the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Reunion Planning Continues!

The dates for the 14th Annual Meeting & Reunion have been set as 25 & 26 June, 2004, at Thayer Academy, in Braintree, MA. This is a Friday and a Saturday.

FRIDAY, 25 Jun. Plymouth - Where It All Began!

Join us for a return to the past in Plymouth where the Pilgrims landed in 1620. You will visit the beautifully recreated **Plimoth Plantation** where time stands still. As you enter this meticulously reconstructed village, all the interpreters are in 17th century costume and portray specific people who were in Plimoth in that year ~ John Alden, Myles Standish, Governor Bradford, and more. Their roles and their accents are authentic. For them the year is **1621**. You will be amazed at what you learn. You will also go aboard Mayflower II, where the staff will take you back to the harrowing voyage to the New World. How 102 passengers and 30 crew survived the two-month journey in such cramped quarters is hard to imagine. Finally, you will certainly want to take a look at Plymouth Rock, that symbol of rugged endurance and Pilgrim courage.

We will depart Thayer Academy at 1 PM Friday, June 25 and return to Thayer Academy at 6 PM. The fare is **$21 for adults** and **$18 for students** up to age 18. **All admissions and gratuities are included,** as well as a comfortable touring coach and the services of an experienced guide. There are food facilities at Plimoth Plantation but not included in the tour cost.

SATURDAY, 26 Jun. Thayer Academy

Social hour before the meeting will begin at a time to be determined, this will allow people to enter and have a chance to talk to relatives.

The General Meeting & Annual Reunion will kick off about an hour after the social period.

A dinner is being planned and we will have further information, such as the menu and cost in the Spring Issue of the newsletter as well as the registration form.

An alternative to the Plimouth Plantation tour is a self-guided cemetery tour. If you have several in your party that will be attending the reunion, share a vehicle to get around and check out some old cemeteries where a lot of our ancestors are buried. Among the cemeteries where Thayers are buried is:

- Elm Street & Pond Street Cemeteries in Braintree
- Hancock Cemetery in Quincy
- Union Cemetery in Holbrook
- Central Cemetery in Randolph

We hope to have a map in the Spring Issue of the Braintree area where the cemeteries are located, and Jerry Thayer can provide a general map of the area with cemeteries marked and he can print out individual maps of specific towns and mark the cemeteries of interest for anyone who asks. He can do this at the meeting in June, or can send a map to anyone who writes, SASE included, requesting a map. Jerry can be contacted at: hjthayer@aol.com
His postal address is:

311 Willow Oaks Blvd.
Hampton, VA 23669-1531

Jerry will have a dedicated table for his computer, to assist those giving or wanting lineage information. Jerry always draws a crowd and provides great information for those looking for information. And if you can provide family information to Jerry, that's even better. Jerry is the Assistant Genealogist for the Association and he has an incredible amount of data.

Door Prizes! Prizes are still being selected and should include several sets of Thayer Headstone

Reference Books, TFA logo embroidered shirts, and TFA logo pens.

Lodging in the Braintree area:

Candlewood Suites.

Proposed rates are $89/night for a Studio Suite and $129/night for a One bedroom Suite. These rates are proposed only and not yet finalized. Current tax rate is 9.7%. Guests are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements by calling (781) 849-7450. Hotel is located at 25 Wood Road in Braintree. Amenities include: Spacious suites with large work desks; Queen size bed standard; Fully equipped kitchen (full size fridge, microwave, dishwasher, silverware, pots, pans, and much more); 2 separate phone lines, one for voice and one for data; TV, VCR, CD Player (Cable, free movie rentals), 24 hour honor convenience store, large fitness room, washer and dryers at no charge. Hotel parking is complimentary.

Holiday Inn Express.

$89/night, group rooms are being held Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun (Jun 24th through the 26th, with check out on the 27th). 25 double rooms are being held; at the rate of $89.00 per day; subject also to 9.7% tax. Guest is responsible for own room, tax, and incidentals. Please call Holiday Inn Express and make your own reservation, make sure you mention Thayer Families Association to get this group rate. Reserve before 24 May. Phone number is (781) 848-1260.

Sheraton Inn.

$99/night, we have reserved a block of 20 standard rooms for Thurs, Fri, and Sat (24-26 June). Rollaway beds available at an additional charge of $16.00 a night. Room taxes are in addition, now approximately 9.7%, subject to change. Reservations for this rate and in one of the reserved rooms are to be telephoned directly to the Hotel Reservations Dept, at (781) 848-0600, by 24 May 2004. You must identify affiliation with Thayer Families Association to receive the preferred rates. If not mentioned then, it will not be changed at check-in or check-out times. Reservations can be secured with either a non-refundable deposit or credit card guarantee equal to one night's rate plus the 9.7% State tax. Requests received after 24 May 2004 will be accepted on space available basis only and special group rates may no longer be applicable. Check in time: 3:00 PM, Checkout time: 12:00 noon.

This is not by any means a complete list of lodging available in the Braintree area, please feel free to book your lodging through a reputable travel agent or by your own means.

Next Issue…

Look forward to the following appearing in the Spring 2004 Issue:

- Paul & August Thayer Iaccaci Part II
- Alexander Wheelock Thayer
- Registration Form for our 14th Annual Reunion & Meeting
- More…

Thayer Junction, Wyoming

Donald D. Thayer, La Barge, WY

Thayer Junction, Wyoming is no more, it was located about 20 miles east of Rock Springs, Wyoming, on the Union Pacific Railroad. It was the junction once for the spur that linked the coal mine of Superior to the Union Pacific mainline. There were 8-10 houses there at one time. These were for the workers who maintained the railroad spur and part of the mainline. As the need for these men declined, the men and their families left. The houses were abandoned and torn down. Thayer Junction was a company town, and by 1970 or 1980 all of the houses were gone.

Thayer Junction was named for Governor Thayer, who was the Territorial Governor for the Wyoming Territory. I suspect the town was built about 1870-1880.

Oddly enough, rumor has it that there was a Thayer that lived there and that he was the postmaster. When the town died (or at least the post office) he and his family moved to Rock Springs, WY. I have talked with a descendant, but I have never really checked up on the story. If the story is true about the postmaster, I guess his descendants may still be there in Rock Springs.

Paul & August Thayer Iaccaci - Part I

American Aces of No. 20 Squadron RFC/RAF

By Dennis Gordon

No. 20 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps, with 630 victory claims over enemy aircraft, earned the distinction of having the highest scoring tally of any World War One British scout squadron. The squadron was well stocked with veteran pilots. From its introduction into France on 23 January 1916 until the 11 November 1918 Armistice, it boasted 44 pilots and 42 gunners who qualified as aces. Two of the pilot aces were August Thayer and Paul Thayer Iaccaci (pronounced Ja-katch-ee), American brothers serving in the RFC/RAF. Incredibly, the Iaccacis each scored 17 victories while with No. 20 Squadron, making them the only brother team in U.S. history to enter acedom.

Above: Auguste Florian Jaccaci, father of Paul and Thayer Iaccaci.

Paul Thayer and August Thayer Iaccaci were the sons of Auguste Florian Jaccaci, who was born in Fontainebleu, France on 28 January 1856. A "Jacassy" of Hungarian ancestry, he Italianized his name to Jaccaci while living in Florence, in the country of his mother.

Following training as a decorative artist and muralist, the senior Jaccaci set out to travel the world, journeying to Carthage, to the Sahara Desert, and to the Congo before sailing to Martinique where he decorated a church before going on to Cuba to paint the ceiling of an opera house. For a time he worked as a wandering artist in Mexico, then settled in the United States in the early 1880s and became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

It was in America's mid-west that he first made himself known as a decorative artist, when he did the murals for the Capitol at St. Paul, Minnesota. He also served as an art-purchasing agent on his frequent trips overseas for wealthy American industrialists, who had come to trust his judgment and knowledge of nineteenth-century art. Mark Twain and Theodore Roosevelt were numbered among his friends.

