the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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This is a transcribed issue in order to create a usable electronic format. The masthead information is of our current design; the articles below are what appeared when this issue was printed.

Thaddeus Thayer, Business Tycoon of Pa-qua-uah-wong

by
Madora Allin Thayer Boyd
Rochester, WA

The ancient village of Pa-qua-uah-wong was located at the hairpin bend of the south-flowing Chippewa River where it turned sharply to the east in the days before the dam was built. The name pa-qua-uah-wong means "Place where the River is wide" in Chippewa. At that time the Chippewa were transient, following the ripening berries and rice, or where the game and fish were abundant. The Chippewa bark or skin homes were up near the outlet of the Pokegama creek and on the shores of the river. This was where Thaddeus[8] Thayer came after 1865 to set up his trading post.

Thad came first to St. Paul, MN about 1850. During his life among the Chippewa he was known as Mikinok. According to baptismal records he was born 1 Oct. 1827. During an interview some time before 1910 he said that he and his brother Joe were sons of Thaddeus A. and Elizabeth (Hardy?) Thayer of Hampden, Maine. His lineage is as follows: Thaddeus[8], Thaddeus[7], Obediah[6], Noah[5], Hezekiah[4], Nathaniel[3], Richard[2], Richard[1]. Other records give a birth date of 28 Feb. 1829, which I believe was actually that of his brother Joe Thayer who married Bimo-se-kwe, or Elizabeth Martin, as she was baptized at age 55, daughter of Chief Wa-bi-sha-she (or Martin) and Ba-gi-ne or Ba-ji-ne.

Thad's first wife, Wabi-kwe, was a daughter of Chief Nenaagebi. She was the "widow" of Edward Dingley who was missing in action and presumed dead in the Civil War. They had two daughters; Sarah Thayer, who married a Corbine, and Margaret (Binesikwe) Thayer, who married a Carufel, before 1865. When Edward Dingley returned at the end of the war, Wabi-kwe returned to him and they raised a family of their own. In 1943 or 44, a descendant of Thad's, Charles "Charlie Man"

1 Treary group with Chippewa before 1884, Thaddeus Thayer top right. Photo; *The Visitor Writes Again*, Elden Marple.

Edward Thayer, married Bernice Grover, daughter of Lizzie Dingley and John Grover.

Thaddeus Thayer[8] came to Paquauahwong about 1865 and established an Indian or fur trading post, the only one above Charlie Belille's at that time. Later the place was usually called Thayer's or Trading Post, and finally just Post. Thad was the third white, after John B. Corbine and Charles Belille, to make a permanent settlement in what is now Sawyer County, Wisconsin. This was his home until he died in 1909. After the dam was closed in March, 1923, flooding that area, it became Old Post, and the village to which the Indians, their homes, and their graves, including Thad's and his brother Joe's, had been relocated, became New Post.

The Post had the first post office in that area. The loggers wanigans tied up in the slack waters of the bend until the winds and currents were right to continue the down river movements of the logs. Thad's store supplied the crews with a place to rest and replenish their supplies. Thad Thayer ran various stopping places between The Post and Hayward. He bough and enlarged one by Little Round Lake in 1888, sold it in 1891, rented a stopping place at Kavanagh's Resort on the north side of the Chippewa Flowa[..] in 1890, and even bought Lavelle House in Hayward.

Thaddeus Thayer's log building attracted more permanent residents, particularly as the Indians had now been "settled" on a reservation and hadn't as far to roam anymore. By the time the loggers began coming, there were about a dozen families.

Thad added a store, a stopping place and a log barn to his establishment. By the time the villager became a stage coach station on the road from Chippewa Falls there were two churches, both mission and government schools, and more stores.

In the Catholic records is a note dated 1 October 1878, saying the Re Chrysostom Verwyst, O.F.M., had "arrived at the Pakwewang Post and stayed a week or more at the house of the Hon. Thad Thayer, announcing the Gospel to the Indians of said village."

Marguerite's father, William Joseph Thayer, Jr., was baptized in St. Anthony Catholic Church at Old Post in January of 1923, shortly before it was taken down and moved to New

continued

Post where much of the materials were reused.

