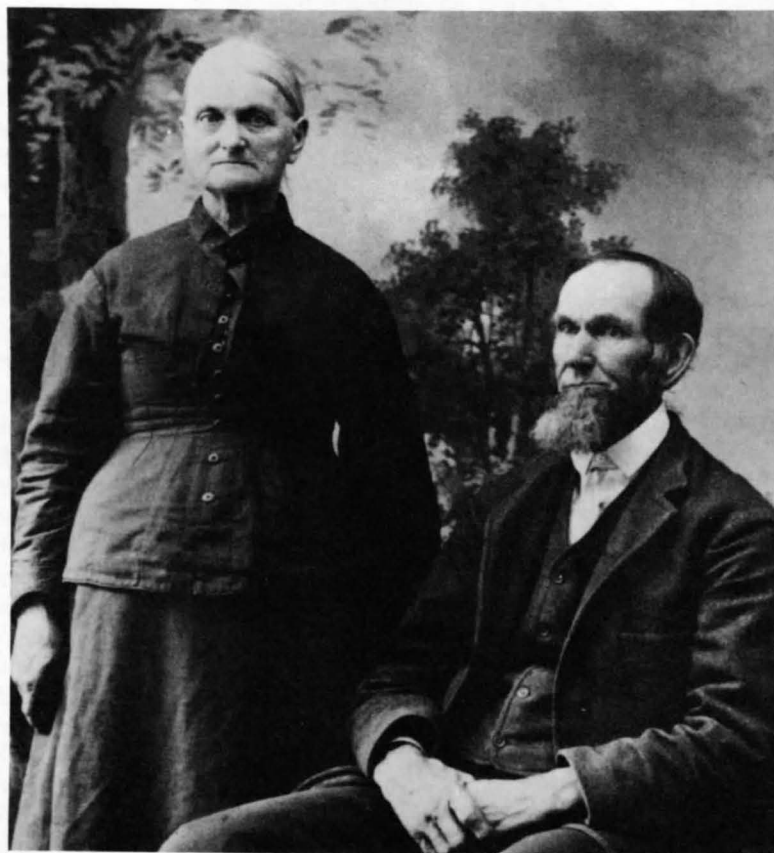


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
FAMILY
HISTORIAN



Laura and Edwin Rathbun

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

Letter From the Editor

All the news is good this month. Our membership list is nearly back up to our 1982 figure, our project to place a marker on the Block Island graves of John and Margaret Rathbun has gone "over the top," and plans for our first family reunion are in full swing.

With this edition, we are mailing a list of all those who sent donations for the grave monument project. If you contributed, please check the list to make certain that your name is listed the way you prefer. Unless we hear from you, this is the way your name will appear on the final list.

A complete list of all contributors will be placed in the archives of the Block Island Historical Society. In addition, the list will be printed in a brochure with pictures of the monument, and sent to all contributors later this year.

We were somewhat concerned at the *Historian's* initial resubscription rate, as I mentioned in my last letter, but the checks kept coming in and we are up to 280 as this issue goes to the printer. We lost nearly 40 of last year's members, but picked up enough new members to keep the total at a good level.

To all of you, I express my thanks for your interest and support. We will keep doing our best to make the *Historian* interesting and informative.

The Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Historian is published quarterly by the Rathbun Family Association at 11308 Popes Head Road, Fairfax, Va. 22030.

Frank H. Rathbun
Editor & Publisher
Robert Rathbun
Research Director
Hazel J. Rathbun
Assistant Editor
Frank H. Rathbun III
Production Manager
Janice A. Rathbun
Business Manager

We had little response to Cousin Bruce Rathbun's letter asking for suggestions and volunteers for a second annual reunion next year somewhere in the Midwest. We will wait and see how the Block Island reunion goes before making any decisions on future reunions. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please let me know.

In this issue, we continue the story of Captain John Peck Rathbun of the Continental Navy. It will be concluded in the next issue. Also for the next issue, we are planning an article on the role of other family members in the Revolutionary War.

Later, we will have similar stories on the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War. For the Civil War story, we are looking for pictures. If you have pictures of your ancestors, in uniform, who fought in that war, please have them copied (at our expense) and send us a copy. As you have noticed, we are using as many pictures as we can to go with our stories.

I would like to share with you part of a letter we received from Mrs. Phyllis Walklet when she sent in her renewal check. We don't like to "toot our own horn," but Mrs. Walklet's reaction to our *Historian* is just what we hope it is for all of you.

"I look forward to the *Historian*," she wrote, "and I am so very grateful to you for putting flesh on the bones of our ancestors. I have always been proud of my heritage but with each issue my shoulders become a little squarer and my buttons pop a bit louder. What an interesting, illustrious family. I'm so glad I can claim it."

We thank you, Cousin Phyllis, for your kind words, and we hope all of our members have the same feeling for our *Historian* and for our family. We may be no better, nor any worse, than other families, but through our magazine, at least we know more than most about our ancestors of the past, and our cousins today.

Frank

Monument Fund Reaches \$2,500; 200 Contribute

The Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn family has done what probably no other family has ever done before. Nearly 200 descendants of our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret Rathbun, have contributed more than \$2,500 to erect a monument near their graves on Block Island.

Markers have been placed over the graves of other early American pioneers, but it is doubtful that any were paid for with such an outpouring of contributions from so many descendants.

The checks started coming as soon as the idea was proposed in a letter sent to all of our Association members with the October *Historian*.

Most contributors sent eight-dollar checks, the amount we estimated as the average if each member participated. Some sent lesser amounts, and many sent more — \$10, \$20, \$25 and even one donation of \$100.

The result will be an imposing monument of blue Westerly granite, six inches thick, three feet high, and four feet long. It is being prepared by the Bonner Monument Company of Westerly, R.I. Arrangements with the company are being handled by Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon, of the Bonner firm, who has since joined our association.

The marker will be erected in the Old Block Island Cemetery as close as possible to the graves of John and Margaret's two sons, Thomas and Samuel, whose grave markers still exist. John and Margaret were undoubtedly buried in that same area. Their markers long ago disintegrated.

The cemetery is located near the island "center," close to the Block Island Historical Society, and not far from the location of one of the first Rathbun homes on Block Island.

Our next issue will carry an in-depth story of Block Island, its early history, and the role of our family in the early days of the island.

Letters Describe Final Years Of Half-Century Marriage

The following excerpts from a series of letters written between 1884 and 1910 gives a fascinating insight into the lives and final days of Edwin and Laura Rathbun, who raised seven children and were married 52 years before his death in 1894, aged 75. The letters were written to their youngest son, Erastus Rathbun, and his wife, Julia, in Idaho. They are owned by Erastus' son, Arthur G. Rathbun, of Moscow, Idaho, one of our members. We thank Arthur and his wife, Eva, for sharing them with us. Edwin Rathbun was the son of George Washington⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹) and Eunice⁵ Rathbun (William⁴ Job³ Joseph² John¹).

