

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
FAMILY
HISTORIAN



Rathbone -

Early English Coat of Arms

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

Early Rathbone Motto:

'Gently but Firmly'

The coat of arms on our front cover is that of the Liverpool Rathbones, who have been prominent in England for more than three centuries.

It was drawn for John C. Cooley's 1898 *Rathbone Genealogy* by Franklin R. Rathbun, a draftsman and author of Auburn, N.Y.

The motto under the shield, "Suaviter et Fortiter," means "Gently but Firmly."

The lion in the crest over the shield is an emblem of courage, strength and magnanimity. The Roman fasces to the lion's left represent power and authority.

In the shield, the two red roses symbolize the Rathbones' support

for the House of Lancaster in the War of the Roses (1455-1485) with the House of York. The two roses also appear in the lion's silver collar. The three round objects are golden bazants, a form of money used in the Middle East, and an indication that one of the early Rathbones took part in the Crusades.

The bazants appear in a blue band (the fesse), which symbolizes the belt of an early knight.

This Rathbone coat of arms is listed in Burke's *General Armory* of England. There is also an Irish coat of arms for the Rathborne family, which has the motto "Vincit qui Patitur" (He conquers who endures).

Letter From The Editor

Many of our subscribers have responded to our plea for assistance in finding family data in libraries and historical societies.

Mrs. Gaal Rathburn sent us obituaries, cemetery records, marriages and census data from Herkimer County, N.Y.

Victor and Ruth Streeter copied the names of Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns in Wisconsin who served in the Civil War.

Henry Rathburn, brother of Research Director Robert (Rob) Rathburn, copied all our family's death records from 1850 to 1930 in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Josephine Reed has sent us many notes based on her research in the records of the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Kris Ring has copied early deaths and marriages from records in Erie County, Pa.

We thank them all, and again ask all subscribers to help us in the never-ending task of compiling our family history.

Two subscribers have placed stories about our association and our magazine in their local newspapers—Peggy Rathburn in the *Scottsdale Gazette*, (Arizona) and Mrs. H.S. Rathburn in the *Gainessville Sun*, (Florida). This is a fine way to spread the word to others who might be interested.

Our subscription list is almost back to the 267 figure reached last year. Our goal is to reach 300 by the end of the year. Please do what you can to help.

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Frank H. Rathburn
Editor & Publisher

Subscriber Sheds New Light On Meaning of Latin Motto

Mrs. Rachel Laurgaard of Oakland, Calif., has provided an accurate translation of the motto which surrounded the picture of Aaron Rathbone on our front cover in April.

"Qui in me vivit pro me mortuus est" should be translated, she says, as "He who lives in me has died for my sake," a reference to Jesus Christ.

"Anno salutis nostri 1616" means "In the year of our salvation 1616," or in modern terms, "In the year of our Lord 1616."

It is quite likely, Mrs. Laurgaard reports, that Aaron was one of the early English Baptists. His old testament name indicates that he was probably born to Puritan parents.

The first English Baptist Church was founded in London in 1612 when Aaron would have been about 40. The Baptist declaration of faith declared that "no

church ought to challenge any prerogative over any other," and that "the magistrate is not to meddle with religion or matters of conscience, nor compel men to this or that form of religion."

The Encyclopedia Britannica calls this "the first known expression of absolute liberty of conscience."

Says Mrs. Laurgaard:

"He (Aaron Rathbone) lived a generation before our colonial forebears were driven into the wilderness to establish the first colony based on religious liberty, but Aaron Rathbone apparently shared more than their blood; he shared their spiritual beliefs. Thank you for showing us another Rathbone's place in history."

Thank you, cousin Rachel, for giving us additional insight into the life of this early cousin.

I43 RATHBUN 8s. 7s. (Second Tune)

ITHAMAR CONKEY

1. In the cross of Christ I glo-ry, Tow-ering o'er the wrecks of time;

All the light of sa-cred sto-ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime. A-MEN

There's Even a Song Named for Us!

"A song named Rathbun? You've got to be kidding!"

No, I'm serious. There is a song named *Rathbun*, written about 1850 by Ithamar Conkey. It appears frequently in Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal and Brethren hymn books.

Conkey was an organist for some years during the early 1850s at the Central Baptist Church in Norwich, Conn. Among his choir members were Beriah S. Rathbun and his wife, Martha.

The story goes that Conkey went home depressed one rainy Sunday because only a few of the choir had come out in the storm to attend church services. He composed a comforting hymn, and decided to name it in honor of Mrs. Rathbun, who was reportedly an excellent singer.

Mrs. Rathbun, born Martha Colburn on March 18, 1827, was married in 1846 to Beriah Safford⁵ Rathbun (Nathan⁴ Thomas³ John²) as his second wife. His first wife had been Martha's sister, Phoebe, who lived less than two years after their marriage in 1843.

Martha (Colburn) Rathbun died in 1856, and Conkey a year later. No doubt she was pleased and flattered that he had named a song for her, but neither probably realized that the hymn would survive long after they both were dead.

Beriah S. Rathbun, born Nov. 8, 1819, at Exeter, R.I., left home at 18 to learn the carpenter's trade in New London, Conn., and later became a skilled stair-builder. He moved to Norwich in 1840 and was one of the 37 founders of the Cen-

tral Baptist Church later that year.

When Beriah left home at age 18, his father gave him the following advice: "Do not seek a job when it is stormy; do not visit when you have anything else to do, and do not marry until you own a house."

A year after Martha's death, he was married for a third time, to Eliza Thompson. He had three daughters—one by his first wife and two by his second—but all died in infancy or childhood.

Beriah, whose father served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, was born when his father was 66. Beriah lived until 1913, and when he died in Norwich at the age of 94, he was probably America's last "real" Son of the American Revolution.

Nephew's Damaging Testimony Sends Ben Rathbun to Prison

In our last issue, we followed the career of Benjamin⁶ Rathbun (Moses⁵ John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) as he built his fabulous financial empire in Buffalo, N.Y., in the early 1830s.

Together with his brother, Lyman, and a nephew, Rathbun Allen, Benjamin was arrested in August 1836 on charges of forgery involving more than \$1,500,000. Benjamin was indicted on separate charges in two counties.

At his first trial in Genesee County, the jury was unable to reach agreement. On the charges in Erie County, Benjamin was acquitted. Plans were made for a retrial in Genesee County, and Benjamin was confident of another acquittal.

At the last minute, his hopes were dashed when his nephew, Rathbun Allen, agreed to turn state's evidence and testify against his uncle in return for his own freedom.

On September 27, young Allen took the witness stand and calmly related that Benjamin had not only known of the forgeries, but had even instructed him to forge specific notes.

Benjamin's attorneys were devastated. They failed to shake Allen's story on cross examination. They produced a formal deposition from Lyman but although he absolved Benjamin of any blame, Lyman also insisted that he, too, knew nothing of the forgeries.

The jury was obviously more impressed by Rathbun Allen's testimony than by Lyman's deposition, and on October 3, 1838, found Benjamin guilty as charged. The judge promptly sentenced him to five years of hard labor at New York State Prison in Auburn. His attorneys appealed, but the state appeals court upheld the conviction and sentence.

Nothing is known of his prison life except that he frequently worked with the prison doctor in helping to care for his fellow inmates.

