the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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NOTICE

It has come to our attention that some of you may have received a copy of the Spring 2000 Issue of the Thayer Quarterly that was incomplete. That issue was twelve pages. If your copy was missing any of pages 3 through 10, please contact me, and I will mail you the missing pages at once. I apologize for this inconvenience.

Albert Thayer Morton, 115 Willow Pond Way, Penfield, NY 14526-2621, ThayerATM@aol.com, Director, Membership Chairman.

From the President

It is my pleasure to greet you for the first time as president of our Thayer Families Association, and to thank you for electing me to this office. Needless to say I have some large shoes to fill and I will do my best.

I think that all of us who were there are still reliving the events of the West Point reunion, and will continue to do so for years to come. The people at the Military Academy and the Hotel Thayer outdid themselves in putting together a program which impressed us all with the history of the area and the importance of Sylvanus Thayer not only to the Academy, but to education throughout the country. I have asked immediate past President Al Morton and Treasurer Judy Young-Thayer to pull together a report of the events of the weekend. They are the ones who put this together and should be given much credit for the success of the affair. Curt and Donna Thayer's organization of a very successful Thayeritage is also to be commended. And, Jerry Thayer's on-site computer answered many members' genealogical questions - a big hit!

The Executive Board met on Thursday, June 15 and transacted routine business. On Saturday, June 17, the Annual Meeting of TFA was held at the Thayer Hotel, with 110 members in attendance. Members had traveled from as far as Washington, Oregon and California, and the Dominican Republic! What a satisfying result for those who worked so hard to organize and manage this event.

A highlight of the meeting was the surprise announcement by James Burdett Thayer, Sr. of Beaverton, OR, one of the Founders of TFA, that his sons, John and Mike Thayer have established the James B. Thayer, Sr. Founders Fund, and have pledged an up to a $10,000 matching challenge for funds raised for the Thayer Families Association Fund over the next eighteen months. Your donations to the TFA Fund are tax deductible. Checks may be sent to Braintree Historical Society, Thayer Families Association Fund, 31 Tenney Rd., Braintree, MA 02184. Checks MUST be made out to Braintree Historical Society (who maintain and administer the TFA Fund) in order to be tax deductible, but PLEASE, on the memo line write "THAYER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION FUND". This last step is important for the fund to receive not only your donation, but the matching funds from the Founders Fund. This is a great opportunity for us, through the generosity of the James B. Thayer, Sr. family, to really build up the Publishing Fund.

Following this announcement Shirley Hansen of Bellevue, WA made an impassioned plea for donations to the TFA Fund, as a result of which over $1,100 was immediately donated by those in attendance. Thank you, Shirley!

A thank you goes to the following folks for the funds raised and initial response to Shirley Hansen's moving speech:

Madora J. Boyd of Rochester, WA
Patricia and Matthew Burno of Pittsfield, MA
Norma B. Frost of Harrington, DE
Lolita and Mearl R. Guthrie of Bowling Green, OH
Shirley G. Hansen of Bellevue, WA
Betty Thayer & Ed Johnson of Walpole, MA
Lu Anne & Eugene Kriebs of Omaha, NE
Muriel & Barney Landry of Hamilton, OH
Henry J. & Judith L. Thayer of Hampton, VA
Robert L. & Jennilee Thayer of Cedar City, UT
William D. & Mary I. Thayer of Mt. Vernon, IN
Jane T. Wuorio of Central Village, CT
Helen D. Zwart of Lower Gwynedd, PA

For those of you not familiar with the TFA Fund the following may be in order. One of the purposes of TFA, as stated in our Bylaws, is "to sponsor the development, publication and distribution of rigorously researched Thayer families genealogies". The restrictions for the Fund, as stated by Braintree Historical Society who administer the Fund, are, "The Thayer Families Association Fund was created to pay for the publication and distribution of thoroughly researched scholarly works documenting the genealogy of the Thayer Family and/or its direct line descendants." Anyone wishing more information on this Fund may request it from me, or from the Braintree Historical Society.

Another important announcement: if you are planning any kind of Thayer reunion Jerry Thayer and Judy Young-Thayer

have agreed to be TFA Ambassadors, and are anxious to be invited to your reunion as representatives of TFA. They can be contacted via email at: JLYThayer@aol.com, or 311 Willow Oaks Blvd., Hampton, VA 23669-1531.

Any members desiring copies of the minutes of the Annual Meeting may request them from Secretary Russ Thayer. Also, pictures taken at the West Point reunion by Ralph Thayer are online at http://www.briefcase.yahoo.com/ralphthayer.

As to what's ahead. Our reunion in 2001, our 10th anniversary, will be held in Braintree, MA in June. The exact dates are yet to be determined, depending upon the availability of facilities. Russ Thayer is Program Chairman for this event and I am sure would welcome any suggestions.

As part of the commemoration of TFA's 10th Anniversary, Carol Thayer has accepted the position of Special Projects Chair. She and her committee plan to make available 10th Anniversary T-shirts and TFA jewelry. Watch for her announcements.

COMMITTEES 2000-01

Following is a list of the committees for the current year. Although our fiscal year is also the calendar year now, in other areas we have to continue to operate from June - May.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Al Morton - Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Judy Young-Thayer - Chair
Carolyn Morton
Curtis Thayer
Helen Zwart

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Al Morton

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Russ Thayer

AUDITING COMMITTEE
Curtis Thayer - Chairman
Madora Boyd
Will Thayer

PUBLISHING APPROVAL COMMITTEE
Al Morton - Chairman
Judy Young-Thayer
Jerry Thayer
Madora Thayer
Rick Thayer

BYLAWS AND MOPPs COMMITTEE
(The purpose of this committee is to keep current the Bylaws and Manual of Policies and Procedures)
Curtis Thayer

BHS CONTACT COMMITTEE
Clint Thayer - Chairman
Madora Boyd
Russ Thayer
Al Morton

THAYERITAGE
Curtis Thayer
Donna Thayer

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Carol Thayer - Chair
Janet Mae Thayer O'Reilly
Betty Frances Atkinson

TOWN CRIER
Jeffrey Thayer

If you would be interested in serving your Association in a not very labor intensive nor time consuming way, possibly even from the comfort of your computer, please get in touch with me. My email address is clntthayer@aol.com, snail mail: 10 Quinley Way, Waterford, CT 06385, Tel. 860-443-1178.

I'll be announcing committee appointments shortly. Please, if you would be interested in serving your Association in a not very labor intensive nor time consuming way, possibly even from the comfort of your computer, please get in touch with me. My email address is clntthayer@aol.com, snail mail: 10 Quinley Way, Waterford, CT 06385, Tel. 860-443-1178.

Clint Thayer ⛵

From the Vice President

Hello from Freeland, Michigan:

I would like to take this opportunity thanking all participants in the Thayeritage. There was a lot of interest and so many people appreciated Jerry Thayer and his computer for checking lineage. The more we can draw attention to that feature of the reunion, hopefully the more people we can get to bring items. Thanks to all who remembered to bring items this time.

Curt Thayer ⛵

West Point Pix Available On-line

courtesy Ralph Clinton Thayer III

Photos taken by Ralph Thayer of the Annual Meeting have ALL been posted at one location:

http://photos.yahoo.com/thayerfamily

Here they are divided into three categories: Meeting Pix (highlights of the proceedings), Table Pix (casual table-by-table snapshots of those in attendance), and Views (scenic 'postcard' views of West Point).

The photos have been reduced in size to facilitate downloading and viewing on home computers. In addition, the 'Table Pix' photos are ALSO available as "full-size"

(1280x960) files for those who may wish to order prints, or want to download and edit the images on their own.

Please refer as needed to the ample "Help" and "FAQ" provided by the "Yahoo! Photos" service. For other questions or comments about these TFA photos, send email to ralphthayer@yahoo.com.

Y2K Attendees

by Judith L. Young-Thayer, Treasurer

Below is a listing of members and guests that were able to attend this years reunion. The best we can determine, there were 153 attendees.

There were some unexpected attendees... Three siblings, Sheila Lynn Thayer Conklin, Jerry Thayer, and Sonya Lee Thayer Shuts (ch/William Jerome Thayer, NYC, now deceased) arrived, announcing that they were "crashing" the TFA Y2K event hoping to see their cousins, Randall Arthur Thayer and Robert Alan Thayer (sons/Rev. George Allen and Joyce E. Thayer, Ellicotville, NY) of Rochester, NY. I'm pleased to report that the reunion took place after the three returned from the Memorial Service and bus tour of West Point. The cousins hadn't seen each other since childhood.

The meals were well attended, too; about 120 each for Friday evening's buffet and Saturday's lunch buffet, about 90 for Saturday evening. Saturday evening's speaker, Dr. Samuel Watson, of West Point's History Department was well versed in Sylvanus Thayer's biography, and provided an interesting finish to TFA's Y2K.

The list was compiled and cross checked this list from four sources...

1. sign-in sheet at the welcome desk
2. list of reservations for pre-paid meals
3. list of registrants at Hotel Thayer, who reserved in the TFA block
4. personal knowledge (Jerry and I discussed this at length.)

Robert Foss and Louise Locke, Redding, CA, FINALLY arrived Sat., after sitting in the Chicago airport overnight. We were all pleased to see them, and realized what an EFFORT it was for them to attend TFA's Y2K. I thanked them especially...

TFA-er Audrey Lynn Thayer Gustafson, Burlingame, CA, had a similar experience. In addition, after he'd arrived at Newark, NJ on Saturday, the car rental company directed her to I-95. Unfortunately, she crossed the George Washington Bridge into NYC, instead to exiting to the Palisades Parkway and driving North. Audrey finally arrived, "frazzled," and much displeased with her NY "welcome." We hope, however, that we enabled her to enjoy the rest of her Y2K experience. Audrey, and her two sisters, Cheryl Thayer and Brenda Thayer Sorel, are the nieces of TFA-ers Betty Thayer and Ed Johnson of Walpole, MA, and Jane Thayer Wuorio of Central Village, CT. I'm pleased to report that Cheryl and Brenda are new members of TFA; they joined at the Y2K.

