the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Finding My Roots

By Al Thayer Morton

That Monument in Glenwood Cemetery had been at the center of our family burial site as far back as I could remember. Something like 43 graves surrounded it, with room for 43 more. My parents once took me there and pointed out the graves of various ancestors. As a child, I didn't understand, and today I'm not sure that my parents knew completely. When my Grandmother Fannie Estelle "Mamie" Morton (nee Thayer) was buried there in 1961, I gave no thought to researching my roots.

It wasn't until 1965 when my dad, Harry Thayer Morton, (1912-1965) died that I suddenly discovered that I had an interest in my roots.

There were no personal computers in 1965, and everything was recorded on paper. I didn't know where to begin, but "ask Mom" came to mind.

My mother explained that family legend held there were three brothers (always a popular theme in family legends) who came to America a long time ago, and that one of them remained in Braintree, another went to South America, and the third went on to become the first superintendent of West Point. As it turned out, that wasn't quite accurate, but certain words were correct. My mother delivered a box of papers and books to me, explaining that my Grandmother "Mamie" had been keeping a record of Thayer genealogy for a number of years, but upon her death, everything had been just put in a box, and nobody had ever done anything with it, or even looked at it.

Harry Thayer Morton, 1912-1965

I went so far as to build a new room in the house so that I could catalog, index, and sort all of the papers, and make some sense out of them. The information that I had to work with became so confusing, that I finally gave up on the project, although that newly added room remained my "study," until we moved to New York State in 1986.

In 1991 when my Step Father died, I finally decided that this was really the time to find my roots. I found the box of papers and books.

I had five things with which to begin my project:

1. A family cemetery plot, with many very well maintained sites, but the cemetery had no computerized records of who was buried where. Everything was filed by burial date. I did gather birth and death dates from the

stones, but had no way of piecing together who was married to whom, or who was a child, or who was a spouse, or who was a descendent, other than by guess.

2. The Roe Family Bible that contained a few of the names of people buried in the family plot, along with who they married, and some of their children.

3. A short genealogy of the Roe family, by someone (deceased) who I didn't know at all, but who had been a resident of the city where I lived, and it contained a few of the Thayer names I had.

4. A copy of Catalogo Biografico de la CASA DE THAYER DE BRAINTREE por Luis Thayer Ojeda. That wasn't of much help, as I couldn't read or write Spanish.

5. A computer.

I don't know how many of you have ever had the same experience, but as I tried to piece things together, I got lost, went down many dead ends, and once again got thoroughly confused.

I tried to fill in the gaps in my research at the local library by learning how to go through microfilms of various censuses, and discovered many of those cemetery headstone names in census records. To be truthful, it was my wife who discovered the mother lode of Thayer information in the census records. We wrote everything down. Or at least what we considered to be everything.

So now I had a list of names from the cemetery, along with the birth and death dates, to add to the data from the bible, along with a confusing array of data from the census records. I had no idea what to do with all that stuff.

I decided to get computerized, and found an elementary genealogy program. I set out to make a master record of just how everything happened. I knew names like "Braintree," and "Sylvanus Thayer," and "Luis Thayer Ojeda." I didn't know names like "Bezaleel Thayer," or "Sprague." I would learn those names later.

In 1993 I was using NVN, or GEnie as a computer service. Somewhere along the line I picked up the Prodigy service. I finally discovered that Prodigy had a genealogy bulletin-board and I decided to see how these things worked. I posted a question about finding my Thayer roots.

Among the many replies was one that particularly got my attention. A participant posted that there was an author in Oregon that had been working on the Thayer lineage for several years, and I might be interested in contacting her. I was given the authors mailing address, so I wrote a short letter to this "Patricia Thayer Muno," asking if she could be of help. I received a reply in a matter of days, and the results have been somewhat overwhelming.

Patricia Muno asked that I provide her with some background on what information I had already compiled, so I scurried back to the study, and printed out the birth, and death dates of what I had recorded from the headstones. I included what little information I had on each person, and mailed it off to Oregon.

Within days I received a lengthy reply, giving me the relationship of each person I had included in my data, informing me that I had filled in some gaps in her research regarding where certain people had been born, and where they died. Believe me, that was a thrill. My insignificant research had actually contributed something. The correspondence continued.

Tricia also suggested that I contact Raymond Alexander Thayer and inquire about the newly formed Thayer Families Association. I contacted Rick in Braintree, and my relationship with the ongoing Thayer Families Association began.

I know, I know. I stumbled on the "easy path" in finding my Thayer roots. You might try it too. There's lots of help from persons within the Thayer Families Association, and it's fun. I'm now getting some help in finding my Morton roots. Next it's on to Williams, my mother's family. This quest never ends.

Getting back to that family burial plot… following the death of my brother Bill, I've been involved in arranging for headstone cleaning, and foundation work on many of the headstones. While visiting the cemetery I noticed that someone had planted a flower at the headstone of my great-great-grandmother. I don't know who planted that flower, but I've got to find out.

A Board Members view of the 2007 TFA Meeting

By Madora Boyd

It was like meeting family again after a time away. Everyone was happy and smiling. This reunion had a smaller turnout, so we were unable to have to planned private tour bus. The members in charge came through with alternate plans very quickly, and we had great tours using the local transit groups.

The tour of Boston took us to many colleges and other notable places. The ones I was with, opted for a shopping square, where we wandered the shops, and selected foods from the many vendors, then met to eat together in the big hall. After that, we took the Harbor Tour. For me, the thrill was getting off at the Navy docks and touring a modern ship, and then the Constitution. I can remember going on it about 1930 in the Seattle harbor, when the crusade was on to save it. All of us children saved and donated our pennies, and it was saved! The contrast between that wonderful old wooden sailing ship and a more modern metal one was fantastic, such different materials and still the same layout. Just traded sails for engines, and the crew quarters were small, the kitchen large, and the whole thing unbelievable to a land lubber.