In the spring of 1840, petitions bear-

ing thousands of New Yorkers' signatures were presented to Governor William Seward (later Lincoln's secretary of state), asking that Rathbun be pardoned. The Governor refused.

A similar petition was sent to Seward in 1842, this time with the signatures of many prominent citizens including 50 members of the New York State Legislature. Again Seward rejected the appeal, and newspapers applauded him for it. The *Cleveland Herald* editorialized:

"We do not believe in punishing the weak and letting go the strong . . . the great villain is entitled to no executive clemency . . . save Rathbun what big rogue has got his deserts for years past?"

Benjamin was released on October 3, 1843, and was no doubt met at the prison gates by his beloved wife. They went straight to Buffalo, where the *Gazette* reported that he "returned to Buffalo on Tuesday night and yesterday was visited by many of our citizens. He appeared to be in excellent health and spirits, in fact, we never saw him look so well as he now appears!"



Benjamin Rathbun

Courtesy of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, including the Buffalo Savings Bank/Roy Nagle Collection.

Despite his conviction and prison sentence, Rathbun remained popular with his fellow citizens, many of whom were convinced of his innocence. The editor of a Buffalo newspaper, in fact, had criticized the trial and conviction so strongly that he was found guilty of libel and spent four months in jail.

This editor was Thomas Nichols of *The Buffalonian*, who called Rathbun's trial "a mockery of justice," and charged that Benjamin was the victim of a small group of businessmen who "conspired to destroy Benjamin Rathbun, defraud his creditors and enrich themselves."

Despite the good will they found in Buffalo, Benjamin and Alice decided to leave the scene of his former success and disgrace. They moved to New York City shortly after his release.

In New York, Benjamin returned to his original calling — he purchased, or leased, a hotel on Lower Broadway near Courtland, renamed it Rathbun's Hotel and with his wife's help operated it for nearly 20 years.

Benjamin and Alice soon found, however, that their troubles were far from over. An old problem re-emerged in the person of their only son, Thaddeus Loomis Rathbun. Loomis, as he was called, had been a problem to Benjamin and Alice even in their earlier, happier days in Buffalo. In 1834, when only in his late teens, Loomis was arrested for drunkenness and vagrancy, and sentenced to 60 days in the city jail.

As he grew older, Loomis never held a steady job and spent much of his time in saloons and gambling halls. He apparently lived with his mother during Benjamin's imprisonment, and then accompanied his parents to New York City.

Then in his early thirties, he continued his dissolute life style, holding no job, living in his parents' hotel, sleeping late in the day, and spending much of his time drinking and carousing.

His distraught parents tried again and again to straighten him out, but finally gave up. They gave him room and board

at the hotel and left him to lead the depraved life he seemed to favor. But his excessive drinking finally affected his mind.

Tragedy struck early on July 26, 1849, six years after the move to New York City.

Employees and residents of the hotel heard loud screams shortly after 6 a.m. from the room of Mrs. Rathbun. They rushed in to find her lying on the floor, covered with blood. Crouched over her was Loomis, holding a bloody razor. He had cut his mother's throat, and his own, in an apparent suicide-murder attempt.

A horrified waiter pulled him from his prostrate mother while others called police.

At the hospital, Mrs. Rathbun related that her son, who had been on a "drunken spree" for nearly a week, appeared at her doorway with a razor and, saying "Goodbye, mother," slashed the left side of his throat.

Mrs. Rathbun rushed to him and tried to seize the razor.

"Damn you, I'll kill you," he shouted, and threw her to the floor. As she screamed in terror, he kneeled over her and cut her throat, almost from ear to ear.

His own wound proved to be fairly minor, but his mother lay near death for several days. She eventually recovered. Loomis was jailed and recommended for confinement to the insane asylum, but his parents probably declined to press charges. Loomis moved to Detroit, where in 1850 he was living over a saloon and working in a billiards hall. He married, but died in 1853, apparently without children.

Benjamin and Alice continued to run Rathbun's Hotel until 1861, when they sold it and leased a bigger and better establishment further out Broadway at 42nd Street, calling it the Broadway Hotel.

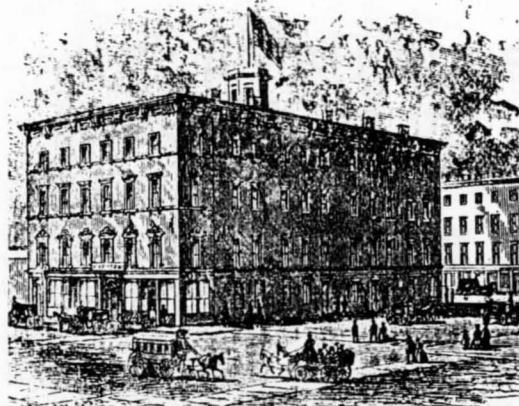
By 1870, Benjamin was 80 years old and Alice was 77. In June of that year, she began to slip physically, and the aging couple took what was probably their first vacation together. They went to a resort eight miles from the city, on the ocean, where they spent several weeks.

Returning to the hotel, they celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on December 15, and Benjamin wrote to a friend:



RATHBUN'S HOTEL
— BROADWAY, NEW-YORK. —

Rathbun's Hotel in New York City, which Benjamin Rathbun operated from 1843 until 1861.



BROADWAY HOTEL,
CORNER OF BROADWAY AND FORTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK.

The Broadway Hotel in New York City, which Benjamin operated from 1861 until 1872.

"I am well and healthy for which I can not be sufficiently grateful. Mrs. Rathbun's health has not been very good for some few years."

The following March, he wrote again: "We have had a very fine winter . . . plenty of sleighing and skating and fully the usual share of pleasant weather . . . New York is just about the best place to live - fine climate and the place for business."

The city, however, was making plans to widen Broadway, and Benjamin learned that the project would take off some of the hotel which he already considered too small. He and Alice decided to sell the hotel and retire.

Before they could complete their

plans, Alice died — on October 6, 1871, aged 78. Benjamin wrote a sorrowful letter telling of her death:

"The saddest period in my life has occurred. Mrs. Rathbun is no more . . . Thus has passed away the Best Woman that ever lived. We have lived together almost 60 years — with the strongest affection for each other that ever existed between two for so long a time. No one can have but a faint idea of my suffering.

"Others have loved and have been separated — but few have lived together so long as we have — and none could have had a stronger affection. It seems harder to be left alone at this advanced

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age than in earlier life. I say alone, for so it seems to me. I have some good and valued relatives — and many kind friends — but they can't *all* supply the void caused by the death of her that has been *all* and *all* to me.

"We lived for each other and now it seems I have no one to live for — neither child or grandchildren.

"If there ever was an individual that merited the oft-repeated expression, 'None knew her but to love her; none spoke of her but to praise,' she was that person.

"We had been hoping from month to month that she might be better — until at last she dropt off suddenly — peaceably — quietly — serenely — calmly and happy."

Pen-Pal Romance Parallels 1824 Proposal by Mail

See Corrections 04-4 p 62

The story of Moses Rathbun proposing by mail to a woman he had never seen (January issue) brought a modern-day version of the same story from one of our subscribers, **Mrs. Ellen Coates, a granddaughter of Lucinda Ellen⁴(Rathbun) Cline (Jacob⁴ Edwin⁷ George⁵ Washington⁶ Job⁴ Benjamin⁴ Joseph² John¹).**

"John Clancy Coates, during World War II, proposed to me by mail from Germany after two years of letter writing and perhaps 100 snapshots," she writes.