On the other hand, the weather was so bad that many flights from Los Angeles were cancelled altogether. TFA-er Bill (William Francis) Thayer opted to stay home. His brother, Matthew, of Minneapolis, MN, and relative, Deloris Winona Nelson, picked up Bill's Y2K reservations. We were indeed sorry that Bill couldn't join us, but certainly understand what happened.

It was such a pleasure that so many of deceased TFA cousin Robert Nathaniel Thayer's children, grand children and great grand daughter attended. "Uncle Nat" was especially remembered at the Memorial Service at the Old Cadet Chapel. They were: Marcia Thayer McGhee of St. Petersburg, FL Lawrence and Phyllis Newman (and daughter), of Falls Church, VA, Matthew Henson Thayer, Minneapolis, MN Deloris Winona Nelson, of NY Audrey M. Thayer Siler, Chicago, IL (we met her daughter, Anna, in '97) Shirley E. Thayer Newman, Chicago, IL.

Surname, Name (comments)	City	State
Anthony, Jeanne (guest/Ann Smith)		
Atkinson, Betty Frances	Rockland	MA
Atkinson, Robert	Rockland	MA
Bohs, Frank Lynn (w/Sally Jeanne)		
Bohs, Sally Jeanne	Marysville	MI
Boyd, Madora Allyn Thayer	Rochester	WA
Burno, Frank (sp Patricia)		
Burno, Patricia Alden Thayer	Pittsfield	MA
Carbonell, Richard Robert Thayer	Enfield	CT
Carbonell, Teresa Montagne		
Caria, Betty (guest/Ann Smith)		
Catania, Carol M.	Cornwall	NY
Catania, Evelyn Doris (Eckert)	Cornwall	NY
Catania, Raymond	Cornwall	NY
Crane, Linda Orfield		
Donovan, Louise C.	South Windsor	CT
Donovan, Raymond Thayer	South Windsor	CT
Evans, David G.	Waldo	OH
Evans, Martha Thayer	Waldo	OH
Frost, Norma B.	Harrington	DE
Gardner, Bob Thayer c/o Shirley Hansen		
	Renton	WA
Gustafson, Audrey Thayer	Burlingame	CA
Guthrie, Lolita A. Thayer	Bowling Green	OH
Guthrie, Mearl R. (hus: Lolita)		
Hale, Carolyn Sinclair (w/Will Thayer)		
Hansen, Shirley G.	Bellevue	WA
Henry, Loris Thayer (w/Norma Frost)		
Johnson, Betty Thayer	Walpole	MA
Johnson, Edwin R.		
Jones, Doris Thayer	Whitewater	WI
Jones, Russell A.	Whitewater	WI
Kriebs, Eugene P.	Omaha	NE
Kriebs, Lu Anne	Omaha	NE
Landry, Barney M.	Hamilton	OH
Landry, Muriel Marketto	Hamilton	OH
Locke, Louise A.	Redding	CA
Locke, Richard Foss	Redding	CA
Martinez, Elsie Thayer		
McGhee, Marcia M. Thayer	St. Petersburg	FL
McKelvie, Ann		
Morton, Albert Thayer	Penfield	NY
Morton, Carolyn		
Myers, Andrew Michael (wf:Diana)	University Pk.	FL
Myers, Diana Thayer	University Pk.	FL

Newman, Lawrence E.	Falls Church	VA
Newman, Phyllis R. Mathews	Falls Church	VA
Newman, Shirley E. Thayer		
O'Reilly, Janet Mae Thayer	Rockland	MA
O'Reilly, Robert Thomas	Rockland	MA
Orfield, Harry		
Orfield, Hazel		
Orfield, Mark	Meadow View	VA
Plefka, Alexander (w/Beverly Grace)	E. Hartford	CT
Plefka, Beverly Grace Thayer	E. Hartford	CT
Rivet, Charles		
Rivet, Phyllis Thayer	Ocean Pines	MD
Sanner, Carla (dau: Lolita Guthrie)		
Shelton, Heather J. Thayer	Zion	IL
Shelton Nancy (w/Heather J. T./dau)		
Siler, Audrey M. Thayer	Chicago	IL
Soares, Mary A. (w/Wirt Thayer)		
Sorel, Brenda	Burlingame	CA
Thayer, (grson) J.R.		
Thayer, Barbara R.	Accokeek	MD
Thayer, Barbara (w/6 mo dau)	Mt. Vernon	IN
Thayer, Bruce Errol	Fairchild	WI
Thayer, Carol	Hanover	MA
Thayer, Cheryl Ann	Concord	CA
Thayer, Clinton Stephen	Huntington Beach	CA
Thayer, Curtis Ross	Freeland	MI
Thayer, David Lawson	Mt. Vernon	IN
Thayer, Deloris (Dee) Huber	Iowa City	IA
Thayer, Donna R.	Freeland	MI
Thayer, Dorothy	Palisades	NY
Thayer, Dr. Charles Bennett	Iowa City	IA
Thayer, Dr. Constance Johnson		
Thayer, Dr. William Deane	Mt. Vernon	IN
Thayer, Edward Ball (guests E.B., III)		
Thayer, Edward Ball, III	Middletown	NY
Thayer, Henry J.	Hampton	VA
Thayer, James Burdett	Beaverton	OR
Thayer, James Loren	Corydon	IN
Thayer, James Robert	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	
Thayer, Jean Curtis	Limestone	TN
Thayer, Jeffrey Lee	Pittsburgh	PA
Thayer, Jennilee G.		
Thayer, John Alexander (B.G. James B.'s son)		
Thayer, John Garland	Limestone	TN
Thayer, Joyce E.	Ellicottville	NY
Thayer, Judith L. Young-	Hampton	VA
Thayer, Karen K.	Fairchild	WI
Thayer, Leona Anderson (w/Clinton Stephen)		
Thayer, Linda Schroder	New Kensington	PA
Thayer, Lloyd	Wilmington	DE
Thayer, Mabel A. (dau Vickie)	Rochester	NY
Thayer, Marianna		
Thayer, Marta (wf) J.R.		
Thayer, Mary Irene Lawson	Mt. Vernon	IN
Thayer, Mavis	North Quincy	MA
Thayer, Michelle Diane Sexton	Corydon	IN
Thayer, Mrs. Edward Ball (guests E.B., III)		
Thayer, Randall Arthur	Rochester	NY
Thayer, Raymond Alexander	North Quincy	MA
Thayer, Rev. C. Russell	Hanover	MA
Thayer, Rev. George Allan	Ellicottville	NY
Thayer, Rev. Nelson T.	New Kensington	PA
Thayer, Richard James (James Loren called)		
	Glenmont	NY
Thayer, Robert Alan	Rochester	NY
Thayer, Robert Lee	Cedar City	UT
Thayer, Russell		
Thayer, Susan E. (w/Wirt Thayer)		
Thayer, Thomas Clarence	Accokeek	MD
Thayer, Thomas Lee	Belle Mead	NJ
Thayer, Thomas R.	Belle Mead	NJ
Thayer, Timothy Deane (2/son)	Mt. Vernon	IN
Thayer, William Russell	Springfield	MA
Thayer, Winona Nelson (guest: W.F. Thayer)		
Thayer, Wirt Cummings	Newport	RI
Thayer, Wm F. (aka Matthew) (will send e-transfer)		
	Los Angeles	CA
Thayer, III, Edward B.		
Thayer, III, Ralph Clinton	Waterford	CT
Thayer, Jr., Ralph Clinton	Waterford	CT
Thayer, Jr., Reginald Holden	Palisades	NY
Vardeman, Agnus Thayer		
Warden, Patricia (w/Rex W.)		
Warden, Rex W.	Punta Gorda	FL
Watson, Dr. Samuel (Guest Speaker, USMA, Dept.Hist.)		
Wuorio, Jane Thayer	Central Village	CT
York, Miriam A. (w/Wirt Thayer)		
Young, Barbara	Exeter	NH
Young, Jennifer (dau)	Exeter	NH
Zwart, Case G.	Lower Gwynedd	PA
Zwart, Helen D.		

Other attendees:

Thayer, Robert Henry (rel's follow)	Clinton	MS
Thayer, Sue	Clinton	MS
Wood, Charlotte		
Wood, Walter		
Wood, Thomas		
Wood, George		
Wood, John Michael		
Duncan, Bruce C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Duncan, Florence T.		
Hollenbeck, Margaret Russell (w/Duncan cousins)		
	San Diego	CA
Grahek, Iva Rochelle Thayer	Bowie	MD
Grahek, Ronald A., Jr.		
Grahek, (child)		

Also:

Thayer, Sonya Lee (dau Wm. Jeremy, dec'd)		
	Warwick	NY
Thayer, Jerry (son Wm. Jeremy, dec'd)		
	Middletown	NY
Conklin, Sheila Lyn Thayer (dau Wm. Jeremy, dec'd)		
	Middletown	NY

DeGrote Dede (Hotel Thayer Register)
DeGrote (spouse?, Hotel Thayer Register)
Puccio, Thomas (Hotel Thayer Register)
Puccio, w/Thomas

Youngest & Oldest Thayers Present at the Reunion

Youngest present was 6 month old Brittany Thayer, daughter of Timothy Deane and Barbara Thayer. Brittany is the 13th descendant of Richard, the Immigrant (Timothy Deane[12], William Deane[11], Melville Lewis[10], Lewis Newton[9], Isaac Newton[8], Lewis[7], Ezra[6], Micah[5], John[4], Richard[3-1]).

Oldest present was Richard James Thayer, born 26 Aug 1914. Richard is the 11th descendant of Richard, the Immigrant (James Houghton[10], John Gale[9], Rowland Sears[8], Eliphalet[7], Oliver[6], Abiah[5], John[4], Richard [3-1]).

I'm sure that each of us had interesting encounters during the Y2K. Perhaps we could share them with Lee for inclusion in upcoming editions of the TQ.

TFA-regards, Judy

TFA Officers & Directors

The following is a list of your Associations Officers and Directors, as well as the Genealogist and her Assistant. Special Projects Chairmen are listed here as well.

