the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Reunion 2006, Salt Lake City, Utah

Photo courtesy of Patricia Thayer Muno,
submitted by Brent Muno

This group photo shows the attendees for the reunion. The photo was taken at the Genealogical Society of Utah.

If you have photos you would like to share with the family, email them to the editor at simplewebs.lee@gmail.com and I will post on the TFA web site for all to view.

I will accept any articles relating to your experience at the reunion and will publish in future issues of the newsletter.

Royal Elbridge Thayer
1866 - 1901

Royal was only five years old when the family moved to the Nebr. homestead and had only attained the age of 10 when his older brothers married and left home. When he was 15 his father was building the new house on the south side of the place. The following year Alba and Oren moved to their homesteads in Knox County.

When he was 22 years old he married Tinnie Belle Van Matre on 24 February 1889 at David City,

Nebr. She was the daughter of Carah Noble Van Matre and Helen C. Marble, who had moved from Ill. and settled near Rising City, Nebr. in 1887. She was born 21 Jan 1873 at Winslow, Ill. They began house keeping in the old house on his father's farm. Later they bought 80 acres just two miles from there, which he farmed in addition to his father's land.

On 21 Apr 1890 Royal and Tinnie's first child was born. He was named Foster Ray. When he was 2 years old he slipped away with his dog to meet his daddy who was working on the other farm. When he crossed the railroad that ran across the northeast corner of the farm he was hit by a train and killed. This was on 6 June 1982. He is buried in the David City cemetery. On 8 June 1892, two days later Royal and Tinnie's second child was born. He was called Ray Elbridge. When Royal got his own place improved, his family moved there but Royal continued to farm both farms for the rest of his life. The other two children were born at Royal's farm, Royal Fred on 25 Mar 1894 and Maude Irene on 23 Mar 1898.

Years later in 1945 R. Fred Thayer wrote of his father as follows: "Royal E. Thayer, along with his farming, was also a dealer in horses and made considerable money on his horse deals. He owned and used one of the last ox teams in that part of the country. The old ox yoke was still at the farm when I was a good sized boy. I also have ridden behind that ox team when very small."

In the year of 1901 Royal took his family and spent the summer at Pendleton, Ore. They visited with his sister, Olive and her family, who were living near there.

After their return in the fall Royal and his brother, Oren, who had done the farming for them that year, made a trip to Knox Co. with a team and wagon. On their way back they camped at a school house, used water from the well and Royal took typhiod. They always thought it was from that well water. He also took cold which developed into pneumonia. He died on 9 Nov 1901. He was survived by his widow, Tinnie and three children: Ray 9, Fred 7, and Maude 3.

After the marriage of Oren and Tinnie in 1906, they became a part of Oren's family and their story is continued there.

Submitted by Lu Anne Kriebs. Lu Anne writes, "These are stories on each of Elbridge's children, they were written in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Mrs. Esther Merryfield Robb of Rocky Ford, Colorado, sent them to my mother-in-law. They were actually written for the wife of Elbridge's family. But I think they are interesting enough to share with the family." Original spelling retained. Fifth of seven articles.

Royal's lineage is Royal Elbridge[9], Elbridge May[8], Royal Olmstead[7], Jedediah[6], Micah[5], Jonathan[4], Josiah[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1] THAYER.

Letters of the William Austin Thayer Family 1837-1881 (Part 4)

By Eleanor Anderson of Dallas, TX 2002

MARY JANE FOWLER THAYER JONES IN GOODWATER, CHOCTAW NATION DECEMBER 26, 1859 - MARCH, 1867

Four and a half years have passed. There are no letters to describe the interim, but we now find Mary Jane married to Theodore Jones, with one child, three-year-old Willie. In the summer of 1859, they had visited William Austin in Bristol, Wisconsin. They are now serving the Choctaw, located near Goodwater and Doaksville, east of the Chickasaw Nation, in what is now southeastern Oklahoma.

Mary Jane has retired from the schoolroom a week before Christmas to await the birth of her second child, to be born on January 7,1860.

In a letter to her father written on December 26, 1859 and December 31, 1859, she expresses concern about not receiving mail from the family. Like many young mothers, Mary Jane wonders who would care for little Willie if she should die. She is convinced that no one in her family is in circumstances to assume the responsibility, and there is none of

Theodore's relatives to whom she would entrust his education.

The civil war has begun and the next letter is from a George Ainslie of Hagernans Mills, Montgomery County, New York to N.C. (Clinton) Thayer. It was written on July 2, 1861 on a steamboat on the Ohio River. Ainslie states he had promised Mary Jane that he would write her brother as soon as he reached free territory. He reports that he left Goodwater on Wednesday, June 12, accompanied by the four single ladies belonging to their station.

"We left Mr. And Mrs. Jones and the children all in comfortable health. I wish I could also say we left them in good spirits. Your sister indeed seemed hopeful and happy - sustained as she always is by strong faith; but Mr. Jones was much cast down. The older members of the Choctaw Mission seemed to think it advisable for me to leave as I was publicly spoken of as a 'suspected person.' As Mr. Jones was southern born and therefore not liable to suspicion, they advised that he remain for a time to dispose of the property or to take care of it until transferred to other hands. To this arrangement, Mr. and Mrs. Jones gave their consent and at our departure it seemed that they were at least free from danger."

