

the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Fall

Julia Olcott Thayer Tucker Adams (May 10, 1895 - July 27, 2000)



Julia Olcott Thayer as a little girl.

“Adams, Julia Thayer

“I was born at Rocky Arroyo, The second child of Walter Edward and Julia Shattuck Thayer. When I was three years old we moved to Dark Canyon in the Guadalupe Mountains. Both of my grandparents,

Captain John S. Shattuck and Julia Lyon Shattuck were school teachers, Captain Shattuck being the first County School Superintendent of Eddy County. They taught school at Seven Rivers and on Rocky. Grandmother was a teacher for two years.

“In 1914 I was married to Charles Tucker, and of this union two children were born; Elma Irene and Charles Thayer Tucker. In 1920 I was married to Henry Adams of Kansas, who had two children, Mary Ellen and Joe. Mr. Adams and I had two sons, Billy and Don. We lived in Texas, California and New Mexico, retiring in Carlsbad, New Mexico, in 1961. Mr. Adams passed away in 1969.

“Elma Tucker Thornton passed away in 1933, age 18 years. Joe Adams died of a heart attack in 1966. Mr. Adams passed away in 1969. Charles Tucker lives in Odessa, Texas; Mary Ellen Burke lives in Paradise, California; Billy lives in El Paso, Texas, and Don Adams in Farmington, New Mexico. I have sixteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

“In the early days before I was married I lived on a ranch in the Guadalupe Mountains. I remember some of the good times of my life. Special days were Christmas and Fourth of July. It did not make any difference how cold the December weather was, or how deep the snow, Santa Clause always found our home with toys for each child, and candy, nuts and an orange for every stocking hanging by the fireplace.

“On the Fourth of July we had a three day celebration either at Westwater or the X Bar Ranch with many games such as tournament races, horse races, etc., with a platform dance each night. In my family there were two boys and six girls, so some of

the older girls could ride with the cowboys. When I was fifteen years old, my daddy bought me a shopmade man's saddle, and gave it to me at the Westwater celebration, making me the first girl in the mountains to have a stride saddle. I was very proud of it.

“We had dances at some of the ranches once or twice a year with dancing starting at sundown, and lasting all night, with a break about midnight for a big feed, cakes, pies and coffee, and sometimes barbeque.

“We had a big orchard at the X Ranch with apples, apricots, peaches, pears, grapes, etc., and English and Black Walnuts, Almonds and Pecan trees. Mother always had a good garden, and canned fruit and vegetables all summer, and with our beef and pork, we did not have to come to town for food very often.”

(The above story was written by Julia Thayer Adams sometimes in the 1970's. The exact date is uncertain. It was found in some of her keepsakes and copied by her son, Billy.)



Walter E. and Julia Thayer, between 1890-1898.

Julia's⁹ lineage is as follows: Julia Olcott⁹, Walter Edward⁸, Ralph⁷, Stephen⁶, Abel⁵, Zachariah⁴, Nathaniel³, Richard²⁻¹ THAYER. Lineage verified by Jerry Thayer.



Four generations: Julia Shattock, Julia Shattock Thayer, Julia Ollcott Thayer Adams, Helen Tucker.

Editor's notes: this is a follow-on to the article that appeared in the Summer 2004 Issue, pages 12-13, also supplied by Bill Adams.

The painting in the Summer 2004 issue, on page 13, was painted by Julia's⁹ sister, Florence Thayer⁹, who married Leonard W. Seay.

Thanks Bill for sharing this wonderful letter and great pictures!

Helen Thayer's travels have taken her to the four corners of the earth

By Vince Richardson

BURLINGTON — When the goal is survival, there is no room for error. One either attains that goal or suffers what are some rather dire consequences.

Children, however, need not face such drastic circumstances in order to achieve goals. Goals of

any size can be set and attained as long as the individual is willing to put forth the necessary effort, show some determination and have a plan.

That was the message presented by explorer Helen Thayer at a pair of assemblies at Burlington's Lucille Umbarger School. Thayer is the president of Adventure Classroom, an educational project she developed to take the four corners of the world into the classroom with a motivational theme of setting goals and planning for success.

"If you have a goal without a plan, it's only a dream," Thayer said to the students. "Once you set a goal, you have to keep going. There have been a lot of times where I was determined to just take the next step. Those who can take that next step are the successful people in the world."

Thayer was accompanied by her husband of 42 years, Bill, a 77-year-old retired Guatemalan helicopter pilot. The couple live outside Granite Falls with their 18 goats, three alpacas, three dogs, three cats and a pair of donkeys.

Bill has accompanied his wife on several of her adventures.

The school presentations are based on Thayer's best-selling book, "Polar Dream," which takes readers on her month-long, 364-mile solo quest to the magnetic North Pole in 1988. Thayer was the first woman to solo to the magnetic North Pole, which lies some 600 miles above the Arctic Circle. The earth around the pole is frozen to a depth of 2,000 feet and the temperature hovers around 70 degrees below zero.

"There is nothing there but ice and wind," Thayer said. "Yet it is beautiful."

No goal is too great to be realized and the 66-year-old native of New Zealand who grew up just a farm away from possibly the greatest goal-setter of all time, (Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to scale Mount Everest) leads by example. Hillary wrote the forward in Thayer's book.

"We are an adventuresome lot," Thayer said of folks from New Zealand.

Having climbed mountains since the age of 9, Thayer has an explorational resume that reads like a National Geographic index, and, in fact, she was named one of the great explorers of the 20th Century by the magazine.

"She is just so captivating," Lucille Umbarger School administrator Kim Welling said. "The kids,

especially the younger ones, are usually antsy. They were mesmerized. She does a fantastic job promoting kids to set goals. We were looking for sort of a Christmas, polar-themed type of assembly and Helen was available."

Thayer set out to take those in attendance on a fantastic journey upon the frozen and constantly shifting ice sheets in a part of the world that is ultimately inhospitable.

"This was the most difficult journey I'd ever undertaken," Thayer said. "But I had set a goal and I was strong and confident that I was going to reach it. This was a milestone in a life of exploration.

"It was dangerous," she added. "There was always the threat of moving ice, incredibly strong winds and storms. But what worried me the most were polar bears."

Granted, Thayer had a rifle at her disposal, but only as a last resort. She was a visitor to the bear's habitat. She was the uninvited guest and shooting a bear was a situation she wished not to come to fruition.

With a flick of a switch, the children at the assemblies were transported to the ice sheets of the North Pole. As the slide show progressed, they were introduced to Charlie, the dog Thayer purchased from an Inuit villager for protection from bears. By journey's end, Charlie proved to be an extremely valuable asset.

She showed slides of the animals that call the frigid area home - walruses, musk oxen, arctic hares and foxes. Then it was off in search of the magnetic North Pole. Just Thayer, Charlie and a 160-pound sled she'd be pulling.

It wasn't long before the first polar bear appeared larger than life upon the screen. It was greeted with ooh's and aah's from the children.

"I saw my first polar bear on my second day," she recalled. "It had two cubs and it was very angry. Charlie was barking and jumping up and down. That scared the bear off."

Third-grader Donnelly Hailey was intimidated by seeing the slide of the bear.

"I like polar bears," she said. "But that one was scary. If I do that, I am going to bring a dog with me. It was really neat."

Polar Bear Pass lived up to its name as well. Charlie stopped Thayer in her tracks several yards from a large block of ice. It wasn't long before a

bear, the largest Thayer had every seen, stepped out from behind.

