# the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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## Important Notice: Address Change

Please take note of our new address. Our address was changed to this to facilitate a central point of contact for the Association. This one address is used for ALL matters concerning TFA.

**Thayer Families Association**
**346 Washington St. PMB #310**
**Braintree, MA 02184-4702**

## 2003 Thayer Families Association Reunion & Meeting

Because Thayers are represented in nearly every state in the Union, we have decided to take our reunion/meeting on the road.

On June 28, 2003 the Thayer Families Association will celebrate the German part of our heritage by holding our 12th annual meeting and reunion in Frankenmuth, Michigan at the

Bavarian Inn Restaurant
713 S. Main Street
Frankenmuth, Michigan 48734

Frankenmuth? Huh? Well, Frankenmuth is, indeed, different from Braintree. It's a very nice, small town in Michigan's Thumb area. We are hoping that many who find it difficult to travel to Braintree will find a way to meet us in Frankenmuth.

We have a private meeting room reserved from Noon until closing time. Registration will begin at Noon, and hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available at that time. The annual meeting will be held at about 1:00. Following the meeting there will be a two-hour break giving us some free time before dinner.

Dinner will be their Bavarian Style Chicken with all the trimmings served family style for which the restaurant is world famous. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. in the same room as the meeting.

**Advance reservations are required along with a $10 per person registration charge, $1 for children 12 and under.** ***There will be no further dinner charges for TFA members, unless you choose to order adult beverages, or any other private extras at the time.***

Rooms have been blocked for TFA at the following hotels:

Spring Hill Suites (Marriott) $114/night
530 S. Main St.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
989-652-7500

30 Suites reserved, some for Friday arrival and some for Saturday arrival. Includes complimentary continental breakfast, checkout is Sunday a.m.

Fairfield Inn (Marriott) $94/night
430 S. Main St.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
989-652-0327

15 Rooms reserved, all for Friday arrival. Includes complimentary continental breakfast, checkout is Sunday a.m.

***Be sure to mention that you are with TFA for discounts to apply.***

There are several other choices for lodging in the area, some more expensive, and some less expensive. Consult your favorite Motel Chain, or

travel agent for availability in the Frankenmuth area. There are also popular campsites for those of you with RVs. More details on campsites in future issues of the TQ.

Rooms are available but not blocked for TFA members at the

Bavarian Inn Lodge for $150/night
One Covered Bridge Lane
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
989-652-7200, 888-775-6343

## Menden's Minutemen and the Battle of Lexington and Concord

### *"A Living History"*

By John Howard Thayer

I was born and raised in Rome, New York, which is a very historical city located in the center of New York State. The city and surrounding area is rich in Revolutionary War history. I first remember learning about the Revolutionary War in the Fifth or Sixth grade. We learned about the lights in the old North Church steeple in Boston... "*one if by land, two if by sea*." We also learned about the midnight ride of Paul Revere, and the battle of Lexington, Massachusetts, where the colonial Minutemen supposedly stood against the British troops, and where the first shot of the Revolutionary War was allegedly fired.

I also learned about the Battle of Oriskany and the siege of Fort Stanwix, both of which played important roles in the Revolutionary War, helping to turn the tide of the battle. Fort Stanwix was located in the City of Rome (Ft. Stanwix has since been rebuilt in Rome by the National Park Service) and the Oriskany Battlefield was located only a few miles away. That is about all of the Revolutionary War history that I can I was proud of our soldiers, and happy that I lived in "The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave," but they were all just figures in history to me. I did not personally know any of them. Why should I know them? They all lived over 200 years ago.

My pride was reinforced daily as a child because "The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" was authored by Francis Bellamy, whose father served as a Methodist minister in the City of Rome. Francis Bellamy is buried in the Rome Cemetery and we were all taken there as children to visit his gravesite. Additionally, every morning, we all stood before classes began and recited "The Pledge." It was, and still remains, a very important and personal part of my life.

Years went by and I didn't think much about the Revolutionary War until I began my professional career at Herkimer County Community College. The College seal features the figure of General Nicholas Herkimer, the alleged hero of the Battle of Oriskany. Also, there was a Bi-Centennial stamp issued honoring General Herkimer at the Battle of Oriskany. The United States Postal Service's formal issuance ceremony was held in the College's theater. I played a minor role in this program.

Since that time, I have thought little about the history of our country. The events of September 11, 2001 have made me well aware of what our freedom means to me, and what terrible costs we have had to pay during the history of our country to retain theses freedoms.

Just recently, I was on the Internet doing some "Thayer Family" research, and spent a great deal of time looking at Massachusetts sites. Suddenly a site popped up that caught my eye. The site was entitled," The Battle of Lexington, Menden's Minute Men."

The dialogue was as follows:

"*April 19. 1775. This day occurred the Battle of Lexington and upon the general alarm which followed. Mendon furnished the following Minute Men. Their names may be found on the muster rolls of the State Archives at Boston and were copied by the late Maj. Dexter F. Parker of Worcester who was collecting materials for the history of the County of Worcester. By the kindness of Mrs. Parker I am allowed the privilege of copying from his minutes.*

*J. Metcalf, MD"* [1]

The 130* or so Minute Men who responded to Lexington on that day were broken into four militia companies. **2.)** As I began to read the names listed under each company, the hair on the back of my neck began to rise. Under the **Second Company** was

the name ***Seth Thayer***. All of the sudden this history became real to me. A Thayer actually served as a Minute Man. Then I looked at the **Third Company**. There I read the ***names Pa Thayer, Sgt. Moses Thayer, Benj Thayer, William Thayer, Benj. Thayer Jr., Increase Thayer, and James Thayer***. That made 8 Thayer's who served on that day so far. Then I went to the **Fourth Company** where I discovered the names ***Corp. Levi Thayer and Samuel Thayer***.

A total of 10 Thayer's were on the muster rolls. I could not believe my eyes. Our family actually may have played a major role during that day. This is what history says happened that day:

**The Battle of Lexington & Concord**

"The first engagement between the British and the Americans happened on April 19, 1775 on the grassy fields of Massachusetts. General Thomas Gage ordered his men to take or destroy the American's supply of arms and ammunition stored in Concord. He also wanted John Hancock and Sam Adams, who were staying in Lexington, arrested.

Picture courtesy British Battle Militia in Lexington and Concord - 1775
(http://www.multies.com/revolt/lexington2.html)

The Boston Committee leader, Dr. Joseph Warren, learned of the plans and called for William Dawes and Paul Revere. He told them to ride to Lexington, then Concord and warn the minutemen to be ready. Dawes took one road, successfully dodging British sentries by blending in with some soldiers. Revere galloped down another road and met with a friend. The man was given instructions to hang two lanterns in the steeple of the Old North Church. Revere then rowed himself to the village of Charlestown, where associates, who had seen the signal, met him with a horse. Revere got to Lexington first and woke the townspeople. Hancock and Adams were taken to a safe hiding place, while ***Captain Jonas Parker and 130 men* stood ready to block the British.***

At about 4:30 in the morning the British arrived. Only 70 of Parker's men remained, most had returned home. As the 600 man army approached, Parker exclaimed "Stand your ground! Don't fire unless fired upon! But if they want to have a war, let it begin here!" The brave men held their ground when they were ordered to leave. Realizing their attempts were futile, Parker gave the order to disperse. But the British Major wanted their weapons and a single shot was fired. Other shots followed, killing Parker and 7 other Americans. The small clash only lasted a few minutes

The British then marched on to Concord and arrived at 7:30 a.m. While the 800 men under Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith searched for the concealed weapons, the 150 minutemen positioned themselves on the other side of the North Bridge. The townspeople rang church bells, signaling all men to find their muskets and hurry to the scene. In the end about three to four hundred Americans had appeared.

The redcoats were unable to locate most of the hidden arms and in the process accidentally set fire to the courthouse. The militiamen, upon seeing the flames, thought that the British were burning down the city and rushed to save their village. The minutemen and redcoats exchanged fire across the North Bridge for a few minutes, causing several deaths. The British retreated into the city and started back for Boston. The Americans quickly ran and hid along the side of the main road. When the British passed, they were ambushed and attacked. This type of warfare continued until the redcoats reached Boston. In the end only 300 lives were lost on each side**. 3.)**

The Americans were able to demonstrate their power and determination to the large Imperial Army. They showed the British that they would not go quietly and that they would receive their independence." **4.)**

We do not know if any of the Thayer's were part of the 70 Minutemen who actually faced off against the 650-900 British regulars that day. Common

sense says that some of the Thayer's were there to meet the enemy. We also do not know if any Thayer's were part of the 8 killed and 10 wounded. We do know that the 8 percent of the minutemen who responded to muster that day carried the surname **Thayer.**

This is a part of our history that I shall never again forget. I also have this thought in the back of my mind; Could it have been one of the Thayer's who fired that first shot to start the Revolutionary War?

