the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Help Needed - Unplaced Thayers

Almost everyone who reads this publication is interested in family history, the Thayer name in the United States, and it's evolution. Many of you are experienced researchers and have developed your own family tree along the way. Well, TFA needs some help and hopes that our membership can provide some of the need.

The problem is that our Historian, Patricia Thayer Muno is in process of publishing her Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Families in the United States and we still have some 13,000 persons in our unplaced files. They are not all of the Thayer surname as there are spouses in that number. Also we know that we can never link all of these. We have found Thayers in the US who were born in Germany, Denmark, France, Ireland, England, Scotland, and many from Canada; most of those, other than the Canadians, will never be linked to one of the older US families. However, there are still at least 10,000 Thayers who can be possibly included in families of the four or five early Thayer lines in the US.

Now, here is where TFA needs help. Patricia Muno has been attacking the problem for lo these many years and has had much success. She has also had help along the way from some volunteers but the time grows short before she completes her finalizing these immigrant lines. TFA still has more work to do on the unplaced Thayers than she can handle with her current volunteer help. So I would like to call upon the membership to make a concerted effort over the next year to reduce the numbers of those unplaced and increase the numbers of known connections.

This is what I propose. If a member is willing to help in this effort, this is what is needed. You tell me what part of a state you are most familiar with and are willing to do research in. I will, in turn, provide you with all of the information we have gathered on unplaced persons in that area, their relationships, what we have checked and what, in my opinion, still needs to be done. You may have better ideas and we welcome those. Most of the census work will have been done on federal census returns after 1850 where every name is available. What is needed most is a boots on the ground look at wills and estate files, state census returns, Town/Township records, local history files, things that require the work of people in the area who are familiar with the resources. Patricia and her volunteer help cannot accomplish that without extensive travel and time, which we do not have.

While Patricia works on her books, I would coordinate and work with any volunteers. I would prefer to work online but will use postal service if necessary. The work needed will not take a great amount of time as I will try to give you persons in your part of the state or in that part in which you prefer to work. Just let me know if you are willing to help in this task and we can get started.

My name: Jerry Thayer, and I have met a lot of you since 1996

My email: hjthayer@aol.com or hjthayer@verizon.net

My postal address: Henry J. Thayer
311 Willow Oaks Blvd
Hampton, VA 23669-1531

I hope you will join me in this work. τ

President's Words

There was an unexpected event in my family recently. I found a cousin, living less than 20 miles from me, that I didn't know existed. No, this isn't a "black sheep" or "long lost" reunion, it's a tale of unknown origins and intersecting paths.

Some time ago, I submitted DNA from George Marvin *. He was happy to oblige, he is one of the few males remaining, as so many of his cousins had no male children. He was curious to know what information I discovered, to please let him know.

The test was performed, the results provided, and there his sample sat, unique and alone, for several months. No one was a close match. Then another test appeared, only 12 markers, but a perfect match. The sample provider's name was George Marvin *. I phoned "my" George Marvin * and asked if he had submitted a second sample. No, he hadn't.

George Marvin *(2) and I began corresponding. His information petered out in the same decade my research hit a brick wall, the 1790's. His family was in the same place, too. We began to gather information, with renewed enthusiasm.

We were informed by FamilyTreeDNA that one of the values on the samples from our respective George Marvin *'s were of interest to a study group. We learned more.

George Marvin *(2) recently upgraded his sample to 67 markers. We ARE related, as there is an exact match on 66 of 67 markers.

No, we haven't definitively tied together our two George Marvin * lines, but we have focused our efforts and eliminated many possibilities. Even better, I have found a cousin, however distantly related.

This issue of the newsletter provides lots of information on DNA testing and an opportunity for all of us to find Thayer cousins. Opportunity is knocking, will you answer?

--Kate Welton Kuzmich

For those of you who have just recently been introduced to the world of genetic research… please don't get discouraged. The study can seem complicated, but not really more complicated than a roadmap.

This is the first part of a continuing series of articles on the fascinating discipline of finding our ancestors, and finding our distant, and not so distant relatives.

Genetics & Genealogy - An Introduction

With Some DNA Case Study Examples

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This report was first prepared as a handout for a lecture presented by me at a Genealogical Conference in Reading, PA, in October 2001. I have updated it and added to it along the way adding more graphics, etc.

What Is DNA?

DNA is short for DeoxyriboNucleic Acid. DNA is a double-stranded helical molecule found in the cells of all organisms. DNA contains the biological, genetic instructions to build an organism. DNA also controls the day-to-day function of all cells. These instructions are passed down from parent to child via the DNA we inherit from our parents. A gene is an instruction containing section of the long, double-stranded helical molecule of DNA which contains specific instructions for some specific function such as making a protein. About 25 thousand genes are packaged in the DNA packages called chromosomes. 46 chromosomes arranged in 23 pairs or sets define

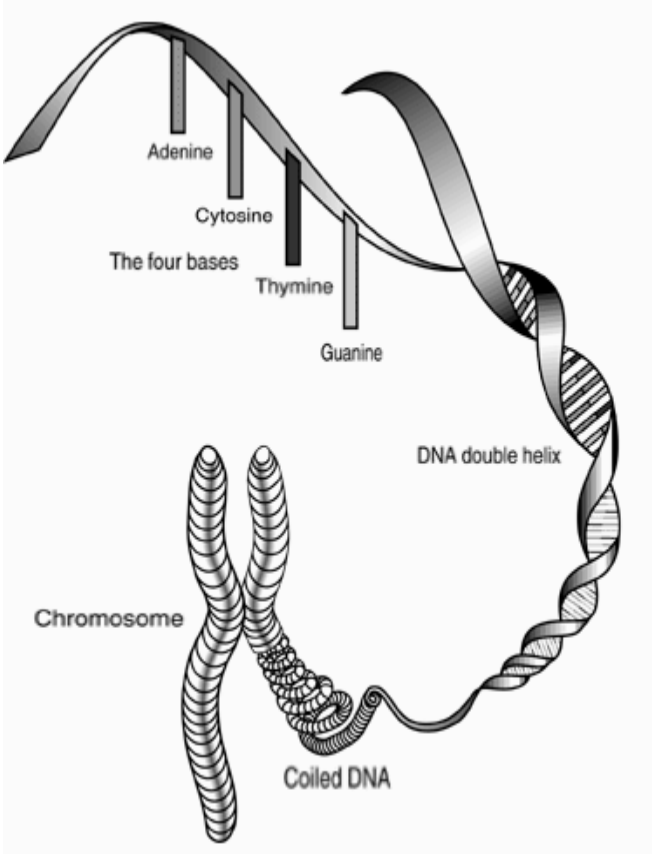
the human genome. The complete human genome contains billions of bits of information.