When Auguste was in Massachusetts's seeing clients, he met **Mabel Thomas Thayer**, the daughter of a Hingham, Massachusetts minister. Her father did not approve of August, and when the couple's friendship turned to love, he sent Mabel to Paris, France to keep her away from Jaccaci. August followed from New York City, and they married in Dresden, Germany on 1 December 1888, at the American Church of St. John.

Son Paul was born in Paris on 26 July 1890. The family returned to the United States, and on 6 June 1893, a second son, August Thayer, was born in Hingham, Massachusetts. Shortly after Thayer's birth, Auguste began a project with the John LaFarge company, which would eventually push him to near bankruptcy.

From his vast knowledge of painters and paintings, collectors and collections, Jaccaci joined in a publishing effort with LaFarge to issue a number of folio volumes containing the highest quality reproductions of art masterpieces and related essays on each work. The first volume issued, *Noteworthy Pictures In American Private Collections,* was a massive work both in size and cost with each book weighing nearly 50 lbs and selling for $150.

The book did not sell well because of its prohibitive price. Nevertheless, Jaccaci began a subsequent volume, which he attempted to finance through the fees he received as a purchasing agent for the wealthy.

Auguste and Mabel Jaccaci separated bitterly while their sons were still in their youth. When the senior Jaccaci returned to Paris, August Thayer (hereinafter referred to as "Thayer") went with him and attended school in England and in LaRoche, Switzerland. Paul remained in Massachusetts with his mother, attending the Nolan's School at Cambridge.

Eventually Thayer was returned to the United States to enter the Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey. While at school he proved to be a superb athlete, a hockey player and swimmer. He qualified for the Olympics as a swimmer. In 1912 he entered Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, class of 1916. Meanwhile, Paul attended Harvard, class of 09-11, but left school to support his mother. He spent one year in business in Boston before going to New York to take up banking.

Auguste Jaccaci's business took him back to France in May of 1914 to see art experts and plate makers. But with the outbreak of war between France and Germany he had ceased all commercial enterprises, as he immersed himself in the relief of the war's suffering.

Above: Captain August Thayer Iaccaci, D.F.C., (left) and Captain Paul Thayer Iaccaci, D.F.C., No. 20 Squadron, RAF.

Jaccaci established the Society for the Protection of the Children of the Frontier, which aided thousands of French and Flemish children who had been separated from their friends and family. And through the aid of his wealthy American clients in the United States, he raised the funds to establish a model hospital at Berck, France for treating children with tuberculosis. Twice he nearly died from pneumonia aggravated by overwork. For his devotion to the war's refugees he received France's Legion of Honor and was decorated by the King of Belgium. He was also made a member of the Institute of France for his scholarship.

In 1916 Paul and Thayer Iaccaci joined Company I, 7th Regiment, the National Guard of New York City. From 3 July to 19 November 1916, they served with that unit during the Mexican Border campaign at McAllen, Texas, patrolling along the Rio Grande. They became disgruntled with the infantry and the southwest's heat and scorpions. One night in the dark, Paul sat on a red anthill, and he immediately decided he wasn't cut out to be a foot soldier.

When Paul and Thayer's service concluded on the Border and their unit returned to New York, they headed north toward Toronto, Canada to enlist in the Royal Flying Corps. Paul was accepted in February 1917, but Thayer initially had some difficulty because of his poor eyesight. However, he too was accepted, and the brothers swore allegiance to the King, became British subjects, joined the Royal Flying Corps, and went into training in and around Toronto.

Their initial training consisted of ground school for flight, airplane construction, and gunnery practice. Flight training commenced on 13 August 1917 at Camp Mohawk, Deseronto, Canada. The brothers were assigned to No. 87 Training Squadron and began dual control instruction on the Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny". One of their instructors was Captain Vernon Castle, the famous English-born American dancer.

In early September they were assigned to No. 84 Training Squadron and began solo flying, cross country flying, and aerial gunnery at ground targets. In mid-September, they were sent to Camp Borden, to No. 81 Training Squadron. On 28 October 1917, the Iaccacis concluded their training on the JN-4 at the School of Aerial Gunnery at Camp Borden and were cleared for further training in England.

While the brothers had been receiving preliminary flight training in Canada, their U.S. commanding officer had tried without success to force their return

to the United States. Later, when both Iaccacis became decorated British officers, they invited and received their former U.S. commanding officer to dinner in Paris.

In early November, they were granted a leave before sailing from Montreal with a convoy out of Halifax that was headed for Southampton. On 20 December 1917, the brothers reached England and were assigned to No. 79 Training Squadron at Salisbury Plain. There, they trained on Avro aircraft until the end of the month. On 12 February 1918, they were transferred to No. 24 Training Squadron at Netheravon-Wilts and were finally put on Bristol fighters. They were then sent to Scotland for additional training in aerobatics and aerial gunnery. Thayer and Paul concluded their training with No. 1 Training Squadron. From 13 August 1917 to 27 March 1918, Lt. Thayer Iaccaci had accumulated 112 hours in dual and solo training.

On 30 March 1918, Thayer and Paul Iaccaci were called to France. They crossed the English Channel on 3 April. Two days later they reported at No. 2 Pool on the Normandy coast. While awaiting assignment to the front, they managed to complete 20 days of gunnery practice on a special target range. Thayer later recalled, "through the steady practice we had sharpened our skills, and we were glad to get it."

The brothers were pleased to learn that they would soon be posted to Number 20 Squadron. Initially a South African Colonial Squadron, it had evolved into a mixture of South Africans, English, Scots, Welshmen, and Canadians. Major E. H. Johnston, the commanding officer, and the recording officer, were both South Africans.

No. 20 Squadron was one of the premier squadrons on the front. However, a daunting task faced the Iaccacis. Observer Walter Noble summed it up in one sentence. "In fact it may be said that the *raison d'etre* of the R.A.F. is to get knowledge of the enemy's movements whilst preventing him from learning ours." Thayer Iaccaci later expanded on the task.

"The Royal Flying Corps faced its toughest year in 1918. Both sides were exhausted, and if either one could mount an attack that would lead to a breakthrough, most people believed that the war would be over. So as the Royal Flying Corps defended the British sector of the line, it must keep daily tabs on the Germans and for any and all signs of troop movements, for the flow of information was vital to all of us.

The constant and almost daily air battles came about by the British trying to keep the flow of information coming, and the Germans trying to get their own information about the British-Air dominance became extremely important. To this end the RFC patrolled its lines from dawn to dusk, and the Germans patrolled in force in the morning and afternoon."

It was under such conditions that the Iaccaci's arrived on 25 April 1918 at No. 20 Squadron's aerodrome at Boisdinghem, 18 miles southeast of Calais. They met Major Johnston and all the pilots and observers. Thayer later noted "I have great respect for the South Africans after my time with them. It was an excellent squadron. If you missed one patrol you were shipped out."

Following the CO's evaluation of them, on 2 May the brothers made the first of five practice flights. Then they were alternately assigned a well-used Bristol and an English gunner-observer whom Thayer remembered "turned out to be a wonderful gunner (Sergeant Arthur Newland, D.F.C.), who was later decorated." Sgt. Newland was also one of their favorite companions, who was often either with Thayer or Paul while each of the brothers accumulated 17 victories. Thayer called Newland "the best gunner in the squadron." Sgt. Newland was himself an ace, scoring 22 victories at the gunner position, 16 of these being scored while flying with one of the Iaccaci brothers.

