



the Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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Spring

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT TO BE HONORED IN CONWAY, MA

Edward Thayer (1764-1827) to Receive New Gravestone

When in the early 1990s Mr. Verne L. Thayer of Milford, MA, began his quest to join the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution (MASSAR), he never imagined it would take almost twenty years to complete. Life's challenges coupled with difficulties in genealogical research made the journey tiresome and lengthy. But on June 19, 2010, in Concord, MA, Verne's dream was realized when he was sworn in as a new MASSAR compatriot by Mr. William E. Battles III, then the society's president.



Verne L. Thayer

Verne's membership was facilitated by his descent from Israel Trow (1737-1825), his fourth great-grandfather. With research on Trow squared away, Verne began work on a supplemental line descending from Edward Thayer (1764-1827), his third great-grandfather. When Edward was a mere lad of sixteen, he served the patriot cause for three months in Sheppard's Company, a local militia unit. On August 8, 1781, after his discharge from Sheppard, he traveled to Wrentham, MA, and enlisted in Captain John Lincoln's Company, Colonel Joseph Webb's Regiment, one of four regiments raised under the Resolve of June 30, 1781, as reinforcements for the Continental Army. After rendering 114 days service, he was discharged on November 29. Following the war, Edward and his first wife, Rebecca Hack (1766-1803), moved to Conway, MA, where they made the town their life-long home and birthplace of their eight children. In 1804, he married his second wife, Lena Pratt, who bore him three additional children.

In September 2009, on a research trip to North Shirkshire Cemetery in Conway, Verne located Edward's grave, marked by a weather-beaten, cracked, and chipped headstone, devoid of any inscription to note his revolutionary service, with the name "Edward Thayer" barely visible. It was a moment of mixed emotions for Verne: exhilaration at standing at the grave of his patriot ancestor, disappointment at the sad condition of Edward's austere monument. It was at that point that Verne embarked on a quest to replace his ancestor's gravestone with one that would properly honor his military service.



Current condition of Edward's headstone.

Verne consulted the Veterans' Administration (VA) and learned that it is possible to obtain a military gravestone for Edward provided his existing monument is removed. On that positive note, Verne scheduled a meeting on Monday, March 14, with Conway's town fathers to seek their blessing. No difficulties are anticipated in that regard. Once municipal approval is granted, an application packet will be filed with the VA formally requesting a standard, government-issued, upright, marble gravestone inscribed with a Christian cross and the following text:

Private Edward Thayer
1764-1827
Captain John Lincoln's Company
Colonel Joseph Webb's Regiment
Continental Army
Sheppard's Company

Negus and Taylor of Greenfield, MA, offered to perform the stone's installation pro bono. A dedication ceremony is scheduled to be held at North Shirkshire Cemetery, Conway, MA, at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, August 20, 2011. A brief speech will be delivered, followed by military honors rendered by MASSAR's color guard. In addition to

Edward's descendants, civic leaders, members of the press, interested residents, and other parties are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Historian's Report

by Patricia Thayer Muno, Thayer Family Historian

Volume V of *A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America* is well under way. It is projected that it will be available in time for 2011 Christmas, and most likely well before then. There have been many photos shared, but if you have any pre-1930 photos which you would like to include, please send them along as soon as possible.

With ten projected volumes in the "Comprehensive" genealogy, it can become mind-boggling to know just which volume contains the information pertaining to any given individual's specific line. A list of the 2,121 surnames in the index for Volume V, *Descendants of Thomas Thayer, Immigrant to America 1637, Through His Son Thomas² and His Grandsons, Jonathan³ and Thomas³, Ferdinando²* is available on the web site at ThayerFamilies.com / Historian's Corner / Books of the Comprehensive.

There are 5,160 Thayers in Volume V and they all descend from the below families:

1. Thomas Thayer (Immig.1637) (c.16 Aug 1596-
Thornbury,Gloucester,England;d.2 Jun 1665)
sp: Margery Wheeler (b.25 Apr 1600-
Thornbury,Gloucester,England;m.13 Apr 1618)
2. Thomas Thayer (c.15 Sep 1622-
Thornbury,Gloucester,England)
sp: Hannah (or Anna) (b.Ab.1625-
of,England;m.Ab.1643)
3. Thomas Thayer (b.Ab.1651/1652-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA)
sp: Abigail Veazie (b.Ab.1661;m.25 Mar
1680)
3. John Thayer (b.25 Dec 1656-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA;b.19 Dec 1746-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA)
sp: Mary Neale (b.11 May 1664-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA;m.Ab.1683;b.6 Jul 1724-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA)

sp: Ruth Neale (b.25 Dec 1670-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA;m.2 Aug 1688)

2. Ferdinando Thayer (c.18 Apr 1625-
Thornbury,Gloucester,England)

sp: Huldah Hayward (b.7 Oct 1636-
.,England;m.14 Jan 1652/1653)

3. Jonathan Thayer (b.18 Mar 1658-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA;)

sp: Elizabeth French (b.29 Sep 1655-
Braintree,Norfolk,MA;m.13 Jul 1680)

sp: Sarah Darling (b.Ab.1660;m.Not
married)

3. Thomas Thayer (b.14 Feb 1664-
Mendon,Worcester,MA)

sp: Mary Poole (b.20 Nov 1668-
Weymouth,Norfolk,MA;m.28 Oct 1687)

There will be between 800 – 900 pages, loaded with
historical and biographical information as well as
documented genealogical sources.

