

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

# FAMILY HISTORIAN



Henry Reed Rathbone  
1837-1911

The  
Lincoln  
Connection



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

## Letter From the Editor

With this issue—and our first year—completed, we look forward to 1982, when our annual subscription rate will be reduced by 20 percent (from \$25 to \$20). A renewal notice is enclosed.

Your response will determine the future of the *Historian*, and tell us whether it should be continued.

With nearly 250 subscribers, we are hoping that enough of you will re-subscribe to enable us to maintain the quality of our magazine—your magazine—for the coming year.

When we first started publication, one of our subscribers questioned whether we could find enough material to fill four issues a year. We are finding quite the opposite. We have far too much material to squeeze into each 16-page issue.

The Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns are a fascinating family, and their lives and achievements are an almost endless source of story material. On this page you will find a list of a few stories we plan to use in future issues, and there are many more. Many of you have suggested articles and we encourage you to keep sending your ideas in.

It has been impossible to send in-

Published quarterly by the Rathbun Family Association at 11308 Popes Head Road, Fairfax, Va. 22030. Telephone: (703) 278-8512.

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dividual thanks to each "cousin" who has sent us newspaper clippings, family data and pictures, census readings, cemetery records and similar materials, as well as comments, corrections, praise and suggestions for the *Historian*.

To all these valued correspondents, we give our collective thanks. To all of you, we ask that you send us any material relating in any way to members of our widespread family—past and present.

In particular, to those of you who have not done so, please send in your family records of births, deaths and marriages, along with any other information you may have, such as places of residence, interesting occupations, military service or political offices held.

With this issue, we complete our genealogical coverage of the third generation in America. The January

issue will begin the fourth generation. These are our ancestors—your ancestors—and your *Family Historian* is the medium through which we can record their lives and deeds.

While we are researching and writing the past history of our family, we also want to record the achievements of today's Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns, which are the makings of history.

If you or a member of your family is honored in any way, let us know, so we can record it today for tomorrow's historians.

Again, our thanks to all of you who have supported the *Historian* and made it a success in this crucial first year. Please send your renewal checks **now**, before you forget. We will continue to do our best to make the *Historian* an interesting, informative and accurate record of our family history.

## Looking Ahead

Among the subjects of the many articles we are planning for future issues are the following:

- Benjamin Rathbun, the fabulous financier and builder of early Buffalo, who served five years in prison for alleged financial manipulations.

- Captain John Peck Rathbun, "forgotten hero of the American Revolution," who was John Paul Jones' second-in-command and was credited with most of Jones' success.

- Justus Henry Rathbone, founder of the Knights of Pythias, one of our nation's earliest and most successful fraternal orders.

- Block Island, home of our immigrant ancestors for many years, and a veritable storehouse of our family's history.

- Early English Rathbones, in-

cluding one who was beheaded for attempting to overthrow the monarchy, and another who wrote one of the earliest books on surveying.

- The Rathbuns of Springfield, N.Y., who have lived in the same town for nearly two centuries.

- The Rathbones of Albany, N.Y., who produced industrialists, financiers, politicians, a general and a member of a presidential cabinet.

- Alfred and Laura (Brown) Rathbun, early western pioneers, overlooked by Cooley, whose descendants have spread throughout the American West.

- Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns in American wars, in the California Gold Rush of 1849, and in Congress.

- American towns named for Rathbuns and Rathbones, and many, many others.

# New Library Named For Bryce Rathbun

When Bryce C. Rathbun retired in 1979 after 28 years as superintendent of the Standard School District near Bakersfield, Calif., a grateful community broke precedent and changed the rules to name the county's newest library in his honor.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors, with several of Rathbun's former students now members of the Board, voted unanimously to set aside a policy of not naming libraries for individuals.

The new library was completed this year and was dedicated during the summer as Bryce C. Rathbun Library.

Bryce is a son of the late John Edgar<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Virgil<sup>8</sup> Giles<sup>7</sup> James<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup><sup>4</sup> Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Laura (Nelson) Rathbun, who is still living at the age of 91.

Born 66 years ago in South Dakota, Bryce moved to California in 1923 and was educated there. He began his career as a teacher in 1935 and joined the Standard District in 1937. He was named a counselor in 1941, but joined the Navy later that year. In nearly five years of service, he was an officer aboard the destroyer *USS Twiggs*, won the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals, and received a Presidential promotion to lieutenant commander from President Truman for gallantry in action at Okinawa. During the battle, he was severely wounded and spent two years recuperating in Naval hospitals.

Returning to the Standard School District after the war, he was named Junior High principal, and five years later, in 1951, became superintendent, a position he held for 28 years.

In addition to his educational achievements, Bryce has been an active community worker. For 20 years he has been a leader in the California fight against forced

state school unification, believing strongly that local control of schools is in the best interest of students, parents and the community.

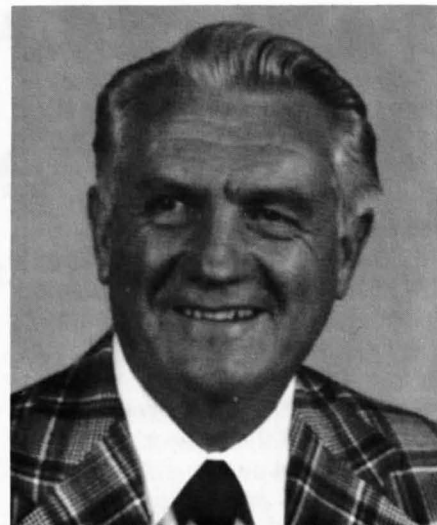
Over the years, he has won numerous awards and citations for his countless hours of service to various civic organizations.

Dr. Claude W. Richardson, superintendent of the Kern County School System, said of Bryce:

"Bryce Rathbun is one of the outstanding school superintendents in Kern County history. He brings to the job the old-fashioned qualities of leadership, sincerity, integrity, strength and understanding . . ."

On his retirement, Bryce commented:

"I have been very proud to serve as superintendent of this superior district, and the schools have become a happy and meaningful part of my life. Therefore, it has been



Bryce Rathbun

most difficult for me to make the decision to retire. However, after a career of 44 years, I am now rather looking forward to having more leisure time to spend enjoying my home, the companionship of Marilyn—my wife—my mother, and my friends, and to playing some golf, fishing at our mountain cabin, and doing a bit of traveling."

The Rathbuns have been married for more than 43 years.

## 'Brownie Mary' Rathbun Now Baking for Charity

The following is based on newspaper clippings sent in by several of our subscribers who noticed the "Rathbun Connection."

A San Francisco grandmother known as "Brownie Mary" because of the marijuana brownies she reportedly sold from her kitchen bakery has been ordered to use her baking skills for charity.

Mary Jane Rathbun, 64, was sentenced by a superior court judge to spend 500 hours cooking at one of three institutions specified by the judge.

Police who raided her flat last January said they confiscated 600 brownies baked with a liberal measure of superior quality mari-

juana, along with a price list showing that they sold for \$2 to \$4 each, or \$20 to \$40 a dozen.

