

# THE BEACH HAVEN PRESS

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## FROM GRANDMA BEACH'S DIARY

Brigham City, UT

Paulene Beach

Not much to report for the spring months. April was really wet and colder than usual. We needed the rain but not the cold. I started physical therapy for my shoulder that I had operated on in February. It took the month of March of doing nothing and not using my arm and shoulder at all to then go for therapy. I'm still (in July) going to therapy. I have a few more weeks to go. Fred would have been 83 on April 29. Miss him so much. I stopped my cholesterol medicine for a few weeks and the doctor made me go back on.

Not much in May. I have the house up for sale again. I want to downsize. Cris is going to get married soon and I don't need this huge house. It was fun going in a carpool with Dan's family to Georgia for Matt's wedding. A different kind of a trip but fun.

In June my friend passed away. I met her when I was 18 in the sewing factory. Over the years she became known to my kids as "Aunt Dot". She was 87 and had a hard life. I will miss talking to her on the phone. She lived in Pennsylvania.

FINALLY sold my house on June 22nd. I have to be out by the end of July. A little nervous since my new place doesn't have an opening for me yet. Not sure where Cris and Ferges are going to go yet either. I'm sure it will all work out in the end. I'll let you know how it all turns out in the next BPH.

See Ya - Paulene.



## THE M&M GANG

Stafford, VA

Michelle Beach

So the month of April begins with the excitement of going to Utah for the birth of a new granddaughter. Ashley is expecting her second little girl and I get to have Enna all to myself while they are together in the hospital. Enna, once she gets to feel comfortable with you, is so much fun, and so fun to play with. She has the cutest little giggle and the funniest stares. She can blank her face better than anyone that I know. Little Aijah was born on the 18th of April. She looks a lot like her daddy. She is a sweetheart and soooooo cute. I could be biased as I believe that all my grandkids are the cutest kids around.

Little Alia (Kyra's daughter) is trying so hard to be like her brothers. She wants to do all that they do and she is developing her own little personality. She has a strong stubborn streak, but is also loving and kind. I really enjoy the time that I get to spend with them. It's great being a granny and not having to worry so much about all the not so fun stuff parents have to deal with. Whenever we skype with Kyra it's fun to watch as the kids tumble all over her and mess her hair up while we laughs at them. Of course this only leads to them acting even crazier and sillier. What a joy they are to have in our lives.

May brought around the end of Michael's master degree and also the graduation of our son Matthew from Augusta State University. They happened to fall on the same day so Mike and I traveled to Georgia to be there. Mike brought along his cap and gown and treated it like his graduation also. The other event that occurred two days later was Matthew's marriage to Valora Elisse Brunner. It made for a crazy weekend, but it was great the amount of family that was able to come out and support them. Visiting with everyone and getting time together with family was wonderful. Those that traveled out were able to visit a few new spots and have some fun themselves. Thanks to all those that were able to come!

June was wonderful in that I didn't have to worry about too much other than putting together six lap quilts for a family whose oldest daughter is going through cancer. It was a crush of time putting them together but well worth it when we gave them to them. June was also a time to get ready for a trip to Utah for the wedding of our Son Jacob to Kanneisha Lucherini. More on that to come in the next edition.



## THE BLACKBURNER

Taylorsville, UT

Ashley Blackburn

April started off with a bang as Ryan was able to get me pretty good on April Fools' Day. He came in from his night shift and told me with a serious face that I wasn't going to be able to go anywhere that day, and that I should cancel any plans I had. When I asked him why, he told me that all four tires on the van were flat. As I asked him how it looked like it might have happened and wondered if I should go check it out, he was able to continue a straight face. Finally, he started laughing and asked me what day it was. When I told him it was Friday, April 1st, it suddenly clicked what had just occurred. I gave him a dirty look as he continued to laugh. Well played, sir. I was impressed that he had been able to keep his straight face for so long as when he is playing tricks smiles tend to come easily. Maybe he's getting better at hiding it. I guess I'll have to watch for other signs now if he has that mastered.

