

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
FAMILY
HISTORIAN



Sarah (Rathbun) Smith
1822-1897

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

Letter From the Editor

There is good news and bad news to report this month. The good news is that our monument project for the graves of John and Margaret Rathbun on Block Island is off and running. We have already raised nearly \$1,700 of the estimated \$2,000-\$2,200 cost.

Those of you who offered pledges, please send them in now. Incidentally, several people have made contributions in the name or memory of others—parents, grandparents, children. Consider this possibility, even if you have already donated. All names will be listed.

The bad news is that, as of this writing, we have received renewals from less than 200 of our nearly 290 subscribers of 1982. We reduced the price again this year on the expectation of keeping at least 200 to 250.

This issue is being mailed to all 1982 members, with a separate notice to those who have not yet renewed. We hope that in most cases it is merely a matter of forgetfulness.

Our plans for the first family reunion at Block Island, in conjunction with the grave-marker dedication, are also in full swing. For a number of reasons, it has been decided to hold it from Thursday, July 21, to Sunday, July 24, with the dedication on Saturday, July 23. Our headquarters will be the Narragansett

Inn, located in the New Harbor area, within walking distance of the Old Island Cemetery and the Block Island Historical Society.

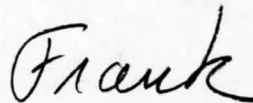
Complete details on arrangements, prices, lodging, transportation, etc. will be given in our April issue.

Several members have suggested the possibility of a later reunion, possibly in the mid-west, in 1984. In this connection, please note the accompanying letter from Bruce Rathbun.

I want to express again special thanks to members who have been responding to my request for genealogical material—Frank E. Rathbun of Coventry, R.I.; Mrs. Betty Rathbone of Austin, Texas; Mrs. Jeanne Chubbuck of Concordia, Kan., and Danny L. Rathbun of Mannford, Okla.

The answers to many of our genealogical questions are buried in libraries, probate courts, city records, family bibles, cemeteries and other records. Please, please, help us locate them.

This issue will arrive too late to wish you all a Merry Christmas, but I do want to offer my very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 1983.



1982 Financial Statement

Income

Subscriptions—1982 (285 @ \$20)	\$5,700
Subscriptions—1981 (35 @ \$25)	875
Single Copy Sales	70
Total	\$6,645

Expenses

Typesetting and Printing	\$3,926
Postage	700
Envelopes	326
Research	378
Donation (Block Island Historical Society)	270
Supplies	136
Photographs	23
Miscellaneous	151
Total	\$5,910

Carryover Balance	\$ 735
Carryover Balance (1981)	\$1,044
Balance on Hand	\$1,779

Dear Cousins:

After our first family reunion this July on Block Island, how about a follow-up reunion somewhere in the west or midwest, perhaps in the summer of 1984?

To make it accessible to the greatest number, I suggest that it be held in the central section of the country—Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri or Oklahoma.

Before going ahead with such a project, it would be necessary to ascertain how many would be interested in attending. It would also be necessary to select the site and find persons in that area willing to work out the details. We would need several people working together to handle the necessary arrangements for transportation, lodging, meeting facilities, etc.

We need suggestions, comments and volunteers. If you are interested, please let me know within the next few weeks so preliminary plans and decisions can be made. A report on the early response will be made in the April issue of the Historian.

Bruce Rathbun
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Devoted Wife Accompanies Soldier Husband in Civil War

Among the many women in our family whose lives offer fascinating stories is Sarah Frances Rathbun (1822-1897), who during her long lifetime helped her parents manage a frontier hotel, helped her husband operate a wilderness logging camp, accompanied her husband, a cavalry officer, through the four-year horror of the Civil War, and then worked with him again to run hotels in the desolate Dakota Territory as a woman in her 60s.

The writer of her obituary commented: "Her biography written by a Balzac or a Victor Hugo would rival fiction."

Sarah, or Sally as she was always known, was born Oct. 13, 1822, in Scipio, Cayuga County, N.Y., the daughter of Charles⁶ Rathbun (Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Anna Kniffin.

When she was 19 years old, her parents moved to the frontier village of Grand Rapids, Mich., where her father purchased a hotel which he named the Rathbun House (See the October 1982 issue).

Sarah, the oldest daughter, and her two younger sisters, worked with their parents to make the Rathbun House one of the finest hotels in the state. Sarah's responsibilities centered in the kitchen, where she obtained on-the-job training in the art of "dinner entertainment."

It was at the hotel that she met Benjamin F. Smith, a lumberman, whom she married on May 3, 1847, in ceremonies at the Rathbun House.

Shortly thereafter, they moved to Ravenna, a small village in the Michigan wilderness about halfway between Grand Rapids and Muskegon. There, on the banks of a small river, Benjamin Smith operated a sawmill, producing pine lumber for Michigan's booming construction industry. At Ravenna, their only child, James W. Smith, was born on April 1, 1848.

Four years later, they moved to Ottawa Center, on the north branch of the Grand River, 25 miles from Grand Ra-

pids, where Benjamin built a steam-operated sawmill. Here, in a simple log cabin home, the Smiths became known widely for their hospitality and informal dinners.

One of their friends later wrote: "Mrs. Smith's entertainments were principally confined to the winter season, when the mill was shut down. Many social functions have I known there of note in winter times. The chinked, one-story old log house was a bazaar of costly dress and fashion without dude or caste. Such had no bearing there. It was brains and wit and a social level that made these cabin logs echo to the social pleasure within."

When spring brought the sawmill operation back to life, Mrs. Smith worked long hours to feed the "lumberjacks." For weeks in succession, she served four meals daily to 20 men--breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a midnight supper.

In 1860, the Smiths moved to Grand Rapids, where they leased the Rathbun House from Sarah's father and operated it as a husband-wife team.

Then, in 1861, came the Civil War, and in August, Benjamin Smith was commissioned captain of Company D, Second Michigan Calvary, formed in Grand Rapids.

Sarah and Benjamin were so close she could not bear to have him go and leave her at home. She placed 13-year-old Jimmy in a boarding school and set off with Benjamin when the Second Michigan Calvary was ordered in November 1861 to Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis. She lived there with her husband in an Army tent, helping prepare meals for his company.

A friend told of meeting her:

"She was at much at home in the tent, with all the war camp paraphernalia, as at her entertainments in Grand Rapids . . . what a change for a woman, thought I, from domestic life to one of rifle, sword and cannon."

At the battle of Perryville, Ky., in October 1862, a small home was used as a hospital for the Union wounded. The Second Michigan alone had about 50



Sarah Rathbun Smith as she appeared in later life, probably just after the Civil War. The portrait of Sarah on our front cover was painted by Edward Antonissen about 1847 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Family tradition says she is wearing her wedding dress.

men killed and 274 wounded. The same friend met Mrs. Smith once more in Perryville.

"I rode by a small square, story-and-a-half, weatherbeaten dwelling with a small yard in front," he wrote. "In the yard were some wounded soldiers, some lying on the ground, others on stretchers, and yet others inside the house, the front door being open. A woman was in the yard and to my astonishment it was Mrs. Smith. The surgeon of the regiment was there, and Mrs. Smith seemed to be his only assistant.

"I rode up near her. She recognized me, and with lint and bandage in her hands, and tears flowing, she exclaimed, 'Oh, this is awful.' Notwithstanding her unusual emotion, I saw that she was an efficient aide."

After Sherman's drive into the south, the Union army made its headquarters

(continued on page 14)

John Peck Rathbun Takes Sloop Providence to Sea

In our last issue, we covered the early career of John Peck⁶ Rathbun (Nathaniel⁴ Thomas³⁻² John¹), who joined the Continental Navy in November 1775, as the Revolutionary War was getting under way. After several successful cruises as first lieutenant under John Paul Jones, Rathbun was promoted to captain in April 1777 and given command of the sloop Providence. He took charge in May, and by mid-July had the Providence ready for sea. He sailed her from Bedford, Mass., with a crew of 70, ready for his first cruise as a captain.

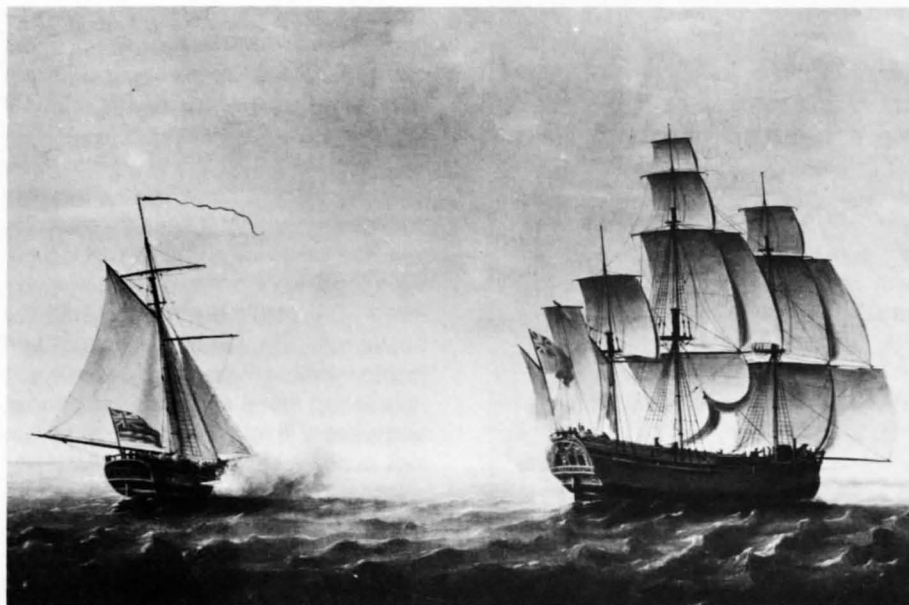
Rathbun sailed first to Martha's Vineyard, where he enlisted a few more men, and then headed southward for New York City, which was then held by the British. He was taking very literally his orders to "intercept the enemy's transport vessels coming to reinforce or supply their Army at New York."