Mrs. Rathbun, who pleaded guilty to nine counts of selling and possessing narcotics, was quoted as saying:

"I gambled . . . I took my chances. Life is a roulette wheel. I played by the rules for 59 years; then I gambled and lost."

A divorcee, she worked as a waitress to put her only daughter through college, but the girl was killed in a 1974 auto accident. She said she started the home "bakery business" after a back injury forced her to leave her job as a night waitress in a pancake house.



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Present at Birth & Assassination

# Rathbone Family Connected With Lincoln's Life & Death

Four members of our family had a direct role in the life—and death—of Abraham Lincoln, including the midwife who brought Lincoln into the world and an Army major who was at the President's side when he was assassinated 56 years later.

A third family member was Lincoln's long-time neighbor and schoolmate, whose father helped the future President find his first job.

Incredibly, another family member was arrested while on his honeymoon after Lincoln's murder when authorities mistakenly identified him as John Wilkes Booth, the assassin.

This never-before-told story of the Lincoln-Rathbone connection began at Lincoln's birth on Feb. 12,

1809, in a one-room, dirt-floored cabin near Elizabethtown, Ky.—the home of Lincoln's parents, Thomas and Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln.

When Nancy informed her husband that the birth of their second child was imminent, Tom Lincoln immediately sent for the neighborhood midwife, Mrs. Mary Enlow, who became Mrs. Thomas Rathbone a decade later.

At that time, she was the wife of Isom Enlow, her second husband, who at various times was Hardin County sheriff and justice of the peace.

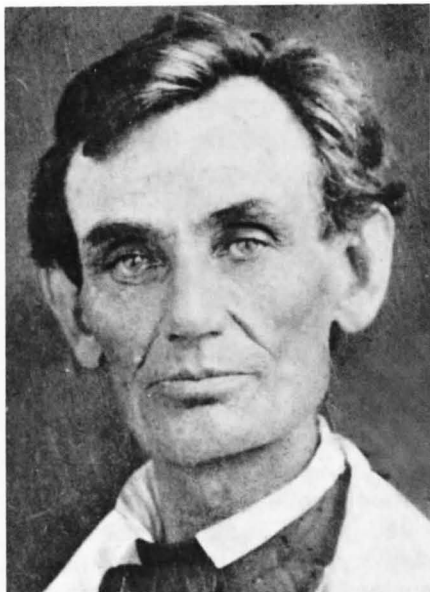
Sometime during the night of February 12, she delivered Mrs. Lincoln of a healthy baby boy who was named Abraham.

Two years later, the Lincolns

moved to another farm 10 miles distant, and it is unlikely that Mrs. Enlow ever saw Abraham again. Her husband died in 1816, leaving her a widow for the second time, and three years later she married Thomas Wells Rathbone.

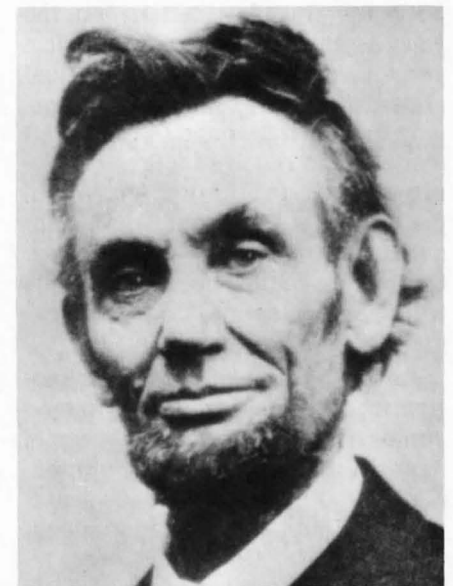
Rathbone, born Oct. 16, 1779, was the son of John<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>), a wealthy and prominent merchant in New York City. Thomas graduated from Columbia College in 1800, was commissioned in the New York Militia, and about 1802 married Maria Hawkins, granddaughter of a famous British admiral. They had one son, Edward, born in 1803, before Maria died in 1805 at the age of 24.

Distraught over her death, Thomas turned his infant son over



Lincoln as a young man.

The *Historian* here presents, for the first time in print, the incredible connection of Abraham Lincoln and the Rathbones. One member of our family was the midwife at his birth. Another was at his side when he was assassinated.



Lincoln days before his death.



to relatives and left the area, apparently for good. Nothing is known of him until 1815, when he appears as a witness in Hardin County, Ky. On May 24, 1819, he married the widow Mary Enlow, 13 years his senior. In the early 1820s, and possibly earlier, he was teaching French and Latin at Hardin Academy in Elizabethtown, and in 1823 was named head of the academy. He died in the early summer of 1826, leaving Mary a widow for the third and last time.

She remained in Hardin County until her death 17 years later, known as "Grandma Rathbone" and continuing as midwife, medical advisor and spiritual counselor to her friends and neighbors.

Although she and Rathbone had no children, she had a dozen by her first two husbands. At her death in 1843, aged 77, she left 173 living descendants, including a future Kentucky governor, John L. Helme.

The Lincolns, meanwhile, had moved further west. In 1816, discouraged by a series of land-title problems, Thomas Lincoln struck out for Indiana, taking his wife and two young children on horseback.

They settled in Perry County (now Spencer County) near Gentryville,

on the Little Pigeon Creek. Among their neighbors were Samuel and Polly Howell, who had also moved from Hardin County. One of Abraham Lincoln's classmates in a little one-room school was the Howells' daughter, Eliza Jane, two years younger than him.

The Lincolns and Howells remained friends and neighbors for many years, and both moved to farms near Springfield, Ill., in the late 1820s. Among their new neighbors were Edmund<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>); his wife, Debora (Taylor) Rathbone, and several children, including Gideon, born in 1809, the same age as Abraham Lincoln.

Gideon courted Eliza Howell, and on June 14, 1829, they were married. It is likely that the Lincolns attended their wedding.

In February 1830, Thomas Lincoln was on the move again, taking his family a few miles east to Macon County, Ill. Abraham, then 21, helped with the move, and the following year decided to strike out on his own.

Gideon Rathbone, years later, told of seeing him that year:

"In the spring of 1830 (actually 1831), I remember seeing Mr. Lin-

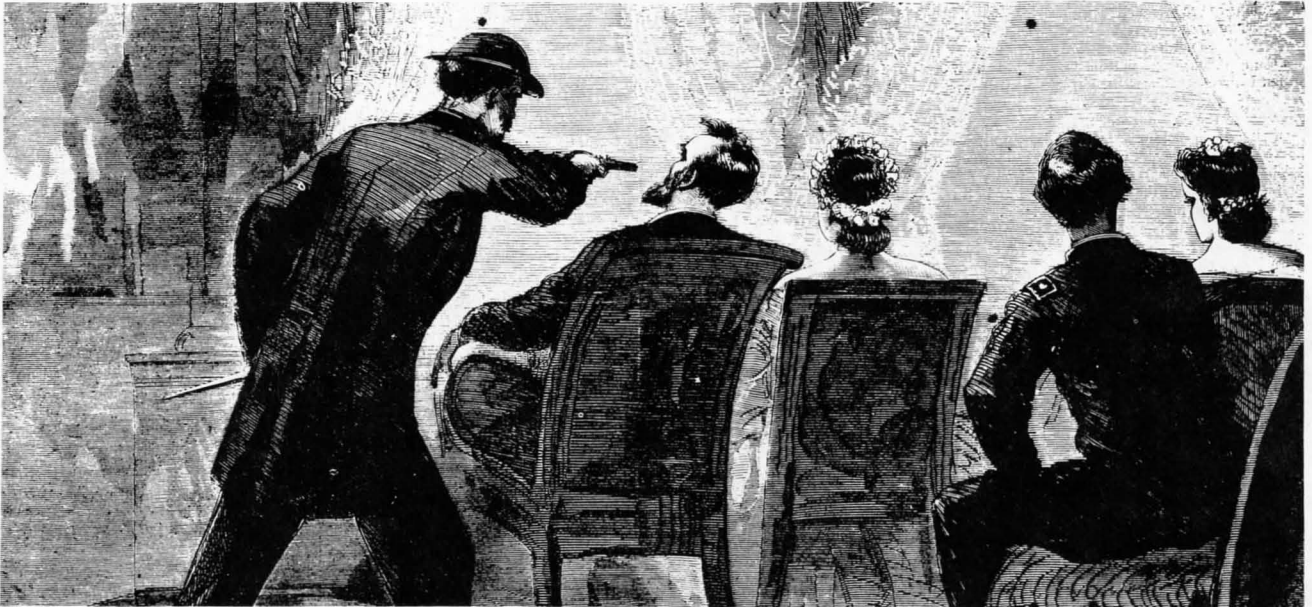
coln on his way from Decatur to Springfield. It was a very muddy season and he passed my home with his shoes in one hand and a bundle tied in a handkerchief in the other. Mrs. Rathbone recognized him and as he stopped overnight with her father, who lived nearby, we went over and spent the evening with them.

"He told us he had just struck out into the world for himself and wanted work. Mr. Howell told him of a gentleman in Springfield who wanted a stout man to help load and pike a flat boat down the Sangamon to the Illinois River. He accepted this offer and assisted until the boat was landed at Beardstown (at the junction of the Sangamon and Illinois rivers)."

The "gentleman in Springfield" was Denton Offut, who operated several trading posts and stores in the area, and shipped goods up and down the Sangamon, Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

Later that spring, Lincoln and two other men were hired by Offut to take a flatboat loaded with corn, pork and live hogs down the Mississippi to New Orleans. On this trip,

*(continued on page 54)*



## The Assassination

*A contemporary drawing of the Lincoln assassination. John Wilkes Booth, at left, fires a bullet into the President's head. At Lincoln's right is his wife, Mary. Behind her is Major Henry Reed Rathbone, while his companion, Clara Harris, sits at far right.*

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Lincoln first realized the horrors of slavery when he saw a young mulatto girl being examined by a group of men on a slave auction block.

It was there, according to his companions, that he swore, if he ever had the chance, he would fight to end slavery.

Denton Offut took a liking to young Lincoln and on his return from New Orleans offered him a job as a clerk in one of his stores, in New Salem, Illinois.

Lincoln's six-year stay at New Salem proved fruitful. He studied, became postmaster, worked as a surveyor, and in 1834 was elected to the state legislature.

In 1837, he moved to Springfield to open a law office, and renewed

his acquaintance with the Howells and Rathbones.

Edmund Rathbone, in later years, recalled that he switched his political allegiance from the Whigs to the new Republican Party in 1860 to vote for presidential candidate Lincoln, with whom he was "well acquainted while living in Springfield."

Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1847, and took his seat just as another member of our family was leaving the House of Representatives. George<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Edward<sup>5</sup> Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup>) had served two terms (1843-1847) from the Cayuga County area of New York.

After one term in Congress, Lincoln returned to Springfield in 1849 and soon became recognized as a leader in the anti-slavery movement.

He was nominated by the then new Republican Party in 1858 to serve as U.S. Senator from Illinois. Although he won the popular vote, the Democratic-controlled State Legislature, which selected senators at that time, returned the seat to Democrat Stephen A. Douglas. The campaign was highlighted by the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, which made Lincoln a national figure.

Two years later, he was the Republican nominee for United States President, and in November was elected to the highest office in the land.

Five years later, after the agony of the Civil War, Lincoln neared the final link in his strange connection with the Rathbone family.

In November 1864, he was re-elected to a second term, and on April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered the remnants of the Confederate Army to General Grant at Appomattox Court House.

On Good Friday, April 14, Lincoln agreed to take his wife, Mary, to Ford's Theatre to see the popular comedy, "Our American Cousin," starring Laura Keane, the leading actress of the day. General and Mrs. Grant were to accompany them, but at 2 p.m., during a cabinet meeting, Grant informed the President that he would not be able to join him that evening.

As a last-minute replacement, Mrs. Lincoln invited Major Henry Reed Rathbone and his step-sister/fiancée, Clara Harris. They were the daughter and stepson of Senator Ira T. Harris of New York, one of President Lincoln's most loyal supporters.

Clara was a beautiful and witty young woman who was a frequent and popular White House guest during the war years.

Rathbone, 28, was the son of Jared Lewis<sup>6</sup> Rathbone (Samuel<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup>), a merchant and the first elected mayor of Albany, who died in 1845. His widow married Ira T. Harris, both of them having several children who were thus raised together.

Henry Reed Rathbone fell in love with his step-sister, Clara Harris, and their engagement was announced early in 1865.



Major Henry Reed Rathbone in his Civil War uniform.



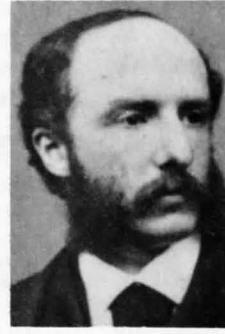
Mary Lincoln



The President



The Assassin



Major Rathbone



Clara Harris

Henry had been commissioned a lieutenant in the Army after graduating from college. In 1861, his stepfather was elected to the U.S. Senate and the family moved to Washington. Henry was promoted to captain in the 12th Infantry Regiment in May 1861, and won a battlefield promotion to major in 1864. He was then transferred to Washington and assigned to the Provost-Marshal's office.

On the night of April 14, 1865, at 8:15, President and Mrs. Lincoln left the White House in their carriage and were driven to the Harris home at 15th and H. Streets. Major Rathbone and Miss Harris joined them in the carriage for the drive to Ford's Theatre, a short distance away on 10th Street.

Word that the President would attend had brought a capacity crowd to the theatre. When the Lincolns, Rathbone and Miss Harris entered their box at 8:30, some 45 minutes into the play, the orchestra broke into "Hail to the Chief" and the audience rose for a standing ovation.

Lincoln waved to the crowd, then settled back in a large rocking chair which had been placed in the box for him. Mrs. Lincoln sat in a chair to his right, with Miss Harris next to her and Major Rathbone on a sofa slightly behind her.

An hour passed; the two couples enjoyed the play and the President burst into laughter several times.

At 9:30, John Wilkes Booth entered the theatre. He was a well-known actor and passed several persons without challenge as he made his way to the door at the rear of the Presidential Box.