Thad married a second time, to Mary Gogi (Gagi), or Mary James. She was the daughter of O-kwe-gan or Catherin James, father said to be unknown. The records at Ashland show Thad Thayer married Marie Anibish Bert at Ashland, WI on 26 Sept. 1879, and here her mother is listed as Aquagoa and her father as Henry Bert. Chippewa County Records refer to her as Mary Gogi. In the "Historic Roll of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe" completed on 11 April 1877, she is listed in a band, probably living at Trading Post, as "Giagi, born 1858, daughter of Okwegaw daughter of Omashkos, son of Metakosige.: They had nine children. Their daughter, Lucy, married Thad's brother Joe's son, John, in 1905.

The Trading Post was located on land set aside by the Government for "School and Church Reserve." When Thayer established the Post it was the last source of supplies on the way up the Chippewa River. Much of his material must have been brought up river by bateau or dugout, as much of the area was swampy. He cut a road from Crooked Rapids, near Ojibwa, over the hills to the Post. It can be seen on an 1878 map, but must have been mostly used in the winter, when the swamps were frozen over. A graded road was built up river from Chippewa Fall by 1881 and in 1884 a graded road reached them from Hayward, thus ending the village's isolation.

In 1881, the Government set up the Allotment Act, which turned over a specific parcel of land to each Chippewa with rights to sell or develop, etc. This brought in a great flux of loggers, as most of the reservation was forested with magnificent pines, and the timber had great cash value. The records from that time show how many board feet of lumber were cut and the monetary value of same and it is pitiful how little of this money ever came to the Indians whose homes and way of life were being destroyed.

Thad Thayer was then in a strategic location. He had a license to trade with the Indians and was in the right place to do business with the buyers. In 1882 he joined the logging firm of Dobie and Stratton. The next year when Dobie and Stratton got their own license they bought Thad out. They also took over his lovely big home to use as their headquarters.

Thad got his home back when Dobie and Stratton moved on to Round Lake. Thad's home was an Eastern style house with a full porch, two stories, and a grand staircase coming up from the front door.

Home of Thaddeus Thayer on the Post. Photo; *The Visitor Writes Again*, Elden M. Marple.

Front row; four unidentified children. Back row; Marguerite Rose Thayer, Doonie Thayer and wife Elsie, Author; Madora Allin Thayer Boyd.

Thaddeus Thayer died at the Post on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation on 7 March 1909 and was buried in it's cemetery.

Bibliography

1) *The Visitor Writes Again*, and three other books by Elden M. Marple.
2) Bureau of Indian Affairs.
3) LCO Enrollment Records, proofed and researched by Trudy Wolfe, Tribal Genealogist and Historian.

Thank you Madora for sharing this story with us! Ed.

Titanic Revisited

I have seen several television specials on the sinking of the Titanic this summer. Don't forget the account by our own John Borland Thayer, Jr. in his booklet The Sinking of the Titanic, item #243, which can be ordered postage paid for $7 from: The Titanic Historical Society, P.O. Bob 51053, Indian Orchard, MA 0115-0053. *Ed.*

REVOLUTIONARY REMINISCENCES

of Mary Thayer Bundy Part I

Collected and recorded by Minerva Wade Hickman, a granddaughter.

Submitted by Lorenzo Lisonbee
Chandler, AZ

When the Declaration of Independence was signed, my grandmother, Mary Thayer[7], was almost three years old. She was born on the thirteenth of August, 1771 at Uxbridge, MA. Her lineage is as follows: Mary[7], Reuben[6], Isaac[5-4-3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]. Granddaughter remembered many incidents of the war, such as hiding in the woods from the Tories and other things herein mentioned. She told these incidents to her grandchildren as though they had happened the week before, for they had been so firmly stamped upon her young mind. I have often heard them repeated by my mother who listed to them eighty years ago at her grandmother's knee in the state of New York.

