

the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

Spring 1997

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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.

Wendell Gordon Thayer

by Marilyn Thayer Revas

I have been asked by Tricia Muno to send some memories of stories told to me by my father, Wendell Gordon Thayer⁹, who was the son of Otis⁸ Trow Thayer. Otis' father was Edward⁷ Franklin (Frank) Thayer, (Edward⁶⁻⁵⁻⁴⁻³, William², Nathaniel¹). My father had wonderful stories that I never tired of listening to. His own life was somewhat interesting so I am including a short biography about him as well.

Daddy was born at the family ranch six miles west of Vale, Oregon on August 1, 1904. His father, Otis⁸ Thayer, in company with two associates had driven a buckboard overland from Nebraska about 1895. His mother (Mrs. Lennie Thayer), was left behind on a failing homestead in Nebraska until Otis could become reestablished in the West.

Grandfather was heading for Western Oregon but was so attracted to the Vale area that he took a job on the Mallett ranch. A year later he purchased the Glenn place where Daddy was born and where the family lived until 1920. Mr. Glenn had homesteaded the place and Grandfather was the second owner of record. In 1920, Grandfather purchased the Tom Bronsnan Ranch at Ontario and Daddy lived there until leaving for California in the fall of 1923.

Daddy's first school was the White Star schoolhouse west of Vale, which housed all eight grades. His brothers Glenn, Mert, Hugh, Verl, Dick and Ike also attended this school. At the beginning of the 1918-19 term, enrollment had dropped of until in that year there were only two students, Daddy and a girl. When ready for college, Daddy's first choice was the University of Oregon but inasmuch as the cattle business was defunct and the Thayer family's welfare was entirely dependant upon the price of beef, he decided to find a school where job opportunities seemed more promising.

As a result, he enrolled at UCLA, and found a job on the Los Angeles Examiner as a cub financial reporter. After completing a pre-legal course at UCLA, he attended Loyola University Law School for two and a half years, in addition to continuing newspaper work. In the spring of 1928, he left Law School to become Director of Public Relations for the Los Angeles Stock Exchange. His objective at that time was to establish himself in the stock brokerage business and in 1929 was presented the opportunity of joining the New York Stock Exchange firm of H. J. Barneson & Co. This was a promising opportunity at the time but the end result was the market crash of 1929 which not only put the firm into eventual dissolution but cut short the career of an embryo financier.



After this period Daddy worked within the oil industry and in 1935 became the Southern California Editor for the Wall Street Journal. For the next eight years, he held one of the most interesting jobs the newspaper profession had to offer. It covered the period of Hitler's rise in Europe which led to World War II and established Southern California as one of the World's great industrial centers.

His newspaper career was terminated in 1943 when Reese H. Taylor, president, Union Oil Company of California, requested he take on assignment as his assistant, working mainly on labor and government relation problems of the company.

In 1946, at the request of the member companies, he left the Union Oil Company to organize the Pacific Oil Institute, which

was formed in that year. This organization was concerned mainly with industrial relations matters and membership comprised the principle oil companies on West Coast.

We were living in LaHabra Heights during this era and Daddy met Richard Nixon whose family owned the grocery store where we shopped. He held Richard Nixon in great esteem and eventually became his Southern California head of finance for his campaign for Congress.

Daddy left the business world to buy a ranch in Yuma Arizona on which he planted 60 acres of lemons and an additional 80 acres of alfalfa and cotton. He became interested in the problem of water being shared with Arizona and Southern California so he became the director of the Feather River Project Association. It was in this capacity that he was working when he died at the early age of 52.

DADDY'S STORIES

On my grandfather's ranch when my father and his brothers were young there lived an old horse that allowed only children to ride him but would never allow an adult on his back. Whenever a traveling salesman came by my grandfather's favorite joke was to tell the salesman that he would buy any product the man was selling if he could ride the old horse that a couple of the kids were on. Seeing, what happened to be, a very docile animal, upon which small children riding, the salesman would be raring to go. That horse could buck off any professional bronco rider and would commence to do that as soon as the man got on it's back. My grandfather and the children would love this joke. They never felt sorry for the poor soul they had fooled.

Another favorite story, was when my grandfather drove his first automobile. He refused to take lessons from anyone saying that if he had driven a buckboard to Vale he certainly could drive a car. He bought the car and got it by himself to try it out. He was

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doing well traipsing over the prairie when a tree appeared in his path. He pulled back on the steering wheel and yelled "WHOA" and did not take his eyes off that tree. Of course, you run right into whatever you are looking at when driving and that is exactly what he did. He ran smack dab into that tree and, feeling a might chagrined, agreed to take a few driving lessons.

After meeting and marrying my mother, Letha Elmira Hunter, my father took her home to Vale to meet Grandmother and his brothers. She had grown up in Des Moines and had learned to ride in the English style of horseback riding though she was not particularly fond of those animals. The first night of their arrival they decided to have a family get-together at one of my uncle's houses. They saddled up all of their horses and rode over to my uncle's house. Upon dismounting, my mother looked around for a hitching post to tie her horse to and, finding none, tied him up to her new brother-in-law's fence. Daddy and his other brother's noticed what she was doing and without saying a word simply dropped the reins of their horses and took my mother up to the door to meet her new in-laws. In those days, in Oregon, horses were trained for the range where you simply dropped the reins and they stayed where they were left. Mother's horse had never been tied up in its life. When it discovered the constriction, it put up a terrible spectacle. It reared and bucked and whinnied and screamed and finally took off across the fields trailing the fence behind it. My mother was humiliated and embarrassed. My father and all of his brothers were howling with laughter. They thought it a grand joke akin to the one with the traveling salesman and the "kids" horse. I do not think my mother really forgave my father for playing this trick on her. Whenever he would tell the story she would blush and shake her head.