For the first 21 days, the Iaccaci brothers struggled to stay in formation as they took turns flying B.F. B1114. The Bristol's worn-out engine lacked the needed horsepower to keep up. Thayer Iaccaci penned his frustrations in the "Remarks" column of his logbook. "Old machine-lost formation; lost formation; lost formation-engine trouble; poor machine; rotten machine; rotten machine; rotten machine." However, the situation changed when Iaccacis were given new Bristol fighters. Thayer Iaccaci later described the characteristics of the aircraft:

"The Bristol fighter was primarily a fighter plane apart from its other duties. The thing that made the Bristol such an effective fighting plane was in addition to its compactness, maneuverability,

performance, and its wonderful Rolls Royce engine, was that a first rate pilot and gunner could engage several enemy planes on an equal basis firing effectively in several directions through positioning the plane rapidly to take advantage of the guns. The single seater scouts could only shoot forward."

After a break-in period involving bombing and reconnaissance missions, the Iaccacis quickly began amassing impressive victory tallies. Paul scored first on 18 May when he took out a Fokker Dr. I tri-plane, southwest of Nieppe Wood. Then he and Thayer each scored a victory the following day when Paul shot down another Dr. I, and Thayer downed a Pfalz D.III. Thayer remembered:

"This gave us confidence, and soon we began carrying our weight. The British sector we were on was in continual fights with the Huns. Day after day when flying weather allowed we had one or two patrols a day. We tangled with Richthofens's circus quite often, and as good as they were-and they were good-we held our own against them.

"As the first American effort was felt the Hun started to give ground. Every so often the squadron moved forward to a new aerodrome made by Chinese work battalions. The Hun seemed to get stronger in the air as they weakened on the ground. Their new Fokker D.VII was a terribly good fighting plane. The dogfights often had 20-30 planes in a single battle."

May proved a particularly active month for 20 Squadron. Its pilots and gunners accounted for 56 enemy aircraft, dropped 451 bombs on the enemy, fired 99,790 rounds, and took 970 photographs. The Iaccacis accounted for ten of the month's victories. On the 26th, Thayer and his observer, Lt. Jackson, had a harrowing patrol south of Armentieres. His log entry highlights the action.

"Fight alone with 8 Huns. Formation gave no assistance. Observer wounded-machine badly shot up. Dove from 16,000 to 4,000-staggered over lines-hit three times by Archies + 140 bullets."

The following day, it was more of the same, this time with Sgt. Newland as his observer.

"Fight with many Huns-I separated one from formation-obs. shot 1 Pfalz down in smoke-confirmed. Rudder shot up-more Archies." The next day Thayer's windshield was hit and splintered by German anti-aircraft fire.

Paul closed out May with a triple victory on the 31st by bringing down one Pfalz and two Albatros aircraft in an attack against the Armentieres railroad station. He also helped his beleaguered brother, as Thayer noted in his log:

"Armentieres R.R. Station fight with Trips-got 1 crashed-new observation mach. Badly shot-up-Paul gave assistance. Newland got 1 in flames."

The brothers sustained their torrid pace throughout June. Although often heavily outnumbered in the air, Thayer still accounted for four more German planes, and Paul bagged three enemy fighters. But 20 Squadron was also paying a price. RAF communiqué No. 13 for June 30, 1918 noted,

"36 of our machines are missing." Some of the casualties were Americans who had been sent to 20 Squadron by the U.S. Air Service for training and experience. Thayer Iaccaci later recalled: "It was rough going for them. Five were lost in action in a short period because they had not had enough elementary training."

The RAF was at a distinct disadvantage every time it met the enemy in its air space. As Thayer Iaccaci explained:

"One of the major disadvantages the R.F.C. faced in addition to fighting over the German side of the lines was the prevailing wind always blowing you further into Hunland. You would be five miles in Hunland in a dogfight and pretty soon with the wind you would be 10 miles or more away from the protection of your lines and patrols. It was a job getting back to our lines. Many a good pilot was lost simply because he could not shake his opponent and get back, so he was shot down."

Continued in the Spring 2004 Issue. Editor.

Mabel's[9] lineage is (Thomas Baldwin[8], Benjamin[7], Zachariah[6-5-4], Nathaniel[3], Richard[2-1]) THAYER.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the "League of WWI Aviation Historians" Spring 2002 Quarterly magazine and was provided by Muriel & Barney Landry. This is Part I of the complete article with only 2 of the 18 pictures used. The article is reprinted with all due credits, source material to be listed in Part II.

Wendell Bower, electrician, descendent of the Pilgrims


Mr. Bower

WEYMOUTH - Wendell Thayer Bower, 79, of South Weymouth, a retired licensed electrician and a descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, died Thursday at the Logan Health Care Facility in South Weymouth.

Mr. Bower worked 45 years as a licensed electrician for Bethlehem Steel and General Dynamics at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. He retired in 1981.

He frequently worked side electrical jobs during his time off.

Mr. Bower was born and raised on Bower Street in Quincy. His mother at one time owned all the houses on that street.

He moved to East Braintree when he was married in 1941 to Dorothy (Little) Bower, who survives him.

They had lived in South Weymouth for 24 years.

When his son, the late David Allan Bower, was growing up in East Braintree, Mr. Bower was active in the Cub Scouts and was a member of the executive board for Pack 7.

He also worked with other Little League fathers to put up a much-needed fence for the baseball field at Watson Park in East Braintree.

A man who liked to be busy, he frequently helped people and organizations and often worked for others without charge.

Mr. Bower loved tinkering with cars, according to his daughter, Beverly Thayer Colton of Scituate. "I had an Austin-Healy, and he could take it apart and put it back together again. He used to watch me compete in auto-cross contests." Auto-cross is a test of skills that includes driving around pylons while trying to maintain maximum speed.

He built television sets from kits and, his daughter said, could repair anything in the house, including the plumbing.

In earlier years, he took his children fishing at the bridge on the road to Nantasket Beach just beyond the Hingham courthouse.

In his later years, he developed a deep interest in reading history and also enjoyed mystery stories.

During his teenage years, Wendell Bower was often out on his bicycle selling doughnuts in his neighborhood. He also worked as a caddy at the Wollaston Golf Course.

He attended Derby Academy in Hingham and later Thayer Academy in Braintree. At Thayer, he was on the football team. Mr. Bower also liked skating and hockey in his younger days.

His travels were mainly in New England with frequent trips to Maine and New Hampshire. He liked boat rides, including those out of Maine's Boothbay Harbor.

Mr. Bower was quiet about being a descendant of Pilgrims John and Priscilla Alden. His children did not know about it until their grandmother died and they discovered her papers on the family genealogy. He told them: "Oh, yes. You're descended from some Pilgrims."

He was also a descendant of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Among his other ancestors were Uriah Thayer of Braintree, a Revolutionary War soldier, and his grandfather, Thomas J. H. Thayer, a Civil War soldier.

Mr. Bower is also survived by another daughter, Linda D. Balentine of Ankeny, Iowa; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service will be conducted by the Rev. Terry Martinson at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Mount Wollaston Cemetery, 1 Sea St., Quincy.

Arrangements were made by the C. C. Shepherd Funeral Home, South Weymouth.

Donations may be made to the Visiting Nurses Foundation, P.O. Box 859060, Braintree 02185-9080.

William G. Sullivan

Beverly writes "I have a second line Thayer line through my great-grandfather, T. J. H. Thayer's wife Bryantha Hayden whose mother was a Thayer. Thus, my great-grandparents were first cousins!"

The Lure of El Dorado

Olney Thayer was not the first of my ancestral families to journey to California in search of gold. James Francis Bigelow of Sherborn, Massachusetts, my 2nd great-grandfather died of

yellow fever in Panama in 1850 at age 36 while waiting for transport to San Francisco. Olney Thayer was the brother of my 2nd great-grandfather, Horace Thayer. He was the third son of Nicholas (Nicholas[6], Joseph[5-4], Samuel[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) and Rachel (Artemas[6], Pelatiah[5], John[4], Thomas[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) Thayer. Nicholas was a relatively wealthy farmer who lived on ancestral lands in South Mendon, now part of the village of East Blackstone, Massachusetts. The 1860 US Census gives the value of his property, which came to him through his wife, Rachel, as $75,000.