As just explained, the DNA in the nucleus of our cells contains 2 sets or pairs of chromosomes. Each parent provides one set. Each set has 23 single chromosomes; 22 autosomes and an X or Y gender chromosome. Basic biology and genetics tells us that the 23rd chromosome pair is the chromosome set that determines gender. Males have both an "X" and a "Y" in their 23rd chromosome pair and are thus “XY”, but females carry two X’s or an "XX" for their 23rd chromosome pair. The unfertilized human egg cell always has a single X chromosome obtained randomly from one of the mother’s two X chromosomes when the egg cell is produced. The human egg will become a female embryo if the male sperm that initially reaches the egg cell carries an X-chromosome. The egg will become a male embryo if the male sperm that initially reaches the egg cell carries a Y-chromosome. The male embryo thus gets its Y chromosome from the father who in turn got it from his father. Thus you can see the Y-chromosome is passed down from generation to generation only through the male line. In order to better understand how we arrived at this point, we need to reach for the next level.

The complete set of DNA instructions for making an organism is called its genome. Found in the nucleus of a person’s many cells, the human genome consists of tightly coiled threads of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and associated protein molecules, organized into structures called chromosomes. In humans, as in other higher organisms, a DNA molecule consists of two strands that wrap around each other to resemble a twisted ladder whose sides, made of sugar and phosphate molecules are connected by rungs of nitrogen--containing chemicals called bases. Each strand is a linear arrangement of repeating similar units called nucleotides, which are each composed of one sugar, one phosphate, and a nitrogenous base. Four different bases are present in DNA: adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G), and cytosine (C). See Fig. 1 on next page. The particular order of the letter bases arranged along the sugar-phosphate backbone of the DNA double helix ladder shaped molecule is called the DNA sequence. Specific sequences of three letter bases make a DNA “word” which codes for an amino acid. A string of DNA “words” strung together in a sequence form a “DNA sentence”, aka a gene, which contains the instructions to make a particular protein. Protein is used to build the organism. Many “sentences”, aka many genes and we have the instructions to make the entire organism. These sequences specify the exact genetic instructions required to create a particular organism with its own unique traits.

The two DNA strands are held together by weak bonds between the bases on each strand, forming base pairs (bp). The human genome contains over 3 billion base pairs (bp). The complete detailed and verified mapping of the entire human genome was completed in 2003.

As we just learned, the three billion base pairs (bp) in the human genome are organized into 23



distinct, physically separate microscopic units or

packets called chromosomes. All genes are arranged linearly along the chromosomes. Genes are like island of information in the overall DNA molecule sequence. In between are vast sequences which do not code for proteins and have no known function for the organism. Those vast areas in between the genes are referred to as junk DNA by geneticists. But as we shall see later one man's junk is another man's treasure. It is in these junk DNA areas that we find the STR markers used in Genetic Genealogy tests to determine relationships. The focus of this lecture is to learn how to use certain specific types of DNA information, which is passed down from parent to child over generations, to aide in solving genealogical puzzles.

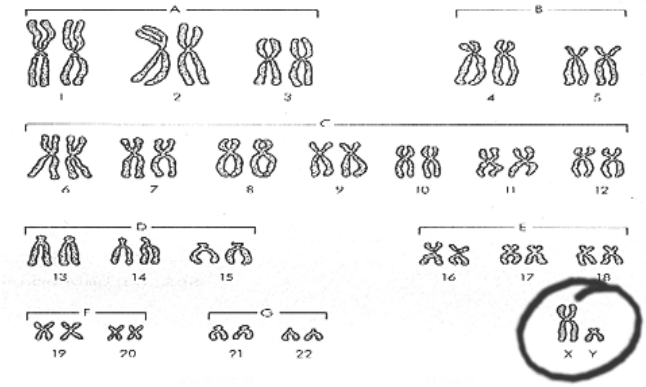


Figure 1 - Pictorial Example of Nuclear DNA Structure

Credit: University of California, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory,

and the Department of Energy. (Edited slightly by me for use in this report.)

Types of DNA

Autosomal DNA (atDNA) – Nuclear DNA information which makes up our individual genetic identity which is the random combination of all genetic information passed down to us from all our blood-line ancestors and is contained in the nuclear DNA consisting of the merged set of chromosomes found in the nucleus of cells. These are the chromosomes that determine our unique identity and appearance. We get this randomly assorted merged set of chromosomes from our mother and father. There are 44 autosomal chromosomes arranged in 22 pairs numbered 1-22 from the largest set to the smallest set. Autosomal atDNA STR markers are what are used for the typical paternity tests and individual identity tests in forensic tests.

Y chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) - Nuclear DNA information which is found in the Y chromosome which only exists in males. One of two gender determining chromosomes. The Y chromosome is passed along from male to male via a sperm cell which contained the Y chromosome of the father. The sperm cell having a Y chromosome determines that the child will be male. Thus only males have the Y chromosome and only males can pass along the Y chromosome from father to sons. Y-DNA STR markers are what are used in typical surname projects.