"Cleopatra, Missouri, August 3, 1884

– Dear Son. We are as well as common and hope this will find you the same. I got my oats up in good order I have 5 acres of timothy to cut yet. I will have 600 bushels of oats, I think. You had better come home next summer. You can make more here raising stock that you can up there.

I will have plenty of feed next summer. My calves and colt is worth 100 dollars. My oats and corn is worth 30 dollars. . . . I want you to come home and help run it (the farm). If I keep the farm I will have to hire a hand to haul manure and do other work. . . . You want to know something of the origin of my folks. My grandfather on my father's side was Job. He raised his family in the town of Colchester, Connecticut. My grandfather on my mother's side was William Rathbun. He raised his family in New London, Connecticut. They all emigrated to Steuben Co. New York, early in the 1800s. I was borned in 1819. My father's name was George Washington (Rathbun). (Signed) Edwin Rathbun."



Erastus Rathbun, son of Edwin and Laura Rathbun whose pictures appear on the front cover. Erastus, their youngest son, took his mother into his home after the death of his father. The letters which Erastus saved are the basis for this story.

"Cleopatra, August 2, 1887—Dear Son. We received your letter and was glad to hear from you. We was sorry that you had poor health. I wish you had come on home when you started for I want to see you awful bad. I have neg-

lected writing longer than I had ought to for I have worked so hard this spring and summer. When hot weather set in, it very near outdone me and I have felt so bad that I can hardly get my work done. We went to Lineville to see the celebration (probably on July Fourth) and seen a man go up in a balloon. . . We have had no rain here (since) some time in June and there was not much then. Our garden all dried up and done us no good. Water is scarce here now. The Creek is the nearest dry that we ever seen it. . . Erastus, I would like to have you to come home and stay with us. . . we are getting old. Your father will be 68 this fall and I am 65. . . Your eflectionate mother, Laura Rathbun."

"Cleopatra, Nov. 20, 1888—Dear son, I rite to you again to let you know that I and your mother are well. I have been agethering corn all day. I have been up to St. Cloud, Minnesota, this fall to see a brother (Sebra Rathbun) that I had not seen since the fall of 1833. We was both boys at that time. Now I am in my 70th year and Sebra is 72. He and myself is all that is left out of a family of 15 children. . . It had been 55 years since I and Sebra parted. It was some 45 years we did not know where each other was. He is cripled in both legs and feet and has to go on crutches, and could not come here. He paid my expenses there and back to see me. I spent a week in talking with him. We went all over our dirty tricks. He thought at first that he had the gout in his feet. He weighs 268 pounds. I think his legs has broke down under his weight. He is a blacksmith by traid and was in the wagon business. Standing at his anvill so steady caused his legs to give way. He took father and took care of him in his last days. Father lived to be 89 years old. It cost Sebra 40 dollars to get me there. Julia, you brag on your child (her first, Earl, born Oct. 27). That is natural and is what you had ought to do, but Alvin (another son) thinks that he

(continued on page 25)

Capt. Rathbun Gets Command Of 28-Gun Queen of France

In our last issue, we continued the career of Captain John Peck Rathbun in the Continental Navy. Appointed captain of the sloop, Providence, one of the smallest vessels in the Navy, he commanded her for 21 months with outstanding success. Returning in January 1779 to Boston, he was hailed as a hero, and Naval officials urged him to take the Providence back to sea.

Rathbun was in poor health when he returned to Boston, and he was in no condition for another cruise. He felt even worse when he reached Rhode Island. Polly sadly told him that his last surviving sister, Ann Case, had died two months earlier, aged 36.

His parents and all three sisters had died young, and he was in poor health. We can imagine his mental state when, on Feb. 2, 1779, he decided to make his will, leaving his wife and any future children all the income from his estate. Should she have no children, the estate would be divided upon her death among the children of his three dead sisters.

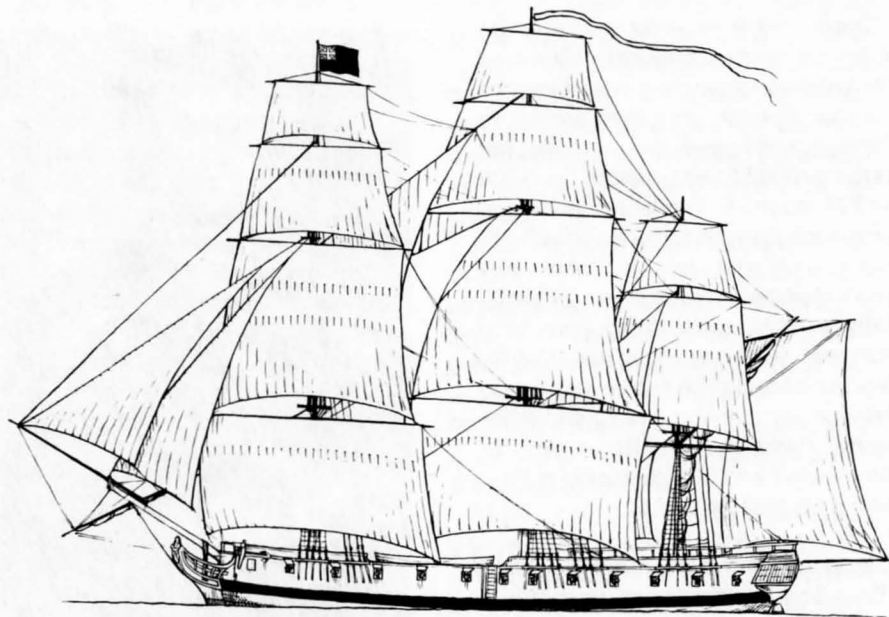
But, rest, home cooking and tender loving care soon had him back in good shape – physically and mentally. A week after making the will, he was back in Boston, seeking a new command. He was urged by the Eastern Navy Board to take the *Providence* back to sea, but Rathbun felt he was ready for – and entitled to – something bigger and better than the little sloop.

He began some old-fashioned “politicking” to see what he could come up with.

At his urging, the Navy Board wrote to Congress, praising Rathbun as a “very active, spirited officer,” recalling his successes with the *Providence*, and suggesting that the Congressional Marine Committee consider having a larger ship built expressly for him.

In Philadelphia, Congressman William Ellery was jubilant at Rathbun’s accomplishments.

“Captain Rathbun’s success has given me great satisfaction,” he wrote,



No picture or description exists of Captain John Peck Rathbun’s second command, the 28-gun, French-built Queen of France. She probably looked very much like this vessel, the 28-gun French frigate, La Vestale, which was captured by the British, renamed the Flora, and used in action against the Americans in the Revolution.

“not only on account of the public benefit derived from it, but because I procured him his appointment.”

He promised early action on Rathbun’s quest for a new command, and asked the Navy Board chairman to relay a personal request:

“Make my compliments to Captain Rathbun and tell him that if among his takings he should take any good snuff . . . reserve a bottle for me.”