He kept the *Providence* hovering out of landsight, off Sandy Hook, watching the flow of shipping and waiting for the right opportunity. He decided to strike when he saw a little squadron leave port and head southeast—a ship, a brig, two schooners and a sloop.

Only the ship would be strong enough to put up a fight, and Rathbun felt he could handle it. He maneuvered the *Providence* along the coast, keeping his intended victims in sight and hoping to be mistaken for a local fishing sloop.

When night fell he kept on the same course, and at daybreak found the five vessels still in sight. Satisfied he was far enough from New York to make his move, he hoisted all sail and brought the speedy *Providence* abreast of the ship by mid-afternoon.

When her captain refused his order to "heave to," Rathbun opened fire. His opponent proved stubborn. The British captain returned the shots and then rammed the *Providence* head on. At the same time, the British brig and one of the schooners—both carrying cannons—joined the fight. Rathbun with-



This 1777 painting is believed to represent the battle in July of that year between the sloop Providence, commanded by Captain John Peck Rathbun, and the British ship Mary. The artist, Francis Holman, was a noted English marine painter. The Providence (left) has just fired a broadside. Rathbun's sailing master was killed in the fight.

drew, his sails and rigging cut to pieces, his sailing master dead, and several of his crew wounded.

The British, thinking the Americans had given up, reassembled and continued their course southward. Rathbun, however, was far from finished. The body of the sailing master was lowered into the sea after a hasty funeral service, and all hands were put to work repairing the ship.

Within hours he was again in pursuit, and at dusk approached the ship, sailing behind the others. Rathbun knew if he could capture her, the others would be easy prey.

The two warships squared off again and exchanged broadsides. One of the *Providence's* shots splintered the Britisher's flagstaff and a lusty cheer broke from the Americans when they saw the flag falling, thinking the British captain had surrendered. But the Union Jack was quickly rehoisted and the bat-

tle resumed. The captains of the brig and the armed schooner again returned to help their comrades and Rathbun, outnumbered, gave up. He set off, instead, after the unarmed British schooner, whose captain had apparently decided to stay and watch the fight. That decision cost him his ship, for the other English captains hastened away, leaving him to his fate.

The Americans boarded without opposition, and found her to be carrying a cargo of horses and carriages. Rathbun put a detachment aboard and sent her to Bedford, Mass. He learned from his prisoners that the armed ship he had battled was the 16-gun *Mary*.

Rathbun decided to have another go, and set off to the south, hoping to have the *Mary* in sight by morning. Dawn revealed only one sail, however, and it turned out to be a British privateer.

Rathbun prepared for battle, but the privateer captain decided the Ameri-

cans looked too dangerous and he decided to run. Rathbun gave chase, but the privateer proved faster than the *Providence*.

Still looking for action, Rathbun headed south, and a few days later spotted a sizable ship, with all sails set, but apparently drifting with the wind. He approached, and saw no signs of life aboard.

Rathbun dispatched his marine lieutenant, John Trevett, and a squad of marines to board the strange vessel. Trevett expressed some reluctance, and Rathbun consoled him with the promise: "If they kill you, I won't spare one of them."

John Peck Rathbun obviously had a sense of humor.

Lieutenant Trevett found that the ship was French and had been abandoned by her crew, leaving a cargo of liquors and wines, bread, hardware and fancy silk clothing. Rathbun had the cargo transferred to the *Providence* and then set the derelict vessel afire. He decided that the ship had run aground off Cape Hatteras and had floated free after her captain and crew went ashore.

Rathbun then turned back to the north, still hoping to run across some English shipping. Under the custom of that day, he and his crew shared in the profits of any "prize" they captured.

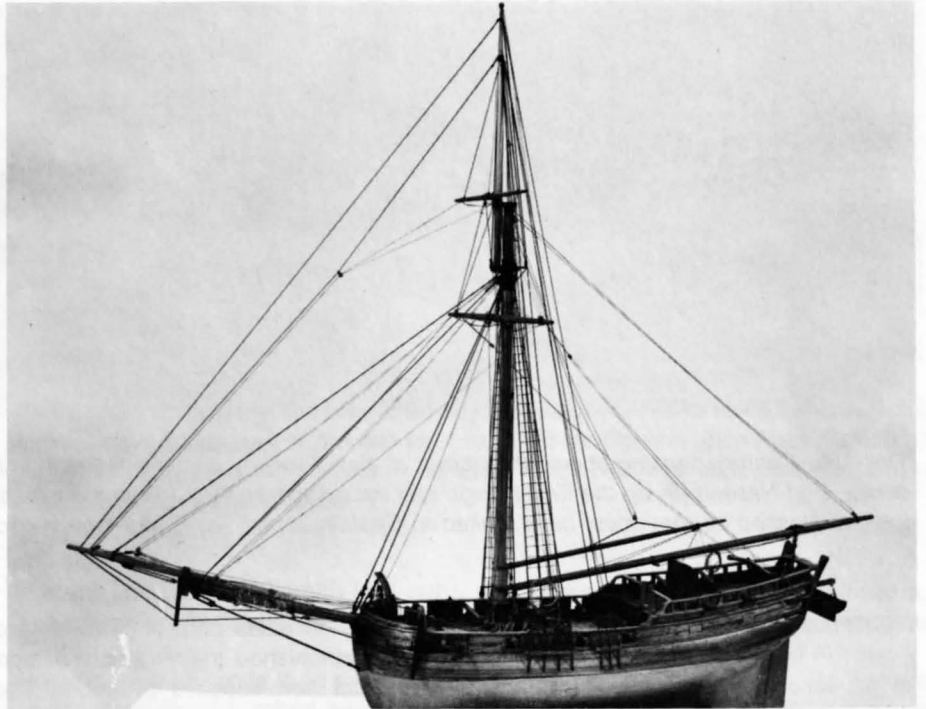
His bad luck continued. After capturing only a little fishing barge with a two-man crew and finding his provisions running low, Rathbun decided to put into New Bedford, Mass., where he arrived in late September.

Rathbun learned that the war was not going well for the Americans. Colonial forces had been defeated in the Battles of Bennington and Brandywine, and the British had taken Philadelphia.

Ordered to return to sea "with all dispatch," Rathbun set carpenters and shipwrights to work repairing his damaged sloop, and made a short visit to his wife in Rhode Island.

By November, the *Providence* was ready for another cruise, and Rathbun set sail on November 15. He ran into a gale off Block Island and heavy winds split the sloop's bowsprit. Undaunted, he made repairs and headed south, looking for action.

He found it off Charlestown, S.C., where he encountered a 10-gun British privateer. The English captain drew



This model of the sloop Providence emphasizes her single tall mast and long jib boom extending from the bow. Captain John Peck Rathbun's cabin was in the sloop's stern, under the raised quarterdeck. (Mariners Museum, Newport News, Va.)

abreast the *Providence* and shouted, "Haul down the colors, you damned Yankee beggars." Without waiting for a reply, he fired a broadside, causing some damage and at least one injury. Rathbun quietly ordered his boatswain to call all hands to battle stations, but without using the traditional whistle, not wanting the privateer captain to realize he had met an armed warship.

The English captain swung about, delighted to have found such easy prey, and prepared to board the *Providence*. By this time, the Americans were ready and at their stations. The sloop's cannons roared, and the astounded Britisher dropped all ideas of fighting, and fled to the east.

Rathbun gave chase, and pulled within gunshot. Two crack marksmen used their muskets to pick off the enemy captain, who fell from the upper deck onto the helmsman. The ship swung out of control, and Rathbun's marines swarmed aboard without firing a shot. They found that the *Providence's* cannons had killed three men, injured several others, and devastated the ship's rigging.

Keeping a detachment on board,

Rathbun took the *Providence* and his prize into Winyah Bay and up to Georgetown. He took his prisoners by land to Charlestown.

The next day, in a Charlestown coffeehouse with Lieutenant Trevett, he met a merchant captain who gave him interesting news.

The ship *Mary* was undergoing repairs at Nassau after running onto a reef. This was the ship whose guns had killed Rathbun's sailing master a few months earlier, and he wanted revenge.

