK WAS PUBLISHED, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NEARLY FINISHED HIS WORK IN COLLECTING AND COMPILING.

HIS WORK WAS BROUGHT DOWN TO NEARLY THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, SOME 25 YEARS AGO OR MORE.

FOR A LONG TIME NOTHING WAS DONE WITH HIS 2,000 SHEETS OF PROVED MSS, AS HIS FAMILY DID NOT SEEM TO TAKE ENOUGH INTEREST IN HIS LIFE WORK TO CARRY IT TO COMPLETION.

ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO MR. LEONARD TILLINGHAST, OF WOBURN, MASS., BOUGHT ALL OF THIS ORIGINAL MSS AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN AT WORK REVISING, CORRECTING, AND ADDING TO THE FAMILY RECORD.

WHAT I AM SENDING IS ONLY A PART OF WHAT HE HAS; I MERELY HAVE USED ENOUGH TO SHOW OUR LINE OF DESCENT FROM ELDER PARDON TILLINGHAST, EXCEPT HAVE PUT IN SOME OF THE EARLY RECORDS OF HIS CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

THE "TICHEORNE LINE" WITH WHICH I BEGIN, WAS COPIED FROM MSS YOUR FATHER HAD AND WHICH YOUR MOTHER LATER LET ME HAVE TO MAKE A COPY OF. IT IS SIMPLY TO SHOW SOME OF THE EARLY ANCESTORS OF OUR ELDER PARDON, ETC.

I THINK YOU WILL READILY SEE MY METHOD: THE NUMBER BEFORE ANY NAME IS THE GENERATION TO WHICH THEY BELONG, COUNTING ELDER PARDON AS OF THE FIRST (1ST) GENERATION; BY THAT MEANS ONE CAN READILY TRACE OUT ANY LINE RECORDED.

HAVE TRIED TO GROUP THE DIFFERENT FAMILIES IN THEIR PROPER ORDER

THE LINE IS QUITE COMPLETE FROM DEACON PARDON (5TH GENERATION) DOWN TO THE PRESENT, ALTHOUGH I WELL KNOW THERE ARE VERY MANY NAMES I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET: IN SOME CASES HAVE WRITTEN REPEATEDLY TO DIFFERENT FAMILIES, INCLOSING STAMPED ENVELOPE FOR A REPLY - WHICH NEVER CAME.

WITHIN THE LAST 20 YEARS HAVE PERSONALLY WRITTEN HUNDREDS OF LETTERS TRYING TO MAKE THE RECORD AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE.

OF NECESSITY THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKES MADE; YOU CANNOT REALIZE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GET THE EXACT RECORD; WHY, DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY

Charles Tillinghast Straight

The Last Muster Project

Finding the Revolutionary War Generation

Many of those who experienced the Revolutionary War first-hand lived beyond the advent of photography (1839). If you have Tillinghast images of that era, you may want to share them on this website:

<https://maurentaylor.com/last-muster-project/>

Recapturing Pardon's Progeny—1998/9—2019

Greta Tillinghast Tyler, Editor

(John, Clark, Henry Clay, Clark, Daniel, Pardon, Philip, Pardon, Pardon)

As editor, it has been my pleasure to read and publish each article that has come to this family newsletter since 1998. Here are a few stories as reminders.

Winter 1998/9 – John Fox “Jack” Tillinghast, Ripley, WV, article focused on his being the first consulting forester in the state of West Virginia. A later note mentioned that he was installed in the WV Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame.

Winter 2000 – A personal tour by **John R. Tillinghast** and daughter **Diane T. Procino** took us on country roads in England tracing **Elder Pardon's** home area. Streat, Afriston, Lewes and Beachy Head came to life through their adventure. In the same issue, **Bud Tillinghast** made the connection between the quest for religious freedom in this new country and recruitment of young Pardon to the new colony under formation by Roger Williams and others.

Summer 2000 – Diane T. Procino introduced us to stained glass artist **Mary Elizabeth Tillinghast** with pictures of her work in New York City.

Winter 2001 – **Rachel Tillinghast** introduced us to **Henry Clay Tillinghast** who traveled Europe in the late 1860s. Excerpts from letters to his wife carried us aboard ship with bedbugs to hotels in London, Brussels, Bonn and beyond. Their trip by train, stage coach and other transport to see art and hear concerts puts our family member amid the best offered in the day.