It charged and with a single swipe of its paw, flipped over her sled. Thayer reached down and unclipped Charlie as the bear was preparing to make another run toward her. Charlie raced at the big bear and took hold of its right rear leg. The bear shook Charlie loose, and with the dog in pursuit, ran off.

Then there was the storm.

Safely secured, or so she thought, hunkered down inside her tent to wait it out, suddenly there was a loud crack on one side and a grinding sound on the other. When Thayer finally emerged a day and a half later, she found herself on a 20-foot by 20-foot slab of ice that was on its way out to sea.

"I was on an ice island," she said. "So I had to use my ski poles to pull other pieces of ice closer to form bridges so I could make it to where the ice was thicker."

Twenty-one days out and seven days from her destination, Thayer was besieged by another storm. This storm, however, blew food and other supplies out of her sled. The gusts were so great they actually picked up Charlie. The dog, who was anchored to ice, could only be blown the length of his chain.

The loss of food and water was costly.

"With seven days to go, I had five walnuts to eat each day," she recalled. "Now the race was on because of the lack of food and water."

Thayer kept her predicament to herself.

"Each night she called and she always said she had food," Bill said. "She just never said how much. I was surprised as much as anyone else when I found out."

Seven days later, Thayer stood at the magnetic North Pole. She was dizzy from lack of food and severely dehydrated.

"I could barely stand up," she said. "I confirmed by position with my two-way radio and then began looking for a spot for a plane to land ... No one has walked to that place since I did."

On this day at Lucille Umbarger School, however, the explorer was a bit hobbled.

A car accident had managed to do what a myriad of adventures through some of the world's most unforgiving terrains couldn't - force Thayer onto crutches. She sat for the duration of her slide presentation.

It took a car accident to slow her down.

Something a 2,400-mile trek on foot across the Sahara Desert in 1996 or a 1,200-mile kayak trip through the Amazon on the waters of the Irixana and Jaquere rivers in 1995 couldn't.

Even a 1,500-mile walk across the Mongolian Gobi Desert didn't render her ambulatory, despite the fact a falling camel sent most of her and Bill's water supply onto the parched sands.

Thayer, however, isn't letting an auto accident put a crimp in her plans. This is a minor setback and that's all. Her goal of walking across China remains to be reached.

"As soon as I am off these things, we will head to China," Thayer said. "That's the next thing. This isn't going to stop me from attaining that goal. I'm still going."

With a big grin, Thayer quickly finds a silver lining in her inability to readily get around.

"At least this has given me an opportunity to catch up on my writing," she said with an infectious laugh.

Her second book, "Among the Wolves," due out in April or May, chronicles the couple's - along with their dog Charlie - year-long stint in the Canadian Yukon and Northwest territories observing three families of wild wolves at their den site, hunting range and on sea ice.

Feats of Exploration

First woman to solo to the magnetic North Pole - 1988.

First woman to solo either of the world's poles.

American leader of the first USA/Russian Arctic Women's Expedition to Siberia and Soviet Polar Islands - 1990.

Part of first married couple to walk unsupported to any of the world's Poles (magnetic North Pole) - 1992. Bill Thayer, at 65 years old, is the oldest person to walk to the pole pulling his own sled and without being resupplied.

First to kayak two rivers (Irixana, Jaquere) for 1,200 miles within the Amazon rain forest - 1995.

First woman to walk 1,500 miles through Death Valley, Mojave, the American and Mexican Sonoran deserts in a study of high and low altitude deserts.

Climbed the highest mountains in North and South America, New Zealand and Tajikistan. (Altitudes of up to 24,490 feet)

First woman to cross the 2,400 miles of the Sahara Desert on foot, following an ancient camel trade

route - 1996.

Walked 400 miles solo and unsupported in Antarctica for 60th birthday - 1997.

Along with her husband, trekked 600 miles with the largest caribou herd in the world, over 500,000 animals, as they followed their migration route from wintering grounds in southern Alaska to the North Slope calving grounds - 1998.

Walked 1,200 miles through New Zealand studying the Moari culture - 1999.

First woman to walk across the 1,500 miles expanse of the Mongolian Desert - 2001.

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Article first appeared 25 Dec 2003, Skagit Valley Herald, Mount Vernon, WA. Reprinted with permission. ☒

Thayer Town/County, Nebraska

by Valeria Thayer

In the Summer TQ [2003] Issue a query appeared asking for any information on the town of Thayer in Nebraska. I found the following information in these two books; Nebraska Place-Names 1960 Lillian L. Fitzpatrick; The Origin of the Place Names of Nebraska 1933 J. T. Link.

“Thayer County was originally called Jefferson County. It was given its present name in 1870 in honor of General John Milton Thayer, United States Senator from Nebraska, 1867-1871, and Governor of Nebraska, 1887-1892.

“Thayer, named in honor of General John Milton Thayer of Nebraska, who fought in the Civil War, after whom Thayer County was named. The precinct has the same name.”

The town of Thayer is no longer listed on maps but until recently when traveling Highway 82, a roadside sign stated “Thayer 5” pointing to the east. Although I had often thought of driving to the town, we never seemed to have the time. Now that I have time, I do not drive anymore.

Editor's note: Thanks Valeria for this information and the answer to our query. ☒

Corrections

Winter 1997/1998, Page 3, article: Unusual Markers, lineage listed incorrectly states Ebenezer⁶; this should read Uriah⁶.

Spring 1998, Page 10, article: Golden Anniversary, lineage listed incorrectly states Ebenezer⁶; this should read Uriah⁶.

Although these are old issues, I want to ensure the most accurate information is published in your newsletter for those using it for research, even if it takes years to realize the error. Thanks Jerry Thayer for the assistance with this line. -Editor ☒

Obituary - Angela M. Hedglen

Angela M. “Angel” Hedglen, 20, of Manistique, Mich., died Friday, March 12, 2004, in a motor vehicle accident in Mueller Township.

She was born March 27, 1983, in Marinette, Wis., the daughter of Forest and Susan (Thayer) Hedglen of Manistique. She moved to Newberry, Mich., as a child and graduated from the Newberry High School in the Class of 2001. She was presently attending Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

She worked in the family garden and greenhouse business and loved to spend time with her family.

Survivors include: her parents, Forest and Susan Hedglen of Manistique; three sisters, April (Jason) Collins of Manistique and Amanda Hedglen and Ashley Hedglen of Newberry; grandmother, Judy Thayer of Marinette; nephew Gunnar Collins; along with several aunts, uncles and cousins.

One sister, Theresa Lee Hedglen, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on Monday, March 15, at the Messier-Broullire Funeral Home in Manistique with Reverend Cheri Ford officiating. Burial will be in the Fairview Cemetery in Manistique.

Angela's¹⁴ lineage is as follows: Angela HEDGLEN¹⁴, Ausan Rebecca THAYER¹³, Theron V.¹², Leon W.¹¹, Franklin S.¹⁰, George N.⁹, Martin G.⁸, Jonah⁷, Josiah⁶, Jonathan⁵⁻⁴⁻³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹ THAYER. Lineage provided by Jerry Thayer. ☒

ATTENTION ALL THAYERS!

