

the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Fall

Update on TFA DNA Project

*By Kate Welton Kuzmich
TFA DNA Project Administrator*

Mr. Charles Kerchner provided an interesting presentation at the TFA reunion in Gettysburg last week. In addition to describing tests, procedures and results analysis, he provided multiple recommendations to TFA on how to best proceed with our DNA project.

We will be attempting to find descendants of Thomas1, Richard1, and Nathaniel1 through at least **three** (3) sons from each immigrant. For example, Nathaniel Thayer (1640-1725) had four sons: Nathaniel, William, Jonathan and Isaac. We will try to find descendants of at least three of the sons. Their DNA test results will help us determine differences between our three immigrant lines, and will allow us to help “unknown” Thayer families to find their ancestry.

By “triangulating” three of the sons of each of the immigrants, the results will corroborate, or possibly disprove, lineages that are suspect, and not proven. We also are eagerly supporting the submission of DNA from any individual who has not found his ancestor in the three immigrants, or the several other lines that are found in the TFA master database. If you aren’t sure of your ancestry, but think you connect “somehow”, and you have a father, brother, grandfather, etc. with the surname THAYER, we ask you to consider submitting a DNA sample.

Please consider participating in the Thayer DNA project. Kits may be ordered through www.familyreedna.com. We ask that you order a kit providing at least 37 testing values, as our immigrant lines are closely related and the larger number of alleles allows us to better understand the different family lines.

The Thayer DNA project can be viewed at: <http://www.familyreedna.com/public/thayer/default.aspx>

Won’t you join us?

DNA Project Update

12 Sep 2010

*Kate Welton Kuzmich,
TFA DNA project administrator*

THAYER DNA project website: <http://www.familyreedna.com/public/thayer/default.aspx?/publicwebsite.aspx>

The TFA DNA project has received several new sets of results in the last 90 days. Some of the samples are from individuals that have proven Thayer ancestors, other samples are from those who are trying to identify the family group to which they belong.

In order to succeed, our project needs more participants.

Presently in the Thomas1 line we have 1 sample from his son Thomas2, 3 samples from his son Ferdinando2 (the largest group of descendants by a great number), and 1 potential sample from

Shadrack2. We are seeking at least: 1 additional sample from Thomas2, and 1 additional sample from Shadrack2. The two samples of each descendant line will be used to give us a basis for comparison when considering the correct ancestry of our “unknown” groups. Already multiple allele differences are seen between these lines.

In the Richard1 line only one son, Richard2, survived to have sons. Therefore our project must consider sons in the 3rd generation. Currently we have 2 samples from Richard3, which show a larger variation than expected. We have one sample from Nathaniel3 and NO samples from Cornelius3. So, we have interest in obtaining samples from another Nathaniel3 descendant, and locating at least two descendants of Cornelius3 willing to contribute.

The Nathaniel1 line has not yet had any contributions. Nathaniel1 had multiple surviving sons, and efforts are underway to identify living descendants.

If you, or a family member, fit one of the lines that have been listed as needing additional samples, please consider participating in this effort. We have made a good start, and there are several folks who are “unidentified” that are anxious to see what the project is able to determine.

We have also had several members join our project via the mt-DNA test, which is for FEMALE DNA testing. This test WILL NOT help determine which male Thayer immigrant is your ancestor, but will identify the origin of your maternal line, i.e. your mother’s, mother’s, mother’s , mother’s etc. origin. TFA has limited funds available to help those who wish to contribute a Y-DNA sample, for whom cost is an issue.

If you are unable to provide a DNA sample, but wish to financially support the DNA project, donations to the TFA DNA fund are appreciated.

Please contact me at kwelkuz@earthlink.net to discuss contributing a DNA sample, or instructions on how to make a financial donation to the project.

From Patricia’s mailbag

From Charlie Dunford of Ashburn, VA in E-mail of 17Aug 2010:

You might be interested to know that the Benjamin Thayer House on Farm St. in Blackstone [MA] has been added to the National Registry. There will be a ceremony on Sept 18. My great grandfather, Judge Francis Nicholas Thayer, and his grandfather, Nicholas Thayer Jr., owned the house from 1853 for about 40 years. Judge Thayer's mother, Nancy Jane Jefferds, lived in that house until her death in 1903 as required by Nicholas' will leaving the house to Francis. Benjamin Thayer was Nicholas Thayer Jr.'s uncle. I expect to be there for the ceremony.

Benjamin⁶ (Joseph⁵, Joseph⁴, Samuel³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹) THAYER was the great great-grandson of Ferdinando Thayer, one of the original settlers of Mendon, Massachusetts. He was one of three brothers who lived in land along Blackstone Street and Farm Street south of the Five Corners in the South Parish of Mendon, now Blackstone. Benjamin’s two brothers were named Joseph and Nicholas. The three brothers married three Cook sisters, Elizabeth, Phebe and Judith, who were their first cousins (their mother Abigail Cook was the sister of the girl’s father Nathaniel Cook).