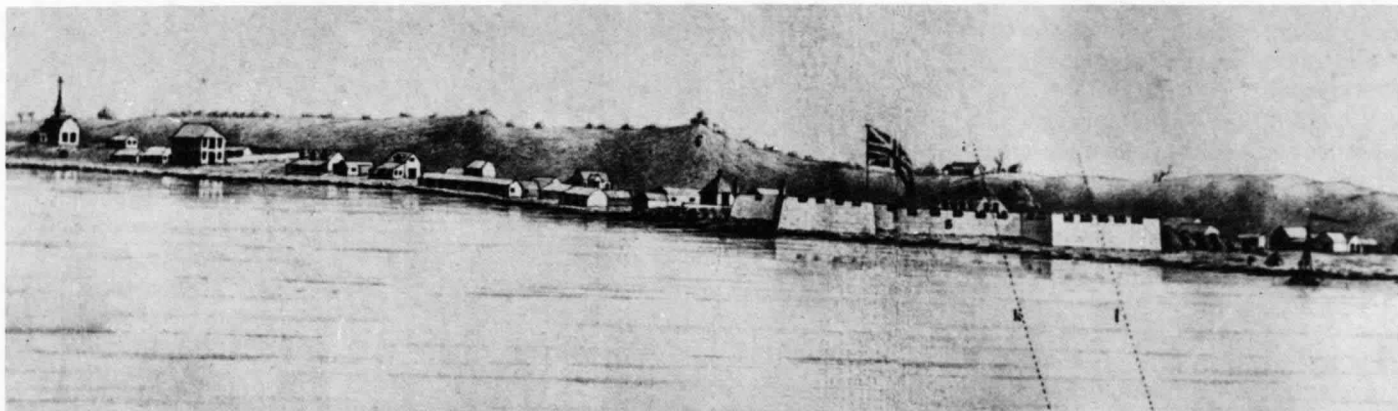
Rathbun broached a plan to Trevett. They would sail for the Bahamas, send marines ashore at night, capture Fort Nassau, and turn the fort's guns on the town and harbor to capture any British ships at anchor there.

Trevett was not enthused and asked Rathbun's permission to transfer to another American ship. Rathbun refused. Trevett had taken part in Commodore Hopkins' 1775 Nassau attack, and knew the island well. Rathbun wanted him to lead the Marines' attack on the fort.

After repairing and re-supplying the *Providence*, Rathbun set off to sea again

(continued on page 6)

John Peck Rathbun



This 18th Century painting shows the harbor at New Providence; Fort Nassau (flying the British flag), and the adjacent town of Nassau as they must have looked to Captain John

Peck Rathbun and his men in 1778. Fort Nassau was taken by Rathbun's marines, who turned its cannons on the town. Fort Montagu, also captured, is several miles to the left.

(continued from page 5)

in mid-January 1778, headed for one of the most amazing exploits in American naval history.

Rathbun's expedition nearly met with disaster on his first day at sea. A lookout spotted three vessels approaching, and he quickly determined that they constituted a small British squadron for which the *Providence* was no match. He ordered all sails set, and tried to outrun his foes. The flagship of the squadron, a heavily gunned ship, proved too fast and gradually gained on the Americans.

As dusk settled, Rathbun decided to gamble. Extra lumber, water, rations and other expendable items were thrown overboard to lighten the sloop and increase her speed.

Thus lightened, the *Providence* gained a little as the sun set and darkness fell. Rathbun then made a sharp turn off course, lowered all sails and ordered all lights extinguished. He probably also uttered a prayer of thankfulness that his sloop's hull was black.

The Americans waited in silence, hoping the English captain would remain on the same course. The trick worked. At midnight, Rathbun and his men saw the light-colored hull of the British ship appear. They breathed a collective sigh of relief as the English vessel stormed past at full speed and disappeared in the darkness.

Rathbun ordered sails hoisted and set off on a new course. At daybreak, there was no sign of the English warship.

The Americans then headed for

Abaco, 40 miles from Nassau, where they replenished their water and food and cut new supplies of timber. The sloop's carpenter and his mates built scaling ladders Rathbun knew he would need to get his marines over the walls and into Fort Nassau.

On the night of January 27, the *Providence* arrived off New Providence Island, site of Fort Nassau. Lieutenant Trevett and 27 marines were rowed ashore in the ship's barge and headed for the fort.

Rathbun took the *Providence* out to sea, having told Trevett to raise the stars and stripes over the fort in the morning if their plan succeeded.

It did succeed. Trevett and his men easily surprised and overpowered the few guards in the fort, turned the cannons toward the adjacent town and harbor, and at daybreak hoisted the American flag over the fort.

It was the first time that the newly designed stars and stripes had flown over captured foreign territory.

Trevett also found reinforcements. Four Yankee merchant captains and 20 seaman, stranded on the island and seeking a way home, volunteered to join the Americans.

With the fort's cannons aimed at them, the officials and militiamen of Nassau decided not to resist the invaders.

The *Mary* and five other ships in the harbor quickly surrendered. They were caught between the *Providence* and the fort's cannons.

Rathbun and Trevett carried out a well-rehearsed plan to make the inhabi-

tants think the fort was held by a large force. The 27 marines were all kept on the walls, and when it was time to "change guard," they simply changed their locations.

The Americans spent two days loading powder and other valuable items into the holds of the *Providence*, the *Mary* and one of the other ships which Rathbun had decided to take with him. He gave another vessel to the American volunteers. The other three were set afire.

Before leaving, Rathbun ordered the guns spiked at Fort Nassau and at Fort Montagu, a smaller fort a few miles distant, which his marines had also captured.

On January 30, the *Providence* and her two prizes set sail to the northward.

Rathbun, with one little sloop and a crew of 70 men, had seized two forts, captured the seat of British Administration in the Bahamas, taken three ships, sunk three others, and confiscated sizable amounts of small arms, gunpowder and other needed supplies. He had done all this under the very noses of British soldiers and militia who outnumbered his little force by at least ten to one.

It was a rough trip back to New England. During the rigorous 18-day journey, marked by heavy gales and severe cold, the three ships were separated.

In mid-February, the *Providence* and the *Mary* met off Nantucket, and proceeded together into Martha's Vineyard.

Rathbun's feat in capturing and holding a British stronghold for three days

was reported in detail by newspapers throughout America. The story was eagerly read by patriots who had grown tired of hearing only news of colonial defeats and retreats.

But the successful cruise ended in disaster.

Trevett, who Rathbun had placed in charge of settling accounts, became embroiled in a bitter fight with Navy officials over the status of the *Mary's* cargo. Since her captain held an English navy commission, she was ruled a warship, rather than a merchant ship, meaning a much smaller "bonus" for her captors. Trevett went to Yorktown, Pa., where the Continental Congress was then meeting, to plead his case.

Before the matter was solved, the *Mary* was burned at her berth in New Bedford by a British invasion fleet. Rathbun's other prize ship, he learned, had foundered during the storms at sea and had turned back to the West Indies. The

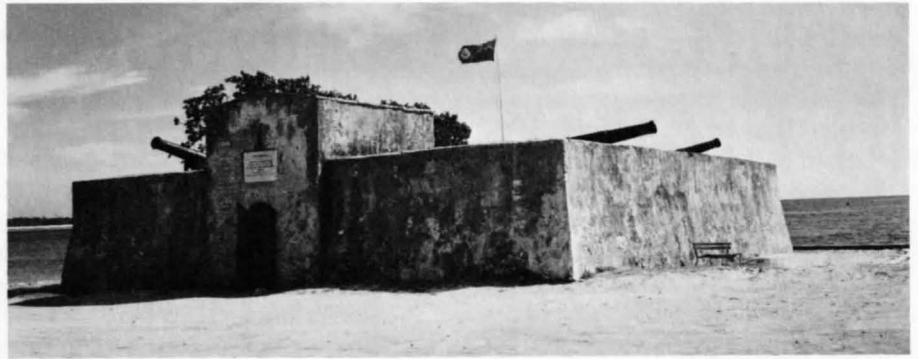
Information on John Peck Rathbun's cruises as captain of the sloop *Providence* comes primarily from the journal of his marine lieutenant, John Trevett.

Unfortunately, Rathbun and Trevett had a falling out in the controversy over the captured British ship *Mary*. Rathbun was willing to accept the Navy's contention that she was a warship, meaning that a smaller percentage of her sale profits would be awarded as prize money to her captors.

Trevett refused to accept the Navy decision, and appealed directly to the Continental Congress without Rathbun's permission.

The resulting bitterness shows up in Trevett's journal, which mentions Rathbun only in passing and plays down Rathbun's role in the Nassau expedition.

An excellent account of Rathbun's service as captain of the *Providence* is given in Hope S. Rider's *Valour Fore & Aft*, published in 1977. Mrs. Rider credits Rathbun with "one of the most dashing and distinguished careers of the Revolutionary Navy."



This photograph shows Fort Montagu on New Providence Island in the Bahamas as it looks today. It was one of the two forts captured by Captain John Peck Rathbun's marines during his daring attack in January 1778. The main fort, at Nassau, was demolished early in the 1800s.

officers and sailors Rathbun had put aboard served the rest of the war in an English prison.