Rathbun did even better than that; he sent Congressman Ellery a ten-gallon keg of Jamaican rum, and then returned to Rhode Island to await developments.

With Ellery’s influence, the Congressional Marine Committee did take action. In mid-May, it sent word to Boston to give Rathbun command of the *Queen of France*, a French-built merchant ship which had been purchased from the French government and refitted as a 28-gun frigate.

On June 2, Rathbun arrived in Boston

to take over his new command. He was undoubtedly delighted. A 28-gun, three-masted frigate was a vast improvement over a single-masted sloop with 12 guns.

Finding crewmen was not easy at that time, since most able-bodied seamen were signing up for privateer duty, where the rewards were greater and the risk less. But again, Rathbun’s reputation as a prize-taker stood him in good stead. By June 10, he had filled his roster, and was ready for sea.

On June 2, the *Queen of France* was assigned to a three-ship squadron commanded by his old friend Captain Abraham Whipple, and set sail with orders to head for the Newfoundland area to intercept enemy shipping.

Rathbun was anxious to get his new ship into action. On July 20, his opportunity arrived.

Drifting in a heavy fog south of Newfoundland, he had lost contact with

Whipple when he heard the sound of signal guns and ships' bells close at hand. He quickly realized that he was in the midst of a sizeable British merchant fleet.

An English captain hailed him:
"What ship are you?"

Rathbun thought quickly, and then shouted back an outrageous bluff:

"His majesty's ship *Arethus*a from Halifax on a cruise. Have you seen any rebels?"

The English captain replied that several rebel privateers had been driven away from the fleet. Rathbun wondered if this meant his fellow American captains had fled. If so, he was alone among dozens of British ships. But timidity was not one of Rathbun's traits.

He shouted across to the English captain, inviting him to come on board and share a tankard of rum. The unsuspecting Britisher quickly agreed, and was rowed over to the *Queen of France*. He climbed aboard and found himself a prisoner.

From the crestfallen English captain, Rathbun learned that the fleet consisted of some 60 ships under the convoy of a 74-gun warship and a number of frigates. He was hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned.

The sensible thing to do was flee, but Rathbun was toying with a seemingly mad idea – equal to his "impossible" capture of Fort Nassau.

He ordered one of the *Queen's* barges manned with marines, put another squad in the English captain's barge, and sent them both across to the merchantman. The astonished English crew, seeing their ship boarded by American marines, quickly surrendered.

Aboard his prize, Rathbun confiscated the British signals, which were found in the captain's cabin. With this added advantage, he decided to repeat his incredible feat. He moved the *Queen* closer to another British ship, hailed the captain aboard for a drink, and then sent marines across for a second easy capture.

About this time, Captain Whipple's ship appeared, and came alongside the *Queen*. The two captains conferred. Whipple was a brave man, but not an imaginative one. As senior officer, he ordered Rathbun to follow him away from the British fleet and out of danger.

Rathbun argued. He pointed out how



William Ellery, Rhode Island member of the Continental Congress, who was John Peck Rathbun's patron and helped advance his career in the Continental Navy.

easily he had already taken two prizes, and urged that all three American captains join in the fun. Whipple finally agreed, and passed the word to the captain of the third American ship.

One of the crewmen of the American fleet later wrote: "Our minds were agitated with hopes and fears," but added, "we were unwilling to abandon the opportunity of enriching ourselves." Under Navy rules of that day, crew members shared in the profits of enemy ships they captured.

The hunt continued for the rest of the day, each of the three American ships operating independently. Rathbun took three more prizes, and the other two captains took six between them, using Rathbun's same trickery. By nightfall, the Americans had sent so many men aboard the captured ships they were all short-handed. Meanwhile, word was passing through the English crews that "yankees" were among their ships.

Whipple gave orders to leave, and the Americans sailed off to join their prizes, which had been sent to rendezvous nearby. As they left, they were spotted by one of the English frigate captains, who gave chase, but turned back as darkness fell upon the ocean.

The jubilant Americans set sail for Boston. Three of their prizes were apparently recaptured, but the three war-

ships with eight prizes sailed into Boston Harbor on August 21. The waterfront was lined with spectators, who at first thought it was an attacking British fleet.

Navy officials were delighted with the squadron's success. Congress sent word to Benjamin Franklin in Paris, where he was trying to convince the French that the Americans were winning the war.

The eight prizes and their cargoes of rum, sugar, cotton, lumber and spices were sold for more than \$1,000,000, making the cruise the most profitable of the entire war. For the captains and their crews, it was a windfall. One 14-year-old cabin boy alone was given \$700 in cash, together with a ton of sugar, nearly 40 gallons of rum, 20 pounds of cotton, and a large quantity of spices.

We do not know just how much Rathbun received, but as a captain, it was obviously a substantial sum, making his \$60-a-month salary pale by comparison.

In Boston, Rathbun had the *Queen of France* hauled ashore for cleaning and repairs. He had found her an undependable sailing ship, riding too high in the water, structurally weak and hard to handle. He recommended major renovation, but the Navy Board turned him down. The cost of his proposed changes, the board said, would be nearly as much as a new ship would cost.

Instead, the *Queen's* hull was reinforced, and Rathbun was ordered to make her ready for sea. He spent the rest of the summer and early fall at Boston, spending part of his time at sea guarding small coastal vessels which were hauling wood into the city for use as fuel in the coming winter.

As the weeks passed, Rathbun and his fellow captains grew impatient, their crews became restless, and desertion became a problem. On November 19, Rathbun and the other captains petitioned the Navy Board for immediate assignment to sea duty.

Four days later, the *Queen* and three other American warships sailed from Boston Harbor. Rathbun's wife, Polly, was undoubtedly among the wives and other family members who assembled on the docks to watch the squadron put to sea. She then probably returned to Rhode Island to await her husband's return.

(continued on page 22)

John Peck Rathbun

(continued from page 21)

The next day, Captain Whipple opened his sealed orders; he was to take his squadron to Charleston, South Carolina, where a British attack was expected. The loss of Charleston could lead to the loss of the entire state, and indeed, most of the southern colonies.

Four days at sea, the Americans ran into a heavy gale, which continued for several days, causing the other three ships to suffer broken masts. Rathbun kept his masts intact, but his earlier fears about the *Queen's* hull were fulfilled. She began leaking badly, and crewmen worked day and night to pump water from her holds.

The *Queen* was on the verge of foundering when the storm finally ended.

On December 23, the Americans limped into Charleston Harbor. Rathbun assembled a panel of carpenters to inspect the *Queen's* hull, and was told that she was unfit for further sea duty. He angrily wrote the Eastern Navy Board, recalling his recommendations for more extensive work on the ship.