X chromosome DNA (X-DNA) - Nuclear DNA information which is found in the X chromosome which exists in males and females. One of two gender determining chromosomes. Males have one X chromosome and a Y chromosome and females have two X chromosomes. X chromosomes when paired in females interchange genetic information via cross-over effects similar to what happens with the autosomal chromosomes. Thus after a very few generation it is very difficult to track the ancestry of a particular X chromosome X-DNA genetic marker pattern. However, the X chromosome is used sometimes in specialized tests in some family reconstruction analysis cases.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) - Non-nuclear DNA which is a small DNA molecule contained in the Mitochondria organelles which are located inside the cells of all of a mother's children, both male and female. The Mitochondria organelles are not in the nucleus of the cell but are outside the nucleus. Thus mtDNA is not nuclear DNA and is found inside the Mitochondria organelles located inside the cell but outside the nucleus of the cell. We get our Mitochondria only via the egg cell of our mother. Therefore only females can pass on mtDNA to their offspring.

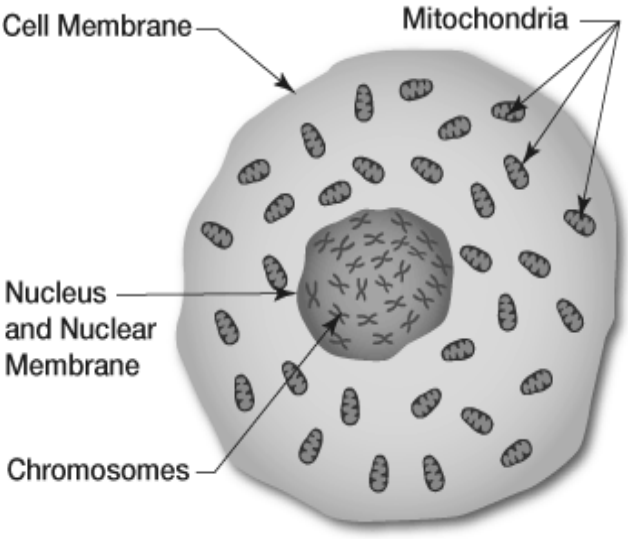


Figure 2 - Rudimentary Pictorial of DNA Containing Organelles in a Human Cell

Credit: FamilyTreeDNA.com

Types of DNA of Most Interest to Genealogists?

A) Y Chromosome (Nuclear) or Y-DNA

All men and only men have a Y chromosome. This biological fact allows us to trace back in time a direct, largely unchanged genetic line of inheritance from father to son.

Every person, male or female has 22 matching pairs of chromosome -- one inherited from each parent -- but the 23rd pair is different. This unmatched pair, known as the X and Y gender chromosomes, determines whether we are male (XY) or female (XX). A mother always provides a single X chromosome in her egg. Inherit an X from your father and you will be a female, receive a copy of his Y and you will be male. And so the Y chromosome travels from father to son with each successive generation of males.

The second thing that makes the Y chromosome unique is that the information carried on Y-chromosomes is inherited largely intact over time. Unlike other chromosomes, the genetic material on the Y chromosome is not mixed with each new generation. The reason is that when cells divide in preparation to make sperm and egg, all 23-chromosome pairs line up to exchange random bits and pieces of DNA with their matching partner before separating. All the chromosomes do this exchange of genetic material save the mismatched XY pair. The Y is much shorter and very little of its genetic information is broken up in an exchange of DNA with the X chromosome. The information carried on the Y chromosome travels from father to son as a nearly exact copy of itself.

Occasionally, during the DNA copying process small changes or mutations occur, and it is these mutational differences that allow us to distinguish the Y chromosome of an individual from his ancestor's. Thus an actual genetic record of the male line going back through time exists -- as clear a marker of paternal heritage as a father's family name.

A tangible timekeeper of history, the Y chromosome allows us to trace human evolution, track migration patterns and relatedness in groups of people, and answer paternity questions going back generations. As we pull apart the Y chromosome, we begin to unravel some fascinating stories about our own origins. Population geneticists and anthropologists have categorized human Y-DNA into about two dozen distinct major groups called Haplogroups, with many sub groups assigned to each group.

B) Mitochondria or mtDNA

Mitochondria--The energy component in all cells in the human body is passed from mothers to all their children through the union of the mother’s egg and the male’s sperm. Mitochondria organelles are located outside of the cell’s nucleus and have their own DNA. The mtDNA molecule is much shorter than the nuclear DNA. It is only about 16,500 base pair in length and it is arranged in a small circle like a donut. Compare that to nuclear DNA which is about 3.2 billion base pair in length and is arranged in a long spiraled and coiled thread like structure. The typically basic mtDNA test yields a standardized result of 400 base pairs that are compared to the Cambridge Reference Sequence (CRS). The results of the test, which will include

the Hyper Variable Section #1 of the control area of the mtDNA, will yield a few base pairs that differ from the standard Cambridge Reference Sequence (CRS). Since the standard was created around a western European woman, the more changes one has from the standard the farther back in time one's mtDNA would have split from the base of the genetic tree. For example most Africans have 7 or 9 differences while most Europeans have a few or perhaps 5 of these polymorphism from the Cambridge Reference Sequence (CRS). One's maternal ancient Haplogroup is determined from the basic mtDNA test. Advanced, refined, or so called mtDNA Plus tests also test a second region of the mtDNA called Hyper Variable Section #2. The additional data from the second Section when combined with the first section results allows greater differentiation between individual's maternal line and reduces the time to your most recent common maternal ancestor when you have an exact match between two people for both HVS1 and HVS2.

Population geneticists and anthropologists have categorized human mtDNA into about 30 distinct major groups called Haplogroups, with many sub groups assigned to each group.

If you match someone on the mtDNA side you will know that you and they share a common female ancestor, but the time to the MRCA is typically several thousand years ago, and certainly not less then many hundreds of years group. FTDNA, the company I use for testing, also offers an refined/enhanced mtDNA Plus test that examines the HVS2 section of the Mitochondria to reduce the time predictions to the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) in the female direct line.

