



the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Thayer Families Association

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Winter

Thayer Families Annual Reunion & Annual Meeting

June 21 to June 23, 2007

Braintree, Massachusetts

It is time to begin to plan a marvelous visit with cousins from around the world! In June 2007 Thayer's from all around the world will gather in the American birthplace of our family to enjoy fellowship, memories, and to learn more about our heritage as Thayer's. What an opportunity to meet new relatives; reacquaint yourself with old friends, and to research the history of our family.

This year, we will be meeting in Braintree, Massachusetts and will enjoy the opportunity to discover some of the rich history of the area. Two wonderful tours are planned to take you back in time to the first settlers in this great land (Plymouth Massachusetts), and to give you an opportunity to relive the days of our independence in Boston.

On **Thursday, June 21st**, we will gather at the reunion hotel and leave for a guided tour of the Freedom trail in Boston. We will visit the USS Constitution, the Old North Church, and other historic landmarks which set this beautifully rich historic area apart.

Then on **Friday, June 22nd**, we will again gather at the reunion hotel and travel south to Plimouth Plantations, a reenacted community of the 1600's. Here you will experience life as it was in those days. In addition, a stop will be made at the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock, where the Pilgrims first set foot on the new world.



On Saturday morning we will have an opportunity to visit the original Thayer home in Braintree, where the Braintree Historical Society now resides. An opportunity will be made available to visit the library.

On Saturday noon a delicious lunch will be served at the Sheraton Hotel which then will be followed by the Thayer Families Association Annual Meeting. This will be followed by a sit down dinner, also at the Sheraton. The details of the meeting and the dinner have not been confirmed as of this writing. Stayed tune for further developments in the spring TQ!

The entire event will be held at the Sheraton Braintree, which is the Reunion Hotel. There are other hotels in the area should you choose not to stay at the Sheraton. However, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Sheraton for those attending this reunion. When you call the Sheraton, be sure and mention you are with the TFA, that way you will receive the special rate. See the reservation form in this TQ for costs.

REMEMBER, all reservations for the tours, the meals, and the hotels must be made by June 1, 2007

I look forward to seeing all of you in Braintree. Come and celebrate our family roots!

Russ Thayer
Reunion Chairperson ☐



Historian Report

By Don Munro for Patricia

Following a very successful reunion this past summer in Salt Lake City, Patricia and I took some time to travel and combine some genealogy research activity with some long delayed fun-in-the-sun. Now it's winter, and snow is settling in here in the Rocky Mountains.

I've been able to gather together the necessary tools: a faster computer and new DVD burner and some new software in order to make good on a promise to Thayer's present at the reunion - to make available the DVD's experienced at the reunion - The slide show presentation "narrated" by General Sylvanus Thayer. I'm editing, producing and mailing them out prior to Christmas for family gatherings to reunion participants who have expressed an interest. I'm working on this while Patricia sorts and edits her genealogy research notes and files.

To answer a few anticipated questions: I'll send out the DVD with a letter including return mailing information. I am not setting a specific price on this project, but should those receiving this package wish to donate to offset production and mailing costs, I'll leave that up to each of you and be grateful for your assistance. And for anyone not in attendance at the reunion wishing to participate, just send me a note and donation to also cover shipping.

Oh yes, in addition to the Slide Show Presentation -- *Thayer Generations of Excellence*, the DVD will include numerous photos of the reunion for scrapbooks and lasting memories. These fantastic photos include the Banquet, the Thayeritage gathering, tours to the Olympic Village in Park City, Gardner Village, This Is The Place Heritage Park Village, Temple Square, the Tabernacle Choir, informal gatherings, The Family History Library, etc. This reunion and its memories was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that many can share through photos-- even if they were unable to attend in person, etc.

I hope this brief note reaches each of you in good health and happy cheer during this holiday season.

Sincerely, Donald and Patricia Munro ☐

Ella May Thayer Wilson 1873 - 1930

Ella, the youngest of the Elbridge Thayer family, was born in Nebraska. She went to the Deer Creek school, finished the eighth grade and taught for several years. At the age of 21 she married John Richard Wilson. He was born 21 Oct 1867 at Beardstown, Ill. He was the son of Henry B. Wilson and Angline Seegers. The marriage took place on 19 Dec 1894 at David City, Nebr. They are the parents of four children, all born at David City. They are: Irvin Alonzo born 29 July 1896 (died 2 Mar 1897), Ivan Alba born 13 July 1898, Nella Alice born 23 Dec 1899, and Ruth Adeline born 22 May 1901. In 1901 the family moved to northern Nebr. where John Wilson had a claim near Inman.

