the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

December 2002 | ©Thayer Families Association | Volume 10, Issue 4

www.ThayerFamily.com | 346 Washington St. PMB #310 Braintree, MA 02184-4702 | Winter

Thayer Families Association 12th Annual Reunion/Meeting

Remember the date: Saturday, June 28, 2003, Frankenmuth, MI and plan to attend.

We will be meeting formally upstairs (there's an elevator) at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant (in a big private room) on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at 12:00 noon, and for the rest of the day and evening. Most of us will be in town earlier in the week for more informal get-togethers.

Rooms have been blocked for TFA reunion attendees at two conveniently located (easy walking distance) hotels:

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

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

Please contact the hotels for room reservations. **Let TFA know your plans for attending.** We will have a registration sheet in the Spring 2003 Issue.

Camping is also available at the Frankenmuth Jellystone Park, and they can be contact at:
1339 Weiss Street
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
989-652-6668
or via the web at: www.frankenmuthjellystone.com

Lodging also available is the: **Bavarian Inn Lodge**
For $150/night
One Covered Bridge Lane
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
989-652-7200, 888-775-6343
or via the web at: www.bavarianinn.com

Frankenmuth has a lot to offer in regards to shopping, lodging, dining and activities. Please visit www.frankenmuth.org to learn more. Contact your travel agent or favorite hotel chain to find availability in the Frankenmuth area.

The TFA sponsored Dinner (Family Style chicken dinner with all the trimmings) is only $10.00 for TFA attendees and only $1.00 for children under 12. Dinner is to be served about 5:00 PM so the kids can get some sleep.

We **DO** need your meal and meeting reservations. If you plan on being in town, and attending any TFA function, let us know, and reserve meals.

For dinner reservations, please contact:
Curt Thayer
2900 Thayer Road
Freeland, MI 48623-9412
Or e-mail at: cdthayer@earthlink.net

The Spring 2003 Issue will have a registration form, so meals can be accurately counted, a place to list which hotel you are staying, and a map of the area to drive there, and the number of people attending.

Electronic Thayer Quarterly

Rodney Lee Thayer, Editor

If you own a computer and have email, and consider yourself at least an average user, please consider changing your membership to receive your newsletter via email. The issues are delivered via email and you use a software program called Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free download), which reads document files in the exact format they were created in. There are several advantage to receiving the newsletter in this format;

- **Timely receipt.** When the paper copy goes to the printers, it takes 3-4 weeks for printing and mailing. You will receive your issue via email, before the paper master reaches the printer.
- Photographs are in **full color** if they were originally inserted in the newsletter in color.
- Issues can be easily stored on your computer, archived for later reading, and can be easily printed by you for reading.
- Email addresses appearing in the newsletter are as simple as point and click to send an email. You can even go directly to our website with just a click of a mouse.
- You **save TFA money** by printing fewer issues and mailing fewer issues. And if we are printing fewer, we are all saving our valuable resources and this benefits everyone. Even if you print your own, you may just print several pages or maybe just the ones of most interest you.

Again, if you are an average computer user we urge you to consider receiving the newsletter in the electronic format, it is beneficial to everyone.

The point of contact for this service is Kate Welton Kuzmich and she can be contact via email at: Kwelkuz@aol.com

Next Issue, Look For…

The French Connection
Scouts Learn Volunteering
James Auson Thayer
Conservation Farm of the Year

And many more article. Thanks for everyone's support. - Editor

My Career as a Farm Hand

By Reginald Thayer

The postcard was postmarked July 22, 1937, Holicong, Pennsylvania. It was addressed to my sister, Elizabeth, and the message in sloppy handwriting was:

Dear Elizabeth, Gosh I'm
missing you. I'll be home
Saturday. How's Cleo? Much
love, Reg. P.S. Yesterday I got
bit by a bee.

My sister came across the card more than sixty years after she had received and read it. The Cleo referred to in the letter was Cleopatra, our very fertile cat who had litter after litter of kittens, about as often as it was biologically possible.

That postcard brought back memories of my brief career as a farm hand when I was sixteen years old. Back then we had a family friend named Mary Urban. She was the widow of Joseph Urban, an Austrian who had become a United States citizen and was a world famous architect and artist. Before he died he gave my sister and me a set of reproductions of beautiful watercolor paintings which he had done to illustrate Grimm's Fairy Tales, and children's stories by Hans Christian Andersen. He weighed 300 pounds. He was also a famous set designer for the Ziegfield Follies and other Broadway productions.

One day in the summer of 1937, sometime after Mr. Urban had died, Mrs. Urban was visiting us and she suddenly asked me whether I would like to have a job working on her brother's farm in Pennsylvania. My immediate reaction was negative as I thought I would rather continue enjoying a carefree summer. However, before responding to her I gave it further thought and decided that working on a farm might be fun, and it would be a chance to earn some money so I accepted the offer and thanked her.

She soon made arrangements for an employee of a Chevrolet dealer in Yonkers to drive me to her brother's farm. The farm was near Holicong, Pennsylvania. I don't remember what my pay was supposed to be.

We arrived at the farm in the early afternoon. I don't remember Mrs. Urban's brother's name, but

I'll call him Mr. Farmer. He had a herd of dairy cows and several fields of crops. The first thing he did was show me the room where I would sleep in his house. He then gave me my first assignment - to clear out a lot of junk from a small barn and load it onto his truck to be carted away. He told me it would probably take the rest of that day and the next morning to finish the job, but I got it done that afternoon. When I told him I had completed the job he said he was very surprised and pleased with the job I had done. We were off to a good start.

He then told me to do whatever I cared to do until dinner was ready. I decided to visit his cow barn and watch the cows being milked. As Mr. Farmer turned to walk away I noticed a large hornets nest up under the eaves of the cow barn. I threw a rock at it and missed. Mr. Farmer suddenly shouted at me, "Don't you ever do that again. You could get stung badly." I was taken aback by his sudden outburst. He had seemed like an easygoing guy.

I told him I wouldn't do it again and then went on into the barn. As soon as I got there I noticed two huge cats that Mr. Farmer kept to catch rats and mice in the barn. We always had cats at home and I was fond of cats so I picked one of them up to pet it. Instead of quietly nestling in my arms and purring, this cat snarled and scratched me. Impulsively I threw it away and it landed on one of the cows, briefly dug its claws into the cow and then jumped down and scampered away. The cow expressed its displeasure by making a funny sound like a belch. I was fascinated by the way the cat had instinctively dug its claws into the cow's hide before jumping down, so I picked up the other cat and threw it at the same cow. This cat also clawed the cow and the cow made that same funny sound as the cat took off.

"What the hell are you doing? You out to be ashamed of yourself." It was Mr. Farmer who had walked into the barn just as I threw the second cat at the cow. I told him I was sorry and wouldn't do it again and he walked away talking to himself. At the dinner table that night he wasn't very friendly and I felt rather uncomfortable.

The next day my job was to help two or three of the farm hands load bags of freshly harvested wheat onto a huge flat bed truck. We drove down a dirt road to the wheat field where there was row upon row of bags of wheat lying on the ground. They had been harvested by a monstrous machine called a combine. It had cut the wheat, threshed it by shaking the kernels off and bagged the kernels.

The truck drove slowly alongside each row of bags and I and a couple of other guys walked along picking up the bags and flinging them onto the truck. The bags were rather heavy, but I pretended it was easy to lift them and toss them onto the truck.

After we had done this for a while the crew stopped for a rest and a smoke, and the truck driver asked me whether I would like to drive the truck. I told him I didn't know how to drive but he said he'd teach me. That was before the advent of the automatic shift. Instead of having three gears, first, second, and third, the truck had eight. After he explained the gear shift lever and clutch to me he put me into the driver's seat and instead of driving off smoothly the truck jerked like a bucking bronco as I tried to coordinate the accelerator, the brake, and the clutch while manipulating the gear shift lever. After about twenty minutes of practice I was improving slightly but I accidentally drove over two bags of wheat which split open and spilled wheat all over. And Io and behold just as this happened Mr. Farmer drove up and flew into a rage. He scolded the driver for letting me drive, scolded me for driving over the bags of wheat, and scolded the rest of the crew who had been watching me drive and were laughing uproariously.

As he drove off we went back to work. By five o'clock we had picked up all the bags of wheat on that field, which was only one of Mr. Farmer's several wheat fields.

The next day we cleared another field of bags of wheat and when that was done I strolled into the cow barn to watch the cows being milked. As I walked in I noticed that the two cats ran off. Also, it seemed to me that the cow who had been clawed the day before looked at me rather warily, but I couldn't be sure of that.