Patricia’s note: WOW!! You want to see how a person could become their own first cousin?! Check this descendency list out:

1. Nicholas COOK (1687-1779)
sp: Elizabeth STAPLES (1698-1788)
2. Jemima COOK (1716-1815)
sp: Aaron THAYER (1715-1785)
2. Nathaniel COOK (1718-1773)
sp: Martha BALLOU (1720-1803)
3. Phebe COOK (1755-1843)
sp: Joseph THAYER (Rev.Sol.) (1754-1821)
3. Elizabeth COOK (1757-1844)
sp: Benjamin THAYER (Rev.Sol.) (1756-1811)
3. Judith COOK (1759-1843)
sp: Nicholas THAYER (Rev.Sol.) (1758-1818)
2. Abigail COOK (1731-1817)
sp: Joseph THAYER (Rev.Sol.) (1727-1777)
3. Joseph THAYER (Rev.Sol.) (1754-1821)
sp: Phebe COOK (1755-1843)
3. Benjamin THAYER (Rev.Sol.) (1756-1811)
sp: Elizabeth COOK (1757-1844)
3. Nicholas THAYER (Rev.Sol.) (b.1758-1818)
sp: Judith COOK (1759-1843)

Talk about tangled roots! This appears to me that through their marriages, the children's parents were also their aunts and uncles!

Charlie's late mother, Jeanne Partridge Thayer (1915-2005) was the daughter of Marshall Nicholas⁹ (Francis Nicholas⁸, Horace, Nicholas⁷⁻⁶, Joseph⁵⁻⁴, Samuel³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹) THAYER.

Charlie continues:

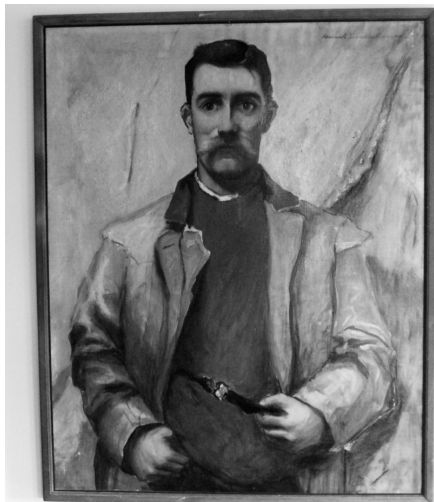
My great grandfather, Judge Francis Nicholas Thayer was the grandson (Francis, Horace, Nicholas, Jr) of Nicholas Thayer's son Nicholas Jr.

Harriet Isabella Barnes Thayer, New England Artist

On 19 Jan 2010 and 6 Feb 2010, Toby Morral wrote the following:

“My family has an oil painting portrait of my great grandfather in our house in Nantucket. It was painted by Harriet Isabella Barnes, later Harriet Barnes Thayer. I wonder whether you have any information on this artist? The painting was, for most of the 20th century, in the Wauwinet House (now “The Wauwinet” hotel) on Nantucket Island, MA. The hotel was owned and run by the subject of the painting, James Allen Backus, who was proprietor of the hotel beginning in 1897 and a descendant of the original founder of the hotel. (It stayed in our family until 1978).”

The painting appears to be oil on canvas. Harriet's signature can be seen in the upper right hand corner of the painting as “Harriet Isabella Barnes.”



States Toby: “James Allen Backus was born in 1865 and died in 1936. We think he appears in his 20's in this painting, which would date it sometime around 1890. It hung in the living room of the hotel until sometime in the 70's.”

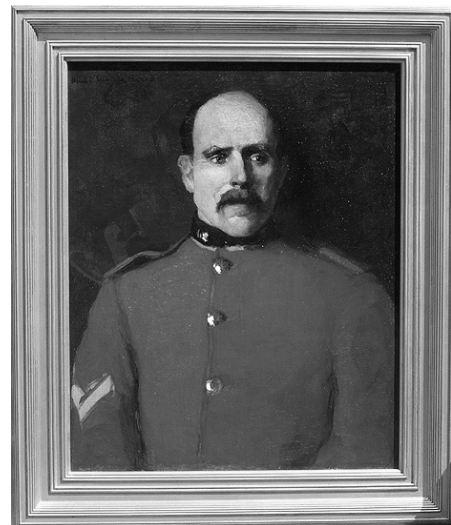
Harriet's work appeared in a 1921 showing on Nantucket Island along with artists Frank Chase, Elizabeth Rebecca Coffin, Thomas Eakins, Annie Barker Folger, and others.

Some other paintings by Harriett:

CHINESE AND JAPANESE WATER COLORS
BY HARRIET BARNES THAYER

Buddha, Peking
Bridge, Soochow
Gates of Peking
Procession to Avert Plague
Priest, Goldfish Temple
Old City of Canton
Shameen Bridge, Canton
Street Shrine, Canton
Pirate Junk, Amoy
The Man from Macas
Yangtse River Town
Banners of the Wrestlers, Kyoto, Japan
Flower Shop, Kyoto, Japan
Street, Canton
Junk on the Yangtse

For the art Thayer art collectors among our readership, the following painting by Harriet, entitled “Sergeant Mulvaney” is being sold by the Peter Jung Fine Arts gallery in Hudson, NY for \$5,000. See: www.PeterJungFineArt.com



The following was forwarded by Annie in Minnesota via E-mail of 16 Apr 2010):

From BookofOdds.com, *Suicide and the Titanic Survivors*, Posted By: Kathleen Minnix

The odds a person who survived the sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912 would later commit suicide are **1 in 89**.

Eight of the approximately 705 people who survived the sinking of the Titanic committed suicide:

“Seventeen-year-old Jack Thayer survived on an overturned life boat. His mother survived, but his father perished. A successful banker in Philadelphia, he became distraught after the death of one of his two sons in the Pacific during World War II, and on September 18, 1945, he slashed his wrists and throat.”