A sampling of some of the better known Thayers in
Volume V includes:

- Abbott Handerson Thayer, Artist and
“Father of Camouflage” paintings
- Alexander Wheelock Thayer, Author.
- Clarence Allen Thayer, builder of the three-
masted Schooner, *C.A. Thayer*(1895)
- Ernest Lawrence Thayer, Author of *Casey
At The Bat*.
- Gerald Handerson Thayer, Artist.
- Dr. Henry Thayer, of the Thayer
Pharmaceuticals
- Horace Newell Thayer, Manufacturer of the
Thayer Baby Furniture.
- Kate (Bloede) Thayer (1948-1891), Artist
- Nancy L. Thayer (1949-), Author
- Porter Charlie Thayer (1882-1972), New
England Photographer
- Tiffany Ellsworth Thayer (1902-1959),
American actor, Author and founder of the
Fortean Society (the inspiration behind the
popular *X Files* television program.
- Scofield Thayer (1889-1982) , American
Poet and Publisher, and editor of *The Dial*.

- Stephen Henry Thayer (1839-1919), Author,
Member of NY Stock Exchange, Financial
Editor.
- Judge Webster Thayer, Notoriously known
as the “Hanging Judge.”
- William Roscoe Thayer, Author
- William Wallace Thayer (1827-1899),
6th Governor of Oregon.

There are also, some interesting Thayer connections
to the authors Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957) and
Samuel Langhorne Clemmons (Mark Twain - 1835-
1910)!

The following notes from the Comprehensive
publishing editor, Donald Muno:

As Patricia and I approach Volume V of the
Comprehensive, I would like to raise the level of
general knowledge concerning our ongoing efforts
to remain on task. Patricia and I knew upon
beginning our massive research and publishing
effort that we would encounter problems on our
journey. Some are expected while others were not.
We began research efforts 38 years ago in 1973.
Following a 1988 trip to Boston and meeting with
H. Hobart Holly and Brig. General James Burdett
Thayer, two of the three founders of TFA,
commenced efforts establish the Thayer Families
Association. Many of those who strongly supported
our early efforts have gradually passed on. For
those who remain strong supporters we will be
eternally grateful. Our biggest stumbling block has
resulted from the Braintree Historical Society
loosing their director and direction, and
consequently, also the Thayer Publishing Fund. We
had moved publishing operations to Braintree and
provided BHS with all discs and plates needed for
ongoing publishing. Monies were placed in “trust”
and I orchestrated publishing of volume IV in
Braintree in 2005 while living here in the Rocky
Mountains.

By the ongoing efforts of Al Morton and his recent
trip to Braintree, we retrieved discs for volume III
and cover plates for volumes I and II. BHS still has
within their files the remaining discs and plates not

found. Patricia and I have communicated with a long time Thayer correspondent in Boston who upon returning from a vacation will work with us to secure other items remaining at BHS. The long and the short of it, we will move all publishing back to us here in Utah. Our intent is to continue with the final volumes and be able to offer libraries a comprehensive set which chronicles one of the most complete family histories ever published in America. Once we have gathered all that we can, we will let members of TFA know what is available and return to publishing volumes now out of print. In preparation for that time, I have alerted proven publishing houses and bindery houses of our intent.

While we may have to work on a “pre-sale” basis. You can be assured that we will continue with our original pledge to finish this life-long project. We wish to thank each of you for your continued support and the efforts of the officers and members of the TFA to stay connected to one of the finest families in America. Sincerely, Don Muno

From Patricia’s mailbox:

My Dad Was a World War II POW

By Kim Thayer Stephens



Dad was a POW (prisoner of war) during WW2. He was a right waist gunner on a B-17/Flying Fortress as they were called. Dad said it would take 2 hr. to get into formation while flying with thousands of B-17's and that the P-51's made it

easier for the B-17 bombers to get to their destinations. Dad was a SSgt. and each plane held 10 men. The men on the plane would become very close. There were 2 pilots, navigator, engineer, radio operator, 2 waist gunners, tail gunner,

bombardier, and ball turret. My dad’s plane, **Passionate Witch 2**, was shot down on 28 March 1944 and he was liberated from POW camp on 5 May 1945. His POW camp was in Krems Austria by Danube River and my dad, Richard Thayer, was only 25 yrs. old.

Dad had a mission where his first plane, **The Passionate Witch I**, received over 2,000 bullet holes and dad had to man both waist gunner positions due to injuries of the crew. He was shielding the plane from heavy Nazi gunfire while the co-pilot, Lt. Ron Casey of Michigan, was helping with the injuries of the left waist gunner. My dad (the right waist gunner) stood over them even though dad was hit in the face and leg and bleeding badly, but dad commented that his wounds were not that bad and kept on manning both gun positions until they were safely back in England. Dad was then put in hospital due to his injuries. Dad was up for the Congressional Medal of Honor but he couldn’t interview for it since another mission came up about a week later and he requested to be released from hospital to go join his crew on this next mission. Dad did not realize the importance of the Congressional Medal of Honor at the time. He did receive the Silver Star due to his courageous activity on this flight but it was presented to his parents since at the time of the award, dad was already a POW.

