Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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President's Letter

Thayers are as busy as Santa's helpers making Reunion Plans for 2014 Braintree Gathering

We are about to enter "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

– Christmas. It can be a truly wonderful time or it can be a tremendous stress for many. I pray that you will take the time to truly enjoy the beauty of the season and not get so caught up in the rushing around and trying to please everyone with just the right gift. It is a time to celebrate family, and as such, it is time for those of us connected by the surname "THAYER" to celebrate our wonderful heritage.

With that in mind, I remind you that we are going to celebrate together in ***June of 2014*** *in the original home town of the Thayer's in America, Braintree Massachusetts. This will be an exciting time of renewing relationships; making new ones; and discovering something new about our family ties.*

As we prepare for this reunion there is a great deal of work going on behind the scenes. A committee is working diligently to see that your time spent in Braintree will be one you might never forget. There is so much to do and see in the Boston area and so little time to see it. But we will try and get in as much as we can.

We are working on tours, visits to genealogical sites, and other exciting adventures for those of all ages.

However, the true blessing of these gatherings over the years has been the fellowship and friendships which have been developed.

I remember my first TFA reunion which also was held in Braintree. It was there that I met wonderful "cousins" such as Judy Young-Thayer and Al Morton who have become close friends. That could never have happened without a trip to the Thayer Families Reunion. I have met so many people that I never would have had the opportunity to meet without attending these reunions.

I have had the opportunity to travel to Michigan, Virginia, Gettysburg, and West Point, just to name a few, which I may never have gone otherwise. In addition I discovered an amazing fact – my grandfather was really a Thayer. There was some doubt as to who his father was, but upon meeting Tricia Muno, our historian, I found out he was a Thayer. Beside, once you've met the male side of the Thayer family you realize they all look alike – there can be no doubt. I found a look alike of my grandfather in Al Morton (sorry Al, could not resist).

As you can see, going to the TFA reunion is a very rewarding and exciting time. Please do not miss it. You will receive more information as we get closer to the event. Take the time to make your plans.

Now on to a more mundane note. This is a reminder that TFA dues are due by December 31. On the back page of this TQ is a reminder and a form to fill out and send along with your dues. Your dues make it possible to send out this wonderful quarterly and also provide funds for DNA testing and other activities of TFA. Please send your dues in as soon as possible.

By the way, do you know any Thayer relatives that would be interested in the best genealogical society in the world? Pass the information along. You can get more information by going on our website at www.ThayerFamiles.com

I look forward to seeing you all at the reunion in June. May you and your family have a blessed and wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Russ Thayer,
President TFA

Inside:

The Thayer Family Association Reunion Committee for 2014: Russ Thayer, Kate Kuzmich, Joyce Thayer, and Tamara Thayer

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The Thayer Family Reunion to be held on June 19-22 of 2014 is still awaiting response from members who will be participating in reunion activities.

Visiting historic Braintree where our first Thayer ancestors settled in America is a walk through history with family members distant and close whose stories are as varied as the states making up America.

While our Reunion committee has been as busy as Santa's elves, the true success only happens when each of you commit to joining and participating together in activities.

This year's reunion committee is planning for the entire family as well as those who are interested in genealogy and those who simply want to enjoy the event.

Please look to our next newsletter to register and make reservations. And in the meantime consider sharing stories, bringing keepsakes, along with brief biographies of yourself and perhaps journals you prize and that others would die to know about.

Music is always a language that everyone enjoys. Is there a talent others could enjoy? Bring it!

Now, before you forget. Sit down and consider letting us know more. & how you would like ti help.

Editorial comment...dm

Consider the Source and Be Wiser

Some forty years ***before*** Ancestry.com and the LDS Genealogy departments merged their large data bases and built genealogy libraries throughout the world for everyone to explore family history, our Thayer family and family genealogists spent long hours in libraries and church parishes to discover our roots through original documents which often took long hours, sometimes days occasionally weeks and yes, even years.

The error that is yet to be learned by many is that elders, old bibles, original records, some locked away from the general public, still hold answers not to be found in data bases of extracted records.

Now the world has realized that our ancestral heritage may give us answers to more than we could have ever thought possible. We find genetic links with thousands of other members of the human family that help determine the innate abilities and weaknesses that we posses both physically and mentally as well as yet unknown capabilities.

Behaviorists have less grounds to simply credit us with all that we are as 'learned behaviors.' And we are forced to redefine what is meant by the terms of all being "equal."(not forgetting original text *in the eyes of God*.) But as always, the best high performance car, if not tuned up and fed high octane fuel, may never make it out of the garage.

With more knowledge comes more questions and greater responsibility. As individuals, we must consider the sources of our information, new and old. This includes re-evaluation of long established truths accepted out of varying degrees of ignorance. And some of the old remedies, half truths and mythology may have been laced with truths previously discarded for the sake of "modern" notions and "right" thinking.

Being careful and wise not to accept "media as the message" requires acquired wisdom The more we learn, the more we know we don't know; and this wisdom is often not taught in classrooms of lower or higher learning.

We have a job to teach our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, our culture does not value the wisdom of its elders to the extent of many older cultures.

But it is never too late to begin. Elders keeping silent is seldom the answer, and today our wisdom is needed more than ever! So share.

Middle Names Provide Valued Clues

Hugh Wallis's Genealogical Web Sites

I believe that middle names are an invaluable resource for finding clues to family relationships. Strangely I have seen very little written about their use as research pointers in any of the literature, nor have I seen this issue discussed much on the mailing lists. I have not seen any middle name indexes or search tools available anywhere either. BUT - often a person's middle name is the same as the maiden name of their mother or a grandmother or reflects some other familial connection (maybe the name of a patron or benefactor). It may also be the father's surname for births occurring out of wedlock. It seems obvious to me, therefore, that they have significant value in genealogical and family history research.

Ed. Note – Middle names are also critical tools in confirming the identity of an ancestor. How else can you separate John William, John Wilson, and John Willard Thayer?!

Patricia Thayer Muno
Thayer Family Historian

2014 Reunion Invitation:

Would You Like a Display Table at Our Reunion?

Inviting all Vendors
By Tamara Thayer

The TFA Reunion Committee is hoping to set up a vendor area during part of the reunion. We are looking forward to seeing the display tables of; Thayer authors, jewelry makers, "Thayer" logo products, crafts, genealogy and heritage products, Humor THAYER-apy, and any other products made by Thayers. If you have something you would like to display, share, or sell at the reunion, please contact Tammy Thayer at tlthayer@gmail.com to reserve a table.

Goodie Bag ideas?

We are looking for free handouts to fill our goodie bags that will be handed out to each attendee at the TFA reunion when they register. This has been done at previous TFA reunions and I'm told everyone enjoyed them. Garland and Jean Thayer told me they even canned little jars of jelly and put one in each bag at a previous reunion. These can be a memento of the state you are from such as alligator jerky from Louisiana or a loon pin representing the Mn state bird etc. It can also be a homemade craft, bookmark from a Thayer author, a sample of a product a vendor is selling, etc. This is of course optional but if you want to donate something and you have an idea of what you can add to a goodie bag please let me know at the above email address.

"In every conceivable manner, the family is a link to our past, a bridge to our future." – Alex Haley

Patricia's Mailbox

New York Beauty Writer is Now Texas Military Editor

Rose Lorraine Thayer is the military editor for the Killeen Daily Herald in Killeen, Texas. She joined the paper in February 2011 as a health and military reporter.

She moved to Killeen with her husband, Matthew BRIGGS, an armor officer the 1st Cavalry Division, leaving behind her job as a health and beauty writer for DailyGlow.com in New York City. Before that, the University of Texas graduate worked as the editor of the West Austin News. She has freelanced for the Austin American-Statesman, Alcalde Magazine and the Brooklyn Downtown Star.

Sadly, I have not been able to take Rose's Thayer lineage back very far. Her earliest known ancestor is believed to be Charles Thayer, born about 1785 of Portland, Cumberland, Maine.

His wife was Ann JONES, born April 1786 of Portland, Cumberland, Maine whose name appears in the death or marriage record of son, Charles Green Thayer.

Correspondence with John Keydel in 1994 mentions 1906 notes for her granddaughter, Anna Weeks (Thayer) Pratt, which states "Ann's first husband, Charles Thayer, died while her children were young and that Ann married again on 16 Aug 1816 to a Frenchman, Lewis Chambrosay, who left her and returned to France and nothing more heard from him."

Ann returned to Portland, Maine with her two children and remained there until her death on 17 Dec 1856. By then, her children were grown and married.

Correspondent John Keydel believes that "Ann Jones" was in fact Ann GODFREY, daughter of Zachariah Godfrey and Deborah THAYER, who was the daughter of Zachariah Marquand THAYER and wife Judith CRANE.

Zachariah and Judith DID have a Daughter Dorothy who married Zachariah GODFREY, and they did have a daughter named Ann GODFREY.

Ann is said to have appeared in some records as "Ann G.," therefore the mystery of how the name "Jones" figures in. Was Zachariah Godfrey's mother's maiden name possibly Jones?

Rose's Thayer lineage: Rose Lorraine (Kenneth Charles[6], Francis Newton[5-4], Charles Green[3-2], Charles[1]) THAYER and Rose Etta YOCUM.

Historian- Patricia

Patricia's Mail Box

Historian's Report Shows Thayer Family Dynamics In the Past and In the Present

E-mail of 18 Jan 2012 from Bob Calton:

– As you may recall, my father, Robert G. Calton, had a sister, Lillian Calton, who married Guy Hillman Thayer. I don't think I ever sent you a photograph of the pastel portrait I have of Aunt Lillian so I am attaching that photo.

This is a wonderful portrait that was done in 1899 when Lillian was 23 years old. The portrait is signed by the name "Sheridan" and I have searched off and on for 10 years for someone that may know something about this artist. If you have any clues or suggestions please let me know.

