

# ❖ PARDON'S PROGENY ❖

Volume 23 Issue 2

tillinghastsociety.org

Winter 2023

*A Publication of  
the Tillinghast  
Family In  
America.*

*"Be Just and  
Fear Not"*

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## Tillinghasts Receive gift From Lincolns

Daniel and Louise Tillinghast may have saved the life of Tad Lincoln. When scarlet fever broke out in July 1865, the couple lived in Chicago's Hyde Park Hotel. Mary, Robert and Tad Lincoln lived there also. Tad remained healthy. In this post COVID-19 world, we know the importance of separating ourselves from disease and infection. In the article below, you'll learn about Louise's generous offer to protect Tad and how the family was rewarded for their generous hospitality.

A reversible pen and pencil made of 14-karat gold, and its original case, from the desk of President Lincoln.



From ALPLM Blog (<http://www.alplm.org/blog/2011/04/04/>)

April 4, 2011 by James Cornelius

It is unusual to unearth one completely new story about the Lincolns. A recent donation to the Presidential Library and Museum has brought us two new stories that shed important light on the characters of Mary Lincoln and her son Robert, through their friendship with a young couple.

Daniel W. Tillinghast was born in Morrisville, N.Y., nephew of a senator from Rhode Island whom President Lincoln knew slightly as a general of militia in the Civil War. While a boy, Tillinghast moved with his family to Chicago, around 1850.

Louise Boone, born 1844, was a daughter of Dr. Levi Boone, who took office as mayor of Chicago in 1855. Her aunt's husband was Jesse B. Thomas, Illinois's first senator. Lincoln wrote to Edwin Stanton on 1 Sept. 1862, "I personally know Dr. Levi D. Boone, of Chicago ..." It seems that Louise briefly lived in Springfield as a young lady.

Daniel and Louise met, and married in Chicago in September 1863.

After President Lincoln's death, Mary, Robert, and Tad were living in July 1865 in a Hyde Park hotel, when scarlet fever broke out in the house. The young Tillinghast couple lived there too. Louise offered to take Tad, apparently as yet little affected by the disease, to her parents' farm north of

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the city. She kept him there for a couple of weeks, until the fevers had passed on the sultry South Side.

How could the widowed Mary Lincoln, at this stage with no real income, thank the young lady for perhaps saving her youngest boy's life? Mary gave the Tillinghasts the 14-karat-gold pen/pencil from the late president's White House desk. Her gift may have expressed the depth of the potential peril: more than 800 people, most of them children, had died of scarlet fever in Chicago during the 3 previous summers.

The Lincolns soon moved north 8 miles to the Clifton House hotel, on the southeast corner of Madison and Wabash. The Tillinghasts evidently stayed in Hyde Park for a time, and a year later moved to Michigan Avenue, north of the Chicago river. Anyway, on Friday Oct. 27, 1865, about 3 months after Tad's rescue, Robert wrote this hitherto unknown letter to Daniel from his law-clerk office at the corner of Lake and LaSalle:

**“You! Chauncey Brown expects you & me to come to his house & play a game of Billiards this evening. I propose to weigh anchor at 7 ½ P.M. Shall I have the honor of seeing you? Yours, R.T.L.”**

The envelope is addressed to D.W. Tillinghast Esq at 161 KinzieSt., his hides-and-leather business about 3 blocks from Robert's office.

The two friends had clearly got past the summer's threat to everyone's health, and Robert, just 22 years old, had got over his father's death 6 months earlier at least enough for some Friday night fun. (Note the same-day delivery of mail in central Chicago.) The letter, though, is on black-bordered mourning paper, per custom of the day within the year after the death of a parent.

Robert may also have been growing weary of living in a hotel with his mother and little brother, and he got his own place at year's end. What is more, Abraham Lincoln had also liked billiards, and his son with his well-positioned friends partook of the game in the last generation before it fell into ill repute amongst the better classes.

This is all we know of direct contact between the families, since no more letters would have been necessary for near neighbors. Daniel and Louise soon had two children. Robert soon married, whereupon his mother took Tad, her last dependent, to Europe the next week, and stayed for over 2 years.

In the winter of 1874 Daniel Tillinghast was superintending the start of a big new operation for his business at the Union Stockyards, when he caught cold, which became pneumonia, and died. A sizable obituary of him ran in the Chicago Tribune on April 20, 1874. He was barely 30.