It may seem a little early to remind all cousins about our reunion at Abingdon, Virginia in 2005; but the nature of the occasion calls for early planning. We will have as guests several cousins from around the U.S. who are members of The Thayer Families Association. The TFA is headquartered in Braintree, Massachusetts where our forefather, Thomas Thayer settled in 1637. I cannot predict the number of guests we will have but some have already made their reservations at the Martha Washington Inn. To allow our visiting cousins a special treat we have scheduled our eighth consecutive reunion to coincide with the opening day of the Highlands Festival. That will allow them an experience beyond simply meeting all of us at a reunion.

As I write this letter I reflect on our first reunion in 1998 when we had over a hundred in attendance. Most were local cousins living in Virginia, but we had family members from Florida, Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. If you were there you will remember the picture making event and the rain shower that followed. I hope you also remember the abundant meal and fellowship. The afternoon meeting was a bit long but I erroneously assumed that everyone would be interested in family genealogy, and would like to know where each person fit into the family tree. I hope my being so talkative was not the reason our attendance has been down in each of the years since. Certainly, our 2005 event will be a new experience, and I hope you will plan now to attend the reunion and participate in events. We will give our northern, eastern, and western friends a sample of southern hospitality.

Here are the tentative plans.

Friday, July 29, 2005

2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Tour of Abingdon with stops at the Barter Theatre and Martha Washington Inn, Knollkreg Memorial Park, Whites Mill, Rich Valley United Methodist Church, and Mt. View United Methodist Church (with minimum of 12).

5:00 p.m., Supper for TFA Board Members.

6:00 p.m., TFA Board Meeting.

8:00 p.m., Barter play & Highlands Festival Events - available at cost

Saturday, July 30, 2005

10:00 a.m., Set-up and registration at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. (Thayer reunions were held here from 1900 until the late 30's).

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Silent Auction of Thayer made items to cover our expenses.

12:00 Noon, Beef barbecue lunch with slaw, vegetables, dessert and drinks. (\$6.52 includes tax).

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Swimming pool open.

1:30 p.m., Joint meeting of TFA and local Thayer cousins/relatives.

5:30 p.m., Banquet at Emory & Henry College and entertainment. (All invited but meal cost will be approximately \$15).

8:00 p.m., Barter Theatre play and Highlands Festival activities - available at cost - price varies with performances, usually from \$22-\$28.

Sunday, July 31, 2005

11:00 a.m., Morning Worship at Mt. View United Methodist Church.

12:00 p.m., Covered Dish Lunch for Congregation (Thayer visitors welcome)

James Thayer, Jr. and I recently attended the TFA meeting at Braintree on June 26, and made a presentation about these plans. Interest among our cousins there was keen, so Jimmy and I returned home with enthusiasm. There are many details to be worked out, but our Abingdon Committee will be meeting soon for that purpose. If you would like to serve on that committee, or if you have suggestions, please let me know. We want to make the 2005 Thayer-TFA Reunion the greatest Abingdon Thayer event ever, and with your help we can be successful. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Also, encourage other family members to get out and meet cousins from around the country.

This word of advice to anyone who needs a place to stay in Abingdon: Make reservations now or as soon as possible. Since thousands will be attending the Highlands Festival opening, which coincides with our Saturday reunion, motel reservations at a late date will be impossible.

In any case, PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND OUR THAYER REUNION IN 2005.

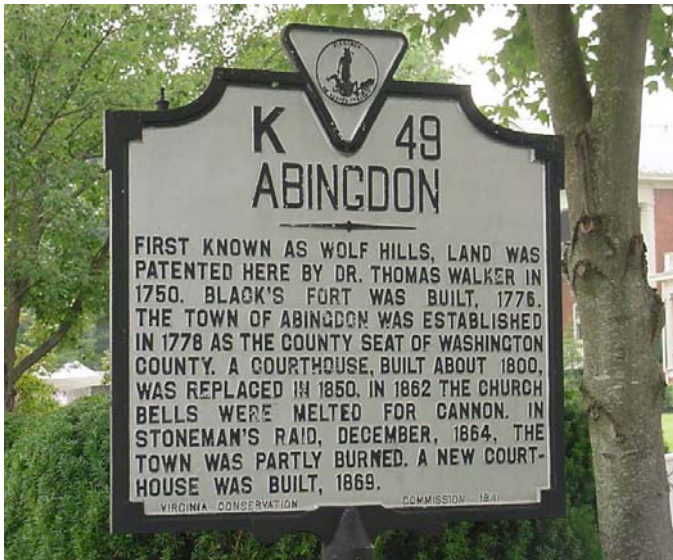
Sincerely,
Garland Thayer, email: jg.thayer@comcast.net ☒

In an effort to inform all our readers about our 2005 Reunion to be held in Abingdon, VA, the following is a press release from the Abingdon Convention and Visitors Bureau and is a great introduction to what Abingdon has to offer.

Watch for more articles that will describe specific sites in Abingdon in future issues. -Editor

ABINGDON, VIRGINIA ARTS OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS!

Every town has a history, some just seem to have more than others...



Abingdon Virginia, the county seat of Washington County, enjoys a long and distinguished history. But don't think of this oldest town west of the Blue Ridge Mountains as a museum - modern amenities flourish alongside 200-year-old landmarks in Abingdon's blend of the venerable and the new.

Lying just west of the Blue Ridge Mountains on land that was once revered by Native Americans and jealously sought after by the white men, Abingdon is nestled in the foothills of the Appalachians and secured in the valley formed by the Holston River. When the area was a rugged wilderness, the Cherokee nation lived to the South, while the Shawnee made their home to the North along the Ohio River. However, neither made the Abingdon area their home. Legend has it that the Great Spirit forbade them to come to this lush area because the living would be too easy and the inhabitants would become corrupt.

During the years 1748-1750, Doctor Thomas Walker surveyed for himself 6870 acres of this prime land west of the Blue Ridge. In 1760, Colonel William Byrd and his regiment of men cut the Great Road through what is now Abingdon and on to present-day Kingsport, Tennessee. During that same year, Daniel Boone came and camped in Abingdon. Along with his companion, Nathaniel Gist, he was on his way through the area on a hunting trip. While they camped here, wolves emerged from a cave before them and attacked their dogs. Boone then gave Abingdon its first name, "Wolf Hills." Today, the Cave House Craft Shop sits on the site of the wolves' den.

Abingdon carried the name of "Wolf Hills" until 1774 when Joseph Black erected a fort in the area, and gave it the name "Black's Fort." After fierce Indian invasions, the fort was enlarged to hold up to 600 men, women, and children. Here, the townspeople remained during the raiding season from early spring to late fall.

In December of 1776, the General Assembly of Virginia established the present-day Washington County. It was among the first regions in the world named after the great general and Father of our Country. Black's Fort was designated the county seat of Washington County, and remained so until the incorporation of the town of Abingdon in 1778. The town's name was derived from Martha Washington's ancestral English home of Abingdon Parish near Oxfordshire in England. This loyalty to the Washington family, especially Martha, was to continue throughout Abingdon's history.

Modern-day Abingdon continues to offer historical riches, updated to 21st-century luxury and tastes. The centerpiece of the downtown area is the elegant Martha Washington Inn, completed in 1832 as the home of General Francis Preston and his wife Sarah. General Preston, a former Congressman and officer in the Virginia militia, and Sarah, a niece of Patrick Henry, began construction in 1830 on the building which now serves as the Inn's central structure.

After stints serving as a sanctuary and hospital during the Civil War, as the Martha Washington College for Women, and as a boarding house to Barter Theatre actors during the Depression, the Inn opened its doors to the public in 1935. The Martha Washington Inn today is a Four-Star, Historic Hotel

of America lovingly renovated and refurbished to reflect the charm of its creation. Featuring luxurious accommodations furnished in period antiques, two restaurants, a private club, gift shop, and a grand ballroom, the Inn is a magnet drawing guests from near and far to sample its outstanding amenities.