The next day began the weekend of General Conference. We spent both Saturday sessions at home as we were determined to finish Aijah's (yep that spelling finally won out) dresser before she arrived. So while he worked on some wiring for the built-in night light, I traced and painted animals on the drawers. We still didn't get it completely done, but we are now a lot closer and should be able to complete it before she comes (unless she is the complete opposite of her sister and comes early instead of late). We'll just have to see what happens.

The next day (Sunday) we made the hour drive north and spent the day with my mom's parents and my brother Nate in Honeyville. It is always nice to see family and we enjoyed a great day of listening to conference and just catching up with grandparents. Enna got spoiled again with grandpa giving her lots of fruit snacks, but it was ok; that's his job.

About a week later, we had our next appointment with our OB-GYN. At the appointment, we discussed our delivery plan. At that point, our plan was to try again to have a natural birth and if it didn't work, we would move to C-section just like before. You could tell that the doctor was a little nervous about this plan and talked about how the hospital was really careful about the candidates that they let try for a natural birth following a C-section. When I asked if she considered us good candidates, she said that because of my tendency to be late, my body not prepping like it should, and the gestational diabetes that I was dealing with this time around, she said that if things

started going south for me, they would go south quickly. So with that in mind, Ryan and I discussed our options and prayed about it and felt that we should skip out on the natural birth and go for a C-section. With that decided, we called the hospital to see if we could move the date up as we felt it was pointless to wait if we didn't have to. Thankfully, we were able to move it up by 6 days. The new birth date was April 18th. As my mom would already be in town then, it was nice knowing she would actually get to spend some time with the new baby.

On the morning of the 18th, we reported to the hospital at 4:30 am to get prepped for surgery at 6:30 am. I was hooked up to monitors and given an IV, and then after a bit of a wait, led down to the operating room where the process began.

At 7:01 am, we met our new little girl for the first time. The doctors announced that she had hair and when they held her up, she was wide awake and curious. She weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. I thought it was funny that her weight matched her birth time. It will make it easier to remember! The rest of the day was spent healing and napping in my hospital room.



My mom brought Enna in a couple of days later. Enna came straight to the bed and wanted to hold her sister immediately. As soon as we handed Aijah to her, however, she was done. Oh well, at least it was a positive interaction.

After coming home, the first task at hand was getting used to the new family dynamic. Thankfully, Enna was very understanding of Aijah needing some of her mommy time (provided she wasn't sleepy-those times when she was used to cuddling were a little harder). She even would help get her sister binkies, blankets, and hugs/kisses. Not wanting to tackle the hurdle of kids waking each other up throughout the night, we let Aijah sleep in the swing in our room. I think it makes middle of the night feedings easier, but it also takes up space in our room. Oh well, I guess it's just one of those parenting things you deal with.

My mom went home soon after that, and we were back to our new normal as a 4 person family. Things were going forward relatively smoothly now that I was getting the hang of two kids.

Before we knew it, May arrived. The first big event of

the month was Mothers' Day. For cards this year, we decided to make hand and foot print cards and turn them into puzzles for our moms. We figured they would have fun putting them together. We also knew that Enna would enjoy painting as it is her new favorite activity.

So we got out the paint and made the cards. Enna had a ball and was really upset when we cleaned everything up and put it all away. When the moms received the cards, they both let us know that they loved them. As for my Mothers' Day, Ryan bought me a much needed new brush. So that was nice.

The next week was my brother Matt's wedding day. Sadly, I wasn't able to be there in person this time. As Ryan had used all of his vacation to be home helping with our new baby, he couldn't take off work. This would have required me to fly alone with a toddler and a newborn clear across the country twice, which was something I had no desire to tackle. So I wished them the best and sent along a gift and promised to see them when they came out for the next wedding scheduled for July (more on that one next time).

So instead, we spent that weekend with Ryan's siblings. They enjoyed being able to come over and hold and cuddle Aijah while Ryan and his siblings chatted.

