



Thayer Quarterly

A QUEST FOR YOUR HERITAGE

July, 2021

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Volume 29, Issue 2

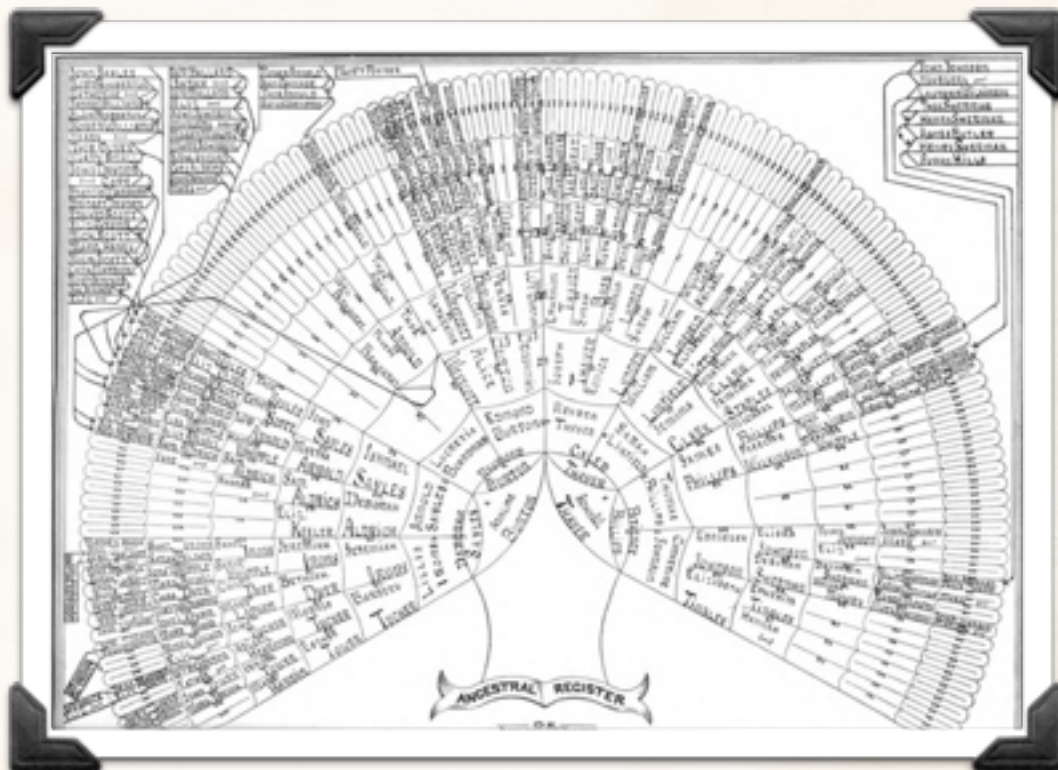
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SUMMER

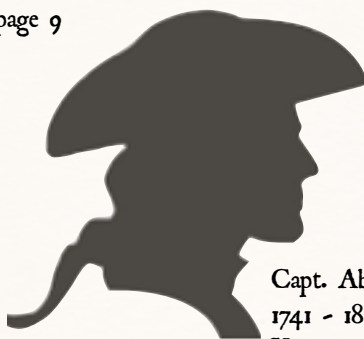


Florine Thayer McCray
1851 - 1899
Her bio, page 8



The Ancestral Register of John W. Thayer,
learn more about their family on pages 5, 8 and 9.

Pvt. William Thayer
1828 - 1864
His background, page 9



Capt. Abel Thayer
1741 - 1814
His story, page 7



Ralph Thayer
Abel's grandson
1805 - 1894
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A LETTER FROM OUR TFA PRESIDENT

July 16, 2021

As I write this, the summer is nearly 1/3 over. I have been occupied several hours virtually every day for over four months working on our new TFA website. It will take several more months before we are ready to go live with it. Hopefully you will find it easier to navigate and find information that you want.

We, the Board of Directors, have not heard from anyone regarding their desires for the 2021 reunion & meeting in Braintree, Massachusetts. Surely there must be some of you who want to see certain things in the area. Don't be shy! Let us know your desires via this email: info@thayerfamilies.org or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2nh4ms37> to send from your browser.

In TFA-ship,

Jim

James Loren Thayer, TFA President



The General Sylvanus
Thayer Birthplace,
Braintree, Massachusetts

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Thayer Quarterly. In this issue, I enjoyed researching and reading about the life of Captain Abel Thayer and his descendants, who ventured forth into the new colonies of Maryland and Western Virginia. A special thanks to Meredith Lovell for sharing her knowledge with me about this branch of the family. There are so many more stories to tell, and could make for an ongoing series, and a fascinating one for sure.

This issue marks five years since I first took on the privilege of being the editor of this newsletter, and it has been a wonderful and rewarding experience beyond my imagination: learning more about my own family, the in-depth history of the Thayer family in America, and the history of this country as a whole. After much thought and careful consideration, I have made the difficult decision to step back, as I find the need to focus on my family, with two teenage children, and many roles and responsibilities on my plate. If you are interested in becoming the next Editor of the Thayer Quarterly, please send a note to Jim Thayer at president@thayerfamilies.org. I look forward to sharing more stories with our next editor, and seeing everyone at our next reunion in 2022.