Ainslie goes on to report he has heard that the Choctaw council has passed a law requiring every white man to join the militia or home guard or leave the country. If this is true, all the missionaries are now on the way north. He says it is not the Choctaws, but the "lawless Texians" who are driving away the missionaries. The desire of the Choctaws was to remain neutral.

In a letter to her father on October 12, 1861, Mary Jane's strong faith gives way to anguish, thinking of loved ones whom she may never see again this side of heaven. She does not know if this or other letters she has written will ever reach them.

"I know you pray for us, dear Father. I know your thoughts are with us almost constantly. I know, too, loving peace as you do, that your heart bleeds at the distracted state of our country. O when will brother cease to war with brother. But God reigns! Righteousness and peace shall ultimately prevail."

William Austin writes Mary Jane on March 19, 1863 with a postscript written four months later, saying how overjoyed he is to have received a letter dated Goodwater, October 27th 1862, an answer to prayer. The only other letters he has received during the war are one delivered by missionaries in July, 1861, dated June 12 and one sent by Secretary Wilson in April, 1862, dated August, 1861. He applauds her continuing missionary work and expresses gratitude for the good health of her family, "excepting little Charlie; dear little fellow, how much he must have suffered." He then reports on the family. Lucius and family are in usual health, with another son about fifteen months old - name Leverett Ellsworth. The last time he heard from William and Julia, they were moving from Chicago to Quasqueton, Iowa. Their child, Helen Grace, is a fine healthy, almost three-year-old girl. Clinton is still in business at his old place, 113 Lake Street. Carrie is still under treatment for her health problem at Dansville. He expresses how he wishes he could see Mary Jane and her family again, for he is an old man, more than three score and ten.

"God bless you, dear Theodore and Mary, and make you a blessing to the Indians among whom you live; and may your dear little ones be blessed and grow up to be blessings to you and to the world."

(One of those dear little ones grew up to give birth to my dear mother-in-law, Edith Caroline Wasson Anderson)

In the postscript, William Austin writes this letter went as far as Memphis and was returned after four months. He is sending it again, along with U.S. postage stamps and instructions on how to direct her reply, unsealed, through Col. William H. Phillips at Fort Gibson, West of Arkansas.

It is almost two years before the next communication, a letter from George Ainslie of Rochester, Minn., written on January 24, 1865 to N.C. (Clinton) Thayer. He has heard through a son of Rev. C. Byington, who left the Territory the previous summer, "that "Mr. and Mrs. Jones are still at Goodwater - the Choctaw government having appointed them to take care of the property there -

and that they were doing well. There has been no conscription in the Nation and therefore no annoyance from Southern authorities. The principal privation has been want of clothing and your friends would not feel so much as many as they had good supplies on hand."

It is July 20, 1865, the war has ended, and a tired Mary Jane writes her brother Clinton for help in moving the family back north as soon as they can be replaced. She continues to have difficulties with mail. This letter was taken to Paris, Texas by Theodore, only to learn it cannot go that way. She considers his taking it to Doaksville the next day, in an attempt to send it through Fort Smith. Mary Jane writes that all the letters they have received from the North since May, 1861 are the two received in the fall of 1864. These were written by her father and were dated March, 1862 and May, 1864.

Her anxious father, confused, yet grateful for their safety, writes Mary Jane on August 20, 1865. He is eager to see her and her family after almost six years of not knowing if they were sick or well, dead or alive. A line he received from Theodore on July 15 said they planned to start for the North about the middle of June. Two weeks ago, a letter from Mr. Bird of the Choctaw Mission mentioned that on June 27, his dear children were well. William Austin has been expecting them every day until today, when he received Mary Jane's letter saying they have decided they should wait to hear from the Presbyterian Board. The Board has not compensated them for "four year's arduous service there in exile." There is still the frustration of not knowing how to address and route letters.

An update on the family relates that Lucius and family are about as well as usual - he has worked so hard on the farm that he has grown old fast. William did move to Iowa, only staying until November, when he returned to Chicago, sold his farm, bought out Clinton and is doing a good business at 113 Lake Street. (The Thayer genealogy indicates that they were sail and blind makers.) Clinton has been quite prosperous in the business. Now, he is uncertain of his plans and is thinking of spending the winter in New York. He is now in Buffalo. Carrie, who is under the care of a physician, is also there. Aunt Nancy is still teaching. Fowler gives lessons in German in a public school. Aunt Aurilea and Mr. Palmer have been "very sick nigh unto death".

"I thank God for preserving you and your dear family and 'you have been kept in perfect safety' - and death has not entered our family since you left. May the Lord continue to bless you and Theodore and the dear little ones and permit us soon to meet in Heaven nevermore to part. Much love to the children - kiss them for grandpa---Mother and Lucius and Sarah unite with me in love to you and Theodore. That you both may continually enjoy the presence and smiles of a loving Savior is the prayer of your affectionate father William A. Thayer.

Seventy three years old the 15th of August."

By January 26, 1867, the move north has been accomplished. Mary Jane and her family are in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Lucius and his family are still there. William and Julia have moved again. They now live at the corner of Main and Bryant Streets in Buffalo, NY, where William Austin has gone for a visit. He left his wife, Emily, in Lawrence.

Upon reaching William M.'s home, his father has been told shocking news of the sudden death of his brother-in-law, Broadhead, four weeks earlier. The widow, Nancy was comforted by many family members present during this time. The corpse was placed in a vault to be buried in the spring.