The record of Olney's journey to California in 1852 is contained in the transcriptions of eight letters probably made in the 1890's. I have no idea what happened to the originals. These letters only gives clues as to why Olney joined the many who went to California in search of wealth and adventure. Being the third son, he must have felt the need to make his own way in life, as it was unlikely that he would inherit the family farm, which contained a large orchard, probably apple. In fact, when Nicholas and Rachel died circa 1874, my great-grandfather, Francis Nicholas Thayer inherited the farm where he built a new house he called "the Orchards".

Olney traveled by train from Worcester, Massachusetts to New York City on Wednesday, 21 January 1852. He wrote his first letter to his parents on Friday, 23 January. He had booked passage on the "Georgia" that was to sail the following day for Havana and then the mouth of the Chagres River in Panama. He mentioned that ships were fully booked until early March. His passage on the Georgia must have cost him $150 as he says the going price was $200 on which he could have made a $50 profit. When the ship left the harbor, it must have been very cold. Olney says that there was so much ice that sailing ships could not come into the harbor.

The second letter was sent to his family from Panama City on Tuesday, 10 February 1852. The ship arrived in Havana on the Friday, 30 January where it remained for two days. He says of Havana, "*When I arrived at Havana a novel scene burst upon my view and I felt repaid for my journey by the novelty of a tropical clime. The Island is clothed in perpetual green, oranges and cocoa nuts hang ripening on the trees. I eat some of the best oranges here that I ever put in my mouth, sweet as sugar, you can form no idea of them from the green sour things you eat in the states*."

The "Georgia" reached the mouth of the Chagres River on Saturday, 6 February. From the stories Olney had heard, he expected that the journey across the Isthmus would be hard, but it wasn't. Conditions must have improved since the crossings started in 1849. "*The scenery up the Chagres river is the most beautiful of anything I ever saw in fact it is the most picturesque and beautiful of anything I ever saw. The expense of crossing the Isthmus will be for luggage and all about $15."* When he arrived in Panama City, there were thousands without tickets waiting for passage up the Pacific Coast to San Francisco. He had already booked passage and left the port of Panama City on Wednesday, 11 February. The cost of transport was $250. His letter expressed apprehension about the eventual success of his trip and concern about the care of the trees in the orchard back home.

Olney's next letter was dated, Tuesday 16 March 1852, from Sacramento, California. He had been working in Sacramento for $75 a month and was planning to leave for the gold fields the following day. His letter expressed a mixture of concern and hope. He advises Samuel not to come. On the other hand, he says *"This would be a good place for Father to raise cabbage it sells for 10 cents a lb. and they grow all winter the spring growth is of an enormous size. I think you had better take old Cate and the lumber wagon and start for here the overland route better get Comfort Wood to come with you."*

Olney describes San Francisco in his next letter from Placerville written on Thursday, 10 June to my 2nd great-grandfather, Horace. *"I was a little surprised upon entering the harbor of San Francisco to see more shipping than I ever saw in Boston & then the city, containing 35,000 inhabitants, presented all the pomp and show of the eastern cities."* In the prior week, he earned $35. He describes his condition. "*I am in good health and I have not seen a sick day since I left home, can eat like a hog and board myself in a log cabin for 50 cents a day, can have all the luxuries here that I can at home by paying enough."*

By the time of his next letter to his family from Green Springs written on Sunday 10 October, he shows signs of homesickness. "*As some time has elapsed since I wrote you from the Pacific shores, you might be led to suppose that I had forgotten my New England home; but far from it time may wing on its flight, mountain and seas interpose, but never will be erased from my mind the thousand fond appreciations that cling & cluster around my childhood home. Sometimes visions of the past will flit across my mind and in spite of myself will almost make me homesick, but I crush the rising spirit and all is well again; on the whole I am very well satisfied with my journey and new home, never have*

seen the moment when I regretted leaving home for when I did so I resolved to be content with any lot that it might be mine to bear…" Olney had not been mining in the gold fields since July. He feared for his health so he went to work in a public house, but had been unable to work for the previous six weeks because of a sore on his hand. He expresses a wish to be with his family for Thanksgiving. He was planning to return to the mines the following day.

The letter describes the cost of living in the gold fields. *"…but it costs something to live well here. I will give you some prices of provisions here Flour and pork $40 per bbl, butter .60 to 1.20 per lb. Cream 40 cts potatoes 10 cts per lb. everything sold by the pound here fresh pork 50 cts raisins 30 cts molasses $2.00 per gal. all vegetables from 6 to 10 cts eggs 1.75 per doz, we have plenty of pears, grapes, & melons."* He describes the life in the following excerpt. "*I like the climate here well but that is the only thing that would induce me to make it my home. The only thing that would render me at all discontented is the loss of time I am a real Yankee and can't afford to stop very long in one place."*

Then tragedy strikes. The next letter comes from San Francisco dated 31 January 1853. It was written not by Olney, but by Charles W. Gates. Olney contracted typhoid fever in the mines and been brought to San Francisco where he died on 19 January. He had been living for three days in a hotel, trying to gather enough money to return home. On the 18th, he became delirious and was taken to the hospital where he died within 24 hours. Someone had stolen his money and papers. In a second letter dated 15 April 1853, Charles gives more detail of Olney's final hours and his funeral. *"…there is great panes taken here in the burial of people they are buried at a good dry place & in a good Coffin & caried in a splendid herse the undertaker sits down the name and numbers & numbers the grave…"* He states that a gravestone would cost between $50 and $200.

But this is not the end of the saga. There is one more letter dated 27 February 1854 from San Francisco. The author is unknown as only the first half of the letter remained in the Thayer hands. The letter was written by a friend of Nicholas and Rachel Thayer to his wife. He seems to have been commissioned by Nicholas to bring Olney's body home to Massachusetts. The first half of the letter was to be given to Nicholas; the remainder was addressed to his wife. He had hired a Mr. Grey to handle the arrangements for $150 and paid another

$52.50 to a ship's captain to transport the body. The disinterment was a disaster. *"The remains disinterred under the No. of Olney's grave were those of a man about forty years of age, five feet nine inches in height with coarse red hair & whiskers. It required but a glance of the eye to see they were not Olney's."*

So, Olney Thayer remains buried somewhere in San Francisco. A monument, shown on page 9, in his memory can be found in the family plot in Pine Hill Cemetery, Mendon Massachusetts.

Charles L. Dunford
January 23, 2003

ATTENTION all readers…

In the Fall 2003 Issue an insert for Patricia's third book appeared. The pricing information was INCORRECT, and if you sent in payment for one of the books on the form, you may have had your order cancelled and your payment returned. I sincerely apologize for this error on the form.

The insert in this issue has the correct pricing information. The order form that is also available on the web is also corrected.

Again, my apologies for this oversight and any inconvenience this may have caused you. -Editor

Thayer Lane

Thayer Phillips Reese

The first time I saw it many years ago, it was really a 'Lane' --a dirt road, and now it is a nicely paved street with nice homes, trees, streets all around, but I cannot find out anymore information on this street. Thayer Lane is actually in Oxnard, the town next to Port Hueneme [why-ne-me, an Indian name] nearby where much shipping takes place now and in the past, so I went to their City Hall and they had no info for me. It seems that this is a mystery.

I have spoken to local historians, and they know nothing about it. I went to the Ventura County Museum and searched films to find the name of Thayer but so far could not find anything related to Thayer Lane. One more place may have some info--the local library in Hueneme.

I was surprised to find a 'Thayer' in that area. This is all I know at present--the search continues. Thayer

Editor's Note: Thayer and I first emailed each other regarding this lane in January 2001. Information like this is difficult at best to track down, so anything that is found out is sure to be interesting. If you have any information regarding this lane, or can suggest other means of research, please contact Thayer via email at: sea2pals@aol.com If you have a similar story on research on a Thayer related place, please contact the Editor for possible article use, it makes wonderful reading.