The next day, members with cars formed car pools and everyone who wanted to go was taken to Plymouth Plantation. There were many costumed "inhabitants", all willing to talk and very hospitable. Seemed a little off to be talking as if 1630 was the modern day, and the ways they coped with daily problems.

The meals provided during the reunion were delicious. And there are many good places to eat in Braintree for all our other meals.

Our Board meetings were attended by a few other members, who all remembered that they couldn't join in the meeting, just listen. The full meeting went quickly, as there wasn't much new business to conduct, but lots of thoughts were brought up about ways to increase our membership base.

2007 Annual Reunion

Judy Thayer

The 2007 annual TFA Reunion and Meeting took place during 20-23 June in Braintree, MA.

Twenty-six people were in attendance:

Albert Thayer Morton
Jerry & Judy Thayer
Kate Welton Kuzmich
Nancy Welton (Kate's mother)
James Loren Thayer
C. Russell & Carol Thayer
Madora Alin Boyd
Barbara & Walt Knight (Madora's dau/son-in-law)
Peggy Thayer Krapf (new TFA-er) & friend, Paul Wright
Patricia Ambrose
Jean Thayer Kempton
Douglas Kempton
Linda Bosier
Harriet Thayer-Thiel
Donald W. & Suzanne Thayer
Renna & Gerry Shaver
Betty Thayer & Edwin Johnson
Will Thayer & Caroline Hale

Secretary's minutes, Treasurer's report and committee reports were made.

Election of officers took place; new officers are:

Kate Welton Kuzmich, President
Albert Thayer Morton, Vice-President
James Loren Thayer, Secretary
Judith L. Young-Thayer, Treasurer

Directors:
William Russell Thayer (to replace resigning Garland Thayer) - 2008
Charles Russell Thayer 2007 - 2009

Directors for 2007 - 2008:
Lee Thayer
Madora Alin Boyd
Clint Thayer

Carol Thayer made lovely cross stitched book marks for all attending.

Peggy Thayer Karpf of San Andreas ("not my fault!"), CA offered to organize the 2008 TFA Reunion to be held in the Sacramento - Gold Fields area - of CA.

Other issues discussed included the BHS-TFA Publishing Fund Fund, and the possibility of holding biennial reunion meetings, in conjunction with other reunion groups, such as the Nathaniel Thayer - Thayer-Witsell Reunion Group, who joined TFA in Braintree in 1998, and Garland Thayer's Reunion Group at Abingdon, VA.

TFA Website Address Update

James Loren Thayer

The following URL's or web addresses can be used to view the TFA Website:

www.thayerfamilies.org
www.thayerfamilies.com
www.thayerfamilies.info
www.thayerfamiliesassociation.info

All of these addresses have been verified as working and active. The primary address is thayerfamilies.com and soon all the other addresses will direct all users to that address.

'CSI: Titanic'

OHSU metallurgist uses her microscope to form a riveting theory

By Peter Korn, The Portland Tribune, 20 Oct 2006

Jennifer Hooper McCarty likes to think she's a nuts-and-bolts, brass-tacks kind of woman. Not the type to find herself treading water in the middle of a riveting international controversy.

But McCarty, a metallurgist who works at the Oregon Health & Science University Office of Technology and Research Collaborations office, has raised the Titanic. Well, not exactly. What she's done is raise the discussion over what sank the Titanic to a new level.

McCarty has discovered that it probably wasn't really the iceberg after all, but thousands of rivets made on the cheap that led to the accelerated sinking of the world's largest ship in 1912.

McCarty's research has generated much more interest since three weeks ago, when a National Geographic Channel special, "Seconds From Disaster," showed McCarty and her co-author of an upcoming book, Tim Foecke of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, re-creating an experiment that illustrated how the Titanic's rivets popped their heads after the Titanic met up with the iceberg in the North Atlantic.

Those subgrade rivets, McCarty believes, turned what really wasn't that hard of a blow from the iceberg into a disaster that cost more than 1,500 people their lives.

Seven years ago McCarty was working at the Smithsonian Institution studying the development of Korean ceramic. That's what she likes to do — study historical materials. And that's when the Discovery Channel called to invite her to join a scientific team intent on assessing if metallurgy played a role in the Titanic's sinking. But it wasn't rivets the team was planning to study.

Seven years ago, steel was thought to be the culprit. "For a long time — and people still believe this — that the steel was brittle and it shattered like glass when it hit the iceberg and that's why the Titanic sank," McCarty says. But that thinking was based on the idea that the Titanic smashed into the iceberg, McCarty says.

McCarty sees herself as more than a metallurgist, or materials scientist, as the field currently is called. What she does is forensics analysis, so she doesn't just study metal — she studies the history of the metal.

In the Titanic's case, that meant studying testimony from survivors of the ship's one and only voyage. "The survivors of the Titanic, many of them didn't feel the collision," McCarty says. "Some of them felt a little jostling. None of them really says: 'Wow, it hit really hard, and I fell to the ground.' "

The type of collision was important because it would determine what type of test McCarty would conduct on the hull plates the team retrieved from the Titanic. Previous research, McCarty says, had used a process called a Charpy test on the Titanic's

plates to determine how much straight-on energy was required to break them.

But if the Titanic suffered more of a glancing blow, a different test, called a slow bend test, would better duplicate the stress the Titanic's materials unsuccessfully withstood in the collision. Foecke conducted the slow bend test and discovered the steel was not that brittle and probably did not break up in the collision.