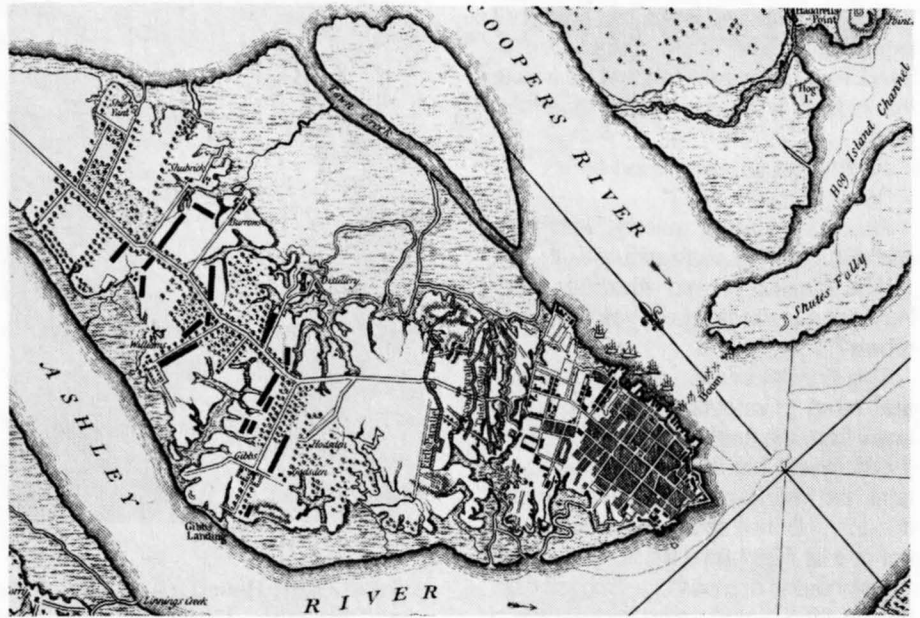
General Benjamin Lincoln, the Army commander at Charleston, was delighted to see the warships. With them on hand, he felt, the Americans could fight off any British attack. His confidence was soon shattered.

Rathbun and his fellow captains studied the situation, and reported to Whipple and Lincoln that their little fleet could not effectively defend the main channel into the harbor against a strong British attack.

The attack soon came. Some 10,000 British troops were landed south of Charleston, and began marching northward toward the city. Rathbun was ordered to take the battered *Queen of France* into the Ashley River, southeast of the city, and was placed in charge of the city's defense from that side.

On March 7, he reported a huge British force approaching from the south, and beginning installation of heavy cannon along the river. Rathbun was ordered to bring the *Queen* back into the harbor.

On the morning of March 20, the British fleet moved through the channel toward the harbor. The four American warships were brought to dock, and all their guns removed to shore batteries. Rathbun and the other captains were



Contemporary map of the siege of Charleston, showing the line of ships sunk between the city and Shutes Folly, an island just west of the city. Captain John Peck Rathbun's *Queen of France* was one of several ships sacrificed this way to block the British fleet from the Cooper River. Chains were stretched over the sunken ships, attached to the masts protruding from the water.

each put in charge of a battery.

The *Queen of France*, decrepit and leaking, had reached the end of the line. It had been decided to sink a number of ships in the Cooper River to block the British frigates from the river. The *Queen*, battered beyond repair, was one of the vessels chosen to be sacrificed. She was towed to the chosen point and scuttled.

Rathbun no doubt watched his ship as she sunk into the channel. It must have been a galling moment for him.

Within a few days, the British began a land and sea cannonade on the hapless city. The Americans' food supplies ran low, and water became contaminated. The siege continued for more than six weeks. On May 8, General Lincoln called a meeting of the ranking army and navy officers – 60 of them – and asked them to vote on the question of surrender. The vote was 49 to 11 in favor of seeking terms from the British. Rathbun and the other Navy captains were among the 11 who voted against surrender.

On May 12, General Lincoln surrendered the city. Rathbun and the other top officers were allowed to keep their swords, pistols and personal belong-

ings, and given the freedom of the city. They were without food, however, and were reduced to gathering mussels from the riverbeds to stay alive. To make matters worse, smallpox had broken out and was spreading throughout the city.

On May 15, Rathbun and the other four Navy captains petitioned the British occupation authorities for paroles, promising to "remain inactive until a proper exchange shall have taken place" – meaning until they were formally "exchanged" for English prisoners of equal rank.

The officers then made arrangements for passage out of Charleston. Whipple and most of the others hired a merchant ship, and set sail for Philadelphia.

Rathbun and two other New England captains hired a schooner and headed with a small crew for Rhode Island. Two weeks later, they landed at Newport, and Rathbun hastened to South Kingston and his Polly.

With a big part of the Navy lost at Charleston, and no new ships under construction, it appeared that Rathbun's naval career was ended.

(To be continued)

Family Reunion Set

Final plans are being completed for the first Twentieth-Century reunion of the Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns of America.

We will be assembling July 21-24 on Block Island, Rhode Island, where our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret Rathbun, settled some 322 years ago.

A highlight of the three-day reunion will be the dedication of an imposing marker near the graves of John and Margaret in the Old Block Island Cemetery.

Based on early responses, we expect between 50 and 100 descendants of John and Margaret to attend the reunion. Are you planning to join us? If not, why not?

Complete details on registration and other information are included on separate sheets with this issue of the *Historian*.

Our headquarters hotel will be the Narragansett Inn, a charming old island landmark, located on Great Salt Pond, near the cemetery and close to the probable location of John and Margaret's home three centuries ago.

We will be touring the island by bus, visiting such spots as Cow Cove, site of

Settler's Rock, where the Rathbuns and other Block Island pioneers landed in 1661, and lovely Mogehau Bluffs, overlooking the pounding Atlantic surf, and site of John Rathbun's first allocation of land on the island.

We will be visiting the Block Island Historical Society museum, and inspecting the ancient family bible of Samuel Rathbun, youngest son of John and Margaret.

In the Old Cemetery, we will see the faded gravemarkers of Samuel, who died in 1757, and his oldest brother, Thomas who died in 1733.

We will see Fort Island, and the monument to the Rathbuns and other early settlers—16 men and a boy—who outbluffed three hundred armed Indians.

In our spare time, we will enjoy the quiet charm of the island, explore its beaches and coves, enjoy seafood fresh from the Atlantic, and get acquainted with other descendants of our mutual ancestors.

For those who want to make the reunion part of their annual summer vacation, there is swimming, surfing, sailing, fishing, hiking, cycling, and just sunning on the miles of sandy beaches.

Calling All Songsters

If you will be attending our July reunion on Block Island, and if you have sung, or are singing, in a choir — **we need you.**

Ray Martin, one of our members, is planning to lead a choir in the singing of the song, "Rathbun," and other appropriate numbers at the dedication services for our tombstone marker.

He and his family will be bringing a portable organ, and will lead the choir in singing. His two daughters, and their husbands, all singers, will be there.

Cousin Ray says he will send music sheets to any volunteers so that they can practice prior to the reunion. He especially wants male voices.

If you are interested, please notify Ray as soon as possible. Write:

Ray Martin, Route 2, Center Drive, Taylor, S.C. 29687.