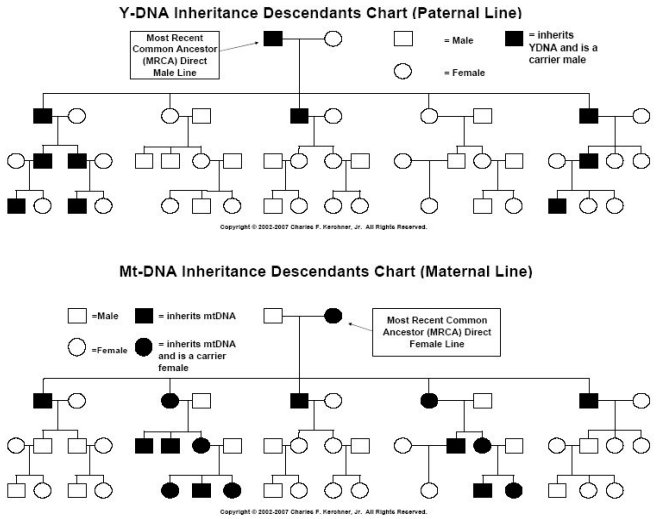


Figure 3 - Y-DNA Paternal Line and mtDNA Maternal Line Inheritance Charts
Shows How the Y-Chromosome (Y-DNA) and Mitochondria (mtDNA) Are Inherited

How Can DNA Analysis Help Genealogists?

Genetic comparisons can determine if a person is or is not genetically closely related to another person. But we should be aware that there are limitations using current Y-DNA or mtDNA testing. One can determine that two people are related but one cannot determine the degree of the blood relationship. In addition to the typical paternity tests that most people are familiar with for use with the most recent generation, these are some of the basic DNA tests that are available and useful to the family genealogist for investigating genealogical relationships in earlier generations on the Pedigree Chart - .

The Y-Chromosome YSTR DNA Test (Y-DNA)

The Y-chromosome, in the nuclear DNA of every living male, is virtually identical to that of his father, his paternal grandfather, etc., and is carried by male cousins of any degree of relationship that share the same male ancestor. It provides a clear set of YSTR genetic marker results expressed as a set of numbers, known as a haplotype, which distinguishes one male-to-male lineage from another. See this website for an example of using Y-DNA for genealogy:

"http://www.kerchner.com/kerchdna.htm" or "http://www.kerchner.com/success.htm".

The Y-chromosome Test Can Help Determine:

1. Whether two or more specific individual men share a common male ancestor and did that ancestor live in a time frame of genealogical interest, i.e., the advent surnames.
2. If a set of two or more men with the same or similar sounding or meaning surname are directly related through a common male ancestor.
3. How many different common male ancestors any given group shares.
4. Unrelated same name clans so you do not waste time trying to find a connection to same named lines you are not related to, i.e., sorting out which Millers or Smiths are yours.
4. To which broad pre-history, deep ancestry haplogroup each individual male's Y chromosome haplotype belongs.
5. An analysis of the mutations in the Y-chromosome can also be used to estimate the degree of separation between individual males in terms of number of generations since the separation occurred. Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) is another way of expressing this separation. There is currently a debate over the 'natural' rate of mutation over time. A mutation can occur at any time. Natural mutations have been postulated to be occurring on average about once per 500 generations per marker. But some family surname Y-DNA studies are observing average mutation rates of about twice that rate, i.e., once per 250 generations per marker. See this website for more information on YDNA YSTR mutation rates: "http://www.kerchner.com/dnamutationrates.htm". Also it is now acknowledged that some Y-DNA DYS markers mutate at a higher average rate than other Y-DNA DYS markers.

Historian's report September 2008

By Patricia Thayer Muno, TFA Historian

From Patricia's mailbag:

On the 11th of August, it was like Christmas at the Muno household. From Connie Thayer Beemer of Orlando, Florida, came an large box of ancient books which had belonged to her father, the late Walter Elbert Thayer, a close associate and consort of New England's noted Waldo Chamberlain Sprague.

Since I have in the Thayer holdings here at our home the complete works of Sprague, I have seen many references where he had received information which was particularly pertinent to the Mendon, Massachusetts families, which had come from Walter Thayer. Unfortunately, Walter died in August of 1973, and I had only commenced my genealogical career the exact same month and year as his passing.

States Connie: "My father would have been so delighted to have corresponded and met with you!! As a child, I remember Mr. Sprague coming to the house. My father had converted a section of the basement into his retreat and there on his old typewriter, he wrote and compiled the information on the Thayers. My mother used to complain that if he spent as much time on his work as he did on his genealogy, he would be a lot better off! You are really working hard. I do not know how you keep all of the information straight. I greatly appreciate all of the genealogical work that you are doing and I am sure that it will be as accurate and comprehensive as your good research can make it. What a legacy you are creating for yourself and all of us other Thayer's."

The books which Connie so graciously shared are as follows:

> Annals of the Town of Mendon, Massachusetts from1659-1880, by John G. Metclaf, E.L. Freeman & Co., Printers to the State. Providence, RI, 1880. (Signed by the Author).
>
> An Elaborate History and Genealogy of the Ballous in America; Carefully compiled and Edited by Adin Ballou [1803-1890]; With Numerous Artistic Illustrations. Published 1888 Providence, RI by Ariel and Latimer

W. Ballou. c1888. (Signed by both Ariel and Adin Ballou).

The Proprietors' records of the town of Mendon, Massachusetts : incorporated May 15, 1667. Boston, Massachusetts : Rockwell and Churchill Press, 1899. 1211 p.

Thank you ever so much, Connie, for your continued support and help in the Thayer Genealogy Project! Connie's lineage follows: Constance[12] (Walter Ebert[11], William Chester[10], Hiram Francis[9], Reuben[8-7], Joseph[6-5-4], Samuel[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER

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The following was received in January 1993 from an appreciative correspondent, Gerald Detweiler Weaver, of Pleasantville, Tennessee, after having responded to his Thayer query:

T is for "**THANK YOU**" so very, very, very much !!!!