"During the war, my brother, Eldon Sharp, had six sisters to write to and he was in Jack's division and gave him my name. We didn't meet in person until after we had our rings, our wedding date set, plus family reunions set, one in Canon City, Colo. and one in Kimberly, Wisc.

"We were to be married three days after we met, but his blood test didn't arrive in time so we met on Tuesday and married the following Monday. We had spoken on the phone to each other twice.

"He was a Democrat and Catholic, and I was a Methodist and Republican. Still, we've made it into our 37th year. We were married July 16, 1945. We

"In October, 1872, he wrote another letter, probably his last:

"I sold the Broadway Hotel and gave possession on the first day of July last and came here (Washington Heights, just north of the city) to live with a kind friend and cousin, Robert C. Rathbone, whose father (Aaron) was a twin brother of my father. He has a very pleasant family — a kind and noble wife, two lovely daughters and a very promising son."

Benjamin then ended the letter with comments on his advanced age, and his memories of the past.

"... I am an old man . . . 82 years old yesterday — I was nine years old when General Washington died. I remember the announcement of his death as of yesterday. I have lived under every President these United States ever had.

have two beautiful kids and three precious grandchildren. He goes to his church and I go to mine; in fact I have been teaching Sunday school most of that time, and teaching school too—seventh grade mathematics.

"We usually get together on who we vote for so we don't cancel each other's vote."

Thanks, Cousin Ellen, for sharing this wonderful story with us.



Ellen and John Coates

I was a passenger from Albany to New York on the first vessel ever moved by steam in the world — when Robert Fulton the inventor was his own engineer. I have lived at a very eventful period of this country — and a wonderful country it is of its age. Our government is not yet a hundred years old (about 14 years older than I am) and who can conjecture what this country will be 100 years from this? Certain it is that none of the present inhabitants will be here then."

Benjamin Rathbun died seven months later, on July 20, 1873, aged 83, at his cousin's home. He left an estate of \$75,000.

He had led a long and full life, with an ample share of adventure, excitement, happiness and sorrow; he rose to the height of success, and fell to the depth of humiliation. His only child was a failure, but he was fortunate to have a loyal and loving wife who stood by him through nearly 60 years of triumph and tragedy.

Queries

WANTED—Information on Jonathan⁵ Rathbun (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹). He was born in 1775 in New York State and died in 1841 in Sandusky County, Ohio. Who was his wife, and who were his children.

WANTED — Information on Harrison Rathbun, born about 1820 in New York and lived in Grant County, Wisc., in 1850-60. He married in the 1850s, Sarah _____.

WANTED — Information on Freeman Rathbun, born in August, 1851, in Summit County, Ohio; married (1) Elzada Augusta Dark and (2) Rebecca Trumpour, both in Eaton County, Mich. He and Rebecca were living in 1900 at Lake Odessa, Michigan.

WANTED — Information on George S. Rathbun, born March, 1847, in New York; married Nancy L. _____, and was living in Brooklyn, N.Y., by 1900 with children named Ella, Clarence, Richard and Ethel. His mother was possibly Elizabeth Rathbun, born in 1827, who was living at Oyster Bay, N.Y. in 1900.

Was Benjamin Rathbun Really Guilty? Of Actual Forgery, Probably Not

From the perspective of nearly 150 years, it is difficult to judge Benjamin Rathbun's guilt, or degree of guilt. There is no doubt that forgeries occurred. The only question is whether or when he knew about them, went along with them, or actively participated in them.

The day after his death, an anonymous letter was published by the *New York Tribune* claiming Rathbun's innocence:

"He has always maintained to those he would talk with on that (to him) delicate subject that he was tried and convicted under the influence of a 'ring' who enriched themselves out of his vast estate . . . I have his solemn word, which I firmly believe, that he never committed a forgery in his life, nor was that crime or any other crime ever perpetrated with his knowledge.

" . . . very few men," the writer declared, "have passed from existence leaving a purer record or more spotless reputation."

Both Benjamin and his brother Lyman stated that Lyman had complete responsibility and control over their financial operations, but their statements were obviously intended to keep Benjamin out of jail and therefore must be discounted to some degree.

My own feeling is that the forgeries were begun by Lyman in a moment of desperation, and continued from necessity to prevent discovery. I also believe that Benjamin, at some point, must have become aware of the forgeries but went along reluctantly to protect his brother and keep his financial empire from crumbling.

The brothers' basic problems were due to factors far beyond their control. The middle 1830s saw a series of events which were to culminate in the Panic of 1837—the nation's worst financial recession until the Great Depression of the 1930s. It was to last six years.

In 1836, the year of Benjamin's arrest, the nation was already on a economic slide. Crop failures had reduced the purchasing power of the farmers, who

comprised a majority of the population. A financial crisis in England had forced British banks to restrict credit and call in their American loans. President Andrew Jackson had decided to destroy the American "Central Bank"—the Bank of the United States. In 1833, he took all federal funds out of the bank, and in 1836 let its charter expire.

In the meantime, western expansion, land speculation, mounting state debts to finance development, and loose state banking laws had all combined to flood the country with bank notes based on little real value.

Specie (gold and silver coins) virtually disappeared from circulation.

As a result, by early summer of 1836 when Benjamin's operations began to fall apart, hard money and credit were both scarce, and a national depression was about to break.

Benjamin was too shrewd not to see what was coming, and he took counter measures. In May, he reduced the num-

ber of his employees, and he instructed all his agents to curtail their operations and cut back on their need for cash or credit.

But it was already too late.

A writer of 1842 summed up Benjamin's Buffalo experience with insight and sympathy:

"Possessing a powerful and ambitious mind, and a vigorous though not robust frame of body, he was enabled to conceive and carry on a scheme of improvements, as gigantic and comprehensive in its extent as it was lamentable and unfortunate to him in its fruit . . . a plain, frugal, unobtrusive but active and talented man . . . industrious, persevering and indefatigable, he had but one great fault; he trusted too implicitly in others."

With stricter banking laws, a little luck and better timing, Benjamin Rathbun's ambitious and innovative mind might have ranked him among America's greatest entrepreneurs.

Fate of Nephews, Brother Is Cloaked in Mystery

The fate of Benjamin Rathbun's brother, Lyman, and their two nephews is an intriguing story in itself.

One nephew, Rathbun Allen, was captured, reportedly in New Orleans, and brought back to Buffalo where he turned state's evidence against his uncle. He was reportedly forgiven by Benjamin, and died some years later in a fall from a window in Benjamin's New York City hotel.

The other nephew, Lyman Rathbun Howlett, was never heard from again and nothing is known of his later life. His name does not appear in later censuses, and he may have either changed his name or died young.

Lyman Rathbun, the brother who managed all of Benjamin's financial affairs, escaped from jail in Buffalo while awaiting trial, and fled to Texas, then an independent republic.

He reportedly adopted the name Brewster and bought land on the Sabine River, where he operated a ferry at what became known as Brewster's Bluff. He made a formal deposition on July 27, 1838, absolving his brother of any knowledge of the forgeries.