William Austin has been sick. He writes Mary Jane the following last words:

"Well, it is not an unpleasant thought, that I have come here to visit a little while, and then lie down by the side of the remains of that loved one, your dear Mother - we shall meet in Heaven.

Your affectionate father, William A Thayer"

A little more than a month later, the sickly sister Caroline writes to Mary Jane:

408 Main Street
Buffalo, March 3, 1867

"My Dear Sister,

"We weep, but repine not, that our beloved father is now a glorified spirit.

"Two weeks ago at this hour, heaven came down to us and his lovely spirit was welcomed by the Dear Jesus, holy angels and dear loved ones. The 'dark valley' was all brightness and beauty - I never saw anything more beautiful than his expression after the angels went away with his soul. It was that of the triumphant conqueror. While his body remained with us, it was a sorrowful pleasure to me to go alone into the room and gaze upon his noble face.

"The old Bryant house seems to be put to sacramental use, and will henceforth be full of shared memories - but sister dear, we missed you and Lucius - you were not here to mingle your tears with ours - and in such a trial-hour, do we not instinctively turn from one to another of our broken band, for comfort and consolation. We know that our Heavenly Father dealeth wisely and well and we can see His loving hand in the trying events of the past winter.

"From letters that have been written, you have probably learned the particulars of Pa's sickness and death - you may know, too, that I have been very sick and will thus be able to account for my not writing to you before.

"Four days before Pa left us I was able to see him for the first time during his illness. He seemed very much comforted that I was able to see him and at intervals he spoke freely of his expected departure - he was very happy and anxious to go, 'but not my will but thine be done.'

"I have much to be thankful for in the fact I was convalescent and could behold his dear face and kiss and caress him in his last hours.

"At Pa's request, Mr. Remington officiated at the funeral and the remains were followed to Lancaster by those of the mourners who were able to ride so far--and there they laid him by the side of our long ago sainted mother and baby sister - 'He giveth His beloved sleep.'

"And now it is all over - our brothers and sister Julia, who have had so much fatigue and anxiety are recuperating - our Step-Mother who is stopping at Mrs. C.'s has had chills and fever for the last week but is now nearly recovered. Aunt Nancy has been quite unwell with Influenza that is so prevalent here - but is better now - for myself - I am slowly gaining strength - have been able to go down for my meals for the last ten days. Now dear Mary now how is it with you and yours? Write soon and let us know. I have not forgotten about those paintbrushes for the children - will send them when I can.

"I do not know yet what 'the Mother's' plans are exactly but think she will go back to Lawrence.

"Give my love to Lucius and Sarah and Theodore and all the children - your loving

Sister Caroline C. Thayer"

Editor's Note: This wonderful set of letters was written by Eleanor Anderson of Dallas, TX in 2002 and was submitted by Patricia Thayer Muno. Due to the length of this written work, 17 pages in all, I am making this available in parts that will appear in successive issues.

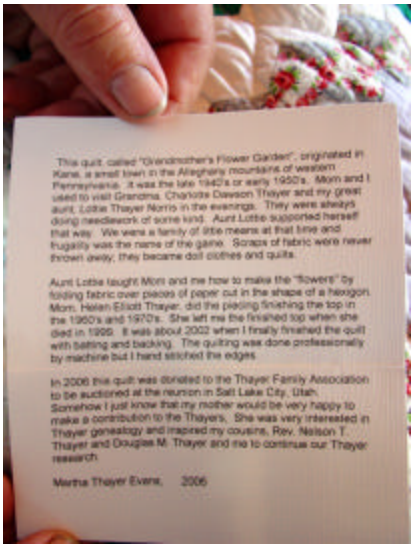
Quilt Raffle at the 2006 Reunion

Photos submitted by Brent Muno

In the Spring 2006 Issue of our newsletter, we mentioned that Martha Thayer Evans of Albuquerque, NM, had donated her beautiful vintage quilt made by her mother and grandmother to the Thayer Families Association, to be raffled off during the 2006 Reunion.

There are several photos of the quilt Martha donated to the TFA, Martha, and the recipient of the quilt.

The history of the quilt is on a small paper enclosed in a pouch on the back of the quilt. Brent Muno photographed the paper and copied the text. Here is what the text reads:



This quilt, called "Grandmother's Flower Garden", originated in Kane, a small town in the Allegheny mountains of western Pennsylvania. It was the late 1940's or early 1950's. Mom and I used to visit Grandma, Charlotte Dawson Thayer and my great aunt, Lottie Thayer Norris in the evenings. They were always doing needlework of some kind. Aunt Lottie supported herself that way. We were a family of little means at that time and frugality was the name of the game. Scraps of fabric were never thrown away, they became doll clothes and quilts.

Aunt Lottie taught Mom and me how to make the "flowers" by folding fabric over pieces of paper cut in the shape of a hexagon. Mom, Helen Elliott Thayer, did the piecing finishing the top in the 1960's and 1970's. She left me the finished top when she died in 1999. It was about 2002 when I finally finished the quilt with batting and backing. The quilting was done professionally by machine but I hand stitched the edges.