Many thanks - **Larissa Thayer Cullen**
TFA Editor



HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Historian's Report June 2021

By Patricia Thayer Muno

GREAT news!! Volume X is at the bindery and should be ready for distribution, likely by the time you are reading this issue of the Thayer Quarterly!

Our Thayer predecessors came to this country in the mid-1600's, crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Thornbury, Gloucestershire, England and landing in what is now Massachusetts. Surrounded by the wilderness to which they had come, they cut down trees, cleared the land and built their humble homes as they reflected upon their remembrances of the homes, friends and relatives they had left behind.

Along with others from the homeland, they put their faith in the Bible, and came to this country for religious purposes. They were associated with the Congregational Church.

Volume X concerns the descendants of the immigrant, Thomas Thayer (1596-1665) – oldest of the three brothers who sought freedom in the “New World” in 1637; it was the same year, on April 30th, that King Charles I issued a proclamation attempting to stem emigration to the North American Colonies. Previous volumes of A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America has covered the remainder of Thomas Thayer's descendants through his sons Thomas and Ferdinando. Volume X deals exclusively pertaining to Thomas' descendants through his son, Shadrach (1629-1678) and through Shadrach's sons, Samuel (1667-1706) and William (1675-1727) in 448 pages.



Volume XI will cover the descendants of Shadrach's son Ephraim (1669/70-1757) and is currently in progress. Due to the extensive number of Shadrach's descendants, it was necessary to split the volume into two volumes. As it fits into the Comprehensive Thayer set, it will also be bound in a matching red leatherette-colored cover with gold embossed lettering.

Volume X Review of Patricia Thayer Muno's

A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America Descendants of Thomas Thayer - Immigrant to America 1637 Through his Son Shadrach² and Grandsons Samuel³ and William³

By Editor/Publisher Donald P. Muno

3618 North 225 East North Ogden, UT 84414

It's now 7:30 PM Mountain daylight savings time here in the Wasatch Rocky Mountains of Utah where Patricia and I have spent the day finalizing and delivering Volume X to our printer in South Ogden, Utah. On the printer's wall was posted a large gold seal of award for being Utah's 2015 outstanding printer of the year. It was reassuring as we special ordered our high quality 60lb paper for printing and asked to be called when a single proof copy is printed for our final review. This was done before we ordered our limited press run, which when finished, we then deliver to our bindery in Salt Lake City.

Of the 448 pages, the first 23 pages introduces the reader to the design of the genealogy book. The Thayer Family of Thornbury, Gloucestershire, England, including photos of Thornbury Castle, which once housed King Henry VIII and his bride, Anne Boleyn. (It is possible Thornbury lands were granted to the Thayer family in 1325). Remember, it was the Medieval and Middle Ages, Queen Isabella traveled to France and didn't want to return to England. (Google 1325 England to better understand your early Thayer history).

The introduction also includes the origin of the Thayer name, along with an explanation of Patricia's use of abbreviations. She leaves little to be wanting, as the reader readies to enter into the body of the book to find out about Thayer ancestors and their descendants. The names of four of Patricia's family representatives in this volume are also accompanied by the names of 153 contributors of information and photos. This volume was dedicated to family representative Martha Thayer Evans who commented "I found great fun providing information and working with Patricia following retirement."

Sometimes overlooked, a Bibliography is an indication of a book's author's scholarly effort. Volume X has 12 pages dedicated to bibliography followed by a cross-referenced name Index of 53 pages. Patricia's bibliography is a roadmap of sources which can provide the reader with further family research long after the book is published and sitting on your library shelf.

As Patricia includes extensive information in her published notes, she takes great care to highlight individuals in her addenda. She provides personal close-ups of Thayer life and insights that a historian would only dream of to be able to include in their own historical anthologies.

Twelve addenda are added to Volume X; a lifetime of stories to be shared with children and grandchildren during family gatherings. Family stories will enrich the "Thayer experience" and build pride in their family; something often missing in families separated by vast distance of the American landscape. School classroom sharing time will take on new meanings as stories of their own ancestors are retold by children with pride.

Patricia's Volume X first Addendum begins with a close-up of our immigrant ancestor, Thomas Thayer. The Civil War's most infamous Andersonville Prison experience is followed by a famous American painter, Sanford Thayer. The account of a World War I Thayer sailor precedes a Revolutionary War Thayer ancestor's personal accounts. Also included is a rare story of a pregnant pioneer woman surviving the ordeals of nearly impossible times. In another Addendum is a story about an early wife living in the Colonies. These are but a few of the precious stories and accounts of your ancestors that a handful of Thayers who order Volume X following the publishing will have to provide the generations who follow.