Summer 2001 – **Todd Lawrence** introduced us to his grandfather **Pardon Wilbur Tillinghast**, inventor, born December 29, 1859. His patented inventions include pneumatic tire and means for inflating the same; pencil-sharpener, bicycle saddle and more.

Winter 2002 – Diane T. Procino followed a Civil War database and found 62 Union and 5 Confederate soldiers with the surname of Tillinghast. She researched **Captain Harrison Tillinghast** from Marianna, Jackson County, Florida. Having completed two years of law school at University of Virginia, Harrison mustered in as a Lieutenant. After an injury at the Battle of Seven Pines he was promoted to Captain. He died at the battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam, 1862. **JoAnn Kenimer** placed a memorial stone for him in the family plot at Riverside Cemetery, Marianna, FL.

Winter 2003 – On the bell in The First Baptist Church in America is written, “The first church in Rhode Island and the First Baptist Church in America.” The article in this issue traces **Elder Pardon Tillinghast's** involvement with this remarkable house of worship. Not only did Pardon build and donate the first simple building for the developing congregation, but he continued to serve in leadership after the third and current church was built. Numerous Tillinghasts are listed in early records. Graduating students from Brown University continue to hold their final ceremonies in this building.

Summer 2003 – **John Tillinghast, sea captain**, shop-owner and merchant, came to life for us in the able words by **Wayne G. Tillinghast** in this issue. This wealthy bachelor was involved in privateering, elected to Newport and state government offices, raised support for the French and Indian Wars. He is listed as one of the founders of Brown University. John built a house at 142 Mill Street in Newport which still stands.

Summer 2004 – Architect **Josh and Louise Tillinghast** were editors of Pardon's Progeny from 1981 through 1984. Their daughter, **Jane Tillinghast**, captured the couple's love of sailing in her article where she summarizes Josh's sailing circumnavigation of North America and shares the prologue of his planned book. He was lost at sea on March 15, 1992.

Winter 2005 – **Donna T. Casey's** first article in this newsletter emphasizes the importance of following migratory patterns as she shares her family's moves from Rhode Island to Ohio.

Winter 2006 – **A. W. Tillinghast**, famous creator of golf courses, is the subject of a book by Phil Young, who summarized his findings in an article in this issue. Also, in this issue we begin a research piece by Wayne Tillinghast where he definitively separates the histories of **The Three Captains Joseph Tillinghast of Providence**. Because of the length of the article it was separated and continued in the next issue, Summer 2006. In that issue we shared the announcement from Rhode Island Genealogical Society of Wayne's book, "The Tillinghasts in America, The First Four Generations," for which he later received the American Society of Genealogists' prestigious Jacobus Award.

Winter 2007 – Donna T. Casey researches our family history prior to coming to America. In this issue she identifies **parents of Elder Pardon**, his **brother John** and Pardon in their early years, and hints at a mystery about **younger brother Charles**. Her helpful historical references give our ancestors a secure place and time of reference.

Summer 2007 – **Ed Tillinghast** formed his own destiny through good choices. In his moving story, he takes us from a broken family to his success at pursuing the mysteries of spiders with his wife and family. **Kent Watkins** begins writing about his adventures tracing Mary E. Tillinghast, stained glass artist.

Summer 2009 – Fort Tillinghast near Arlington, Virginia is named for **Otis H. Tillinghast**, West Point graduate, who lost his life at the first battle of Bull Run (Manassas), July 21, 1861. Kent Watkins tells his story in this issue.

Summer 2011 – Vampire legends in Rhode Island may have started with **Sarah**, daughter of **Stuckley "Snuffy" Tillinghast**, a South County orchard owner. The tale is recounted in an article from the Providence Journal, shared by **Duncan R. Cornell**.

Winter 2013 – learn about sale of the **Sarah Tillinghast Slocum** Chippendale carved Chest of drawers, dated 1792, valued in 1803 at \$15 and sold at auction for \$4,732,500 related by Kent Watkins.

Winter 2014 – Elder Pardon labeled his profession as a *cooper*. Kent Watkins gives details on that profession. Also, Donna T. Casey suggests corrections to the genealogy in **Rose Tillinghast's** book, including footnotes that direct the reader to how to find the book on line.

Summer/Fall 2014 – A concise history of the Benefit Street burial ground of Pardon Tillinghast in this issue establishes foundation for the Tillinghast Society. **Jeannine Dietz** tracks efforts to save many graves and ownership of the property by descendants. **Bruce Tillinghast** presents first cost estimates of current repairs and upkeep.