There must have been interesting incidents and stories that go with the Thayer families if one just knew them. Ella Wilson lived for ten years on this claim. Laura Styer lived just a half mile from her part of this time. Nella Alice Wilson remembers when the children were at school at Prairie Valley, three miles from home, in 1907, when a prairie fire broke out. Her mother drove the black buggy team and came after the children. The team were white with lather when they got home. Nella Alice remembers, too, how her mother and the neighbor women cooked lunch and made coffee for the men who were fighting the fire. She says that her mother was always doing things for other people. 1908 was a bad year, Nella Alice said. The cattle and sheep would not eat the river bottom hay and many of them died. Father went to O'Neill to work while Mother and we children kept the farm running. In the spring of 1912, John Wilson's sister, Mrs. Mae Moore, wrote from Wyoming telling what a fine country it was. On 20 Apr 1912 the Wilson family left by train. They stopped a week at Gordon, Nebr. to visit a cousin, Alvin Thayer, and his family. Then they went on to Wheatland, Wyo. They had to wait two days for a stage which in this case was a two seated buggy. The children wanted to see cowboys but mostly saw mountain country which looked pretty high to children reared on the prairie. After riding on the stage from early morning until evening the children were tired out by the time they reached Moore, Wyo. and their aunts house. The family got a

house, the children started school and the father worked for a rancher. The children got to see a cowboy for “one came to see their teacher almost every day”.

By the fall of 1912 the Wilson family were settled in Laramie, Wyo. At first John work at Acme Plaster mill but later he worked for the Larmie Creamery, where he became the foreman. By 1913 they had bought their house on 4th Street. It was a nice 6 room modern home. Ella liked flowers and birds. At one time she had 75 canaries.

The oldest girl, Nella, was married on 21 Jan 1916 to Fred W. Dowle. They are the parents of four children: Alice May born 19 Feb 1917, Anna Ruth born 27 Feb 1919 and died on 4 May 1920, Clyde Melvin born 8 Nov 1920 and died the same day, and Charles Richard born 24 Apr 1923.

Ivan Wilson married Elsie J. Woster on 3 May 1920. She was born 22 June 1901. They have eight children: Amy Josephine born 30 Jan 1921, Dorothy Maxine born 13 Apr 1922, Annette May born 23 July 1923, Eunice Vivian born 23 Feb 1926, Richard Appleton born 25 May 1928, Ruth Louise born 23 Apr 1931 and died 27 Feb 1932, Lenith Elaine born, 21 Mar 1935, and Elsie Ivadine born 2 Apr 1940.

Ruth married Wallace Wesley Caldon on 5 June 1920 in Laramie, Wyo. He was born on 22 Oct 1899 at Boulder, Colo. He was the son of Michael Francis Caldon and Millie Ann Howell. He died 20 Aug 1967 at Los Angeles, Calif. They were the parents of six children: Ella Mildred born 20 June 1921, Melvin Foster born 16 Sept 1923, Mary Marguerita born 17 Aug 1927, Wilson Wallace born 16 May 1929, Murl Elane born 17 Oct 1931, and Barbara Ann born 15 May 1941.

At the Christmas family gathering at the Wilson home in 1929, Ella May said that she was ill and would not live longer than spring. She died 5 May 1930 at the age of 56. She is buried in Laramie, Wyo.

John Wilson married again on 3 June 1931 to Mrs. Cora Setter.

Nella Doyle re-married on 16 Oct 1934 to Dan W. Harnden. They have two daughters, Rhoda Mae and Mildred Elaine.

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. Seventh of seven articles.

Ella’s lineage is Ella May⁹, Elbridge May⁸, Royal Olmstead⁷, Jedediah⁶, Micah⁵, Jonathan⁴, Josiah³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹ THAYER. ☒

Letters of the William Austin Thayer Family 1837-1881 (Part 6)

By Eleanor Anderson of Dallas, TX 2002

CONNECTING TO THE PRESENT; WHAT FOLLOWED THE LETTERS

What happened to Mary Jane Fowler Thayer Jones and her family after the last letter, written October 16, 1881? Fortunately, the family records of the McCullah-Wasson Families in Southwest Missouri make the connection to my family.

We do not know how the decision was made to leave Wisconsin, but sometime in the 1880’s, Mary Jane and Theodore moved to the Nixa/Riverdale area, 18 miles south of Springfield, Missouri. There, they helped the Klanns and the Connetts organize the Riverdale Congregational Church. The Wasson family belonged to that church for many years.