My Favorite Uncle

by Roger Eugene Thayer

Fred Martin Thayer, was born 10 March 1906 in Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York, the second son of John Bingham Thayer (J. B.), coal and feed businessman and Clara Edna Smith, teacher. John and Clara gave homes to each of their three sons, when they married. Paul and Bob's homes were in the same block as their parents on West Seneca Street. Fred, the third brother to marry was first given an apartment in his parents' home, then their summer home in Danby, a small town six miles south of Ithaca. Paul, my father and the eldest son, married Veda Mary Zellar; Fred married Bernice Trowbridge; and Robert Leslie Thayer, the youngest, married Doris Danns. For nearly twenty years we all lived side by side.

There had been Thayers in Tompkins County, New York since Richard, b. 1785 and Elizabeth moved first from Orange County, then Sullivan County, New York in the 1800s. They had thirteen children, many of whom eventually settled in Tompkins and nearby counties of Central New York.

Fred lived to be the oldest of all these descendents of "Our" Richard Thayer; he died a year ago at age 96. He followed the tradition of his adventurer ancestors by driving cross-country in the 1930s with his mother in a Hudson Touring Sedan. Fred's goal

was Los Angeles where he attended National Electric School; he also met a girl friend, Mary Ellen, whom he brought back (later, not riding with him in his car) to Ithaca to meet the family. She was a nice, pretty Californian who did not want, however, to live in upstate New York.

Fred was full of stories, some of which he told in an Irish Brogue. Many centered around the office of his father's farm feed store "...which became somewhat of a gathering place for some of Ithaca's older residents who came regularly every morning to occupy their favorite chairs; they'd go home for lunch and come back as regularly as if they were on a payroll. They were Civil War Veterans, so they said. And I wondered if they weren't a bit young (in 1865.) Possibly they could have been members of the Drum & Bugle Corps. They used to sit there trading their stories, their memories of their past. Sometimes they got into a wee bit of excitement in their reminiscing. Dad came hurrying through the old office one day to find two of those old codgers standing up and drawing fists as if ready to go right at it. Dad pushed them back into their chairs and said, 'Sit down before you hurt somebody!'"

Fred told of another man, who said he knew John (J. B.) Thayer when younger, "...said he'd grab into the top of a bag of feed, ONE IN EACH HAND, and walk right out of the warehouse and sling them, one at a time, up onto the wagon. You know how pliable a sack of grain is; they were 100 pound bags, but, if you grabbed right tightly into it, you could pick it up; and HE DID." [That was my grandpa who, when, much later in time, one or two of us kids (nine grandchildren) would visit him at his summer place in Danby, six whole miles from the hot city of Ithaca in August, he would get a "switch" from one of the trees in his apple orchard, just to remind us we were to behave.] This farmette became Fred & Bernice's home--where they raised their children; it was a beautiful substantial, elegant house with big white pillars on the front porch. It was the site of many Thayer Family Reunions.

Fred and Bernice had two children, Ruth, now in Santa Barbara, CA and Fred (Marty) Jr., now Professor of Music at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA.

Fred told of how his "Mother prepared Dad's hot noon meal; I'd come home from school for lunch, jump on my bike and take it down to the office for him. We had an hour and a quarter so there was plenty of time to run it down there (about five city blocks.) Someone was criticizing J. B. one day as to why he didn't go home for a warm lunch; he said this *is* warm.

I liked the stories Fred told of sledding down the snow covered, hilly streets of Ithaca from near Cornell University. East Seneca Street was a nice long straight street but very steep and they'd post a friend at the bottom to keep cars from crossing as the sleds came lickity split through the Aurora Street crossing. A milder ride was when "...we started from the first street above the one with the bridge (off Hudson St.) (Younger brother) Bob and I started from there on hand sleds (all the way down) and instead of turning, headed right on down Aurora Street. Trying to stop, we sat right up straight (digging in) to brace our feet and keep from running out on to State Street, but went up (over the curb) on the sidewalk next to Rothchild's" (Department Store in the main business section of Ithaca.)

Fred told of another time prior to that when, "Paul (older brother) and I had been in a real (sledding) experience, on my part anyway, of coming down that same block (with me on top of him on the sled) and turning and there was a fence with a pipe railing (which he went under and I got) a bloody nose. ...Fortunate I didn't break something."

"Bob once, however, did get a fractured nose. All three of us were riding on Paul's bicycle and he was sitting on the handlebars as I remember it; I was on the carrier behind; Paul, of course, was on the regular saddle and peddles and something ran in front of us, we'll say another bicycle, so that we spilled and Bob ran right out on his face, In those

years that (road) was all cinders. Mother took a long time picking out and washing out (Bob's face); his lip had been filled with cinders and we decided later, though we didn't know at the time, that he'd broken his nose so that it wasn't ever quite straight. We never noticed it so much, but a cousin came to live with us one summer; she was with her grandfather (Charles Thayer), one of the Dayton girls (Ruth or Florence) from down in Middletown (Sullivan County, where Fred's grandpa William Henry Thayer grew up) and she was laughing about it and she used some talcum powder (to cover Bob's crooked nose.)

Fred said there was another sled story his Dad told, ridiculous as it sounds, but probably a lot of fun. In West Danby there were quite a few kids around the same age who would pull a (normally) horse-drawn sleigh up to the top of a hill, all pile on and one good strong fellow would take a hand sled ahead of that and hang onto the tongue (of the horseless sleigh) to steer it. He'd have to hang on for dear life because that big sleigh would run over him if he didn't. One very dangerous sport!

The Esty Grain Elevator Building on lower State Street which J. B. bought soon after he married in 1898 from Will Gunderman, a former Mayor of Ithaca, was made into a farmer's supply warehouse/store. Some years later J. B. moved the business to a corner location on Meadow Street. He added (circa 1926) coal to the feed business. (see TFQ # ? 1998) J. B.'s sons Fred & Bob took it over as J. B. got older. In the mid 1940s Bob and Fred divided the business, Bob taking the feed business and remaining at the same Meadow Street location. Fred established the coal business as Ithaca Fuel Supply Co. on the adjacent lot on Fulton Street. Fred's wife, Bernice, a former teacher and later a church organist, became his business partner and bookkeeper. In 1967 Fred sold the business. The buyer offered him a job in his hardware store where Fred worked for ten years before retiring. Bob sold the feed business earlier, moving to Batavia, NY. Bob worked there until he, his wife and youngest daughter, Jean, moved to Las Vegas, NV to be near his son Richard (Dick) who had a horse ranch; Dick and Jean are still there. Horses were familiar to the Thayers of Ithaca.

Fred told many horse stories. One was, "Dad was considered a good judge of horses and was asked by different ones to help find a suitable horse for their needs. One request was from Fred Illston who had an Ice Company in Ithaca (I remember Illston's Ice being delivered by an open bed truck to West Seneca Street for our Ice Box) and needed strong teams to haul his heavily loaded ice wagons up Ithaca's hills." Fred's Dad said, "Never sell a 'flighty' horse to a nervous man!" Fred went on, "I had a cousin who was much older than I, who, as a young man felt very cocky and sure of himself. He traded (for a horse) with some gypsies (who were in the area); they made their rounds...in different places...they'd camp for maybe a week or so. Dad looked at the horse to see 'what a wonderful deal he had made with the Gypsies' and said, 'Don't let it get any water 'til tomorrow.' He knew by the looks of the animal's eyes that there was something wrong. As I understand it they'd give them some drug, I don't know what, which would pep them right up and make them very alert, unreasonably so. So my cousin said, 'Uncle John, there's something wrong about that horse.' It died the next morning. Dad said, 'I told you not to give him any water. Apparently it would set this (drug) action going further, I don't know. He (Dad) inherited a lot of information from his Dad (William Henry Thayer.)"

