Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

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President's Message

2015: A Time for Families & Giving

We came to that special time of year, Christmas and New Year, with so much anticipation and expectation. This year is in many ways not unlike those holiday times in our past. We hope to be with family, we share a meal, most usually, and we pray that the world will find peace and our neighbors discover joy this season.

For the Thayer Families Association, in addition, our anticipation and expectation draws us in the direction of our 2016 Reunion which will be at West Point Military Academy. The committee is planning for a great time for cousins during which we will have some special events.

Also, we mark the coming of our Savior in our churches and in many of our hearts. Yes, it is a magical and blessed time of year. I hope you will experience that wonderful spirit of Christmas that electrifies the human spirit and makes much of our lives worth living.

Peace, love and joy,
William R. Thayer,
President Thayer Families Association

Get a Head Start 2016

Next Reunion Returns Thayer Families to West Point Accademy

Plan now for Thayer Family Reunion 2016!! Thayer Families Association Reunion 2016 July 1-4, at West Point, NY.

Rooms available at The Thayer Hotel

Check in Friday July 1, 2016 - Saturday - Sunday - check out Monday, July 4 (optional bus trip to NYC for the 4th of July)

Call in to make your reservation under "Thayer Families Reunion 2016" at 845.446.4731

–25 rooms will be available at $106 plus $11.95 facility fee plus tax until May 15, 2016, or until the room block has been filled

–rooms booked after May 15, 2016, or after the first 25 rooms at the special rate, will be available at $222 plus $11.95 facilities fee + tax

A military rate may be available (currently $106). If you have a military i.d., be sure to inquire if you qualify.

Make your plans now! More information will follow.

Marilyn and Robert James suggest: Why not give a Reunion Hotel Package as a

Why not give a Reunion Hotel Package as a gift to a fellow Thayer family member or someone who might otherwise be unable to attend?

Inside:

Hinting Feature New To Family Search Program

FamilySearch Announces Release of Hinting Feature

"FamilySearch released a feature called 'hinting,'" according to David Green, FamilySearch spokesperson. It sounds exactly like Ancestry.com "shaky leaf" hints.

FamilySearch's software is busy comparing all its indexed historical records to people in Family Tree. "When you go to an ancestor's page we will show you what we have found just for that person amongst our vast collections of records," wrote Green.

Users are concerned about false matches by hinting systems. New users of Ancestry.com's hinting feature have been known to accept hints indiscriminately. FamilySearch has said it will only show high quality matches. But hints are only as good as the information in the tree. Entering information about your ancestors and keeping it correct and up-to-date enables the hinting system to return good hints.

West Point Welcome

Memories for Thayer Descendants Await Participants at Thayer Hotel & West Point

Early registration can secure lower rates and a Thayer Hotel room where guests will be treated to Historical Thayer Hotel Accomodations that are as unique an Experience as West Point Itself. The photo shows the Views of River and famous West Point Landscape.

Thayers and West Point Share a Long History

West Point's role in our nation's history dates back to the Revolutionary War, when both sides realized the strategic importance of the commanding plateau on the west bank of the Hudson River. General George Washington considered West Point to be the most important strategic position in America. Washington personally selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko, one of the heroes of Saratoga, to design the fortifications for West Point in 1778, and Washington transferred his headquarters to West Point in 1779. Continental soldiers built forts, batteries and redoubts and extended a 150-ton iron chain across the Hudson to control river traffic. Fortress West Point was never captured by the British, despite Benedict Arnold's treason. **West Point is the oldest continuously occupied military post in America.**

Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, the "father of the Military Academy," served as Superintendent from 1817-1833. He upgraded academic standards, instilled military discipline and emphasized honorable conduct. Aware of our young ***nation's need for*** engineers, Thayer made civil engineering the foundation of the curriculum. For the first half century, USMA graduates were largely responsible for the construction of the bulk of the nation's initial railway lines, bridges, harbors and roads.

After gaining experience and national recognition during the Mexican and Indian wars, West Point graduates dominated the highest ranks on both sides during the Civil War. Academy graduates, headed by generals such as Grant, Lee, Sherman and Jackson, set high standards of military leadership for both the North and South.

In 1964, President Johnson signed legislation increasing the strength of the Corps of Cadets from 2,529 to 4,417 (more recently reduced to 4,000). To keep up with the growth of the Corps, a major expansion of facilities began shortly thereafter.

Another significant development at West Point came when enrollment was opened to women in 1976. Sixty-two women graduated in the class of 1980, to include Andrea Hollen, Rhodes Scholar. Just as women are a vital and integral part of the U.S. Army, so they are at West Point.

West Point Web Site. West Point-home.

Reunions Host Family & Fun

2014 Thayer Reunion Photos

Honoring Thayer Grandparents:

100 Acre 'THAYER FOREST' given To Lancaster, Massachusetts in 1977

The following excerpt has been shared ***by correspondent Mary Jeanette Fowle*** *who sent me (Patricia) an entire large box full of Thayer memorabilia in October 2014. This collection pertained to the family of Clarence Putnam Thayer and contained many daguerreotype, tintype and other photographs.* ***More on these treasures in the next Thayer Quarterly newsletter!!***

From the New England Forestry Foundation's publication, Foundation News, August 1977:

Two Memorial Forests Added

Thayer Forest: Boston Lawyer Nathaniel Thayer Dexter has given the New England Forestry Foundation 100 acres of largely pine woodland in Lancaster, Massachusetts, to be known as THAYER FOREST.

This is the thirty-second Memorial Forest in New England to be given to the Foundation.

Mr. Dexter, a partner in Boston law firm of Choate, Hall & Stewart, gave the forest in memory of his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Thayer, who put the original estate together, and of his mother, Constance Van Rensselaer (Thayer) Dexter.

Asked why he hadn't named the forest for himself, since he inherited it, Mr. Dexter said, "Because my Thayer grandparents assembled it. It is simply honoring the Thayers who created it in the first place."

The 100-acre forest contains a private family cemetery, and Mr. Dexter said he intends to be buried there when his time comes. It is understood in the deed transferring the forest to the foundation that the quiet little burying ground will remain accessible to the family, and maintained by the Foundation.

If the names Thayer and Lancaster sound familiar to FOUNDATION NEWS readers, it could be because John Thayer Hemenway, Executive Director of the Foundation and Nathaniel Thayer Dexter are cousins.

The Thayer connection with Lancaster goes back a long way– the first of them in the old Town's history was Nathaniel Thayer, a liberal Devine who hired Charles Bulfinch (architect of the Massachusetts State House) to design his first church – the First Unitarian Church of Lancaster, built in 1816 – still standing, and still beautiful.

He was the father of Nathaniel Thayer, Jr., a Boston banker who financed much of New England's textile industry and railroads to the West, and founded the family's fortune.

This financial genius of the nineteenth century was in turn the father of Bayard Thayer, who, with is wife, Ruth, purchased the various parcels of land with comprised the original Lancaster estate.

Bayard Thayer was a brother of John [Elliot] Thayer (the ornithologist, whose own estate was just down the road) and was uncle of the late Natalie Thayer Hemenway, mother of the Foundation's chief executive officer. Her little book, 'Mostly Horses', tells of growing up in Lancaster.

Bayard Thayer, was, therefore, grandfather of Nathaniel Thayer Dexter, donor of the new Memorial Forest, and a great uncle of the Foundation's John T. Hemenway.

Other Thayers have contributed much to New England, and particularly to Harvard, from which most of the Thayer men have graduated.

In a long story of the Thayer family, part of the series on families who have contributed most to Boston and Massachusetts since Colonial times, in the BOSTON SUNDAY POST of August 11, 1929, Padriac King wrote:

> ***Thus to be a Massachusetts Thayer of Lancastrian origin is to be the heir-at-large of a fine tradition. To be a Thayer is to be committed by heredity to the thesis that justice is built on truth. To be a Thayer is to belong to a race that setup and lived by the theory that only through the employment of intelligence could men achieve anything in life.***
>
> ***And yet all the Thayers have been flesh and blood men. They not only represented Massachusetts, but almost dominated the state as no other set of individuals had ever done before, or since, in the history of New England.***
>
> ***That is still true today, as witness the generous gift to the Foundation of the Thayer Forest by Nathaniel Thayer Dexter.***

Exciting DNA Information Discovered at Family Tree DNA Conference Held in Houston Texas

by Lloyd Thayer

The 10th International Conference on Genetic Genealogy hosted by Family Tree DNA was held in Houston in October. As a new person to this field, my head was spinning most of the time with the new information, the excitement of learning new information, and the people who were willing to share their knowledge.

I was introduced to Emily Aulicino who wrote Genetic Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond. The book helped me gain a better understanding of Y-DNA testing that is the focus of our **Thayer project with Family Tree DNA.** It is also a great resource for understanding the different DNA tests and provides information to determine what DNA segments came from which ancestor. The book also explains how **DNA testing may help when written records stop and discusses how DNA testing proves or disproves oral family history.**

Conference presentations discussed the use of **Autosomal and Mitochondrial DNA results to support or discover genealogy.** Each topic was complex, but I left with more knowledge and contacts who are willing to help with questions. Two of the most interesting presentations were by Spencer Wells, from the National Geographic Society, discussing his work collecting DNA from around the world to determine how our ancestors populated the planet, and CeCe Moore, who does work with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. for "Finding your Roots".

Several people recently joined the Thayer DNA testing project. **It is exciting that we now have the first descendant from Nathaniel's line who has been Y-DNA tested.** Results are pending. There is also another person in the project who is a descendant of both Richard and Thomas. A male in this line is considering the Y-DNA test.

Tricia Muno gives a great reason to consider testing. *"I am so thrilled to know that I can now, without a doubt, claim the man I always thought was my great grandfather!!! All thanks to the DNA test we had done in the Spring. I have spent most of my lifetime searching for him and ways to prove that he was our ancestor. My father never even knew his own father, since grandfather died when daddy was just an infant 3 months old. Apparently my grandfather also had limited time with HIS father, Joseph Frank Thayer Sr."* Tricia now has the answer she was working so hard to get. Another reason to consider testing is that the results you receive also may help another person make a connection.

Thayer DNA Project

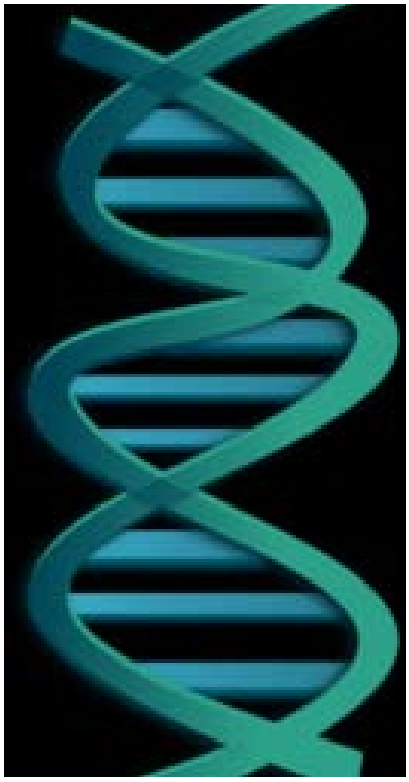
If you would like to join the Thayer DNA Project and purchase a test kit, go to the Thayer Family DNA project website: **www.familytreedna.com/public/thayer** and click on the Join Request link at the top of the page. There is also a link at the top of the website for DNA FAQ. It contains information and will answer many of your questions about the different tests.

Here are the three main testing categories:

Y-DNA testing is for your direct paternal lineage line. This line consists entirely of men. Your Y-Chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) can trace your father, his father, his father's father, and so forth. It offers a clear path from you to a known, or likely, direct paternal ancestor.

Your Y-DNA may help you find genetic cousins along your direct paternal line and help match family history. Planned comparisons are the best choice. To set up a planned comparison, select two men who you believe share a direct paternal ancestor. Have both men take a Y-DNA test. If they match exactly or closely, then the DNA evidence supports the relationship.