One of the farm hands was a French Canadian name Pierre who spoke only French. He had lost his right arm just below the elbow in an accident some years before and had a false arm with two metal prongs for fingers. It was fascinating to watch him milk the cows. He sat on a small stool and held the bucket with the metal fingers of his right arm while milking the cow with his left hand. He seemed proud of the fact that he could milk a cow just as quickly and efficiently as the other milkers.

After watching him for a while and marveling at his skill I picked up a dirty old tennis ball from the floor and started bouncing it off the wall and catching it and bouncing it again. Along about the third bounce I failed to catch the ball and it landed in Pierre's milk bucket. What happened next had to be seen to be believed. The startled cow stepped on Pierre's foot. Pierre, who was wearing a pair of flimsy sneakers howled in pain and began shouting (and probably swearing) in French as he tried to push the cow away. The cow just stood there with her right rear hoof crushing the toes of Pierre's left foot.

He tried everything to get the cow to lift her foot. He pushed the cow and punched the cow with his good left hand but the cow didn't budge. He even lifted up the bucket with his mechanical hand and smashed it against the cow, spilling milk all over himself and the floor. Still the cow didn't budge. In desperation he leaned down and bit one of the cow's teats, whereupon the cow lifted her foot and Pierre's foot was free at last.

Pierre, who had been smiling proudly a few minutes earlier as I was admiring his skill now looked like he was ready to kill me. Though I tried my best to stifle it I could not stop laughing until a moment later when Mr. Farmer walked in and shouted, "You've ruined my wheat and now you've spoiled a bucket of milk!" I was momentarily speechless and blurted out a weak apology which he didn't seem to accept. Once again I felt uncomfortable at the dinner table as Mr. Farmer spoke only to his wife that evening.

The next day we were back at work in one of the wheat fields. I refrained from driving the truck and when we finished up and got back I didn't venture into the cow barn. However, in the belief that nobody was watching I picked up a rock and threw it at the hornet's nest up under the eaves of the barn. It was a good shot, right smack into the nest and in what seemed like a fraction of a second a hornet flew out and stung me on the eyelid. Just as this happened Mr. Farmer came out of the barn. "I told you not to bother those hornets. It serves your right." I was surprised at his anger. After all it was me that got stung, not Mr. Farmer.

That evening things were tense again at the dinner table, especially when I was informed that I would be put on a bus headed for New York City the following Saturday. That was on a Wednesday and I wondered why he wasn't sending me home the next day instead of waiting until Saturday. Maybe that bus ran only on Saturdays.

That night I wrote that postcard to my sister.

The next day one of the farm hands had the day off and asked me to join him and his wife at a picnic. In the belief that having been fired the night before I was free to do whatever I cared to do I went to the picnic with them. That night once again things were tense at the dinner table. Things were also tense at breakfast the next day. Mr. Farmer ignored me and his wife made small talk to break the awkward silence.

I loafed around all that day and that night, after another tense dinner, I packed my duffle bag for the trip home.

Mr. Farmer drove me to the bus terminal the next day. We said our awkward goodbyes and I was on my way home. All during the ride home I felt foolish and embarrassed by my performance at the farm, but when I got home things brightened up, and when I picked up Cleo she purred and didn't scratch me.

Tiffany Thayer Ignites Research for UFOs

by Russell Harwood Knox

Had it not been for a prophetic pragmatism in paranormal phenomena presented by our cousin, **Tiffany Ellsworth Thayer**, Charles Fort, as prolific protagonist in portraying peculiar paralogisms, would undoubtedly have gone unnoticed in the world of science fiction. He was second to none in obtaining information on all the weird happenings in the world of his time. However, that was all he did, make notes and store them in shoeboxes. It is had not been for the loyalty of **Tiffany Thayer** to Charles Fort, his shrewdness and capability in organizing those notes, his great enthusiasm. Which inspired his fellow workers, and his ability to promote and publicize the findings of Fort, those notes would have gathered nothing but mold and slowly rotted away. Today, almost every college and university has a Fortean Club, thanks to our cousin, with thousands of members, always searching for weird and unusual happenings, investigating them, and publicizing their findings.

Without Thayer, instigating all these endeavors, a great death of television and movies, such as ***Star Trek***, ***Cocoon***, and ***Close Encounters of the Third Kind***, concerning extraterrestrial intelligence, would have resulted.

Fort and Thayer were both greatly interested in UFOs. Fort was very positive concerning his views on extraterrestrial activity. He stated in 1931 that *"Other worlds are in communication with the Earth. Proofs of this exist. Those which we think we can see are not, perhaps, the right ones. But they exist."* Thayer was so enamored of Fort's ideas on outer space, that he seldom let simple mundane subjects take precedent over them. Over a thousand pages of notes on UFOs had been collected, to be disseminated to the thousands of UFOlogists throughout the world.

Thayer and Fort were both greatly interested in UFOs. Just what is a UFO? It is an Unidentified Flying Object which has been identified by the U.S. Government as a possible or actual alien spacecraft. To date, the United States Government has denied that any UFOs were actually alien spacecraft. However, we can state that perhaps the first spacecraft on record was noted in about 900 BC in **The Old Testament, Second Book of Kings, Chapter 2, Verse 11**, wherein a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and bore the prophet Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind.

Throughout history, any country with a written language has recorded the sightings of strange objects and light in the skies. In 1561 perhaps one of the first well-documented sightings occurred in the skies over Nuremberg, Germany. There seemed to have been a battle in the sky of red, blue, and black plates, crosses, and tubes.

In the last fifty years, the sightings of UFOs have increased dramatically. So what have some of our national leaders been saying concerning all this so-called Extra Terrestrial activity?

General James H. Doolittle said: "*Germany may have recovered a flying saucer as early as 1939."*

General Nathan Twining said (regarding UFOs): *"The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious."*

President Harry Truman said: "*I can assure you that flying saucers, given that they exist, are not constructed by any power on earth."*

General Douglas MacArthur said: *"All countries on earth will have to unite to survive and to make a common front against attacks by people from other planets, the politics of the future will be cosmic or interplanetary."*

President Gerald Ford said: *"I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomenon. I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFOs and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject. When the long awaited solution to the UFO problem comes, I believe that it will prove to be merely the next small step in the march of science, but a mighty and totally unexpected quantum leap."*

President Jimmy Carter said: *"A red and green glowing orb radiated as it hurtled across the southwestern Georgia skies that January 1969 evening. In ten minutes it had vanished. I don't laugh at people any more when they say they have seen a UFO. I've seen one myself."*

President Ronald Reagan said: *"I occasionally think our differences would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world."*

Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoeter (first director of the CIA) said: *"Unknown objects are operating under intelligent control. It is imperative that we learn where UFOs come from and what their purpose is. Behind the scenes, high ranking military officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs."*

Senator Barry Goldwater said: *"Yes," in response to Larry King's questioning whether he thought the government knew UFOs were real and was keeping this fact from the American People.*

Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI said: *"UFOs are considered top secret by both the Army and the Air Force. In order to assist them, we must insist on full access to all information obtained."*

Mikhail Gorbachev, former leader of the USSR, said: *"The phenomenon does exist, and it must be treated seriously."*

Edgar Mitchell, Apollo Astronaut, said: *"The evidence points to the fact that Roswell was a real incident, and that indeed and alien craft did crash, and that material was recovered from that crash site."*

In spite of all the foregoing commentaries, why has the Air Force denied the viability of spacecraft

and extraterrestrial aliens? They have put a lid on the probability that these paranormal activities actually exist. From 1947 to 1969 the USAF investigated UFOs under "Project Blue Book." Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, was the headquarters for this project. It was terminated on December 17, 1969, after investigating 12,618 sightings, of which 701 remained unidentified.

The University of Colorado, under contract to the Air Force with "Project Blue Book," issued a report for the Air Force, resulting in the demise of the project, stating that:

No UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force was ever a threat to our national security.

There was no evidence submitted that these technological developments were beyond the range of modern scientific knowledge.

There was no evidence indication that sighting categorized as "unidentified" were extraterrestrial vehicles.

Three years later, in 1972, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, scientific consultant for Air Force "Project Blue Book," was quoted thusly: *"We had a job to do, whether right or wrong, to keep the public from getting excited. It is very well known that sometimes the president, himself, is not always and completely briefed on such highly classified matters."* This information is disseminated, after all, on a need to know basis, and he is merely a temporary four-year employee.

In spite of this report, thousands of Americans thought differently, and pursued the investigation of UFOs very diligently. **Tiffany Thayer**, until his death in 1959, pursued this anomaly very effectively. His observations on UFOs, along with those of Charles Fort, were greatly publicized in the Fortean magazine "***DOUBT***," of which Thayer was the editor, publicizing reams of information on aerial phenomena to the eventual thousands of investigators, including many authors and script writers for television and movies.