Dr. Reuben Thayer owned a grant of land adjoining Albany, New York, and on the outskirts of town he built his colonial dwelling. A few acres were cleared for orchard, garden, and a small pasture where the cows, sheep, and geese were kept when not herded. The rest was in heavy timber which bordered a great wood.

Roland Brown, who had lost an arm in the Indian war, was a farmer and neighbor of Dr. Thayer. His little son William herded the stock of the two families and the girls often herded the geese in the same vicinity. They swung in grape vines together, gathered wild flowers from the woods, and wild berries and nuts in their season, which they dried to eat during the long winter evenings as they listened around the fireplace to the stories told by the elder members of the family.

There had been talk of revolution long before Mary was born, and the people were wrought up to a state of rebellion which could hardly have been pacified with anything less than freedom.

The heavy taxes were a great burden on the people. But when they were forbidden even to wear their own clothes and were ordered to buy them all from England, women as well as men became indigent. Mrs. Thayer dismissed one of her maids and stored the loom away.

Late in the fall of 1776, the one servant had gone home on vacation, and Mrs. Thayer was taken sick and compelled to remain in bed for several days. Mary, who had never before seen thing in disorder, went to work to do the "regulating," as her mother called it. Mrs. Thayer, hearing her rattling the dishes and kettles called out, "What are you doing, Mary?"

"Dest leglating," was the reply.

Her mother rose on her elbow, and pulled back the flowered curtains that hung from above her poster bed, and peeped into the kitchen, where she saw her little daughter washing dishes. She had already winged the hearth. A wing from a large fowl was always kept handy for this purpose. Order, which they read in the Bible was the first law of Heaven, was the first law of every well regulated home. Every week the floors were scoured with sand and the brass candle sticks polished until they shone like burnished gold. Many curious ornaments decorated the mantles with the polished candlesticks, some had been brought by an uncle from the East Indies, and others, such as pottery, baskets and flint spear heads, had been obtained from their own Indians.

During the winter months the large living room was kept warm night and day by the back log that was kept constantly burning in the huge fireplace. Wood was plentiful and the blaze gave them light enough for ordinary purposes. The candles were seldom lighted, except to read the chapter in the Bible, which was done every morning and evening.

Women spun and knit by the fire light. Boys and girls alike knot during the long winter evenings. "The idler shall not eat the bread of the laborer," was a common Bible saying which was often applied to children as well as grown people, and although there were always baskets of nuts or apples or corn to be popped for the evening the fingers even of the old were kept nimble by knitting and a person rich or poor who did not work was considered a drone to society.

Her father came in just as she had finished her "leglating," and giving her a smile of approval, went to his wife and made a few hasty explanations then took his gun and a few articles, after which he bade them good-bye and rode off on his large black horse.

Mary heard her mother crying, and thought her father must have whipped her, for the child could realize nothing else to be the enuse of such sobbing.

So she said, "Did father whip you hard mover? Why you cry?"

"Your father never whipped me in the world, my dear child. He is going to leave us and may never return. This is why I cry."

The child had drawn her attention and she knew for her sake she must be brave, so she resolved she would do her part in the great struggle for freedom.

Dr. Thayer had desired to enlist at the first herald of war; but his wife had delicate health and he had other patients needing his attention who begged him to wait a little longer. But when word came that Washington had been driven from New York and that the British were gaining the victory he could no longer resist; so he had rushed in to tell his wife the news and take leave of his family. He said: "I had hoped at least to leave you well, Martha, but our men are losing. I have already contributed enough to condemn me and life. Means must be sacrificed if freedom is gained."

"May God protect you", simultaneously said by both.

He called on Uncle Roland Brown, who came over every day to look after the stock, and see that there was plenty of wood and water, how he regretted that he had lost his arm, for, although he was sixty years of age his heart was in the cause; and he longed to be in the thickest of the fight. He often said, "If I can not handle a gun I might stop a bullet and perhaps save a whole man for the cause."

But his wife reasoned with him that this would be nothing less than suicide and that he could help the cause in many other ways which he did.