Is it a wonder that during your lifetime only a few of your generation will have the opportunity to benefit from Patricia's life of 48 years research and sacrifice necessary to chronicle your Thayer family of America from England to the Colonies, and on to the westward expansion of today. To be included in their lives across America is an experience not shared but by a few, and the ancestral journey of a lifetime.

Patricia's journey began in 1973, several years before forming the TFA with Cousin Brig. General James Burdett Thayer following her trip to Braintree, Massachusetts to research and meet with H. Hobart Holly, a renowned Historian and Genealogist of Quincy and Braintree, with whom she had been corresponding. At their meeting, Patricia declared her intentions of researching and publishing an extensive and comprehensive Thayer family genealogy which had never been accomplished, but had been attempted by several early respected genealogists in Massachusetts. They could not have known that Patricia's determination, persistence, and incredible skills and effort, would one day lead to one of the largest published family genealogies of all time.

I end this review of Volume X's 448 pages, as Patricia has already begun Volume XI which will be over 3000 remaining individuals. However, following Volume XI, one last volume remains to include all those Thayer's whose immigrant connection has not yet been found. Never being discarded, Thayer's and their families have always been carefully recorded over the past 48 years of research, as Patricia's own Thayer family is included, at this time, as "unplaced." Patricia's Thayer journey began before home micro-computers had been invented, before Ancestry programs had been written and at a time when a number of older Thayer's were still living and available to share family stories. Had Patricia not become totally deaf during her Journey and partially blind, spending her entire life to accomplish the massive research and writing of A Comprehensive Genealogy of the Thayer Family of America is anyone's guess. But, here it is for you and your posterity.

One last question remains: After long examination and consideration, Patricia has insisted the cost of Volume X to be offered at \$95 plus \$15 shipping and handling. At the end of this journey other options will be considered; such as, returning out-of-print volumes back to press, a comprehensive combined index of all volumes, and perhaps an electronic version.

May God Bless each of you, and your willingness to support her, as her Thayer journey is not yet over.

Ancestors of Adelbert P. Thayer, Florine Thayer McCray and Geo.Burton Thayer: children of John W. Thayer and Adaline Burton: also, reminiscences of a Christmas eve at Windermere and some early events in the life of the writer / comp. by Geo. Burton Thayer.



The following story is excerpted from George's book (see link on Page 8):

CALEB THAYER, son of Reuben and Sarah (Linfield) Thayer, was born at Randolph, Mass., August 5, 1771, and January 3, 1796, married Rebecca Tillotson, who died July 8, 1804. He settled, either before or soon after her death, upon a farm of 200 acres about a mile east of Ekonk, in the town of Sterling, Conn., where, June 13, 1813, he married, for his second wife, Patience Phillips, daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Johnson) Phillips, of Coventry, R.I.

The farm is situated at the end of lane running south and east about a quarter of a mile from the road going from Ekonk to Oneco, via Cedar Swamp burying ground. The house was situated on the brow of a hill which sloped to the north and east, and the foundation to the old house and some of the stepping stones leading to the well were still to be seen in 1892. In 1834 or thereabouts the old house was torn down and a new one built a few feet to the southeast of the old one, a portion of which formed the ell part of the new. About 300 feet west of the house and on the north side of the lane, near a brook, was situated a distillery, a portion of the foundation of which still remains.

By whom this distillery was built is uncertain, but there is a legend concerning it which probably has some foundation in fact. It is said a young man was found dead, one morning, between the house and the distillery. It is supposed in climbing over a pair of bars he fell and broke his neck during the night. The farm has since run down till now (1894) it scarcely keeps three head of cattle. In his old age, Caleb Thayer was very agreeable, and during his second wife's last illness he was especially kind to her. It is said after the death of his first wife he courted a young girl who finally became so in love with him that she afterwards attempted suicide by hanging.

In 1840 he removed to Hillsboro, Ohio, where, at the age of 70, he married a third wife. He died August 9, 1855, and was buried at Hillsboro. The old family Bible, bought in 1791, containing many valuable records, is still in the possession of the writer. In July, 1892, the writer took a bicycle trip from Hartford to Sterling, an account of which follows:

"Climbing up a long hill to Sterling Hill late one afternoon, I asked an old lady whom I met if she knew where the old Caleb Thayer farm was. I wanted to find the place where my father was born, and, if possible, sleep that night in the old homestead. In a town eight or ten miles square, I knew this was not an easy task. She knew nothing of such a place, but perhaps Tom Winsor could remember. She would go over and ask him. So we went across the road. Tom was a short, thickset, rough looking old man, 88 years of age. Naturally one would think he could remember back sixty years, for then it was that the farm passed out of the family name into other hands, whose, I know not. He hobbled slowly out to the fence where I stood holding the machine. "What under God's heaven you got there?" he said by way of preface. I told him briefly and then changed the subject and repeated the question I had asked the old lady. No, he could not remember or did not seem to care. Then I told him Fannie Thayer had lived on the farm a few years after my grandfather died. She was my aunt; did he remember her? "Fan Thayer your aunt," he replied, waking up. "The devil you say. Why, Fan Thayer's brother married my half sister. You see there were thirty-seven of us children, three crops, and she belonged to the last litter. Who was your father?" he demanded somewhat emphatically. I told him. "Gosh! I used to know Wales Thayer, and I always rather liked the darned old critter, too. I never knew anything bad of him. Come in and take supper and let's talk it over. Come in and stay over night," and he started for the house. "But I told him I wanted to find the old farm; could he tell me where it was? I thought sure one who remembered the old folks so well would know just where the old farm was, and blessed my good luck in finding out so easy. "Do you remember where the old farm is?" I urged again and again, while he kept talking about everything else. It was getting late and I was getting anxious. Every minute I was afraid the old man would drop dead on the spot with apoplexy or something, and then all trace of the old place would be obliterated forever. Finally he said: "'Why, yes, I remember where the old farm was,' and I held my breath. "You go down to the old blacksmith's shop and turn to your right, and go on down to—you go down to—I can't remember—the devil, I can't remember nothing," and with that the old man swore a blue streak for about five minutes. Much as he had forgotten, swearing was not one of his lost arts. He included in his remarks the house he lived in, the food he had to eat, the fence he was leaning on, and about everything but his wife. She, good woman, tried to pacify him and bring him back to the subject, but it was no use, and so I had to leave him. "Bound to follow out the slightest clue, I turned south by the old blacksmith's shop and kept inquiring. One farmer thought they might have lived on a cross-road about two miles below there (a very reasonable supposition, I was willing to admit), and another was sure they never lived in Sterling at all. Finally, I got track of another old resident, Jim Curtis, over 90 years of age. He didn't know much, they said, but I thought, however much or little, it was more than I knew about the old farm. "So I knocked at the door where he lived and found he had gone to bed. But I must see him. So the woman he lived with woke him up, and I asked him the same old question. "What do you want to know for?" he demanded gruffly, raising himself on one elbow in bed, with his long white beard flowing down over his breast. I explained as well as I could. - *Continued, page 8*

Caleb⁶ (Reuben⁵, Joseph⁴, Ephraim³, Shadrach², Thomas¹) THAYER

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39568851/caleb-thayer>

EDITOR'S NOTE: Based upon George's description, the farm may have been located off of Cedar Swamp Road, just beyond the cemetery.

FROM NEW ENGLAND TO YOUGH GLADES THE FAMILY OF CAPTAIN ABEL THAYER

Abel⁵ (Zachariah⁴, Nathaniel³, Richard²⁻¹) THAYER

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86780091/abel-thayer>

THAYER, ABEL. (1741-1814)

Lieutenant, Lexington Alarm Roll; Captain, Col. John Fellows'

Massachusetts Regiment; commissioned June 7, 1775

Pub. Rec. Mass., Vol. 13, p. 140; Vol. 16, p. 51; Vol. 56, p. 47;

Vol. 146, p. 147.

During the war, at least 16 hulks, including the infamous HMS Jersey, were placed by British authorities in the waters of Wallabout Bay off the shores of Brooklyn, New York as a place of incarceration for many thousands of American soldiers and sailors from about 1776 to about 1783. The prisoners of war were harassed and abused by guards who, with little success, offered release to those who agreed to serve in the British Navy. Over 10,000 American prisoners of war died from neglect. Their corpses were often tossed overboard but sometimes were buried in shallow graves along the eroding shoreline.

THAYER, ——. List of prisoners to be returned in exchange for British prisoners sent to New York in the cartel "Favorite," as returned by Robert Pierpont, Commissary of Prisoners [year not given]; said Thayer, Captain, to be exchanged for John Shield, Captain.

THAYER, ABEL, Williamsburg. Lieutenant, in command of a detachment of Minute-men, which marched in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775; service from April 21 to April 27, 1775, 7 days; also, Captain, Col. John Fellows's regt.; returns of officers for rations between June 11, 1775, and July 3, 1775, dated Roxbury Camp; also, muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; engaged April 28, 1775; service, 3 mos. 11 days; also, company return dated Dorchester, Oct. —, 1775.

May 16, 1777.—General Arnold had been unable to resist the British fleet under Burgoyne on Lake Champlain, though he fought the British armament much longer and more ably and skillfully than he ever had credit for. General Schuyler commanded the nucleus of the Northern army. After the British had driven Generals St. Clair and Arnold from Lake Champlain, and Ticonderoga had been evacuated, a messenger was dispatched down the country to rally recruits and troops. The man came through Williamsburg on a Sunday morning, on horseback. He reined up at the church door during sermon time, and made his business known by proclamation. Capt. Fairfield promptly called for "soldiers and arms," and over fifty men were drafted and enlisted before 4 o'clock that afternoon. We have the names of thirty-four persons who were enrolled in that enlistment. They are as follows:—Thomas Vintor, Eleazer Hill, Amasa Frost, John Miller, John Wait, Jonathan Wolcott, Samson Hill, Jacob Robinson, Thomas Thatcher, Thomas Howe, Downing Warner, Samuel French, Andrew Gates, Josiah Dwight, Samuel Bradford, Elisha Nash, Jesse Wilde, Bethuel Smith, Isaac Finney, Daniel Fuller, John Bagley, Ezra Strong, John Williams, Amasa Graves, Simeon Barrows, Rufus Hyde, Richard Church, Ichabod Hemmenway, Samuel Fairfield, **Abel Thayer**, Jonathan Warner, Elisha Graves, Nehemiah Washburn. These men either went to the Northern Arm or procured substitutes. They raised £215 by way of voluntary contribution, to hire substitutes; while on August 27, 1779, the town voted to raise £300 to be levied on the polls and estates of the town, to hire seven additional continental soldiers for 3 years, or during the revolutionary war.²