We know any of this, and nearly all of this, thanks to a resplendent piece of generosity by Peggy Davis, of Chatham, Mass., who this year donated both the gold pen / pencil and the letter. Both artifacts go on display in mid-April in the Treasures Gallery. Mrs. Davis, namely Margaret Tillinghast Porter Davis, is the great-granddaughter of Daniel and Louise. Her own grandmother wrote a long letter in 1933 explaining the families' connection, and that letter will also be on display – the proof is in the provenance, they say in the museum trade.

That epistolary proof in fact fills out a skeletal allusion in a published letter by Mary Lincoln from July 1865 that mentioned a “daughter of Dr. Boone” who took Tad “up to the country.”

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For those keeping track, an ounce of gold in 1865 cost roughly \$25.00. It is now about \$1,450.00. But the value of the sentiment shown by all parties in that 1860s friendship, and in today's double-storied donation, are inestimable.

Brian S Gaston contributed this article from his search through Ancestry.

Daniel F. Tillinghast (b. June 5, 1756. Pardon<sup>4</sup>, Philip<sup>3</sup>, Pardon<sup>2</sup>, Pardon<sup>1</sup>) married twice and fathered 13 children. His son, Clark, (b. December 5, 1799) moved from Mansfield, CT, to Chicago. With his wife, Anna Lamb, he fathered 8 children including Daniel Webster Tillinghast and Henry Clay Tillinghast. As we learned from the article above, Daniel died at the young age of 30. His work at the Union Stockyards may have had something to do with hides and leather. That speculation comes from the known occupations of other family members.

Henry Clay Tillinghast (b. December 1, 1837), was born in Chicago and was very successful in the leather goods business. He traveled in the west and set up business in several areas...Dubuque, Colorado Springs, Fort Benton, Montana. Volume 19, Issue 1 of Pardon's Progeny tells Henry Clay Tillinghast's story. I am attaching a copy of that issue so you can have it in hand to read the rest of the story.

*Greta T. Tyler, great-granddaughter of Henry Clay Tillinghast*

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

Greetings from your editor. I was happy that Brian found a missing link in our family line that confirmed a move from Morrisville NY to Chicago. I hope you have found the story about the family donation of the pen and pencil set interesting. In the Winter 2017 issue of Pardon's Progeny, we told a more complete story of Henry Clay Tillinghast. I have attached a copy of that to enable you to piece together the rest of the story.

And I am grateful to Tom for refreshing an old story that first appeared in the second issue of Pardon's Progeny II. We found the pictures at the WV Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame to be a great improvement over a black and white display was done more than 30 years ago.

Please consider sending your family stories to be shared in this newsletter. Email me at [gt Tyler@cascable.net](mailto:gt Tyler@cascable.net).

*Greta*

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## Winter President's Message – January 2023

Hopefully a Happy New Year !!

In the Summer President's Message, I highlighted how hot and dry the Rhode Island summer had been, requiring frequent watering of recent plantings. Thankfully our fall and so far, winter seasons have seen normal – plus rainfall so we look forward to our landscaping blossoming well in the spring. In planning the landscaping, we did consider plant material that would provide color and green year-round. We also used plants that are native to the area and would have been used in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Hollies on the perimeter stay green and the monument is surrounded with evergreen ferns as well as hellebores which bloom in the late winter.



In December the Mile of History Association stages a “Benefit Street Stroll” along the entire street. All the street lights, designed to look like gas lights, have greens and red ribbons tied to them and home owners and businesses are encouraged to decorate their doors – all along the mile of Benefit Street. Jane T. Roberts and I hung greens and wreaths on the fence along the street!

### WHAT'S NEXT !!

We are members of the Mile of History Association (MoHA) [www.mileofhistory.org](http://www.mileofhistory.org) MoHA in conjunction with numerous historic sites along Benefit Street, the RI Historical Society and Providence Preservation Society are working to provide related signage to help guide tourists and visitors walking the Mile of History. The Tillinghast Society has received a small grant from the Providence Tourism Council to help in providing an informational sign that will give the viewer a more complete picture of the history of the site, who Pardon Tillinghast was and his accomplishments in helping to build the Town of Providence. As a Tillinghast, we all have a proud family heritage.