Abingdon has long been a center for the arts in the region and nowhere else is this better demonstrated than at the world-famous Barter Theatre. Actor Robert Porterfield founded Virginia's State Theatre, the Barter Theatre, during the Depression of the 1930s. The Barter takes its name from the former practice of accepting "35 cents or the equivalent in produce" as the price of admission. During the theatre's first season, this method of trading "ham for Hamlet" netted \$4.35 in cash, two barrels of jelly, and a collective weight gain among the actors of more than 300 pounds. Over the years, the Theatre has garnered a top-flight professional reputation. Ernest Borgnine, Hume Cronyn, Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins, Barry Corbin, and Jerry Hardin - just to name a few - are counted among Barter alumni. Classic and contemporary, Broadway hits and world premiers are all standard "fare" at Barter Theatre and Barter Stage II.

Abingdon's William King Regional Arts Center, a Partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, offers



a rotating schedule of regional and national exhibits, an outdoor sculpture garden, working studios for artists, a museum store, and classes in fine arts and crafts. Also featuring the finest in arts and artists is the Arts Depot. Located in a former rail freight depot, the Arts Depot is home to artists-in-residence, galleries, and more.

Focusing on the arts and culture of the region is the Virginia Highlands Festival. Held the first two weeks of August, the Virginia Highlands Festival highlights regional art, history, and culture. Begun to celebrate and preserve the cultural heritage of the area, the festival continues that spirit but has expanded over the years to also include a variety of nationally known writers, lecturers, and visual performing arts among its program participants. The Virginia Highlands Festival draws over 250,000 visitors annually and boasts one of the largest antique markets in the southern United States. It has received numerous awards, including the designation as one of the Top 100 Tourist Events in North America.

Many other attractions and sites in downtown Abingdon are Registered National Historic Sites. The town's 20-square-block "official" Historic District contains many fine examples of Federal and Victorian architectural styles.

Abingdon boasts more excellent restaurants, pubs, and eateries than most towns of comparable size. Besides the Martha Washington Inn, notable dining and drinking establishments include the Starving Artist Cafe, which doubles as a local art gallery; Withers Hardware Company, offering fine food in a renovated hardware store; the Tavern, Abingdon's oldest building dating from 1779; and The Peppermill, offering great fare in a contemporary setting. And, that's just a sampling! There are dozens more great eateries for every taste and budget.

In addition to the Martha Washington Inn, other choices for lodging include several comfortable motels, as well as numerous bed and breakfast inns within and around Abingdon. Most of the bed and breakfast inns are within walking distance of most Abingdon attractions.

Shopping opportunities also abound in Abingdon proper. The town has a number of upscale clothing, antique, and other specialty shops. The Cave House Craft Shop, a Victorian structure built in 1857 is a Registered National Historic Site. The Cave House now is home to the Holston Mountain Arts and Crafts Cooperative. Stop in to admire its ante-bellum architecture - walnut doorjambes and mantels, George Washington windows and a three-story walnut stair railing. Among the novel Appalachian craft items offered for sale here are fine wood furniture, metal

and stained glass, fine art and photography, dulcimers, caned chairs, quilts, and clothing, all made with pride by regional artisans. Many other beautifully restored historic buildings in Abingdon also serve as shops offering a variety of merchandise from arts and crafts to gifts, specialties, fashions, and antiques.

Just down U.S. Highway 11, in the “Decorator District,” is Dixie Pottery. The Pottery’s slogan is “Shop the world,” and the world comes to Dixie to shop. On any given day, the parking lot at the Pottery reveals license plates from all points of the compass. Vans, trucks, and cars laden with tourists and goods from around North America begin their trek back home, groaning under the weight of porcelain, glassware, and other treasures. If it’s decorative, functional, or both, chances are Dixie Pottery has it in abundance - kitchen and bathwares, gadgets, homemade candies, pottery, brass, straw, cane, wicker, and bamboo.

Many shoppers and history buffs seize the opportunity to visit White’s Mill, listed on the



National Register of Historic Places. Tucked away in a scenic, fertile valley along a meandering stream, four miles from Abingdon, White’s Mill is the only water-powered, commercially run mill still operating in Southwest Virginia. The mill is a rare example of

a combination mill which can be run by the traditional burr (millstone) method introduced in the 19th century. Visitors may browse in the general store across from the Mill and experience the atmosphere of an early 20th-century store. Specialty goods and crafts, gifts, antiques, and, of course, fresh-milled flour and cornmeal are offered.

Situated in hilly terrain at 2,300 feet above sea level, Abingdon enjoys magnificent views of the surrounding mountains. Blessed with mild winters, cool summers, spectacular falls, and breezy springs, Abingdon’s Southern hospitality and genteel mode of living have made the town a favorite for visitors from near and far. Nature has not spared her bounty in this part of the country - here you will find the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, the Virginia Creeper and Appalachian Trails, the scenic forks of the Holston River and South Holston Lake, and some of the highest mountains in the Eastern United States.

The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, covering 115,000 acres in Washington and neighboring counties, boasts the three highest mountains in Virginia, including Mount Rogers (5,729 feet) and Whitetop Mountain (5,540 feet). The Mount Rogers Area has more than 300 miles of trails and encompasses more than 60 miles of the Appalachian Trail, the East’s premier hiking trail. Some trails are also used as cross-country skiing trails during the winter months. Several of the trails form complete circuits, allowing hikers to drive to a particular point, hike for a given length of time and return to their automobiles. Camping is also a popular pastime around Mount Rogers. Regular camping season at most campgrounds is April to mid-November but some campgrounds stay open year-round for cross-country skiers and winter aficionados.

The popular Virginia Creeper Trail originates just off Main Street in Historic Abingdon. The trail follows the former railbed of the Virginia-Carolina Railroad for 34 miles from Abingdon through Damascus, Virginia to the top of Whitetop Mountain near the Virginia-North Carolina border. The railbed, in turn, occupied the route of a major Native American trail leading from present-day North Carolina to the Ohio River. Many communities in former days relied upon the lumber railroad for transportation although its nickname, The Virginia


Creeper, referred to the engine's snail's pace as well



as to the vines growing beside the tracks.

Native Americans and Daniel Boone once traversed this trail, and it now has come full circle as a treat for hikers, bikers, horseback riders, strollers, bird watchers, wildflower enthusiasts and nature lovers. Four of Boone's campsites are documented along the trail. Numerous points for automobile parking allow portions of the trail to be followed without having to travel the entire route.

Fishing and boating opportunities also abound near Abingdon, with its three forks of the Holston River beckoning fishermen for miles around. Boating aficionados can discover many water sports opportunities at South Holston Lake, a TVA lake formed at the confluence of the middle and south forks of the river.

So, whether you're looking for fine food and lodging, superb arts, beautiful surroundings, homegrown crafts, splendid shopping, or just a leisurely stroll down the brick lanes of one of the nation's pre-eminent historic districts, come to Abingdon. As a place for sampling history or Southern hospitality, we think you'll agree that this Virginia Historic Landmark is unparalleled, for here you truly will find "Arts of Historic Proportions!" 

Note from the Editor for all Readers!


