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*"Be Just and  
Fear Not"*

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**Editor's note:**

Greetings cousins. We are happy to report that many new names are being added to our Facebook group. Today we have 658 members. Thanks to Cara Davis-Jacobson for administering this group. She lives in Medford, Oregon and is a member of our Tillinghast Society, Inc. board of directors. If you are not yet a member of the group, please look for Tillinghast Society (OFFICIAL) on Facebook. Make a comment, welcome new members, share a story there.

At our family reunion last summer, Kent Watkins talked about his journeys to historic Tillinghast sites in England and incorporated many memories from the detailed book written by Donna Tillinghast Casey. The focus of her book was on her own family line in the United States. But information from England and our early family experience is common to all of us who trace our tree back to Immigrant Pardon Tillinghast. As Kent was about to leave for England again after the reunion, I asked him if there might be another article coming. He said yes and this issue contains his recent experiences in English Tillinghast history. Thank you to Kent for these insights. It isn't easy to reduce many days of travel and research into a newsletter article. We appreciate your scholarly work.

President Bruce Tillinghast keeps attentive watch on our property and financial situation. We thank him for managing Pardon's gravesite so carefully. We want this treasure to remain a family prize for generations to come. Bruce reminds us in his message that the entire site belongs to Pardon's progeny. That is us, Cousins. It is up to us collectively to maintain the site and assure that maintenance and upkeep continue forward. Please read Bruce's article carefully and consider supporting care of this historic gem. Best wishes to you for a wonderful Spring.

Be just and fear not!

*Greta Tillinghast Tyler, Editor*





## A LETTER FROM ENGLAND – A TILLINGHAST UPDATE, PART 1 (AN EXCERPT)

BY KENT WATKINS

**MARCH 2025, copyrighted.** kent.watkins@yahoo.com. Kent Watkins, Elberta Parker Watkins, E.W. Parker, Mary Maria Tillinghast m. Isaac Wilson Parker, Thomas, Henry, Benjamin, Philip, Pardon, Pardon, John, Robert. This article is a condensed version of a longer color monograph available in the Tillinghastiana profile of my Facebook page. You can access it here: <https://www.facebook.com/Tillinghastiana/>. It will contain Rose Tillinghast's complete book, all issues of *Pardon's Progeny*, my Tillinghast articles, books and works-in-progress, other related archival materials, personal life stories of today's clan, a comments section, photographs, and scheduled podcasts, such as the one about this article.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Attending the recent Tillinghast family reunion in Providence (July 19-21, 2024) was a joyful experience, marking twenty-five years after my first trip to England to explore my maternal grandfather's ancestry. My grandfather and aunt's deep passion for the Tillinghast lineage eventually inspired my own journey. A visit with Greta in West Virginia only heightened my enthusiasm for future reunions. I never tire of these gatherings and hope we can hold virtual reunions between milestone events. I also plan to sponsor some podcasts, as well as do events in the NYC region from time to time.\*

\*Recently, I invited the clan to Union Square to see the location of Mary Tillinghast's first workstation with John LaFarge in the Century Association building, now B&N bookstore. Then, we walked to Grace church, where she had her first stained glass window installed. Another visit to Grace church occurred shortly after that and Paul Tillinghast had an exhibit of two photographs at a gallery in Chelsea. Stay tuned!

Prior to the reunion, I met Bruce Tillinghast, head of The Tillinghast Society, for lunch at the Arts Club in Providence. Conveniently, I was already in nearby Newport presenting a paper on artificial intelligence (AI) at an urban society conference. Our conversation was engaging, as always, and he invited me to share my experiences researching our English forebears at the reunion. Afterwards he took me to the Barker Playhouse, next to the Pardon Tillinghast monolithic grave marker, and the setting for the reunion.



Bruce Tillinghast (r) hosting the author at the Providence Arts Club's Tillinghast table (for that day of April 29, 2024). Photo: Watkins Collection

Bruce also forwarded me an email from Maggie Hoyt, a present-day English descendant. Her Tillinghast mother contributed research to Rose Tillinghast's book, particularly the Section III, entitled "Tillinghast Families of Sussex, England."\*

\*Tillinghast, Bruce. Email to the author. 17 July 2024. Hoyt, Maggy to newriversrestaurant. 5 July 2024. Note: I am using both the MLA and APA manuals on style and formatting.

Maggie, more formally Margaret Rosemary Piper Hoyt, recently updated her Tillinghast family tree for her grown children, Gus and Sophie ("both dual nationals") and a dossier on her grandfather Horace. Gus, based in Bristol, England, is an instructor in the Wim Hof Method of ice-baths, breathwork, advanced oxygen, and free-diving. Check out his gobsmacking website, <https://www.breathandice.co.uk/>. Sophie (Parrott) resides in Austin, Texas, with her 13-year-old son, Phineas. She runs a bodacious events planning company that you must experience through her website <https://www.marvelouseventsusa.com/sophie>. More details on them are in my monograph.

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As Bruce requested, I presented at the Reunion, sharing my journey through England tracing our ancestors. I particularly paid tribute to the late Donna Casey, Wayne Tillinghast, Rose Tillinghast, Greta Tyler, and Todd Lawrence, as my fellow evidence-based researchers.

Greta later asked me to compile my observations for an article in *Pardon's Progeny*, incorporating insights from my upcoming trip to London and East Sussex U.K. in August 2024. This abbreviated article serves as Part I, with Part II to follow my summer 2025 trip.\*

\*I cannot express enough appreciation for all the efforts Greta has made over the years in organizing reunions, editing this family journal, and managing numerous other family activities in general. Her willingness to review and adapt my research into accessible formats and lengths for publications is invaluable.