Mary Emma Jones (Feb 26, 1862 - April 18, 1945) married James Alexander Wasson (May 27, 1856 - Dec 9, 1946) on October 5, 1889. Before that, Emma had studied at Worcester Academy. (Various family members have pressed flowers from her herbarium prepared there in 1888 and 1889.) Family tradition says she studied in Oberlin, Ohio and taught school in Vinita, Oklahoma.

They built their home on the same road as the church and lived there until their deaths. Their daughter, Edith, told how her father removed many rocks from the soil so that he could plow the ground for his crops.

Emma was a wonderful neighbor and loving mother who never minded how noisy her five children became as long as it was a "happy noise". Jim was a great lover of children, kind and generous and a strict disciplinarian.

The high value put on education was passed down to Emma and Jim's family. In order to give their children the best education, Jim built a house in Springfield, so the children could attend Drury College. Emma and the children lived there for ten years, with Jim only coming in to attend church on Sundays. He brought food from the garden and meat from the farm. After the children were educated, they moved back together.

Jim and Mary Emma had five children:

Lowell Thayer Wasson (August 25, 1890 - August 9, 1918) Lt. in WWI, killed in action in Ypres, Belgium.

Edith Caroline Wasson (October 1, 1891 - Dec 27, 1972) married Florence Washington Anderson (Jan 14, 1889 - Dec 5, 1945) They had four children:

Richard Lowell
William Harold
Roger Wasson
Philip Arthur

Stella Jones Wasson (Apr 19, 1894 - July 25, 1934)

Jessie Mildred Wasson (Dec 27, 1895 - Dec 10, 1978) married Rev. Charles A Earsom (Nov 23, 1885 - Dec 10, 1978) They had three children:

James Robert
Charles Roland
Edwin Howard

Mary Lois Wasson (Nov 3, 1900 - Aug 18, 1991) married Emil R Grainge (Apr 18, 1895 - Dec 14, 1964) they had two children:

Lowell Franklin

Carolyn Ann

Mary Jane Fowler Thayer Jones died in this area and is buried in a graveyard near the Riverdale community and the Finley River. Others in the family may be buried there, as it is sometimes referred to as the "Jones" cemetery.

QUESTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Writing this paper has been an exciting experience. I chose to write about the letters in the present tense, because I had a feeling that I was actually with the Thayer family as the letters were written. As I lived vicariously with the family, I felt I knew each member well, and began to reflect on the qualities they had that I have seen passed down to later generations. The description of Mary Emma as a young girl in the home, organizing housework and sewing, made me think how much her daughter, Edith, was like that. Although our generation is not as deeply religious as Mary Jane's and might have theological differences, we are still a family of strong faith. We also value education and support and encourage our children in this way. We have maintained the close family ties that the Thayers displayed. Although somewhat diluted, I think we still possess some of their work ethic.

I am glad that we have not had the physical and emotional problems they had, and believe that modern medical knowledge has made a difference there. I would like to think that if we did not have modern treatments, that we would have the fortitude the Thayers displayed.

Mary Jane's strong opposition to alcohol was definitely shared by her daughter and granddaughters. Some were active in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

There were many questions that arose when I began to read the letters. Thanks to the miracle of the internet, and the interest of our son, Scott Anderson, I made contact with Jerry Thayer and Patricia Thayer Muno, who were helpful in supplying information from the Thayer genealogy records.

There are still puzzles I hope to solve. Just where did Mary Emma go to school when she made the herbarium? Mine has Worcester Academy written on it in her script. Worcester Academy in MA has no record of her attending there. The family records say she went to college in Oberlin, Ohio, but I haven't located a Worcester Academy there.

Are there living descendants of Emma's brothers, Willie and Charles Jones?

Theodore Jones came from my part of the country. He had property in Paris, Texas, which one of the letters said couldn't be sold after the Civil War. What about his family, could there be descendants nearby?

What drew Mary Jane and Theodore to Missouri?

What was the long-term illness that Caroline suffered?

William's widow, Julia, lived in Washington, D.C. in the early 1900's. I have postcards her son, David, sent her from his travels and from his home in Newport, RI. David is not in any Thayer records. How did Julia end up in Washington?

The list goes on, and so does my interest in this fascinating family. I am writing this to pass on to our children, in case someone develops an interest in the family genealogy. I recommend it.