In 2006 this quilt was donated to the Thayer Family Association to be auctioned at the reunion in Salt Lake City, Utah. Somehow I just know that my mother would be very happy to make a contribution to the Thayers. She was very interested in Thayer genealogy and inspired my cousins, Rev. Nelson T. Thayer and Douglas M. Thayer and me to continue our Thayer research.

Martha Thayer Evans, 2006

Editor's note: Martha, I am sure your mother and grandmother would be pleased with your donation.

Where Your Editor Lives

written by Rodney Lee Thayer

Greetings everyone in the Association! As most of you know, I retired from active duty service in the US Navy at the end of December of 2005 after a great 21 years in the service. I think everyone is curious as to what happened to me and where I am located now. This article describes where I live now and what I have been doing to keep myself busy since retirement.

About a year before my retirement, I decided that I would move to, and live in Thailand, once I was retired. I was not really sure what I was going to do, but also knew my retirement check every month

would easily sustain me. I designed websites before retirement and I was planning on doing this while in Thailand. After retiring at my command located in Yokosuka, Japan, I moved to the sunny southern part of Thailand. I arrived at my friend's house on 30 Dec 2005. I served with my friend, Steve Swan, in Japan for several years, and he also is retired after 21 years and has been living in Thailand for the last three years. I live on Phuket (pronounced poo-ket) Island, which is located in the southern part of Thailand, on the Andaman Sea/Indian Ocean side. The majority of Thailand is on the Gulf of Thailand/Pacific Ocean side (Patong Beach was hit by the tsunami on 26 Dec 2004).

I rent the center unit, all three floors. Also visible is my business sign, and a banner for online games.

My friends in Thailand knew I designed websites and could also work on computers and networks, thanks to the Navy. My Thai friend suggested I rent a shop-house to use as an office, and that there was enough space to also have an Internet café and that I could also live in the shop-house. He set about getting this setup for me.

In Thailand, you cannot rent or own a shop-house without having some type of business on the ground floor, which is the shop, and the floors above the shop, are the house portion of the building. Some shop-houses are only one story with the living quarters at the back of the shop, and some can be as high as 4 stories.

In Thailand, a foreigner cannot own a house and cannot have a business without being a registered company, which is very expensive to establish there. I talked to a lawyer in Thailand and told him that I am retired and that I want to design websites while living there. I was informed I legally can do this, as long as I do not advertise in Thailand. As for my Internet café, it is registered in my Thai partner's name, as he can easily register a business.

Now your probably wondering how I can make my business work if I cannot advertise. That's where my friend Steve and my business cards come into play.

Steve knows a lot of ex-pat's in Phuket that want websites to advertise their businesses, he puts potential clients in touch with me and I give them a demo on my laptop computer or on my big computer at my shop-house. Once the client decides on the type of website they desire, I create it in less than a week. After the client is satisfied with their website, they tell their friends, and so on and so on.

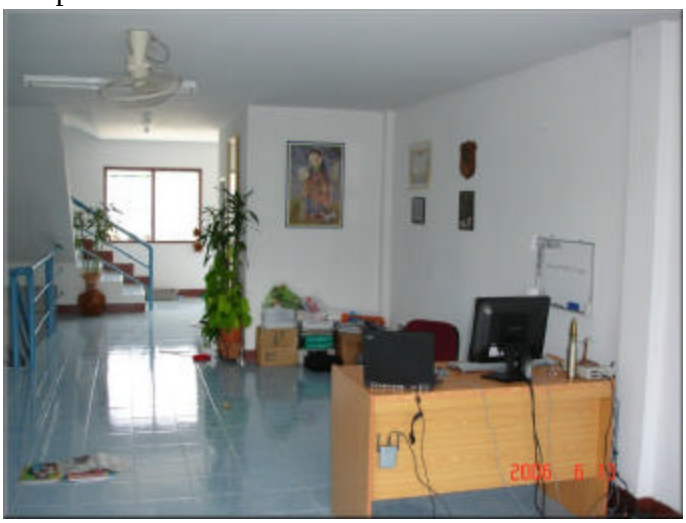
Word of mouth and giving people business cards with my business name and what I do printed on them, is not considered advertising in Thailand. Within 3 days of being in Thailand, I was designing three websites, and now it is June, and I have designed, and manage 15 websites. I have several more clients that have websites being designed right now.

Here is a view of the Internet café with students in on the weekend using the computers for online games and school work.

After I started designing and hosting websites, the shop-house that my Thai friend was setting up for

me was ready for me to move into. I set about ordering computers and furniture for the Internet café. After I had the air conditioners, glass walls, and window bars installed, I moved into the shop-house on 1 April 2006. Once the computers and furniture were delivered, I opened for business on 1 May 2006, and have been open 7 days a week since then.

Currently I have 19 computers networked, 16 computers in my Internet café, 2 computers in my office, and a computer at my friend Steve's house. I run 12 computers on a wireless network and 7 computers are on a wired LAN network.



This is my office on the second floor. Both computers are on a wireless network with the computers on the floor below.

Why do you live in Thailand is a question many people ask me. Basically it is an easy lifestyle and my dollar goes a lot farther there than anywhere else. Basic needs are very inexpensive, such as drinking water, a 5 gallon bottle of drinking water costs me 5 cents. I have city water in my shop-house, which is used only for cleaning, washing dishes, showers, and the toilets, this costs me about 2 dollars a month. Rent for my 3 story shop-house is only 375 dollars a month, and there is about 900 square feet on each floor.