To conclude this introductory section, I urge all of you who are working on your own individual family line or are writing about a topic involving the Tillinghasts to make use of these rich resources. I'm also happy to assist anytime where possible. Greta, of course, is that fifth leg of the table (you all being the sixth one), with her extensive journal database and deep knowledge of the kinfolk out there.\*

\*The Tillinghast family website is also a place to find more information.

In the following sections, I will summarize my past research on the English Tillinghasts, as well as briefly indicate any other sources. In addition, I will be describing my recent trip to London and Kent/East Sussex for meetings at Coopers Hall, to meet Maggy and share her mother's findings, and visit Beachy Head as the alleged 'jumping off place' (not literally, thank goodness) for our primary ancestor in America. That area will illuminate the contributions of the extended family who supported Emigrant Pardon's efforts to establish himself in a new world. All locations will become important places for learning along the Tillinghast Trail, as I call it. Let's begin!

\*I use the sobriquet 'Emigrant' throughout my paper for our first American ancestor rather than 'Elder', which others have used. Donna used both.

## 2.0 REFLECTIONS ON MY PREVIOUS TILLINGHAST TRIPS TO ENGLAND

I won't have time this trip to go to Cambridge University, Lewes, Streat, Alfriston, or Newport Pond, Essex - all locations where Tillinghast ancestors worked as coopers or ministers (and farmed and entered other occupations). But I spent time on the plane reviewing some of my trip palimpsests.

### 2.1 Lewes and Streat Church Where Two John Tillinghasts Served



Streat Parish Church with Roman street alongside;



Streat House, or the Manor of Streat - Photos, Kent Watkins Collection

I visited Lewes twice as a key starting point for Sussex and Tillinghast research, several years apart. I have not been to The Sussex Family History Group located in Brighton, although I subscribed to their quarterly journal for many years. The research center in Lewes, however, proved very helpful. I also explored many historical sites in the City of Lewes, although I didn't encounter any contemporary Tillinghasts. Lewes has an illuminating history on the tapestry of English and European religious conflicts and events leading up to and including the Civil War.

From Lewes, I rented a car and drove five miles west to the Anglican church at Streat, a site of significance where multiple Tillinghasts were baptized, ministered, and buried. Both John<sup>1</sup> and John<sup>2</sup> served as vicars, so performed reverse roles for their families and others. I hope to return this year, as I have yet to meet an interested vicar nor the owner of the beauti-

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ful manor next door. The house would have been built around the time that John<sup>1</sup> was vicar. The area is a beautiful mix of forests and fields that were opened over the centuries. The South Downs national park surrounds and extends all the way to the seacoast where the limestone cliffs drop off at Beachy Head.

Ordnance map, closeup of Streat – Watkins Collection

Streat or Street is called a village (without any population cluster that I could ascertain) within a parish in the Lewes district of East Sussex, England. Unknown to many, Streat owed its name to the presence of a Roman road that cuts through the parish. The 11th-century church was not open when I was there the first time, so I just strolled around and looked at the tombstones, the composition and angles of the building, and gazed at the rolling hills behind the church. The second visit, I did meet the vicar and went inside, but he seemed little interested in the Tillinghast history. Next time, I will call the number on the bulletin board outside or come on a Sunday for a posted service and hope the present one is more engaged.



Interior of Streat church, taken in 2004 by Kent Watkins



View of the South Downs from the rear of Streat church, taken in 2004 by Kent Watkins

Near Streat, Westminston is a charming village. It comes to life through several small booklets written by a woman named Doris Hall. She died some time ago, but I got in touch in the early 2000s with her nephew, Raymond Briggs, who was in Missouri at the time. He lived most of his years in the larger village of Ditchling near to Westminston. We emailed several times, but never were able to get together before he died. Later, I discovered that he was a famous writer of children's books.

John<sup>1</sup> served at Streat until his death in 1624. After being vicar for three-and-a-half years, he married Alice Pardon, the daughter of Gregory and Alice (Payne or Picknol/Picknall) Pardon. They lived on a farm with at least a house and barn in Southtowne and had ten children. I have yet to locate Southtowne on modern maps, but locals may inform me on my next visit. There is also a Tillinghurst farm that Donna has mentioned, but this is further away in West Sussex, near Ardingly.

## 2.2 **Reflection #2: John<sup>2</sup> ('The Enfant Terrible') Tillinghast**

Among the many American Tillinghasts who achieved some fame and fortune – whether nationally, like A.W. Tillinghast, James Tillinghast, cousins and Congressmen Thomas and Joseph L. Tillinghast, and Mary Elizabeth Tillinghast; regionally or locally such as Emigrant Tillinghast and his sons and daughters and their progeny, “Molasses” Pardon Tillinghast, Capt. Joseph Tillinghast, Mary's father Philip, A.W. Tillinghast, Ann Tillinghast Weeden, Tillinghast L'Hommedieu Huston, Alvinza Tillinghast, Anna Moulton Tillinghast, Pardon Elisha Tillinghast, Alvin Tillinghast, Horace Tillinghast, Charles C. Tillinghast Sr. and Jr., Richard Tillinghast, Otis Tillinghast, Muriel Tillinghast, Anna C.M. Tillinghast, Wayne Tillinghast, Todd Lawrence, Bruce Tillinghast, Greta Tyler, and many others – the prototype for them was John<sup>2</sup>. He was our superstar, someone who would be a prime baseball card to have in your collection, a TV evangelist predecessor, Superman and Batman all rolled into one.