Marilyn Thayer Rivas
733 Dover St.
San Diego, CA 92109
619-488-3213

Thanks Marilyn for another outstanding family-related human interest story.

Readers: there must be several hundred more Thayer family stories out there. I need to hear from you to keep this newsletter going! Editor

Historian's Report, Spring 1997

By Patricia Thayer Muno

The formatting of A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America is about to commence, and the deadline is drawing near for the acceptance of any new genealogical information to be included in the forthcoming Thayer publication! I cannot guarantee that any information sent to me after 1 Jul 1997 will be received in time to be included in this unprecedented publishing project. In recent weeks, our dedicated Membership Chairman, Paul Goodwin Thayer, has helped me tremendously by contacting our TFA members whose names I did not recognize or who were known to have incomplete information in my computer files. We wanted to be certain that the genealogical data of the families of our wonderful members would assuredly be included in this monumental project. The response has been encouraging, and I wish to thank each of you who took time from your busy schedules to comply to this request for information.

Thayer descendants by the dozens will be returning to Braintree, Norfolk County, Massachusetts June 17th-21st to celebrate 360 years in America. In 1637, Thomas Thayer, first of the immigrating Colonial ancestors, came from Thornbury, Gloucester, England and eventually settled on 79 acres at Mt. Wolleston (now Braintree). He was followed by four years later by his brother, Richard, who also settled for a time in Braintree. In 1660, Nathaniel followed his two uncles to the New "World" and settled in Taunton, Bristol County, MA. Fifteen generations of American Citizens have come of these three colonial Thayer ancestors, and the genealogical information of near 50,000 of their descendants will be published in the forthcoming Thayer Genealogy!

The TFA officers and directors have been feverishly working behind the scenes making the necessary arrangements for the fast approaching Thayer Family Reunion and Annual TFA Meeting. This is the first time in history that the Thayer family has had the opportunity to attend a gathering of relatives on a National scale. Thanks to the meritorious foresight of our President, Albert Thayer Morton, we are able to perform the necessary toil and exertion of running an awesome Family Association behind the scenes so we can also socialize and enjoy on another's company during this exiting week. The event follows more than 6

years of planning and board meetings which was held annually in Braintree. Members are expected to be in attendance from all across the country, and several will be coming from as far as the West coast. This will be grand time to meet your Thayer cousins from all around the country!

The officers and directors will be in meetings of and on throughout most of the week, while fun things are being planned for those who are more interested in discovering their Thayer heritage and having fun exploring the "ancestral stomping grounds" in and around Braintree. The week's activities will culminate with the TFA Annual Board Meeting, which will be held from 10:00a a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 21st. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be followed by the annual dinner to be held at Amelia's in North Quincy, MA. A luncheon will be served earlier in the day at the Academy. Pre-paid tickets are required for both the dinner and the luncheon.

In March, I was privileged to meet in person with my Family Representatives, Marcia Thayer McGhee of St. Petersburg, Florida. (See picture Spring 1996 TTQ and story Winter 96/97 TTQ). Recognizing Marcia's expertise in organizing Family Reunions, I quickly drafted her to help us with our June event. Marcia enlisted the help of her cousin, Theresa Thayer Taitt of Detroit, Michigan and together, they have planned an exciting event for all! We will be holding a "Thayeritage Celebration" on Friday and Saturday June 20th and 21st, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Southworth Library, Thayer Academy in Braintree. We ask that all our reunion attendees join us in exploring our Thayer legacy, and sharing of memories, family photos, recollections, anecdotes, keepsakes, mementos, etc. Marcia and Theresa have contacted each of the Family Representatives encouraging them to participate. Please bring your Thayer treasures and plan on joining us for this exciting function!

We will also be collecting recipes for the forthcoming Thayer Cook Book undertaking to benefit the publishing project, so please bring your special recipes with you, which will then be passed along to our cookbook editor, Ralph Clinton ("Clint") Thayer of Waterford, CT. There will be a special prize for the individual who brings the most family recipes, and there will be door prizes offered at each of our

continued

major gatherings! Other events include a tour of the Freedom Trail in Boston.

Also, a proposed tour of the Mendon and Uxbridge areas is in the planning.

Although our wonderful association is still relatively in its infancy, we have experienced phenomenal growth in this last year. This has been largely due to the mass mailing project where we attempted to contact as many of the near 7,000 Thayer families residing in America today that we possibly could locate. The TFA home page (posted at <http://www.geocities.com/Haartland/Plains/4507/tfa.htm>.) has also been responsible for a large amount of exposure and resultant growth.

Of course not all of the Thayers in America descend from one of the three Colonial Immigrants. The TFA is a devoted to helping all the who carry the Thayer surname (and its spelling variations). An interesting letter was received recently from my correspondent, Colleen Thayer of Binghamton, NY. Colleen mentioned receiving information from a fellow cousin, Wayne Thayer of Ohio, that their earliest known ancestor, George Thayer, born about 1706, and progenitor of a large clan of Thayers who resided in the state of Virginia, may have been the son of William Thayer of England. Following is an excerpt from Colleen's letter of 5 May 1997.

"The information sent to me indicates that a William Thayer may have been the first Thayer to arrive in VA. George was probably his son. William Thayer was a convict who was deported from England to the colonies for his sins. It seems he stole 40 shillings, and the King's men did not take kindly to this act. My cousin, Wayne Thayer of Ohio, is a retired lawyer who was in England and researched some legal records. His time was limited and he wasn't able to come up with the name of the ship William sailed on. This is probably the reason no records exist here. Wayne feels that this record is still in England and can be researched."

