



Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

JULY 2012

© 2012 - Thayer Families Association

Volume 20, Issue 2

www.ThayerFamilies.com

785 Williams Street #303 Longmedow, MA 01106-2063

Summer

TFA Founder Gen. James Thayer, and Kiss's Gene Simmons United by Historic Horror

**Story by Mike Francis
Reprinted from The
Oregonian Newspaper for
Thayer Family Readers**

Gen. James Thayer, the focus of a military museum fundraiser and Kiss frontman Gene Simmons share a connection to Nazi death camps.

It is no straight line from the wretched scene in an Austrian forest 67 years ago to a musical gala at Oregon Golf Club, but James Thayer has walked it.

And the threads that spin from a long life well-lived was drawn together May 18 when friends, family and supporters celebrated the service of the 90-year-old retired general while raising money to renovate the Oregon military Museum at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

"The All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military" will center on Thayer's

service as a soldier and his life beyond. When the museum reopens in 2014 or so, it will include artifacts from the Indian Wars to Operation

Enduring Freedom, and it will bear Thayer's name.

Let's follow that thread:

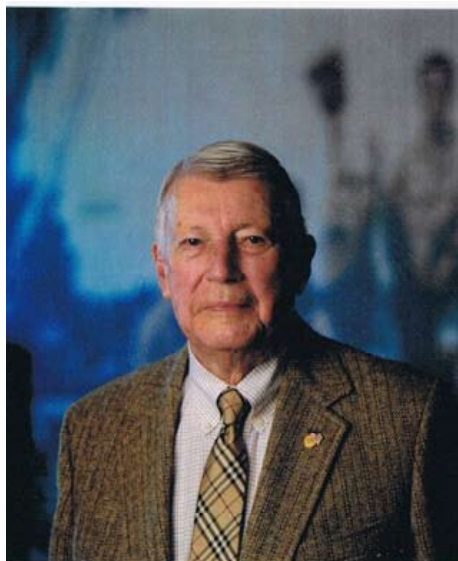
The kickoff of the two year- \$6.5 million capital campaign featured numerous Oregon celebrities, from golfer and master of ceremonies Peter Jacobsen to ex-Gov. Ted Kulongoski to Kiss guitarist Tommy Thayer, who happens to be one of the honoree's sons.

Kiss founder and flamboyant frontman Gene Simmons is on the phone from Los Angeles:

"I owe a debt of gratitude to Gen. Thayer," he says. Meeting him is a humbling experience. You're in the presence of greatness."

It's that wretched scene in the forest that makes Simmons talk like this.

(GO TO PAGE 2)



Above: Retired Gen. James B. Thayer Sr. stands at the new 41 Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas [Oregon]. The center is near the location for the Oregon Military Museum, which will be named for Thayer when it reopens in about two years.

Right: The retired general's son, **Tommy Thayer** (right) is guitarist for Kiss. The band's frontman, Gene Simmons (left), may also share a common thread of history with the general. Simmons' mother was a survivor of a concentration camp in Paustia – possibly the one that Thayer's unit helped to liberate in 1945.

Tommy Thayer helped to organize the May 2012 All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military.



Inside:

- Page 2 Tommy Thayer
- Page 3 New TFA Offic.
- Page 4 Mailbox / Obit.
- Page 6 Hist.Report.
- Page 7 Milton Bradley
- Page 9 News. Index
- Page 10 Reunion
- Page 11 Editorial
- Page 12 "Billy" Thayer
- Page 14 Dancer
- Page 16 Fire Destroys
- Page 18 Irene Thayer
- Page 20 Save TFA
- Page 22 TITANIC

Tommy Thayer, Lead Kiss Guitarist and Brothers Provided First Publishing Funds for Patricia's *A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family*..

(Continued from page 1)

The two men – the courtly and the soft-spoken Oregonian and the brash and controversial Jewish showman – are bound together by more than Tommy Thayer's guitar strings

Gene Simmons was born in Israel in 1949 as Chaim Witz. His mother, who reared him by herself after his father left when he was 5, survived a death camp.

The story of Flora Klein is worth a book in itself, but she doesn't talk much about it. She did tell Gene that, when she was 14, she watched her mother walk with her grandmother into a gas chamber.

Flora's mother didn't want her own mother to die alone, she explained. Flora survived because the wife of the German camp commandant appreciated her skills as a hairstylist and makeup artist and made sure she had scraps of food.

Where was the camp? Possibly it was the one that the platoon of U.S. Soldiers, led by 2nd Lt. James B. Thayer, stumbled across on that day in early May 1945.

The camp was called Gunskirchen and it was one of the hastily built satellite camps in northern Austria, full of Jews from Eastern Europe, especially Hungary. Thayer and his men had no idea it was there.

Their job was to hunt for the ammunition dump. They had roamed the countryside with no success and Thayer's sergeant suggested they check down an empty forest road. They found something unimaginable.

The trail was filled with the dead and dying. Emaciated people.



First Lt. James Thayer near his quarters in the town of Gunzburg, Bavaria, in the summer of 1945, just after the war in Europe had ended. Just before V-E Day, his platoon stumbled upon a concentration camp in Northern Austria.

Three of four thousand of them. People who had straggled out of the recently abandoned camp, only to collapse within sight of it. A stench filled the air.

To this day, James Thayer finds it hard to talk about. "I didn't know what to do," he says quietly. "I got on the radio and said, 'we need all the help we can get, right away.'

"It was a real death camp." The Americans had no extra supplies, but gave what they had to the suffering. It was too much.

They watched, horrified, as a former prisoner died trying to choke down a ration.

Read further OnLine

Online, you can find reprints of a booklet published by the U.S. Army after that horrid day in the forest. Search for "Liberation Gunskirchen Lager" and you will read firsthand accounts of soldiers who were

determined the world remember the atrocity. A sample:

"As we entered the camp, the living skeletons still able to walk crowded around us and, though we wanted to drive farther into the place, the milling, pressing crowd wouldn't let us. It is not an exaggeration to say that almost every inmate was insane with hunger. Just the sight of an American brought cheers, groans and shrieks. People crowded around to touch an American, to touch the jeep, to kiss our arms – perhaps just to make sure that it was true.

The people who couldn't walk crawled out toward our jeep. Those who couldn't even crawl propped themselves up on an elbow, and somehow, through all their pain and suffering, revealed through their eyes the gratitude, the joy they felt at the arrival of Americans."

Flora Klein survived a place like this. Simmons thinks it might have

Thayer Family Banded Together to Begin Fundraiser

been Guns kirchen, based on the records he found at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. He pored through the names in the Nazi camp records and found that his mother and father had been put on trains and moved –somewhere. He doesn't know exactly where or why. Guns kirchen was one of about 50 satellites of the Nazis' Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria and southern Germany.

James Thayer says he once gave Simmons an account of his platoon's work on that day at Guns kirchen. Simmons says he's read it. And it's a big reason why he says he owes a debt of gratitude to the man.

The Thayer kids – Jim Jr., John, Tommy, Michael and Lizzie [sic, should be Anne]–grew up knowing little of all this.

Tommy Thayer, who was born in 1960, and grew up in Beaverton [OR], said it's only been in the past 15 or so years that his father has opened up about his experiences in World War II.

“I really kind of wanted to forget everything,” Jim Sr. says.

In the days before stumbling upon Guns kirchen, his 16-man platoon ran into a larger squad of SS troops. It was a fight for survival. The Americans killed 31 of the Austrians and Germans that day. “It affected me, killing people.”

But he said his life changed in 1992, when he was on a tour of concentration camps organized by the U.S. Holocaust Council.

At the airport in Vienna, a Jewish man named Wolfe Finkelman identified him. He said he was 14 when the Americans arrived at Guns kirchen. He told Thayer he

would have been dead if they had come 24 hours later.

“That changed my life,” Thayer says today. Even without a clear picture of their father's past, the lives in the household headed by Jim Sr. and Patricia, married now for 58 years, were full. The kids were busy and “Pat was so great,” says Jim Sr. The kids didn't really grow up as military brats because their family had become an officer in the Army Reserves based in Vancouver [WA].

After leaving the Reserves as a full colonel, he was promoted to brigadier general and commander of the Oregon State Defense Force.

He was named the civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army.. He ran his office supply business, the J. Thayer Co. He served as chairman or board member of the Port of Portland, Knappton Corp., Tuality Healthcare, the World Affairs Council, GTE, Reed College, the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, the Oregon Graduate Institute, the Boys and Girls Aid Society and a dozen other

organizations.

He and his family lived a postwar life deeply rooted in the community. Now the Thayer boys—Anne. has died – all pitched in and made the May 18 event a success.

Tommy, who sits on the board of trustees for Pacific University, was in charge of the program and assembled the talent and celebrity guests, Mike picked the Oregon Golf Club venue and was in charge of food and beverages. John, who owns J. Thayer Company, produced a pair of videos that was shown and printed some collateral materials. Jim Jr. helped develop the auction. “We were all involved with the fundraising effort,” says John.

“My sons are unbelievable,” Jim Thayer Sr. says. “It's unbelievable how enthusiastic they were to make this thing work.” Many years from now, when a visitor arrives at the **Gen. James Thayer Oregon Military Museum** on its renovated grounds at Camp Withycombe, the remembering might well begin with the name of the veteran above the door.

