

# the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

Spring 1998

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May

www.ThayerFamily.com

346 Washington St. PMB #310 Braintree, MA 02184-4702

Volume 6, Issue 2

**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.**

## Global Thayers

by

Richard A. Thayer, Editor

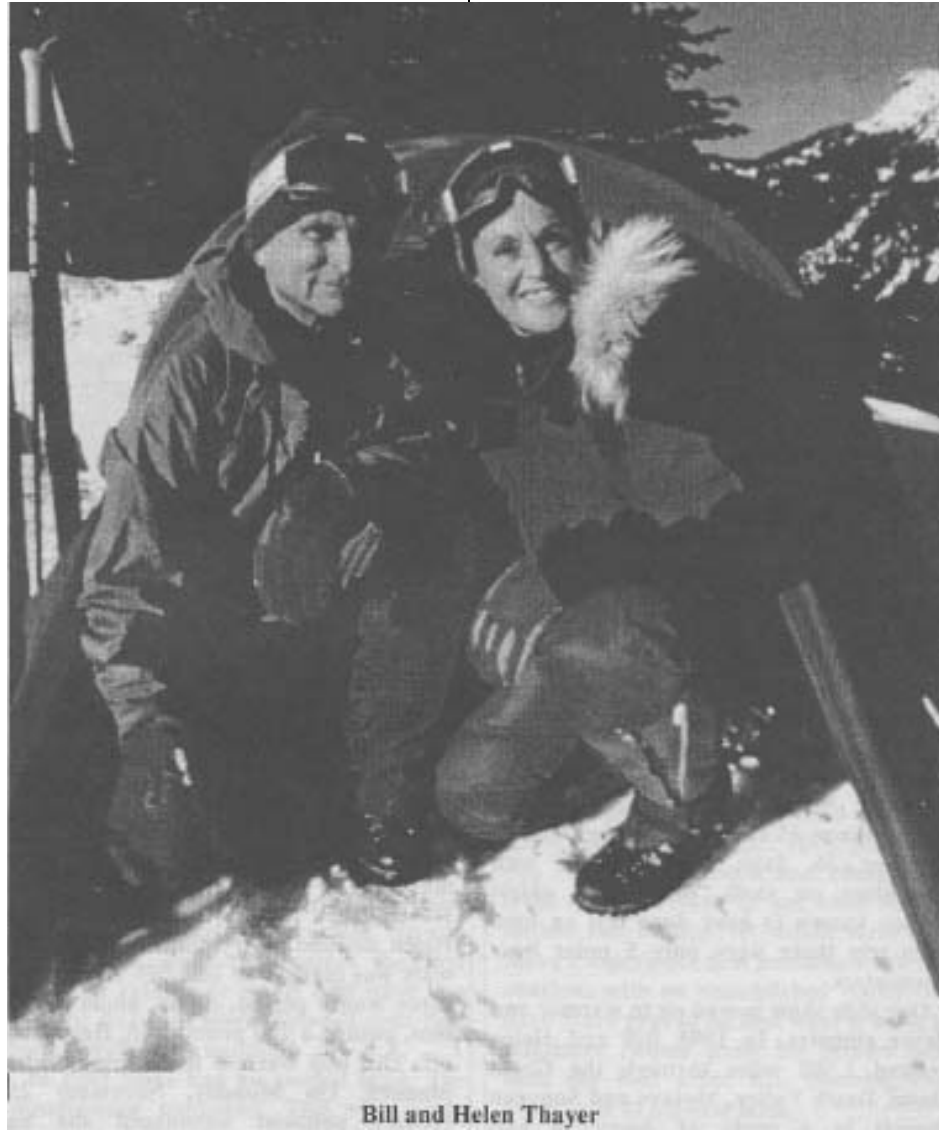
On May seventh I traveled from my home in Bremerton, WA to Seattle to meet two Thayers who are without a doubt the most traveled Thayers in history. From the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the Amazon to the Sahara, by land, sea, and air, they have done it all!

I arrived in Seattle at 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM slide show and talk by Helen Thayer. As I entered the building, I immediately recognized Helen and Bill Thayer in the hallways. I had seen Helen and Bill's pictures on the internet, where I first learned of the remarkable journeys of this couple. It was serendipitous as I had first contacted Helen by phone only two days earlier.

I gave Bill several back issues of *The Thayer Quarterly*. Unfortunately Bill had ordered *The World Book of Thayers* from Halberts, a book we have repeatedly warned our members about. We do not have Bill's Thayer lineage at this time, but I hope to have it to you in a future issue. Bill was born in Oklahoma in 1927 and his father, William Gnash Thayer was born in Kansas about 1886. Do any of my readers recognize this line?

Helen was born in New Zealand in 1938 to Ray and Margaret Nicholson. (She still has a delightful accent). She relates growing up with a famous neighbor, Sir Edmund Hillary, first person to climb Mount Everest. Sir Hillary has been a life-long inspiration to Helen, as well as her parents who were both accomplished climbers. Helen was thrilled at the age of 9 when she was finally allowed to accompany her parents on a climb of Mount Egmont, "if she could carry her own pack." Helen made it and went on to climb many mountains.

I excused myself from Bill and Helen and went in to an adjoining book store to purchase my ticket for the talk. I also purchased Helen's



Bill and Helen Thayer

book, *Polar Dream* (© 1993, Helen Thayer), with hopes of getting Helen to autograph it. I was among the first to enter the auditorium and chose my seat on the center aisle. I was pleased to see the room fill up with about 400 persons. I was quite surprised to see that the vast majority of the audience was of retirement age. Helen and Bill are of retirement age, but age has not even slowed this remarkable couple.

Helen was introduced and stood at a lectern to the left of the stage. Bill manned the slide projector up in the balcony and the program was under way. Helen began by describing her country of birth and her childhood. Early encounters with Sir Hillary would have a life long effect on Helen. Besides mountain climbing, Helen had a strong desire to represent New Zealand in international sports. At 5' 3" Helen decided on the discus. Never to be short on planning, Helen met with a top

### Global Thayers (continued)

coach who laughed and told her she was too small. Helen would not be deterred and developed into a world class athlete. She represented three countries in the discus; New Zealand, Guatemala, and the United States. In 1975 Helen won the USA national luge championship, gained All American honors, and represented the USA in Europe. Bill tried his hand at the luge, winning a silver medal in a European championship, but decided it was too risky. Bill is a helicopter pilot and, unlike an airplane, a helicopter requires the full time use of two hands and two feet. The luge was just too risky.

After a few moments of introduction the slide show began. We were treated to pictures worthy of National Geographic but had the added benefit of hearing narration from the photographer, Helen. The majority of the presentation was about Helen's solo trip to the magnetic North Pole. In 1988, at the age of 50, Helen became the first woman to travel alone to the magnetic North Pole. She did this on foot, pulling a 160 pound sled of her own provisions, Her only help and companion was Charlie, a Canadian Eskimo Husky, necessary for protection from polar bears.