\* “An enfant terrible is an unconventional, blunt, and sometimes offensive or embarrassing person. Many enfants terribles are successful or famous.” Vocabulary.com

His larger-than-life story began with his baptism at Streat on September 25, 1604, by his father John<sup>1</sup>. I found that record in the church register. His father then sent him north to study at the free grammar school of Newport, Essex, under the supervision of his uncle Robert. I recently came across a thesis written in 1968 at Durham University. It was about the history of the grammar school and provided valuable insights into the academic and disciplinary environment of John's time there. This source confirmed Rose's citation of Mr. Wood as the school's Master at the time. But more astonishing was that

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the thesis writer devoted a few pages to John<sup>2</sup>, starting with “One of Newport’s famous alumni was John Tillinghast II.” After describing his life and writings, the thesis writer briefly mentioned John’s brother, Robert, clarifying details about his education, which I have now incorporated into Robert’s record.\*

- Phillips W. T., (1968) The history of Newport (Essex) grammar school 1588 - 1938, Durham theses, Durham University. Available at Durham E-Theses Online: <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/9662>

At sixteen, John<sup>2</sup> moved on up the road to Cambridge, where he was admitted as a pensioner (a fee-paying student without a scholarship) at Gonville & Caius (“Keys”) College on March 24, 1620/1. Before diving further into the life of Emigrant Pardon’s flamboyant and famous cousin, let me pivot to my own journey to Cambridge in tracing his footsteps.

## 2.2.1 Seeking John<sup>2</sup> Tillinghast at Cambridge University

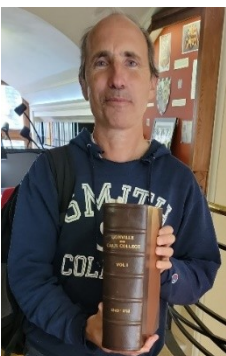


On July 6, 2023, over 400 years later, I had the opportunity to visit Gonville & Caius. Thanks to my Mary Tillinghast connection, Dr. Wayne Boucher, an academic there, I met with the College assistant librarian and the two archivists to examine John<sup>2</sup>’s records. Since I was based in London, I took the train from King’s Cross and, an hour later, arrived in Cambridge.

Walking through the same halls as John<sup>2</sup> had was a thrilling experience. The college library (l.) was impressive, and I imagined him studying there centuries ago. Assistant Librarian Neil Kirkham, Archivist James Cox, and his assistant, Lyndal Petre-Firth warmly welcomed me and had clearly prepared for my visit. They shared my enthusiasm for uncovering the history of the Tillinghast family. I viewed John<sup>2</sup>’s registration entry from March 24, 1620/1, confirming his status as a pensioner, and examined original volumes of his published sermons and writings. It was an emotional and exceptional day, to say the least, and I look forward to returning for further research.



Left: Meeting at Gonville & Caius College with the Archivist James Cox and Assistant Archivist Lyndal Petre-Firth to review Tillinghast records of John<sup>2</sup>; (b) Dr. Wayne Boucher holding the first volume containing John<sup>2</sup>’s actual records! (r) I am examining one of John<sup>2</sup>’s book of sermons. *Photos from the Watkins Collection*



of by



After graduating in 1624/5, John<sup>2</sup>’s intellectual and religious development were undoubtedly shaped by the Puritan influences at Cambridge, as well as the broader religious and political tensions of the time. The struggle between Protestants and Catholics, driven changing monarchs, loomed large over England, particularly in the surrounding regions of Essex and Sussex.

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We do not have an exact date for the death of John<sup>1</sup> in 1624, but when he wrote his will in December 1623, John<sup>2</sup> was still at Cambridge—and notably absent from the list of beneficiaries. This omission suggests a possible schism between father and son, perhaps fueled by John<sup>2</sup>'s evolving non-conformist beliefs, which were even in nearby villages like Ditchling and Wivelsfield.

My longer monograph traces the vocational life of John, post-Cambridge. There are many gaps in the timeline, and I expend additional time sorting out the evidence that both Donna and Rose present, sometimes in conflict. His personal family life also presented some puzzling milestones regarding his many marriages and progeny. I will be covering this in greater detail, both in my monograph and in Part II with my follow-up visit this summer.

He published several works, some of which I have ordered from Amazon, Abe's Books, and other sellers. I plan to scan and share them on my Tillinghastiana website for those wishing to download them.

### 2.3 Reflection #3 - Alfriston Visits and the Two Pardons

The previous section looked at Robert's son John, who in turn provided three key sons: John, Robert, and Pardon Sr. Having addressed the two Johns, I now turned to the two Pardons, father and son.\*

\*Who knows what the trajectory of Robert would have been. Rose cites him as the seventh child and eight years younger than John<sup>2</sup>, he went to both Newport Grammar School under Masters Wood and Hobman and then Bishop's Stortford under Master Leigh. At fourteen, he was admitted as sizer at Christ's College, Cambridge, Feb. 27, 1626-?, with his matriculation for the B.A. in 1630-1. Shortly after, he died unexpectedly, only nineteen years of age.

Remember how the senior John or John<sup>1</sup>, the first Tillinghast rector of Streat, left his son John<sup>2</sup> out of his 1623 will, but granted Pardon<sup>1</sup> the house and barn in Southtowne and free-hold lands in Streat, provided his widow Alice could continue living there? This rationale was likely influenced by primogeniture, yet other children received assets, while John was excluded.\* In any event, now Pardon<sup>1</sup> had assets. He had married Sarah Browne on November 22, 1622. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Leachford) Browne.