Another reason why I like to live in Thailand is the climate, there is no snow there! On an average day, it is 90° F at 9 am, from there it goes as high as 105° F during the peak of the day, at about 2 pm. This is seven days a week, all year round! It does cool off, however, when it rains, then it can get down to 80-85 degrees, almost chilly.

As I write this article on 19 June 2006, I am currently in Northern Michigan with my parents, Richard and Joann. I also brought my daughter, Samantha, with me from Thailand, she will be living with my brother Rick and his wife Nona when I return to Thailand. She will be staying in Michigan in order to finish high school.

Lieutenant Lawrence Thayer

By Garland Thayer

On September 2, 1944, a story appeared in The Saturday Evening Post featuring the harrowing details of a WW II bombing mission to knock out a railroad bridge in Indo-China. The navigator on the mission was Lt. Lawrence Thayer of Morristown, Tennessee. I visited Lawrence (1918-1997) in 1995 and he gave me a copy of the news magazine.

It was reported that Thayer, who had been hit in the head with shrapnel from an enemy explosive, and was bleeding profusely, doctored himself and assumed leadership in helping other injured crew members.

They were in the immediate target area, 150 miles behind the Japanese line, barreling over the palm trees at 200 mph with a bloody, dazed, and wounded pilot in the seat.

"I think we're going to crash, Thayer shouted. I can't fly instruments." Then he assisted Capt. Robert Hotz in lifting the pilot from his seat so Hotz could keep the plane steady. The following paragraph by Capt Hotz details some of Thayer's further involvement.

Thayer gave me a course. I tried to ask him how far we were from the mountains, but he couldn't hear me. The headsets had become badly scrambled during our milling around and we couldn't use the interphone. All communication in the cockpit was carried out by shouting into somebody's ear. I swung into a climbing turn to the left to try to get more altitude before getting out of the valley, but Thayer pounded me on the back and motioned to the right, so I went back on course. We had about 4,000 feet then. I remembered those jagged black peaks

sticking up into the clouds on the way down to the target and sweated it out. We were still in solid gray soup.

Thayer was working on Weber in the navigator's seat. I could see Weber's bloody leg stretched out to the instrument panel, straight and stiff. Thayer gave him sulfa tablets, replaced his makeshift tourniquet with a special device from the first-aid kit, dusted the bloody spots with sulfa powder and forced him to take emergency whiffs of oxygen.

Weber revived under the oxygen and asked Thayer, "What happened?"

"You've been shot," Thayer told him.

Throughout the remainder of the flight, Thayer and Hotz were thinking about how they could all bail out, for in their judgment the plane was going down. The radio-compass was broken. Lightning had knocked out other instruments. Freezing rain that turned into hail poured into the cockpit, and the ship bounced around like a rubber ball. Weber, the pilot, revived enough, however, to take over and with radio bearings given him by Thayer, flew them to safety at their base.

When they had landed Thayer said to Hotz, "That was nice flying you did back there, captain."

"Not bad for a gunner," Hotz answered.

"What do you mean?" asked Thayer. "Are you kidding?"

"Hell, I'm no pilot, Thayer, I'm a gunner," said Hotz.

At that point Thayer started to say something, a strange look passed across his features and he just looked at Hotz, shaking his head slowly. He had thought Hotz was a pilot when he called him from the tail to the cockpit."

Lawrence never fully recovered from his head injury, but he was able to tell me many details of this particular Mitchell Bomber mission. "When we were in the target area we thought we would never get home," he said, "but we did… on a wing and a prayer."

Lawrence's lineage is as follows: Lawrence[10], Kencil[9], Robert[8], Thompson[7], Baruch[6], Ebenezer[5], Uriah[4], Ebenezer[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]. ⛵

Lessie and the Country Doctor

by Patricia Thayer Muno

Lessie Thayer listened to her husband's heralding stories upon returning home from late night trips to healing sick neighbors but none were more frustrating than one story which happened over and over again while making late Saturday night calls in Faulkner county, Arkansas. It seemed that one group of boys with little funds and eager to attend the Saturday night dances would often wait for the doctor, who they would waylay along the dark country road and rob in order to attain enough money to attend Saturday's dance. Although this robbing became common place to Dr. James Muse, no one ever heard of it except his wife Lessie and his close friends who would beg him to tell local authorities.

Celeste "Lessie" Thayer was born about 1866 in Clark County, Illinois, the daughter of Perlin[8] (Zachariah Mark[7], Shadrach[6], Noah[5], Shadrach[4], Ephraim[3], Shadrach[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Nancy _____. In 1870 her parents, two brothers and a sister were living in Cumberland, Clark, IL. In

the mid 1870's, her father moved the family of six to Faulkner county, Arkansas by a wagon drawn by four mules. They settled on an 80 acre tract of land originally deeded to the railroad in 1867. It was located on the south ½ of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 4N, Range 14 west. The family apparently lived on this tract of land for a while before Perlin obtain the deed on 7 July 1880.

A sturdy white oak log house with a well-constructed chimney was built. The times were difficult, but the rugged family persevered. During this time the father had to travel to the neighboring town of Conway for his supplies. He did this with his two wheeled cart which he built using the best wheels salvaged from the well-worn wagon that transported the family from Illinois.