At the end of the month for Memorial Day weekend, Ryan found himself without a required work schedule. So we decided to drop in and see his sister and my twin siblings in Rexburg for the long weekend. We started up on Saturday morning. In order to not lock our daughters in their car seats for 4 hours and endure screaming, we broke it up by stopping in on both of my grandmothers on the way up. They are always up for a visit, so they enjoyed having us around. We stayed a couple hours at both locations, and then traveled the rest of the way up. Thankfully, the trick work and both girls spent most of the trip up to Rexburg asleep.

We enjoyed the weekend playing games, watching movies, and just catching up. Ryan's sister Kamee was especially excited because she had been feeling a little cut off since they moved up to Idaho. Enna had a hard time at night when she wasn't in her own bed, but we made it through.

Monday (Memorial Day) we spent the morning getting ready to return home and then the afternoon at the park where they had a carousel. Enna enjoyed it immensely and we had a hard time getting her off. She ended up riding the carousel three times. Meanwhile, the twins had fun playing with Aijah as this was the first time seeing her in person. They took video and pictures and just messed around in general.

After a dinner eat out, we headed to my Grandma Beach's to again break up the trip a bit. We spent about an hour there and finally made it home. We all really enjoyed the trip, but were glad to be back.

June brought with it quite a few events. The first of which was a birthday party for our niece Elaina. Sadly, Ryan had to work and couldn't come, but the girls and I decided to attend. The party was at a splash pad, but for the first half of the party it was rainy and cold. So we spent that time eating food and huddling under the tents. Thankfully, the rain eventually let up allowing the kids to run through the water and get wet. Although Enna didn't want to get really wet, she enjoyed splashing in the puddles on the pad that got left behind when the water would move from one side to the other. I think she enjoyed the experience a lot.

The next event came a few days later when we joined our friends the Skidmores in a back yard barbeque using their new grill. We had chicken, tin foil veggies, s'mores, and peach cobbler. We were able to sit around and enjoy catching up with each other as it had been a while since we had been able to get together.

That very next weekend brought Fathers' Day. This time for cards, we let Enna paint again. Only this time it was her own creations. She had a blast mixing the paints and making the pictures. We then made copies of family photos and mailed them to their work offices. That way, they could use the pictures and photos to decorate their offices. Both called and told us they had loved the surprise.

As for Ryan, I bought his three favorite snacks at the grocery store and hid them in places he would find them as he got ready for work (yes, unfortunately he had to spend most of Fathers' Day at work). He liked the hunt and was very excited for the treats.

Then came the dreaded doctor's appointment when Aijah would get her first vaccinations. I know they are necessary, but it still hurts me to do it. Knowing Enna would freak if she went with us as she has already made the connection between the doctor and shots, I left her with a babysitter and just took Aijah.

Thankfully, she was pronounced healthy, but just like her sister she was also underweight for her age. All I could think was, "here we go again!" I guess we are just going to have small kids. Thankfully, Aijah tolerated the shots as well as can be expected, and we headed home.

The last week of the month brought Kanneisha's bridal shower. Due to the fact that she would be my sister-in-law in less than a month and that neither of my sisters would be able to be there, I made the long trip up. I had to stop in Honeyville to pick up gifts and feed Aijah so I ended up being late, but I still got to chit chat for a while. It will be exciting to officially welcome her to the family on the 23rd of July (again more on that later). On the way home, I also made another pit stop as Enna was tired of being in the car. We enjoyed dinner and games at Grandma Beach's for a couple of hours and then headed home so that kids could get to bed.

The next day, Ryan and I were slotted to speak in church for the first time in 3 years. I was nervous, but it seemed to go ok. It was funny to see the Bishopric wonder if we were there as we didn't sit in the front as is typical. We knew that if we sat in the front our girls would be a distraction. So we sat in our normal seat and went up individually so that the girls could stay in our normal spot.

Well, that about wraps it up for this quarter. Join me again next time-there will be lots to relive (from July especially!). Until then, this is the Blackburner signing off.



## NATE'S NOOK

Ogden, UT

Nathan Beach

(Editor's note: Nathan is writing for his school paper at *Weber State University*. The paper is *The Signpost*. The article included here was published in that periodical and online.)