Helen always does her homework and always has a plan. She reminded us several times during the evening that "a goal is only a dream if you don't have a plan." Helen spent time living with the Inuit in Alaska, learning the ways of the arctic, the snow, the ice, and the polar bears. The complete narration of this month long journey of 364 miles, on foot, in some of the harshest conditions in the world is in her book; *Polar Dream*.

Oh, and the polar bears? There were seven encounters on this trip and Charlie saved Helen's life at least once. Helen did have a rifle and a flare gun, but desperately wanted to avoid shooting a bear. Charlie now lives with Bill and Helen and "what Charlie wants, Charlie gets."

Helen and Bill would return to the magnetic North Pole together. In 1992 with Bill 65 and Helen 54 they walked together 36 days, pulling their own provisions on sleds. Bill is the oldest person known to have done this on foot. This trip there were only five polar bear encounters.

Our slide show moved on to warmer and dryer climates. In 1995 Bill and Helen walked 1,500 miles through the Great Basin, Death Valley, Mojave and Sonoran deserts in a study of North American and Mexican deserts. You might say this was just a training walk. In 1996 Bill and Helen walked 1,400 miles across the Sahara desert without guides or outside resupply. Helen became the first woman to make this crossing.

Again, from one extreme to another. In 1994 Bill and Helen were the first to kayak two remote rivers in the Amazon jungle. For this trip of 1,200 miles Bill and Helen learned to

live off the land. They lived with stone-age natives and photographed three species of plant unknown to science and one thought to be extinct. It was on this trip that Helen described their closest brush with death. The natives had warned them of swarms of wasps. One day Bill and Helen ran into a swarm and were stung so badly they had to ditch their kayaks and dive underwater to escape the wasps. When the immediate danger passed they found themselves to be short of breath and suffering from an allergic reaction. Fortunately their first aid kit was equipped with syringes of a drug that counteracted the wasp venom.

**"A goal is only a dream if you don't have a plan."**

1994 was a busy year. Bill and Helen returned to the Arctic walking 600 miles from the Arctic Circle to the Arctic Ocean in a study of wolf living habits and family structures. Carefully taking cues from Charlie, Bill and Helen gradually move their tent closer and closer to a wolf den. They found they could camp within 50 feet of the den opening without upsetting the wolves. Helen had remarkable photographs to prove it.

Bill and Helen will you they have no children. I would be correct that to say they have no biological children. In 1988 they decided to create a series of educational projects for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The educational program has reached students 38 countries. To date, Helen has spoken to more than 450,000 children in schools using data and photographs from her various expeditions. Both 1994 expeditions became the award winning Arctic to Amazon© educational project.

Helen wanted to do something special to mark her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in the fall of 1997. Having been to the Arctic several times, Helen decided to try the Antarctic. This walk was planned to be 1,500 miles over a three month period. Again, alone and on foot, pulling a 260 pound sled, Helen took off. This trip was not to be completed as planned. On Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> Helen's publicist announced she had turned back. Helen fell pulling her sled after walking 177 miles, leaving her 600 miles short of the South Pole. An injury to her lower leg and hip required her to call in a rescue plane to fly her out.

The sad news of this incident was posted on the internet for thousands of children who were following the expeditions. The site, GOALS (Global Online Adventure Learning Series) is found at [ww.goals.com](http://ww.goals.com). The site is used to keep all those watching Bill and Helen's expeditions up to date. Each expedition has periodic updates of observations made by Bill and Helen. Many interesting achievements are posted here that

Helen did not cover in her slide show that I attended. If you have access to the internet I strongly recommend visiting GOALS.

Some interesting facts. Helen has climbed the highest mountains in New Zealand (Mount Cook), North America (Mount McKinley), and the former Soviet Union (Peak Lenin and Peak Communism). She has also climbed in Mexico and China and has been a climbing instructor. Helen has also been a kayak racer and cross country ski racer.

Bill is a helicopter pilot with nearly 13,000 hours logged in many countries. Bill is an experienced mountain climber and cross country skier. He and Helen run 6 to 10 miles on days they are not climbing, biking, skiing, or snow shoeing. They have their own gym in their basement and do weight training 5 days a week.

What is next for this remarkable couple? [Cruise the Caribbean with Helen and Bill](#). Starting October 31, 1998 for 7 days. Bill will be a lecturer on the Holland America Line cruise ship the *MS Westerdam*. For more information call:

Travel Designers  
1-888-484-5884

### **Thayeritage 1998!!**

Thayeritage, a coined word for Thayer Heritage will take place again at the 1998 Thayer Families Association Family Reunion and Annual Meeting from June 26-27, 1998 at the Thayer Academy, Braintree, MA. This year's Thayeritage will be chaired by Curtis Ross Thayer and his wife Donna. I had the pleasure of meeting Curt and Donna at last year's meeting. They had a fine display including a dulcimer that was hand made by Curt's grandfather (see article page 4).

Curt and Donna need your help. Anything related to a Thayer that can be put on display would be welcome. Last year we had several easels displaying pictures. We had displays of genealogy and notebooks full of letters and more pictures. We had fun! I plan to bring a wooden box that was used to mail eyeglasses. It was from F. L. Thayer, optometrist. It has a three cent. If you can contribute please write:

Curtis Ross Thayer  
2900 Thayer Rd.  
Freeland, MI 48623-9412

## Stee Thayer Actor-Author

By

Richard A. Thayer

Many of us who keep our eyes open for all Thayer name have spotted Steve Thayer on the bookshelf. No respectable bookstore or library would be without Steve's two best-seller novels: *St. Mudd* and *The Weatherman*. You don't just sit down and whip out a successful book, it takes persistence. Steve had to overcome rejections and self-publish his first book to become recognized as a novelist.

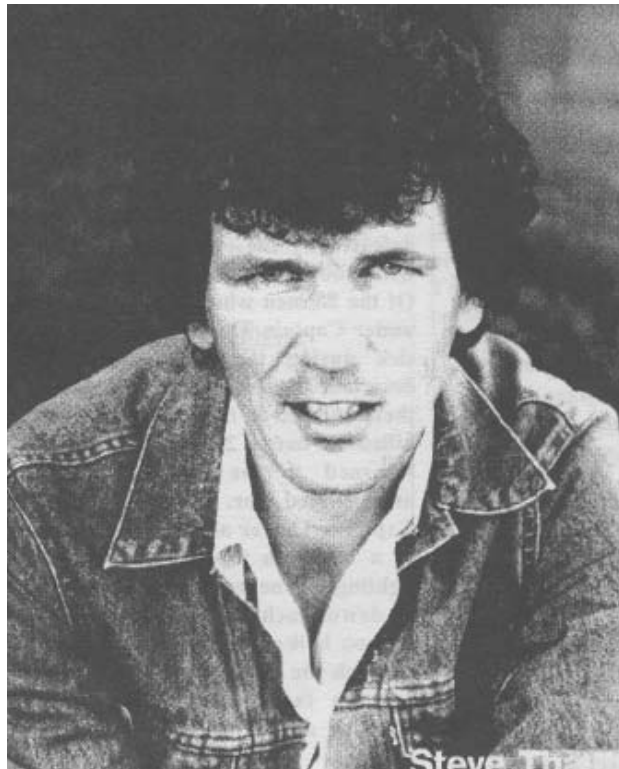
Steven<sup>13</sup> Leonard Thayer was born in St. Paul, MN in 1953. He is the third child of Pliny Allen Thayer (1927-1976) and Katherine Esther Walker (1932-1986). Steve has three brothers: Lawrence Pliny Thayer (1950), Christopher Louis Thayer (1951), and James Scott Thayer (1954). Steve's lineage is as follows: Steven<sup>13</sup>, Pliny Allen<sup>12</sup>, Leslie Harvey<sup>11</sup>, Louis Luther<sup>10</sup>, William Harvey<sup>9</sup>, Luther<sup>8</sup>, Rufus<sup>7</sup>, Caleb<sup>6</sup>, Jonathan<sup>5,4,3</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>.