Dad’s next mission on **Passionate Witch 2** (Passionate Witch 1 had been badly damaged and unable to fly again) resulted in this plane being shot down after having had a wing shot off causing the plane to go into a downward spin. The force kept dad from being able to reach the hatch to get out UNTIL he saw his mother’s face/vision of her praying for him and only THEN was he able to reach the door hatch and open it. The plane blew up shortly after dad got out. Dad had won a pilot’s parachute in a card game and he said that this parachute saved his life from flack numerous times on missions and then especially on this last mission. The **Passionate Witch 2** had only 3 survivors after being shot down. The tail gunner, John McLaughlin died on the ground. George Silva the radio operator, Lt. Robert Cook the pilot, and my dad the right waist gunner were the only ones to

survive who then became POW's. During the war, you usually had to go on 25 missions before being able to go home, but had to accomplish that many without dying or being shot down. Dad thought that the mission where his plane was shot down was probably his 9th or 10th mission. He said that one of his early missions, during the war, resulted in his trousers being shot off but he was not injured.

The Germans hated American flyers for destroying their lives, homes, families....and there was not much left after all the bombings. Dad said he always felt lucky. The German soldiers followed the Geneva Treaty closely on how to treat/handle POW's which was a blessing. Germans spoke great English. Prior to reaching the prison camp the soldiers were put into this dungeon like area initially with peep holes which was very stinky and dirty and the windows being 15 feet high. Eventually they left this "dungeon like place" in route to the prison camp located in Krems Austria/ Stalag B-17. Due to the German hatred toward Americans flyers, moving Americans to their POW camps via the railroad was dangerous since most Germans wanted to kill American Flyers. Usually there were 10 men in a group heading to Frankfurt where the train station was located. The German soldiers were good to the prisoners trying to protect them from the public. The train took 3 days to get to Krems Austria. POW's were interrogated for 7-8 days. Bombing was going on all around them. English would bomb at night and Americans would bomb during the day. Hitler's troops (SS troops) were vicious and so very mean and WOULD kill you if given a chance or reason. Thankfully the POW's were guarded by the German troops NOT the SS. Many of the POW camps in the Baltic's had to move often due to so much destruction due to the bombings. Dad being on the Eastern Front never had to move.

There were about 4700 American men in this POW camp, non-commissioned officers. Russians were located on the camp next door and Germans REALLY hated them, resulting in many deaths due to the bad treatment! There were basketball courts outside. Red Cross would give POW potatoes 2-3 times a day with bread. The food was enough with the Red Cross packages coming. The last winter of

the war, Germans stopped the Red Cross packages and POW's almost died from starvation. They killed rats and mice...anything for protein. Dad craved the bread and potatoes when they were stopped. Toward the end of the war, supplies were so limited and they burned camp furniture for heat. Dad said it was much like the show on TV, Hogan Heroes. Before the war ended, Hitler wanted all animals and POW's killed so when the allies arrived, they would find nothing...no evidence! Hitler died and the man in charge did not enforce it and so it did not happen. Russians were getting close on the Eastern Front and dad knew the war would soon end. Many POW's wanted to escape rather than starve to death and a vote was taken. Dad voted no since the Russians were so close. They voted no to dying while trying to escape and would wait and hope to survive until they were rescued.

POW's dug tunnels and many of the POW coal miners did a lot of the digging but when the tunnel was almost done, German spies inside the camp would tell authorities and then the Germans would pour sewer liquid into the tunnels and close them up. Tunnels would go 18 ft. down and the men would get of the dirt that was dug out by placing it in their pant cuffs and during roll call pour it out...this happened 6-8 times a day. Americans would get the Russians to stand in during roll call so the POW's could continue to dig and try to escape. No one escaped through the tunnels that were being dug. Dad did say that many men did well in prison camp physically and mentally but many did poorly. There were lots of bed bugs and hunger.

Dad's group of about 500 walked to freedom after the war. German Captain told them all about the historic sites on the Danube River like "Richard the Lion Hearted" castle. They were on the road for 30-31 days. The men would divide off and have assignments. Dad's friend, Oliver, looked for food and he was a good trader and thief! Dad's assignment was to find fuel. Oliver would sneak out and get back into the group without getting shot. He once brought back a hen and 6 eggs. One egg was iron and dad thought Oliver should have that one! Dad thought that was funny. On the road there was a lot of contaminated water thus resulting

in diarrhea! Dad said the young German children were taught to kill Americans and the German soldiers warned them about the children in small villages/towns.

After the war, dad got into contact with his POW friend, Oliver from Port Authur, Texas. He was part Indian and had four children. Oliver was good to dad and liked him a lot. Dad referred to him as "Ollie". My dad and mother did end up visiting him 30 years after the war. When they visited him so many years later, dad looked up his number in the directory and called Oliver once they arrived in his town. Dad did not tell him who he really was, and made up a story to see and meet with him at his home. Dad told Oliver he was Mr. Kreg (Krieger's as they were called in the POW camp) and was selling insurance. Oliver did not want any insurance but dad insisted and then went to his home to try and convince him to buy this insurance. Oliver was very mad since he had told dad already, over the phone, he was not interested. Dad kept pushing the issue to the point that Oliver got so mad he drew back to hit my dad....UNTIL he noticed dad's nose, remembering dad had a crooked nose due to a break early in his life, and he then recognized him and was thrilled to see dad after all those years. Dad and Oliver were fortunate to survive the prison camp life and return home at the end of the war.