Fred remembered a saloon right across the road from his Dad's old place and the son of the proprietor came dashing in one day asking for change for (a) twenty. Dad dug it out from under the counter and the young man threw down a $20 goldpiece! They didn't like to carry those because they become less valuable (as the gold weight wears away)...it was minted back in the 1800s.

At one of our family reunions near Cayuga Lake Ruth laughed and exclaimed encouragingly, "Tell the story about your Grandfather." Fred picked right up with, "Oh, that was interesting... He would (cut) grain or hay with scythes or what were called cradles…the scythe used for cradling had long wooden fingers to carry the grain when it was cut. [I remember seeing them hanging in the barn in Danby.] As mentioned, Fred's Dad's (J.B.'s) father was William (Henry). J.B.'s uncle was William (M.I. unknown)-- son of Richard and also lived

nearby.] When it came noontime, one of the nephews who was working with him [as did he (Win. H.) as a young boy who left home in Sullivan County to work for his Uncle] said, "Uncle William, I think I can throw you." Grandpa said, "No better time than right now. Try it." Well he (the nephew) said, "I want first hold." He (Grandpa) said OK, you let me know when you're ready. He said, "Ready." and Grandpa simply grabbed him by the seat of his pants and lifted his feet off the ground. [Nephew was promised first hold.]

We all remember Uncle Fred/Dad fondly; he and his stories will stay with us and be passed on to younger Thayers.

Roger Eugene Thayer, b. 29 November 1926, Ithaca, NY with help from Fred's daughter, Ruth Elizabeth Thayer Schaeffer, b. 12 October 1938, Ithaca, NY and son, Fred Martin (Marty) Thayer, Jr., b. 19 Dec 1941, Ithaca, NY.

My father was Paul Edward Thayer, b.1901, Fred's older brother, sons of John Bingham Thayer (William Henry, John MacBride, Richard, b. 1785 and, according to Tricia, maybe son of Elias of Northampton, MA, Zebulon, Benjamin, Richard, Richard, Richard of Braintree, MA.) ⏏

Residents save historic barn

Four-month effort finally comes up with needed funds

by Jon Savelle, King County Journal Reporter

DUVALL - Thayer Barn has dodged developers' bulldozers when an 11th-hour community fund-raising effort raised enough money to begin the barn's preservation.

Built in the 1930s along State Route 203, the historic barn is dear to the hearts of Snoqualmie Valley residents, who mobilized four months ago to move the barn out of the way of a commercial and residential development planned by Newhall Jones of Bellevue.

Jones intended to start on the project this month, but he has announced a one-year delay. That news came just days before the Duvall Foundation for the Arts announced Thursday that it reached its $100,000 fund-raising goal right on deadline.

The deadline was set by the Duvall City Council, which pledged $200,000 to help transform the barn into a community and arts center - but only if supporters could raise $100,000 by May 8.

"I think some people didn't expect us to do it - and when they saw the numbers, it kind of floored them," said Paula McDonald, a board member of the foundation and owner of the P&G Speakeasy Cafe in Duvall.

"Now the real work begins."

As recently as three days before the deadline, the fund-raising effort was $8,000 shy of its goal and supporters were preparing to ask the City Council to extend the deadline. Now they are in the clear, with $104,000 in hand and another $3,000 on the way.

"What a great group," said Mayor Becky Nixon. "They know exactly what they are doing."

Corporate pledges made the difference, Nixon said.

"We're all pleased as punch," she said. "Well, I know I'm as pleased as punch."

Nixon said some council members were skeptical about the project right up until the announcement that the fund-raising goal had been met.

One council member, Will Ibershof, said he thinks preserving the barn is a good idea as long as the project does not expose the city to additional costs.

"The reason I had reservations about it is the amount of money involved," he said. "It will take $1.8 million to fully restore the barn. If they can do it with just the city's expenditure of $200,000, great."

Plans call for first moving the barn about 250 feet to the northwest and continuing fund-raising efforts during the coming months.

Nixon said besides the $107,000 from fund-raising, the foundation has received a grant from King County for $70,000, of which more than half can be used for the move.

Lee Grumman, who co-chairs the fund-raising campaign, said contractors have told them moving

the barn is not technically difficult. It will get a new roof and be placed on a new foundation.

That it will really happen is still hard for her to believe.

"I think we're in awe of what this community has achieved in a short period of time," Grumman said. "We went into this fund-raising campaign three or four months ago without knowing how we were going to get here.

"It's wonderful - and beautiful, too. There has been an enormous contribution on the part of artists, and children donated almost 100 pieces to the silent auction."

Jon Savelle can be reached at jon.savelle@kingcountyjournal.com or 425-453-4231. Reprinted with permission in its entirety, King County Journal, original date of publication May 12, 2003.

Additional notes provided by Patricia Thayer Muno and Jerry Thayer: Otis Everett[9] (Franklin Homer[8], Edward Franklin[7], Edward[6-5-4-3], William[2], Nathaniel[1]) THAYER was b. 13 Dec 1899 in Lincoln Co., NE and died 19 Oct 1984 in Duvall, King Co., WA. He, Otis, is in the 1930 census at Novelty Twp., King Co., WA.

Following information provided by the Duvall Foundation of the Arts:

History

The Thayer Barn was built in the early 1930s by Otis Thayer, son of Frank and Lottie Thayer, who arrived in Duvall when it was known as Cherry Valley in 1902.

They built the big house that still stands across the road in 1908. The barn housed cattle as part of a working dairy farm and was used for hay storage before the Thayers sold it in 1968. Among its succeeding uses: former City Councilman Mark Smith once raised buffalo on the property.

The Thayer Barn Renovation project is a deliberate and hopeful step toward protecting the Snoqualmie Valley's agricultural heritage, while supplementing it with the arts - the best option to secure a thriving, creative, community-driven economy. *(photo and history courtesy of Duvall Foundation of the Arts)*

Editor's note: Thank you to the following people who took an interest in this article and got it sent half-way around the world so it could appear in your newsletter, and get sent half way around the world again; Melissa Clausen for mailing the printed article; Madora Boyd for alerting Jerry Thayer, the TFA Board and I of this; Jerry & Judy Thayer for the additional notes and forwarding the printed article; and Patricia Muno for the lineage.

Thanks also the City of Duvall, WA; Catherine Shen, VP/Strategic Development, Horvitz Newspapers Inc.; Doreen J. Wise, City Hall Administrator/ Planning Director, City of Duvall; and Lin McBride, Duvall Foundation for the Arts.

For further information on this project, go to: www.duvallarts.org

Building restoration pushed

Communities want to preserve abandoned, historical structures

By Natalie Y. Moore / *The Detroit News*

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP -- Down the road from roaring construction sites for new subdivisions, an abandoned one-room schoolhouse persists as a community eyesore and the target of vandalism.

The boarded up school, scribbled with graffiti and in smelling distance of hot garbage from a nearby compost, hasn't been used since 1985; some community members want the owners to fix it.

Western Wayne County's booming suburbs aren't usually known for abandoned properties but residents are pushing for rehabilitation or preservation of empty, historic structures that represent community life before massive development moved in.

"Our continued hope is that (the owner) refurbishes the schoolhouse," said Shari Peters, executive director of the Northville Community Foundation, a group that has long advocated putting the building to new use. The group wants to restore the building for school-age children to learn history.

The brick building is on the township's edge near Washtenaw County. Engraved on it is the date of the school's founding and the districts to which it belonged: Plymouth & Salem 1877. According to local lore, the schoolhouse is haunted, a detail not lost on its proximity to a cemetery.

But the school's location, on an unpaved road by Six Mile and Napier, is symbolic for other reasons. Northville Township, population 22,000, is rapidly building in this rural area and nearby green space has been rezoned residential. The former Plymouth-Salem school will be a blemish to the new residents who eventually move in.

Onyx Arbor Hills Landfill, Inc. owns the property. It came with the 320-acre landfill the company acquired in 2000 to operate a waste disposal site. Despite township concern, Onyx does not use the empty building or have immediate plans for it.