Lillian Calton lived in St. Paul, Minnesota, about the time this portrait was done but she is not listed in the St. Paul City Directory in when the portrait was done in 1899. She was listed in the directory in 1898 (and before), 1900, and 1901, but not 1899, so she may have lived elsewhere and had this portrait done outside of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Her occupation is shown as a "milliner". She is listed in the 1893 directory as an "Apprentice with Schuneman and Evans" department store and in 1901 she is listed as a "Trimmer with Robinson Straus & Co." Robinson Straus in St. Paul was a very large distributor of millinery products from the "Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean." I think that the outfit that Lillian was wearing might have been related to her occupation and maybe the portrait itself was related to the millinery business - even though she was not wearing a hat! So far it's an unsolved mystery. Glad to be in touch with you again.
Bob Calton

Lillian Mary (Calton) Thayer (1876-1962)

Guy Thayer's lineage: Guy Hillman (Francis Bartlett[9], Hillman Lot[8], Oliver[7-6], Abiah[5], John[4], Richard[3-2-1]) THAYER.

The following corrections should appear in Volume IV for family 5212 (page 299):

Erratas to Volume IV:

1. John Davis Thayer (b.8 Aug 1809-Boston,Suffolk,MA;d.1858-,Brunswick,NC)
sp: Zelpha Julia Thomas (b.7 Mar 1828-,,NC;d.4 Sep 1916-Wilmington,New Hanover,NC)
2. Thomas B. Thayer (b.Dec 1853-,,NC;d.4 Mar 1904-Wilmington,New Hanover,NC)
sp: Catherine Ann Barr (b.10 Dec 1862-Wilmington,New Hanover,NC;m.28 Feb 1884;d.30 Dec 1930-Harnett,New Hanover,NC)
3. Catherine Ethel Thayer (b.2 Dec 1884-Wilmington,New Hanover,NC;d.6 Sep 1934-Wilmington,New Hanover,NC)
sp: John S. Hill (b.1869-Faison,Dublin,NC;m.7 Jan 1917;d.17 Dec 1929-Wilmington,New Hanover,NC)
Lineage: John Davis (Benjamin7, Zachariah6-5-4, Nathaniel3, Richard2-1) THAYER.

The following corrections should appear in Volume IV for Family 3308 (pages 89/89):
1. John Perry Thayer (b.8 Jan 1824-Boston,Suffolk,MA;d.19 Jun 1861-Sherborn,Middlesex,MA)
sp: Ellen B. Wilson (b.Abt 1832-Hillsborough,Hillsborough,NH;m.23 Nov 1851;d.1904-Somerville,Middlesex,MA)
2. Charles Humphrey Thayer (b.27 Jan 1853-Boston,Suffolk,MA;d.31 Jul 1897-Revere,Suffolk,MA)
2. Samuel Wheeler Thayer (b.7 Dec 1855-Boston,Suffolk,MA;d.22 Feb 1859-Boston,Suffolk,MA)
Lineage: John Perry (Isaac[8], Luther[7], Isaac[6], Abraham[5], Nathaniel[4-3], Richard[2-1]) THAYER .

Mailbox continued……

From correspondent Joe Capistrant of Alexandria, MN in E-mail message of 7 Apr 2013:

Dear Patricia,

I've been out of touch with the wonderful Thayer organization for some time - many years in fact.

But I just want to thank you so much again for your help (at least a decade or more back) in officially hooking me into the Thayer family.

You provided me with the information of about my great-great grandfather by blood - Josiah Quincy (J.Q.) Thayer. (He was the boyfriend of my g-g-grandmother.) I had first discovered that his identity was miraculously recorded in the rural church's archives where my great-grandmother was baptized, confirmed and married. What a find that was!

But It was because of the information you provided to me about him that I was eventually put in touch with his gracious and interested descendants. I received a lot of information about Josiah, including copies of beautiful photographs of him. (My grandmother resembled him in a most breathtaking way!)

Thank You, Thank You!

I really checked in on the Thayer web site this morning just to see if I could find an address for you. How often I wondered if you'd ever discovered the information you so earnestly have been seeking about your great-grandfather Joseph Frank Thayer. But on the web site I saw your ongoing query and therefore have concluded that your efforts have not yet been fruitful.

I can't help thinking of how ironic that is when you have helped so many unearth such valuable connections such as my Josiah! I pray that something magical will occur someday soon and it will all be revealed for you!

I'm glad to see that you are still serving as historian to this great family organization.

From time to time I flesh out more of the Thayer branch of my family tree. Because of the awesome work of the TFA that branch of my tree is definitely among the most far-reaching.

This is funny because my Thayer connection is the result of an illegitimate (though verified) birth - my great-grandmother. I've provided you with all this info long ago and YOU were very helpful in connecting me with the good people of the biological father's family.

As a result I now have a very positive sense (incl great photos) of this good man, Josiah Quincy Thayer and his family. (My most recent discovery has to do with how & why he lived in Northfield MN for a time.) I feel real pride to have a Thayer thread.

Whether you kept all the correspondences or not, know that your long years of work has been so important to so many people. A true legacy. You have my gratitude and warm regards,

Joe Capistrant,
Alexandria, MN

Roy Joseph CAPISTRANT[12]->Lois Mae DeHAAN[11] -> Florence Mae PETERSON[10] -> Johanna Louise[9], (Josiah Quincy[8], Lyman Curtis[7], Daniel[6], Nathan[5], Daniel[4], Ebenezer[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER

Joe and Linda Capistrant. Joe descends from Josiah Quincy (Lyman Curtis[7], Daniel[6], Nathan[5], Daniel[4], Ebenezer[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER

Historical Trivia As Shared by Verne Thayer

The following bits of Historical trivia are shared with us be Verne Louis Thayer of Milford, MA:

God willing...

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

It will cost you...

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

Here comes the...

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig... 'Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

Have a seat...

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

Acne Scars ...

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt .. . therefore, the expression, 'losing face.'

Tighten it...

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied lace.

Hit me again...

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades...' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

What did you say...

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

Mind your...

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

Frozen what...

One more: bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon

(to p.7)

Welcome New TFA Members

TFA and your editor welcomes our newest members. I encourage all TFA members to check out locations of our new members and extend a warm welcome. With each new member is an extended family with stories to tell and other potential members waiting in the 'wings.'

We are proud of our early Thayers and also our new found family members! Again, **WELCOME!**

Loreen Gaye Bast, Bonney Lake, WA

Paul Rutledge Botts, Chicago, IL

Michale Edger Thayer, Naples, FL & Clarkston, MI

Sherry Ranae (Thayer) Widman, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Gale Henry Thayer, Breckenrdge, MI

Nancy (Thayer) Ross, Bath, ME

Mark Evan Thayer , Glen Arm, MD

Carla Ashton-Cohen , Cambridge, MA

Catherine Ann (Hough) Bailey, Orleans, Ottawa Canada

Mary Melissa Jane (Thayer) Simpson, Fairbanks, AK

Paul Allen and Annely Marika (Idnurm) Thayer, Painesville Township, OH

Phillip Lombardi, Palm Springs, CA

Reed Manning Thayer, Puyallup, WA

Adam Patrick Thayer, Puyallup, WA

Judith Ann Ward, St. George, UT

Arnold Ambrose Thayer, West

Frozen what? (Cont.)

balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem....how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?)

Marianne's Sylvanus Thayer Essay Draws Comments from Veteran

From Judith L. Young-Thayer to son William Henry Thayer and granddaughter, Marianne

(Reference Last Issue)

Marianne, Papa and I had a letter from a Thayer Families Association member, Barney Landrey. We thought you would like to see it:

8 Sept 2013, From Barney Landrey, who with wife Muriel, are members of TFA. Barney comments on Marianne Thayer's essay about Sylvanus Thayer:

"Our TQ came and I certainly read your granddaughter's essay, and was so pleased that she was "right on" about Sylvanus.

I reaped the benefits of his leadership and dedication, and I wish more young people were as informed about his value as is your granddaughter!

"I do have one piece of information to pass on to Marianne that, as a plebe, I was very clearly told the name of the Institution is most properly "The United States Military Academy at West Point." It is common practice everywhere to call it the "West Point Academy," but I figured Marianne would be pleased to have some "insider" word on the name.

In her essay, she covered one of the most important of Sylvanus' mandates, "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do!'

"Finally finally, a "good job" to Marianne

"from Barney, and Mureil too.
Best Wishes, USMA '51

Patriotism Runs Deep With Thayers

REMEMBERING OUR SERVICEMEN

By Joyce Erdman Thayer of Lafayette, Louisiana

Patriotism runs deep in the Thayer Family and many men and women have answered the call to serve. They have fought since the 1600's, and some have died, to defend their new Country, namely America.

Thayer's have fought in the Revolutionary War; the War of 1812; the American Civil War ; the Spanish American War; W W's 1 & 2; the Korean War; the Vietnam War; Desert Storm; Iraq War ; Afghanistan War.; plus many other wars not mentioned here, but not forgotten on Veteran's weekend.

It is impossible to put ourselves in their shoes, and we can't even imagine the hardships that those men and women endured, during and after their tours of duty.

Some returned maimed, other's had serious mental adjustments to make, and some gave up their lives for their Country. They were buried near the Battlefield; in Arlington National Cemetery; in Foreign lands; were shipped back home for burial; and some were lost at sea and some were MIA.

This writer's attached sketch is of a Civil War Veteran from the Union Army, and I am sure that there were also Thayer soldiers serving in the Confederate Army. Possibly brothers were fighting against brothers in that horrible bloody War.

This is just one story with observations of a young man serving as a Drummer Boy from Minnesota.