Our Annual Spring Clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 12 noon. Such an appropriate day – it's Earth Day !! We welcome helpers, just bring a rake and gloves, coffee and pastries will be available.

AND STAY TUNED.....

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The Tillinghast Society, Inc Board is working on planning our next reunion in July 2024. Our reunions in 1976, 2003 and 2011 were all fun events, giving attendees a chance to visit the many places our Tillinghast family has touched in the State of Rhode Island.

**FLASH!!! Just in time for the newsletter to go out, the board has chosen the date JULY 20, 2024 for our next Family Reunion in Providence. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.**

*Bruce*



**Bruce Tillinghast,  
President**

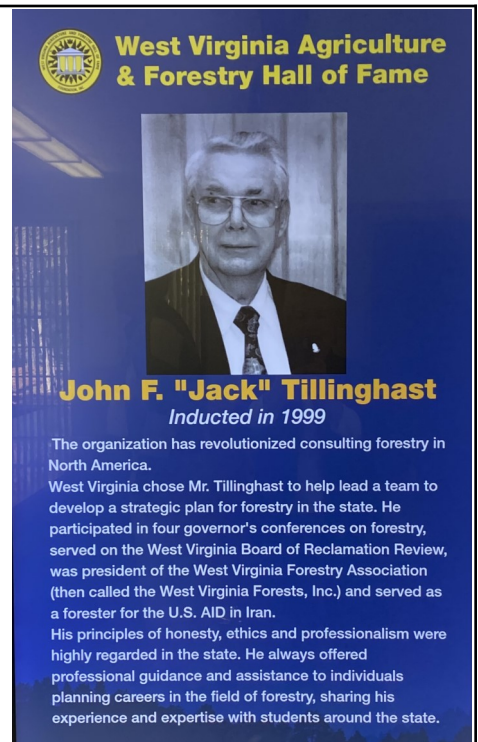
## John Fox Tillinghast

By Greta (Tillinghast) Tyler & Tom Eisenbraun  
(*Thomas Eisenbraun<sup>12</sup>, Michelle Murphy<sup>11</sup>, Greta T. Tyler<sup>10</sup>, John F. Tillinghast<sup>9</sup>, Clark<sup>8</sup>, Henry Clay<sup>7</sup>, Clark<sup>6</sup>, Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Pardon<sup>4</sup>, Philip<sup>3</sup>, Pardon<sup>2</sup>, Pardon<sup>1</sup>*)

John F. Tillinghast, called Jack by friends since attending Michigan State College, established the first successful consulting forestry business in West Virginia in 1946. He led the way for mining companies and other land owners to improve forest management and lumber production. He was one of the first five foresters licensed in the state and was active in organizations promoting professionalism in the field. At the time Jack passed away in 2002, there were over 40 consulting foresters in West Virginia, including his son Michael. Over 300 professional foresters now practice in the state.

Jack was born June 3, 1913, in Douglas, Michigan, to Clark and Marguerite "Greta" Tillinghast. He lived on farms, an only child with a gift for memorization and an interest in nature. He grew to be 6 feet, 5 1/2 inches tall. He recalls childhood stories of his grandfather, Henry Clay Tillinghast, who was in the hide and leather business in Chicago in the 1870's. An unfortunate fire in Clark's home when Jack was 14 burned many artifacts collected by Henry Clay when he traded with Sioux Indians at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

On the day they graduated college, rather than attend their cap and gown ceremonies, Jack and his fiancée Janet Johnson skipped out on their cap and gown ceremonies to instead attend their own wedding. It was a leap of faith as the United States Forest Service had cancelled their job offer to Jack just the month prior. Shortly after their wedding, he visited their headquarters and challenged that decision. In response he was offered a Junior forester position with the Civilian Conservation (CCC) in Lynchburg, Missouri. The CCC was a good training ground for a young forester, honing his skills in supervision and introducing him to the realities of government red tape. He and Janet also enjoyed living among rural people and learning their habits. Once Jack went to a grocery store to pay his accumulated bills. The proprietor scanned a handful and gave Jack the total which seemed correct although no name was on them. When questioned, the owner said,



**West Virginia Agriculture  
& Forestry Hall of Fame**

**John F. "Jack" Tillinghast**  
Inducted in 1999

The organization has revolutionized consulting forestry in North America.