Booth quietly opened the door, stepped inside, and closed it behind him. He barred it with a heavy piece of wood, and drew his derringer. The play was into the second scene of the third act; he had timed it so that a single actor was on the stage.

From a distance of only a few feet, he pulled the trigger and sent a lead ball into the back of Lincoln's head.

In Rathbone's own words:

"While the second scene of the Third Act was being performed and while I was intently observing the performance on the stage, I heard the report of a pistol from behind me, and on looking around saw dimly through the smoke the form of a man between the President and the door.

"I heard him shriek out some such word as 'Freedom.' He uttered it in such an excited tone that it was difficult for me to understand what he said.

"I immediately sprang towards

him and seized him. He wrested himself from my grasp, and at the same time made a violent thrust at me with a large knife. I parried the blow by striking it up and received a deep wound on my left arm.

"The man sprang towards the front of the box. I rushed after him but only succeeded in catching his clothes as he leaped over the railing of the box (onto the stage). I instantly cried out, 'Stop that man!' I then looked toward the President. His position had not changed except that his head was slightly bowed forward and his eyes were closed."

Rathbone, bleeding profusely from his slashed arm, unbarred the door with some difficulty and found a throng of excited persons trying to get into the box. He admitted only an army surgeon, and ordered another officer in the crowd to keep everyone else out.

Three doctors eventually entered

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The Murder Weapon.



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the box and all agreed that the President was mortally wounded. Four soldiers were called to carry him across the street to a boarding house, where he died several hours later.

Rathbone and Clara Harris escorted Mrs. Lincoln across the street to her husband's deathbed, but Rathbone soon collapsed from loss of blood and was taken home.

A nationwide search was immediately launched for Booth, who had escaped under mysterious circumstances which are still being debated.

Another Rathbone was unwittingly caught up in the national furor which accompanied the manhunt.

William Palmer<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (John<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Wait<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>) of

Parkersburg, W. Va., was married on April 10, just four days before the assassination, to Emma E. Hopkins. The newlyweds set off the next day on a traditional honeymoon trip to Niagara Falls, arriving probably on April 15.

Unfortunately for Rathbone, he bore a striking resemblance to John Wilkes Booth, whose picture was on "wanted" posters everywhere. When the Rathbones arrived at Buffalo, an alert policeman noticed the resemblance and placed him under arrest. Hours of frantic explanations and telegrams finally brought his release.

For Major Henry Reed Rathbone, more tragedy lay ahead.

After leaving the Army, he married Clara Harris in 1867 and the couple settled down to what should have been an idyllic life in Washington. They were wealthy, respected

members of the city's upper social strata, and lived in a fine home not far from the White House.

They became the parents of two sons and a daughter. (One of the sons, Henry Riggs Rathbone, was to serve two terms as a Congressman from Illinois in the mid 1920s).

But happiness was not in the cards for the Rathbones. He became afflicted with bouts of depression, jealousy and paranoia, accompanied by severe headaches. They traveled abroad, seeking to improve his health and mental condition.

In 1883, while visiting Germany, he awoke one morning and accused his wife of planning to take the children and leave him. A few minutes later, Clara lay dead of knife and pistol wounds, and Henry had stabbed himself five times in a suicide attempt.

He spent the rest of his life in a German mental hospital, dying there in 1911 at the age of 74. It was 46 years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and 28 years after the murder of his wife.

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*Mrs. Pegge Hlavacek, one of our charter subscribers, is writing a book based on the tragic lives of Henry and Clara Rathbone. She is seeking any material which might shed light on their activities—such as letters, diaries or newspaper clippings. Mrs. Hlavacek is women's editor of the Sun Newspapers in Omaha, Neb.*



Henry Reed Rathbone in 1871.

## Special Credit

Special credit is due to our research director, Robert Rathbun, whose research in Kentucky led to the discovery that Abraham Lincoln's midwife later married Thomas W. Rathbone. In Parkersburg, W. Va., he found the story of William P. Rathbone, who was arrested on his honeymoon because of his resemblance to John Wilkes Booth.

Valentine W. Rathbun

# Fiery Colonial Preacher Was Radical War Leader

One of the most fascinating early members of our family in America was Valentine W. Rathbun (1724-1814)—minister, mill operator and Revolutionary War Leader.

With no formal education, and competing with Harvard and Yale graduates, he formed his own church, became its self-appointed minister, and developed a fiery speaking style that won religious converts and earned him a wide range of important public offices. It also helped make him one of the most noted Revolutionary War leaders in Western Massachusetts.

Valentine was the eldest of seven sons and four daughters of Joshua<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2</sup>) and Joshua's second wife, Mary Wightman. He was named for his maternal grandfather, the Rev. Valentine Wightman, one of the most prominent clergymen in colonial New England and founder of the first Baptist Church in Connecticut.

Wightman's wife, <sup>SUSANNAH</sup> Mary Holmes, was descended from a long line of baptist ministers, including Roger Williams, founder of both Rhode Island and the Baptist faith in America.

With such a background, Valentine Rathbun was raised in a devoutly Baptist family. His father was one of the co-founders of the Stonington Baptist Church. His brother, John (whose picture appeared on our magazine's first cover), became a Baptist minister, and religion was to figure strongly in the lives of Valentine and all his brothers.

Valentine was born, reared and educated on Stonington Point, a peninsula jutting into the Atlantic near the boundary of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The story of Valentine Rathbun is too long to fit into a single issue of our magazine. This first of two installments covers the first half of his life, through his migration to Western Massachusetts, his early religious career and his role as an important Revolutionary War leader. In our next issue, we will cover the remainder of his long life, including his bitter fight with the Shakers and the tragedy that marred his final years.

He learned the trade of a fuller (clothmaker), which was probably the occupation of his father. Rathbun's fulling mill was mentioned as early as 1751, probably operated by Valentine's father and his sons. It was a wind-operated mill, still in use many years later by family members.

In 1744, Valentine married Tabitha Brown, daughter of the local church deacon. He was still four months from his 20th birthday; she was not yet 17. Their first child was born nine months later, and they kept arriving at two-year intervals like clockwork for the next 22 years.

Stonington Point (also called Stonington Long Point) housed a small cluster of families, the men of which made their living mostly from the sea, through cod fishing or whale hunting. The inhabitants were described in 1773 as "gener-

ally poor . . . not having among them more than one horse to 10 families." Many were widows, stark testimony to the harsh and dangerous lives of their seafaring husbands.

The Rathbuns, owners of the town mill, were probably better off than most of their neighbors. They were wealthy enough to speculate in western lands. In 1754, Valentine and four of his brothers were members of the Susquehanna Company, which purchased large tracts of land along the Susquehanna River, in what is now Pennsylvania but was then claimed by Connecticut.

On July 11, 1754, the five brothers were among the signers of a deed accepting the land from the Six Nations—the Indian coalition which then held legal possession.

The purchase became tangled in controversy, and in 1768 the proprietors voted to assess each member \$1.50 to send a committee to Great Britain to fight for their claim. Valentine's brother, John, was a member of the committee appointed to collect the assessment.