Rathbun, meanwhile, had the *Providence* refitted and supplied, and in late June or early July set off on a new cruise.

On August 7, in the North Atlantic, he sighted a squadron of transports bringing British troops to America. He picked out one of the ships and engaged in a fierce battle, which ended in a draw. Rathbun took the *Providence* to an isolated inlet on Nova Scotia, where he made emergency repairs and treated his wounded. He also sent several men as spies into nearby towns, where they learned that the squadron had landed 5,000 British troops at Halifax.

He immediately sailed for Boston, capturing one small Scottish merchant ship on the way. He reported the news of the British reinforcements to military officials, visited Polly in Rhode Island, and began plans for another cruise.

Navy recruiting was becoming difficult at this time, since most seamen avoided Navy service to sail on privateers, where they could make more money. Rathbun's record of success, however, made it easier for him. Sailors were more willing to sign on with captains with reputations as "prize takers."

On Nov. 14, 1778, in company with another ship, Rathbun took the *Providence* to sea for his third cruise as her captain.

On Dec. 4, they captured a schooner carrying flour from Quebec to New York, and sent her back to Boston with a prize crew.

Three weeks later, in a violent storm, the two American ships were separated and Rathbun proceeded on alone.

On Christmas Day, the *Providence* captured a brig carrying large supplies of rum and sugar enroute to Glasgow. The next day, Rathbun and his men took an even larger brig with a valuable cargo of rum, sugar, copper, lumber and hides. Rathbun sent both ships back to the mainland and continued his cruise.

A few days later, his lookout spotted a large, heavily gunned ship. Rathbun was down to 59 men, but he sounded the call to battle stations and prepared to fight. To his amazement, the British captain struck his colors and surrendered without firing a shot.

"He was so civil as to give up the ship without waste of powder," Rathbun later reported.

The *Providence* continued her cruise, and a few days later Rathbun captured another English brig, carrying oats from Ireland to New York.

After putting a small crew on board his latest prize, Rathbun had barely enough men to man his own sloop. In addition, the *Providence* was leaking badly and running dangerously low on supplies.

Rathbun reluctantly sailed back to Boston. Prize hunting had never been better, but his ship and crew had reached the limit of their endurance.

Navy officials were jubilant at Rathbun's success, and urged him to prepare for another cruise as soon as possible. Word of his latest exploits spread throughout New England, and he was again hailed as a hero.

(To be continued)

Fourteen Rathbuns Fought In French and Indian War

This is the first in a series of articles on the role of our family in America's wars. This story covers the French and Indian War of 1754-1763. From muster rolls and other sources we have identified 14 Rathbuns (the Rathbone and Rathburn spellings were not used that early in America) in that conflict, including five who died. There were undoubtedly others whose records have been lost. Future issues will feature our family's more documented participation in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War.

The French and Indian War (1754-1763) evolved from the rivalry between England and France for control of North America and was part of what was called the Seven Year War in Europe.

English settlements were scattered along the Eastern Seaboard, from Maine to Florida, bounded on the west by the Appalachian Mountain chain. The French had fur-trading posts in Canada, along the St. Lawrence River, in the Great Lakes region, and along the Mississippi all the way to New Orleans. They also claimed the valuable fishing areas off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, where New England fisherman were active.

Vastly outnumbered by English settlers, the French enlisted the aid of Indian tribes throughout the wilderness areas of New York, western New England, Ohio, Virginia and southern Canada. Only the Mohawks of New York fought on the side of the English and colonists.

Some of the war's bloodiest fighting came at the battle of Lake George, south of Lake Champlain, in upper New York, on Sept. 8, 1755. Major General William Johnson, commanding an army of some 2,200 British and colonial troops and 300 Mohawk Indians, marched from Fort Edward on the Hudson River to build a military road to Lake George.

When his scouts reported a large

force of French and Indians moving toward them from the north, General Johnson decided to send nearly half his troops to meet the enemy. As they passed through a deep ravine, Johnson's men suddenly found they had walked into a trap. Attacked from three sides, the Mohawk Indians panicked and fled. The colonial troops fought briefly, but were forced to retreat with heavy casualties. Among the 260 dead was Jacob Rathbun.

The French and Indians then advanced on the main English force, but were driven back with heavy losses from the English cannon. General Johnson was wounded early in the fight, and command passed to General Phineas Lyman of Connecticut, under whom several Rathbuns served. By the end of the day's fighting, the French were driven back toward Canada.

General Johnson recovered from his

WAR!

wounds and decided to strengthen his position by building a fort at the southern tip of Lake George. He called it Fort William Henry in honor of a brother of King George.

The French responded by building Fort Carillon at Ticonderoga on the northern end of the lake.

In the summer of 1757, after months of skirmishing, the French decided to attack Fort William Henry in force. General Montcalm, with an army of 6,000 French troops and 2,000 Indians, laid siege to the fort early in August. The fort's commander, Lt. Col. Munro, surrendered on Aug. 9, 1757, to Montcalm, who promised safe conduct for the English to their nearest base, at Fort Edward.

The Indian allies of the French, how-

ever, refused to abide by these terms and began a general massacre of the English and colonial troops and the settlers who had sought refuge in the fort. Hundreds were killed, and others abused and made prisoners.

Word of the siege had been sent east, and militia was organized to march to the relief of the fort. Among those who marched were three brothers — Amos, Daniel and Job Rathbun of Stonington, Conn. They arrived too late to help the fort's defenders.

In 1758, the British launched an all-out effort to defeat the French forces in America. Thousands of seasoned troops were sent to the colonies. By June 1758, an army of 6,000 British regulars and 10,000 colonial militia was gathered at Fort William Henry, under General James Abercrombie.

They attacked the French on July 8 at Fort Ticonderoga, but lost nearly 2,000 men, killed and wounded, in a day-long frontal attack. Abercrombie made a humiliating retreat. Among the survivors of his shattered army was Edmund Rathbun.

Years later, Edmund described the 1758 retreat, and told of two wounded soldiers who begged him and his companions to carry them to safety. Edmund and another soldier carried one of the victims beyond the range of the French guns and returned for the other "in a hail of bullets." While carrying him away, the wounded man was struck by a musket ball and died in their arms.

The following year, a combined English-American force invaded Canada and attacked Quebec, capital of the French Empire in America. Edmund Rathbun was again among the attackers. Quebec surrendered on Sept. 13, 1759, and with the surrender of Montreal a year later, the war was technically over.

British troops and American militiamen remained on duty, however, until the Treaty of Paris in 1763 brought a formal end to hostilities, and confirmed British rule over all of North America east of the Mississippi.

Following is a list of the 14 Rathbuns known to have taken part in the French and Indian War:

AMOS RATHBUN (1738-1817) of Stonington, Conn., son of Joshua³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and Mary Wightman. He was a private for varying periods in Captain Cone's Company, Col. Jonathan Trumbull's Regiment; Captain John Baldwin's Company, Col. Christopher Avery's Regiment; and Captain George Holmes' Company.

DANIEL RATHBUN (1743-1760) of Colchester, Conn., son of Benjamin³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹) and Mary Cahoon. He enlisted on March 26, 1760, a few weeks before his 17th birthday, in Lt. Col. Joseph Spencer's Company, Col. Nathan Whiting's Second Regiment. He died seven months later, on Oct. 27, 1760, reportedly at Fort Stanwix.

DANIEL RATHBUN (1731-1823) of Stonington, Conn., son of Joshua³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and Mary Wightman. He served in a company commanded by his brother-in-law, Captain Uriah Stephens, in Col. Ebenezer Marsh's Regiment.

EDMUND RATHBUN (1737-1801) of Exeter, R.I., son of John³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and Patience Fish. He fought at the Battle of Ticonderoga in 1758 and at the siege of Quebec in 1759.

ISAIAH RATHBUN (1723-1783) of Colchester, Conn., son of Jonathan³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and Elizabeth Rathbun. He enlisted on April 12, 1756, in Col. William Whiting's Company and

served until Dec. 3, 1756. He enlisted again in 1761 in Captain Giles Westcott's Company under General Phineas Lyman.

JACOB RATHBUN (1732-1755) of Preston, Conn., son of Joshua³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and Mary Wightman. He enlisted on April 10, 1755, as a drummer in Major Robert Dennison's Company and was killed five months later on Sept. 8, 1755, in the Battle of Lake George.

JOB RATHBUN (1736-1821) of Stonington, Conn., son of Joshua³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and Mary Wightman. He served in 1757 in Lt. Col. David Whiting's Company.

JOHN RATHBUN (1720-1786) of Exeter, R.I., son of John³ Rathbun (William² John¹) and Margaret Rathbun. He was a captain in the Exeter militia in 1753 and was called captain at his death. It is likely that his company saw some action.

