

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
FAMILY
HISTORIAN



Jonathan Coffin Rathbone
1764-1836

Devoted to
the perpetuity of
our common heritage
an honorable
Name.

Letter From the Editor

This second edition of our *Family Historian* is being mailed to just over 200 subscribers—a figure which more than meets our early hopes.

The response to the first issue was most encouraging. Many of you wrote us complimentary letters, a few comments from which are reprinted on this page.

We are also beginning to receive some of the material we requested—old pictures and letters from family archives; obituaries and newspaper clippings about family members, and information on family achievements, reunions and other events.



Frank H. Rathbun

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Others are sending in their family records, enabling us to fill in gaps and correct errors so our genealogy will be both complete and accurate.

Our first issue contained an article about our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret Rathbun/bone of Block Island, and listed their children with birth dates and marriages. This issue devotes several pages to the second generation, so in time we will have a complete genealogy of the family.

I am now officially retired, and devoting much of my time to this magazine, and to genealogy in general, and getting ready for the gardening season.

I want to express my gratitude to all of you whose interest and support have made this magazine possible. We want to make it the best family magazine that we can. Keep sending us your pictures and information, and let us know your ideas and suggestions for future issues.

Our new magazine received an encouraging announcement in a recent issue of the Rhode Island Genealogical Register, published by Alden G. Beaman. This quarterly magazine is devoted entirely to early Rhode Island families, including, of course, the Rathbuns.

It contains data from wills, court records, land transactions, cemetery inscriptions — all sorts of information of great value to persons researching Rhode Island families. Your editor is a subscriber and recommends it highly. If interested, write directly to Mr. Beaman, P.O. Box 585, East Princeton, Mass. 01517. The cost is \$20 a year.

"Our first edition of the *Historian* just arrived (Dec. 24) and I've spent so much time reading it that I can't get the gifts wrapped." *Bettye Rathbone, Austin, Tex.*

"Your first issue . . . can only bring praise. This resource has been invaluable to my research, making the subscription price a real bargain. It is a wonderful way to share our family history." *Charles Murray, Gallopis, Ohio.*

"I have been perusing with great interest your splendid magazine with its so-professional touch. . . . Your years of research plus your newspaper and other background give a polish and interest to the pages." *Frances Collord, Seattle, Wash.*

"The first edition is great and I'm sure the others will be also. I'm really looking forward to them. It's reassuring to have someone as competent as you are to sort out our family tree." *Katherine Coner, Seattle, Wash.*

"My husband and I were so pleased with your first edition of the *Family Historian*. We certainly appreciate your efforts to strengthen our family ties and your devotion 'to the perpetuity of our common heritage - an honorable name.'" *Mrs. Donna Rathburn, Kernersville, N.C.*

"It isn't every year that one receives the gift of a half dozen ancestors for Christmas. I was surprised and delighted with the first issue. Congratulations. . . . Your account of the steps which led you to locate the Acres, Voses and Rathbones in Ditton, England, is a model of genealogical sleuthing." *Rachel Laurgaard, Oakland, Calif.*

"I think you did an excellent job on Volume I of the *Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Historian*." *Oliver N. Rathbun, Cooperstown, N.Y.*

Kate Rathburn Reaches 100; Ernest Rathbun 99 In June

In our first issue, we mentioned 104-year-old Frank Rathbun, living in a California nursing home, and referred to him as probably the oldest living member of our family. No one has challenged that claim, but several have come close. Mrs. Kate Rathburn of Texarkana, Ark., celebrated her 100th birthday on January 12. Ernest Rathbun of Cranston, R.I., will be 99 on June 19. James C. Rathbone of New Hampshire will be 100 next October. We extend our best wishes to these venerable family members. Pictures and stories of Mrs. Rathburn and Mr. Rathbun appear on this page. A story and pictures of Mr. Rathbone will be printed in the July issue.

Her 100th birthday on January 12 found Kate Rathburn of Texarkana, Ark., up at 7 a.m. ready to make breakfast, clean house and get dressed for a birthday luncheon in her honor at the neighborhood center.

The widow of William T.⁹ Rathburn (Joseph⁸ Aaron⁷ Joseph⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John^{3 2 1}), she was born Kate Lee Frankson, and was married to Mr. Rathburn in 1898. They had eight children.



Mrs. Kate Rathburn



Ernest and Eola Rathbun

A widow nearly 40 years, she is a spry and sprightly centenarian.

"I don't really have any secret for living this long, but I don't drink cold drinks because I believe they're harmful to people. I just drink milk and water, and I hate smoking and drinking.

"I've lived right and tried to be a good person to everybody, so I believe it's God's will for me to have lived so many years," Mrs. Rathburn says. "I believe all people have to do is trust in the Lord and they will lead fulfilling lives."

Says her granddaughter, Mrs. Kathryn Phillips, one of our charter subscribers: "We are all very proud of our grandma."

Ernest Charles Rathbun was born in West Greenwich, R.I., On June 19, 1882, the oldest of seven children of Charles Rathbun and Ella Thankful Sweet.

Charles' father was Seneca, and his grandfather, John, was the son of two Rathbuns — Joseph Sheffield⁵ Rathbun (Joshua⁴ John^{3 2 1})

and his first wife, Olive⁶ Rathbun (John^{5 4 3 2 1}). Ernest thus has two Rathbun lines of descent.

Ernest was married in 1909 to Lillian Corp, who died in childbirth that same year. On April 12, 1912, he married Eola May King, and the couple will celebrate their 69th anniversary this month. They have two children and 14 grandchildren.

Ernest has a vivid recollection of his childhood days in the Exeter-West Greenwich area of Rhode Island.

He started work in a saw mill at age seven, worked with his father on the farm, driving a team of oxen, and at age 14 sawed shingles and ground corn on a water-run grist mill. As a young man, he and a partner operated a saw mill in Cranston, R.I. Ernest later worked at tool plants, and during World War I made loading machines for bullets.

During and after World War II, he owned and operated the Cranston Machine Works. From 1928 to 1930, he served on the Cranston School Committee.



Jonathan Rathbone

Prisoner of War at 12 Ship's Captain at 28 Western Pioneer at 48

This portrait of Jonathan Coffin Rathbone was made in 1800 while he was a prisoner in Paris. Reproduced here in black and white, the original is in pastels, showing him with blue-grey eyes, medium brown hair, and wearing a bright red vest and black jacket.

Probably no early member of our family had a more eventful career or left a more complete account of his life than Jonathan Coffin Rathbone (1764-1836), whose picture is reproduced on our front cover.

He was born Sept. 7, 1764, at Hastings, near Sag Harbor, on the eastern end of Long Island, the son of Coggeshall⁴ Rathbun (Abraham³ Samuel² John¹). A year after his birth, the family moved to Sherburne on Nantucket Island, where Jonathan spent his early years.

His father, Coggeshall, (1738-1778) is somewhat of a mystery. Deeds in Exeter, R.I., show that he owned land there in 1759, and sold it 10 years later as "Coggeshall Rathbun, cordwainer (shoemaker) of Sherburn, Mass."

Family tradition, however, relates that he was a sailor, as was his father. Coggeshall apparently moved as a young man to Nantucket, where on March 23, 1761, he married Mary Coffin, of a prominent Nantucket family related to Benjamin Franklin.

Coggeshall and Mary had five sons, three of whom lived to maturity. Jonathan's birth was reported by Coggeshall in a letter dated Sept. 10, 1764, to his mother-in-law on Nantucket. The baby, he said, was "a stally boy," and the mother was doing "bravely."