By the 1750s, many residents of poverty-stricken Stonington Point were pulling up stakes to move "west"—which then meant western Connecticut and Massachusetts—attracted by stories of cheap and fertile land.

The Rathbuns were in the vanguard of the migration. Beginning about 1752, the Rathbun brothers and sisters began migrating to western Connecticut and Massachusetts, near the New York colony line.

Valentine left about 1769, when

*(continued on page 58)*

# Valentine

(continued from page 57)

he was 45. He was the father of 12 children, ranging in age from 3 to 24, but his oldest were married, and only the nine youngest accompanied their parents in the migration.

They went to Berkshire County in Massachusetts where his brothers, Daniel and Amos, had bought farms in Richmond. Valentine settled just over the town line in neighboring Pittsfield, where in 1770 he pur-

chased a tract of land "about one half mile from the outlet of Richmond Pond, with the right of flowing as much more land as should be necessary to raise a fund of water sufficient for a fulling mill already built and a sawmill to be built." Built only two years earlier, the mill was near present-day Barkersville on a small pond which became known as Rathbun's Pond.

The mill was powered by a three-foot open-bucket water wheel which was turned by a waterfall of

more than 20 feet. Housewives brought the woolen yarn products of their spinning wheels to the mill to be converted into bolts of finished cloth for household use.

The mill provided the family with income, but Valentine quickly felt the lack of religion in his life. There was no Baptist church in Pittsfield, only a Congregationalist Church headed by the Rev. Thomas Allen.

Valentine began holding Sunday meetings at his home to provide a means of worship for his family. He



Artist version of the Rev. Valentine Rathbun, of whom no known likeness exists. (Drawing by Carol Verby Brill.)

invited neighbors to join them.

His personality and preaching style were effective and he soon had several dozen persons coming to his home each Sunday for services.

In 1772, he formally organized the first Pittsfield Baptist Church, with himself as preacher and ruling elder. He formed a friendly rivalry with Harvard-educated "Parson Allen," from whom he was wooing converts.

One of their main points of dispute was the Baptist opposition to infant baptism—hence their name, "Anabaptists" or Baptists. They strongly believed that baptism should be reserved for persons who had arrived at the age of reason.

While Valentine was converting wool to cloth and converting his neighbors to Baptist belief, a wave of discontent with British colonial



rule was spreading throughout the American colonies, especially in Massachusetts.

Berkshire County became a hotbed of anti-British feeling and Valentine Rathbun emerged as one of the most radical leaders, joining forces with his Congregationalist rival, Parson Allen—19 years his junior.

By 1775, independence was in the air. The Continental Congress was in session and the first shots had been fired at Lexington and Concord.

Local committees were being formed to take over governmental duties from appointed British officials. In December 1775, Valentine Rathbun was elected to Pittsfield's Committee of Inspection and Correspondence—basically the town council.

He soon became chairman of a confederation of all similar committees in that section of Berkshire County.

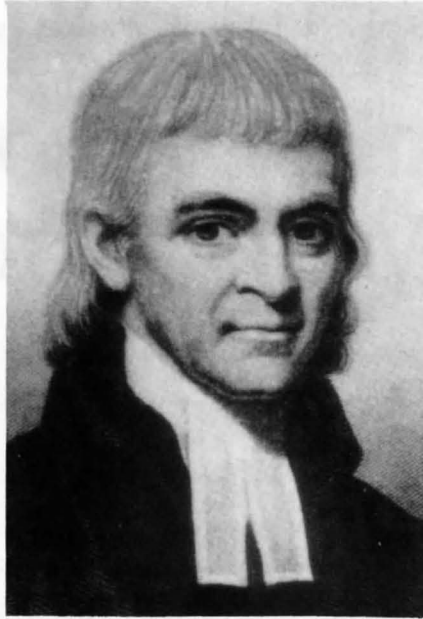
In the National Archives is a letter from Valentine to General George Washington, the newly appointed commander of the American forces. Dated May 1776, it reads:

"Will it please your excellency to consider that it is of the last utmost importance to the cause that the Militia be furnished with ammunition without loss of time. Signed by order of 11 committees by Valentine Rathbun, chairman."

At the Pittsfield Town Meeting in the spring of 1776, Valentine, an ardent advocate of independence, was elected the town's delegate to the Massachusetts General Court, the governing body of the colony.

He took with him to the assembly, which met at Watertown, a letter from his fellow citizens, which he and Parson Allen had probably drafted. Entitled "Instructions from the town of Pittsfield to their Representative, Mr. Valentine Rathbun, for Independence," it reads as follows:

"You shall, on no pretense whatsoever, favour a union with Great Britain as to our becoming in any sense dependent on her ever hereafter, and use your influence with the Honourable House to notify the



*The Rev. Thomas Allen, Valentine Rathbun's friendly rival and fellow leader of the Berkshire radicals.*

Honourable Continental Congress that this whole province are waiting for the important moment which they in their great wisdom shall appoint for the Declaration of Independence and a Free Republic."

Less than two months later, the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia.

Upon his return to Pittsfield, he was elected to the newly combined Committee of Instruction, Safety and Correspondence, and was re-elected for the next three years as the war raged on.

He was working side by side with Parson Allen, and the two ministers were considered among the leaders of what became known as the "Berkshire Radicals."

The county was considered so radical, in fact, that there was even trouble with the new Massachusetts state government. In 1777, Valentine was Pittsfield's delegate to a meeting with state officials to patch up the controversy.

In 1779, a Massachusetts constitutional convention was ordered by voters to draft a state constitution. The citizens of Pittsfield chose "Parson Allen" and "Elder Rath-

bun" as a committee of instruction to accompany their delegate to the convention.

Rathbun opposed the constitution as it was drafted because it did not contain a bill of rights. He and his allies also had favored elected judges and sheriffs, annual election of representatives and guarantees of equal taxation. They were concerned that the state government would become too powerful at the expense of local citizens. Massachusetts voters apparently agreed; the document was rejected at the polls. A more liberal constitution was drafted and approved the following year.

Rathbun's popularity with his fellow citizens was analyzed nearly a century later in Smith's 1869 *History of Pittsfield*:

"The results of his public speaking indicate that its style was effective; the temperament of the man suggests that it was fiery and vehement . . . His fellow citizens manifested their esteem for his character and his talents by electing him to important county 'Congresses' over which he often presided, and at interesting crises to the General Court, although his extremely radical principles and passion for ultra, if not to say violent, measures may have had something to do with his popularity when the blood of the people was heated even beyond revolutionary fervor, as it often was when Valentine Rathbun was a successful candidate."

Rathbun's influential career is even more remarkable in light of the fact that he had no formal education, and was dealing with men who had studied at Harvard, Yale and other universities.

By the end of the war, Valentine was a highly respected and influential leader in Pittsfield; his mill was making him well-to-do—if not wealthy—and his little Baptist church was growing and prospering.

But Valentine, now 56, was not destined for a peaceful old age. Trouble of another kind was brewing for him.

*(To be continued)*

# Bits of Family History Hidden in Many Places

One of the most frustrating experiences for a family historian is to hear such comments as:

"If I'd only talked to grandma about it before she died."

"Why didn't I ask Aunt Mary what she knew about the family?"