McCarty and Foecke started thinking about another explanation, and they had a suspect. "If you know something about disaster and structural detail," McCarty says, "a lot of time the rivets are a weak point."

A rush job?

McCarty headed back to the historical records. She discovered that wrought-iron rivets, which are generally weaker than steel rivets, had been used in the Titanic's bow and stern. And she discovered something else: The Titanic's shipbuilders had been under pressure to get the job done quickly.

Shipyard archives revealed that the yard was short of employees, especially competent riveters, McCarty says. The Titanic's sister ship, the Olympic, had been launched first, suffered damage in a collision, and was brought back to the yard.

It all spells pressure, and stress, on both workers and materials. "So they're building the largest man-made moving object in the world," McCarty says. "Just about the time they're going to finish the Titanic, the Olympic has to come in for repairs. They're trying to finish the Titanic on time, but they have to pull people off the Titanic to work on the Olympic.

"They've got a lot of materials they've got to put together. A lot of steel and a lot of iron. They were in a frantic situation trying to fix one ship and get the Titanic finished with 3 million rivets."

So the shipbuilders started going to lesser-known forges in search of iron, and quality control may have been bypassed, McCarty theorizes.

Back in the lab, McCarty had 48 rivets that had been retrieved from the Titanic. She broke off pieces of metal and took nearly 30,000 pictures of the metal under her microscope, then used a computer program to analyze the composition of each rivet.

What McCarty learned was that the wrought-iron rivets had been diluted with too much slag, a smelting byproduct. A 2 percent or 3 percent slag content was standard for wrought iron 100 years ago. But the Titanic's rivets had slag concentrations up to 9 percent on average. And some portions of the rivets had slag concentrations of up to 40 percent. The excess slag produced weak spots in the rivets.

Which led to the recent National Geographic television special, which opted for the dramatic by having McCarty test her weak-rivet theory on camera. Steel plates and wrought-iron rivets were made and joined to the same specifications as the Titanic's. A slow bend test was performed, and the rivets started popping their heads at 9,000 pounds of load, about half the load that properly made rivets could withstand.

'Zipper effect' idea catches on.

McCarty calls the on-camera experience the "make it or break it moment" for her theory. She had been talking about weak rivets at scientific conferences around the world for the past several years. Now, she says, Titanic experts are beginning to accept that her theory, well, holds water.

The Titanic's rivets, not its steel plates, were the weak points. "A few bad ones when you're under collision," McCarty says. "One might pop and that puts the load on the next one, and then you end up with this little zipper effect."

Jennifer Hooper McCarty, left, worked with Tim Foecke of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to look at how the metals used to build the Titanic contributed to its 1912 sinking. She also tested metals such as these from the Queen Mary, USS Arizona and the World Trade Center.

L.E. BASKOW / PORTLAND TRIBUNE

The result, McCarty says, was a ship sinking much faster than it should have. The Titanic might still have sunk after the collision if the rivets were all steel, or purer iron, but not as quickly. The hull plates might have held long enough for people to

remain on board the ship until help arrived. As it was, the Titanic sank in just over two hours.

Article submitted by Althea Shull.

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COL Thayer Goes to a Wedding

By Judith L. Young Thayer

Many years ago, and some months before he retired from the U.S. Army, COL. Henry J. Thayer (aka "Jerry" to TFA-ers) was asked by one of his young officers to be a groomsman in the Capt.'s June wedding scheduled at the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point, NY.

(Actually, the Capt. asked Mrs. Thayer (aka "Judy" to TFA-ers) if she thought that the COL would be amenable to his request. Mrs. Thayer replied, "Yes, of course, and I will tell him so!")

On a beautiful, sunny Saturday in early June, COL and Mrs. Thayer left their quarters at Picatinny Arsenal near Dover, NJ, and drove to West Point. As this formal Army wedding was scheduled for 1 p.m., the Thayers dressed for the occasion before leaving home; the COL was wearing his Army Dress Blues (and looking very distinguished and handsome)! They arrived at West Point early, and decided to go to the Hotel Thayer for a cup of coffee before driving to the Chapel. As they walked up the long flight of stairs into the hotel lobby, all around could be heard, "Oh look! It's Colonel Thayer!" (The uniform included, of course, the nametag.) At that time, there was a large portrait of Sylvanus Thayer hanging above the fireplace and mantle in the lobby.

I must admit to being aware of the hushed comments all around, and tried to carry off the "moment" with aplomb. As we made our way into the hotel dining room, there were more people who noticed Jerry, and were so IMPRESSED at having seen COL. Thayer.

The Thayers made their way to the West Point Chapel to meet the wedding party. The groomsmen wore swords, and prior to the ceremony, there was a brief practice to form the arch of swords through which the newly married couple would pass. (Jerry was later heard to comment, "I damned near skewered my opposite number!")

The newly weds were driven by white coach and horses back to the Hotel Thayer, where the reception on the terrace overlooking the Hudson River was held. Later a formal dinner was served, and music played while people ate and danced.

It was a lovely way to end a 30 year military career. (All the while, during dinner was served, I kept thinking, "We ought really to be home mowing grass.")

Story of a Lineman

By Jerry Thayer

William Burt Thayer (Parker Marius8, Daniel Corbitt7, Charles6, Daniel5, Samuel4, Isaac3, Ferdinando2, Thomas1 was born 2 January 1877 in Linesville, Crawford County, PA; son of Parker Marius Thayer & Ruth Edna Britton. His father was a mason and a builder and the family moved frequently as better work conditions was found.