Dad was awarded the Purple Heart 2-3 times but never applied for it. Dad had no formal college education. When he returned from the war, living in Hope, Indiana, dad farmed and ran for sheriff (Columbus, Indiana) and won the election. When dad was sheriff, the family lived in the jail and my mom learned to cook since she had to feed the prisoners! Mom loved the jail life. My brother, Gordie, was born while mom and dad were living in the jail and one prisoner whom mom and dad trusted, taught Gordie his ABC's. One of the prisoners in jail once told dad that the only person to beat him in an election would have been mom! The prisoners in the jail loved mom and respected dad. Later, dad ran and became mayor of Columbus, Indiana. Dad and mom ended up with four children in all named Gordie, Margie, Tim and Kim. My dad died in 1 Jan 2001 at the age of 81.

Kim's lineage:

Kimberly Jane (Richard Louis¹¹, Leonard Ray¹⁰, Lincoln Hamlin⁹, John David⁸, Charles⁷⁻⁶, Danief⁵, Samuel⁴, Isaac³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹) THAYER and Evelyn Virginia MILLER.

Veteran's Memorial Park Bench Commemorates Multiple Generations of Michigan Thayer Family

In an E-mail message of 8 Dec 2010, Jerry Dean Thayer of East Jordan Michigan sent me the below picture:



Pictured is my son, Hayden Orion Thayer (2009), sitting on the bench which contains the names of my family: Father, Melvyn William Thayer (1944-) US Army; two of his three brothers: Harvey Lyle Thayer (1947-1994) US Army, and James "Jim" Curtis Thayer (1948-2001) USMC; my grandfather William Harvey Thayer (1921-1951) WWII; and my great grandfather Howard Donahue Thayer (1897-1973) WWI.

The bench is in the Boyne City, Michigan Veteran's Memorial Park. There are 6 benches and a name plaque along with some old military equipment at a lake front park for all who have served in the area my Grandmother (Maureen Stewart Thayer) paid

for all our family members to be put on it. You could write a book on just her! During World War II she took a 21 foot row boat across the English Chanel and back, once or twice, rescuing 8 men during the evacuation of Europe. Then her husband, my grandpa William H. Thayer, after surviving the war, died of Cancer at age 29, leaving grandmother with 4 boys aged 8, 6, 4, and 2 years old. She remarried and was widowed again. She is now 88 lives and lives in Oregon with Uncle Jack. She was born in Ceylon, the country now Sri Lanka, off the tip of India. Her father was a British officer stationed there. If you were to talk to her, I have to warn you, you'll want to listen for hours! She's amazing!

Patricia's note: On the 13th of December I sent a message to Jerry asking him to proof read for me the above blurb about his family. Two days later, I receive the following sad message from Jerry:

"Hey cuz, Bad news!!!!!!! My house burnt down Monday night/Tuesday morning. We are all un-hurt and safe, and now very busy, so feel free to edit as you see fit the article. I probably won't get back to you for some time. Thanks for your thoughts."

This terrible tragedy just a week before Christmas! I mentioned this to our President, Albert Thayer Morton, and Al responded with:

I'd say that Jerry has a lot going for himself, and I'm saying that in all seriousness. He did deliver some horrible news, but the way he delivered it doesn't seem to indicate any despondency, and I'll bet he doesn't feel any either. I think that most people who's house burned down 10 days before Christmas would be devastated, but Jerry doesn't seem to be displaying that either. I'll bet he's one of those guys that when he's thrown from the horse he picks himself up, dusts himself off, and jumps right back on the horse.

Al could not have been more correct, as Jerry wrote on New Year's Eve:

DONT WORRIE !

The fire was started by an extension cord, or an outlet it was plugged into... Yes, we're insured.

Need nothing; if you insist, give to local charities, OR, better yet, buy a loved one a smoke detector!

We are all fine. We're renting a house and already have some furniture. Have you checked your smoke detectors? They saved our lives, no question! I know they can be annoying, dead batteries in the middle of the night, going off in the kitchen. These things will never bother me again.. We're focusing on moving forward. Life is starting to fall back into a routine again, normal is nice. Thanks for the thoughts. We have a lot of giving to pay forward. Family, friends, and strangers have all given without hesitation. And we will re-give it all and more!

What a guy!!! Thanks Jerry for being an inspiration to all of us!

Jerry also sent the following story which was shared with the family in a 1986 letter from his Grandmother, Maureen (Stewart) Thayer (1922-), relating her experience in coming to America as a War Bride from England:

Dear Richard and Jerry,

I thought at this time, when there is so much going on about the Statue of Liberty, that I would write down for you, how your Dad, Melvyn and I came to the U.S.A., and the Statue of Liberty. You may not be too interested now, but if you ever are I may not be around to tell you, and your Dad probably does not remember.

Melvyn was 8 months old and I was 4 months pregnant with Jack and keeping that secret as we were not supposed to travel if pregnant. We left home, Kings Langley, about 20 miles north of London, on January 12th, 1946, by car to London and a farewell family dinner, then on to old Victoria station and the train. There were about 2,000 of us G.I. brides and 1400 children. We were taken to an Italian Prisoner of war camp on Salisbury Plain, Yes, that is where Stone Henge is, and it is a cold and desolate place at the best of times and January is not to best of times! We were told we would be in the camp for "processing" so we would not have to

go to Ellis Island when we got to America and we would go in about a week.

We lived in dormitories in Quonset huts and slept of army cots, and the babies were to sleep in army foot lockers – of course most of them did not fit in an army locker, so we had to share the army cot.

There was only one place to get drinking water and you had to line up for it, and no Laundromat or disposable diapers, we washed clothes in the bathroom sinks and strung strings all over to dry!!