"I should have gone through all those old papers in the attic."

Family history has a way of disappearing as each generation passes on. Unless those who appreciate and understand the need to record it, all the knowledge of our parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts dies with them. Too often, their papers, books and pictures, which also tell a vivid story of the past, end up in the incinerator or trash bin.

Don't let this happen to your family history!

Sit down today with older members of your family and ask them about their lives, their parents, and grandparents. Ask for dates, places of residence, personal descriptions, occupations, military service, public offices, family traditions, scandals, legends—any scrap of information that you can elicit.

Better yet, do it with a tape recorder, and record their answers and recollections on tape. You can transcribe it later, and the tape will be an invaluable family heirloom that you will cherish more and more as the years go by.

Written records are sometimes harder to come by, but they do exist; it is up to you to locate them. Here are some possibilities:

**Family Bibles**—Virtually every family had its own bible in the 1700s and 1800s. These bibles, of every size and description, had pages between the New and Old Testaments for the recording of births, marriages and deaths. If you do not

have your family's bible, ask your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins if they know of one. It may be in someone's attic, hidden in a trunk, or at the bottom of an old box. If you have one now, or can find one, either photocopy the title page, and all the pages with family data, or carefully copy the information yourself. Check through the other pages also; sometimes scraps of paper will be found with vital information.

**Scrapbooks**—Many persons over the years have kept scrapbooks of obituaries, wedding invitations, birth announcements and newspaper articles about family members and loved ones. You may be amazed at the information you can gather from such a source.

**Old letters**—Too often, letters once read are tossed away, but you may be lucky enough to have had parents or earlier ancestors who kept important letters. Ask your family members. Maybe there is a whole bundle of old letters lying forgotten in someone's home. Letters were the primary means of communication between parents and children, brothers and sisters, before the telephone era. They may contain gems of information on the lives, the problems and the triumphs of your ancestors.

**Diaries and Journals**—The keeping of diaries and journals was much more common a century ago than now, and if you can find one, it will give valuable insight into the writer's personality and into the day-to-day lives of early family members. Of special value are records of such events as war experiences or major journeys (western migration

or the California Gold Rush for example).

**Old books**—Books were more rare and more highly prized before the era of high-speed printing presses. Most families had their own little libraries, and books were prized possessions. They were often given as special gifts, and a presentation note is sometimes found on the fly-leaf, with the date, name and relationship of the giver, and often the place of residence. Book owners sometimes made notations on the blank pages in the front and back. You might find an otherwise-unknown date of birth, death or marriage scribbled in an old book.

**Old pictures**—Every family has its share of unidentifiable family pictures, many dating back 100 years or more. That is why we are so grateful to those ancestors who took the time to write on the back of their pictures some sort of identifying data—name, relationship, place of residence, birth or death dates, etc. Old pictures in frames or albums should be carefully removed to check the back for such writing. If you have old family photos which you cannot identify, ask older family members, and record in ink on the back whatever information you can get. A reminder—be sure to identify your own pictures before you file them or store them away.

**Documents**—This can include marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, military papers (enlistments, promotions, discharges), deeds, wills, dispositions of property and many others.

**Happy hunting!**



# Genealogy: The Third Generation in America

## Continued

10. **WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Nov. 12, 1681, at Block Island, and married there Jan. 30, 1705, Sarah Mott, possible daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Tosh) Mott. He was admitted a free-man of Block Island in May 1709. In 1712, he was given land at Lyme, Conn., by his father on the condition "in case myself and his mother Sarah Rathbun my wife should come to want, then he shall be at equal charge with his brother Jonathan toward the maintaining of us in our old age . . . and to pay to his sister Mercy 10 pounds at the age of 22." William moved to Lyme, purchased additional land the following year, 1713, and lived out his life there. He died in 1757, his will being made May 15 and proved Sept. 13 of that year. Among the other bequests, he willed his grandson, Jared Griswold, son of his daughter, Ann, "my gun, sword and bible when he is 21." Sarah (Mott) Rathbun, whose birth date is not known, was not mentioned in the will and presumably died before that time.

### CHILDREN

DANIEL, born Oct. 30, 1706; married Thankful Higgins.

SARAH, born about 1713; married Job Giddings Sept. 5, 1733.

MERCY, born about 1715; married Jonathan Burch Jan. 15, 1735.

DOROTHY, born about 1717; married John Phelps Nov. 30, 1737.

ANN, born about 1720; married (1) Jared Griswold about 1740, and (2) Samuel Nettleton on Feb. 14, 1748.

ELIZABETH, born about 1725; married John Harvey II on Oct. 19, 1747.

See "Discrepancies" 02-2 p 29

11. **JOHN<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born July 9, 1684, at Block Island; married there about 1708 his cousin, Margaret Rathbun, born Jan. 17, 1686, the daughter of Thomas<sup>2</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>1</sup>) and Mary Dickens. He was admitted a free-man of Block Island in 1708 as John Rathbun Jr., apparently to distinguish him from his uncle, John<sup>2</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>1</sup>). By 1727, he was living at North Kingston (Exeter) according to his father's will of that year. He died at Exeter in the late summer of 1759. His will was made in August and proved in September. His estate, valued at 3,472 pounds, included a "Negro man Newport," valued at 1,000 pounds, who was left to his wife until her death or remarriage, when the slave was to be sold and the money divided among his children. Margaret Rathbun died in February 1769.

### CHILDREN

OBADIAH, born about 1710; married Anna Austin.

WILLIAM, born about 1712; married Rachel Sweet.

JUDITH, born about 1716; apparently died unmarried. She was called Judith Rathbun in her father's will.

JOHN, born about 1720; married Elizabeth Dawley.

MARGARET, born about 1728; married Thomas Bentley.

ZERVIAH, born about 1730; apparently died unmarried about 1762. She was called Zerviah Rathbun in her father's will (1759) and was not mentioned in her mother's will (1769). Her sister, Margaret, named a daughter Zerviah in 1763.

See "Two errors" 02-1 p 14

12. **JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Nov. 25, 1688, at Block Island, and married there about 1720 his cousin, Sarah Rathbun, born April 1, 1698, to Thomas<sup>2</sup> (John<sup>1</sup>) and Sarah (Dickens) Rathbun. In 1712, he received from his father a tract of land at Lyme, Conn., with the same condition imposed upon his brother: "... in case myself and his mother Sarah should come to want, then he shall be at equal charge with his brother William toward the maintaining of us in our old age . . . and to pay to his sister Eleanor 10 pounds at the age of 22." Jonathan died in 1773 at Lyme. His will, made in 1760 and proved June 8, 1773, left his Negro slave, Mingo, to his wife. Sarah Rathbun died in Killingworth, Conn., on May 21, 1798, aged 100 years.

### CHILDREN

SAMUEL, born about 1722; married Elizabeth Stevens.

JONATHAN, born in 1724; died Sept. 20, 1746, at Lyme.

THOMAS, born about 1730; married Mary Wait.

SYBIL, born about 1732; married John Williams Dec. 17, 1755.

KATHERINE, born about 1734; married Heaman Smith Oct. 30, 1765.