They moved within the confines of western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio.

Will, as he was called by the family, was the first born and as there were nine children was expected to begin work at an early age. He decided not to follow his father into the building trade but became a lineman installing electric lines to communities in eastern Ohio. The picture on the left shows Will in his working clothes at age 19 about 1896 with his work partner whose name I do not know. Will is on the left of the picture.

Electricity was new to the rural communities of eastern Ohio at the time and it was greeted with mixed emotions as were the workman who were installing it.

About 1900 Will was working in Belmont County Ohio and met his future wife Mary Emma Thompson. Mary Emma was born 16 July 1875 in Athens Township, Harrison County, OH. She was the oldest of eight children of William Chancey Thompson & Harriet "Hattie" Delong. As such, she too was expected to make a living at an early age and in 1900 she was working as a domestic in the household of a quaker family and she and her brother James lived with that family in Flushing, Belmont County Ohio. Will and Mary Emma met at a community dance which was popular at the time. Mary Emma was dating Will's brother Heman Dale Thayer at the time. Heman worked on the same crew as Will. Despite his work which moved him around Will fell for and had time to court Mary Emma and they married in Flushing at the bride's home on 21 Aug 1902. Mary Emma is shown on the left about 1900.

Will was working at the time in the Stark County area and the couple made their first home at 127 West 8th Street in Canton Ohio and held an open house on 1 September 1902. They lived in Canton for the first four years of their marriage in which two children were born, Henry Donald Thayer on 25 April 1904 and James Howard Thayer on 26 Jun 1905.

In 1906 the family moved to New Castle, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania where on 27 March 1907 the third and final child Lester Vincent Thayer was born. The family moved into a house on Shaw Street on a hill over the center of town. They lived there uneventfully until October of 1920. All three boys were in school at the time and Henry was just starting the 10th grade.

The move was occasioned by a change of work locale for Will. He had moved from working on rural electric systems to high voltage transmission lines but was also used as a trouble shooter for the power company. It was on one of these call outs that his premature death occurred. The 6 Oct 1920 New Castle News carried an account of the accident on page 1. It reads: "William Thayer, age 43 years, of 332 Shaw street, was electrocuted at 9 p.m. Monday while closing up a loop on an arc light circuit at the corner of Erie avenue and Walnut street. He was on the pole about 4 feet off the ground and in some manner came in contact with a broken live wire.

Fell Into Rounds' Arms - Croton reported to the electric company office that they were without lights. Thayer was dispatched to locate the trouble and Supt. Louis Rounds also started out in the Croton district. He met Thayer and they went to the corner of Erie avenue and Walnut street together.

Thayer started up the pole, reached over to fix a wire, and without warning fell from the pole. Rounds threw out his arms and grabbed him, breaking the fall to the ground. Rounds imediately recognized that Thayer had been hurt, and applied the first aid measures.

Pulmotor Used For Hours Drs. Campbell and Boak were called and as soon as they arrived, called the ambulance, and the police department. The police took the pulmotor to the Shenango Valley hospital where Thayer had been taken in the ambulance. Six tanks of oxygen were used by Officers H.M. Reynolds and McHahon. Their efforts were of no avail, however.

About 8:30 p.m. a call came to the police station to the effect that a telephone pole was on fire at the corner of Erie avenue and Walnut street. The fire department was notified and they in turn informed the electric company. The electric company office ordered Thayer, a night trouble man, to go up and fix the break. It was while in the act of making this repair that he met his death.

He was one of the best known electrical men in the city, having worked at the business since boyhood.

Funeral on Thursday William B. Thayer had been a resident of this city 15 years, and was a member of the First Methodist church, he was also a member of the New Castle lodge No. 642, F. and A.M. and also of the Lodge of Perfection. Surviving him are his wife, Mary E. and three children, Henry, Howard and Lester, also his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Parker Thayer, of Akron, O., and the following brothers and sisters, Heman of Conneaut, O., Garland of Akron, Solon of Cleveland, Mrs. Ralph Dibble of Akron, Mrs. Charles Baur of Pleasantville, Pa., Mrs. Louis Campbell, Alberta, Canada, and Miss Pauline Thayer of Akron. The body was removed to White's morgue and prepared for burial, and will be taken to the home this evening.

Funeral services will be held from the residence, 332 Shaw street, Thursday afternoon at 2:30. Interment will be made in Oak Park cemetery."

This tragedy caused a major change in the life of the family. Henry had to drop out of school and take up an apprentice position with a machine company to earn money for the family and since he would not be making much until he learned the trade, Mary Emma converted their home into a boarding house. She continued in that capacity well into the 1940s. Howard and Lester continued with their education.

Mary Emma never remarried and was a widow until her death on 24 Sep 1958 from a stroke. Henry Donald married Nancy Iris Taylor on 15 June 1926 and they had three sons. James Howard never married. Lester Vincent married Lilia McCann on 29 June 1928 and they had three daughters.

Wedding Announcement

Thayer and Main announce September wedding plans

Kristine Marie Thayer and Derek Ellis Main

Nona and Rick Thayer are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristine Marie Thayer, to Derek Ellis Main, son of Nancy and Tom Shampine, and Phil Main.

Krissy is a recent graduate of Northern Michigan University with an associate's degree in health information processing.

Derek is a 2005 graduate of Northern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in business management. He is currently employed by Consolidated Electrical Distribution in Marquette, Mich.

The couple is planning a Sept. 22 wedding and will be residing in Marquette.

Obituary

Meadville Tribune Published January 15, 2007 11:24 pm - HOUSTON, Texas — Donald M. Thayer, 80, a former resident of Kane, Warren and Meadville, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2007, in Houston, Texas.