Feel free to contact anyone listed here if you have questions, comments or ideas concerning the Association, Family Representatives, Genealogical Queries or Family Information, the Thayer Quarterly, or Special Projects.

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Y2K Memoirs

by Al Thayer Morton

We knew that 11:00 AM Wednesday was a little early, but we walked up to the Hotel Thayer front desk anyway. I was somewhat taken aback when, upon giving our names, the clerk asked me to spell "Thayer", but I obliged. She then said that the rooms would not be ready until 3:00. I turned away, and all of a sudden the clerk said: "Wait… Those rooms are ready."

Figure 1: Former TFA President, Albert Thayer

The Bell Captain took our luggage out of the car, and carted everything up to the room, unlocked the door, deposited everything in the room, and handed us our keys. All in all it was a nice entrance into Hotel Thayer. The hotel is awesome, and the good staff is back. I was greatly relieved.

The next morning, Thursday, TFA held its Executive Board Meeting in a spacious meeting room provided at no charge by Hotel Thayer. The business that needed to be transacted was completed by noon. Whew… Things were moving quickly. The Board meeting was adjourned and we broke for lunch. For the next few hours folks met informally in and about Hotel Thayer. We met some delightful people, most of them being cousins, many of whom had flown in from as far away as Washington State and California.

Friday morning was the kickoff.

The Thayeritage began at 9:00 in a huge room adjacent to our dining room. The staff of the hotel remained discreetly out of the way, but they were always there if something needed to be taken care of. They even made some subtle changes as things proceeded. It was an excellent example of fine tuning what was already great service.

Somewhere it's written in stone that something must go wrong. Murphy was, after all, an optimist. Both major airports in New York City were closed because of fog, as well as the airport in Newark, NJ. Several flights out of O'Hare airport in Chicago were also cancelled due to the weather in New York City. I was told that several flights out of California were also cancelled. Sadly, several people didn't make it in time, and some didn't make it at all.

Despite these discouraging inhibitions, about 150 enthusiastic people rushed up to the buses at 12:15, and we were off to the memorial service for Sylvanus Thayer.

After a short service in the Old Cadet Chapel in which the Chaplain "preached to the choir" (his words), the group followed the colors to the grave of Sylvanus Thayer where incoming TFA President Clint Thayer helped place a memorial wreath. After a 21-gun salute atop a hill behind us, the solemn notes of Taps were heard from a lone bugler high on an adjacent hill. It was a dignified and impressive ceremony.

Shortly after the memorial service the buses picked everyone up and took us on a two hour tour of West Point. Each of the four buses traveled the tour route in a different order, so there wasn't a mob of people at any one place at one time. The groups were small enough that folks could get personal attention. The tour guide for the bus I was on was the wife of a Colonel who teaches at the Academy. She was enthusiastic, informed, and really delivered an informative and entertaining presentation. After the tour we all returned to Hotel Thayer, and prepared for dinner.

That evening Hotel Thayer provided quite a spread. Dinner was followed by socialization, and folks retired in anticipation of the following morning.

The Thayeritage resumed at 9:00 Saturday, followed by lunch at 12:00. After lunch, at 1:00 we held the 10th annual TFA membership meeting. This is the point where the members are important in the direction of TFA affairs and operations. TFA can't make any changes in the bylaws, or members of the Executive Board without a vote of the membership. Also, all officers and board members are accountable to the membership for their direction. Evidently the membership was satisfied with the reports of each of the committees, as we were able to wrap up the meeting in 45 minutes, and get back to socializing.

The dinner Saturday evening was highlighted by a speech by Dr. Samuel Watson, Assistant Professor of History at West Point. Dr. Watson explained both during dinner and during his speech the impact that Sylvanus Thayer made on West Point, and education in general. ⚠

Sylvanus Thayer: Soldier, Educator, Professional

Dr. Samuel Watson
Assistant Professor
Department of History
U.S. Military Academy
(based on speech to the Thayer Family Association, West Point, New York, 17 June 2000)

Sylvanus Thayer's legacy lives on in the curriculum, atmosphere, and values—ultimately quintessential American ones like hard work, persistence, self-improvement, and fairness—of the U.S. Military Academy. Most of you may know something of Thayer's work as Superintendent of the Academy, but only sixteen of his fifty years of active service were spent at West Point. He did not resign from the Army in 1833, when he left West Point after coming to feel that he lacked President Jackson's confidence; rather, he continued to contribute to his profession and nation long afterwards.

Thayer was not solely an engineer, nor solely a teacher, nor solely a military officer, but a combination of all these, as well as a scientist and gentleman. Thayer used his position at West Point to emphasize the need for literate officers who could pursue professional expertise independently, after they had graduated from the Academy: those who think of Thayer principally as an engineer or exponent of mathematics would be surprised to read his letter to Chief Engineer Joseph G. Swift in October 1818, when he stated that he considered a knowledge of English grammar "of greater importance than any other" measure or quality the Academy required of cadets. Indeed, Thayer consistently sought to enhance and disseminate military knowledge throughout the U.S. Army, by building up libraries at West Point and in Washington, by supporting professional writing by junior officers, and by having treatises on the science of war and fortification distributed to cadets at a time when such works were difficult to obtain in the United States.

Here at West Point we speak of educating "leaders of character" to serve the nation in civil as well as military life, and Thayer's success in doing so is evident in the civilian careers of graduates in the classes he oversaw. Fifty-one graduates of the classes of 1818-1833—approximately ten percent of all the graduates of those classes—eventually taught at or administered institutions of higher education, including fifteen presidents of colleges and universities, fourteen principals at secondary schools, and ten superintendents of military schools or school districts. Graduates taught at institutions as distinguished as Yale and Brown. The quality of Thayer's personal judgment is demonstrated by those who sought his advice: James Monroe sought his views concerning the organization and government of the University of Virginia, and asked him to recommend a professor of mathematics, suggesting that this position (the equivalent of an endowed chair and department head today) might be filled by a graduate of West Point.

Monroe was not alone in soliciting Thayer's advice. Both junior and senior army officers often did so when making personnel decisions. Members of a small army, these men usually knew one another, and their recommendations served as a means of identifying and promoting talent. Between 1836 and 1839 the Chief Engineer asked Thayer several times whether he would be willing to resume the superintendency of the Academy. Thayer consistently refused, feeling it best to allow others to experience the position and infuse new ideas there, but his advice was frequently sought by Academy officials and the Chief Engineers, particularly on choices for the principal academic chairs. Thayer did not hesitate to suggest men whom he had taken notice of while superintendent, maintaining that "the interest which I may reasonably be supposed to feel in the Institution so long confided to my care would, I hope, be deemed a sufficient apology, if any were necessary, for the liberty I take in addressing" these appointments. In 1834, for example, he nominated Lieutenant William H. Bartlett for the professorship of mathematics. Bartlett did not receive that position, but was appointed professor of natural sciences, a post he held for the next thirty-seven years. Indeed, all the major professors appointed in the 1830s, either by Thayer or upon his recommendation, remained at the Academy through the Civil War and beyond; his vision of the Academy's purpose and methods was thus transmitted well beyond his effective retirement in 1858.

Such relationships extended beyond the bounds of the army, serving as important links in the emerging professional network of American engineers. As role model and mentor at the nation's primary engineering school, Thayer was inevitably at or near the center of such networks. These ties persisted long after 1833. In 1841 former cadet Ormsby McKnight Mitchel (WP '29) sent Thayer a letter of introduction for a civilian to whom Mitchel had taught civil engineering, using the language emphasized at the Military Academy to suggest this individual's sense of his profession. Mitchel reported his pupil's "attainments in his profession, his gentlemanly behavior, and [his] prompt attention to duty."

Thayer's own scientific stature was nationally recognized when he was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1834, and of the American Philosophical Society in 1838. (He also received two honorary degrees from Harvard.) His military and civil achievements went hand-in-hand, their unity apparent when the Chief of Ordnance sent a letter of introduction to the American Minister in England, George Washington Irving, in 1843, praising Thayer for possessing "all the essentials of an officer and a gentleman—decidedly a man of the first respectability & Talent." (Thayer was embarking on a tour of Europe, in part for his health and in part to keep American engineers abreast of the latest developments in their profession. Chief Engineer Totten gave Thayer the authority to choose books for the War Department library, and the chief of the Ordnance Department gave him a separate list of books to obtain.) Similarly, the acting Secretary of the Navy, A. Thomas Smith, asked U.S. naval officers to cooperate with Thayer, since "Colo[nel] Thayer has long held a high character in the Army, as an officer of great scientific attainments, and in society as a gentleman of unsullied reputation." Yet Thayer served as a link not only at the top of his profession, but as a facilitator for more junior officers and a connection to civil and military engineers across the Atlantic. Lieutenant George Welcker wrote from the Engineering Department at West Point to request three books on fortifications and the naval history of the Napoleonic Wars, and kept Thayer up to date with news of fellow engineer officers. The French engineer Guillaume Tell Poussin, who had served as a sort of special adviser to the U.S. Army's topographical engineers during the 1820s, offered Thayer a copy of his book about the United States, "as coming from a brother officer who values much your opinion and friendship." Indeed, Thayer received professional cooperation from fellow military engineers throughout Europe, visiting arsenals, fortifications, and military installations in England, the Netherlands, Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Rome, Naples, Genoa, and Paris over the course of the next year. Although he was unable to visit many Prussian sites, the American consul in Berlin made sure to forward a number of books on Russian military organization to Boston for Thayer's use.