It appears that he died soon after that, for in July 1844 his widow petitioned the Erie County Surrogate Court for administration of his estate, declaring that he had died in Texas in July 1838.

Pioneering Rathbun Family Was Overlooked by Cooley

One of the many branches of our family not covered by John C. Cooley in his 1898 *Rathbone Genealogy* was that of Alfred and Laura (Brown) Rathbun, early western pioneers whose descendants include several of our members.

Alfred, the youngest son of Job⁴ Rathbun (Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), and Deborah Welch, was born about 1791 in Colchester, Conn. He moved about 1815 with his parents to Steuben County, N.Y., where the father, several years earlier, had purchased 300 acres of land in the northern section of Howard Township.

Before leaving Connecticut, Alfred married Laura (or Laurie) Brown, born in 1796, parentage unknown. Cooley (page 667) disposes of them by stating merely, "They went to Missouri nearly 40 years ago."

Alfred and Laura remained in Howard for more than 20 years, and reportedly had 10 children, although only eight have been identified.

Alfred bought land at Howard in March 1815, and built a substantial stone house. He and Laura bought additional land in 1820, and he was obviously a prosperous farmer. In 1825, he was elected tax collector for Howard, an indication of his ability and reputation.

About this time, according to family tradition, he built a new home and leased his large stone residence to Steuben County officials who used it to house paupers. Still later, it was used by his father as a distillery. The building became known as the "Old Castle" and was still in existence in the late 1800s.

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 opened the west to settlement, and by the 1830s the first western settlers were sending back glowing reports of fertile, and cheap, land.

Alfred's oldest brother, George Washington Rathbun (1775-1864), was the first of the Howard Township Rathbuns to move West. He took his family to Iowa about 1833, but returned a few years later to New York State. Some of his

Information on Alfred and Laura Rathbun comes primarily from a pamphlet printed in 1947 by Frederick Rathbun Townroe, a great grandson of Dyer Rathbun, Alfred's older brother. Some data was found in an 1887 history of Lewis, Clark, Knox and Scotland Counties, Mo. The story of the "Rathbun Settlement" in Cheyenne County, Kan., is from the *Rathbone Family Historian* (December 1893). Special thanks are extended to Mrs. Jean Bollig, Mrs. Phyllis Cuevas and Mrs. Myrtle Rathbun for their help in compiling information and pictures.

sons stayed in the west and are the ancestors of several of our members.

Another brother, Dyer Dana Rathbun (1784-1835), mortgaged his farm in the fall of 1834 and set out for "Michigan Country." He died the following year somewhere in Ohio.

A third brother, Amiziah (Ami) Riley Rathbun (1789-1872), left in 1836 and settled in McDonough County, Ill. Some of his descendants are also among our members.

Alfred resisted the western tide for a few years, but in 1838, after the death of his father in May, he decided to join the westward march. The Panic of 1837, with its resultant hard times, may have helped influence his decision.

With his wife and children, ranging in age from a new baby to his eldest son, Albert, aged 21, Alfred set off to begin a new life. He was about 47.

Their route and means of travel are not known, but it is likely they utilized water transportation—the Allegheny River to Pittsburgh, the Ohio River to Cairo on the Mississippi, and then down the Mississippi to Keokuck, Lee County, in the southeast corner of Iowa. Already living in the area were his nephews, Alvin and Edwin Rathbun, sons of his brother George W.

Alfred and Laura bought a farm on what was known as the "Half Breed Tract," where they lived until Alfred's death sometime in the 1840s. His eldest son, Albert, died about the same time. Both were likely stricken by one of the many epidemic diseases of that day—typhoid, diphtheria or influenza.

Laura, in the 1850 federal census, was living in Keokuck with her son, Job, and two youngest children, Emily and Henry.

In the 1850s, most of the family moved further west, to Clark County, Mo., and a few years after that to Scotland County, where Laura died July 23, 1874.

The children of Alfred and Laura continued the pioneering spirit of their parents.

After the death of Albert, the eldest son, his widow, Sally (Everett) Rathbun, moved to Illinois to live with her relatives and was married there in 1850 to Harlow Barnum. She and Albert had three sons. A daughter died in infancy.

John, the next oldest, married Keturah Corey and had five sons and five daughters who lived to maturity. Keturah died in 1875, and he was married again in 1876 to Eliza Baines, only to die himself six months later in Scotland County.

The third son, Alfred Jr., married Mary Thorington and had four sons and three daughters who grew to adulthood. After Mary's death in 1874, he married Mrs. Eunice Beckwith and lived in Scotland County until his death in 1896.

Job, the fourth son, married Rebecca Titus when she was 14 and he was 24. They had 11 children. Job served in the Missouri Volunteer Cavalry during the Civil War, and in 1878 moved to Barton County, Kan., where Rebecca died in 1891. A year later, aged 66, he married Mary A. Unger, aged 28, by whom he had four more children—the youngest born when he was 80! Job died in 1913 aged 87; his second wife died six years later.

Elon G. Rathbun, the next son, married Charlotte Corey, sister of his brother, John's, wife, in 1853, and had seven children. Elon also served in the Civil War, and then moved to Independence, Mo., where he was county sheriff for several years.

After the death of his wife in 1878, Elon married Mary Gattis, a widow with several children. He died about 1883.

Little is known of the presumably youngest son, Henry, born about 1835, who was living as late as 1860, then unmarried.

Alfred and Laura had two daughters who lived to maturity—Charity, born about 1819, who married James Arnold, and Emily, born about 1832, who married Asel Pearce.

Several of the 40 grandchildren of Alfred and Laura joined in a mass migration in 1886 to the then unsettled plains of Kansas.

In February of that year, four of John's sons—Alfred, Elon, Jonn and William—

and their cousins, Lorenzo and Lilly, children of their Uncle Elon, sold their homes near Arabella, Mo., packed their belongings into a railroad car and headed west. The railroad tracks ended at Oronoque, Kan., where they bought horses and wagons to continue their westward trek another 100 miles.

At Oberlin, Kan., they applied at the U.S. Land Office for homestead lands in southwestern Cheyenne County, Kan. There, just south of the Republican River, they staked out their new property on a fertile plain inhabited by buffalo, antelope, coyotes, prairie dogs and wild horses.

That spring and summer, under the direction of Alfred, a carpenter, they cut out pieces of sod and built sod houses which were to be their homes for several years. The men and older boys plowed the virgin prairie land to plant corn, wheat and vegetable gardens.

Their corn and wheat harvest was hauled 50 miles to the nearest gristmill

in Atwood, Kan. They rode 40 miles north to the nearest trading post, in Haigler, Neb., to buy the staples they could not raise or produce themselves.

The following summer of 1887, finding themselves short of hard cash, the entire group, young and old, spent months scouring the surrounding prairies for buffalo bones. By early fall, they had collected more than a ton of bones, which they hauled to town in a week-long journey and sold for \$8.

As the years went by, the families expanded their farms, fenced in pasture land and built bigger and better homes, gradually spreading out over an area extending seven miles east to west, and four miles north to south.