Steve left home at age nineteen or twenty to pursue a career in acting. He graduated from American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena, CA in 1976. He spent the next six years in theater playing "bad guys mostly."

In 1982 Steve returned to St. Paul and began writing. I am sure Steve would tell anyone that writing is not for the faint of heart. After forty rejections from publishers and literary agents Steve resorted to self-publishing his first book, *Saint Mudd*. Working as a parking lot attendant in Minneapolis, Steve borrowed enough money to print 1,000 hardcover copies. He sold many of these copies on the job and by word of mouth.

In 1988 Steve began working at WCCO TV. Starting on the investigative team, Steve worked through many of the departments of a TV station including production and over-night dispatcher. He found himself working among many writer wanna-bes and taking orders from people younger than himself. These factors, coupled with the desire to write full time, led to his leaving the TV station in 1992 to write full time.

In 1998 Steve had brought *Saint Mudd* out in paperback with an initial printing of 10,000 copies which sold in three months. This kind of success does not go unnoticed and Viking won out in a



bidding process which included buying Steve's second book, *The Weatherman*.

What was the secret formula for a best seller? Apparently for *Saint Mudd* it was years of research. Steve interwove fact with fiction in a setting of the 1930's depression era St. Paul, a location, but not a time, which he was very familiar with. Dallas Crow in *Minnesota Monthly* wrote: "Though it's reflection about the underbelly of society, it is also a long song to the city and a fascinating introduction to its' history."

*Saint Mudd* was reissued as a hardcover in June of 1992. Steve wrote two new scenes to help develop characters. He also put back in some racy scenes the first publisher refused to print. And what else can one do to sell more copies of your first book? Well, write another!

In 1993 Steve had his second book, *The Weatherman* published. This time Steve had the help of professionals in the publishing business. With a good deal of promotion and many interviews by Steve, *The Weatherman* made the *New York Times* Best Seller list. By July of 1996, 700,000 copies had been printed and the book was number eight on the best seller list.

When asked if his work at WCCO TV gave him the idea for *The Weatherman*, Steve said no, the book was already in progress. However, Steve does credit his

TV experience with the final outcome of the book.

Based on a weatherman who has an excellent ability to predict the weather, the main character becomes a suspect in serial killings when the killings seem to coincide with significant weather events. Although an all too frequently heard term now, the serial killer was relatively new when Steve used it in *The Weatherman*. This book was endorsed by a literary giant, Stephen King!

How does Steve work? Well, to begin with he always has more than one book in progress. He starts about 10:30 at night and works until 2:00 in the morning. A great deal of reading is necessary, it is

not all "keyboarding." His next book, *Silent Snow*, is due out in the Spring of 1999. One problem Steve has found with his being a successful author is that his publisher wants more books, and wants them fast, while he is still "hot."

How does writing a second book sell more copies of the first? How often have you read a good book and checked the front or back cover to see what else the author has written? It would seem from Steve's experience that publishers are very cautious with an unpublished writer. But once Steve proved he had what it took, his publisher helped push his second book onto the best seller list, ensuring even more sales of his first book.

Steve always has several things in progress. Other ideas he is working on include a Sherlock Holmes story set in Minnesota and a story of a St. Paul boy who goes off to Harvard in the 1920's to play football.

We Thayers should be proud of our cousin Steve. How many of could persevere after 40 rejections?

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*Descendants of Thomas Thayer* © 1994, Patricia Thayer Muno.

**The Life of General Sylvanus Thayer**  
**of**  
**Rhode Island**  
By  
Dick Thayer

On April 30, 1737 in Mendon, Mass. David Thayer and his wife Jane Keith Thayer had a son and they named him Simeon<sup>5</sup> (Simeon<sup>5</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>). They could not know that during his adult years North America would see two major wars and he would serve in both of them. Not much is known of his early years in Mass. but as a boy Simeon was apprenticed to a peruke (wig) maker. While still young, Simeon moved with his to Providence, Rhode Island where in 1756 he began his military career by joining a Rhode Island regiment for service in the French and Indian War. In 1757 he was in a Ranger Company of the Mass. line. He was serving at Fort William Henry when it was surrendered to General Montclm. The fort had been under siege one week before surrendering. The prisoners were paroled but were still subject to attack by Indians who did not subscribe to the rules of 18<sup>th</sup> century warfare.

Simeon was married the first time in Feb. 1759 to Judith Jackson with whom he had 6 children. By his second wife, Mary Tourlelotte he had 4 more children. He apparently had no children with his third wife Nancy (Jackson or Angell). By the time of his death in 1800 it seems that only one son and one daughter were still alive.

Based on his service in the French and Indian was Simeon was well suited to be an officer at the onset of hostilities during the Revolutionary War. As early as May 3, 1775 he was a Liuet. in command of a company in Colonel Hilchorks Rhode Island Regiment which was to be sent to the defense of Boston.

In order to gain some perspective about North America in 1775, it will help the reader to know that the population of the 13 colonies was estimated to be about 2 ½ million. During the 7 years that the Revolution was fought 1775-1782 about 350,000 men served in the Patriot Forces on land and sea. This total of 350,000 at least 252 men named Thayer served during the war.

In Sept. of 1775 Captain Simeon Thayer embarked on the most notable campaign

of his military career. It is most memorable for two reasons; First, it was the very audacious campaign to capture Quebec led by Colonel Benedict Arnold, and second, Captain Thayer kept a very detailed personnel journal of the expedition. From Sept. 1775 until Aug. 1776 Captain Thayer's company was in the second battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> division under Lt. Col. Christopher Greene. The expedition started with 1100 men and suffered great hardship in its march to Quebec during the Fall and Winter of 1775. Only 500 effective combatants reached Quebec and they were soundly defeated by the enemy and the weather, with 160 killed and 126 taken prisoner. Of the 88 men who started the expedition under Captain Thayer, 21 were sent back sick during the march to Quebec, 3 deserted, 28 were captured at Quebec (8 of these enlisted in the King's service) 2 were killed in battle, 27 escaped capture and returned to the colonies, and 7 are unaccounted for. During the siege Captain Thayer and Topham were living in a house in the lower town near the fighting. One morning, just as they arose at dawn, each on his side of the bed, a cannon ball came through one wall, went through the bedroom and passed midway between the two captains and without harming anyone went through the other wall.