Perlin Thayer died 27 June 1899 and the family was left in difficult circumstances. To help make ends meet, the girls taught school and the boys worked at whatever labor they could find.

Not far away was a young man named **James Madison MUSE**, who had come by wagon to Arkansas as a boy with his family in 1880. James used to tell of how he became sick on "store bought" molasses as the family traveled to Arkansas. He was born 28 Aug 1867 of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and was the oldest of 12 children. The Muse family saw many hardships and sufferings. They remained in Arkansas for only about 3 years, then left for Oklahoma. For some reason James remained behind. He wished to become a doctor so that he could help others, but he was unaware of the hardships and sacrifices that would lay ahead. He taught himself as much as he could from reading books, but he longed to attend medical school.

James Muse was married first to Miss Lillie Elizabeth SAMMONS. He worked hard at farming, and at the cotton gin in Damascus, and he also taught penmanship to willing students in the evenings. From his marriage to Lillie, four children were born, the oldest having died age 5 and the youngest was not yet born when Lillie decided to leave the family because she felt her husband's ambitions to become a doctor were too unrealistic. Unable to handle the pressures and sacrifices necessary for her husband to achieve his goal, she left him with the two middle children.

James then married in 1892 to Esmiral SHIMATE, and together they had one son. She then died leaving James a widower with three young children.

Lessie Thayer then became the third wife of James Madison Muse, and also became the instant mother to his three children. She was sympathetic to her husband's determination to become a doctor. She was a licensed teacher and together they worked hard and were able to save enough money for James to addend medical school. In addition to raising his three children, James and Lessie had five of their own.

By this time James was becoming very anxious to practice medicine. Since Perlin Thayer had passed away, and Lessie had one fourth interest in the log house, she and the doctor decided to buy out her siblings' interest in the home her father had built. The family lived in the log home in the summers and raised cattle and cotton. In the winters the family would live in the town of Conway so that the children could attend school there and James could attend medical school in Little Rock. From about 1900 to 1913 the doctor practiced medicine in the log house.

James Muse finished medical school at the top of his class and was an exceptional doctor, and gentleman. With the scarcity of doctors, his services were in great demand. He was a humanitarian and loved his patients, spending many nights traveling alone in howling winds in rain and sleet on muddy roads. And towards the end of his years of travels he purchased a Model T Ford. But no transportation could replace his big strong grey horse which pulled his buggy and moved oftentimes instinctively without command when his cold and often frozen fingers would no longer serve him. The big grey was more than a power plant; "old Charlie" was his trusted friend.

Dr. Muse was one of the finest early citizens Faulkner county, Arkansas ever knew. His last office

was over the old Florence drug store north and across the street from Greeson's.

Story idea submitted by Janet Thayer Blickle.

Association Officers and Directors

Here is the current list of Officers and Directors for the Association as voted on at the Summer Reunion/Meeting.

Albert Thayer Morton - President 2006-2007
Email: ThayerATM@aol.com

Kate Welton Kuzmich - Vice President 2006-2007
Email: kewlkuz@earthlink.net

James Loren Thayer - Secretary 2006-2007
Email: Jthayer@ipapilot.org

Judith L. Young Thayer - Treasurer 2006-2007
Email: JLYThayer@aol.com

Rodney Lee Thayer Director 2006-2008
Email: simplewebs.lee@gmail.com

R. Clinton Thayer - Director 2006-2008
Email: ClntThayer@aol.com

Madora Thayer Boyd - Director 2005-2007
Email: matboyd1924@aol.com

Renna Thayer Shaver - Director 2005-2007
Email: rjthayer@bellsouth.net

Garland Thayer - Director 2006-2008
Email: garlandthayer@systechsolutions.net

Words from the President

We left home at 4:00AM Wednesday morning bound for Rochester International Airport. That flight left the airport at 6:30 AM, as scheduled, however, it was the last on-time flight during the trip. We arrived in Salt Lake City four hours late at 4:30 PM, but it soon became evident that the flights had been worth the hassle.

Salt Lake City is a delightful city. It's not huge by any standard, and the traffic is sane - even courteous. We picked up the car, got lost, and found our way to the hotel despite not having a clue as to where we were. It was fun meeting face to face with folks I had only "talked with" over the past year, and the week proceeded with startling speed.

At the Board of Directors meeting we took up, among other things, the issue of TFA finances. The dues have remained the same since TFA was organized in 1991. However, expenses haven't. It was decided that the time had come to raise the dues to $20 for individual memberships, and $30 for family memberships.

It was a treat listening to General James B. Thayer talk about the formation of TFA. I often simply forget how long I've been involved with TFA, and Jim jerked me back to reality. After the election of officers and directors, I was left with the feeling that we'd better get started with a new year of fun.

I'm asking for volunteers for next year's meeting in Braintree, Chaired by Russ Thayer, and ideas for future projects. It might sound like a lot of work, but once involved in it, I think you'll quickly find how much fun it can be, and the work aspect just pushed aside. It's just fun. I'll be making at least one trip to Braintree before the 2007 meeting, and I suppose that some work will be done, but mostly it will be for pleasure.

Albert Thayer Morton, President
Thayer Families Association

From Patricia's Mail Bag

We were saddened to receive a call during the reunion from TFA member. Robert Francis Thayer of Bothwell, UT, that he would not be able to be with us for Saturday's events due to the hospitalization of his wife, Alta. We got in touch with Bob as soon as we returned home and Alta was doing a bit better. We received another call from Bob on June 28th, that Alta had passed away in the night. The entire Thayer family extends their heart-felt sympathies Bob and his son, Robert, for their loss.