Where did the term "Flying Saucers" come from? In 1947, Kenneth Arnold, a pilot flying near Mr. Rainier, saw nine discs flying near his plane, at a speed estimated at over 1600 miles per hour. From then on, all UFOs became "flying saucers," regardless of their shape. UFOs generally appear in one of four main shapes: "the disc, the enormous triangle, the cylinder, and the sphere. However, most people call any UFO a "flying saucer."

In 1947 came the first report of an extraterrestrial crash from outer space in the United States, a few miles outside of Roswell, New Mexico. These reports were quickly rescinded by the Air Force, stating that the crash was nothing more than a new type of weather balloon. However, reliable witnesses at the scene reported that several large pieces of metal were recovered, and that it was paper thin, stronger than steel, and could not be dented with a sledgehammer. No metal of this type has been seen in a weather balloon.

This started the flood of investigations by civilians throughout the United States. To date, over one hundred organizations, mostly non-profit, have been founded to study this paranormal activity, and they are not "fly-by-night" organizations. They are staffed by highly skilled professionals, thoroughly trained in this peculiar field of UFOlogy, and spend millions of dollars in research each year. In fact, Robert T. Bigelow, from Las Vegas, is so enthralled with the subject, that he has, so far, spent over ten million dollars of his own money in researching this phenomenon.

One of the oldest and largest organizations researching extraterrestrial activities is the "Mutual UFO Network" (MUFON), founded in 1969 in Sequin, Texas, with a grassroots approach to resolving the UFO mystery. There are more than five thousand members worldwide, consisting of field investigators, consultants, and research specialists, with a large training center for field investigators. MUFON also maintains a UFO reporting hotline, sponsors scientific research into this UFO phenomenon, and publishes a monthly 24-page journal (thirty dollars a year to subscribers). Their Board of Consultants, consisting of PHDs and MDs, represent 45 areas of science and technology. In order to obtain the most qualified people, membership is by invitation only.

Another well-known organization is the "Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence" (CSETI). It is an international non-profit scientific research and education organization, dedicated to a further understanding of extraterrestrial intelligence, founded in 1990. Because of the existence and authentication of top secret documents confirming the retrieval of crashed ETS and their occupants, and

films showing ETS, along with the reports of thousands of credible military and civilian observers, it would appear that Earth has been visited over a long period of time, and this contact has intensified on matters concerning extraterrestrial matters. CSETI has developed "The Disclosure Project" which calls on the U.S. Congress to fully disclose the facts about UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligence, and classified advanced energy and propulsion systems, and to enact comprehensive legislation to research, develop, and explore space peacefully and cooperatively with all cultures on Earth and in space. There is no evidence that these extraterrestrial civilizations are hostile to humanity or the earth.

Since there are over one hundred organizations with a mission similar to the two just described, it would appear that UFOs definitely are not a figment of the imagination. Since 1946 these organizations have reported 51 crashes of UFOs throughout the world. It is truly amazing how the field of UFOlogy had advanced through the Herculean efforts of **Tiffany Thayer** in promoting this study of extraterrestrial activity.

It goes without saying that with all the extraterrestrial activity buzzing around Planet Earth, somebody would think about hitching a ride on one of these spacecraft. However, as of now, no one has obtained a ride by sticking out his or her thumb. To date, all the earthly passengers have claimed they were abducted, and then returned back to earth.

Barney and Betty Hill, from Portsmouth, NH, started this modern trend of space abductions, when they claimed to have been adducted in the White Mountains of New Hampshire on September 19, 1961, but the crew of an alien spacecraft. Were they? They seem to think so, although Dr. Benjamin Simon, a noted psychiatrist, claims that the story was a complete fantasy, an attempt to obtain national notoriety, which they certainly did with over two hundred radio and television appearances. It also started a trend in alien abductions, several hundred being reported over the intervening years. It is interesting to note that not one of the abductees came home with a souvenir of his ride or an explanation of what the interior of the space ship looked like, or any knowledge of what actually happened. The abductees claim complete loss of memory while aboard the spacecraft.

Leading psychologists say that these claims are due to a disorder called Sleep paralysis, the result of a disconnect between brain and body as a person is on the fringe of sleep. It is a very common occurrence, affecting at least 60 percent of the population, and is said to be the explanation for alien abductions. Dr. Al Cheyne, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Waterloo in Canada, did a survey of more than 2000 people with a sleep paralysis disorder. He found that several hundred of them described experiences similar to alien abduction. They seemed to sense a presence near them, strange language, shadowy creatures moving around, were unable to move, and had a crushing pressure and painful sensations in various parts of the body. These are compatible, according to Dr. Cheyne, with probing by alien experimenters, and the sensations of floating and flying account for the reports of levitation and transport to alien vessels. Another study has shown that people with sleep paralysis are more prone to report alien abductions when they have been exposed to movies or books about the subject. Sleep paralysis has been researched in Japan for years, and the Japanese people are well aware of it, but in the western world, research has barely begun. Therefore, a person having this disorder is very apt to say, "I have been the victim of an alien abduction."

Little did our cousin, **Tiffany Thayer**, realize what a can or worms he was opening to America and the rest of the world when he published the bizarre findings of Charles Fort regarding unknown sightings in the sky, and then, after the death of Fort in 1932, continued on with further study of this anomaly until his own death in 1959. Would he have continued to enlighten the world, had he known what results would occur, namely the confrontation between the US Air Force and our UFOlogists in holding back information regarding extraterrestrial activity? I think so. Russell Harwood Knox, Portsmouth, NH.

The foregoing is from the mailbag of our Historian Genealogist, Patricia Thayer Muno and was put into electronic form by her. She takes responsibility for any spelling or typographical errors. Patricia's note: The lineage of Tiffany his been published in an early issue of the Thayer Quarterly but here it is again for our new members: Tiffany Ellsworth[10] (Elmer Ellsworth[9], William

Henry Harrison[8], Henry[7-6], Peletiah[5], John[4], Thomas[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER.

The Oldest Person I Know

by Rodney Lee Thayer, Editor

I met Yai Sanasutepan in 1988, shortly after I was married to the former Soontaree Lardlai. My wife and I hired a driver to take us the nearly 500 miles north of Bangkok, into the remote northwest to a village named Suen Kheun, located in the Phrae Valley.

After we arrived, Soontaree started to explain who all the people were coming to see us, and the family structure is what I immediately noticed. Soontaree or Ju, which is her nickname and is more commonly used than given names in Thailand, had to explain everything to me since none in her family can speak English. There were uncles, aunts, a sister, a brother, and parents that I had to sort out, and then there was Yai.

Yai, which is also a nickname - means grandmother, is Ju's grandmother and the mother of nine children, one of which was Ju's mother. Most of the family, four generations lives within this village, and within a relatively short distance from each other.

The family structure in Thailand is amazing to see in action. Yai will sit and listen to her children discuss issues, but when it gets out of hand, she will step in and speak. When she speaks, her word is final, all disputes are resolved through her when her kids cannot reach a decision on something. When she speaks, all stop to listen and all will abide by her decision.

Age also plays a part when it comes to where one sits. A younger person should not sit higher than an old person. Ju and I have a house in Thailand now, and when Yai would come over to see Ju or our daughter Samantha, I usually move from my chair to a lower step leading into the house, then Yai will sit in a chair. All her children move to a lower place as well.

What fascinated me was Yai's age. When I met her she was 90 years old. She wore no glasses as her sight was nearly perfect, and her hearing was sharp as well. And she still walked several miles each day, mostly around seeing her children and her great-grand children. She had never traveled more than a 100 miles from here village until we got there and took her by car to Chiang-Mai, the second largest city in Thailand. One day she even asked Ju and I what it was like to fly on an airplane.

Yai was born in 1898 and I have to admit, this will probably be the only time I ever meet someone from the 1800's.

Two years ago at our house, we arrived for vacation from Japan, and I noticed a really old looking photograph hanging on the wall in our family room. It was an old photo of a man dressed in a military or government uniform (even to this day, the government workers have a dress uniform just like the military). I did not know who the person was, the significance of the person, or whether that was a military or government uniform. I asked Ju and she did not know either. Later that day, her uncle came over so she asked him about the old photograph.

(Samantha Julee Thayer, Soontaree Thayer, Yai)

In Thailand, especially up in the north, the farmers are simply people, and things that are old or worn out are simply thrown away. They do not understand the significance in old things or antiques. Ju's uncle knew we liked antiques and thought we would like the photo; because it was old, not because of the significance of it. He saved it from a bunch of photographs that Yai was throwing away one day when she was cleaning her house.