There is only one new Family Representative to announce this term:

Susan J. Gardner
476 Union Street

Leominster, MA 01453-4144
e-mail: SueG476@aol.com

Sue will be representing the descendants of Bezer Thayer (1795 Milton, MA - 1854 Taunton, MA) and Melinda Brown (1796 MA - 1885 MA). Some interesting

**[PICTURE OF SUSAN J. GARDNER
REMOVED, COULD NOT REPRODUCE
ADEQUATE ELECTRONIC COPY]**

correspondence has come out of this challenge for Sue when Nick Hagen, of Mesa Arizona, ran across the TFA home page on the Internet. Nick's sister, Donna, married Robert Anthony Thayer¹¹ (William Alfred¹⁰, Frederico⁹, Charles Lawrence⁸, Bezer⁷, Bezer⁶, Richard⁵, John⁴, Richard³⁻²⁻¹). As a devoted brother-in-law, Nick was trying to help Bob find out something of his Thayer ancestors, so he promptly contacted our Internet chairman, Lee Thayer, who forwarded to me Nick's request for information. In the back of my memory was a question Sue had posted to me well over a year ago concerning whether or not I had heard of any Massachusetts Thayers who had settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the last century. Everything started to fit together, and with Nick's help, we were able to piece together the information on the descendants of one of Bezer and Melinda's sons, who did, indeed, settled in New Mexico. Charles Lawrence Thayer married as his 2nd wife, Guadalupe Ortiz and many of their descendants to this day reside in the Southwest.

**[PICTURE OF LARRY GENE THAYER
REMOVED, COULD NOT REPRODUCE
ADEQUATE ELECTRONIC COPY]**

I have also received a belated photo from Rep. Larry Gene Thayer, of Wauconda, IL. This picture was taken during Larry's Tai Chi class. His line of representation for the descendants of Winfield Scott Thayer and Clara Bell Howard was mentioned on page 4 of the Fall 1996 Thayer Quarterly newsletter.

Also pictured here is Roland Bradley Clark Jr. of Rosamond, California. Roland has been a kind friend of the TFA by performing any service that has been requested of him! Many many thanks to Roland for his help in various areas of need! Our special thanks also to Cyndi Thayer of Tucson, AZ for her dedicated help in scouting out new Thayer cousins through the Internet. Several of our new members have come to us a direct result of Cyndi's efforts. If you have E-mail and have not shared your address with us, please send to: TriciaMuno@aol.com

**[PICTURE OF ROLAND BRADLEY
CLARK, JR. REMOVED, COULD NOT
REPRODUCE ADEQUATE ELECTRONIC
COPY]**

Please remember to bring your Thayer recipes to the reunion with you or submit them to:

Clint Thayer
10 Quinley Way
Waterford, CT 06385-4128

I am widening the window of opportunity for submitting photographs to be included in the forthcoming comprehensive genealogy. Previously I had listed the cutoff date to pre-1900 pictures. The new date will be pre-1920 pictures. Please send your pictures to TFA Photographer:

Robert William Thayer
1194 Parkwood Blvd.
Schenectady, NY 12308

Your photographs will be copied and returned to you unharmed.

**UNPLACED THAYERS OF
NEW JERSEY**

By Patricia Thayer Muno

The table at the right is our complete list of unplaced Thayers that were born, married, died, or resided in the state of New Jersey. These families are in my unplaced files. This means that these families are not linked back to one of the original immigrant ancestors. Each couple listed may have children who were omitted from this list for brevity.

We need YOUR help in placing these families. If you can help connect just one of these families to an ancestor you could help hundreds of descendants find their "roots." If you have any information on one these families, please write me!

Patricia Thayer Muno
6883 SW 161 Place
Beaverton, OR 97007-6336

Recent Thayer Family Deaths

Elanor (Williams) Thayer, wife of Douglas Thayer, died 20 Mar 1997 in Phoenix, Arizona. She was born 26 Mar 1918 in Arlington, WA. She was buried in the Restlawn Cemetery in Salem, Oregon.

Evelyn (Mannerhan) Thayer, wife of Dewey Lorraine Thayer, died 22 Mar 1997 in Salem, Oregon. She was born 13 Jan 1914. She was buried in the Restlawn Cemetery in Salem, OR.

The two women were sisters-in-law, their husbands being brothers. They were the aunts of TFA member Mary Ann Basinger.

Betty (Laubscher) Thayer, wife of TFA member Thomas Lambert Thayer, and mother of TFA member, David Lambert Thayer of Blue Island, IL, died 4 Feb 1997 in St. Charles, IL. She was born 8 June 1928 in Gary Indiana.

Lawrence Elvin THAYER, died 13 Jan 1997 in Tucson, Arizona. He was the father of TFA member, Lonnie Eugene Thayer of Tucson. Lawrence was born 18 May 1922 in Frontier County, NE.

Horace Eugene THAYER, died 30 Dec 1996 in Stockton, California. He was the father of TFA member, Gene Dale Thayer of Stockton, CA. "Eugene" was born 29 Jul 1917 in Bremerton, Kitsap, WA.

CEMETERY MARKERS

At the right is a photograph submitted after my request for unusual or large THAYER cemetery markers or monuments. This photograph was submitted by TFA member.