As I finish this issue, I am running out of articles that I use to layout the various issues. PLEASE, if you have any family articles, clippings from a newspaper that are Thayer related, research you have done, genealogy tips, send them to the Editor at the address on the back page. Thank you.

New Civil War Veteran

Jerry Thayer writes: Don Thayer has come up with another confederate soldier in his family. Kendrick Thayer son of Wyatt Nance Thayer & Cassandra Herne was a confederate soldier and died of his wounds. His line is: Kendrick⁸ (1840-1863), Wyatt N.⁷ (1816-1885), James⁶ (abt 1775-1834), Abner⁵ (1737-1787), Nathaniel⁴ (1708-1787), Isaac³ (abt 1672-1754), Ferdinando² (1625-1712), Thomas¹.

Here is what Don sent via email to Jerry:

Kindrick Thayer was the brother of my Grandfather, Nereus Mendenhall Thayer. Kindrick Thayer Died of wounds, obtained at Suffolk, VA, Wilson County, NC; Memorial stone provides the dates 1840-1862; Memorial Stone; Row 12, #4 Eleazer Methodist Church Cemetery, Randolph County, "In Memory of Kendrick Thayer, Co. B. 52 Regt., NC State Troops CSA." I now believe that he died June 15, 1863 and is buried in the Maplewood Cemetery, Wilson, NC. (in Mound with 203 other Confederate Soldiers that died in Wilson during the War) Source Lee Carson, Gen. William Dorsey Pender Camp #1916, Wilson, NC. I have a copy of his Civil War Records.

Don Thayer 

Lodging Information, Reunion 2005

In an effort to supply you with information on the reunion in 2005, the following list of hotels/lodging is available in the Abingdon area. Please arrange your own lodging, or through a reputable travel agent, as early as possible due to other events happening in the area at the same time. Addresses, phone numbers, and websites are provided below:

Abingdon's Martha Washington Inn
150 W. Main St., I-81, Exit 17
1-888-888-5252 or (276)-628-3161

Alpine Motel
882 E. Main St., I-81, Exit 19 (276)-628-3178

Comfort Inn
170 Joneboro Rd., I-81, Exit 14
1-800-221-2222 or (276)-676-2222

Days Inn
887 Empire Dr., I-81, Exit 19 (276)-628-7131

Hampton Inn
340 Commerce Dr., I-81, Exit 17
1-800-426-7866 or (276)-619-4600

Holiday Inn Express
940 E. Main St., I-81, Exit 19
1-800-465-4329 or (276)-676-2829

Quality Inn and Suites
930 E. Main St., I-81, Exit 19
1-877-424-6423 or (276)-676-9090

Super 8 Motel
298 Towne Centre Dr., I-81, Exit 17
1-800-800-8000 or (276)-676-3329

A Taylor's Lodging www.atailorslodging.com
119 Park St., SE
1-800-519-9960, at prompt enter 01 or (276)-628-7119

Abingdon Boarding House and Wolf Hills Inn
116 E. Main St. -- 112 E. Main St.
(276)-628-9344 or (276)-608-1263
www.abingdonboardinghouse.com

Black's Fort Inn www.blacksfortstable.com
410 Green Spring Rd. (276)-628-6263

The Copper Lantern Inn www.copperlanterninn.com
133 E. Valley St. (726)-739-2308

The Crooked Cabin www.crookedcabin.com
303 E. Main St. (276)-628-9583

Inn On Town Creek www.innontowncreek.com
445 E. Valley St. (276)-628-4560

The Love House www.abingdon-virginia.com
210 E. Valley St.
1-800-475-5494 or (276)-623-1281

The Meadow Cottage www.crookedcabin.com
469 1/2 Walden Rd.
(276)-628-9583

Old Abingdon B & B www.oldabingdon.com
200 Pecan St.
1-877-623-1887 or (276)-623-1887

The Shepherd's Joy www.shepherdsjoy.com
254 White's Mill Rd. (276)-628-3273

Summerfield Inn www.summerfieldinn.com
101 W. Valley St.
1-800-668-5905 or (276)-628-5905

Victoria & Albert Inn www.abingdon-virginia.com
224 Oak Hill St.
1-800-475-5494 or (276)-676-2797

White Birches Inn www.whitebirchesinn.com
268 White's Mill Rd.
1-800 BIRCHES or (276)-676-2140 ☒

Owner plans improvements at mill complex

By Jennifer Pollack / News Staff Writer
Milford Daily News Monday, September 22, 2003

MEDWAY -- A relic of Medway's past is getting a new look to keep it a vital part of the town.

Medway Mill on Rte. 109, directly across from Choate Park, was built circa 1827 by Cephas Thayer as a stone mill that manufactured machinery for cotton and woolen goods, according to town historian Francis Donovan.

On July 1, Michael and Carolyn Kornitzer bought the mill from the Rojee family with the intention of refurbishing the buildings, which now house various commercial and industrial businesses, to make it more of a focal point for life in town.

"It's staying as a family-type business as opposed to being developed or sold off in pieces," said Michael Kornitzer.

He said he believes the property is one of the most important in town because there is so little commercial and industrial space left, especially with frontage on Rte. 109.

"There's no cheap space on the property, but there's a great value here. For local people this is clearly the best value there is in town," he said.

Kornitzer said since they bought the 7 1/2-acre property, there have been many changes. They separated the commercial and industrial tenants, making the building that fronts Rte. 109 office and commercial space. There has also been beautification work such as painting, carpeting, landscaping, gutter and drain work, and adding an indoor mailroom and vending area.

“All of the buildings on the property are structurally sound. We started with a really good platform. The property is brick and steel,” he said.

“Most of what needs to be done with this property is aesthetic.”

Kornitzer said the original footings of the stone wheel are still present. The mill was powered by Chicken Brook, which runs under the building. The damming of Chicken Brook created Choate Pond.

“There’s a hatch in the building and you can open the hatch and go down and stand where the water runs under the building. You can see the footprint in stone of where the wheel used to sit,” he said.

Donovan said Thayer’s business lasted until around the turn of the century. Thayer was born in Bellingham in 1789 and moved to Medway in 1813. He was initially apprenticed in cabinetmaking to Major Luther Metcalf, who became a famous furniture maker. Thayer opened the mill with Metcalf and business partner Joel Hunt because, “cotton was becoming a big thing in this country at the time,” Donovan said.

Donovan said there were several mills in the area, but they started to die out after the Civil War.

“The Civil War was the last big gasp of the Medway mills because they made blankets and shoes for the Army,” he said. “They kept going for a while, but it wasn’t the same.”

Details of who owned the mill and when are sketchy, Donovan said. There may have been other owners in between, but Donovan said in the first half of the 1900s it was owned by a man named Buckholdt and maintained as a wool spinning business. Donovan said he worked for that company in the 1950s as a yarn weigher.

In the 1960s or 1970s, Donovan said, United Shoe Machine Co. and its subsidiary, United Awl Co., occupied the building, making machines that made shoes. That was the last time the mill was home to a single business.

Kornitzer said the Rojees bought the mill about 1995, leasing it to various tenants using the name Chicken Brook. When Kornitzer bought the property he chose the name Medway Mill -- something he thought was an obvious yet original choice.

Kornitzer ordered a new sign to put on the building with the name of Medway Mill. When they took off the old sign there was another granite sign

underneath with the same name Kornitzer had chosen.

“The history from 1940 to 1980 is very sketchy and at one point during that time there was a company that owned it called Medway Mills,” he said.