Tragedy also struck during those early years; typhoid fever swept through the settlement and claimed the lives of four Rathbun children in a two-week period. Anxious mothers went without

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This picture, taken about 1916, shows Alfred A. Rathbun (1853-1935)—son of John and Keturah (Corey) Rathbun and a grandson of Alfred and Laura Rathbun—and his family. Alfred and his wife, Martha Susan (Cline) are in the front row.

In the second row are, from left, their daughters, Mary Elizabeth, Ethel Ann and Bess Evalee. In the back row are their other children, Daisy, John Denver, Lewis Edward, Charles W. and Josie A. The picture was provided by Mrs. Jean Bollig.

Rathbun Pioneers

(continued from page 41)

sleep to nurse their children through the epidemic.

By 1893, the "Rathbun Settlement" numbered 15 families, including several grandchildren who had married, and another of Alfred and Laura's grandchildren, Uzell Alexander Rathbun (son of John), who joined them several years after the first arrival.

The 15 couples had a total of 65 children, 38 of whom were enrolled in local schools. The Rathbun cousins comprised a majority of students in each of the three schools they attended.

The Rathbun brothers, sisters, cousins, nephews and grandchildren owned a total of 3,520 acres—seven farms of 320 acres each, and eight of 150 acres. They had built windmills, bought mowing machines and binders, and jointly owned two steam-operated machines—one to thresh wheat and one to strip and husk corn.

Some of the wheat and corn was hauled to market; the rest was ground into flour and cornmeal for food, or kept to feed their horses, cattle and hogs.

A writer of the time commented on this remarkable group of Rathbuns:

"They are respected by all and looked to as model farmers and citizens . . . as church members they are mostly Methodists. In politics they are all Republicans but one, and he is a Democrat."

While this group of Alfred and Laura's grandchildren was homesteading in Kansas, others were pioneering throughout the then unsettled west—in Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and California—as farmers, ranchers and miners.

Today, the many descendants of Alfred and Laura Rathbun, including a number of our members, are scattered throughout the western third of the United States—some still in Iowa and Missouri, others in Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, California and Washington.

This branch of our family surely played a prominent role in the settlement and development of America's western frontier.



The 1879 wedding picture of William Rathbun (1855-1927) and Bennetta Rose Padgett (1857-1898) in Scotland County, Mo. William was a son of Alfred and Mary (Thorington) Rathbun and a grandson of Alfred and Laura Rathbun.



William Rathbun and his children about 1899, shortly after the death of his wife. From the left are Blanche Mae, William Victor, Charles Bennetta (on Alfred's lap), Beulah Ortencia (front), Orville Milton and Clarence Arthur, and Mary Theresa (rear). The pictures were provided by Mrs. Phyllis Cuevas.

Tragedy, Death Hit Family

In 1808, the Rev. John⁴ Rathbone (Joshua³ John²) and his brother, Deacon Daniel, then aged 79 and 77, made a hazardous trip by horse and buggy from Milton, N.Y., where Daniel lived, to what was then the wilderness of central New York State, where they visited several relatives who had moved to that frontier area.

At Canisteo, they visited their sister, Martha (Mrs. Uriah Stevens), and at Broomfield (now Mendon), they stayed with Daniel's daughter, Ruby (Mrs. Jonas Allen), conducting religious services for several days.

On the way back, they stopped at Marcellus to see their brother, Valentine. They arrived just as the body of Valentine's son, Reuben, was being carried into the house. He had been killed by a falling tree while clearing land for crops. They stayed several days, consoling the bereaved parents, and Rev. John preached the funeral sermon.

Daniel wrote the following letter to his daughter and son-in-law, Ruby and Jonas Allen, some months after his return home. The original is owned by Richmond J. Rathbone of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, one of our charter subscribers, and a descendant of Daniel.

*Milton (Saratoga Co., NY)
December 31, 1808*

Dear Children Jonas and Ruby, After we left your house we had bad luck. My horse being irritated with the flies rubbed of his harness as he stood waiting at a friend's house and ran away with the carriage and over set it and tore the top all to pieces and other ways damaged it very much. Broke and striped himself of the harness etc.

However we tackled up as well as

“. . . the instant we arrived, his son Ruben was brought up a dead corps . . .”

we could and proceeded on and at Marcellus (Marcellus) we turned out and went to see your Uncle Valentine and just at the instant we arrived at his house his son Ruben with whom he lived was brought up a dead corps. He being killed by a tree falling upon his head as he was working in his fallow etc.

We stayed until after the funeral and then took a sorrowful leave of them and departed for home. But I was soon after taken sick on the way with the fever and the ague and was forced to lie by several days at a friend's house and afterward at a tavern. However by worrying along between fits we got home alive and found your mother also very sick. Said to be the bilious fever and ague which at length terminated with an intermittent fever and finally recovered. Since which she has had another very ill turn which brought her very low. But is now as well as usual again. But now prepare for bad news.

Daniel's daughter Anna after a long lingering travail on the 17th day of November at the time of the eclipse she was delivered of a dead child and died herself on the 27th of the child had fever the same month.

November 21 which was six days before Anna died Daniel her father got his leg broke in the sawmill wheel. He being called upon by the sawyer to rectify something that was wanting at the bulk head above the sawmill wheel. When he came and saw what was wanting he asked the sawyer, whose name was

Mitchel, if the pitman was down and he said he believed it was and without further examination Daniel stepped up upon the upper bucket and the wheel instantly turned down inward and caught his leg between one of the buckets and the breast piece and broke both bones of his left leg off just below his knee. Mitchel with a piece of timber turned the wheel back and poor Daniel drew out his leg and said he had got his death wound. Mitchel hallowed and help soon came and they carried him into his house.

We all ran to see him. Help was sent for as soon as possible and your brother John and Doctor Wood set it as well as they could but the bone was so split and jamed to pieces quite up to the knee joint that it was impossible it could ever be healed and Daniel was unwilling to have it cut off till it was too late. We had old Doctor Porter from Williamstown and after that a council of six or seven doctors who came prepared to cut it off. But it was by this time so infected above his knee that it must be taken off if at all near as high as mid thigh and that he would likely die in the operation, his health so much impaired by a constant succession of ague, fits and fevers that they did not think proper to attempt an amputation and left him.

He lived until the 13th day of December instant and then died. Being 3 weeks and one day from the time he was hurt. He was doubtless mortified (gangrenous) for the stench was intolerable. He was delirious the greatest part of the time and died without any will. He was interred the second day after his decease, there being as was supposed more than a thousand people at his funeral. This from your sorrowful father and mother D&S (Daniel and Sarah) Rathbun.

Genealogy: The Fourth Generation in America

25. NATHANIEL⁴ RATHBUN

(Thomas³⁻² John¹), born Aug. 22, 1719, on Block Island, R.I., and married there Sept. 10, 1741, Ann Peck, born May 1723, at Boston, Mass., daughter of John and Margaret (Maynard) Peck. He was admitted a freeman at Block Island in 1741, but moved a few years later to Exeter, R.I., where he signed a tax-protest petition on Jan. 22, 1744. He was an ensign in the Exeter militia from 1743 to 1745, and was a captain at the time of his death in June or July 1750, aged 31. His widow moved to Boston shortly after his death, and died there on Nov. 13, 1753, aged 30.

CHILDREN

ANNE, born June 18, 1742; married Immanuel Case, Oct. 4, 1761.