There was only room in the dining room for 500 at a time. Then word came down that we were not going on the *Queen Mary* after all, they just took the wives with no children and the rest of us went in Alphabetical... With a name of **Thayer** we were pretty far down the list. A lot of women went home, and all of us got sick at one time or another. Two little children died, though they did take them to the hospital in Salisbury.

We finally sailed on February 8th in a little Mediterranean cruiser, it was not suited to crossing the Atlantic in February and when we hit a storm, they just threw out the anchor and rode it out. Mel got very seasick as did just about everyone else, but we finally made it to New York, but as we were a week late, someone else had taken our berth and we had to ride it out in the harbor for a few days.

It was wonderful to see the lights of New York; England and all of Europe had been “Blacked Out” for 6 years of the war. The first sight we saw was an ad for “Maxwell House Coffee... Good to the last drop.” After a couple of days they moved the ship around so we could see the Statue of Liberty, It was so pretty all lit up at night, but we never did leave the ship, some celebrities came on board to entertain us.

The Red Cross finally put 47 of us on the train in New York to Chicago, Nine of us got off in Detroit, There were quite a crowd to see us as if we were a bunch of cattle arriving!! They were very nice anyway and served coffee and donuts. We all drank tea and had never heard of donuts, but it was a nice gesture.

The Red Cross took me to meet Bill in Grand Rapids at Midnight and put us up for the night. WE caught the little “Milk Train” to Boyne City in the morning. It stopped every so often to pick up cans of milk, etc., and we finally got to Boyne City that night.

From there, we lived happily ever after!!
Ahem.....well, more or less!!!

Love from Grandma Thayer

Jerry’s Lineage: Jerry Dean (Melvyn William¹², William Harvey¹¹, Howard Donahue¹⁰, William Henry⁹, Henry Brown⁸, Daniel⁷, John⁶, Josiah⁵, Isaac⁴⁻³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹) THAYER

Patricia’s mailbag: 9 December 2010:

When I retired from the Army in 2005, I sailed down the west coast to La Paz, put Pegasus on Dockwise and shipped her to Fort Lauderdale; met her there and motored all the way up the Intracoastal Waterway to Baltimore. A year and a half later, I trucked her back to the Puget Sound, where I live aboard today.

Sam Thayer,
Olympia, Washington



Holly Obituaries

Henry Hobart "Hobie" Holly helped in the formation of the Thayer Families Association as one of the founders. As an authority of families in the Braintree, Quincy and Randolph, Massachusetts area, he helped hundreds of individuals with their lineage queries Hobie left behind a legacy of hope for the many individuals who sought his help in finding their heritage. It seems only natural that his obituary and that of his beloved wife, Ginny be included here for our readers.

Boston Herald Obituary of 28 Nov 1996:

Mr. [H. Hobart] Holly was a civil engineer for the Metcalf and Eddy Engineering firm in Boston, Bethlehem Steel Corp. at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy and the Federal Shipbuilding Co. of New Jersey. In Quincy, he performed design engineering and architectural work on the USS Independence and the USS Constitution.



He was both the Quincy historian and the Braintree historian. A member of 17 historical societies, Mr. Holly served as president of the Quincy Historical Society for 20 years. He worked at the Quincy Historical Society Adams Academy Building Library for several years and wrote and edited two books, "History of Quincy," and "History of Braintree."

Notes of Patricia Thayer Muno, Thayer Family Historian, Thayer Families Association: H. Hobart "Hobie" Holly was the son of Henry

Hobart Holly (1872-1917) and Charlotte Chapin Morgan (1873-). He helped in the formation of the Thayer Families Association. As an authority of families in the Braintree, Quincy and Randolph, Massachusetts area, he helped hundreds of individuals with their lineage queries.

Virginia (Nash) Holly, wife of H. Hobart Holly passed away.

Boston Herald Obituary (21 June 2010):

Virginia N. (Nash) Holly of Quincy, a homemaker, died Thursday at her home at River Bay Club in Quincy. She was 95.

Born in Short Hills, N.J., Mrs. Holly lived in New York City before becoming a longtime Braintree resident She moved to Quincy in 1996. In her early years, Mrs. Holly worked in New York City as a specialist in fine antiques. She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Holly was a member of the Emmanuel Parish in Braintree, where she was a member of St. Mary's Guild, and Christ Church in Quincy.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution Braintree Chapter, the Florence Crittenden League and a former member of the Braintree Philergians. She was a former trustee of the Thayer Academy in Braintree and Thayer Public Library in Braintree.

A longtime member of the Quincy Tennis Club, she and her husband were inducted into the New England Tennis Hall of Fame at Newport, R.I.

Wife of the late H. Hobart, Mrs. Holly is survived by a son, William C. of York, Penn.; a daughter, Catherine C. Holly-Nash of Conway, N.H.; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. today at Christ Church, Quincy.

Burial will be in Blue Hill Cemetery, Braintree. Arrangements by Peck Funeral Home, Braintree.

A Query from Barbara Lewellen of Longmont, CO in E-mail of 2 Aug 2010:

I am researching Frederick A. Pine who married Grace D. Thayer, daughter of Decatur Seymour [Seymour Decatur] Thayer in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Do you have any Thayer researchers in your database who are related to the Decatur Seymour Thayer family? I am trying to confirm if Grace Thayer's husband Frederick A. Pine was an investor in the building of early proto-type airplanes in Colorado around 1910.