The will and determination to do her part acted like spurs to a tired horse and roused Mrs. Thayer to greater energy than she had ever known. There was need for the work of women as well as men. Mary thought her mother never slept, for from her trundle bed which had been brought into the living room with her mother's to save all unnecessary work, she could see her mother spinning when she went to bed and was sung to sleep and awakened by the buz-o-o-z-z, buz-o-o-z-z of the spinning wheel as her mother stepped back and forth, while roll after roll was spun.

The maid who had done the housework could not return, as her father and elder brother had enlisted and her services were needed at home. Aunt Samantha, a widow aunt of Mrs. Thayer, who was a tailoress, came to help with the knitting and sewing. A sock a day was considered a good day's work, but they often had to knit far into the night to accomplish this. Continued

Finally the spinning wheel rested during the day and the old loom was brought out from the store house and set to work, yard after yard of homespun cloth was woven and made into men's apparel. The neighbor women came in with their knitting and often took a turn at the loom or pressed a pair of trousers. Any woman who could be hired to help a few days was called in, every old lady who could knit a pair of socks was on hand to contribute her mite.

Mary would watch the great bag gradually fill with socks and clothing; then Uncle Roland would take it away in the night and an empty one would be in it's place. She thought all the things were being made for her father, but it puzzled her that he could wear such a number. Finally, she asked her mother why he needed so many clothes.

"My dear child." replied her mother, "your father wears very few of them. There are many poor men fighting who have no wives to make them clothes and if we could make a hundred times as many as we could not supply them all; but I believe we have saved many a poor man from suffering so much during the cold winter, and we will keep on doing all we can. This blue scarf I dyed the yarn for is for General George Washington. The red one is for your father. They will distribute the rest as they see fit. You have learned to knit garters so well, you may now learn to knit socks. When you have finished a pair I will put your name and age upon them and send them with the rest so whoever gets them will know there is a little girl working for the cause of freedom."

She commenced that very day and although the task was hard and tedious, and five needles were used instead of two, and she often dropped stitches which took her mother's time to pick up and put back on the needles, before the close of the war, she succeeded in knitting four pair of socks which were sent to those in need.

The peace which they had enjoyed at home did not last. The winter of 1780 and 1781 was a hard one. The British still held New York and sent troops into the surrounding country. Late in the fall of 1780 a company camped near Albany. News was brought of their approach and those known to be in favor of the rebellion hastily fled into the woods, taking a few provisions and wraps.

For three days the Thayer family with other women and children hid in the underbrush expecting hourly to be found and murdered but it was not the desire of the British to punish women and children with death although they pillaged their homes and took possession of anything they desired.

Roland Brown had carried clothing and provisions and spied on the on the enemy's camp. Although he was unaware of it's being known, the British were on his track; and when they camped at Albany they had a warrant for his arrest. Not knowing this, he met them boldly at his door when the officers came for him. There was not much ceremony about his trial. He had been convicted before he was caught and arrangements had been made for his disposal. His wife, thinking he would be set free, awaited his return. When the officers came back without him she was filled with terror and fell on her knees begging for her husband. "You are too late, madam. You should have begged your husband to be a loyal citizen. He was arrested for treason. If you wish to save your own life and that of your children leave these premises immediately and go tell your neighbors and friends who are traitors to the king that like fate will follow them."

Then before her eyes he set fire to her dwelling. She fled with her children from the terrible sight only to meet one more terrible. As she ran toward the forest she came face to face with the dead body of her husband hanging from the limb of a large maple tree. This was too much; she fell unconscious. The Redcoats returning from burning her home felt they had gone too far. They carried her to the Thayer dwelling which they had intended to burn on their departure but now spared as their hearts were pricked. Orders were given to bury the husband and little William stood by vowing to their faces he would kill every one of them when he got to be a man. They laughed at him and told him he would make a good soldier for the king someday.

When the Thayer family came back after the departure of the British they found their home had been pillaged and everything the troops could use had been taken. The bed had been stripped of its beautiful curtains as well as the covers and large feather tick. The four carved posts looked like sentinels to the children. Mrs. Thayer took the small tick from the trundle bed and eked it out with the remnants to fit the larger one. Another tick was made from the old shirts the soldiers had left and filled with the scattered hay they found. All that was left from their large stacks had been trampled under the feet of the invaders' horses. Mrs. Brown and her children were persuaded to remain with them and they worked together.