The mother died about 1773, leaving Coggeshall with four sons. They were apparently turned over to relatives, and young Jonathan was raised by an uncle for whom he had been named—Jonathan Coffin, a sea captain. Coggeshall was remarried on Sept. 22, 1774, to Thankful Cash, by whom he had two daughters. He died in 1778 of smallpox.

At the age of nine, Jonathan was hit on the upper lip by a hoop pole thrown at him lance-fashion by another boy, leaving a scar which he carried for life.

Like other Nantucket boys of that era, he was destined for the sea. He made his first voyage at the age of 11, sailing to the West Indies with his uncle, Captain Jonathan Coffin. This was in 1776, when the Revolutionary War was under way, and the British controlled the Atlantic sea lanes.

Captain Coffin's ship was captured off Santa Cruz by a British privateer, and young Jonathan spent a month in prison at Tortola, in the Virgin Islands, with his uncle and crew mates. When released, they made their way to St. Au-

gustine, Fla, where Captain Coffin obtained command of an eight-gun schooner bound for Edenton, N.C.

They sailed northward, and off Cape Hatteras were chased by a well-armed British frigate. Captain Coffin, still painfully aware of his recent captivity, ran his schooner close to shore hoping to prevent capture, but the British captain followed with his ship, anchored nearby, and opened a broadside fire. After a two-hour battle, as British marines prepared to attack, the Americans leaped overboard and swam ashore, where they watched helplessly as the English sailed off with their schooner in tow. They trudged overland to Ocracoke Island to find another way home. They found a vessel about to sail for New Bedford, and Jonathan was soon back home in Nantucket.

He found his neighbors buzzing with tales of prize money to be made by sailing on privateers, and Jonathan decided to go and make his fortune. In September 1777, shortly after his 13th birthday, he went to Boston, then a beehive of privateering activity, and enlisted on a brig, the *Speedwell*.

The brig set sail for the island of Martinique, and en route captured two prizes in spirited fights. At Martinique, they repaired the damage inflicted in the two battles, and again put out to sea. They met a French privateer, whose captain

agreed to sail with them. They soon came across a British warship and prepared for battle, only to see their French "allies" sail away. In a hot two-hour fight, the British guns "cut our ship to pieces," but neither would surrender, and the battle ended in a draw.

The *Speedwell* returned to Boston in early summer 1778 and Jonathan headed for Nantucket to find his home island occupied by the British. He went instead to Barnstable, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1779, Jonathan, now 14, went once more to Boston, and again joined his uncle, Jonathan Coffin, in a merchant schooner headed for the West Indies.

Captain Coffin's bad luck continued. They reached Santo Domingo, took on a cargo of molasses, sugar, coffee and cotton, and started back for New England. Near the Bahamas, they were captured by a British privateer and taken as prisoners to New Providence Island. Eventually released under a prisoner-exchange program, they sailed to Baltimore and set out by land for Massachusetts. They got through New Jersey, but somewhere north of New York City they were captured by a troop of English soldiers "tied hand and foot," put on horses and taken into New York City where they were imprisoned "in the old Logan House on Liberty Street."

The following spring (1780), they were exchanged, and made their way overland to New London, Conn. There, Jonathan signed on board the 20-gun ship *Discovery*, Captained by Francis Brown, and was soon back at sea. On their way to the West Indies, they captured a valuable prize after a sharp fight. Young Jonathan must have proven his mettle in the battle, for he was promoted to midshipman and made coxswain of the captain's barge—an impressive assignment for a boy of 15.

Landing at Port au Prince, they loaded a cargo and set sail for Bordeaux, France. Just off the French coast, they met two British warships—one with 26 guns and one with 18. After a 14-hour running battle, Captain Brown tried to ma-

neuver his ship into a harbor, but ran aground on a shoal. The British could not follow them into the shallow water, but the American ship suffered a smashed hull which caused her to sink within a few days.

The captain and crew found their way to Bayonne, where they spent some time, then obtained passage to Rocheford, where Jonathan, now 17, shipped on board the 20-gun *St. Helena*, bound for Philadelphia.

Discharged there, he returned to Boston and looked for another ship. Within a few weeks he was at sea again, on a merchantman bound for Santo Domingo. They reached their destination safely, unloaded their cargo, took on a new one and headed for Virginia.

Information on Jonathan Coffin Rathbone's life comes from two primary sources. He kept many records of his life, which were preserved and amplified by his son, Thomas Worthington Rathbone.

In 1974, these records and others were compiled in an excellent book, *The Rathbone Chronicles* by Frances Collord of Seattle, a great-granddaughter of Thomas W. Rathbone, who traced all his descendants. Miss Collord, who is one of our charter subscribers, is to be congratulated for her thorough research and fine writing. We thank her for permission to draw upon her work for our magazine.

The second source, primarily for information on Jonathan Rathbone's Revolutionary War career, is his own written statement made in 1832 when he applied for a federal pension based on his war service. The claim was denied because his service was in privateers, rather than in U.S. Navy ships, but his detailed account of his wartime experiences is a valuable historical document.

Off Cape Hatteras, they were captured by the 32-gun British frigate *Amphitrite* and carried into New York City in February 1783. This time Jonathan was imprisoned on the *Vulture*, a British prison ship in the Hudson River. He immediately began planning to escape, and with a group of Americans "led by a fiery Irishman" managed to get away in the captain's own gig.

In New York City, he went into hiding for several weeks, "most of the time in the house of a woman on Ferry Street." Learning that a Rhode Island sloop was in port under a flag of truce to exchange prisoners, he went to the dock, slipped aboard the sloop after dark, and hid in the hold until they were safely at sea.

In the spring of 1783, with the war ended, he found himself back home on Nantucket. He had left as a boy of 11 and returned a man of 18, after adventures worthy of a novel.

The call of the sea and adventure was still too strong to resist, and he joined a cousin, Coffin Whippy, in shipping aboard the brig *Fox*, on which they made an eight-month round trip to Brazil. He was most likely an officer by this time, probably a mate, and made many other voyages in the years following the war.

On Nov. 20, 1788, he married Mary Fosdick, daughter of Benjamin and Lydia (Coffin) Fosdick. She maintained their home on Nantucket while he roved the seas in the merchant trade.

The goal of any seaman is to command his own ship, and Jonathan achieved that goal in the early 1790s. Together with Robert Folger, a cousin, and two other men, he purchased a ship, the *Federal George*, and took her to sea under his own command.

He was now Captain Jonathan C. Rathbone!

In 1792, he took the *Federal George* to the Bahamas, and on the island of Great Abaco he had his crew cut down a mahogany tree, trim the branches, and store the log in the hold of his ship. Back in Nantucket, he had the log sawed into

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lumber, from which he made two small tables, which were to become family heirlooms. Many years later, they were recut and made into small boxes, which are still in the family.

In 1799, he set sail with a valuable cargo for Plymouth, England, where he sold his cargo, took on a new one, and headed across the English Channel for France. England and France were then engaged in bitter naval warfare, and a British warship, seeing him nearing the French coast, opened fire and moved in to attack.

Captain Rathbone ran his ship in close to shore, where the larger man-of-war could not follow, but the British captain lowered his ship's boats and sent his marines over to board the *Federal George*. Captain Rathbone loaded his single cannon with scrap iron and opened fire at the oncoming boats. The British beat a hasty retreat.

The sound of gunfire had attracted a French frigate, which easily captured Captain Rathbone and his crew, who had used all their gunpowder in the earlier encounter.