The Autosomal Test, known as the Family Finder on Family Tree DNA, is designed to find relatives on any of your ancestral lines within the last 5 generations. Family Finder uses autosomal DNA, which is the mixture of DNA you received from both parents (about 50% from your mother and about 50% from your father). Because autosomal DNA is a mixture of your mother's and father's DNA, it is unique to each person. Both men and women can complete this test.



If you are trying to confirm a relationship with someone else who is a 3rd cousin or closer, the Family Finder test is recommended.

Family Tree DNA will provide you with names, email addresses, and the genealogical information your matches have shared. You will be able to communicate with them freely to find your common ancestors. Please note this test cannot distinguish between matches from your mother's side versus your father's side.
mt-DNA tests your direct maternal lineage, the line that follows your mother's maternal ancestry. This line consists entirely of women, although both men and women have their mother's mtDNA.

This means that fathers do not pass on their mtDNA to their children. Your mtDNA can trace your mother, her mother, her mother's mother, and so forth, and offers a clear path from you to a known, or likely, direct maternal ancestor.

Revolutionary Soldier Prfile

Abijah Thayer Joins Revolution In 1775 and Reinlists Five Times To Push British Back

Col. Jerry Thayer

Abijah[6] Thayer was born about 1758 in Taunton, Masschusetts [Revolutionary service declaration], son of John[5] (Jonathan[4], Jonathan[3], Nathaniel[2], William[1]) and Patience Knapp. Abijah served in the Revolution and was awarded a soldier's pension S19485. He was credited with 15 months service and awarded the pension on 10 Nov 1832.

He appeared in court on 25 Aug 1832 to make his declaration of service for a pension. He recounted:
**** Two months service in the fall of 1775 under Capt. Mather Randall. The service was at Winter Hill, near Boston.***

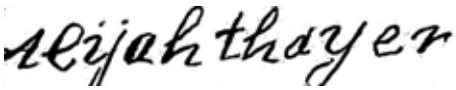
**** Enlisted for three months in December of 1776 under Capt. Mather Randall and Ensign Lincoln in Col. French's Regiment serving at Dorchester when the British captured Boston. His Company paraded on Dorchester Heights for a battle there.***

**** Enlisted in April 1776 under Captain RAndall in Colonel Marshall's Regiment until Nov 1776. They were at Nabtasket and on Castle Island.***

**** Enlisted in May 1778 for two months under Captain RAndall and Lieutenant John Jeffrey in Colonel French's Regiment and served at Warwick, Rhode Island.***

**** Enlisted for one month in July 1778 under Captain King and Lieutenant Randall and served in Freetown, Massachusetts.***

He stated that he was born in Taunton in 1758 and resided there when enrolled in service. After his service he removed to Douglas, Massachusetts where he remained as a "legal inhabitant" until his declaration. He mentioned Rev. David Holman and Nathaniel Carpenter as persons to testify to his truthfulness. His signature of the document was bold.



Rev. David Holman and Nathaniel Carpenter, both of Douglas, appeared before the court and attested to Abijah Thayer's reputation and that they beleved that he was a soldier in the Revolution. They declared that they believed him to be 74 years of age.

Abijah Thayer married first on 22 Aug 1780 in Douglas to Betty[5] Thayer [Douglas published vital records]. Betty was baptized in Uxbridge, Massachusetts on 5 Jul 1761 [Uxbridge published vital records] daughter of Micah[4] Thayer, [Jonathan[3], Nathaniel[2], William[1]] and Sarah Emerson. Abijah and Betty had 7 children between 1781 and 1801. I believe Betty must have died as a result of the last child born on 24 Jun 1801 since Abijah married second 1 Jan 1802 in Athol, Massachusetts Betsey Murdock [Athol published vital records].

His intention to marriage was recorded in Petersham, Massachusetts on 10 Sep 1801.

Abijah and Betty's children were:
**** Betsey born 15 Feb 1781 [Douglas published vital records] married Daniel Batchelder***
**** Samuel born about 1784 married Huldah Crossman***
**** Patience born 19 Nov 1786 [Douglas published vital records]***
**** Sybil born 7 Jun 1792 [Douglas published vital records] married Wheeler Darling***
**** Polly born 13 Mar 1795 [Douglas published vital records]***
**** John born 26 Feb 1798 [Douglas published vital records]***
**** Sarah born 24 Jun 1801 [Douglas published vital records] married Luther Lord***

Abijah and Betsey's children were:
**** Rufus born 2 May 1802 Petersham married Fanny Moulton***
**** Abijah born about 31 May 1804 Petersham married Sophronia Green***
**** Patience born 2 May 1813 [not entirely sure of this one] married Proctor Moulton***

Abijah Thayer died 9 Mar 1844 in Prescott, Massachusetts and Betsey died 22 Jun 1845.

Patricia's Mail Box:

Free Photo Scanning Now Available

FamilySearch has Announced a New, Free Family Photo and Document Scanning and Preservation Service

– Dick Eastman - May 21, 2014

FamilySearch has equipped more than 2,800 of its local family history centers in North America with new Lexmark MFP multifunction scanners and printers.

Family history centers outside the U.S. will receive theirs in the near future.

The Lexmark MFPs (IBM) are easy to use and can digitally scan your documents and photographs quickly. Best of all, the software from Lexmark that runs on the MFP lets the user scan their documents and photos directly into a free FamilySearch.org account where the documents and photos can later be tagged, explained, shared with others, or attached to ancestors in your free FamilySearch Family Tree.

You can also save the digital copies to a thumb drive and take them home with you. Details may be found in an article by Paul Nauta in the FamilySearch Blog at:

https://familysearch.org/blog/en/family-photos-letters-documents.

Early Settler Profile

Hamutal Thayer and Benjamin Thompson Settled Penfield, New York Along With Eleven Children

by Jane Kuitems (Thayer Descendant) forwarded by Jerry Thayer

Benjamin Thompson, and his wife **Hamutal Thayer**, likely moved to the town of Northfield, Ontario County, New York, (later Boyle and now named Penfield) from Vermont in the spring of 1805.

His family was one of several early "Thompson" families who settled in Penfield. It appears that his eleven children moved from Vermont with him although how long some of them stayed in Penfield before moving on west, is unknown.

Benjamin and his sons purchased portions of lots 2,3,4. Many of the deeds were not recorded for years, so the exact timing of the early purchases is not always clear. These lots were located in the southeasterly part of town. Two Thompson homes were built on the corners of what was then Smith Road (now Gloria Drive) and Route 441 near Lovetts Corner.

Benjamin's ancestors were early settlers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. His line can be traced to David Thomson of Thomson's Island in Boston Harbor. His paternal grandfather for whom he was named lived in Worcester County, Massachusetts near the Rhode Island border. He was one of the original proprietors in Cheshire County, N.H. in the area of Swanzey. Although grandfather Benjamin owned land in New Hampshire he does not appear to have lived there, however five of his sons, including Benjamin's father moved to Swanzey, N.H.

Benjamin's father Samuel Thompson (1733-1808) was married twice. He had one known son by his first marriage. His first wife likely died shortly after the birth of that child for Samuel remarried 16 Jul 1761in Smithfield, Providence, RI, Rhoda Smith.

Rhoda and Samuel became the parents of eleven children with Benjamin being the eldest. Their first five children are recorded either in Uxbridge, Massachusetts or Smithfield, R.I. Between May of 1771 and September of 1773 the Thompson family including son Benjamin moved from the borders of Massachusetts/Rhode Island to Swanzey, Cheshire County, New Hampshire.

The first record of Benjamin as an adult appears in Richmond, New Hampshire on 12 March 1783 when Benjamin Thompson of Swanzey, N.H married Hamutal Thayer of Richmond, N.H. Benjamin and Hamutal's family had likely moved over the river and into Vermont by 1785, settling in Windham County. Benjamin's older half brother, Samuel purchased property in Dummerston, Windham County, Vermont in the fall of 1785 and another brother, Benoni moved there by 1789.

Putney, Vermont Town Records show that on 4 September 1787, Benjamin Thompson and family were warned out of town. The 1790 census for Putney, Windham Co. Vermont (taken in 1791 when Vermont became a state) shows the Benjamin Thompson family, which consisted of 1 male over 16; 2 males under 16 and 3 females.

There is no record in Putney of Benjamin buying or selling land. He likely farmed and leased his land. The family moved again in early 1795 purchasing 70 acres of land in "Little Village", Danby, Rutland Co., Vermont. This land was near his sister Beulah and her husband Daniel Kelley. When he made this purchase he is described as being from Brookline in the County of Windham.

The History of Danby, Vermont lists Benjamin as a freeman in 1800. The census taken that year shows Benjamin with a larger family. Two males under 10, one male 10-16, one male 16-26 and one male 26-45; three females under 10; two females 10-16 and one female 26-45. Approximately ten years after moving to Danby, Benjamin sold his farm in "Little Village" to his brother-in-law, Daniel Kelley for $450.00.

It seems likely that Daniel and his family left for Penfield in Western New York after the land sale in Danby, Vermont in 1805. Their first grandchild was born in Penfield in May of 1806, so the family had likely settled in Penfield prior to that time. The first written record of the family's presence in Penfield is the Federal Census of 1810. At that time Benjamin Thompson was in "Town of Boyle, Ontario County, NY. His family was one white male under 10; two white males 10-16; 1 white male 26-45 and 1 white male 45 and over; two white females under 10 and one white female 45 and over. The earliest existing tax record for Benjamin is in 1813. Benjamin's property in the Town of Penfield is valued at $338.00 and his tax was 78 cents. His property was in School District #4.

Most likely the Thompson's leased land when they first arrived in Penfield. Samuel R. Thompson made a land purchase of sixty-eight acres of the east side of the northwest division of lot 2 on April 8, 1814 from Daniel and John Stark and their wives. This land must have been cleared and considered "improved" because he paid $950.00 for it. He continued to add to his holdings for nearly forty more years. Clearly he was a successful farmer.

On 16 January 1816, Henry Thompson purchased 50 acres in the southeast division, north part of Lot 4 from Daniel Penfield. The same day Benjamin Thompson purchased 61 acres from the south end of the southeast division of Lot 4 from Mr. Penfield for the sum of $465.00. On 18 April 1817, Benjamin purchased an additional 54 acres on the west side of the southeast division of Lot 3 for the sum of $436.00. This land's east boundary was land owned by deed by Eber Paine, Benjamin's son-in-law. Then on 18 February 1818, Henry Thompson sold his father Benjamin the fifty acres from the north part of the southeast division of Lot 4 that he had purchased two years earlier. On February 12, 1820, Benjamin sold the 54 acre parcel he had purchased in 1817 to Solomon Haynes. That same day Benjamin purchased a part of the west side of

Hamutal Thayer Dies 1844, Husband 18 yrs Earlier

the southeast division of lot 3,which contained twenty-seven acres from Solomon Haynes. At this point he owned 138 acres of land. On 15 December 1823 he sold fifty of these acres taken from both lots 3 and 4 to his son Samuel R. Thompson.

By 1820 three of Benjamin and Hamutal's sons were listed as Heads of Household in Penfield: Samuel R.; Henry and Josiah. Daughters Elcy and Rhoda had also married and were living in Penfield. Daughter Lydia was likely a single mother and again residing with her parents with her three young children. Apparently suddenly, Benjamin died on 18 Feb 1826 leaving no will. He is buried in the Smith Road Cemetery on what is now Gloria Drive.

By the time of his death, Benjamin was a successful farmer in Penfield. He owned slightly more than eighty-eight acres of land, livestock and grain crops were on hand and planted for the next season. He held several notes and owned a ½ interest in a cider mill off the farm. The intestate papers that were filed at the time of his death have provided many clues that have been used to provide a snapshot into his family.

Many of Benjamin and Hamutal's eleven children moved from Penfield to the west. Eldest son Samuel R. Thompson remained in Penfield until after 1850. He was a member of the East Penfield Freewill Baptist and Liberal Society and accumulated large amounts of land in that area. He recorded many deeds in 1851 and then sold some of the land to his sons shortly thereafter. When he died he was buried in the Smith Road Cemetery. Daughters Elcy Thompson Ralph and Lydia Thompson Smith are also buried in the Smith Road Cemetery, Penfield, NY.