If my dearly departed Aunt Arlene Wheeler (Harriet Arlene Thayer) had been there, I am pretty sure that she would have been the first to pull the trigger. We will never know, but maybe, just maybe!

JHT

The Battle of Lexington, Mendon's Minute Men, http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~danielsofmassachusettsbaycolony/battleoflexington.html

*The number of first response Minute Men used in most historical references is 130. However, this number could have been as high as 160 according to the published muster rolls.

Note- 8 colonials were killed and 10 were wounded at Lexington. In the day's fighting, a total of 49 patriots were killed with another 39 wounded. The British losses were 73 soldiers killed and 174 wounded*.

The Revolutionary War, A Journey Toward Freedom. http://library.thinkguest.org/10966/index.html

*Author's note: I have also noticed that 10 other minute Men from Mendon had the last name of Hayward. Ferdinando's wife was Huldah Hayward. The Hayward's could have been cousins and uncles of the Thayers as well. Who knows how many of the other Minute Men were related. This will call for further research at a later date from someone who can get to Mendon, MA records.* ⚠

## A Study of Paranormal Activities

By Russell Harwood Knox

Charles Fort was probably the most prolific person in the world as a gatherer of information regarding weird and unusual happenings. Without the effort he put forth in gathering this knowledge, there would be little to write about in the field of science fiction. However, had in not been for the tenacity and fanatical approach of our cousin and author, Tiffany Ellsworth Thayer, in publishing and publicizing the works of Fort after his death through the Fortean Society, and the magazine "Doubt", the effect on the world undoubtedly would have been more minimal. It was those enthusiastic ploys of Thayer that resulted in the breakthrough. Without him, our science fiction authors like Stephen King would have been few and far between, because Thayer, through his publishing of Fort's paranormal findings for many years until Thayer's death, kept the world thoroughly informed of these anomalies of nature.

Two of these paranormal activities are dowsing and haunted houses. Just what are these anomalies we are about to explore? An anomaly is defined as an irregular event which does not fit a standard rule or law, so in science anything weird, strange, odd, or cannot be explained by currently accepted scientific theories is considered an anomaly.

The ancient art of dowsing has been misunderstood and condemned throughout history, mainly because it could not be explained, how by dowsing, one could find out in great detail about people and places. Oftentimes, distance made little difference. Martin Luther condemned it as witchcraft and equated it to devil worship.

What is dowsing? It is an ancient art of searching for hidden things such as water, precious metals, making medical diagnoses, using one of the senses that many of us are not even aware of possessing. Although it is quite debatable whether it is a psychic ability or rather a bodily sensitivity to weak electromagnetic fields, there's little doubt as to its potential value. It has been said that 20 percent of the population has this special gift - an ability to sense things not perceptible to others, but most people would deny it. It is the ability to find objects and the answer to questions that cannot be obtained by the five physical senses. It has always been a part of human nature to explore and investigate, and few things capture the imagination more readily than the proving of the unproven. Dowsing is also known as divining, water witching, or doodlebugging, and, for most of us, requires what is called a dowsing rod, consisting of either a forked stick, two metal rods of

equal length with handles, or a pendulum (an evenly balanced weight on the end of a string or chain).

I was introduced to dowsing in the middle thirties, when one summer, while working at a summer hotel in the Adirondacks, a well digger, about to dig a well on the property, asked me if I was a dowser. Not knowing what a dowser was I said no, so he put a forked apple branch in my hands, pointing it straight ahead while I walked through a field. He then told me that if the stick wanted to bend toward the ground, I would be over water. In a few minutes although I was holding it tightly, the stick bent toward the ground, and the well digger found water at fifty feet. During the summer, I located four more wells for him. How old is dowsing? Drawings of a man holding a forked stick in his hands have been found in a cave in Algeria, dating back to around 6000 BC. In fact, Moses used the same type of rod doing his miracles in Egypt during the Exodus. On two different occasions, he tapped his rod on the ground and water sprang forth. The first time a dowsing rod was described in literature was in a 1540 publication on mining, "De Re Metallica", by Georgious Agricolla. In modern times our cousin, Tiffany Thayer, brought this unusual activity to the forefront of America through publicizing it in the magazine "Doubt".

Some dowsing, at least, seems indisputably "weird" because some people are able to locate water or minerals at a distance, using simply a map and a pendulum. By swing the pendulum over the map, general location of the object sought will be shown by the erratic movement of the pendulum, even though the location is a thousand miles away. The dowser then goes to the desired location and refines his search for the object he is looking for. The high degree of success achieved by dowsers in their search for hidden objects is phenomenal and continues to baffle scientists. Dowsers believe that they are endowed with a finely tuned faculty which reacts to the presence of certain objects, causing muscular contractions that affect the rod or pendulum.

In the latter years of the nineteenth century, dowsers found water in several places where hydraulic engineers maintained it could not and did not exist. Modern scientists, in the main, stay quite skeptical, however, particularly geologists and hydrologists. They are not impressed with the stacks of documented successes from dowsers all over the world, claiming failures outnumber successes about four to one. However, there is no documentation to verify this claim.

It would appear that dowsing, without a doubt, involves extra sensory perception - like seeing the presence of water or other discoveries, but not operating through the normal five senses. Perhaps dowsing is a paranormal awareness of the presence of these material objects. It is also not a proven science, and therefore discarded by most scientists. It is an anomaly, not fitting a standard rule or law. However, it can provide a great deal of enjoyment, so just cut yourself a forked stick and have fun. Check over your incoming water lines buried in your yard. If it bends, you are a dowser, and if it doesn't work over them, you just don't have that sixth sense.

Another one of Charles Fort's weird studies concerned itself with ghosts and haunted buildings. Again, however, if it had not been for the ebulliency of Tiffany Thayer, science fiction writers would have had few anomalies to pursue. His enthusiasm imbued all his fellow workers with that "gung-ho" spirit, and as a consequence reams of paranormal activities were printed in the "The Fortean Society Magazine", founded by Thayer, concerning the spiritual world, opposing most scientific facts. True Forteans are skeptical about scientific explanations because scientists most of the time argue according to their own beliefs, rather than the rule of evidence and suppress or ignore inconvenient data.

What is a ghost and why is he or she here? There are many meanings associated with the two words, ghost and spirit. The most common one is that a spirit is someone who has passed, gone to the light and has come back, while a ghost is someone who has passed and cannot or will not go to the light, although most of us use the words interchangeably.

Do you believe in ghosts? Before you say no, remember that at one point in time everyone believed the world was flat. Was it round? Yes.

Ghosts may choose to stay around earth instead of going on for several reasons. One is because they may feel that they are still needed here, such as helping a grieving spouse. On the other hand they may be ghosts of murdered people, and stay behind to see that the murderer is brought to justice. Many people also believe that the vast majority of ghosts

are still here because they do not realize that they are no longer living.

Although some places have experienced hauntings for years, it is believed that ghosts can turn up anywhere at any time. A building where violence took place, such as a murder or suicide, is very likely to be haunted. Gettysburg and Flander's Field are well known cemeteries for producing ghostly activity. Smaller cemeteries also contain many ghosts.

Old buildings, including hotels and houses, are also a great source of ghostly happenings, and the older the better. Almost every college has a ghost story. Spirits have been seen floating across the campus from dormitory windows. One of the better places to find ghostly activity is within a church. There are churches that have reported hauntings by several ghosts. Old theaters are a rich source of ghostly endeavors of former actors. Also don't forget prisons, slave camps, and concentration camps. Any such place where groups of people were held together with pain still have dozens of souls still occupying the cells. Whenever a scientist tells us that ghosts are not for real, his statement usually contains the statement that, "there is no scientific proof of the existence of ghosts." This is wrong because there is scientific proof. Scientists have written theories that explain that something is happening beyond our comprehension. Albert Einstein taught us that energy cannot be created or destroyed. It can only be changed from one form of energy to another. No matter what is done, energy cannot be destroyed.

So what happens to the electrical energy that flows through our brain? It would break the laws of science if it disappeared or faded away out of existence. It has been found that in most ghost hauntings there are certain electrical elements at work. Using EMF [electromagnetic field] detectors, ghost hunters can monitor these electrical impulses. When ghosts are present, there are much higher levels of electromagnetic distortion, sometimes so high they interfere with computer operation or audio-visual equipment.