Biography

- Albert Augustus "Gus" Thayer was born in Adrian, MI in 1848.
- His family moved to MN when Gus was 5 years old. (1854)
- Gus attended a rural school in or near Osseo, MN, but I don't know how many grades he completed. (Brooklyn Township, Hennepin County)
- Sons were expected to work on the farm. (Gus's Father David Burgess Thayer is recorded on a 1859 land purchase)
- Gus experienced the rigors of Pioneer life, and the family kept the horse harnessed day and night in the event there would be an Indian attack.
- In 1865 (while fibbing about his age) Gus enlisted in the Union army as a Drummer Boy, and served with Company C of the Minnesota Seventh Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He served six months in the Southern Theater with the Union army. Gus was hospitalized in Montgomery, AL before returning to Ft. Snelling for his discharge in August 1865.
- There were more than 2 million of the 2.7 million Federal Soldiers who were less than 21 years of age with 40,000 drummer and fife boys in the Union Army. Twenty five soldiers were ten years and under! This was truly a true call to Patriotism.
- Gus served his period of service in the Infantry Regiment that moved to New Orleans, LA,; then on to the Campaign against Mobile, AL; then on to the Siege of the Spanish fort. They then moved on to the Assault and capture of Fort Blakely, AL. which was basically the last battle in the Civil War. The unit then marched to Montgomery and remained there until May 10th, before moving on to Selma, AL and they remained until July 20th. On July 30th the regiment moved back to St. Paul, MN, and Gus was mustered out on August 16, 1865. The Regiment lost 2 officers, and 31 enlisted men were killed or mortally wounded. There were 138 soldiers who suffered from diseases (such as scurvy, food poisoning, etc.) Nurses would cook all night to give gingerbread to the wounded soldiers as a comfort food.
- His future brother-in-law Henry Curtis, fought 3 years with the Minnesota 6th Regiment, was also discharged on the same day, and he married Gus's sister Susan, in 1869. Gus married May Colburn in 1869, and each wedding certificate indicates that they were witnesses to each other's wedding. This writer thinks that they had also been neighbors according to an 1880 plat of Brooklyn Township of Hennepin County, MN.
- Minnesota achieved statehood in 1858, and was the first state to offer volunteers for the Union Army. There were 24,020 to answer the call.
- Being a Drummer Boy in the Civil War was extremely important, as they announced many activities each day. They played morning roll call, announced breakfast, sick call, and played an important role on the battlefield. Musical instruments included flutes, harmonicas, guitars, banjos. While drums were used to signal troops the soldiers liked to sing and make music. They liked to sing the" Battle hymn of the Republic" and many other well-known tunes.
- A typical uniform of a Union Soldier consisted of a blue forage cap with a black leather visor called a Hardee hat, a dark blue flannel sack coat, and trousers. (This must have been extremely hot while fighting in the south.) A soldier carried a knapsack, which contained a two-man tent, a ground sheet, an overcoat, and his personal effect. A rolled blanket was fastened to the knapsack.
- The soldier also carried a "haversack" for his rations.
- The Soldier was given a three day supply of raw food. They cooked it all and placed it in their Haversack so they would have food on the battlefield. The enlisted men cooked their food over an open campfire. The haversack had a removable canvas lining which the soldier washed every couple of days so the food wouldn't all taste like salt pork, or worse.
- The rations included salt pork or salt beef, (which wasn't always cleaned very well) and hardtack which was usually about 3" long and ½" thick. The soldiers referred it as eating concrete.
- They had very little fruit, except for the berries that they picked to try to enhance the poor unappetizing rations.
- The Southern soldiers ate a lot of corn bread, when it was available. They had a harder time acquiring food.
- After Gus was discharged he did many things in MN. He ran the stage Coach from Fair Haven, MN to St. Cloud, MN before he opened the Thayer Hotel in Annandale, MN. Under his hospitable roof nearly ever drummer and sportsman in the State blessed his lot and encored his piano rendition of "The Girl I left behind" and "The Campbell's are coming."
- In 1923 the drums and music stopped playing for Gus, but his memory goes on.

Lineage for Gus Thayer: Albert Augustus "Gus" (David Burgess[8], Sanford[7], Baruch[6], Ebenezer[5], Uriah[4], Ebenezer[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER

Thayers Found on Tour of Civil War Graves

UNTOLD STORIES -- Mencucci giving tour of Civil War graves. (reprinted from THE CALL – The Blackstone Valley's Neighborhood Newspaper)

By Joseph Nadeau

BURRILLVILLE, RI – They rest in sections of local cemeteries that don't often draw visitors but the town's old soldiers of the Civil War still have stories to tell.

Betty Mencucci, president of the Burrillville Historical Society and a local history expert, hopes to put those stories in people's minds this weekend while offering a tour of the town's Civil War grave sites today beginning at 2 p.m. at Pascoag Cemetery and St. Patrick's Cemetery off Route 107, Pascoag.

Mencucci began planning the tour along with fellow member Henry Duquette and others when the society decided to hold an exposition on the local area's role in the Civil War in early May at the Bridgeton School.

Researching that portion of local history made Mencucci think about all the Civil War soldiers who came to rest in local cemeteries, some of whom were natives of the town and its villages and others who came here to live in the years after the war.

Over 150 men from Burrillville served during the war, many with the 12th Rhode Island Volunteers, the 7th Rhode Island Volunteers, or the 4th Rhode Island Volunteers and some with cavalry or heavy or light artillery units, according to Mencucci. More than 30 of those soldiers are believed to have died in battle or of illness and disease, she noted.

The expo on May 4 and 5 [2013] had a variety of events to keep visitors at Bridgeton School busy and the Society decided to hold an actual tour of the local cemeteries holding Civil War soldiers at a later date, which is today.

Like other area communities who lost residents to the Civil War, Burrillville's Civil War history is filled with accounts of bravery, resourcefulness, and deep sorrow and the ***sense of loss.***

Mencucci said there is more history to be found when the full list of local Civil War veterans is studied and the tour this weekend could be a good starting point for those wishing to learn more.

"We flagged everybody that fought in the war and a lot of the stones say what unit they were in and whether they lived to an old age or died during the war or right after," she said.

Some of the town's soldiers came home from the war wounded or with illnesses that would soon claim their lives, given the inability to treat illnesses in their day. "Some were sick or wounded and had a very hard time after the war," Mencucci said.

The Society's listing of the soldiers who died includes information on the "gunshot wounds" that took the life of Nelson M. Paine, the ***deaths of Corporal Henry R. Thayer and Private Richard Thayer from disease***, and the death of U.S. Navy landsman Edward S. Brown aboard the vessel "Perry" on June 20, 1864.

That information and more is available at the Society's headquarters at the Bridgeton School at 16 Laurel Hill Ave. For more information on the tour and other upcoming events, call 568-8534.

The grave of Henry Thayer in Pascoag Cemetery is marked by an American flag for his service in the Civil War. A member of Company D, of the Rhode Island Regiment, Thayer died at Columbia College Hospital in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 13, 1862. His wife's stone is at right. Photo/ Joseph B. Nadeau

Henry Thayer's lineage: Henry R. (Archa7, Otis6, Thaddeus5, Joseph4, Isaac3, Ferdinando2, Thomas1) THAYER and Elizabeth ALDRICH.

<u>Patricia's note:</u> I do not have in my records that Henry R. Thayer married, so above photo caption about Henry Thayer's wife's headstone being next to his may be in error? I do not know anything about Private Richard Thayer, though I have an "unplaced" Richard Thayer from Rhode Island who was buried in the Chalmette National Cemetery, Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana: "Private Richard Thayer served in the Union Army, Company "M," 3rd Rhode Island Calv." Does anyone have a clue as to his parentage???

Historian's Report & Mailbox

Thayer's Historic Bed and Breakfast Sold and Contents Auctioned in Annandale, MN

To: TriciaMuno@aol.com

Our cousins Clayton Elroy Thayer and wife, Joyce (Erdman) Thayer recently contacted Jill Bishop of Annandale Online (www.Annandale-Online.com), inquiring about some relics from the old Thayer Hotel in Annandale, Minnesota. The Thayers wrote:

In March of 2013 an online auction was held to sell the hotel's furnishings. Light fixtures and the kitchen equipment were not included in the auction.

Quantum Servicing remains the owner. We are "History Buffs," and my husband is a Great Grandson of Albert A. Thayer who ran The Thayer Hotel in Annandale for many years.

I know that the Hotel was auctioned off early in 2013, and I also know the building is on the National Historical Registry. I would appreciate it if someone in Annandale would be so kind as to bring us to date on the future plans for the old building. Also, do you know if anyone in Annandale has a plate imprinted with a picture of the Hotel?

Thank you for your time. Clayton & Joyce Thayer.

Jill Bishop responded with the following:

Below is an article about the Thayer Hotel that appeared in the local newspaper last August. It mentions the online auction, and I was lucky to end up with three pictures of historic Main Street Annandale.

I remember those plates that were sold in 1988 for the city's centennial celebration, including the Thayer Hotel. I don't know who might have one to sell, but perhaps you'd have luck if you ran a "wanted" ad in the local paper, the Annandale Advocate. --

Jill Bishop

Annandale Advocate

8/20/2013

(Thayer property sold later the year)
Community Briefs

A buyer still has not been found for the Thayer Hotel in Annandale. The property is now listed for $174,900 with Edina Realty of Buffalo. Earlier this year the Thayer was listed at $189,900. In 2006 the property was assessed at just over $1 million.

"We have had some interest. We have shown it over eight times in the weeks we have had the Thayer listed. Those looking at it are considering it for a bar and restaurant, a night club or reopening it as a bed and breakfast," said Bruce McAlpin of Edina Realty.

The Thayer has a long history in Annandale. Built in 1895, the Thayer was the first building in Annandale to have gas lights and electricity. Back then there were 35 guest rooms, a grand lobby, and a fine dining room. Gus and Caroline Thayer built the hotel when they were offered land and operating capital from the Soo Line Railroad.

Over the years, the hotel deteriorated and was used mostly for inexpensive housing. It came up for sale in 1976 and, fearing that a new owner would continue to operate it as a cheap hotel, the City of Annandale purchased the property.

The city owned the property for six years and almost had it demolished. Then Annandale Mayor Wally Houle and a group of businessmen purchased the hotel and began restoring it in September of 1984. It reopened under its previous name, the Thayer Hotel.

In 1993 Sharon Gammel [1946-2012] bought the hotel and it became the Thayer Inn, an 11-room bed and breakfast. Gammel continued to run the Thayer until 2010. It has been vacant since earlier this year, Katherine Owens, the hotel's last owner, negotiated out of her mortgage with Quantum Servicing in Tampa, Fla.

Armed with this new information, I attempted searching the Internet to see what I could learn and was surprised to find some things I had never heard before! Lovers of the paranormal will love this!

Thayer's Historic B &B ...

60 West Elm St, Annandale, Minnesota
(800) 944-6595

Thayer's Historic B & B sure seems to be one of the friendliest bed & breakfasts around! They are people-friendly, cat-friendly, and even ghost-friendly. They really seem to have a good 'old time over there at Thayer's. Located in Annandale, Minnesota, Thayer's is about 60 miles northwest of Minneapolis. Thayer's was built in 1895 by Gus and Caroline Thayer and they say both Gus and Caroline still visit often - well, at least in the form of spirits! Gus has been known to leave pennies for the owners or staff to find. A number of other ghostly guests from the other side are reported to visit on a regular

'Gus Still Walks The Halls'

Thayer Hotel Listed As One of the Top Ten Best Haunted Places To Stay in the U.S.A.