### FORMER SURGEON GENERAL TALKS MICROBIOLOGY AT WSU

April 4, 2016

A doctor who served as director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Surgeon General shared his life experiences and offered Weber State University students advice about their futures in microbiology.

Dr. James Mason told students that germs are just a part of life.

"When we talk about microbiology, most people think of germs and infectious diseases, and they think of bad germs," he said. "We need to wipe that out of their minds. These germs are a form of life, and every one of them has potential in them."



Dr. Mason, former director of the CDC and U.S. Surgeon General was personable and friendly while answering questions about his field Mar 30.  
(Abby Van Ess / The Signpost)

For example, he said, a researcher at Utah State University discovered a natural, safe indigo dye, using *E. coli*, a germ that causes food poisoning, to synthesize it for commercial use.

He also spoke about how to be successful not just in

life but careers in general.

"This is the best time of your life, so enjoy the journey," he said. "Don't say you'll be happy in the future, or I'm going to be glad when I complete a big goal in the future. Make every day count. This is an important time in your life."

After talking briefly about his life and a few of his experiences, Mason opened the floor for questions.

When he was asked about how to get further in a career, Mason said to students in attendance, "If you want to succeed in life, if you want to have opportunities, don't mind your own business. Learn what you are being taught. Then go beyond and apply it."

The event was sponsored by the Microbiology Club and the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke Family Pre-Medical Program. Students were able to ask questions and to learn what it's like to work in their future fields.

Christine Lobato-Inagaki, senior and president of the club, arranged for Mason to come to Weber State, and she said he was excited to come.

"He has been really wonderful in supporting us as a school," she said.

Lobato-Inagaki said this talk was an important part of the Microbiology Club's mission.

"We just do everything that we can to benefit our students in trying to pursue their career goals, so anything they need we try to provide for them," she said.

She said Weber State will host the national American Society for Microbiology meeting next year, providing another important opportunity for students to network with professionals.

Jason Fritzler, adviser for the Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke Family Pre-Medical Program, said these events help students in the microbiology field.

The clubs and its events, he said, "create opportunities for students to make those contacts, so they can be successful when they leave here. They make good contacts for the university."

For more information about the Microbiology Club and about the American Society for Microbiology, head over to the student organizations section of the WSU microbiology website.



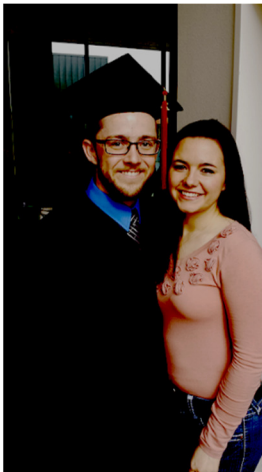


## TIMIGAIL TALES

Logan, UT

Timothy Beach

The last three months have brought big changes for us. First, Tim graduated in the beginning of May with his bachelor's degree in watershed sciences. We are both happy to be done with our first round of college and start a "normal" adult life together.



We also went on our first long road trip together to Augusta for Matt and Valora's wedding. Our long drive first took us to Escalante for a work meeting. We also got in some hiking in Escalante Petrified Forest and Calf Creek Falls, where we saw some beautiful scenery. Not only was the landscape awe-inspiring, we also got to stretch our legs before the 27 hour drive to Nashville.

Our ride through southwestern Utah, Colorado and New Mexico were filled with taking pictures, laughs and "Serial", a famous NPR podcast. When it started to get dark, we discussed our driving situation, who would drive when or if we should both stay up together. We decided to stay up together, but ten minutes later Tim was fast asleep. Our knowledge that Tim is sometimes easily fatigued was affirmed. We both ended up driving for half of the night each without any accidents. We visited a city outside of Nashville called Franklin and fell in love with the small-town charm and U.S. civil war history. Later, we explored the Nashville night life at Margaritaville and

other bars filled with country musical groups.



We met up with the rest of the Dan Beach family, which included Gram and Nate, in Nashville and drove caravan style to Charleston, where we spent the next couple of days. A few of us went on a ghost tour, we also went to the beach, shopped at a historic slave market (now a flea-market) and visited Magnolia Plantation. Many of us decided to go in on a large million dollar home... we are still waiting to hash out the details. The wedding in Augusta was a great experience and we really enjoyed ourselves as we wished Matt and Valora well on their marriage together.