Marcia J. Thayer
5332 Arlington Drive East
Hanover Park, IL. 60103-5571

UNPLACED FAMILIES FROM NEW JERSEY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>SPOUSE</u>
THAYER, Charles A.	1878	Adeline (____)
THAYER, Charles M/N.	1874	Mary E. (____)
THAYER, Clarence	1888	Mildred NEIL
THAYER, Eline A.	1854	Elizabeth S. (____)
THAYER, Elmer	1890	Belle (____)
THAYER, Emanuel	1892	Rachel (____)
THAYER, Ervin	1891	Ruth (____)
THAYER, Frank	1888	Mary FUSCHEN
THAYER, Fred	1886	Pauline (____)
THAYER, Fred F.	1885	Alice (____)
THAYER, George	1867	Nettie (____)
THAYER, Gerald R.	1870	Mary L. (____)
THAYER, Henry	1842	Mary Jane READ
THAYER, Henry J.	1861	Amelia R. (____)
THAYER, Henry N.	1862	Elsie (____)
THAYER, Henry W.	1866	Margery E. ROGERS
THAYER, John E.	1870	Margaret (____)
THAYER, John M.	1803	Catherine M. (____)
THAYER, John T.	1856	Mary M. (____)
THAYER, Leon	1878	Nellie (____)
THAYER, Martin	1840	Ellen (____)
THAYER, Nathan	1836	Elizabeth F. (____)
THAYER, Milton Gifford	1885	Nora Chasmore
THAYER, Walter J.	1882	Elizabeth CLUGSTON
THAYER, William B.	1836	Clarissa BRITTON

**[PICTURE OF
CEMETERY MARKER
REMOVED, COULD NOT
REPRODUCE ADEQUATE
ELECTRONIC COPY]**

This Monument, in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Parkersburg, West Virginia, contains the names of:
John Thayer d. April 7, 1883, age 50.
Campbell Findley, wife of John Thayer, 1838-1906.
Edwin B. Thayer b. Dec. 1, 1869, d. Jan. 23, 1895.
Camille Thayer Rhodes, 1869-1951.

My father-in-law, Walter E. Thayer reports that his father, John Thayer, Jr., was also buried there in 1924, but his name does not appear on the marker.

It seems my husbands grand-father, John Thayer, and his brothers owned a monument business called "Thayer Brothers" in Parkersburg, West Virginia, sometime around the turn of the century. Several generations of Thayers and in-laws were marble cutters. When we visited the cemetery we saw several monuments with statues on top, which said "Thayer Bros." In small print at the base of the stone.

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THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

BY TFA PRESIDENT
ALBERT THAYER MORTON

Fours years ago, when I first began working with the TFA, the organization was fueled by a handful of hardworking people committed to its success.

At that time, none of us could have guessed how electronic advances would further our goals -- but the willingness of early TFAers to embrace technology has propelled the Thayer Families Association forward at practically light speed.

Since 1993, membership has increased fivefold. The availability of computers, faxes, word processors and e-mail has made it possible for the some 600+ members of the TFA to communicate easily and frequently. Tasks that, in the past, took days of work by volunteers can now be efficiently accomplished using the computer. Issues for TFA officers and Board Members are addressed swiftly and not left to simmer. A TFA member asked me recently, "Can you imagine doing all this without e-mail?" My reply was a fervent, "It couldn't be done!"

Still, as we approach the Annual Meeting and look forward to seeing old friends, and meeting new ones we may already "know" through email, it occurs to me more strongly than ever that technology is nothing without people to drive it.

Without the desire and commitment of those who believe in the purposes of the TFA, we would have no e-mail network, no ability to quickly get a consensus on successful projects like the T-shirt sales, nor Lee Thayer's fine TFA homepage, nor the Newsletter. Surely I'm leaving out many other efforts made easier for TFA volunteers by their computers; but all are truly appreciated.

Appreciated no less are the volunteers who do it the "old fashioned way," with skills and strategies that are a match for any computer. A handwritten note or warm voice on the phone invaluable compliment the work achieved by technology.

With such tools at hand and willing volunteers who generously give time and energy to the TFA, it's safe to say that I expect our Annual Reunion and Meeting to be a tremendous success. We are doing things I never imagined in 1993, and all of us will have an opportunity in June to share new perspectives, ideas, and hops to enrich the TFA even more.

I sincerely look forward to seeing you there.

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

Our policy for queries is as follows: all queries will be submitted to TFA Historian/Genealogist Patricia Thayer Muno (see address on last page). If Patricia cannot answer your query, she will pass it on to the newsletter editor for publication. Queries will be published at the discretion of the Editor, with priority given to Thayer families.

QUERIES

Seeking information on ANNA THAYER, born 20 Jun 1757, Bellingham, Norfolk, MA. Married NORRIS COLLIER. Anna's parents were Isaac and Mary Thayer. Need death and marriage dates and place and information on her children, particularly JOHN COLLIER.

Patricia Thayer Muno has Anna Thayer's place of birth as Uxbridge, Worcester, MA, and her marriage year as 1791.

Donna Lenzinger
535 Perkins Way
Auburn, CA 95603



I am looking for my grandfather's past. Legend has it that he "walked away from home" in the state of Kansas and then turned up in California. His name was JOSEPH HERRIOT THAYER and was probably born around 1877. I assume that because my father, Robert Francis Thayer, was born in 1897. Joseph Herriot Thayer married Adele La Berge and had six children that lived. My father was the eldest. There is only one surviving child of that marriage and she is not able to help.

Patricia Thayer Muno reports that Joseph Herriot Thayer was born Jan 1865 in Canada.

Judith Thayer Gulson
P.O. Box 16
Kenwood, CA 95452



Who can help me learn more about the history of our related HAYWARD family? What are the titles of reference about them? Ferdinando Thayer (b. 1625) married Huldah Hayward (b. 1636). Huldah Hayward's maternal grandmother may have been Margery Thayer. Huldah had a brother Samuel Hayward. Was he one who settled in Mendon, MA and was honored as a founder of the town with Ferdinando Thayer?