JOHN RATHBUN (1730-1816) of Exeter, R.I., son of John³ Rathbun (Thomas² John¹) and **Anna (Hopkins) Albro**. He was an ensign in the Exeter militia in 1755 and most likely saw active service in the war. See Corrections 03-2 p 31

JOSEPH RATHBUN (1735-1822?) of Exeter, R.I., son of Joseph³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹) and Abigail (Wilbur) Hilliard. He was a lieutenant in the Exeter militia in 1760 and a captain by 1767. He likely saw action.

OLIVER RATHBUN (1734-1759) of Exeter, R.I., son of Thomas³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) and Charity Perkins. His name

appears on a muster roll in April 1759, in the company of Captain Isaac Barr in Suffolk County, N.Y. He was described as five-feet, seven-inches tall with light eyes. He died in service later that year, for his will was probated at Exeter in September. Three months later, his family received his "shoes, shirt, jacket, britches, stockings, drawers and knapsack" and a substantial amount of cash.

SIMEON RATHBUN (1732-1761?) of Exeter, R.I., son of John³ Rathbun (Thomas² John¹) and Experience Mott. He was apparently in the regular army and died in the final months of the war. In 1765, "having been absent three years," he was declared legally dead and his estate was probated. His assets included \$558.10 "due from the government" — apparently his back pay.

THOMAS RATHBUN (1734-1762?) of Exeter, R.I., son of Samuel³ Rathbun (Thomas² John¹) and Abigail Eldred. He was a mariner by the late 1750s and was dead by 1762, possibly lost at sea. He may have served on a privateer and saw action against French ships.

WILLIAM RATHBUN (1742-1804) of Lyme, Conn., son of Daniel⁴ Rathbun (William³⁻² John¹) and Thankful Higgins. He had an extensive record during the war, beginning in 1759 when he enlisted in Captain Zebulon Butler's Company under Col. Eleazor Fitch. He was with this company when it joined General Phineas Lyman's Regiment in 1761, and in 1762, when he was promoted to sergeant.

English and American troops storming the city of Quebec in 1759. At least one Rathbun was among the attacking troops. This drawing appeared in The London Magazine in 1760.



Genealogy: The Fifth Generation in America

With this issue, we begin the fifth generation of our family in America. Continuing the pattern of past issues, we are following male lines only, beginning with the oldest son of the oldest son as number one in his generation. Information on daughters and their families is available in many cases for those interested.

1. AMOS⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born March 5, 1738, in Colchester, Conn., and married there Feb. 12, 1758, Humility Randall, born about 1739, the daughter of Ichabod and Humility (Green) Randall. They moved with his mother shortly after their marriage to Horton Landing, Nova Scotia, where he had a farm of 450 acres. Local tradition relates that Amos was an expert millwright and went to Nova Scotia in response to an appeal from the inhabitants, who needed help in building a grist mill to grind their grain. Humility died at Horton Landing in 1808, and Amos died there in 1816.

CHILDREN

JOHN, born Dec. 9, 1758; apparently died young.

AMOS, born July 9, 1761; married Mary Faulkner.

ANNA, born Jan. 1, 1764; married William Allison Dec. 12, 1782.

ROSWELL, born Jan. 20, 1767; married Charity Reed.

ARUNAH, born April 15, 1770; married Elizabeth Crane.

LAVINA, born March 5, 1773; married Silas Crane Aug. 28, 1796.

CHARLES, born Oct. 7, 1775; married Sarah Allison.

DANIEL, born Feb. 21, 1781; married Sarah Inglis.

JAMES, born Oct. 16, 1783; married Nancy Day. No children.

2. ABEL⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 17, 1746, at Colchester, Conn., and moved with his mother to Nova Scotia in 1758. He returned about 1762 to Colchester, where he married, January 21, 1772, Anna Gates, born May 6, 1755, the daughter of Thomas and Ruth (Randall) Gates. He died at Colchester May 27, 1804, and Anna died there June 26, 1813.

CHILDREN

NANCY, born Aug. 25, 1774; married Nathan Beebe.

ABEL, born June 6, 1776; married Alice Brown.

LABAN, born June 6, 1776 (twin); died young.

ASA, born June 22, 1779; married (1) Lucy Brown; (2) Lydia Harris.

SALINDA, born May 11, 1782; married Nathan Brainerd Jan. 13, 1806.

LODAMA, born Sept. 2, 1784; married Eliakim Corbin Jan. 6, 1805.

RUTH, born Dec. 13, 1786; married Laban Randall Nov. 5, 1817.

ANSEL, born Nov. 23, 1788; married Lodice Roth.

RUBY WELLS, born Feb. 27, 1794; married Aaron Morgan May 10, 1821.

3. JOSHUA⁵ RATHBUN (Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born May 7, 1751, at Colchester, Conn., and married there about 1776 Eunice Martin, born Dec. 26, 1756, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Coy) Martin. He died at Colchester Jan. 3, 1810. His wife survived him but her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

ANDERSON, born about 1777; married (1) Hannah _____; (2) _____

HORACE, born about 1779; apparently died young.

EUNICE, born March 15, 1781; married Amasa Hill in 1798.

MARY, born about 1783; apparently died young.

SARAH, born about 1785; apparently died young.

MARTIN, born Oct. 16, 1787; married (1) Betsey Brown; (2) Eliza Benjamin.

LUCY, born about 1791; married _____ Fitch.

PENELOPE, born Feb. 12, 1793; married Samuel McChesney about 1810.

BATHSHEBA, born about 1795; married Zenas Bunnell.

See Corrections 03-3 p 45

4. MOSES⁵ RATHBONE (Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Nov. 12, 1754, at Colchester, Conn., and married there Nov. 5, 1776, Olive Ransom, born June 20, 1758, the daughter of James and Betsey (Loomis) Ransom. Moses served in the Revolutionary Army and was a pensioner when he died April 28, 1823, probably at Norwich, New York, where they moved by 1820. Olive died Aug. 28, 1847, at Greene, New York.

CHILDREN

AMASA, born Feb. 17, 1778; married Lucy Newton Jones.

RANSOM, born April 10, 1780; married Catherine Fisher.

ISRAEL, born April 1, 1783; married Lucy (Anderson) Ganson.

ELIZABETH, born Aug. 29, 1786; married John Tunnecliff.

JOHN, born March 22, 1788; married Elizabeth Fisher.

ELIJAH, born April 24, 1792; married Elizabeth Betts.

ELIAS, born April 24, 1792 (twin); died in February, 1793.

5. SAMUEL⁵ RATHBONE (Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born September 12, 1758, at Colchester, Conn., and married March 1, 1785, at Ashford, Conn., Lydia Sparhawk, born April 20, 1765, daughter of Simeon and Lydia (Brown) Sparhawk. They were married by his cousin, the Rev. John⁴ Rathbone (Joshua³ John²⁻¹). They moved from Colchester to Montville, Conn., by 1800, but returned by 1820 to Colchester, then known as Salem. Lydia died there July 13, 1825, and he married on Oct. 9, 1828, Ruth Stark. Samuel died Feb. 16, 1831, at Salem, and is buried beside his first wife at the Rathbun Hill Cemetery there. His second wife married July 18, 1831, Joshua Stock, at Salem.

CHILDREN

(All by Lydia)

SAMUEL, born Aug. 8, 1786; died Oct. 9, 1787.

VALENTINE WIGHTMAN, born Sept. 13, 1788; married Nancy Forsythe.

JARED LEWIS, born Oct. 2, 1791; married Pauline Noyes Penney.

LYDIA, born March 24, 1794; married William Reed.

SAMUEL, born Nov. 6, 1796; died unmarried Oct. 17, 1818.

SABRIA LEWIS, born July 3, 1799; married Clark Ransom Feb. 10, 1818.

ANNA, born Nov. 6, 1803; married David Jewett March 26, 1828.

JOEL, born Aug. 3, 1806; married Emeline Weld Nunn.

6. ASHLEY⁵ RATHBUN (Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 4, 1763, at Colchester, Conn. He served in the Revolutionary Army in the closing months of the war. Cooley lists his wife's name as Sarah, but he was possibly the Rathbun who married about 1789 Zerviah Underwood, born May 9, 1767, daughter of Elias and Ann (Crouch) Underwood. They moved shortly after their marriage to Madison County, N.Y., where he died, about 1805 according to Cooley. She died March 11, 1813.

CHILDREN

TRUMAN, born June 22, 1790; married Huldah Lewis.

ISAIAH, born July 4, 1792; married Eleanor Frances Crownhart.

ASHLEY, born about 1798; married Almira Service.

? DAUGHTER, name unknown; born about 1800; married (?) Hugh Cagwin.

HENRY, born Nov. 25, 1802; married Elvira Deyo.

? ELIZA ANN, born about 1804; married (?) Jacob Melius in 1828.

PROBABLY OTHERS.

7. JONATHAN⁵ RATHBUN (Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 6, 1765, at Colchester, Conn., and married there Nov. 23, 1789, Hannah Adams, born Feb. 11, 1771, daughter of William and Lydia (Brown) Adams. Jonathan served in the Revolutionary Army and in 1840 published an account of his service. He died at Colchester (then called Salem) Feb. 10, 1843. His wife died Feb. 18, 1856, at Montville, Conn.

CHILDREN

JONATHAN, born March 10, 1791; married Maria Smith.