MARY, born Sept. 7, 1744; married William Potter, Jan. 25, 1765.

JOHN PECK, born March 26, 1746; married Mary Leigh.

MARGARET (Peggy), born July 16, 1749; married Samuel Phillips, Aug. 26, 1770.

26. THOMAS⁴ RATHBUN

(Thomas³⁻² John¹), born Aug. 6, 1730, on Block Island; moved as a young man to Exeter, R.I., and married there June 3, 1753, Mary (Rogers) Clark, daughter of Samuel and Alice Rogers and widow of John Clark. He was listed in the 1774 and 1782 censuses at Exeter, and presumably died by 1790, when he did not appear in the census. The death date of his wife is also unknown.

CHILDREN

GAMALIEL, born about 1757; married Experience (Rathbun?).

WALTER CLARK, born about 1770; married Anna _____.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

27. THOMAS⁴ RATHBUN (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born about 1734 in North Kingston; married there in 1758 Ho_____ (record burned), who apparently died soon thereafter. He was a mariner and married (2) in New York City, Dec. 31, 1760, Mary Waldrum. He was dead by July 31, 1762, when Mary was called the "widow of Thomas Rathburn, mariner, of Rhode Island." Nothing more is known of her.

CHILD (by first wife)

MARY, born about 1759; mentioned in will of her grandfather, Samuel Rathbun, as "my granddaughter, Mary Rathbun, daughter of my son Thomas who is deceased." She may be the Mary Rathbun who was bound for two years and eight months as an indentured servant Feb. 26, 1772, in Philadelphia, "taught to read in the Bible and to write a legible hand."

28. JOHN⁴ RATHBUN (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born about 1737 in North Kingston, R.I., and married there Hannah Elbridge (Eldredge), born in July 1734, daughter of Robert and Hannah Eldredge. Both John and Hannah may have been married previously and had children, for John's will mentions "my wife's granddaughter, Hannah Dawley," as well as "my granddaughter, Deborah Congdon," and "my grandsons, George W. and Thomas Congdon." John Rathbun was an ensign in the North Kingston militia in 1765. He and Hannah were baptized, as adults, on July 23, 1796, in the First Baptist Church of North Kingston. John died June 1, 1819, aged 82, and Hannah died June 10, 1821, aged 84. Both are buried in the Rathbun Cemetery on Hatchery Road in North Kingston.

CHILDREN ¹⁷⁶³

ELIZA THOMAS, born about 1760; married (?) Ann COOPER

JOHN, born about 1765; married (1) Mercy Dawley; (2) Lydia _____.

SARAH, born about 1770; married GEORGE Congdon.

ROBERT, born about 1777; married Freelove Northrup.

29. ROGER⁴ RATHBUN (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born about 1742 in North Kingston; married there about 1763 Mary Eldred (Eldredge), born about 1744, daughter of Seth and (?) Mary (_____) Eldred. Roger was in the North Kingston militia in 1768, a member of the Six Principles Baptist Church in 1771, and served in the Revolutionary War under Colonel Jeremiah Olney, Captain Humphrey's Company. He was discharged Dec. 19, 1782, in Saratoga. His name appears on a list of American soldiers who were captured by the British and were imprisoned on the infamous *Jersey* prison ship at New York Harbor. His wife, Mary, died Nov. 2, 1805, in North Kingston, and he married on Oct. 23, 1806, Margaret Card. In 1820, he applied for a war pension, described as a "labourer but now so old he can do but little work . . . his wife is also old and infirm." He died sometime after 1834, in his 90s. The death date of his second wife is not known.

CHILDREN

MARY, born Jan. 25, 1764; no further information.

?SAMUEL, born about 1766; married Sarah _____.

ABIGAIL, born about 1772; married _____ Brown.

REBECCA, born about 1774; married _____ Trumbull.

SARAH, born about 1776; married _____ Wilcox.

JOHN, born Jan. 4, 1783; married Elizabeth Babcock.

BENEDICT E., born about 1785; married Frances _____.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown. See New Data 16-2 p 38

JAMES died 11/1806

30. ANTHONY¹ RATHBUN (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born about 1744 in North Kingston; married there Nov. 7, 1771, Eliza Brown, born about 1751, daughter of Charles and Mercy (Sweet) Brown. She died in 1783, and he married, Feb. 18, 1787, her sister, Penelope Brown, born about 1756. Anthony was an ensign in the North Kingston militia in 1769. He died in North Kingston March 8, 1821, aged 77. Penelope died sometime after 1830. (Destruction of the North Kingston records by fire many years ago has made it impossible to obtain exact birth data on his family and those of his brothers).

CHILDREN

(By Eliza)

ELEANOR, born about 1773; married Daniel Littlefield.

JOSHUA, born May 1, 1775; married Nancy Phillips.

CHARLES BROWN, born Oct. 2, 1776; married Sarah Carr.

SARAH, born about 1778; married Duter Reynolds.

ELIZABETH, born about 1780; married Johnson Potter in 1801.

SAMUEL, born about 1782; married (1) Mary Reynolds; (2) Margaret Gardner.

(By Penelope)

ABIGAIL, born about 1787; married Simeon Gardner.

MERCY, born about 1788; married Gardner Reynolds.

BENJAMIN, born about 1790; married Mary Brown.

MARTHA, born about 1792; married Sherman Brown.

ANTHONY, born about 1794; married Waity Eldred.

MARY, born about 1796; married Samuel Northrup.

?PENELOPE, born about 1798; married (1) James S. Sherman; (2) John W. Sherman.

31. JOHN¹ RATHBUN (John³ Thomas² John¹), born Aug. 7, 1730, on Block Island; moved as a young man to Exeter, R.I., and married there about 1754 Anna (Hopkins) Albro, born July 16, 1732, daughter of William and Mary (Tibbetts) Hopkins and widow of Peter Albro. John Rathbun was an ensign in the Exeter militia in 1754/5, and was admitted a freeman there in May 1759. In 1763, described as "labourer," he received from his father "for and in consideration of love and good will and affection (and) for his better support and livelihood" 35 acres of land in West Greenwich. He sold the land a few weeks later. He moved in the early 1780s to Hancock, Berkshire Co., Mass., and by 1801 to Stephentown, Rensselaer County, N.Y. By 1810 he was living in Otego, Otsego County, N.Y., where he died in 1816. The death date of Anna is not known.

CHILDREN

TIBBETTS, born about 1755; married Rebecca Strait.

SIMEON, born about 1757; died probably unmarried about 1787.

EXPERIENCE, born about 1759; married (?) Gamaliel⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁺³² John¹).

MARY, born about 1761; married _____ Benjamin.

THOMAS, born about 1763; married Sarah Babcock.

MARION, born about 1765; married _____ Cole.

LYDIA, born July 6, 1767; married Benjamin Bentley Feb. 23, 1784.

SUSANNAH, born about 1769; married _____ Jones.

32. DANIEL¹ RATHBUN (William³⁺² John¹), born Oct. 30, 1706, on Block Island; moved to Lyme, Conn., and married there March 19, 1741, Thankful Higgins, born Aug. 17, 1717, daughter of Beriah and Desire Higgins. He died Oct. 7, 1789, in Hartland, Conn., aged 83. His wife died March 16, 1792, aged 76.