Genealogical Summary

Benjamin[7] Thompson's (Samuel[6], Benjamin[5], John[4], John[3], John[2], David[1]) birth was recorded at Uxbridge, Massachusetts on 22 June 1763. He was the son of Samuel Thompson (1733-1808) and his second wife Rhoda Smith (1739 -). His marriage to Hamutal[6] Thayer, daughter of Jeremiah[5] Thayer (Ebenezer[4], Isaac[3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) and Alice Holbrook is recorded at Richmond, New Hampshire 12 March 1783.

Benjamin died in Penfield, Monroe County, New York on 18 Feb 1826. His wife **Hamutal Thayer Thompson died in Penfield, Monroe County, New York 7 Feb 1844.** They are both buried in the Smith Cemetery in Penfield.

Children of Benjamin Thompson and Hamutal Thayer:

• Samuel R. Thompson born about 1783 in New Hampshire. He died 20 September 1856 in Wayne County, New York and is buried in the Smith Road Cemetery in Penfield, New York. He married first, probably in Penfield Lydia (unknown) by 1811. At least two sons, Almer (1814-20 November 1853) and Orrin (1818-16 July 1881) and three daughters Jemima (1812-); Almeda (1816-);

Lydia Ann (8 October 1824-11 August 1898) were born of this marriage. Lydia died 28 August 1828 and is buried in the Smith Road Cemetery in Penfield, New York. He married second Miritta (Armarrilla or Marietta) (unknown) Mason following the death of his first wife. There were at least two children from that marriage. Sylvester (1837-29 January 1851) and Mary (1832-).

He was a successful farmer who owned 150 acres of which 70 were improved by 1820. He had built a frame house and barn on the property and owned "whole of lot 2" valued at $2,000.00 on which he paid $7.51 in county tax. Many of his parcels of land were held by deed and not recorded until 1851. He left Penfield and was living in Walworth, Wayne Co. by 1853 when he and Mirritta sold a parcel of land. He made his will 4 December 1855.

He names his five surviving children therein. He apparently still owned land in Penfield, which he allowed his son Orrin to use for his lifetime. Then it was to pass to Orrin's children if he had any or else to the two sons of his son Almer (Samuel's grandsons) as Almer had predeceased Samuel. Miritta died 12 October 1877

ii. Henry Thompson was born about 1784 in Vermont. He died 15 January 1857 in Crockery, Ottawa, Michigan and is buried in the Ottawa Center Cemetery, Coopersville, Michigan. He married Desire (probably Esget)(daughter of Francis Esget and Desire Patten) before 1809, probably in Penfield as her father was living there in 1810.

Of interest is a note on his tax record for 1813, "tax rejected in 1812". He sold his fifty acres of land from the north part of the southeast division of Lot 4 to his father Benjamin Thompson 18 February 1818. Henry and Desire had at least six children. Mary (Polly) (Abt 1809-15 October 1857), two unknown daughters who were under 10 in the 1820 census; William (b. 1817/1818-); Jasper (b. 1823 -1901) and Ellis (b. 1826). Henry likely left Penfield before his father's death in 1826 as he was not a petitioner in the intestate proceedings.

He probably moved to Greenfield, Erie, Pa and from there to Michigan. Desire died in Michigan 25 November 1868. She is buried in Ottawa Center Cemetery, Coopersville, Michigan, with Henry.

• Elcy Thompson born in July 1785 in Vermont. She married Dow Ralph about 1806 most likely in Penfield, New York as they are listed as a family with two females under the age of ten in the 1810 census for the Town of Boyle.

Her husband was a successful farmer in 1820, owning 83 acres in Penfield and an adjacent 100 acres in Perinton. 50 acres were improved and there was one frame barn on the premises. She died 24 April 1859 probably in Penfield and is buried in the Smith Road Cemetery beside her husband who preceded her in death in either 1821 or 1824. They had at least eight children. Candace (1806-1894); Mary (Abt 1809-1873); Benjamin (1812/1813-); Albert (1821-1905); Rhoda (1815-); Sally (1816-); Roxcena(1820-1875); Cordelia.

• Rhoda Thompson born about 1790 in Vermont married Eber (Ebie) (Eben) Paine. She is not in her parents' household in the 1810 census so likely married previous to it. Eber Paine owned 63 acres in 1820 of which 15 were improved. He was constructing a frame

Children Move West to Ohio, Vermont,NH,Mich. and Canada

house at the time of the tax assessment. After Eber's death in the mid 1830's Rhoda and her children moved to Ohio. She died in Montville, Geauga Co., Ohio on 6 December 1871. No record of her burial has been found. Rhoda and Eber had five known children: Abdon (8 May 1812-); Eder (sic); Rhoda (May have also been known as Lucy); Samuel T. (1820/21-21 Dec 1899) and Philena (Tilmilda) 1826-

• Lydia Thompson was born 27 March 1792 in Vermont. She married Zachariah Horton in the fall of 1811 and probably had at least three daughters. Her first husband either died or abandoned her before the 1820 census.

That census shows her parents with three females under ten (likely Lydia's daughters), 1 female sixteen to twenty six (possible hired girl or daughter Sylvia); 1 female twenty six to forty-five (Lydia would have been twenty-eight); 1 female over forty-five (Hamutal). The household contained one male ten to sixteen (Elijah) and one male over forty-five (Benjamin). She married second about 1822, widower James Smith with whom she had at least seven children:

Clarissa (5 March 1823-2 January 1836); Josiah T. (4 February 1825 -5 March 1846); Bethuel W. (7 March 1827 – 7 June 1845); Asenath (30 April 1829-5 October 1852); James S. (7 Feb 1831-2 April 1866); Almor (31 Jan 1832- 2 March 1847) and Lydia Ann (19 June 1836-10 August 1858). She died on 1 April 1844 in Penfield, NY and is buried in the Smith Road Cemetery.

• Sylvia Thompson was born about 1793 in Vermont. She had left her parents household before the census of 1810. She is listed as an heir in her fathers' intestate proceedings. She sells her 1/11 portion of her father's estate on September 6, 1827 to her brother Josiah. She is of the town of Gerry, County of Chautaque,(sic) N.Y. at the time of the sale. She is unmarried at this time. Nothing further has been found.

• Josiah Thompson was born about 1795 in Vermont. He married Mary (Polly) Unknown before 1820. Mary was born in Schenectady County, New York about 1802 and died in Niagara Co, New York State in 1882. She is buried in Cold Springs Cemetery in Lockport, New York. Josiah appeared in the New York State census of 1865 and died prior to the Federal census of 1870.

Josiah and Mary lived in Penfield at the time of the 1820; 1830; and 1840 census. By 1850 the family had moved to Lockport, Niagara Co. New York. They lived in Lockport in 1855 when the New York State census was taken, but had moved to Newfane, Niagara Co. New York by the 1860 census. Josiah acquired portions of lots 4 and 14 in Penfield. He began by purchasing a portion of the southwest division of lot # 4 in March of 1824. He continued to expand his land holdings in lot #4 over the next several years. He purchased portions of lot # 14 from his sister Elsy Ralph and her children, mostly in 1834 but some was not purchased until 1840. This was the land that they had received by will from Dow Ralph.

In 1835 he sold Elsy twenty acres in the southwest division of lot # 4. Josiah and Mary were the parents of ten children. An unknown daughter born before 1820; Cynthia born 1824; Ann (1826-1907); Elizabeth born 1828; Daniel born 1832; Rhoda born 1834; Rosana born 1837; Van Rensslear (1840-1918) and two others who may have been born and died between census.

• Joseph Thompson was born in Vermont about 1797. He is mentioned in his fathers' intestate proceedings as an heir. On 2nd October 1826 he quit claimed his 1/11 share of his father's estate to Samuel R. Thompson. He was of the township of Sugarloaf in the District of Upper Canada on that date. On 11 October 1848 he sold his 1/11 of the widows dower share he inherited from his mother to brother Samuel R. Thompson.
He is formerly of Penfield in that transaction. Nothing further is known of him.

• Beulah Thompson was born about 1800 in Vermont. She married John Williams before 1826. The census of 1850 places the family in Pleasant Grove, Illinois and by 1860 they were in Bourbon, Kansas Territory. Known children are Benjamin born 1826; Emma M. born 1834; Amasia born 1836; and Polly born 1838. A child Lewis born in 1849 is enumerated in the 1850 census but may not be their child.

• Asenath Thompson was born about 1803/1804 in Vermont. She probably married Asa Baker about 1825. The Baker family was in Shelby, Orleans County in August of 1831 when Asa's fathers will was submitted for probate. The family has not been found in census records until 1840 when they were living in Kendall, Orleans County. In 1855, they were living in Union, Monroe County, New York. By the 1860 census they are in Sharon, Fayette, Illinois where they remain for at least the next twenty years. They had nine or ten children, as gleaned from census records. Two unnamed daughters born between 1825 and 1830 as well as Ann (1831-); Elias (1832-); Al (1835-); Mary (1837/1838-);Elijah (1840-) Lydia A. (1840-); Samuel (1841-) and Fayette (1845-).

• Elijah Thompson was born about 1808 in New York. He married Eliza See about 1836 probably in New York State. She was born about 1815 in New York State. The family lives in Kendall, Orleans County in 1840 and by 1850 has moved to Carlton, Orleans County. They moved to Manchester, Washtenaw County, Michigan by June 1860 and by 1870 are in Moscow, Hillsdale, Michigan. Elijah dies in Moscow, Hillsdale, Michigan 15 April 1875 and Eliza about 1897. They had the following known children: Alzina (19 April 1837-27 October 1907); Wealthy A. (1840-); Almer (1841-); Elias (1842-); Lymon or Seymour(1846-); Byron (1848-) and Myron (June 1849-1940).

Damaged, turn of the Century, Glass Photos have been identified by Patricia and will be forwarded to the living ancestor shortly. Unknown to his son, the pictures of his father and family have been lost for many years. Patricia has had these Glass photos restored and will be covered in the next Thayer Quarterly. Photos of restoration and before /after pictures will astound most readers as these lost treasures are brought back to life!Editor Muno

A Special Thayer Moment

Col. Thayer Stands in at West Point Ceremony

Judith L. Young-Thayer

At Jerry's (Henry Jerome Thayer) farewell party at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ, one of Jerry's young officers asked me if I thought that The COL would consider being a groomsman for one of the other young officers in the command who would be married at West Point in May.

I said that Jerry would be delighted, and I would tell him (Jerry) just how pleased he would be. Jerry was not all that keen about the idea, but I told him that it would be an experience that most people just read about in books (like I did when I was a romantic teenager) or saw in movies (ditto.)

Well, May approached, and I searched far and wide, high and low for white gloves, which I KNEW (after all, I'd seen it in the movies!) that the military groomsmen had to wear when they formed the arch of swords at the end of the wedding ceremony when the couple comes down the stairs at the chapel. No white gloves! - but I kept asking the prospective groom about the white gloves. No one seemed to know, but I was adamant that it was the proper form. Sure enough.... Okay, white cotton gloves appeared - I still don't know from where.

Jerry needed a bow tie (pre-tied, of course); his had turned GREEN (ugh!) So, I searched far and wide for a BLACK, militarily acceptable, black bow tie. Finally, found that, too. Next, the uniform itself.... Jerry was a 1/LT when he had the dress blues tailor made. Jerry was now a crusty full bull (oh, that's Army talk for COL) of much more "presence." So, trousers and blouse (that's military talk for jacket) had to be judiciously altered. (There wasn't a lot of room.) We were down to just a few days before the wedding.

When I was finally able to get Jerry long enough (he traveled three weeks out of four in those days) to try on the uniform, the wedding was just a few days off. Well, we made do (and he didn't breathe much!)

Wedding.... As we lived so close to West Point, we decided to dress at home (Picatinny Arsenal, near Wharton, NJ.) Being early is really a fetish w/Jerry. So, we arrived at West Point nearly two hours early. Jerry thought we'd get a cup of coffee, but I refused to go to the Cadet Canteen. I suggested, instead, that we go to the Hotel Thayer coffee shop.