Recording temperature changes is another scientific way of detecting the presence of ghosts. Normally, in the presence of a ghost, fluctuations of more than ten degrees have been noted in small areas of rooms with constant temperature. It is a proven scientific fact that some form of energy is present to change the temperature. Sometimes, the ghost reflects the energy, raising the temperature ten degrees, and at other times the ghost absorbs the energy, lowering the temperature ten degrees.

Can a ghost move objects? Yes, a ghost can move objects. There are many ghost stories that involve non-living objects that seem to have life. These cases usually involve a personal object such as jewelry or doll. People begin noticing that the objects are not where they were left. They are not seen to move, but the people concerned know they have been moved when they were absent. Also you can have unexplained noises, doors or cupboards being opened repeatedly, levitation, electrical problems, pets behaving strangely, and finally unusual noises, such as the sound of footsteps, when no one is around. Was it my imagination that my bedroom has had ghostly visits lately? Over the last two weeks, about midnight, my bedroom door opened by itself three times, and I could feel and hear footsteps in the room. After quickly turning on the light, I saw nothing. "A bad dream", you say. Maybe and maybe not. Actually, ghosts are found almost anywhere, sometimes in a virtually new home. The dwelling may be new, but the land on which it was built is centuries old.

Now, are you a true believer? I hope this ghostly venture has given you a little food for thought. Apparently there are quite a few believers in this country, because in nearly every state there is at least one paranormal organization engaged in tracking down ghosts, and at least two international clubs, all organizations totaling over 100,000 members. Thousands of the members have been researching ghosts for years and are trained paranormal investigators.

Russell Harwood Knox, 31 Dec 2001

## Biography of Russell H. Knox

Russell H. Knox was born January 4, 1916 in Buffalo, NY, the fourth child of David H. Knox and Jessie Thayer Knox. He graduated from high school in Utica, NY, and attended Union College in Schenectady, NY for three years, where belonged to the Delta Phi social fraternity, and was

on the cross country team, the swimming team, and the lacrosse team. He transferred to the University of Alabama, where he earned BS and MA degrees. He coached high school sports for three years, prior to World War II.

He enlisted as a private in the US Army Air Corps July 23, 1941, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel June 30, 1964. He flew a combat tour in B-17's in the South Pacific from 1942-1943. His most interesting assignments were as Commandant of the Artic Survival School in Thule, Greenland, and Executive Officer of a missile squadron. At both bases he was also the Disaster Control Officer.

After retiring from the USAF he taught creative writing, public speaking, and psychology in a junior technical college in Portsmouth, NH. After two years of teaching, he became Dean of Continuing Education at the same school, retiring 1978. Since then very little has happened.

Russell KNOX[10] (Jesse[9], Nathan W.[8], Calvin[7], Elias[6], Zebulon[5], Benjamin[4], Richard[3-2-1] THAYER).

## Solving A Marriage Mystery

By William B. Thayer

I hadn't taken any interest in genealogy before my father passed away in 1992. My dad had dabbled in the family history, but hadn't done any research. I started collecting information and documents just as most beginners do. In this article, I want to relate an intriguing little research event that occurred during my initial collection of vital records.

My father, Elmer Briant Thayer born in Amherst, Massachusetts, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1928. Following his graduation, he served at a number of military posts, and in the mid-1930's, still a lieutenant, was assigned to the Hawaiian Division, in the then Territory of Hawaii. He and the other single lieutenants and young officers stationed in Hawaii played polo and got regularly beaten by a team led by Lieutenant Colonel George S. Patton. These young men dated schoolteachers and nurses, one of whom was to become my mother. Sarah Annis Spivey was a lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps, was from North Carolina and had passed away in 1974.

I didn't know too much about the lives of my father and mother before about 1945. Later in life, they had separated and communicated little with each other. I did know that they had met in Hawaii. When I started my genealogical research effort, I started writing away for copies of vital records such as marriage certificates. From little tidbits of information gained in childhood, I assumed that my father and mother had gotten married in North Carolina. I wrote for and received a copy of a marriage certificate that showed that they were married in Carolina Beach, North Carolina on June 24th, 1937. I was satisfied that I was off to a good start assembling the necessary vital records.

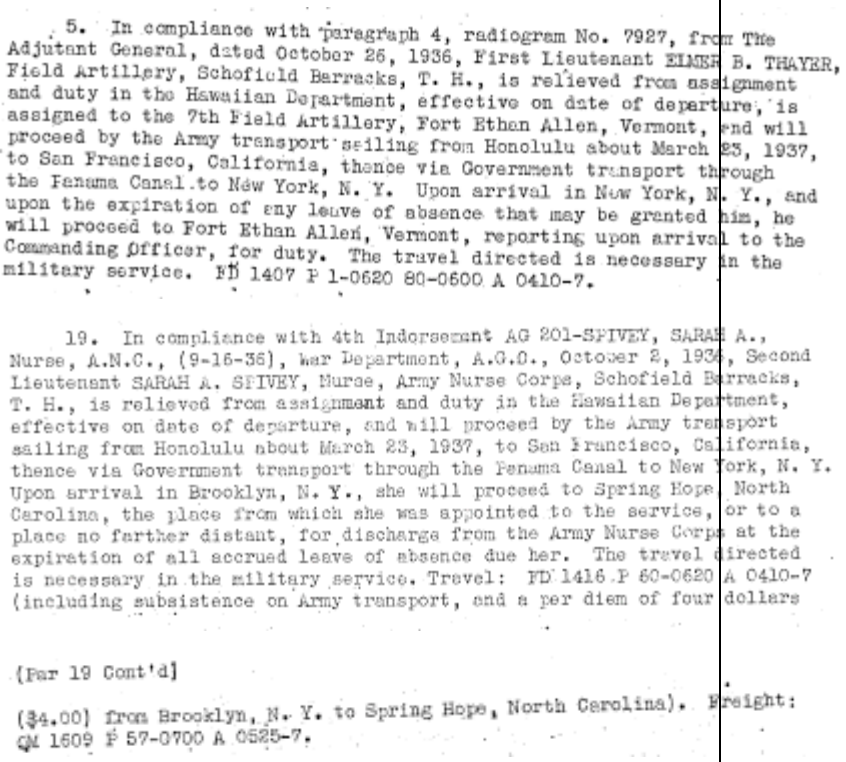
Later in the same year, I was talking with my sister and her husband who had joined us at Christmas and told them about obtaining a copy of the marriage certificate from North Carolina. My sister stated that was inconsistent with her memory and that she too had a copy of a marriage certificate, but she didn't think that the certificate she possessed was from North Carolina, but she would send me a copy of whatever she had when they returned to their home in Maine. Vaguely, my sister, two younger brothers and I recalled hearing a childhood story that my mom and dad had taken a cruise around the time of their marriage.

Upon returning to Maine, my sister sent me a marriage certificate that certified that my mother and father were married on April 3d, 1937 at the All Saints Episcopal Church in San Francisco, California. What to make of these two different marriage certificates almost three months apart on opposite coasts?

I decided to write the National Personnel Records Center for copies of the military records relating to both my father and mother and perhaps that would furnish some clues. Disappointingly, the National Personnel Records Center could not locate records on my mother. They provided summaries of some of my father's military record, none of which were helpful or informative.

My career in the active US Army spanned almost thirty-three years, the last ten of which involved duties of performing in-depth research at some of Washington DC's premier historical repositories. On a hunch, I went down to the National Archives and asked to see files for the military organization known as the Hawaiian Department. Among the files

I requested to review were what in the Army were called "Special Orders". Special Orders until they were eliminated in the later decades of the twentieth century were documents that dealt with individual soldiers such as permanent changes of station, assignments, promotions, and award of military occupational specialties.



5. In compliance with paragraph 4, radiogram No. 7927, from The Adjutant General, dated October 26, 1936, First Lieutenant ELMER B. THAYER, Field Artillery, Schofield Barracks, T. H., is relieved from assignment and duty in the Hawaiian Department, effective on date of departure, is assigned to the 7th Field Artillery, Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, and will proceed by the Army transport sailing from Honolulu about March 23, 1937, to San Francisco, California, thence via Government transport through the Panama Canal to New York, N. Y. Upon arrival in New York, N. Y., and upon the expiration of any leave of absence that may be granted him, he will proceed to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, reporting upon arrival to the Commanding Officer, for duty. The travel directed is necessary in the military service. FD 1407 P 1-0620 80-0600 A 0410-7.