H is for **HOPE** that your Joseph Frank Thayer is "found" soon. (You deserve that for all you've helped others.) Also for **HELPING OTHERS**, as all Thayer kin should do, especially in the family, so we are all "placed."

A is for **ANCESTRY** which ties us to Nathaniel, Richard & Thomas of Thornbury, Gloucester, England, who crossed bravely the Atlantic to settle in the Massachusetts Colony.

Y is for all the **YESTERDAYS** which make up the long generations of time from England and across the fair land, where Thayers pioneered from Masachusetts to the West coast.

E can be for **ENGLAND**, our Mother Country…not to be forgotten… also for **ETERNITY** which shall be all our lot..

R is for **RECORDING** which must be done --- 37,000 Thayer names, has helped us, Everyone!

(Patricia's note: Today's combined number of Thayer records in my files is now over 69,000. This sweet missive is just one of the many reasons why I cherish my Thayer work!)

Nereus Mendenhall Thayer

By: Marcus Carl Thayer III

Great Grandson of Nereus Mendenhall Thayer

The American Civil War raged from 1861 to 1865 from the East coast to the West coast of the United States and upon the high seas as well. Americans became engulfed in a war which ripped the national fabric of the founding nation and plunged the opposing forces into years of death and destruction. It was a war in which hundreds of Thayer men would join the ranks of the Union Armed Forces. While the vast majority of Thayer men would fight to preserve the Union there were some Thayer men although small in number who joined the ranks of the Confederate Armed Forces and fought for Southern independence.

Thayer's on both sides were courageous, devoted to duty, and firmly dedicated to the cause for which they were engaged. These were Thayer fathers, sons, brothers, and cousins who suffered the hardships and trepidations of a war which not only divided the nation but the Thayer Family as well.

One Thayer who donned the Confederate gray at an early age and lived to prosper in the war ravaged South was Nereus Mendenhall Thayer.

Nereus Mendenhall Thayer was born on November 17, 1845 in Ophir, Montgomery County, North Carolina to a Missionary Baptist Minister, Rev. Wyatt Nance Thayer and Cassanda Hearne. Nereus would follow in the footsteps of his older brother Kindrick and enlist in the Confederate Army. Kindrick enlisted on March 15, 1863 and was assigned to Company "B" of the 52nd North Carolina Infantry Regiment. Sadly, Kindrick was not to survive the war as he died in a Confederate Hospital in Wilson, North Carolina on June 15, 1863 from a wound he received in Suffolk, Virginia. He was buried in the "Mound" along with many other Confederate soldiers at Maplewood Cemetery in Wilson, North Carolina.

Nereus enlisted on August 15, 1864 at Camp Holmes as part of Company "B", 37th North Carolina Infantry Regiment. Company "B" was known as the "Watauga Marksmen". The 37th North Carolina Infantry Regiment was a part of the famed Confederate "Army of Northern Virginia". Nereus served with the 37th NC Infantry Regiment to the end of the war and was one of the Confederate soldiers surrendered by General Robert E. Lee at

Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The 37th North Carolina Infantry Regiment surrendered on April 9, 1865 with 108 soldiers. The army was officially paroled on April 12, 1865.
Nereus walked back home to his native North Carolina to settle in Eldorado, Montgomery County, North Carolina to carve out a living during the period after the war referred to as "Reconstruction". He married Letha Aletha Coggin who was also from Montgomery County, North Carolina and to this union two sons were born. The first son was Arthur Earl in 1887 and the second son was Marcus Carl in 1889. Tragedy struck the Thayer family when Nereus' wife Letha Aletha died a little over a month after the birth of Marcus Carl. Nereus would then marry Mary Ada Kirk and to this union nine children were born. The nine children are: Infant Thayer (1898), Cassandra Lee (1899), James Frank Kirk (1901), Robert Page (1902), Mildred Esta (1904), Nereus Milton (1906), Mary Louise (1908), Pearl (1910), and Wyatt Wilson (1912).
Hard work and determination to succeed enabled Nereus to become a land surveyor and businessman as he opened a general store, tanyard, shoe-shop, casket shop, harness shop, and a brewery. He was also elected to the North Carolina State Legislature in 1909 and served as the Postmaster for Eldorado, NC.
Nereus built a large home in Eldorado in 1888, which took three years to build, and was the first home in Montgomery County to have plastered walls.
Nereus Mendenhall Thayer died on July 1, 1934 in Eldorado, Montgomery County, North Carolina. He was buried in the Macedonia United Methodist Church Cemetery in Eldorado. His obelisk-shaped tombstone is the largest grave marker in the cemetery. A beautiful stained glass window is dedicated in honor of him in the Macedonia United Methodist Church.
His legacy is one who sought success through determination and perseverance. He was known as a man of integrity and character and deeply loved. His tombstone reflects the appropriate words for such a man "Gone But Not Forgotten". –Marc Thayer

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Marcus ("Marc") was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Marcus Carl[10] (Marcus Carl[9], Nearus Mendenhall [8], Wyatt Nance[7], James [6], Abner [5], Nathaniel [4], Isaac [3], Ferdinando [2], Thomas [1])THAYER and Mary Ruth BURNETTE. His appreciation for history, especially family history was instilled in him by his grandmothers at an early age. He is a graduate of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia and is employed by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Marietta, Georgia as a Senior Cost Analyst. He is married to the former Karen Black of Athens, Georgia and has two children Marcy and Justin and two granddaughters.

Marc has contributed over 5,000 + entries into the Find-A-Grave website for Thayer family members. States Marc: "Honoring and preserving our Thayer family genealogical history is vitally important as it forms the foundation for future generations."

Marcus Carl Thayer III

Henry Jerome Thayer

TFA Assistant Genealogist, Jerry Thayer, of Hampton, VA continues to work diligently at finding connections for the many "unplaced" Thayers in my computer files. Jerry has been such a blessing to me and he continues to bless countless other Thayers with his dedicated service. Thanks a MILLION, Jerry!