Thayer was also recognized by his superiors as an authority on the art and science of warfare. Chief Engineer Joseph G. Totten turned to his protégé for recommendations concerning personnel assignments, administrative regulations for the Corps of Engineers, and assistance on a report to Congress on the defenses of the Maine border with Canada. Indeed, Totten ordered Thayer to travel to Washington several times in order to advise the secretary of war on congressional reports. Though stationed for a quarter century in Boston Harbor supervising the construction of fortifications (a fairly routine job given his knowledge and experience), he maintained a strong personal interest in professional developments around the world, an ongoing dedication to learning—"a life-long commitment to self-improvement," in language common at the Academy even today—that he sought to encourage in cadets and subordinate officers. (Thayer's expertise in fortification construction was recognized in his service on the Board of Engineers for Fortifications throughout that period, most of which he served as the board's president.) Even when his philosophy of education and command was challenged during Andrew Jackson's presidency, Thayer advocated sustained a "ready obedience & zealous performance of duty" that drew the attention of superiors and set a model for subordinates. In December 1828, anticipating friction with the War Department of the incoming administration over appointments and command, Thayer wrote to Chief Engineer Charles Gratiot that regardless of his personal views and interests, "as far as it depends on me the machine shall move on with regularity." The officers of the regular army, an army made increasingly professional through the efforts of men like Sylvanus Thayer, knew that their ability to serve the nation depended on the "regularity" of Academy and Army, and I ask you to join me in saluting one of the original "regulars."

A Brief Biography of Simeon Martin Pattison Thayer

by Karin W. Phillips

Simeon Martin Pattison Thayer (Simeon[8], David[7], Reuben[6], Isaac[5-3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) was born in Haldimand, Ontario, Canada on January 17, 1841. His parents, Simeon and Emmarilla Pattison Thayer, had moved from New York during a period of large emigration to the newly opened agricultural land in Canada. When he was eleven, his family moved back to the United States and settled on a farm near Lexington, Sanilac Co. MI. Here, Martin finished school and went to work in the lumber industry. He quickly moved up to foreman and supervisor. When he was twenty-five, he became part owner of his own lumber company in Minden City.

Figure 2: Simeon Martin Pattison Thayer

Here he married his first wife Isabella Murdock and began his political career, serving six years on the school board and then being elected to the Michigan State legislature for 1871 and '72. In 1872 he moved his business interests to Marquette, MI and at that time he shortened his name to Martin Pattison. Martin and his brother, William, set up a lumber and mineral development company, but during seven years there, they met with only limited success. They decided to move to Superior, WI and start a lumber business in the white pine forests found there.

A conservationist, Martin did not strip log as was common practice. He selectively cut, preserving the forest of what is now Pattison State Park. Three years after starting their logging operations, the brothers sold the business to concentrate on mineral development. During this period of exploration Martin, who was 40 years old at the time, would carry a pack of up to 100 lbs. as he hiked the 90 mile long Vermillion Trail which went from Superior to Lake Vermillion. He often traveled in the company of Ojibwa friend and guide Joe Boshey, who was later to save Martin from drowning. From Vermillion Lake he searched to the North and East, finding a rich area of Iron in the Ely, MN area. The vein went all the way to the Canadian border.

Martin mapped the find and set about acquiring title to the land. A partnership was formed to buy the properties and Martin became one of the wealthiest men in the region. He also developed properties in the Copper mining industry. He then returned to politics as the sheriff of Douglas Co., WI in 1884. In 1890 he was elected mayor of Superior, the first of three terms, and he also began the planning and construction of his home, Fairlawn.

During his terms as mayor he saw to the paving of the streets, constructions of sewers, updating the fire department and attracting new businesses to the Superior area. When he finished his last term, the city had no debt, all bonds were sold and projects completed.

Figure 3: Fairlawn, 42 room mansion

In 1891 Martin and his second wife, Grace Emma Frink, and their 4 children moved in to the 42-room mansion. During this time Martin still enjoyed being in the wilderness areas and the family had a rustic lodge on an island in Burntside Lake. In 1917, Martin learned of plans to dam one of his favorite hiking areas around the Black River with Manitou Falls, the highest waterfall in the state. He secretly bought up 660 acres of land from a large number of owners along the river and at the falls.

In 1918, shortly before his death, he gave the land to the state of Wisconsin to be used as a state park. His home, which had been given for use as an orphanage by his widow, has just finished a first phase of restoration and is now open as a museum. It was recently featured on A&E's America's Castles - The Lumber Barons. Pattison State Park, now 1440 acres, is open for hiking and camping and visitors can see his beloved Manitou Falls as well as remnants of the Pattison lumber camp and trail. Martin also left a legacy of gifts for public buildings and churches in the cities of Superior and Duluth, many which still stand today.

William Joseph Thayer, Logger, Dies at 35

courtesy of Madora Boyd

The following three articles are from the Bellington Herald, Whatcom County, Washington. The date of each article is listed under each excerpt. William Joseph[10] (Henry H.[9], Joseph[8], Thaddeus Adams[7], Obediah Allen[6], Noah[5], Hezekiah[4], Nathaniel[3], Richard[2-1]) Thayer had two sons, William Joseph Jr.[11] and Daniel[11]. Madora was married to William Jr., and their son is named William Joseph III[12]. **Fig. 4** is a photograph of William and his two sons, William Jr. and Daniel. The photo was taken around 1925 in Wisconsin.

Figure 4: Joseph William Thayer and his two sons, William Joseph Jr. and Daniel

Logger Badly Hurt

William Thayer Unconscious
Skull Fractured

William Thayer, 35, logger, suffered a severe fracture at the base of his skull when struck by a log at the Wood-Knight Logging Camp near the head of Lake Whatcom about noon today, and is being cared for at St. Luke's hospital.

Thayer's skull was depressed in the accident according to Dr. W. C. Keyes, who added that an operation probably would be necessary.

Log Breaks Loose

The injuries were suffered when a log slipped from a pile of logs as it came down an incline, pivoting on top of the pile and striking Thayer on the side of the head.

Thayer was rushed to St. Luke's hospital in in [sic] the Arthur C. Harlow Mortuary Home ambulance, arriving at the hospital about 1:30 o'clock. [29 March, 1928]

Logger Passes as Wife Awaits the Stork

Mother Bears Up Bravely Under Shock When Told of Husband's Tragic Death.

About one hour before his wife, Mrs. Margaret Thayer was removed to St. Joseph's hospital, with the expectation of giving birth to a child, William Thayer, 35, a logger, of Geneva District, died at St. Luke's hospital at 3 o'clock this morning as the result of a fracture at the base of his skull, which occurred when he was struck Thursday noon by a log at the Wood-Knight Logging company's camp on the northerly shore of Lake Whatcom, near Towanda.

Thayer died without having regained consciousness. His wife was told of his death before her removal to St. Joseph's hospital. It was said there this afternoon that she was bearing up bravely under the shock, and that her condition was not critical. The body was removed to the Homer Mark mortuary.

Operation Fails

Dr. W. C. Keyes, attending physician, operated on the fracture which was depressed, in an effort to save Thayer's life, but the logger did not regain consciousness.

Thayer was injured when a log pivoted on top of some other logs and struck him a vicious blow on the side of his head.

Aside from the widow, the surviving relatives are two daughters and one son and the parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Thayer, of Coudary, Wisconsin. [30 March 1928]

Obituary

THAYER. William Joseph Thayer, beloved husband of Mrs. Margaret Thayer, R. F. D. No. 3, Bellingham: father of William Joseph Jr. and Daniel Vincent, at home: son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thayer and brother of Susie, Joseph, and George Thayer of Conderay, Wis. and brother of Mrs. Stephen Lawrence and Daniel Thayer, Chicago, passed away at a local hospital at an early hour Friday morning. March 30, death being the result of an accident met with while in the employ of the Wood-Knight Logging Company. Mr. Thayer has been a resident of Bellingham for the past eighteen months and was a member of the Church of the Assumption. The remains are being cared for by the O. R. Hollingsworth Funeral Home, 120-123 Prospect street, and the funeral services will be held from the Church of the Assumption Monday, April 2, at 9 a.m., Rev. Father James F. Barrett officiating, and internment will occur in the family plot in Enterprise Cemetery. [1928] ⏏

Thayer Found In Shiloh Battlefield

by Rodney Lee Thayer, Editor

The following information comes from three primary sources: The first is from me, the Editor, the second comes from Jerry Thayer, the third comes from Vicksburg National Battlefield, Vicksburg Mississippi:

U.S.
ARMY OF THE TENNESEE
THAYER'S (2nd) BRIGADE
1st NEBRASKA, 23rd INDIANA
58th OHIO
L. WALLACE'S (3rd) DIVISION

"This brigade was engaged here from about 10 AM to 12 M, April 7, 1862. It then advanced through the crescent field."

The above information is taken from a battle marker, **Fig. 5,** located in the Shiloh National Military Park and Battleground, in Hardin County, Tennessee. Shiloh battlefield was were some of the bloodiest fighting occurred during the Civil War.

Figure 5: Battle marker faces the area where this battle took place

Over a year ago, my father and sister were driving the auto tour of the battlefield and this was the first battle marker they came across and they stopped to read it. They completed the tour, and kept this marker in mind. In February 2000, while I was on leave in the states, my father and sister took me on the tour of Shiloh battlefield, and once again, this was the first marker visited.

The auto tour is the easiest way to see this fascinating place. As you take the tour, numerous markers are displayed that tell of the battles that occurred there. As you drive through the park, one can see dozens of stone memorials that are located throughout the fields and forests and mark significant events and people during the battles. These require walking the trails to see all of them, with some trails going on for miles. The memorial located near the National Cemetery, **Fig. 6,** is a memorial for the 58th Ohio Infantry.

And no, there are no Thayers recorded as buried in the National Cem. Of the thousands buried there, over half of the headstones are for unknown soldiers.

Figure 6: Memorial for the 58th Ohio Infantry, Thayer's Brigade is written on the right side

Shiloh National Military Park was established in 1894 to preserve the scene of the first major battle in the Western theater of the Civil War. The two-day battle, April 6 and 7, 1862, involved about 65,000 Union and 44,000 Confederate troops. This battle resulted in nearly 24,000 killed, wounded, and missing. It proved to be a decisive victory for the federal forces when they advanced on and seized control of the Confederate railway system at Corinth, Mississippi. The battlefield contains about 4,000 acres and has within its boundaries the Shiloh National Cemetery along with the well preserved prehistoric Indian mounds that are listed as a historic landmark. The park is located in Hardin County, on the west bank of the Tennessee River, and about nine miles south of Savannah, Tennessee.