The sheep and cattle had been butchered and the pelts were lying around on the floors as though the Redcoats had made their beds upon them. All the good clothes of the doctor had been taken and old ones left in their places. One Redcoat, an officer's, was left. We still have in our family a pin cushion made from it. The provisions had all been taken even to the strings of dried apples that hung-in festoons from the rafters of the upstairs storeroom. There was hardly enough sweet to make a jug of vinegar left in the great barrel of homemade maple sugar which had been stored away for the winter.

A few un-dug potatoes had escaped the eyes of the intruders, as the vines were frozen down. There was no man to get to dig them for love or money; so the women went at the task themselves and the children carried them and stowed them away in the cellar. They were washed and eaten thankfully even without milk, meat, butter or fruit, all of which had always been very plentiful with them.

A happy surprise came to them in a few days in the form of the old cow, Pink, which had jumped over the rail fence in he[r] excitement when the British came with their uproar. She brought with her a young calf and with the milk she gave served to keep the two families alive during the winter. The woman and children gathered leaves and grass until the snow came, and stored them away for the cow. But everything gave out in February when the worst snow of the winter fell. Old Pink was fed the hay from the bed tick which kept her alive until a thaw came and uncovered the grass.

The children were kept busy pulling the wool from the sheep pelt. A share of it had hitherto been given to have the rest made into rolls for spinning. This could not be afforded now, so the rolls were all made by hand. After the rolls had been washed and fricked loose by the finger and again the hum of the spinning wheel was heard.

Ella Kohlhepp

Dictated by Minerva Wade Hickman to a daughter, Mary Ella Hickman Kohlhepp. Typed from Ella Kohlhepp's original July 9, 1965. Original in possession of Ella's daughter, Edna Kohlhepp Lisonbee.

The conclusion of this fascinating story will be in the next issue of The Thayer Quarterly. You won't believe what happened to the red sox that Mary made! Ed.

Historian's Report, Fall 1995

We are nearing the 5th anniversary our association's formation. Within the last three months, our wonderful Directors and Representatives have been working overtime in a concentrated effort to build up the TFA membership. We wish to extend our gratitude to all who have worked hard to inform other Thayer descendants of our existence. Our immeasurable gratitude goes to David Manville Thayer of Dundee, IL who has whole-heartily embraced the challenge of "Recruiting Chairman" for the TFA. David has spent considerable personal funds and charitable service to assist us the building up of the association. Many, many thanks, Dave!

I was privileged to make another research trip to Salt Lake City in October. This time the 1920 Arkansas census soundex microfilms were available. They had been sent for retakes and were inaccessible for over a year. The 1920 Thayer census extraction project is now truly complete with the addition of the 15 Thayer listings from that state. Also, while at the Family History Library, I took advantage of an opportunity to personally place a poster advertising our existence in the lobby and lunch room's bulletin boards. We would appreciate our members doing the same at their local family history libraries.

[PHOTO OF ROBERT WILLIAM THAYER REMOVED, COULD NOT REPRODUCE AN ADEQUATE ELECTRONIC COPY]

We wish to extend our appreciation to TFA photographer, Robert William Thayer, for his much appreciated service, and remind our readers to send their pre-1900 Thayer-related photos on to him for copying and inclusion in the forthcoming published genealogy. Our deadline is rapidly approaching, so please do not procrastinate this once in a lifetime opportunity.

We have at least 6 new Family Representatives to announce. It is so rewarding to see the enthusiasm and participation of these wonderful workers. One of our longest-serving Reps, Henry Jerome ("Jerome") Thayer and wife, Judy, drove all the way out from Virginia to meet with me this fall!