Summer/Fall 2015 – **Dan C. Tillinghast** brings us current family adventure as he motorcycles across country to the Sturgis Harley Rally. In the same issue, Donna T. Casey returns to discussion of Charles Tillinghast, brother of Elder Pardon, who she mentioned in Winter 2007. She gives reason for accepting that Charles is indeed the younger brother of Pardon.

Winter 2016 – Wayne Tillinghast responds to Donna T. Casey's finding that Charles was Elder Pardon's brother and shares facts that lead to his conclusion that Charles was the undocumented son of Elder Pardon. A friendly wager lies on final proof of these findings.

Winter 2017 – Descendants of Daniel⁵ from Morrisville, Connecticut can follow his line through moves to Chicago area and trade with Native Americans in the Dakotas by **Greta T. Tyler**. Also in this issue learn about the Tillinghast house in Manhattan by Bruce Tillinghast.

Summer 2018 --**Charles Carpenter Tillinghast**, educator, is profiled by his son, **Charles Carpenter, Jr.**, recognizing greatness that passed on to future generations. Also see travels of Pardon's brother to Jamaica from Donna T. Casey and one more question about the elusive Charles, son or brother?

These are limited comments on the contents of 40 newsletters. If you would like pdf copies of any of these newsletters, I can email them to you at no cost. A donation to the Tillinghast Society, Inc. would be appreciated. Email me at gtyler@casinternet.net with your request.

Tillinghast Reunions Remembered

The Tillinghast Society has hosted three “reunions”. Since the term reunion implies that folk who have known each other reunite, perhaps a better term would be a gathering. At each such meeting, we became acquainted with cousins new to us who had never met before.

The first reunion was in Ripley, West Virginia, **2001**, at the homes of Greta Tillinghast Tyler and Jim, her brother Mike Tillinghast and wife Rachel and Jack Tillinghast, their father. The three homes are close on a randomly winding hilly crest, so guests were invited to tour from house to house. Thirty-one came from as far away as California and New Jersey. We had a banquet with a talent show. We took a boat ride on the Ohio River followed by a weenie roast and we worshipped together before lunch on Sunday. As one family group arrived, they mistook the address (no GPS in 2001) and papered a neighbor’s house. Hm..... some cousins, eh?!!!. We agreed that we should repeat this wonderful bonding experience. We planned to meet again in two years in Providence.

2003 – Planning a reunion of any nature from afar would be difficult, but when we had no members who lived there, the task was daunting. From West Virginia, I searched the white pages for the family name in Providence and found Barbara Tillinghast. She referred me to her son, Bruce Tillinghast, restaurateur. Thus, a new era began. Date set; invitations went out; a tentative schedule developed; Rachel picked up on registration; Bruce planned meals and logistics including a bus tour; Anne Tillinghast created a walking tour; speakers were arranged; Todd Lawrence would come with genealogy information. July 18 came and so did the Tillinghasts. We flooded Providence, beginning at the First Baptist Church in America. Many stayed in a Brown University visitors’ dorm where meeting rooms allowed after-hours discussions. Our bus tour took us to West Greenwich Baptist church where John Tillinghast had been long-term pastor. The historic cemetery bore many Tillinghast names. Newport was the southern destination where we toured the home of sea captain John Tillinghast. The city was crowded with festival goers; the bus and individual cars endeavored to stay together as we left to go to the next destination. To make contact with another driver (no cell phones in 2003), Brian Gaston ran through slow traffic to our next car, but they turned away; he ran back to the bus but lost it. Oh, my. What to do. Each vehicle thought he was with the other and Brian was without wheels. When we arrived at Tillinghast Farm, my son was not to be found. Just as we prepared a return search, Brian arrived by taxi and the party commenced. Bruce had arranged for a clam bake at the farm including special Johnny Cakes. What a great gathering of cousins. The next morning, we worshipped at The First Baptist Church in America and went our separate ways. Seventy-six individuals registered for the event, but since a few local Tillinghasts dropped in, we were not certain of the complete count who attended this gathering.

One small area gathering had been held in North Carolina at the home of Dan Tillinghast. Feelers went out to other areas, but no other small groups worked out.