New - Officers and Directors of TFA

President:	Charles Russell Thayer CThayer001@roadrunner.com
Vice President:	Madora Thayer Boyd Matboyd1924@aol.com
Secretary:	Donald Wayne Thayer dwschome@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Judith L. Young Thayer jlythayer3@verizon.net
Directors:	Albert Thayer Morton Barbara Thayer Knight James Loren Thayer William Russell Thayer Duane Erland Thayer

Patricia's Mail Box

E-mail received 22 Mar 2012 from the Southern California Genealogical Society:

Thank you for adding our Society to your continuous mail list for the newsletter. If you have ones on the computer previous to Vol 19, #3, which is the first one we received, we would be very happy to add them to our collection. Everyone is very impressed with the two we have received.

Get involved!!! Let us know how you would like to help in the TFA!!!

The Following from Genealogy Insider e-newsletter, found on FamilyTreeCommunity.com:

Five Tips for Breaking Through Brick Walls

These tips for overcoming genealogy brick walls are from the Family Tree University Power Course Tear Down That Wall! Tips and Tricks for Breaking Through Your Genealogy Brick Walls.

1. Write down what you know about this particular brick wall, reviewing and organizing the work you've already done as you go. You may find your brick wall contains "holes" you can squeeze through to find answers.
2. Do a source check (you can use our downloadable records checklist). Identify sources in which your brick wall ancestor would appear and create a to-do list of records you haven't consulted.
3. Create a chronology of your brick wall ancestor's life. Include every life event you know of, as

well as major historical events that may shed light on your ancestor's situation. This will help you see gaps in your research.

4. Study people associated with your ancestor, including siblings, cousins, neighbors, in-laws, coworkers, fellow migrants and immigrants, and witnesses on documents.

5. Consider alternative scenarios. Toss out your assumptions—perhaps what you think you know isn't accurate. Formulate "what if?" questions to form new research theories you can investigate.

from Kay at Southern California Genealogical Society.

Al,

Hallelujah!!! All done and they look great. Printed half yesterday and the rest today. You did a fantastic job and we at the Library thank you for making our file complete. However, you should have partaken of some adult beverages to make the job more interesting.

Incidentally, on Vol 8 #2. 3. 4, Vol 9 #1-5 and Vol 10 #1, 2, a window said "The Index associated with this document (INDEX.PDX' could not be located."

On Vol 8 #5 a window said "Cannot find or create the font 'ArialUnicodeMS'. Some characters may not display or print correctly." They look okay to me, but I must admit I didn't read them so I don't know if I missed anything important.

Again, many thanks for all your and Tricia's work. You have a fine publication in addition to a group of caring members in your Association.

Kay

You may be part of the "Greatest Generation"

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census is the largest, most comprehensive, and most recent record set available that records the names of those who were living in the United States at the time the census was taken.

132 million people were living in the 48 Continental United States in 1940.

Tens of millions of people living in the United States in 1940 are still living today, making this a record set that connects people with recent family records. Many of these individuals are part of what has been called the greatest generation.

These are people who: Survived the Great Depression Fought in the Second World War Innovated technology (TV, Microwave) Sacrificed in the name of freedom Practiced thrift and compassion Understood hard work and industry

The people in the 1940 census deserve to have their records preserved and made available online.

Thoughts –

"If you don't know [your family's] history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is a part of a tree." – Michael Crichton

"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots and the other wings." – Hodding Carter

Thayer Obituaries...

William Guy

TFA Member, William Guy Thayer, age 96 of Delta (Ohio) passed away Wednesday evening, Feb. 15, 2012 at Swanton Health Care. He was born in Mt. Hope, WV on May 3, 1915 to the late J. Guy Thayer and Ida [Crawford] Thayer. Bill graduated college from Virginia Tech and later worked for Dupont in West Virginia and Mine Safety Appliance Co. in Pennsylvania. He married Sarah Jeane DeWeese in 1940; she preceded him in death in 1989. They were blessed with two children, Diane (Lonnie) Price of Canal Winchester, OH and William David Kathy) of Lincoln City, OR. Bill later married Louise [Sintobin] McDonnal in 1990 and she survives. Along with his parents and first wife, Bill was preceded in death by his brothers, Paul and Royal Thayer. Left to cherish Bill's memory, in addition to his wife and children, are his stepsons, James (Suzanne) MdDonnall and Jerry (Nancy) McDonnal, both of Delta; stepdaughter, Janet (Terry) Greisinger of Grand Ledge, MI; grandchildren, Allyson Price, Mitchell (Lara) Price and Greg (Aimee) Price; three great grandchildren, seven step grandchildren and nine step great grandchildren. Bill was a resident of Bradenton, FL for 27 years, where he was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. He moved to Delta in 2005 and began attending Winameg Christian Church. Bill enjoyed reading and was known to donate many books to the Dellta Public Library. He was generous with his time, including being a longtime hospital volunteer. A funeral service for Bill will be held at 12 Noon on Monday, February 20, 2012 at Barnes Funeral Chapel,, 5825 St. Hwy. 109, in Delta, with receiving of friends and family prior from 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon. Pastor Floyd Vincent will be officiating. Interment will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery in Delta. Those wishing a show of sympathy are asked to consider contributions to Winameg

Christian Church, 10925 Co. Rd. 10-2, Delta, OH 43515 in Bill's memory. Online condolences may be sent t the family through our website at www.barnesfuneralchapel.com.

Lineage: William Guy (John Guy10, William Henry9, Royal8, Uriah7, Eseck6, Uriah5-4, Ebenezer3, Ferdinando2, Thomas1) THAYER.



LaVonne M. Jordan

Jordan, LaVonne M. of Blaine, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 26, 2012.

Her spirit unites the hearts of her family and friends who loved her. Born Aug. 3, 1928 in Danbury, Wis. to Elwin and Vera (Cornwall) Thayer. She married Leonard Jordan Sr. June 4, 1946. Preceded in death by parents & Leonard, brothers Wayne & Basil. Survived by children; Jan (Tom) Lokensgard, Lenny (Suzy), Dennis, Debbie Cherry, Mark (Karla), Teresa (Bill) Hayes, Kevin (Lisa), Jodi (Jeff) Mora; sister, Diane (Michael) Myers; 22 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. Visitation Monday, June 11th, 10 AM and Memorial Service 11 AM at Lakewood Cemetery Chapel, 3600 Hennepin Ave., Mpls, MN. Luncheon to follow service. Danbury interment. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred for her Danbury flower garden. Gearty-Delmore 763-553-1411

Published in Star Tribune from May 28 to June 3, 2012

Cemetery Mix-Up Left Thayer Family Upset and One Family Plot Filled with a Stranger Brutus (WSYR-TV)

A mix-up at a Cayuga County cemetery has left at least one family upset – and wanting answers.

17 years ago, their family bought several plots next to their loved ones in hopes that they could join them when the time comes.

But two weeks ago, David and Jean Thayer discovered someone else had mistakenly been buried in one of their spots at the rural Weedsport cemetery.

“I thought ahead. Family means a lot to us and we’re together now in life and we want to be hopefully after life,” said Jean Thayer. Then the couple discovered work being performed on one of the open plots that belongs to them.

“We noticed there was a poured slab of concrete for a headstone,” Jean Thayer said. So they contacted the cemetery’s caretaker and were told the problem would be addressed. But eventually a headstone appeared and they learned the ashes of a woman had been buried there.

The Weedsport Rural Cemetery Association oversees the cemetery. They admit that a mistake was made. They also say the woman’s family has been notified and they’ve agreed to pick out a new plot.

As time passes, however, the Thayers are becoming concerned. “As time goes on, I just think this will just compound the problem,” Jean Thayer said. “It upset us greatly ... this isn’t supposed to happen in this day and age.”

A member of the association says their records for the cemetery are old and that mistakes are bound to happen.

They say they regret the error and it will be fixed. The cemetery association says they’re waiting on the other family to select another plot.

Historian's Report:

Mocavo is the World's Largest Genealogy-Centric Search Engine For Genealogists

Written by Amanda

Mocavo is a relatively new product that may become a valuable tool for genealogists, try it out if you are so inclined and see if it can further your Research along.)

Mocavo is the world's first and largest genealogy-centric search engine. They display only genealogy related information, all the time. This means no more wading through insignificant and unrelated profiles in order to get to the good stuff.

The difference between Mocavo and any other search engine, such as Google for example, is that instead of crawling fresh and new content (like Google is designed to do), Mocavo only crawls genealogy-specific blogs and websites, which often times do not have fresh or new content on them. What is Geni Family Tree Import?

– How does Geni Family Tree Import work with Mocavo? Geni Family Tree Import is a quick and easy way to take your family tree that you already have on Geni.com and import it into Mocavo.

If you've got a family tree on Geni and a free Mocavo account, you can link the two by clicking on the "Log in using Geni" button located on Mocavo.com/upload.

What advantages does this offer to genealogists? The Geni Family Tree Import offers multiple advantages to genealogists. Those who have already put time into creating a tree on Geni no longer have to duplicate their efforts in order to have a tree on Mocavo. One can simply import the tree they've created and instantly start taking advantage of all the associated features Mocavo offers

Additionally, for those who are

new to genealogy and do not have a tree, Geni is a great place to start! You can build your family tree from the ground up and import it directly into Mocavo. Mocavo can then help you with your research by assisting you in discovering new connections to your ancestors, completely for free.

What about privacy? Who has access to my data? – Mocavo's utmost priority is its user's privacy. Therefore, all of your privacy settings that you've implemented on Geni.com will transfer over to Mocavo along with your tree. If you've set your tree to private, Mocavo will not add it to their index and will not make them available for other users to see.