ADAMS, born July 11, 1792; married (1) Phoebe Babcock; (2) Henrietta Payne.

CHRISTOPHER, born Aug. 2, 1794; married Lydia Brown.

DEMING LAMPHERE, born July 2, 1796; married (1) Julia Putnam; (2) Catherine Putnam.

HIRAM G., born April 15, 1798; married Tirzah Harrison.

WILLIAM ADAMS, born Aug. 30, 1800; married Evaline Chapin.

HANNAH, born Oct. 5, 1802; married Joshua B. Comstock April 28, 1822.

ELIZABETH, born July 9, 1805; married Lyman Coon on May 17, 1836.

8. JOHN⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴⁻³⁻²⁻¹), born June 13, 1750, at Exeter, R.I., and married there Oct. 10, 1776, Sarah Casey, born Nov. 7, 1755, daughter of John and Mercy Casey. He died at Exeter Sept. 30, 1810; she died there May 12, 1813.

CHILDREN

OLIVE, born May 20, 1777; died in 1779.

JOHN, born Feb. 15, 1779; married (1) Anna⁵ Rathbun (Joshua⁵ Nathaniel⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹); (2) Thankful Blivin.

OLIVE, born April 7, 1780; married Joseph Sheffield⁵ Rathbun (Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

ABEL, born June 25, 1782; married (1) Dorcas Lewis; (2) Susan Stanton, and (3) Catharine James.

CHARITY, born March 10, 1785; married Tillinghast Gorton.

SARAH, born April 11, 1787; married Stephen Place on May 28, 1809.

RUTH, born March 3, 1789; married John Staunton on March 1, 1812.

NABBIE, born Aug. 16, 1794; married Abraham Place.

PHOEBE, born June 15, 1797; married Jeremiah Phillips Feb. 23, 1823.

9. DANIEL⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴⁻³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1760 at Exeter, R.I., and married there by 1790 Elsie Nichols, born about 1770, daughter of Joseph Nichols and Anna⁴ Rathbun (John³⁻²⁻¹). Daniel moved to Plainfield, Conn., where his wife died Jan. 6, 1810. His death date is not known. Cooley did not cover this family, and little is known about them.

CHILDREN

SON, name unknown, born by 1790; no further information.

STEPHEN, born about 1792; married

DAUGHTER, name unknown, born in 1790s; no further information.

SON, name unknown, born probably in the early 1800s; died Aug. 27, 1810.

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

10. ROWLAND⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴⁻³⁻²⁻¹), born Sept. 10, 1765, at Exeter, R.I., and married there May 11, 1794, Freelove Brown, born March 4, 1763, daughter of Zephaniah and Alice (Wilson) Brown. Rowland died at Exeter Jan. 31, 1826, and Freelove died there Sept. 29, 1850.

CHILDREN

PHOEBE BROWN, born March 16, 1795; married Leonard Barber Nov. 11, 1816.

SARAH BROWN, born March 29, 1797; married Edward Barber April 9, 1844.

11. JONATHAN⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴⁻³⁻²⁻¹), born April 7, 1770, at Exeter, R.I., and married there May 10, 1793, Judith⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 25, 1775. She died Sept. 10, 1800, at Exeter, possibly in childbirth, and he married on Jan. 27, 1803, Charity Wilcox, born July 20, 1776, the daughter of Isaac and Rebecca (Barber) Wilcox. Jonathan died July 25, 1850, at Exeter, and Charity died Dec. 23, 1858, also at Exeter.

CHILDREN

(By Judith)

JONATHAN, born Aug. 21, 1793; married Alice Crandall.

NEWMAN, born April 6, 1795; married Betsey⁶ Rathbun (Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

AMOS, born July 6, 1797; married Sally Crandall.

INFANT, born about 1800; probably died at birth.

(By Charity)

CHARITY, born Aug. 28, 1804; married Erastus Gallup.

ISAAC WILCOX, born Aug. 10, 1812; died in infancy.

12. THOMAS⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴⁻³⁻²⁻¹), born Dec. 26, 1786, at Exeter, R.I., and married, probably there, on Sept. 17, 1821, Hannah Lillibridge, born June 10, 1791, daughter of John and Lydia (Hiames) Lillibridge. Thomas died May 6, 1866, at Exeter, and Hannah died Jan. 26, 1880, at Providence, R.I.

CHILDREN

DENNISON, born Oct. 22, 1822; died June 9, 1858, unmarried.

THOMAS, born Dec. 10, 1824; died Feb. 18, 1850, unmarried.

PHOEBE, born Nov. 24, 1827; married Charles Geer August 8, 1850.

LARKIN W., born July 3, 1832; married Mary E. (Potter) Larkin.

13. EDMUND⁵ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1758, at Exeter, R.I., and moved as a young man to western Massachusetts. He served in the Revolutionary War and later received a pension for his service. He married, at Beckett, Mass., on Dec. 19, 1782, Anna Carpenter, born Jan. 8, 1756, daughter of Elisha and Deliverance (Mirsigh) Carpenter. They lived for a few years at Tyringham, Mass., and moved about 1798 to Avon, Ontario County, N.Y., where Anna died about 1800. He moved about 1803 to Ohio, where he married Oct. 20, 1815, at Willoughby, in Lake County, Margaret (Breakle) Warren, a widow, born about 1781. They lived in Newburg, Cayahoga County, where Edmund died Dec. 20, 1848, aged about 90. His second wife died sometime after 1855.

CHILDREN

(By Anna)

ZEBULON, born May 19, 1784; married (1) Eunice Babb; (2) Amy

JONATHAN, born Aug. 14, 1787; married Sabra Steward.

?MAMIE, born about 1790; married Alanson Brown, Nov. 19, 1824.

EDMUND, born Aug. 16, 1794; married Julia Hamilton.

GEORGE S., born about 1796; married (1) Harriet Warren; (2) Nancy Hendershot.

OTHERS, names unknown.

(By Margaret)

?SARAH, born about 1816; married (?) Laban Treat.

ANN, born about 1818; married (1) Robert Marshall; (2) Robert Fleury.

NELSON, born about 1820; married (1) Lydia Jane Dilts; (2) Eliza Beakell; (3) Harriet Badger, and (4) Mary A.

14. CLARK⁵ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1760 at Exeter, R.I., and married there about 1781 Abigail Tillinghast, born May 16, 1763, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Thomas) Tillinghast. They lived for some years at West Greenwich, R.I., then moved about 1796 to Brownsdale, Butler County, Pa. They moved about 1808 to Clark County, Ohio, where he died March 2, 1815. Abigail died there March 2, 1826.

CHILDREN

THOMAS, born Sept. 3, 1782; married (1) Elizabeth Cochrane; (2) Azuba (Bardwell) Laird.

RUTH, born August, 1784; married Robert Brown Oct. 23, 1800.

ANNIE, born Aug. 13, 1786; married Thomas Leonard on June 24, 1806.

JOHN HAZARD, born in 1788, died in infancy.

JOHN TILLINGHAST, born Aug. 18, 1790; married (1) Lydia Brown; (2) Elizabeth (Hayden) Downing.

AMOS, born about 1792; drowned May 22, 1824, in the Scioto River. He served in the War of 1812, and apparently never married.

CLARK, born about 1794; killed by a falling tree May 24, 1813.

JOSEPH SHARP, born Feb. 20, 1797; married (1) Mary Davis; (2) Rebecca Pearl.

MARY, born June 8, 1799; died in 1814 during a "Cold Plague."

STEVEN ALLEN, born June 8, 1799; married Mary (Van Zant) Bing.

ABIGAIL, born May 16, 1802; married John Hunt.

ELIZABETH, born June 10, 1804; married Amon Jenkins on May 22, 1822.

15. JONATHAN⁵ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1762 at Exeter, R.I., and moved with his parents about 1775 to Tyringham, Mass. He married at Beckett, Mass., in October, 1786, Elizabeth Clark, born Oct. 30, 1770, parentage unknown. They lived in Tyringham for some years, then moved by 1810 to Avon, Ontario County, New York, where his brother Edmund was already living. Jonathan had financial problems and in February, 1820, most of his property was sold at auction to pay a \$2,000 debt. He sold his remaining 50 acres on Dec. 20, 1820, and moved to Sandusky County, Ohio, where he built a log cabin home in Green Creek Township, a quarter mile west of the village of Clyde. He was elected fence viewer at the first township election in April, 1822, and was on the town's first jury list. He died in the fall of 1824, when, according to family tradition, he became overheated while working in the fields. His widow returned to New York state with her younger children and died there in 1845.

CHILDREN

JONATHAN, born about 1787; married Mary Higbee.

CLARK, born Oct. 8, 1789; married (1) Maria Woodruff; (2) Nancy Barlow.

LAURA, born about 1791; married John Davidson.

CHAPLIN, born July 4, 1793; married Lucinda Sutliff.

SARAH, born May 1, 1796; married Roswell P. Merrill Jan. 4, 1813.

ELIZA, born April 29, 1798; married Amon Milliman Jan. 24, 1824.