19. In compliance with 4th Indorsement AG 201-SPIVEY, SARAH A., Nurse, A.N.C., (9-16-36), War Department, A.G.O., October 2, 1936, Second Lieutenant SARAH A. SPIVEY, Nurse, Army Nurse Corps, Schofield Barracks, T. H., is relieved from assignment and duty in the Hawaiian Department, effective on date of departure, and will proceed by the Army transport sailing from Honolulu about March 23, 1937, to San Francisco, California, thence via Government transport through the Panama Canal to New York, N. Y. Upon arrival in Brooklyn, N. Y., she will proceed to Spring Hope, North Carolina, the place from which she was appointed to the service, or to a place no farther distant, for discharge from the Army Nurse Corps at the expiration of all accrued leave of absence due her. The travel directed is necessary in the military service. Travel: FD 1416 P 60-0620 A 0410-7 (including subsistence on Army transport, and a per diem of four dollars

(Par 19 Cont'd)

($4.00) from Brooklyn, N. Y. to Spring Hope, North Carolina). Freight: QM 1609 P 57-0700 A 0525-7.

I started a page by page screening of thousands of pages of the Special Orders of the Hawaiian Department beginning in 1935. Fortunately, I was able to interpret the many acronyms and military jargon. I found nothing bearing my mother's and father's names until I began reviewing the special orders for March 1937. In March 1937, I found orders for both First Lieutenant Thayer and Second Lieutenant Spivey. Special Orders 52 dated March 3, 1937 issued by Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter T.H. ordered both back to the continental United States on the same vessel, docking in San Francisco before proceeding through the Panama Canal and onward to New York, N.Y. My mother was to be discharged from the Army upon arrival in New York City. My father was to be assigned to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont following a leave. Excerpts of their orders:

With this information, I could envision what had occurred in their early lives together. My father had romanced my mother on the island of Oahu and he must have proposed to her. She had agreed and applied for discharge from the Army. They set sail on the same ship and their relationship undoubtedly became closer. When the troop transport ship docked in San Francisco for a day or two, they jumped off the ship, went to the nearest church and got married on April 3d, 1937. They then sailed from San Francisco through the Panama Canal taking a cruise that lasted another forty-five days. While on leave in North Carolina, I am certain that my mother's family in North Carolina insisted on another and what they considered a more formal and proper marriage ceremony.

Following the North Carolina marriage, my father and mother went to Fort Ethan Allen Vermont, where a year later I was born and one of my brothers was also born two years later. We then followed my father, a field artillery officer, around the country and world for the next twenty-five years. Typically, as with most military families, we lived in Oklahoma, North Carolina where my sister was born, Texas where my youngest brother was born, Louisiana, Washington DC, Japan, and Oklahoma again. We then moved to Massachusetts where my father was the Professor of Military Science at Boston College, Panama and lastly Massachusetts once more where we finally settled and where my father retired from the Army as the last commander of what was then Boston Army Base.

## James Leonard Thayer, American Showman
## By Stuart Thayer, Muno, # 1935

Among the more interesting persons listed in Patricia Muno's *Descendants of Nathaniel Thayer* is *#350,* James Leonard Thayer (1830 - 1892). He was in the circus business for forty-six years, and became one of the leaders in that genre in the nineteenth century.

Born in Waddington, New York, the son of James Leonard Thayer (Muno # 349) and Sarah Clapham, he was by turns a teamster, a tinsmith, and a circus performer. His father (1799 - 1844) was a tinsmith,

and later a steamboat captain. His mother (ca. 1803 - 1842), a native of England, survived a shipwreck on her voyage to America. They were married in 1828.

Young James was bound to a lumberman named Bates sometime between 1836 and 1842. Since his parents removed to Milwaukee in 1837, that date might signal when his apprenticeship began. He ran away by stowing aboard a boat to Buffalo. The captain then sent him to Belleville, Ontario, to relatives of his (Thayer's) mother. There he was bound to a tinsmith.

In 1845 he took a job driving a stagecoach between Chicago and Galena for the firm of Frink & Walker. His salary was $12 a month. In 1846 he became chandelier man for J. T. Potter's Royal Empire Circus out of Ogdensburg, New York. A chandelier man was in charge of the lighting for the show, a matter of candles held in tin holders. The job required knowledge of tinsmithing.

Two seasons later, in 1848, he hired on as driver of the bandwagon with Mabie's circus from Delavan, Wisconsin. Eighteen forty-nine found him back as a stage driver for Zimmerman & Green, driving between Vincennes and Terre Haute, in Indiana. He operated a tinsmith shop in Clinton, Indiana, in 1851.

Returning to circus bandwagon driving in 1852, he labored for Johnson & Co.'s People's Circus, based in Huntsville, Alabama. He transferred to Welch's Hippodrome for 1853, leaving in September to accept a position as superintendent of the Pittsburgh & Alleghany Transfer Co.

Back to the circus in 1854, he was master of horse (boss hostler) with Levi J. North's company for one season. For 1855 and 1856 he worked for the great Dan Rice as boss hostler and driver of the twenty-horse bandwagon team. A circus boss hostler was in charge of all the horses, ring and draft animals, on a show.

To this point our information comes from various reports with no contemporary proof, but in 1856 his name appears on Dan Rice's program as a Hercules performer (strongman). This is the earliest mention of his name in print that we have found. In this act he pulled against four horses.

Thayer worked for Dan Rice through 1858, and in Dundas, Ontario on July 28, 1857, appeared as a clown in the ring for the first time. Rice, the most famous circus performer of the nineteenth century, bestowed upon Thayer the cognomen "Doctor," and he so advertised himself for the rest of his life. We don't know the reason Rice began this practice.

For 1859 and 1860, Thayer was the lead clown for Van Amburgh & Co., the largest menagerie company on tour at that time. In 1860 he married Helen M. Martin (b. ca. 1835) of Girard, Pennsylvania. Muno lists four children for them (#'s

35 1-354), though one commentator said they had nine. This may indicate that five children died in infancy. Helen Martin's father was Agrippa Martin, a famous elephant trainer of the day.

In 1862 Thayer joined with Charles Noyes to frame a circus titled Thayer & Noyes & Co., which they operated through 1868, and proved to be the most successful of his endeavors. Tragedy struck in 1869, when they lost seventy horses to disease, causing their creditors to become uneasy, and the show was sold at auction in Cincinnati.

Thereafter, he headed several small circuses, none as richly rewarding as Thayer & Noyes had proved to be. All of them closed within one or two years of starting out. In 1876 he worked at the Philadelphia Centennial. His last circus employment was with Adam Forepaugh's show in 1882. James Leonard Thayer died in Chicago on 30 June 1892.

Bibliography:
1906 route book, Barnum & Bailey Circus.
*New York Clipper,* 28 January 1882.
*New York Clipper,* July 1892 (obituary).
Clipping, unidentified Chicago newspaper, Circus World Museum (obituary). ⛵

## The Celebration

August 14, 1945 - VJ-day, the day Japan surrendered, ending World War II. I was stationed at an airbase on the outskirts of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We received word of the surrender late that afternoon, and immediately just about everyone on the airbase headed into town to celebrate. There weren't nearly enough jeeps and trucks, so most of us hitchhiked in. How peaceful it was as we passed through the gently rolling farmland, with a few cows munching away under a sky that was bluer and brighter than ever, with a few puffy white clouds that were whiter and brighter than ever.

What a wonderful state of affairs. I had flown and survived seventy-nine combat missions over Europe without a scratch, would not have to fight in the Pacific, and would soon be going back to college at Columbia after four years of military service. The world was at peace, and I was headed into town to celebrate.

When I got there, the celebration was well under way. Thousands of soldiers had gathered in the center of town, along with hundreds of civilians. Liquor was flowing freely. As the celebration progressed, I bought a bottle of beer and made my way up to the roof of a one-story building, joining the group that was observing the wild, noisy scene below. Grateful civilians were hugging and kissing the soldiers and thanking us for winning the war.

A farmer arrived in a battered old pickup truck and immediately and unwillingly sold the truck to an intimidating group of drunken soldiers who had passed the hat for donations to pay for it. Promptly upon taking possession of the truck, they set it afire. The fire department arrived quickly with sirens shrieking, hooked up their hoses, and were promptly overpowered by the mob that grabbed the fire axes and severed the fire hoses. As the fire consumed the truck, the crowd, including soldiers, civilians, and even firemen, roared their approval.

As the center of action shifted down the block, I came down from the roof and followed. The drunks got drunker and noisier, and what had started out as a joyous celebration of the end of the bloodiest and most terrible war in the history of mankind became a wild, chaotic, violent scene. Store windows were smashed and fights broke out. The few policemen on hand were powerless to bring order to the situation. It didn't even appear that they wanted to.