CHILDREN

WILLIAM, born Jan. 1, 1742; married Lucy Banning-

SARAH, born March 8, 1744; married Jacob Sawyer, Jr. March 16, 1769.

DIADAMA, born Aug. 30, 1748; married Elisha Huntley Mack.

MARY, born Jan. 27, 1751; married David Banning Feb. 3, 1779.

33. OBADIAH RATHBUN (John³ William² John¹), born about 1710 on Block Island; moved to Exeter (then North Kingston), R.I., and married there Sept. 16, 1731, Anna Austin, born about 1712, probable daughter of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Austin. He was an ensign in the North Kingston (Exeter) militia in June 1742, and signed a tax-protest petition in 1744. He died in Exeter early in 1797. His wife had died in the 1780s.

CHILDREN

SARAH, born June 15, 1732; married John Wilcox Sept. 30, 1759.

MARY, born May 25, 1734; married _____ Reynolds.

DORCAS, born March 5, 1737; married (1) _____ Rogers; (2) Enos Babcock.

WILLIAM, born Jan. 28, 1744; married (1) _____; (2) Mrs. Sarah Green.

JOSEPH, born Sept. 22, 1745; married (1) Margaret Dawley; (2) Elizabeth _____.

MARGARET, born Feb. 20, 1748; married Peleg Dawley, Nov. 27, 1768.

SUSANNAH, born April 21, 1750; married Joseph Money (Mawney).

34. WILLIAM¹ RATHBUN (John³ William² John¹), born about 1712 on Block Island; moved to Exeter with his father and married there Dec. 16, 1739, Rachel Sweet, born about 1722, daughter of William and Thankful Sweet. They moved to Westerly where he died in May 1743. His widow married by Oct. 1743, Jonathan Allen. His home and 122-acre farm was later inherited by his daughter.

CHILD

JUDITH, born about 1740; married William Greene, Jan. 25, 1756.

(continued on page 46)

With this issue, we continue the fourth generation of our family in America, listing only the male lines in the interest of space. Each male member is numbered within his generation, beginning with the eldest son of the eldest son.

(continued from page 45)

35. JOHN³ RATHBUN (John³ William² John¹), born about 1720, probably on Block Island; moved as a young man to Exeter where he was a freeman in 1748 and a militia captain in 1751-53. He married Dec. 13, 1752, Elizabeth Dawley, born about 1732, the daughter of John and Mary (Tripp) Dawley. He died in Exeter in May, 1786. His wife survived him but her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

ISAAC, born about 1753; married Mary Eldred.

DANIEL, born about 1755; probably died young.

MARGARET, born Feb. 7, 1758; married John Mowry.

JOHN, born June 8, 1770; married Joanna Joslin.

36. SAMUEL⁴ RATHBUN (Jonathan³ William² John¹), born about 1722 in Lyme, Conn., and married Sept. 16, 1747, in Canterbury, Conn., Elizabeth Stevens, birth date and parentage unknown. She died June 28, 1781, in Hanover, Conn., and he married about 1783 Rebecca _____. He died—"killed by a fall"—in Hanover on Aug. 31, 1786. His second wife died Sept. 26, 1789.

CHILDREN

PATIENCE, born Oct. 13, 1749; married Adam Stevens Oct. 21, 1773.

JOSEPH, born Dec. 8, 1751; married Zilpha Stevens.

SYBIL, born April 7, 1754; she had two illegitimate sons, names unknown, born in May 1783, and Dec. 20, 1785, in Hanover, where she was living in 1790. We have no further information on her or them.

MARY, born Sept. 28, 1756; married William Davis, Oct. 27, 1781.

ELIZABETH, born Nov. 30, 1759; no further information.

EUNICE, born Feb. 21, 1761; married (?) Rufus Austin.

REBECCA, born March 19, 1763; married (?) Thomas Simons, Jan. 13, 1789.

BENJAMIN, born March, 1766; married Naomi Stevens.

37. THOMAS⁴ RATHBUN (Jonathan³ William² John¹), born about 1730 in Lyme, Conn., and married there May 5, 1763, Mary Wait, born Aug. 20, 1740, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Lewis) Wait. He died in 1769, and his widow married in Lyme on Aug. 9, 1773, Abraham Emerson. In 1775, Thomas Rathbun's mother, his brother, Samuel, and sister, Sybil Williams, complained that Emerson was permitting "a great waste of wood and lumber" on his wife's property, and asked for appointment of a guardian "to take care of the poor orphans' estate."

CHILDREN

JOHN, born Feb. 1, 1764; killed in the Revolutionary War April 4, 1781.

EBENEZER, born March 2, 1766; married _____.

THOMAS, born March 19, 1768; married Sarah Williams.

38. THOMAS⁴ RATHBUN (Ebenezer³ William² John¹), born Nov. 23, 1722, in Westerly, R.I., and married in Scituate, R.I., on Sept. 25, 1745, Ann Wilbur, born about 1730, daughter of Stephen and Priscilla (Irish) Wilbur. He died in Westerly in 1798; she was alive in 1795 but her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

STEPHEN, born Nov. 17, 1750; married Elizabeth Taylor.

PRISCILLA, born Nov. 12, 1752; alive in 1760 but dead by 1795.

JAMES, born May 6, 1754; married (1) Susannah Clark; (2) Polly Babcock.

PAUL WILCOX, born Dec. 29, 1756; married (?) Mercy _____.

MARY, born April 29, 1758; alive in 1795, no further information.

THOMAS, born March 8, 1768; married Eliza Cooper.

39. EBENEZER⁴ RATHBUN (Ebenezer³ William² John¹), born Jan. 29, 1740, in Westerly, R.I. A soldier throughout the Revolutionary War, he married Sept. 23, 1790, at the age of 50, Mary Crandall, aged 16, born Dec. 6, 1773, daughter of James and Sarah (Clark) Crandall. He died Jan. 2, 1828, in Westerly, aged 88. Mary died there Jan. 30, 1846.

CHILDREN

EBENEZER, born July 30, 1791; married _____.

SARAH, born Sept. 1, 1792; died unmarried in 1855.

MARY, born May 15, 1794; married JOSEPH Cross. *DIED JAN 15, 1867*

CHRISTOPHER, born Feb. 13, 1796; married (1) Pamela Mitchell; (2) Celia Sisson.

LYDIA A., born April 19, 1798; married (?) (1) Elisha Maxon Jr. March 11, 1824; (2) Hezekiah Palmer.

PRUDENCE, born Feb. 17, 1800; married Nathan Nye.

JAMES NOYES, born March 4, 1802; killed by lightning about 1829, probably unmarried.

RHODA, born about 1804; died by 1840.

SUSANNAH LARKIN, born Feb. 12, 1806; married Rowland C. Saunders.

FRANCES (Fanny), born April 22, 1809; married (1) Joseph Taylor; (2) Enos Burdick.

WILLIAM, born about 1815; married Mary Ann Blivin.

ANOTHER SON, name unknown; killed accidentally as a youth.