ELIZABETH, born about 1736 (baptized Feb. 8, 1736); probably died young.

(continued on page 62)

This issue's genealogical section concludes the third generation of our family in America. The next issue, the first of 1982, will begin the fourth generation.



(continued from page 61)

**13. EBENEZER<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Jan. 28, 1696, on Block Island, and admitted a freeman there on Jan. 10, 1721. He moved as a young man to Westerly, R.I., married there on July 23, 1721, Mrs. Sarah Bessey (or Berry), and was admitted a freeman there in 1747. He died at Westerly sometime before 1775. A deposition in his son, Ebenezer's, Revolutionary War pension file, says he "died before the war." Sarah apparently survived him, and is probably the elderly female living with Ebenezer Jr. in the 1782 census at Westerly.

#### CHILDREN

**THOMAS**, born Nov. 23, 1722; married Ann Wilbur.

**TAMASIN**, born Oct. 8, 1724; married James Varian April 2, 1747.

**SARAH**, born March 27, 1728; probably the Sarah Rathbun who married Israel Hale Nov. 16, 1752.

**ELEANOR**, born Sept. 10, 1732; married Edward Wilcox.

**MARY**, born Jan. 16, 1734; married Christopher Kenyon Dec. 27, 1759. See Corrections 11-4 p 61

**?SUSANNAH**, born about 1738; married Daniel Larkin Feb. 27, 1758. Her birth is not recorded with Ebenezer's other children in Westerly, but her age and marriage there would indicate she was a daughter.

**EBENEZER**, born Jan. 29, 1740; married Mary Crandall.

See "Discrepancies" 02-2 p 29

**14. JOSEPH<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Oct. 1, 1707, at Block Island, and moved as a young man to Exeter, R.I. He was admitted a freeman there in April 1734, and married there Sept. 4, 1734, **Abigail (Wilbur) Hilliard**, born Aug. 21, 1703, to Joseph and Ann (Brownell) Wilbur, and widow of Jonathan Hilliard. Joseph Rathbun signed a petition to the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1744, protesting the Exeter tax rate. He died in 1759, his will being made March 8, 1758, and proved Sept. 11, 1759. He left 50 pounds to each of his three daughters; 100 acres to his son, Joseph; 131 acres to his son, Jeremiah, and 77 acres and a Negro slave, Primus, valued at 1,000 pounds, to his youngest son, George. His total estate was valued at 6,249 pounds. His wife, Abigail, survived him, but her death date is not known.

See Corrections 03-2 p 31

#### CHILDREN

**JOSEPH**, born July 16, 1735; married Deborah Greene.

**REBECCA**, born Dec. 27, 1736; married Reynolds Cahoone Nov. 5, 1761.

**MARY**, born Nov. 22, 1738; married Reynolds Cahoone, her sister's widower, on Feb. 12, 1769.

**ANN**, born July 20, 1740; married Oliver Lawton Oct. 21, 1762.

**JEREMIAH**, born March 27, 1742; married Mary Phillips.

**GEORGE**, born March 7, 1743; married Mercy Herrington.

See "Discrepancies" 02-2 p 29

**15. BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 6, 1710, at Block Island. He moved first to Exeter but later to Colchester, Conn. He married there on Nov. 11, 1742, Mary Cahoone, born Dec. 11, 1711, to Nathaniel and Jane (Jones) Cahoone. In 1774, he (or his son, Benjamin) signed a petition with other Colchester residents asking creation of a District Ecclesiastical Society to be called Antioch. He died at Colchester in July 1777, reportedly of a fever he contracted while bringing his son, Benjamin,

home from New York, where the son had become ill while serving in the Revolutionary Army. According to Cooley's *Rathbone Genealogy*, descendants reported that he was a "small sized man." His wife, Mary, survived him, but the date of her death is not known.

#### CHILDREN

**DANIEL**, born July 8, 1743; enlisted May 26, 1760, for service in the French and Indian War with Lt. Col. Joseph Spencer's 2nd Company in Col. Nathan Whiting's 2nd Conn. Regiment. He was killed in action Oct. 27, 1760, aged 17, at the battle of Fort Stanwix.

**BENJAMIN**, born Oct. 29, 1745; died March 31, 1746.

**BENJAMIN**, born Jan. 12, 1747; married Huldah Williams.

**JOB**, born July 24, 1748; married Deborah Welch.

**DELIVERANCE**, born Dec. 24, 1749; married Samuel Morgan Jr. April 27, 1769.

**SIMEON**, born May 2, 1751; married Avis Hamilton.

**16. JOB<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 1, 1712, at Block Island. He moved to the mainland as a young man and was admitted a freeman in April 1734, at Exeter (then part of North Kingston). He married there on Sept. 1, 1737, Mary Harris, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Gibson) Harris. He died about 1745, possibly in Canterbury, Conn., where his son, Job, was reportedly born. The will of his father in 1748 refers to "the heirs of my son Job." The descendants of his son, William Harris Rathbun, related that he was two years old when his father died. Cooley's *Rathbone Genealogy* incorrectly assigns his children to William<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>3</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). The death date of Mary (Harris) Rathbun is not known, but a descendant, writing in the *Rathbone Family Historian* of May 1892, reported that she "lived to a great age." She may have moved to New London, where her children later lived.

Despite our best efforts, mistakes seem to creep into each issue. In the July issue, on page 44, we had the wrong first name for the mother of Patience Fish, who married John<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2</sup>). The parents of Patience Fish were John and Joanna Fish. We thank Mrs. Atha Brace and Keith Rathbun for catching the error, and we promise to try harder to avoid them in the future.

## CHILDREN

JOB, born Jan. 22, 1739; married Patience \_\_\_\_\_.

MARY, born about 1741; married William Cleveland Feb. 21, 1762.

WILLIAM HARRIS, born June 1, 1743; married Jerusha Beebe.

FRANCES (FANNY), born about 1745; no further record.

**17. THOMAS<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born May 3, 1695, at Block Island, and moved as a young man to North Kingston, R.I., where he was admitted a freeman in February 1724. On June 8, 1728, his father gave him land on Block Island—"to my loving son Thomas Rathbun of North Kingston, husbandman (farmer)." He probably returned to Block Island, for he sold land there in 1741 and was listed among the taxable inhabitants in 1744. His father's will in 1757 left "my eldest son Thomas 10 pounds, having already had by deed his portion." There is no record of his marriage or the birth of any children: The following children are tentatively assigned to him since they fit nowhere else in the family tree.

## CHILDREN

?ANN, born about 1727; married Job Hoxie March 25, 1749.

?SAMUEL, born about 1729; married Huldah Lord.

?THOMAS, born about 1731; married (1) Abigail Kimball, and (2) Priscilla Baldwin. Cooley incorrectly assigns him as a son of Thomas<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

?PATIENCE, born Sept. 13, 1734; married Isaac Baldwin Nov. 16, 1751.