Picture if you will, a beautiful May Saturday morning.... The tourist season had begun, and the Hotel Thayer was a BUSY place, even at 10 a.m. The setting is glorious - sitting high on a bluff on the West bank of the Hudson River. It is a very ELEGANT place! Not only that, at the time, a LARGE portrait of COL/GEN Sylvanus Thayer hung over the mantel of the large stone fireplace in the center of the lobby. Going up the stairs from the foyer into the lobby, the prominent display of the portrait was one of the first things to be seen.

Jerry was splendiferous in his dress blues. With his garrison cap, his total height must have been 6'8" (or so.) I am always the first to say how grand he looks. Of course, displayed upon his uniformed chest were his medals and the name tag: "Thayer."

As I accompanied Jerry up the stairs through the lobby and into the dining room, I heard in hushed tones, all around me, "Oh, look, it's COL Thayer!!!" I was operating on about three levels, one of which was trying to maintain poise (and my cool!) That was some experience.

I have remarked before on the marked resemblance between some of these Thayers and COL/GEN Sylvanus.

Somewhat later, all in the wedding party repaired to the West Point Chapel, where the six officers (of varying heights and ranks) practiced for a few moments on the procedure of the arch of swords. Well, they got the idea, but I had my doubts. (I was sure that someone would be skewered!)

The wedding went off beautifully, the groomsmen DID get the arch right, and the newly married couple drove off in a white wedding coach, drawn by two white horses, to the Hotel Thayer for the reception.

We danced away the afternoon on the terrace of the Hotel Thayer - what an experience. (And all the time, I kept thinking that we ought to be home mowing the grass or something!)

It was really a special "Thayer Moment." Even Jerry agrees (now) that it was a wonderful way to end his Army career.

Winter's Here! so are The Honey Do Lists:

To tackle drafty doors, many retailers sell draft-blockers for about $15 dollars, but you can easily use pipe insulation instead. This item can be found at your local hardware store and does the same job at a fraction of the cost. For about $1.50 for a 6-foot tube, you'll have enough to cover two doors. Simply cut to length and then slide the insulation into the gap.

As for drafty windows, look no further than some bubble wrap for a cheap and easy fix. Measure and cut a piece to fit your window, mist the glass with water and press the bubble wrap against it. This will not only keep the cold air out, but also keep the heat in. It should stay on all season and still let light through.

Foggy car windshields can also be annoying in the winter. Regular commercial defoggers will cost you around $7 per bottle, but conventional shaving cream will work just as well. Simply put a dab on the inside of your windshield and then wipe with a clean cloth. This should keep it shiny and fog-free for a good while.

I know this was a personal note to me from Patricia, but why should I have all the fun? Editor DM

Patricia's Mail Box:

CORRECTION: ***It has come to my attention that the lineage for Louis Mackey Thayer as appears on page 20 of the July/August Thayer Quarterly is in error! It is missing one generation, that of yet another Atherton. The lineage should read as follows: Louis Mackey Thayer (1908-1989) was the son of Louis Mackey[10] (Atherton[9-8], Zabdiel[7], Elkanah[6], Thomas[5], John[4-3] Thomas[2-1]) THAYER.***

A Personal Odyssey

Judy Looks Back on a Lifetime Adventure

Judith L. Young-Thayer

Family history is a great adventure, and one which provides entertainment, enlightenment, and often surprises.

We all start with the question, "Who are we?" and "Where did we come from?" Given the advances provided by family resources, travel, availability of records, and the internet, most of us can easily embark on this grand adventure. Designing a research strategy specific to one's own family is the place to start. Recording everything is important, as it will avoid having to retrace steps. (We all have had to do that anyway!)

From the time a person becomes aware of family relationships, the questions start. A child asks about grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other relatives. Family bibles often have invaluable information, as over time, families often gave bibles as wedding presents, and family information was recorded. If there is a large family, all this information becomes exponential, and a lifetime can be spent in exploring all these relationships.

For the "newbie," the place to start is with oneself, collecting all the records, such birth certificate, baptism and confirmation records, social security, school records, marriage certificate, and those pertaining to one's family. With marriage and the growth of one's family, some of these records will become more and more important, and will often be necessary for varying reasons, such as enrolling children in school, and obtaing passports.

Records pertaining to parents and grandparents are also important, and these documents are the main sources of the second level of family information. From there, various resources can be researched, such as court records, including wills, administrations of estates, and land records, tax records, censuses, and miscellaneous records for agreements, judgments, and bankruptcy.

Putting together a family history generation by generation is enhanced by stories provided by each member of a family, and provide information and clues where to search for validation of the information. Don't overlook asking about old letters, diaries, autograph books (often a gift to a teenager, who then asked family members to sign it, with dates and places where family members were). Unfortunately, some family memories are faulty, and finding documentation helps by ordering the information.

My parents were each the last in large families, and their siblings were grown with families of their own by the time my sister and I came along. My mother was the youngest of nine children, and had nieces and nephews older than she. Her mother was the eldest of 14, was married and had children older than her youngest siblings. My father was the youngest of five children, and his father was the third of nine children in two families. So, in just three generations, I had a mountain of information to compile. Family memories helped me to organize and collect everything. Where memories differed or failed, access to records helped to fill in the gaps. I have found, however, that sometimes there are no answers to all the questions. At the time of the American Revolution, for instance, losses of records led to dead ends. Sadly, court house fires are another problem, as important records were lost and irretrievable.

Other resources for research include local, regional, and state libraries, access to which are often on-line. The Mormon (LDS) Stake libraries, historical societies, family associations, and for the past few years, various internet web sites, such as state GenWebs (Genealogical web site), and the Mormon resources such the International Genealogical Index (IGI). Joining a genealogical group will provide a wealth of information about doing family research. Many public libraries offer cost-free access to research resources, such as Heritage.com and Ancestry.com. Don't forget to search for country histories where the families lived. Many were "subscribed" and included lengthy individual and family histories.

Travel is a great aid to family research. Finding distant relatives is a wonderful way to make new friends and renew family links. Often, those families will have pictures, records and stories different than those of one's own family. Each new contact provides a widening circle of research possibilities.

It's extremely interesting to locate areas where family members lived, worked, attended church, married, had children and died. Churches and cemeteries (and their records) are great sources of information, as well as providing a tangible record in pictures. Here again there are libraries and research resources different than your own.

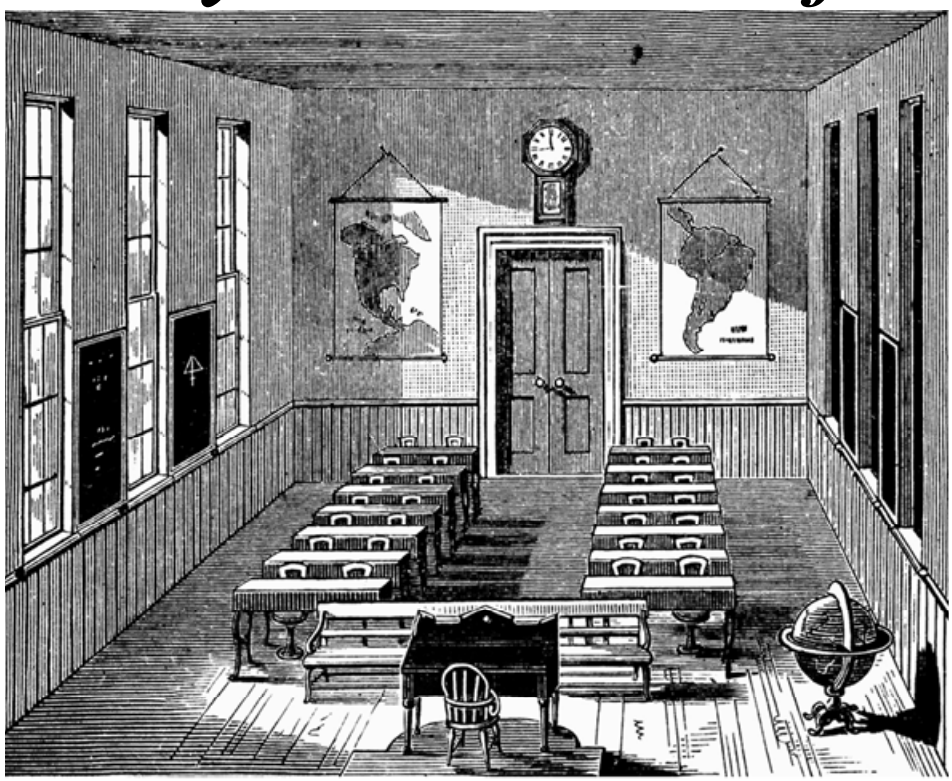
"Family historying" can provide a lifetime adventure, and one will never be lonely.

Mary E. Thayer (1848-1924)

Newly received photo, would have appeared in Volume IV, page 182, #4091. Photo courtesy of Mary's granddaughter, Doreen Roberts Ganoung.

Mary E. (Thayer) Pugh Lineage: Mary E. (Bradford [8],Jesse[7], Daniel [6,5,4], Nathaniel[3],Richard[2-6]) THAYER

Memories of a One Room School Are Still Fondly Remembered After 80 Years



By Charles Jeffers Larson of Amherst, Wisconsin

This will be a combination of the history of the local one room school that I attended and a description of what it was like in the years that I attended the school, from 1935 – 1943.

A meeting was held at the C.G. Severance home on Dec. 9, 1856 to form a new school district. The school to be built on a ½ acre lot was given by John Severance. This was to be an 18 x 24 foot building, material cost was $130. The school was built in 1857.

The first teacher was Adeline Severance who was paid $2.00 per week. She had 9 pupils, ranging in age from 4 to 20 years. The school term was from May 25th to August 31st. In 1858, she married my great grand uncle, Truman Jeffers, and became the first of, I believe, 18 teachers with a family connection.

The present school building was constructed in 1889. The last classes were held in 1960. This school was much larger, as the student numbers increased. It is a frame building. Upon entering, there is an area to the left with the wood box with a door opening to where the stove is. The other door opens to the classroom. To the left is the cloak room. The stove has a metal jacket to prevent direct contact to the stove. At the back was what was called the bubbler; in most places it would be a water fountain. One of the chores for the older students was to go to the adjacent farm and pump water for the bubbler.

There were three windows on each side of the classroom. A blackboard was on the wall back of the teacher's desk. The room had kerosene bracket lamps on each side of the room and a hanging lamp in the center of the room.

The only time I remember them being lighted, was for the Christmas program. There were bookshelves with a limited number of books. I think we all had read all of them before we finished school. There was a set of encyclopedias.

The school got a daily paper used for current events. Older students were responsible for a bulletin board. Attached to the back of the school was a woodshed for the winter's supply of fuel. There were the outside toilets at the end of the school lot. The Wisconsin Central Railroad ran just beyond the school yard. At recess, if a train went by, we would wave at the engineer and often he would blow the whistle. We also waved at the conductor in the caboose. There were also a couple of passenger trains that went through each day.

I had permission to come to school with some of the neighbor kids for a couple of weeks the Spring before I started first grade. Pictures from that time show all the boys wearing bib overalls and the girls all wore dresses or skirts and blouses. We all walked to school, unless the weather was bad and parents brought us. I remember one Valentine's Day that the roads were so bad that Dad took some off to school with a team and sleigh. I had five teachers during my time there. I don't think anyone had degrees. They usually were graduates of the rural school department of the teacher's college.

When my grandmother taught, in the 1880's and early 1890's, all she needed was to pass a county test. I have some of her certificates from that time. The teachers did an excellent job of teaching--all eight grades in one room. We had the advantage of hearing what the classes ahead of us were doing. There were usually 15 – 18 students.

The two big events of the year were the Christmas program and the end of the year picnic. For the Christmas program, planks were placed on risers to make a stage. A wire was put up to hold the curtains for the play and other parts of the program. We all were expected to participate: A play, music, readings and recitations. At the end of the play, Santa paid a visit. All the parents, relatives and neighbors were there.

The end of the year picnic was similar, with a planned pot luck and lots of food. We were always anxious to get our report cards to see if we were promoted to the next grade.