40. JOSEPH⁴ RATHBUN (Joseph³⁻² John¹), born July 16, 1735, in Exeter, R.I., and married in neighboring West Greenwich on May 31, 1759, Deborah Greene, born Feb. 25, 1738/9, possibly a daughter of Thomas and Elnathan (Rice) Greene. He inherited 100 acres of his grandfather Rathbun's Exeter farm upon his father's death in 1759, and bought adjoining land in 1769 from his brother Jeremiah. He was a lieutenant in the Exeter militia in 1760 and a captain in 1767. Deborah died sometime after 1800, and he married by 1818 Anna Tillinghast, born May 26, 1753,

daughter of Stukeley and Honor (Hopkins) Tillinghast. They had no children but reared some of the nine children of her brother, Clark, who died as a young man. Joseph Rathbun was apparently a wealthy man; the 1782 Exeter census listed him with two slaves. He died about 1821; his second wife died in Exeter in 1841.

CHILD

(By Deborah)

REBECCA, born about 1767; married Gideon Arnold Aug. 15, 1785.

41. JEREMIAH⁴ RATHBUN (Joseph³⁻² John¹), born March 27, 1742, in Exeter, R.I., and married there Aug. 8, 1763, Mary Phillips, born about 1746, daughter of Samuel Phillips. Jeremiah inherited 131 acres from his father, but sold it and moved to Stephentown, N.Y. (then Albany Co.) about 1770, and later to Petersburg, Rensselaer Co., where he died in 1797, two years after his wife's death.

CHILDREN

SAMUEL, born Oct. 10, 1764; married Elizabeth _____.

JOSEPH, born Jan. 7, 1767; married (?) Olive _____.

ABIGAIL, born Jan. 31, 1769; no further information.

ROBERT, born Sept. 16, 1771; married Anna Allen.

JONATHAN, born Aug. 11, 1775; married _____.

ANNA, born July 26, 1777; no further information.

REBECCA, born Oct. 7, 1780; no further information.

SYBIL, born April 13, 1783; no further information.

LOIS, born Nov. 20, 1785; married (?) Isaac P. Clarke, Jan. 1, 1812.

JEREMIAH, born Sept. 10, 1788; married _____.

WILBUR, born Oct. 11, 1791; married Esther Case.

(Cooley's *Rathbone Genealogy* says one of Jeremiah's daughters married Silva Crandall, and another married Greene _____. We have been unable to verify this.)

42. GEORGE⁴ RATHBUN (Joseph³⁻² John¹), born March 7, 1743, in Exeter, R.I., and married about 1765 Mercy Herrington, born June 8, 1744, daughter of Job and Elizabeth (Spencer) Herrington. He inherited 77 acres and a Negro man, Primus, when his father died in 1759. He appears in the Exeter censuses through 1800, but not

in 1810, and presumably died during that decade. Mercy's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

JOSEPH, born June 25, 1779; no further information.

PROBABLY OTHERS.

To be continued



This 1896 photograph was sent in by Mrs. Ula Davis of Laurence, Kan., one of our members. It shows her grandfather, Jacob Washington Rathbun (1843-1916), his wife, Lucinda Catherine (Kee) Rathbun (1846-1928), and five of their children. From left, the children are: Susan Ida, then 16; James Arthur, 12; Edwin Washington, 25; Lucinda Ella, 23, and Rosetta Anna, 12, twin of James. Jacob, a farmer, was born in Iowa, but moved to Missouri as a young man and died there. He was the son of Edwin⁶ Rathbun (Washington⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

Obituaries

DIED—April 9, 1982, Charles Adelbert Rathbun, aged 79, in Lansing, Mich. He was the son of Alfred V.⁸ Rathbun (Segester⁷ Isaac⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Ada Florence Newcomb. Mr. Rathbun is survived by his wife, Bernice, with whom he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in January, and by three sons, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two sisters. His son, John, is one of our subscribers.

DIED—May 3, 1981, Etta E.M. Rathbun, aged 87, in Wakefield, R.I. She was the daughter of William⁸ Rathbun (Henry⁷ Martin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

DIED—June 12, 1982, in Texarkana, Ark., Mrs. Kate Rathburn, aged 101. She was the widow of William T.⁹ Rathburn (Joseph⁸ Aaron⁷ Joseph⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Survivors include several of our subscribers—her son, James M. Rathburn; daughter, Elsie Haak, and grandchildren, Kathy Phillips and Carolyn Gott. We carried a story on Mrs. Rathburn's 100th birthday in our April 1981 issue.

New Data

Vol. 1, No. 2—Add Hannah, born March 21, 1706, to the children of Joseph² Rathbun (John¹) and Mary Mosher. She married John Eldred.

Vol. 1, No. 3—Hannah, wife of Benjamin³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) was the daughter of Oliver and Sarah Carpenter. She was born Dec. 28, 1708, in South Kingston, R.I.

Vol. 1, No. 3—Abigail, wife of Samuel³ Rathbun (Thomas² John¹) was the daughter of John and Margaret (Holden) Eldred.

(Thanks to Research Director Robert Rathbun for this additional information).

Newest Subscribers

Mrs. Winifred Brown
Houston, Texas

Richard L. Buckingham
Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Joseph Bulmer
Kirkland, Wash.

Mari Louise Clark
Asheville, N.C.

Richard L. Mix
Williamsport, Pa.

Charles Rathbone
Burnsville, N.C.

W. Westcott Rathbone
Greene, N.Y.

Frank E. Rathbun
Coventry, R.I.

Irma E. Rathbun
(Not Irma A.)
Decatur, Mich.

Marvin T. Rathbun
Denver, Colo.

Mrs. Harold S. Rathburn
Interlachen, Fla.

Victor and Ruth Streeter
(Not Virgil)
Sparta, Wisc.

Lois A. Swett
Mystic, Conn.

Mrs. John Walters
Battle Creek, Mich.

Mary J. Wood
Fielding, Utah

People

ERNEST RATHBUN, whose life story was published in our April 1981 issue, celebrated his 100th birthday on June 19. Ernest and his wife, Eola, have two children and 14 grandchildren.

ROBERT RATHBUN, our active research director, has changed jobs. He is now group leader/juvenile counselor at the Green River Boys' Camp, Cromwell, Ky.

LOUIS RAZABONI. In an earlier issue, we reported on a family of Polish immigrants who took the name of one of their most respected neighbors, a Rathbun family. We have now learned of a Uruguayan immigrant who took the name Rathbone. Louis A. Rathbone, 79, who died last September 16 in South Kingstown, R.I., was born Louis Razaboni, but changed his name when he came to the United States more than 40 years ago. He was the owner of the Old Grist Mill in Seekonk, Mass., from 1937 until 1968.

RATHBONE TWINS, born Jan. 30, 1982, in Austin, Texas, Amber Dawn and Aaron David Rathbone, twin children of David and Terry Rathbone and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel M.¹⁰ Rathbone (Lemuel⁹ Rufus⁸ George⁷ Rufus⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

NICOLE LEE CURTIS. Born, July 18, 1981, Nicole Lee Curtis, daughter of David and Pattie Curtis and granddaughter of Louis and Juanita (Rathbun) Curtis of Turlock, Calif. Juanita, one of our subscribers, is the daughter of ~~Charles~~ Amory Rathbun (Charles⁹⁻⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

MICKEY ROONEY, the durable Hollywood and television star, has bought a marina on Lake Rathbun, near the town of Rathbun, in Iowa, for a reported \$335,000. We will publish a story soon on the several cities and villages in the United States which were named for members of our family.