

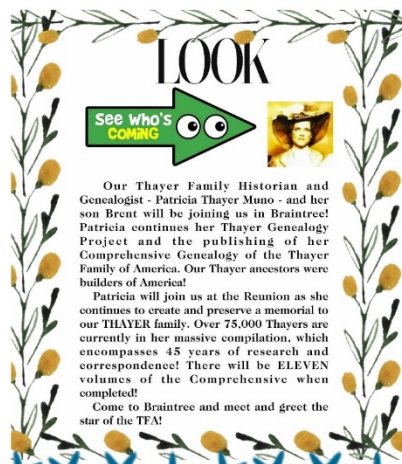
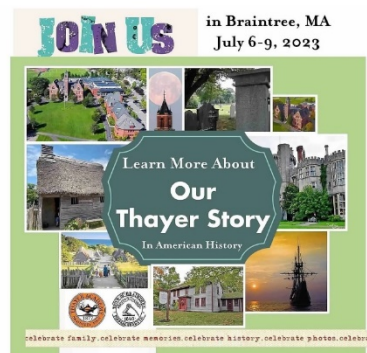
National Thayer Family Reunion 2023



The Thayer Families Association was founded in 1991 to further the quest for the family's heritage. Spurred on by family historian and genealogist Patricia Thayer Munro, the TFA has thrived and sponsors a national family reunion every two years. After a COVID hiatus, the 2020 reunion was held July 6-9, 2023 and 67 family members from across the country returned to their roots in Braintree, Massachusetts.

The Thayers began their American story in 1637 when the first of three young Thayer men from Thornbury, England made their way to Braintree. From that time until today over 78,000 Thayers descended from those early arrivals and can call themselves "somehow cousins".

We advertised...



“ Start early and advertise until the reunion starts.”

It's important to start early and persist with advertising. We plastered FB and our newsletter with information for over a year in advance and flooded Thayer emails with invitations.

The TFA publishes a quarterly newsletter and hosts a Facebook page. Patricia Munro, the Thayer genealogist for the last FIFTY years, also hosts a FB site AND is about to publish her 11th volume of the Thayer Comprehensive.

We Told Them Why They Should Come




MEET BRAINTREE

Where our American roots began...


In addition to the first Thayer boys from Thornbury, England, who settled in Braintree and who were the progenitors of our Thayer clan, another tribute to our line - General Sylvanus Thayer - was born in Braintree and graduated as valedictorian from both Dartmouth College and West Point, where he was Superintendent from 1817-1833 and established traditions and policies still in use, including the values of honor and responsibility, strict mental and physical discipline, the demerit system, summer encampment, high academic standards, and the requirement that cadets maintain outstanding military bearing and appearance at all times.



Our "somehow cousin" Sylvanus (9 June 1785 - 7 Sept. 1872) was the son of Nathaniel Thayer, who was a gentleman farmer and built the house (above) in 1720, and his wife Dorcas Faxon. In 1793, at the age of 8, Thayer was sent to live with his uncle Azariah Faxon and attend school in Washington, NH. Ten years later he matriculated at Dartmouth College, graduating as valedictorian of his class. However, he never gave the valedictory address at Dartmouth because of his appointment to West Point by President Thomas Jefferson. Thayer graduated after a single year. His interest and expertise in engineering foreshadowed the bulk of his later career, and explains why he put so much time, energy, and money into developing strong engineering programs.





MEET THE ACADEMY




- brainchild of Sylvanus Thayer

Though Sylvanus Thayer never married or had children, he led a distinguished life as a soldier and engineer, and as a philanthropist and educator.

Conceived in 1871 at the bequest of General Sylvanus Thayer, known as the father of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and founder of the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, the Academy was established in 1877. The 34-acre campus is situated in the heart of Braintree and consists of eight buildings and 54 classrooms.

Its rigorous college preparatory curriculum, top rating, and small class size (average 15) command an annual tuition of approximately \$36,575 for its 688 private students who attend the day school.



The public library is named for General Thayer, who helped found it through a \$30,000 bequest in his will.

for more info: thayer.org



VISIT MAYFLOWER II



Historic Patuxet is where we will learn about the Native peoples who have lived here for over 12,000 years. The Patuxet were a Native American band of the Wampanoag tribal confederation. They were among the first Native Americans encountered by European settlers in the region in the early 17th century. Most of the population subsequently died of epidemic infectious diseases.

