

❖ PARDON'S PROGENY ❖

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*A Publication of
the Tillinghast
Family In
America.*

*“Be Just and
Fear Not”*

Editor and Subscriptions

Greta Tillinghast Tyler
613 Random Road
Ripley, WV 25271
gtlyler@casinternet.net
304/372-9389

Genealogist

Todd C. Lawrence
6 Timberwick Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
TCL12065@aol.com

Tillinghast Society, Inc

501(C)3 (October 2015)
tsinc@gmail.com

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Presidents Message
Summer 2019



Bruce Tillinghast, President

How Unique Are We !!

As you may have read in previous messages and PP articles, there is ONLY ONE Tillinghast Family in the USA. With rare exception, anyone carrying the Tillinghast name is a descendent of Elder Pardon Tillinghast who first settled in Roger Williams' "Lively Experiment" called Providence in the 1640's. This is extraordinarily unique in genealogical records.

The "lively experiment" referred to was Roger Williams' controversial effort to establish a community not tied to any religion. People were free to worship based on their personal choice. This theory has since become a bedrock of our US Constitution insuring freedom of religion and the separation of church and state as Roger Williams intended.

Given the unique genealogical thread we all share, I am happy to report to you readers – please pass this on – that our genealogical guru – Todd Lawrence with assist from this organization has donated a "MyFamilyTree" program to the RI Historical Society Research Library. Anyone looking for family connections may go to the Library and research their Tillinghast family tree. This is free to RI residents but a small fee for non-RI residents. The Library staff is willing to help you maneuver through the program to find your line back to Elder Pardon. Sorry...no online access at this stage. Future fund raising may help this happen! If you use the program and run into a gap.....Contact Todd; he wants to know!

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We continue to work on the burial ground improvements. Early this summer the older sections of the fence were scraped, primed and painted. Here are a couple pictures of the work in progress and the finished product.



Scraping and sanding old fence sections



Priming the old fence



Painting the old fence black



Finished fence

ARE YOU READY FOR A PRESENT-DAY “PROGENY” STORY? NO NOTORIETY, NOTHING SPECTACULAR – JUST EVERYDAY TILLINGHASTS.

MICHAEL TILLINGHAST (01/17/43) BROTHER OF GRETA TILLINGHAST TYLER (John, Clark, Henry Clay, Clark, Daniel, Pardon, Philip, Pardon, Pardon)

I love WOOD. I like the smell of fresh boards off the mill, like to see wood floors, furniture, utility poles, picket fences, old unpainted barns, and standing trees. I like the sound of boards being turned to be graded, creaking floors, and banjo strings resonating off a curly maple sound board. And the taste of birch and sassafras twigs are childhood memories.

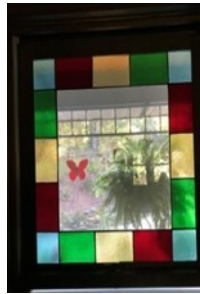


My parents, John (Jack) and Janet, moved us to Mount Hope, West Virginia, in 1945. I was not yet three. I haven't lived outside the state since, but have covered a lot of it. Dad was a forester, and set up a consulting forestry business in the coal fields of southern WV. Much of this area was held in large acreages with coal mining as the primary source of income. Trees were used as “mine material” which consisted of posts for supporting the ceilings, ties for rail cars, wedges for securing the posts and beams that held the rock ceilings. Dad managed the timber to develop future crops while providing additional income from the timber. I accompanied him on occasion and picked up some of the trade. I believe my folks had given up on me attending college, so upon graduation from Scott High School in Madison WV, they encouraged me to attend the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), a lumber inspection school in Memphis, TN. It was a five-month term that promised an opportunity to get a quick start in the industry. Since I was not a top student, and was anxious to get out in the world, I thought it was a good fit. After making it through, I plied the trade for one-and one-half years. While I liked working with the mill crews, I decided I wanted more. Off I went to WV University Forestry School in Morgantown WV, where I completed my degree in five years.

I taught Forestry under the vo-ag system for one year in Webster Springs. My goal was to share some of the “vast knowledge” acquired in school. However, teaching was not for me. Another poor fit was time spent as a service forester for the State of WV in Fairmont. Then in 1968 I was hired by Burke-Parsons-Bowlby in Spencer, a wood-treating company, to procure standing timber, fence posts, logs, railroad ties, and land. I held that position and a few more up the ladder for eleven years. By that time I was ready to go out on my own. Turner Sharp and I had gone to WVU together and both worked at BPB. We started our lumber yard business in 1981. We bought lumber from portable sawmills whose primary product was railroad ties. The side lumber then came to us. We graded the lumber (I was back to using the trade I learned at 18). Then we sorted the lumber to fit the markets such as flooring, cabinets, furniture, wine keg bungs and caskets. After 18 years we decided to call it quits due to our suppliers slowly dwindling away. While I was teaching in Webster County, my son, Mark Alan, was born. Soon after moving to Spencer, my daughter, Elizabeth Ann (Beth), came along. Shortly after I left BPB, my first wife parted. Then I met Rachel in 1983 and we wed in 1986, and I think I got it right this time!