[PHOTO OF HENRY JEROME THAYER AND PATRICIA THAYER MUNO REMOVED, COULD NOT REPRODUCE AN ADEQUATE ELECTRONIC COPY]

At this writing, less than one dozen of the first published edition of The Tayer/Thayer/ Theyer Families of Gloucestershire, England books remain unsold. However, a second printing will go to press upon receipt of sufficient additional pre-payment orders. The news of this first Thayer publication is beginning to gain attention of many families. I have been pleased with the numerous letters of gratitude received from appreciative Thayer cousins. My hopes are that those seeking to assist in raising funds for the forthcoming multi-volume work will use the Gloucestershire Thayer history to generate financial interest and backing. My husband's journalism, marketing and publishing background encouraged me to step out with this first volume. I am pleased to report that all we had hoped for appears to be coming to pass. Families are showing increased interest, common ancestry is being examined and the membership of TFA is growing. Most important now, are those volunteering to assist in needed fund raising. If you are able to help in this area, please contact James Burdett Thayer, Paul Goodwin Thayer, or Raymond Alexander Thayer. (see address posted elsewhere in this publication.)

FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES

The following persons have accepted the TFA challenge to become family representative to the living descendants of the ancestors listed above their names. If you are a descendant of these Thayer ancestors, please contact your family representative to share information and bring each other up to date.

George Thayer (abt. 1706-) & Catherine Taliaferro/Tolliver (1720-1785).

Kevin Lynn Thayer
c/o Kent & Karen Cardon
285 Bridger Drive
Logan, UT 84321

George and Catherine were the progenitors of a large family of descendants who settled primarily in Fauquier County, Virginia. Kevin, and other descendants in this line have been looking for their connection to the Colonial Immigrants (Thomas, Richard and Nathaniel Thayer) for generations. He is investigating the possibility that George was a later immigrant from England.

Kevin Lynn Thayer

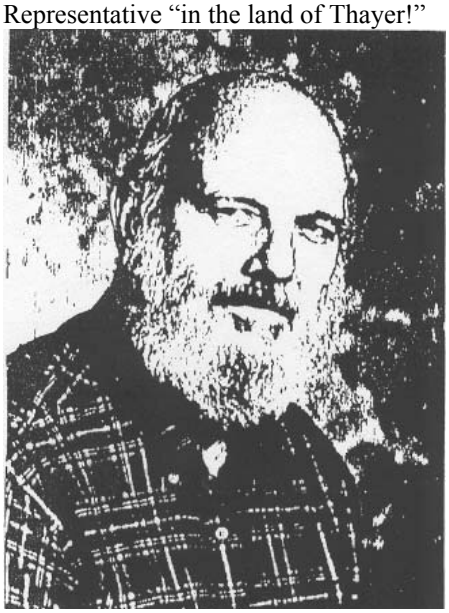
Dr. Stephen Thayer (1783-1852) & Sophia Carleton (1790-1831).

Edwin R. Johnston TFA Director
Eight Coach Road
Walpole, MA 02081-2103

Jonathan Barb Thayer (1856/7- abt. 1944) & Rozina Antonia Tauchen (1872-1941)

Robert Henry Thayer
304 Patio Place
Clinton, MS 39056-5380

Jonathan and Rozina's descendants settled mainly in the state of Indiana. This well organized branch of the Thayer family will be meeting again for a reunion in 1998. The last reunion was in 1994 and before that; 1945/46. Bob says he is looking forward to the new journey as Representative "in the land of Thayer!"



Robert Henry Thayer

Kingman Thayer (1787-1872) & Sally Smith (1792-1858).

Marge Thayer Gross
17919 Mahogany Forest
Spring, TX 77379

Freeman Albert Thayer (1845-1927) and first wife; Rebecca R. Mathews (1848-1888), and second wife; Grace Agnes Ostrander (1873-1934).

Mrs. Jan Lokensgard
Rt. 1 Box 91A
Park Rapids, MN 56470

[PHOTO OF JAN LOKENSGARD REMOVED, COULD NOT REPRODUCE AN ADEQUATE ELECTRONIC COPY]

Richard Leon (Dick) Thayer of 644 Lewis Ave., Billings, MT 69101 has agreed to serve as representatives for Thayers who served in the military. While visiting Braintree this past June the intense level of patriotism prevalent in our Thayer heritage became quite evident to me. It is obvious that many of our family members were military-minded individuals, with a large number of Thayer descendants serving to preserve freedom for all. Dick has agreed to coordinate efforts with other descendant who would like to share Thayer-related military information. If you have information to share, please write to Dick at the address above.