A scuffle broke out involving six or eight white soldiers pummeling a black soldier. There were shouts of "Kill that nigger" and "Kill that black bastard." He managed to break free and run up a side street with a look of stark terror on his face, a look that I'll never forget as long as I live. The mob pursued him, brandishing empty whiskey bottles. To the black soldier's surprise, he found that the side street was a dead-end alley, and there was no way out. I felt that I should go to his rescue, but I was afraid of the mob.

As soon as he reached the end of the alley, he turned, faced his pursuers, and stood waiting for their next move. He was dripping with sweat. The look of terror on his face became a look of steely determination. His pursuers all came to an abrupt halt, except for one soldier who advanced toward him, took a swing at him, and got the surprise of his life when he was knocked out flat with one punch. Stepping over the unconscious body of his assailant, the black man clenched his fists and said, "I'm leaving now" There was total silence. Everyone stepped aside, and they let him go. I was tempted to congratulate him, but was afraid that he would say, "Where were you when I needed you?" After that, I lost interest in the celebration and hitchhiked back to the airbase.

Thinking about that ugly incident, I felt guilty that I had not gone to the man's defense. That guilt reminded me of something I had once read in a short story. A man watches in silence as another man is lynched in the Deep South. He is at once shocked and fascinated by what he has witnessed.

The mob disperses, leaving the corpse dangling from a tree limb, and the man walks home ashamed of himself for having been too afraid to intervene. When he walks in the door, his wife, noticing the look of guilt and shame on his face, blurts out, "You've been with a woman, haven't you?"

REGINALD THAYER
Palisades, New York

*Editor's notes: Mr. Thayer is a published author and this story appeared with 179 other stories in a book titled "I Thought My Father Was God and Other True Tales from NPR's National Story Project" compiled by Mr. Paul Auster.*

*An article in the NY Times states:*

*"Mr. Auster edited some stories heavily. Others he hardly touched. Reginald Thayer, 80, of Palisades, NY, sent in "The Celebration," which he had written in a class at Dominican College in Orangeburg, NY. Many elderly people's stories, in fact, came from writing courses. Mr. Thayer, a bombardier during World War II, was based near Sioux Falls, SD. At a victory celebration he witnessed some drunken military men menacing a black soldier. The terrified soldier struck back, and Mr. Thayer wrote of his guilt as not having gone to the black man's defense.*

*"They changed one or two words" only, said Mr. Thayer, who never published before, and will be reading tonight."*

*In a letter between Reginald and myself in January 2002, Reginald states:*

*"Several people have told me that they saw in December a television broadcast of a tape made of me reading my story at a book signing ceremony in October, but I didn't see it.*

*"For several years I have been attending a series of classes about 'Writing Your Family Stories'. It all started because my children and grandchildren have enjoyed hearing me tell stories about my experiences in the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's.*

*"I never thought any of them would be published."*

## Shaking off the wigwam

How a Native American escaped his addiction - and is leading others out of the same bondage - by Noel Piper

Pilgrims and Indians talked not only turkey hut theology. Nearly four centuries later, that story continues, as Gordon Thayer can relate.

In the mid-70s, after two decorated Vietnam tours and a life of alcohol, Mr. Thayer returned to the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Wisconsin, yearning for roots and release from addiction. In 1977, he was elected chairman of his Ojibwe tribe.

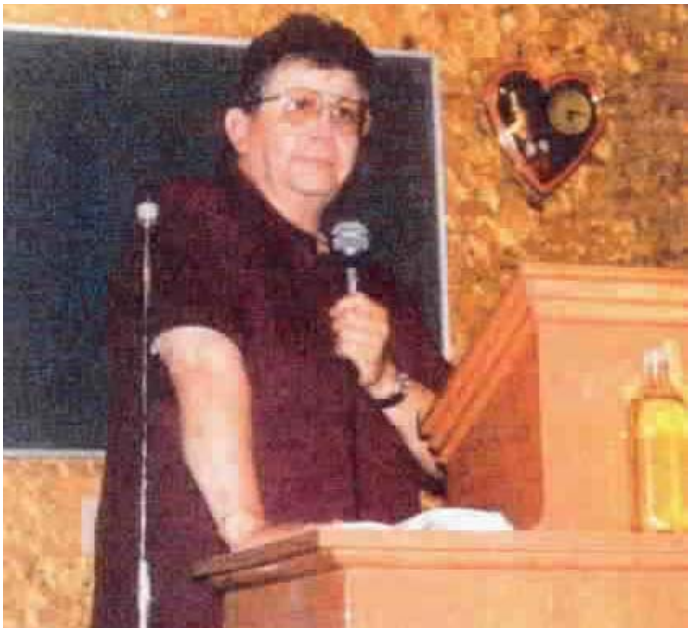
A few years later, awaiting heart surgery he heard voices promising healing if he'd participate in "shaking the wigwam." This would mean accompanying medicine men to a remote area where powers would convulse a ceremonial tent. A missionary from his childhood Sunday school, though, dropped by and declared God's superiority to those spirits. Although Mr. Thayer despised her for polluting people's minds, he told her of the increasingly vehement voices, and then mouthed words, just to get rid of her, as the voices within jeered.

Months of dark harassment climaxed one evening in unbearable clamor. Through Christian relatives that night, Mr. Thayer perceived God's power and committed himself to Christ. He made his conversion public by burning his Native American spiritual paraphernalia. Later, he earned an MA. and, in 1986, joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Minneapolis, where he worked an initiative to fight homelessness.

Mr. Thayer also attended Overcomers of Alcohol, a weekly addiction-recovery meeting led by a local pastor. In 1988 he and his wife Sheila became the leaders of that group and began Overcomers Outreach Ministries, a broad expansion of the original ministry.

There are still weekly gatherings for music, speakers, and testimonies. Overcomers also offers crisis intervention and will soon begin an outpatient treatment program.

In 1992 Mr. Thayer resigned his government position and founded the American Indian Housing and Community Development Corporation (AIHCDC), a non-profit, secular organization that receives foundations, government, and corporate grants to benefit homeless Indians in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. AIHCDC is housed in the



same building as Overcomers and maintains close ties with it.

While solving a housing problem, Mr. Thayer may recognize a personal need and send someone upstairs to his wife in the Overcomers office; she counsels people spiritually and often sends them downstairs to AIHCDC for other services.

AIHCDC's receptionist, Deloris Pike, who became a Christian five years ago through Overcomers meetings, lives at On Eagle's Wings, a recent partnership project of Overcomers and AIHCDC. The renovated apartment building was long derelict and cost all of one dollar to purchase, but it is now a secure home-haven for recovering Native American's. AIHCDC also operates Anishinabe Wakiagun, a home for late-stage alcoholics who would otherwise would be on the street. Wakiagun is the last home for most of them, but one AIHCDC staff member - formerly at Wakiagun - has been employed since 1996, maintaining her sobriety throughout and regaining guardianship of her three sons.

The Thayers also travel to Mishkeegogamang Ojibwe Reserve in Northern Ontario, and with a pastor there offer evangelistic services and counseling. After 11 years of relationship-building they are still chipping away at the Native resistance to Christianity, which is intensified by residual grief and resentment over past generations of children lost to their people in the name of assimilation into "majority" society. Religious boarding schools were often the vehicles for such assimilation.

Since the Thayers are the only staff of Overcomers, with a board of directors for advice and support, they rely heavily on volunteers. Several local churches are partners, providing holiday meals and gifts to Indian families and supporting special events such as a week-long Native American Family Camp.

Overcomers also offers seminars on Native culture and cultural differences in communication. Body language, for example, can mislead: To a non-Indian, averted eyes may denote shiftiness, while an Indian reads them as deference and politeness.

More basic differences are internal. Culturally, Native Americans are attuned to the spiritual world, but do not relate to the Christian's God. Mr. Thayer estimates that only 1.5 percent of the Native population of his metropolitan area are churchgoers. To help them and others, he says, Christians should "be like Velcro - stick for a long time. Patient, one-on-one mentoring is so important, and friendship that develops with closeness and time."

Noel Piper is a Minneapolis writer.

## The Absolutely True and Authentic History of the Naming of The Thayer Bear

The following was received in an email from RaJean Thayer Vawter. Thanks RaJean for bringing this to the attention of the family :)

Rodney,
I read with great interest, the story about the Thayer Bear in the latest Quarterly and determined to try to find one for myself. While trying to go to sleep the night I read John Howard's article, I came to the realization that I know the history of this particular Boyd's Bear! When you hear it, you, like me, will understand why a "non-Thayer" would think the

teddy's name simply came from a list. Why they wouldn't understand the deeper forces involved in the naming of this special little creation.