Some of the tenants present under the Rojee’s ownership have stayed on since Kornitzer bought the property, while some new tenants have joined. Kornitzer said there is currently about a 10 percent vacancy rate.

His vision for the property is to have businesses or offices in the main building with industrial tenants in the back.

Current family oriented businesses include The Medway Dance Authority, the New England Christian Performing Arts Center and TMI Self Defense, which teaches Korean martial arts. Offices include Hubtel.com, a telephone systems company, and Nobilis, a software company. Some industrial tenants include J&S Plumbing and Fasolino Home Improvement.

“We want tenants that invite community and families,” he said. “I’ve got four kids and one on the way, and that’s why I’m here.”

Kornitzer said he will continue to renovate the property and estimates it would take about three years to finish. He said the goal is to do a little something everyday, such as putting new light fixtures in the common areas and fixing broken windows to make the building more inviting.

At some point, Kornitzer said, he may explore building on the untouched pieces of the property.

Jennifer Pollack can be reached at 508-634-7583 or jpollack@cnc.com.

Editor’s note: Medway is located in Norfolk County, Massachusetts. Article was submitted by Family Representative Susan Jane Gardner and was forwarded by Patricia Thayer Muno. Reprinted with permission. Cephas’s⁷ lineage is as follows: Cephas⁷, Calvin⁶, Ebenezer⁵⁻⁴⁻³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹ THAYER. Lineage verified by Patricia Muno and Jerry Thayer. ☒



Eldora Brower remembered as city's 'tulip lady'

City greenhouse employee served as Volksparade grand marshal in 2001

By Roel Garcia

Staff writer, The Holland Sentinel, Holland, Michigan

Holland lost its 'tulip lady' Monday.

Eldora Brower, 85, who had worked at the city greenhouse for about 25 years, died at Holland Community Hospital.

Brian Creek, Holland's superintendent of parks and cemeteries, said Brower was in charge of planting tulips in small green plastic pots, a job she relished and performed with delicacy and care.

"I don't know how many thousands of those pots there are. Eldora planted tulips in all of them," Creek said. "She planted them back in October. You'll see them all over floats and the streets during this Tulip Time."

Brower was grand marshal of the Volksparade at the 2001 Tulip Time.

"She is our hidden treasure, working in the background," said Mary Duistermars, then Tulip Time president, in making the announcement of Brower's selection as grand marshal.

Creek said that Brower had a magical green thumb when it came to plants and flowers. He attributes this to her positive attitude.

"She was a nurturing and positive person," Creek said. "She felt a great sense of pride and responsibility for the plants." Lynn Wiersma, Brower's daughter, said her mother simply loved people.

"She had such a heart for everyone," Wiersma said. "She had a genuine warmth for everyone, it made no difference who you were."

Wiersma said her mother was dedicated to her job at the greenhouse. Although Wiersma said her mother didn't have much of a garden before working with the city, she enjoyed her time with her "babies," the tulips.

"She was planning on going to work today (Monday) if this hadn't happened to her," Wiersma said of her mother, who fell down Sunday. "She put in her six hours a day and said 'I gotta go to work. It's Tulip Time.'"

Wiersma said her mother rarely missed a day of work. Brower suffered three strokes and a broken leg but still persisted with her job.

"When she broke her leg, she said she didn't want to go to the hospital until she finished working with the plants," Wiersma said. "She was supposed to be out for six weeks but went back to work after only two weeks. She loved her job."

Steve Zwiep, greenhouse manager, worked with Brower for 15 years.

"Back when I first started there, she was about 70 or 71," Zwiep said. "She could outwork any college student we had working here at the time."

Zwiep said Brower's death will leave a big void at the greenhouse.

"She loved her job," Zwiep said. "Even when the city didn't have money for the part-time position, she volunteered her time."

Brower is survived by two daughters, Wiersma and Louann Looman, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brower will be cremated and a memorial service will be held next week.

Article suggestion by Richard Dean Thayer, reprinted with permission, The Holland Sentinel. Article originally ran April 6, 2004.

Editor's note: Eldora May Brower was my father's (Richard Dean Thayer) aunt; she was the sister to his mother, Maude Lucille Rinehart, who married Ira Nobel Thayer. Eldora was the daughter of Lester Bernard Rinehart and Lucy Lovina Parker. Eldora was married to William Brower. ☐

Holland mourns loss of 'tulip lady'

Eldora Brower treasured growing things, particularly tulips. She made sure thousands of the flowers were ready for Tulip Time each year.

by John Tunison, The Grand Rapids Press. Grand Rapids, Mich., Apr 6, 2004. pg. A. 1.

HOLLAND -- Even as she aged well into her 70s, Holland's "tulip lady" could plant more flowers and turn more dirt than co-workers one-quarter her age.

“She could outwork the college kids that were here,” said Steve Zwiep, manager of Holland City’s greenhouses.

Zwiep shared fond memories Monday of the woman many knew as the caretaker of Tulip Time’s main attraction.

Eldora Brower, 85, died Monday after suffering a fall at her home Sunday.

Friends, city staff and festival officials remembered Mrs. Brower as a dedicated city parks employee who treasured growing things, especially the venerable tulip. While most her age are retired, Mrs. Brower came to the city greenhouse every day to toil in the dirt and make sure thousands of flowers were ready for Tulip Time.

“She was just a wonderful inspiration to everyone,” said Brian Creek, city parks and cemeteries manager. “She loved working in the greenhouse.

“I think she felt a real strong connection to plants and growing things. She was a very nurturing person,” he said.

For years, Mrs. Brower has been responsible for planting all of the 12,000 potted tulips that make their way to the various floats showcased in the festival’s three parades. She also was adept at making tulip bouquets and corsages carried and worn by Tulip Time dignitaries.

“This certainly is the end of an era,” Creek said.

Mrs. Brower, a retired seamstress, began working part time for the city parks department in 1980. Over the years, she became known as the “tulip lady.”

To her, the job was more of a calling. Like clockwork, she would arrive early in the morning at the city greenhouse.

Tulip Time honored her devotion and “green thumb” in 2001 by naming her the grand marshal of the Volksparade. She rode in a horse-drawn carriage during the parade that year and carried a bouquet of tulips she grew.

A year earlier, Mrs. Brower was the first recipient of an award to recognize city employees for work beyond the call of duty.

Lynn Wiersma said her mother never was completely comfortable with the recognition and remained humble throughout her life.

“She would tell us ‘I don’t know why they would pick me,’ “ she said.

Wiersma said the city’s plants frequently were on her mother’s mind. Saturday, while visiting a granddaughter with triplets, she talked about going to the greenhouses to open windows because the sun had come out and would heat the air inside too much.

“It was her love. She had more dirt under her fingers than anybody,” her daughter said.

Holland Mayor Al McGeehan said Mrs. Brower was well known among other city employees. Every year at Tulip Time, Mrs. Brower would pin a tulip onto his Dutch costume for the Volksparade.

“This year, when I pin the tulip on, I’ll think of her,” he said. “She was a beautiful lady who always found beauty in the flowers and the planting that was her handiwork.”

After Tulip Time, Mrs. Brower’s attention turned to sprucing up the city’s various parks with annual flowers. She remained busy through each summer and fall.

Even after suffering three strokes in the last several years, Mrs. Brower still had a sharp wit and could trade barbs with anyone.

“If we would tease her about anything, she would give it right back to us,” Zwiep said.