Abi and Tim broke off from the group Monday morning and drove to Georgetown, where we visited shops at the ocean-side boardwalk. The next few days were filled with showing Abi some of the areas and people Tim had met in North Carolina. We took a different route on the way home, driving through the Appalachian mountains of Virginia, through Santa Claus Indiana, and visiting Jim Bridger at his burial site in Missouri. This trip was one that we will never forget!

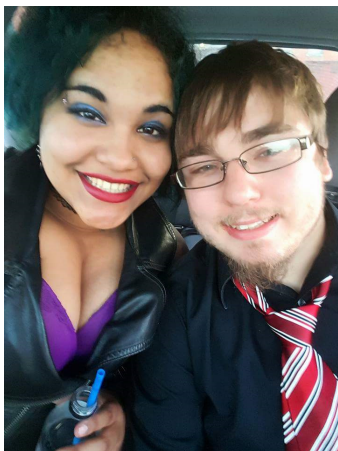
June brought our family two miracles. Tim landed a job at the Suwannee River Water Management District as a hydrology technician. We are moving to Lake City, Florida mid-July and Tim will start work on the 25th. We are excited for the new adventures that will be available to us, but will miss the face-to-face interaction with most of our family. Thank goodness for the internet! We have received many confirmations that this is where we are supposed to be and know that God will support us.

The other miracle is our little baby, Waikiki Beach. Abi is pregnant and expecting to give birth on January 29th. We are ecstatic about our hopeful new addition and have decided (for the time being) to not find out the gender before birth. After months of infertility treatments, we decided to take a break from the doctor appointments, financial hardship and emotional strain. Our baby came on its own, without help from fertility treatments; a miracle indeed!



It seems like we waded through a refining period and we have been blessed because of it. The infertility issues, lack of a job at graduation, constant homework and the “poor college kid” syndrome definitely took its toll on us. We wouldn't take these experiences back for anything and in some odd way count them as blessings. We know God is there to calm us when we are hurting, lead us when we're lost and teach us when we lack knowledge.

Stay tuned for our Florida adventures, gator pics, and a growing mommy in coming months!



## NERDY BEACHES

Charlotte, NC

Matthew Beach

Holy cow ladies and gentlemen, I am in fact somehow alive after a multi-year hiatus and so many life events I can hardly begin. Just a quick run down, I moved out of my parents' house from just south of Atlanta in 2009 to go to college at Georgia Tech. Made it two years, ran out of money and motivation to be in their program and moved to Augusta, GA the city of all things golf. Cue 5 years of struggling on a B.S. in Physics at *Augusta University* (previously Augusta State University). This struggle led me to my first professional job as an engineering intern for *EZ-GO*, a golf cart and turf vehicle manufacturer. This after a brief stint as a delivery man for your friendly neighborhood *Jimmy John's* and far too many less than fully clothed people answering the door. Flash forward to three and a half years as a battery lab intern/test technician for a great

company that re-branded itself as *Textron Specialized Vehicles* seeing as they make so much more than golf carts! I had earned a legit amount of battery and testing experience and was shortly closing in on a full-fledged B.S. Degree. It was time to get crazy!!

April 2016 the prelude to the greatest and most insane month of my life, little did I know... Oh wait I totally knew because it had been so many years in coming. Needless to say April was mostly working and intently preparing for my final round of finals ever. That's right ladies and gentlemen Matt Beach was going to become fully fledged educated and such things. Also on top of that I had recently in December proposed to the Love of my life, Valora Elisse Brunner to take the super crazy plunge and become my wife. Whaaaaaaat?????!! The wild and crazy single man was getting married? YUP!