I have lots of great memories of friends and events from that time. I am still in contact with my eighth grade teacher, a 95-year old, with whom I can share memories. She was a cousin and she had her sister as a student too. Before the school year started both sets of parents gave us instructions as to behavior. We were not to call her by her first name, but rather "Miss Pipe."

A side note, there was a Cordelia Thayer who taught for two months in 1860 for $10 per month. In 1861, she married my great grand uncle, Julius Jeffers. I married Aralda Thayer in 1953. She was a distant cousin [6c1r] of Cordelia Thayer. It gets to be a small world.

Some Thayer trivia from Charles: I looked at the history of the one room school I attended to find out about Cordelia Thayer. The school was organized in 1857 and closed in 1960 .Cordelia was the third teacher there starting in Dec 1860 for a period of two months at $10 per month. There were short school terms for many years. She married my great grandfather's brother, Julius M. Jeffers. They had a farm in the area and later moved to Logan, Iowa. I don't have much of any information after that. Julius, I think served in the Civil War as did my great grandfather Albert Addison Jeffers. Fourteen relatives taught at that school over the years.

I taught for 39 years, agriculture, horticulture and biology, even a semester of chemistry. I Started teaching in SW Wisconsin and was there for 17 years. I had a chance to come back to Waupaca to the high school I graduated from and spent 22 years there teaching agriculture and horticulture. It was only about ten miles from the farm where I grew up and where I live. I graduated from what is now University of Wisconsin, River Falls, and then got my Masters from University of Wisconsin, at Madison. I met my wife when we were freshmen at River Falls. After graduation she taught two years at Glenwood City: English and Library.

Charles and Aralda are the parents of five children and seven grandchildren. She currently resides in an assisted living facility near the family home in Amherst, WI. States Charles:

"I'm fortunate in having all of my kids close by, One in Hudson, near Minneapolis. They do the heavy lifting making it possible to stay here on the farm. I had a propane furnace put in so I don't make the trips up and down basement stairs to fire the wood furnace, I miss it. Still have a wood burner in the kitchen.

Charles has shared with us many photos and mementos from the family of Aralda's Thayer ancestors. (See TQ Summer edition, page 18 for photo of Oscar Benjamin Thayer's top hat.) Most recently, Charles has shared a couple of Reverend Oscar Benjamin Thayer's 1862 Rector's Vade Mecum books which contains Hymns, the wordings for baptisms, marriages, prayers for the sick, etc. It also contains the names of his parishioners (in Louisville, KY) and some of his hand-written sermons. These items have been added to the THAYER MUSEUM here in my home. Thank you again, Charles for your kind generosity!

Charles Jeffers Larson is married to Alralda Rose Wilhelmina Thayer. Her lineage: Aralda R.W. (David Edward[9], Oscar Benjamin[8], Edward[7], Edward March[6], Edward[5-4], William[3], Nathaniel[2], William1)** THAYER and Aralda Dorothea KAMKE.

Immigrant NOTE: Since it is now believed that the Immigrant Nathaniel Thayer's father, William Thayer (b. 1605 Thornbury, Gloucestershire, England d. after 1646, probably, RI) also Immigrated, Your historians now prefer to use William as the primary (1st) Immigrating ancestor and will commence numbering with him.

Facebook Users Check This New Thayer Page

ANNOUNCEMENT for Facebook users:

Please take a moment to check out our new Thayer Families Association page on Facebook which has been created for us by Verne L. Thayer of Milford, Massachusetts. States Verne:

"This is a page for Thayer descendants and friends to communicate with one another. It combines the "Thayers of New England" and "Thayer Descendants." Feel free to share your Genealogy, Reunions or anything pertaining to the Thayer Name. Enjoy"!

(Please note: There are two Thayer Families Association Facebook pages! Please select the one with the photo of old ship sails. The other was created by me, but I have not learned how to delete it!
— Patricia)

Patricia's Mailbox:

Headstone Query Leads to Other Thayer Finds

Marcus Carl Thayer of Find-A-Grave fame passes along the most wonderful queries! *Marc was contacted back in September by William A. Cannell of Port St. Lucie, FL who was inquiring about whether or not his great aunt Helen Morse Thayer's death date had been inscribed on the shared family headstone.* Helen was the daughter of Elmer Allen (Allen[8], Samuel[7], Ebenezer[6-5-4-3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Fannie Ellen MORSE. *Since she never married or had any children, Bill Cannell's parents had paid to have the Helen's death date inscribed on the Morse/Thayer headstone in the Millbury Central Cemetery, Millbury, Massachusetts.*

Bill's search for information uncovered additional information of interest to us Thayers. State's Bill:

"I read in notes from Helen that Allen Thayer, son of Charles Allen (Henry Jarvis[9], Allen[8], Samuel[7], Ebenezer[6-5-4-3], Ferdinando[2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Gertrude CHAFFEE, was a 1928 West Point graduate (USMA #8451). Allen's brother, Henry Chaffee Thayer, was also a West Point graduate. Colonel Allen was in a Japanese POW camp and died on a Japanese POW ship. This information got me sidetracked on a hunt for more information as this genealogy stuff seems to do quite often. The first link below about the POW memorial at Ft. Benning is very interesting since it was started by Allen's father-in-law in memory of Allen. The second link is kind of sad. It appears that some of Allen's personal military effects are in a collectibles shop on sale for $175! Included is a picture of a young Lt. Thayer. I almost bought them but a direct Thayer family member may want them. Seems a shame to have that family history being sold but I do know how personal belongings get split up and lost over the years."

(As soon as Patricia caught wind of the fact one of our kin's personal belongings were up for sale on the Internet, she set out to find Col. Allen Thayer's descendants. she was fortunate to find his son, John Philip Thayer, residing in Columbus, GA. she immediately contacted John, and found he was unaware of his father's personal effects being offered for sale. Following, on 30 Sep 2014, was John's response: ...dm editor)

Hi Patricia. … I did make contact with Falls Creek **[MT]** ***Collectibles (Mark McCaffrey) & the items of my father's are in the mail & should arrive any day. I know you can imagine how happy we will be to receive these. Mark found these at a military collectibles show in Louisville, KY from the dealer who purchased them from the Morton Tiley estate in Connecticut… Thank you so much - John Thayer*** **(see page 18)**

I quickly informed Bill Cannell of the good works he had brought about and he responded with the following on 2 Oct 2014:

Patricia– Great news! It does make me feel good to know these important family items are no longer for sale in a collectibles shop. That takes one mystery off my list but many more have been added as my research and data entry of information into ancestry.com continues. One of these days I will have time to begin the narrative around various families and people. No more Thayer info for you at the moment but I hope to get an updated picture of the Morse/Thayer grave marker in Millbury, MA soon and will send it on if it happens. Best, Bill

After a short time, Bill was able to confirm that the Morse/Thayer headstone had been updated with Helen's date of death. He additionally shared the following wonderful photos of Helen Morse Thayer and her father, Elmer Allen Thayer. ***Thanks***

Helen Morse Thayer 20 Dec 1894 – 2 Feb 1899. Photo taken about 1897.

More Thayer Portraits Surface and Are Placed With Daughters Portraits In Westfield Athenaeum

A message received from past correspondent, Dick Patterson 6 Jan 2015:

Tricia

It has been sometime since we last corresponded and I trust things are well with you.

I am not certain if you will remember me, but we corresponded some years back on two Thayer family paintings of Thayer sisters. They now reside in the Westfield .Athenaeum as a result of an anonymous benefactor's great generosity. I wanted to let you know that some additional portraits have been donated by the estate of the late Nathaniel (Cornelius4-3 Nathaniel2, Richard1) THAYER. The paintings, while in very poor shape when they were received, have been restored and now accompany the two sisters in the same room of the building… With the two original paintings and the addition of the most recent ones, one cannot enter the Reed room and gaze at these wonderful patriots without feeling a sense "awe," whether they know the part these people played in Westfield History or not.

Regards, Dick Patterson

The portraits have been acquired through the family of Nathaniel Stearns Thayer Jr. (1924-2012) and his youngest sister, Suvia (Thayer) Siekman, who donated the portraits to the Athenaeum after Nathaniel's death.

The Athenaeum had them restored, and a reception is being planned for late Spring 2015 to accept the portraits. Members of the Thayer family will be invited.

For further information contact the Westfield Athenaeum, PHONE: (413) 568-7833.

(Please also see the Fall 2005 edition of the Thayer Quarterly for previous story on the portraits of Eliza Ann and Mary Ellsworth, daughters of Lucius Fowler THAYER and Lydia ELLSWORTH, which are also housed in the Westfield Athenaeum.) Photos of these two new acquisitions at the Westfield Athenaeum have been shared with me by Candy Pennington.

Lucius Fowler Thayer (1834-1919)

Lydia Ellsworth (1836-1914)

The Westfield Athenaeum was sent the Fall 2005 Thayer Quarterly newsletter containing the story of the portraits of the daughters of Lucius Fowler Thayer. Candy Pennington remarked that Director Cheryl Collins shared it with others there and responded "We are quite impressed with all the information in it and glad to have so much information about the Thayer Family"! Editor D Muno

Cont. from p.14

Photo of Helen's Father Elmer Allen Thayer:

Bill Cannell also provided a link to the Fort Benning Historic Trail POW Monument which was started by John Philip Thayer's maternal grandfather, Theophilus Lafayette ROBERTS, in honor of your Col. Allen Thayer. The link for that site is:

https://www.benning.army.mil/mcoe/HistoricTrail/04_pow.htm

Elmer Allen Thayer 21 Sep 1860 – 1919

Patricia's Mailbox:

An In-Depth Interview? Why I like Retirement

Shared by
Verne Louis Thayer :

Question: How many days in a week?
Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?
Answer: Three hours after they fall asleep in the recliner.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?
Answer: Only one but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done. Very true

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called seniors?
Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.Sometimes 15%

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?
Answer: Tied shoes.

Question:Why do retirees count pennies?
Answer:They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?
Answer: NUTS!So true

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?
Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?
Answer: Normal .

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?
Answer: The never ending coffee break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?
Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: What do you do all week?
Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING..... Saturday & Sunday, I rest.

SERENITY

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?
'98,' she replied... 'Two years older than me.'
'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented.
She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman:
'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked.
She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

The nice thing about being senile is
you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them.

I've sure gotten old!
I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement,
new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes.
I'm half blind,
can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine,
take 40 different medications that
make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.
Have bouts with dementia.
Have poor circulation;
hardly feel my hands and feet anymore.
Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.
Have lost all my friends. But, thank God,
I still have my driver's license.

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape,
so I got my doctor's permission to
join a fitness club and start exercising.
I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors.
I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But,
by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests.
First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart. 'Wal-Mart?' the preacher exclaimed. 'Why Wal-Mart?'
'Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week'

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be.
Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging?
Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

These days about half the stuff
in my shopping cart says,
'For fast relief.'

THE SENILITY PRAYER:

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and
the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now, I think you're supposed to share this with 5 or 6, maybe 10 others. Oh heck, give it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are!

Always Remember This:
You don't stop laughing because you grow old,
You grow old because you stop laughing.

Some things are worth sharing; Verne's contribution is greatly appreciated. Humor is the best medicine we can take whether we are 4 or 104.
Editor DM

Published 1888 New York Times:

A Leader During and After Lincoln's Assassination Judge Adin Thayer Unexpectedly Takes His Own Life

Shared by Marge Thayer Gross:

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 4. --The Hon. Adin Thayer, Judge of the Worcester County Probate Court, and one of the most prominent figures in the Republican politics of Massachusetts, committed suicide this morning by cutting his throat with a razor while shaving in his dressing room.

He rose shortly before 7 o'clock, and, calling his son, said that he had had a good night's rest and would finish his toilet. Hot water had been taken to him for shaving, and he passed into his dressing room, which adjoined the room where Mrs. Thayer and he slept. in a few minutes Mrs. Thayer heard a groan, and hurrying into the dressing room found her husband stretched out on the floor with the blood flowing from a terrible wound in his throat. He died almost immediately.