Patricia Thayer Muno writes: "Here is what I have for the mother of Huldah Hayward:

Name: Margery KNIGHT
Birth: Abt 1614 Place: England
Marr: 10 Oct 1633 Spouse: William HAYWARD (Immig. 1637)
Death: 18 Jul 1676 Place: Braintree, Norfolk, MA.
Father: William KNIGHT
Mother: Anne IVES

Notes: Some researchers believed that she was a Thayer and that her father was Thomas Thayer, but this is yet unproven. Sprague states she is thought to be Margery Knight or Harding (no proof). Rixford Beals states she was born abt 1614, possibly London, England. Waldo B. Lyon states she may have been a Thayer or a Barron and gives his source as "Torrey."

"And this is what I have for her brother Samuel Hayward:

Name: Samuel HAYWARD
Birth: 4 Jun 1643 Place:
Marr: 28 Nov 1666 Spouse: Mehitabel THOMPSON
Death: 29 Jul 1713 Place: Mendon, MA
Father: William HAYWARD
Mother: Margery KNIGHT
Notes: His data from Waldo B. Lyon of Framingham, Mass. in a letter to me Nov 1992.

I would probably say that this Samuel Hayward did, indeed settle in Mendon, in-as-much as he died there. Whether or not this was the only Samuel Hayward there, is out of my area of experience. However, I would suggest that he probably was."

If you can help with research on this HAYWARD line, please contact:

Gerald M. Church, Ph.D.
20414 Woodsong Court
Humble, TX 77346



Both Patricia Thayer Muno and your TTQ Editor, Rick Thayer, will be traveling to Boston for our family reunion and annual meeting. I know I can speak for Tricia and say that we both look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. We have corresponded with so many of you! We want to meet you in person! Please come to Boston in the Springtime! Tricia will arrive June 17th and I will arrive on the 19th. Editor

CHALLENGES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

By Andrew Bobby Newell

Hello, I'm Andrew Bobby Newell, the grandson of slaves on both sides of my father's line. I'm the great-grandson of Edward Reese Thayer, son of Lyman Thayer, both resided in Pickensville, Pickens Co., SC. I haven't been successful in determining Edward's status prior to 1865 (emancipation) in relationship to him being a slave or free. Lyman of course was free (Caucasian) and he was given as father on Edwards death certificate. I grew up in Pickens Co., SC, under the rules of segregation in all areas of life, public and private.

The single most difficult problem for African American research is lack of recorded information pre-1865, such as name, age, etc., in the census and church records. Prior to 1865 most African Americans in the country were slaves and at the time, were thought to be less than or not equal to other humans. They were treated in all respect as property, much the same as livestock and not as human beings, therefore if they were listed in the census at all, they were recorded in the slave schedules in some states only by color, age, gender and the number of slaves that fit that category. If they were recorded in a household they were recorded under the slave owners name but they were not listed by name. In order for the African American to trace his or her ancestry prior to 1865, several pieces of information are needed, the slave owners name, and where he lived. We then have to start researching the slave owners history, looking for references in deeds, wills, tax records, any public records where he may have recorded the names of his slaves, another document if they were preserved, would have been plantation records. If the owner owned a plantation, bills of sale, slave auction announcements, etc. The slaves were frequently sold and separated from their families, children from their parents and vice versa. As my great-grandmother on my fathers side was. She verbally told my grandmother that she was sold away from her parents, brothers and sisters in Bedford, VA when she was eight years old. She had several owners after that, the last one in SC. She never saw her family again. She died at the age of 84 in South Carolina. I can't trace her siblings because I don't know the surnames to look for and being slaves moved about because they were sold to owners from different counties and states, it's difficult to know

where to look. The slaves usually took the owners surname but not always. It is very interesting to note the post emancipation, it wasn't unusual for slaves to reverted back to a prior slave owners, if the present one was particularly cruel, they would use the surname of one that treated them the best.

For all immigrants coming to this country life was difficult. But for the Africans who came in chains, once they arrived, everything was stripped from them, such as language, names, and culture, making it virtually impossible to trace ones family beyond these shores. Slaves lost most of their family ties, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers, and even sometime their wives and their children. Even if they came across them years later they may not have known them. As you can see record searching can be very difficult, slow and painful at best. There are some church membership records throughout the slave states.

Some plantation owners were God fearing as recorded in some written documents and forced all their slaves to join the church. That's why some of the church's of the early days had balconies, the slaves had to sit in the balconies so as not to mingle with the rest of the congregation. These records are found in some of the Caucasian church membership records of that period. There were practices whereby the female slaves were forced to have children by a Caucasian to produce a light or fair skinned child with European features, thusly the terms: mulatto, quadroon, octaroon, mustafino, were terms for describing the slaves by the amount of white blood the slave contained. They were valued high on the slave market, because the owners wanted them for the household service and not for field hands. These records are sometimes found in plantation records but if the owner parented these children, sometime those records are never made public if they still exist at all.

Our early ancestors didn't leave a lot of written treasures because as slaves they were not permitted by slave laws to learn to read or write and if they were caught trying to learn they were seriously punished, the reason for this was, it made running away more difficult. However some owners would sneak and teach some of their slaves or slave that they may have been close to, to read and write. For most of us a great deal of our history is recorded by word of mouth. Our parents repeated the families histories as told to them by their parents and so on. As cousin Raymond Brooks shared with you (African American Indians). We were

also frequently recorded wrong in the census, if there was native American blood involved, a number of tribes accepted run away slaves into full membership and standing in their tribes, they married had children and in some cases became leaders in those tribes as documented by William Loren Katz in his book "BLACK INDIANS - A HIDDEN HERITAGE." Sometimes full blooded Indians, if they were dark, were recorded as blacks. Sometimes if they were mixed with blacks they were recorded as mulatto.