I found the following (haunted-places-to-go.com/most-haunted-3.html):

The Most Haunted Bed and Breakfast in Minnesota:
Thayer's Bed and Breakfast
The most haunted Bed and Breakfast in Minnesota is said to be the Thayer's Bed and Breakfast. This establishment is located in the town of Annandale.

This particular establishment has been listed as one of the "Top 10 Best Haunted Places to Stay in the U.S.A" by "Odd Inn". Sharon Gammell [1946-2012], who is a popular psychic, resides at this Bed and Breakfast, as well as her two Maine Coon cats. In addition to this, several "friendly" spirits are said to live here as well! Here, you will learn some interesting information about the most haunted bed and breakfast in Minnesota – Thayer's!

Originally managed by Gus Thayer and his wife, Caroline, this hotel has hosted a number of travelers and activities. These activities and visitors included women who sold their body to travelers, visitors from other towns, and several other personalities.

As the years progressed, more and more haunting tales emerged regarding the Thayer's Bed and Breakfast. These tales have emerged from people who simply passed through and lodged at the hotel, as well as from locals who live in the same area of the haunted bed and breakfast.

Listed here, you will be introduced to some of the ghost tales of this haunted bed and breakfast.

• Gus and Caroline Thayer are said to reside in this haunted bed and breakfast as guardians to the hotel. It is said that they spent so much of their life in this place that once they passed away, it is believed that their spirits immediately returned. Naturally, they are viewed as friendly spirits who simply work to assist the current owner in her work.

• The women who would work to entertain the men who traveled through the city and would stop at the Thayer's Hotel have said to also reside in spirit at this haunted bed and breakfast. These women apparitions have apparently been seen throughout the structure, and have been none to get a little nosey with the belongings of the women who visit the hotel.

• Many guests at the Thayer's Bed and Breakfast have witnessed what appear to be ghost cats roaming throughout the structure.

• Many strange noises, such as footsteps and thumping, have been heard by the guests in this haunted bed and breakfast.

In a later message to me Joyce wrote:

Early in 2013 the Hotel and its contents were auctioned off, and I also think that the owner has also passed away. Tammy Louise Thayer purchased a couple of wall pictures, but the plate which I bid on went to someone else! (boo hoo) I don't know what will happen to the building, but I do know that it is on the National Historical Register. ~ Joyce

We hope you can find one of your sought after memorial plates, Joyce!!

Lineage: Clayton Elroy (Hollis Augustus[11], William Warren[10], Albert Augustus "Gus"[9], David Burgess[8], Sanford[7], Baruch[6], Ebenezer[5], Uriah[4], Ebenezer[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER.

(See also June 2003 Thayer Quarterly newsletter, page 16, for an earlier article on Thayer's Historic Bed and Breakfast in Annandale.)

B&B (Cont.)

basis as well. Besides being a welcoming and cozy inn, Thayer's also hosts ghost hunts, psychic readings, murder mystery dinners, and a paranormal package for two nights! The inn is even home to some ghost kitties! Here is what they have to say about their resident kitties from the other side. The Thayer Hotel is listed in Chad Lewis' Haunted Locations in Minnesota, and also Mitchell Whittington's A Ghost in My Suitcase. Both travel guides have some fun stories and great locations to visit. (From www.thingsthatgoboo.com/hauntedplaces/hauntedminnesota.htm) ***Hotel photos on p.27***

Thayer Opera House 'Vihicle City' the Battle of Bull Run Missing Pieces of a Mosaic Puzzel of Thayer Contributions

The production of carriages and wagons in the 20th century in Flint, Michigan earned it the nickname "Vehicle City." Flint first became a leader in the "horseless carriage" industry, and then the birthplace of General Motors.

On 27 November, I received the following query about the **Thayer Opera House** in Flint from Gary Flinn, columnist and author of Remembering Flint, Michigan:

I'm wondering if you are related to Herbert A. Thayer who ran Stone's Opera House and the short-lived Thayer's Opera House. I'm familiar with Stone's Opera House, but all I can find about Thayer's Opera House was that it operated in the 1890s and offered shows at more popular prices compared to the more upscale Stone's Opera House. I'm working on an article for Broadside about Shakespeare in Flint and Flint's earliest theaters. I'm the author of the book Remembering Flint, Michigan. Gary Flinn

In answer to Gary's question: I had never heard of the Thayer Opera House! In fact, I had never heard of the Stone Opera House. In my search for answers to Gary's query, however, I did find the following information:

Herbert Artemas Thayer, born 14 Sep 1854 in Flint, Genesee, MI, the son of Artemas THAYER and Mary Louise MILES. "Artemas Thayer was a prominent attorney at Flint and was noted as a builder, it being said that he erected more houses during his residence in the town than any other man during that period." (History of Genesee County Michigan Volume II, Her People, Industries and Institutions (Federal Publishing Company: Indianapolis, Indiana, 1916), Pages 192ff.)

Herbert Artemas Thayer died in Flint on 27 Aug 1899. He was only about 45 years old, and perhaps his early death may have been the reason for the brief operating time for the **Thayer Opera House**.

Herbert had 7 siblings, most of whom died young! Only 2 lived long enough to marry: His brother,

Edward Miles Thayer, who married Imogene STANLEY in Genesee County, MI in 1883; and his sister, **Mary Virginia Thayer**, who married Joseph Brush FENTON in 1874 in Flint. I have never found any children for **Edward Miles Thayer….**

(**NOTE**: History Columnist Gary Flinn's book about the halcyon days of Flint, *Remembering Flint, Michigan: Stories from the Vehicle City* (American Chronicles (History Press)) is available through Amazon.com.)

Below is additional biographical information from the *History of Genessee County, Michigan*… regarding **Herbert Artemas Thayer's sister, Mary Virginia (Thayer) Fenton** and her husband, Joseph Brush Fenton, as found on Find A Grave Memorial# 95810804.

From Headlight flashes along the Grand Trunk railway system; Flint, Michigan:

by Author Gary Flinn of Flint.

Stone's Opera House formerly known as Music Hall has always ranked as one of the very best opera houses in Michigan.

Recently it has undergone such extensive alterations and improvements that it is doubtful if there is a finer one in the state.

The building recently came into the possession of ex-Mayor Oreu Stone who takes a laudable pride in its beautification which has improved his other extensive real estate interests in that neighborhood

The building can accommodate over 1,200 people and was opened in 1883 by Emma Abbott and has ever since been run as a strictly high grade theatre.

Mr. Stone has associated with himself Mr. H.A. [Herbert Artemus] Thayer, who formerly for eleven years managed the building and whose many years' experience in the theatrical business will make him eminently qualified for the position.

Mr. Thayer is also the owner of Thayer's Opera House which was opened two years ago as a popular price theatre. It will seat 1,200, lighted by electricity, finest of modern seating, etc.

It will continue to be run as a popular price house in conjunction with Stone's Opera House, the two houses being under the one management of Stone & Thayer.

It is confidently expected that the union of the two houses will be of great benefit in a business point of view to not only the local management, but the theatrical managers booking with Stone & Thayer.

A digitized photo of the Interior of Thayer's Opera House as appears in the book Headlight flashes along the Grand Trunk railway system; Flint, Michigan, page 1841

Civil War Veteran Fights at Bull Run and Chantilly

by Edwin O. Wood

Joseph Brush Fenton, a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Fenton, Genesee County, Michigan, 28 June 1843. He was the son of Col. William M. and Adelaide S. (Birdsall) Fenton, who were born at Norwich, Chenango County, New York.

Joseph Brush Fenton was about four years old when his parents moved from Fenton to Flint, and in the latter city he grew to manhood. At the age of twelve he entered Professor Nutting's Academy at Lodi Plains, near Ann Arbor, and from there went to Madison University at Hamilton, New York. Upon completing the academic course in the latter institution he entered Cazenovia Seminary, Cazenovia, New York, where he was pursuing his studies when the Civil War broke out. He hastened home and enlisted in his father's regiment, the eighth Michigan, with which he served until honorably discharged in 1863 on account of disability due to wounds received in battle.

During his service he acted as aide-de-camp under his father, Colonel Fenton, and Gen. O. M. Poe, and rose to the rank of first lieutenant. He participated in numerous important engagements, including the battle of Bull Run, and at the battle of Chantilly, Virginia, received the wound which compelled his retirement from the service. After being wounded he was conveyed to Washington, where he was cared for in the house of Mr. Treadway, which afterwards was occupied by Mrs. Surratt, who was connected with the conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln. So serious was his injury that for nine weeks he lay without turning over.

After his convalescence he returned to his home in Flint, and presently engaged in the grocery and crockery business, his store being situated at the northeast corner of Saginaw and Kearsley streets. In the fall of 1867 Mr. Fenton took a trip through New Mexico and the Rocky Mountains region and finally settled at Wichita, Kansas, becoming one of the earliest settlers of that place, and there he lived until 1875.

In the summer of 1874 he returned to Flint and was married there, but straightway returned to Wichita. Upon his return to Flint the next year he made his permanent home there and has lived in that city ever since, his time being devoted to the general real estate business, in which he has been very successful. Mr. Fenton is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Mt. Morris Township, but has always made his home in town. He is a democrat and gives thoughtful attention to local political affairs, but has never been a seeker after public office.

On June 30, 1874, J. Brush Fenton was united in marriage to **Mary V. Thayer,** who was born in Flint, daughter of **Artemas and M. Louise (Miles)**

(Go to p26)

THAYER'S OPERA HOUSE

STONE & THAYER.....MANAGERS.

TUESDAY EVE'G, AUGUST 25,

THE YOUNG CHARACTER COMEDIAN,

J. C. LEWIS,

And his big Comedy Company, including

THE MONARCH OF THE MINSTREL WORLD,

FRANK E. McNISH,

The Famous Comedian and Dancer.

ROSE LELAND, FRANK FARRELL,
OTEY SHATTUCK, MINNIE BERNARD,
W. H. SNYDER, FRANK CAMP.

America's Greatest Soubrette,

Sadie Hasson,

and others in new and novel specialties.