2011- Ten years after the West Virginia reunion, we gathered again in Providence. Again, Bruce Tillinghast led in securing local arrangements and food plans. Speakers Wayne Tillinghast, Donna T. Casey and Kent Watkins sparked interest in early American history, English roots and the role of Tillinghasts in arts and war. A visit to Plains Meeting House and cemetery took us to a historical area dominated by Tillinghast leadership in early America. And a guided hike around Tillinghast Pond brought us up to date on preservation efforts by Rhode Island Conservancy. Favorite activities included a walking tour lead by docents from Rhode Island Historical Society and rubbings at Pardon’s gravestone. Favorite meals were another clam bake at Tillinghast Farm and brunch at Bruce Tillinghast’s New Rivers Restaurant. The ultimate weekend experience was Waterfire, Providence’s unique work of art providing music, live art, fire on the water and boisterous fun for attendees on foot or seated by the river. 100 attended this reunion.

Greta T. Tyler

A Little History of our historic Tillinghast Burial Ground

By Bruce Tillinghast (*Warren, John, John, Stutey, Clarke, Stutey, Pardon, John, Pardon, Pardon*)



This photo is what we see at the Tillinghast Burial Ground today and what we are working on to repair/restore and improve. It is the result of the efforts of a group of descendants of Pardon Tillinghast to make improvements in 1890 to the original hillside burial ground that had become neglected and overgrown. (See watercolor below)

Those original slate headstones were inventoried and lifted, without disturbing the bodies. A 12ft granite wall was built at the back end of the site and along the north and south sides. The site was then backfilled, and iron fencing installed on top of the new walls around the perimeters. So the graves are 12 ft down – not 6ft. A large granite monument as a tribute

to Pardon Tillinghast was placed in the middle. Folklore has it that all those original slate headstones were laid to rest beneath the new monument.

What appears as just a monument to Pardon Tillinghast has a unique history tied to Roger Williams' "lively experiment". Williams established the village he called "Providence" under his ideal belief of the separation of church and state and the freedom of worship. This was a very controversial philosophy at that time but has become the bedrock of our US Constitution.

Consistent with Roger Williams's belief, Providence did not have typical elements found in other Puritan villages; a central place of worship, a common or green nor a community burial ground to anchor it and houses built around this center. Instead Providence's first home lots were laid out in a linear fashion along the eastern shore of the river and running up the hill from what is now South and North Main Streets to what is Hope Street.

Early settlers all built their simple homes along the river with kitchen gardens and orchards behind. As family members died, without a common burial ground, loved ones were buried up the hill. Consequently, there were many small family burial grounds along the hillside.

Winding around these small family burial grounds was a well-used path called the "Back Street". It ran from current day Olney Street to Wickenden Street. As the town grew with houses being built up the hill, plans were made in the 1770's to straighten Back Street. This resulted in the gradual relocation of almost all of the small burial sites to North Burial Ground,

which opened in 1700.

The watercolor (above) is unsigned and undated – RI Historical Society Library

It is surmised that the Tillinghast Burial Ground was not in the direct path of the new street and was never disturbed. As the Town of Providence and the Benefit Street area developed this little hillside grave-



yard remained untouched. The last known burial was in the 1830's. By the 1880's it had become neglected and overgrown. A concerned group of Tillinghast descendants, discovering that the site did belong to the heirs of Pardon Tillinghast, took action to raise funds to make the improvements we see today.

Here, 130 years later, with the site needing repairs and restoration, a new group of Pardon's descendants organized and formed the Tillinghast Society, Inc, obtained a tax-exempt status to raise funds once again to improve this site. **It is the only remaining family burial ground from Roger Williams' early Town of Providence.** Aside from being the point where, with rare exception, all American Tillinghasts can trace their lineage back to Pardon Tillinghast; this small green space in the densely populated Benefit Street area has become a "pocket park" visited by neighbors, scores of tourists walking "The Mile of History" and visited annually by nearly 1000 sixth grade students on historic Providence tours run by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Clair Hauenstein has served as secretary/treasurer for the board of Tillinghast Society through its incorporation procedure and initial fund raising. She has guided us with special expertise through state and federal procedures, assuring that we are firmly established to meet all tax requirements and keep appropriate records for this new 501c3 organization.

Donna Tillinghast Casey has also been a founding board member, serving as Vice President. Her fund-raising experience has served us well, along with her valuable attention to detail in this start-up time. Her writings reflect that fine quality.

Both Claire and Donna have rotated off the board this year. We acknowledge their valuable contributions to this organization. We thank them for their good work with us and wish them well as they continue their interest in our success as an organization.