I have that Frederick A. Pine married Grace D. Thayer, on January 31, 1897 in El Paso County; they had two children Nellie, b. Sept 1899 and Douglas, b. ca. 1906. [The couple] lived in Cripple Creek in 1904-1905; moved back to Colorado Springs and lived for at least 10-15 years at 117 South 10th Street, where Frederick was first employed as a gold miner in 1900; Amalgamator – Gold Mines in 1910 and Manager of an Oil Business in 1920.

Does anyone have information on this possibility?
If so, please respond directly to Barbara at:
bjlewellen@comcast.net

**From Patricia's mailbox, as shared
by Jackie Thayer Culp:**

**Living History in Nantucket
Nancy Thayer fights to preserve
the past out of her 1840
shipbuilder home.**

By NANCY KEATES, Nantucket, Mass.



"I'm proud that this house is authentic and genuine," said Nancy Thayer viewed through her library.

Author Nancy Thayer's increasing ambivalence about her neighbors is starting to show up in her books. Not all the neighbors--just the ones who rip out 19th-century walls to make great rooms and replace antique pine floors with bamboo. While the island is well known for its restrictive building codes, there are no rules governing interior redos, and the resulting remodeling of historic homes has led to cars plastered with bumper stickers that read "Gut Fish Not Houses."

In "Beachcombers," Ms. Thayer's latest book, three homegrown sisters who live in a rambling unrenovated home on Nantucket are juxtaposed with a cutthroat female lawyer who commutes to New York and whose summer residence is a gutted historic house, the interior redone "to glossy perfection in Nantucket-style, everything blue and white."

Ms. Thayer, whose other books include "Summer House" and the Hot Flash series, lives in a historic five-bedroom, 3000-square-foot house here that still closely resembles its 1840 shipbuilder origins. On a brick-lined street just off the town's main cobblestone drag, it's tall, narrow and shingled, containing many small rooms and old fireplaces. The wallpaper is antique. Almost all the paintings on the red and gray-blue walls are by Nantucket artists. When it's windy, the top floor creaks and sways. The small yard, with its roughly mown grass, scattered seashells and shrubs, is a far cry

from the island's plethora of professionally landscaped mansions with their trimmed privet hedges, hydrangeas and row upon row of peonies.

"I'm proud that this house is authentic and genuine. We haven't bought into the perfection dream that so many designers have imposed on other homes here," Ms. Thayer, age 66, said from her fourth-floor office overlooking the Nantucket harbor and two lighthouses. She pointed out what looked from the outside like historic homes but which she said have been stripped down and remodeled inside.

The decor also reflects her love for history. Intricate handmade objects, spread throughout the house, give off an air of clutter. In her office there are Christmas ornaments, hat boxes and sets of stationery in floral patterns. Her husband's propensity to keep almost every record and magazine he ever bought (stored in boxes and on shelves that take up two full rooms on the second floor) adds to the well-stuffed home.

Dressed in a J. Jill gray cotton T-shirt dress with rhinestone-studded sandals, her long dark hair held in a ponytail, Ms. Thayer walked down narrow stairs, painted a Caribbean blue, to a small, dining room where an antique table was spread with salads and brownies. Her guests—members of a local women's business group called Petticoat Row, named for the street where 19th-century women did business while their husbands were off whaling—sat on Victorian-style sofas in the small parlor next to the dining room.

"We are homesteaders in historic Nantucket," said writer Nathaniel Philbrick, a neighbor who stopped by and whose wife, a leader of a local preservation group, was at the lunch. Mr. Philbrick, who lives around the corner from Ms. Thayer, called the remodeled homes in the neighborhood "perfect embodiments of some yuppie nightmare." The housing boom hastened the change: Mark Voigt, who heads the Nantucket Historic District Commission, says historic homes are now a minority, which they used to account for over half the buildings.

Ms. Thayer was born in Emporia, Kan. Her first marriage—to her professor 16 years her senior at the then-called University of Wichita—ended in divorce. Her experience raising two stepdaughters led to her first published novel, in 1980, "Stepping." Her 20 novels have since sold over three million copies world-wide.

Ms. Thayer moved to Nantucket when she married Charley Walters, a longtime summer resident-turned-islander who owned a music store in town and had a local radio show. They bought their house for \$255,000 in 1984 and spent in the "low six figures" renovating it (they took out a kitchen that was on the second floor, put in more energy-efficient windows, sanded and stained the floors). A similar-sized 1831 house down the street is for sale for \$19 million.

Her years on the island have left her with a litany of "summer people" horror stories: A woman so uptight she washed her toaster and put it away after breakfast every morning and another woman who, tired of her flowers and bushes, demanded the landscapers chop them up in front of her to ensure they didn't donate or sell them to someone else. "When you live here you hear the most awful things," said Ms. Thayer. "It's all good material."