Ju asked her uncle of the photo and who the man was in the picture. He went onto explain that it was a photo of Yai's father, the former King of the Phrae Valley. After some light research in a library, I discovered that lesser kings ruled the vast out lying areas around Thailand, like the mountain areas or the valleys and were responsible to the King of Siam (whose family has ruled for over 600 years and is still ruled by a King, and the same family). Yai was never known as a princess, this form of rule was considered outdated before she was born. In place of the lesser kings, Governors now hold these positions.

Another fascinating part of Yai's life I found amazing is the way houses are constructed and used for support of the family. Historically, houses many years ago were built atop numerous large teak posts.

For you wood workers out there, teak is a strong and durable wood. These "posts" are typically 2-4 feet in diameter, and roughly 12-14 feet long. They usually stick out of the ground about 6-8 feet and are spaced to support a house, about 12 feet apart. These types of houses are rarely built these days due to the cost of the posts alone. Then the houses were constructed, simple frame houses, usually with no wall covering on the inside.

Now, for how they supported the family. After Yai's first three male children were ready to be married, Yai had her house taken down, the posts removed from the ground, milled into lumber, and this time had her and three other houses constructed from the wood atop this time, concrete posts. And these houses are still standing today, and still occupied. This was her gift to her children for getting married.

Yai lived in the 1800's and all the way through the 1900's, she passed away 24 April, 2002, 104 years old. An amazing person and an amazing life.

In Thailand there's a ceremony that is held 100 days after a body is cremated, to say goodbye one last time and to wish for a good journey. My wife and I were in Thailand for vacation this last summer and attended the ceremony. The interesting part of this was, her ceremony fell on Mother's Day.

Membership Challenge!

The newsletter has to be printed in sets of 4 pages, right now we have printed 5 sheets that contain 4 pages each. I would like to be able to print a 24 or 28 page newsletter, but I need articles from you all in order to provide this material to you. I ask each of you to send in at least one article, then we can work on larger issues.

Stephen Howard Thayer the elder

By G. David Thayer

Stephen Howard Thayer was born on January 10, 1811, in Boston, Massachusetts. I call him "the elder" because he had a son also named Stephen Howard Thayer and, to the best of our knowledge, neither he nor his son ever used the usual "junior" or "senior" after their names. Stephen Howard Thayer the elder is one of my great-great-grandfathers.

Stephen was the second of nine children born to Stephen Thayer (a twin, born August 8, 1779, in Braintree, Mass.) and Olive Gerald (born July 1, 1787, in Boston). Olive was married to Stephen at the tender age of 17 on November 4, 1804, in Boston. Olive's father was named Gordon Gerald, and although all we know about him is his name, he must have been a person of some importance. His names were used later as the given names of my paternal grandfather, Gordon Gerald Thayer. The name Gordon was thereafter used as my father's first name, my first name, as the middle names of my son and one of my brother's sons, and now as the middle name of my brother's grandson, Philip Gordon Thayer II, born just last year. That's a lot of Gordons for one family.

Stephen's middle name, Howard, was evidently in honor of his grandmother, Avis Howard. This name was also replicated numerous times in the generations following Stephen's.

Sometime between 1837 and 1840, as nearly as we can pin it down, Stephen purchased a copy of Elisha Thayer's *Family Memorial*, published in 1835 by J. Farmer of Hingham, Massachusetts, which contains among other families a genealogy of the Thayers. This book, which was thought to have been lost after the death of my father in 1997, was recently discovered among some of my mother's belongings. The binding is broken and the front cover is broken off, but all of the pieces are there and the paper is in rather good condition (the book was published before acid-treated paper came into

common use). Stephen's copy of the book has now been in our family for some 165 years.

In Elisha's book, our branch ends with the family of Josiah Thayer (1713–after 1784) and Mary Veasey. Stephen glued an extra leaf into this book following the section on the Thayers, on which he wrote two pages of data covering the next two generations: the first on the family of Josiah Thayer (Rev. soldier, 1752–1814) and Avis Howard, and the second on the family of Stephen Thayer and Olive Gerald. The information on Josiah included a second marriage to Lois Knights after his first wife, Avis, died in 1795. This marriage was unknown to us before finding this book last April. I was able to confirm this second marriage from International Genealogical Index records on the Family Search web site maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. They were married in Hadley, Mass., on May 25, 1797. Lois Knights was born February 4, 1753, in Northfield, Mass. to Simeon Knights and Sarah Harwood. Stephen wrote that she died February 11, 1814, at age 61. The IGI records for the marriage and birth of Lois are both record extractions, which are more reliable than individual submissions.

There is some uncertainty as to when Stephen was born. Most researchers have accepted January 10, 1810; one of his grandsons had the date as December 15, 1810. The date given here was written on the glued-in page of the *Family Memorial* by Stephen himself. He first wrote 1810 and then erased the 0 and replaced it with a 1. A "ghost" of the 0 is still visible. This shows that he wrote 1811 deliberately, not accidentally, and one assumes he would have known his own birth year.

Stephen married Harriet Sophia Holden, born July 29, 1817, in New York City, on July 22, 1840, in Chatham, Illinois—the first mention of a mysterious connection between our family and that place. They had three children, whom they named Stephen Howard (1842), Sophia Howard (1845), and Horace Holden (1847). Harriet died on December 31, 1850, somewhere in New York State. Stephen subsequently married Elizabeth Cox, born August 1825 in New York State, on August 3, 1854, possibly in New York City. Stephen and Elizabeth had four children, whom they named William Cleveland (1855), Elizabeth Clement (1857), Gerald Russell (1862), and Alfred Edward (1864).

Besides the facts outlined above, what little we know of the life of Stephen Howard Thayer the elder comes from two sources: a 1932 obituary for his son Stephen Howard, which mentioned that his father was a judge and "served as trustee before the incorporated Village of Yonkers received its charter as a city," and a fragment of a letter written by one of his grandchildren, probably Edgar Randolph Thayer (1885–1954). The letter was evidently written to Edgar's brother, Reginald Holden Thayer (1877–1972), who had an excerpt typed up on March 25, 1956, a copy of which was given to me by Reginald Holden Thayer, Jr., of Palisades, NY. This document is interesting enough to quote in its entirety.

"The foregoing remarks regarding various properties bring to mind a tract of land in New York City extending from 78th Street to 110th Street and from 71st [sic] Avenue to the Hudson River, which was once owned by my grandfather, Stephen Howard Thayer.

"He was born in 1810 and was a member of the 8th generation of Thayers in this country, descended from Richard Thayer, who came from Thornbury, County Gloucester, England, where, according to *Burke's Landed Gentry*, the family had been settled for many generations, and settled in Braintree, Mass. as a Freeman in 1640.

"My grandfather was one of the children of Stephen Thayer and Olive [Gerald?] of Braintree, Mass. and his middle name was probably in memory of his grandmother, Avis Howard. After his father's passing on in 1828, his uncle, Judge Martin Thayer, of Braintree, Petersburg, Virginia, and Philadelphia, was appointed to be his guardian.

"He sought his fortune in New York City and became a lawyer in association with Horace Holden, a son of Captain Levi Holden, second in command of George Washington's bodyguard, and Washington's personal friend. Horace Holden had married Bathsheba Sanford, and their daughter, Harriet Sophia, and my grandfather became attached to each other and were married. Horace Holden was popularly known in New York City as the 'honest judge.'

"My grandfather prospered in the legal profession and became one of the Elders of the old Brick Presbyterian Church in downtown New York.

"He invested in New York City real estate and

also had an estate at Babylon, Long Island, with a mansion so large that it was later remodeled into a resort hotel. He owned two or three properties in the region of 23rd Street, N.Y., where Broadway crosses 5th Avenue. He later exchanged these properties for the tract of land first mentioned, which was barren and mostly a pasture for goats.

"Grandfather had 5 sons and 2 daughters, but he did not take any of them into his confidence and when he passed on in 1890, at an advanced age, the sons concluded that he had lost his business judgment and got into the hands of real estate sharpers. They turned most of the estate into cash and all agreed to give the proceeds to the unmarried sister, Aunt Bessie. Much of the furniture, paintings, and other effects were sent to a so-called fireproof storage house, which subsequently burned down. A portrait of George Washington was lost in the fire.

"Several years later, when going from my home in Yonkers to New York City, I would occasionally take a railroad which then ran from Getty Square, Yonkers to the terminal of the New York City subway at Van Cortland Park, about 242nd Street. The upper part of Grandfather's former tract was still undeveloped except for streets cut through it, considerably below the level of most of the land. There would be an occasional small shanty and goats in evidence here and there.