The cause of Judge Thayer's act was undoubtedly temporary insanity, an addiction to which his family and physician have feared for some time. His health has been poor for four years, but vacations of some length and journeys of some distance have restored his strength and spirits. One feature of his malady, which was due to stomach trouble, has been fits of extreme depression. He had just put his court business in a way to leave it, and hadplanned a journey to Prince Edward Island, intending to start today with his son, Charles M., who reached his majority last Winter and is a member of the Junior Class at Harvard College. The plan was to go to Boston on the 9:30 train and take the steamer in Boston at noon for Prince Edward Island.

Judge Thayer was a native of Chestnut Hill, Mendon, Mass., and was born Dec. 5, 1828. He was admitted to the Bar in 1854, when he came to this city. With the practice of law he combined an active interest in politics, which he regarded as the duty of every young man. **Politics was the chief amusement and the chief occupation in those days for the young lawyers and business men.**

Young Thayer took an early interest in the abolition cause, then unpopular in Worcester. He was instrumental with one of two others in paying the salary of the Rev. T. W, Higginson in an independent pulpit after his Free Boil preachings he'd given offense to the Unitarian parish over which he was first settled. Mr. Thayer's most intimacy with such men as Sumner, Garrison, Wilson, Andrew, and the early Republican leaders was close, and he early obtained influence in the Republican councils of the State.

He assisted at the birth of the Republican Party. His intimacy with the Hon, A.S. Beard was of long standing and it was known among Mr. Thayer's most intimate friends that it was these two men who discovered and brought out John A. Andrew, then a lawyer of small practice, but well-known in the state, and made him Governor of Massachusetts.

Mr. Thayer was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the district, including Worcester, in 1862, and held that office during the war and until President Johnson showed his ambition after Lincoln's assassination.

Mr. Thayer was not a man to "swing around the circle" with Johnson. He promptly sent in is resignation and was superseded by Church Howe. He was elected to the State Senate from this district in 1871 and again in 1872, although not without vigorous opposition, for his prominence in politics made him local enemies, some of whom were in his own party.

In the Senate he was placed on the Judiciary Committee and served with credit. In July, 1872, **President Johnson having passed out of the White House, Mr, Thayer was again appointed Collector of internal Revenue.** In 1877 this district was consolidated with the Eighth and Mr. Thayer's office abolished by the change.

Mr. Thayer entered actively into all the campaigns against Butler as a matter of principle. It was his active brain that in a great measure contrived the tactics brought to bear against that doughty leader in this State.

He was Chairman of the State Central Committee in 1879 when Talbot defeated Butler. It was against his will that he took that position, but he worked night and day at the service, and every minute detail was worked up and carried out with a close approach to perfection.

Nov. 22, 1878, he was appointed Judge of Probate by Gov. Rice. The appointment met with some hostility at home, and some of his local opponents went to the length of getting up a petition against him on the ground that he was too much of a politician for the judicial office, but the opposition affected nothing. He was confirmed and made an excellent official.

There can be no doubt whatever that he was this morning seized with an uncontrollable impulse to take his life, and that he was for the time insane and not in the least responsible for his action. *(unable to explain his action, insanity was attributed... - ed.dm)* His disease affected his nervous system and showed itself first by insomnia. A disordered digestion was at the bottom of the trouble, which was, of course, aggravated by worry and unusual occurrences of any kind. All this time, however, his mind was very clear and vividly awake to the smallest details of everything with came to his attention.

Of late his appearance had changed so as to become a cause of remark among his friends and probably attracted more attention from those not in a way to see him often. The trouble dates back many years and has been aggravated, no doubt by the political complications of the present campaign, in which the Judge was greatly interested. He has, however, done no work lately except that imposed by his office. Last evening he made a new will, saying that in view of the trip to Prince Edward Island he thought it a wise precaution,

Published 5 August 1888 in the New York Times. The photo of Judge Adin Thayer from the Internet (no source mentioned)

Patricia Thayer Muno's Mailbox

Other Thayer Finds... Continued from Page 14

Benefits of an Active Family Organization Are Members Who Share in Helping One Another to Make Things Right

Story of Lt. Col. Allen Thayer and information shared by correspondent Bill Cannell Aug 2014 concerning Allen's personal belongings on sale in a Montana shop: http://www.fallscreekcollectibles.com/us_ww2

On 30 Sep 2014 John Philip Thayer responded with the following:

Hi Patricia.

I did make contact w/falls creek (Mark McCaffrey) & the items of my father's are in the mail & should arrive any day. I know you can imagine how happy we will be to receive these. He found these at a military collectibles show in Louisville, KY from the dealer who purchased them from the Morton Tiley estate in Connecticut. I have been pretty hectic in past few weeks but do plan to subscribe to the newsletter. I will be in touch. Thank you so much -

John Thayer

Unimaginable findings have been made over the years as a result of ongoing efforts to stay in touch. It is the reason why all Thayers need to be willing to reach out. You never know where a connection will lead and its later importance.

Editor DMuno

Here a Thayer, There a Thayer, Everywhere a...

Don Muno Editor

It's a rainy day and your plans have been changed at the last moment, what do you do?

Well... one thing might be to grab your laptop, tablet, phone, or your computer which sits in the corner also with no place to go and pull up a search engine or browser ... Google, Yahoo, AOL, Bing, Firefox, Chrome or a dozen others.

Now type in ONE word **THAYER** *and give it a millisecond.*

Why one word? because without additional information, the browser will be unrestricted, which means you've given it the least amount of direction when reaching out into cyberspace in search of a connection.

All things THAYER will be connected. Now skim, take care not to be stopped to read but remain aloof. Flip through page after page. Skip a few to NEXT and continue to run on. The further you skim the more amazed you will be. If this really begins to be mind boggeling, switch over to another browser you've never used before. Their programmer will have a slightly different approach which may pick up on new sites missed by your first search engine or browser.

Now remember, the person who is submitting to the site will need to resubmit and resubmit as new entries daily are put in front of earlier ones making it necessary to write down sites you wish to return to, but before you do, take time to further skip around. You'll find cyberspace unending. Try to misspell THAYER and see where that leads. Now step back and take a breath. Your evening will be filled and a return journey will be planned.

Take your laptop on a break and go where the sign in the window says free WiFi. Don't forget, friends and family will be asking you, Where have you been? We never see you anymore. Have you been sick? Just smile Some won't understand. THAYER will take on a new meaning and your horizon will have been expanded!

This "I'll try anything and the aloof attitude" may transfer to other important acts like exploring a new or old software program. You know, that program on your computer which you use but seldom truly explore. This aloof attitude may lead you down all kinds of trails which open new doors and new journeys; the world awaits!

This is the attitude "young kids" possess and is why they are usually miles ahead of the rest of us, they have no fear of exploration. However, the willingness to develop an aloof attitude and a carefree behavior is your ticket to new horizons. Have fun!

Son of Founder Gen. James B. Thayer, John Thayer Enters the Music Industry

Don Muno Editor

Before leaving Portland and our visit with Gen. James Thayer this past fall, James gave me an attractive new CD of his son John Thayer's songs. Influenced in part by his brother Tommy's music passion and success with KISS, John is now writing, singing, producing music of his own. I'm listening to his CD as I write this story.

I'm enjoying John's mellow sounds and the music background. The CD was engineered in Portland, Oregon and Nashville, mixed and mastered in Los Angeles, with orchestra and strings professionally arranged and performed. Nothing but the best!

By using the http. computer site you can also listen to John's latest CD. The CD jacket has a graphic tree which looks a lot like the beautiful wind bent pines found on the Oregon Coast where James and his boys have spent many hours enjoying the wind, sand and sun of Cannon Beach, Oregon.

As I began my teaching career on the Oregon Coast at Seaside High School in 1967, I can almost hear the ocean waves.

The following comments are attributed to John's web site:

http://johnthayermusic.com/

John Thayer is a singer songwriter from Portland, Oregon, performing over the last four years as a solo artist developing and crafting his style. John has tweaked his now signature sound into a captivating magical experience for audiences worldwide.

In October, 2013, John released his debut EP, "Laurel Street" on EON Records to a limited audience and has received rave reviews. This Indie Pop record has its roots at the Oregon Coast where the artist has cultivated his musical sensibilities in the artist community of Cannon Beach where Thayer has a summer home.

Spring of 2014 is slated for the hard release of this acclaimed seven song collection to a broader audience base. Laurel Street EP marks the producing debut of Bobby Krier, a singer songwriter musician from Boston Massachusetts who also contributed to the songwriting on the record. The record was engineered by Micah Tawlks in Nashville, and mixed by Greg Collins (No Doubt, Matchbox Twenty, U2) in Los Angeles. John's brother Tommy Thayer is the lead guitarist for the iconic rock band KISS.

John Thayer's creative juices are always flowing. Utilizing specific instruments to capture a moment or a particular sound brings layers and textures to his music that can not be denied. He has come a long way from his guitar rock sound and shares it all to a broader audience base.

John is preparing to tour the spring and summer of 2014. He also has plenty of inspiration and creativeness allowing him to develop and release four additional EP's within the next two years. John's talents hold no boundaries whether he's writing music, recording, or playing live – he gives it his all and audiences alike appreciate it whole heartedly.

SENIOR DISCOUNTS FINAL INSTALLMENT

Dwain Everett Thayer's Gifts to Senior Thayers

Keep this list and send a copy to your senior friends and relatives and people that may know seniors.

As I was waiting in line behind an older gentleman at Wendy's recently, I heard him ask for his senior discount. The girl at the register apologized and charged him less.

When I asked the man what the discount was, he told me that seniors over age 55 get 10% off everything on the menu, every day. Being of 'that' age myself, I figured I might as well ask for the discount too.

This incident prompted me to do some research, and I came across a list of restaurants, supermarkets, department stores, travel deals and other types of offers giving various discounts with different age requirements. I was actually surprised to see how many there are and how some of them start at the young age of 50.

This list may not only be useful for you, but for your friends and family too.

Remember YOU must ASK for your discount!

TRAVEL :

Airlines:

Alaska Airlines: 50% off (65+)
American Airlines: Various discounts for 50% off non-peak periods (Tuesdays - Thursdays) (62+) and up (call before booking for discount)
Continental Airlines: No initiation fee for Continental Presidents Club & special fares for select destinations
Southwest Airlines: Various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
United Airlines: Various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
U.S. Airways: Various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
Rail: Amtrak: 15% off (62+)
Bus: Greyhound: 15% off (62+) Trailways Transportation System: various discounts for ages 50+

CAR RENTAL :

Alamo Car Rental: Up to 25% off for AARP members
Avis: Up to 25% off for AARP members
Budget Rental Cars: 40% off; up to 50% off for AARP members (50+)
Dollar Rent-A-Car: 10% off (50+)
Enterprise Rent-A-Car: 5% off for AARP members
Hertz: Up to 25% off for AARP members
National Rent-A-Car: Up to 30% off for AARP members

Overnight Accommodations:

Holiday Inn: 20-40% off depending on location(62+)
Best Western: 40% off (55+)
Cambria Suites: 20%-30% off (60+)
Waldorf Astoria - NYC: $5,000 off nightly rate for Presidential Suite (55 +)
Clarion Motels: 20%-30% off (60+)
Comfort Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
Comfort Suites: 20%-30% off (60+)
Econo Lodge: 40% off (60+)
Hampton Inns & Suites: 40% off when booked 72 hours in advance
Hyatt Hotels: 25%-50% off (62+)
InterContinental Hotels Group: Various discounts at all hotels (65+)
Mainstay Suites: 10% off with Mature Traveler's Discount (50+); 20%-30% off (60+)
Marriott Hotels: 25% off (62+)
Motel 6: Stay Free Sunday nights (60+)
Myrtle Beach Resort: 30% off (55 +)
Quality Inn: 40%-50% off (60+)
Rodeway Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
Sleep Inn: 40% off (60+)

ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT :

AMC Theaters: Up to 30% off (55 +)
Bally Total Fitness: $100 off memberships (62+)
Busch Gardens Tampa, FL: $13 off one-day tickets (50 +)
Carmike Cinemas: 35% off (65+)
Cinemark/Century Theaters: Up to 35% off
Massage Envy - NYC: 20% off all "Happy Endings" (62 +)
U.S. National Parks: $10 lifetime pass; 50% off additional services including camping (62+)
Regal Cinemas: 50% off Ripley's Believe it or Not: @ off one-day ticket (55 +)
SeaWorld, Orlando , FL : $3 off one-day tickets (50 +)

CELL PHONE DISCOUNTS :

AT&T: Special Senior Nation 200 Plan $19.99/month (65+)
Jitterbug: $10/month cell phone service (50 +)
Verizon Wireless: Verizon Nationwide 65 Plus Plan $29.99/month (65+).