Editor's Note: This wonderful set of letters was written by Eleanor Anderson of Dallas, TX in 2002 and was submitted by Patricia Thayer Munro. Due to the length of this written work, 17 pages in all, this is the final part, all previous parts appeared in previous issues. ☒

Travels by your Editor Singapore

By Rodney Lee Thayer

Although I have been to Singapore while stationed on several ships while I was in the Navy, I have had to make the ever famous "visa run" there twice since moving to and residing in Thailand.

Singapore is an island nation, just over 600 square kilometers (approximately 230 square miles), and lies just 1 degree north of the equator. Near the end of the Malay Peninsula. This is home to over 4 million people, and since it is an island, you probably wondering how they do this, easy, there is just over 6 and a half thousand people per square kilometers of land.

To get there, it is just a 50-minute flight from Phuket, Thailand, which is where I live. The airport is the best I have seen in the world, very easy to get around in, and very efficient as well, leaving the airport is just as pleasing, the scenery is well planned, beautiful trees and palms, and flowers are everywhere, and it is not just near the airport, flowers and trees line nearly all roads and highways!

Highways are well maintained and go to all parts of the island. Smaller roads can be somewhat confusing at first. They have a modern train system, that also runs to most areas of the island as well, very efficient and inexpensive as well.

The rules in that country are unique in one way, and some are just good sense. An item prohibited from being brought into the country is chewing gum, if it is found in your luggage, it may be confiscated, you will not see any gum stuck to sidewalks there, as one cannot chew gum in public as well.

Smoking is allowed in public, but not for throwing out the butt, that will cost you a several hundred dollar fine if caught. Throughout the major parts of the city, trashcans, complete with ashtrays in the top, are found literally everywhere.

For some of the more unusual laws, there is always the "failure to flush a public toilet," that is a 100 dollar fine, and another is no durians are allowed in public places, such as shopping malls, trains, elevators, and busses. A durian is a large Asian fruit with a spiny, hard outer skin, when it is opened up, basically it smells very bad (I have seen these and tasted them, popular fruit in Thailand, but they taste a lot better than they smell, I can see why they enacted this law!)

Getting around using a map and street signs is not a problem since the official language of the country is English and Chinese, with the majority of the citizens of Chinese origin. There is a large Muslim population as well, so yes, Arabic is also on all signs! Since the country borders on Malaysian, Malay and Malayalam are both spoken and Malayalam also appears on most signs. Train stations are the best to see this, every information sign, warning, and directions are usually in four languages!

Driving is on the left side of the road, opposite of the US, and unlike Thailand, they actually follow the signals and lines in the road!

If one is using a cell phone from Thailand, without re-chipping the phone, the roaming is very expensive. Since everyone in Asia use GSM phones, they all have removable SIM cards, so anytime I go to Singapore, I re-chip my phone on the plane ride over. I actually carry Singapore and Cambodia SIM chips with me in my wallet, and a Singapore train card as well.

For shopping, there are always the clothes markets and electronics are everywhere. For clothes, it is best to get out the city center and into an outlying city, much cheaper.

Food of every type is available, and reasonably priced if one looks around first. When I do the visa run, after dropping my passport and documents off at the Embassy, there is a little underground kitchen just off a busy street in the city center. The place is packed during the noon meal so one has to get in early. All the dishes served are Asian and most are no more than 1 or 2 dollars.

The Thai Embassy is easy enough to locate and obtain a visa, but it is much cheaper to go to other countries. Over all the city is great to see and experience, getting around is easy with the train, but there are other countries that are less expensive.