Obituary Eldora Brower, 85

Eldora M. Brower, 85, of Holland, died Monday, April 5, 2003, in Holland Community Hospital.

Born in Galesburg, she was a charter member of Christ Memorial Reformed Church and had been employed by the Holland City Park Dept. for 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William, in 1980.

Surviving are her children, Lynn and Larry Wiersma, and Louann Looman, all of Holland; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; in-laws, Mrs. Clyde (Alice) Rinehart of Kalamazoo, and Lawrence Bloss of Dunningville.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Christ Memorial Reformed Church, 595 Graafschap Rd., with the Revs. Michael Pitsenberger and Bill Boersma officiating. Burial will be in Restlawn Memorial Gardens.

Visiting will follow the service.

Memorials may be made to Christ Memorial Reformed Church Memorial Fund.

Arrangements are by the Notier-Ver Lee-Langeland Funeral Chapel.

The Holland Sentinel, obituary originally ran April 8, 2004. ☒

Things Thayer...

Jerry and Judy Thayer of Hampton, VA took the picture below in Hardwick, Caledonia County, VT while on one of their many journeys in July 2003.

They state that this restaurant is operated by Herbert and Karen Thayer.

Thanks Jerry and Judy for this great photo. ☒



From the Editor's Email Bag...

[received 29 July 2004, from James B. Case]

The Editor,

I have just received the June issue of *The Thayer Quarterly* and, in reading it, came across the article "Poem in honor of Sarah Thayer (1672-1751)" which, because I am a descendent (through my father) of Ephraim Thayer and Sarah Bass through their daughter Sarah, I read with much interest. I then proceeded to scan the "Travel Journal of Janet Blicke" and noted the reference to the town of Hanford. I graduated from Hanford High School (in

1946), my father and mother are buried there, and my brother still lives there. Thus, unknowingly, Janet Blicke had some additional very distant cousins in Hanford. And, of course, I was unaware that there were Thayer cousins in Hanford. I guess, given the passage of time, there must be Thayer cousins in almost every town in America.

James B. (Jim) Case

Further correspondence with Jim, 01 Aug 2004:

Lee, I'll look forward to seeing my email in the Fall issue. I have listed below a much-abbreviated lineage from Sarah Thayer to me:

- Sarah Thayer married Seth Dorman
- Daughter Mercy Dorman married Benjamin Porter
- Son Noah Porter married Asenath Smith
- Son Noah Porter married Nabby Comins
- Son Lyman Porter married Caroline Hopwood
- Daughter Anna Permelia Porter married John Henry Case
- Son Porter James Case married Gladys Bennett
- Son Richard Warren Case married Blanche Irene Boyce
- Son James Boyce Case (that's me) married Clare Criger (now deceased)

This same lineage also leads back to John Alden, which allowed me to join the Society of Mayflower Descendants. With more time, I can put together a much more complete pedigree chart with dates, places, and references to all information.

Thanks for your interest.

Jim

Editor's note: Thanks Jim for the great information and good to hear you enjoyed the article written by Janet Blicke. ☒



Boston Fire Museum Offers A Cautionary Tale of City History

By Jon MacDougall

As one of the oldest cities in the United States, Boston is home to many firsts. This distinction lends itself to the time-honored profession of firefighting as well. According to the Boston Sparks Association, which runs the Boston Fire Museum in South Boston, the first fire engine in North America saw action in Boston in 1678. Boston boasts one of the nation's oldest firefighting forces as well; the Boston Fire Department (BFD), as currently constituted, was established on All Saint's Day - November 1 - in 1859.

Appropriately housed in the "retired" firehouse of companies 38 and 39, the Boston Fire Museum includes antique fire engines; fire alarm displays and artifacts; photo displays; firefighting apparatus; live radio transmissions from fire departments around the city; and Arthur Fiedler's fire memorabilia collection, which contains fire badges, helmets, and other gifts presented to the former Boston Pops maestro, a noted fire buff.

The crown jewel in the museum's collection is the recently acquired "Thayer." Among the first hand-powered fire pumps in the City of Boston, this humble-looking machine dates back to 1792.

"It was the first engine built by Ephraim Thayer," says Ted Gerber, Chairman of the Boston Fire Museum. "The Thayer Family was a prominent Boston family, and Ephraim was an apprentice of Paul Revere... It's the oldest existing piece of firefighting apparatus in the city."

The Thayer is but one of a number of fire engines in the museum's collection. At various times, visitors might see the Abe Lincoln, an 1882 Amoskeag steam pumper, or the Columbia, an 1868 Button hand-pump device.

The Water Witch, built in 1966, is an American LaFrance engine, while a 1945 Ward LaFrance served Boston Harbor's Long Island for its entire life, but never saw service in the city proper.

More importantly, the museum serves as a cautionary reminder of the dangers of fire, and the most disturbing display is devoted to the Cocoanut Grove Fire of 1942, which extinguished 492 lives.

Just inside the museum's Congress Street entrance sits a life-size replica of a cozy nook once found in

the nightclub, where former BFD chief John Vahey believes the fire started. Original menus, a wine list, a plate, and accounting ledgers capture that moment in time and a simple wooden chair, devoid of its glossy polish, serves as a sobering reminder of the person who died in that chair.

When Vahey, a South Boston native, returned from World War II, he landed a job as a fireman at the Congress Street firehouse, worked his way up to district fire chief and authored a special report about the Cocoanut Grove Fire on the disaster's 30th anniversary.

"I was stationed on the West Coast when the fire occurred, so my mother sent me a newspaper clipping about the fire," notes Vahey, who believes that an amorous serviceman, faulty wiring and air conditioning, and a careless busboy sparked the blaze. "The Cocoanut Grove Fire still interests many, many people, mostly because the fire, to this day, officially remains of undetermined origin."

The Boston Fire Museum is open Saturdays, from noon to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment. Call (617) 482-1344 or visit www.bostonfire-museum.com.

Editor's note: Article appeared the May 2004 Issue of AAA Horizons newsletter and was submitted by Beverly T. Colton. Thanks Beverly for this great article! ☒

New Civil War Veteran

Alfred THAYER was a soldier in the Civil War. He was born about 1826 in Maryland, the son of Murray⁶, Abel⁵, Zachariah⁴, Nathaniel³, Richard²⁻¹ THAYER and Keziah BURROWS. He served as a 1st Lieutenant in the 21st IL Infantry and the 5th Illinois Cavalry. He married Lucinda FRANTZ. No children to my knowledge.

Data shared by Margaret (Campbell) Hill, submitted by Patricia Thayer Muno. ☒



The West Point Sylvanus Thayer Award

2003 Recipient - General (Retired) Gordon R. Sullivan

Acceptance Speech (edited for brevity):

I want to acknowledge in particular my wife, Gay, my son Mark, and our grandson Christopher who are here tonight with us. Gay, Mark, his brother Mineman Chief Petty Officer John Sullivan and his sister Elizabeth were at my side throughout my career, and without their willingness to shoulder the burdens which a Soldier's family carry, none of what I did would have been possible.

To tell you I was overwhelmed when Tom Dyer, the Chairman and CEO, Association of Graduates, called to inform me I was to receive this award would be to understate my feelings by a wide margin. This is an honor for which I honestly never considered myself to be even remotely eligible. Thank you.

My roots with respect to this award are unique. I graduated from Thayer Academy, created from the estate of Sylvanus Thayer and located on his family farm in Braintree, Mass. I then attended Norwich University. Norwich was founded by Thayer's predecessor here at West Point—Alden Partridge.