HOUSTON, Texas — Donald M. Thayer, 80, a former resident of Kane, Warren and Meadville, died

Friday, Jan. 12, 2007, in Houston, Texas. He was born July 31, 1926, in Kane, a son of Fred and Charlotte Dawson Thayer. In 1946, he married Drusilla (Sally) Brinkley, who preceded him in death in 1989. Mr. Thayer served in the U.S. Navy as a corpsman during both World War II and the Korean War. He retired from the Harris County (Texas) Department of Highways in 1990.

Surviving are three daughters, Diann Thayer, Dawn (Tom) Ramey and Deborah Costilla, all of Houston; three sons, Daniel Thayer of Sheffield, Douglas Thayer of Warren, and David Thayer of Richmond, Va.; a sister-in-law, Peg Thayer of Saegertown; 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death, in addition to his wife and parents, by four brothers, Herman, Raymond, Kenneth and Everett Thayer; three sisters, Mary Webster, Ruth Beatty and June Bush; and a grandson, Joseph Power. Friends may call at Ronald McDonald II Funeral Home Inc., 103 S. Fraley St., Kane, Thursday from noon until 2 p.m., at which time a service will be conducted there, with the Rev. David Lake, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Kane, officiating. Interment will follow in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Kane. Military honors will be observed.

The Thayer lineage: Donald Melvin Thayer[10], Fred Leroy[9], John Nelson[8], Joseph[7], Joseph[6-5], Oliver[4], William[3], Shadrach[2], Thomas[1], the immigrant.

Editor's note: Obituary was emailed to the Editor by Jerry Thayer.

Obituary

James I. Thayer, Battle Creek

James I. Thayer, 70, of Battle Creek [MI], passed away on Friday, March 9, 2007 at his home.

He was born September 13, 1936 in Plainwell, Michigan the son of Ira Noble and Maude Lucille (Rinehart) Thayer.

Prior to his retirement in January of 2004, he had worked at the Campbell Soup Company for 18 years and Clark Equipment Company for 20 years.

He loved to read, feed the deer in his yard, enjoy a good cigar and watch his grandchildren play sports.

In 1957 he was married to Nadine Frances (Barnes), who survives.

Also surviving are six children: Lonnie (Sue) Taylor, Steve (Sandy) Taylor, Wanda (Ray) Petch, Larry (Sandra) Walker, Ken (Tammi) Thayer and Michelle (Darrell) Lockwood all of Battle Creek; ten grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, one brother: Richard (Joanne) Thayer of Manistique; three sisters: Harriet Thiel of Traverse City, Marian (Jim) Blanchard of Portage and Linda (John) Bosier of Richland; several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be after 9:00 am Monday at the Richard A. Henry Funeral Home where the family will be present to receive friends from 2:00 to 4:00 and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home with Rev. Michael J. Whitesell of Grace Community Church officiating. Interment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

Poems by Richard James Thayer

The Old Worn-out Shoe – 19 January 2007, as inspired from a 1910 diary of his father-in-law, William Herber Heath.

Tell me your story-
Old worn-out shoe,
Tell me of times long ago
When you went out dancing
The whole night through.
Square dances and parties
Hither and yon,
And not getting home
'Till the break of dawn.

Morning comes early-
Driving home with old Ned,
But chores are awaiting
No time for your bed.
There are cows to be milked,

Fed silage and hay
Then grab a quick breakfast
And greet the new day.

Many years have now passed
Dancing shoe has gone now
Time to hitch up the horses
And follow the plow.
-It's a much slower pace-
Unlike dancing - instead-
You eagerly await the day's end
-And Bed!

The Tree Climbing Model T (A true story)
16 February 2007

What is that strange looking car I see?
Well, believe it or not, it's a Model T.
'Twas said it's a car that all could afford.
The maker, none other than Henry Ford.

It's a simple car - with "three on the floor",
Three pedals - that's all - there's no need for more.
No cumbersome shifting of gears - instead
Just a push on a pedal gets you going ahead.
The one in the middle will make you go back.
But the last, number three, stops you dead in your track.

No cruise control, power steering, power brakes or A.C.
No stick shift, no clutch - it's a Model T
Just three simple bands - that's all you need,
As they're worked by your feet, both hands are free
To steer, or to wave to all you might see.

But our Ford was different, and well it might be,
With a mind of its own - for it climbed up a tree!
My mother was driving on a road of our farm
On a fairly steep hillside, faraway from all harm -
When without any warning, the steering wheel came free -
And the Ford in full throttle climbed up a tree!

The motor stalled out, no power to get down -
Can't reach up to crank it, too high off the ground.
So, what to do now, there was only one source,
Go to the barn and bring back a horse!
With the help of the horse, and earth's gravity
The Ford came easily down from the tree.
And often I wonder what Mother's thoughts were
As she nervously waited to get down from that tree.
There's a moral to this story, and I urge you and feel
You should always make sure there's a nut on the wheel!
I fondly remember, and ever grateful will be
To renowned Henry Ford, and his great Model T!

Travels by your Editor
Penang & Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

By Rodney Lee Thayer

Brief History

Malaysia was primarily Hindu from the 7th to the 14th centuries, Islam took hold in the 10th century, and with several wars and civil unrest, it is primarily Islamic today. The Portuguese invaded in 1511 and then the Dutch and British followed as well. Briefly held by the Japanese during World War II, and more civil unrest, Malaysia as it is known today was established basically in 1970.

In 1970, Malaysia was a third world country, with the majority of the people living in poverty and no industrialization. By 1990 however, Malaysia was considered a first world country, meaning they had a democratic government, technology and industry and the people had a high standard of living.