REFERENCES:

1 https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prisoners_of_war_in_the_American_Revolutionary_War

2 https://www.meekins-library.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Historical_Sketch_of_Haydenville_%26_Williamsburg_by_Gere.pdf

3 <https://ia802504.us.archive.org/8/items/minutesofcommonc03newy/minutesofcommonc03newy.pdf>

XXIX.—WILLIAMSBURG.

"A Muster-roll of Captain Abel Thayer Company that marched the 21st Apl., 1776:

" Lieutenant, William Bodman.

" Privates, Isiah Dwite, Isaac Warren, Daniel Ball, Ephraim Fisher, Aaron Hemingway, William Reed, Jonathan Warner, James Hunt, Jonathan Munrow."

10 July 1804 COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

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Bryson, and that Levi Guernsey, Elijah Archer, Enoch Price, George Lewis and James Leaycraft be appointed substitutes of the said company instead of Robert McCord, Nicholas Davoe, Albert Bogert, Simeon Freeland and John Shepherd.

Returns were received from Captains Farrington Lawrence and Hays's watch companies. Ordered that the same be referred to the Watch Committee.

The petition of John White for a Butchers stand was received and referred to the Market Committee.

The petition of John Concklin praying compensation as a watchman during the time he was ill of the Epidemic was referred to the Watch Committee.

*The following report was received from the road Committee to wit "The road committee in pursuance to an order of the board have advertised for Proposals [522] for widening and improving the Road near Alderman Harsens in Bloomingdale to the middle road, in consequence of which they have received several proposals, but those of Abel Thayer and others being the lowest The Committee beg leave to recommend to the Common Council that their proposals be accepted and that the Street Commissioner be directed to make a contract with them accordingly. All which is respectfully submitted.

Jacob Harsen
Mangle Minthorne
James Striker
Jr^o Beckman
Joseph Broune

July 10. 1804.

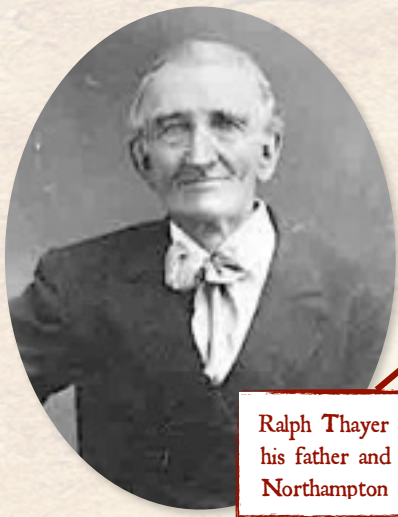
Ordered that the same be confirmed and that the contract of Abel Thayer and others be accepted.

The following Ordinance passed the board to wit

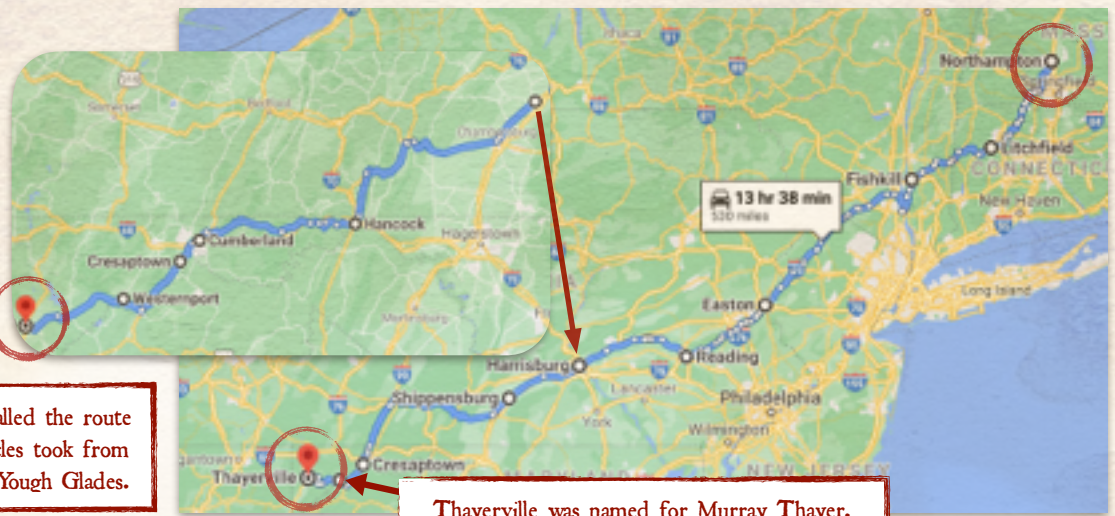
Be it ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New York in Common Council convened this tenth day of July 1804. That if any person shall fire or discharge any Gun pistol rocket, cracker or Squib, or other firework in any Street, Lane or Alley, Garden or other inclosure or from any house or in any other place where persons [523] frequently walk to the southward of Grand Street every such person for every such offence shall forfeit and pay the sum of Five Dollars to be recovered with costs of suit, and if the person offending be a servant, Minor, or slave his or her parent, mas-