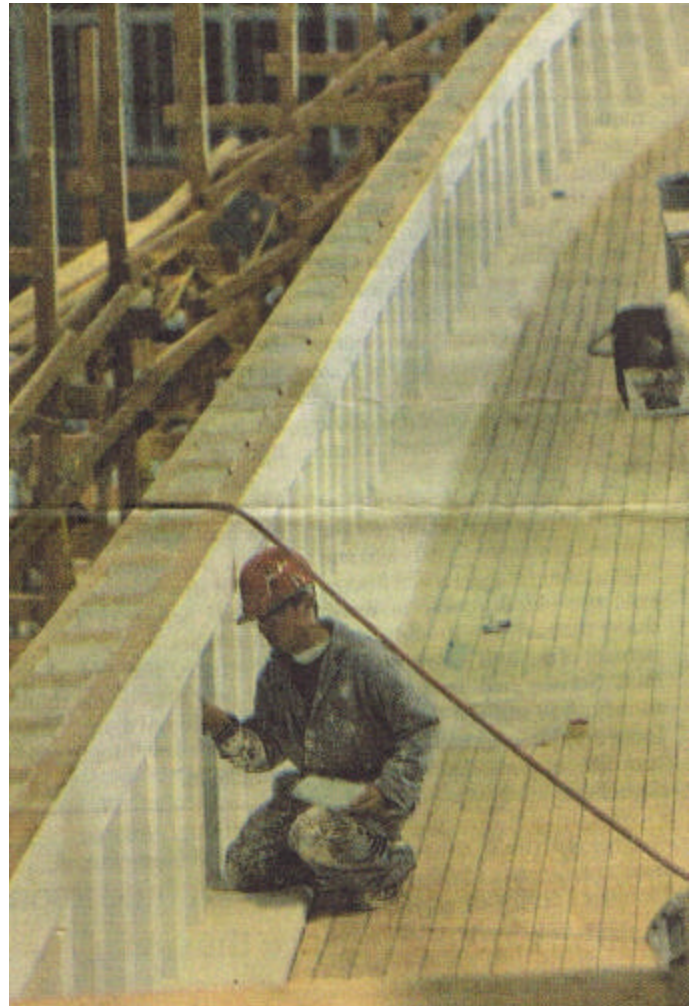
Next stop, Penang Malaysia! I head there for another 90 day visa the day after this is emailed to Kate for the ETQ. Penang report to follow! ☒

Seaworthy, again

By Carl Nolte, Staff Writer, The San Francisco Chronicle
Submitted by Ann Neisner

Inside a seaplane hanger at the former Alameda Naval Air Station is one of the luckiest old ships in the world.

It is the 111-year-old sailing schooner C. A. Thayer, which has survived shipwreck, age, dry rot, and financial troubles of the National Park Service. Now the old ship is about to begin a brand new life.



Worker applies primer to the railing.

The Thayer has been rebuilt from the keel up – “she is almost like a new ship,” said William Elliott, general manager of Bay Ship and Yacht Co. His shipyard is doing the work under contract to the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, which owns the old vessel, a national historic landmark in its own right.

The project, which has taken more than two and cost between \$12 million and \$15 million so far, is one of the largest and most complicated restoration jobs on a wooden vessel in U.S. history. When the shipyard work is done and the Thayer returns to the Hyde Street Pier in San Francisco this summer, the 219-foot-long ship will still not have its three masts in place, and much additional deck will still need to be done.

Grays Harbor, Wash., at the time of the disaster, and by the time it arrived at the lumber docks down near where AT&T Park stands now, the cargo was nearly worth more than the ship. San Francisco had burned up, and the new city needed lumber and plenty of it at any price.

The Thayer worked from the day it was launched at the shipyard of Hans Bendixson on Humbolt Bay in 1895 until its last working voyage in 1950.



It ran aground in 1903, and nearly sank in a gale in 1912. But it has been to Fiji, to Australia, to Hawaii, and mostly to the fishing grounds of the north, up near the Aleutians, where the seas were like mountains and the wind blew all the time.

The Thayer's main virtue was that it worked cheap. It carried a minimum crew – only eight or nine men, paid \$30 a month – and there was no expense for fuel, not an extra dime spent for anything fancy.

The C. A. Thayer sits in the former Alameda hanger where it is being rebuilt from the keel up.

But the effort will have accomplished its main purpose: It saved the ship's life, and that's important to park Superintendent Kate Richardson.

"The Thayer is the last of her kind," Richardson said.

Once there were 200 ships like the Thayer, wooden schooners, powered by the wind alone, hauling lumber up and down the West Coast. Sometimes they put into ports on the North Coast so small, it was said that a dog couldn't even turn around in one.

The Thayer hauled the redwood and Douglas fir lumber that rebuilt San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire. The ship was on its way from

At the end of its working life, the Thayer's sails were old and patched, like a worn set of overalls. "The fish don't care if the sails are old," the Thayer's owner once said.

But ships are different from old trucks and old horses. When they are worn out, you can always find somebody who wants to save them. Such a group, led by Karl Kortum of the old San Francisco State Park, found the Thayer in a Puget Sound backwater and had the state of California buy the ship.

It was refitted and a crew of volunteers sailed from Seattle for San Francisco in the fall of 1957. The Thayer, at sea for the last time, was "back in another world and another century, unattended by land or time," Harlan Trott wrote in "The Schooner that Came Home," a book about the voyage.

