



# Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

December, 2019

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WINTER

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# A LETTER FROM OUR TFA PRESIDENT

December 26, 2019

Thank you for your membership! Another year is coming to a close, and we hope you and your family will join us in 2020 at the National Thayer Family Reunion. Please save the date and start making your plans now: June 25 - 28, 2020 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, Portland Washington Square. You have until May 25th to secure the special TFA rate. Reservations can be made 24/7 by calling (503) 644-4000 and requesting the Thayer Family Reunion rate. Please visit our website for updates: [thayerfamilies.org](http://thayerfamilies.org).

In TFA-ship,

James Loren Thayer, TFA President

## THE EGGNOG RIOT!

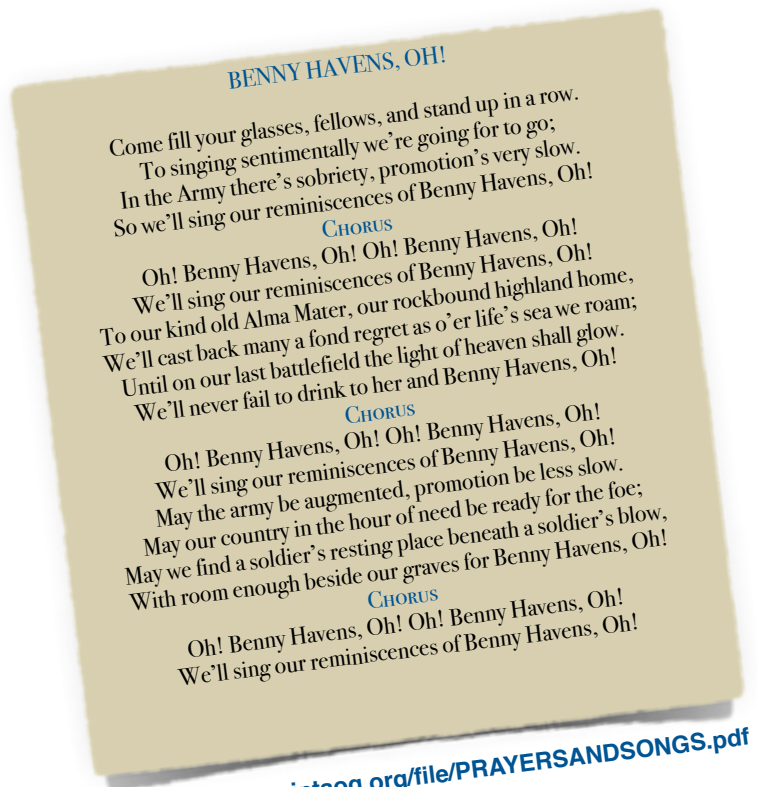
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eggnog\\_Riot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eggnog_Riot)



Long before the fabled Animal House food fight, there was the Eggnog Riot - a real event, and Sylvanus Thayer broke it up! How do you take your Egg Nog? At West Point, it remains non-alcoholic to this day.

Robert Walter Weir  
Portrait of Sylvanus Thayer

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SylvanusThayer.jpg>



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and 2019!

I'm delighted to share the stories held in the pages of our last issue of the Thayer Quarterly, Volume 27. It's been exciting researching some of the various identities I've come across, whether during a road trip to Loudonville, Ohio, or surfing the web from the familiarity of home. We've read about artists, barbers, businessmen, doctors, farmers, judges, merchants, a hotel proprietor, soldiers, a Tory, and a train-dispatcher who was a pioneer in her career. What is more fascinating to me than all of these stories? Hearing from YOU, and learning your stories, whether a current tidbit or mementos from your family's past. I look forward to more of the same in 2020, and wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Cheers to the season!

Larissa Thayer Cullen  
TFA Editor

# HISTORIAN'S REPORT

*December 19 2019*

Warm Christmas Greetings to all!

It is with deep gratitude that I have been able to complete Volume IX of the “Comprehensive Genealogy” for those who have pre-ordered it for the Christmas gifting season. Three miracles in one day preceded this event! Work on Volume X (10) has already commenced, although there are problems with the size. I was certain that it was going to be a smaller volume than the near 1,000 pages of the last six volumes – But, not so! I so enjoyed learning more about each of the Thayer families in all of the past volumes, and expect to be thrilled with learning more about those in this next one as well. Also, Volume VII (7) was all sold out, but is now at the printers for a second printing! Let me know if you have any questions. Here is a glimpse of what is contained in the 26 Addenda of Volume IX:

**ADDENDUM A:** Thomas Thayer the Immigrant: His immigration, Last Will and Testament and some additional info on his wife’s Wheeler family. **ADDENDUM B:** Ferdinando Thayer: Story of life in Mendon, Massachusetts; Ferdinando’s wrestling with the Indians, their burning of his home during the King Philip’s War. **ADDENDUM C:** Francis Samuel Thayer, American Merchant and Politician. **ADDENDUM D:** Moses Allen Thayer, the Civil War soldier’s letter to home. **ADDENDUM E:** Cephas Thayer and his “Medway Mill” in Medway, Massachusetts. **ADDENDUM F:** Addison Parsons Thayer and the “Thayer Homeplace” in Medway, MA. **ADDENDUM G:** Edward Thayer and Sons – Prominent Pawtucket, Rhode Island Manufacturers. **ADDENDUM H:** Elmer Allen Thayer – Extraordinary Woonsocket, Rhode Island Grocer. **ADDENDUM I:** Ellis Thayer and Philo Elisha Thayer – Brush makers of Pawtucket, RI. **ADDENDUM J:** Brigadier General John Milton Thayer – American Soldier, Politician and Governor of Nebraska; with an impressive study of his work by historian Everett D. Brailey. **ADDENDUM K:** Lieut. James Harvey Thayer – Union Civil War Soldier. **ADDENDUM L:** Ralph Ernest Thayer – Hand-crafter of wooden goods. **ADDENDUM M:** Marjorie Anne Thayer AKA Olga DeNisto – “My Search for Me.” **ADDENDUM N:** Baruch Thayer – Revolutionary War Soldier. **ADDENDUM O:** Eli Thayer – Civil War Prisoner of War. **ADDENDUM P:** Albert Augustus “Gus” Thayer and his Minnesota Thayer Hotel, including the story of his wife’s Civil War Folk Heroine ancestor: Barbara Fritchie and the poem about her written by John Greenleaf Whittier; and a wonderful poem about “Gus” by Edna Louise (Wilke) Thayer. **ADDENDUM Q:** William Warner Thayer – Minnesota Farmer and Real Estate Businessman and his tragic death. **ADDENDUM R:** Dr. James Earl Thayer and how he set the history Nebraska to Music. **ADDENDUM S:** A story about “Grandpa” Charles Orton Thayer. **ADDENDUM T:** Milton Bradley – “Let’s Play a Game.” **ADDENDUM U:** Thomas Warren Thayer – Cazanovia, NY Sash and Door Manufacturer. **ADDENDUM V:** Doctor Proctor Thayer – Physician and Surgeon. (Read about how he got into – and out of - trouble for body snatching.) You gotta love him! **ADDENDUM W:** Adin Thayer and Son Charles Martin Thayer – Prominent Massachusetts Politicians. **ADDENDUM X:** Frederick Thayer – Worcester, MA Fabric Manufacturer and Leading Citizen. **ADDENDUM Y:** Charles Davis Thayer – Well-known New England Florist. **ADDENDUM Z:** Eli Thayer – Educator, Legislator, Inventor, American Abolitionist and Organizer of the “Kansas Crusade.” **AN INCREDIBLE SURPRISE CAME IN THE MAIL LAST WEEK IN THE FORM OF A MONITORY GIFT FROM THE THAYER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION!! THANKS TO THESE WONDERFUL LEADERS, WE WILL MORE EASILY BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING 2020 NATIONAL THAYER FAMILY REUNION IN PORTLAND OREGON, JUNE 25TH – 28TH. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND WITH US! WE WANT TO MEET YOU ALL! HAVE A HAPPY AND AN ESPECIALLY HEALTHY NEW YEAR. PATRICIA AND DON MUNO**

Volume IX Book Review: by Editor/Publisher Don Munro

Forty-six years of research, and a year of intensive editing preceded Volume IX (9) of A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America. It is rare, to say the least, that any family in America or elsewhere can find a comprehensive family genealogy of excess of one or two volumes, tracing family and ancestors back for more than 500 years; except perhaps for “Royals,” whose ancestry with proven descendancy allows for proof of lineage establishing monarchical claims of leadership rights. Few family members can afford to spend a life of dedication to such a lofty goal, and, until Patricia’s generation, computers were not available to gather, sort and record the life histories and thousands of detailed records of dates and accompanied stories. Let me highlight for you a number of unique aspects of volume IX (9).

For those of you who religiously order each volume as it has come off the press, you will be very excited and pleased as your copy arrives before Christmas. For all other Thayers, each “Comprehensive” volume adds pages of stories of the ancestors’ accomplishments and efforts to shape our American History. Heroic actions which Thayers have taken that elevates their life’s achievements which can be shared by all those who also sign their name “THAYER,” or those who are simply exceedingly proud of their Thayer ancestry. Of the fifteen major works authored by Patricia, Volume IX (9) has the largest number of Addenda preceding the cross referenced index of 77 pages. Volume IX (9) contains the information of 3,560 individuals in over 1000 families.

Three hundred and three contributors are listed in the Introduction, along with the 9 family representatives who assisted with compiling of information on their respective families. A scholarly work is often judged by its bibliography of which there are 11 pages referencing works which will lead the reader into depths of study to satisfy years of enjoyment. Twenty-six Addenda profile outstanding Thayers who can be referenced back into the genealogies and show relationships. All of this is in addition to the copious notes with special information directly attached to those you are reading about. This depth of credited research separates Patricia’s Thayer genealogies from other works. – Donald Munro

# NAVY HERO, LCDR JOHN HOWARD THAYER

BY ROBERT L. THAYER

## GREETINGS, FELLOW THAYERS,

After speaking with Patricia, I wanted to share a story with all of you about my father, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1949 to 1961 as a Naval Pilot.