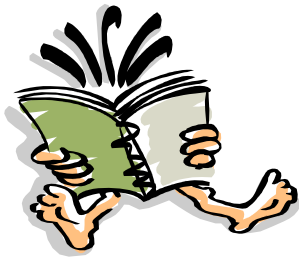
May 2016, now known as the month of insanity. First week of May was packed with final projects, tests and brain sweat and angst. Electro mechanics was slowly but surely kicking my butt, but I made one last valiant effort and pulled out with a C. BOOM! Then all in one weekend I graduated and got married. The weekend was intense from start to finish. I had to pick up my lovely Thorsted grandparents from the airport and spend a few days watching over them as Grandma had recently had some surgery which left her pretty beat. Graduation came and it was a day to remember, only 8 people or so graduated with me as future Physicists going out in the world to try to explain and define how it all worked. I walked on stage ready and eager to finally leave the hallowed halls and begin the rest of my life. I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for those who had the patience to help me through it all. Seven years of work and worry, plenty of failure and even some thoughts of quitting, but I had made it. Thanks were in my heart for all the teachers, my parents, my fiancée and friends who helped me along. One noteworthy moment, as I looked upward to see my family in the stands there was a new face amongst the group. The adventurous Kevin! Little did I know he would be joining our family soon but that is his and Emily's story to tell.

Two days later I got married and it blew all those feelings away. The morning of my wedding was a flurry of activity, there were tables to set up, decorations and insane amounts of just logistical work to accomplish. I cannot express enough gratitude towards my friends and family and my new family who stepped up without hesitation to help with it all. My groomsmen were above and beyond stellar and my best friend Syed Khizar and other groomsmen, Steve roach, Jake Lundeen, Az Strucksma, saved me from being a total mess when the bride got held up 45 minutes late. The weather was impeccable and all my loved ones gathered as my soon-to-be father-in-law oversaw the wedding ceremony. It was a very meaningful pagan ceremony that my wife and father-in-law crafted as part of their heritage called hand fastening. There was so much crying on all sides, I did my best to hide it but there was no stopping it. My bride was, and is, the most beautiful woman I've ever seen. Her walking down the aisle with her father just made my heart burst out of my chest filled to the brim with love. After the ceremony there were many pictures, so, so many pictures. There was food and dancing and even a grand musical number by the band *The Birds of Wisdom*. It was everything I could've wanted and so much more. I'm sure I'm not doing it justice but there is a mass amount of photos on Facebook if you'd like to

see. :P

The rest of May was honestly a flurry of movement. I had recently accepted a job in Testing with the company Husqvarna in Charlotte, NC. There was an apartment to locate, all the stuff to move and cleaning our old house which we shared with multiple roommates. Valora and I probably intentionally blocked out the time between the wedding and the Honeymoon in June because of the sheer amount of work and lack of sleep that it involved. The honeymoon was really fun. We got a hotel room in the beautiful city of Sacramento, CA and spent some time exploring the city that my wife had called home for many years. I got to meet more of her family and spend time getting to know them while even introducing them to some of the Beach cultural heritage by playing squeak and making frog eye salad. Soon the week was done and it was back to the grindstone of my new job, figuring out all that is required of me and learning even more in the world of electricity and batteries. I know it won't be easy but I see a bright future with my amazing and lovely wife. Don't ask us about kids because that's future Matt and Valora's problem. :P

Love you guys hope I'll be motivated to keep this up, maybe. No promises!! XD



## PAGE TURNER

### MINDFUL TECH

By David M. Levy

Yale University Press, 2016, 230 pages

Review by Michael Beach

The author is a noted force in what has become known as Silicon Valley. His career continued to span many years as a professor of Computer Science. Despite his penchant for all things technical, he found himself becoming overwhelmed with technology. He decided to create for himself ways to better manage his interaction with the everyday technology of our time (email, Facebook, the web, etc.). The discoveries he made for himself became research that turned into a post-graduate course for his students, and eventually this book.

The work lays out the problem in general and gives good examples of how not managing our interaction with technology can cause the technology to manage us. The book goes on to describe a series of benefits to taking control. In particular the focus is to encourage each of us to consider our use of technology like a craft.

The author then goes on to describe a series of experiments and tools we can each use to better understand our use of online assets. Once we gain these insights there are methods and tools to modify our behavior and approach.