* Marginal note reads Report on Harsenville Road.—Ed.

Abel was a Highway Surveyor when the town of Williamsburg, Massachusetts was organized, May 6, 1771.² Above, we see that in 1804, while still a Williamsburg resident, he was working in New York City.³



Ralph Thayer recalled the route his father and uncles took from Northampton to Yough Glades.



Thayerville was named for Murray Thayer.

The Republican - Jan. 25, 1894 - Death of a Pioneer--

In the recent death of Mr. Ralph Thayer at Oakland, Garrett County has lost one of its most widely known and highly respected citizens. **Mr. Thayer was the last link which bound these closing years of the 19th century to its opening.** Having been born in Massachusetts in 1805 he had listened to stirring tales of the days of "76" from the lips of those who had participated in them--his grandfather, Captain Abel Thayer, having been one of General Gates' officers and taken an active part in the Battle of Saratoga and others. Mr. Thayer's memory was something phenomenal. He could quote poems he had not read for nearly 50 years and after the lapse of 77 years he recalled and wrote out in a firm clear hand the route his father (Stephen) and his two uncles, Murray and Job Thayer, pursued when they emigrated from Massachusetts to Maryland about 1816 (1819). Starting from Northampton in December, they came across Connecticut, passing through Litchfield, which was then the largest town in the state; from there to Fishkill, N. Y., where they crossed the Hudson to Newburg; then through Western New Jersey, crossing the Delaware at Easton, Pa., through Reading, Carlisle and Harrisburg where the Susquehanna was crossed and after passing through Shippensburg, Hancock, Cumberland, Cresaptown and Westernport, "Yough Glades" was reached the 22nd of February. Land was purchased, a home built and an orchard planted, and the family of nine sturdy New England boys and girls set to work to hew out a home in the wilderness, 2-1/2 miles from the present site of Oakland, on what is now known as the "Abraham Spiker place," on the Aurora road. At that time their nearest neighbors were the Rhineharts, 4 miles away, who lived where Sunnyside P. O. stands. There too was the nearest school house. The first log church stood on the site of the old cemetery on the Totten place and the first post office was in a log cabin at the same place kept by Isaac McCarty and was known as Yough Glades P.O. In those days the whole of what now is Garrett County did not contain half as many inhabitants as the town of Oakland today. One could ride 20 miles and never see a house or a human being. Then the scream of a panther or the howl of the wolf was heard in the silent watches of the night. Bears and deer were more plentiful than pheasants are today. Everyone made their own sugar from the maples nature had so lavishly supplied; they raised flax and from it spun and wove tablecloths, towels, tickings and summer clothing. All the wool then carded, spun and woven by hand. Roads were but little better than bridle paths and salt was brought on pack horses from Cumberland and the Big Kanawha salt works. The nearest doctor was at Cumberland, 50 miles away. The only store stood near the present site of the historic Red House and was kept by a man named Caston. Dry goods were hauled from Baltimore and Alexandria and calico was 50 cents per yard. The site of Oakland was first called "Slab Town," from one of Mr. Thayer's uncles (Murray) having built a grist mill there of slabs about 1824. **Mr. Thayer's mother (Martha Washburn Packard Thayer) died in 1865 leaving 136 descendants. She often told of having seen the British "red coats" march through Boston. She carried a scar to her grave which she received during the Revolutionary war.** She had seven daughters who were said to have been the prettiest girls, the most graceful dancers and the best cooks in Western Maryland long years ago. In those days a wedding was a great event and people came for 30 miles around and made merry for three or four days. Six of the daughters married and reared numerous families, many of whom are among Garrett County's most substantial citizens. In early life Mr. Thayer kept store in Garrett. His goods were purchased from Hamilton Easter and hauled by wagons a distance of nearly 250 miles. In 1840 he represented Allegany in the legislature. He was postmaster at Oakland for 10 or 12 years. In all the relations of life he was an upright Christian gentleman and we shall not soon look upon his like again.