Blacks would often try and sometimes successfully buy their wives freedom from the slave owner by some arrangement. The reason for this was in most slave states if a child was born of a free mother the child was also considered free even though the father wasn't.

Slaves didn't have marriage records recorded, as the custom was for the slave owner to give permission for the marriage, which in no way guaranteed that they wouldn't be sold separately away from each other. The wedding consisted of the slave owner providing a new broom and the bride and groom jumped over it.

Of course out of this came some of the old saying, "a new broom sweeps clean", and we've all heard the phrase "jump the broom" a phrase that was passed down. My great-grandfather (Dock Newell and wife Hattie Hall, half Cherokee) were allowed to remain together as married slaves for 12 years until emancipation, at which time they were freed. The master married them by having them jump the broom. That was their marriage ceremony along with extra food.

Civil War records through WWII records for African American may present some of the same problems in terms of complete information and preservation of records.

During the Civil War a lot of important genealogy documents and records, town, city and personal records were destroyed by fire. It was a tactical move by the military to burn the towns as they went through them, by doing this they burned the resources of their adversaries.

I've written about some of the problems with doing black genealogy along with an explanation that caused some of those problems. I'm sure I haven't covered all of the problems one might face. In my closing remarks on this subject, I would like to remind our readers that, "Of all the immigrants that came to these shore,

continued page 7

**AFRICAN AMERICAN
GENEALOGY (continued)**

that the African was the only one that was stripped of his name, culture and religion," therefore it's near impossible for us to make a connection to the other side of the ocean, Unless we are as fortunate as Alex Haley was. Personally, I'd like thank all the officers, leaders and cousins of the TFA for having the vision, the depth of understanding and the love of family to have made a very bold and wonderful decision to search for and include all of us, accepting how our ethnicity was determined. You have made a grand and wonderful example to all of society and the rest of this country. May God continue to bless you in that you do. Cousin Andrew Bobby Newell.

Andrew Bobby Newell
1813 Rutherford St.
Rahway, NJ 07065-5217
e-mail: 74447.551@compuserve.com

Bobby Newell's picture appeared in the Fall 1996 TTQ. Thanks, Bobby, for another valuable insight into African American genealogy. Ed.

CORRECTIONS

The following items are offered as corrections to the Winter 1996/97 TTQ newsletter.

Family Representative, Lonnie Eugene Thayer's correct occupation is: Security Policeman for the United States Air Force. His correct address is:

Lonnie Eugene Thayer
6721-A Saratoga Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85708
e-mail: Rodeodust@AOL.com

Family Representative, Bruce Erroll Thayer, representing the line of: Martin P. Thayer (1822 Litchfield Co., CT - 1860 WI) and Elmira Collar (1830-1887). His correct address is:

Bruce Erroll Thayer
ToRoy Farm
W-14101 County Road B
Fairchild, WI 54741
e-mail: ToRoyFarm@AOL.com

Please send any and all corrections to the Editor:

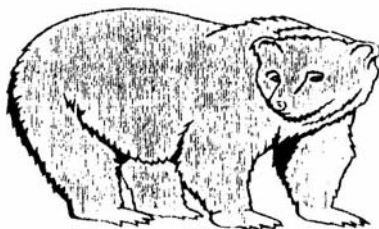
Richard A. Thayer
2885 John Carlson Rd.
Bremerton, WA 98311-4003
e-mail: RickThayer@AOL.com

**JACK THAYER
KILLED BY A BEAR**

Submitted By Rodney Lee Thayer

"It was a cold rainy day, October 16, 1929-one of those dark days so common to Southeastern Alaska."

So starts the story of Jack Thayer who was killed by a bear that day while on a survey crew for the Forestry Service. The article appears in the August 1971 issue of *ALASKA* magazine. The article tells us too little about Jack Thayer for us to find his lineage. He was a native of Rainier, Oregon and a forestry graduate of Oregon State University.



CONTEST!

I would like to do a more complete story on Jack Thayer. Before I reveal the details of this tragic bear attack on one of our cousins, I would like to have his lineage. I am offering a free Cumulative Name Index to The Thayer Quarterly to the first person who can give me Jack Thayer's date of birth and identity of his parents. Contact the Editor at the address listed at the bottom left corner of this page.

"A lake and a stream on Admiralty Island bear Thayer's name and keep alive one more memory of the too-often repeated tragedy of man meeting bear too unexpectedly in the wilderness." Harold Smith, *ALASKA* magazine, 1971.



TFA T-SHIRT PROJECT

TFA T-SHIRT PROJECT chairperson Judith L. Young-Thayer reports 247 T-Shirts have been sold and only 52 remain to be purchased! Place your order now!

Judith L. Young-Thayer
311 Willow Oaks Blvd.
Hampton, VA 23669-1531

Whitney Eugene Thayer

Submitted By James Burdett Thayer

From International Cyclopedia of Music & Musicians - Edited by Oscar Thompson, 10th Edition, 1975:

"Thayer, Whitney Eugene (born - Mendon, Mass., December 11, 1838, died Burlington, Vt. June 27, 1889). American organist and composer. With John Paine, his teacher, he was chosen to play at the opening of the organ at Boston Music Hall on November 2, 1863. In 1865 he went abroad for further study and studied organ and counterpoint with Wieprecht. After he returned to Boston, he occupied positions as organist at the Arlington Street, Hollis Street, Old First Unitarian and Harvard Church in Brookline. From 1881-86 he was organist at the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York. He then spent a year at Holy Trinity in Harlem. From 1868 he gave many recitals in the U.S. and abroad. He edited the Organists' Journal and Review and the Choir Journal and Review and also conducted the Boston Choral Union and the New England Church Music Association. He received the degree of Doctor of Music from Oxford. His works include a Festival Cantata for solo, 8-part chorus and orchestra, a Mass in E Flat, a fugue for organ, five organ sonatas, organ variations for two performers on the Russian National Hymn, many separate organ pieces, songs, part-songs, and a School of Organ Playing. In 1876 he opened a private organ studio in Boston which was one of the first of its kind in America."