MISCELLANEOUS:

Great Clips: $8 off hair cuts (60+)
Supercuts: $8 off haircuts (60+)

NOW, go out there and claim your discounts — and remember — YOU must ASK for your discount — no ask, no discount.

I know everyone knows someone over 50... please pass this information on.!

Thayer Quarterly's Final Steps Require Writing, Layout, Story Substitution, Copyreading, Proofreading & Photos

It's late Wednesday evening and the Muno's are getting closer to finishing up the last few pages of the Thayer Quarterly. Patricia's discovery of a story buried in a stack of old photos and letters from Massachusetts was a real find.

The donation of 100 acres with the Thayer name drew attention to the high regard for Thayers and their contributions to the State. Its important message required a pulling of page four and substitution of this important story. Page 4 and senior discount was dropped back to page 20. New layout designs also resulted.

Patricia had been quietly working on another article which she had not communicated and now may require this page to be scrapped. We'll soon see. The deciding point will be if this new story is more important than the one I am currently working on and if space is available.

Restoration requires skills

My son Todd has set up a copy stand and selected lenses to copy some of the glass photos not yet copied. Once the photos are moved into the computer, an adobe program such as photoshop will be used to enhance both subjects and damaged areas. Choosing just the right exposure leads to filters and lighting adjustments. But this is just the beginning. Pixal adjustment, tonal matching and scratch and imperfections must be carefully removed to blend in surrounding image and make the damaged photos look new and fresh.

Eli Thayer Almost Convinced Lincoln to Take Over Florida

The following undated article was included in the mailing of Thayer memorabilia sent to me in October 2014 by Mary Jeanette Howle:

Had Eli Thayer Succeeded, Florida Wouldn't Be the Same by Bert Collier, New York Sun (about 1975/1976)

As a Salute to approaching Bicentennial [1976], The Sun is telling the story of the colorful characters and events that helped shape our own state [Florida] and contributed to the pageant of the nation. This is another in the series.

Florida history books devote little to Eli Thayer. They should give more. If Thayer's plan had been carried out, the state would have been changed beyond recognition. This dour crusader, with the /Civil War flamed highest, proposed conquering Florida with an army of Northern soldier-settlers who would take over the land permanently.

The native population would be expelled and the slaves as well, unless they agreed to serve as apprentices to the new masters.

Thayer's scheme intrigued Congress. It appealed to Yankee businessmen. Some Northern newspapers backed in with eloquent editorials. Even President Lincoln was at last interested until he began to realize the full implications. Then, his steadfast opposition stemmed the tide until most of the supporters began to have second thoughts.

THAYER WAS born in Mendon, Mass., and became an educator. He was described as a zealot, of humorless mein, wearing a black frock coat and holding a single idea – to solve sectional disputes over slavery by "free labor."

The idea was born during the Kansas - Missouri troubles. As a member of the Massachusetts legislature, Thayer organized an Emigrant Aid Society that sent anti-slavery settlers to Kansas and held it as a free territory.

Sen. Charles Sumner, the Radical leader said he would rather have accomplished what Thayer had done than be the hero of the Battle of New Orleans.

As the South showed its strength in the early months of the Civil War, Thayer surfaced again and decided to expand his idea. Something about Florida fascinated this native of the cold North and caused him to pick it as his target. Now a member of Congress, he took his plan directly to Lincoln.

Florida, he said, was the South's lifeline, the door through which flowed a two-way traffic of vital goods – cotton to the mills of England and articles in short supply for the South and its soldiers.

But Florida was thinly held by the South since most of its manpower was fighting elsewhere. If the government would let him recruit from 20,000 to 50,000 disbanded soldiers who would bind themselves to seize Florida for their own farms and homes, Thayer would return the state ti the Union in a matter of months. That would slam shut the South's back door and bring it to its knees
The only alternative to his plan, argued Thayer, was to keep a standing army in Florida for years – an expensive burden on the country. His conquering army, said Thayer, would be producers, creating ten times more wealth than slave labor, and making Florida worth more than any state in the Union.

After two hours of discussion in the White House, Lincoln said he thought the idea was a good one. Thayer took this comment as a go-ahead.

IN HIS SEARCH for recruits he began a promotion campaign that pictured hostile Florida as a paradise for Northern settlers. He bombarded newspapers with letters and articles. He solicited editorial support and he got it.

"Oranges are larger, more aromatic and succulent than in Portugal" rhapsodized the New York Times in an article describing the attractions of this Confederate state. "Plums naturally grow firm and are of superior quality to those gathered in regions of Spain; figs and olives attain perfection, indigo and cochineal are advantageously cultivated."

Shortly after, The Times struck another blow for enemy territory in wartime. "Florida has the best climate in any state in the Union," wrote a correspondent on its pages, "the best water, the greatest variety of fruits, game and lumber. It is the most healthy. "Any man can live there comfortably by farming if he will work like a Northern farmer only two days a week."

Even preachers lauded Florida from the pulpit. The famous Edward Everett Hale, pastor of Boston's South Congregational Church, posed as prophet, seeing Thayer's legions transforming Florida by establishing "forges, factories, schoolhouses, churches."

"Let us make Florida our Italy," he urged his congregation. "If we need a summer in January, we will take it, as God had pleased to give it to us here at home."

Thayer added to the swelling chorus by writing a book, "Florida: Its Climate, Soil, Productions, Resources and Capabilities." Considering how little he knew about the real Florida, he did a remarkable job.

He described its advantages in lush prose and found himself with a best seller. The whole war-weary North,

it seemed, wanted, as one Vermonter wrote his local newspaper, "to bask in the sunshine of Florida and with gartitude drink healing breezes, so fragrant with the pitch pine of the forests."

Florida Unionists, so numerous around Jacksonville, urged President Lincoln to push Thayer's plan. Five thousand industrious German-Americans sent representatives to say they were ready to seize and settle the state. Lincoln thanked them but said the military situation, which then looked dark for the North, would force postponement.

NOW CONGRESS took a hand, Radical Sen. John Bingham if Ohio introduced a resolution calling for volunteers for the Florida mission. The Military Affairs Committee reported it favorably, pointing pout that this would knock Florida out of the war, seize millions of acres "held by undisguised and active rebels" and end the need for an expensive blockading fleet about the Florida coast. It would also, said the congressmen, assure the Navy a perpetual supply of fine timber.

A congressional delegation called on Lincoln to insist on action, but came away without commitment.

Lincoln was getting a clearer idea of what was in the wind. Such a campaign would mean outright confiscation of tremendous amounts of land, uprooting thousands of people and the permanent subjugation of the state to the national will.

It might even mean the forced resettlement of slaves in South America or Africa, as Thayer proposed if the freed blacks did not fit in with his scheme.

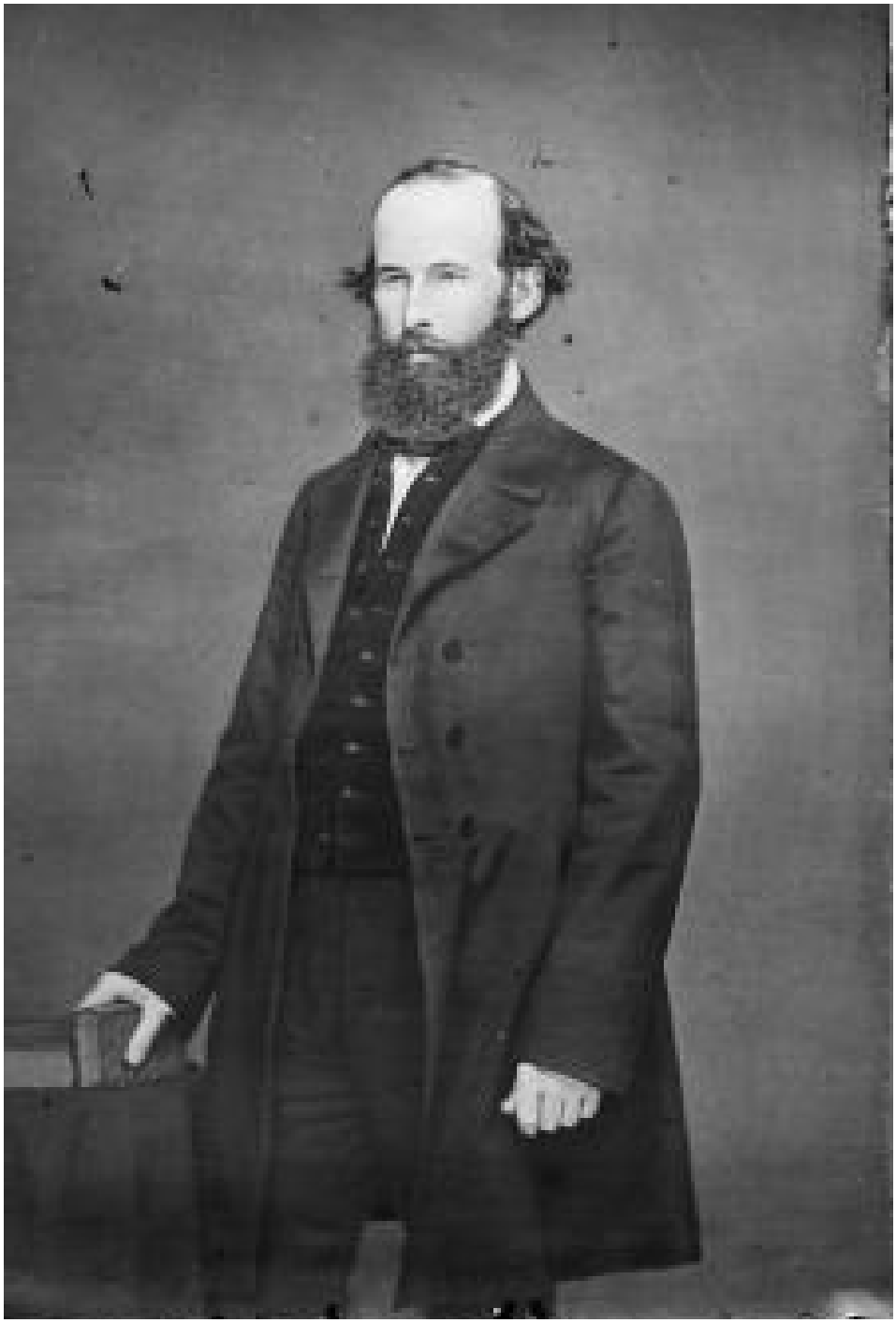
Lincoln was convinced it would be a military disaster as well as a moral outrage.

He would not budge even when leading Northern bankers and industrialists, meeting in New York, adopted a demand for action and sent this to the president by a personal emissary.

Thayer's movement began to run out of steam. Many thoughtful Northerners realized Florida was not up for grabs. Even Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, who had at first backed the idea, now declared Thayer's proposal "like a nest of wasps attacking an ox."

Congress dropped the whole matter. Thayer turned his restless energies in another direction, inventing a hydraulic elevator that helped usher in the first high-rise office buildings. He also built a safety broiler that was installed in many factories.

Florida was left to work out its own destiny with its own people in the approaching dark days of Reconstruction. But it had been a close call.



Eli C. Thayer, a member of the House of Representatives from 1857 to 1861, was born 11 Jun 1819 Mendon, Worcester, MA - died 15 Apr 1899 Mendon. He was the son of Henry Cushman (Benjamin[5], Aaron[4], Benjamin[3], Ferdinando [2], Thomas[1]) THAYER and Miranda C. POND.