On March 22, 1952, my father, Lt. John Howard Thayer, flew the AD-1 Skyraider for VF-194. He heard screams over the radio: "Help me, help me, I am blind, Help!" He looked around, and above was another Skyraider, heading straight up into a solid overcast. He gave the order to the other aircraft to rock its wings if they were in trouble, and sure enough it did. The other AD-1 Skyraider had a anti-aircraft shell explode in the cockpit, severely injuring its pilot, Ens. Kenneth Schechter (1930-2013), blinding him with his own blood. The cockpit's canopy had been blown away as well. For the next forty-five minutes, Dad guided Ken, by means of the radio, which still worked, to emergency-land, belly up, at an abandoned airfield called Jersey Bounce. Meanwhile, the carrier USS Valley Forge had picked up transmission between the two pilots, and senior pilots were there to greet my Dad upon his return to the carrier. There was an article written by Commander Harry Burns in the November 29, 1952 issue of the Saturday Evening Post called The Case of The Blind Pilot, and in 1954, MGM made a movie called Men of the Fighting Lady, with Van Johnson playing the role of my father.

In June 1953, Dad was flying an F9F Panther jet for VF-52 from the aircraft carrier USS Boxer, when another pilot was severely wounded in the legs over North Korea. This time, he used hand signals to guide the stricken pilot to an emergency landing in South Korea.

On Jan 7th, 1961, now a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR), my Dad was attached to VA-86 onboard the aircraft carrier USS Independence. A call came that the Commanding Officer of his squadron's A-4 Skyhawk had a massive electrical failure over the Italian Coast of the Mediterranean sea, and was unable to return to the carrier. Dad found and guided the CO's aircraft back to the carrier. With the carrier in sight, his CO's jet inexplicably crashed. Meanwhile, my Dad was coming around to make his landing and disappeared as well. The next morning, the only apparent remains of Dad's jet was its fuel tank.

In May 2009, Dad was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for saving Ens. Kenneth Schechter's life 57 years earlier. Ken was present at the ceremony.

I also served in the Navy from 1989-2008 as a Grape or aircraft refueler, and I am now retired, having finished what my Dad wanted to do. RIP LCDR John Howard Thayer, your son has completed your watch. Love you Dad.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men\\_of\\_the\\_Fighting\\_Lady](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_of_the_Fighting_Lady)

### LINKS FOR FURTHER STUDY

<https://tinyurl.com/w94huga>

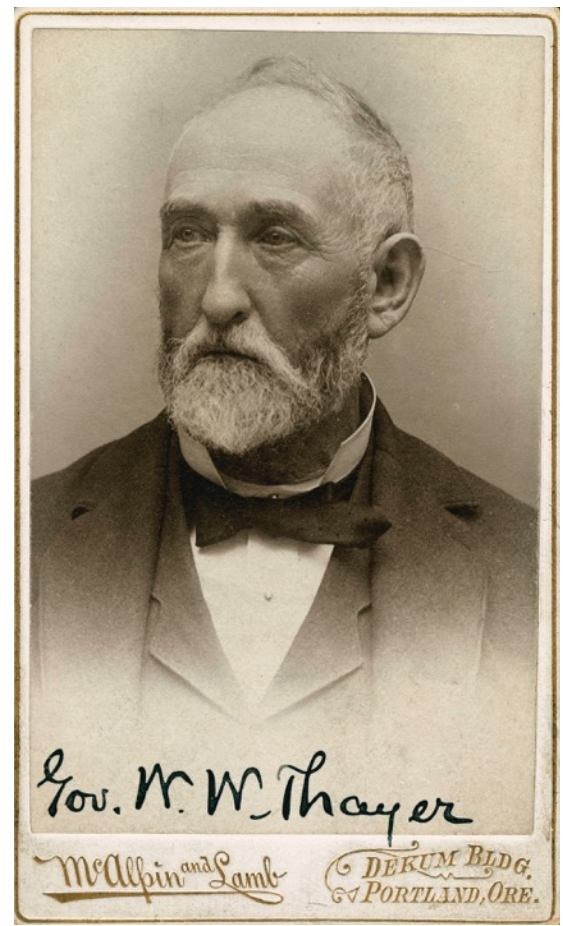
<https://tinyurl.com/w8cpusf>

<https://tinyurl.com/vpteom5>

# WILLIAM WALLACE THAYER, OREGON'S 6<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNOR

FROM HISTORY OF THE BENCH AND BAR OF OREGON:

**WILLIAM WALLACE THAYER.** William Wallace Thayer was born upon a farm near Lima, Livingstone County, in the State of New York, July 15, 1827. His father was a farmer, having migrated from Rhode Island to Western New York while that country was a wilderness. The subject of this sketch was reared upon the farm and obtained his school education at a country common school. Begun reading law in 1849 and was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the State of New York at the city of Rochester in that state, in March, 1851. Located at Buffalo soon after his admission to the bar and associated himself in the practice of the law, with an elder brother, E. Thayer, who was then practicing law at that place; but after remaining at Buffalo a few months he went to Tonawanda, a town upon the Niagara River, about half way between Buffalo and Niagara Falls, and there opened an office. He remained in Tonawanda ten years, married his wife there – Samantha [SIC] Vincent – but went back to Buffalo in 1861, and again associated himself with his brother, E. Thayer, in the law practice. In 1863, however, at the instance of another brother, A. J. Thayer, he migrated to Oregon. He crossed the plains in coming to Oregon by the former mode of travel; arrived at Corvallis, Benton County, September 13, 1862, where A.J. Thayer resided and was engaged in a mixed business of farming and practicing law. He remained with his brother at Corvallis until the summer of 1863, when he went to Lewiston, then Idaho Territory. He remained at Lewiston until the summer of 1867, when he again migrated to Portland, Oregon. Mr. Thayer was elected to the office of District Attorney for the Third Judicial District, Idaho Territory, in the summer of 1866, and in the fall of the same year was elected a member of the House of Representatives of that territory, and served a term of sixty days in that body at Boise. His coming to Portland in 1867, was in consequence of the ill health of his son, Claude Thayer, who required more skillful medical treatment than a frontier town afforded. In 1878, Mr. Thayer was elected Governor of the State of Oregon and served a term of four years, and in 1884 was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court and served a term of six years in that office, two years of which time under the constitution, he was Chief Justice.



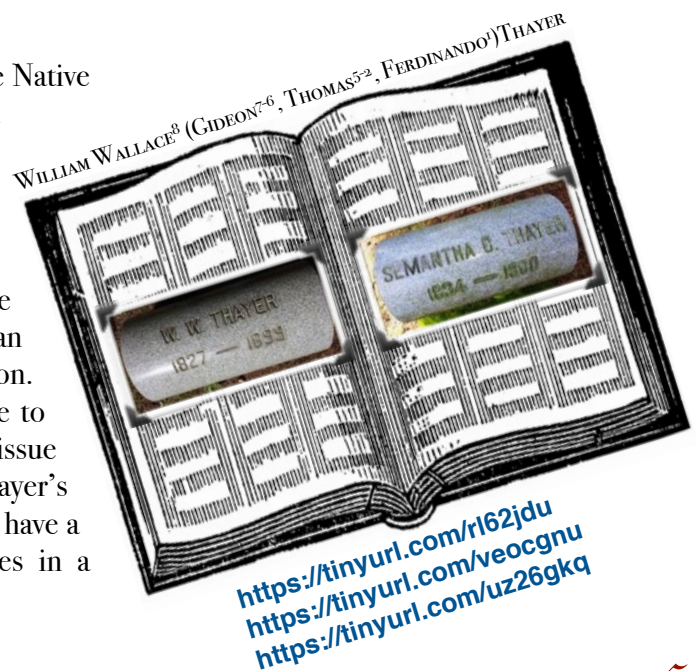
<https://digitalcollections.ohs.org/thayer-governor-william-wallace>

FROM W.W. THAYER'S 2X GREAT GRANDSON,

STEVE TENHONEN:

I'm interested opening a public dialogue regarding the execution of the Native American's (referred to in Governor Thayer's letter to the Oregon National Guard). I feel it's important to be open about this issue. My Great, Great Grandfather is buried in Lone Fir cemetery with a headstone that list only his dates. I've been in touch with the Cemetery regarding the possibility of placing a beautiful plaque at the base of the graves, to reflect William and Semantha's contributions to the development of Oregon's political landscape. It would be neat to have an unveiling ceremony during our 2020 National Thayer Family Reunion. Cemetery management is very supportive of my idea. I would also like to reach out the local Northwest Tribesman, to extend an olive branch and issue an official apology to those tribes during an unveiling of Governor Thayer's new grave marker. I'm a lifelong Oregonian who grew up in Portland. I have a background in premonitions, and feel this could touch a lot of lives in a meaningful way while still honoring our Thayer family.

I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR TIME AND HELP.



# TRADING PLACES

THE ENIGMATIC WORLD OF ZABDIEL THAYER

## ZABDIEL THAYER

b. December 31, 1783, Braintree, MA

d. March 26, 1845, Cincinnati, OH

married Abigail Curtis on July 2, 1809 in Braintree, Norfolk, MA

Abigail born July 11, 1792 in Braintree, MA, died February 15, 1882 in Xenia, OH

<https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LHB5-GNH/abigail-curtis-1792-1882>