How can I get started? – If you already have a tree on Geni and a Mocavo account, you can get

started by heading to Mocavo.com/upload and click on the "Log in using Geni" button. If you're just starting out, you can begin the journey into your family history by creating a tree on Geni. Once you have some ancestors added, you can import it into Mocavo.

What's coming up next for Mocavo? – Mocavo's team is currently working to further automate the process of researching your genealogy. Additionally, they're focusing on building a better Mocavo experience for both free and paid users and moving to share the spotlight that was once on genealogy data across the web with content generated by their members.

Source: Ogden Regional Family History Center Newsletter June 2012.

Are You Prepared to Help with the 1940 Census?

You Are Needed to Help Index the Important 1940 Census

The 1940 census was released on April 2nd! Your help is needed to index this most important census. Indexing will be completed, hopefully, in 6 months!

It will take more indexers than they now have to index it. FamilySearch, along with Archives.com, Findmypast.com and other leading genealogy organizations, including the Utah Genealogical Association, are joining forces to publish this census.

The 1940 census is "rich and unique information" which is described

in <https://www.familysearch.org/1940census>

This is how you can help:

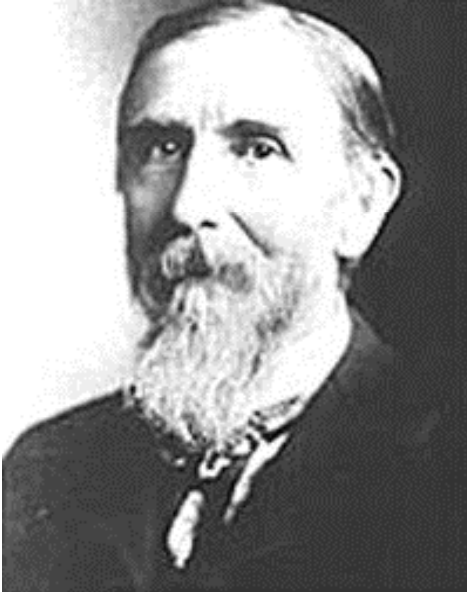
If you have not done indexing, get started now. Go to: <https://familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing> to see a "2-Minute Test Drive" and to register.

Begin indexing now to gain experience and to be better prepared to index the 1940 census.

Remember, to participate in the 1940 Census Indexing project, an additional registration is requested.

See familysearch.org/1940census.

America's Famed Game Pioneer Milton Bradley Launched Success Following Civil War and Married Ellen Thayer In 1869



**Milton Bradley (8 Nov. 1836
Vienna Maine - 30 May 1911
Springfield Hampden, MA**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: This article is about the board game pioneer.

Born (1836-11-08) November 8, 1836 Vienna, Maine, U.S. Died May 30, 1911(1911-05-30) (aged 74) Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.

Milton Bradley (November 8, 1836 – May 30, 1911), an American game pioneer, was credited by many with launching the board game industry in North America with Milton Bradley Company.

A native of Vienna, Maine, Bradley grew up in a working-class household in Lowell, Massachusetts. After completing high school he found work as a draftsman before enrolling at the Lawrence Scientific School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1856, he secured employment at the Watson Company in Springfield, Massachusetts. After the company

was shuttered during the recession of 1858, he entered business for himself as a mechanical draftsman and patent agent. Later, Bradley pursued lithography and in 1860, he set up the first color lithography shop in Springfield, Massachusetts. Eventually, Bradley moved forward with an idea he had for a board game which he called The Checkered Game of Life, an early version of what later became The Game of Life.

The original game board of The Checkered Game of Life. The Checkered Game of Life: The launch of the Milton Bradley Company 1872 advertisement Milton Bradley's ventures into the production of board games began with a large failure in his lithograph business.

When he attempted to print and sell copies of the presidential nominee Abraham Lincoln, Bradley initially met with great success. After they were released for sale, a customer contacted him calling it a fraud and demanding his money back because the picture was not an accurate representation of Lincoln, who had decided to grow his distinctive beard after Bradley's print was published.

Suddenly, the prints were worthless, and Bradley burned those remaining in his possession.[1] In search of a lucrative alternative project in which to employ his drafting skills, Bradley found inspiration from an imported board game given to him by a friend. Concluding that he could produce and market a similar game to American consumers, Milton Bradley released The Checkered Game of Life in the winter of 1860.

The game proved an instant success with the public. Bradley personally sold his first run of several hundred

copies in one two-day period in New York; by 1861, consumers had bought over 45,000 copies. The Checkered Game of Life followed a structure similar to its American and British predecessors, with players spinning a teetotum to advance to corresponding squares. The squares each represented a social virtue or vice such as "influence" or "poverty", with the former earning a player points and the latter retarding his progress. However, even the most seemingly secure positions like "Fat Office" held the accompanying dangers of "Prison", "Ruin", and "Suicide".[2] The player who first accumulated one hundred points won the game.

The original game board of The Checkered Game of Life. While the structure of play used in The Checkered Game of Life differed little from previous board games, Bradley's game embraced a radically different concept of success. Earlier children's games, such as the popular Mansion of Happiness developed in Puritan Massachusetts, were concerned entirely with providing an attractive venue from which to promote moral virtue.

But Bradley preferred to define success in secular business terms consistent with America's emerging focus on "the causal relationship between character and wealth." This approach, which depicted life as a quest for accomplishment in which personal virtues provided a means to an end, rather than a point of focus, complemented America's burgeoning fascination with obtaining wealth in the years following the Civil War.

Final years Though The Checkered Game of Life and its several successive variations accounted for

(Cont. from Page 7)

Bradley Championed the Idea of Kindergartens and Introduced Watercolor Sets; He Standardized Colors and Was the First to Introduce ‘Crayons’

Bradley’s financial success, board games did not constitute his primary focus in life.

Once his pecuniary future had been secured, Bradley turned his attention to a series of progressive scientific and educational causes.

Having met Edward Wiebe, an early American proponent of the kindergarten movement, in 1869, Bradley began to explore the ideas of the German romantic philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm August Fröbel. Fröbel challenged prevalent notions for educating children, which emphasized recitation, rote memorization, and the teaching of factual information from a child’s earliest schooling.

Believing that these practices—which attempted to instill an adult mentality in children—ran contrary to both effective teaching and a child’s natural impulses, Fröbel suggested a pattern of education that focused on the child’s vantage point. Fröbel’s theory stressed stimulation of aesthetic and sensory perception, kept lessons brief, presented them in simple terms suitable for a child’s consumption, and incorporated instinctual preferences for play and spontaneity. Fröbel also used “gifts,” which were objects to handle, such as geometric wooden blocks or balls and used in self-directed free play.

He also used “occupations,” which were materials to learn skills, later arts and crafts and also circles which included mother songs and finger plays. A year after Bradley met Wiebe, the Milton Bradley Company published Wiebe’s book “The Paradise of Childhood: A Manual for Self-Instruction in Freidrich Froebel’s Educational Principles, and a Practical Guide to Kinder-Gartners,” which describes

a list of 20 Froebel gifts.

Enthralled with Fröbel’s ideas, Bradley made distinct contributions to bringing them to prominence with the American public.

Beginning in 1869, he published educational tracts and pamphlets on the virtues of Fröbel’s kindergarten system.

His company produced two magazines on the subject, Kindergarten News (later Kindergarten Review), and Work and Play. Though neither produced a profit, compelling Bradley’s business partners to withdraw their support,

Bradley persevered, publishing the magazines until the end of his life. Bradley’s lifelong friend, George Tapley, bought out his business partner’s shares so Bradley could continue manufacturing his educational materials.

By the 1890s, the Milton Bradley Company had introduced the first watercolour sets with standardized colours and education games such as Bradley’s Word Builder and Bradley’s Sentence Builder. The Milton Bradley Company was also the first to release crayon packages with standardized colors, forerunning the better-known Crayola Crayons and Artista Art Supplies of the Binney & Smith Company.

Bradley’s interest in art education also led him to produce a new color wheel for color instruction and publish four works about teaching colors.

Bradley married twice in his lifetime, first to Villona Eaton in



The Game of Life

1860. They had no children together. He then married again to **Ellen Thayer** in 1869. Bradley and Ms. Thayer had two daughters together: **Alice L. Bradley**, born c. 1881, and **Florence L. Bradley**, born c. 1875. He died on May 30, 1911 in Springfield

In 2004, he was posthumously inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame along with George Ditomassi of Milton Bradley Company.

Through the 20th century the company he founded in 1860, Milton Bradley Company dominated the production of American games, with titles like Candyland, Operation, and Battleship. The company is now a subsidiary of Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based Hasbro.

Lineage of Milton Bradley’s wife, Ellen:

Ellen M. (William W.7, Uriah6, Grindall5, Uriah4, Ebenezer3, Ferdinando2, Thomas1) THAYER and Sarah Ann NARRAMORE.

Excited Richard A. Thayer Discovers Web Site That Indexes Over 19 Million New York Newspaper Pages

Dear cousins, I must apologize for not sharing this information sooner. I came across a web site which has over 19 million newspaper pages indexed and searchable. The papers cover New York City and upstate New York, which usually means the rest of the state outside New York city. I was so impressed with this web site I sent in a donation. The site is: <http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>.

I would like to share a few things I have noticed on the site. The page will open in two halves, the left being the search criteria and abbreviated search results and the right being the newspaper pages.

There are four search criteria and I always start with "exact phrase" and enter what I am looking for such as "Richard Allen Thayer" which today, will get you 0 results. Next I would try "Richard A Thayer" and today I get 217 results. But here is where it gets interesting. As you scroll down the abbreviated results you will find that it returns all middle initials (A-Z) and many middle names. In this example the abbreviated results are centered around the searched name. This doesn't always happen and you may have to open each one to see what it contains.