The arguments seem like well-founded social science. A reader may choose to fully conduct each exercise, or at least

use the descriptions in the text to be more self-aware during routine technological interaction.

### THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED STORIES OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Translated by H.W. Dulcken, Ph.D.

Chancellor Press, 1989, 948 pages

Reviewed by Michael Beach

The book was a gift from my daughter Kyra. The English translation was first published in 1889. There is a significant Danish ancestry line in my wife's family. I think that's what drew Kyra's attention to the work.

The text is full of folk tales as one might imagine. Many are very famous such as *The Ugly Duckling*. Many were unknown to this reviewer before reading the volume. The tales are allegorical and are intended to make some sort of moral example.

There is a large section of the book that is autobiographical. Still other portions represent travelogues by Andersen.

As I have often mentioned in the past, short story volumes are a favorite to me. If the reader is not drawn in by one story, there are plenty more to pick from. Time used in reading the less enticing portions is minimized in this way. That said, these stories are delightful. The rather intimate autobiographical look at the author's life is also insightful to his era.

### THE DEERSLAYER

By James Fenimore Cooper

John B. Alden, Publisher, 1889, 512 pages

Reviewed by Michael Beach

To be clear, I do not have an 1889 copy of this work. I'm sure that sort of book would be beyond my budget. What I have is a reproduced version that is noted as being "in the public domain." It's not clear from the book itself who actually created the scanned copy that I have.

The story is part of what Cooper dubbed the *Leather-Stocking Tales*. Though not the first work he published in this series, it is chronologically the first in the life of the main protagonist. Dubbed Deerslayer at the beginning of this story, he morphs into the name he is more well-known for later, Hawkeye, of *The Last of the Mohicans* fame.

Deerslayer's English name is Nathaniel Bumppo, or Natty for short. His best friend is a Mohican named Chingachgook. Set around the pre-revolutionary time of the French and Indian War, the action takes place in northern New York State. It depicts a skirmish involving the two friends, another frontiersman named Hurry Harry, and a family of settlers battling with a group of Canadas from the Huron Nation.

The work is as much a romance as it is adventure-based. The story moves along at a good pace



WILLIAM BLAKE

Edited by J. Bronowski

Penguin Books, 1970, 251 pages

Review by Michael Beach

The work is subtitled *A Selection of Poems and Letters*, and that's exactly what it is. A great deal of the poetic content is allegorical and not all that clear to this reviewer.

The introduction was somewhat helpful in generalizing the context of Blake's ideas. More insights of his thoughts come through in his letters. He seems to be a religious person in his letters, though much of his poetry seems less so and yet apocalyptic at the same time. This one felt more like work than enjoyment or thought provoking.



## TRAIL BLAZING

Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints.

TRAIL: TIMBER CREEK OVERLOOK TRAIL

Distance: 1 mile round trip

Location: Kolob Canyon, just east of I15 and north of St. George, Utah

Trail Review by Timothy Beach

Timber Creek Overlook Trail is a short uphill walk with breathtaking views of the Kolob Mountains in southern Utah. This is one for the whole family and especially for red-rock lovers. Abi and I went with Mike, Abi's dad, at mid-morning with 90 degree weather and some cooling gusts. It was a great day to be out!

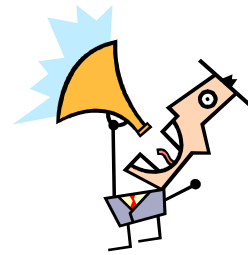
The trail starts at the end of a 5-mile paved, red road that connects interstate 15 to the trail head. The drive was scenic itself. We ended up stopping numerous times on the way up to take pictures of the massive rock faces and small hidden valleys nestled in the tops of the cliffs. Dark brown, vertical streaks beneath the valleys indicate where water falls down to the cliff bottoms. The red rocks clash with the green vegetation, making it a unique landscape that I haven't seen many other places.



The hike took us about 35 minutes to complete. The trail map told us that we climbed 100 feet from the trail head to the look out, making our climb only mildly strenuous. Once at the top, we could see Burnt Mountain to our left, the La Verkin River valley extending out in front of us, and the slopes of the Dixie National Forest to our right (see the panorama).