"Although the liens on the land for putting through the streets and putting in water, sewerage, and other facilities must have been much greater than anticipated by my grandfather, I am inclined to feel that he had been much more farsighted than his sons, and that if they had had his vision they would have, and could have, arranged to keep enough of the property to repay them many times over.

"The children were all comfortably situated, except for Aunt Bessie [Elizabeth Clement Thayer].

"My father told me that to the very end Grandfather felt that he was leaving enough to make every one of his children independently wealthy."

This is a fascinating document that sheds much light on the life of Stephen Howard Thayer the elder, as well as showing that the writer had considerable knowledge of his family's history. But there are a few problems with the text. The first is that there is not now and never has been a "71st Avenue" in New York City. I suspect that the letter actually read "11th Avenue" (now West Avenue) and perhaps the upper serif of the leading 1 was exaggerated making it look like a 7. This still defines a considerable parcel of land, today mostly occupied by Riverside Park. The second problem is that a second cousin of mine, who happens to live in Central Park West only a few blocks from the land once allegedly owned by Stephen, has looked without success for records showing that this land once belonged to a Thayer. Of course, this may simply mean that the deed was never recorded properly or some similar omission in the records. The third problem is that Van Cortland Park is in the Bronx, several miles north of the northern boundary of the parcel of land at 110th Street (now Central Park North). There is no way anyone riding between Getty Square in Yonkers and Van Cortland Park could see any of the land in question. We just do not know what the writer meant by this. The subway running south from Van Cortland Park is elevated for some distance but runs underground through the land in question and evidently always has.

Note that this letter states that Stephen was one of the "Elders of the old Brick Presbyterian Church in downtown New York." In an eerie preamble to the much later joining of the two families, the land where the Brick Presbyterian Church was built was donated by Isaac Clason Delaplaine (1817–1866), who was my fifth cousin thrice removed. (See *The Delaplaines of America*, by Marvin G. Delaplane; ID 1860, p. 252, Revised Edition.) The two families were connected when my grandfather, Gordon Gerald Thayer, a grandson of Stephen, married Bertha Irene Nutter, a granddaughter of Wealthea Ruama Delaplaine, who was the fourth cousin once removed of Isaac Clason Delaplaine, on November 7, 1907, in Delta, CO.

Other than these sources there is only the cold, impersonal account of the 1880 census enumerator. At that time, Stephen was listed in Babylon, Suffolk Co., New York, occupation lawyer, age 62; wife Elizabeth "keeping house," age 55; son William C., going to school, age 22; daughter Elizabeth C., "at home," age 18; Rosa Floring, a house servant from Ireland, age 17; a couple listed as sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary L. and Perry L. Barto; and an "other" named Margaret Flouign, age 17, possibly another servant. I have not yet found Stephen's family in any of the earlier censuses.

Amazingly, we do have a sample of Stephen's

writing, in the form of a document over 100 years old. It begins with these lines:

"On the evening of May 27th and 28th, 1878, an entertainment was held in the basement of the Washington Heights [NYC] Presbyterian Church, to raise money for some church purpose. It consisted of a mock trial in which the prisoner was arraigned and tried for the larceny of a kiss….

"The trial was one unceasing round of cleverness, merriment, and fun, but the cleverest part of all was the Judge's charge. The Judge never smiled through the whole performance, except once, when one of the counsel having tried his best to make the Judge smile, succeeded at last, by asking some question that was outrageously ridiculous."

The bulk of the document consists of the judge's charge to the jury, written and performed by Stephen Howard Thayer the elder. I quote here Stephen's definition of the law, which begins his charge to the jury (consisting entirely of women).

"Gentlewomen of the Jury: Law is law. I repeat it: Law is law! I want you to bear that in mind, for it is a truth that lies at the foundation of all jurisprudence, and is recognized in all legal proceedings, in all the courts of Christendom. Other sciences and other systems are multiform and multifaced; many voiced and many-sided; abstruse and perplexing even to experts; confusing and mystifying to anxious inquirers, even to the verge of distraction—but law is law and nothing but it. Theology, now, may be Antinomianism, Socinianism, Calvinism, Romanism, Unitarianism, or that compound of all other 'isms' put together, Beecherism; medical science comes to us in the guise of homeopathy, allopathy, hydropathy, and half a score more of 'opathies,' all equally unpalatable and equally objectionable; but law is law (as I think I said before), pure and simple; it has no isms, it knows no schisms. Its learned doctors do not sneer at each other's practice nor criticize each other's turnouts, nor do its high priests, in the language of good old Dogberry, condemn each other to everlasting redemption.

"The law takes charge of us at our birth, and never loses sight of us till our death, and not always then. It protects, defends, and keeps us in good order while we live, and after we are dead and gone, takes charge of our property and puts it where it will do the most good. In fact, the law knows so much better what to do with our wealth than we do ourselves, that it is getting to be thought a work of supererogation to make a will, and if a man in the pride of his manhood insists upon making one, the wisest thing that he can do is to give, devise, and bequeath all he has in the world to the Bar Association of the City of New York, to be disposed of according to law—you all know what *that* means."

Judge Thayer's charge goes on for several pages in this vein, too much to reproduce here in its entirety. This brief quotation shows, however, that Stephen was not only eloquent but had a wry sense of humor.

Stephen died early in 1890. Ralph Waldo Sprague, in an unpublished genealogy of the Thayer family held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, a copy of which is in the possession of our genealogist, Patricia Thayer Muno, quotes from an obituary published January 15, 1890, which stated that Stephen was 78 years old when he died. This is further confirmation that 1811 is the correct year for Stephen's birth, since if he died prior to January 10, 1890—easily possible since the newspaper may have published obituaries only once a week—he would have been only 78. Stephen most likely died on either the 8th or 9th day of January 1890.

Stephen's lineage is Stephen Howard [8], Stephen [7], Josiah [5, 6], Nathaniel [3, 4], Richard [2, 1] THAYER.

The Investment Bankers

by Raymond Alexander Thayer

The two brothers, John Eliot and Nathaniel Thayer, were basically raised as farmers, but John broadened his interests by assisting other farmers in the area of Lancaster, MA by improving their efforts in selling their farm products to more lucrative markets. He became so good at this practice, he spurned his parent's hopes that he might prepare for the ministry, but he chose to concentrate on expanding his new life in investment banking.

In the early twenties, circa 1825, John opened his business in Boston on State Street. It was called the John Eliot Thayer and Brother Company. His brother, Nathaniel, five years his junior, joined him in the business soon after being formed. In just a few years, this company was known as the most

successful investment banking firm in the country with interests the world over. This information is recorded in a book entitled "More Than A Century of Investment Banking - The Kidder, Peabody & Co. Story" by Vincent P. Carosso 1979.

Not forgetting his father's ties to Harvard, John sponsored a scholarship fund at the College that is still in existence today. The firm was involved in a myriad of investment projects around the world, the least profitable of which was the purchasing and operating the White Diamond Line from Enoch Train, a world shipping magnate that, at first, confined the business to voyages of packet ships, passenger service, between Boston and Liverpool, England. The company and its ships were bought from Train in 1855.

The next ship to be launched was christened the John Elliot Thayer in the East Boston Curtis Yard, constructed by shipbuilder Paul Curtis. The Curtis Yard was directly adjacent to one owned by Donald McKay, the world's most famous builder of clipper ships. The John Elliot Thayer was launched in 1854. The spelling of the middle name, Elliot, was either intended or in error.

Interest in the shipping business began to lose its appeal and the John Eliot Thayer & Brother Company went in several other directions where investment-banking expertise was appreciated the most, in the Pacific and the China Trade extravaganza.

When this market waned, the JET was dispatched to the Gulf of California where guano, bat droppings, was an important ingredient in the making of fertilizer and gun powder, was the preferred cargo. Unfortunately, in September 1858, an accidental fire on board caused the JET to sink in 50 feet of water while loading. Fishermen discovered her in 1965.

The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA has confirmed this ship to be the John Elliot Thayer, an extreme class Clipper Ship.