Presenting the Laughable Rural Comedy,

"SI PLUNKARD."

SEE THE GREAT R. R. SCENE.
THE THRESHING MACHINE SCENE.
THE COUNTY FAIR SCENE.

LOOK OUT } For "SI" and his Country Band Parade.
For the Funniest Street Parade ever seen.

Admission—25, 35 and 50c. Reserved seats now on sale at Cook's Jewelry store.

TFA Member Gene and Jane Thayer Named Montana's Philanthropist of the Year - Award

Gene and Jane Thayer of Great Falls have been generous with their time and also by donating to worthy causes.

The Thayers recently received the outstanding philanthropist of the year award from the Montana chapter of the Association of Fund-raising Professionals.

It's well-deserved recognition for a genuinely nice couple concerned about the community. Thayer, president of a grain merchandising company he launched in 1972 called Montana Milling, served as mayor of Great Falls from 1980 to 1982, and as a state senator from Great Falls from 1985 to 1993. Jane and Gene Thayer have four children and five grandchildren.

Their involvement in worthy local projects has been remarkable. Gene, a member of the Benefis Foundation board of directors since 2010, has supported the hospital foundation for years, backing the Benefis Sletten Cancer Institute, a Healthcare Scholarships Program, the Angel Fund to help families with sick children, a Children's Bereavement Program and Gift of Life Housing Centers, which provide free housing to families of cancer patients.

Last year, Gene agreed to chair the foundation's campaign to expand Peace Hospice residential housing, an effort to raise $1.57 million to add eight patient rooms to the 12-unit hospice facility, where terminally ill patients receive special care.

The idea was to eliminate a waiting list for people seeking hospice care. Gene's passion for the project was underscored by time he spent at hospice when his sister-in-law, Clara, was there. Clara collected photographs of her nurses and volunteers and posted them on a bulletin board under the heading of "My Angels."

Gene and Jane Thayer shared the outstanding philanthropist of the year award given by the Montana chapter of the Association of Fund-raising Philanthropists. / Courtesy photo

"That's about as good a story as I can tell about the care she was receiving," Gene said.

Although the goal was ambitious, Benefits broke ground on the project in the fall with Gene and others working to raise an additional $300,000 to reach the goal, plus an additional $500,000 for an endowment to assist hospice operations.

By the end of the year, the campaign led by Gene had raised $2.1 million. Additional patients moved into Peace Hospice in July thanks to the project. Gene is also passionate about raising money for the family shelter at the Great Falls Rescue Mission.

"It's been my experience that the more I give, the more I receive," Gene says. "You can't make it any simpler than that."

In heartfelt remarks accepting the award, Thayer said he was especially proud of the effort to expand the hospice facility, which originally was built thanks to one anonymous donor who gave $7.1 million.

"I've been asked before: When does philanthropy begin?" Thayer told the crowd. "For me, it was the example set by my parents when I was a child growing up in an old miner's shack in Belt just east of Great Falls. We had no indoor plumbing, and, in the winter, the water we hauled would freeze thick in the basin overnight.

"My dad was known for helping anyone who needed help, and I will always remember my mom feeding the hobos who would jump off the trains passing through town and knock on our door. But what really jump-started my involvement in so many fund-raising efforts was surviving a bad rollover wreck several years ago coming back from a Bobcat game in Utah. Jane and I were 20 miles south of Butte in a heavy rainstorm when we hit black ice on top of a hill and went backwards off the slope ... Ever since then, I have believed that God spared me be-

Thayers' Giving Runs Deep in Great Falls

Benefits Foundation board member Gene Thayer speaks during an expansion dedication of Benefits Peace Hospice Residential Facility Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO/LARRY BECKNER

cause there must something else for me to do in this world."
Reprinted from GreatFallsTribune.com

Many thanks to the Thayers and people like them making Montana a better place. — Tribune editorial board

"I'd first like to thank my wife, Jane, and my son, Greg, and daughter, Janie Ward. There's a reason the new scoreboard at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman says Thayer Family Scoreboard. It's the family's inheritance that Jane and I are giving away."
— Gene Thayer in his recent acceptance speech

Gene's lineage: Eugene Byron (Byron Frise[10], Henry Ward[9], Hiram[8], Joseph[7], Timothy[6], Reuben[5], Joseph[4], Ephraim[3], Shadrach[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Rose M. SAUL. Gene is a member of the TFA.

NEWS FLASH!

Mandela Dies Today Dec.5

Nelson Mandela *dies at the age of 95 leaving the world in a better place than when he was born and living in a small South African village.*

Few individuals have shown mankind how to live in peace together, Nelson Mandela was one. He will always be a symbol of hope and now belongs to the world.

Born in 1918 and named by his mother as 'trouble maker' in her African dialect, Mandela had every reason, after seeing 17 young men gunned down in the street, of pursuing a life of anger and hate. However, being thrown in prison for 27 years provided him time to consider a different path which, when released at the age of 71, made the world take notice. After being elected the first black African President of South Africa, instead of excluding whites for all that had happened, he included them in all aspects of his new government.

The world gave him the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts and example.

Side Note...

It was during those 27 years in jail while I was speaking with his wife on the phone that gun shots rang out from the street below. She explained that friends were being fired at as they were trying to reach her. At the time, she was attempting to raise money for their cause while her husband was behind bars. She never gave up hope.

Don Muno editor

Hereditary Societies and Colorful Uniforms Empower Descendants and Link Participants with Ancestors

Verne Louis Thayer, Milford, MA

This photo of me was done at a Photographer's group or club in Framingham, MA. I was attending an information booth for the **Sons of the American Revolution** at a reenactment put on by the Sudbury Militia (Re-enactor's group).

A member of the Photographer's group came by and asked if I would be willing to come to their meeting as a subject. So I did, and as it turned out, I was there with other people dressed in different periods. This picture is of me in my Color Guard Uniform.

I am a member of the **Sons of the American Revolution in MA; much like the Daughters of the American Revolution**. It is a lineal society where you must prove your heritage to a patriot who fought or gave service to the cause of the Revolution.

Besides being in the Color Guard, I'm also a Chapter President, Asst. Secretary, and Membership Chairman. (Once they find out that your retired, look out!)

The above uniform is from Col. Knox's uniform before Gen. Washington gave the order that all officers' uniforms had to be blue & buff. Before that an officer could have any uniform that he wanted, or could afford.

Gen. Knox (or Col. Knox at the time of 1775) was the man who went to Fort Ticonderoga in N.Y. and brought back x-drawn sled 60 tons of cannons and other armaments across some 300 miles (480 km) of ice-covered rivers and snow-draped Berkshire Mountains to the Boston siege camps.

I'm very fortunate to have such a rich family history. I have about 18 or more ancestors who were part of the Revolutionary War. One of them is my Great grandfather Edward March Thayer who you printed an article on my replacing his Headstone in Conway, Massachusetts, back in 2011. Another is Gen. John Whitcomb.

The Color Guard does not do reenactments. We march in parades for Patriots Day, Memorial Day, 4th July, and for Towns that have their anniversary - like 250, 300, years. We perform grave side ceremony for Revolutionary Solders.

I've been to schools and Cub Scouts giving presentation about the Revolutionary War. I've also presented over 60 certificates to scouts who become Eagle Scouts, Plus many more Certificates of Appreciation, War Service, ROTC grads. and Good Citizenship.

I've been a member sense 2010. Actually there are many Thayers that are probably eligible to join. I would dare say that all Thayers would be eligible to be members of many Societies. Such as Colonial Wars, Founders of Massachusetts, Founders of America, and more.

This web site will give more detail about our Color Guard: http://massar.org/about-us/color-guard/ And this is the Photo Gallery site: http://massar.org/gallery/

And this will give you more information about the SAR. http://web.massar.org/about-us/

On my uniform I wear a red sash. Do you know what that is for? That was your own personal stretcher. They would open it up and roll you on it. Then two men would carry you.

Some of the old sayings of the Colonial Times that are still with us today:

The term "Lock ,Stock & Barrel" refers to the Musket.

"Just a flash in the pan," refers to the spark from the flint, that fires the powder in the pan, that ignites the gun powder in the barrel.

If the gun doesn't fire - it's just a flash in the pan.

"Half Cocked," refers to the gun not pulled all the way back. There was two steps to be full cocked ready to fire. The gun wouldn't fire if it was only pulled back one step. Something like a safety feature.

The shirts that they wore were long, almost down to their knees. It served two purposes. One it served as a night shirt to sleep in; and two, it was also their underwear.

The coat is made of wool. And

The above photo is from a picture that I took a few years ago at a Revolutionary War re-enactment. There was so much smoke from the guns and canons that it had a fog/mystic air about it. The re-enactment was very well done and the battle lasted for over 40 minutes, the longest that I have seen so far. Unfortunately, that was the last year that they did it. There are other re-enactments, though, that are quite good.

many a solder on both side collapsed from heat exhaustion. Plus the style back then had the sleeves small or tight on ones arm. Not helping in being flexible for combat.

The facing on the Color Guard Coats is red. Red is the color used for the Artillery. Much like today.

On the Army dress uniform, the rank on the shoulder is on a colored background. Red would be Artillery. Blue - Infantry. Yellow - Calvary.

So, now that I'm retired, my efforts are into my family genealogy. I am a member of Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution Society, Mayflower Descendants Society, Descendants of the Colonial Clergy, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Thayer Families Association, Bloodlines of Salem, Mendon Massachusetts Historical Society, Friends of Adin Ballou & Descendant Society, and of the Stukley Westcott Descendants.

My sister Shirley Elizabeth (Thayer) Carey, has done our genealogy for some 50 years, and it is through her work that I am able to join these different societies.

There are about 45-50 different hereditary societies. I'm in the process of joining the Founders and Patriots. Down the road I plan on joining some old world societies, like Signers of the Magna Carter, Descendants of Royalty, Knights of the Crusades, Descendants of Charlemagne and many more. But it takes a lot of time and money, so I just chip away at it as I go.

A good website that lists all the different societies is: http://www.hereditary.us. I use Ancestry a lot as a tool. Using Ancestry is how I found out that I had an Aunt that was hung as a witch in Salem on Sept. 22, 1692. She was Mary Ayer Parker, Ayer being on my paternal grandmother's side.

Everyone on my father's side has been here before 1680, and I have 3 ancestors that came on the Mayflower.