So, next you will click on the blue link in the search results to open the newspaper page on the right hand side. The page opens in PDF format and may take some time to load depending on your internet connection. Be patient, you will be rewarded. After the page opens you can search it by entering control-F (find). A small white box will open in the upper right hand corner. Enter "Thayer" and hit return. This takes you to one occurrence of the name Thayer on the page. Now listen up, this is most important. Before stopping to read the occurrence of the name Thayer, continue

to hit enter or click on the right arrow on the search box to find EVERY occurrence of the name Thayer. Why is this important? Consider two examples which I have seen.

First, a death announcement shows up in the first column, but the full obituary is in the last column of the same page. Second, a birth announcement list shows a Thayer birth, but in another column a death announcement for the same or different Thayer is listed. If you stopped at the first occurrence you could have missed these.

Play with the other search criteria on the left hand panel. I find Boolean very useful. An example of this type of search might look like: "Thayer and

Oneonta and 1909." This should return every page that contains all the terms listed, linked by the word "and." There is much more you can do with a Boolean search and I recommend you Google "Boolean" to learn how to use it best. I should mention that you cannot believe everything you read in a newspaper.

Additionally, depending how picky you are with your genealogy, you should use newspapers as a clue to get you to more reliable source documents. After playing around on this web site you will learn what a bonanza it can be. Back in the good old days they published everything. Who is in town visiting who and what their relationship is was a very common theme. Good luck.

Thayer Boy Falls Head First Into 40 Foot Well With 20 Feet of Water

The following "amazing story of courage and strength over adversity" story submitted by Marcus Carl Thayer 5 Jun 2012,

This is truly a remarkable story! The parents had to have been Phineas (Phineas⁶, Ebenezer⁵⁻⁴, Isaac³, Ferdinando², Thomas¹) THAYER (born Dec 1789 Montgomery county, NY and died 20 Sep 1869 Summit Twp., Jackson, Michigan) and Catherine RUNYON (born about 1792 of Livingston County, NY - Mar 1867 Summit, Jackson, MI).

They had a large family of children (14), many of whom died in childhood. As near as I can tell the most likely match for the son who fell into the well would have been Phineas Chauncey Thayer, who was born about 1821 either in Bloomfield, Ontario, New York or in Lima, Livingston, New York.

From the Genessee (N.Y.)

Review:

The evening of the 10th January, the son of Mr. Phineas Thayer, of Lima, aged 5 years, fell head foremost into a well forty feet deep and contained twenty feet of water.

The child was playing with other children near the well, when the accident happened. He says he went to the bottom, turned and rose to the top of the water where he caught hold of the stones and held until the mother was called and sent to the neighbors, sixty or eighty rods distant, for assistance, the child meantime holding on by the stones and crying out "Mother, I can't hold on but a little longer," and the mother encouraging him, that a man would go down and take him out - which was at length done and the child taken out without having received any material injury.

[Republican Compiler (Gettysburg, Pa) February 21, 1827



Barbara (Thayer) Knight, Walter S. Knight, Carolyn Morton, outgoing president: Albert Thayer Morton, Jean (Curtis) Thayer, John Garland Thayer, reunion hostess: Kate Welton Kuzmich, Henry Jerome Thayer, Judith (Young) Thayer, Tamara Louise Thayer, Irene Walters (speaker from the Houston Library), Clayton Elroy Thayer, Joyce (Erdman) Thayer, and Madora (Allin) Boyd. (Photo curtesy of Henry Jerome Thayer)

TFA Members Enjoy Warm Hospitality at 2012 June Reunion in Sugar Land, Texas

Report by Judith Thayer

The biennial 2012 meeting of the Thayer Families Association was held at Sugar Land (Houston), Texas.

Participants began arriving on Wednesday, 30 May 2012, at the Houston Sugar Land Hilton Garden Inn. TFA Veep, Kate Kuzmich, had arranged a block of rooms for those attending the meeting. The rooms were elegant and comfortable.

TFA-ers in attendance were: Clayton and Joyce Thayer, of

Lafayette, LA
 Tamara Louise Thayer, of Rochester, MN
 Garland and Jean Thayer, of Limestone, TN

TFA Officers:

TFA-Presy Al Morton and Carolyn Morton, Penfield, NY
 TFA-Veep, Kate Weldon Kuzmich, Sugar Land, TX
 TFA-Treas., Judy and Jerry Thayer, Newport News, VA

TFA-Board Members:

Madora Allin Thayer Boyd, Rochester, WA

Barbara Thayer Knight and husband, Walt Knight, Elma, WA

The gatherings were casual and enjoyable. Dinner the first Thursday evening was held at Sugar Sugar Creek Bar-B-Que – delicious!

Friday, 1 June was a LONG day. A bus trip to Washington on the Brazos Park left after 8 a.m. We toured the site, and a history of the evolution of Texas' Independence was provided by one of the Visitor Center rangers. There was also a tour

(Cont.)

Blue Belle Ice Cream Factory Tour Includes Ice Cream Samples to the Delight of Hungry Thayer Guests

of Independence Hall, Star of the Republic Museum, and Barrington Living History Farm. All were very interesting.

Lunch at a pavilion in the park followed, provided by Ya-Ya's – delicious home made sandwiches. The highlight, for many, was the tour of the Blue Belle Ice Cream Factory – a LARGE sample of ice cream was enjoyed by each of the participants. Then, back to the hotel.

Saturday, 2 June, the biennial TFA Meeting was held at Sugar Land Methodist Church's Wesley Hall. The meeting began at 12:30 with the welcome by Prexy Albert Thayer Morton, prayer by John Garland Thayer, reading of the Minutes by Kate Kuzmich subbing for TFA-Sect'y James Loren Thayer, Treasurer's reports by Judith L. Young-Thayer. Board business was held (previously) with a quorum of five (of nine Officers and Directors), but as there was not a quorum of the general membership at the meeting, and with the provision of the by-laws for this contingency, general business was held, to be ratified by a quorum of the membership at the next regular meeting in 2014.

The election of officers and board was held, by approving the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee. They are:

Charles Russell Thayer, President
Madora Thayer Boyd, Vice-President
Donald Wayne Thayer, Sect'y
Judith L. Young-Thayer, Treas.

Albert Thayer Morton
Barbara Thayer Knight
James Loren Thayer
William Russell Thayer
Duane Erland Thayer

Al will continue to manage TFA membership list
Kate will continue to manage the ETQ, as well as the Thayer DNA project
Don Muno will continue as TFA Thayer Quarterly editor

The meeting broke for lunch, provided by the Red Oak Grill.

A very interesting program, "*Using Newspapers in Genealogical Research*," was presented by Irene B. Walters of Houston's Clayton Library. Irene made numerous suggestions of how to glean information from newspapers.

On behalf of TFA, Kate Kuzmich

Editorial Musings on New Science Discoveries & Social Implications

Occasionally, the over 60 Thayer crowd lowers their bi-focals from genealogical matters to see what those in science and other disciplines are excited about.

After all, everything is connected in one way or another. It's this heightened awareness that perhaps distinguishes our present generation from all others.

Few of us are still considering the world's physical shape. We've moved on to considering the existence of the "God" particle, how much of our Universe is filled with dark matter and predictions of new born infants based on genetic conditions.

Wednesday, the 4th of July, researchers were able to sequence the entire genome of a fetus using only the mother's blood sample. Absentee fathers can remain absent.

Genetic research moves on and continues to seek to describe an infant's physical and mental

presented Irene and the Clayton Library, Vol. IV of Tricia's Thayer Genealogy.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Garland Thayer.

TFA met for dinner at the Texas Land and Cattle restaurant. Everyone agreed that dinner was especially good!

TFA owes a special thank you to Kate (husband Bill and daughter Alex) for setting up and managing all of the arrangements for the meeting. While only 13 of us met, it was an excellent meeting. We all agreed that members missed a memorable gathering.

abnormalities before birth. Another social delima George Orwell pegged for 1984, 28 years too soon, but on track nevertheless.

As our world of 2012 continues to shrink, religious differences continue to motivate political decisions at home and in distant lands which impact each of us and our future generations.

Maybe we are not so different than those living in the age of the Crusades.

The JetBlue pilot who left his cockpit during a March flight and screamed about religion and terrorists was found not guilty by reason of insanity. Perhaps the world at large can plead guilty by reason of insanity. It works for me!

Now back to finishing this summer edition of the TQ newsletter thank you for your patience...

Don Muno, editor

Father Flanagan and Boy's Town Lend 'Billy' Thayer a Helping Hand and Optimistic Future In Illinois Racing

By Thayer Davis

Everyday after the last race at Arlington Park Race Track the familiar song "Happy Trails" by Dale Evans and Roy Rogers escorts you peacefully on your way out of the park. Nobody knows the happy trails any better than the Senior Vice-President of Racing **William "Billy" Thayer**.

For over 65 years no one has been a better friend to horse racing across North America and the World than this man and cousin of ours! But success didn't come easy and the trail had a dusty beginning for this bigger than life man that has touched so many generations in the horse racing community.

Bill Thayer was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico on April 21st, 1926. He was the son of **William A. Thayer Sr.** who was born in Boston, Ma. His grandfather was **Fredrick C. Thayer** from County Clare, Ireland who was a very strict Catholic and attended daily Mass without fail. The people in town could set their watches to his daily devotion to church.