- Donna surmises that some of these assets were advanced to John by his father, Robert, in lieu of a will bequest.

Pardon<sup>1</sup> had not followed his father or brothers to Cambridge University, but instead had taken up the occupation of cooper, as his father's brother had done, along with others in the family. Coopering was booming in those days of international trade and other domestic needs, as the population increased, and so it was a wise choice. He also had religious views he absorbed from his increasingly anti-Anglican family, although the split was not yet complete. However, the region of Sussex was certainly a hotbed of denominational activity. But it was his son Pardon, who in his youth would catch this fever. Pardon Sr. focused his life on coopering and raising a family.

We don't know whether Pardon Sr. occupied the farm left to him or moved to Alfriston during the time of his apprenticeship of usually seven years. Rose gives very little documentation, saying only that their first child was John, baptized in 1625, presumably at Streat. Again, we have that generational shift, where he decides not to be a cooper, but was admitted as a sizer at Queen's College (Cambridge), July 3, 1643. Then she adds, "Matric(ulation), Magdalen Hall, Oxford (University), July 14, 1642, age 17." Perhaps Donna can continue his career line, as most of our focus is on his younger brother Emigrant Pardon.



Regarding Emigrant Pardon, the second-born, Wayne states that "Emigrant Pardon Tillinghast (b. abt. 1624, Seven Cliffs, near Beachy Head, now Eastbourne, Sussex County England," while Rose has him born in 1622 and baptized on January 3, 1623. She lists the other siblings as Sarah, baptized at Cowfield in 1627; Benjamin baptized, 1629; Anne baptized, 1630, but died the same time; Alice, baptized in 1631; and Charles baptized in 1634.

Whatever the dates, we have several things to unpack in the geography of names. Cowfield has been mentioned before as a place name (John<sup>1</sup>'s daughter Sarah lived there), but there is no current address, except for Cowfold, which is in West Sussex. More digging is needed, as it would seem to be nearer to Streat or Alfriston. The other naming issue is Seven Cliffs, where Emigrant Pardon was thought to be born, not Streat, Southtowne, or Alfriston. Southtowne is also unknown in today's gazetteers or googling. But then was Pardon<sup>2</sup> born on a farm near there? Alfriston is about eight miles away and sixteen minutes by car driving. It is twenty-two miles to Streat church.

Badger Tea House/Bakery – source unk

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St. Andrews church – *Watkins Coll;*



Clergy house - *Wiki*

Donna clues us that Pardon<sup>1</sup>'s family would have been complete before moving to Alfriston between 1637 and 1657. Her research led her to state further that "Pardon the emigrant therefore likely lived in the building from 1637 until he was about eighteen." Since Pardon the father was described as a cooper, probably the work was done there as well, as is usually the case. When his widow Sarah died and left the house to the youngest brother of Pardon the emigrant (Charles?), he in turn sold it three years later to William King/e – a cooper, which may have reflected the desirability of the cottage as a coopering space. Again, I look forward to seeing her footnotes.

My two trips to Alfriston were eye-opening, except that I went with the wrong premise and missed the most important Tillinghast clue that was a block away from my wanderings – the house! I had somehow reached a conclusion that the church in Alfriston, St. Andrews, was where one of the Tillinghasts had been vicar. So, I spent substantial time – aside from the charm of the Village itself – at the Church and the adjoining Clergy House, long-owned by the National Trust. I had convinced myself that Emigrant Pardon had lived there with his parents and family, not realizing that his father was a cooper, not a minister. And as I walked the few streets in the Village, I failed to go down the one where the Badger Teahouse sat. Even if the Tillinghasts hadn't lived there, I missed having wonderful tea and pastries!

Two things happened to change my mindset. First, on my last trip, I had gotten permission to look at the roster of vicars who posted at St. Andrews and there was no Tillinghast on the list. Secondly, of course, was Donna's piece, which I read, as I was writing my article on coopering. Talk about right under my nose! The idiom is defined exactly the way I felt: "something is very close by, in plain sight, or easily accessible, yet it is not noticed or overlooked." I can't wait to return and have it high on my checklist.

## 2.4 Reflection #4 – As the Plane Glides into London Heathrow Airport

I think this marks my 41<sup>st</sup> trip to England and I never tire of coming. Each visit brings fresh discoveries. What these three previous reflections begin to tell me, despite no pictorial evidence, diaries, or anything other than the barest documentation, are the extensive family bonds that Emigrant Pardon left behind. With so many relatives living nearby, he must have participated in the usual rituals of baptisms, marriages, funerals, religious events, and probably many other interactions.

Would there have been discussions amongst them about Emigrant Pardon's decision to leave all this family and sail alone to a new and strange land? Did his mother's brother, who was already in Providence, encourage him to come? What kind of psychological portrait can we begin to draw, limited as we are: a young kid completing his seven year apprentice while growing up in a prosperous part of England; a family of achievers and perhaps sibling rivalry where he chose not go to college, on the cusp of the middling class or above through marriage, religion, domicile, education; single in his 20s and perhaps facing conscription or family pressure to join the Parliament army, either local or national, with a growing Civil War touching even Southeast England.

Donna provides a rich tapestry of the impact of geopolitics on family systems. His later religious views as a Baptist and his economic and social ambitions in the New World were undoubtedly a product of the family environment he came from in Sussex. As I continue this journey, I look forward to uncovering even more insights into the Tillinghast legacy.