After returning back to Japan in March, I contacted Jerry Thayer and gave him the information from the marker and he provided the following information:

General John Milton Thayer 1820-1906

provided by Jerry Thayer

General John Milton Thayer born 24 Jan 1820 Bellingham MA, died 19 Mar 1906 Lincoln, Lancaster, NE. He married 27 Dec 1842 Sterling, Worcester, MA to Mary Torrey ALLEN, born 20 Jun 1820 Mansfield, Bristol, MA, died 27 Sep 1892 Bellingham, Norfolk, NE. His lineage is: Elias[6-5], Ebenezer[4-3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1].

The Thayer Genealogy states he went to Nebraska and practiced law there until outbreak of Civil War. He entered Army as a Captain, promoted to Colonel, then Brigadier General, then Major General, for meritorious conduct and bravery, served to the close of the war, when he was sent as

U.S. Senator from Nebraska to fill vacancy. He was Governor of Nebraska 1887 to 1893.

"Brigadier General John M. Thayer commanded the brigade deployed along this sector of the Union siege line at Vicksburg. It participated in Sherman's attack of May 19 and the general assault of May 22. In both attacks Thayer's men advanced up the hill toward the Confederates dug-in at the top but on both occasions were repulsed by the defenders. In the attack of 19 May the brigade sustained 50 casualties and in the attack of 22 May, 155 casualties. After these setbacks Thayer's men began digging a 6 foot deep approach trench toward the Confederate bastion at the top of the ridge. Union troops in the approach trench were concealed from the Confederates by a roof made of bundles of cane called fascines. In addition to providing concealment they were practically impervious to musket fire. As Thayer's men approached the Confederate line they began mining operations and had almost completed them when the surrender came." (see Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography)

He went to the Kansas-Nebraska Territory after it was opened for settlement in 1854 and decided that the present site of the city of Omaha, NE was to be his future home. He built a two room frame house for his family and returned to MA for them in 1855. He later built a two-story brick home on 16th and Davenport. In the spring of that same year he was chosen by Nebraska Governor to meet with the Pawnee Chief for the purpose of determining why they had been making more than their usual raids on the settlers stock in the Elkhorn Valley. His wife, Mary, was said to have played a prominent part in the preparations for the trip as she supplied the half dozen loaves of bread, the whole boiled ham, six or seven mince pies, a half bushel of doughnuts, condensed milk, pickles, and enough ground coffee for several days.

John M. Thayer was elected a member of the Nebraska Territorial Legislature in 1860, but resigned in 1861 to become a Colonel in the first Nebraska Infantry and in 1862 was promoted to Brigadier General. In 1867 he was elected on of the first two U.S. Senators from Nebraska and the family moved to Washington DC where he was involved in the impeachment of President Andrew Jackson. In 1875 he was appointed Governor of the Territory of Wyoming by his friend, President Grant. In 1878 the family returned to Nebraska where John resumed him law practice. He retired from public life in 1892 and devoted his time to literary pursuits. (See also Dictionary of American Biography Vol. IX, page 408).

Thayer s Approach

courtesy of
Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi

The Union soldiers in this section of the line were commanded by Brig. Gen. John M. Thayer. They had taken part in the unsuccessful assaults on 19 May and 22 May. During those attacks, Thayer's men had advanced up the hill only to be driven back by Confederates positioned at the top. After the second setback, the Federals began digging a six foot deep approach trench. Once close enough to the confederate works on top of the hill, it was intended to start a mine under the Southern position similar to the one being dug under the Third Louisiana Redan. The men digging the approach trench were protected from Confederate fire by bundles of cane called Fascines. They served as a roof on the trench. Thayer's soldiers had begun digging their mine and nearly had it completed when Vicksburg surrendered.

Figure 8: John M. Thayer Memorial, located just 200 yards from Thayer s Approach

"U.S.
THAYER'S APPROACH
The trench for Thayer's Approach to the Confederate work in his front was started about May 30, 1883, on the north side of this ridge, through which it was carried by a tunnel preserved by the brick arch. The trench across the revine to the foot pf the spur south of this marker. About 6 feet wide and 6 feet deep, was covered by a blinding of bundles of cane across it and affording protection against rifle balls. The Confederates did not use artillery against this blinding. When the trench reached cover at the base of spur two lines of approach were started and these lines united on top of the spur to form one approach."

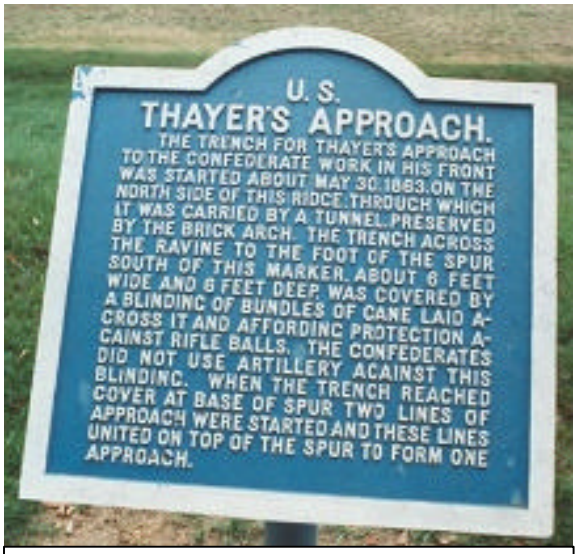

Figure 7: Marker describing Thayer's Approach, transcribed above.

A Personal Odyssey

by Judith L. Young-Thayer

Some years ago, a cousin commented, "Anyone who is interested in genealogy needn't ever be lonely." Developing an interest in one's family history can provide interesting, enriching and rewarding experiences. In the years that I have been actively searching out my family's history, my satisfactions and enthusiasms in the hobby have grown appreciably with the successes I've enjoyed.

There are numerous ways of doing family research, probably as many as the number of people interested and involved in the search. Some of my greatest pleasures have come through the development of research skills and sometimes unusual perspectives.

Over the years, I've expanded a network of research friends with whom I've often shared some intriguing puzzles. In several instances, I helped discover answers to questions which had baffled others concerned with the same historic problems. These experiences have allowed my perceptions to sharpen and to view history and historic events with greater insights. The realization that members of my families have been involved, however small their roles, in larger national issues, has enabled me to refocus on events and contrast small personal details with the larger picture as presented. I became aware that personal and family decisions were often forced by social pressures and economic forces at work in the national community. These choices were, of course, directly and intimately involved in the directions and shapes that our families' histories took.

Some of the methods of recovering family data are through the use of essentially impersonal formal records. Countless records are available through the National Archives, Library of Congress, state and local agencies, as well as state and local libraries, archives and historical societies. It is an incomparable experience to read some of these records. In some cases, if a man served in the military, his life's history is recounted in pension records, and often some of his family's as well. Innumerable records exist to document a person's journey through life. Church records of all kinds, cemetery records, probate records, land records and miscellaneous records, tax records, military and pension records, school records, local, state and federal censuses, offer just a few of the ways to "catch a glimpse" of a person or a family in time and space - what we choose to call history.

Another very valuable way to explore family history is to re-establish and reconstruct family connections, which are often broken and lost over the years. It is a matter of contacting relatives who are in touch with others, who, in turn, know of others. This aspect of the hobby has provided satisfactions and rewards I could never have predicted or anticipated. The continent-wide, international family network which resulted has been a rare experience. These relatives, in varying degrees, have become interested and enthusiastic about reclaiming their families' histories and
heritages that many of us thought were lost in the mists of time.

Apart from the strictly research aspect of these contacts and projects, some of us have developed warm, affectionate relationships. For instance, I discovered that two of my grandmother's sisters (one 91, the other 89 years old) still lived in Nebraska. While none of their immediate family was still alive, they were intensely interested in their family history, and delighted in anyone who shared the memories and listened to their stories. Through our shared interests, and the contributions that we each made, we cousins and aunts developed a systematically documented, coherent "story" of the family, complete with pictures, letters, diaries, scrap books, albums, newspaper items, church, census, military and pension records and other memorabilia, dating to about 1595 in Germany. Imagine my thrill when they showed me a picture of their great-grandmother, who was born in 1786! Knowing those two great-aunts, and sharing all their stories and memories, provided me vivid images of their parents and grandparents, all of whom I would like to have known. And, to an appreciable extent, I do know them.

Records, memorabilia, and stories demonstrate an immediacy and personalization of events from earliest Colonial times through our modern era, that can never be conveyed through the pages of a formal history. Not long ago, a distant cousin showed me a powder horn which had belonged to our mutual fourth great grandfather. It is engraved: "Nathan Garnsey of Litchfield His Horn Made at Ticonderoga By Peter B. Garnsey 1757 His Brother." The powder horn was made by Nathan's older brother who had been called up for duty with the Connecticut Militia during one of the "alarms" during the French and Indian Wars. The records show that no "action" took place at Ft. Ticonderoga (New York) at that time, and the militia merely garrisoned the fort and, presumably, performed routine patrols. I can imagine that Peter filled long hours of apprehension and boredom, guard duty and leisure, making and carving that powder horn for his little brother, "safe" at home in Connecticut.

As with the powder horn, many bits of family memorabilia evoke powerful images for me. There are oil portraits of Nathan and Peter, painted in later life, which allow a glimpse of them and create real persons of their shadows. Another great grandfather's wooden shoe, souvenir of his former occupation in Germany, is lovingly preserved; a confirmation bible given to another great grandfather by a revered teacher in his former German village home; the Revolutionary era Militia commission signed by Governor Clinton in New York; the original patent and grant of land inscribed by hand on a sheepskin parchment and signed by William Penn; the certificate of commission as a New York Justice of the Peace; records of marriages, baptisms, and confirmations; bibles; school certificates; letters; pictures; diaries; scrapbooks; albums. There are hundreds of items which seem to reach across time and space and whisper of family, love, lives lived and shared - precious remnants, somehow of ourselves - left to us to try to understand, interpret and reconstruct.

Although none of my families were ever prominent or wealthy, many stood tall and proud in their communities. To quote Abraham Lincoln rather loosely, "God must greatly love these families because He made so many of them." We value this heritage of strength, courage, stamina and industry they left us, as well as the realization that this country owes much to people and families like them, who, through time, shared the personal sorrows and happiness's, failures and successes, as

well as the vicissitudes and glories of our national life and history.