Rachel and I built a Victorian cottage in the woods in Ripley in 1990. Our contractor failed to finish it, so we had to finish it with the help of friends and small contractors. It needed stained-glass windows, so I attended a class to learn how to accomplish that job. I enjoy the craft, so it has been my hobby ever since. As detailed in a previous Pardon's Progeny, Mary Tillinghast was an accomplished stained-glass artist. Well I have no cathedral windows to my credit, but there are a number of the stained-glass pieces throughout the United States and a few carried to other continents. I enjoy designing and creating beautiful pieces for family, friends and for charitable organizations for auctions or prizes.





We enjoy flower gardening, especially perennials. It is heartwarming to watch God's beautiful new life emerge every Spring. Although the gardens are overcrowded and a bit of a mess, we like to walk through them and of course we "love to weed". Creating a walkway of stained-glass stepping stones was also fun.



Our home is the perfect place for many of the Tillinghast heirlooms from the 1800's. Included in this is a portfolio of photos of the Henry Clay Tillinghast home in Evanston, Illinois. It is interesting to spot furniture, paintings, and vases that are still in the family. One of the paintings in the photos is by famed artist Francis Davis Millet, who was rich enough to be on the Titanic. Unfortunately, he did not survive. An early 1800's dropleaf table is still with us. Some of heirlooms found their way to the Antiques Roadshow, but there was no \$5 million Chippendale chest of drawers!!





A previous PP detailed Henry Clay T's journey to Europe, and his mention of special gifts he obtained while there. We are including photos of a beautiful lapis lazuli pendant surely brought back for his loving wife, Sarah Louise. And maybe the pictured bronze fox and hounds were brought back for his sons.



Rachel was a middle manager for the State of WV when I met her. In 1999 she retired to pursue antiquing and flower gardening. We had enjoyed auctions and yard sales over the years. We had built an inventory of "extraneous old stuff" that came with the one desired item in a box that we bid on. The solution was to rent a booth in an antique mall. When our downtown had many empty storefronts, we decided to open an antiques business and rented a building for Rachel's Relics. This was closer to home, and we enjoyed it for five years.



Our retirement is quieter each year. Mike likes to work crossword puzzles and Words With Friends daily. Also stained glass projects occasionally occupy his time. Frequently it is necessary to salvage something out of the "finds" we have acquired at sales. And always there are "honey do" projects. Rachel enjoys entertaining friends, attending Red Hat meetings, collecting butterfly brooches, and traveling. In the winter, we work a lot of jigsaw puzzles by the warm parlor stove.



We like to head south to Florida every January or February. Our favorite place is at Sanibel/Captiva Islands on the Gulf Coast. Beautiful and laid back, the islands have only two-lane roads. There are plenty of pretty shells to pick up. We make it a game to see who can find a particular or unique seashell. Loser buys lunch!!



We also enjoy Anna Maria Island on the Gulf Coast of Florida. If the weather is not too cold, Amelia Island on the northeast corner of Florida is a really nice place.

Families today can be very complex. Marriages, children, divorces, then remarriages. This may result in more children, more in-laws, more grandparents, more “bonus” sisters and brothers. Of course, this causes lots of headaches for our genealogist – thanks Todd! Mike divorced Nancy and married Rachel, and got a bonus son, Michael Pendleberry. My son and daughter have flown the coop and have families of their own. NC Tillinghasts Mark and wife, Renee, have been married 21 years. They graduated from WV State University. Mark’s career led them to NC when he took a job managing material flow with Daimler. Currently he is with another company in a Senior OpEx role concentrating on material flow. Renee is a CPA working in corporate for the same company. Their children were both born in NC. Their son is 12 and daughter is 7. Both train in Tae Kwan Do (son is a black belt), and they enjoy soccer. As a family, they like to spend a lot of time outdoors. They hike throughout NC and make trips back to WV when they can to ride their bikes on rail trails. Daughter Beth married Marcus Norman, and they have two beautiful daughters, Alena Katherine and Cassandra Elizabeth (Cassie). After a divorce, Beth married Justin Pendergraph. She now has bonus children, Lauren and Daniel and a bonus dog, Ava. The teenagers are in four different high schools and are all into their own thing. Alena is in a school for fine arts specializing in the visual arts. Cassie plays the clarinet in her school's marching and symphonic bands. Lauren is treasurer and is very active in her school's Student Council Association. Daniel plays the cello in the orchestra at his high school.

Their home is in Woodbridge, VA. Beth enjoys teaching third graders, and Justin is a consultant to the government after retiring from the U.S. Navy.



Like many families we are tied together by cell phones – what would Elder Pardon think of us! Lives are just too busy for both families to travel back to WV very often. We love having the grandchildren for a week around the Fourth of July. Granddad has large work projects for them each year, and they get to do artsy and crafty things also. Usually we find a way to get together for Christmas with all of them.

We attend Epworth United Methodist Church in Ripley, and participate in many activities. We look to God for guidance in our daily lives. And we are thankful for all of our blessings.