But the Thayer ran into a howling gale, the old ship straining and creaking. One morning, the skipper called all hands on deck. The ship, close hauled with no engines and no radar, was almost on the rocks. It was history, all right, but more than volunteer sailors had bargained for. They called the Coast Guard and then a tug; the Thayer entered San Francisco Bay for the last time on the end of a towline.

weather, but barely. The ship was getting to that stage where it would no longer be safe.

Thirteen years ago, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the C. A. Thayer as one of America's 10 most endangered landmarks. But it was the kids who saved the ship.

Sen. Diane Feinstein and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, two San Francisco Democrats, got four appropriations through a Republican-controlled Congress, convincing skeptical colleagues that the C. A. Thayer was more than an old ship – it could teach children about life at sea, make history come alive.



Jeff Morris is the shipwright in charge of reconstruction, ensuring no details are missed.

It took five years to get the Thayer ready to be a museum ship. The National Park Service took over the Hyde Street Pier Park in 1978 and took a long look at the C. A. Thayer. It was old and tired; the decks leaked in the rain and fresh water, poison to a wooded ship, got in the timbers.

In the 1980s, the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, a nonprofit partner with to the federal park, began operating an “Age of Sail” program, teaching boys and girls about sailing ships. The children stayed overnight on the Thayer and played the role of sailing ship crew headed for the North Coast. Between 12,000 and 15,000 kids “sailed” on the old ship at the Hyde Street Pier.

The Thayer, meanwhile, was starting to fail. It was sound enough to lay on the deck in good

The Thayer itself was almost history. When they finally got the ship in the yard two years ago and began taking it apart it was discovered the old ship was in worse shape than anyone thought – 80 percent of the hull was rotten. The Park Service had to find more money. A \$9 million job had ballooned close to \$15 million. It was like surgery that was more complicated than was predicted.

Now that it is almost done; shipwrights and caulkers have re-created a ship from another age of Douglas fir and skill, pretty much by hand, fitting the timbers together, almost like a sculpture, almost like a puzzle.

The smell of sawed wood hangs in the air over the old airplane hangar, and the ship looms over it all, the unpainted hull bare in the gloom of the dark building.

“The geometry of wooden ships is interesting,” Elliot said. Everything is connected everything else, and in the end, once the ship is in the water, it must be both stiff and flexible at the same time, almost a living thing.


“It is very, very labor intensive,” said Elliot, who estimates that more than 100,000 man-hours went into rebuilding the Thayer.

“We took it apart piece by piece and then put it back together, so that when somebody steps aboard in the year 2050 it will be the same ship as it was when built in 1895,” he said.

The Thayer will be far from perfect when it returns to San Francisco this summer. The remaining work, which Superintendent Richardson says will be done by the park’s own staff, may take a year or more. It will be like a patient coming back from the hospital, back from the edge. It will take a while.

Richardson says she hopes the Thayer will be the centerpiece of new boatbuilding programs, overnight programs, perhaps some kind of maritime institute run by the Park Service or its partner organizations.

Perhaps the old ship, fitted with new masts, new rigging and sails, could sail again. “Maybe we could sail her,” Richardson said, “I’d like to.”

Article originally appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday, May 21, 2006. Written by staff writer Carl Nolte. 

Words from the President

Season’s Greetings from Braintree, or Penfield NY if you prefer. I’m sitting in Penfield waiting for the cold weather front to come in this afternoon, as if what’s going on outside weren’t enough.

This is the time of year to gather inside, raise a glass, and celebrate the holiday season.

Thanksgiving Day gave me the opportunity to reflect on the things for which I am truly thankful, and I realized that I’ve been thankful for The Thayer Families Association all year long. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as President again, and to be surrounded by such dedicated family members. Just when I think there’s a problem, one of the TFA members steps up and says: “I’ll take care of that.” It’s happened so many times that you’d think that I’d

come to expect it. I guess I never will come to expect it, but I’m sure thankful Thayers are the way they are.


Russ Thayer and I met with the President of the Braintree Historical Society in September, and we’re on our way to getting a report on the TFA/BHS publishing fund.

Work is progressing on Volume V of the Comprehensive. For your information, Volume IV of the comprehensive is available from the Braintree Historical Society. You can contact them at:

Braintree Historical Society
31 Tenney Road
Braintree MA 02184-6512
781-848-1640

We’ve been away from New England for a couple of years, and I’m looking forward to seeing everybody at the annual meeting/reunion in BRAINTREE next summer. The reunion will be held at the Braintree Sheraton Hotel, 37 Forbes Road, Braintree MA 21085 on June 21-23. You can contact The Hotel for room reservations by calling: 781-848-0600. Be sure to mention the TFA block of rooms.