In researching my family history, I have delighted in a breadth of enrichments and rewards I never imagined. Loneliness has never been a problem; rather, if anything, I never have enough time to accomplish all that I would like to do.

My Trip To Thornbury, England March, 2000

by V. RaJean Thayer Vawter

"Oh my gosh! I can't believe it!" I yelled, running into my husband's office.

"What's going on?" he asked alarmed.

The words gushed out. "You know how Betty Seaman loves genealogy... I'd asked her to see if she could find anything on my family lineage. Well, she's found a lady who has the Thayer's all the way back to the 1500s!"

Suspicious, my husband queried, "Yeh, well, how do you know this lady isn't just one of those services that gives you general information about your name and takes your money?"

"Gary, this has to be for real," I answered. "She is wanting to know about Nijel, Mother's baby boy who was still born. Nobody knows about him!"

Wow.

This was the beginning of a remarkable set of circumstances bringing emotions into my life I'd never experienced before. The "lady" my friend had managed to find was Tricia Thayer Muno, historian of the Thayer - Tayer - Theyer - Tawier family. Unfortunately, since I'd just found her and our itinerary was already set in concrete, I wasn't able to turn our trip into a true "return to your roots" kind of voyage.

However, after a flurry of e-mail letters between Tricia and myself, I did enter England two days later with a folder holding 100% more information than I'd had before. We had planned an extra day in England to visit Trematon Castle that had been given to Gary's ancestors by William the Conqueror in 1066. But now, with Tricia's information, he very graciously gave up half of his day so that we could spend a couple hours in Thornbury.

Thornbury is just a few miles off the M4-M5 carriageway connecting London to Bristol. As soon as we exited this major highway, I looked around in amazement. Except for the hedgerows, the countryside looked very much like the gentle slopes of south central Nebraska in the spring where I was raised in Thayer county. "I'm home again," I said with tears in my eyes.

Driving into Thornbury, however, was nothing like any of the little towns and villages in Nebraska. The residences were like other English towns, narrow two-story structures attached to more of the same. Some had a postage stamp sized yard, others did not. Though a clean little place with just enough trees to create a homey feel, there were few sturdy looking homes with spacious front and back yards like I'd grown up with and loved so much as a child.

Figure 9: Thornbury Castle, Thornbury, England

As we entered the center of town, we immediately became totally lost - something a first-time visitor to the British Isles must get quite used to. This is because...

- Sign posts in England are posted in odd places, if at all. They can be found on a separate pole, toward the top of a building or at the bottom of a building. If they are somewhere else, we never saw them.
- Main roadways have very few intersections but there are lots of "roundabouts." A roundabout is like the hub of a wagon wheel with numerous spokes leading in various directions. You go around the hub until you get to the spoke you want to take. This is where you must either know which spoke to take or be prepared to get lost because the arrows on the direction signs point between the spokes!
- There are no road signs advertising stuff which is nice except that you have no idea if an exit will lead to a place to eat, a country lane or a factory complex.

The tiny roundabout in the center of Thornbury didn't confuse us but the signposts pointing to alley's did. Since Thornbury isn't a large place, we cheerfully drove around thinking that it would be hard to hide a castle in a town this small, so surely we'd find it someplace. Being lost just added to the adventure and I enjoyed looking around. After a time, however, we decided that a castle can indeed be hidden so we stopped at a gare' ridge (not a garage) and received direction from a young man who joyfully gave them and helped us figure out how to open the gas cap on our rental car.

Directed back to the tiny roundabout in the center of town, we followed the arrow into what had looked like an alleyway. It proved to be a very narrow road flanked by walls and houses right on the street. Suddenly the walls stopped and there was the beautiful tower of St. Mary the Virgin Church, **Fig. 10,** with the Castle of Thornbury, **Fig. 9,** behind it.

Realizing that a service was being conducted in the church, we walked through the castle gate. Even though we'd seen many castles on the tour we'd just completed, the feeling of this one was different. I was actually walking in the footsteps of distant relatives.

The gardens and grounds were kept in immaculate condition and it was fun to imagine the romance and intrigue that may have occurred in this place. The back part of the castle has a circular drive from which guests to the hotel can unload. Entering a door that appeared open to visitors, we found ourselves in an extremely dark passageway that looked to have been converted and made into a place for hotel guests to check in.

Since it was noon, we'd hoped to dine in the castle restaurant. But, alas, 'twas not to be. We were made to know that nothing can be done at the castle without advance reservations. The desk clerks were willing to answer short, specific questions but were not forthcoming with any additional information. We peeked into a dark, stuffy parlor sort of room, then exited with the distinct feeling that we did not "belong." However, we'd still like to go back, spend a night in one of the rooms and eat in the restaurant. After all, this has to do with roots so those feelings are deeper than anything a desk clerk can arouse.

Hoping that the worship service would be over, we pointed our steps in the direction of the church. Enroute, a friendly woman told me that, while a neighboring parish still holds services, St. Mary's was the main church where baptisms, weddings, etc. are held. The other was more like an outpost.

We were invited into the church and encouraged to walk around as much as we wanted. What an amazing thing it is to see a gravestone on the floor or on the wall of a century's old church and see your name inscribed there.

Even more moving was to know that I was standing in a place where my ancestors had worshipped the Lord Jesus Christ and to know that their spiritual legacy lives on in the lively congregation currently worshipping there as well as in me, far across the ocean. The emotion that this brought was like nothing I had ever experienced; tears come to my eyes even now, weeks later.

The vicar was a totally delightful man with an easy smile and a ready laugh. He was so excited that I'd found my ancestor's stones. "Many people come here hoping to find their ancestors and don't," he said. "And then I feel somehow responsible."

It would have been nice to have stayed longer but I was not unmindful of the sacrifice my husband had made for me to come to Thornbury and I wanted him to have the same experience at the church and castle of his ancestors. We would very much like to take our adult children back with us as that day proved to be the high point of our entire trip overseas.

Figure 10: St. Mary the Virgin Church, Thornbury, England

Tricia s note: V. RaJean Thayer Vawter lineage is: Victoria RaJean[12] (Raymond Cleo[11], Arthur Windsor[10], John Windsor[9], George Washington[8], Sabin[7], Simeon[6-5], Uriah[4], Ebenezer[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER.

Hotel Thayer

courtesy of www.hotelthayer.com

A Hotel Rich in History and Tradition

Built in 1926, the Hotel Thayer is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, having hosted a long line of dignitaries and celebrities throughout the years. Located high atop a hill on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy visitors for the Hotel Thayer offers commanding views of the majestic Hudson River and Hudson Highlands.

Originally constructed to accommodate visitors for US Military Academy and West Point personnel, the Hotel Thayer is a successor of the original West Point Hotel. The Thayer is named for Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, Superintendent of the Academy from 1817 to 1833.

Over the years, the Hotel Thayer played host to Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald Ford and George Bush. President Eisenhower was the first president to stay in the hotel's Presidential Suite. Generals Douglas McArthur and Omar Bradley both stayed at the hotel when visiting West Point. The hotel also managed to attract its share of movie stars, such as Tyrone Power, Maureen O'Hara, George C. Scott, Gregory Peck, and Red Skeleton. In addition, the 52 American hostages of Iran were guests of the hotel on their first night back in the US following their release in 1981.

The Hotel Thayer's predecessor, the West Point Hotel, was

built in 1829 and torn down in 1932. Situated on the northern edge of the Plain at Trophy Point overlooking the Hudson River, the West Point Hotel also hosted many famous visitors including Generals US Grant, Robert E. Lee, George McClellan, Stonewall Jackson, Winfield Scott, and William Tecumseh Sherman; writers Washington Irving and Edgar

Allen Poe; financier John Jacob Astor; and artist James McNeill Whistler.

Located in the heart of New York's Hudson Valley, the Hotel Thayer is within easy access of many of the area's historic and recreational attractions, including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, which hosts more than three million visitors each year.

Today, the original lamp from the West Point Hotel hangs in the entry of the Hotel Thayer's lobby.

Continuing the Tradition into the New Millennium

In 1987, the Hudson River Partners Inc., a group of alumni from the US Military Academy, devised plans to completely refurbish the hotel, enlarging the guest rooms and adding modern amenities. Each of the partners have significant accomplishments as decorated military leaders, with all having served in combat (World War II, Korea and Vietnam.) Following their military careers, each had successful business careers.

Their efforts culminated in the formation of a public/private partnership with the US Department of Defense, which owns the hotel. The "privatization contract" signed by the Defense Department with Hudson River Partners Inc. is significant in that it marks the first time the Department has ever turned over the operation of one of its properties to the private sector. In 1998, the hotel closed for a year, then reopened on October 21, 1999, following a $26 million renovation. Now, thanks to the "labor of love" by the Hudson River Partners Inc., the Hotel Thayer has been transformed it into only full service hotel from the Tappan Zee Bridge to Albany, New York.

Construction will soon begin on a second phase of this major revitalization project, adding a new wing with 132 rooms, a ballroom, restaurant, lounge, state-of-the-art conference facilities and a complete fitness center lap pool. Today the Hotel Thayer is managed by Fisher Hotels Group Inc., a leading provider of high quality management services to private and institutional owners of hotels, conference centers and resorts.

Research in Maine

by Alan Rideout

If anyone finds themselves visiting Maine looking for Thayer information they might want to take a side trip on Rt. 26 and look up the Hamlin Memorial Library. The library is located in Paris Maine, which is about 45 miles northwest of Portland Maine, off Rt. 26.