Richard Leon Thayer and son Bobby

Dick was educated at Montana State University earning a BS degree in Biology in 1971 and a ME degree in Education Administration with a Chemistry minor in 1972. Dick works as a Geologic and Chemical Consultant and his current contracts includes Exxon USA, Billings Refinery, as a quality control Chemist.

Patricia Thayer Muno

QUERIES AND OUR POLICY

Each newsletter will contain queries as space allows. The first priority for publishing queries will be to resolve disconnected Thayer families. Additionally, all queries must be submitted to the TFA Historian/Genealogist, Patricia Thayer Muno, 6885 SW 161 Place, Beaverton, OR, 97007-6336. Please include a SASE (self addressed stamped envelop) when writing to Patricia. If Patricia cannot answer your query she will forward it to the newsletter editor for publication in the next issue.

QUERIES

Wish to correspond with any descendants of Permentus Thayer and Eliza Ladue. My grandmother, Augusta Thayer was the youngest child in their family. Older siblings were; Adelia b. 1846, Albro b. 1848, George B. b. 1850, Andrew P. b. 1854, Allen b. 1856, Franklin b. 1859, and Charles P. b. 1862. The family resided in Dutchess Co., NY. All letters will be answered.

Ray Coyle
P.O. Box 1321
Modesto, CA 95353

Attempting to locate Christine Thayer whose father was an officer in Ankara, Turkey in 1960. The Ankara American High School class of 1960 is participating in a school reunion in August 1996 and would like to get in touch with Christine as soon as possible.

Dennis Wilson
2500 N. 42nd. St.
Seattle, WA 98103

Searching for former Sgt. Gene "Red" Thayer, who was stationed in Glochester, England, with the Strategic Air Command, USAF, in the early sixties. Gene is retired and cannot be found. I was only 5 months old when he left for America and I am 35 years old today. Confidentiality is required. Ms. Narine Jones, 98 Butts Rd., Scholing, Southhampton, Hants, S019 1BH UK.

Queries Continued

William Thayer Shaw is seeking information that will link his ancestor to one of the original Thayer immigrants. Bill's earliest known ancestor is Jonathan Joseph Thayer b. 1795 in Arlington, Bennington Co., VT, and died there in 1 May 1875. Jonathan married Polly Mosher b. abt. December 1812 in Jackson, and d. 29 May 1887 at Arlington, VT.

Jonathan and Polly had six children; Sarah b. abt. 1836, Anna b. abt. 1838, Isaac b. 29 June 1838, Harriet b. 1842, Ebenezer b. August 1846, and Harriet b. abt. 17 May 1851.

Anyone who can help Bill with this family is urged to contact him.

William Thayer Shaw
Creekside Forest
8411 NE 78th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32609

EPHRAIM THAYER

[PHOTO OF EPHRAIM THAYER PORTRAIT REMOVED, COULD NOT REPRODUCE AN ADEQUATE ELECTRONIC COPY]

Susan and Jay Kuten are looking for living descendants of Ephraim Thayer (1749-1836). Susan and Jay own this portrait of Ephraim Thayer which is currently on display at the Braintree Historical Society. They are hoping to find a living descendant interesting in buying the painting. If no one is found, the painting may be donated to BHS.

TFA Genealogist and Historian, Patricia Thayer Muno, has researched this line and believes that only one child of Ephraim, Lucinda, ever married.

Lucinda Thayer was born in 1793 and married Stephen W. Jackson, who was born in 1791. Lucinda's lineage is as follows: Lucinda[6], Ephraim[5], James[4], Ephraim[3], Shadrach[2], Thomas[1].