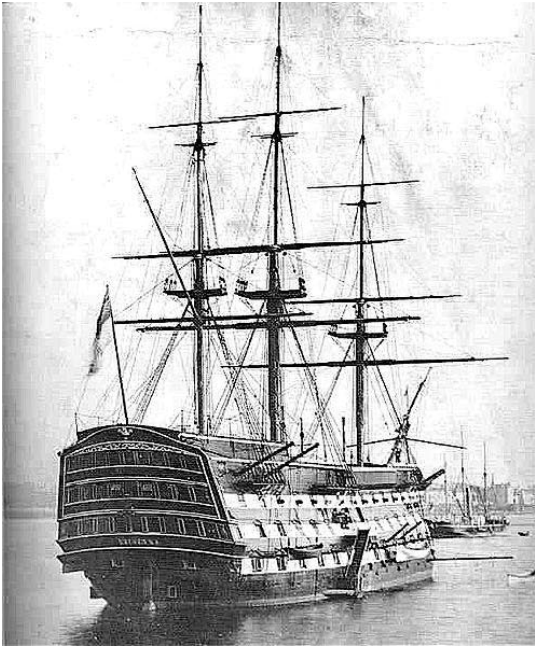
Wall Street Journal 13 August 2010

Nancy's lineage: Nancy L. (Donald Frederick¹⁰, William H.⁹, George P.⁸, Charles Frederick⁷, William⁶, Elijah⁵, David⁴, Thomas³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹) THAYER.

Dr. William Thayer of the H.M.S. Somerset

Winter 2010 Kinfolk
From Polly Rich Ewing

When I joined the Thayer Family Association, I was upset to find that they considered William Thayer as someone they couldn't trace, so I set out on about a decade of research to see what I could do about it. First, I decided to ignore the idea that he was the surgeon on the Somerset. The myth generated an



awful book (the name of which I cannot remember), but which pictured Dr. Thayer as a drunken sot who beat and otherwise mistreated the sailors, and included his supposed meeting of Lucy Rich while he was being marched to Boston in chains and was released so that he could marry her! This was in spite of the fact that the real Dr. Thayer was married and had children of record before the grounding of the ship, and that he was one of the salvors on record.

I had the records of the Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England, searched by a professional genealogist, with no results. I was in touch several times with Marjorie Hubbell Gibson, who wrote the book about the Somerset; she said the logs of the ship, to which she had access, show that Henry Watson was the surgeon on the Somerset. She also provided a list of the 200 men from Truro to whom the Maritime Court, held in Ipswich, Massachusetts, on 19 June 1799, granted shares in the salvage of the ship.

I worked at the New England Historic and Genealogy Society with a number of the research librarians. In August of 1998, Gary Boyd Roberts brought me material from the Thayer manuscripts that show a William born in Braintree, Massachusetts, 26 January 1738/1739, son of Peter and Anna (Porter) Thayer. At age 16, he was in the Winslow Expedition against the Acadians in Nova

Scotia. From the diary of John Thomas, surgeon, we read that on 8 July 1755, "I amputated the leg of a William Thairs belonging to Capt. Cobb's Co.; his native place was Braintree." Three days later, he wrote, "I dressed Wm. Thairs stump and it appears very well and in a hopeful way."

The Court Records in Boston (#S0821) say, "William Thayer, a single man who has lost a leg came from Braintree, was warned to depart Boston, 1 April 1760." He must have returned to the family home in Braintree, since in April 1762 he witnessed a deed for his father there. (Old Hampshire Deeds 6-81). That is the last record of William, son of Peter. The family remained in Braintree for some years; Peter Thayer was elected deacon in the South Precinct Church in Braintree in 1768 and resigned in 1781; he died in Peterborough, New Hampshire, 27 September 1798.

Finally, I was vindicated when I received an email from the historian of the Thayer Family Association:

"I totally agree with you, and this is what I had thought all along also. Knowing the correct placement for William has been frustrating ... Polly, I am concerned that anything I may have written to you led you to believe that I felt that your William was non-existent? I believe what I tried to convey was that I just did not have enough existing information on him to prove his connection.

"I have presently entered your William as a son of Peter Thayer and Anna Porter and entered into his notes "verification needed." . . . This helps others to understand that more research would be desirable and helpful. In the meantime we would greatly appreciate any information you can share on the descendants of William Thayer and Susanna Rich." William's lineage is as follows: William (Peter⁴, Ephraim³, Shadrach², Thomas¹) THAYER. We do not know at what point Dr. William Thayer appeared in Truro; he married, about 1772, Susanna Rich, daughter of Joseph³ (Richard²-1), although there is no record of the marriage in the Truro Vital Records. They had the following children, all born in Truro:

i. Anna Thayer (b.2 Oct 1773-Truro, Barnstable, MA;d.3 Mar 1849-Wellfleet, Barnstable,MA)

md: Reuben Rich (b.23 Aug 1748-Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA; m.23 Apr 1802; d.24 Jul 1819-Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA)

ii. Susanna Thayer (b.24 Jun 1775-Truro, Barnstable, MA; d.9 Oct 1780-Truro, Barnstable, MA)

iii. Rachel Thayer (b.2 Nov 1777- Truro, Barnstable, MA; d.4 Nov 1826-Truro, Barnstable, MA)

iv. Phebe Thayer (b.6 Apr 1780-Truro, Barnstable, MA; d.7 Oct 1867-Scarborough, Cumberland, ME)
md: Elisha Newcomb (b.7 Jun 1776-Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA; m.1 Oct 1796; d.7 Nov 1847-Truro, Barnstable, MA)

v. Susanna Thayer (b.12 Jun 1784-Truro, Barnstable,MA)
md: Simeon Hopkins (b.7 Jun 1777-Truro, Barnstable, MA; m.25 Nov 1801)

vi. William Thayer (b.11 Nov 1786-Truro, Barnstable,MA;d.1803)

Dr. William Thayer died 3 October 1794, age 55, according to the diary of Reverend Jude Damon; there is no tombstone for him in Truro. Susanna (Rich) Thayer died 17 March 1830, age 86, widow of Dr. William Thayer, according to her tombstone in Lot 178, Pine Grove Cemetery, South Truro. It is probable that William is also buried in this lot.