If the Titanic sank now, the survivors would be surrounded by grief counselors knowledgeable about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder who would recognize that PTSD leaves its victim vulnerable to suicide. In 1912, men in particular were expected to endure with fortitude. Less than a month after the sinking, Washington Dodge spoke to the Commonwealth Club about the “harrowing” scenes on the ship and broke down when he spoke of the cries which “wafted” across the water telling him “many lives were perishing in those icy waters.” Some men who survived felt acute shame; could that be why a lawsuit that shamed him was unbearable?

Jack Thayer was also haunted by memories of the Titanic. “Her deck was turned slightly toward us. We could see groups of the almost fifteen hundred people aboard, clinging in clusters or bunches, like swarming bees; only to fall in masses, pairs or singly, as the great part of the ship, two hundred and fifty feet of it, rose into the sky, till it reached a sixty-five or seventy degree angle.

“Here it seemed to pause, and just hung, for what felt like minutes. Gradually she turned her deck

away from us, as though to hide from our sight the awful spectacle.” Did the “awful spectacle” ever leave him?”

John (Jack) Borland Thayer (1894-1945)

The following shared by Martha Thayer Evans in E-mail of 16 Apr 2010:

Titusville Man Hits Century Mark, by Tom Boyle (14 Mar 2003):

On Tuesday, a special occasion -one few people reach - was marked with Lee Thayer as the guest of honor. As family, friends, well-wishers and fellow residents of Beverly Healthcare of Titusville gathered around him, Thayer blew out three small candles as the former *Titusville Herald* sports editor celebrated his 100th birthday Tuesday.

"Not too bad," replied Thayer when asked how it felt to reach the century mark.

Flanking Thayer at the table of honor were great niece Sharon Redd, niece Betty Miller and great great niece Meghan Redd. The three had made the trip from the Toledo, Ohio area to be with Thayer during his birthday celebration. Beverly Healthcare Activities Director Amy Quigley led the festivities as the cake was sliced and handed out to both residents and visitors. Quigley said since Thayer came to Beverly Healthcare as a resident two years ago, he has been involved with various exercise activities and enjoys listening to stories from the book, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*."

For decades, the footsteps of bowlers, Private fans, Little League enthusiasts, football coaches, mothers, fathers, kids and anyone who has ever played the game, or at least followed it in the paper, led to the desk of Thayer. He produced pages upon pages of local copy, pounding out the results of leagues long forgotten, while at the same time collaborating on a weekly column with former general manager Jim Spence called, "On the Fence."

Commenting on his career in the *Herald* newsroom, Thayer said, "I did sports there for many years."

"I remember him as quiet gentleman who was very sports-minded," said current *Herald* staffer Peggy Lucas on her years working with Thayer. "He also had a scrapbook of newspaper bloopers that was so funny."

Lucas added anyone who knew Thayer during his *Herald* years would recall his trademark - the green visor he wore.

He always had a great sense of humor," says Howard Bennett, who worked at the *Herald* for about 30 years. "I started out as a printer's devil and remembered Lee helping Harry Ridgway read proof. He taught me how to read proofs."

Bennett said Thayer lived up the street from him in Hydetown. Bennett said he visited Thayer at his 99th birthday party and found him to be as sharp as ever. "I learned a lot from him over the years," Bennett said.

(requested photo of Lee Thayer 19 Apr 2010)

From WishTV.com

Haitian orphan finds home in Austin

Published : Thursday, 04 Feb 2010, 12:31 PM EST

- Shannon Wolfson

AUSTIN (KXAN) - An Austin mother returned home with her adopted Haitian born son just three weeks after he survived the earthquake in Haiti.

Evans Thayer, 2, is adjusting well to life in Austin. He has developed a love of hats and potato chips. But the toddler is well below his peers in weight and came to the United States last week severely malnourished.

"He's tiny, but being that he eats like a 200 pound man, he'll get there," joked new mom Donna Thayer. "He's clingy, he wants to be held, but he deserves that. He never got somebody to love him all the time and hold him and so now is his time."

Thayer began the adoption process 18 months ago, when she found Evans, just 6 months old, at an orphanage about 100 miles outside the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. The boy's father took him to the orphanage after his mother died. The orphanage rejected the infant three times because he was too ill and they did not have the resources to care for him. On the fourth visit, they finally took him in.

"His dad is a hero to me because he kept bringing him back," said Thayer.

When the earthquake hit the Haitian capital on January 12, Thayer was at the end of the adoption process. She was only waiting on a passport and visa for her son to enter the United States. It was hours after the earthquake before she knew if her son had survived.

"I was just beside myself because I don't even know- is he buried under a big giant pile of rubble? I have no idea," said Thayer.

She and her partner, Matt Schram, flew to Florida and Matt continued on to Haiti. For several days, they did not know if or when they would be able to bring Evans home. He was allowed to leave the country on the last flight of adopted orphans let out of Haiti before that government tightened restrictions on overseas adoptions.

"It's pretty much the best thing in the world," said Schram, of Evans' homecoming.

Thayer said she knows there are other adoptive parents who have not been so fortunate.

"A lot of those families- they're still there," said Thayer. "I can't even imagine how they're holding up."

In the week since he arrived in Austin, Evans had a serious health scare, but is recovering well. He had his first play date and likes to sing and dance, according to his mom.

"He's going to get a chance at the life he deserves," said Thayer.