Bill's father wasn't quite as strict but still expected rules to be followed which Bill had a very hard time doing. When he told Bill to stop he would go and when his father said things would be done one way Bill would do it another. He had a very rebellious nature that eventually alienated him further and further away from his family.

Fortunately for Billy a state policeman by the name of Officer Jim had taken an interest in his welfare as he had for many troubled boys and saw that Billy needed help. They spent many hours competing and playing in box car derbies and other activities but perhaps more importantly Officer Jim belonged to the Santa Fe "Optimist Club." It

was the members of this club that helped sponsor Bill at the age of 14 years old on a one way trip to Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska.

Yes,,,, THE Boys Town of movie fame starring Mickey Rooney and Spencer Tracy. This movie was all about kids just like Billy; struggling through the great depression that left families torn apart and without hope. But Father Flanagan had other ideas and Billy Thayer would later become a grateful recipient of this iconic man's moving words, "*There isn't any such thing in the world as a bad boy...but a boy left alone, frightened, bewildered...the wrong hand reaches for him...he needs a friend...that's all he needs.*"

Billy came to Boys Town as many young boys did with a chip on his shoulder just as Mickey Rooney's character had. In fact, he arrived at Boys Town about two years after the release of that movie in 1938.

When Billy got off the bus on October 25th, 1940 as fate would have it, the first person to greet him was another young lad by the name of Pete Bucher who later became the Commander of the USS Pueblo. This was the U.S. Navy ship that was captured and hijacked by the North Koreans on the high seas in 1968. Captain Bucher led his crew through 11 months of spirited resistance during their captivity at the hands of the North Koreans.

Boy's Town was and still is a place where troubled youth can get a fresh start in life because of the care, attention and discipline that only the best of families can offer and Boys Town is that kind of family. Bill would later say that Boys Town was the single most important thing that ever happened in his life and it was also the saddest day of his life the day he left.

In his early years there he found himself in a lot of trouble standing

trial in the Boys Town courtroom for one thing or another. Finally one day at a court hearing just before being sentenced to another 30 days of hard duty in the laundry room or the town farm, Father Flanagan personally stepped in and asked the peer jury if Billy could serve out his sentence helping in the rectory. With that stroke of intercession Billy would come to see firsthand how Father Flanagan ran Boys Town with compassion, mercy and justice. He would slowly turn away from believing in very little to a lifetime of believing in God's power to change lives.

The day finally came for Bill to move on from Boys Town, so Father Flanagan took him to see Frank Murphy of the registrar's office at Creighton University. There was only one problem; Bill had no money and at that time it was all Father Flanagan could do to keep the doors open at his boys' home.

Luckily for Bill, Father turned on the Irish charm and before you could say "leprechaun" Bill had a foot in the door, although it didn't come easy. Bill promised to pay for every cent of his tuition and went to bed hungry many nights.

Fortunately he had worked at the Boys Town newspaper over the years and was able to put that experience to use working at the BT Press Company to pay the bills while studying toward his degree in business. He also worked at Bemis Bank and the Omaha Post Office.

Like many young people of this era Bill had always had a passion for horse racing. He would get the daily racing form and head over to Aksarben Race Track (Nebraska spelled backwards). In fact he loved horse racing so much he worked at the track part time feeding, walking or grooming the horses. It was there that he met the great horse trainer Henry Forest.

64 Years of Unmatched Contributions Secretariat Revives Illinois Racing Thanks

Once Bill graduated from college he went to work for an insurance company but after much anguish finally came to realize that this kind of life was not going to make him happy. When he submitted his resignation the president of the company tried in vain to keep Bill assuring him of the successful career that awaited him and that the sky was the limit for the talent he possessed.

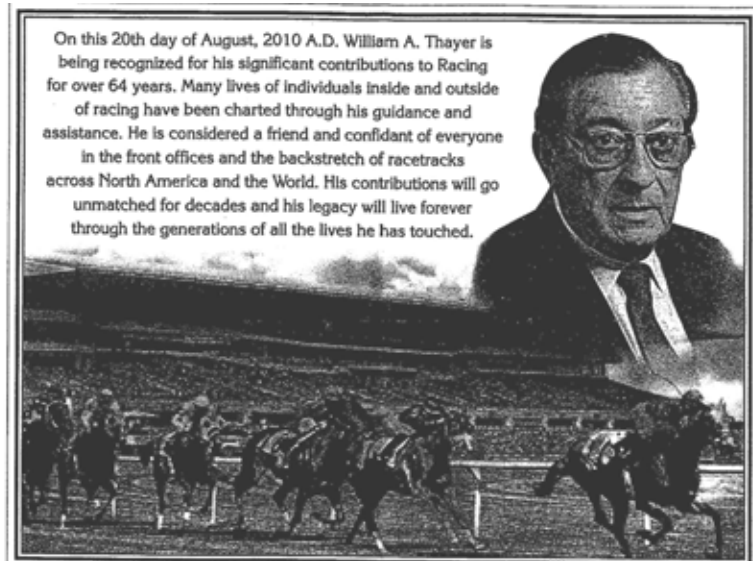
But Bill knew that his career would have to involve in some way the exciting sport of horse racing. Bill went to work for Henry Forest travelling all over the country learning the horse racing business from the inside out and came to know and be good friends with many owners, trainers and jockeys. One of those owners was a grand lady by the name of Penny Chenery, arguably the owner of the greatest race horse ever, **Secretariat**.

The problem that developed with Bill's lifestyle at the time was that he and his wife had to uproot their son from schools seven times in seven years. This was becoming more and more of a concern to Bill and his wife.

At about this time Bill was offered a job at the Arlington Park Race Track in Arlington Heights, Illinois by then owner Marje Everett. Bill didn't want to go, but because of the stability that the job had to offer he accepted.

That was 1964 and to this day, 47 years later, Bill Thayer is still the Senior Vice-President of Racing going about the business of horse racing!

There are countless stories that can be shared about this man's life at the track and all the people that he helped, and the friends that he



made, but *one story in particular is worth sharing:*

The year was 1973 and Secretariat had just won the Triple Crown, however in Illinois the horse racing industry was in a shambles due to the governor of that state being connected to a bribery scandal involving the former owner of Arlington Park. The governor would eventually go to prison after an exhausting and lengthy trial.

Every big track in the country was trying to sway a race date with Secretariat from owner Penny Chenery. Representatives from Monmouth and Hollywood Park had offered \$200,000 and \$250,000 respectively to see the 3 year old champion race at their tracks but Bill was only authorized to offer \$100,000 from the owner of Arlington Park.

Bill had to do something and perhaps in under estimating his own value to the many friends he made along the way reluctantly contacted Ms. Chenery and explained to her the dyer situation the horse racing industry was in his state of Illinois.

The problem was he was only

authorized to offer \$100,000 and he didn't think he stood a chance but once Ms. Chenery knew an old friend like Billy Thayer was in trouble the deal was done and Secretariat was on her way to Arlington Park just three weeks after winning the Triple Crown. **The fans came out in droves and horse racing in Illinois started a successful revival thanks to Bill Thayer!**

Bill was honored on August 20th, 2010 being recognized for his significant contributions to Horse Racing for over 64 years. His contributions will go unmatched for decades and his legacy will live forever through the generations of all the lives he has touched. He still goes to the office everyday with a busy schedule at 86 years old. Bill Thayer is a man that I am proud to call cousin. Happy trails to you Billy Thayer!

The following link is the front page article that appeared in the Daily Herald in Chicago 1973 explaining in detail how Bill Thayer landed Secretariat.

Artist and Choreographer Deborah Jinza Thayer Injured by Car While on Bistro Patio



Photo: Minneapolis Star Tribune
<http://www.StarTribune.com/entertainment/blogs>

Minnesota Artist, Deborah Jinza Thayer in a 30-foot-long dress designed by Sonya Berlovitz that she planned to wear for her solo work "Diana Takes A Swim." (photo by Xavier Tavera).
By Caroline Palmer

Choreographer Deborah Jinza Thayer was one of two women injured Sunday afternoon when a car mistakenly put in reverse crashed into the outdoor patio of the Finnish Bistro in St. Paul's St. Anthony Park neighborhood.

Thayer has cracked vertebrae, fractured ribs and a partially collapsed lung, according to her sister, Rebecca Thayer. She is likely to remain hospitalized for a few more days.

Rebecca Surmont, another performing artist who was with Thayer, suffered injuries to her ankle.

Thayer was preparing to premiere her solo piece "Diana Takes a Swim" June 14-17 in the New Works 4 Weeks Festival at Red Eye Theater, on a shared program with theater artist Stephen Peabody.

Now she can't perform, but Red Eye managing director Miriam Must said several local choreographers and students connected with Thayer are pulling together to dance in her stead -- and in her honor (as well as Surmont's). They include Rosy

Simas, Penelope Freeh and the troupe Three Dances, with more names to come. Heidi Geier will serve as MC. The performance will be called "Dances for Deborah and Rebecca."

"It's going to be lovely," said Must. "The show must go on and as a community we make that happen." Peabody will still perform as planned.

Although Thayer does have health insurance, the self-employed choreographer will face financial hurdles because of lost income from teaching, among other activities. According to her sister, there has been "a great outpouring of support" but there are no formal plans yet to assist Thayer, since she is focusing on her recovery.

Once Thayer has an opportunity to assess her situation, information will be shared about ways to help out.