Captain Thayer was taken prisoner during the intense fighting on Dec. 31, 1775. On April 25, 1776 he tried to escape and was caught and put in irons. He was finally exchanged and rejoined his regiment in Elizabethtown, NJ. on July 1, 1777.

For a detailed account of Captain Thayer's service in the Canadian campaign see "*March on Quebec*" by Kenneth Roberts. This book was compiled when Roberts was doing research for the historical novel "Arundel."

By Nov. of 1777 Simeon Thayer had been promoted to the rank of Major and was serving with the Garrison of Fort Mifflin which controlled traffic on the Delaware River downstream from Philadelphia. Brigadier General J. M. Varnum assigned Lt. Col. Sam Smith and Major Thayer to defend Mud Island which was adjacent to Fort Mifflin. The British began the bombardment of Mud Island on Nov. 10 with 12 cannons and mortars and bombarded the defenders of Mud Island for 6 days. The Patriots only

had one cannon. After the wounding of Lt. Col. Smith, Major Thayer assumed command of the Garrison on Mud Island and oversaw the evacuation of 450 men to safety of Fort Mercer on the NJ side of the river. This bombardment is reputed to be the most intense and lengthy of the war which had to be endured by the patriot forces.

The next documented incident during the war where Major Simeon Thayer was a participant was the reconnaissance mission where George Washington sent Major General Lafayette to learn if General Clinton was preparing to move the British forces out of Philadelphia. Lafayette was given 2,200 men and ordered to march towards the enemy lines to obtain intelligence of the British movements and designs. On May 18, 1778 Lafayette's force crossed the Schuylkill River and camped at Barren Hill, PA. eleven miles northwest of Philadelphia and 12 miles east of Valley Forge. Gen. Howe sent 14,000 men down the 3 roads that converged on Barren Hill. One column of 5,000 men was to cut Lafayette off from the river fords between Barren Hill and Valley Forge. Another column would hit the left flank and the largest force attack from the south. Lafayette was out numbered 5 to 1, even though he had ¼ of Washington's army with him. Lafayette was warned of this attack by Major Clark's intelligence network and Major Simeon Thayer was given command of a force of men to cover the retreat of Lafayette and the main body of men in their retreat across Matsons Ford. The retreat was successful, and Major Thayer was given partial credit for the retreat and escape.

Simeon Thayer was serving as a Major of the first Rhode Island Battalion with the main Continental army under Generals Washington and Lee on June 28, 1778 at the battle of Monmouth. Washington sent General Lee to attack the rear of the British army as it moved from Philadelphia to Sandy Hook. It was the longest battle of the war. The Patriots were in possession of the field after the battle, but it was not the resounding victory it could have been, but for the reluctance of General Lee to attack aggressively. During the battle Simeon

continued

General Simeon Thayer (continued)

Thayer had his second close call with a cannon ball. A cannon ball passed so close to his head that he temporarily blinded in one eye and permanently blinded in the other.

Major Simeon Thayer retired from the army in, 1781, probably for two reasons, first the war in the North was winding down and second, he was obviously limited by his wound.

On 1783 he opened a tavern in Providence RI. After the war the Rhode Island Legislature voted him the rank of Major General of militia to honor him for his distinguished military service.

He received bounty land warrant 2134-400-Maj. on April 20, 1790 as partial payment for his Revolutionary War service.

In 1796, at the age of 59, he moved from Providence, Rhode Island to Cumberland Rhode Island where he began farming.

General Simeon Thayer died on Oct 21 1800 and is buried in the north Presbyterian burying ground in the Providence Rhode Island under a large white marble slab. His name lives on as one of the most prominent Thayers to serve in the Revolutionary war.

A tabulation of General Simeon Thayer's military service is as follows:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>
1756	Probably private	Rhode Island Regiment	-
1757	Probably private	Ranger Co. Mass. Line	-
May 3, 1775	Lieut.	Rhode Island Regiment	Col. Hilchork
Sept 1775-12-31-1775	Capt.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battl. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Div.	Col. Benedict Arnold Gen. Montgomery
12-31-1775-7-1-1777	Capt.	Prisoner of war	-
Nov. 1777-	Major	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island Battl.	Brig. Gen. J.M. Varnum Lt. Col. Samuel Smith
Jan. 1778-Apr. 1778	Major	2 <sup>nd</sup> R. I. Battl.	Brig. Varnum Col. Israel Angell
May 1778-July 1778	Major	1 <sup>st</sup> R. I. Battl.	Maj. Gen. Lafayette
Nov. 1779-Dec. 1779	Major	2 <sup>nd</sup> R. I. Battl.	Col. Israel Angell
Jan 1780-May 1789	Major	2 <sup>nd</sup> R. I. Battl.	Col. H. Jackson Brig. Gen. Stark
Jan or May 1781	Major	Retired	

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**TFA ANNUAL MEETING**

First and foremost of Thayer reunions must be Thayer Families Association Reunion and Annual Meeting. This year's event will be held almost entirely at the Thayer Academy, Braintree, MA. We have access to newly remodeled facilities that will include air-conditioning. Many of your officers will be arriving Wednesday and Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of June. We will be attending what we have come to all Pre-meetings which will be open to any members available. The first *scheduled* event is on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, called Thayeritage for Thayer-Heritage. We hope to have many interesting displays of Thayer related materials. Thayeritage will continue through Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The main events will be Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> when we will have both a luncheon and dinner at the Thayer Academy, with our main meeting in between. We hope to arrange sightseeing opportunities as well. Last year most of those staying in town stayed at either Tara, or Day's Inn. We had many informal meetings and meals together. We hope that you will join us this year.

Enclosed in the last issue were several flyers to register for the reunion and buy tickets for the luncheon and dinner. These forms are also being mailed first-class. Please register as soon as possible to allow us to serve you better. If you can arrive in town early you can contact us through a suite at the Tara, reserved for Thayer Families Association under the name of TFA President Al Morton, or on the grounds of Thayer Academy.

TFA Historian/Genealogist Patricia Thayer Muno will be at the reunion! Come meet this dynamic lady! If you have not mailed your genealogy up to the latest generation to Patricia you are missing a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve your heritage by having it published in the massive comprehensive Thayer genealogy.

Your newsletter editor will be at our reunion again this year. I will be running around trying to meet all of you. I will have a common question for everyone: "Do you have anything for the newsletter?" I had a terrific time last year and enjoyed meeting many of you that I have corresponding with for years. Please come again and renew our friendship.

I will have some back issues of The Thayer Quarterly and the Cumulative Index for sale at the meeting. Any back issues that I do not have, can be ordered at that time.

Judy and Jerry Thayer will be selling new TFA patches at the reunion which will be available by mail order in the future.

Come join us, please!

## R. Clinton Thayer, Jr.

*In an effort to bring news to you about the people who are doing so much for TFA, I asked Clint for an autobiography. Clint has relieved Paul Goodwin Thayer of duties as TFA Membership Chairman. Many thanks to Paul. Here now is some info on Clint.*

Editor

I was born Ralph Clinton Thayer, Jr. in 1930 while my father was a farm manager in East Lyme, CT. My lineage is Ralph Clinton<sup>9</sup>, John Alden<sup>8</sup>, Jackson Otis<sup>7</sup>, Otis<sup>6</sup>, Levi<sup>5</sup>, Heskiah<sup>4</sup>, Heskiah<sup>3</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>2</sup>, Richard<sup>1</sup>. Although we lived in East Lyme the hospital where my mother gave a rather tortuous birth to me was in New London, CT.