A Special Testimony of the Power of the Lord

The following is a special Testimony of the power of the Lord by John[6] (John[5-4], William[3-2], Nathaniel[1]) Thayer. The original document is in the possession of his 3rd great granddaughter, **Norma B. FROST** of Harrington, DE and was given to her by her grandfather Thayer, **Floyd White THAYER**. The original spelling has been retained:

SERIES OF LIFE

"When at abot fourteen years of age I was attended with debility which caused me to beg God, mercy upon me, when at last those words came to me "their is added to thy day fifteen years," which gave me some comfort. after a long illness I recovered and time past on and at the age of seventeen, my mother was taken sick which lasted about ninty days. in this time I was called in to take a last view of a departing mother. The feeling of my heart I need not describe. I soon left the room. I walked out into the field and cried to the Lord for His mercy on us when as it were on a sudden she began to revive and recover in health. when in health and prosperity time passes easy but I found when in trouble that relief was in the Lord, then when ever called on him I ofen found some relief, then after I had becum a housekeeper a few years, at the age of about twenty six at this time it appeared to me that my life was but short which filled me with horor and distress. at last one night while in distress of mind, I supposed that I fell into a drouse when all of a sudden it apeared to me that I was in a great light that came over me which filled me with hapyness that none but those that have felt can express. I thought on I herd a voice that spoke to me and said "that is the Love of God." I soon found my self awake with the same feelings in great measure which gave me great comfort. In time I have lived as it were a moral life until the last part of the year 1837 when I was aroused to the duty I owe my God, praying that God would give me the Holy Spirit to enlighten me, which I think I have since felt and blessed be God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost."

Your humble friend J. Thayer, Feb 22, 1838

Without our YOUTH, THAYERS are doomed!

Thayer DEATHS 2000

Agnes Christina THAYER 13 Jun 1904-1 Apr 2000
Albert THAYER 11 Sep 1925-9 Jul 2000

Albert Roger THAYER 9 Sep 1918-18 May 2000
Alice Laurel (FERGUSON) THAYER
15 Apr 1922-6 Jan 2000
Alice V. (HALDERMAN) THAYER
23 May 1916-8 Jun 2000
Allen B. THAYER 24 Oct 1923-18 Jul 2000
Alta Catherine THAYER Abt 1904-22 Dec 2000
Alton Russell THAYER 28 Jan 1912-16 Dec 2000
Alvin E. THAYER 14 Feb 1917-10 Feb 2000
Ann THAYER 5 Nov 1907-29 May 2000
Ann Renora (CANTER) THAYER
7 Jul 1926-6 Mar 2000
Anna THAYER 5 Dec 1999-3 Jun 2000
Anne THAYER 20 Jan 1923-8 Feb 2000
Arloween THAYER 18 Jul 1903-7 Jan 2000
Arlene M. THAYER 8 Sep 1912-1 Jun 2000
Arthur THAYER 5 Jun 1933-5 Apr 2000
Barton Wayne THAYER 17 Dec 1911-11 Jan 2000
Bennie Lee THAYER (Reverend) 19 Nov 1938-Oct 2000
Bernadine Elizabeth THAYER 9 Nov 1996-7 Oct 2000
Betty (SMITH) THAYER 25 Aug 1918-21 Dec 2000
Bruce Hugh THAYER 12 Jan 1936-6 Jan 2000
Caleb Harp THAYER 19 Mar 1920-1 May 2000
Carolyn L. (_____) THAYER 27 Feb 1941-3 Feb 2000
Charles THAYER 3 Oct 1946-25 Mar 2000
Charles Hinkley THAYER 2 Nov 1911-20 Jan 2000
Charlotte (WAKEFIELD) THAYER
19 Dec 1904-3 Aug 2000
Cuyler Ten Eyck THAYER 8 Sep 1924-24 Jul 2000
David C. THAYER 28 Jan 1933-19 Jul 2000
David Donald THAYER 11 Feb 1926-17 Feb 2000
David Leonard THAYER 12 Apr 1959-28 Dec 2000
Donald Bruce THAYER 4 May 1935-8 Mar 2000
Dorothea (WHITMAN) THAYER
22 Oct 1910-6 Feb 2000
Dorthea Louise THAYER 29 Aug 1994-7 Oct 2000
Dorothy THAYER 1907-3 Jun 2000
Easter THAYER 7 Apr 1912-6 Jul 2000
Edgar Thornton THAYER 11 Apr 1926-13 Jun 2000
Edith THAYER 1 Aug 1921-21 May 2000
Edna M. (WINTERSCHEIDT) THAYER
28 Jul 1909-20 Aug 2000
Edris Lucille THAYER 20 Jan 1918-22 Feb 2000
Edward THAYER 7 May 1926-28 Mar 2000
Edward Miller THAYER 11 Dec 1914-25 Jun 2000
Elaine THAYER 20 Jan 1922-28 Jan 2000
Ellis Lockwood THAYER 25 Feb 1919-19 Feb 2000
Elree THAYER 7 Mar 1923-24 Feb 2000
Ernest THAYER 12 Oct 1922-25 Jul 2000
Errol K. THAYER 7 Sep 1910-16 Apr 2000
Ethel Darlene (PECK) THAYER
12 Jan 1930-1 Apr 2000
Evelyn Irene THAYER 24 Sep 1924-21 Nov 2000
Fern Eleanor (_____) THAYER 9 Sep 1935-27 Apr 2000
Frances (_____) THAYER 5 Feb 1917-17 Jan 2000
Frances L. (BURNSIDE) THAYER
19 Mar 1902-5 Feb 2000
Frederick Eugene THAYER 23 Sep 1923-17 Oct 2000
Gladys (GEORGES) THAYER
25 Aug 1920-18 Dec 2000
Glenn THAYER 25 Aug 1914-1 Jun 2000
Gordon THAYER 11 Aug 1912-14 Apr 2000
Graham Percy THAYER 4 Mar 1917-Oct 2000
Harriet THAYER 1 Jun 1903-2 Jun 2000
Harry Wayne THAYER 15 Jun 1926-21 Nov 2000
Hazel M. (_____) THAYER 1918-Dec 2000
Inez THAYER 9 Jan 1918-5 Mar 2000
Ira Ball THAYER 15 Apr 1916-20 Oct 2000
Jack N. THAYER 23 Oct 1920-12 Sep 2000
Jairus THAYER 3 Aug 1927-23 Oct 2000
Jane THAYER 27 Oct 1916-17 May 2000
Janet THAYER 14 Feb 1915-7 Apr 2000
Jean THAYER 5 Oct 1931-13 Aug 2000
Jeanette (SMITH) THAYER 10 Oct 1918-30 May 2000
Jerry Lee THAYER 31 Jan 1932-17 Jun 2000
Jerry Lee THAYER 15 Mar 1940-28 Jan 2000
Jessamy Viola THAYER 5 Sep 1992-7 Oct 2000
Joey THAYER 8 Sep 1965-18 Apr 2000
Johanna THAYER 19 Aug 1904-5 Jun 2000
John THAYER 22 Jul 1928-19 Apr 2000
John Ryan THAYER 20 Mar 1918-26 Jul 2000
Jonathan THAYER 26 Nov 1998-19 Jan 2000
Joyce THAYER 18 May 1922-20 Feb 2000
Julia Blanche THAYER 24 Nov 1926-29 Dec 2000
Julia Ollcutt THAYER 10 Jun 1895-27 Jul 2000
Justina Jeanette THAYER 12 Feb 1985-7 Oct 2000
Katherine THAYER 11 Jul 1912-29 Feb 2000
Kathryn A. (SMITH) THAYER
12 Mar 1909-7 Nov 2000
Kenneth G. THAYER 19 May 1915-7 Jul 2000
Kenneth W. THAYER 12 Nov 1956-8 Nov 2000
Kimberly Sue THAYER 6 Nov 1963-23 Dec 2000
Leo Clinton THAYER 2 Sep 1919-30 Jun 2000
Leon D. THAYER 15 Jun 1911-19 Sep 2000
Lester E. THAYER 17 Aug 1913-28 May 2000
Lois THAYER 21 Sep 1940-14 Jan 2000
Louise (STUTZMAN) THAYER
13 Apr 1914-27 Jan 2000
Lucretia THAYER 7 Aug 1922-13 Jan 2000
Malcolm THAYER 29 Apr 1924-17 Mar 2000
Marcus Carl THAYER 7 Jun 1914-6 Nov 2000
Marcia L. THAYER 27 Sep 1912-3 Apr 2000
Margaret THAYER 5 Dec 1919-12 Jul 2000
Margaret Louise THAYER 22 Mar 1922-29 Sep 2000
Marguerite THAYER 31 Aug 1905-21 May 2000
Marjorie Rachel THAYER 6 Jul 1922-29 Dec 2000
Martha Louise THAYER 28 May 1923-3 Aug 2000
Mary THAYER 10 Feb 1916-28 Jul 2000
Mary THAYER 27 Jan 1924-4 Apr 2000
Mary Esther (YODER) THAYER
20 Feb 1953-7 Oct 2000
Matthew Alexander THAYER
13 May 1970-26 Oct 2000
Mavis Lorraine (STABNOW) THAYER
1 Jan 1928-8 Apr 2000
Max THAYER 7 Nov 1920-20 May 2000
Mildred (_____) THAYER 25 Dec 1927-31 Aug 2000
Mildred Irene THAYER 12 Jan 1913-20 Jan 2000