Jonathan again found himself a prisoner, this time of the French. He and his men were escorted to Paris, where they were detained for nearly a year. As an "officer and a gentleman" Captain Rathbone was allowed the freedom of the city, and his stay in Paris was not altogether unpleasant. He sat for a portrait in pastels, which is still in the family and which is reproduced on our cover.

In 1800, after Napoleon Bonaparte became the French Government's First Consul, a treaty was completed between France and America, and in September Jonathan was again a free man.

He obtained passage on a merchantman bound for the United States via the Azores, and early in 1801 he was back home. The loss of the *Federal George* and its cargo had cost him an estimated \$28,000—a sizable sum even today but a fortune then. He later filed a claim to recover his loss, but the papers somehow were lost.

For the next 10 years, he continued to follow the sea. He was owner and captain of the merchant ship *Anna Maria* in 1803, carrying molasses, soap, rum, brandy, sugar, pikes, tumblers and turnips to Spain, Gibraltar and France, returning home with a cargo of wine and vinegar.

Other trips took him throughout the world, to Europe, Africa, South America, the West Indies and, reportedly, even to China.

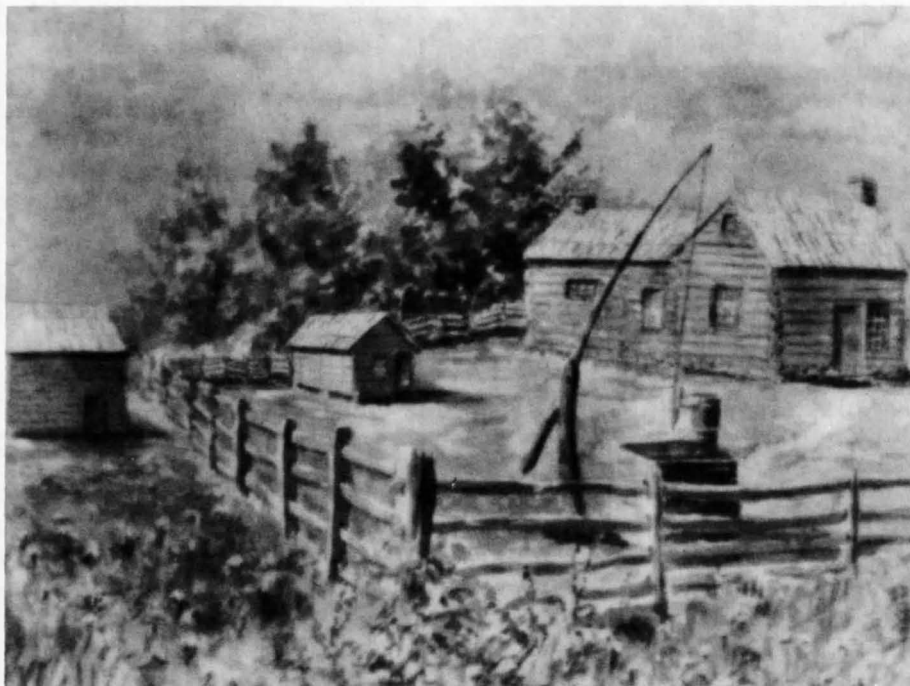
The War of 1812 brought an end to Jonathan's long, eventful career as a seaman. British blockaders virtually closed the eastern U.S. coast to foreign trade, and an economic depression resulted. Jonathan Rathbone, then 48 years old, decided to call it quits and head westward for "the Ohio," where pioneer settlers had reported mild climate and fertile soil on smooth and rock-free plains.

He and his wife sold most of their possessions, and prepared for the long journey. They left May 12, 1812, carrying the few precious house-

hold goods they had decided to take with them. They went overland to New York City, then to Philadelphia, where they bought what they would need on the trip and in their new home on the frontier.

The main route to the west was the Pennsylvania "Pike" from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. In that day, it was barely passable at best, and in the mountains it was narrow, steep and dangerous. Many of the worst slopes were strewn with the wreckage of wagons and carts, and the remains of horses and oxen. The route was used chiefly by professional wagoners, who earned their living transporting goods for persons moving west.

On July 9, 1812, Jonathan paid one of these wagoners \$170 to take him and his wife and their household goods on the hazardous 250-mile trip to Pittsburgh. Pulled by a six-horse team, they started off on their journey, spending their nights in what one early writer described as "miserable sheds called taverns."



The Ohio pioneer homestead of Jonathan Coffin Rathbone, built in 1812 for \$78, and drawn from memory years later by his son, Thomas. It looks as though it had three rooms downstairs and probably sleeping lofts upstairs. The two outbuildings were probably for livestock and grain storage. The open well had a long "sweep" for bringing up buckets of water.

At Pittsburgh, they hired space on a riverboat and started down the Ohio River for Cincinnati, more than 300 miles to the southwest. They arrived in September, stayed but a short time, and then moved 20 miles east into Clermont County where Jonathan purchased 236 acres at \$5 an acre, and hired a "hewed log" house built for \$78. They moved in that fall.

Jonathan's son, Thomas W. Rathbone, in later years, drew a sketch from memory of that log home, in which he was born and lived his early life. Reproduced with this article, the sketch shows a simple log structure, with a well, two outbuildings, and a rail fence.

It must have been a tough existence for a man trained to the sea. Clearing timberland and planting crops was a new and strange way of life for the old sea captain. Letters from home helped him realize he had made a wise move.

His cousin Sally Fosdick wrote in June 1812, shortly after they had left Nantucket:

... "We are all so poor we can hardly move in our own precincts. A curse, I say, on poverty and the absence of those we love. Father is now in bed, tired almost to death. He goes a-peating every day with his wheel barrow." (Peat was the islanders' only source of fuel for heating and cooking.)

His cousin and former partner, Robert Folger wrote:

"Our situation in this place is becoming very alarming—All our Coasting trade entirely cut off. Boston Bay, the Vineyard and Long Island Sound are full of the Enemies' cruisers. They take and destroy everything they can get hold of . . . Our family have met with repeated heavy and distressing losses; the gentle but unfortunate Alexander Macy was drowned in the Vineyard Sound on his passage from Baltimore, and the promising youth, Alexander Knott, was lost at sea on his passage from France last winter, and the greatest loss of all is my brother-in-law, Absalom Coffin, in the brig *Ocean*, whom we supposed must have foundered at sea. You may judge, my dear cousin, the

distressed situation I must be in when I look around and see my poor sister Mary with her three fatherless children, sister Hepsabeth with her little orphan child, poor Judith with the loss of her darling and promising son, and his widow on our hands; means entirely cut off, which you know was commerce . . . but it is God's Will and we must submit and put our trust in him; what will come next he, only, knows."

By 1818, things were better on Nantucket, as Folger related:

"Business here is very brisk and a great number of new ships has been and is fitting out in the whaling business, and I can't have any share of it for want of the property that you and I lost in the cruel War."

Also in 1818, Folger wrote:

"... I am sorry to hear that your wife continues unwell . . . pray that your wife may be restored to health again."

Mary Fosdick Rathbone was not to be restored to health. She died of consumption on Dec. 29, 1818. They had been married 30 years, and their only child had died in infancy.

Two years and five months later, on May 17, 1821, Jonathan, then 56, was married again—to Sarah (Whipple) Clift, a widow of 35 with a young daughter. In the next three years, they had two children—a daughter, Mary, who died at 18, and a son, Thomas W., who inherited his father's papers and wrote down many of the stories his father had told him.

Jonathan Coffin Rathbone died Sept. 15, 1836, just eight days after his 72nd birthday. His health had been damaged by a rupture suffered during the heavy work of his pioneer days on the frontier. His wife died five years later on June 23, 1841, aged 55.