It should be one of the highlights of our reunion — a group of Rathbun descendants, singing a song named "Rathbun" at the first Rathbun family reunion on Block Island, as we dedicate a marker on the graves of our Rathbun ancestors who settled there some 320 years ago!



Block Island's charm is shown in this view of the Old Harbor

A Rathbun Sues for Divorce In Strange 1894 Love Story

The following story, somewhat edited, is from our family's first magazine, "*The Rathbone Family Historian*," of June, 1894, as reprinted from the *Providence (R.I.) Globe Democrat*:

Elmer Rathbun, Rochester, N.Y., bookkeeper, filed for divorce from his wife of only a few weeks on the ground of premarital deceit.

It seems that Elmer had placed an advertisement in a "matrimonial newspaper" seeking to correspond with some young lady who shared his interest in ancient mythology.

Miss Alice Stockbridge, a millinery sales clerk in Providence, R.I., saw the ad and was interested, but she had no interest in or knowledge of mythology.

She solved this problem with the aid of her sister, who was employed by a young woman recently graduated from

Vassar University, where she had studied Greek and Roman history.

In a "spirit of fun," this obliging young lady agreed to write a letter to Elmer Rathbun, using Alice's name.

Elmer was delighted. A series of letters followed, with lengthy discussions of Greek tragedies and Roman gods. Pictures were exchanged, and Rathbun fell in love. He proposed by mail, and Alice, eager for romance, accepted on one condition – mythology was not to be discussed during their honeymoon.

Rathbun agreed, and the two were married. But soon after the honeymoon, he set an evening aside for his favorite topic – the legends, myths and mysteries of the ancients.

To his dismay, he found that his bride knew nothing whatsoever of such things. She was a fine cook and house-

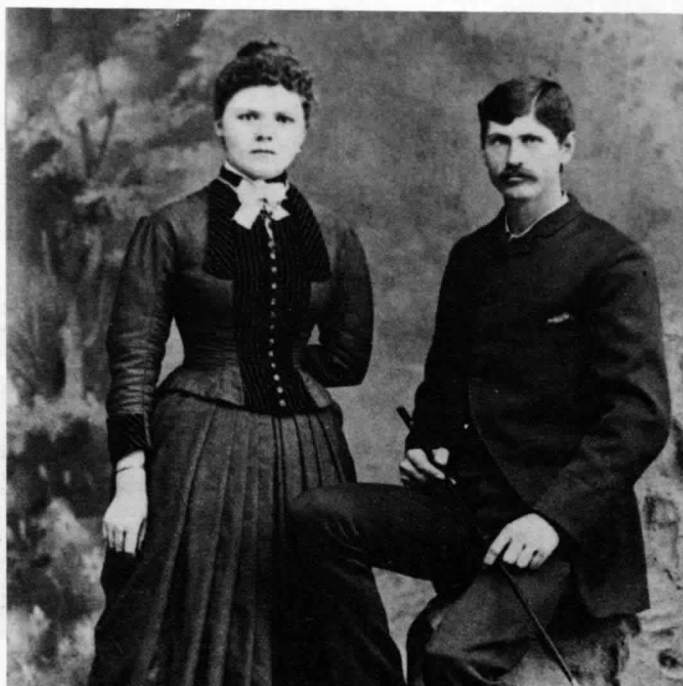
keeper, but had never heard of Pluto, Aphrodite or Zeus.

Rathbun was horrified. He pulled out her letters, filled with knowledgeable allusions to Daphne, Janus, Diana and Apollo, and demanded an explanation. Alice dissolved into tears and confessed her treachery. She begged forgiveness, and promised to study the strange names and weird stories which intrigued him so much.

He rejected her pleas and promises. She had deceived him, he said, and was not worthy of his love. Alice returned to Rhode Island, and Rathbun sued for divorce.

Alice retained an attorney, who contested the suit, arguing that ignorance of mythology was not a ground for divorce.

Unfortunately, since this story appeared in the final issue of the old *Historian*, we have no idea how the court ruled.



Old Photo Identified

This picture of an unidentified "Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun of Elk Grove, Mo.," was sent in by Jeanne Chubbuck of Concordia, Kansas, and is owned by Mrs. Keith Buss of Ames, Iowa. We have tentatively identified the couple as James A.⁸ Rathbun (Enoch⁷ Caleb⁶ Robert⁵ Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), and his wife, Mary. They were married Oct. 27, 1881, and this could well be their wedding picture. James A. Rathbun was born in 1857, attended Missouri State University in 1876-78, taught school for several years, and became Caldwell (Mo.) county treasurer and deputy county clerk, and then mayor of Cameron City. He was a banker and in 1906 was appointed National Bank Examiner by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Letters

(continued from page 19)

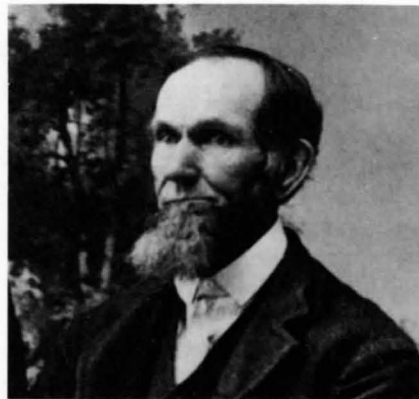
has got one (Leonard, born in 1886) that will beat yours. I would like to see you soon vary much. . . Take good care of the darling and I will send it a kiss and you must give it for me. (Signed) Edwin Rathbun."

"Cleopatra, October 31, 1890—Dear Children. I have sold my farm here and want you to answer this amediately . . . whether I can make a living where you are and how much land is worth, cows and horses are worth and building materials is worth. Horses here are 60 and 80 dollars, and cows about 15. I want to know whether it would pay to ship them. After squaring up, I won't have more than 4 or 5 hundred (dollars) left. (Signed) Edwin Rathbun."

"Lineville, Iowa, May 10, 1891—Dear children. I take pleasure in riting to you again to let you know that we are still on this side of the mistic stream and as well as we ever expect to be, and hope this will find you the same. Well, Rastus, I have bought 20 acres of land $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of the fairground and a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ from Lineville in plain sight of town. The place is all in timothy. It has a small house and well, one orchard on it. I have fenced a pasture. I will put up 5 acres of corn in the meadow. I am going to build a good hen house and see what we can make out of chickens and poultry. We gave 510 dollars for the place. . . My brother (Sebra) at St. Cloud (Minn.) got thrown from his buggy a year ago and was badly mashed up and can't live long. It has caused him to lose his mind. His son wrote to me and says it is impossible for him to get well. It is nothing but his strong constitution that keeps him alive. I want you to rite often and not wait on me for it is hard work for me to rite. (Signed) Edwin Rathbun."