Thayers of Andersonville Prison

I had often wondered about our Thayers in the Civil War, and particularly those who lost their lives. In my recent searches, to date, 17 new THAYER Civil War soldiers have been found. I found it of interest that there are two Thayers who died at the Andersonville Prison in Andersonville, Sumter County, GA. In his 1874 Thayer Memorial, Of special interest was **Gershom Thayer,** born 12 Jul 1848 in NY, the son of Gershom[7] (Gershom[6-5], Jonathan[4], William[3], Shadrach[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Mary Ann WHEELER. General Bezaleel Thayer listed the following information for Gershom Thayer:

"Enlisted and mustered in Co. "E", 7th Heavy Artillery, as private, 31 Dec 1863, at Almira, NY, was in battles of Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg, VA, 16 June 1864, and was either killed or taken prisoner and died, as nothing has been heard of him since."

(Refer back to Thayer Quarterly newsletter of Summer 1996, page 6 for an impelling account by Carol Peterson Verbeck on the son of Fanny Tilleston THAYER and Samuel JOHNSON who died in the Andersonville.)

James Francis Thayer was another of our kin who died at the Andersonville Confederate Prisoner of War Prison. He was born 13 Sep 1821 Chesterfield, Hampshire, MA, the son of Silas[6] (Silas[5], John[4], Isaac[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Harriet PEARL.

Kevin Frye of the Andersonville Civil War Prison web site (http://hometown.aol.com/andersonvillecw/) states James was captured on 16 May 1864 at Drurys Bluff, VA and that he died 23 Jul 1864 of Dysentery. Buried in grave #3812.

> "Mr. James F. THAYER enlisted and mustered in Co. A., 27th Regt. Mass. Vols., September 20, 1861; was in the service until taken prisoner, and put in Anderson[ville] prison where he died 24 Jul 1864."

At least two more of our Thayer cousins died at Andersonville Prison. **Abigail Thayer**, daughter of Jonathan[6] (Jonathan[5-4], William[3], Shadrach[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Honor EDWARDS had two of her sons die there!

Abigail was married to William LE VAUGHN and they became the parents of **Roland LE VAUGH** who died at Andersonville Prison on 22 Sep 1864, age 24; and also of **William Orlando LE VAUGHN** who died at the same place on 4 Sep 1864, age 21. Yet another son, Donald LE VAUGHN, was also wounded in the arm in the Civil War. (LE VAUGHN data from Thayer descendant Barbara Jo Reniker on 15 Feb 1997.)

There was also a **Private William Thayer** who served in Served in the Union Army, Company "D", 115th New York Infantry and died at Andersonville Prison. The origin of William Thayer is unknown to me.

All our Thayer Civil War soldiers did their duty. Their fight is over, and now is time for their rest. I suspect in the next few years that I will be finding many, many more of our Thayer Civil War soldiers.

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The Munos will be traveling to the Portland, Oregon area the first week in October and will pay a visit to Pat and Brig. Gen. James Burdett Thayer, who have recently moved from their 100+ year old farm home to a new Condominium in Lake Oswego.

Until our Winter *Thayer Quarterly* issue, best wishes from **Thayer Family Historian, Patricia Thayer Muno**

The Nathan Thayer Line

And the Green-Thayer Connection
By John Howard Thayer

This story begins with **Nathan Thayer,** my great, great, great, great grandfather. He was the first Thayer elder to settle in Rome, N.Y. region. (Ferdinando (1), Isaac (2), Nathaniel (3), Nathan, (4) John Green (5), Davis D. (6), Charles Milton (7), Howard Milton (8), Carlton Elliot, (9) John Howard, (10).

Nathan was born in Mendon, MA on April 13, 1755, the eighth child of Nathaniel and Hanna (Davis). He married his second wife, **Abigail Green**, of Thompson Connecticut on November 3, 1779, and settled in the Thompson area. Abigail was born on October 18, 1759.

Nathan married Abigail Green Thayer, one of my great-great-great-great-great grandmothers and daughter of **John Green** and Abilene (a) Guile (Gile), on November 3, 1779 in the Congregational Church of Thompson, CT. Nathan and Abigail had nine children. They were:

1. John Green, b. 26 Apr 1780.
2. Sylvanus, b. 1 Oct 1781.
3. Lyman, b. 15 Aug 1783.
4. Roswell, b. 20 June, 1785.
5. Nancy, b. 30 Nov 1787.
6. Polly, b.4 May, 1790.
7. Davis, b. 14 Mar 1793.
8. Sanford, b. 22 Mar 1795.
9. Lawson, b. 2 June, 1797.

A Green(e) - Nathan Thayer Line Revolutionary War Connection

To the best of my knowledge, none of my direct Thayer ancestors served in the Revolutionary War. However, Abigail Green Thayer, through her father, John Green, became my connection to the Revolution. Her father, Captain John Green, was born in Killingly, Windham, CT. on May 12, 1736, and he died April 19, 1803. He is buried in the West Thompson Cemetery located in West Thompson, CT. John Green served in the Connecticut Militia as a Captain on April 19, 1775, the day of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. He participated in the militia's march on the City of Boston soon thereafter. He was 41 years old at the time. The official DAR Patriot Index reads as follows:

GREEN, John*
Birth: CT 16 May 1736
Service: CT
Rank: Capt
Death CT 19 Apr 1803
Patriot Pensioned: No
Widow Pensioned: No
Children Pensioned: No
Heirs Pensioned: No
Spouse: (1) Abilene Guild

The TQ Green Connection

I unexpectedly found John Green's name and genealogical pedigree (1. Thomas Green, b. Abt. 1600, 2. Henry Green, b. Abt. 1638, 3. Henry Green, b. 24 Jan 1672-73, 4. Henry Greene, Jr., b. 21 Sept 1696, 5. John Greene, b. 12 May 1736) outlined in the article, "The Thayer Family – Part II." by E.D. Clements, Providence, Rhode Island. The article was printed on page 14 of The Thayer Quarterly, March 2008, Volume 16, Issue 1, under a section entitled, "The Green-Greene Line." The article states that my great-great-great-great-great grandmother, Abigail Green Thayer, was John Green and Abilene Guile Green's first born of six children.