I hope that everyone has a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Albert Thayer Morton 

Articles Needed for the Newsletter!

Articles are urgently needed for the newsletter.

Your newsletter is comprised of articles, stories, and tidbits sent in from our members. This information is needed in order to keep your newsletter full.

If you have family stories, see a newspaper article that is Thayer related, have a reunion, or anything else Thayer related, **please forward to your Editor.** When submitting newspaper articles, please include the title of the article, date, and title of the newspaper, this is needed for copyright requests. If no answer is received, the article will appear in its entirety with credit to the newspaper. 

A Year in Thailand

Rodney Lee Thayer, Editor

The end of this month, December, marks my one-year living in Thailand. Here is my report on how one lives and copes in such a place.



Scenery I see on an almost daily basis.

First thing to state is that when my friends email me or visit me here, they all say one thing, “Lee, your living our dream.” Well, this is a tropical paradise for those visiting Thailand, but for me, when I wake up in the morning, it is just another day. I have a schedule board, look at it for the days work load, and go on about my day. So my reply to my friends is, “just because I live in paradise, doesn’t mean I don’t work either, and sometimes we have to work very hard here as well.”

My typical day starts at about 6:00 a.m., I take care of the previous days accounting for the internet café, reply to emails received through the night, schedule my days events from my schedule board, review web site statistics, work on any small jobs on the computer. At 9:30 a.m., I open my internet shop for the arriving staff to clean and prepare for the day’s customers. Shop opens at 10:00 a.m. and I am officially open at the same time for customers to come in for design services. This is seven days a week. Sunday through Thursday we are open, café and my office, until 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday we stay open until 12 midnight. It is against the law to have children in an internet café after 10:00 p.m. if the next day is a school day! I am licensed to stay

open 24 hours a day, but choose to close at night and avoid visits by the police.

So what have I done since I have been here. First thing I did after moving into my shop was to purchase a small motorcycle, 115 cc automatic, this is the easiest and preferred way to travel here on the island. They are also easy on gas. I routinely travel to most parts of the island on my motorcycle, meeting with clients and doing computer repairs.

After the bike purchase, I got an international drivers license, which makes going through a police check point very easy. The motorcycle gives me the freedom to travel, meet with clients, and sight see on the island (the bike is newly registered with a red license plate, I am restricted to this province only, and yes, Phuket Island is the only island province in Thailand.) So now when a computer in my internet café needs repairs, I can easily drive to my computer guy and bring the parts back to my shop, instead of reply on my friend to drive me, if he has the time, or waiting on the computer repair guy to come to my shop. I also use the bike for shopping, which is about 10 kilometers from my shop, or about 6 miles, and yes, everything is carried on the bike.

More furniture has also been purchased, small cabinets for my office things, a display case in my office, and more bedroom furniture as well. Also added were framed posters in the internet café. Curtains have been added in the café, the office and on the third floor where we live.

A monthly task I have to do is clean the air conditioner filters, seems simple enough, but the Thais looked at me a little funny when I did this and now they expect it. When a Thai has an A/C installed, they run it until it no longer cools, then they call a service shop to fix it, and nearly all the time, they simply clean the filters and presto, it cools again. Also cleaned every month is the ceiling fans.

About once or twice a week I drive to a place called Rawai Beach, not far from my house. I don’t really know why it is called that since there is no beach, just a rock outcropping and a large mud flat. But this is where the fishermen set up there stalls and sell fresh fish, every type of fish you can

imagine! The seafood bought here is cheap and very fresh, and this makes up a large part of my diet.

Another thing that keeps us busy are our two cats. Both are Norwegian Forest Cat and Persian mixes, this makes for a really big cat that is very furry! Our first cat, Umi, has been with us since January and our newest cat, Jolee, we got in November. They are very playful and at times sit in the internet café when the air-conditioners are on so they can cool off.

I have designed 27 web sites since moving here, and worked on numerous other artworks for more clients. This takes up most of the majority of my time. I currently have sites for clients in Thailand, U.S., Cambodia, and New Zealand.

I have collaborated with the owner of Phuket Sail Tours, an Australian, and we run a tours website, for alternative tours. I made the site and setup a forum; so far, the reaction is good. We advertise tours that are not mainstream and are away from the usual crowds of tourists and draw a small commission if viewers book a tour and mention our site. I monitor

the email and the forum for the site when the partner is out on his sail boat on a tour.