Patricia Thayer Muno provides the following lineage:

Whitney Eugene⁸, Perry⁷, Elijah⁶, Benjamin⁵, Aaron⁴, Benjamin³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹ Thayer.

Whitney Eugene Thayer married Elizabeth D. Eaton (b. 1842). They had the following children: Maud (1866-1866), Louise Friedel (b. 1871), Lottie E. (1872-1872), Helen G. (b. 1874), Arthur F. (b. 1877).

**CUMULATIVE NAME INDEX
TO THE THAYER QUARTERLY**

Now over 70 pages, and 4,413 entries (before this issue is added), this name index lists every occurrence of every persons name appearing in past issues of this newsletter along with birth and death dates, (when available). Your copy will include this issue as well. Make check for \$10 payable to TFA and mail to: TFA, P.O. Box 12, Braintree, MA 02185-0012.

General Bezaleel Thayer

By Richard A. Thayer, Editor

Bezaleel⁸ Thayer was born 27 SEP 1795. He was the son of Bezaleel Thayer and Sarah Johnson. His lineage is as follows: Bezaleel⁸, Bezaleel⁷, Reuben⁶, Isaac⁵⁻⁴⁻³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹.

General Bezaleel Thayer is perhaps best known for his genealogy of the Thayer Family; *Memorial of the Thayer Name, From Massachusetts Colony of Weymouth and Braintree, Embracing Genealogical and Biographical Sketches of Richard and Thomas and their Descendants, from 1636 to 1874*. Published 1874 in Oswego, NY by R. J. Oliphant, Steam Book and Job Printer.

This gigantic work is 708 pages long with over 4,625 families listed. It is difficult to estimate how many individuals are listed in this book because Bezaleel's numbering system only assigned numbers to those who married. Thus, we could immediately double the number above to 9,250 to account for the spouses listed.

In this large genealogy Bezaleel reveals very little about himself. His own entry is very brief. He married Margaret House on 4 July 1816 and settled in Salt Spring Hollow, Town of Springfield, Otsego County, NY. He was a manufacturer of woolen goods. In 1819 he moved to Mexico, Oswego County, NY. He continued in manufacturing until he retired in 1856. Bezaleel reports he started this genealogy in 1859. Bezaleel and Margaret had 5 of their own children between 1818 and 1832, the last two children being twins. In 1822 they adopted Jane Edwards who was born 15 AUG 1815. I have no information on Bezaleel's title of "General."

Unfortunately, this genealogy has the poorest index I have ever seen and is full of errors. Some have dubbed it as "the disaster of 1874." I have chosen to be a little bit more charitable than that. Can you imagine undertaking such a written work without the benefit of a computer?

According to my encyclopedia the first commercial typewriter was not available until 1874. We may safely assume Bezaleel did all his work by hand!

I first encountered this genealogy early in my own research. I thought I had found a gold mine. Fortunately I started corresponding with Patricia Thayer Muno, so long ago, it was before I knew of TFA. Patricia set me straight on the errors of the Bezaleel genealogy. Also, Patricia had taken it upon herself to completely index this genealogy. With the aid of a computer and her genealogical training,

Patricia has corrected hundreds of errors. Her first book on Thayers was: *Some Notes On Corrections And Some Possible Record Problems In The Thayer Genealogy Of 1874 and Index Of Family Heads In The Thayer Genealogy Of 1874*, copyright 1992. This book was an absolute must for anyone trying to use the Bezaleel genealogy. Patricia had 44 pages of corrections and 8 separate indexes; male Thayer family heads, female spouses, female Thayer family heads, male spouses, male heads of unplaced families, spouse of unplaced male Thayers, female heads of unplaced Thayer families, and spouses of unplaced female Thayers. This is how to index a genealogy!



General Bezaleel Thayer

Where does all this impressive work leave us today? I am sure Patricia would agree that no one should use Bezaleel's genealogy for research work. You might wish to look it over for what it was originally called back in 1874, a monument to the Thayer name. We must all keep this in mind while doing our own research and correspondence with others that are just starting to look for their Thayer ancestors. There is only one, world wide authority on the Thayer Family, our own Genealogist/Historian, Patricia Thayer Muno. We must look forward to and fully appreciate the forthcoming *A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Families of America* that Patricia is starting to index now. With nearly 50,000 Thayers lineage linked to their immigrant ancestors, this will be the most important genealogy the Thayers of the world have ever known!

Many of us think that more information is available to researchers than ever before. Access to information has certainly improved with the use of the computer. But readers beware! The United States Census, a primary research tool of genealogists, contains less and less information as the years go by. I continue to read articles in the genealogical community about public records and libraries being removed from public access. We must ensure that our own genealogy is preserved for our descendants! There is no better way to do this than to support TFA and one of our main missions - to support the forthcoming comprehensive genealogy!

CORRECTIONS TO GENEALOGIES IN PRINT

By Patricia Thayer Muno

The following corrections should be made by all holders of my Richard, Thomas, and Nathaniel Thayer books. If any of our readers finds one of these books in a library, please notify the librarian and provide a copy of this page.