"But we are evaluating," said David Retell, general manager.

"We don't have any formal or informal conclusions as what we'll do with the building. We're keeping all options open." Those options include putting in office space, rehabbing the site and working with the community, Retell said.

Township trustee Brad Werner has specific ideas.

"We'd love to own it or help Shari and her group on it ... put it to historical use," Werner said. Northville Township owns a nearby 57-acre nature park. Werner envisions that park connecting with the school.

"Vandalism is a problem. It's just sitting here waiting for kids," Werner said.

Livonia is dealing with two similar situations that it wants resolved.

Wayne County Commissioner Lyn Bankes is leading restoration efforts for a historic one-room schoolhouse in Westland with origins linked to Henry Ford.

Nankin Mills school is scheduled to be returned to its condition between 1937 and 1946. The final plan involves Livonia Public School students using the schoolhouse as a working museum while experiencing education as a pupil would have during that period.

The money for this project won't come from the Livonia school district budget. Bankes and others are relying on personal contributions with the hopes that Nankin will be ready possibly by fall 2004. Presentations are being made this summer and supporters are looking for old school supplies.

Meanwhile, the foreboding former Ardmore hospital on Farmington Road is boarded up and requires extra police anti-nuisance presence. It has city approval for condominiums after lengthy public debate on how to use the 25-acre site.

But the site has been troubled with liens and clearing the title of the land. The property still isn't in the developer's ownership. Ardmore has been in foreclosure since 1996.

Brownstown Township has a different dilemma.

As it evolves from a quiet, Downriver haven into a fast-growing suburb, it struggles to preserve its history. The local historical society wants to relocate a log cabin, historical marker and two Civil War-era cannons to Lake Erie Metropark -- a location the society believes will lure more visitors.

Volunteers are raising money to move the relics and restore them.

Since 1994, more than 1,000 people have moved into Brownstown Township annually as new homes and businesses go up. Historic buildings and sites often fall victim first to growth, and leaders from the Brownstown Historical Society want to prevent that.

"I've lived in the township most of my life. I'm a student of history, and I think it's very important for us. Items like this cabin and the cannon need to be preserved to show the people who follow us how we lived," said Richard Smith of the society.

Next to Parsons Elementary in Gibraltar are the cannons, flagpole, log cabin and historical marker noting the Battle of Brownstown in the War of 1812. Lake Erie Metropark has a new walking trail, and the cannons will go there. Further into the park, the log cabin will be near the park's museum on a grassy lot and incorporated into existing historical programming.

Township resident Paula Anderson said conserving the history needs to be done for posterity's sake.

"I truly believe we have to preserve our history for our young people coming up. Otherwise, you'll lose it. It's an important endeavor," Anderson said.

You can reach Natalie Y. Moore at (313) 561-8146 or nmoore@detnews.com. Reprinted with permission of Detroit News.

Editor's note: Article is courtesy of Dr. Nancy Couch, who sent me the link to the article when it appeared on the Detroit News website, thank you Nancy. This article pertains to the Thayer School, which is located right on the corner of Thayer Cemetery in Northville Township, Michigan.

This is a follow up to the article that appeared in the Summer 2003 TQ titled "Future of school in doubt" and as you can read this article, it makes one wonder what will happen to this site.

Holiday Traditions & Preserving Their History

By Elaine Powell

During this special time of the year when many families gather, most of us practice time-honored traditions passed down from our families. Why not record those traditions so future generations can practice them also and know the meaning behind them? You could interview members of the family and ask them to recall all their past holiday traditions as well as ones still practiced. You could tape record their responses or video tape them. How nice it would be to have a tape recording of a loved ones voice! You could also take photos of the family practicing their holiday traditions and preserve the photos in a scrapbook album along with the story. If you are not sure of the origins of your holiday tradition, you can do a little investigating. Holiday issues of magazines and holiday books often tell the story of specific holiday traditions that your family might practice. And perhaps you didn't know the history behind your individual family tradition. You could keep all the interviews and photos in one "Family Christmas Holiday" album and add to it each year.

What a better time of the year to take photos and record family history than at the holidays, this happy time of the year. Use this time to ask family to fill out pedigree charts, family group sheets and share family history. Take photos of individuals, each individual family and the whole family together.

[written by Elaine Powell, Historian/Archivist of the Central Florida Genealogical Society, December, 1999. Used with permission of the author]

Town of Concord Beginnings

The history of the Town of Concord (Jefferson County, Wisconsin) dates back to February 12, 1841, when townships seven and eight north, of range 16 separated from the Watertown civil township to form the **Town of Union.** On January 21, 1846, Union township divided into two separate towns, Concord and Ixonia. The two towns took different paths in their future development. The railroad would be routed through Ixonia providing opportunities for commerce and industry. The town of Concord remained a rural township with a focus on agriculture and dairy farming.

The Town of Concord was a central stopping point between Milwaukee and Madison on the Wisconsin Stage Lines route along the old territorial road. Concord grew with a population of 725 in 1850, which increased to 1,627 by 1870. By the turn of the century Concord was a growing farming community with a town hail, post office, general store, schools, churches, a sorghum mill, barber shop, creamery, cheese and butter factories.

The first general meeting of the Town of Concord was held on the 1st Tuesday of April 1846, at the house of Austin Kellogg. The meeting was organized by the election of Luther Thayer for Moderator, and Jost D. Petrie for Clerk. Town officials were then elected for the ensuing year: Chairman of Board of Supervisors, Horatio N. Canton; Assistant Supervisors, Luther Thayer and William Sacia; Town Clerk, Jost. D. Petrie; Treasurer, William Dunning Jr.

Concord Township was also home to the families of the well-known author Laura Ingalls Wilder, Laura's grandmother Charlotte Quiner purchased 40 acres of land in Concord moving from Brookfield Wisconsin as a widow in 1848. Lansford Ingalls, Laura's paternal grandfather also purchased land in Concord on December 31, 1853. Laura's mother Caroline grew up in Concord where she became a teacher and met her husband Charles Ingalls. Charles Ingalls and Caroline Quiner were married in Concord on February 1, 1860. Charles and Caroline moved to Pepin, Wisconsin in 1862, where Laura

Elizabeth Ingalls was born five years later. Later in her life Laura wrote a series of books about her pioneer childhood days on the Midwest prairie. Her first book in the series is entitled Little House In The Big Woods which is a recollection of her family's log cabin home in the woodlands of Pepin.

New Civil War Soldier

by Patricia Muno

William Wesley THAYER, born 13 Jul 1840 NY (probably Livingston county). Married Magdalena Hettinger. Son of George Frank THAYER and Alta SKINNER.

Enlisted Co D, 30th Indiana Infantry, 1 March 1864. He was wounded at Dallas, GA 25 May 1864. In December 1864 he transferred to Co E, 30th Indiana Infantry and was mustered out on 11 May 1865. He applied for Military Pension 27 Aug 1869. App# 147363, Cert# 110373.

Thayer Headstone Reference Supplement A

This Reference is now available and is a companion book to the 2002 First Edition. This volume has 223 pages, 893 entries (766 are new records) and 182 photos. There are 113 cemeteries represented, of which 87 are new listings.

Thayer Headstone Reference, Supplement A can be ordered using the insert in this newsletter or by visiting our website and placing the order online!

If you already have the 2002 First Edition, and you order Supplement A, I will sign and number the Supplement the same as your First Edition. - Editor

Email Scam!

ATTENTION ALL READERS, if you use email, then you are well aware of the various scams and junk email that abounds on the internet.

One such common scam is in the form of an email, where you are contacted through email and the person supposedly writing the email claims to have a ridiculously large sum of money that they need you to help them get transferred out of a country, usually Nigeria. What these people ask for is a bank account number, a phone number, or even a postal address, in which to transfer the large sum of money, and in return for helping them, you will get half of their money, which is usually in the millions. THIS IS A SCAM - DO NOT RESPOND TO THESE PEOPLE!