## 3.0 IN LONDON NOW

Having spent most of the flight reflecting on Donna's and my previous journeys in my mind's eye, I now had to shift gears and focus on the purpose of my current visit. Almost as soon as I settled into my hotel room in South Kensington, a

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few blocks away from the Victoria & Albert Museum, I found myself in a zoom meeting with a conference in Poland, delivering a presentation on the role of Artificial Intelligence in driving urban transition. Once I finished that, I had to prepare for a packed schedule of meetings in addition to my ongoing Tillinghast research.

These included: meeting a fellow colleague who had taken a recent online course with me in memoir writing at Cambridge University and now I would actually see her for the first time. We had bonded during the class and worked together in our writing and self-publishing endeavors since then, almost daily. We even co-taught an online course in that subject (Self-publishing with the Use of AI Tools).

I also needed to meet with some British government housing colleagues to observe the activities of post-Olympic development at that eponymous site, plus visit a new town of Brent Cross, where an American firm that developed Hudson Yards in NYC and was the largest affordable housing developer in the U.S., was partnering with a local English firm to build 6,000 units in Northeast London. It would be using factory-built housing units, which was one of my skill sets. I also had lunch at the Oxford/Cambridge Club with the Christies auction house staff person who had participated in two antique furniture sales in NYC of the Tillinghast/Slocum chest and a Newport Tillinghast ensemble. Finally, I needed to go to Bray-on-Thames west of London to find the house where Mary Tillinghast's stained glass window portrait might still be.\*

- See my article in Pardon's Progeny II entitled "*A Fascinating Story About An 18th Century Tillinghast Wedding Gift That Yielded Riches In The 20th Century.*" Volume 13 Issue 1 Winter 2013, pp. 1-ff.

The other Tillinghast 'assignments' I was looking forward, of course, were to follow up with Bruce's and Greta's wishes and those included a visit to Coopers Hall, home of the ancient guild that I fancied all of my East Sussex ancestors would have belonged to, seeing a real English relative (Maggy), and going to Beachy Head. I couldn't fit anything else in, sadly, so Streat, Alfriston, Cambridge, and other Tillinghastiana would have to wait for my next trip. Without delving any further into my 'extraneous' activities, let me take you straight to what my readers are here for.

### 3.1 A VISIT TO COOPERS HALL IN THE CITY OF LONDON



Cooper Hall stairway, with barrels at bottom, front hall – Watkins Coll



Cooper Hall, Front – Watkins Coll.

In my 2014 article for Pardon's Progeny II\*, I admitted that I had never heard of the occupation of a 'cooper'. I spent many hours researching it and reviewing what Wayne and Donna had written. You can read more about it in that article.

- Kent Watkins. "Tillinghasts and the Cooper Trade: How It Improved Upper Mobility in the New World." *Pardon's Progeny II*. Volume 16, Issue 1, Winter 2014.

The article contains a longish dissertation on the history of coopering for several millennia, its many uses, and its development as one of the English guilds. I also visited Colonial Williamsburg (CW), in Virginia (where years before I received my undergraduate degree from the College of William & Mary, although I didn't know such an exhibit existed then). CW had restored a workshop featuring that ancient occupation. I spoke with the skilled workers there and vowed to visit the guild quarters in London.

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Shortly after the Reunion, I emailed The Worshipful Company of Coopers' Clerk (their title for an Executive Director), whose name I found on the internet as Wing Commander Stephen Borthwick and requested a meeting with him. I attached my Pardon's Progeny article on coopering. To my delight, he responded with an invitation to visit him at the Hall at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, September 19.\* He had even read my paper, because he corrected me about their logo/coat of arms having camels instead of horses! I was so embarrassed; how could I not have looked more closely. But then, why would there be camels? I added that to my list of questions to ask.

- Borthwick, Stephen. Email to Author. 17 September 2024. Author email to Borthwick, Stephen Borthwick. 17 September 2024.

The Hall was located at #13 on Devonshire Square in the heart of the City of London. The 'City' (distinguished from the other part of Greater London, has many of the oldest palimpsests of banking, the trades, churches, etc. It always saw itself distinct from Royal London and in fact has its own Lord Mayor, now honorary.

### 3.2 Doing My Homework While Awaiting My Meeting Time

I was early for my interview that morning, so I had a cuppa and reviewed what I already knew about the coopers from my article and other sources. First, the Worshipful Company of (London) was incorporated April 29, 1501. Thomas Wrythe or Wriothesley, Garter granted it a coat of arms in 1509.\*

\*Describing coats of arms and English heraldry rulings with various knockoffs can be quite confusing to writers and readers alike, but I attempted to clarify as much as I understood it in my lengthier article on my Tillinghastiana site.

As part of their livery\* company duties, they were in the procession for the funeral of Henry VII from Richmond, through the City to Westminster Abbey. And they had a space in Cheapside at the coronation of Henry VIII. Would any Tillinghasts have been there? The Company was sufficiently wealthy to afford a ceremonial barge that attended Anne Boleyn from Greenwich to the Tower on her recognition as Queen. Other functions for the Company consisted of training (up to seven years as an apprentice), networking, quality control standards and regulations, labor conditions, general protectiveness of occupation, charity, and funeral and burial expenses for the members,

- The term derives from the eventual wearing of special clothing or uniforms that differentiated the hundred-plus crafts, trade, or professional groups.