For some unknown reason Levi<sup>5</sup> left the family hearths in Braintree, Massachusetts for Braintree, Vermont in 1800, where he died in 1812. Levi served during the Revolution, as did his father Hezekiah. I'm sort of working at getting this accepted by the proper authorities for membership in the SAR. His descendants remained in Vermont until my father and family (all but me) came to Connecticut in the early 1920's to take up residence and management of White Gate Farm, a rich man's hobby then and still is, in East Lyme. We moved into New London in the early 1930's as my father became manager of a dairy. I attended New London schools (I started playing trumpet professionally when I was 13 and had my own dance band when I was 16 - all the "good" musicians were still in the army), the Eastman School of Music is in Rochester, NY. My college career was interpreted by four years (1951-55) in the Air Force Band at Sampson, NY during Korean (my name was SSGT during this period). After finishing at Eastman I joined the US Coast Guard Band in New London (my name was permanently changed to MUCS Ret. at this point) from 1956 to 1972. I also performed trumpet and conducted throughout southern New England. I taught junior high music in Groton, CT (1972-1983), did some orchestra conducting (my performance days were over) where my name was maestro, and worked in a bank and real estate (1983-1997), finally retiring then.

My mother was Eleanor Sprague Fitts, b. E. Brookfield, VT. I have traced her lines back, but have not been able to make a connection with the Sprague who wrote of us Thayers. My father was graduated from Vermont Agricultural (now Technical) College and my mother from what was then called Normal School in Randolph Center, VT.

Constance Claire Johnson, b. St. Charles, MN. and I met at Eastman and we were married at Colgate-Rochester Divinity College in Rochester, NY 1951. We have two children, Ralph Clinton, III (unmarried), and Patricia

Dean Thayer McIvor (married, Peter Michael McIvor, with two sons - Peter Michael, Jr. and Christian Clinton - twins). Both Patricia and Peter are music teachers in CT public schools, and the boys (age 15) are accomplished musicians (trumpet and trombone), performing in All-State and All-New England music festivals.

Connie was a string bass player in the Rochester Philharmonic, one of the first of the female percussion, when I met her, married her, and saved her from a life in the music world, although she continued to play professionally with me for many years. She has her PhD in Curriculum and Development and teaches the Learning Disabled at Waterford (CT) HS. She has done extensive research into her families, including Johnson, Seeman, Newton, Sanborn, and Curtis.

One interesting result of our genealogical endeavors is Connie and I found out we have a common (some kind of great) grandfather (in the Fitts line), I descended from his first wife and Connie from his second. However, our children seem to be normal.

I became interested in genealogy when I realized I know nothing of my father's family. My mother's Fittses were pretty well documented, and she came from a strong family. On the other hand my father came from an abusive household. His mother, Ada Elmira Chadwick, died in a still-birth of a daughter. His father remarried soon afterward, and the stepmother was the problem after giving birth to a daughter. She apparently told her husband how bad the boys had been (my father and brother, Claude C.) when he came home, and he would beat them. It must have been pretty bad, because the state or county removed them from the home and they were raised by a foster family. I say it must have been pretty bad because this was in the early 1900's in the backwoods of Vermont. My father would never talk about his childhood, willingly. Even though we made many trips back to Vermont during my youth to my mother's family, we never went near his childhood haunts. It wasn't until toward the end of his life that he took Connie and me to meet his boyhood home in South Randolph, VT, a real hovel by this time. I realized that the many years we had come to Vermont we had passed within merely yards of this place. His brother, Claude (unmarried), committed suicide in 1929.

Under the circumstances finding out about my Thayer heritage has been a revelation. I am pleased to have the honor of doing whatever I can to help TFA towards its goals. I only hope I can do half as well as my predecessor, Paul Goodwin Thayer.

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Email - ClntThayer@aol.com

*Thanks, Clint, for sharing some of your family's history with us. Many of our readers have secrets of abuse and broken homes in their past. I find it most refreshing to find someone willing to share a painful past. So many people have avoided seeking help because they think they are all alone in their problem. I hope by bringing such issues out in the open it will benefit some of our readers. Ed.*

## Queries

Queries and our policy. All queries must first be sent to TFA Historian/Genealogist Patricia Thayer Muno. If Patricia is unable to answer your query she will pass it on to the newsletter editor. Priority will be given to THAYER related queries.

I am looking for a descendant of Zebadee Applebee Thayer b. 10 Aug 1810 Franconia, Grafton Co., NH, d. 21 Oct 1892 Berlin, NH; m. 6 Oct 1831, Roxanna Snow b. 10 Dec 1813 Bethlehem, Grafton Co., NH, d. 11 Apr 1900, Brockton, Plymouth, MA for further information on the ancestors of Roxanna Snow, dau of Nathaniel and Lydia (Blodgett) Snow.

Jan Jordan Lokensgard  
Rt. 1 Box 91A.  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
jjloken@mega-com.com

## Stories Needed

Thayer related stories are desperately needed for this newsletter. Please consider sharing some of YOUR family's history with your cousins. Feeling timid? Just send me your information and I will write the article for you. Send all stories and information to the Editor at the address listed on the last page of this issue.

## Family Representatives

by Patricia Thayer Muno

Lisa L. Jones, of Portland, Oregon has agreed to represent the descendants of Fairfax Smith THAYER (1834-1886) and Julia ROBERTS (1824-1909). Fairfax and Julia came from Lebanon, Madison, NY via Red Wing, MN and settled in Scio, Linn, Oregon. Their only son, Frank Tilton THAYER, had eleven children and helped to proliferate the family out here in the Northwest! My first knowledge of this family's existence was over two decades ago, but only recently came into contact with them. Lisa can be reached at the following address:

Lisa L. Jones  
1635 SE 40<sup>th</sup>  
Portland, OR 97214  
e-mail: lljones@teleport.com



Lisa L. Jones

## Local History

by Richard A. Thayer, Editor

One important source of information we, as a genealogist, should not ignore is local history. I was reminded of this when my mother presented me with a book for my birthday. Eva Coe, *Murderess*, © 1997, Niles Eggleston, was fascinating to me. The setting is 1934 in Oneonta, NY, my home town. As I read the book I could visualize many of the houses and locations described.

How do you find such books? Inquire at bookstores in the cities you are interested in, they often have a shelf marked "local interest." Even the nation chain bookstores carry local history, but only in that city.

## IN MEMORIAM

Former TFA Vice President Malcom Walker passed away March 3, 1998. Many of us who have visited Braintree remember Malcom as a quiet, gentle, helpful man. Long time friend and former TFA Secretary/Treasurer Raymond Alexander (Rick) Thayer sent me Malcom's obituary which I sadly report to you.

*The Patriot Ledger*, Thursday, March 5, 1998.  
"Braintree-Malcom Chandler Walker, 76, of Braintree, a naval architect for Bethlehem Steel and General Dynamics at the Rore River shipyard in Quincy and a Braintree civic leader, died Tuesday at his son's home at Newton, Conn.