The Move to the Northwest Frontier

In 1802, at age 47, Nathan and family moved northwest to the Mohawk Valley region of New York State. The Nathan Thayer's were the first Thayer family to settle in the Rome, N.Y. area, then called Lynchville. This relocation was not a trivial undertaking in 1802. The Revolutionary War had only ended in 1783, a short nineteen years earlier. The settlers and the Native Americans still had vivid memories of the burning of Iroquois villages and crops, as well as the 1780 Loyalist and Indian raids on the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys. This area connected the civilized areas of New York State with the frontier. On the other hand, the construction of the Erie Canal was to begin in 1817, and is considered to be a triumph of early engineering in the United States and one of the most ambitious construction projects of nineteenth-century America. Members of the Nathan Thayer family would settle and live within two or three miles from that historic waterway, and just a few miles from where the first shovel full of dirt for the canal project was dug.

On the Internet hyperlink site **http:www.rootsweb.com/~nyoneida/misc/wagner/ch43.html**, is a document entitled, "Our Country and It's People." The document describes the settlement of the Rome/Mohawk Valley region following the

Revolutionary War. Nathan's family did not settle in the city, but settled in an outlying area named the Hamlet of Greenway, N.Y. Greenway was considered to be a part of the Town of Rome, Oneida County, N.Y. Section 518 of that document states: "In the western and southwestern parts of town early settlers were Richard Brow, (1801), **J.B. Green,** Jonathan Williams, Daniel W. Hazzard, Daniel Williams, Amos Scofil, John C. Brewster, **Lyman Thayer, Richard Brown, jr**, Joseph King, Eleazer Dunham, Ephraim Covel and others." Lyman was the only Thayer listed, but we know that they all went there together. Sadly, only six of their nine children lived long enough to make the trip. John Green- 22 yrs., Sylvanus-21 yrs., Lyman-19 yrs., and Roswell-17 yrs., all appear in the 1820 Oneida County Federal Census. Davis-9 yrs., died in 1810 at the age of 17 yrs.

Polly allegedly married Jesse Brown after arriving in Rome, but I could find no record of Jesse or Polly in the census. However, it should be noted that Richard Brown, jr. was one of the first settlers in that area also. Jesse Brown may have been a son.

Roswell Thayer was born on June 20, 1785 Thompson, Windham, CT. The 1820 Federal Census records indicate his place of residence to be Vienna, N.Y. His name does not appear in the 1840 Federal Census. Additionally, his data located on RootsWeb.com records his death to be January 20, 1872, at the age of 88, in Oakfield, Audubon Co., Iowa. He clearly left the Rome area between the 1920 and 1940 survey. WPA records for Audubon County, IA, show Roswell to be buried in the Oakfield Cemetery.

The second eldest son, Sylvanus (not to be confused with the West Point Sylvanus) is also referred to on page 2 of the Thayer Family Quarterly" March 2008, Volume 16, in "The Historian's Report, Feb 2008, by Patricia Muno. Sylvanus was the father of Derancy Riley Thayer who had married Sarah Smith. Following Derancy's death in 1840, she remarried and unwittingly started the Thayer - Russell controversy centered on her son, Charles Elliot Russell Thayer. This was a very interesting article to say the least. Even though the Verona, N.Y. area is located only a few miles away from my residence. I know little about the Sylvanus line.

According to old family records, Nathan was a carpenter and house joiner before and during his tenure in Thompson, CT. He resided in Thompson after his marriage to Abigail, and stayed there some 23 years. He also followed farming, seemingly practicing that trade most of the time. The area settled by Nathan and family is located about 5 miles southwest of Rome, N.Y., in the Hamlet of Greenway. This area is still considered as part of the Town of Rome and has the Rome, N.Y. postal address. The land was very rural in nature, and still houses many farms to this day. This seems to reinforce the farming avocation.

The Greenway Cemetery

My first trip to the old Greenway Cemetery occurred sometime in the 1980's. Since then, I have been back there on several occasions to photograph some of the old tombstones. My last trip was on this past July 29, 2008. Most of the old stones dating back to the early to mid 1880's have been broken by vandals, or have been damaged by nature. More than 20 stones have been knocked over and are lying face down. In addition, several stones have moved to different areas. I have photographed what I could in an attempt to preserve a few at least in the digital image form. This cemetery seems to speak to me when I am there. Who were these people? What were they like? What kind of lives did they live? The desecration makes me want to cry. The genealogy search provides us with birth and death dates, family data, etc., but can never answer the more personal questions. It is very frustrating, to say the least. At least genealogy study can provide us with their names and family structures. These are the people who have helped shape who we are today, good, bad or indifferent. I cannot understand my deep interest in my family genealogy. If you are a member of The Thayer Families Association, you know exactly what I mean.

The Old Greenway Cemetery

Nathan and Abigail are not buried in the Greenway Cemetery. Their location is a mystery that may never be solved. Nathan died in 1809, with Abigail passing in 1823. I have not yet located land records that tell us where the original homestead(s) were located. There is a Thayer family currently living on the Greenway-New London Road. They may be living on the original home site. They probably were buried somewhere on their farm property, prior to the establishment of the Greenway Cemetery.

My oldest ancestor in Greenway Cemetery is **John Green Thayer**, the eldest son of Nathan and Abigail. His stone has disappeared. His son, Davis D, Thayer and wife, Jemima, are there as well. Davis D.'s stone is still in good condition. There are sixteen (16) Thayer's buried in this old, rustic cemetery. They are a mixture of John Green's, and Lyman's lines. For the record, there are eighteen (18) Greene's in the Cemetery as well. Many of the old Thayer's lived around a particular area called Green's Corners. I have not located that exact spot yet because road names have changed. It is important to note that the Greenway Cemetery is located in the Town of Rome, County of Oneida.