"Lineville, April 23, 1892—Dear Children. . . Received your kind letter and was glad to hear from you. I am glad to hear you have gone onto a farm so your boys can help you to make a living as fast as they get old enough. You ought to have two daughters to help raise the boys. We are having a wet spring here. If it don't rain I will plant some potatoes Monday. From your loving mother, Laura Rathbun."

"(Undated, probably summer, 1892—Dear Children. It has been a good while since I wrote to you but I think of you often and would like to see you all. I have about 100 young chickens and about 60 old hens. We have our team and one cow and one yearling and four hogs. We owe two hundred dollars on our place. The doctor told some of the neighbors that he did not think I would live over six months or a year. Erastus, I and your mother has, on the next 7th of August, lived together 50 years. I want you to bring your family and be here on that memorible day to celebrate our golden wedding. How glad I would be to have all my children with their famyls to be here on that day. Couldn't we all rejoyce together. I can't expect to stay here long. My bladder is diseased. I am afraid it will run to the Bright's Disease. I have no pain and feel as well as ever. (The doctor) has given me medicine for three



Edwin Rathbun

months. He says a stricture is forming in the neck of my bladder. Your mother is not stout (well?). Corn 40 cents, potatoes 25, flour 50 cents for 100 pounds, eggs 9 cents a dozen. (Signed) Edwin Rathbun."

"Lineville, September 1, 1893—Dear Children. I rite to you again to put you in mind that your old father and mother are still alive and would like to hear from you occasionally. I am worn out. My eyes and ears have failed bad. I am not fit to work any more. I have sold my place here. . . I don't want any more land. This leaves us as well as we ever expect to be on this side of the mistic stream. (Signed) Edwin Rathbun."

"Lineville, March 10, 1894—Dear Children. it is with a sad heart that I rite to let you know that your father has gone from us, never, never to return. He took bad Thursday morning and died Saturday evening, just about dark. He asked me to give him some pills. I gave them to him. He took them and in a few minuts made a move. (I asked him) if he wanted anything. He said no. In a little bit he breathed queer . . . I got the camphor and wet his face and breast but it did no good. He was gone. He had heart trouble. That was what took him off. I am just able to get around but hope I will feel better after a while . . . from your mother, Laura Rathbun."

"Lineville, April 2, 1894—Dear Children. I will try to answer your kind letter that I got a few days ago. Was glad to hear from you and that you was well. You wanted to know how I laid your father away. I had a very nice coffin for him. He had a nice suite of black clothes that he got last fall. He had never wore the pants. The coat and vest he had worn two or three times, but had not hurt the looks of them. He was dressed with a cotton flannel undershirt and drawers and a white shirt and that suite of black clothes, and a black handkerchief on his neck. He was dressed nice and looked naturel as if he was dressed to go to meeting. . . I had a pair of slippers flowered on top, black stockings and white gloves. I am going to have a monument put on his grave. It is not a very large one for I am not able to get a large one, but it will mark the place where he lays. It cost thirty dollars. . . I do not know what to do. Your father said for me to go to Texas to Laura Jane (a daughter). He did not want me to stay here. . . Edwin and Almira (son and daughter) want me to come back to Kansas and stay with them. When I get the monument up and see what I have left, I will come to some conclusions what to do. I do not expect that I will have enough to come to you and I would be afraid to come alone for I am not very well. I have been getting weaker since your father passed away. I feel weak and trembling and can hardly rite. . . I will send you some of your father's hair, I cut it off Sunday before he died. He said send Erastus some of that. I send some

(continued on page 26)

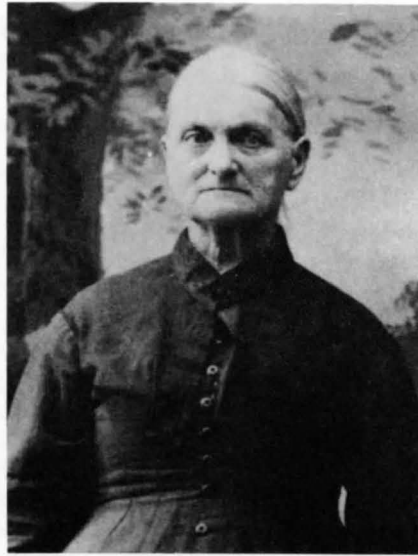
Letters

(continued from page 25)

of mine with it. The curl is your fathers. . . from your mother. Laura Rathbun."

"Lineville, May 7, 1894—Dear Children. I rote a letter to you and have got no answer yet. I sent you a piece of his hair and a piece of my hair. . . I have a very nice monument on his grave with his name, birth and age on it and a verse — Altho he sleeps, his memory doth live, and Cheering comfort the mourners give. I am left with but little to go on. . . Jacob (another son, in Missouri) said he was building a new house and as soon as he got it done he was coming after me to go and live with him . . . and he would see after me that I had good care. I do not think that I shall stay here more than two weeks longer. If I do not go to Jacob, I will go to Kansas to Edwin and Almira. That will take all the money I have. I remain as ever your loving mother, Laura Rathbun."

"Glen Elder, Kansas, April 3, 1896 (Living with her daughter, Almira Dukes). Dear Children. When I got your letter I was very sick. I was in so much pain I did not know what to do. I went to the doctor and got some medicine and had a hot flat iron put to me and I got better. I have been feeling very well til yesterday. I did not feel very well and today I have had the headache and can hardly get around. . . It is Good Friday



Laura Rathbun

today and we are having wind and dust storm now. . . Excuse all the mistakes and bad riteing for I do not feel very well. . . from your loving mother, Laura Rathbun."

"Glen Elder, Kansas, July 18, 1897—Dear Children. I am tolerable well and hope that these few lines will find you in the best of health. I have not heard from any of the children for a long time. I think they have got tired of riting to me and don't want to hear from me nor know nothing about me. I have no home and have a hard time to get along. Think of your mother, seventy five years old, and

have to work out to get what few things she needs. I have no home here but I hope I will have a home in heaven when I die. Lord bless my children and may they prosper and have plenty is my prayer. I was glad to get your letter . . . and I want you to rite me as often as you can for it does me good to hear from you. If I can not see you I like to hear from you. This is from your loving mother, Laura Rathbun."

This was the last known letter written by Laura to Erastus and Julia.

The following day, Almira Dukes (the daughter with whom Laura was living) also wrote to Erastus and Julia: "Ma is failing. She does not feel well much of the time, but you know her nature. She won't give up as long as she can drag a foot, and she worries a good deal because she has not nothing."

Shortly after this, Laura went to live with Erastus and Julia in Idaho. They took care of her for the rest of her life.

In July, 1910, Erastus received a letter from his sister, Arabelle Milligan, in Dewey, Arizona: "I was very sorry to hear Ma was failing, but glad she can sleep, for when she sleeps she is not suffering. I am very busy (and) sorry I can't come to see her, but there would be no pleasure in seeing her unless she could recognize me. I hope to be able to send her a few dollars before long. . ."

On August 24, 1910, Laura Rathbun died at the home of Erastus and Julia, aged 88, from "heart failure super-induced by old age."