**18. SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 16, 1705, at Block Island, and lived his entire life there. He married in Westerly, R.I., March 15, 1732, Elizabeth Dodge, born Dec. 18, 1714, to John and Betsey Dodge. He was Block Island town treasurer in 1743 and town clerk in 1744. He signed petitions in 1737 (asking the governor to appoint two

more town wardens) and in 1740 (asking that the colony send armed men to help resist an anticipated French-Spanish invasion). In April 1735, his father gave him five acres adjacent to "a stone wall enclosing a house my son recently built." Samuel Rathbun died Jan. 24, 1780, at Block Island, leaving to his wife 70 silver dollars—"her portion from her father"—and 50 silver dollars to his daughter, Betsey, and 10 silver dollars to each of his three Rathbun grandsons. Elizabeth (Dodge) Rathbun died Aug. 8, 1792.

## CHILDREN

WALTER, born Jan. 16, 1734; married Hannah Rose.

SAMUEL, born July 10, 1736; married Susannah Reynolds.

ELIJAH, born May 28, 1740; married Elizabeth Burroughs.

ELIZABETH MARIA, born Dec. 2, 1742; married James Dodge Feb. 3, 1767.

**19. JAMES<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 10, 1707, at Block Island, and married there April 7, 1732, Mary Downing, birth and parentage unknown. He received land from his father in 1740, and bought additional land in 1741. Later that year, he sold part of the land to his brother, Samuel, and moved to Greenwich, Conn. In 1750, described as resident of Greenwich, he sold 60 acres at Exeter. In 1753, he was among several Greenwich residents who petitioned the Connecticut General Assembly for land on the Susquehannah River in Pennsylvania, which was then claimed by Connecticut. He died at Greenwich in November 1764, his wife surviving him. Either she or their daughter, Mary, was married Feb. 11, 1766, at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to Benjamin Ketcham.

## CHILDREN

JAMES, born about 1733; married, but the name of his wife is not known.

REBECCA, born April 27, 1735; married Caleb Willis Dec. 28, 1758.

PATIENCE, born about 1738; married William Adams March 25, 1759.

MARY, born about 1745; married (?) Benjamin Ketcham Feb. 11, 1766.

HANNAH, born about 1748; married Samuel Clark Nov. 27, 1766.

PRISCILLA, born July 23, 1749; married John Walters July 8, 1766, in Orange County, N.Y.

MERCY, born about 1750; no further record.

**20. ABRAHAM<sup>3</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Nov. 23, 1709, at Block Island, and married there Jan. 11, 1735, Mary Mosher, birth and parentage unknown. He became a mariner and moved to Newport. In June 1740, he enlisted on the sloop *St. Andrew*, under Captain Charles Davidson, and sailed July 16 to cruise against the Spaniards—in what was called King George's War. The *St. Andrew* was the first Rhode Island privateer to cross the Atlantic in the war. In November, the ship sailed to the Canary Islands, and Abraham was among 56 volunteers sent ashore to attack the island of Fuerte Ventura. The Americans were captured by the Spanish garrison there, and the Spanish governor refused Captain Davidson's offer to trade prisoners. The *St. Andrew* returned to Newport and Mary Rathbun learned that her husband was among those left on the island. In June 1741, she petitioned the Rhode Island General Assembly to grant her power of attorney to collect her husband's debts. "When her husband went away," the petition read, "he left the petitioner with two small children and one born since, and but little to subsist on, and part of what he left was in debts due to him which petitioner cannot recover having no power of attorney . . ."

## CHILDREN

CATHERINE, born Dec. 29, 1736; no further record.

COGGESHALL, born July 16, 1738; married (1) Mary Coffin, and (2) Thankful Tripp.

MARY, born Sept. 21, 1740; no further record. MARRIED DAVID WELDMAN APRIL, 1765



# Queries

**WANTED** — Proof that Elsin Lewis (1777-1859), who married David<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3 2 1</sup>) was the daughter of Randall Lewis and Elsie<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>4 3 2 1</sup>). The Randall Lewis and David Rathbun families lived in the same neighborhood of Delhi, Delaware County, N.Y., until David moved in the early 1800s to Athens County, Ohio, where he died.

**WANTED** — Parentage of Arthur E. Rathbun (1865-1913) who married Effie Eckert on March 4, 1891, at Woodstock, Ill. Was he a son of Charles<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Ebenezer<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3 2 1</sup>)? His marriage license lists his parents as "C. Rathbun and Mary Rodycoat (sp.?)."

**WANTED** — Information on John J. Rathbun, born about 1833 in New York; married Mary \_\_\_\_\_, born Feb. 1847, in Missouri; and moved by 1870 to Multnomah County, Washington. They had children named Mary, Alice, Henry, Dora, Ellen, William and Frederick.

Mrs. Margaret Rathburn Norman, of Flint, Mich., enjoyed the story of Harley "Diamond Jim" Rathburn in the last issue, and reported on the whereabouts of some of his belongings. "We have a pair of Uncle Harl's boots and a rifle dated 1864, together with the shot pouch and powder horn, all of which were given to our father, James E. Rathburn, by his father, Roswell M. Rathburn, Harley's brother. We also have the charred remains of the buckskin shirt worn by Uncle Harl in the picture you printed. Roswell Rathburn had loaned it to my daughter to inquire as to the best way of preserving it, when ironically, the interior of our house was badly damaged by fire."

# Newest Subscribers

## CHARTER SUBSCRIBERS PREVIOUSLY OMITTED

Dr. Robert Rathbun  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Charles & Jean Walker  
Austin, Texas

## NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Jeanette L. Busboom  
Tucson, Ariz.

Robert E. Distin  
Moravia, N.Y.

Patricia (Rathbone) Glein  
Marysville, Wash.

Lydia (Rathbun) Littlefield  
Raynham, Mass.

William Schilling Lutz  
Calistoga, Calif.

Muriel (Rathbun) Mercer  
Waterford, Mich.

Mrs. Ethel K. Perry  
Jacksonville, Fla.

Carl and Lola Phillips  
Athens, Ohio

Beulah (Rathbun) Power  
Waterloo, Iowa

Mrs. Gladys Rathbun  
Plainfield, Ill.

Arthur and Marda Rathbun  
Monroeville, Pa.

Horace and Harriet Rathbun  
Tucson, Ariz.

Robert B. Rathbone  
Silver Spring, Md.

Wayne and Mildred Rathbun  
Moore, Idaho

William and Dorothy Rathbun  
Des Moines, Iowa

Arthur Schroeck  
Whitehouse Station, N.J.

Joyce (Rathbun) Spadone  
Honeoye Falls, N.Y.

Mabel (Rathburn) Strait  
Mount Vernon, Ohio

# 1981 Financial Statement

## Income

Subscriptions (248 @ \$25) .....	\$6,200.00
Single copy sales .....	55.00
Donations .....	22.50
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$6,277.50</b>

## Expenses

Typesetting and printing .....	\$3,978.25
Postage .....	468.01
Envelopes and letterheads .....	234.16
Photographs .....	294.59
Supplies .....	149.89
Art work .....	50.00
Bank charges .....	34.70
Miscellaneous .....	38.29
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$5,247.89</b>

**Carryover Balance .....** **\$1,029.61**

(The carryover balance has enabled us to reduce the subscription price for 1982 to \$20. With continued growth in our subscription list, another reduction should be possible next year.)