Of his father, Thomas W. Rathbone said in later life: "He possessed a mind impervious to the evils of seafaring life; his language was free from the customary profanity of his time and trade, and no tinge of envy, jealousy or mistrust of . . . his countrymen."

"Father seldom went in debt, even for the most trifling article.

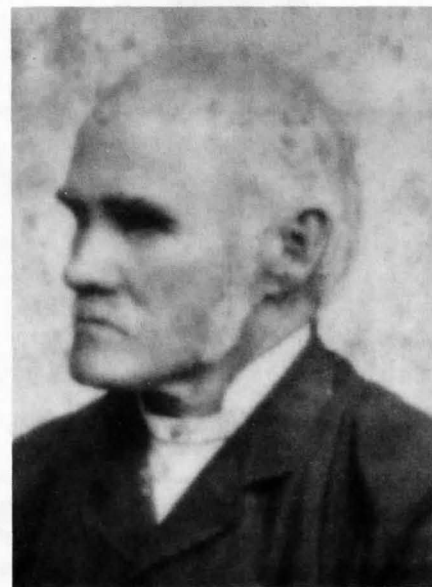
Our family made its own cloth for the family wear. The summer clothing was made mostly of linen and as strong as possible, even to the handkerchiefs."

In his father's will, Thomas was left most of the farm, and "my brass clock, likeness (the portrait), books, writing desk, medicine chest," all items probably dating back to his seagoing days and carried on the long trip from Nantucket to Ohio in 1812.

Jonathan C. Rathbone had two brothers who lived to maturity; both, like him went to sea.

Abraham, born Sept. 1, 1762, went to sea as a boy, was captured by the British, and sent to the West Indies, where he became an English sympathizer. Jonathan reported meeting him once after the war, in New York City, but his older brother rebuffed any attempts to carry on a conversation. He reportedly moved to England and died there.

Jethro Coffin Rathbone, born June 28, 1767, served in the Revolutionary Navy, and was lost at sea off Africa sometime prior to 1810. He married Elizabeth Baxter in October 1793, and had one daughter.



Thomas Worthington Rathbone, Jonathan's son, who preserved his father's papers and took a keen interest in family history.

Rathbun Rathbone Rathburn



Which is Correct?

Question: Which is correct — Rathbun, Rathbone or Rathburn?

Answer: None of the above, and all of the above.

Technically speaking, there is no “correct” or “incorrect” way to spell our name. Rathbun is the most common spelling today in the United States, but there are many Rathbones and Rathburns. In Great Britain, the name is almost universally spelled Rathbone, but in Ireland it most commonly appears as Rathborne.

Why these differences — both in America and in the British Isles where the name originated? How did the spelling develop?

Assuming the Irish parish of Rathboyne as the origin some six centuries ago (see article in first issue), the answer appears to lie partly in local dialect, partly in the slow development of standardized spelling and partly in personal choice.

In the 14th Century, when Irish emigrants carried the name to England, literacy was limited largely to royalty, the clergy and the nobility. Latin was still the written language of the church, and English as we know it today was still in its infancy. Spelling was left to the whim of those who could write.

Rathboyne was literally a foreign word with a foreign sound to Englishmen of that day. A cleric or scribe who had occasion to write the name would spell it as he heard it pronounced. There is no way today to know how a 14th Century Irishman or Englishman would have pronounced or spelled Rathboyne. To get an idea of the difficulty, imagine today spelling such a simple word as “bird” as pronounced by a Brooklynite (boird, boyd?).

The problem was compounded by the absolute lack of any rules for spelling. Even such a common name as Smith appears in early records as Smythe, Smithe and Smethe.

During the 14th and 15th centuries, our name appears in English records as Rabone, Rabon, Rabun, Rawbone, Rawsbone, Rabbone, Rathbon, Raithbone, Rabourne and Rabourn.

This confusion still existed in the middle 1600s, when our ancestors came to America. The father of the American immigrant signed his will as Thomas Raithbone in 1654, but his brother, writing his will only six years later, signed as William Rathbone.

It would have been useless to ask our first American ancestor, John of Block Island, how he spelled his surname, for he was illiterate and signed his name simply “JR.”

The birth of his youngest son, in Newport, R.I., in 1672, is recorded as “Samuel, son of John and Margaret Rabone.”

It is apparent that the second generation of our family on Block Island used the Rathbun spelling. It appears on the tombstone inscriptions of John’s sons Thomas (1657-1730) and Samuel (1672-1757), and in Samuel’s family bible, which still survives.

In England, however, the Rathbone version was generally adopted by the 1700s, and is virtually the only spelling found there today.

After the American Revolution, there was a trend

toward the Rathbone spelling in America, especially among the wealthier families in the New York City area. This was probably due to increased contact, through trade, with England, where the Rathbones of Liverpool were one of that city's most prominent and influential families. They were wealthy merchants and members of Parliament, and had made the name known throughout the British Empire.

The Rev. John⁴ Rathbone of Connecticut (Joshua³ John²¹) used the Rathbun spelling through the late 1700s, but by 1800 had adopted the Rathbone version, as did his sons. This was likely the influence of his oldest son, John, who moved to New York and became a wealthy merchant and financier. The prominence of this branch of the family may have influenced others to adopt the Rathbone spelling.

Wait Rathbone, youngest brother of the Rev. John, also made the change from Rathbun about this time. Most of his descendants have retained the Rathbone spelling, but our research director, Robert Rathbun, a descendant of Wait, reports that his branch has used Rathbun for many generations.

Samuel Rathbone, son of the Rev. John, wrote in 1860: "I am aware that the family in North America spell their names Rathbun, but the name in England has always been Rathbone."

Rathbun and Rathbone were used interchangeably during the early 1800s by many family members.

Adams⁶ Rathbun (Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²¹), seeking a Revolutionary War pension for his widowed mother in 1843, wrote a letter which is still preserved in the National Archives:

"The surname of the said family is written differently by different members of the family, a part writing it Rathbone and another portion Rathbun. My father generally wrote it the latter way."

The will of Philander⁵ Rathbone (Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²¹), written in 1844, describes him as "Philander Rathbone, formerly written Rathbun, of Castille, New York."

Philander's brother, Solomon, changed the spelling to Rathbone about 1815, according to the *Rathbone Family Historian* of February 1893: "Previous to the year 1815 Solomon spelled his name Rathbun. He changed the spelling on the grounds that Rathbone was the correct spelling and was the original and true name as spelled in England."

The author of a mid-1800s book, *The Old Merchants of New York*, commented on the spelling confusion:

"Sometimes the name is Rathbun, as well as Rathbone, by children of the same father."

Referring to Nathan Rathbun of New York City, son of Benjamin⁵ (Elijah⁴ Samuel³² John¹) Rathbun, the book states: "Nathan Rathbun (born 1794) wrote his name at different periods of his life Rathbone and Rathbun."

Richmond J. Rathbone, one of our charter subscribers and a founder of the Rathbun Family Association, reports that his great-grandfather, Arthur B.⁷ Rathbone (Laurin⁶ Daniel⁵⁴ Joshua³ John²¹) changed the spelling of his name from Rathbun to Rathbone

about 1860, upon graduation from the University of Rochester. He made the change after a professor told him it sounded more distinguished.

The change was sometimes made the other way. Abigail Rathbun (born in 1805) the daughter of Charles B.⁵ Rathbun (Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) wrote in the *Rathbone Family Historian* of September, 1893: "My father always spelled his name Rathbone until I was a young lady teaching school, but I thought it was a little shorter and sounded better, so we changed (about 1825) to Rathbun."