This family has several Mayflower connections, a link to the Colonial wars, many connections to the Rich family, as well as to the Atwood and Baker families of Wellfleet. The name "Thayer" has continued as a middle name in many of William's descendants, right down to the present day.

Descendants in this line are urged to get in touch with Polly at 2020 South Monroe Street, Denver CO 80210; MaryEwing.@arclp.net

(The photo above shows the H.M.S. *Victory* a full century after our *Somerset* had wrecked on Cape Cod. The two warships were about the same size.)

To The Editor

By John Howard Thayer

There was an article in the November 2010 winter edition of The Thayer Quarterly, written by Jerry Thayer, and entitled "Revolutionary Soldier Obediah Thayer" that I read with interest. Jerry mentioned that Obediah Thayer had served for one year as a private in a Massachusetts regiment that was in Colonel John Greaton's Regiment. Jerry further stated that "This was a half year before the Declaration of Independence was signed but hostilities had already broken out in Massachusetts. During his year of service Obediah had served in New York, on an expedition to Canada and in Massachusetts."

There was only one expedition to Canada during the Revolutionary War and this occurred in the month of December, 1775. Two columns of American troops invaded Canada and attacked Quebec during a snow storm on December 31, 1775. One group was commanded by General Montgomery and the second group was under the command of General Benedict Arnold. The invasion and attack(s) were planned in an attempt to get the Canadian populace to join the American in their attack on the British. There were approximately 1200 soldiers involved on each side. When the battle was over, the British and Canadians (who chose to fight on the side of the British suffered about 20 casualties and the Americans lost 60 killed and lost another 426 as prisoners of war. One American officer taken prisoner was Captain Simeon Thayer. He was later exchanged back to the Americans and continued to have a long period of service to the U.S. during the war.

The Battle of Quebec was the first major defeat for the Continental Army on the field of battle, and the only time during the Revolutionary War that the Americans attacked Canada.

I could not find Colonel Greaton's name on the roster of American troops and commander that participated in the Battle of Quebec. He did command the 36th Regiment, Army of the United Colonies, July-December, 1775.

He was listed as commander of the 24th Continental Regiment (Massachusetts) and was part of the reinforcements dispatched from New York City on April 15, 1776 under Brigadier General William Thompson after the Battle of Quebec.

None of the above means that Obediah Thayer did not participate in the Battle of Quebec. He does probably mean that Colonel Greaton was not there. Transit from one geographic location to another during that period of history occurred over a matter of weeks rather than days or hours and was generally accomplished by foot and by horseback for the officers. Obediah may have served under someone else for that brief period of time. Colonial troops did have to pass through New York State to attack Canada.

If Obediah was in Massachusetts, New York and Canada during his brief military service, he certainly participated in some very important events of the day.

Colonel Greaton did serve as a commander on the field of battle during the Battle of Saratoga on October 7, 1777. According to Jerry Thayer, Obediah was not enlisted at that time.

I would be interested in hearing more about Obediah if any of our Thayer cousins can add more to what we already know.

By the way, there are 26 Thayer names for Colonial soldiers who participated in the Battle of Saratoga. Their names may be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Saratoga

Power of the Internet

By Rodney Lee Thayer, TQ Editor

In light of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, I would like to tell you about the full power of the internet.

On the afternoon of the earthquake happening in Japan, I was sitting at my desk working on a website, my wife Rrayada was listening to a Thai radio station, she told me of the earthquake.

I logged into facebook and seen a few messages posted about the earthquake. I then sent a few messages to friends in the Philippines and Japan asking for status of the quake, and of the tsunami that was mentioned as well.

My friends in Japan had no electric, no land line or cell phones, but they could use iphones to reach out to facebook (iphone uses a bit different technology than a standard cell phone.)

Some of the friends had not seen the TV broadcasts of what was happening in north eastern Japan, so I was keeping them advised as well as warnings put out by the government there.

My friend in the Philippines had seen the tsunami in Japan and he sent a message on facebook to his friends in Guam about possible tsunami as well, and later an alert was issued for all Pacific Islands.

Even though facebook is a social networking site for chat and games, it can be a useful tool when a crisis occurs. Everyone in the tsunami area (entire Pacific Ocean) seemed to be using it for status and letting friends and family know they were safe.

I, and Phuket, Thailand, are located in the Indian Ocean and was not in danger at any time.

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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:

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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.

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

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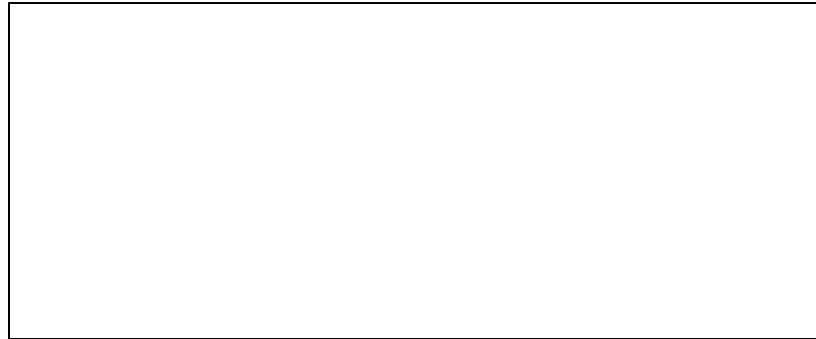
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Please include an SASE if you need a reply.

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