Board of Directors, Tillinghast Society, Inc.

Tax exempt donations to
The Tillinghast Society
May be sent to:
Jane Tillinghast Roberts
355 Blackstone Blvd., Apt. #220
Providence, RI 02906

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – Pardon’s Progeny—WINTER EDITION 2019

2018 – A WONDERFUL YEAR !! By W. Bruce Tillinghast

I am very pleased to report to all our Pardon’s Progeny and TSI Website readers that this year we completed the First Phase of the much needed repairs to the historic Tillinghast Burial Ground on Benefit Street in Providence.

With funding available, work began during the late summer with removing the fence on top of the wall next to The Barker Playhouse on the south side of the site. The wall, built in 1890, had shifted and several stones had become dislodged creating a hazard. For the stonemason to repair the wall and move the large granite stones that topped the wall, first the fence on top of the wall needed to be removed.

In the meantime, new fencing to replace the badly rusted fence on the north side was being fabricated at The Steel Yard, www.thesteelyard.org The new fencing was made to closely resemble the existing iron fence. It was also being painted with rust resistant paint before being installed.



Badly rusted fence on north side



New fencing at The Steel Yard

In late August the stonemason www.kevinbakerstonework.com began repairs to the wall. This moved surprisingly quick, it was estimated to take four days and was completed in three – saving us \$1000.



Wall with fallen/shifted stones – May 2015



Masons repairing the stone wall this fall.

In late October The Steel Yard returned to replace the rusted fence on north side, make repairs to other areas of the fence and return the original fence to the top of the repaired wall.



New fence being replaced on north side.



Repaired south wall with original fence back.

The Board of the Tillinghast Society, Inc is very grateful to all our “cousins” and several local grant agencies as well as the Providence Preservation Society and neighbors and friends for all the support given to this effort. As we move into 2019, we also move into Phase Two and Three. This spring and summer we will be improving the landscaping with a focus on low maintenance as well as plant materials appropriate to the history of the burial ground.

Beyond that we intend to provide some wayside signs that help explain the unique history of this historic site and information on who Pardon Tillinghast was and his role in early Providence history – he did build the first commercial wharf at the bottom of Transit Street in 1680, beginning what is now Rhode Island’s major commercial center.

During work on the site one of the many school tours the RI Historical Society brings by the burial ground happen to stopped there – I got a picture! Each year RIHS brings nearly 1000 - 6th grade students to the site. They have encouraged us to provide this informational wayside signage for all visitors. Students first read “*Something Upstairs*” by author, AVI.

We continue to fund-raise for these projects as well as search for a way to extend this work of the Tillinghast Society, Inc to complete our mission – “to provide stewardship and maintenance of the Tillinghast family including the historical burial grounds and our genealogical archives for future generations”

In addition to the recent research works seen in Pardon’s Progeny by Wayne Tillinghast, Donna T Casey, Kent Walkins and our own genealogist, Todd Lawrence, there may be other family members who have historic and genealogical records to contribute. Our goal is to find a repository to keep all these records safe and make them available to any Tillinghast family member.

Our final goal to complete this mission would be to have funds available to begin a perpetual maintenance fund for ongoing care of this very unique, historic Tillinghast Burial Ground.

Once again, speaking for the Board of the Tillinghast Society, Inc. - we thank you, thank you... for your continued support. We hope you’ll share this terrific report with other family “cousins”. We look forward to 2019 being as successful with fund raising and work accomplished to preserve this unique, historic site for Providence and our collective Tillinghast Family.

W. Bruce Tillinghast, President



We are happy to welcome newly elected members to the Tillinghast Society
Board of Directors, February 24, 2019

Jane Tillinghast Roberts—Treasurer
Shelly Tillinghast Walkington—Secretary
Nikki Tillinghast Lanford —Director

Scans from Todd C. Lawrence

Wickford, R.I.
Apr. 18, 1940
Box 60

Dear Mrs. Lawrie,

Your letter of April 13th, indicating that the information submitted on the Tillinghast Family for your friend Mrs. Walter proved of use, has been received.

I am of the impression that most all of your inquiries regarding the identification of the various JOHN TILLINGHASTS, COL. THOMAS TILLINGHAST and other TILLINGHAST data will be found in the so called TILLINGHAST GALLEYS.

On receipt of your inquiry I drove over to the custodian of the TILLINGHAST GALLEYS only to find that she was away on a visit and the GALLEYS were at present loaned to her daughter. The custodian is expected home within the coming fortnight. However, I may possibly be able to locate her daughter and see them there.