On display in the library are the saddlebags used by Lydia (Chapin) Thayer, wife of Asa[6] (Ichabod[5-4], Isaac[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER, when they moved from Massachusetts to Paris, Maine in the late 1700's. Our readers may contact the library for hours and additional information at:
http://www.sad17.k12.me.us//libraries/paris.htm or write:
Hamlin Memorial Library
P.O. Box 43
Paris, Maine 04271
Phone: 207-743-2980
or email: amcdonald@hamlin.lib.me.us

When Alan Rideout recently contacted the librarian, Ann McDonald, she responded in December with the following information:

"Yes, a side saddle and saddle bags belonging to Lydia Chapin Thayer are still on display here at the library. A card attached to the saddle has the following quote: "Mrs. Asa Thayer came a bride to Paris in 1791. Eight children in my wilderness home grew up to prize her virtues and honor her memory."

Thayer, Indiana

by Rodney Lee Thayer, Editor

This is the first article in a series of my research road trip in February of this year. The planning of this trip started back in December 1999 when I found out the Navy was sending me back to the states for school. I wanted to research Thayer place names and how they got these names. Since I was going to be driving from Tennessee to Michigan, with my Dad as navigator, I researched and found Thayer, Indiana and decided this would be my first stop.

Figure 11: Entering Thayer, Michigan

Thayer, Indiana is a small town, located in the north-west corner of the state, in Newton County, along the Kankakee River. Approximately 350 people make this place home. The town of Thayer has been there for over 100 years.

We arrived at Thayer on 17 February. While taking a picture of the one room post office **Fig. 12,** I asked a passerby about the name f the town and they directed us to the small convenience store just down the road.

At the store, I inquired about the name of the town and was further directed to the used car lot "just across the train tracks and to the right". This brought us to the Lincoln Township Motors used car lot where we met Cap and Kathy Wann. These people were born and raised in Thayer. They were quite pleased to meet with us and seemed very interested in my research on the history of the town name. Years ago, Cap Wann wrote a history of the namesake of town while in high school for a term paper and will try and locate this for me. Hopefully I can obtain this paper for another issue. I asked about any cemeteries and was directed to the township cemetery just a few miles from the town. While they were both working the sale of a used car, my dad and I headed for the

cemetery. My reasoning for going to the cemetery was to possibly locate headstones of the possible founders of the town. It was a little chilly that day, with a brisk wind blowing so we quickly walked all the old stones first, with no luck in locating any Thayers, and then briefly looked at the new ones, again without locating a single Thayer headstone. It was looking pretty grim at this point.

We drove back to the town, back to the used car lot and continued our talk with Cap and Kathy. As we talked, he mentioned that there were no Thayers buried in any of the cemeteries around there, nor are there any Thayers living there. You are probably wondering right now, just as my Dad and I were, of how the town was named Thayer.

As Cap explained, Thayer was originally called Thayers Landing, but he was unsure as to who it was named for. Cap

Figure 12: Thayer's one room United States Post Office

explained that some people say it was named after a Revolutionary War General, others say it was named after two river guides, Thayer brothers, that worked the Kankakee River and traded with Indians. The town sort of grew up around where the landing was, with Indians being some of the first settlers along the river near the landing.

After several hours of taking with these kind people, we had to leave and get back on the road. I asked Cap for a business card and that I would write to him with what ever I could find out, instead he gave my Dad and I coffee cups that have his auto sales address printed on them. All in all, we drove away with more knowledge than what we arrived there with, two coffee cups, and enough data to write this article. Cap and Kathy sold three cars while were there, so it was beneficial to them as well. Next stop, Thayer, Michigan and Thayer, Illinois.

Rodney Lee Thayer

I was asked to write this since it is very difficult to meet many of you, due to my location (Japan) and job (US Navy). Due to positions, Editor and Webmaster, it is important to be able to put a face with a name, so here I go…

I was born in Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County MI June 25, 1966, the last and fourth child of my parents, Richard Dean & Joanne Thayer. Our family moved to Thompson MI in 1976., which is located in the Upper Peninsula of the state. My brothers, Jeffrey Lynn and Richard Dean Jr., live in Michigan and my sister, Kellyann, resides in Tennessee.

Figure 13: Rodney Lee Thayer, STGC(SW), USN

On February 19, 1988 I married Soontaree Lardlai in Bangkok, Thailand. Our daughter, Samantha Julee, was born in San Diego, CA August 7, 1990. An interesting note on Sammy's name, as we call her. It took us the full nine months to come up with a name, one for a boy and one for a girl. I was at to sea on a ship when Sammy was born so my wife had some friends of ours visit her in the hospital. It was only the first name we had thought of, didn't even think of a middle name, although we wanted it to be a Thai name. Since I was not there, our friends suggested Julee, which is Soontaree's Thai nick name of Ju and my middle name of Lee.

In 1984 I graduated high school and decided to join the Navy, mainly to leave the snow and bugs behind, my parents first snow blower was my brothers and I. Another reason to leave was to get a good job. I entered the Navy in the Spring of 1985.

I completed boot camp in San Diego and reported for my first ship[1]. From 1985 to 1993 I remained in San Diego, completing tours on two ships, a year long maintenance school where I became a technician, and two year period of shore duty. I made two Western Pacific cruises while stationed in San Diego, being gone six months at a time away from home port. See, I haven't always been in Japan.

January 1993, I took orders for Yokosuka, Japan to my third ship. After completing five years there, I transferred to another ship also stationed in Japan. My reasoning behind this was to wait for a shore duty billet to open. January 2000 I finally transferred to shore duty, after a quick three week school in San Diego and much needed leave in Tennessee with my parents, I came back to Yokosuka for a three year shore tour. I reported to my first ship as an E-1 with the only place to go was up. In September of 1998, I was advanced to Chief Petty Officer (E-

7), which is the uniform I am wearing in one of the few photos of me.

In the seven and a half years here, I have been to the states only three times, twice to San Diego and Tennesee, and once to Norfolk, VA (been to Hawaii twice during that time, but I don't consider that a state, rather a Japanese resort with a funny language).

Reasons I have been in Japan this long are varied. Money is a big factor, I make more over here than I would stateside, the schools are very good, and overall, this is a much safer place to raise a family. Being stationed on a ship here allows a person to see more of this part of the world, more than a ship on either coast of the US does. A cruise on a ship here last about three months, and only one of those a year, but there is still lots of time one is away from home. More on Japan in next issue's From the Editor column.

From the time I received orders to shore duty here in Japan, I have taken on the job of Editor for our newsletter. Understand that I still go to sea from time to time, the nature of being in the Navy. Most of whom I correspond with frequently realized this rather quickly, but I am not gone for as long as periods as I was previously. I spend a considerable amount of time just sitting at the office doing research.

I also work on college courses in my "free time" and working towards earning an Associates Degree by next year.

Note 1: For the nautical folk out there, here is a listing of the ships I have been stationed aboard, from my first to most recent: USS Merrill DD-976
USS Valley Forge CG-50
USS Fife DD-991
USS Vincennes CG-49

A Publication for the Entire Family!

NEWSFLASH!! A new fund has been established to assist in the publication of Thayer Family Genealogy and History!

As members of the Thayer Families Association, you may or may not know of the existence of a fund that has recently been established by your Board of Directors, but the fund is there and this fund exists to support the publication and dissemination of well researched, scholarly works on the Thayer Family's history and genealogy.

As many of you read in the March 2000 Quarterly, great efforts have been made in the past to publish a comprehensive genealogy. One of the main roadblocks in this process has been funding that publication. To remove this hindrance, the board of the Thayer Families Association has created a temporarily restricted fund (IRS designation) to assist in raising the needed money for this and other publications. This fund was created in association with the Braintree Historical Society Inc., a non-profit corporation, making any donation to assist in the publication tax-deductible.

One of the reasons for TFA's founding was to publish a comprehensive genealogy of the Thayer Family, and this fund can assist in fulfilling that purpose but not without the continued support of the membership of TFA!

Your family has a long and distinguished history. Your generous support today will help preserve that history for the citizens of tomorrow!
Respectfully,
Brian Kolner, Executive Director, Braintree Historical Society, Inc.

To make a donation to this publication fund, send a check care of Braintree Historical Society and denote TFA Publication fund on the check or on a separate note and mail the check to:

Braintree Historical Society, Inc.
Endowment Funds
31 Tenney Road
Braintree MA 02184

For more information on this fund, or on the Braintree Historical Society, write to the above address or call 781-848-1640.

The Braintree Historical Society, Inc. is a qualified non-profit, charitable and educational organization under IRS code Section 501, (C),(3) and Mass. General Laws 180.26A. Contributions are deductible on individual and business tax returns.

Historian/Genealogist Report

"Families are forever", is a genealogist's perspective on life that Thayer family members are beginning to believe in. While Thayer cousins joined each other at West Point this past month to celebrate a heritage rich in American history, I tended to my daughter and daughter-in-law who gave birth to wonderful baby's eighteen days apart; the family tree continues to grow.

In a letter recently received from cousin Sally Bohs of Marysville, MI, she writes, "Frank and I had a marvelous time at the reunion. It was well planned and organized. West Point was a perfect setting for it and we really appreciated seeing the Academy for the first time. All the Thayers were a joy to meet and we have made new friends. I hope we can attend another reunion…" Nothing can be more satisfying than to encourage and see families strengthening their family ties.

While in Utah with my new grandchildren, I spent time at the Family Library in Salt Lake City extracting recently released Thayer vital records from the state of Massachusetts. Although there is never an end to the research and compiling of records, my book on the descendants of the Immigrant, Nathaniel Thayer, is finished with the addition of two addenda. All that remains are typographical insertions and final proofing. It is anticipated that the book will be ready in time for Christmas.

This last year for me was full of many interruptions, but my life's dream of publishing a comprehensive genealogy of the Thayer family is now approaching two volumes closer. I often wonder what it is to have a life without such focus and constant drive. For my work's brief interruptions, there necessarily occurs a short time when life must take precedence to everything else. During these brief respites, I must, at times, explain and apologize, and then move on.

As for the forthcoming publication on Nathaniel's descendants, I will likely produce an author's "vanity press" run. As many of you know, John Alexander Thayer (son of founder, James Burdett Thayer) has placed a generous challenge fund before the TFA to lead in raising needed publishing costs for the publishing project. We were very encouraged with this fund-raising gesture and applaud their effort. An author's prepaid publishing run of Nathaniel however, would be the quickest turn around for the long-awaiting Nathaniel anticipant.