Your editor's great-grandfather was Charles⁶ Rathbun (Amos⁵⁴ Joshua³ John²¹), but two of his five brothers and three of his four sisters adopted the Rathbone spelling. My grandfather, Hugo, kept the Rathbun spelling, but his youngest son, Eugene, decided as a young man that Rathbone sounded better, and used that spelling all his life.

My great-great-grandparents are buried side by side in Cayuga County, N. Y. His gravestone reads "Amos Rathbun" while hers reads "Polly Rathburn."

Albert R.⁷ Rathbone (Amos⁶⁵ Thomas⁴³ John²¹) used the Rathbun spelling, as did his family, until after the Civil War, in which he fought, was wounded and captured. His name, however, had been recorded as Rathbone by a company clerk, and all his records were spelled that way. Seeking a pension after the war, he decided "you can't fight city hall," and simply adopted the Rathbone spelling, which his descendants still use.

The Rathburn spelling seems to have been used more by branches of the family which migrated westward at an early date, and lost contact with their eastern relatives. There are a number of Rathburns in central Massachusetts, descended from John⁶ Rathburn (Tibbets⁵ John⁴³ Thomas² John¹), who moved

(continued on page 26)

In Memory of Samuel Rathbun who died Jan ^y 24 th 1757 in y ^e 85 th Year of his Age.	Here lieth y ^e Body of Capt ⁿ Thomas Rathbun died Decem ^r y ^e 26 th 1733 Aged 76 Years.
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These two tombstone inscriptions from Block Island show that the Rathbun spelling was used by our ancestors in the early 1700s. They are taken from "A Copy of The Old Epitaphs in the Burying Ground of Block Island, R.I., by Edward Doubleday Harris, published in 1883." Since he copied them nearly a century ago, Capt. Thomas Rathbun's stone has disappeared, but that of Samuel is still faintly legible.

(continued from page 25)

to Massachusetts in the early 1800s and lost touch with his relatives. His descendants only recently learned his ancestry.

The descendants of William⁵ Rathbun (Daniel⁴ William^{3,2} John¹), who settled in Meigs County, Ohio, about 1803, have used Rathburn since the middle 1800s.

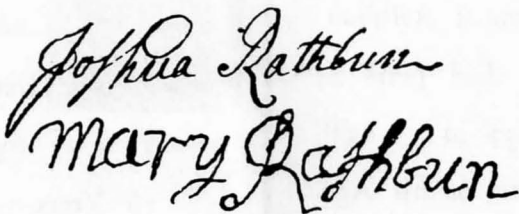
For some reason, people hearing the name for the first time assume it is Rathburn, even to this day.

One of the real heroes of the American Revolution was Captain John Peck⁵ Rathbun (Nathaniel⁴ Thomas^{3,2} John¹) of the Continental Navy, but when a World War II Destroyer was named in his honor, it was christened the *Rathburne*.

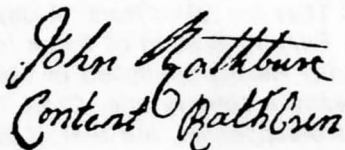
Those of us who bear the name today have the same problem. My mail is often addressed to Frank Rathburn, Frank Rathborne, Frank Raphburn, and Frank Raspin.

The signatures on the following document, found in Stonington, Conn., by our research director, Robert Rathbun, show that the Rathbun spelling was used in 1756 by Joshua³ Rathbun (John^{2,1}) and by his son, Rev. John, who later adopted the Rathbone version:

We Joshua Rathbun and Mary his wife of Stonington in ye County of New London have rec'd of Timothy Wightman of Groton in the County afores'd, Executor to the Last will and Testament of Mr. Valentine Wightman of Sd (said) Groton, deceased, the Sum of one Hundred Pounds old tenor Bills of Credit, it being a Legacy given to Sd Mary by ye Sd Valentine Wightman in and by his Last Will and we do hereby discharge the Sd Timothy Wightman as he is Executor, from Sd Legacy as witness our hands this 9th Day of January 1756."



In Presents (presence) of



Returning to the question posed in my opening sentence, no one spelling is correct. My branch of the family has consistently used Rathbun for more than two centuries, and I am content with it. Others have used Rathbone and Rathburn for many generations, and they are satisfied. We all descend from the same ancestor, who could not spell at all, so the question is really moot.

More important than the spelling is the character of those who bear the name. In this regard, we have many reasons to be proud, and none to be ashamed. The primary purpose of this magazine is to record for posterity the lives and achievements of all who have borne our name over the centuries, no matter which spelling they used.

Rathbuns and Rathbones

Soon after this country was by Columbus discovered,
While from ocean to ocean was a region unknown,
A ship load of Pilgrims came over the water,
And brought to this country the Rathbuns and Rathbones.

With a heart without fear and a will to press onward,
They fought the wild savage; trod the forest unknown.
They built up our factories and cleared up our farms,
Those brave pioneers, the Rathbuns and Rathbones.

When the British invaders came to war with our country,
No doubt they soon wished they were safely back home,
For among the brave heroes of the old Revolution,
Again there were found the Rathbuns and Rathbones.

When the late Civil War desolated our country,
And traitors the seeds of rebellion had sown,
There sprang to the breach our nation's defenders,
Among them again the Rathbuns and Rathbones.

From the far distant East to the land of the sunset,
From Mexican Gulf to the cold frozen zone,
In the office and workshop, the bench and the pulpit,
You often will meet the Rathbuns and Rathbones.

All hail to our kinsmen, whate'er be your station,
From the crowds in the cities to the prairies alone,
Stand up for the right, be true to our country,
Nor disgrace the fair name of Rathbun or Rathbone.

Then let us so live we can cross the dark river,
With no fears of the future or dreaded unknown;
Where the angels are singing and Saints are rejoicing,
May there not one be missing, Rathbun or Rathbone.

By Lafayette George Rathbun (Wilkes⁷ Lucius⁶ Jonathan^{5,4} John^{3,2,1}), Published by the Rathbone Family Historian, January 1893.

Charter Subscribers

Three of our earliest charter subscribers were inadvertently omitted from the list published in our first issue, and the names of three others were listed incorrectly. They are reprinted here with our apologies, together with the names of other charter subscribers whose checks were received after the November deadline. We will continue to list new subscribers in future issues, but there will be no more charter subscribers.

OMITTED IN FIRST ISSUE

Ralph & Jeanne Chubbuck
Concordia, Kansas

Richard Ledford
Orange, Mass.

Myrtle (Rathbun) Showalter
Craig, Colo.

LISTED INCORRECTLY

Lorraine Cowles Sencevicky
Eugene, Ore.

Phyllis (McGrew) Walklet
Treasure Island, Fla.

Mrs. Betty (True) Weholt
Portland, Ore.

CHARTER SUBSCRIBERS

Kenneth Haybron Adams
Provo, Utah

Mrs. Susie Baston Carter
Atlanta, Ga.

Carol (Rathbun) Boyer
Mentone, Ind.

Mrs. Gwen Cathey
Vici, Okla.

Melinda (Rathbun) Connell
Virginia Beach, Va.

Winifred (Rathburn) Dougherty
Logan, Ohio

Louise (Rathburn) Duffey
Logan, Ohio

Mrs. Lila Glomstad
Two Rivers, Wisc.

Col. Robert A. Greene
East Greenwich, R.I.

Elsie (Rathburn) Haak
Texarkana, Ark.