TFA members Bob & Alta Thayer alerted me to a new twist in this scam. Bob received an email that claimed a THAYER working in Nigeria had died and that Bob was his only relative and needed a phone number and postal address in order to transfer $10.5 million dollars to Bob, and he would get half the money. Bob did not reply to the email and for very good reason, he sent me the address of the person stating he was the lawyer for this mysterious Thayer who died. I did some research on the email address, interestingly enough; it is a Hong Kong based email service.

The reason for the Thayer surname in the email to Bob is not coincidental, it is planned that way, and the scam artist is hoping you see the same name and act upon that.

When a person has your phone number or postal address, they can eventually get other information, and they are persistent.

I cannot stress it enough, DO NOT REPLY, AND DO NOT GIVE THEM ANY PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION to these people, ever. If you are using web-based email, look for a way to report this type of mail as "spam" or "junk" mail.

If you are using Outlook or Outlook Express, email me (Editor, Rodney Lee Thayer, email address on the back page) and I will describe how to properly report scam mail to the Federal Trade Commission.

If the spam email has a "remove my address" or other "opt-out" link on their email, DO NOT USE THIS, this is another way that your email is collected for other people to use. Article idea submitted by Bob & Alta Thayer. -Editor

Words from the President

Everything is going well, for the Board of Directors and TFA, if you can overlook a few things like flu, and other mishaps. The hotels in Braintree have been contacted, and we now have 3 blocks of rooms available at reduced prices for our members.

The tour of Plimouth Plantation is being finalized now, and believe me, it will be well worth the money! I went on it with two of our Board members two years ago, and loved it. It seemed so odd to talk with the plantation people and hear their opinions of what was going on around them and in the world.

The members are also working on directions for self-guided cemetery tours around the Braintree area. I have done some of that with two different TFA members, and found it very interesting. I could not believe how old some of the headstones were! We all must have an ancestor or two buried in one of the historic burial grounds.

When I was dressing this morning, the next T-shirt in my drawer was one I bought in Frankenmuth. Reminded me again of what fun we had getting to know one another in Michigan last June. I am hoping to meet as many new people next June in Massachusetts.

Look forward to the Registration form being on the Spring Issue of your newsletter, as well as some information on the self-guided cemetery tours.

Madora Allin Thayer Boyd, President

Membership Report

As mentioned in my last report we have returned to the previous method of having memberships effective for the calendar year. Anyone who joins during the year will receive whatever TQ's they have missed. Anyone who joins after Oct. 15 will be credited with membership for the following year, and receive the last TQ of the year in which they join. AND, we will be sending out dues notices toward the end of the year.

We currently have 510 members, including 80 family memberships.

Keep you mailing address current with the Membership Chairman. As the post office does not always forward 4th class mail, which our Quarterly is mailed as, you may miss your Quarterly, even if you have left your forwarding address with them.

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, Madora Boyd, know at MatBoyd1924@aol.com or me, Clint Thayer at ClntThayer@aol.com

Archer, Peter H., Medfield, MA
Davis, Donald R. & Arline Slote, Lanesboro, MA
King, Peter B., Lake Geneva, WI
Thayer, Franklin N., Lincoln, CA
Thayer, Gary T., Mt. Pleasant, SC
Thayer, Carol A., Manistique, MI *(Joining her husband Jeffrey L. in a Family Membership)*
Thayer, Samuel J., Sr., Zelienople, PA
Thayer, William H., Owings, MD
Thayer, William T., Pamplico, SC

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.

Clint (Ralph Clinton, Jr.) Thayer, Membership Chairman, ClntThayer@aol.com

From the Editor…

Here it is late November, nineteen revisions later to this issue, and I am rushing to get my column written for the newsletter. I update and track articles on a continuing basis when I am not away from the office, yet always find myself as the last one to write.

The reunion is being planned well ahead of the scheduled June timeframe; this is being done to ensure a successful event. Jim Thayer has planned an excellent tour that should be most interesting. Meals and other information are still being finalized and will appear in the Spring Issue after those items are confirmed.

I am planning on attending and speaking as well. And making her first appearance at one of these reunions will be my daughter, Samantha.

I have some inserts in this issue; one is for Patricia's third book, Vol. III of the Comprehensive, and the other insert is for my latest book, Supplement A to the Thayer Headstone Reference.

The Spring Issue will have the registration form the for the June reunion/meeting.

A new feature added to the TFA web site is the acceptance of online payment for my Headstone Reference book. Instead of mailing in an order form which takes 5-7 days to get to me, I receive an email telling me the order has been paid for and the book is shipped the next day. How's that for convenience? Also updated on the site was some of the graphics used on the pages.

Keep in mind, that for every Reference I sell, TFA gets a small donation to the General Fund, which is used for the newsletter, reunions, and some of the activity costs associated with the reunions.

I can be quickly contacted via email at: thayer@genealogist.net or by post at the address listed on the back page.

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 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.

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Please check one: **PAPER Issue mailed to you _____ ELECTRONIC Issue emailed to you _____ BOTH _____**

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City, State, Country and Zip:_____

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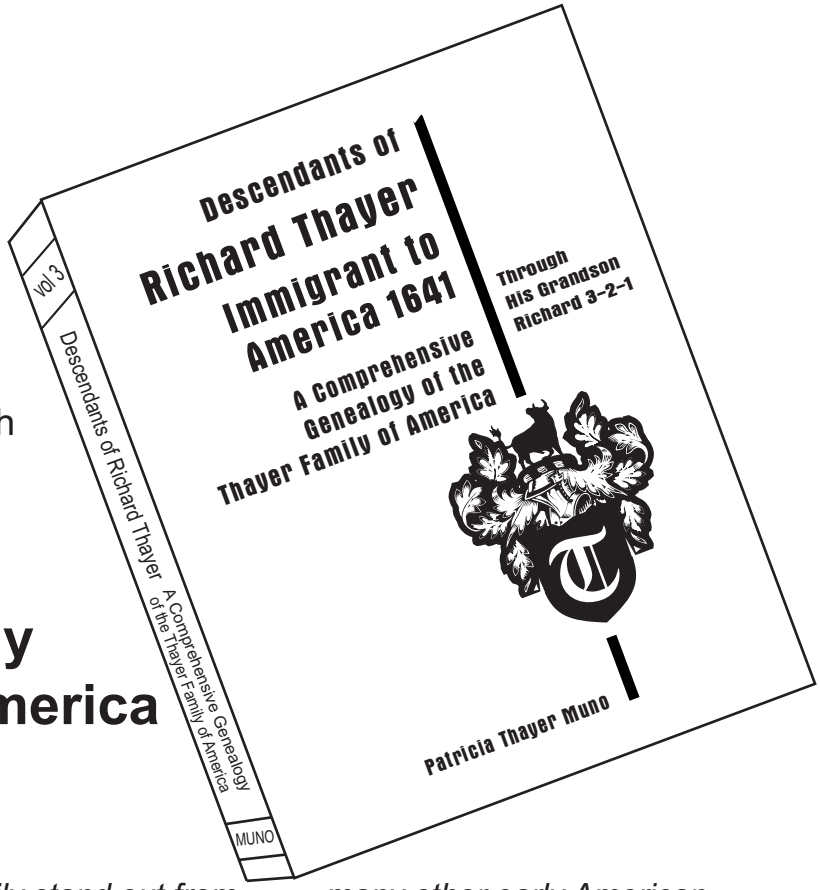

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CONTACTING THE TFA

www.ThayerFamily.com

For all official business with the TFA, please write the Secretary, Albert Thayer Morton:

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

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

Patricia Thayer Muno
Thayer Family Historian
3618 North 225 East
North Ogden, UT 84414-2762
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 Spring Issue is Feb 25th.