Mike taught a stained-glass class at a retreat and the participants produced a beautiful piece that hangs in the sanctuary window.



And he produced the symbolic eagle for our hard-working patriotic Mayor of Ripley.



**WE PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS AMERICA AND BRING PEACE TO
THE WORLD**

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

Two Books for Tillinghast Readers

Two books are available to us from Wayne Tillinghast. First he offers *The Diary of Capt. Samuel Tillinghast of Warwick, Rhode Island*. Cherry Bamberg transcribed ten years of this middle-age merchant's diary and published her book in 2000. She uncovered insight into main aspects of Rhode Island history before the Revolutionary War. Samuel, a retired sea captain, expresses very little in the way of emotions and keeps a lot of weather reports. The great interest in the book comes from his surroundings, the people he is associated with as a merchant in his community and family connections that Tillinghasts may relate to.

The second book titled *1797 The Year The ELEPHANT Visited Providence* is written by Wayne himself. The jacket says, "From this entertaining tale of life in Providence during the year 1797, we discover the varied interest and concerns of the people who lived there at the time.....We become aware of the nature of goods exported and imported in the foreign maritime trade....we learn something of local politics....." and we hear the tale of the first elephant in America visiting Providence. Most significant is coverage of the yellow fever epidemic that decimated the area.

If you are interested in a free copy of either book, Wayne asks you to email him at: wtillinghast01@snet.net and he will mail you a copy.

(Your editor has enjoyed both books. GT)

Editor's note:

Our board of directors asks new board members to introduce themselves to you with a picture and a short biographical sketch. We also have asked President Bruce to include a picture and sketch of himself. We have seen his good work and now hear a bit more about him. Thanks to sisters Nikki and Shelly who share their information below and for agreeing to help us with our ongoing board work.

I'm pleased to have a family story this issue that most of us can relate to. I've asked over the years for people to write about life as they live it today. As editor, I like to maintain a balance of well researched, documented historical pieces and stories of current cousins living in common neighborhoods. My brother Mike talks about his family, his profession, his hobbies and his pleasures. He and his wife Rachel are people you would enjoy meeting. I hope you will see that you too have a story to tell and could easily contribute to these pages. We are all a part of history in the making.

Best regards to all,

Greta Tillinghast Tyler

Nikki Tillinghast Lanford—Scottsdale, Arizona

Nikki has enjoyed all things Tillinghast since a relative gave her a copy of our genealogy when she was 10. Her career life included 12 years as an ad agency account exec and 20 years as a financial advisor. Nikki and sister Shelly traveled together from Arizona to attend two Tillinghast reunions, Ripley 2001 and Providence 2011. She joined the board this year and is looking for a way to make a meaningful contribution. It's a treat to discover new cousins and she looks forward to many more reunions. They have a brother, Scott and wife Melinda, who also came to the Ripley, WV reunion.



Shelly Tillinghast Walkington—New River, Arizona

Shelly recently began serving the Board as Secretary in March. She has a great appreciation for history and is looking forward to contributing to the preservation efforts of the Tillinghast heritage for our family today and future generations. She is committed to keeping our family history thriving, allowing each generation to have an idea of who they are and where they come from. Shelly, an Arizona native, hopes to make another journey to Providence next year to visit cousins and the historical sites of our patriarch. She says, I love my appaloosa. His name is Ole Smoke. He is blind now but not long ago we made our own trails in these desert mountains.





Hello cousins, I'm **Bruce Tillinghast**, current president of the Tillinghast Society, Inc. I'm an 11th generation Rhode Island resident. (Pardon, Pardon, John, Molasses Pardon, Stukley, Clarke, Stukley, John C., John E., Warren E.)

My interest in Tillinghast family history began as a youngster when it was still a tradition on a Sunday afternoon to "take a drive" and often stop to visit older family members and hear stories. Stops along the way included places like the Benefit St burial ground – then we thought it just a monument to our family founder in the USA. (See President's report)

In 1968 I graduated from Rhode Island School of Design (aka RISD) as a graphic designer but gradually gravitated to the food world. After studying with noted Chef, author and food educator, Madeleine Kamman, in 1990, my late wife and I opened award winning New Rivers restaurant here in Providence. In 2012 I sold New Rivers to two long term employees who have carried on the mission of seasonal cooking with local foods we established long before "farm to table" became a buzz term.

I attended the 1976 reunion and was involved in planning the 2003 and 2011 reunions all here in Providence. I began to realize that there was a vast nation-wide network of Tillinghast "cousins" and through research presentations at reunions and informative articles in Pardon's Progeny, I began to learn how unique our family history is. With rare exception – any American carrying the Tillinghast name is a descendent of Pardon Tillinghast! This meaning - there is ONLY ONE Tillinghast Family in the USA.

In 2013 I received a letter from one of our neighbors, threatening legal action, that the abutting wall on the monument site had with age shifted and several stones had fallen onto their walkway. The reunion group quickly organized as the Tillinghast Society, Inc., incorporated, obtained our tax-exempt status and began raising funds for repairs. In this process.....being the only local TSI board member living close to our project, I came to be your president of the Tillinghast Society, Inc.