Penang

Penang, Malaysia is an island resort area, situated on the northwest side of the Malay Peninsula in the Straits of Malacca, which is the busiest sea-lane in the world (ships use the straits to go from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean and vice versa.) The Malay Peninsula is south of Thailand, and is only about an hour flight from Phuket, Thailand, where I reside.

I had been to several places in Malaysia while serving in the Navy, but had never been to Penang. I knew it was an island, smaller than Phuket, but was unaware of how developed they were.

After landing at the airport, we took a taxi to our hotel, the YMCA of all places. The reason for this is it is just a few minutes walk from the Thai Embassy, and is the lowest priced hotel on the island! And since it was Malaysia, it was a nicely designed and well layout building, rivaling any 3 star hotel.

To get to the hotel, we drove on a 4 lane, elevated highway, very unlike southern Thailand. It was easy to get around with the highway system and local roads as well.

The hotel is in a residential part of the island, with massive trees lining most of the streets, and very large homes everywhere. The streets and the trees were laid out in the 1800's by the Europeans.

We walked about half way around the island one day after delivering our passports to the Embassy. The majority of the buildings are European in style. There is shopping ranging anywhere from large multi-level malls to small mom and pop shops.

What brings people to Penang? It is the beaches, there are beaches on nearly all sides of the island and it is what draws the tourists there. But beaches aside, it is the manufacturing that makes Penang what it is. Nearly everything inside your computer is made in Penang. This is evident from the US manufacturing companies that have huge factories there, these are seen from the highway on the way into the city from the airport. It is not a cheap place to go, a coffee will cost you 3$. And nearly all the taxis are Mercedes Benzs. Food is relatively inexpensive however.

The interesting thing we noticed was the schools. Since there is Hindu, Muslim, Malay and Chinese cultures in Malaysia, each of the different cultures have their own schools, Malay children go to a Malay school, Chinese go to a Chinese school, and so on. It is as if 4 separate cities have been set on top of each other. For the languages, everyone is taught Malay and English, and their own language as well. So a Chinese student learns English, Malay, and Chinese!

We spent another 2 days going around the island, then we were able to pick up our passports and return home to Phuket.

Kuala Lumpur

We decided to go to the capitol of Malaysia one time for our next visa.

Kuala Lumpur is a very large, well developed city, a blend of old and new buildings, and its famous landmark, the Petronas Towers, at 1,483 feet was the tallest building in the world at the time of its completion, is a truly spectacular site. (Taipei 101 in Taipei Taiwan is currently the tallest, at 1,667 feet tall.)

Our hotel was in the China Town part of the city, this was due to cost of hotels in the city and location to the Thai Embassy. We were fortunate to get a good hotel at a reasonable price and were still close to the Embassy.

China Town is a great place to see, especially at night, when it really comes alive with all the food markets open. Seafood with plenty of vegetables and rice make up most of the Chinese food, a good hearty meal can be purchased at any of the vendors for just a few dollars.

The day after we arrived, we set out to the Embassy, we knew a general location by our map but was unsure of the distance. The Petronas Towers, which are visible from anywhere in the city (and up to 15 miles away) was on our left when we left the hotel in a taxi for the Embassy. After arriving, the fare only being 2 dollars, and about a 10 minute, fairly straight drive, we decided to walk back and see a bit of the city.

We delivered our passports and set out on the walk back, this time keeping the Towers on our right. On our walk, we passed the American Embassy, and amazingly enough, the Iraqi Embassy is right next door to it! After about 20 minutes of walking, the rains started and we had to duck into a bus stop for cover, after 20 minutes of a heavy down pour, we were on our way again. 30 minutes later, we were back in China Town and were able to easily locate the hotel.

We spent another 2 days exploring the city, mainly by walking. After this we were able to get our passports and were able to return home.

All in all, Malaysia is a clean country, the people are friendly, it is easy to get around, but it is not a place to go on a budget.

College Plans

By Lynn Thayer

Editor's note: The following are brief notes from Lynn Thayer, granddaughter of Madora Boyd to Madora for use in her family newsletter. Lynn has graciously agreed to allow us to reprint these here.

Hello. Its Lynn Thayer, I wanted to inform the family of what I will be doing for the summer and spring. This semester I applied to the Disney College

Internship. This program allows me to visit Orland Florida for seven months to work in a paid internship at Disney World, while taking some of the amazing classes they offer!

Last week I received the letter telling me that I got the internship at Disney! I'm one of ten applicants that was chosen. I'm quite excited at taking this huge step in my academics and also in my life.

It is scary to think of being separated from my family for so long. The students that have returned from the Internship say that it is more then worth the hassle. Right now I'm trying to pull together credits from school so I can be receiving PLU (Pacific Lutheran University) college credit while I'm gone.

I will be leaving the end of May and returning in January. Just wanted to inform the family of what is going on in my life! If you want to know more please e-mail me at darsalat@gmail.com. Lynn Thayer

Another Update

Hello Family again! More good news! I have applied and been granted a position on a January trip through Scotland with my Sociology class. I will be traveling through one of Great Britain's most haunted cities, Edinburgh, Scotland. We will spend three weeks applying social psychological principles to ghosts and hauntings. Interrogating these paranormal occurrences with our knowledge of social psychological concepts and theories, we will construct accounts for the seemingly "unexplainable."