Red Eye does plan to pay Thayer her performance fee as a donation to support her work, said Must. (RIN 39536)

Recognized for Creativity and Outstanding Design

From Wikipedia: Deborah Jinza Thayer is an award-winning choreographer, dancer, and artistic director of Movement Architecture, located in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Thayer has created more than fifty original works. Her conceptual pieces take over entire spaces, transforming her performances into vividly illustrated "other worlds" to create dance theater that is both smart and architecturally sound. In recognition of her dance creativity and outstanding design,

Thayer received a 2010 Sage Award.

Early life:

Deborah Jinza Thayer spent her first six years in Japan, relocated to New York City, and was raised in Brooklyn, New York. She received her B.A. degree from Johns Hopkins University (1984), trained in dance in New York City, and received her M.F.A. degree in Dance from George Mason University (1997).

After receiving her master's degree, Thayer relocated to Minneapolis, where she manages a one on one movement training practice that incorporates the Global Somatics™ and Gyrotonic Expansion System.

Honors:

Thayer has received numerous awards and honors, including a Sage Award for Outstanding Design, "Ode to Dolly" (2010), a Minnesota State Arts Board, Artist Initiative Grant "to create a full-length work in a modular format that can be presented in its entirety or in parts to initiate a national touring experience (2009), a Music in Motion Award (2006), and a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Choreographers (2004). She has twice been a semi-finalist for France's Recontres Choregraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis (Bagnolet), and was an invited Guest Choreographer for the 15th Annual Minnesota Dance Festival (2003).

Choreography:

Thayer has presented her choreography and original works around the United States, most notably in Minneapolis, New York City, and the Washington, D.C. metro area.[9] Her work is frequently featured in the Minnesota Fringe Festival,

sponsored by the Minnesota Dance Alliance,[4] and is strongly influenced by Laban Barientief Fundamentals (Karen Studd at GMW); Butoh (Maureen Fleming in NY); Vocal Dance (Patricia Bardi in Amsterdam); Global Somatics™ and Body-Mind Centering® Approach (Suzanne River in Minneapolis); the International School of Theater Anthropology (Eugenio Barba in Copenhagen); and various movement theater techniques.

Original Works:

"Meet the Nation" translates the political machine into a hive-like hoop structure and culminates in debate gibberish.

"All That Glitters" tackles our instinctual attraction to shiny objects of desire. Score by Tom Scott.

Best Feet Forward Concert, "a blend of modern dance, visual art, theater and interactive sound sculpture."

A Horse of A Different Color, Walker Art Center.

"Bizarre Mating Ritual," a species-bending work that plays out in a forest of toy baby limbs.

"Dougieland 60: Seven Dances"

"Ode to Dolly," Inspired by the physiological processes of fascia, the connective tissue that organizes our musculoskeletal system, elastics and artificial

baby parts are stretched to create geometric grids, tangled canopies, and sculpturesque forms, this award-winning piece tackles "instinctual reproductive behaviors and artificial ideas of creation." Choreography/Installation by Deborah Jinza Thayer with music composed by Matthew Smith. Costumes by Lisa Axell, set design by Bryan Axell/3 Ring Scenic, puppetry by Deirdre Murnane and lighting design by Jeff Bartlett. Dancers include Rachel Barnes, Sarah Jacobs, Penelope Freeh,

QUOTE:

"I believe that freedom and expression of the body is ultimately important because how you live in your body influences how you are in your environment and in all aspects of your life." Deborah Jinza Thayer

Deborah's lineage:

Deborah Bowman (Nathaniel Bowman10, Elmer Sumner9, Charles Sumner8, Horace7, Benjamin6-5, Aaron4, Benjamin3, Ferdinando2, Thomas1) THAYER and Marguerite Hisako TAKAHASHI.



New Draft Horse Team Arrives as Darthia Farm, Rebuilds From Devastating Fire



Bill Thayer puts his new draft horse team through the paces Sunday, dragging the driveway of Darthia Farm in Gouldsboro. Thayer took delivery Friday of the team that he purchased in Kentucky. He hopes to have them doing fieldwork within a few weeks. Posted June 10, 2012.

Fire Destroys Gouldsboro Barn, Kills Animals Inside

By Tom Walsh

GOULDSBORO, Maine — An early morning fire Monday destroyed the old wooden barn that was the centerpiece of the Darthia Farm on West Bay Road in Gouldsboro, killing the assortment of horses, sheep, pigs, calves and young ducklings and chickens inside.

Owner **Bill Thayer** said he was awakened about 2:30 a.m. by flashes of light from the fire. He said he tried to rescue his three draft horses but was driven back by the intense heat of the fire. Thayer said his

wife, Cynthia, tried unsuccessfully to let 20 sheep out of the burning barn, suffering a burn above one eye in the process. Also killed were two pigs, two calves and about 60 young chickens and ducks.

Thayer speculates that the fire was sparked by a heat lamp, despite precautions taken in installing the lamp to ensure it wouldn't pose a fire risk. Gouldsboro Police Chief Glenn Grant said at the scene that an effort to pinpoint the cause of the fire would be made as an excavator sorted through the smoldering

rubble.

In addition to the animals lost in the fire, Thayer said the barn held 450 bales of hay and straw. Gouldsboro firefighters were assisted by responders from Sorrento, Steuben, Sullivan and Winter Harbor, Grant said.

Bill's lineage: William Holbrook (Charles Edward10, William Holbrook9, Charles Edward8, Joel Frederick7, Jonathan6-5, Shadrach4, Ephraim3, Shadrach2, Thomas1) THAYER.

\$100,000 Donations Overwhelming

Archie and Andy Pull for Bill Thayer

GOULDSBORO, Maine — In this neck of the Schoodic Peninsula, all the excitement about horses this past weekend had nothing to do with the array of sleek thoroughbreds in the field for Saturday's 114th running of The Belmont Stakes.

Instead, the main equestrian fascination in this seaside Hancock County community was Archie and Andy, two hefty Haflinger draft horses that arrived on Friday from Kentucky to take up permanent residence at Darthia Farm on West Bay Road in Gouldsboro.

The team replaces three draft horses that Bill and Cynthia Thayer lost to a barn fire May 7 that destroyed the 153-year-old barn and killed the horses, sheep, pigs, calves and fowl trapped inside.

Bill Thayer, 75, had owned and worked on those draft horses since it was eight months old. When the horse died in the fire, it was 29.

The Thayers, who have been organic farmers on the 150-acre spread since 1976, were devastated by the barn fire and the loss of their animals, many of which were more like friends to the couple than livestock.

The old wooden barn was only 75 feet from their home, but local volunteer fire departments responded quickly and were able to keep the tower of flames away from their farmhouse.

After hearing that the barn was covered by only \$15,000 in insurance, friends within the local community, the organic farming community statewide, school children and complete strangers



Bill Thayer hitched his new team of draft horses for the first time Sunday morning, helping to get Andy and Archie used to their new home and the chores they will be doing at Darthia Farm in Gouldsboro. Photos Tom Walsh

quickly raised \$70,000 within 10 days of the fire. That amount has since grown to nearly \$100,000.

"I think we have enough to cover everything," Cynthia said. It was Cynthia who went online after the fire and found a team that was for sale in Kentucky.

Bill flew out there a few weeks ago to inspect Archie, 10, and Andy, 9, and to drive them before finalizing the purchase. The drafts were trucked to Maine last week.

"In Kentucky I put them through different situations that commonly spook driving teams," Bill said. "I had them pull a very noisy wagon and drove them through an enormous puddle. I hooked a metal manure spreader to the back of a wagon and took them around a big field.

They did very well. Obviously someone had done a lot of work with them."

It was Cynthia's idea to acquire the team even before Darthia Farm had a new barn in which to house them.

"After the fire, Bill would get up in the morning with nothing to do," she said. "Now he has the horses to work."



Andy (left) and Archie are 15-hand Haflinger draft horses acquired last week to replace a draft horse team lost in the May 5 fire that destroyed the old barn that housed most of the animals on the 150-acre Gouldsboro organic farm.

Family Search Site...

The Wiki - (wiki.familysearch.org)

– The Family History Newsletter Wiki is a FamilySearch site where you can put the name of a locality into the search box to find out what records or sources may be available in a certain area that you are researching; it is also a free collection of family history articles provided by family history enthusiasts from around the world. The wiki makes it easy for people to share research information and useful tips. Check "Photography," for instance.

Patricia's Mail Box (Cont.)

Unique Thayer Ancestry May Make Irene Thayer's Pedigree Chart A Dynamic Star Burst Configuration

From Ann E. Weiser

My great-great grandmother, Irene May THAYER, has a rather unique Thayer ancestry. Three of her four grandparents were Thayers, and the grandmother who wasn't named Thayer, Ester FRENCH, was the daughter of a THAYER.

Irene's parents, Deacon Nathaniel Emmons THAYER and his wife, Deliverance THAYER were second cousins through Ephraim³ (Shadrach², Thomas¹) THAYER and were first cousins once removed through Lieut. Richard⁴ (Richard³-2-1) THAYER, but by different wives.

Irene was born 5 May 1811 in Braintree, MA. She married



Irene May Thayer
(5 May 1811-8 May 1891)

Irene Thayer (Mrs. Bunker) Outlives 12 of Her 14 Children

Braintree Observer, May 9, 1891:
Thursday night, Mrs. Nahum Bunker died at her residence on Middle Street after a week's illness. She was the widow of Nahum Bunker, who died July 21, 1880: the daughter of Nathaniel Emmons and Deliverance (Thayer) Thayer. She was born in Braintree, May 5, 1811 and married Nahum Bunker, May 21, 1828; by whom she had a family of fourteen children, now all dead save George W., N. Emmons. and Joshua M. Bunker. Four of her

sons were in the war, of whom three are dead; Joshua being the only one of the four now living, and who is now in a rather delicate condition of health. Dr. David Thayer, an eminent physician of Boston is Mrs. Bunker's brother, and Mrs. Thomas Parker her sister; the latter older and the former younger than she was, and the only two remaining members of her father's family. Mrs. Bunker had a great many trials to encounter in life, but maintained through them all, a cheerful and Christian fortitude.