By 1531, the coopers faced growing competition from breweries, prompting a series of protective acts and ordinances in the 1540s. By the time of Emigrant Pardon's voyage to America in the 1640s, London had grown from 60,000 to 800,000. The Great Fire of 1666 destroyed the Company's original Hall, together with a lot of houses owned by the coopers for which they collected rents. A second Hall was completed in 1671. The picture (below left) shows the second Hall being used for the drawing of the state lottery in 1809.\*

\*"Lottery" in *The Microcosm of London or London in Miniature*, Volume II, London: Methuen and Company, pp. Plate 53.



The Company pulled it down in 1867 so that it could build a smaller Hall and sell the remainder of the land to the Corporation of London for a Guildhall extension. WW2 blitz bombed this third Hall and an adjoining church on December 29, 1940. In our picture below (r), a memorial references St. Michaels Bassishaw Church, at what is now EC2, Basinghall Street. The Coopers' Hall memorial is on the low wall to the left, in front of a building inscribed 'Corporation of London'. In 1957, the Company sold this site to the Corporation and purchased the current Hall at 13 Devonshire Square, a late 17<sup>th</sup> century merchant's house. This brings us back to the present conversation with Stephen.

### 3.3 The Meeting with Stephen Borthwick, Clerk, Worshipful Company of Coopers

Stephen greeted me heartily and led me to his office in the rear of the house. After the usual pleasantries, the first thing he told me was that Pardon was most likely NOT a member of this Company. Its members only worked within the

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boundary of the City of London (again, this is not the rest of Greater London, but that special precinct where the financial and nearly 110 related trades were. Crestfallen, I opined that perhaps Pardon was a member of an incorporated association in Sussex, perhaps Lewes, Eastbourne, or Brighton, where ports, breweries, and distilleries were. Stephen gave no indication that any such group existed, except in Scotland (Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Leith) and Australia. Research it, I told myself. Also, I had noticed there were some Tillinghasts who were coopers working in London – I needed to get back to him about that.

The second disillusionment was that I had told Greta of my desire to become an associate member, and she said, go for it. However, Stephen was less than enthusiastic about the idea, saying that such an application was very expensive for the symbolism it might have. After he gave me the financial number, I agreed! However, why not have descendants like those of us in the Tillinghast family added to his rolls for a modest fee, just as we clamor to join the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, The Huguenot Society, Order of the Cincinnatus, etc.? Maybe they are not that desperate...

Our conversation then turned to the craft itself, as he said that he had read my article and realized he could start talking with me at a higher level of comprehension – once I understood that those were camels not horses on the logo (ha!). He also mentioned a recent visitor, Harry J. Taylor III, a journeyman cooper employed at that forementioned exhibit in Colonial Williamsburg (Va.). I said that I had previously interviewed an apprentice craftsman there when I was writing my coopering paper for Greta. But he had apparently left, and this was a different person.

I jokingly confessed that when I first encountered this word in our family history, I had no idea what a cooper was, except for its use as a surname. I thought immediately of Alice Cooper, the musician; James Fenimore Cooper, the writer; D.B. Cooper, the airline hijacker; Betty Cooper, the fictional character from Archie Comics; Gary Cooper, the actor; Sheldon Cooper, fictional character from TV's The Big Bang Theory; and Anderson Cooper, the journalist. John Alden, of all people, was a cooper on the ship Mayflower, hired for the purpose of maintaining the barrels of food and liquids to prevent spoilage. Later, he rose to become Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, so maybe coopering was a good career path for Emigrant Pardon! From there, of course, Pardon<sup>2</sup> went on to become a leader in commerce, civic affairs, religious foundings and preaching, and education.

Stephen agreed generally with Wikipedia's description, "Traditionally, a cooper is someone who makes wooden staved vessels, bound together with hoops and possessing flat ends or heads. Examples of a cooper's work include but are not limited to casks, barrels, buckets, tubs, butter churns, hogsheads, firkins, tierces, rundlets, puncheons, pipes, tuns, butts, pins and beakers."<sup>\*</sup>

- "Coopering." Wikipedia.

I asked how many master coopers currently exist in England, and he pointed to a recent article that stated the last one was located in Yorkshire, Alastair Simms. The same was true in Australia and he suspected similarly throughout the Commonwealth nations. I replied that there were probably no more than fifty in the U.S., some employed at exhibits like Colonial Williamsburg, with others at craft brewers.

We then discussed the rationale for his organization, and he said that it still carried on some of the original activities, which consisted of managing six principal charities and "a social and charitable enterprise that retains an identity focused on the ancient craft of cask making."



In the hierarchy of City liveries, the Coopers are 36<sup>th</sup> among the 112 current companies (including modern ones like Accounting, Management Consultants, Air Pilots, and Entrepreneurs). In addition to the many artifacts it keeps in the Hall,

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much akin to a specialty museum, it holds various events throughout the year, such as a cask rolling race in the Guildhall Yard adopting Ajax, a Shire horse to promote the brand at various functions in London and England an annual event to honor St. Abdon, the Coopers' patron saint; having Open Days at the Hall; publishing a quarterly magazine; and renting spaces.



Stephen spent the next hour patiently answering my questions before taking me on a tour of the Hall rooms, where he showed me various artifacts of the history of coopers. The building served as an office and social space and a historical repository, featuring portraits of past members, relics of the craft, and reminders of the Company's legacy. Seven of its members had even served as Lord Mayor of London – a remarkable feat for a relatively small guild. Photos below are from the Watkins collection.