The TILLINGHAST GALLEYS, so-called, comprise an important work to the Tillinghast Clan, and require an explanation. To begin with JAMES TILLINGHAST a resident of Buffalo, N.Y. (and a vice President of the New York Central Railroad) just before his death began the great task of collating and publishing the TILLINGHAST GENEALOGY. He wrote around all over the country to known descendants of PARDON TILLINGHAST¹. Including a short list of descendants for the particular line of the recipient, and a request for current data etc. Upon receipt in Buffalo of the various answers he had them type set by a printer in GALLEY PROOFS preparatory to publishing the genealogy.

Unfortunately he died before that phase had been completed. About 10 or 12 years ago I was advised that a nephew of his then living in Massachusetts had the proofs. I endeavored through various communications to locate him. It was unsuccessful however. And there the matter rested. Three years ago on my return from Virginia I came to Wickford, and again took up the loose ends of genealogy. Through a friend of my mother's I was directed to the custodian of "some Tillinghast papers" in the nearby town of Exeter! I drove over at once and was shown two boxes containing Tillinghast notes, and THE GALLEY PROOFS of the late James Tillinghast of Buffalo, N.Y. One can hardly describe the feeling in locating these missing genealogical information sheets.

And to think that they are so near ~~to~~ home! The mystery as to how they came into the hands of the present custodian is still unsolved.

They contain reams of information on the TILLINGHAST FAMILY, the most complete, I dare say now in existence in this country. Coming down as they do to the generation just before my own!

It is my desire to borrow them long enough to copy them in their entirety and on some later date have them published. The main thing now is to collate the information in geneological order, in a book (to be reproduced as a volume at a later date) that they will not be lost to posterity.

So far as I know, their existence i.e. The Galley Proofs, is known at present only to about a handful of people, who for some reason, are not interested in expending any funds for its reproduction and are reluctant too about "letting the proofs out of their hands". However, I hope to be able before this summer is out to have completed a copy of the entire collection of proofs, which will then prove a depository for all interested TILLINGHAST Ancestors, both direct and indirect, as I will be only too glad, when I have the information on hand (as above) say later in the fall, to supply all inquiries; until such time as I am able to have the list reproduced in book form (volumes).

The existence of the Galley Proofs, I feel sure will be new to you, and it is from that source that I will endeavor to ascertain (before I copy them all) the information about the Tillinghasts you desire.

When next I go to Providence I will investigate the GEORGE WIGHTMAN BOOK to ascertain if that too has information on the family of JOHN TILLINGHAST and ANN WIGHTMAN. Incidentally THOMAS TILLINGHAST (son of "Mollasses" PARDON⁴) who married ANNE (WIGHTMAN) TILLINGHAST was a younger brother of her first husband JOHN. His identification I am sure will be found in the GALLEY PROOFS, i.e. whether or not he was the Member of Congress from R.I. (1801-1803). There is that possibility; as he was born 1-7-1752 and would be 49/50 at that time.

Just as soon as it is possible for me to do so I will forward the Tillinghast information you requested. It might be several weeks, however, I will keep it in mind, and do so at the first time the Galley Proofs are available to me.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lee Lawrie,
150 West 106th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Handwritten notes:
 Please open to find the date of birth
 of my Grandfather Samuel Tillinghast
 (aged 13/14)

Dr. J. B. Tillinghast, Phoenix, R. I.

Dear Sir

I received your letter and would have acknowledged it before but I had to write to collect information, as I could not give all the dates of my Grandfather, Samuel Tillinghast, I think he was born in 1786 and died 1833

I cannot give any dates of births or deaths of his children, except my father, I can give their names if wish for them.

My brother, John G. Tillinghast, living in Hallowell, Conn, has a son, but I cannot give any names or dates of births. I am very much interested, and hope you will be successful, and hope I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you again. Very truly yours

ADDRESS

Dr. J. B. Tillinghast,

LOCK BOX 24.

Phenix, R. I., Apr 20 1874

Mrs. Geo. B. Munroe, Cgdensburg, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

I am trying to trace out the records of the Tillinghast Generation in order to have it published -

Will you please fill this blank for your father, and return to me, at your first opportunity

Do you know when your grand father Samuel was born.

Have you any other records of the generation?

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Very Truly Yours,
 J. B. Tillinghast