Minnie THAYER 30 Sep 1900-29 Jun 2000
Opel May (CHRISTENSEN) THAYER
24 Jan 1920-Aug 2000
Patricia THAYER 28 Jun 1925-21 Jun 2000
Patricia THAYER 27 Oct 1943- 2 Apr 2000
Patricia C. (LYNN) THAYER 9 Mar 1922-15 Feb 2000
Paul Earl THAYER 11 Feb 1916-31 Aug 2000
Pauline Adela THAYER 15 Jan 1916-14 Mar 2000
Phillip Marvin THAYER 13 Jun 1920-18 Sep 2000
Phyllis J. THAYER 26 Jun 1913-10 Oct 2000
Rachel Elizabeth (CRABB) THAYER
15 Aug 1902-27 May 2000
Ralph Alden THAYER 5 Dec 1916-2 Mar 2000
Ralph Edwin THAYER 20 Jun 1908-19 Mar 2000
Raymond Albert THAYER 25 Oct 1932-20 Oct 2000
Raymond Willis THAYER 23 Jul 1918-21 Mar 2000
Retta Jane THAYER 26 Jun 1915-14 Dec 2000
Reva Jeanette (SHEFFER) THAYER
11 Aug 1930-14 Jan 2000
Richard Clement THAYER 5 Jan 1934-2000
Richard Earl THAYER 11 Sep 1927-29 Aug 2000
Richard James THAYER 14 Jun 1919-22 Aug 2000
Robert THAYER 20 May 1913-16 Mar 2000
Robert THAYER 3 Oct 1919-10 Mar 2000
Robert Elmore THAYER 7 Aug 1918-2 Feb 2000
Robert Lyman THAYER 3 Jun 1916-16 Jan 2000
Ronald THAYER 20 Oct 1935-11 Mar 2000
Ronald Jesse THAYER 21 Dec 1915-5 Dec 2000
Rose THAYER 7 Dec 1936-10 Apr 2000
Rose Mary THAYER 3 Apr 1925-6 Jan 2000
Rosella A. THAYER May 1923-Dec 2000
Rosemary THAYER 5 Jun 1923-13 Dec 2000
Ruel Kenneth THAYER 7 Sep 1926-28 Feb 2000
Rustan Reed THAYER Abt 1918-Oct 2000
Ruth (_____) THAYER 6 Jun 1922-24 Aug 2000
Ruth E. THAYER 19 Jul 1917-4 Jan 2000
Sally THAYER 30 May 1939-20 Jan 2000
Shirley THAYER 28 Aug 1912-31 Jul 2000
Shirley Mary (_____) THAYER Abt 1928-5 Dec 2000
Stanley THAYER 16 Aug 1923-27 Feb 2000
Susan M. THAYER 1 Oct 1939-30 Apr 2000
Theresa Ann THAYER 16 Apr 1987-7 Oct 2000
Thomas THAYER 31 Jul 1941-12 Mar 2000
Troy THAYER 13 Mar 1966-26 Feb 2000
Valeria THAYER 29 Oct 1910-5 Jan 2000
Vera THAYER 15 Feb 1916-24 Jan 2000
Virginia THAYER 26 Nov 1909-9 Apr 2000
Virginia THAYER 4 Aug 1915-19 Apr 2000
Virginia THAYER 30 Aug 1933-6 Aug 2000
Vivian THAYER 12 Jan 1908-24 May 2000
Walter Charles THAYER 16 Aug 1920-3 Mar 2000
Walter Russell THAYER 29 Nov 1910-20 Aug 2000
William THAYER 20 Apr 1921-30 Apr 2000
William Adams THAYER 27 Sep 1929-28 Feb 2000
William Getty THAYER 26 Mar 1932-9 Jan 2000
William L. THAYER 23 May 1912-6 May 2000
William Robert THAYER 7 Jan 1930-19 Jan 2000

Words from the President

I was born and raised in Flint, MI. Do you remember the days when every Buick and Chevrolet in the world was made from scratch in Flint, MI? My, that was a long time ago. My wife and I left Flint in 1986 to seek our fortune in Rochester, New York. We didn't find our fortune, but it's still nice to remember.

Last August my wife and I returned to Frankenmuth, MI (a few minutes north of Flint) to verify what we remembered. We learned that the Frankenmuth flour mill had closed, but the gluten-free flour is still available at the local IGA store just north of town. We learned, too, that there are horse-drawn carriage tours of Frankenmuth, as well as Cass River boat tours. We wanted to take both tours, but it was raining. Isn't that always the case?

Rural Michigan is, indeed, different from the active eastern city atmosphere. Keep in mind that many of our ancestors left the East Coast in search of the offerings of the rest of the continent, and many Thayer Families settled in Michigan as the population migrated westward; and we're taking the Annual Thayer Family Meeting in their footsteps.

I found my roots while doing research at the Flint Public Library, wading through the microfilm census records of 1840, 50, and 60, and we hope to see the descendants of those early settlers when we meet in June. Please bring pictures, mementos, and genealogical information to share. The Thayeritage always provides an interesting view of "Things Thayer."

Remember the date: Saturday, June 28, 2003, Frankenmuth, MI. I look forward with meeting with you all.

Al Morton Thayer, TFA President

Historian's Report Feb 2002

"My Love Affair with the Thayer Family"

I am Patricia Thayer Muno, and I have a love affair with the THAYER family that borders on obsession. Over 30 years ago, I set out to find my father's Thayer connection. Great grandfather Thayer's mortal pathway left few clues for me to trace. There is a reason this information has been

withheld from me. Had I found our connection early on, I likely would have been content and stopped this obsessive behavior. The compilation of the genealogical data of over 60,000 Thayers is the result and the inspiration for the Thayer Families Association was born.

In today's world of chaos, as I am trying to make sense out of that chaos - the one word that comes to light is FAMILY.

I am grateful for kind and loving parents who taught values of kindness, compassion, service, and the courage to stand up for what is right and just. Their love lives at the very heart of this moment, and I have greatly benefited from their efforts. I was taught to love all people, regardless of color, creed or religion. It is amazing how one person can make a difference against the odds. I am thankful for the example of my devoted stepmother who provided unwavering care for my beloved father during his last years.

There has come down to us an inheritance of respect and honor to our Thayer family. We must grasp the torch and run. We have a special responsibility to pass to our posterity a knowledge and love for their rich heritage. To be in THIS place (Braintree), the site of our inheritance is a wondrous thing.

The organization and carrying on of the TFA has been such a successful undertaking. I hope with all my heart each will cherish our times together and return again.

Our Thayer ancestors were so entwined in the history, commerce and politics of America that the presence of our family is inescapable.

By joining TFA we have gained an extended family and life long friendships. To those who have no close families, TFA members can be like uncles and aunts, sisters and brothers. We enjoy a more intimate sense of brotherhood and sisterhood within our family focused community. I count these friendships among my greatest blessings.

Many times in my work, I have encountered situations where family members have been estranged one from another. The family is the single most important unit in life. After the recent attacks on our country, all of us have been left with a heightened awareness of the preciousness of family ties.

At times we seem to have taken opposite views, occasionally to the point of being contentious. There is no peace in contentiousness. I hope that none of us will ever be party to stirring up contention.

Loving our ancestors is the first step of joining the Quest. As our exuberant reunion attendees trade handshakes and hugs, renew friendships, kinships, and make new friends, we are strengthening family ties. If we have ill feelings towards any of our family members, let us resolve to change the patterns of personal hurt. Let us make a commitment to reconnect with our family members and forgive.

If there is a single impression that our Thayer Family has made on the world, it is that we have a reputation for love, kindness, consideration and pride for this family. We can each be a manifestation of our ancestors' abilities to endure adversities, rise in triumph and overcome life's obstacles.

We believe that the stories of our ancestors' lives will carry on long past 2002 and that their passion and pride, their humanity and dignity will live on through the members of this family. Through our efforts their stories will endure for years and even generations in the hearts and minds of all the descendants.

I am grateful for this work that I have been given to do and pray that I will be blessed in the performance of my labors. If I live long enough to complete, it will be a great accomplishment for the entire Thayer family. The peace I find in my service energizes me. Let us all be peacemakers by creating a patchwork of peace.