Nahum BUNKER 21 May 1828 and she died 8 May 1891 at 80 years of age.

She and Nahum had fourteen children, of which two sons died in the **Civil War**.

States Ann: *The photos were given to me by Ron Frazier from the Braintree Historical Society's files many years ago.*

I don't know if they have the original oil painting or not. As you may know there is The Deacon Nathaniel Emmons Thayer House in Braintree with a sign on it, on the corner of Union and Middle Street I believe.

She and Nahum Bunker had fourteen children, five of whom served in the Civil War, two dying of their wounds. There is a nice monument at Lakeside Cemetery with the names of Nahum and the seven children that had died by 1888 when the monument was erected. Irene and Nahum were married in Braintree and both died in Braintree.

I would not live always; I ask not to stay;
Where storm after storm rises dark
o'er the way;
The few lurid mornings that dawn
on us here
Are enough for life's joys, full
enough for its cheer.
I would not live always; no, -
welcome the tomb!
Since Jesus has lain there, I dread
not its gloom;
There sweet be my rest till he bid
me arise,
To hail him in triumph descending
the skies.



Deliverance Thayer (14 Mar 1785-28 May 1877) and Nathaniel Emmons Thayer (29 May 1778-8 Sep 1842)

Mr. and Mrs. Bunker Cellabrate 50 Year Marriage

Ann has shared an article on Irene and Nahum's golden wedding celebration:

A very pleasant gathering of friends assembled at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Nahum Bunker on the afternoon and evening of Monday, May 27th, the occasion being to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.

Mrs. Bunker is the daughter of Dea. Nathaniel E. and Deliverance Thayer, who resided on the corner of Middle and Union Streets, the **estate having been in possession of the ancestors of the Thayer family for more than two hundred years**, but recently sold to Mr. Libby, who now occupies the premises.

Mrs. Bunker is the fifth of eight children, three sons and five daughters. The only surviving brother is Dr. David Thayer of Boston and the only surviving sister is Esther T., the wife of Thomas Parker of Braintree. There were

seven of the surviving friends present who witnessed the marriage ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. Bunker fifty years ago, one of whom was Mrs. Sally Emmons, sister of the mother of the bride, who is ninety-one years of age, and a brother-in-law, Mr. Sidney Johnson, a venerable gentleman of about eighty. The united ages of Mrs. Thayer, mother of Mrs. B., who died about one year ago, and Mrs. Johnson, who died earlier, were 167 years, 4 months, 16 days. The ages of the two surviving sisters are 163 years, 16 days, making the united ages of the four sisters, 331 years, 11 days. Mrs. Bunker is the mother of fourteen children, seven of whom are now living, six sons and one daughter. Four of the sons served their country in the last and great rebellion, two of whom fill soldier's graves. About forty of their friends were present on the occasion, who came bountifully laden with their

offerings. The evening was spent in social and instructive conversation, interspersed with songs and amusing anecdotes of olden times. There were quite a number of valuable presents, besides a very generous supply of the needful, amongst which were noticed a number of the real yellow shiners. At a very respectable hour the party retired to their several homes, apparently well pleased with the evening entertainment.

Paternal lineage of Irene Thayer's father: Nathaniel Emmons⁵ (Richard⁴-3-2-1) THAYER.

Paternal lineage of Irene Thayer's mother: Deliverance⁶ (Eliphaz⁵, Isaiah⁴, Richard³-2-1) THAYER.

Thank you Ann for sharing these articles of interest and the lovely photos!

Historian's Report Cont.

Breathe Life Into TFA

I have been asked what we, as members in this remarkable Family Association, might do to ensure our continuation.

I have mentioned many, many times that we, without our youth, are a dying breed. It is essential that we strive to engage our children to pursue their family history and be active in building family ties.

Future Thayer gatherings and family reunions should certainly be more carefully projected to include our young people and have activities specifically geared to their interests.

Here are some things we can do in our own homes to spark the interest:

- Display family artifacts.
- Allow children to handle special treasures.
- Take field trips. Start with ancestral homes and historical parks. Then take in cemeteries and museums.
- Create a coat of arms or a family flag with them.
- Offer to help a child or grandchild with an extra credit project at school by helping them draft up pedigree charts and family group records that they can share in class, and help them write an essay about their family origins.
- Scan and compare family photographs.
- Ask the children to point up common features that they share with ancestors.
- You might share with them special recipes that your parents prepared for you when you were a child. My own family survived by eating "Lumpy Dick" as they crossed

the plains in covered wagons and mother made this for my brother and myself occasionally as we were growing up. This simple dish made of flour and milk is still loved by me today.

- If you are artistically inclined, make a large family tree that can be displayed on your wall
- Children could use paint chips for leaves with ancestors' names inscribed upon them.
- **There are several resources on the Internet for instilling the love of genealogy in children. Give it a try! Your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren will love you for it!**

In other areas, we are an aging association. Many of our "movers and shakers" are tired of doing all the shaking.

Some are ill and need a willing helper. Please let us know if you are willing to help in any way and how we might best put you to work.

Every member of the TFA should be an active campaigner!

- Be an "ambassador" by contacting other Thayers in your area and share with them news of our organization.
- Be willing to make phone calls and introduce your more distant cousins to the advantages of being a member in the TFA.

I would be happy to supply phone numbers and addresses to anyone requesting other geographically related Thayers in their area.

- Make suggestions to us

concerning genealogical or historical libraries that you feel would like to receive digital copies of the Thayer Quarterly newsletter.

I am happy to report the following received from "Kay" at the Southern California Genealogical Society in Burbank, CA:

Thank you for your offer of adding us to your list to receive your newsletter. We would be happy to add them to our library...

It will be a welcome addition to our library and researchers in the Southern California area.

Thanks to the help from our former TFA President, Albert Thayer Morton, we were able to present this library with a copy of every single TQ newsletter from the beginnings of our formation to the present!

Please let us know of other societies where our newsletter can be placed on a continuous mail list.

- Another way to instill a love for family in children is through **family reunions.**

TQ Numbering Correction

The last issue was recorded as issue 4 of Vol. 20. Volume 20 is 2012 and the last March issue should have been issue 1 not issue 4. The present issue is the second issue of Vol.. 20 and the third issue published by me as the new Quarterly Editor. There were only 3 publications in 2011; the last 2011 issue being the large Christmas issue No.3.

If you are saving TQ's you may wish to change issue 4 to issue 1 of Vol 20 for archival reference. DM, Editor.

“GOODAY OZZIES”

Australian Thayers Reach Back Across Oceans

In the last newsletter, we promised to introduce you to another Australian branch of our Thayer family: the children of James Earl Thayer and Doreen Frances Donovan. Following are the accounts of two of their children, Charlotte Louise and Gary Arthur Thayer, telling us how they came to be “Ozzies.”

From Charlotte, who is happily busy running The Bean Bar, an Ice Cream and espresso shop:

My Father, James Earl Thayer, was born in 1922 in Flint Genesee, Michigan, the son of William Franklin Thayer and Ester Alice Hill.

During World War II he was with the 1st Marine Division until the later part of 1944; He was with the 1st Division who fought in Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands) in 1942. After a huge battle there (I watched what they went through in a movie directed by Tom Hanks called The Pacific – unbelievable!)

Dad’s Division was sent to Melbourne, Australia in 1943 for R&R (they were stationed at the Melbourne Cricket Ground) - whilst there Dad met Mom , Doreen Donovan - who was working in Melbourne at the time.

Before being shipped out Mom & Dad were married in a Civic Wedding at the Melbourne Town Hall (I believe); Dad was then sent to Eastern New Guinea and fought in the battle of Peleliu and New Briton - and he was sent home late 1944 as he had been injured (he never spoke much about this, although he got a Purple Cross – My brother Kevin now has this.)

Mom left Australia on a war ship that the Americans had for the war brides. She went to Quantico, Virginia until Dad was discharged. They then went to Michigan. I know they travelled around a bit, as we children were all born in different towns.

Dad always promised Mom that they would go back to Australia, and in 1956, Mom, Dad & we 5 kids set sail for Australia on the ship SS Orsova. We laugh and say we were the original “boat people.” We arrived in Melbourne in about March of that year.

We lived there for some time, although Dad went back to the States in about 1976 to have a back operation. He divorced mother and remarried to “Mickey.” She treated the family rudely, so I guess this is why we never ever had any interest in finding out anything more about the family.

Then one day in about 2003 I googled THAYER and found the TFA website. I corresponded with Jerry [Henry Jerome] Thayer and Lee [Rodney Lee] Thayer... Until contact with you, guess we just gave up a bit on it all.

Dad passed away in 1996 and is buried with his family in the Esmond Evergreen Cemetery, Hale, Iosco, Michigan. Mom lived on until she died in 2005 in Melbourne and is buried in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

I have never been back ‘home,’ but always had great intentions. One day I hope to get over there and put some flowers on Dad’s grave, also the rest of the family ‘resting’ there, and visit a few of the cousins. My brother Dale says we should put that one on our ‘Bucket List.’