So as you can see, I work seven days a week, have to take care of shopping, and keeping the café stocked and computers clean and running. I had cable TV installed so now I can watch a little TV and news at the end of each day.

I have regular bills to pay, such as water, electric, phone, and ADSL. And there is also taxes, this may be a third world country I live in but they didn't forget the taxes! Next year I will also have to pay Social Security for my staff, and for my own income here! This has to be done to secure permanent visa.



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 _____

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 (\$20 or \$30) = Total: _____

Address: _____

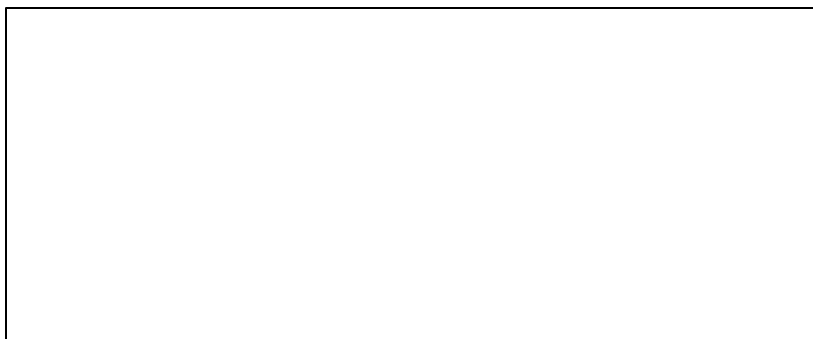
City, State, Country and Zip: _____

Email address: _____

If this is a NEW membership, name of person referring you: _____

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

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



CONTACTING THE TFA

www.ThayerFamily.com

For all official business with the TFA, please write the Secretary, James 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 Munro, 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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Quarterly will become property of the Thayer Families Association, and any further disbursement will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Thayer Families Association, and/or the original author. Issues are mailed the first week of the month as follows: Winter (Dec); Spring (Mar); Summer (Jun); Fall (Sep). Back issues are available from 1994 to present; some may be a photocopy (Spring 2000 to present is available on CD-ROM in electronic PDF format, please specify paper or CD when ordering). Cost is \$2.50 each for members, \$5 each for non-members, checks only, payable to TFA. (TFA, 346 Washington St. PMB #310, Braintree, MA 02184-4702). A cumulative index, containing every occurrence of a name that has appeared in the newsletter (prior to the current issue) is available for \$10 to the above address.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Your articles, letters to the editor, and comments regarding content are vital to the TQ. Photographs with a light background are appreciated, and can be returned, undamaged, if requested. Digital photos sent via the Internet are also welcome. Send typed articles to the TFA address or email the editor at simlewebs.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 Spring Issue is Feb 25th.

Thayer Families Association Reunion 2007 – June 21st, 22nd, 23rd Registration Form

Name: _____ Telephone #() _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State _____ Zip Code _____

Lunch: Butcher Block Buffet, Chef's soup du Jour, Garden Salad w/ Vinaigrette dressing, Assorted Deli meats, Swiss & American Cheeses, Relish tray, a variety of breads, and dessert _____ @ \$30.00 p/person
\$ _____

Dinner: Tomato Basil Bisque, Caesar Salad w/ parmesan cheese and croutons, Sage Stuffed Chicken w/ stuffing, creamy mashed Yukon Potatoes, vegetables, Chocolate Decadence Cake _____ @ \$35.00 p/person \$ _____

Tours:

June 21st, 10 – 2 Trolley Tour of the Freedom Trail in Boston. Includes the USS Constitution, and other historic sites along with a shopping at Quincy Market _____ @ \$22.00 p/person \$ _____

June 22nd, 9 – 3 Bus Tour to Plimouth Plantation with Tour guide. Includes a stop in historic Plymouth, Plymouth Rock, and the Mayflower. _____ @ \$45.00 p/person \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

All hotel reservations must be made by calling the hotel of choice.

The reunion hotel is: Sheraton Braintree Hotel (781)848-0600 or (800) 325-3535

Mention the Thayer Families Reunion for discount price Nightly rate: \$105.00

Other Hotels in the area:

Holiday Inn Express 781-848-1260

Hampton Inn 781-380-3300

All reservations must be in by June 1, 2007

Send reservations to: Mrs. Judith L. Young-Thayer; 311 Willow Oaks Blvd; Hampton, VA 23669-1531