#### 4.0 **On The Rails To Meet Maggy!**

And now the icing on the cake....meeting Maggy! Again, thanks to Bruce, who forwarded her original email, we had several such exchanges, once landing in London. We had agreed that Tuesday, September 17, a day trip would work for both of us.

That morning, I set out on the train for Staplehurst, Kent County via Charing Cross Station after a tube change at Victoria Station. Despite the cancellation of my first train (not unusual, she said), I soon arrived and met the renowned or to me now, infamous, Maggy Hoyt. She drove us to nearby Sissinghurst Castle Garden, where we had lunch, chatting and laughing incessantly. Interestingly, Sissinghurst isn't actually a castle but a historic farmstead, once owned by poet and writer Vita Sackville-West and her husband, Harold Nicholson, an author and diplomat. In the 1930s, they transformed it into one of the world's most celebrated gardens, now under the stewardship of the National Trust.

The tower, visible in the accompanying photograph below right, was an addition to a non-fortified manor house, parts of which would have stood during the time various Tillinghasts were studying at Cambridge before the Civil War. What intrigued me most, however, were the oast-houses – distinctive buildings with conical white cowls used for drying hops, an essential ingredient for making beer. Once widespread across Kent, the Trust has converted the oast houses at Sissinghurst into exhibition spaces.



Oast barns at Sissinghurst – Kent Watkins Collection



Maggy and Kent – Author's Collection

We didn't have time on this trip to explore the exhibits, gardens, and other spaces of Sissinghurst, as we had a more pressing mission – visiting Maggy's home nearby to delve into her collection of Tillinghast family memorabilia. After my checking into the adjoining 4-star B&B, called the Sissinghurst Farmhouse, we had a lovely tea there.

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I spent the rest of the day with Maggy, poring over an extensive collection of Tillinghast materials largely preserved by her mother. Photographs, newspaper clippings, genealogies - Maggy supplemented them all with marvelous stories, particularly about her grandfather Horace (r) and his global travels. There was simply too much to recount here, but substantially more is contained in the monograph. I photographed some of the materials and begged Maggy to continue scanning, copying, or photographing them over the wintertime. It became evident how much Paul Tillinghast's grandmother, Rose O'Brien Tillinghast, had relied on these records when writing about the English Tillinghasts.

Maggy mentioned the rarity of Tillinghasts in England today, though she knew of a few. We also discussed the possibility of her joining me on a trip to Beachy Head, and she agreed to consider it. That evening, we dined at the Three Chimneys Pub (l) in nearby Bibenden, and the next morning, she surprised me by arriving to drive us there – saving me logistical headaches and gifting me with her delightful company.

The author with Maggy at The Three Chimneys Pub in Bibendum, Kent, England. Photo: Watkins Collection.

## 5.0 Beachy Head, Ho!

After an hour or more of driving southwest through battle-famed Hastings and numerous roundabouts and turns, we stood on the breathtaking South Downs landscape and the stunning visage of the sheer cliffs of the headland. There is no beach at Beachy Head, as the name is a corruption of Beautiful from Beauchef (headland). Wayne talks about Emigrant Pardon leaving for America from Alfriston, but of course, he could not sail from that inland village. Other sources have talked about his departing from Beachy Head but given the sheerness of the cliffs and the number of shipwrecks and suicides\*, that seems highly unlikely.

- Beachy Head has the third highest number of suicides worldwide, as evidence by ubiquitous signage, roving chaplains, and nearby rescue offices. Also, I highly recommend reading the searing non-fiction book by Tom Hunt, *Cliffs of Despair: A Journey to the Edge*.

Although it is speculation only, with no evidence surfacing so far of ship documentation or even disembarkation at the other end (e.g., his 'story' about being in Connecticut or some other place prior to Providence), my feeling so far - after talking to locals and others - is that he is more likely to have gone to London. In looking at the list of ships who left for New England or Virginia during that time, this port would appear to be the case. Liverpool and Southampton later, Plymouth maybe then, but the ports near East Sussex more commonly would focus on European destinations just across the Channel.



Maggy passing by chaplains to prevent suicides



The pub at Beachy Head – All Photos by author



The Beachy Head Story with a wonderful history of the area



Looking toward the South Downs where our ancestors lived

## 6.0 Aftermath: Kelvin And Ken Tillinghast, More English Relatives!

Upon my return, another English relative surfaced from my email trip report to the PP mailing list. Kelvin Tillinghast wrote to me that he and his uncle Ken would frequently meet at the Badger Tea House in Alfriston, where they discussed Emigrant Pardon's family history with the owners. To square the circle even more, he revealed that Donna had met them during one of her research visits, and Kelvin sent me a video recording that she had made, where Ken proves to be a wonderful tour guide of the area. Here's the link: <https://youtube.com/watch?y=f2o2klR6wOc&si=fSPBecGiEETcjouf>.

How fascinating! I look forward to meeting them on my next trip, along with Maggy, whom they have supposedly not met – even though they are only a few miles apart.\* To be continued...

- Tillinghast, Kelvin. Emails to author. Starting 16 Oct. 2024 to present.