RaJean Thayer Vawter

"In the 1997 birthing room of Boyd's Bear Co. there was a large bolt of bear fur that had quite a history. This particular bolt had been imported from England and was of sturdy, faithful stock. It had gone through a baptism of ocean water, which imbued it with a love for the high seas and an adventurous spirit. It had been dyed in the dark colors of war, and then lightened with the brightness of love.

"This bolt of bear fur was cut by adversity, heartache and trial. However, it was then sewn together with faith in God, generosity of heart and love for mankind. Stuffing material was chosen with great care. Not too soft and not too hard. Tremendous intellectual "stuff" filled the head, dexterity filled the hands and solid ingredients were put in the feet. Unfortunately, the creators got carried away when they filled the tummy and the bottom of the little bears. But, when they searched for eyes, they searched and searched for the wisest and kindest ones in the land. Then they carefully attached them so that the eyes would be connected to the heart that had been put inside. (Most teddy bears don't have hearts.)

"All the while the little bears were being created, the workers sang over them. They didn't know why the teddy bears being created out of this particular bolt of material was such a joy to work on. But they just couldn't help themselves from singing and laughing.

"When the new creation was finished being "born," they went to the Naming Department. The officials on duty were amazed when they saw this new product. Never before had they seen such an amazing little bear with such a genealogical history! They didn't know or understand why, but the name "Thayer" just seemed to fit. They were ignorant of the facts that generations of Thayer people had lived, who were fashioned out of the same type of sturdy, faithful cloth as the new little teddy bears. People who had survived wars, adversity, storms on sea and land. Thayers who were stuffed with the same kind of heart, intellect and ability. Imbued with the same kind of faith, generosity, love, wisdom, and kindness. Unusual people covered with laughter and music. The Boyd's Bear people didn't know that their newly created Thayer Bear so closely resembled the people with the same name. But they knew that his name was Thayer. And that is all that matters."

RaJean

## More Thayer Bear Information

In an email I received from Lynda Smith Thayer.
Thanks Lynda for sharing this :)

"Hello again, I just received the December 2001 issue of the Thayer Quarterly, and read the article from John Howard Thayer about the Thayer Bear. It was very interesting and sparked my interest in also owning a Thayer Bear. Since this is a retired piece from Boyd's Bears, I knew my search would be difficult. But like all Thayers on a "mission," I started making as many contacts as I could in search of this collectible.

"I actually found a store in Mass. and spoke with the owner. He was very kind, and v-e-r-y informative. I think I have the answer to John Howard Thayer's question about the significance of a bear named Thayer. This bear is dressed as a fisherman with a cap, scarf and vest. If you remember the movie "On Golden Pond," Henry Fonda played the part of Norman Thayer, who was a fisherman. Hence, this bear was named "Thayer" and dressed up as this character.

"So I hope this resolves the mystery of how the Thayer named was chosen. I am now also the proud owner of the Thayer Bear, and the DVD of On Golden Pond!"

Best wishes for 2002,
Lynda Smith (Thayer)

To the Readers:
I have located the following Thayer Bear source that had the following Thayer Bear products in stock as of 2/6/02
Source: GoCollect.com
- Thayer Bear - Boyd's Bears / Boyd's Plush T. J's, Best Dressed Bears - Summer, In Stock $18.00.

- Michael and Thayer…Waitin for Grandpa (Rosin Figurine) - Boyd's Bears / Dollstone Collection - Yesterday's Child, In Stock $24.00.
- Thayer Bear -- Bearly Built Hideaway Accessory - Boyd's Bears / Boyd's Bearstones Beady Built Hideaway Accessories 3 figurines, including Thayer, In Stock $8.50.

## 105th Thayer Family Reunion Report

Prouty Beach in Newport was the scene of the 105th Thayer Family Reunion on August 11, 2002. The weatherman could not have been more accommodating with the order for beautiful weather. About 50 gathered for the unveiling of the Thayer Reunion banner, which was done by Doris McKelvey and Laurence Thayer, descendants of Albert and Electa Thayer and James and Sarah Thayer, respectively. It will fly again at the next reunion, wintering at the home of the Canadian President, Ernest Thayer.

After a most fitting grace by Alice Whitcher, the family members enjoyed a smorgasbord of entrees and desserts. Following the meal, Canadian President Ernest Thayer distributed toys to the very young members for their amusement. American President Lynn Thayer welcomed all the attendees, some were new faces, and he also noted the absence of regular ones. Communications noted that Lillian Cargill, Merton and Verna Thayer would not be attending.

Vital statistics indicated that Pauline (Monette) Vita passed away the first week of April 2002. A daughter, Rebecca Joy Thayer was born on December 14, 2001, to Christian and Jessica Thayer. Two marriages: Betty Hamelin (daughter of May (Thayer) Hamelin to Donald Clark in June, 2002 (?) and that of Debbie Swistara to Joseph R. Jurinich, III, on December l6, 200l. Celebrating 51 years of marriage were Aldis and Mildred Thayer (Sept. 2, 2002) as were Rupert and Gilda Clark who have been married 50 years (Aug. 23, 2002). Also, on August 20, 2002, Roger and Edith Wallis will celebrate their l5th anniversary.

It should be noted that Roger had just returned from the Afghanistan front serving with the Canadian forces to his home in Goose Bay, Labrador and still managed the 1100-mile trip to the reunion.

The youngest Thayer present was Connor Prochuk while Doris McKelvey took the honours for the older Thayers. Discussion prompted the action that the prayer used by Alice Whitcher, written by her mother, Ethel (Hoyt) Thayer for a Thayer reunion years ago, be kept on file for use at other reunions. It was also suggested that old family recipes be incorporated into a cookbook, the sale of which would raise money to cover expenses. Send your favourite ones to either secretary, Dot Morey or Kim Nichols. Kim also surveyed the group in regard the mailings of the newsletter, e-mailing and a family web site.

President Lynn Thayer then thanked everyone who came and contributed in any way to make the day a successful one. After adjournment, the Canadian President Ernest Thayer conducted the drawing of door prizes and the 50-50 raffle.

Gold-coloured pencils with "Thayer Reunion 2002" were distributed, courtesy of Debbie (Webb) Swistara, Bertha Smithers' daughter in Florida. Everyone socialized, swam, renewed old and new acquaintances, swapped stories, or took pictures until late afternoon.

Submitted by:
Kimberly Nichols
Thayer Family Association
of Lower Canada-East & Vermont
Canadian Co-Secretary

## Copying Old Photos

When making copies of old black and white photographs or newspaper articles, always use ivory paper instead of white paper. Ivory paper is more forgiving, and the copies will look wonderful. Also, use a color copier, not a regular paper copier you would normally use for copying text. A color copier will enhance your photos, even though they are black and white, and give you greater detail.

I have been teaching family heritage classes and have done a lot of experimenting with different types of paper, as well as copy machines. The best copy of a photo is, of course, a professional copy on photographic paper, but that can be expensive. I have chosen to use acid-free paper (I use a Hammermill ivory paper) with a color copier. I

prefer the laser color copiers found at such places as Office Depot or other copy establishments.

Some merchants will not allow you to bring your own paper. But many will. As much as possible, copy your photos and other documents on acid-free, ivory paper because the stores do not use acid-free paper in their copiers. Some laser copiers have an "old fashioned" setting, which is very nice for photos with a sepia (brown) tone. The ivory paper helps it to look aged. Good luck!

from Cathe Taylor in Colorado - Ancestry Quick Tip Ancestry Daily News, 24 May 2000.

## Correction Notice

Correction to the Summer 2002 newsletter, page 2, near top of the left column, paragraph before "Old business", corrected part is underlined, and should read as follows:

Judy also gave her report for being TFA Ambassador to other Thayer gatherings. She and Jerry went to Sutton, W. VA. for the Thayer Family Reunion of the descendants of Seth and Rebecca [Carpenter] Thayer.

Thanks Judy, for bringing this to my attention.

## Reunion Announcement

There will be Thayer Reunion held on Saturday, October 5, 2002 at Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset England, for the descendants of George & Emily Thayer of Rodney Stoke, Somerset.

## 'Lavender Lady' City's First Queen

The following story From Patricia's mailbag was shared by Verla Thayer Berg. It was written about 1965 by Suzanne Richards, writer for the Oregon Journal Staff:

As Portland Rose Festival time nears, thoughts turn to princesses, queens and courts. The Rose Festival now Portland's one big citywide celebration of the year, has had a royal ruler since the first queen was chosen in 1907.

But prior to that time the city had another queen. It was in 1900 when the Portland Elks Lodge staged an 11-day "Street Fair and Carnival" which members termed in their souvenir book "the greatest show the North Pacific Coast had ever known."