The Republican, Oakland, Garrett Co., MD.; Jan. 25, 1894

(Courtesy of Mary Ann Frazee McCague)

Posted June 8, 2013

FOR MORE READING:

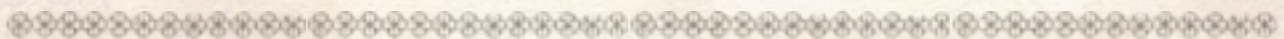
<https://www.seekingmyroots.com/members/files/H003743.pdf>

<http://www.ourbrickwalls.com/subpage91.html>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22047102/ralph-thayer>

<https://archive.org/details/historyofconnect01hev/page/550/mode/2up>

<http://www.longislandgenealogy.com/prison.html>



'The old Cale Thayer farm? Why, anybody knows where the old Cale Thayer farm is,' and with that he lay down to sleep again. That would never do, for it was getting dark outside, and I must find the place. So we stirred him up again. The old Cale Thayer farm? Why, it is down on the Line Meeting-house road. Everybody down that way will tell you where it is,' and that was all we could get out of him. He seemed to think all the early settlers in that section were still alive and I could inquire of them." Just then I happened to remember that the old house was said to have been situated off the road up the end of a lane, perhaps half a mile, and I told the woman so. She said the Congdons had lived down the road on such a farm, and she thought they lived there now, but it was with faint hope that I started on again.



DOWN A LONG HILL I WENT, BUMPING OVER BIG BOULDERS IN THE ROAD AND PLOWING THROUGH OCCASIONAL SAND, ALONG THE DEEP RUTS AND INTO A DARK, DISMAL SWAMP.

About two miles from this last house, in climbing a hill up out of the woods, I noticed in the dark a big, old-fashioned swing gate nailed up with boards. Here, certainly was a lane. So I worked the machine through the gate as well as I could and started up the narrow road, overgrown with bushes on either side as it was. Around a bend in the road I saw a light ahead. Here surely was a house, and in a short time I was knocking at the kitchen door. "I guess I have come on a fool's errand," I said, "but I am trying to find where my father was born. His father used to live somewhere in the town of Sterling, and his name was Caleb Thayer." "This is the place," quickly piped up a female voice in-side. "This is the old Cale Thayer farm," she said, and then I was happy. "The next day it punctured the poetry of the trip a little to learn that the old house had been torn down years ago, and the present one was built a few feet away from the old foundation; but the ell part was the same, and the old farm was there, rocks and all. I stayed there two nights."

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/49474>

GEORGE'S SISTER AND FELLOW AUTHOR: FLORINE THAYER MCCRAY

A clever and rising young woman of the day is Mrs. Florine Thayer McCray, of Hartford, Ct., the author of two novels, "Environment," and the biographer of the "Distinguished American Women" series, now appearing in the Ladies' Home Journal. These papers cover a wide range of subject, and exhibit much versatility and grace of expression. Among the sketches have been those of Miss Frances E. Willard, Mrs. Mary Virginia Terhune (Marion Harland), Rose Terry Cooke, Jenny June, Mrs. John Sherwood, Isabella Beecher Hooker, and Mrs. Candace Wheeler. When these papers shall have been concluded in this periodical they are to be published in book form, and as they treat of the representatives of widely varied pursuits, professions and philanthropies, the work will be a valuable contribution to our national literature. Mrs. McCray's career has but just begun, for, although she has been contributing for years to Boston, Hartford and New York papers, she has not until comparatively recently been publishing books. She is ideally situated to do literary work, and her "Karma," as the Buddhists would say is a fortunate one in this life. Her first blessing was good birth, and her gratitude to her handsome and fascinating father and well-read mother is deep and abiding. Were she a believer in the doctrine of reincarnation, she would go farther back than to her parents—even back to her former lives—to read the explanation of her good luck in this world. But if she does not look beyond heredity, heredity explains in her case, for she is the descendant of noble ancestors, and her heritage from them is excellent. An only daughter, with two older brothers to pet and to wait upon her, bred in polite manners and amid surroundings the most congenial, the world was a very pleasant place for the little maiden, Florine Thayer. Her father's house, near Rockville, Conn., was a complete establishment, with a supply of horses, cows, dogs, and all manner of pets, and among the companions of the child-girl was a cosset lamb, a turkey which would sit on her lap as she read her story book day after day. Woods and fields were the attractions of life to her, and later, when a boarding-school miss at Hartford, her homesickness was largely due to the deprivation of her walks in the woods and her separation from her pets. Among Dr. Dio Lewis's pupils at Lexington, Mass., was Miss Thayer, and among her schoolmates were Rose and Una Hawthorne. While at this school she enjoyed the instruction of such teachers and lecturers as Theodore D. Weld and his wife, the talented Eliza Grimke and Catherine Beecher. An early marriage, a pure love match, which grows dearer as time goes on, to a young gentleman of high social position and successful business career, William B. McCray, of the firm of C. C. Kimball & Co., New England managers of several insurance companies, marks the third era of the career of the young writer. She is in the heyday of existence, youthful, happy, the possessor of the luxuries of modern life, and surrounded by all that makes the world attractive. Mrs. McCray's home at Hartford is in the most desirable quarter of the city, a stone's throw from Mark Twain's house, and a minute's walk from Mrs. Stowe's. The social life of Hartford is exceptionally fine, and Mrs. McCray is a feature of it. Her acquaintance with Mrs. Stowe, her twin daughters, and her son, the Rev. Charles E. Stowe, pastor of the Windsor Avenue Congregational Church of Hartford, has been most friendly, and it strengthens with age. Mrs. McCray is writing a history of Mrs. Stowe's literary life, and the volume is to be published in the autumn by Funk & Wagnalls of New York. When she had decided to write it she went to Mrs. Stowe, for whom she has the most unbounded admiration as a woman and an author, and the latter not only acquiesced in the proposed plan, but gave the young lady