We only spent a couple of hours in Kolob Canyon, but it ended up being a great way to spend time with Abi's parents before we headed out to the Sunshine State.



## THE LAST WORD

(Editorial comments - submissions welcome)

INFORMATION PARADOX

Stafford, VA

Michael Beach

I've become increasingly interested in how technology and society affect each other. Within *the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)* there is a defined community focused on this topic called the *Society on Social Implications of Technology (IEEE-SSIT)*. The monthly periodical of the SSIT is called *IEEE Technology and Society*. In the December 2015 issue I found an interesting article called *Information Paradox, Drowning in Information, Starving for Knowledge* by Levent V. Orman

The ideas are interesting and can be applicable to my industry in particular. The high-level examples given by the author paint the picture:

"Those who eat the most food are rarely the healthiest people, and they may actually be severely deficient in some nutrients. Those who have the most Facebook friends are often



the loneliest people. Those who are the busiest are not the most productive. Those who read books and watch television the most are sometimes the least knowledgeable."

Orman goes on to describe three causes for this paradox.

#### Information Cost

His base argument for this cause is that quality information comes at a higher cost. As a result we tend to provide and consume more information of lower quality. In this way perhaps we do better on trivia games, but are less effective at more important things.

The author notes, "Economists have known for some time that low quality drives out high quality when it is difficult to distinguish between them, called the "lemons problem." When the marketplace cannot distinguish quality easily, consumers tend to buy the cheaper alternative to reduce their risk. Those who produce high-quality expensive products then cannot compete and leave the market."

#### Obsolescence

Information causes change. As we add information it can lead to technology change. As technology and information increase in one area it can make information in another area obsolete. The "old" information is considered less useful and as such is essentially lost over time. Orman argues that as the information and technology change speeds up, changes pace, our ability to assimilate the information decreases. We lose the old information as it is deemphasized and we don't keep up to the increased amount of new information. The result is we understand less than we did before.

#### Competition

This cause, the author argues, is essentially advocacy. Sources of information mislead or confuse by either sharing false information, or by only sharing a part of the information to gain some sort of advantage. The assumption is that in the market place of ideas all sides can put out their version. As information consumers listen to all sides they will somehow recognize the truth in the middle. The author argues that in reality almost nobody researches all angles to form their own perspective that is closest to true. The result is less complete information.

The other point of the author's competition argument is that people tend to seek for more immediate, short-term gains. It is possible to succeed in meeting short-term goals with partial information, but causing more harm or loss in the long run as stated this way.

"There is a tremendous impulse to do things cheaply in the short run and derive quick benefits. There is a great deal of simple information about the short run and it is easy to use that information to derive quick benefits, yet long-run planning requires rare high-quality information, insight, and wisdom."

## Conclusions

In the article the author argues against assuming that correlation is the same as causation. I completely agree. The reasoning is that often when two things happen at the same time in some sort of linked way (correlation) proponents of a specific perspective use this as evidence that one caused the other (causation). That is not necessarily always true. There are examples given to support the argument that correlation does not equal causation. Other explanations are given to show a different causation, but the author in a few cases uses essentially the same tool of correlation to support the alternative cause. In other words the author, in part, uses the same tool to support one perspective that happens to differ from the other perspectives using the same tool to self-justify.

I'm not sure what we can take from all of this, but over the past year at my work we have attempted to put tools and processes in place to strike the best balance between the short and long game. Hopefully we are sifting through the large amount of information and finding the diamonds that move our organization forward. In fact, hopefully we have done a reasonable job of defining what forward means. We have attempted to define some metrics to help us understand how we are doing as compared with how we have done in the past, and how we'd like to be in the future. I guess only time will tell how we've done and if our aim is correct.

In any aspect of our individual lives, I encourage each of us to find ways to consider what information is truly useful and what information is just so much fluff.

#### Submissions

Entries for the next edition of BHP are due no later than **15 September 2016**. Send all correspondence to our Stafford, VA address or e-mail [bhp@bhaven.org](mailto:bhp@bhaven.org)

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