"Mr. Walker was a registered professional engineer in Massachusetts and an expert on the stability of commercial and naval vessels. He was a leader of the design team that developed the USS Bainbridge, the first nuclear-powered frigate in the Navy.

"He received a commission in the Navy at the University of Notre Dame Midshipman School in 1943 and served during World War II at the Boston Naval Shipyard. There, he supervised the construction and repair of naval vessels. He served again during the Korean War when he was stationed at the Bureau of Ship in Washington, D.C.

"Upon his retirement in 1983, Mr. Walker became a full-time volunteer at the Braintree Historical Society. A life member of the society, he held the offices of president, overseer and historian. He was the first recipient of the Gilbert L. Bean Award for devotion to the society in 1985.

"From 1974 to 1976 he supervised the design and construction of the Mary Bean Barn and Museum. Twenty years later, he supervised the design and construction of the Mary Bean Cunningham Historical Resource Center. He was an expert on ice harvesting and lectured throughout the state.

"Mr. Walker also served as chairman of the Braintree Historical commission and co-chairman of the Braintree 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee. He was a former town meeting member.

"He was president of the All Souls men's Club and a senior deacon and senior Eagle Scout at the First Congregational Church.

"He had been a cooperator and trustee of the Braintree Savings Bank and a director of the Bank of Braintree.

"The South Braintree Board of Trade presented him with its Community Service Award in 1996 for many years of untiring and dedicated service to

Braintree. He received citations from the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Braintree Selectmen and the historical society.

"Mr. Walker was a member of many organizations, including the Holbrook Historical Society, Quincy historical Society, hull Lifesaving Museum, Bay State historical league, ice Harvester Historical Association, International Naval Research organization, Thayer Families Association, Alden kindred of America, Mayflower Association and the Thayer Badminton Club.

"He was born in Weymouth and graduated from Braintree High School in 1939 and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1943.

"He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Barbara Mandigo Walker; as son, David Malcom Walker of Newton, Conn., a daughter, Elizabeth Walker St. Clair of Gainsville, Ga., four grandchildren and four cousins.

"A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the First Congregational Church, 12 Elm St. The Rev. Robert J. Ripley will officiate. Burial will be in the Blue Hill Cemetery.

"Visiting is from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mortimer N. Peck Funeral Home, 516 Washington St.

"Donations may be made to the Braintree Historical Society, 31 Tenny Road, Braintree 02184-6512."

Many of us will remember Malcom as the one giving tours of Thayer House in front of the Braintree Historical Society. Arrangements have been made for tours of the Sylvanus House on June 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 A.M. and continuing as long as there are people that want to go through the house. Cost will be \$5 per person. This been set up to coincide with TFA Reunion and Annual Meeting in Braintree.



General Sylvanus Thayer House

## In Memoriam

Submitted by his son, Rev. George Thayer, we are informed of the passing of another TFA member, Rev. Thurber Reuben Thayer.

AKRON, NY. - Reverend Thurber Reuben Thayer, retired Free Methodist pastor who has resided at the Heritage Village Skilled Nursing home for the past five years, passed away Thursday evening March 29<sup>th</sup>. He was born on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1903 at the family home on Indian Falls Road east of the village of Akron, NY. His parents, George Edwin and Nellie Zelona Perkins then moved to the newly built family homestead on Knapp Road when Rev. Thayer was on only six months old. Rev. Thayer is survived by a son, Rev. George Thayer of Ellicottville, and two daughters: Virginia Mae Harter of Canisten, and Ruth Lenora Marzolf of Zephyrhills, Florida. His wife Grace Lenora (Barringer) preceded him at Akron, NY in September 1974. Rev. Thayer also taught schools after his high school graduation at Akron in 1922, attended Chesboro Seminary (now Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester), and graduate of Greenville, IL College in 1927 when he was married in Chester, W VA on the way to his first appointment at West Kendall, NY Orleans County.

Viewing will be at the Barnhardt Funeral Home in Akron Saturday afternoon and evening, service at the Free Methodist Church on Scotland Road 2:30 pm Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. Memorials to the Akron Free Methodist Church, host pastor Rev. David T. Langford; Rev. Thayer also was the conference historian, Conference Secretary and statistician with attendance of 67 years of annual conferences. He also pastured at Ellington-East Randolph, Yorkshire, South Sayton, Hornell, Perry, Cattaraugus, Lockport, West Seneca, and Glens Falls of the Centenary Conference.

A younger brother, Forest Reber Thayer preceded him at Akron NY last fall. 27 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and many step grandchildren, and one great-great step grandson.

*All Thayer related obituaries should be submitted to the Editor at the address listed on the last page. It is best if a family member submits the obituary. Obituaries are published at the discretion of the Editor and will be withheld if requested by the family of the deceased. Ed*

## Thayer Theologians

.By  
Richard A. Thayer, Editor

Much interest was generated by my article, Thayer Theologians, in the Winter 1997/98 issue of this newsletter.

The following was submitted by Patricia Thayer Muno, TFA Genealogist/Historian.

Name: John THAYER (Rev.)  
Birth: 15 May 1758  
Place: Boston, Suffolk Co., MA  
Death: 5 Feb 1815  
Place: Limerick, Ireland  
Father: Cornelius THAYER  
Mother: Sarah TARR  
Lineage: John<sup>5</sup>, Cornelius<sup>4-3</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>2</sup>, Richard<sup>1</sup>

Father John Thayer, was the first English speaking Roman Catholic priest in Boston. He had converted from the Unitarianism of his family. Writer of "An Account of the Conversion of A Protestant Minister at Boston in North America, who Embraced the Roman Catholic Religion at Rome, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1783" see details in blue notebook submitted Mar 94 by Charles Lilly. Columbian Centennial of 25 Nov 1815 states: "Rev. John Thayer chaplain in American Revolution, former pastor of Catholic Church in Boston, died in Limerick, Ireland" Sprague states he received an honorary degree from Yale in 1779. He commenced his preaching 10 June 1790 at Church of the Holy Cross in Boston. He went to France the later part of 1781 and later to Italy to study languages. He remained at Rome for the winter and was converted to the Catholic faith 25 May 1783. He wrote a letter published with his account of his conversion addressed to his brother, Nathaniel on Queen Street in Boston in 1787 from Paris. He went to Ireland in 1803 and probably remained there until his death. (see dictionary of American Biography Vol IX, page 406 for account of John and his works.)