Announcing our newest Thayer Family Representative, Robert Bennion, of Casper, Wyoming, who will serve in the line of descendants of **Nelson Thayer and Mary Lucy Cromer**.

Robert was such a delight to be with during the reunion and everyone enjoyed his companionship. The line for representation is Nelson[8] (Leonard[7], Paul[6], Jonathan[5-4-3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER.

"Elderescence"

by Jane Hillis Thayer and Peggy Ann Thayer

Thayer Family Representative, Roger Eugene Thayer of Edgartown, MA, shared his wife and daughter's book with me in time to be displayed at the Thayeritage event, Friday June 23rd at the Thayer Family Reunion in Salt Lake City. For our readers, here is the synopsis of their book, entitled: Elderescence.

Thirty-five million Americans are living beyond the age of sixty-five, a twenty-five year increase in life expectancy since 1900. This longevity, once the gift of a few, has become the destiny of many.

This time of life is not just about retiring; in fact, many who retire return happily to some kind of employment. It is a new stage of life filled with its own unique challenges and opportunities...a stage of life we have named and identified "Elderescence.." Elderescents are the benefactors of this longevity, with more time and space than previous generations in which to live and examine their lives.

We trace the emergence of this new life stage as we present the elderescent experience through their own stories. After several years, collecting and analyzing the themes that emerged from self reports of retirees, we became interested in understanding its genesis. Through historical review, sociological and psychological study we began to understand that 'retirement' was a euphemism for a new stage of life. We trace the roots of the retirement institution in the early 1900's, its impact on the older worker, forced through mandatory retirement policies to retire. We trace the changing messages from the psychological community, and the influence of 'ageism.' Until the 1970's obsolescence was the message, "Retreat, resign and die."

We interviewed elderescents from 60 years old to those in their 90's, before the stage of senescence, using an experiential method developed by Dr. James Kidd. Some are well known, Walter Cronkite, and Katharine Graham, some are psychologists, and many were volunteers at random.

This time of life is about change. What emerged were the challenges faced by these elderescents: accepting the physical process of aging, facing mortality, feeling 'betwixt and between', looking for new meaning and purpose, experiencing times of joy and freedom, dealing with changes in relationships, and guarding against fragmentation in the face of one's sense of a changing self. Change is a paramount theme in elderescence. Change confronts, frightens, disarms, weakens, and delights us. In elderescence, change accelerates. It is in elderescence that the reality of change must finally be acknowledged.

An essential task in this new stage of life is to learn to live with the reality of one's own impermanence. Many of our elderescents have had unique experiences that have helped them reach wise insights about the nature of life. The gift of longevity is the elderescents' opportunity and our hope for new visions about life's meaning. Meaning is essential to living. Yet, it is easy to overlook a shift in one's sense of meaning during the aging process.

Our elderescents have messages for their peers about what they are experiencing. For example, definite personality changes occur at this time. Understanding the particular personality changes females and males experience at this stage is crucial for the happiness and even survival of many elderescent partnerships. These insights enable others to understand their own changing sense of self and begin to create new meaning as they honor and value this new stage of life. It is also a message for the baby boomers who are soon to become elderescents, for the social scientist, and educator who wants to understand the impact of this leap of longevity.

About the Authors

Jane Hillis Thayer (1930-) retired from her clinical private practice of over twenty-five years in Washington, DC. She moved to Martha's Vineyard in 1995 and currently has a small private practice on the Vineyard and is a trained mediator for the Martha's Vineyard Mediation Program.

Peggy Ann Thayer (1954-) has been a practicing painter for 30 years. Her recent contemporary landscapes portray her relationship with nature. Her undergraduate studies were in Fine Arts and graduate studies in transpersonal psychology. She holds a doctorate in East/ West Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. She is the author of ***The Experience of Being Creative as a Spiritual Practice*** published in 2003.

Frances M. (Russo) Thayer (1890-1987)

Photo courtesy Craig Ferguson

The Great Influenza Epidemic, or "Spanish Flu" of 1918 was the worst epidemic the United States has ever known. Before it was over, the devastating illness took the lives of over 600,000 Americans. People had a hard time accepting that one could be well in the morning and be dead by nightfall. It was said that every family lost a member-- my own family included-- with the death of my grandfather, **Joseph Frank Thayer.**

The onset of the illness was quite sudden. In a matter of mere hours, a person could go from strapping good health to being so enfeebled they could not walk. Victims complained of general weakness and severe aches in their muscles, backs, joints, and heads. Often enduring fevers that could reach 105 degrees, the sick fell prey to wild bouts of delirium… (PBS: Influenza 1918).

Shirley Sampson Thayer was born Feb 1890 in Whitman, Plymouth, MA, the son of Albert LeForrest[8] (Albert M.[7], Simeon[6], Nathaniel[5], Jacob[4], Nathaniel[3-2-1]) THAYER and Lucy Evelyn JOSSELYN. He married Frances M. Russo in 1917, probably about the same time he was drafted into service in WWI. Fort Devens, near Boston, was a major staging point for American soldiers being sent to Europe to fight in the war; it was also one of the worst hit places by the epidemic. There are 250 Thayers in my files who died in the 1918-1919 time period. Shirley Sampson Thayer was one victim of the terrible Spanish Flu pandemic.