The wedding picture of Erastus Artemus Rathbun and Julia Marie Larrabee, taken in November 1887, in Harrison County, Iowa. Erastus was 26; Julia was 20.

Genealogy: The Fifth Generation in America

19. GREENE⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1766 in Exeter, R.I., and married by 1790 Sarah (Sally) Nichols, born about 1768, daughter of Joseph and Anna (Rathbun) Nichols. This family was covered sketchily by Cooley, and little is known of them. They moved to Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y. about 1806, and sometime after 1820 removed to Willet, Cortland County, N.Y., where he appears in the 1830 census. He apparently died by 1840. She apparently died by 1820.

CHILDREN

GREENE, born about 1791; married Sally Lyons.

STEPHEN N., born Jan. 26, 1799; married Anna Rathbun, daughter of Daniel⁵ Rathbun (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

20. GIDEON⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born April 10, 1768 (or 1770), at Exeter, R.I., and married Jan. 1, 1795, Abigail Harrington, born Jan. 27, 1776, daughter of Henry and Freelove Harrington. They were living in Arlington, Vt., in 1800; Argyle, Washington County, N.Y., in 1810, and Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y., in 1820. Abigail died June 14, 1829, and he spent his final years with his son, Henry, at Tyre, Seneca County, N.Y., where he died Dec. 19, 1850, aged 81.

CHILDREN

HENRY, born Jan. 21, 1796; married (1) Olive Lewis; (2) Harriet Myers.

GIDEON, born Dec. 6, 1797; married Margaret _____.

FREELove G., born Jan. 28, 1800; married Amos Lewis Jan. 7, 1819.

HARRINGTON, born Jan. 3, 1802; died Aug. 28, 1809.

JOB, born Jan. 8, 1804; died Sept. 17, 1805.

FREEBORN G., born Feb. 5, 1806; died Feb. 15, 1806.

JOB, born March 3, 1807; married Electa Halladay.

ABIGAIL, born March 6, 1809; died April 24, 1813.

JOHN HARRINGTON, born Oct. 3, 1811; died April 24, 1813.

ABIGAIL, born Aug. 6, 1813; married (1) David Kilburn; (2) William Soper.

DORCAS, born Sept. 7, 1815; married (1) Ephriam Avery; (2) _____ Bloss.

JOHN DAVID, born Aug. 6, 1817; married Mary Malvina May.

MERCY, born July 15, 1821; married William Lamb Jan. 13, 1844.

21. STEPHEN⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1774 at Exeter, R.I., and married there Dec. 17, 1795, Lucy Lewis, born about 1778, daughter of Elisha and Mary (Austin) Lewis. This family was also covered sketchily by Cooley, who lists their children as Joseph, Oscar, Gideon and Lois. We have found no record of such names. Of the following list of children, only Reuben and Thomas are definite. Stephen was living in Voluntown, Conn., in 1800; Exeter, R.I., in 1810; Griswold, Conn., in 1820, and Coventry, R.I., in 1830. Neither his death date nor that of Lucy is known.

CHILDREN

?JOB, born about 1796; died July 13, 1829, at Coventry, R.I.

REUBEN, born about 1798; married Sarah Place.

?RAYMOND, born about 1800; married Eliza _____.

THOMAS J., born about 1803; married Joanna _____.

?AMY, born June 4, 1809; married Amasa Colvin.

OTHERS, names unknown.

22. DANIEL⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born in October, 1776, in Exeter, R.I., and married about 1797 Patience Nichols, born in 1773, daughter of Joseph Nichols and Ann⁴ Rathbun (John³⁻²⁻¹). They moved in 1808 to Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y., where Patience died Oct. 27, 1853, and Daniel in 1860.

CHILDREN

JOSEPH NICHOLS, born in 1798; married (1) Charlotte _____; (2) Hannah Hill.

DANIEL, born about 1800; apparently died young.

ANNA, born June 3, 1805; married Stephen⁶ Rathbun (Greene⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

PATIENCE, born about 1808; married Joseph Blossom in 1826.

BETSEY, born about 1810; apparently died young.

23. NEWMAN⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Dec. 10, 1778, in Exeter, R.I., and married in 1806 Olive (Rathbun) Lewis, born Feb. 1, 1780, widow of James Lewis and daughter of Simeon⁴ Rathbun (Thomas³ John²⁻¹). They moved to Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y., by 1810, and by 1830 to Lyndon, Cattaraugus County, N.Y. By 1860, they had moved to Warren Borough, Warren County, Pa., where she died in March, 1859, and he died April 22, 1866.

CHILDREN

NEWMAN, born April 16, 1807; married Lucinda Bennett in 1845, divorced in 1857; no children. He died in Bee Creek, Tenn., date unknown.

ERASTUS, born Sept. 11, 1809; died Sept. 15, 1877, unmarried.

OLIVE, born March 9, 1812; married Newell Braman Sept. 22, 1834.

EUNICE, born Aug. 25, 1814; died Sept. 8, 1814.

(continued on page 28)

Genealogy

(continued from page 27)

MARY ANN, born June 27, 1817; married George O. Lyon Feb. 15, 1847.

PARIS, born Jan. 13, 1820; married Hannah Hale.

ELIZABETH, born Feb. 21, 1823; died unmarried sometime after 1900.

24. ALLEN⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born in April, 1780, at Exeter, R.I., and married about 1803 Betsey Barber, born in 1783, parentage unknown. They moved to Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y., in 1805, and then to nearby McDonough by 1830. He died Aug. 8, 1871, at McDonough, aged 91; she died there Feb. 22, 1875, aged 92.

CHILDREN

ALLEN, born about 1804; married Ruth Gates.

GIDEON, born about 1806; married Charity Welch.

JOSEPH T., born about 1808; married Mary Sales.

BENJAMIN, born Dec. 7, 1810; married Christiana Bennett.

SQUIRE, born Aug. 8, 1812; married Sally M. Haskell (or Hackett).

DORCAS, born about 1814; married W. Lamb.

SALLY, born about 1816; married Russell Ellsworth Sept. 3, 1837.

MARY, born about 1818; married Charles Brizzie.

EASON P., born about 1823; married Jeanette Rogers.

ALMEDA, born about 1825; married Oliver P. Ellsworth Jan. 21, 1847.

JOANNA, born about 1832; died in May, 1870, unmarried.

25. JONATHAN E.⁵ RATHBUN (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1793 in Exeter, R.I., and married Sarah (Sally) Smith, born about 1802, parentage unknown. They were living in Otsego, New York, in 1830; in German, Chenango County, in 1840, and in Pharsalia, Chenango County, in 1850. He died at Pharsalia on Aug. 3, 1862. Her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

?ALVAH, born about 1825; married Mary Hall.

DANIEL M., born about 1827; married (1) Mary L. Scott; (2) Ellen

?GEORGE, born about 1830; married Amanda Gates.

EZRA, born about 1836; married (1) Roxy A. _____; (2) Eveline Garret.