Rathbunville Cemetery

A second, more contemporary cemetery, sits no more than a mile or two away, in the Rathbunville Cemetery. This cemetery is officially located in Verona Mills, N.Y. in the Town of Verona, Oneida County. There are sixteen Thayer surnames in that cemetery, plus female Thayer's who were buried under their spouse's or ex-spouse's names. My great grandfather, Charles Milton Thayer, my grandfather, Howard Milton Thayer, and my father, Carlton Elliot Thayer all rest there. Sadly, my grandfather Thayer died in March of 1942, and I was born in July of that same year. I never had the opportunity to know the man. Other assorted aunts, uncles, and spouses are there as well. It should be noted here that most of these ancestors fall under the John Green Thayer line. Damage was done to this cemetery, as well as Greenway, in late June of this year. A strong, straight line micro burst storm passed through our area (right down my street), and did the damage. Luckily, the Thayer areas were spared. Others were not as lucky.

Saint Peter's Lutheran Cemetery

Another short drive down the road brings us to a third cemetery, Saint Peter's Lutheran Cemetery, where I recently discovered five additional Thayer's. I met a new cousin on-line, fifth cousin, once removed, Laura Ann Davidson Donahue, (Ferdinando (1), Isaac (2), Nathaniel (3), Nathan (4), **Lyman** (5), Chauncey (6), Samuel S. (7), George C. (7), Louise Elizabeth (8), Laura Ann Davidson (9). Laura was trying to unravel a family mystery, and I helped her find the answers through some local amateur detective work. However, that may be a story for another day. Lyman is one of was **John Green Thayer's** brothers, and my great uncle X 3. One of his grandchildren, Samuel S. Thayer, b. April 25, 1856, d. 1937 in St, Lawrence County, moved his family to northern New York State region. This move established a good sized Thayer and Thayer related contingent in that region. This group should not be confused with an earlier article that I wrote entitled "Thayer's Corners New York, More than a Crossroads," printed in the TQ Fall, Vol. 11, Issue 3, 2003. These are two separate Northern New York Thayer groups.

Davis D. Thayer

My Rome/Greenway Green Mystery

I have often wondered why Nathan and his family moved to the Rome area from Connecticut. The former being frontier like, and the latter being

developed and more cultured by comparison. They were the first Thayer's. Why? There are more Greene's (18) than Thayer's (16) buried in the Greenway Cemetery. This might suggest that some of Abigail's kin had come to the area, liked it, and then recommended the move to Nathan and family. No such luck. I located the oldest Greene, and seemingly the family patriarch, Daniel Greene. He is buried in the old Hamil Cemetery. He was born in 1755 in Rome, Oneida County N.Y. and served in the U.S. Navy as an Ensign during the Revolutionary War. Daniel has no ancestry records associated with him. There was no Rome or Oneida County in existence during the war, so the mystery stands. The area was Herkimer County at the time, and was recognized as the Fort Stanwix area. He would have been born in the midst of the French and Indian War, 1754 to 1763.

Strangely enough, Daniel Greene has a brand new granite stone at his gravesite.
Someone did a beautiful and thoughtful thing to honor this man.

There was a second **J.B. Green**, who was an early settler to the area about the same time that the Thayer's arrived. The only Green who slightly meets that description is John B. Greene, who is buried in the Greenway Cemetery. But this John B. Green died on 23 Mar 1889 at the age of 87. That means he was born in 1802, the year that Nathan's clan arrived in the region. The settler,
J.B. Green, was possibly his father. I cannot find any additional data about J.B. Green. I would appreciate feedback from any reader who might have an answer to the following question:

Who is J.B. Green who migrated to Rome/Lynchville in the early 1800's, and was there a family relationship to Abigail Green?

Please send any data to my Email address, Jthayer321@aol.com.

*Captain John Green's Sources:

http://www.geocities/Heartland/Fields/4791/windhamcountybyjohnson.html

Military Records, From the Town of Killingly, page 7, Green, John Captain:2

NOTE: Captain John Green was 41 years of age at the time of the march to Boston. As can be seen, his time of service was short - 2 days. His amount of service in the Windham County Militia prior to the Boston march is unknown.

TFA is looking for a new editor for the newsletter, if you're interested; please email James Loren Thayer expressing your interest at: jthayer@ipapilot.org.

What is required is a computer, internet access for email contact with other members and the board, as well as basic typing and formatting skills in Microsoft Word. Next issue is due out by December so if you are considering this, act now. τ

Due to the resignation of Rodney Lee Thayer, the officers and directors of the Thayer Families Association are as follows:

President - Kate Kuzmich
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Vice President – C. Russell Thayer
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Secretary - Jim Thayer
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Thayer Families Association

Annual Dues, New Member & Member Renewal Form

Albert Thayer Morton, Membership Chairman
Thayer Families Association
28 So. Main St., Box #313
Randolph, MA 02368-4821

Please fill out this form indicating if you are a New Single Member, New Family Member or Renewal Member and enclose appropriate check or money order made payable to the Association at the address above.

Please enter desired options:
Annual Dues: $20.00 **Single Membership:_____ Renewal:_____**

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Please note: A family membership consists of two adults of the same household (husband and wife; sisters and or brothers; or any combination of two persons. If you wish to pay dues for more than one year, just multiply the amount times the number of years chosen. Fill out the following and return this application form with your dues as indicated above.

First member name:_____
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Most recent Thayer connection: _____ birth & death dates if known:_____
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Are you able to receive, open, and read downloaded files using PDF format? Yes_____ No_____

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CONTACTING THE TFA

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

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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, 28 So., Main Street, Box #313, Randolph, MA 02368-4821). A cumulative index, containing every occurrence of a name that has appeared in the newsletter (prior to the current issue) is available, in PDF format only, for $10 to the above address.

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