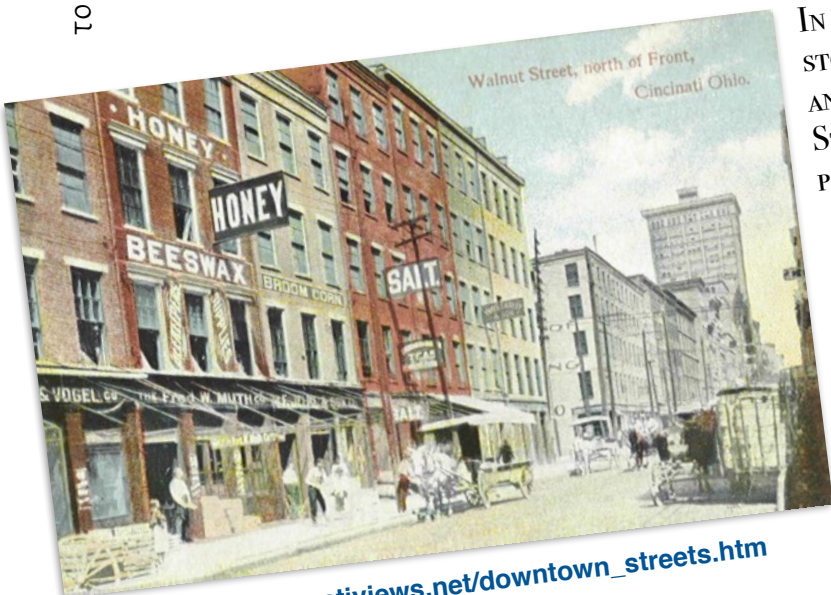
...AND YOU THOUGHT ZABDIEL WAS AN UNUSUAL NAME?

HE CAN ALSO BE FOUND ERRONEOUSLY AS "ZABDILL," "ZEBEDEE," OR "ZABDAD."



IN 1842, ZABDIEL THAYER HAD TWO TOBACCONIST STOREFRONTS IN DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI; ELM BETWEEN 3RD AND 4TH STREETS, AND MAIN BETWEEN FRONT AND 2ND STREETS. THEIR STREETSCAPES SIMILAR THAT OF THIS POSTCARD, IN VICINITY.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Zabdiel is resting in Wesleyan Cemetery, formerly Cumminsville Cemetery, in the Northside neighborhood of Cincinnati. It is known as the first cemetery to be integrated. Many abolitionists are buried there, and the cemetery was an important part of the history of the Underground Railroad. Upon a recent visit I learned that his gravestone and those of a Thayer plot are missing. I hope to learn more, and to share findings with all of you.



[http://www.cincinnativiews.net/downtown\\_streets.htm](http://www.cincinnativiews.net/downtown_streets.htm)

# THE WAR OF 1812 SEEMED TO MEET WITH LITTLE FAVOR WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN.

IT WAS LOOKED UPON AS AN ATTEMPT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SECURE THE CONQUEST OF CANADA. IN WILLIAMSBURG AND IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY THERE WERE MANY FAMILIES WHO HAD NEAR RELATIVES IN CANADA. THERE WERE THE NASHES, THE BANGSES, THE HUBBARDS, THE POMEROYS AND THE HYDES, LIVING IN STANSTEAD, ALL FROM WILLIAMSBURG. THE THAYERS HAD RELATIVES AT MONTREAL.

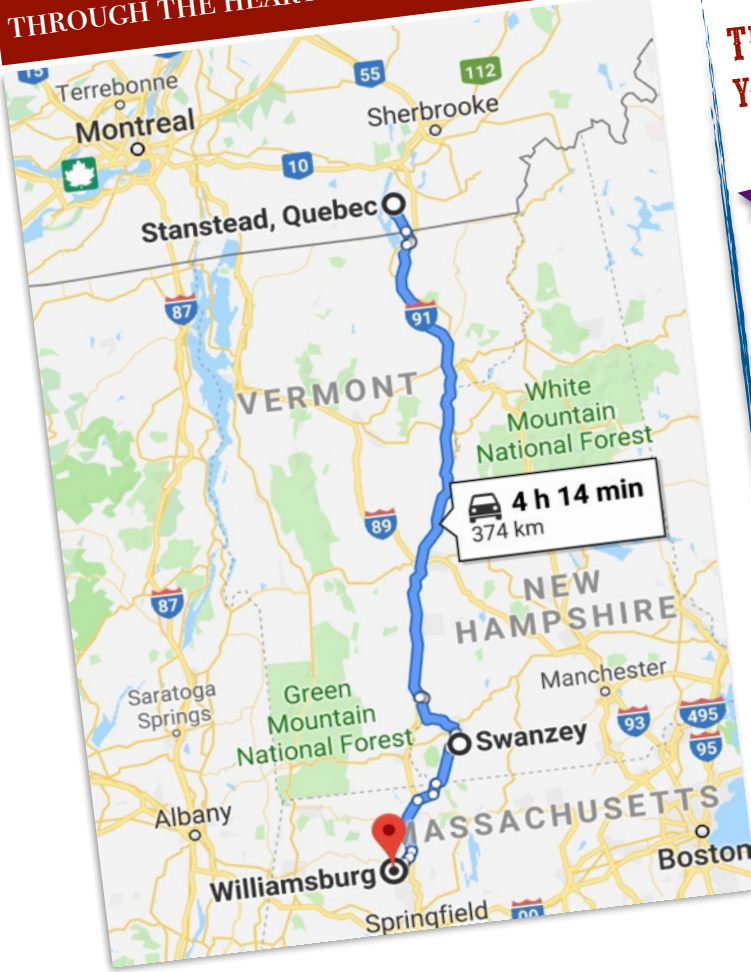
# THE NEW ENGLAND PEOPLE WERE GIVEN TO COMMERCE, AND THEY CONTINUED TO TRADE WITH ENGLAND DURING THE WAR.