The following was submitted by TFA member Alan Rideout:

"The 'History of the Archdiocese of Boston' has his date of ordination as 6/2/1787 (Trinity Sunday). Another section tells of Fr. Thayer taking a trip to Philadelphia, and going by way of Hartford, CT., where lodged in the same house as his former Yale classmate, Noah Webster. He arrived there on 4/9/91. He is said to have celebrated 'High Mass' in his room, with Noah Webster attending. It is said that this is believed to be the first

English speaking mass ever said in Hartford. It seems as though he had a rather troubled time in Boston. Fr. Thayer also served in Kentucky for a short while. He moved to Limerick, Ireland 2/28/1811. He is said to have said Mass and heard confessions at the two principal churches, St. Michael's and St. John's. He is said to have had a vast number of penitents, who were nicknamed 'Thayerites' by those who did not relish a piety superior to their own. On 11/20/1815, Fr. Thayers will made on 10/4/1792 was offered for probate, the inventory of the estate showed a gross valuation of \$10,764. It says that Fr. Thayer provided not only the money but also the candidates to begin his beloved Ursuline establishment in Boston. Two daughters and one grand daughter of the Ryan family in whose home he stayed in Limerick, joined the Ursulines. The Ursuline Academy was established in 1820."

## A Thayer Prepares the War for Paul Revere

Submitted by  
Alan Rideout

Another Thayer I ran across here in the Stoughton Library was an article in a paper called the 'Stoughton Sampler' it has an article entitled "Stoughton, Mass. Birthplace of American Liberty" ...Anyway, in the article it mentions a meeting held in the forenoon of Aug. 16, 1774, when delegates from various towns began to arrive at Doty's Tavern. Part of it reads: "along came Colonel Ebenezer Thayer of Braintree. Col. Thayer particularly said, "We must all appear undisguised upon one side or the other." The first draft of the Suffolk Resolves was written. These 'Suffolk Resolves' were read at other taverns and meetings to be ready for Paul Revere to take them to the September meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The closing sentence of the Declaration of Independence was adopted by Thomas Jefferson from the 'Suffolk Resolves...' And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor."

Ebenezer's lineage is thought to be: Ebenezer<sup>6</sup>, Ebenezer<sup>5-4-3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2-1</sup>.

*Stories are needed for future issues of this newsletter. Future topics will include Thayers in politics. Please write the Editor at my address on the last page. Ed.*

## Job Edward Thayer (1827-1901)

Submitted By:

Emily Henth Ellis Thompson

Transcribed by Fred and Ealie Hirsch on  
February 15, 1998

Newspaper article from the Charleston  
Daily Gazette, Sunday, January 13, 1901.

“Life of J. E. Thayer

“Highly Esteemed Citizen of Kanawha  
Valley.

“MAN OF STERLING CHARECTOR  
AND ESTIMABLE QUALITIES.

“\_\_\_\_\_ of His Early Life. His Struggles,  
Successes and Failures, and Many Fine  
Personal Traits.

“The passing of Job E. Thayer removes  
one of the oldest, most active, well  
known, highly respected and generally  
esteemed citizens of the Kanawha Valley.

“The writer having known him in close  
social and business relations and intimate  
friendship for more than one half a  
century, can bear witness to the Sterling  
character and estimable qualities of head  
and heart.

“For many who have not known him so  
well for so long as the writer, a short  
sketch of the man and his life may be of  
interest.

“His father, whose name was also Job,  
with his young wife and others as a  
colony, came from Braintree, Mass., early  
in the century and settled in Western  
Virginia, first in Upshur County, but not  
been contented there, came on to the  
Kanawha Valley. They had a family if  
nine children, six sons and three daughters  
of whom only one, W.T. Thayer, of this  
city---now survives.

“Job E., the third child in order of age,  
was born in Kanawha County in 1827,  
and has but recently passed his 73<sup>rd</sup>  
anniversary.

“His school education was limited to the  
common schools of the county at that day.

“It has been said that “the boy is father  
to the man,” Young Job at a very early  
age, developed unusual Energy, self-  
reliance, good nature and a hopeful  
disposition. Equipped with this valuable  
outfit, he started out very young “on his  
own hook for an individual tussle with the

world. He first went down to Connelton,  
Ind., and was engaged there for some  
years with a large coal company, and  
afterwards spent a year or two at New  
Albany. Returning to Kanawha, he  
operated a saw mill on the South Side of  
the river at Kanawha Falls, with success  
and profit. Later, about 1859, he started  
and operated a foundry and machine shop  
at Malden to supply the wants of the salt  
Works, then the dominant interest in the  
valley, after which he engaged in the  
manufacture of salt in connection with  
Mr. Frank Noyes, and later purchased,  
owned and operated the Kenton furnace  
and what was known as the Venable  
property.

“During the Civil War, when the assets  
of the Branch Bank of Virginia here had  
been removed and the building destroyed  
by the Federal Army, he, in connection  
with a few others, organized, “The Bank  
of the West,” which was for some years a  
very useful and profitable institution; he  
later parted with this interest to his brother  
William.

“The Federal Army having destroyed or  
seized and carried off the steam packet boats  
when in the river (there were no railroads here  
in those days), Mr. Thayer and a few others  
built the well remembered steamer Annie  
Laurie, and ran her as a Charleston and  
Cincinnati packet with great accommodations  
to the public and profit to the owners. Mr.  
Thayer for a long time commanded the boat in  
person.

“About 1870 Mr. Thayer pooled the salt  
property with the owners of the Noyes and  
Donnelly properties, and they organized “The  
Splint Coal Company,” having three large salt  
furnaces, about 800 acres of Kanawha bottom  
land and about 2,000 acres of coal and timber  
land, but the values of salt property were being  
much depressed by an outside competition,  
and the panic of 1873, and general business  
depression which followed was a crushing  
blow to the Kanawha salt interest and broke up  
nearly everybody connected with it. Mr.  
Thayer full of courage and resource, as usual,  
started building and repairing steam boats and  
barges, and operated them quite successfully  
for some years, when a sudden high freshet in  
the river carried away his entire plant, making  
a total loss to him. From advancing age and  
declining health he has not undertaken any  
active business enterprise since.

“Mr. Thayer was a public, spirited and  
generous man, was always ready to “take a  
hand” in any worthy public or private  
enterprise as long as he was able, and to the  
needy he was always ready to “lend a hand” in  
any way he could.

“He was a man of sound conservative  
judgment and a good judge of values. He was  
often selected by individuals and appointed by  
the courts as one of the commissioners to  
value estates, partition properties and settle  
controversies: his decisions were so reasonable  
and fair that they were generally, if not always,  
accepted as just and equitable. As a salt maker  
he was often sent as one of important  
committees to the other salt districts or to the  
markets to negotiate purchases or sales of salt  
or establishing of agencies.

“Mr. Thayer was twice married, first in 1859  
to Miss McClung of Greenbier county; they  
had one son. The wife lived but a short time,  
and the son is since deceased.

“About 1864 he married Ms. Harbin, of  
Kentucky; they had a family of six daughters  
and two sons. The widow, five daughters and  
two sons survive.

“In religion Mr. Thayer was a Presbyterian,  
and a loyal, staunch and orthodox to the core;  
his religious duties took precedence over all  
others. He was a ruling elder in his church for  
about a third of a century; he was prompt and  
active in church meetings, choir meetings,  
communion services, \_\_\_\_\_. He had a  
musical ear and a fine voice and for a long  
time sang in the choir. When delegates were  
sent to the meetings of Presbyteries abroad he  
was always one of those selected to represent  
this church district. His honest good sense and  
jolly good nature were vary taking with  
strangers, as well as highly appreciated by  
friends.