John & Pegge Hlavacek
Omaha, Neb.

Thelma (Rathburn) Layman
Utica, Ohio

Ruth (Rathburn) McPherson
El Cajon, Calif.

Edward & Harriett Mead
Nice, Calif.

Lawrence Newton
Golden, Colo.

Margaret (Rathbun) Norman
Flint, Mich.

Jewett D. Parmiter
Stewart, Ohio

Kathren Prentiss
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Benjamin & Georgianne Rathbun
Washington, D.C.

Bryce and Marilyn Rathbun
Bakersfield, Calif.

Clarence Rathburn
Athol, Mass.

David M. Rathbun
Stonington, Conn.

Ernest & Eola Rathbun
Cranston, R.I.

Glen Rathbun
Ellsworth, Kans.

Helen M. Rathbun
Cranston, R.I.

Howard and Turid Rathbun
Loveland, Colo.

John McKee Rathbun
Portland, Ore.

Lowell Rathbun
Carlsbad, Calif.

Louis & Peggy Rathbun
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Rathbone
Corona, Calif.

Richard & Lura Rathbun
Cazenovia, N.Y.

Robert C. Rathbone
Monrovia, Calif.

Rod & Kathe Rathbun
Omaha, Neb.

Williams A. Rathbun III
Cooperstown, N.Y.

G.H. & Judith Ring
Erie, Pa.

Margaret (Rathbun) Scheide
Lyme, Conn.

Donald & Eila Schiffer
Camden, N.Y.

Alice (Rathbun) Schmitz
Oak Lawn, Ill.

Mrs. Bernard Seeman
Lakewood, Ohio

Rosetta (Rathburn) Smith
Sunbury, Ohio

Jennie (Rathbun) Woolson
Oswego, N.Y.

Rachelle Rathbone

Rachelle Rathbone, 18, of Monrovia, Calif., was crowned early in March as Monrovia Days Queen. The lovely young woman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rathbone.

Frank Rathbun III

Our production manager, Frank H. Rathbun III, has accepted a new position as a communications specialist with the Glass Packaging Institute, which represents manufacturers of glass containers.

James Chivers

Charter Subscriber James Chivers of North Canton, Ohio, is recovering from coronary bypass surgery. He reports feeling much improved and was expected to return to work by middle March.

Genealogy: The Second Generation in America

1. JOHN² RATHBUN JR. (John¹) born about 1655, probably in Dorchester, Mass., shortly after his parents migrated to America. He went with his family as a young boy to Block Island in 1661, and was married there Jan. 10, 1679, to a wife whose name is illegible in the records. They had one child, a son John Jr., who was born June 22, 1680, and died in infancy. The mother apparently also died about this time.

After the death of his wife, it appears that John, then in his late 20s, may have had what we today call "an affair" with his 19-year-old cousin, Margery Acres. When she married Daniel Tosh in 1685, Margery already had a six-month-old son later named Acres Tosh, who may have been John Rathbun's illegitimate child. In 1735, a Rhode Island court upheld a claim that Acres Tosh was illegally in possession of Tosh property on Block Island on the ground that he was Margery's illegitimate son by John Rathbun and, therefore, not legally entitled to any Tosh inheritance. The claimant, Penelope (Tosh) Holloway, produced a witness, Sarah Potter, who testified she had seen Acres' mother "abed with John Rathbun."

Simon Ray, Block Island's town clerk in 1735, protested the court's decision and Sarah Potter's testimony, commenting: "... many women have done the same and after that had children lawfully begotten, and if every woman that hath kept company with a man before marriage should make her children bastards, there will be but few lawfully begotten."

Whatever the truth of the allegation, John Rathbun was married again Nov. 11, 1686, "at Rochester in the Kings Province" (the temporary name for North Kingstown, R.I.) to Ann Dodge, possibly the

In our first issue, we covered John and Margaret Rathbun of Block Island, and their ancestry in England. In this issue, we pick up the lives and children of their five sons. Succeeding issues will trace their descendants, one generation at a time. In the interest of space, this continuing series on our family's genealogy will not carry on the lines of the daughters, but will list only their husbands' names and their dates of marriage if known. Our research director, Robert Rathbun, is compiling data on Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn daughters, and we will be pleased to receive, or provide if we can, any information on these women, their lives and their children.

widow of Thomas Dodge, son of Tristram. Thomas Dodge is mentioned in early Block Island records but disappears about that time.

John Rathbun Jr. was admitted freeman of the Colony of Rhode Island May 1, 1684. (This meant he was over 21, a property owner and, therefore, had the right to vote).

His parents, on Sept. 21, 1679, gave John "for love etc." 60 acres of land and their home on Block Island. This gift came into question some years later, and on Jan. 3, 1688, they made a new deed, clarifying the first. For a barrel of pork, to be paid yearly on demand, they gave John Jr. full title to the property, with the stipulation that should he ever decide to sell it, "he shall offer ... the same to one or any one of his brothers, five pounds cheaper than any other person." Nearly 30 years later, John had his aged

mother make a formal deposition further explaining the two deeds:

"My son John Rathbun desires me for as much as my husband is deceased to explain the occasion or reason for the two deeds . . . the full intent of my husband and myself . . . (was that) our son John should have it (the property) at his own disposal and that none of our other children or their heirs forever should ever have any rights or property therein."

The property was apparently the most valuable owned by John Rathbun Sr. and the other brothers may have raised objections. In 1719, the Block Island Town Council approved "a driftway (road?) to the Harbor through John Rathbun's land," indicating that the property was indeed strategically located.

In our first issue, we related the story of how John Jr. posed as his father and was tied and beaten by the French in 1689 to enable his father to escape capture. John Jr. appears in Block Island records again in May 1717, aged about 62, when he testified as to the kidnapping of three islanders by the pirate, Paulsgrave Williams, the "black sheep" member of a prominent island family.

Island records indicate that John Jr. and his youngest brother, Samuel, were the only of the five brothers who were literate and could sign their names; the others customarily signed with "marks."

In December 1698, two Block Island Indians, "Great James and his wife," bound their daughter, Betsey, over to John and Ann Rathbun as an indentured servant for 18 years, receiving from the Rathbuns a gallon of rum and a blanket at the time, and to receive another gallon and blanket each year for five years, and then a gallon of rum each year thereafter and four blankets each third year, so long as the girl remained a servant.

John Rathbun Jr. died in 1723, aged about 68. He left all his housing and land on Block Island to his son, John, who was to pay 50 pounds to each of his four younger brothers as they reached 21, and 30 pounds to his younger sister, Anna, upon their mother's death. He had already given 100 pounds to his son Jonathan when he was married, and had given his daughter Mercy "her share" when she married Jonathan Burch in 1706.

The children of John Jr. and Ann (Dodge) Rathbun:

MERCY, born Oct. 3, 1688; married Jonathan Burch Aug. 26, 1706.

JONATHAN, born May 22, 1691; married (1) Elizabeth³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹) and (2) Katherine (Wescott) Wightman.

JOHN, born Dec. 23, 1693; married (1) Patience Fish, and (2) Alice (?). See "Discrepancies", 02-2 p 29

JOSHUA, born Feb. 19, 1696; married (1) Martha Card, and (2) Mary Wightman.

BENJAMIN, born Feb. 17, 1701; married Hannah Carpenter.

ANNA, born Aug. 9, 1703; married William Dodge Jr. June 20, 1728.

NATHANIEL, born Feb. 6, 1707; married (prob.) Mercy³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹).

THOMAS, born March 2, 1709; married Charity Perkins.