DRY GOODS WERE BROUGHT INTO WILLIAMSBURG FROM MONTREAL AND QUEBEC, IN 1815, THROUGH THE NORTHERN PART OF VERMONT, PACKED ON HORSES. STEEL FOR THE AX TRADE, CAME FROM MONTREAL TO WILLIAMSBURG. WE SAW GOODS LAID DOWN ON THE COUNTERS IN THE STORES IN WILLIAMSBURG, IN 1814, '15 AND '16, DIRECTLY FROM THE FACTORIES OF LEEDS AND MANCHESTER, BROUGHT INTO BOSTON, SALEM AND NEWPORT, UNDER DANISH AND PRUSSIAN COLORS. INDEED, MANY MERCHANTS HAD A YOUNG CLERK OR PARTNER IN ENGLAND BUYING GOODS DURING THE WHOLE WAR OF TWO YEARS AND SIX MONTHS, TO SUPPLY THE NEW ENGLAND MARKETS. STOCK WAS DRIVEN FROM CONNECTICUT RIVER, VERMONT, AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO SUPPLY THE DEMAND FOR BEEF IN CANADA.

THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT HAD BECOME PECULIARLY OBNOXIOUS TO THE NEW ENGLAND PEOPLE AND SENTIMENT, BY THEIR NON-INTERCOURSE AND EMBARGO LAWS, FIRST PASSED UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AND CONTINUED BY MR. MADISON.

[https://www.meekins-library.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Historical\\_Sketch\\_of\\_Haydenville %26\\_Williamsburg\\_by\\_Gere.pdf](https://www.meekins-library.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Historical_Sketch_of_Haydenville_%26_Williamsburg_by_Gere.pdf)

IT WAS A STRAIGHT TRADE SHOT TO STANSTEAD, THROUGH THE HEART OF NEW ENGLAND

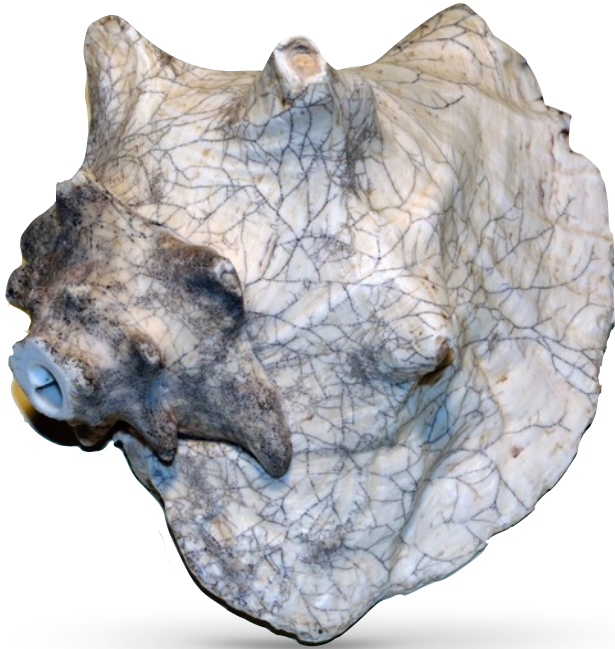


## THE TRADING PLACES TIMELINE, YOUR RESOURCE KEY:

- ★ SEE PAGE 265: <https://tinyurl.com/vctk38f>
- SEE PAGE 126: <https://tinyurl.com/sgjzb4m>
- <https://tinyurl.com/vy9ovbb>
- ◆ <https://tinyurl.com/tx4azl4>
- ◆ <http://morgan.mwa.org/ohionames/results.php>
- ◆ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31026478>
- ◆ <https://tinyurl.com/uqlhstv>

ZABDIEL WAS LIKELY NAMED AFTER HIS UNCLE, THE REVEREND ZABDIEL ADAMS, COUSIN OF OUR SECOND PRESIDENT, JOHN ADAMS.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zabdiel\\_Adams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zabdiel_Adams)

# CONCH SHELL BLOWER, LIEUTENANT, AND MILLER - SUNDRY TITLES KNOWN TO JOSHUA THAYER



**Williamsburg conch shell, c. 1771**  
Meekins Library, Williamsburg, Mass.,  
Local History Objects Collection  
REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION  
<https://tinyurl.com/wzxa5qr>

A grist-mill—the first and only one ever in operation in Haydenville—was erected about 1800, by Lieut. Joshua Thayer, and stood near the old Cornelius Tileston place. Lieut. Thayer was employed by the town to blow the conch-shell for notifying the people of the time for attending church services. Soon after this mill was in operation, a freshet swept away the dam and turned the mill partly over. The current of the river was turned into the highway, and completely took possession of it as far down as the dugway hill; a large hole was made in the road in front of the mill, and the public travel was compelled to pass around it for several years. The hole was finally filled so as to be possible for teams, but it can now be distinguished. The highway along the river at this point, in consequence of its having been frequently washed in times of high water, is several feet lower than the adjacent land. The dam was never rebuilt, and all vestiges of the mill have been swept away.