Thayer and Schram have created a fund to help collect donations for the orphaned children still in

Haiti.

<http://www.wishtv.com/dpps/news/national/south/Haitian-orphan-finds-home-in-Austin-3219452>

It was unlike anything I've done before.

By Al Morton



When I saw the opportunity to ride one of these lazy pedestrian machines called a Segway at the Thayer Families Association reunion in Gettysburg, I jumped at it and signed up for a group of eight. Then I sent out invitations and four more signed on. This number held until the week before the reunion when another three expressed an interest to join.

After lunch Thursday afternoon, the eight of us set out for the Segtours office, and got there at exactly the required time --- a half hour before the tour was to begin.

The half hour was spent issuing listening radios to wear, along with helmets, and our respective machines, each named after a horse.

The staff helped us get on board our vehicles, and we circled the parking lot on our machines, with a staff member holding the control bar. While we circled for 15 minutes, when the staff was comfortable with our progress, and we felt comfortable, the staff member would let go of the bar, and we were on our own to practice.

These machines are remarkably easy to balance. Actually, they really do balance themselves. The difficulty comes from trusting the machine to really keep you upright and balanced. Once you find out that you can do it, in a word the key is to relax. That's much easier said than done.

We practiced for another 15 minutes, and during that time two of original TFA group decided that this was not their favorite way to spend an hour and a half, and opted out.

I felt bad about them opting out, as this was family who had looked forward to a fun time scooting around the Gettysburg Battlefield, but finally each of the two members was replace by a tourist who had not signed up for a group, and everybody (the guide, eight newbees, and two staff members) set out on a Segway tour of the Eastern Battlefield at Gettysburg.

We began by winding through back streets and alleys of Gettysburg where we learned what houses were there when the Gettysburg Campaign was going on. This also gave us the opportunity to become more familiar with our machines, while staying away from traffic. We were about a half hour into our tour when we entered the Battlefield itself.

This became a pleasant part of the tour, as it was easy terrain on well kept roads winding throughout the Battlefield, and up and down hills and valleys. I'm sure we found it easier to get through than the soldiers did during the battle. Biggest thing was there was no one shooting at us.

When we arrived at the first break spot an hour into the tour, several people found their legs asleep from the knees down, and it was difficult to walk. After about 10 minutes of rest we resumed the last leg of the tour, and proceeded through the back streets of Gettysburg, and returned to the SegTours office.

I think that most of us returned to the hotel feeling like: OK... been there... done that... I don't know if I'll do that again... but it was fun.

Photo courtesy SegTours.

William Paul Thayer 1919-2010

OBIT: Fort Worth Star Telegram, 7 May 2010 - Texas aviation and business icon William Paul Thayer, a World War II fighter ace, longtime Chance Vought test pilot and executive and eventually chief executive of LTV Corp., died Thursday. He was 90.

An Oklahoma native, joined the U.S. Navy prior to the start of World War II, earned his wings and served in the Pacific as an F4F fighter pilot. He was credited with six confirmed kills and four probable victories as well as nine aircraft destroyed on the ground.

After the war, Thayer worked as a transport pilot for Trans World Airlines. He joined Chance Vought Aircraft Co. as a test pilot in 1948 and became chief test pilot in 1949. He rose through the ranks to become company president in 1961 after it was acquired by Ling-Temco and later of the LTV Aerospace Corp.

In 1970, with the parent LTV Corp. in disarray, Thayer became chairman and chief executive officer and is credited with turning the company around.

In 1982 President Reagan nominated Thayer to be Deputy Secretary of Defense. He was confirmed by the Senate on January 12, 1983 and served for a

year until resigning over an investigation into insider trading. In May 2005 Thayer was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to insider trading charges.

His Lineage is: William Paul¹¹ Thayer, Homer A.¹⁰, David Morton⁹, Luther Thurston⁸, James Ellis⁷, Ellis⁶, Jeremiah⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Isaac³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹.

News article provided by Jerry Thayer.

Time Magazine, 20 May 1985

It was a moving tribute to a man who has retained his friends if not his reputation. Dozens of supporters from the military, corporate and political elite pleaded for leniency. "I don't know of another man living in this country who has been as dedicated, patriotic and such a willing and constant servant to our Government and our Constitution," Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona said in a letter. "I have always found him to be honest and forthright," wrote former President Gerald Ford. The testimonials were for naught. In one of the stiffest penalties ever imposed in an insider trading case, a federal judge last week sentenced former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Thayer, 65, to four years in prison (the maximum sentence is five years) and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine. Co-Defendant Billy Bob Harris, a Dallas stockbroker, received the same sentence. Both men had pleaded guilty last March to charges that they had obstructed justice by lying to Securities and Exchange Commission officials who were investigating whether Thayer, then the chairman of LTV Corp. and a director of Allied Corp. and Anheuser-Busch Cos., had passed inside information to Harris and others about future mergers and acquisitions.