Contemporary interpreters discuss the 17th-century ways of life of a culture that continues to thrive today.



Plimoth Patuxet's full-scale reproduction of the tall ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

You will no doubt be immediately struck by how small the ship seems - particularly in the 'tween decks, where the passengers were confined. How could 102 people, including three pregnant mothers, have survived more than ten weeks in a space this size?

“ Reunion success comes when everyone does SOMETHING to add to the event. ”

We Asked For Their Help

Each attendee can contribute SOMETHING to make the reunion more successful. Everyone was asked to bring something to put into the gift bags, and then to share with the group what they are doing to preserve family history. We asked them to bring something that could be used as a door prize or game prize. We asked them to give us a headshot and biographical blurb for our souvenir program. We asked for art work for the t-shirts and gift bags, and to supplement the program. We recruited a photographer. The more each person participates, the more he or she will feel a part of the reunion's success.

We Shared a Detailed Program

sample pages below

memories. moments. stories. love. **celebrate family.** generations.

2023 National Thayer Family Reunion in Braintree

ALL EVENTS WILL BE CASUAL DRESS

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Check in at Best Western Braintree Inn, 190 Wood Road, Braintree, MA

2:00 p.m. TFA Board members meet at Common Market, 2.7 miles from the hotel

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Registration

Meet cousin Fred Lindsay at the Common Market, 97 Willard St, Quincy, MA 02169 (2.7 miles from the hotel) - Phone: (617) 773-9532 <https://commonmarketrestaurants.com/Braintree>. Here you can register, pick up your t-shirts, and mark the map to show where you came from!

If you brought items to be donated as prizes, or items to be placed in the gift bags, this is your time to do that. Sign up for the Friday Braintree Day carpool - which drivers have room for those without a car?

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Welcome Program, gift bag distribution, and MM&M

Family

Join other attendees for the Thayer Meet-Mix-and-Mingle.

Display and / or share how you are preserving your family history; games; presentations; meet your TFA Board of Directors.

6:00 break for supper on your own
See you tomorrow for Thayer Day in Braintree

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Thayer Day in Braintree

PLEASE WEAR YOUR REUNION T-SHIRTS TODAY!

Friday, July 7, 2023

Discover THAYER HISTORY

Welcome Back! CLASS OF 1637
FIND YOUR THAYER HERITAGE HERE

MORNING SESSION: Gather at the hotel complimentary breakfast and get your car-pool together. Depart at 8:30 a.m. to explore Braintree and learn more about our Thayer heritage.

Meet and park at the Thayer Public Library, 798 Washington Street (next to the Sylvanus Thayer House).

We'll be joined by author John Dennehy and Sunny Shaw (BHS Veep) and other members of the Braintree Historical Society (31 Tenney Road) for our Q & A program about the Thayer Museum and Nathaniel Thayer home, Braintree cemeteries where Thayers are buried, and more. This is the place to get all your Braintree questions answered!

We will break into three smaller groups to tour the Sylvanus Thayer birthplace.

For future reference: You can contact the Braintree Historical Society at 781-848-1640 or president Steve Leonard @ stevedleonard@gmail.com, or by email at braintreehistoricalevents@gmail.com. For more information on the Historical Society, visit their webpage at <https://www.braintree-historical.org>, or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/theBraintreehistoricalsociety>.

* If time permits at this point you can drive to two of the Old Braintree Cemeteries. If not now, there should be time after the Thayer Academy tour or on Sunday after breakfast.

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ca. noon - 1:30 p.m.

Let's Eat!

Lunch on your own with your "somehow cousins" - (suggestions from our Thayer Academy guide Larry Carlson: (Call ahead once you make your decision.)

Chili's - 170 Pearl St. - (781) 849-6151 (Southwestern/Mexican fare), Jake and Joe's (Sports Bar) - 551 John Mahar Hwy - 781.843.3828, or The Chateau (Italian-American fare) - 535 John Mahar Hwy - (781) 380-8770.

1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION: Gather at our assigned parking spaces at THAYER ACADEMY: 745 Washington St., and join our guide Larry Carlson.