2. THOMAS² RATHBUN (John¹) born about 1657, probably at Dorchester, Mass., and raised on Block Island where he married Aug. 21, 1685, Mary Dickens, born about 1664, daughter of Nathaniel and Joan Dickens.

Thomas was an influential citizen of Block Island and apparently the most prominent of the five brothers. He was admitted a freeman in 1684, elected a second townsman in 1692, and served as first townsman in 1700-1702. His fellow islanders elected him the island's deputy to the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1700, 1703, 1705 and 1711, and again in 1730 and 1731 when he was past 70. During his first term in the Assembly, he served on a commit-

tee appointed to audit the colonial treasurer's accounts.

He owned considerable property on Block Island, and is referred to as "Captain Thomas Rathbun" in the town records. He also invested in lands near Poughkeepsie, N. Y., which he deeded to his daughters before his death. In 1705, he purchased the Dickens property on Block Island from his wife's step-mother and brothers.

A selected listing of the possessions of John Rathbun Jr., taken from the inventory of his estate after his death in 1723:

Two oxen, six cows, two heifers, two two-year-olds, two four-year-olds, five sheep, two mares and one colt.

Five pewter platters, one brass kettle, three quart pots, a baking pot, five basins, two plates, 12 spoons, a pint pot, a half-pint pot, earthenware, a jug and five bottles.

Five old chairs, two old tables, a spinning wheel, a loom, two andirons, two trammels (for fireplace cooking) two spits, a pair of tongs, chests, three boxes, four towels, six napkins and tablecloths and two brooms.

Three beds, eight sheets, a looking glass, a warming pan and a candlestick.

One bible, four other books, wearing apparel, a 15-shilling bill of credit and one ounce of silver.

Shoemaker's tools and stool, carpenter's tools, two barrels, a wagon, a cart and wheels, a grindstone, two pitchforks, two plowshares and an iron box.

Nine bushels of Indian corn, three bushels of barley, four and a half bushels of beans, eight pounds of flax, three pounds of wool, one barrel of wheat, two and a half yards of fulled cloth and one rope.

Total value of personal estate - 149 pounds, 7 shillings, 10 pence.

He was quite likely the "Thomas Raspin" who was married Oct. 30, 1717, in Boston, to Mary Nixon. In 1730, he gave an acre of land to Mercy Nixon, wife of Joseph Lock "for the love and goodwill that I have unto her whom I brought up from her childhood."

Thomas Rathbun died Dec. 26, 1733, at Block Island, aged 76, according to the slate marker on his grave.

An indication of his wealth is shown in the inventory of his estate, which listed 27 cattle, 210 sheep, seven swine, two horses and six Negro slaves.

Since census records show only about 20 Negroes on Block Island at that period, it would appear that he owned fully a third of the slaves on the island. An idea of the value of slaves is given in the inventory, which listed a male named Mingo, valued at 60 pounds; a boy named Quoming, at 80 pounds; one woman at 40 pounds; and three "wenches" at 200 pounds (about 66 pounds each). His possessions also included several pieces of silver — a tankard and two cups.

The total value of his estate was set at more than 838 pounds, a sizeable amount for the hard-working farmers and fisherman of Block Island during that period.

If Mary Nixon was his second wife, she apparently died about 1744, when all of his surviving children sold their shares of the remaining estate to the youngest son, John.

Children of Thomas and Mary (Dickens) Rathbun:

MARGARET, born Jan. 17, 1686; married John³ Rathbun (William² John¹).

MARY, born Nov. 24, 1687; married Thomas Dodge.

PATIENCE, born Nov. 14, 1690; married Benjamin Bentley.

CONTENT, born Jan. 17, 1692; married Samuel Eldred.

THOMAS, born Jan. 29, 1695; married Lydia Mott.

(continued on page 30)

(continued from page 29)

SARAH, born April 1, 1698; married Jonathan³ Rathbun (William² John¹).

ELIZABETH, born March 13, 1700; married John Gay, Feb. 14, 1721.

SAMUEL, born July 1, 1702; married Abigail Eldred.

JOHN, born May 29, 1705; married (1) Experience (Mott?); (2) Mary Rose.

SYBIL, born March 16, 1707; married (1) Hezekiah Wilcox, and (2) Samuel Littlefield.

3. WILLIAM RATHBUN, born about 1661, about the time his parents moved to Block Island. He married there Dec. 18, 1680, Sarah (?), whose maiden name is illegible in the town records.

William Rathbun was made a freeman of Block Island in 1684, and of Rhode Island Colony in 1696. He was elected surveyor of fences in 1686, constable in 1688, and served on a jury of inquest in 1692. On May 2, 1693, he received 60 acres on the island from his parents.

On July 31, 1710, he purchased 165 acres of land at Lyme, Conn., which he gave to his sons, William and Jonathan, two years later.

He and his wife Sarah sold parts of their Block Island land in 1716 and 1718, and then sold the remainder in 1725 to Caleb Littlefield. They moved about that time to Westerly, Rhode Island.

William Rathbun died in Westerly in September or October 1727, leaving his 90-acre farm there to his son, John, who was instructed to pay 50 pounds each to his two youngest sisters and set aside 140 pounds for emergency use by any of the children or grandchildren.

His estate included cattle, sheep and a Negro woman, Jenny, who was left to his son, Ebenezer.

Children of William and Sarah Rathbun:

WILLIAM, born Nov. 12, 1681; married Sarah Mott.

SARAH, born Dec. 8, 1682; married John Ball Sept. 1, 1710.

JOHN, born Jan. 9, 1684; married Margaret³ Rathbun (Thomas² John¹).

THOMAS, born Jan. 21, 1686; probably died young.

JONATHAN, born Nov. 25, 1688; married Sarah³ Rathbun (Thomas² John¹).

ELIZABETH, born May 30, 1691; probably died young.

ANN, born July 9, 1693; married Ebenezer Dodge Feb. 13, 1714.

DORCAS, born Jan. 14, 1695; married Thomas West Sept. 20, 1716.

EBENEZER, born Jan. 28, 1696; married Sarah Berry (Bessey?).

MERCY, born July 10, 1699; married John Blivin Nov. 8, 1727.

ELEANOR, born Aug. 1, 1701; died between 1712 and 1727.

4. JOSEPH RATHBUN, born about 1667 on Block Island; married there May 19, 1691, Mary Mosher, daughter of Hugh and Rebecca (Maxson) Mosher. He was deeded 55 acres on the island by his parents on Dec. 28, 1688, possibly on his 21st birthday.

He was admitted a freeman of Block Island on May 5, 1696, and was elected town sergeant the same day. He was surveyor of fences in 1709-10, second townsman in 1717, and both third townsman and fence viewer in 1718.

In 1709, he purchased 100 acres of land on the mainland at Exeter, R.I. (then called North Kingstown),

apparently as an investment. The property had been ordered sold by the General Assembly.

He moved from Block Island to Exeter probably about 1724, when he sold 75 acres on the island to Peter Ball for 430 pounds. He was made a freeman there in 1734. On Jan. 22, 1744, he signed a petition with other Exeter residents protesting the town's tax rate.

Joseph Rathbun made his will on Dec. 26, 1748, describing himself as "Antient but of perfect memory," signing with his mark. He apparently died during the summer of 1749, aged about 82; his will was proved on August 8 that year, making small bequests to his children and grandchildren.

Children of Joseph and Mary (Mosher) Rathbun:

ELIZABETH, born March 14, 1692; married Jonathan³ Rathbun (John²).

REBECCA, born March 14, 1694; married William Harris in Oct. 1713.