LUCIUS, born April 11, 1800; married (1) Rhoda Gillette; (2) Sarah Glick.

MARVEL, born about 1802; married Lyman Jones about 1819.

ANNA, born about 1804; married Truman Woodruff.

MARTIN DUDLEY, born June 17, 1807; married Frances Harvey.

CALISTA, born about 1809; died aged 10 according to Cooley, but this seems doubtful since she was listed among Jonathan's heirs in an 1832 newspaper advertisement.

ANOTHER CHILD, name unknown, who died aged 12 according to Cooley.

16. JOSEPH⁵ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Jan. 28, 1763, at Exeter, and moved with his parents as a boy to Tyringham, Mass. He migrated as a young man to New York state, and married July 23, 1787, at the Dutch Reformed Church at Schoharie, N.Y., Olive Pearson, born about 1772, daughter of Ephriam Pearson. They were in Duanesburg, Schenectady County, in 1790. By 1800, they were in Hartford, Ontario County, N.Y., and by 1810 in Caledonia, Genesee County, N.Y. About 1817, he joined his brother, Edmund, in Newburg, Cayahoga County, Ohio, in what was known as the "Rathbun Settlement." In 1830, he moved to Monroe, in Ashtabula County, Ohio, where he died Sept. 28, 1854, aged 91. Olive had died three years earlier, on Sept. 15, 1851.

CHILDREN

ELECTA, born April 17, 1789; married Isaac Clark.

SARAH, born May 18, 1791; married Nathan A. Walton Nov. 15, 1808.

PEARSON, born March 8, 1793; married Laura Stewart.

ERASTUS, born June 23, 1795; married Sally Lillie.

MILTON, born June 6, 1797; married Laura Akins.

JESSE, born June 6, 1799; died in September, 1799.

SUSANNAH, born July 4, 1800; married Thomas Collins Nov. 26, 1815.

PAMELA, born Aug. 4, 1802; married Luther Burgess Jan. 1, 1817.

HARRIET, born May 1, 1804; married Jared D. Akins, June 8, 1824.

CHARLOTTE ELIZA, born July 15, 1806; married George H. Hubbell, Dec. 20, 1825.

CALISTA, born June 1, 1808; married (1) John Spears in 1830; (2) Harvey Cole, Dec. 10, 1840.

MARY (Polly), born May 19, 1810; married Joseph Lillie Feb. 12, 1829.

JOSEPH, born March 10, 1813; married Sarah Brown.

17. PARIS⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1760 in Exeter, R.I., and married at neighboring West Greenwich in June, 1779, Elizabeth Rathbun, born in 1761, daughter of Tho-

mas⁴ Rathbun (Thomas³ John²⁻¹). He served in the Revolutionary Army, and his widow was pensioned after his death. They moved in the 1790s to Arlington, Vermont, and then in the early 1800s to Washington County, New York. About 1811, they moved to Oxford, Chenango County, N.Y., and finally to New Haven, Oswego County, where he died in 1824. Elizabeth married in 1835 Joseph Phillips, who died Dec. 27, 1848. She died April 15, 1850, at German, New York, aged 92.

CHILDREN

ESTHER, born Oct. 10, 1782; married Nathan Kenyon.

CLARK, born about 1784; married Sarah White.

CHARITY, born in 1786; married Harrington Wilcox Aug. 1, 1802.

?GIDEON, born about 1789; alive in 1851. (Gideon and Clark may be the same person; the records are confusing).

CYNTHIA, born about 1791; married Charles Wells in October, 1833.

ANNA, born about 1795; married _____ Husted.

AMOS, born in 1799; married Eliza Hamilton.

LYMAN, born in 1802; married Diana _____.

OTHERS, names unknown.

18. JOB⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) born about 1762 at Exeter, R.I., and moved as a young man to New York state, where he married, about 1790, Sarah Crooks, born Jan. 10, 1765, parentage unknown. They moved shortly after their marriage to Pennsylvania, and about 1801 to Fairfield Township, in Licking County, Ohio, where they were among the first settlers. He died there Dec. 22, 1813. Sarah died there Sept. 5, 1835.

CHILDREN

GIDEON, born July 19, 1792; married Sarah Delzell.

PARIS, born Jan. 5, 1794; married Ruth White.

CYNTHIA, born in December, 1802; married James Delzell Dec. 17, 1818.

(To be continued)

(continued from page 3)

for a time in Atlanta. Sarah Smith opened a military boarding house for General Sherman and top members of his staff.

Cooley, in *The Rathbone Genealogy*, says of Sarah (Rathbun) Smith:

"At the breaking out of war, Mr. Smith started south as captain of Company D, 2nd Michigan Cavalry; the devoted wife seated on a prancing horse by the side of her soldier husband. All through those four terrible years of bloodshed, the brave woman remained at the front, devoting her time to binding up the wounds and ministering to the wants of the soldiers.

"She enjoyed a personal acquaintance with many famous generals of the war and General Rosencrans presented her with a beautiful handmade saddle when the war ended."

Benjamin Smith had risen to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel by the war's end, and commanded the Second Michigan.

After the war, the Smiths settled for a time in Albany, Ga., having developed a fondness for the area. As southern sentiment against northerners became oppressive, however, they returned in 1869 to the north.

They lived for a time in Smith's home town of Pine Plains, N.Y., on the Bonnie Brook Farm. In 1883, when she was 61, they moved to the Dakota Territory, where Smith operated hotels for several years. When he became too old to work they moved about 1892 to Minneapolis, Minn., where their final years were filled with suffering. Their only income was his small Civil War pension of \$10 per month.

About 1894, aged 72, she wrote to her brother, Hugo B. Rathbun:

"We are desperately poor . . . the Colonel (her husband) is very poorly . . . I am so lame. I have seen more trouble in the last 15 years than in all my life before. Whatever is to be, will be, and whatever is right, God knows best. There is no one but has more clouds than sunshine in their lives. I never realized this so much as in my latest years."

Sarah's sister, Charity, visited her in August, 1894, and also wrote to Hugo:

"I have just returned from a short visit to Sally. I found them quite well. Sally is just getting to use her feet and, I might say, her hands. She had a light attack of

paralysis. Her fingers on one hand are out of joint, but she was up and around, helping to do her work."

Charity, the widow of a wealthy Chicago businessman, apparently had helped Benjamin and Sally through the hard times. In her letter to Hugo, Charity wrote:

"Sally said to me, Charity, you have kept us from hunger and cold. There are no words to express our gratitude. Sally said my money had come many a time when they did not know where they could get their breakfast or pay their rent."

About that time, Smith received a sizable increase in his veteran's pension,

which helped ease their final years. Sarah died Feb. 20, 1897, aged 75, and Benjamin died two weeks later on March 5.

Sarah's obituary commented:

"Mrs. Smith was practical in her mental makeup, had remarkable executive ability, excellent judgment and a fund of that quality called tact, which makes friends by saying and doing the right thing at the right time.

"Her perceptions seemed intuitive and seldom failed to be right. Often has she been of great aid to her husband in business matters by her counsel and energetic work. She was thoroughly devoted to her husband from first to last."

Queries

WANTED — Information on the Rathbun who married Hannah (or Harriet) Greene on June 9, 1822, at or near Geneva, N.Y. His name appears in newspaper wedding announcements as Dobson Rathbun — possibly a middle name or nickname, or his correct name was garbled by the printer.

WANTED — Information on Francis Wilbur Rathbun, born about 1822 in New York and married Nov. 28, 1852, Mary Ann Marsh in Erie County, Ohio. He lived in Sandusky County, Ohio, in 1850, but moved by 1860 to Henry County, Ohio, where they were still living in 1900. They had at least one child, a daughter named Mary Ann, born in 1857.

WANTED — Information on James Rathbun, born in 1853 in New York; married Sarah _____, and was living in 1900 at Laramie, Wyo., with her and four children — Albert, Elizabeth, Edwin and Simon.

WANTED — Information on Smith A. Rathbun, born in March, 1866, at Otego, N.Y.; married Emma Palmatier, born in February, 1875, and had a son, Wilson L. Rathbun, born in 1895. They lived near Oneonta, New York.

Answers

Vol. 1, No. 1 — The parents of Mary Wardwell, who married Gideon⁶ Rathbun (Tibbets⁵ John⁺³ Thomas² John¹), were David and Mary (Eggelston) Wardwell. Our thanks to Darrell T. Rathbun, who found the data in an old Wardwell family bible.

Vol. 1, No. 4 — Arthur E. Rathbun (1865-1913), who married Effie Eckert in 1891, was the son of George C.⁷ Rathbun (Gideon⁶ Allen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and his first wife, Mary Rodycoat. George and his second wife, Matilda, were living in Beloit, Wisc., in 1880.

Vol. 1, No. 3 — Nathaniel Rathbun (1814-1893) was undoubtedly the son of Clark Rathbun (Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Clark Rathbun was recorded in Washington County, N.Y., in the 1820 census, with a family that included three sons under 10. Nathaniel was born in Washington County in 1814.