I would like to encourage our families to include their children in their discussions of Thayer heritage. We Thayers are doomed without our youth!! Our nation is only as strong as our families, so please continue to strengthen your families as you strengthen those ties with the more distant cousins.
Patricia

From Patricia's Mail Bag:

In the summer 1999 Thayer Quarterly newsletter, I asked our readers to let us hear their opinions about their family origins. A recent letter from Thayer Representative, Marge Thayer Gross of Spring, TX, reminded me that she was the person who had previously mentioned they believed their Thayer family originated from Wales. States Marge: "Tradition in our family is that we were of Welsh descent--no claims to back it up." Additionally, Douglas Thayer of Ottawa, Canada, has mentioned in a recent e-mail message: "I too, have heard of a Welsh connection but have never seen any proof yet."

To our readers who are frustrated about this, may I re-emphasize my earlier comment: In spite of many forceful arguments, the exact origin of the Thayer family remains obscure. Patricia Muno

"My father, Barton Wayne THAYER, born 17 Dec 1911, died 11 Jan 2000 at Heart of Florida Hospital, Polk County, Florida. He liked to say he was the oldest living Thayer in our family, which is true, the other died earlier than 88 years of age."

Thank you Bonnie Jane Thayer of Chardon, OH for sharing this information with us. I am sure he was a good man and will be missed.

Membership Report

Membership is continuing grow. I am pleased to report 76 Family Memberships and 532 Individual Memberships, for a total of 608 members. Our new Individual Members are:

Berg, Verla, Tigard, OR
Clement, Ernest Edward, Arroyo Grande, CA
Johnson, Bruce Gregg, The Sea Ranch, CA
May, Gwin, Sequim, WA
Osgood, Virginia Ann Thayer, Coronado, CA
Sisk, Judith Ann, Palo Alto, CA
Thayer, Raymond A. Jr., Hudson, FL
Wallace, Joyce, Tarpon Springs, FL

And one new Family Membership to report:

Richard C. Thayer & Mary J. Thayer, Vista, CA

Our one renewal for this report is:

Pritchett, Erin K., Highland, UT

Russ

From the Editor

I hope everyone enjoyed the Y2K reunion, I heard it was a good time for all! Wish I was there, unfortunately on the day of the reunion, I was on a plane, flying to Hawaii to meet up with a ship and conduct training for her crew while enroute Yokosuka, Japan. The luck of being in the Navy. I arrived back here in Yokosuka on 30 June.

In January of this year, I had the pleasure of meeting Curtis Ross Thayer of Freeland, Michigan, now the current TFA Vice President. Since I hadn't been in the states in a about two years, my driving is a little weak, and with the snow my Dad and I ran into on the way to Curtis's son's house, it took a while to get there, but we had a good meeting and lunch as well.

April of this year I had the pleasure of meeting both Jerry & Judy Thayer of Hampton, Virginia. Jerry is the Assistant Genealogist and Judy is the association's Treasurer. I was in Norfolk for a business meeting originally, but got a few days to meet these wonderful people. We had diner each day together and discussed headstone and cemetery records I was able to get from several cemeteries in the Norfolk area. Jerry was even able to clear up an unplaced Thayer due to the cemetery records.

The Newsletter

I hope everyone enjoyed the Spring Issue. What a learning experience. I think I have the format nearly final, as well a good grip on using Word 2000 software, I have never seen such a finicky program! Expect minor changes in future issues. There should be some interesting stories from the reunion. If you have any stories you would like to share, by all means get them to me and I will get them in your newsletter. Newspaper clippings with Thayer stories are a good source of information for articles. Family history and biographies make excellent articles and very good reading.

I am currently working on four issues at a time, and plan to keep this pace going (while you are reading this issue, I will be working on next summer's issue). By planning this far out and

evenly distributing articles ensures a nice fat issue. As more articles are submitted, issues will get fatter (*hint hint*). Issues are printed on sheets of four pages each. I am trying to keep a standard of 12 pages minimum per issue. If an issue is nearly completed and you send in a 1 page article, it will more than likely appear in the next issue, since three pages would be blank. I would need four pages of articles to edit it to 20 pages. Time critical articles are considered and may bump other articles to later issues. All article inputs are welcome, regardless of size.

Services Available on the TFA Website

Pedigree and Genealogical Services is the main reason of the site, but has spawned into various other genealogy uses as well.

Various Veteran listing are available as well. These lists include War of 1812, Civil War and Revolutionary War Veterans.

Two of the Immigrants are listed on the site as well, listing the first four or five generations.

Unplaced Thayers is one of the largest listings on the site. We have received information from several people where we could place them and remove them from the list. The list is organized by state, and more will be added in the future.

Family Representatives are listed by the line the represent. Representatives and email addresses are listed and people are encouraged to contact their representative and provide data on their families. This way, Tricia, our resident Genealogist and Historian, along with Jerry, her Assistant, can keep their genealogy databases up to speed. The reason to use a Family Rep is for them to maintain records for a specific line and provide the data to Tricia. This eases some of the burden on Tricia.

A link is provided to GenForum, a surname message board service that hosts our Thayer message board. Jerry Thayer has done a fantastic job at watching this site and responding to queries posted by people researching Thayers.

Membership information as well as Thayer Quarterly information can be found on the site as well. Quarterly comments by the your association President can be found here too.

A large listing of Thayer related pages can be found in our site. These are arranged by business pages, personal pages, places and things Thayer.

Corrections are a common page visited. Here most of the corrections for previous issues, as well as Tricia's books, can be found here.

Headstone Project

This is a new section of the site I created after I started recording headstones as well as photographing them. All the headstone information I find, whether it is stone data I have transcribed, record card data, or lot owner card data, is emailed to Tricia and Jerry for them to update their records if needed.

Once I found myself with dozens of photos, and a growing database of headstone data, I decided to post it on the TFA website. Currently 247 records are listed, as well as over 30 photographs of headstones, from ten states so far. Please read the guidelines on the page or email me if you have records/photographs you wish to add.

I look forward to receiving some of your stories from the reunion for inclusion in your newsletter.

Rodney Lee Thayer

Thayer Deaths in 1999

Submitted by TFA Historian, Patricia Thayer Muno

The following is in chronological order starting with the earliest to the most recent death.

Leonard G. THAYER, Abt 1921 - Jan 1999
Doris Elaine (THAYER) LAUER, 14 Oct 1930 - 18 Jan 1999
Frances Lucille (THAYER) LINDNER, 14 Nov 1918 - 5 Feb 1999
Marie Ivis (BURNS) THAYER, 1917 - 14 Feb 1999
Ivy Nelson THAYER, Abt 1913 - 5 Mar 1999
Arthur Gordon THAYER, 20 Sep 1908 - 10 Mar 1999
Bradley Charles THAYER, 17 Jun 1935 - 14 Mar 1999
Gerald W. THAYER, Abt 1921 - 18 Mar 1999
William Lawrence THAYER, 2 Jun 1929 - 25 Mar 1999
Frances Virginia (THAYER) KNOCHE, 5 Dec 1903 - 10 Apr 1999
Helen Leona (ELLIOTT) THAYER, 28 Apr 1999
Robert Nathaniel THAYER, 20 Nov 1907 - 5 May 1999
Merideth THAYER, Abt 1947 - 2 Jun 1999
Albert Lyman THAYER, 28 Feb 1921 - 1 Jul 1999
Gerald Edwin THAYER, 28 Jul 1917 - 7 Jul 1999
Mary (THAYER) MICKAM, 15 Jan 1945 - 9 Aug 1999
Jewett Estes (THAYER) WILSON, 8 Jun 1899 - Oct 1999
Dorothy Frances (THAYER) LITCHFIELD, 2 Jan 1902 - 10 Oct 1999
Donald Asa THAYER, 20 Jul 1928 - 25 Nov 1999

Corrections

Spring Issue, May 1995, page 5, 254 Thayers Who Served in the Civil War article. George Washington Thayer was incorrectly listed as George William Thayer. Spouse listed is Nancy Williams and is correctly listed.

Spring Issue, Vol. 8 Issue 2, May 2000, page 5, Thomas Edward Thayer article. I incorrectly listed the name Thomas Richard Thayer as the headstone found in Fort Donelson National Cemetery. The correct name is Thomas Edward Thayer.

Thanks to all who pointed this out. *Editor.*

Stories Needed

Stories are always welcome, and needed in order to maintain your newsletter. Please consider sharing a Thayer related family with the rest of your family. Submit completed stories to the Editor at the address listed on the back of this newsletter or email them. Feeling timid? Just send the information and I will write the article for you. *Editor.*

THE THAYER QUARTERLY
RODNEY LEE THAYER, EDITOR
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FPO, AP 96349-5555

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For membership issues, info, and address corrections, please write:

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For genealogical queries, or to find a Family Representative, please write:

Henry Jerome (Jerry) Thayer
311 Willow Oaks Blvd.
Hampton, VA 23669-1531
Email: HJThayer@aol.com

Please include an SASE if you need a reply.

 Article selection and editorial is at the discretion of the Editor and may not reflect views of the TFA, its Officers, Directors, or members. Issues are mailed late in the month as follows: Winter (Feb); Spring (May); Summer (Aug); Fall (Nov). Back issues are available from 1994 to present, some may be a photocopy. Cost is $2 each for members, $5 each for non-members, checks only, payable to TFA. (TFA, P.O. Box 12, Braintree MA, 02185-0012) A cumulative index, containing every occurrence of a name that has appeared in the newsletter (prior to the current issue) is available for $10 to the above address.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Your articles, letters to the editor, and comments regarding content are vital to the TQ. Photographs with a light background are appreciated, and can be returned, undamaged, if requested. Digitized photos sent via the Internet are also welcomed. Send typed articles to the address in the return address block of this page or email the editor at thayer@genealogist.net with an attached file containing the article. Your articles and submissions may be edited (respectfully) for length and readability. Please provide sources, if applicable. Any topics that are of general interest to members are encouraged, and articles written by the editor at your suggestion, or from material you provide, will be credited to you. Deadline for the Fall Issue is November 10th.