West Virginia chose Mr. Tillinghast to help lead a team to develop a strategic plan for forestry in the state. He participated in four governor's conferences on forestry, served on the West Virginia Board of Reclamation Review, was president of the West Virginia Forestry Association (then called the West Virginia Forests, Inc.) and served as a forester for the U.S. AID in Iran.

His principles of honesty, ethics and professionalism were highly regarded in the state. He always offered professional guidance and assistance to individuals planning careers in the field of forestry, sharing his experience and expertise with students around the state.

“Your name was too long so I just gave you a brand.”

Jack and Janet returned to Michigan in 1940 when the CCC was cut back. They lived with Clark, now a widower, in Saugatuck. Jack soon went to work in Lansing at the Oldsmobile plant which was converted to war production. Between the high-pitched screaming machinery in the plant and the testing of high-caliber rounds in the courtyard he suffered hearing damage which only became apparent later as it progressed. In 1943, he accepted a position with the Illinois Division of Forestry as head of fire control which introduced him to public speaking and to the fine art of working amidst state government cronyism. He manned the state headquarters where firefighters grouped for assignments, managed lands damaged by fires and represented the state at such events as the state fair. When he was unwilling to play political games with the current administration, he found himself looking for another job.

Jack then found himself employed by the American Forestry Association to make a survey of available timber in the United States, beginning in Illinois and Oklahoma. In a few months, he moved on to Pennsylvania and West Virginia where he focused on the available supply of timber for the needs of three mining associations. As the relationship between forester and mine owners progressed, Jack proved his value to the companies using his information: he was able to show they needed far less timber than was anticipated for their current plans.

In 1946, Jack trusted his matured instincts and agreed to work as a consulting forester available to those three companies and others. Conventional wisdom said it wouldn't work. Others had tried to teach modern forestry methods in these mountains to no avail. A forestry friend and mentor at the University of West Virginia suggested it might pay salary for a year.

Jack's style is slow and deliberate. While advising one of his favorite mine executives, he would routinely send along a short one-page report with three recommendations at the bottom. Until they were followed, each report concluded with the same three recommendations. The executive called on him one day with a comment suggesting that he'd been worn down into complying, one suggestion at a time. Jack asked him how he would have reacted if Jack had aggressively tried to turn around their entire forest and land management style all at once. The executive agreed that Jack would have been out the door in a hurry.

With the same deliberate pace, Jack met loggers, buyers and small land owners on their own turf, respecting time-proven forest management and introducing new methods that came from scientific development and experimentation. He earned the respect of both management and workers and his business flourished.

Jack centered his forestry business in Danville, West Virginia, and later formed a partnership named Tillinghast and Neely. He continued to consult until age 77 when he retired to build a log house in the woods near Ripley, West Virginia, next door to Mike. In 1999, he was inducted into the West Virginia Agriculture & Forestry Hall of Fame for his lifetime of work and service within the field. In retirement, he and Janet were active members in Lions International, and the two stayed active in the United Methodist Church. Janet preceded Jack in death by 5 years, passing away in 1997. Jack passed away in 2002, living to be 87.

Janet and Jack had three children — Dan, Greta, and Michael.

Dan died in 1986. He was a medical technologist and sales representative for pharmaceutical companies. Dan had two children: Lori Tillinghast Ferrell, who passed away in 2005; and Dan Clark Tillinghast, currently residing in Florida. Lori is survived by children Kayla and Daniel, West Virginia.

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Greta was a rehabilitation counselor, working primarily as a professional worker with the blind. She now lives in Ripley, WV with her husband, Bo, and they are active volunteers for their church and community in their retirement. She has two children: Michelle "Mickie" G. Murphy who currently resides with her husband, Joe in Marion, IN; and Brian Gaston, who lives in Columbus, OH. She has one grandson by way of Mickie: Tom Eisenbraun and partner Cat Acree, Nashville, TN.

Michael followed his father into forestry and owned a lumber business in Ripley, West Virginia. He retired in 1999, after which he helped Rachel to start an antique shop in downtown Ripley for several years. He passed away in 2022, and is survived by Rachel and his two children: Mark Alan Tillinghast and wife Renee, and their two children Eli and Emmalyn, of Mooresville, NC; and Elizabeth Ann "Beth" Pendergraph and husband Justin, and her two children Alena and Cassandra, of Woodbridge, VA.