"I have destroyed a life of achievement based on trust and integrity," the silver-haired Thayer told Judge Charles R. Richey before the sentence was announced. "The last two years have been a living nightmare. I don't like myself as well as I used to." After hearing the punishment, Thayer's wife and daughter leaned over to embrace him. Thayer was

to begin serving his term this week at a minimum security prison camp in Big Spring, Texas. Defense Lawyer Robert B. Fiske Jr. argued that the letters on Thayer's behalf showed that his criminal conduct was "an aberration." From September 1981 to September 1982, according to the SEC complaint, Thayer passed information that made \$1.9 million in illegal profits for a close-knit circle of Thayer's and Harris' friends. Though Thayer did not pocket any profits from the tips he handed out, one who did benefit was Sandra Ryno, 39, a former LTV receptionist with whom Thayer had a "private personal relationship." Ryno agreed to cooperate with the Government's investigation and was given immunity. Meanwhile the SEC is pursuing a civil case against two others allegedly involved in the scheme: William Mathis, the former New York Jets running back who is now an Atlanta stockbroker, and Malcolm Davis, a convicted gambler. The day before their appearance in federal court, Thayer and Harris, along with a Texas banker, Gayle Schroder, agreed to pay more than \$1 million to settle the SEC suit against them--one of the largest settlements in the commission's history. Thayer paid \$555,000 of the total, roughly equal to the illegal gains of his friends. "He has made more than full restitution," said Fiske. Although the SEC failed to get Thayer and the others to pay back profits made by more remote beneficiaries who might have got secondhand tips from the inner circle, securities experts say that the case has set legal precedents. "This establishes a principle that the SEC has asserted for some time," says Washington Securities Lawyer John Olson. "The tipper is liable for the profits of tippees."

Fiske called his client's crime "a foolish mistake." But the prosecution saw it differently. "Mr. Thayer probably had more money at the time than everybody in this courtroom combined," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles H. Roistacher. Thayer did what he did, Roistacher insisted, because "he thought he could get away with it." Richey said he had considered Thayer's reputation a mitigating factor in the case, but he added that the court would not "hang a medal on the lapel of your coat for the breach of trust, for the false statements . . . and the obstruction of justice you have engaged in in recent years." Lawyers for Harris and Thayer

asked that they be given community service in lieu of hard time. But Richey said a stiff sentence was needed "to maintain the integrity of our sacred system of justice."

Article provided by Jerry Thayer.

Daredevil in Cockpit, Boardroom

By *STEPHEN MILLER*
Wall Street Journal, May 11, 2010

From his gold Rolex to Cecil the lion, which he shot on safari and kept stuffed in his office, Paul Thayer exuded the brass that made him a fighter ace and successful CEO.

Mr. Thayer, who died Thursday at age 90, was among the pioneers to break the sound barrier in a Navy jet.

At LTV Corp., which he led for a dozen years beginning in 1970, he engineered a turnaround that took the conglomerate from the edge of bankruptcy to a leader in steel and aerospace.



Paul Thayer at the helm of his Corsair fighter in 1983, the year he left LTV to take a top Pentagon job.

In what he regarded at the time as the pinnacle of his career, he was sworn in as deputy secretary of defense in 1983, in charge of billions of dollars of procurement. With typical bravado, he test-flew

new supersonic aircraft himself before deciding how much money to budget for them.

But Mr. Thayer's dream job evaporated after just a year when he was accused of insider trading, and resigned. He eventually served a year and a half in prison for obstruction of justice.

The son of an Oklahoma driller, Mr. Thayer was raised in the oil patch. Working as a roughneck during the summers, he attended the University of Kansas intending to major in petroleum engineering. But with World War II threatening, he signed up to be trained as a Navy pilot.

He opted for the Navy over the Army Air Corps because "it took a little more expertise and a little more training to land on an aircraft carrier than it did on a field," he told Texas Monthly magazine in 1984.

During the war, Mr. Thayer flew missions in the Mediterranean and South Pacific, was credited with six kills, and was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross. He took a job as a pilot for TWA after the war, and married a flight attendant.

Answering a classified ad in 1948, Mr. Thayer became a test pilot for Chance Vought Aircraft Co., which produced early jet fighters. He claimed several firsts, including the first to use an ejection seat when a fighter he was demonstrating at an air show caught fire. After another crash, he said in an oral history, his wife told him, "Well honey, I think that is a good experience for you because the next time you have an emergency in the air you may know how to handle it better."

Mr. Thayer also flew up the corporate ladder. In 1961, he was named president of Vought, which was subsequently bought by LTV. During the 1960s, LTV's aerospace unit produced A-7 fighters for the Air Force and Navy.

In 1970, Mr. Thayer was tapped by LTV to become chairman and chief executive after the company's founder, James Ling, was ousted in a board-room uprising.

Mr. Ling had assembled an unwieldy group of companies employing 125,000 workers who manufactured, as Wall Street wags had it, "meatballs, golfballs and goofballs." This referred to meat packing, sporting goods and pharmaceuticals.

"I don't think anyone would deliberately start out to build a company like this one," Mr. Thayer told Forbes in 1975. He said his goal was to create a "strong operating company" rather than the decentralized conglomerate that LTV had been.

By the late 1970s, Mr. Thayer had shed peripheral operations and brought LTV to record revenue and profits. In 1981 he made a run at Grumman Corp., the Bethpage, N.Y. airplane manufacturer. The takeover bid failed but solidified Mr. Thayer's reputation as a turnaround artist and defense-industry expert.

In 1983, Mr. Thayer took early retirement at LTV to move to the Pentagon job. He resigned in 1984 amid an investigation focusing on a potential acquisition by Anheuser-Busch Cos., where Mr. Thayer was a director, as well as the Grumman deal.

Released from prison in 1986, Mr. Thayer hardly seemed grounded.