“Parity from religious duty, more perhaps  
from natural instinct, for he was full of the  
“milk of human kindness,” and was fond of  
visiting and comforting the sick and afflicted,  
and especially the aged and infirm, and he was  
always prompt to attend funerals of his old  
friends of earlier days, most of whom have  
now passed on in advance of him; but many of  
those left will miss his familiar footsteps, the  
hearty grip of his hand and his cheering words  
of comfort.

“Mr. Thayer was an all around a man, indeed  
a remarkable man, and one with his  
characteristics and qualities would have  
developed into a remarkable man in any  
community in which his lot might have been  
cast. He was one of that class of intelligent,  
progressive, self-reliant and aggressive men of  
whom this wild western country produces so  
many, and who we are generally dominated  
“self made men” and he was a fine specimen  
of the type.

“A prominent trait of Mr. Thayer’s character  
deserves special mention, and that was his  
humor; his bump of humor was immensely  
developed. His repertoire of funny stories and  
amusing anecdotes gathered in a long lifetime  
and stored up in a retentive memory, was  
almost unlimited and always ready to at his

continued

## Golden Anniversary

Submitted By  
Beverly Thayer Bower Colton

This article with pictures of my great grandparents appeared in the Sunday Boston Globe on May 20, 1905.

Their grave monument was seen in the Winter 1997/98 Thayer Quarterly on page 3.

“WEDDED FOR HALF A CENTURY MR.  
AND MRS. T. J. H. THAYER  
OF QUINCY  
TO CELEBRATE HAPPY EVENT  
MONDAY

“QUINCY, May 20-On May 22, 1855, Thomas J. H. Thayer of East Randolph (now Holbrook) and Miss Bryanthia R. Hayden of Quincy were married in South Braintree. Monday they will observe their golden wedding at their home, 9 Wendell Road, this city. On account of the illness of Mr. Thayer the observance will necessarily be a quiet one and only immediate relatives will be present. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer are among the best known of Quincy’s residents, having lived in that part of the city known as Quincy Neck for nearly half a century.

“Mr. Thayer is a native of what is known as Holbrook, but which was East Randolph when he was born, July 16, 1835. He came to this city in 1853 and has since resided here. When the civil war broke out Mr. Thayer enlisted in the 39<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts infantry and served three years. At the close of the war he engaged in the stone polishing business. His plant was burned down 15 years ago and four years ago he retired from active business on account of his health. For 47 years Mr. and Mrs. Thayer lived happily in this city. Then came the first break in the family circle when their daughter, Mrs. George Pratt died.

“Mr. Thayer has two brothers and a sister living. They are Martin Thayer of Onset and Hiram Thayer of South Braintree and Miss Almada Thayer of Brockton.

“Mrs. Thayer was born in this city July 13, 1836, and has always lived in Quincy. To Mr. and Mrs. Thayer were born six children, of whom the following are still living: Mrs. Walter Sanborn of Weymouth, Mrs. Anson L. Wright of Weymouth, J. C. Thayer of Braintree, Mrs. Moses Dyer of South Braintree and Miss Eva Thayer, who lives with her parents in this city.

“Mr. and Mrs. Thayer have nine grandchildren living. They are Prof. Russell Sanborn of Kansas City, Kas., Miss Lottie Wright of Weymouth, Masters George and Walter and Miss Marion Thayer of Braintree; Miss Helen and Master Willie Pratt of this city, Miss Mildred and Master Kenneth Dyer of South Braintree.

“Mrs. Thayer has a brother and sister living in this city. Her brother is James A. Hayden, aged 71 of Quincy Point, and her sister is Mrs. Sally Harris, aged 92, of South Quincy, who is a remarkably active woman for her years. If Mr. Thayer’s health permitted it there is no doubt that his many friends would give him and his worthy wife a celebration tomorrow worthy of the event, for both are well known and popular and have long been known to their friends as honest, upright and most hospitable people.”



Beverly Thayer Bower Colton  
Mt. Wollaston Cemetery, Quincy, MA

Beverly writes; “My great grandfather T. J. H. Thayer bought this plot in 1874 for \$10.00. It contains 28 graves! This was a good purchase.”

Thomas<sup>8</sup> Jefferson Hamilton Thayer’s lineage is as follows: Thomas<sup>8</sup>, Joseph<sup>7</sup>, Ebenezer<sup>6</sup>, Uriah<sup>5</sup>, Shadrach<sup>4</sup>, Ephraim<sup>3</sup>, Shadrach<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>. He was born in 1833 and died in 1908.

Notice the unusual designs at the top of the stone. Are they from some military decoration related to the Civil War? Readers---any ideas?

*Please submit photographs of unusual cemetery markers, grave stones, mausoleums, or monuments to the Editor at the address listed on the last page of this newsletter. Your materials will be returned unharmed if requested. Ed.*

## Job Edward Thayer

(continued from page 9)

tongue’s end to be told in his inimitable style apropos to the occasion an illustrative of the subject in his hand.

“Since the passage of Job E. Thayer and John L. Cole, the “past masters” of humor in the valley the telling of funny stories and amusing anecdotes is henceforth a new “lost art” here. There are none left who are worthy to latch their shoes in that line.

“Another trait worthy attention must have mention, and that is patience under suffering, perhaps equaling if duly compared, that of illustrious namesake of old. He had experienced loss of fortune, family afflictions and personal suffering stoically and heroically and almost with cheerful resignation.”

Job<sup>7</sup> Edward Thayer’s lineage is as follows: Job<sup>7</sup> Edward, Job<sup>6</sup>, Abel<sup>5</sup>, Zachariah<sup>4</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>2-1</sup>.

## Gold and Thayers

By Cleveland Harper Thayer

My father was Cleveland Thayer, born in East New Market, MD and living most of his life in Asheboro, NC. His lineage is as follows: Cleveland<sup>10</sup>, William<sup>9</sup>, Roswell<sup>8</sup>, Jonas<sup>7</sup>, Cornelious<sup>6</sup>, Jonathan<sup>5</sup>, Josiah<sup>4</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Richard<sup>1</sup>.

There have been gold mines in the Asheboro area since the 1800’s. Most of them have long since been “played out.” However they would sometimes be reopened. My father and a Tom Truesdale were instrumental in getting a Canadian firm to look over the Hoover Hill mine in the mid-thirties. They came down and spent several million dollars (maybe) in drilling and trying to find the master vein. They would find high quality ore, but only in spots, never a major vein. They finally gave it up. During this time Daddy became familiar with how gold ore looked. We started building our house on the edge of town about 1936-37. When they dug the basement, Daddy said, “That looks like gold ore!”, and had it assayed. Sure enough, it was valued at about \$4.00 a ton (not enough to make mining worthwhile). Therefore Mother and Daddy went on to build our house. Some newspaper got hold of the story and it became a (small) national news item. In the midst of the Depression that sort of article would be newsworthy. In a few weeks, the radio show “We The People” contacted Daddy and he appeared on a national broadcast telling about how he built his house on a gold mine! The night at the broadcast found most of the radios in town tuned to that program.

**Page 11 of the original Issue was the Thayer Book 1500-1660 order form and has been removed from this electronic copy. END**