States Frances (Russo) Thayer's nephew, Craig Ferguson:

Frances M. Russo was born in Boston, MA in 1890 and grew-up and died while residing in the Pietro Russo family home located off Main Street in Hanson, Plymouth, MA. Frances had one sister and three brothers. Frances and her siblings were first generation Americans, Catholic, and full blooded Italian. I don't know the details about how Aunt Fanny met Shirley or how long they new each other before getting married. I was told Shirley was already an Army soldier when they met and he was drafted into service in 1917, according to his draft card. Shirley's sudden death was obviously a terrible loss for Aunt Fanny and she never remarried.

Instead, she chose to live with her only never-married brother, Sam Russo, until his death in 1981. Aunt Fanny and Sam raised their niece, my mother Mary Jane Russo, from 1921 until 1944 when she married my father, A.E. Ferguson, and moved away to Arizona. Aunt Fanny Thayer passed away in 1987 age 97. Aunt Fanny chose to be buried next to her long lost husband, Shirley Sampson Thayer, at the Colebrook Cemetery in Whitman, Plymouth, MA. Most of the remaining Russo family of Hanson, MA were buried in the St. James Cemetery, also in Whitman. Auntie was a wonderful person and I'm sure the Thayer's would have loved her as much as our family.

The following, from Liz Thayer of Fair Oaks, CA, was found in my E-mail box late one night:

"Tricia, your poems were terrific. Our daughter read your Thayer Family Reunion and cried. I'd like to send you one from me:

Our first Thayer reunion!
We knew not what was in store,
But decided to attend
For there'd be Thayers galore.

Who greeted us, but Tricia,
Whose smile, hugs and kisses,
Welcomed us so completely,
We're glad we didn't miss this!

All was planned perfectly
From agenda to prizes,
Entertainment to bus tours—
Things planned— and surprises!

Each day we received something,
Handmade or in rhyme,
Lovingly made by Tricia
In all of her "extra time!"

To Tricia and Don Muno,
Creative, tireless hosts,
We thank and commend you—
You are the greatest, we boast!

We're so glad we attended
And plan on next year.
We met lots of new cousins
Whom now we hold dear.

Our world seems so fragmented,
Families torn asunder,
The Thayer family glue
Is a most-needed wonder.

So, thank you our cousins,
Bring your families next year,
To experience true love
That you, too, will hold dear.

Liz Thayer 2006

Patricia Thayer Muno
Thayer Family Historian

Reunion Notice

A reunion for the descendants of Ira Noble Thayer (1913-1991) will be held in Traverse City, Michigan on Saturday, August 12, 2006 at the home of Ira's daughter, Harriet Thayer Thiel. All descendants and Thayers are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend, please email the Editor at simpleweb.lee@gmail.com for further information.

From the Editor…

Your Spring issue was published while I was living in Thailand, showing once again the advantages of the Internet. This issue is coming from Michigan while I am on vacation there visiting my parents.

The Fall 2006 issue, and the first two issues in 2007 will be done from Thailand.

I have my Internet shop and my web design office finally established. Before coming back to the states in the middle of June, I found time to start going through email, hundreds of emails and am slowly trying to catch up on correspondence. I use high speed ADSL and have my email available all day

long, just remember, my time in Thailand is about 12 hours different and about a day off. An example of this is when I call my parents on a Friday night at 8 pm from Thailand, it is 9 am on Friday morning in Michigan. If it is morning where I live, it will be evening of the previous day in the states.

For email, I can accept just about any size file, and in most formats. I have changed my email address, please update your records and address books with simplewebs.lee@gmail.com I have had several problems with my previous address and will be permanently dropping that one in the near future.

As I stated in previous newsletters, I will respond to everyone's email as I go through and get my life back on track after adjusting to a new country and owning my own business.

In regards to the 2006 Reunion held in Salt Lake City, UT, if you attended, and wish to share your experience with the rest of the family, please email me and I will format it for the newsletter.

My research books will be updated after I return to Thailand in July and I am looking at only making them available via CD-ROM, this is being considered based on the cost to ship printed copies from Thailand, and the size of each book. I am hoping to have these available sometime in August or September of this year.

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 $20.00** New Single Membership_____ Renewal of Single Membership_____
Annual Dues $30.00 New Family Membership_____ Renewal of Family Membership_____

Are you able to receive, open, and read downloaded files using PDF format? YES_____ NO_____

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 ($20 or $30) = Total: _____

Address:_____

City, State, Country and Zip:_____

Email address:_____

If this is a new application, how did you discover us?_____

Please mail the completed form and dues to: Thayer Families Association
346 Washington St. PMB #310
Braintree, MA 02184-4702

THE THAYER QUARTERLY
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CONTACTING THE TFA

www.ThayerFamily.com

For all official business with the TFA, please write the Secretary, James Loren Thayer:

Thayer Families Association
346 Washington St. PMB #310
Braintree, MA 02184-4702
Email: Jthayer@ipapilot.org

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.

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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. Digital photos sent via the Internet are also welcome. Send typed articles to the TFA address or email the editor at simplewebs.lee@gmail.com with an attached file containing the article. 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 Fall Issue is Aug 25th.