As the historians here know, Partridge and Thayer were competitors. The competition was over an idea: Thayer wanted to perfect the USMA at West Point so it could provide the Nation with regular Army officers. And Alden Partridge, himself a USMA graduate, felt each state needed a military school for citizens to train in a military atmosphere, thus laying the foundation for ROTC and schools such as Norwich, VMI, the Citadel and Texas A&M.

So when I walk by the monument to Thayer—the father of West Point—I think of Thayer's influence on my life and his influence on the development of our nation.

Thayer's contributions to excellence at West Point are too numerous to mention in detail, so permit me to summarize. He believed in setting performance standards and measuring cadet accomplishment of their lessons to exacting standards—he believed in individuals accepting personal responsibility for their work and actions, and he felt that clear, frank

critiques of work as it was accomplished were important. He stressed the importance of values and strength of character. If you look carefully at today's Army—and not just here at West Point—you will see the enduring nature of Thayer's approach.

Thank you for this honor you have bestowed on me and my family.

Gordon R. Sullivan
GEN USA Ret.
1 October 2003


Article (edited for brevity):

West Point, N.Y., Thursday, October 2, 2003

Yesterday evening, 1 October 2003, West Point Sylvanus Thayer Award was presented to General (Retired) Gordon R. Sullivan, former Chief of Staff of the Army and current president of the Association of the United States Army.

He noted that both he and his wife were graduates of the Thayer Academy in Braintree, MA, and that he was a graduate of Norwich University, founded by Alden Partridge, the USMA Superintendent who preceded Thayer and is deemed the father of the ROTC. He spoke of the influence of Thayer on his life and the life of our country: individual responsibility, values, and strength of character. Then he mentioned a question that a local journalist asked after the review: "What are you most proud of?" His answer: "I am proud to be an American soldier."

Referring to a Thayer academic axiom, he noted that graduates should expect that performance to standards would be measured daily, and that West Point is about starting you (the Corps) on a road of selfless service to the nation. Because, without you, West Point merely would be a monument to past glory. Echoing the motto Duty, Honor, Country, he said the Army and the nation needs West Point exactly as it is—setting the standards for the United States Army. I cannot tell you how proud I am of this award—on behalf of my family and the soldiers who served with me.

Editor's note: The complete speech and article can be found on the Internet at Association of Graduates, USMA, West Point <<<http://www.aogusma.org/AOG/AWARDS/TA/>>> 

Presidents Ramblings

Some exciting things are happening at TFA. The most exciting is the 2005 annual meeting in Abingdon, VA. You can read about this in the pages of this TQ. I can't wait to meet with our cousins from Virginia. The area looks exciting and the plans for get-togethers and fellowship look marvelous.

Your Board of Directors are busy trying to find ways to advertise this event and ask if you have access to any avenues to investigate you let me know ASAP so we can do so. We will be advertising in some genealogical publications and Downeast Magazine. Do you have any other sources to get the word out?

As you receive this fall publication of the TQ it is time to start considering your dues for 2005. I want to take this opportunity to ask you to consider others of your relatives that might enjoy a membership in the Thayer Families Association (TFA). It makes a wonderful Christmas gift. For \$15 or \$25 per family they can read about their distant cousins and their family history. The TQ alone is worth the cost of the dues.

Remember, ALL memberships expire on December 31st. So, send your check to TFA to continue your membership.

I continue to seek your wisdom in improving TFA. What would you like to see us do as a family association that we are not doing? I encourage your input. You can send your ideas to me at my e-mail address or mail them to my home address. Both will appear at the end of this article.

I know that it has been suggested that we regionalize activities for TFA. It was noted at the annual meeting that we possibly have family reunions in various parts of the country in between our annual meetings. If you have any ideas on how we might do that, or better yet, would be willing to work on this in your area of the country (world), I would love to hear from you. I can assure you this idea has not been lost, but the "how to's" take time and energy.

I want to thank Rodney Lee Thayer for his endless hours of work on the TQ. He does an outstanding job of pulling together the various articles and turning the TQ into if not the best one of the best publications out there. Kudos to you Lee!

Please continue to keep TFA in your mind and hearts. Let's make this the best genealogical society anywhere. That can happen if YOU will get involved.

Sincerely,
Russ



Membership Report

We currently have 444 members paid up for 2004.

Keep your 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 member 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, Russ Thayer, know at <<crt42@tidewater.net>>, or me, Clint Thayer at <<ClntThayer@aol.com>>.

Larsen, Dorothy E., New Smyrna, FL

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, email ClntThayer@aol.com



From the Editor...

I am writing this in early August in order to ensure this part is done and can concentrate on getting the regular columns formatted before I go on a military training mission. The newsletters are slowly put together over a number of months, but the regular columns arrive just before publication.

A great year so far, lots of great, varied articles and information. And don't forget the information for the reunion in 2005! This is sure to be a wonderful time, but we cannot stress enough that one must make lodging plans early since there is a great deal of people in the area of Abingdon, VA as they have a lot of wonderful things happening in the summer that draws lots of people.

There is some general information in this issue on Abingdon and what it has to offer. In future issues I will try to have a few more articles on specific sites that you may be interested in seeing while you are there.


My "general interest" article pool is nearly dry, so if you would like to contribute a general information type of article, that would be appreciated by all the readers and me.

As I assemble the newsletter, four issues at a time, I occasionally come across an article that I cannot publish due to copyrights of the original publisher. I email or write every publisher, which is a newspaper or magazine and have been fortunate get re-print permission for nearly every request.

Occasionally, I misplace some article inputs on my desk, for this I do apologize for the delay in getting things published! I am sincerely making every effort to get items sent to me published. I will write you if the re-print permission is not granted to me.

Please keep the articles coming! The whole family enjoys articles written by all of you.

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.

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

Membership Survey

At the Annual Meeting, it was discussed that there are a number of members who drop out from the Association after a year of two of membership. We have this survey to get your thoughts, from the membership, on what we can do better in order to keep you as a member in our Association. We would like your careful consideration about what we can do better. Please take time to complete this form and mail to the TFA Secretary, Albert Thayer Morton. He will forward to our President for compilation and distribution to the Board for consideration and implementation in order to satisfy membership needs. Mail completed forms to:

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

Did you attend the meeting/reunion June 2003? YES ___ NO ___

Did you attend the meeting/reunion June 2004? YES ___ NO ___

**If no, would you be interested in attending in a different location?
YES ___ NO ___**

What things about membership do you like?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What things about membership do you dislike?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What would like to see new or done differently to keep your interest and membership in TFA?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Thank you for your response and taking time to complete this survey.

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, 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.

The Thayer Quarterly © (copyright 1994-2004, all rights reserved) is the official newsletter of the Thayer Families Association. 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, in CD-Rom format only, containing every occurrence of a name that has appeared in the newsletter (prior to the current issue) is available for \$10 to the above address.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Your articles, letters to the editor, and comments regarding content are vital to the TQ. Photographs with a light background are appreciated, and can be returned, undamaged, if requested. Digitized photos sent via the Internet are also welcomed. Send typed articles to the TFA address or email the editor at thayer@genealogist.net with an attached file containing the article. Your articles and submissions may be edited (respectfully) for length and readability. Please provide sources, if applicable. Any topics that are of general interest to members are encouraged, and articles written by the editor at your suggestion, or from material you provide, will be credited to you. Deadline for submission to the Winter Issue is Nov 25th.