much material. Mrs. Stowe's authorized biographer, Rev. Charles Stowe, supplemented his mother's approval by thanking Mrs. McCray for her intention, which he no doubt realized would be a pleasure to his mother and indirectly a benefit to his book in the future. The personal interest taken in Mrs. McCray's work was characteristic of them, and the closer association into which it has brought the young woman and the renowned authoress has been a mutual pleasure. Mrs. Stowe speaks with enthusiasm of her little neighbor and her literary work. Mrs. McCray's literary friends in Hartford, New York and elsewhere predict for her a successful career in the field of letters. She has all the advantages on her side and none of the disadvantages of authorship. The need of money is not an incentive, hence she is above the temptation to do too much work. Her ambition is tempered by wise judgment, and her satisfying home life keeps her heart cheerful and happy. Surely she is one to whom her countrymen and women may look for some lasting work when experience shall have crowned her literary qualities with the final cap-stone. She is but just entering the temple of fame ; beyond its portals she is hoping to record her pen endeavors in imperishable letters. A woman so exceptionally happy and fortunate as Mrs. McCray is very popular with her own sex. She is in great demand socially, and is often in other cities "on pleasure bent." Last season she was dined, if not wined, at Sorosis several times, and was a frequent guest in the homes of literary people in New York and Brooklyn. Her popularity with the public is growing constantly, and with her present energy, ambition and ability undiminished, Mrs. McCray's literary future can be but a brilliant one.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87355539/florine-a-mccray>

PVT. WILLIAM THAIR (THAYER) OF BROADALBIN, NEW YORK

9480 Thair, William Pvt. Co. D, 115, N. Y. Inf.... Sept. 22, 1864.
(Ad. G. N. Y. says "William Thayer.")

Pvt. William Thair [sic]
Born October 2, 1828; Perth, Fulton County, NY
Died September 21, 1864; Andersonville Prison, grave 9480

Marriages:
Sarah Jane Truesdale (Abt. 1830-February 2, 1862)
Married October 2, 1852

Helen M. Rupert (1833 - ?)
Married November 22, 1862, while on furlough

William enlisted in the army while a widower, his children still young. Served in the Union Army, Company "D", 115th New York Infantry. Enlisted on August 13, 1862 at Florida, NY. Mustered in as a Private Co D, 115th NY INF. Wounded and captured in action Feb 20, 1864 at Olustee, FL during one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Taken to Andersonville where he died of diarrhea on Sept 21, 1864. Per widows pension records, he left a widow and one child Marie (Mariah) Jane Thayer who was born on August 10, 1855.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Olustee

The 115th Infantry was mustered in at Fonda Aug. 26, 1862, by Captain Egerton of the regular army. Its first battle was at Maryland Heights on Sept. 13 and two days later its men became paroled prisoners-of-war by surrender of Colonel Miles at Harper's Ferry. It served on provost duty in Chicago until exchanged in November, then was kept in constant motion until transferred to the department of south in January, 1863, with headquarters at Hilton Head, S. C. With the 115th 1863 was uneventful, but in 1864 it fought in 22 battles, the severest being Olustee, Fla., Feb. 20, when it lost more than half those engaged and where it saved Seymour's army from rout and publicly complimented by him and styled the "Iron Hearted Regiment." In 1865 it was transferred to Butler's division and experienced sever service, in August its effective strength being reduced to 120 men. At Fort Fisher it lost about 70 men in the terrible charge and a still larger number by the explosion of a magazine during the night. In 1862 the regiment left Fonda with a full complement of 1,040 officers and men and in 1865 mustered out less than 200 of its original members. Sylvester W. Clemens, afterward pastor of the Broadalbin M. E. church, was chaplain of this regiment. Broadalbin's contingent comprised 42 men of Company K. **Source:** <http://www.fulton.nygenweb.net/history/Broadhist1907.html>

William⁷ (Jacob⁶, Daniel⁵, Reuben⁴, Issac³⁻², Ferdinando¹) THAYER

EDITOR'S NOTE:

William had two children by his first wife, Sarah. Charles Henry (September 21, 1853 - August 12 1931) and Mariah Jane (July 3, 1855 - June 17, 1895). Memorial of The Thayer Name lists a third child, Milton, born February 1861, possibly true, however I am unable to verify his existence.





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Thayer Family Historian
3618 North 225 East
North Ogden, UT 84414-2762
Email: TriciaMuno@aol.com

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