New Thayer Memorabilia Acquisitions

165+ Year Thayer Treasure Trove Makes Its Way to Patricia and to You

From Mary Jeanette Howle, in E-mail message of 6 Oct 2014 to me:

Good morning, Patricia,

I am the niece by marriage of Clarence Putnam Thayer. He married my father's sister, Mary Leta McGregor, and we knew him as "Uncle Jim."

His son, Richard Hall Thayer, known as "Dick", recently sent me a large box of family memorabilia, carefully packed away 20-30 years ago by "Aunt Leta." She apparently was very interested in the histories of both her family and Jim's. My brother and I, of course, will keep the McGregor/Hall items, but we have no interest in the Thayer pieces. There are photos, newspaper clippings and Leta's notes.

She was a meticulous person and everything is dated, named and clipped together. She preferred typing to handwriting, so reading her notes is usually not a problem.

I contacted Mark Thayer III through findagrave.com and he suggested that I write you about the Thayer items. I simply cannot discard Leta's work and I know that these pieces will be as priceless to you as the McGregor things are to us. I will be happy to mail them to you if you will send me an address. Please call if you have questions. Best wishes,
Mary Jeanette (McGregor) Howle, Jacksonville, FL.

A few weeks later the box arrived here at my home in North Ogden.

The following note, dated December 1, 1958, by Mary Leta (McGregor) Thayer appeared on top of box:
"Old daguerreotypes sent to Clarence Putnam Thayer after his father, Leon Judson Thayer, died [1937]. Supposed to be kin of the Thayer Families, but no one can identify. Keep for possible sentimental value."

These treasures probably originated as the property of Roland Sears Thayer (1807-1892) and wife Almeda Melissa Barber. At some point in time they were given to son -John Gale Thayer (1838-1920). The photos were then given to John's son-Leon Judson Thayer (1867-1937). After Leon's death the contents went to his son - Clarence Putnam Thayer (1893-1980). After Clarence's death, the photos were given to his son Dr. Richard Hall Thayer (1930) who, in turn, sent them to his maternal cousin, Mary Jeanette Howle.

Mary Jeanette (McGregor) Howle (niece of Mary Leta (McGregor) Thayer, who was the wife of Clarence Putnam Thayer) sent them to me, and the rest is "history." Mary Jeanette has been so kind as to share all of this for the benefit of all Thayers . I feel privileged to be able to share this with you through our "TQ" newsletter, our TFA website and other publications.

These treasures now go from me to our ***Thayer Quarterly*** Editor, Don Muno, and especially to TFA director, and our ThayerFamilies.com Webmaster, James Loren Thayer, who was the great grandson of John Gale Thayer.

Jim's lineage: James Loren (Richard James[10], James Houghton[9], John Gale[8], Rowland Sears[7], Eliphalet[6], Abiah[5], John[4], Richard[3-2-1]) THAYER.

An extended word of recognition for the professional services of our (currently unemployed) son, Todd C. Muno, who painstakingly scanned, photographed and has restored these wonderful ancient faces for all to enjoy!

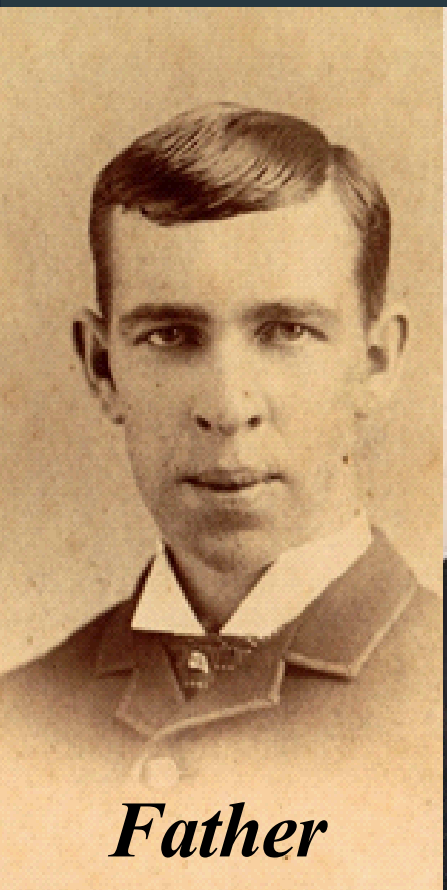
Appreciation also goes to James Loren Thayer for his help in giving the faces in these treasured photos and identity. Stay tuned for more information on the box's contents and an ***update on this branch of the Thayer family, Patricia***

Here is an example of the dozens of photos included in the October 2014 mailing: (NOTE: Three examples below were scanned by me and are NOT the professional ones scanned and restored by Todd Muno!) Many of the photos which were shared are very fragile daguerreotypes. This ongoing project will take some time to complete.

John Gale Thayer (1838-1920). Several early photos of John are in the collection, this one was a tintype.

Before & After Restoration

A photo and information concerning Dr. Richard Hall Thayer (son of Clarence Putnam Thayer) can be found on the Internet. Google his name and prepare to stand in AWE!



Leon Judson Thayer (1867-1937)

Clarence Putnam Thayer (1893-1980)

Restoration Comments of Todd Muno about Glass Photos (Daguerreotypes)

Before experts could digitally salvage the memories of these Thayers... their images were temporarily seperated from tin frames. Then the debris and glass were carefully removed from these early daguerreotypes.

Despite some weathering... Hints of ancient Photo burning techniques still lingered". Cleaning not only revealed rosey cheeks, the images are beginning to evidence primitive burning and dodging skills which were used to salvage blown out image detail. Even Moderatly succesful attempts at this skill would have been less embarassing when inviteing a subject back for retakes.

In the 1800's and early 1900's, these photographs ranged between 35 cents to 5 dollars! Today, you would add two zeros to that five. Photographs were more valuable then the clothes they wore, or about the same amount it took you to heat your house all winter.

Thank you Mary Jeanette (McGreggor) Howle for allowing us to give these photographs new life. Through the digital format, their warm memories will soon be available to countless grandchildren.

Contacting TFA - Historian/Author - Quarterly Editor

www.thayerfamilies.com

For all official business with the TFA, please contact:

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For genealogical queries, or to find a Family Representative of a particular family, or order copies of A comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Families of America vols. I-X please write our Historian/Author:

Patricia Thayer Muno,
Thayer Family Historian/Author
3618 North 225 East
North Ogden, UT 84414-2762

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

 Issues are mailed as follows: Winter (Dec); Spring (Mar); Summer (Jun); Fall (Sep). Back issues are available from 1994 to present; some may be a photocopy (Spring 2000 to present is available on CD-ROM in electronic PDF format, please specify paper or CD when ordering). Cost is $2.50 each for members, $5 each for non-members, checks only, payable to TFA.

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

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

Please send via email to:

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Thayer Families Association

Annual Dues: New Member & Member Renewal Form

*Please indicate if you are a New Single Member, New Family Member or Renewal Member and enclose appropriate check or money order made payable to the **Thayer Families Association** at the address below:*

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 and family of the same household. 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 to membership Chairman % Thayer Families Association below:

First member name: _____ Birth Date_____
Second family member name: _____ Birth Date_____
Children's names _____
Number of years desired:_____ (X) Appropriate Annual Fee ($20 or $30) = Total:_____

Mailing Address: Number & Street:_____
(*Please print*) City, State: _____
Country, ZIP/Postal Code:_____
Telephone numbers (optional): _____

Are you able to receive, open, and read downloaded pdf files using Adobe Acrobat ? Yes ☐ No ☐
Preferred format for the Thayer Quarterly newsletter: E-mail ☐ Paper ☐
May we communicate with you via email, for membership or other TFA business? Yes ☐ No ☐
Your Email Address: _____
(Your email address is <u>not</u> shopped)

Dues NOW Needed!

Thayer Families Association
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The Thayer Journey Continues

Each Quarterly is a search for Thayer heritage as Patricia coined and stated on the Nameplate. The result, however, largely depends on Patricia's taking time from her Thayer Books to work with me and assist me in a search which often spans decades.

But the Quarterly's success is dependant on Thayers like yourself who take time to write down thoughts, share histories or pass on interesting information that others can enjoy. Dwain Thayer's Senior discount story which has the final half printed on page 4 is a good example as are stories from Jerry and Judy Thayer. God bless them for always following through in the nick-of-time. Charles Lawson's story in this issue of a One Room Schoolhouse is another example.

<u>As many of you now have figured out, the last two issues have been double sized.</u> I do try to maintain a quarterly presence but have fallen behind from time to time. As an example this winter has had its challenges here on the mountain. Last week sub 3 ^{0} temperatures with 70 mile an hour winds froze a pipe and emptied gallons of water on two floors (the joys of living near the top of a snowy mountain.) We look out from our decks on the mountain where the Olympic downhill was held back in 2002 The ski slopes are now part of the Snowbasin Resort should any of you seek world class skiing. As for myself , I'm happy just to be sitting next to a warm fire.

When Patricia and I do get away and visit Portland, Oregon, we make sure to see our last living founder of TFA, Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer. He's always cheerful and eager to spend time with us.

The military museum which will be named after him, is well on it's way. His four sons continue to seek fund raising projects to build a 16 million dollar project. Tommy Thayer's private concert with KISS raised over a million dollars just after Patricia and I left Portland this past fall. I had planned to meet Tommy at the coast but car troubles sadly halted further westward travel.

With Sylvanus Thayer on the East coast and James Thayer on the West coast and the Thayer clipper ship docked in San Fancisco, it's a great reminder of Thayer contributions. And when Patricia finishes the Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America it will remain a documented source of Thayer contributions which has helped to make America great from coast to coast!

The last step to cement the final efforts of over 4 decades of work will require assistance in order to publish sets of <u>A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America.</u> It is my final hope and plans that private funds will provide complete sets to be placed at West Point, at the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Military Museum, The Genealogy Library in SLC, the Library of Congress, the Thayer Library in Braintree MA. and significant Libraries across America and perhaps England.

It will require help in determining exactly where these Thayer sets will be placed. And dedication to acquiring funds prior to final completion will be paramount and a challenge!

There is no precedence for such a publication in America,= and as Hobart Holly, Quincy MA's renowned Historian/Genealogist and Author once commented as we began this Journey, "It will be an impossible feat attempted in part by several early renowned Genealogists but the scope and depth of which you have committed is monumental." It has been a lifetime since that visit and a journey plagued with challenges not unlike once described by Homer. - Muno ed.

<u>Thinking About Our Next March TQ Issue?</u>

Begin Now to Help Plan Our Next Thayer Quarterly

Don Muno Editor

You represent a Thayer Branch of the Family tree, Patricia and I would like to hear from you with an update for all to read about in the next ***Thayer Quarterly***. Consider a brief history, connect your branch to the Thayer tree, perhaps counting your branches' size and location; make contact with Patricia for help. Add mention of any significant points of interest such as past and future gatherings as well as notable recognitions.

Patricia has at one time or another made contacts with Thayers in all US states as well as South America, Europe, Canada, and various Islands. Some Thayers hold leadership positions in their respective countries and some have been CEO's of companies such as Time Warner, and many others (as they say) are the salt of the earth.

Over the past 40 some years many Thayers have been correspondents with Patricia. Some of these correspondents have stayed in touch and others have faded into the landscape and patchwork of America and abroad.

The '<u>Comprehensive</u>' is a living publication ever expanding. You owe it to yourself and your family to re-connect. After all, what is more important than family? And remember, not many are blessed with a 'known family tree' the size of THAYER!

From time-to-time everyone comes across Thayer names or significant Thayer information, sometimes found in old letters other times newspapers and occasionally in the local, regional and national news.

Thayers pop up on Ebay and in auctions. Oil portraits and important family memorabilia have been returned to families and museums over the years with great appreciation.

Occasionally other genealogists and lost individuals will reach out and seek assistance in locating other lost family members. While care must be taken to protect those wishing to remain "lost," many have reconnected with lost family with future memories yet to be made.

At Christmas (Holliday) gatherings, grandpa, grandmother, aunts and uncles share stories of their early childhood, some of which paint pictures of a time long past and perhaps forever lost if not recorded.

This is your opportunity to make a difference, to be charished by others yet to be born and those of 'us' still kicking around. Your responses will be included based on space available.

THE THAYER QUARTERLY
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