There is little information remaining today concerning the celebration other than the souvenir book. According to it the idea was originated by E.W. Rowe, then president of the Elks, who told his fraternal brothers that he thought they could stage and "carry through to successful conclusion" such a celebration.

How a queen was chosen is not explained, but 25-year-old Alice THAYER, is pictured in crown and royal robes as ruler of the festival.

Although Alice Thayer no longer lives in the city she still refers to herself as "Portland's first queen." Now Mrs. Earl Rowland of Sunnyside, Wash., she recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She takes care of her own home and has for many years been referred to by friends and neighbors as Sunnyside's "Lavender Lady."

The title comes from her love of the color and her use of it in clothing and furnishings for her home.

The festival over which she once reigned has been long forgotten, but in its day it was pretty spectacular. The Elks raised $10,000 in donations to put it on and brought in talent from the East to perform and take part in it.

At the time a great deal of public thanks also was bestowed upon the Ladies Auxiliary to the Street Fair and Carnival Association. It seems they were responsible for an art gallery, floral display, Japanese tearoom and a reception room "for lady visitors." There were photo buttons sold and Indian weavers demonstrated their skills.

A formal tribute to the women was published in the souvenir book as follows:

"The ladies, bless their hearts, have been full of enthusiasm, and the Fair and Carnival would have been 'a dull old thing' without the magic tough of their daintily bejeweled hands."

Resplendent in elaborate costumes were dignitaries at 19000 Portland carnival. In foreground mounted guards wear helmets and carry banners.

Early Day Queen Alice Thayer reigned over Elks Street Fair and Carnival in 1900. Now 90, she lives in Sunnyside, Wash., where she is known as "Lavender Lady."

*Patricia's note:* Alice died in 1967, about two years after this was written. Her lineage follows: Alice May[9] (William Otis[8], William Tileston[7], Caleb[6], Reuben[5], Joseph[4], Ephraim[3], Shadrach[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER.

## Without our YOUTH, THAYERS are doomed!

Thayer DEATHS 2001

Albert Clarence THAYER 6 Aug 1929-9 Mar 2001
Alice E. THAYER 22 Feb 1922-Abt 20 Nov 2001
Alma THAYER 28 Dec 1938-8 Nov 2001
Alva B. (CURNEY) THAYER 11 Aug 1901-2 May 2001
Alvah LeRoy THAYER 8 Oct 1912-21 Feb 2001
Arlene J. THAYER 25 May 1918-8 Feb 2001
Arthur C. THAYER Abt 1915-5 Jun 2001
Billy Ray THAYER 13 Jul 1927-7 Jun 2001
Carol J. (GORLACH) THAYER 23 Sep 1943-17 Sep 2001
Caroline (BLANTON) THAYER 29 Aug 1909-15 Jul 2001
Charles Leo THAYER 22 Feb 1925-17 Jan 2001
Charles Lincoln THAYER Abt 1948-13 May 2001
Charles R. THAYER Abt 1920-11 Dec 2001
Charlotte Rose (LITZENGER) THAYER
Abt 1927-27 Jan 2001
Clarence Wayne THAYER 22 Feb 1916-6 May 2001
Clifford Robert THAYER 11 Oct 1918-1 Oct 2001
Darwin THAYER Abt 1936-28 Apr 2001
Delbert C. THAYER 13 Sep 1950-29 Apr 2001
Dennis Robert THAYER 12 May 1943-18 Jul 2001
Diane L. THAYER Abt 1950-9 Mar 2001
Donald Frederick THAYER Abt 1924-5 Mar 2001
Donna Lee (TAYLOR) THAYER Abt 1940-4 Aug 2001
Doris THAYER 1 Mar 1911-11 Mar 2001
Dorothy THAYER 10 Aug 1910-20 May 2001
Dorothy Genevieve (LITTLE) THAYER
23 Mar 1911-12 May 2001
Edna Alice THAYER 10 Feb 1904-23 Mar 2001
Edna Estelle (PHEBUS) THAYER 16 Apr 1897-26 Apr 2001
Edna Mateel THAYER 14 Aug 1907-10 Jan 2001
Edward W. THAYER 5 Dec 1986-10 Apr 2001
Edwin Eugene THAYER 31 May 1943-28 Aug 2001
Effie Lucy THAYER 11 Nov 1905-31 Jul 2001
Flora A. (_____) THAYER Abt 1911-20 Nov 2001
Frances Hoyt THAYER 10 Dec 1908-15 Feb 2001
Gary Chester THAYER 22 Sep 1945-5 Apr 2001
George Oliver THAYER 12 Oct 1926-2 Dec 2001
Georgia (MAXIM) THAYER 10 May 1911-9 Jun 2001
Hazel Lenore Goyette THAYER 22 Jul 1922-4 Apr 2001
Helen THAYER Abt 1909-19 Mar 2001
Helen M. THAYER 23 Jun 1919-23 Nov 2001
Herbert Archie THAYER Abt 1938-12 Apr 2001
Irene Leona THAYER 7 Dec 1914-22 Sep 2001
James Curtis THAYER 24 Aug 1948-16 Nov 2001
Jane THAYER Abt 1920-20 Dec 2001
Jessie L. (HALFPAP) THAYER 18 Aug 1920-4 Jun 2001
John Alden THAYER 1921-6 Mar 2001
John Henry THAYER 26 Jan 1921-23 May 2001
John Parker THAYER 22 May 1945-21 Oct 2001
John Warren THAYER 24 Mar 1968-21 Jul 2001
Joseph Thomas THAYER Abt 1973-19 Oct 2001
Joshua Weston THAYER Abt 1980-18 Oct 2001
Joyce (DONOHOE) THAYER 23 Jul 1932-6 Jul 2001
June Velma (FOSTER) THAYER 13 May 1927-4 Aug 2001
Kathryn (CONNELL) THAYER Abt 1914-3 Mar 2001
Kathryn G. (KETTWICH) THAYER 8 Apr 1908-7 Jan 2001
Kenneth Alfred THAYER 3 Oct 1923-23 Dec 2001
Leighton Keith THAYER Abt 1931-7 Apr 2001
LeRoy Charles THAYER 28 May 1932-2001
Lonnie James THAYER 7 Jul 1955-30 Mar 2001
Louise P. (_____) THAYER 21 Apr 1926-24 Aug 2001
Mabel Alice THAYER Abt 1921-Jan 2001
Margaret Ellen (LINGERICH) THAYER
3 Mar 1908-23 Mar 2001
Margaret M. (MC AULEY) THAYER Abt 1919-11 Sep 2001
Marian Alfred THAYER 4 Apr 1917-16 Apr 2001
Marie L. (HANNON) THAYER 6 May 1914-10 Aug 2001
Marion (PROSSER) THAYER Abt 1940-20 Sep 2001
Marjorie R THAYER Abt 1918-19 Mar 2001
Mary (EDMISTER) THAYER 15 Oct 1911-22 Feb 2001
Mary Anne THAYER 6 Aug 1944-14 May 2001
Maud I. THAYER 10 Nov 1914-5 Jul 2001
Mildred (RASKIN) THAYER 18 Mar 1915-19 Jan 2001
Muriel Evelyn (SIMPSON) THAYER Abt 1907-18 Feb 2001
Nelson Gessford THAYER Abt 1920-18 Feb 2001
Nives (TONT) THAYER 25 Jul 1932-2 Mar 2001
Norman Richard THAYER 25 Oct 1925-20 Jul 2001
Pamela (HOLLIS) THAYER 7 Dec 1941-25 Aug 2001
Paul Anthony THAYER 30 May 1940-15 Nov 2001
Pauline (_____) THAYER Abt 1917-28 May 2001
Phyllis THAYER Abt 1923-12 Oct 2001
Rachel Sophie (OAKLAND) THAYER
28 Sep 1912-22 Dec 2001
Ralph Earl THAYER 9 Apr 1916-25 Jan 2001
Rosemary (FISHER) THAYER 12 Jun 1936-19 Jan 2001
Ruth Alice THAYER 9 May 1915-6 Jun 2001
Sherman Gibson THAYER 16 Aug 1939-29 Apr 2001
Shirley Madoline THAYER 15 May 1919-17 Nov 2001
Stephen Lawrence THAYER 16 Jun 1952-14 May 2001
Steven Shackleford THAYER Apr 1921-24 Jul 2001
Thomas Edward THAYER 7 Jan 1923-27 Jun 2001
Timothy Patrick THAYER 19 Nov 1981-11 Feb 2001
Velma Lou (SCHLOSSER) THAYER 30 Jun 1931-8 Jun 2001
Vera Mae (WOERL) THAYER 7 Aug 1915-26 May 2001
Vesta (AVERY) THAYER 1922-30 Apr 2001
Virginia C. THAYER Abt 1912-19 Aug 2001
Vivian Gertrude THAYER 1 Dec 1912-12 Aug 2001
Yvonne THAYER Abt 1931-23 Oct 2001

## Back Issues, An Overlooked Source of Data

Rodney Lee Thayer, Editor

Have you ever read a magazine, and an article mentions that more information was available in a previous issue?