GRACE, born July 16, 1695; married Josiah Gates May 9, 1714.

MARY, born March 6, 1697; married John Gardiner in 1717.

MARGARET, born Nov. 29, 1700; married Henry Green May 15, 1724.

MERCY, born Feb. 14, 1703; married (prob.) Nathaniel³ Rathbun (John²). *W ANNA, BORN MAR 21, 1706, MARRIED JOHN ELDRID.*

JOSEPH, born Oct. 4, 1707; married Abigail Wilbur.

BENJAMIN, born Feb. 26, 1710; married Mary Cahoone.

JOB, born April 1, 1712; married Mary Harris.

Correction

There was a factual error in the first edition, and we recommend that you take the time to make the correction in your copy for the benefit of future readers and historians. On page 7, in the listing of the children of John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun, the son William is listed with a second wife, Rachel. William did not have a second wife. We apologize for the error.

5. SAMUEL RATHBUN, born Aug. 3, 1672, at Newport, where his parents were living at that time. He married Nov. 3, 1692, probably at Newport, Patience Coggeshall, born Aug. 13, 1670, the daughter of Deputy Governor John Coggeshall and his wife, Patience Throckmorton.

Samuel Rathbun was admitted a freeman of Block Island on Jan. 2, 1693, was elected constable in 1695 and again in 1708 and was third townsman and ensign in the island

militia in 1715. He was deputy warden and town treasurer in 1731, treasurer again in 1743, and town clerk in 1748, aged 76.

On March 3, 1692, his parents gave him a home and 20 acres in the town center, and another 15 acres in the Corn Neck section of northern Block Island.

In 1737, he signed a petition with other Block Island residents asking the Rhode Island governor to appoint two additional wardens for the island, and in 1740 signed another petition asking that armed men be sent to the island to help resist an anticipated French-Spanish invasion.

In 1749, at the age of 77, Samuel apparently gave up farming, and

possibly moved in with his son, Samuel Jr., for on January 4 of that year he gave his son all his farming equipment, cart and wheels, a plough and two pair of plowforms, three ox yokes and tackling, a pair of copper stills, carpenter's and wheelwright's tools, his "great Bible" (now in possession of the Block Island Historical Society), and his "great table and cubbard" — most likely the "table and cubbard" left him by his father as heirlooms a half century before.

Samuel Rathbun died Jan. 24, 1757, aged 85, and was buried in the town cemetery where his grave is marked by a still legible slate stone. His wife, Patience, had died 10 years earlier on Aug. 3, 1747.

Children of Samuel and Patience (Coggeshall) Rathbun:

THOMAS, born May 3, 1695; married (name unknown).

PATIENCE, born Aug. 21, 1697; married Hezekiah Dodge.

MARY, born Sept. 11, 1700; married James Gould June 6, 1723.

WAIT, born Dec. 30, 1702; married Thomas Dickens June 1, 1727.

SAMUEL, born April 16, 1705; married Elizabeth Dodge.

JAMES, born April 10, 1707; married Mercy Downing.

ABRAHAM, born Nov. 23, 1709; married Mary Mosher.

REBECCA, born Jan. 9, 1713; married John Rider Sept. 25, 1735.



This old family photograph was made about 1880 in Fillmore County, Neb., and was supplied by Mrs. Myrtle Showalter, of Craig, Colo., one of our charter subscribers. It shows Mrs. Showalter's grandfather, William Henry Harrison⁷ Rathbun (John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³ Perry²) with his wife and children. In the back row are Lewis, 13; John Thomas, 23; Owen, 21; Fred, 17; and May Rathbun, 19. In the front row are

William Jr., 11; William Sr.; Mrs. Mary (Keller) Rathbun; Frank, 15; and Paul, 7. In the lower left, hand on her father's knee, is three-year-old Grace. William Henry Harrison Rathbun Sr. was born in Belpre, Ohio, in 1840, became a shoemaker, married in 1863, and moved as a young man to Illinois. In 1883, he moved further west to Nebraska, where he was a justice of the peace. He died in 1921; his wife died in 1925.

Dr. Donald Rathbun

Texas Physician of the Year

Dr. Donald Rathbun of El Paso, Texas, one of our charter subscribers, has been named "Texas Physician of the Year" in recognition of his 21 years of work with persons afflicted with epilepsy.

The award was given by the Texas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. He was also named El Paso "Physician of the Year" by the Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Dr. Rathbun is the son of Donald⁹ Rathbun (Chauncey⁸ Byron⁷ Levant⁶ Joel⁵ Benjamin⁴ Joseph³ John¹). Of his direct Rathbun ancestors, Chauncey and Byron were dentists, and Joel was a surgeon in the War of 1812.

A neurologist, Dr. Rathbun is the

founder of the local and Texas State epilepsy associations, and has been actively involved in helping the handicapped find jobs.

Dr. Rathbun graduated from medical school in Galveston in 1951, then interned and later researched for several years at the University of Virginia Medical School. He remained there for a residence in internal medicine, and then taught in the neurology department for several years. While there, he was associated with the nation's first large clinic for epileptics.

"We handled about 12,000 people," he recalls. "At that time we were considered the largest clinic in the country."

Returning to El Paso in 1959, he opened that city's only charity



Dr. Donald Rathbun

clinic for epileptics, and has treated about 18,000 patients in the past 21 years.

Dr. Rathbun and his wife, Evelyn, have six children.

Query Column

Need parents or any information on Lucy E. (Clark?) Rathbone, who married Nathan Sage about 1820 in Norwich or Gilbertsville (Butternuts), N.Y. She died Dec. 14, 1823, aged 25 years. Had children — Ezra Clark Sage, born 1820; Esther L. Sage, born 1822; and Angeline Calista Sage, born 1823.

Wanted — Any information on Dr. Sereno/Cereno⁷ Rathburn (Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³ John¹), who was born Dec. 23, 1804, in Granby, Conn. and died Jan. 26, 1876, in Meigs Co. Ohio. Married Sarah Braley July 9, 1822, in Meigs Co.

Wanted — Any information on Abigail, wife of Joseph⁶ Rathbone (Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³ John¹). She was supposedly born April 11, 1789, in New York, and had died by the time Joseph made his will in 1847 in Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio. A son was named Aaron Nicholas (Nichols?) Rathbun. Was she a Nichols?

An offer — Mrs. Margaret S. Dale, author of the index to Cooley's *Rathbone Genealogy*, will look up names and make copies of pertinent information for the actual copying cost. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope with request to Mrs. Margaret Dale, 248 West Pamela Road, Arcadia, Calif. 91006.

Wanted — Information on Alfred T. Rathbun, born 1798 in Vermont, the son of Wait⁵ Rathbun, Jr. (Wait⁴ Joshua³ John² John¹). Where did he live after 1833? Where and when did he die?

Nina Rathbun Saum

DIED — Dec. 25, 1980, in Springfield, Ohio, Mrs. Nina (Rathbun) Saum, 87. Born in Brighton, Ohio, April 25, 1893, she was a daughter of Rei⁸ and Anna Reynard Rathbun (John⁷ Thomas⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³ John² John¹). Mrs. Saum's first husband, Harry Brittin, died in 1936, and her second husband, Charles Saum, died in 1957.

Charles B. Rathbun

DIED — Feb. 18, 1981, Charles Bennetta Rathbun, aged 82, the last surviving child of William⁷ Rathbun (Alfred⁶ Job⁵ Benjamin⁴ Joseph³ John² John¹) and Bennetta Rose (Padgett) Rathbun.