Descendants of Thomas Thayer:

- 1.) Page 4: Dighton Thayer (born 1840) was a son of Lemuel and ANNA (____) and NOT a son of Hiram Thayer and Ann Carver. This would make Dighton a brother rather than a son of Hiram.
- 2.) Page 8: The Zephaniah Thayer who was the son of Ebenezer Thayer and Rachel Wales died in 1747 (about age 10). The Zephaniah Thayer who married Prudence Loomis was a son of William Thayer and Sarah Keith on page 283. Both Zephaniah's were born about 1737.
- 3.) Page 73: Samuel Thayer, born abt. 1784, married Huldah Crossman may be in error as the son of Amasa⁵ Thayer and Perley Wheelock (William⁴, Thomas³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹). Sprague believes he was instead a son of Abijah⁴, John³, Jonathan², Nathaniel¹, and should therefore appear in the Nathaniel book on page 19.
- 4.) Page 221: Rufus Thayer was erroneously published as a son of Nathan Thayer and Catherine Draper. He is duplicated in the Nathaniel Descendants book on page 19. Rufus evidently had 3 marriages, (marriage to Clarissa not proven.).
- 5.) Page 257: Mandeville L. Thayer married 2nd Annie L. Durgin in 1894. Children Beulah and Verna are from Mandevilles 2nd marriage rather than the 1st.

Continued

Descendants of Thomas Thayer:

6.) Page 283: The Oliver Thayer who married Lydia Collins was NOT the son of Oliver Thayer and Mindwell Bartlett. That Oliver is presently “unplaced.” The Oliver who was the son of Oliver and Mindwell married Anne () and appears on page 78 in “Some controversial Families...” The two Olivers should switch places!

Descendants of Richard Thayer:

- 1.) Page 14: Joseph Warren Thayer (b 1815 DIED SINGLE. The Sophia B. Loring shown as his wife was instead, the wife of Joseph Williams Thayer, who was the son of Warren K. Thayer on page 81 of “Some Controversial Families...”
- 2.) Page 88: The Albert W. Thayer who married Jessie and was the father of Irene, Ralph & Carlton was NOT a son of George Washington Thayer. He was instead a son of Whitman M. Thayer and Sarah J. Reynolds on page 69 of the same book.
- 3.) Page 120: The Gideon Thayer who married Phebe Harris was NOT the son of Gideon (“short Gid”) and Betsey. Their son, Gideon, died about age one. The Gideon who married Phebe is presently “unplaced.”

Descendants of Nathaniel Thayer:
(Section I)

- 1.) Page 19: The Rufus Thayer listed as a son of Abijah Thayer and Betsy Murdock is one and the same as Rufus who married Fanny Moulton. Rufus and Fanny’s children erroneously appear in my Thomas descendants book on page 221.
- 2.) Page 19: Abijah Thayer and Betty Thayer probably also had a son Samuel Thayer who was born about 1784 and was the husband of Huldah Crossman. He was published, probably erroneously, in the Thomas Thayer descendants book as a son of Amasa⁵ (William⁴, Thomas³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹) and Perley Wheelock on page 73. (Previous placement was based on Ravenscroft.)

Some Controversial Families
(Section II)

3.) Page 69: The Ezra Thayer who married Armorillious Dunning is thought to be the son of Elijah Thayer and Anna Cady and they appear on page 65 of Thomas Thayer descendants book. If correct, Ezra’s lineage therefore would be

as follows: (Elijah⁵, David⁴, Thomas³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹.)

4.) Page 70: Isaac Thayer who married Nancy Cloon is thought to be the son of Benjamin Thayer and Jane Clark who appear on page 120 of Richard Thayer descendants book. If this is correct, then Isaac’s lineage would be (Benj.⁵, Daniel⁴, Nathaniel³, Richard², Richard¹).

5.) Page 71/72: The Jacob Thayer who married “Miriam” is on and the same as the Jacob Thayer who married Mary Orcutt and was the son of Jacob and Abigail on page 76 of the Descendants of Richard book. The correct lineage of Jacob⁶ was (Jacob⁵, Daniel⁴, Nathaniel³, Richard², Richard¹). Much of the info on these two pages is inaccurate because it was taken from the erroneous Thayer Genealogy of 1874.

6.) Page 76: Oliver Thayer (born about 1740) married Sarah Bissell and was the son of William Thayer and Sarah Keith who appear in the Thomas Thayer descendants book on page 283. His lineage is as follows: (William⁴, William³, Shadrach², Thomas¹).

7.) Page 78/79/80: The Oliver Thayer who married Anne was the son of Oliver Thayer and Mindwell Bartlett on page 283 in the Thomas Thayer descendants book. The lineage if Oliver⁵, who married Anne would therefore be (Oliver⁴, William³, Shadrach², Thomas¹).

CEMETERY MARKERS

Continued from page 4

Raymond Alexander (Rick) Thayer, TFA Secretary Treasurer, submitted the below picture. This rather gruesome marker is on the grave of Richard² Thayer (1624-1695) son of the immigrant Richard¹ Thayer (1601-1664). The grave site is in Quincy MA, next to the City Hall.

SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to give special thanks to Raymond Alexander (Rick) Thayer for his diligent efforts to ensure that the Thayer Family Reunion and TFA annual meeting is a success. As your Editor I am on-line every day receiving news of your Thayer Families Association. As such I am fully qualified to report to you that Rick has spent many hours planning for this special event. He has sought out every opportunity to get us publicity and recognition. Thanks to Rick, our association will be covered in the local newspapers. The town of Quincy is debating naming the week of our meeting “Thayer Week”, if not already done. There is also a strong possibility that we will have television coverage. If I am premature in making these announcements, it is due to having to go to press. **THANKS RICK!!**

END.