When my brother Gary retired from the police force, he and wife Jill bought this caravan park. It was really run down. They have worked really hard on it, and now it is a popular holiday and vacation spot.

The following comes from Gary: Hi to all the Thayers and relatives from Australia. My name is Gary Thayer and I am 59 years old.

My father James Earl Thayer was a US Marine and met and married my mother Doreen Donovan who came from a small town in Australia called Ballarat. My father and mother separated and divorced in the late 70’s; with dad moving back to America where he remarried. They are both deceased now. They had 5 children:

Barbara lives in Ballarat Victoria which was a gold mining area and the scene of the Eureka Revolt where miners fought a short but fierce fight



James Earl Thayer (1922-1997) and Doreen Frances Donavon (1922-2005)

against Troops against the high price of mining licences. Barbara and Geoff do some work for my wife’s brother in the building industry.

Charlotte lives on Bribie Island which is near the Gold Coast Queensland. This area is very popular with tourists because of the warm weather, surf and attractions. Charlotte works in printing and sales.

Kevin and Dale live on the complete other side of the continent in Perth Western Australia. Kevin runs a plumbing business with two of his sons and lives in party mode most of the year. Dale and his partner have just bought an Ice creamer near Perth and Dale still dabbles in printing.

I, Gary, live in Glenrowan, Victoria which was the scene of the Ned Kelly last stand. The story where Ned and his followers set out to derail a train, take hostages and set up a republic in Australia. I run a caravan park and Jill has owned her dress boutique for about 20 years.

Australia is a very big continent with where I live 5000 kilometres from Kevin and Dale and about 2500 kilometres the other direction to Charlotte. Like most families, that is probably a good thing. We all got together recently for Jill’s 60th birthday and that was the first time in about 8 years since when our mother died.

Gary, glenrowanpark@bigpond.com
Lineage for these Thayers:
James Earl (William Franklin10, George Jefferson9, Daniel W.8, Daniel R.7, Gideon6, Thomas5-4-3, Ferdinando2, Thomas1) THAYER

Titanic Still Connects Its Descendants

Disaster brings people together with the spectre of shared horror and memories. The sinking of the Titanic April 15, 1912 still connects the descendants of victims and survivors 100 years on, says British journalist, researcher and writer Andrew Wilson.



“I think the families and friends of the survivors are still moved by the disaster. During my research, I came across a survivor, **Jack Thayer’s grandson Robert Macguire**, who was working in London. It was extraordinary to discover that he had married a descendant of a Titanic survivor,” Andrew Wilson said in an interview.

In an e-mail interview from London, Wilson said “neither of them knew they had relatives on the Titanic until years after they were married”.

Wilson has authored a new book, “Shadow of the Titanic: Extraordinary Stories of Those Who Survived (Simon & Schuster)”. He digs up unusual stories of survivors.

One of them is survivor Madeleine Force Astor, a millionaire whose post-Titanic life was stranger than fiction. “The life of Madeleine Force Astor reads like something that could have been written by a romantic novelist, perhaps even by

fellow Titanic survivor and writer May Futrelle,” Wilson said.

She lost her husband aboard the Titanic on her way home from her honeymoon and was expecting a child. The tragedy scarred her life.

“Who could believe that she could be a bride, a widow, an heiress and a mother all in a single year...And throw away the Astor fortune to marry a childhood sweetheart, an Italian boxer, later?” Wilson said. Descendant Jackie Astor refuses to discuss the Titanic for it is still “clouded in sadness”.

The British passenger liner RMS Titanic sank in the North Atlantic region after running into an ice berg on its maiden voyage from Southampton in England to New York city, killing 1,514 of the 2,224 people on board. The Titanic tragedy was said to be the worst and most expensive in the world’s maritime history.

Wilson said “the liner was built at a cost of \$7,500,000”.

A veteran journalist, he said he tracked down the family members and friends using tried and tested - old-fashioned - journalistic methods.

“The first step is to always check the telephone directory. If that does not work, there are other legal ways to track people down. I would often write a letter or an e-mail to the person explaining the project,” he said.

Wilson said he had focussed on what were the most fascinating stories of survivors. “One of the chapters in the book deals with the dark side of survival. It tells the story of **Jack Thayer**, who was 17 when he travelled on board the Titanic,” he said.

“He lost his father in the disaster, but his mother survived. He waited until the last moment before jumping off the ship and miraculously, after being sucked under, surfaced and swam to the lifeboat. He went on to live a successful and happy life, working as a banker in Philadelphia,

until his own son was shot down over the Pacific in 1943,” Wilson said.

The thought of his son being shot down over the water triggered memories of the awful night on the Titanic, Wilson said.

“Then his own mother died April 15, 1944 - on the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. In 1945, at the age of 50, he drove to downtown Philadelphia and slashed his wrists and throat. Thayer was one of the 10 Titanic survivors who committed suicide,” he said.

Wilson said the Titanic had received a number of ice warnings but these had been largely ignored.

“Immediately after the disaster, laws were written so it became compulsory to provide more than adequate lifeboats on an ocean going vessel. Now, we have a radar and whole lot of sophisticated technology that prevents disasters like the Titanic,” Wilson said.

But human error can always be a factor.

“The Titanic disaster should show us - and the shipping and cruise industry - that no vessel should ever be labelled unsinkable,” said Wilson, also the author of “Beautiful Shadow: A Life of Patricia Highsmith” and “Harold Robbins: The Man Who Invented Sex”.

Each New Thayer Generation Must Learn of The Many Sacrifices and Proud Shared Thayer Family Accomplishments

Hanna Jeffray

Budding Artist Follows Grandmother’s Lead



In the previous Issue we did an article on the Art work of Suzanne Thayer Joffray. This picture of her granddaughter’s art received high raves from a visiting gallery curator.

Obituary... Theodore J. Thayer

This death notice that was printed last week. My fathers US blood line starts with Richard Thayer. His father was John H. Thayer born in Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin. He was a descendant of Joseph Thayer who came to Wisconsin from Maine.

Theodore J. Thayer, age 79, one of the most generous and loved men ever to grace this earth, was called home on June 29, 2012. Ted was born in Hayward, Wisconsin, was raised in the upper peninsula in a town called Baraga, and lived there until his family moved to Detroit when he was 8. Born to Jessie and John Thayer, Ted was one of 12 children. In 1953, Ted married his sweetheart, Pat (Cocash) in St. Ambrose Church and celebrated a marriage of over 58 years together, always referring to Pat as his bride. After living in a few temporary places, they decided on St. Clair Shores as the place to make their permanent home. Ted and Pat raised six children but Ted was considered a second dad to many more. He made sure everyone knew he was nearby if anyone needed advice or just a presence on their side. His family could always count on a call on Sundays letting them know that breakfast was almost ready or dinner would be at 5. Ted loved having his family around the house and even after spending an entire day with him, would always respond with

“leaving already?” when it was time to go. Ted worked at Detroit Edison for 43 years but always enjoyed his side job doing landscaping/tree work. He only let family work with him and enjoyed the few hours after a long days work sitting with his sons and nephews sharing a beer and catching up on their lives. Ted enjoyed the outdoors and looked forward to deer hunting season in his cabin hosting all who made the long trip. He never once missed a season, always letting everyone know if you wanted him at a wedding or other event, to make sure that it didn’t happen in November. He passed his passion for a beautiful yard to each of his children, always ready to make a trip to the nursery or Eastern Market with them to help find the perfect shrub or flower. Ted leaves behind his six children who truly adored him, Debbie (Russ), Suzanne (Mike), Sherri, TJ (Jeri), Kelly (Ray), and the late Richard, as well as 13 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren who always knew he was there with open arms filled with warmth, kindness, and lots of treats. He and Grandma always made sure they all knew they had another place to call home. As per Ted’s wishes, a graveside eulogy will take place at Resurrection Cemetery on Saturday, July 7 at 11 a.m. with a luncheon afterwards to celebrate his life. All his family, friends, and neighbors are encouraged to attend and to wear garden colors. Please share a memory of Theodore at www.kaulfuneralhome.com.

Published in The Macomb Daily on July 3, 20

THE THAYER QUARTERLY
785 Williams Street #303
Longmeadow, MA 01106-2063

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Newport News, VA
Permit No. 110



Contacting TFA

www.thayerfamilies.com

For all official business with the TFA, please write the
Secretary, James Loren Thayer:
785 Williams Street #303
Longmeadow, MA 01106-2063
Email: JThayer@ipapilot.org

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

Patricia Thayer Munro,
Thayer Family Historian
3618 North 225 East
North Ogden, UT 84414-2762

Email: hjthayer@Verizon.net
(Please include an SASE if you need a reply.)

The Thayer Quarterly © (Copyright all rights reserved.) is the official newsletter of the Thayer Families Association. Article selection and editorial is at the discretion of the Editor and may not reflect views of the TFA, its Officers, Directors, or members. All materials published in the Thayer Quarterly will become the property of the Thayer Families Association, and any further

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

TFA, 785 Williams Street #303
Longmeadow, MA 01106-2063

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Your articles, letters to the editor, and comments regarding content are vital to the TQ. Photographs with a light background are appreciated, and can be returned, undamaged, if requested. Digital photos sent via email are also welcome. Send typed articles to the TFA address or email the Editor with an attached file containing the article. Articles and submissions may be edited, respectfully, for length and readability. Please provide sources, if applicable. Any topics that are of general interest to members are encouraged, and articles written by the Editor at your suggestion or from material you provide, will be credited to you. Deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publishing. *Please send via email to:*

thayerfamilies@AOL.com
TQ Editor Don Munro