I have a very good friend who has just as much history as I do. We often go to the old cemeteries looking for our ancestors. Many of them settled the towns in MA, but many of them have no headstones because of their age. There aren't many headstones around from the 1600's and early 1700.

My son, who has his Masters in History, has no interest in our own family history. I try to tell him that you can't buy this - you either have it or you don't.

It doesn't matter how smart, good looking or how much money you have. His answer: "Dad, that history won't even get you a coffee down at the coffee shop." Can you believe it? I told him, "I don't do it for the coffee"!

The reason that I want to join all these different societies is to have our family registered with them. Then, down the road, should someone in the family tree want to join or verify information, they would only have to hook up to myself.

So in that quest, I am working on a Wall of Honor, where I hang the Certificates from the different Hereditary Societies. I don't smoke, drink very little, and I don't play golf. So, this is my outlet!

I also forgot to mention that I'm active the Boys Scouts and my Church, so, very little time to get into trouble!

Verne's lineage: Verne Louis (Elton Verne[9], Vernie Seigal[8], Salem Trow[7], Edward[6], Edward March[5], Edward[4-3], William[2], Nathaniel[1]) THAYER and Margaret BEDARD.

Kick-off Event Raised $350,000 for New Brig. General James B. Thayer Military Museum

Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for KISS stands on stage with his father retired Brigadier General James B. Thayer (SDF), and brothers, Mike Thayer, John Thayer, and Jim Thayer, at the All Star Salute at the Oregon Golf Club on May 18, 2012. The event raised $350,000.

The Beginning...

"This is what we need in this state, something to be proud of and the Oregon Military Museum is it," said Brigadier General James B. Thayer.

On June 14, 2012, General Thayer was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Oregon National Guard Executive Briefing hosted by Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. The event was held at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon.

Guests included Major General Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, Governor John Kitzhaber, former Governor Ted Kulongoski and Governor Vic Atiyeh, and Oregon native and former Miss America, Katie Harmon.

The Oregon Military Museum will be the centerpiece of the new Oregon Military Heritage Park at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, home of the Oregon National Guard's 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Funds raised will be used for facilities upgrades, including proper museum lighting, fire safety, environmental controls and security system improvements. Professional exhibits include a vault which showcases one of the largest weapons collections west of the Mississippi.

November 2013... Preliminary site work was started and $4.5 of 6.5 Million Now Raised

Wendy Culverwell
Staff reporter-
Portland Business Journal

Visit with TFA Founder

November Trip Finds General Thayer at Home

Minor surgery kept Gen. Thayer at home and available for a wonderful visit for Pat and myself just before Veterans Day. Recovering from minor surgery, Gen. Thayer chose a quiet celebration at home.

He had turned down a black tie dinner and a prominent place on the veteran's float in New York's celebration of our heroic veterans. In his absence, another serviceman carried a large picture of him and sat on the float in his place,

During our visit we reflected on TFA's history and past year's activities. In that Pat and I had not lived in Oregon for the past 12 years, we had some catch-up to do.

His four sons, pictured on the opposite page, came together to support their Dad and participate in fund-raising for Oregon's new museum dedicated to their father. Each of his boys have successful businesses and careers which obviously is a credit to his life's work.

We left with a fine bottle of wine from his son's Oregon vineyard and promises to stay in touch. Pat's research and publication schedule places Gen. Thayer's family in one of the Comprehensive's last publications. It remains a constant reminder of the life-long dedication Patricia has been committed for these many years.

Shown above '92 years young' TFA founder Brig. General James Thayer stands with Editor Don Muno in Front of TFA trophy presented at the 2006 Reunion held in Salt Lake City. The TFA plaque is surrounded by Presidential awards honoring a Life of Dedication and Service to America. They now hang on his office wall in Lake Oswego, Oregon, General Thayer's many awards will one day be moved to the New **Brigadier General James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum** at Camp Withycombe Oregon.

With Veterans Day just around the corner, it's fitting that preliminary site work has started at the future home of the Brigadier General James B. Thayer" James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, OR.

The Historical Outreach Foundation has raised $4.5 million toward the $6.5 million project, designed to celebrate Oregon's military heritage, from the Lewis & Clark expedition and Indian Wars to modern day campaigns.

To highlight the museum and the 14,000 artifacts already in its collection, Camp Withycombe held its annual Veterans Day open house at the camp, which is at 15300 S.W. Minuteman Way, off Highway 205 at Highway 211/212.

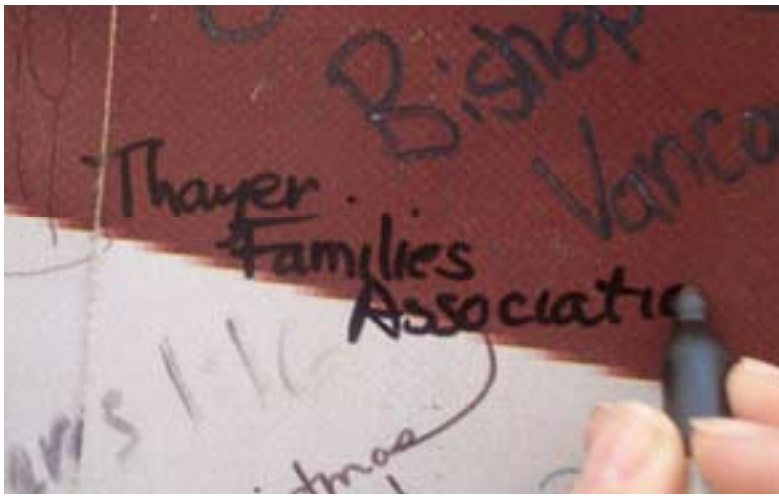
The day's events included a chance to visit with veterans from World War II to Afghanistan and Iraq and demonstrations of the museum's newest initiative, a database project that aims to capture the histories of Oregon veterans. There was a fly-by and other exhibits.

THA Architects are designing the museum; Precision Construction will build it. Backers hope to open the museum in 2014.

The Thayer Museum will replace a now-demolished building, which was torn down earlier this year so the Department of Defense could build a new center to house Portland's army guard and reserve units at Withycombe.

The museum is named to honor Oregon native Brig. Gen James B. Thayer". His many accomplishments include participating in liberating concentration camps in the closing days of World War II. His son, Kiss lead guitarist Tommy Thayer, is leading the capital campaign.

Merry Christmas to All



Patricia and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Thayers and TFA members from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean and all points around the globe a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This past year Patricia made a number of new Thayer connections as the family tree continues to grow. The family newsletter has allowed us to join forces and introduce readers to other Thayers who have made many contributions both past and present. 2014 should be a year filled with hope and anticipation for better things to come. God Bless each of you. Help us to record your accomplishments and family histories in the Comprehensive and Quarterly.

Our White House Christmas tree was cut and sent from the Colville National Forest in the state of Washington on the west coast to Washington DC and stopped briefly at the Junction in Ogden, Utah during Veteran's Day celebrations. The brief stop allowed people to sign the sides of the truck before it continued on its journey. Patricia signed Thayer Family Association on the right side of the truck.

The last 10 feet of the truck is glass allowing the tree's Christmas lights which are lit and can be seen as the truck travels down the highway.

Author & Editor Tag White House Christmas Tree Truck

Historian's Report (Dec 2013)

While renewing your TFA membership, why not buy a membership as last Christmas gift for someone else? Recently, I went on to Facebook and sent out a number of "Friend Requests" to other Thayers throughout the country. An astonishing 68 individuals accepted my request, making it possible for me to sing to them the praises of the TFA. A number of these folks have joined us in the TFA!

Also, we are still in need of help with our TFA web site. If you would like to contribute, please contact us!

Left: Historian Patricia Thayer Muno

Left: Editor Don Muno

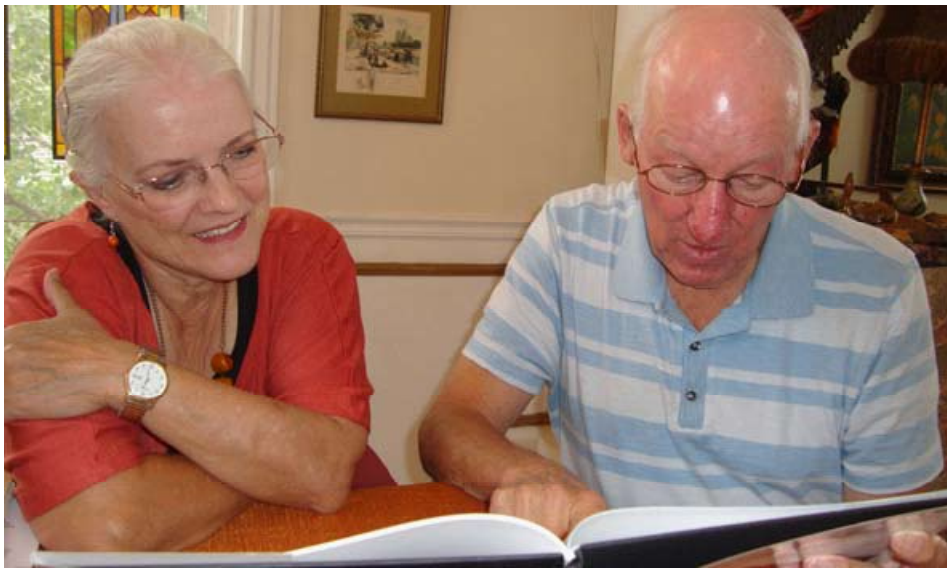
Arnold Thayer's Visit Reveals Earliest Ancestor Born 1706 in England - Family Remains UNPLACED

On September twenty-fifth we had a lovely visit to our home here in North Ogden, Utah from fellow Thayer family member and Utahn, Arnold Ambrose Thayer of Taylorsville, Utah.

Arnold's line of Thayers, as well as my own, are placed in a grouping of what I call "UNPLACED" Thayers --- **meaning our connection to one of the three Colonial Immigrating Thayers has not been established.** Arnold's earliest known ancestor is George Thayer , born about 1706, presumably in England, and his wife, Catherine GRAVES, born about 1720 in Richmond, Rappahannock, VA. George died about January 1774 (of) Prince William County, Virginia, and his wife died there in January 1785. The couple was married 6 Nov 1748 in the St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in Joppa, Baltimore, MD.