He flew his F4U-1 Corsair fighter in air shows, and at least twice circled the globe—once in a record-setting Learjet marathon with four pilots, and another time on a continent-hopping golfing trip in a Cessna 414.

He visited Antarctica and became, says his daughter, Bree, at age 80 the oldest man ever to bungee-jump at New Zealand's AJ Hackett Bungy.

"He said it straightened his back out," Ms. Thayer said.

Facebook Users

By Rodney Lee Thayer - TQ Editor

For family members who use the internet often and use the social networking site, Facebook, TFA now has a present there.

When you are logged into Facebook, just do a search for Thayer Families Association, look for the round red TFA logo, and click Join Group to the right of the name.

I will be adding announcements, discussions, etc, as a great way to stay in contact with family. Join and spread the word.

Article suggestion by Jerry Thayer.

How your newsletter is produced

By Rodney Lee Thayer – TQ Editor

This may be of interest to those that actually want to know how your newsletter is put together and the steps taken to get it from me, in Thailand, to either your postal mail box or your email inbox.

Al Morton and I have been communicating via email since I was introduced to him (via email) when I lived in Japan serving in the Navy, and that is when I took on the job of editor of the Thayer Quarterly.

Just recently, Al and I were talking in near real time via email about getting the summer issue out, and that is when he suggested this article for the fall issue.

Keep in mind that I am 12 hours ahead of the Eastern Time Zone in the US, that can mean a day ahead or the same day. 12 hours is approximate, you have daylight savings time there, we do not, so the difference can change by an hour. Phuket is in the tropics, being only 8 degrees above the equator, we have generally 12 hours of sunlight, and 12 hours of darkness, year round (sunrise and sunset

are nearly the same each day, with sunrise at 6 am each day).

1. Your Editor is in Phuket, Thailand. I receive article input from readers through email and postal mail, my address will be listed at the bottom of article for those that wish to contact me that way. If you want a postcard, let me know, would be glad to send them out.

As articles are received, they are generally formatted and inserted into an upcoming issue.

When an issue is completed, it is saved in several formats and emailed to the printers in Virginia and to Texas for the electronic version. All of this is done through my servers which reside in Ohio. This takes a matter of seconds for the email to reach the destinations.

2. The electronic version of the newsletter (ETQ) is sent out by Kate Kuzmich in Texas, she handles the distribution of the ETQ to all readers who choose that format. Kate receives the ETQ from me, and turns around and sends it out on a distribution list she keeps. The distribution list she receives from the membership chairman.

3. The print version of the newsletter is sent to the commercial printers who are in Virginia, they receive two identical issues but in different formats, this ensures that when they convert to a third format needed for printing, they can verify the format is exact as how I provided in the two formats I sent them.

One issue of the newsletter was actually completed and sent out while I was still active duty Navy, while onboard US warship while it was underway in the Pacific.

This is modern technology at its best for sure.

For anyone wishing to post mail me articles, **and we need a lot of them!** Please address the envelope as the address as listed on the next page.

SimpleWebs
Lee Thayer
3/56 Chaofa East
T. Chalong, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 THAILAND

I am also available on Skype for the computer minded folks out there, so if you want to actually talk to your Editor, my Skype address is:

simplewebs (just do a search for that or for my email address, simplewebs.lee@gmail.com)

I have Skype calls from friends in Japan, Australia, and the US at various times, it is just like a phone call and no charge if you have a Skype account, again this is all done through computers, amazing at best.

Songkran **The Thai New Year** *by Rodney Lee Thayer – TQ Editor*

Each year in April, Songkran is celebrated; dates vary from year to year, and is wildly known as, the Water Festival. The duration of the festival varies from province to province but ranges from 3 to 5 days. This is a national holiday, this year it lasted Monday through Friday.

Songkran marks the end of the dry season and the beginning of the wet season, and the main item in the festival is the pouring (throwing) of water on friends and family to wish them a good luck in the New Year.

We celebrate three New Years here in Thailand, The regular one for 1 January, the Chinese New Year in February, and the Thai one in April, but the date is only changed on 1 January to keep everything sorted out. Currently it is the year 2553 in Thailand (Thai year), and that date is used on all official documents here in the Kingdom.

Here in the sleepy village of Chalong where I live, water throwing lasts two days, from about noon to about 4 pm. People line the major roads with large

barrels of water and throw water at passing cars and trucks (and even motorcycles), the trucks also have large water barrels and water guns, many people in the back of the truck and they are quick to reciprocate. It is a great time and a great way to stay cool in the heat.

Over in Patong, the other side of the island, they start throwing water a day earlier and it lasts for three days. I rode a motorcycle taxi to Patong (to meet some good friends from the US here on vacation) the day before everything with the water starts in Chalong, but I was smart and put my wallet and phone in a watertight overnight bag with my clothes, we didn't make it half way, the rider and I was completely soaked before we got there. All in all, a great day!

My wife, Rrayada, went to her hometown of Nakhon Sri Thammarat (located nearly due east of where we are, but on the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Thailand side of the isthmus, (we live on the Andaman Sea, Indian Ocean side on the west of the isthmus) to spend Songkran with her mother and daughter. Water festivities are a bit different in the more remote places.

In Nakhon, the parents and grandparents sit in chairs in a separate, covered area and their children, grandchildren, and friends, gently pour water on them as they pass and kneeling before them. After the pouring of the water on the parents and grandparents, then the "kids" enjoy taking part in throwing water on each other and wishing each other best wishes for the New Year. Afterwards, a huge meal is served in the evening.