JOSHUA WAS JUST 29 YEARS OLD WHEN  
ELECTED BY THE TOWN OF HAYDENVILLE.

TO HEAR AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS  
BEAUTIFUL SHELL WOULD HAVE  
SOUNDED, CLICK OR VISIT THIS LINK:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Conch\\_shell.ogg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Conch_shell.ogg)

AT A MEETING HELD MAY 13, 1771, IT WAS VOTED TO RAISE £20 FOR PREACHING, BEFORE THE NEXT MARCH MEETING. OTHER VOTES WERE PASSED AT THIS MEETING, GIVING " THE PROPRIETORS OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE" TWO-THIRDS OF THE COST OF BUILDING IT, DECIDING TO REPAIR IT SO THAT IT MIGHT SERVE AS A PLACE FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP, AND PROVIDING A CONCH SHELL, AND A SALARY OF 15 SHILLINGS TO LIEUT. JOSHUA THAYER FOR BLOWING IT TO CALL THE PEOPLE TOGETHER, AND FOR KEEPING THE SCHOOL HOUSE IN ORDER. THIS SHELL IS STILL PRESERVED AS A PRECIOUS MEMORIAL OF THE PAST.

ANOTHER CALL - THE LEXINGTON ALARM! HE PUT  
DOWN THE CONCH SHELL, AND PICKED UP THE MUSKET,  
TO REPEL THE BRITISH ON THEIR RETURN TO BOSTON  
ALONG THE CONCORD-LEXINGTON ROAD.

JOSHUA THAYER, 1742 -1822, TURNED OUT AT THE LEXINGTON ALARM IN A DETACHMENT OF MINUTE MEN UNDER COL. ABIEL [SIC] FELLOWS AND, 1777, WAS SERGEANT IN COLONEL MAY'S REGIMENT. HE WAS BORN IN BRAINTREE, DIED IN WILLIAMSBURG, MASS.

<https://tinyurl.com/s8qd9bn>  
<https://tinyurl.com/qtmx95r>

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

*I am also on the Richard line. Joshua's  
father Zachariah was my 6x Great Uncle.*



JOSHUA<sup>6</sup> (ZACHARIAH<sup>5</sup>, NATHANIEL<sup>4</sup>,  
RICHARD<sup>3-1</sup>) THAYER



# In Memoriam

## ROGER'S LINEAGE, FROM PATRICIA:

Roger Eugene (Paul Edward, John Bingham, William Henry, John McBride, Richard) THAYER and Elizabeth SINCEBAUGH.

Roger Eugene Thayer was born November, 29, 1926 in Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York, first son of Paul Edward Thayer who founded the Thayer Radio Co. and Veda Mary Zellar Thayer, organist for State Street Methodist Church. He graduated from Ithaca High School (IHS) in 1944, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an air cadet, trained as a radar technician in Lowry Field in Denver, and was honorably discharged in 1945 to pursue his college education at Cornell University, where he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1949. Roger went on to get a Masters of E.E. at Cornell in 1951 publishing "Radar Echoes from the Aurora Borealis." He worked for The General Electric Co. summers from 1948. He married Jane Hillis of New York City in June 1951, She was also a student at Cornell. They moved to Washington, DC after she graduated in 1952 and Roger took a job with the, then secret, National Security Agency (NSA) where he developed radio intercept equipment.

Roger got an NSA Fellowship in 1955 to attend Harvard University where he received a Masters in Applied Physics, specializing in radio antenna theory and radio propagation. In 1957 NSA sent him to Japan to head their laboratory in Tokyo responsible for, among other work, Soviet radio intercepts, including those from the First Man-made earth satellite Sputnik; it inspired the remainder of his career, conceiving, promoting, and developing U.S. electronic spy satellites. In 1963 they detached him to the, then also secret, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in the Pentagon where he was responsible for their Radar and Communications Intercept Satellites, for which he was recently honored with a Certificate of Recognition and included on a DVD of the declassified POPPY Program operated for the NRO by the U.S. Navy Naval Research Laboratory to intercept and locate foreign RADARs. In 1973 he was sent to work with the CIA on other secret signals intelligence projects. He retired from NSA in 1986.