From Genealogical and Personal History of Northern Pennsylvania (1913): "....The Thayer family of Virginia, located near Warrenton, Warren county, VA, were planters. As the numbers increased the younger sons sought other counties and states, and thus were many of the name scattered throughout the Union."

Arnold's lineage: Arnold Ambrose (William Norman[5], James Madison[4], Albert Gallitin[3], William[2], George[1]) THAYER and Catherne GRAVES.
NOTE: This line of Thayers will be published in Volume X (10) of my Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America. Arnold Ambrose Thayer may be contacted at: ThayerAR@hotmail.com. Arnold's son, Kevin Lynn Thayer, serves as one of my Family Representative for the descendants of George Thayer and Catherine Graves. If you would like to share notes with him, you may contact him at kevin.thayer47@yahoo.com. Also as a Family Representative in this line of Thayers is Tim Kreh of Culpepper, VA. Contact Tim at: krehztim@yahoo.com



A Visit & Note from Arnold: ***It was such a pleasure to meet you and spend a few hours getting better acquainted with you and your work. I was totally awestruck by the amount of time, effort and research that you have put forth in compiling and publishing the several volumes of Thayer family genealogy . . . a magnanimous effort to say the least. I was also very impressed by the craftsmanship Don has demonstrated in the finish work on your beautiful home and yard. I will be putting together an article and some photos about my Thayer ancestry and my own life story, in brief... Thank you for the lovely dinner and for the opportunity to get to know you personally. Arnold (27 Sep 2013)***

From Farm to Strategic Air Command

By Arnold Ambrose Thayer
Taylorsville, UT

My entrance into this world occurred on October 25, 1933, at the home of my [maternal] grandmother, Betsey Jane (Adams) Davis, who resided on Powers Road in the town of Binghamton, Broome County, New York. I was the second (and last) of two children born to my parents, Rajahia Elmassain (Peters) and Howard Ambrose Thayer.

The 56-acre Davis farm was to be my home for the next 17+ years. It was from there that my sister Evelyn (three years my senior) and I would walk the mile and a half to and from school every day from the first through the ninth grades at Benjamin Franklin Jr. High School located on Conklin Avenue in the city of Binghamton.

Life on a farm presents many hazards – some man-made and others occurring naturally – which pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of children as they grow from infancy through adolescence and teenage years. I experienced numerous minor wounds from such objects as barbed wire, rusty nails pitchforks and broken glass. One of the most memorable of these occurred at about age three when I fell and impaled my right hand on a rusty nail protruding from a board lying on the ground. After freeing my hand from the nail, my mother took me to the doctor who tended the wound and gave me my first of several tetanus shots that I was to receive during my tenure on the farm.

I couldn't have been much more than four years of age when my sister awakened me one morning to a bedroom filled with smoke. She led me over to the window which was open slightly and lifted me up so that I could breathe some fresh air. Then we went downstairs, coughing and choking, to alert our parents to the problem.

The buildup of soot in the chimney from the wood-burning stove in the kitchen had caught fire and the flames were roaring upward, spewing smoke throughout the upstairs bedrooms. A potential catastrophe was averted by the quick action of our next-door neighbor who came with fire-extinguishing equipment and doused the blaze before it could ignite the house itself.

A place of residence could not properly be called a 'farm' without some form of domestic animal life, and Grandma's place was no exception. There was always a milk cow or two, horses, chickens and sometimes geese, rabbits or pigs. We typically had an ample supply of milk, butter, cottage cheese and eggs as well as freshly dressed poultry. One of the favorite animals was a gentle mare named Dolly upon whose back Grandma would often place me and lead the horse around to give me the enjoyment of a brief ride. On one such occasion when

I was six years of age, my cousin Jeannie whacked Dolly on the rear end with a tree branch and the horse took off on a gallop. Before we had gone far, I fell off and landed on a pile of rocks, knocking out four of my top front teeth.

Probably my closest brush with death came at age eight in the form of a sledding accident where I collided head-on with a pickup truck coming up the highway. Although the sled was totally destroyed, I received only relatively minor injuries but still spent 8 days in the hospital (including Christmas).

Misfortune was my lot again at age eleven when I tipped a pan of boiling water on myself, inflicting second and third degree burns on my left arm and shoulder. I spent eleven days in the hospital and the burns healed without leaving any scars. At age fourteen I escaped possible serious injury once again in a romp on a runaway work horse named Charlie.

Looking back at my childhood and adolescence I have to say that if we have guarding angels looking out for us, I certainly kept mine busy.

Following the nine years of schooling at Ben Franklin, I continued my education at North Senior High School in Binghamton, graduating from there in June 1951. A major change in my life occurred in July of that same year when my mother, stepfather and I moved from Grandma's farm to establish residency in the West. As a 17-year old with little experience behind the wheel, I was entrusted with the weighty responsibility of driving my stepfather's 1947 Dodge the entire 2600 miles from New York to Utah by way of Arizona while he drove an old school bus loaded with our household goods and my mother drove her car.

We settled near Logan, Utah and in September I commenced my freshman year at Utah State Agricultural College (later to become Utah State University). On December 23, 1953 I was called to serve a religious mission in Australia and departed from Los Angeles the following February aboard the S. S. Sierra, a Matson Lines freighter, for the 23-day voyage to the 'land down under'. I fulfilled that assignment in March 1956 and returned to Logan where I completed my senior year at Utah State in December 1957.

For the duration of my college years I was enrolled in the AFROTC program and upon graduation received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force Reserves. I was called to active duty in March 1958 and assigned to a unit of the Strategic Air Command located at Forbes Air Force Base near Topeka, Kansas where I served as the Assistant Base Information Officer until my release from active status in March 1960. My reserve commitment was fulfilled in 1971 when I was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

Upon returning to Utah in March 1960 I was employed for a few months by New York Life Insurance Company in Salt Lake City before accepting a position with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Logan, Utah working with Dr. Cyril W. Lauritzen in the

My parents, Howard Ambrose Thayer (1896/1898-1963) and wife Rajahia Elmassian Peters (1906-2002)

Agricultural Research Services division. Our office was located on the campus of Utah State University where I subsequently made the acquaintance of Dr. Doran J. Baker, head of the Electro-Dynamics Laboratories in the School of Engineering and was later hired as a Research Journalist with that organization.

In my free time I performed as a member of a vocal foursome and on June 21, 1963, I married Karen Bouwhuis who was the lead singer of the group. Our family grew to five with the births of three children: Kevin (1964), Tiffany (1967) and Holli (1969). Although Karen and I were divorced in late 1973, I am still on friendly terms with her and have maintained close contact with the children.

In March 1976 I became engaged to Ilene (Ward) Lowry and we married on May 14, 1976 and settled in North Logan with her three sons from her first marriage, Lee, Paul and Dale. Our union was blessed with two beautiful children, Laurie Kaye (1977) and David Arnold (1978). At the time I met Ilene, I was the founder and sole proprietor of a business engaged in the sale of medical compliance products to the wholesale drug industry. In 1981 my company was purchased by the Denver-based Baxa Medical Corp. who hired me as their National Sales Director and moved our family to Littleton, Colorado a Denver suburb.

In keeping with the old adage, 'nothing is as constant as change,' I eventually parted company with Baxa and founded Healthcore International. Underfunded and perhaps ill-timed, this venture ultimately failed and I was forced into bankruptcy. This event marked the beginning of an extended period of economic and marital instability which, in retrospect, I view as my 'mid-life' crises. The family returned to Utah in mid-1987 and in April 1991 Ilene and I quietly and peacefully divorced and went our separate ways.

I continued to experience employment uncertainty and financial woes until August 1996 when I was hired as a telephone customer service representative for First Security bank. This institution was purchased in 2000 by Wells Fargo Bank and I was upgraded to an online banking customer service rep with that institution. My employment was interrupted temporarily in April 2002 by a serious heart attack which resulted in bypass surgery and a nearly three month recovery period after which I resumed my duties with Wells Fargo until my retirement on August 8, 2008, just over two months prior to my 75th birthday.

For the past five years since my retirement I have resided in the West Valley suburb of Salt Lake City. With no serious health issues, I enjoy my favorite past-times of fishing and photography and have done volunteer English language tutoring at the nearby grade school for the past two school years. Four of my five children, along with 14 grandchildren, reside here in Utah. My youngest son David, his wife Rena, and their four children reside in Irvine, California where he recently completed his medical doctor's degree. One grandson and my only great-grandson live in Colorado.

My grandparents, William Norman Thayer (1870-1913) and Marietta Eilenberger (1876-1960)

The Reluctant Student Who Didn't want to Stay in Kindergarten Remained for 47 years

By John Howard Thayer

At the risk of being boring, I would like to tell you the story of a boy who disliked school.

I was born in 1942 and, following World War II, grew up in a wonderful era that included the introduction of "rock and roll" music, along with an explosive growth in educational opportunities.

I began my formal education in 1947 in Kindergarten at Jay St. School in Rome, N.Y. My teacher was Miss Bowen who was a wonderful and loving teacher. On my first day in school, we were introduced to playing in the "sand box", finger painting, playing house, taking naps, and listening to the teacher read stories.
That evening my mother received a telephone call at home from Miss Bowen. She had the sad task of telling my mother that I had informed her during my first day's education that I would not be back for the second day! Boy was I wrong!

We move on to secondary school where I was placed in the top New York State Regent's classes. I still thoroughly disliked school except for athletics and girls. Surprisingly, I managed to graduate with a New York State Regent's Diploma in the spring of 1960. Oh! I also became a member of the National Honor Society.

I started my first year of college in the fall of 1960 at the State University at Cortland (recent New York Jets summer training camp site) and majored in Physical Education. This was after my high school counselor had taken the time to inform that my academic record suggested that I should not waste my time applying to Cortland because that college would not accept me, and that I should not go into a program that included science. She failed to recognize that my lack of studying, not my lack of intelligence, had been to blame for some low test grades.

I initially felt like a duck out of water during my first college semester and felt overwhelmed by courses that included Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Zoology, Kinesiology, Chemistry and Physics, and instructors unlike anything that I had encountered in the past. However, I earned respectable grades and was named to "Who's Who in Colleges and Universities," my last semester. I had also become a student Resident Assistant that last year as well.