Thai Cooking 101

By Rodney Lee Thayer – TQ Editor

Chicken & Coconut Milk Soup (Tom Ka Kai)

This is an easy and tasty dish and most ingredients are easily found. For some of the items you may need to visit an Asian market to get, those items will be marked with **.

Ingredients:

- 2 Chicken Legs, skin on, fresh and large.
- 2 Chicken Thighs, skin on, fresh and large.
- 1 Small piece of fresh Ginger, about 2 inches.
- 2 Stems of Lemon Grass **.
- 1 Can of Coconut Milk **.
- 10-15 Chinese Mushrooms (*sliced in half lengthwise*).
- 5-6 Kaffir Lime Leaves (*optional*).
- 2-3 Sprigs of fresh Cilantro (*chopped*).
- 2-3 Fresh Thai Chili's.
- Cooked Rice, optional (*real rice if you have it*).



Preparation:

1. Place the Chicken in a pot and add water covering them by about 2-3 inches of water, bring to a boil and add the Ginger, Lemon Grass, Chili, and Lime Leaves as stated next while the water is heating.
2. Wash a 2 inch piece of Ginger, slice thin and add to the chicken. (*Sliced, because you can remove before serving, and if served with it, one can easily remove it before biting into a piece.*)
3. Wash and clean the Lemon Grass, cutting off the root end and cutting off the thin parts at the top. Using the flat side of a meat tenderizer, pound the stalks of Lemon Grass until flexible, tie in a simple knot and add to the chicken as well. (*Some cooks*

choose to just cut Lemon Grass into 2 inch pieces, but they tend to fall apart when cooked, so to prevent them from falling apart, the knot is used, and they are crushed first to allow the most flavor to come out.)

4. Slice 2-3 Thai Chili's lengthwise and remove the seeds, add to the chicken. (*Leave the seeds in if you like a spicy dish.*)

5. Remove the central stem from the Lime Leaves and tear in half, add to the chicken.

6. After boiling for about 10 minutes, reduce to a simmer and continue to cook until the chicken until fully done and tender. Add more water as needed. When cooked and tender, add the Coconut Milk and sliced Chinese Mushrooms, simmer for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, remove from heat, add stir in half of the chopped Cilantro. (*For those that are not fans of boiled chicken skin, remove the skin after the chicken is cooked and before you add the Coconut Milk.*)

Before serving, remove the Lemon Grass and Lime Leaves and discard, and you can optionally remove the Ginger and Chili as well.

Pour soup into a serving bowl, sprinkle with the remaining Cilantro. Serve as is or spoon the soup and chicken over rice in a bowl. Serves 2, tastes great!

Vegetarian Festival, Phuket

Rodney Lee Thayer - TQ Editor

Every October in Phuket, Thailand brings the Phuket Vegetarian Festival, with streets lined with large yellow flags with Chinese writing. The festival is a mix between Buddhist religion from China and good old fashioned unique Phuket style.

The festival runs for 10 days, this year it is 8-16 Oct, it varies by year as it is based on the lunar month, not the calendar month. Everything kicks off on the first evening of the ninth lunar month, and ends on the ninth evening.

Now you are probably wondering, why Phuket, Thailand has this festival, sort of based on Chinese Buddhism.

I did some research on this because many of the Thai's themselves do not know why they do this, and they have basically modified it to their own liking, in true Thai fashion.

Phuket in the early 1800's was essentially tin mines, open pit mines, that covered much of the interior of the island, and the main labor for these tin mines, Chinese. The mines were in operation for years, and many of the Chinese laborers settled down and took up life here, remaining to this day. We have a large population of Chinese descendants as well as many Chinese temples.

In 1825, an opera company from mainland China was in Phuket to entertain the Chinese workers, and since the island was still covered in heavy jungle surrounding the mines, the opera company came down with a fever. In order to remedy their fever, they switched to a Chinese art of vegetarian diet to cleanse their body's. After some days had passed, the fever was gone.

A Thai person accompanied the opera troupe back to China as he was interested in how this was done with a vegetarian diet. The man also asked for some Chinese idols, which represent their ten gods, for a temple in Kathu. The Chinese people agreed and supplied the man with the idols and sent him on his way home to Phuket.

The residents of Phuket heard about this man's return to Phuket (first evening of the ninth lunar month) and had a grand procession for him from the bay to the main temple in Kathu.

Chinese taught the Thais that the vegetarian diet, along with no other vices cleans the body spiritually, mental, and physically. The vices are the eating of meat (including fish), the killing of animals, sex, and drinking. And yes, there are other vices, those will be explained shortly.

Modern times.

The festival starts in the evening on the first day with the raising of tall bamboo poles with 9 lanterns on each pole. Two reasons, this was first done when the Thai man returned from China, the lanterns shown where the port is to an arriving boat, the other reason (Thai reason) is for the two main gods in the Chinese religion, to descend to the temple. (The poles with lanterns now are erected at temples, not at the bay.)

This is the night the Vegetarian diet starts, and for the vices (Thai reasoning) they do follow the no meat and no animal killing, but they will eat fish, they have no sex, and no drinking, but they do smoke and sit around and play cards for money, i.e. gambling.