## 7.0 **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MYSELF AND YOU!**

As I have emphasized throughout this paper, there remain countless unexplored research topics and avenues for us living Tillinghasts to confront – opportunities to refine, correct, and expand upon our understanding. The journey is made all the richer by encountering remarkable relatives and other wonderful individuals and locales along the way. It could be in London and all the towns, villages, and rural areas where Tillinghasts resided over the centuries. Documents also yield a frequent aha. Follow the travels and lives of your Tillinghast kin and these documents and built environment will not only bring inner satisfaction but also thrilling discoveries. And even if you don't solve all the mysteries of our ancestral past, remember how Cavafy famously concluded his poem, Ithaka,

"Keep Ithaka always in your mind.  
Arriving there is what you're destined for.  
But don't hurry the journey at all.  
Better if it lasts for years,  
so you're old by the time you reach the island,  
wealthy with all you've gained on the way,  
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.  
Without her you wouldn't have set out.  
She has nothing left to give you now.



Kent Watkins grew up in Sioux City, Ia., and now resides in Bethesda, Md. (come visit!). He holds a B.A. from the College of William & Mary; an M.P.A. from Harvard University; and an Advanced Diploma in English Local History from Nuffield College, Oxford University. He is completing his dissertation for the Ph.D. – hopefully His academic journey has also taken him to the University of London (19<sup>th</sup> Century Eng. Lit), Cambridge University (memoir writing), MIT (AI), Sciences Po (world cities), and several other institutions. Kent served in the U.S. Army, leaving as a 1st Lieutenant, and belongs to the Ft. Myer Officers' Club in Arlington, Va. His career spans various roles, including working for various Members of Congress in both the House and the Senate, as well as the White House. He was Executive Assistant to the first Secretary of HUD and has worked with all its successors. He achieved recognition as Vice-president of a Westinghouse housing subsidiary; a partner in a national urban consulting firm; Associate Director of the Harvard Center for Press, Politics, and Public Policy; and Director for the Center for Urban Affairs at Florida International University. For many years Kent has had his own consulting firm working here and abroad. He has written numerous articles (including many for Pardon's Progeny), books, papers and reports; serves as a Wikipedia editor; taught as an adjunct professor at several universities, serves on multiple boards, competes in national tennis tournaments, is an avid photographer and a proud father/grandfather. Philanthropic activities include the Kent Watkins Seminar Room at Harvard, various digitization projects, the Anne Sexton Poetry Prize, and the Tanzania Project. Currently, Kent is Chairman of the prestigious American Academy of Housing and Communities. He also serves on the American Bar Association section on A.I. and Technology. Marquis Who's Who will be featuring a full page of his achievements for their 75<sup>th</sup> edition this Spring 2025. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/Tillinghastiana/>!

***Presidents Message:***

**Bruce Tillinghast,  
President**

## **INTROUCING THE TILLINGHAST SOCIETY, INC. MAINTENANCE FUND**

At the July 2024 Tillinghast Reunion it was announced that the repairs and improvements to the historic Tillinghast Burial Ground are nearly complete. At this point we need to begin planning for a fund to maintain the work that has been accomplished. A generous family donor offered a challenge grant to get us started. The donor offered to match \$1,000 donations up to \$10,000. There were several reunion attendees who came forward with donations and several who have stepped up since making \$1,000 gifts. This equals \$5000. And with the match, our fledging fund stands at \$10,000. We are hoping for five more \$1000. matched donations to get us to \$20,000. Which would be a great start.

We appreciate donations of any amount to grow this fund. There are several ways you can contribute. Individual families can collectively put together small donations to equal \$1,000. that equals a match. AND... individual donations of any amount are welcomed to help us grow.

To make a donation you may use our website which has a DONATE button.  
[www.tillinghastsociety.org](http://www.tillinghastsociety.org). There is a small fee for this service.

To avoid the fee you can mail a check to our Treasurer.

Jane T. Roberts, 355 Blackstone Blvd. #220, Providence, RI, 02906

Please indicate Maintenance Fund in the memo line.



## WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED



The Original Hillside Burial Ground with slate headstones.



The site before we began work. Results of the 1890 Improvements.

The original Town of Providence, founded in 1636 by Roger Williams, did not have a Common Burial Ground until 1700. When a loved-one died, families buried them on their property. This resulted in many small cemeteries across the town.

By 1880, Providence had become a burgeoning city and one act of the City Council was to have all the small cemeteries moved to North Burial Ground. A group of descendants of Pardon Tillinghast got together and petitioned the City to keep the family burial ground which had become neglected and overgrown. The City agreed, providing the Tillinghast family improved and maintained the burial ground. Without moving the 30+ relatives buried on the site, the hillside grade was raised to the Benefit Street level with granite stone walls, iron fencing and a single monument honoring our common progenitor, Pardon Tillinghast (monument photo above). With a small fund it was maintained until the mid-twentieth century.

By 2015 some of the walls were deteriorating, some sections of the fencing were badly rusted and the landscaping need improvements. Once again, a small group of Pardon's descendants organized and incorporated as the **Tillinghast Society, Inc.** We obtained our tax-exempt status to raise funds for the needed repairs. After an appeal to family members and with grants from several organizations, we were able to raise \$50,000.

With those funds, the Tillinghast Society, Inc. was able to repair a wall that had shifted onto neighbor's property, replace 81 feet of rusted fencing with new fencing to match the old fence and repaint the existing 130-year-old fencing. A path was constructed around the monument and a custom-made bench was installed.

Also, an informational sign was installed explaining the hidden history of the site along with biographical information about our common ancestor, Pardon Tillinghast, who settled in Providence c.1643.

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Rebuilding the wall.



Rusted fence.



New custom fencing.



Painting original fence.



The monument path



Bench and sign with our local history.

We hope you appreciate the concern and care the Tillinghast Society, Inc. has taken to preserve our collective history.

A donation to help preserve this cherished historical site would be greatly appreciated.

WE THANK YOU

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