In 1989 he was called back to help write a history of SIGINT Satellite projects developed prior to 1975. In 2005 one of those book chapters, "POPPY", was declassified and its general description is on the Internet, (see NRO history). Since 1989 Roger volunteered for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, whose National Headquarters and Library is in Princeton, NJ. At the time, he recorded portions of mainly electronics and other technical textbooks in the Washington, DC Studio. Since moving to Martha's Vineyard in 1995, he was loaned recording equipment to continue work from his home in Sengekontacket. He amassed a record of over 6,100 hours of volunteer recording, more than anyone to date for the Washington Studio, completing over 48 books in their entirety such as Weinberg's "Discovery of Atomic Particles", Kaplans' "The Art of the Infinite", Boone's "A Brief History of Cryptology", and Worldwatch Institute's "State of the World", and several hundred books of which he recorded parts/ chapters. Roger began singing as a kindergartner in Ithaca, sang in the Episcopal Boys Choir, Boynton Jr. High Chorus, then, as a tenor, in the Ithaca High School (IHS) Men's Glee Club, serving as President in 1944; he also was President of the Cornell Men's Glee Club in 1949, sang in Church Choirs in Ithaca, Virginia, Maryland and Martha's Vineyard. He was a member of the semiprofessional Paul Hill Chorale in Washington, DC singing over 100 concerts in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, including at its opening in 1971. On Martha's Vineyard he has sung with The Island Community Chorus since 1996 and The NAACP Spirituals Choir in 2006, then becoming The Jim Thomas Slavesongs Choir from 2007. He played Tenor Sax in the Ithaca HS Marching Band and the Cornell Big Red Band. He played bassoon in the Jr. High Orchestra and Bass Viol in the IHS Orchestra. In 1998, after moving permanently to The Vineyard from Potomac, MD, he became Secretary of the Sengekontacket Community to which he and Jane belonged since 1990.

Roger was a member of Unitarian Churches in Ithaca, NY, Arlington, VA, Silver Spring, and Potomac, MD, and a "Friend" of Martha's Vineyard's Unitarian Universalist Society, and sang in several UU choirs. Recent work with the UUSMV included working for Peace.

He was predeceased by Jane on October 11, 2016, his wife of 65 years, who inspired him in his writing and peace efforts; and by their daughter, Peggy on January 5, 2010. He is survived by their son, David and his partner, Diane Wittveld; their daughter Cyndy and her partner, Evelyn Mathis - who devoted her time these last 2 years caring for him; their grandson, David and his wife Julie; his daughter-in-law, Sandy Raymond, Peggy's widow; his brother, Larry and wife Alice; and numerous other cousins, nephews and nieces.

His memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to Hospice of MV, PO Box 1478, Vineyard Haven, MA 02557 or to Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands, 68 Route 134, S. Dennis, MA 02660. Arrangements are under the care of the Chapman, Cole and Gleason Funeral Home, Edgartown Road, Oak Bluffs. Visit [www.ccgfuneralhome.com](http://www.ccgfuneralhome.com) for online guest book and information.

## SAMANTHA JULEE THAYER - DAUGHTER & DUAL CITIZEN

BY RODNEY LEE THAYER, FORMER T.Q. EDITOR

**Her Lineage: Samantha<sup>44</sup> (Rodney Lee<sup>3</sup>, Richard Dean<sup>2</sup>, Ira Noble<sup>1</sup>, Cyrus Thurman<sup>10</sup>, Ira Nahum<sup>9</sup>, Cyrus<sup>8</sup>, Nahum Pond<sup>7</sup>, Jarvis<sup>6</sup>, Silas<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) THAYER (U.S. citizen) and Soontaree (LARDLAI) THAYER (Thai citizen).**

After I retired from the Navy in 2005, Soontaree and I divorced, which was under friendly terms and no hardships between us. Soontaree returned to Thailand, Samantha finished school in the United States, and I moved to Thailand.

Samantha visits her mom at least yearly. One day, Sam mentioned the hassle of getting a tourist visa for each visit. I talked to a friend of mine, a dual citizen, US-Thai, and he explained the steps to take for the child of a Thai national who was born in the US. When Samantha was born, her mom and I did not give dual citizenship any thought, a mistake on our part. After a few emails with Samantha, I had the timeframe she would be visiting her mom, so I invited her to fly down to another province to see me and meet my wife and her step sister, both of whom she has never met. Samantha readily agreed and a timeframe was setup, February 2019. After Samantha arrived in Thailand to see her mom, they set out to start the citizenship process.. Bangkok is a very large city; Government offices and the US Embassy are far apart. After a few days, all the paperwork was finished. The last office would call her to visit a local amphur to get her National ID card, physical proof she is a Thai citizen. As luck would have it, their call came the day before she was due to fly to another province to see me. She postponed, saying her ID card can wait, she is going to visit me instead. The office said no worries, come by the office anytime.

After Samantha's visit, she returned to her mom's town and called the government office again, telling them she needs to delay her ID card again, and once again, the office told her no worries, she can go there anytime. Sammy flew back to the US. Sammy returned to Thailand in April 2019 for Songkran (Thai New Year, one of three New Year parties each year). After getting settled at her mom's place, she went to the amphur (court house) and received her National ID card, then went to the passport office and applied for her Thai passport and received that after a week or so. Since Samantha arrived with a US passport in April, she had to leave with that passport, however, she flew back to Thailand in September to provide care for her mom. She will be in Thailand for 6 months. When she arrived in Thailand, she used her Thai passport and was done with immigration in less than a minute. And no paperwork or visas. So there you have it: a Thayer that has dual nationality, US and Thai.



LEFT TO RIGHT: AMPAIR JULABOONYASIT, RRAYADA (LERTHONGKHAM) THAYER (MOTHER OF AMPAIR), RODNEY LEE THAYER, SAMANTHA JULEE THAYER.



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