Each day starts at sunrise with (this is a Thai thing only) with ritual piercing of the body, those entranced (called horses) by one of the ten gods, put objects through their cheeks, this they (Thais) say is to absorb all the pain and suffering from all who witness this. It is not gruesome to watch, as there is little blood, what is odd is what they manage to get through their cheeks! (*If you want to see photos of this or learn what they put through their cheeks, email me, it is a bit much for this newsletter.*)

When the "horses" are pierced, they start the process to the ocean, along with the ten idols from China carried on long wooded platforms. This is symbolic of the procession *from* the bay when the man arrived back from China.

Along the procession are people lining the streets with strings of fire crackers, minimum 10,000 to a strand, held up on long bamboo poles, the fire crackers are lighted and held above the idols on the wood platforms. This is a Thai thing as well, they say the noise drives away the evil spirits and tells the gods to descend on the idol.

This walk is can be from 2 to 5 miles, the whole time the "horses" have something through their cheek(s). They have keepers that keep people away on either side because some of the objects used are quite long, and can also be quite sharp. The "horses" return to the temple where the objects are removed, no stitches, no butterfly Band-Aids, just

simply removed. After all of this, then a feast is ready, all the fruit and vegetables you can eat, really bland though. (White carrot soup is not that tasty.)

I have walked this procession several times with friends, interesting to say the least. And no, I DO NOT do the piercing thing. People from all over the world will descend on Phuket in the next few weeks in order to witness this event.

On the night of the ninth day, then one final procession and many many fire crackers, so many it will look like it is snowing red along the main roads. The festival official ends at midnight, then there is a feast of chicken and pork.

Hopefully this gives you some insight to the culture where your editor lives.

President's Report

I'm already working on the location for the 2012 location for the next reunion. I promise that it will be interesting.

The Thayer Families Association held its 2010 reunion in Gettysburg PA this June. The reunion was well attended, and everyone seemed to be having a lot of fun, as well as learning more about our friends, and ancestors. I certainly got a kick out of riding a Segway (one of those two-wheeled stand-up scooters) for an abbreviated tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Aside from the general business meeting, bus tour, and the banquet, one of the more significant happenings was an open informational meeting with Kate, and her kickoff of the Thayer DNA Project. Kate gave an overview of where the Project was headed, and how TFA could tie together both the Paper Genealogy of the Thayer Family in America, and the same family using DNA analysis.

The featured speaker was Charles Kirchner, affiliated with FamilyTreeDNA, located in Houston Texas, which is a non-profit organization researching Genetic Genealogy.

Mr. Kirchner gave an overview of what DNA testing is all about, and presented some information that members could use to have their DNA tested, and what all of this research would mean.

I would strongly urge any members of the Thayer Families Association who carry the "Thayer" surname to follow up on this project. The Thayer Families Association is in a position to help with the cost of DNA testing for those of you who can't afford it. Arrangements can be made.

As a footnote... This project is up on the Internet at FamilyTreeDNA.com. We already have several persons in the project, and more information is coming in all the time.

Feel free to contact me at: ThayerATM@aol.com or write to me for further information at: Al Morton, 115 Willow Pond Way, Penfield NY 14526-2621. Let's get this project going.

Albert Thayer Morton, President
Thayer Families Association

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Thayer Families Association

Annual Dues, New Member & Member Renewal Form

Membership Chairman; Thayer Families Association; 785 Williams Street #303; Longmeadow, MA 01106-2063

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:** _____

Annual Dues: \$30.00 **Family Membership:** _____ **Renewal:** _____

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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Number of years desired: _____ X Appropriate Annual Fee (\$20 or \$30) = Total: _____

Most recent Thayer connection: _____ birth & death dates if known: _____

Earliest known Thayer ancestor: _____ birth & death dates if known: _____

Your Full Name(s) _____

Mailing Address: Number & Street: _____ City,

State: _____ Country, ZIP/Postal Zip Code _____

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Are you able to receive, open, and read downloaded files using PDF format? Yes _____ No _____

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May we communicate with you via email, for membership or other TFA business? Yes _____ No _____

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

Thank you for your membership!

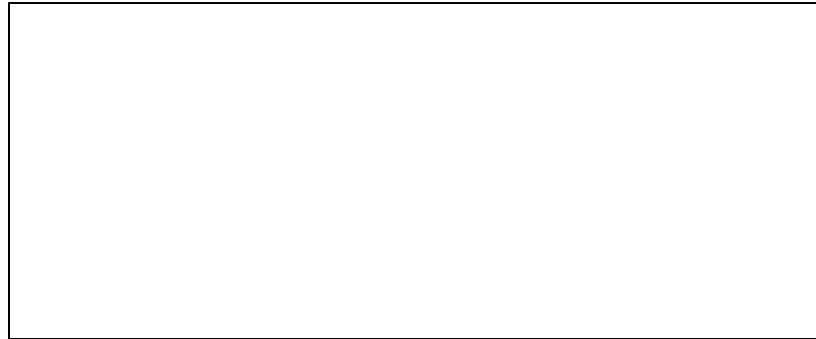
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Please include an SASE if you need a reply.

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Directors of the Thayer Families Association, and/or the original author. Issues are mailed the first week of the month as follows: Winter (Dec); Spring (Mar); Summer (Jun); Fall (Sep). Back issues are available from 1994 to present; some may be a photocopy (Spring 2000 to present is available on CD-ROM in electronic PDF format, please specify paper or CD when ordering). Cost is \$2.50 each for members, \$5 each for non-members, checks only, payable to TFA. (TFA, 785 Williams Street #303; Longmeadow, MA 01106-2063).

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