Explore Thayer Academy

Meet our tour leader Larry Carlson * (lcarlson@thayer.org) at 1:30 as he highlights the features, shares stories and anecdotes, and answers your questions about Thayer Academy. Unfortunately, the Main Building - the original building housing the Academy, built in 1877 - is undergoing renovations and may not be available to visit inside.

There will be time to purchase items at the Campus Store and more is available on-line. There will be parking set aside for our carpool vehicles. Their Summer Programs (Day Camp) will be in session until 4 p.m. so we may see some students in action. The Thayer Public Relations department will also take photos to commemorate our visit. Wear your Thayer Reunion t-shirts for the pix!

*Larry is a teacher in the history department, Archivist, and Upper School football coach.

Construction on the Thayer Academy Schoolhouse began in January of 1876 and was completed in 1877.

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We Made it Fun and Made 'em Smile

Who doesn't love winning a prize? Give your attendees plenty of opportunity to be that winner! Games, of course, but we also had a grand raffle of a painting by family artist Verne Thayer; and to get a ticket for the raffle they had to have something, do something, or share something.

After enjoying "Meet, Mix, and Mingle" exercises, we shared free time during mealtimes when new-found "somehow cousins" could eat together in smaller groups. And what a hoot it was when we could "Eat Like a Pilgrim". (Many Thayers are Mayflower descendants.)

We Spent Thayer Day with the Braintree Historical Society



John Dennehy



Sylvanus Thayer

Author, lawyer, and Sylvanus Thayer aficionado John A. Dennehy entertained and enlightened members of the National Thayer Families Reunion, which was held July 6-9, 2023 in Braintree, organized by the Thayer Families Association. The Braintree Historical Society organized a program in the Thayer Public Library filled with history, information, refreshments, along with colorful and informative tours of the Thayer house.

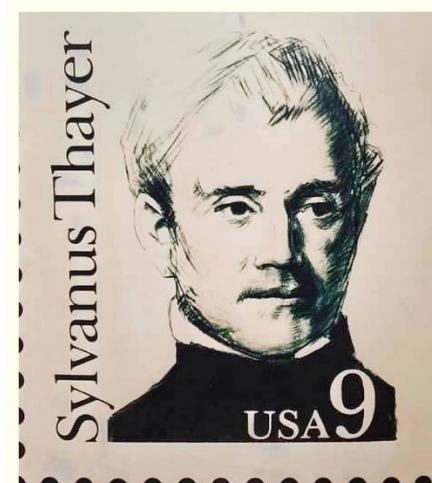
We Toured the Sylvanus Thayer House



John and Rose Marie guided us through the Thayer House.



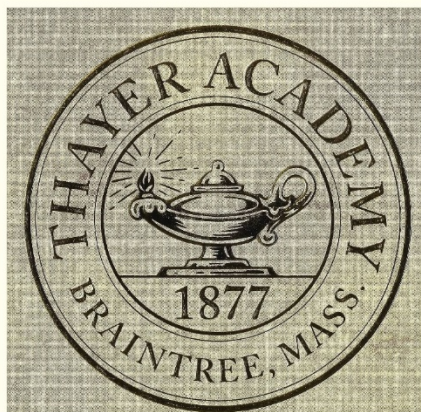
We met at the Thayer Public Library before heading out with our guides to tour the Sylvanus Thayer House in Braintree, MA.



A 9-cent stamp honoring Sylvanus Thayer, considered the father of technical education in America for his pioneering reforms at the United States Military Academy, was issued June 7, 1985, in his birthplace of Braintree.

Back to our Thayer roots: Nathaniel Thayer, the nephew of Richard Thayer, settled at Taunton, Bristol, Massachusetts in 1660. He was the nephew of Richard Thayer, the immigrant of 1641, who settled in Braintree, Massachusetts, where his brother Thomas had already settled in 1637. From those three Thayer men grew at least 78,000 Thayers who are all "somehow cousins", according to Thayer genealogist Patricia Thayer Munro.

We Toured Thayer Academy -- inspiring students since 1877



Enjoying campus life: Located in historic Braintree, Thayer Academy was founded in 1877, in accordance with the will of General Sylvanus Thayer, a native of Braintree and a "somehow cousin" to all Thayers. Sylvanus led a distinguished life as a soldier, engineer, educator, and philanthropist. He is also known as the "Father of West Point". Our tour guide Larry Carlson has been at the school for 47 years!