It is my prayer that we will be mindful of our responsibilities to our children and future generations. I sincerely hope that we will elect people to our government who care about the people. May God help us to live peaceably one with another.

My love and my thanks to my wonderful husband and children for all their years of sacrifice and support to me in this meaningful project. The publishing of the story of this remarkable family is my contribution to society.

I would like to pay tribute to Jerry Thayer for his dedicated work in helping me with the unending correspondence and gathering of information for this compilation. My appreciation to each of my Family Representatives for their grand collaboration of help, and my heartfelt thanks to all who have made the incredible effort to raise the funds to help with the

publishing of my *Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America*

As you may know, I have had to pull back from online correspondence so that I might get the next volumes of my Comprehensive series**, *Descendants of Richard Thayer, Immigrant to America 1641***, formatted. These may consist of about 1,500 pages (3 volumes) and take me at least a year to complete. The formatting is probably my most tedious task, but I feel certain I will have at least the first of these volumes available by our next June gathering. The formatting of Volume III is well on the road at this writing. This third volume in the Comprehensive series will consist of the descendants of **Richard[3-2-1] THAYER** and wife **Rebecca MYCALL**. There will be approximately 50 early Thayer photos in this volume.

The descendants of **Nathaniel[3], Richard[2-1] THAYER** and wife **Hannah HAYDEN** along with the descendants of **Cornelius[3], Richard[2-1] THAYER** and wife **Abigail HAYDEN** will follow in Volume IV. The descendants of **Nathaniel[2], Richard[1] THAYER** and wife **Deborah TOWNSEND** will be in the final volume (Vol. V) on the descendants of Richard the Immigrant. Then on to the descendants of the immigrant, Thomas THAYER, which will likely comprise an additional five or six volumes!

In other areas, I have been asked on occasion to mention some of the other things that I do for the association. In addition formatting my books and caring for the stories, genealogical information and photographs for over 60,000 of our family members, I also do the following:

- Regularly search for new genealogical information from libraries and the Internet.
- Answer genealogical queries.
- Consistently make referrals of new TFA members.
- Keep E-mail addresses current.
- Over-see the activities of my 50-plus Thayer Family Representatives.
- Make suggestions for nominations in the leadership
- Make recommendations and supply features for our home page updates.
- Keep the TQ supplied with articles of interest to members.
- Make writing assignments to others - watch for some exciting forthcoming articles.
- Maintain correspondence with 1,300 Thayer Families.
    - up to 100 a day via e-mail
    - up to 10 a day via snail mail
- Maintain dozens of file cabinets of correspondence.
- Keep a current correspondence log with hundreds of Thayers.
- Operate the Thayer Pedigree Referral Service.
- Put cousins in touch with closely extended family members.
- Manage the Thayer photography project.
- Scout out new Thayers via the Internet.
- Archive Thayer related items such as family bibles, original works such as Thayer books and Thayer works of art. (I maintain a "Thayer Museum" of sorts here in my North Ogden, Utah home.)

Within this last year many new cousins have come to us - most through finding out about us on the Internet. Almost all express their awe for the work we are doing and the really "cool" web site. How they wish all families were involved in helping this way. Many families in my "Unplaced" files have taken on identity as a result of these new associations.

I have been privileged to have met some of these new cousins personally at our new home in Utah. We live only 40 miles from the World's largest Genealogical library, but unfortunately, I have had little time to go there within this last fantastically hectic year.

I have compiled a partial listing of near 300 Thayers who have died in just the last couple of years. We without our YOUTH are doomed. I challenge each of you to seek out your older family members and record their stories before they are lost. Additionally, it is equally important for each of you to share YOUR stories with the younger family members.

May we all struggle to achieve that which is highest in our nature. God bless you and thank you for this support.

(A portion of the foregoing was presented at the Annual TFA meeting in Braintree 22 June 2002 by Patricia Thayer Muno.)

Announcing a new Family Representative!! **Wesley Oliver ("Wes") Thayer** of Cheshire, OR has agreed to serve as the representative for the

descendants of **Albert Ellsworth**[9] (Ebenezer Franklin[8], William[7], Baruch[6], Ebenezer[5], Uriah[4], Ebenezer[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) **THAYER** and **Caroline Adeline KEYES**. Albert was born 1846 in Lockport, Niagara, NY and later settled in Calhoun and Branch counties, Michigan. His descendants settled primarily in WA, AZ, MT, OR, and CA.

Interested individuals may contact Wes at P.O. Box 232, Cheshire, OR 97419-0232; e-mail: CharWes@juno.com

Membership Report

1. Make sure you check your membership expiration date on the mailing label of this Thayer Quarterly. If you do not renew by the date indicated you may 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 538 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. If you would like to volunteer even just a little of your time please let our president, Albert Morton, know at ThayerATM@aol.com, or me, Clint Thayer at ClntThayer@aol.com

John Alvin Thayer, Sun City, CA
Suzanne Sharon Wood, Shrewsbury, MA

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, email: ClntThayer@aol.com

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, Clint Thayer:
Thayer Families Association
346 Washington St. PMB #310
Braintree, MA 02184
(or email data to: clntthayer@aol.com)

Name:_____

Old Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____

Zip:_____

NEW Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____

Zip:_____

From the Editor…

2002 has been a busy year for me and for the Association. I have completed the Thayer Headstone Reference Book, First Edition. This has been a long endeavor, finally being completed in August of this year. As I receive new information and corrections, look for Supplements to the reference coming out in about one year increments. This is a great reference book, color coded, and with color photographs. And for every copy sold, TFA receives a $5 donation for the General Fund.

Electronic versions of the newsletter deliverable via email was suggested at the June 2002 reunion, and was initially estimated to take one year to start. Kate Welton Kuzmich and I got it off the ground with the Fall 2002 issue. Thanks Kate. We hope many of you are taking advantage of this form of

delivery for several reasons, such as you are saving TFA funds, timely delivery, and most photos are in color.

The upcoming reunion in June 2003 has been in the planning stage since shortly after the reunion in 2002. This is sure to be an exciting time. I am making every effort to attend as well, having started planning out my
leave (military vacation) now.

Please use the insert that will be in the Spring 2003 Issue to register for the reunion if you plan on attending. We need to get the best estimate we can in order to properly plan out meals.

This is a monumental event for the simple reason all other reunions for TFA have taken place in Braintree, and one in West Point. In 2002 it was voted to alternate locations every other year. And with this being the first one in an alternate location, it is sure to be a good time for all.

The newsletter has been holding at 20 pages per issue, but I am always in search of new information to keep the material fresh and interesting. Areas to consider for articles are family history, personal stories, Thayer related news clippings, and obituaries.

When you send in an article, I ussualy inform you of which issue your article will in appear in, this after receipt and the article is formatted into a particular issue. Keep in mind, not only one issue is worked on at a time, I work four issues at a time for placement of articles. Do not be alarmed if your article does not appear in the issue I stated, some articles slide to the right an issue or two, this is due to time critical information or article size.

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

Thayer Headstone Reference Book
First Edition, Aug 2002

This book has been created by Rodney Lee Thayer, Thayer Quarterly Editor and TFA Webmaster, with data assembled from numerous people who contribute headstone data for incorporation on the website. After several years of amassing data, it made sense to assemble this data into a book that can be used as a single authoritative source for those doing Thayer research.

The reference is 8 ½ x 11, ring bound with a soft-cover. There are 2,597 headstone entries on 302 pages with 245 pictures of headstones. 304 cemeteries are represented.

There is nothing fancy with this First Edition, but 99% of the entries listed inside are from first-hand observers who visited the cemeteries and wrote down the names and other information as they appeared on the stones. The information is listed in color codes to make it more easily found in the volume. Relationships were added to entries when provided.

This is a great reference if you are looking for source material for your genealogical research. As more information is received, this information will be available in one to two years in the form of a supplement to the first edition. Supplements will follow every year or so for a lower price than the First Edition.

For every book sold, Thayer Families Association receives a $5.00 donation for the General Fund. TFA does not produce nor fund these books. These books are printed by the author on a commercial color laser printer, and are printed as they are requested; this is done to keep overhead/production costs to a minimum.

If you would like to order this excellent reference book on Thayer Headstones, please complete the bottom of this page, enclose check and mail to the address listed below.

The cost for the 2002 First Edition is $17.95, which includes shipping. For international orders, please email the author at thayer@genealogist.net to figure shipping costs. Please make check payable to:
Rodney Lee Thayer
Editor, Thayer Quarterly
PSC 473 Box 1837
FPO, AP 96349-1837

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Qty:_____ X $17.95 = Total Enclosed:_____

Thank you for your order and support of the Thayer Families Association

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.

 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 Spring Issue is Feb 25th.