After earning my B.S degree in the spring of 1964, I applied to and was accepted into Albany University's M.S. Personnel in Higher Education program. I completed my M.S. degree in summer of 1965 after two summers of study at Albany and one full academic year's internship at the State University College at Oneonta for the 1964-65 academic years where I functioned as Assistant Director of a men's residence hall. I also took graduate courses while attending Oneonta.

I landed my professional job as an Admissions Assistant in September 1965 at the State University Agricultural and Technical College at Farmingdale, Long Island. What a new experience! My eleven mile automobile route to work and back took almost 45 minutes each way. In addition to Admissions, I also was appointed to learn the Registrar's job and to act as his backup if need be. This allowed me to spend time in the Administration Building where I was able to rub elbows with, and periodically eat lunch with, the Registrar, Assistant to the President and the Vice-President of the College.

One day, I was called into the Office of the Vice President who told me that he knew a person who had just been hired as the president of a community college that was being started in Herkimer County, located in Upstate New York. I am originally from neighboring Oneida County. He inquired as to whether or not I would be interested in considering a position as Admissions Officer in this new academic endeavor. I asked him the name of the person who had been appointed as president by SUNY Central and he told me that he was the one who had been hired by the new HCCC Board of Trustees to do the job. He had the reputation of being a very tough minded administrator, which initially gave me food for thought. Additionally, this move was risky because my career had just begun, there was no college, and there were no students. I was newly married with a young family. In addition, another community college did exist in the neighboring county and ultimately ended up being located only fifteen miles from our campus. Realistically, there was no logical reason to locate another community college in that region of the State. The secondary school population was very small in the County as well.

The plus was that we would be moving back to Central New York where our families resided. I knew that my wife at the time did not like the fast pace of Long Island, so I acknowledged my interest. I was hired to start my new job on January 16 of 1967. What have I done?

I arrived in Herkimer on January 16, 1967. Prior to that date, I had flown up to the Utica area and found a nice home in Whitesboro, N.Y. that I purchased and assumed the prior owner's VA mortgage, low rate and all. A very lucky beginning!

I arrived at the Herkimer County Office Building on my first day and discovered that that Herkimer County Community College consisted of one room in the basement of the County Office Building. The room housed the President, his secretary, the Business Officer, and me. Much confidential information was being discussed regarding the possible location of a temporary, and then a new campus by frequent political drop-ins that we should not have been privy to. A couple of days later, the Business Officer, his secretary, the new Dean of the College, and I were moved to a second room that had previously been the building's coffee room. It also was the area where all of the County's "Bastard files" were housed.

The initial college classes were scheduled to begin in September of 67. Again, what had I gotten myself into? We had no building(s), no faculty, no classrooms, no students and just a handful of admission applications. One student had misspelled his own first name (as time went by, I realized that this may have been a sign that he was dyslexic). I was now expected to perform the multiple jobs of Admissions Officer, College Registrar, Counselor, Financial Aids Officer, and Public Relations Officer. Additionally, I performed duties as the head of intramural sports and later played guard on the faculty basketball team.

I quickly established a high school visitation program and went on multiple high school visits. Believe it or not, during that time period I even typed my own office correspondence, acceptance letters, etc. myself, and I couldn't type. Thank God for the advent of IBM Selectric typewriters

It was decided that temporary facilities for the college were to be located in Ilion, N.Y. on the second floor of a semi vacant Remington Arms building. Classrooms had to be constructed and painted, the Library had to be established, and everyone was expected to pitch in and help. That included the initial dozen or so faculty members. I actually drove a large U-Haul-It truck to a SUNY Ag. And Tech College located in Cobleskill, N.Y. where I picked up a truckload of surplus classroom desks and chairs

We registered the first class of 121 full-time and 101 Part-Time students in the

fall, 1967semester. Not a large number, but an adequate start. During that first year, I conducted a contest/vote to choose the college colors. I did everything that I could to rig the vote in favor of red, white and blue as the colors. After all, we were named after General Nicholas Herkimer, a Revolutionary War hero. My plan didn't work and the official college colors became green and gold.

Our offices survived several moves from building to building until the newly constructed campus, located in Herkimer, N.Y., was opened for the fall 1971 semester on a beautiful 600 acre campus that overlooks the scenic Mohawk Valley.

I served as Director of Admissions through 1991. At that time, I became Acting Dean of Students until a new dean was found. I was then named Assistant to the Dean of Students and Director of Counseling Services even though I did little in regards to the latter. I was second in command of a group of 40 professional and staff persons that now included Campus Safety as well. My biggest and most busy job was functioning as Judicial Affairs Officer. I worked hand in hand with the Director of Safety, students, law enforcement and the local court system. I set up and managed the college disciplinary system and thoroughly enjoyed that part of my professional career.

In 1995, the boy who didn't want to stay in Kindergarten had completed his 47th year of being in school. *By that time, I was ready to retire and spend some time up on the St. Lawrence River. I retired from full-time employment at the end of that semester.*

In the fall of 2009, I received the Herkimer County Community College's Torchbearer's Award. This award had only been given to eighteen persons over forty years at the time. I had served as a full-time professional employee from January of 1967 through May of 1995, and was only the fourth administrator to receive this honor.

The Torchbearer Award is considered to be the College's highest honor, and is presented every five years to recognize individuals whose contributions to HCCC have had a significant and lasting impact on the college. Particular attention is given to those whose contributions were made in the first twenty years of HCCC's history (1966–1986). Torchbearer Award recepients must have been retired from full-time service from the college for at least five years, and must have been awarded emeriti status at the time of their retirement

The following words are on the plaque that now hangs in the HCCC Robert McLaughlin College Center.

"For his dedication in fulfilling a broad spectrum of roles crucial for the start-up of Herkimer County Community College.

Mr. Thayer was a founding member of the College's Student Service's Professional staff. As director of Admissions, he recruited the opening class of 221 full-time and 101 part-time students in the fall of 1967 on short notice and under challenging circumstances, such as the uncertain availability of locations and facilities for classes to be held in. In addition to being Director of Admissions, Mr. Thayer initially also served as the College's Registrar and Director of Counseling, Financial Aid and Public Relations. He also oversaw intramural sports at the College. John Thayer will always be remembered for the vital roles he played in the founding and growth of Herkimer County Community College."

Postscript: Herkimer County Community College now ranks in the Top 100 Community Colleges for Student Success according to CNNMoney and the College unbelievably graduated its 20,000th student this past spring 2013 semester. In addition, since the fall of 1967, my small community college with no chance to succeed in 1967, has won 43 NJCCA National Championship titles in a multitude of both men's and woman's sports. And to think, I purchased the first bag of softballs, bats and catcher's glove for the Intramural sports program.

I am proud of my accomplishments and glad that the Reluctant Student decided to return to Jay St. School for his second day. Thank you Mom and thank you Miss Bowen, may she rest in peace. *JHT*

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Patricia's Mailbox

'FindAGrave' Are Efforts of Marcus Carl Thayer

Our Thanks to YOU, Marc, for making this a reality for us all!

Thayers all across the nation owe a debt of gratitude to Marcus Carl Thayer of Marietta, GA for his dedication and laborious efforts in building memorials for so many of our deceased Thayer ancestors on the popular web site FindAGrave.com.

I was recently reminded of just how labor intensive this can be when I attempted building memorials for some of my non-Thayer ancestors.

Additionally, because he is so prominently "visible" due to his works, Marc often receives queries from all kinds of individuals and from far and wide. I have been privileged to be included in some of these on-line conversations.

Most recently Marc received a query about one Mabel Louise (Baker) Thayer (1867-1946), who was the wife of Francis Smith Thayer. Her grave stone could not be found by the inquirer, but with persistence, "Gail" finally found her stone under a large plant in the Union Cemetery in North Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island and vowed to clean it off better.

States Marc: "Take a look at the tombstone photo. This is just an example of what may have been lost to the ages. Makes you wonder how many are, indeed, Lost. Every documented record means something in preserving a piece of [our] Thayer family history."

Mosaic Puzzel of Thayer Contributions *(Cont. from page 13)*

Thayer, natives of New York state, the latter "Mayflower" descent, and early settlers in Flint, where their last days were spent. of New York

Artemas Thayer was a prominent attorney at Flint and was noted as a builder, it being said that he erected more houses during his residence in the town than any other man during that period. He and his wife were the parents of five children, Floy, Paris, Mary V., Edward M., and Herbert A.

To J. Brush and **Mary V. (Thayer) Fenton,** four children were born, as follow: Adelaide, who died at the age of nine years; Mary L., who married Donald M. McCall, of Muskegon, Michigan and has two children, Donald F., and William T.; Virginia B., who married William H. Davison, of Flint, and died in 1915, leaving two children, daughters, **Mary Thayer,** and Louise Richmond; and Louise T., who married Fritz R. Miller of Flint and has two children, William Fenton and Virginia Frances.

Mr. And Mrs. Fenton also reared another girl child, Mary Louis, now the wife of James Martin, cashier of the Genesee County Bank at Flint. Mrs. Fenton died in November 1912, at the age of sixty-one years. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Fenton is an attendant. Mr. Fenton is a member of the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and is a member of Governor Crapo Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of both patriotic organizations he takes a warm interest.

This article was transcribed by Mrs. Mary E. Byam from a work by Edwin O. Wood, LL.D., President Michigan Historical Commission, History of Genesee County Michigan Volume II, Her People, Industries and Institutions (Federal Publishing Company: Indianapolis, Indiana, 1916) P 192ff

“Haunted” Thayer Hotel Photos Story page 10 &11



Thayer Families Association
Annual Dues, New Member & Member Renewal Form

Now Due!

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

Please Join Us

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

Please enter desired options:

Annual Dues: $20.00 Single Membership:_____ Renewal:_____
Annual Dues: $30.00 Family Membership:_____ Renewal:_____

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

First member name:_____
Second family member name:_____
Number of years desired:_____ X Appropriate Annual Fee ($20 or $30) = Total:_____

Your Full Name(s) and Birth Dates:_____
Mailing Address: Number & Street:_____
City, State:_____

Country, ZIP/Postal Code:_____

Telephone numbers optional: _____

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For all official business with the TFA, please write the
Secretary, Donald Wayne Thayer:
785 Williams Street #303
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For genealogical queries, or to find a Family Representative of a particular family, please write:

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