We Met our Mayflower Ancestors and Ate Like Pilgrims

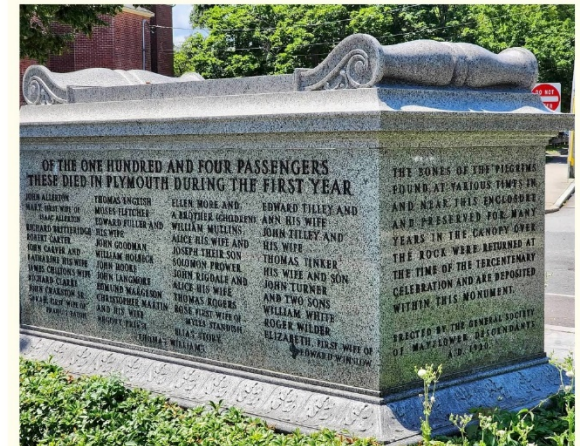
below: The National Monument to the Forefathers, commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States - our Thayer group in front



Many Thayers can trace their roots back to the Mayflower, as well as Braintree. It was a real treat to hobnob with their progenitors, portrayed by actors at the museum.



While at the Plimoth/Patuxet Museum, Thayer Mayflower descendants were able to search for their relatives. Here siblings Carolyn, Gaylene, and Evan Thayer, along with Evan's son Carl Thayer, were able to meet their forefather John Howland. They are also descended from William Brewster and the Tilleys.



We Did Some Sightseeing in

below: The Boston Strong memorial



The second day of the reunion was filled with the sights, sounds, and tastes of Boston. Every seat on the bus was filled with Thayer family on their quest for heritage information. And fun, of course.



Copley Square



Built in 1911 as a single-family home for Bayard and Ruth Thayer, the building on Beacon Street was used as the facade for CHEERS and is one of the most visited in the city.

Making memories



We Honored our Leaders and

The Thayer Families Association has been in existence for 32 years - since 1991 - but our genealogist has been researching Thayer history for F.I.F.T.Y. years!



The current president of the TFA, Jim Thayer, has been serving in various capacities for 32 years! Thanks to his wife Michelle for sharing him!

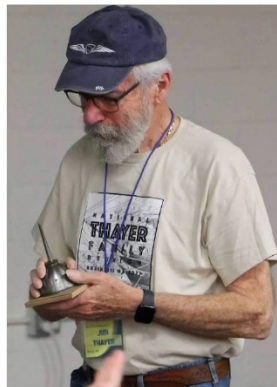
We Were All Winners



Each family was asked to bring something of interest to put in the gift bags and something that could be used as a game prize or door prize. The loot was amazing - books, magnets, pictures, foods, t-shirts, puzzles, coasters, playing cards, reusable Thayer bags, note cards featuring Thayer artists, even an original oil painting by Verne Thayer.

Miscellaneous games and raffles provided winning opportunities throughout the weekend.

below: President Jim Thayer was presented with an antique Thayer oil can because he keeps the Association running like a well-oiled machine. Paula Thayer won the original Verne Thayer oil painting.



FAMILY is everything

We Broke Bread Together and

Turned Over the Reins for
Reunion

2025

in

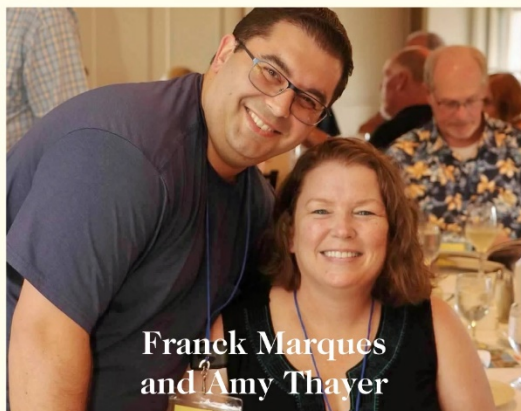
Thayer County, Nebraska
hosted by
Bob and Ginny Sons



Samantha Davis
and Thad Komorowski



Lorie Johnson and Sue Ancel



Franck Marques
and Amy Thayer



Bob and Ginny Sons



Paris, Fran, and Camlyce Roselli



Jim and Cathy Drescher



Mary Krenik and Kim Gonzalez



Bob and Melissa Kirk,
and Mary Ann Basinger