We will go ghost hunting at Mary King's Close, Edinburgh Castle, Coventanter's Prison, Greyfriars Cemetery and many other spooky locations. Our travels will take us through the beautiful Scottish Highlands to Inverness where we will spend a weekend in a haunted castle and join the search for the Loch Ness Monster. Expand our global awareness by learning about the rich culture, history and folklore of Scotland. I will be leaving again to travel right after I get back from Disney World (within days), my life is going to be so full of traveling I hope that I don't forget what it is like to be home! Lynn Thayer

Another Update

I'm living with five other girls in an apartment, # 1707 in the Vista Way complex. Later today I plan on going out with my apartment-mates and shopping for groceries, yea! Our cupboards are so bare that its scary!

The Disney class that I will be taking is the Program Practicum Course. It seems to be about looking at the essence of Disney, its work culture, methods, leadership, origins and values.

Update 29 Jun 2007

Disney is going well, and I am quite busy. I wake up at six in the morning to be ready and catch my Bus at 6:45. Disney supplies a coach line that runs to all of our destinations both fun and work nearly twenty four hours a day! I get to the Contemporary Resort around seven thirty and wait until seven forty five. I sit in the lunch room with all my new friends and we talk until fifteen till, then we go to the 'breakout' meeting and hear the resorts occupancy level and updates on happenings in the resort the pertain to us, then were off for the day to work our rooms. If I can get half of my rooms done (eight out of sixteen) then I'll break for lunch, if not I have to keep going to finish on time. I'm cleaning rooms 4301 - 4316, so I have almost a whole side of the big A-frame of the contemporary to myself! I think someday I'm going to put neon tape on the out side of the balcony so when the bus drives by on my way home I can finds my rooms from the outside. Some time I plan on going back as a guest and shopping the gift store, eating from Chef Mickeys (which I get to smell every morning as I clean my rooms).

A big conference just let out on Sunday of this week and most of the ladies (including me) had most of their rooms as General Cleans, this means that you strip and clean the room for new guests, its hard because a lot of people leave a huge mess behind and it takes you longer to clean then an occupied room, so everyone was really stressed and busy for the whole day. This is where friends come in, you help them with rooms and they help you finish yours, it's a lot more fun to clean with someone to talk to and a lot easier since while you do the bed, she will do the bathroom and then one will vacuum while the other dusts and straightens. The work is still back breaking but it is a little rewarding to take a dirty room and make it clean.

Also I'm learning how to make towel animals and those (when I have time) get to go in the bathroom or if a child has stuffed animals, nestled with them!

my last room of the day had four towel bunnies (aka bo-bo bunnies) marching across the sink with tooth brushes on their back!! I love when I have time to make these animals!

After work is over I clock out and head home, often I will ride the monorail from the Contemporary to the transfer station and catch my Coach from there. I've been reading books while on the bus since the ride ranges form an hour to forty five minutes (it keeps me from sleeping) and I seem to finish a book in a week! When I get home one of the girls may have made dinner so we will just hang out, eat and talk about our day and what happened, then if I have time before bed I'll visit one of the hot tubs on property and soak out the aches, then its right to bed for me since I've been warmed inside and out.

On my day off (since I have two) usually I'll go to a park on Wednesday, yesterday it was Animal Kingdom, and today I have my class at one thirty so I will go and deposit my Disney check, finish my home work and go to class. Possibly after class I may go to the store to get groceries. The parks are really fun to visit, since I have an unlimited pass for myself, it is encouraged that we go because Disney wants us to be able to talk about the parks with the guests, its really nice to have the passes since I can go to a park until I'm tired and not feel I have to keep going, since I can just come back another time. Usually I'll be in a park for four to seven hours, I have yet to do two parks in one day! Its hard since I go with friends who don't have the same schedule as me so someone may have to get home to sleep since they are waking up at three the next morning! Lynn Thayer

Words from the Former President

I was gearing up for the Reunion in Braintree in June when I received a phone call informing me that my Brother, William Frederick Morton, had passed away on May 9, 2007.

This necessitated some adjustments in my plans, but I knew that I still had enough time to make arrangements, and still get to Braintree on the 19th of June.

Bill had long-ago expressed a wish to buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Flint, MI, in the Thayer Family plot. That was accomplished, and the family attended a memorial service for Bill in the Glenwood Cemetery on the Sunday before Memorial Day. Bill is now buried among 46 other Thayers in the exact spot that he had chosen. I spent a lot of time with a lot of Thayers last weekend.

Now it's June, and my attention is back focused on Braintree. I plan on spending a lot of time with a lot of Thayers at the reunion in Braintree this year, and I hope everybody has a good time. I'll be meeting with the Braintree Historical Society, conducting meetings within TFA, and just having a good time socializing.

I hope you all will be there.

Albert Thayer Morton
President, Thayer Families Association, 2006-2007

Words from the President

I want to thank the membership for their confidence in electing me to serve as President of Thayer Families Association for the 2007-2008 term.

The Board has begun its planning for upcoming events, including a West Coast TFA Reunion in 2008. Feedback and encouragement from members at our 2007 meeting in Braintree has given us ideas for new ways to share our Thayer family information.

In the coming months our website will continue to be updated, and will become more visible to those who are seeking information about our shared Thayer families.

Communication between our members is crucial to our continued growth. I encourage everyone to email me with thoughts, ideas, concerns, or to just say hello. My email address is: kwelkuz@earthlink.net For those who prefer to use

the US Postal Service, please use the following address:

Kate Welton Kuzmich
306 Fox Briar Lane
Sugar Land, TX 77478

I will respond to all mail I receive.

You, the members, are the best source to Thayer Families Association for suggestions in ways we can better serve you. Let us hear your voice.