Back Issues are a great source of data. Some information we present in the Thayer Quarterly appears in "Parts", broken up over several issues. So every once in a while, we like to inform everyone on how to obtain a back issue.

The simplest way is if you already know what issue you would like, simply write to TFA with the issue information (quarter & year is sufficient), and remit the fee of $2.50 per issue for current TFA members, and $5.00 per issue for non-members.

Another way to locate a back issue is using the Internet and our website at: www.ThayerFamily.com We an extensive back issue listing, that lists all articles alphabetically, and also listed by the issue, so one can quickly see the article in a particular issue. On the website is also a printable order form that you fill out, again by issue and year, and send it in with your remittance as stated previously.

We also offer back issues available on CD-ROM in pdf format. This is an electronic version of the paper version, but is more durable, and is viewable on your computer. When ordering back issues, please ask for the CD-ROM version if you desire this format.

## Words from the President

I'm cautiously optimistic:

I've been in contact with people "in the know," and it appears that the Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Families in America, by Patricia Muno, is progressing. A work of this magnitude doesn't come quickly, but it's coming.

Plans are under way to get the Thornbury book and the Nathaniel book back in print.

There's even a chance that the first of the three-volume set of the Richard books will be available at the 2003 reunion. If all three of these books are available at the 2003 reunion, I will personally hire the necessary three men and a horse to carry them to the meeting. They still use horses in Frankenmuth, but just for ceremonial purposes.

A lot of work has been done since June, and TFA is looking at probable future activities in Tennessee, and Salt Lake City, UT. Setting out from our roots in Braintree hasn't been easy, and I'm sure our ancestors saw it the same way. Braintree is our home, but this is a big world.

Pay close attention as to how to contact Patricia Muno. Her email address has changed. USPS mail is probably the best way.

Pay close attention to the new address for TFA. Be sure to use "PMB 310"

I feel that TFA is settling in to be something permanent. It's settling in to something that we can pass on to our children… our grandchildren… our great grandchildren, and with a great deal of luck, our great great grandchildren.

Albert Thayer Morton, President
Thayer Families Association

## Historian's Note

I have dropped email service for a time so I can get my books formatted, so please take note of my following snail mail address. Information concerning my re-establishment of E-mail service can be found at a later date on the Thayer home page, ThayerFamily.com, and the Thayer Quarterly newsletter. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

In the meantime, submissions of genealogical information and photographs can be sent to the address below. Please contact my assistant, Jerry Thayer, at HJThayer@aol.com with Thayer-related queries.

Patricia Thayer Muno
Thayer Family Historian
3618 North 225 East
North Ogden, UT 84414-2762

## Membership Report

TWO VERY IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. Please check the expiration date on the mailing label of this Thayer Quarterly. If you do not renew by the date indicated you might miss copies of the Quarterly.
2. Keep you mailing address current with the Membership Chairman. As the post office does not always forward 3rd class mail, which our Quarterly is mailed as, you may miss your Quarterly, even if you have left your forwarding address with them.

We currently have 536 members, including 79 family memberships.

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members and encourage anyone, including new members, to consider becoming involved in TFA. We have members in Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, England, Japan and Panama, as well as forty-six states and the District of Columbia, so distance is not a problem. If you would like to volunteer even just a little of your time please let our new president, Albert Morton, know at ThayerATM@aol.com or me, Clint Thayer at ClntThayer@aol.com

**New Members**

Ellison, Candace Lee O'Dell, Williamston, MI
Graham, Marlin, Truton, MA
LeClair, Dave, Madison, WI
Lindeman, Mary Ellen Thayer, Vancouver, WA
Thayer, Paul, Nokomis, FL
Winget, Kimberly Alder, Camano Island, WA

Please notify the Membership Committee if you are aware of any errors in your record. Also, if I have missed anyone in this list let me know.

Again, notify me of any change of address, and keep your dues paid up.

Clint (Ralph Clinton, Jr.) Thayer
Membership Chairman
Tel. 860-443-1178
Email: ClntThayer@aol.com

## From the Editor…

Lots of information covered in this issue, from the new address for the Association, to the announcement of the Summer Reunion in 2003, to the electronic offering of the newsletter. We are truly stepping into a new age with the Association. I'll highlight each of these areas and cover a new item as well.

**Change of Address Form**

If you will be moving in the near future and have your new address, please clip this out or photo copy and mail to the Treasurer, Curtis Ross Thayer:
Thayer Families Association
346 Washington St. PMB #310
Braintree, MA 02184
(or email data to: cdthayer@earthlink.net)

Name:_____

Old Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____

Zip:_____

NEW Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____

Zip:_____

**New Address**

It is important that anyone corresponding with the TFA use this one address for communication the Executive Board. All your mail will go to one central place and will be distributed to those who need it. This is more efficient than having several addresses in each issue and cuts down on the confusion.

**Reunion Announcement**

Lots of planning is going into this and sounds like a really great time. Please check your schedules now and plan accordingly. If you did not met the Editor

in 2001 at the reunion, now's your chance, I will be attending in 2003, and it is not often your Editor gets to the United States for vacation.

### Electronic Newsletter

This was suggested by a member at the reunion in 2002, and will officially kick this off with the Winter Issue, although we are emailing the issue to a few early
birds, we hope you enjoy it. This is one way you can save the Association some money for use in things like the reunions. If you have a computer, and you can send and receive email, consider this option. More details are in this insert in this issue.

### Thayer Headstone Reference Book

This is a compiled work of Thayer headstone information. This is a large book, over 300 pages, and many photos of the headstones as well. This is an ongoing project, and another book is planned for one to two years from now that will contain even more information. If you are looking for a great reference book for source material, this is it and will be available soon. News of this will be in our next issue as well as on our website.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile book, please contact me at the address listed on the back page of the newsletter.

## 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*

### Membership Form

**Please check the date on the mailing label on the back page of this issue; it should indicate PD 02, which means your dues are PAID for the year 2002. If you have paid for more years, the date is indicated by the last two digits of the year. We encourage you to renew your membership before the end of the year to maintain uninterrupted delivery of your newsletter.**

Please complete this form indicating if you are a New or Renewal Single Membership or New or Renewal Family Membership. Enclose the appropriate check or money order made payable to Thayer Families Association.

Please check one: **Annual Dues $15.00** New Single Membership_____ Renewal of Single Membership_____
**Annual Dues $25.00** New Family Membership_____ Renewal of Family Membership_____
Please check one: **PAPER Issue mailed to you _____ ELECTRONIC Issue emailed to you _____ BOTH _____**

**Note:** A Family Membership consists of two adults of the same household (husband and wife, sisters and brothers, or any combination of two persons) If you wish to pay for more than one year, multiply the number of years times the amount.

First member name:_____

Second member name:_____

Number of years desired:_____ X Appropriate Annual Dues ($15 or $25) = Total: _____

Address:_____

City, State, Country and Zip:_____

Email address:_____
**If this is a NEW membership, name of person referring you:**_____
Please mail the completed form and dues to: Thayer Families Association
346 Washington St. PMB #310
Braintree, MA 02184-4702

THE THAYER QUARTERLY
RODNEY LEE THAYER, EDITOR
346 WASHINGTON ST. PMB #310
BRAINTREE, MA 02184-4702

## CONTACTING THE TFA

### www.ThayerFamily.com

For all official business with the TFA, please write the Secretary, Madora Boyd:

Thayer Families Association
346 Washington St. PMB #310
Braintree, MA 02184-4702
Email: matboyd@aol.com

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

Patricia Thayer Muno
Thayer Family Historian
1352 Canyon Road #139
Ogden, UT 84404
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 the first week of the month as follows: Winter (Dec); Spring (Mar); Summer (Jun); Fall (Sep). Back issues are available from 1994 to present; some may be a photocopy (Spring 2000 to present is available on CD-ROM in electronic PDF format, please specify paper or CD when ordering). Cost is $2.50 each for members, $5 each for non-members, checks only, payable to TFA. (TFA, 346 Washington St. PMB #310, Braintree, MA 02184-4702). 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 TFA address 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 submission to the Winter Issue is Nov 25th.