Susan & Jay Kuten
46 Burroughs St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Tel. 617-524-8330

BOOK REVIEW

By Richard A. Thayer, Editor

At last! The long awaited volume arrived. I had waited several months for my copy of Patricia Thayer Muno's latest book, *The Thayer-Tayer-Theyer Families of Gloucestershire, England 1500-1660* © 1995 Patricia Thayer Muno.

Physically, the book is in 8 ½ X 11 inch format, 133 pages. It is printed on 80 pound acid-free paper, hard bound with a red, Lavant Grain cover. This is a library quality book that will last for generations!

The earliest date I found in this book is 896 AD. Patricia gives us a very good development of the history surrounding the ancient home of our earliest known ancestors. Starting with the Norman Conquest, we follow the development of a rigid class system and speculate on the position of the earliest Thayers.

Perhaps the best glimpse of our ancestors comes from the 1608 Muster. The muster, decreed by James I, was an enumeration of able bodied men, what we might call a draft classification system in preparation for war. I won't give away all that is listed but as an example; Richard Tayer, a shoemaker, of the tallest stature, a pikeman, and John Tayer, of a lower stature, a caviler. I count 19 Thayers that are described in terms of age, stature, occupation, and military suitability.

Patricia continues to develop a firm foundation for us by describing the history Thornbury and what life may have been like for our ancestors. A large part of our ancestors' lives revolved around the church. Major life events were documented by well meaning but often illiterate clergy. Birth (christening), marriage, death, and burial records give us some help in trying to define family lineage. Very often christening records include the names of godparents but not parents! "King Henry VIII's first attempts to start a system of registration in 1536 were greeted with suspicion…the first volume of records for the church of St. Mary the Virgin does not begin until September of 1550."

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, once joined Thornbury Castle, is still standing and is included in several of the fourteen photographs contributed to this work by Richard Leon Thayer of Billings, MT. Two that I found most interesting are memorials inside the church. One is a marble plaque "In Memory of Hester Daughter of John Tayer…" The other is a memorial paving stone, "of Anne Tayer late of Thornbury…" Who were these ladies and why were they honored in this way?

Thornbury Castle is covered in some detail in this book. Designed in 1509-1510 and built by Edward Stafford, third Duke of Buckingham, the castle was never completed. Patricia uses several sources of information to describe the physical construction as well as the uses of the castle. Today the castle is a luxury hotel. and is the only Tudor castle in England operating as a hotel.

Now for genealogy. Patricia warns us in the forward that this "account is inevitably speculative…" With so few surviving clues it is a formidable task, but Patricia is a professional and sites all her sources and explains all assumptions. I doubt we will ever have a clearer picture of the lineage of our ancient ancestors.

The genealogy is divided in two chapters which describe the two main family clans: Thornbury and Brockworth. Both reconstructions span six generations and number more than one hundred individuals.

The Thornbury clan starts with John Tayer who is believed to have been born about 1500/1503. He married Constance (or Johanna) (_____). They had seven children, only two which produced further issue. It is this John Thayer who is the great-grandfather of brothers Thomas and Richard and sister Agnes who immigrated to America. John was also gr.-gr.-grandfather to Nathaniel Thayer, another familiar immigrant to America.

The Brockworth clan begins with Joan (_____) Theyer and a Mr. Theyer whose given name is unknown. They had five children, four of which produced further issue. Although none of the Brockworth line is known to have immigrated to America, we get the feeling we know much about them because of the wills they left behind.

Three Appendices deal with the Thayers throughout England, international distribution, and holders of the manner of Thornbury from 1066 to 1790. A complete index with birth and death dates, when available, ends this volume. I did find myself wishing for a map, especially since some boundaries have changed over the years.

I have read several accounts of our earliest ancestors and Patricia's is the only complete narrative. If you do not have this book, I highly recommend it.

CORRECTIONS

Reginald Thayer of Palisades, NY wrote to question the immigration date of Thomas Thayer listed as 1640 in the article on Barbara Bush in the Summer 1995 issue of TTQ. This article was reprinted in its entirety with permission of DAR. We believe Thomas Thayer immigrated by at least 1637. Thanks for your attention to detail Reginald!

[ ] represents text that was unclear in the paper issue and this is our best guess. END.