Kate Welton Kuzmich
President, Thayer Families Association

New Civil War Veteran

By Jerry Thayer

Edgar Glenroy Thayer born 27 Jun 1846 in Winchester, Cheshire, NH; died 1922 Amherst, Hampshire, MA; married on 30 Aug 1866 in Hinsdale, Cheshire, NH to Sarah Jane Phillips born 2 Jan 1848 in Greenfield, Franklin, MA, daughter of Rufus S. & Sarah A. PHILLIPS. Edgar's lineage: Edgar G.[10], Albert Asa[9], Asa[8], Asa[7], Enoch[6], Zebulon[5], Benjamin[4], Richard[3-2-1]. His great grandfather Enoch was a Revolutionary veteran and the DAR states "Enoch Thayer enlisted from Bridgewater and served as a private in the Mass. Line."

From the book: NORTHAMPTON IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, BY JAMES R. GILFILLAN & HERBERT E. RILEY.

"FIRST LIEUTENANT GLENROY A. THAYER.

Co. I was also fortunate in having for lieutenants men of fine character and long military training, who were in perfect harmony with the captain and ready at all times to carry out his plans and wishes. First Lieutenant Glenroy A. Thayer's aptitude for the militia was in some degree inherited. His father, Captain Edgar G. Thayer, a veteran of the **Civil War**, was for several years Commander of Co. K, Second Regiment, at Amherst, while his grandfather and great-grandfather were both captains in the New Hampshire National Guard, the latter serving in the Revolutionary War. An ancestor on his mother's side, Lieutenant Israel Phillips, rendered service in the French and Indian war and in the Revolution.

Lieutenant Thayer first entered the Volunteer Militia as a member of Co. K, on Nov. 19, 1897. After his removal to Northampton he joined Co. I on Dec. 13, 1892. His active interest and ability won him an appointment as sergeant on February 11, 1893, skipping the grade of corporal. He was commissioned second lieutenant on April 9, 1894, and first lieutenant on Dec. 17 of the same year, holding the latter position at the beginning of the war, when he received a commission as first lieutenant of volunteers. During his first lieutenancy in the militia he had special charge of the equipment and the dress of the company, and the fine appearance of the command together with the excellent condition of their uniforms and accoutrements was due in large measure to his diligence and faithfulness. He enthused the men with his spirit and they readily cooperated with him. During the war service he rendered valuable aid to Capt. Williams and was an excellent soldier.

Col. Clark honored Lieut. Thayer and Co. I by appointing him as ordnance officer of the regiment, his duties being to see that the companies were kept supplied with ammunition. Still greater honor would have been his but for an accident during the landing of the Santiago expedition. Col. Van Horn, of the 8th Infantry, which with the 22nd Infantry and the Second Massachusetts made up the First Brigade of the Second Division of the Fifth Army Corps, was brigade commander, and **during the voyage to Cuba** he selected his staff officers, or aides, one from each regiment. From the Second he chose Lieut. Thayer, who accepted the responsible position. But after the arrival off Santiago, Col. Van Horn was seriously injured while going from the Seneca to a conference of brigade commanders on another ship, and as he was unable to land with the expedition his appointments were cancelled, much to the regret of Lieut. Thayer's comrades. The lieutenant declined to re-enter the militia after the war and his resignation was accepted Dec. 14, 1898.

Glenroy A. Thayer was born in Hinsdale, N. H., June 27, 1867, the son of Edgar G. and Sarah

(Phillips) Thayer. His parents moved to Amherst when he was 10 years old and he was educated in the public schools of that town. He came to Northampton in 1892, and has since been employed in the store of A. McCallum & Co., now having charge of the dress goods department. He was married in 1888 to Nettie E. Dickinson of Amherst, and they have three children." ⏏

From the Editor…

Well it has been a great time over here in Thailand, my Internet Café is doing well, and for website design, I work on sites every day! I have been over here for over a year and a half and I am currently running 43 sites right now, it keeps me busy. About 3 times a week I have to leave my office to see clients (I drive a small motorcycle here.)

But the great times are drawing to a close for me and my lifestyle here. Some of you may not be aware that there was coup here last year, and the Kingdom is still under martial law. The Prime Minister was ousted and the military took over and are currently running the show. Day to day there is no real impact on me, but the current military government has been changing the immigration and visa laws, almost on a daily basis. So with the current laws in place, the Kingdom has stopped issuing me (and others) tourist visas. Without a tourist visa, I can only enter the Kingdom 3 consecutive times, 30 days each entry, then I will be banned from entering for another 90 days. I am on my second entry right now.

I will be leaving Thailand sometime in Aug or Sep to return to the US.

On another note, articles are still needed to maintain the newsletter at 16 pages. Our previous newsletter was 20 pages for several years, but due to price increases with production, it has been opted to lower the page count to reduce some of the costs. If you have anything you want to see in the newsletter, please email it to me at simplewebs.lee@gmail.com

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_____
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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.

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www.ThayerFamilies.com

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

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North Ogden, UT 84414-2762
Email: HJThayer@aol.com
Please include an SASE if you need a reply.

 Issues are mailed the first week of the month as follows: Winter (Dec); Spring (Mar); Summer (Jun); Fall (Sep). Back issues are available from 1994 to present; some may be a photocopy (Spring 2000 to present is available on CD-ROM in electronic PDF format, please specify paper or CD when ordering). Cost is $2.50 each for members, $5 each for non-members, checks only, payable to TFA. (TFA, 346 Washington St. PMB #310, Braintree, MA 02184-4702). A cumulative index, containing every occurrence of a name that has appeared in the newsletter (prior to the current issue) is available for $10 to the above address.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Your articles, letters to the editor, and comments regarding content are vital to the TQ. Photographs with a light background are appreciated, and can be returned, undamaged, if requested. 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.