Vol. 2, No. 4 — Charles Rathbun, born in 1851, was Charles Lewis⁸ Rathbun (Theron⁷ Levant⁶ Joel⁵ Benjamin⁺³ Joseph² John¹). He married Charlotte Williams on Aug. 23, 1874.

Vol. 2, No. 4 — Charles Rathbun, born in 1861, who married Mary Margaret Evans, was the son of Guy⁶ Rathbun (Ami⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

Wait Rathbun Writes His Daughter

A Father's Advice in 1790

Wait⁴ Rathbun (Joshua³ John²⁻¹) moved from Stonington, Conn., about 1789 to Troy, N.Y., where he operated a boarding house and owned a drug store in partnership with his nephew, Amos Rathbun, son of his older brother, Amos. They were also involved in the fishing trade. Wait moved by 1794 to neighboring Lansingburgh, where he operated a tavern. By 1830, he had moved to Bergen County, N.J., where he died in 1834 at the home of his son, William. Late in life, Wait changed the spelling of his name to Rathbone, as did most of his family.

The accompanying letter was written in 1790 to his oldest daughter, Mary, then 20, who was visiting Wait's brother, Daniel, in Richmond, Mass. The original letter was owned in the 1890s by Mary's granddaughter, Mrs. Willard Brooks. It was published in the Rathbone Family Historian of September 1893.

Dear Daughter:

I received your letter by the hand of Cousin Amos, and am glad to hear you are safe to Richmond, and are well. I wish you to write every opportunity, that I may know how you do, and how your friends do. Dear child, be careful of yourself and character. Mind what company you keep, and in what manner you keep company. Be not proud or scornful in any company whatever; but treat everyone with decency and good manners. Be not too intimate with any, least more is expected of you, and for the want thereof, friendship is broke. Be careful that you speak not evil of any, least people will think you speak so of them, which will create a jealousy even in the minds of very good friends. Would write more on this head had I not the favorable opinion of your trying to do well. Although you are among friends, yet you are among strangers that will

watch your behavior. This advice comes from your father and your best friend on earth. Therefore, treasure it as your father's advice.

Amos and I have chartered a sloop for fishing and Amos is prepared to go on board of her this evening at Albany, and sail tomorrow morning for New York and so proceed for the voyage. A mackerel voyage is intended this time by us, at Crow Harbor, if God wills.

If you should want shoes or any small matters else, which you cannot handily get, tell your uncle Daniel if he will procure them for you, I will pay him on sight for them. We are all well and hope this will find you well and enjoying yourself well, and whenever you wish to return shall be glad to see you again. These are from your tender hearted and affectionate father.

Wait Rathbun

Troy, June 19, 1790.

More Towns

More American towns named for our family have been found by two of our members.

Rosma Limbeck reports that a post office was established in 1849 in the town of Rathbun, in Sheboygan, Wisc. It was named for James E.⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵⁻⁴ Ebenezer³ William² John¹), who was the first postmaster. The office was discontinued in 1902.

Robert Rathbun, our research director, reports that Vernona Mills, N.Y., was first known as Rathbunville. It was named for its founder, Acors⁶ Rathbun (Joshua⁵⁻⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), who settled there in 1802.

He also reports that Burning Springs, W.Va., was called Rathbone for a short period during the Civil War. It was named for John Castella⁶ Rathbone (William⁵ Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), who was postmaster for several years and was a union colonel during the war.

Reunion

Forty-one descendants of Daniel Maurice Rathbun (1865-1949) gathered for a family reunion October 9 at Lone Star Lake near Topeka, Kan. They ranged in age from Vera McNemar Rathbun, aged 79, to her youngest great-grandson, aged seven months. Vera is the widow of Daniel's son, William Harley Rathbun (1902-1971).

Among others present was Vera's son, Bruce M. Rathbun, of Las Vegas, one of our members. Daniel Maurice Rathbun was the son of William⁷ Rathbun (Daniel⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

Let us know about "your" family reunion—date, location, total attendance, oldest and youngest present, etc. If possible, send a group photograph, or a photograph of the ancestor, for use in the *Historian*.

New Data

Job Rathbun (Joshua³ John²⁻¹) was originally named Joshua at his birth in 1736. His father renamed him Job about 1740 "for good reasons." We will have more on this unusual situation in a future issue.

Deliverance Rathbun, born Nov. 18, 1759, the daughter of Samuel⁴ (Samuel³⁻² John¹), married Edward Palmer and died in 1845 at Greenwich, Conn.

Hannah³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹) married Robert, not John, Eldred, as reported in Volume Two, Number Three (Page 48). Their daughter, Hannah Eldred, married John⁴ Rathbun (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Our thanks to new member John D. Bowen for this information.

Obituaries

DIED – July 18, 1982, at Wichita, Kan., Mrs. Lovina (Rathbun) Cloud, aged 91. She was the daughter of Daniel⁸ Rathbun (William⁷ Daniel⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Josephine Rink.

DIED – April 6, 1982, at Duluth, Minn., Mrs. Nancy (Howell) Schleppebach, aged 49, one of our members, after an 18-year battle with cancer. She was a great-granddaughter of Nelson Colburn and Nancy⁷ Rathbun (Amos⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹).

DIED – Oct. 17, 1982, at West Greenwich, R.I., Mrs. Marie J. (Furciato) Rathbun, 59, wife of Leonard Rathbun Jr. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Rathbun is survived by a son, Robert J. Rathbun; a daughter, Mrs. Jame M. Olney; a sister, and one grandchild. Leonard Rathbun's father, Leonard Sr., was the son of William⁸ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and his wife, Ruth⁸ Rathbun (John⁷ Nathan⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Our New Members

Mrs. Dolly Barrett
Modesto, Calif.

Mary Lou Barry
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mrs. Lucile M. Bland
Clovis, Calif.

John Bowen
Silver Spring, Md.

Beverly (Rathbun) Gillette
Frankfort, N.Y.

Mrs. Donna Hartshorn
Winslow, Ariz.

Mrs. Thelma Hughes
Nutley, N.J.

Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon
Westerly, R.I.

Alice M. Phillips
Marcola, Ore.

Benjamin F. and Rosalie Rathbun
Noank, Conn.

Danny L. Rathbun
Mannford, Okla.

David G. Rathbun
Nisland, S.D.

Edith May Rathbun
Kansas City, Mo.

Edison J. and Pauline Rathbun
Kent, Wash.
(Not Edward J.)

George M. Rathbun
Cheverie, Nova Scotia

Raymond V. Rathbun
Fremont, Mich.

Hazel (Rathbun) Ritchie
Hope Valley, R.I.

Jean (Rathbun) Waddell
Beatrice, Neb.

Beginning with this issue, we are listing new subscribers as "new members," since membership in the Rathbun Family Association includes more than just a subscription to the Historian.

People

JEFFREY CLAY RATHBONE was married Sept. 4, 1982, in Austin, Texas, to Julie Ellen Tucker, daughter of Thomas J. and Clare (Krumenacker) Tucker. Jeffrey is the son of Lemuel M.¹⁰ Rathbone (Lemuel⁹ Rufus⁸ George⁷ Rufus⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Bettye Jean (Schmidt) Rathbone.

FRANCES COLLORD was honored in October by the Seattle Genealogical Society with "The President's Award"—a citation for exceptional work toward the society's goals and purposes. She is a great-granddaughter of Thomas W.⁶ Rathbone (Jonathan⁵ Coggeshall⁴ Abraham³ Samuel² John¹).

JAMES COLBURN RATHBONE celebrated his 101st birthday October 30 in a New Hampshire nursing home. He is the son of David⁸ Rathbone (Nathan⁷ Amos⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). We carried a story of his life in our July 1981 issue.

HAZEL ELMIRA RATHBURN of Athol, Mass., was married Nov. 20, 1982, to Joseph J. Girard. Hazel is the daughter of Mrs. Alyce G. (Williams) Rathburn and the late Clarence Harris⁹ Rathburn (Henry⁸ Valentine⁷ John⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

H. DICKENSON RATHBUN and his wife, Margaret, have moved to Massachusetts, where he is serving on the Christian Science Board of Directors. He previously managed the Washington, D.C., office of the Christian Science Committee on Publications. He is the son of Newell Chandler⁷ Rathbun (Henry⁶ John⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

See Corrections 04-4 p 62

ROBERT RATHBUN, our research director, spent three weeks in October on a genealogical research trip which took him to New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio. He returned with many pages of notes.

GOLDIE EDWIN SLATER, 83, of Detroit, Mich., was married September 27 to Mrs. Iris Maltby, 63, of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Slater is the widower of Charity (McCrath) Slater, who died in June 1981. Charity was a granddaughter of Hugo B.⁷ Rathbun (Charles⁶⁻⁵ Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and your editor's first cousin. She and Goldie were your editor's foster parents.

Birth

BORN – Oct. 25, 1982, in Pineville, La., Clare Elizabeth Easterling, daughter of Mrs. Beverly (Brown) Easterling and granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. Jay Brown. Dr. Brown, one of our members, is a great-grandson of Thomas W.⁶ Rathbone (Jonathan⁵ Coggeshall⁴ Abraham³ Samuel² John¹).