MOSES M., born in July, 1838; married Abigail Root.

OTHERS, names unknown.

26. PERRY⁵ RATHBUN (Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1760 at Exeter, R.I. and moved as a young man with his parents to Tyringham, Berkshire County, Mass. He married July 24, 1782, at nearby Beckett, Mass., Mercy Babcock, born about 1765, parentage unknown. Perry served in the Revolutionary Army, and after the war, about 1788, followed his parents to Delhi, Delaware County (then Montgomery County), N.Y. He moved several times in the following years. In 1797, then of Easton, N.Y., he bought 50 acres in Tyringham for \$1,000, and was living there in 1800. By 1807, he was in Peru, Clinton County, N.Y., and about 1815 migrated to Belpre, Washington County, Ohio. He was described as a cooper (barrel maker) in 1797, but in Ohio he built and operated a sawmill, reportedly the first on the Little Hocking River. He died about 1833 at Belpre. Cooley says Mercy died in 1854 at Rome, Illinois, but she does not appear in the 1850 census and probably died not long after Perry.

CHILDREN

X JOSEPH, born Feb. 28, 1784; married Abigail (Nichols?).

X SIMEON, born about 1787; died unmarried in 1885.

MARY, born about 1791; married Allen Ball.

X EDMUND B., born about 1793; married Elizabeth Gibbs.

X EBENEZER, born March 14, 1796; married Martha Hall.

X MERCY, born about 1798; married (1) John Ingalls Dec. 9, 1818; (2) _____ Nolan, and (3) John Gates by 1850.

X POLLY APR 27, 1786
X ALPHEUS MAY 3, 1788
X DANIEL APR 29, 1805

X JOHN, born Jan. 22, 1800; married Charlotte Schoonover.

JUDITH, born Nov. 4, 1802; apparently died young.

HANNAH, born Feb. 10, 1805; apparently died young.

NATHAN, born Feb. 15, 1807; died July 28, 1808.

ELSA - ELSIE, born June 19, 1809; married John Calder Nov. 25, 1827.

X ELECTA, born Sept. 3, 1811; married Franklin Sims Dec. 25, 1831.

KATHALINE, born July 5, 1813; apparently died young.

27. JOHN⁵ RATHBUN (Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1762 in Exeter, R.I., and moved with his parents to Tyringham, Mass., where he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army, and then about 1785 to Delhi, Delaware County, N.Y. He was married about that time to a wife whose name is not known, and who apparently died in the late 1790s. He remarried within a few years to Amelia _____, and moved by 1800 to Ohio County, Virginia (now West Virginia), where he died early in 1802. His second wife "bound out" her two stepsons as apprentices in April, 1802, and nothing else is known of her.

CHILDREN

ELISHA, born Sept. 5, 1787; married (1) Prudy Richardson; (2) Elizabeth Flora.

ELECTA, born about 1789; married Isaac French on June 8, 1808.

JOHN, born June 15, 1794; married (?) Jane Rieson.

28. DAVID⁵ RATHBUN (Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1765 at Exeter, R.I., and raised in Tyringham, Mass. He moved with his parents to Delhi, N.Y., about 1785 and married there about 1796 Elsie Lewis, born in 1777, possibly a daughter of Randall and Elsie⁵ (Rathbun) Lewis (John⁴⁻³⁻²⁻¹). Delhi records show that he owned a house 19 by 15 feet in size, and operated a grist mill at the foot of Falls Brook. He sold the mill in 1806, sold his farm two years later, and moved about 1809 to Ames Township, Athens County, Ohio. There, too, he

was a farmer and for some years operated a horse-powered grist mill. Later, he built a hand-operated mill for use by himself and neighbors. He was noted for his skill at trapping animals. Settlers for miles around came to him for advice on trapping wolves. He died March 7, 1850. His wife died Nov. 4, 1851.

CHILDREN

ELSINA, born about 1797; married James Pugsley about 1816.

RHODA, born about 1799; married John S. Hall Oct. 26, 1817.

AMANDA, born Dec. 5, 1805; married Elisha Morey on July 10, 1826.

LEWIS, born Sept. 22, 1807; married (1) Sally Kearns; (2) Mercy Dille.

ABIGAIL, born April 18, 1810; married David Martin Hall.

MARY, born about 1812; married Robert A. Fulton Oct. 3, 1830.

JOHN RUEL, born Dec. 13, 1815; married Martha Ann Eddy.

29. GIDEON^s RATHBUN (Edmund^d John³⁻²⁻¹), born Oct. 3, 1766, at Exeter, and moved with his parents to Tyringham, Mass., and then to Delhi, N.Y. Like his brothers, he was a miller. Delhi tax records show that in 1798 he paid taxes on 200 acres, a mill and a home 20 by 24 feet. He married about 1795, Anna Newberry, born March 25, 1777, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth Newberry. Jonathan Newberry was a great-grandson of Jonathan Birch and Mary³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹). Gideon moved to Belpre, Washington County, Ohio, in 1807. An early county history calls him "the eccentric character among the settlers of 1807. He first settled on an eight-acre lot . . . When he sold this he moved down on Little Hocking (River). His only source of revenue was the fur-bearing animals he was enabled to capture. For a time he owned a pony on which he was accustomed to go to Marietta with a small grist of corn and skins to barter for necessities of life. As he grew older, his luck at hunting turned and then to add misfortune to misery the old pack horse died and Gideon was compelled to carry corn to the mill on his own back. One day as he was sweltering under his burden, a neighbor made friendly inquiry concerning his circumstances. Gideon de-

spondingly replied, 'Oh, I haint got nothin' to get nothin' with nor I haint got nothin' to bring nothin' home.' The latter part of his life was not free from want . . . He was one of those eccentric characters so frequently met with in pioneer history who are content as long as they have anything to eat and a place to sleep." This depiction of Gideon may not be entirely accurate. When he died on June 5, 1838, he left his wife, Anna, 'the plantation on which we now reside . . . containing about 120 acres . . . and all horses, cattle, sheep and hogs.' Anna lived another 28 years, and died Sept. 18, 1866, at the home of her son, John, in Jay County, Indiana.

CHILDREN

ELIZABETH, born March 3, 1796; married John Moore Oct. 26, 1823.

EDMUND, born Sept. 28, 1800; married Mary Dye.

MERCY, born March 12, 1802; married Nicholas Francis Jan. 16, 1831.

JOSEPH, born July 1, 1804; died May 24, 1818.

DAVID, born about 1806; married Rachel Dunlap.

ELSIE, born about 1808; married Abisha Cole Aug. 15, 1836.

DANIEL, born Sept. 19, 1810; married Margaret Ann Gardner.

HIRAM, born July 1, 1812; married Frances Clark.

WILLIAM, born about 1814; married (1) Frances Stanich, (2) Melissa Blough.

SOPHIA ELVIRA, born about 1816; married Reason Tippie on July 4, 1836.

LAVINA, born about 1818; married Volney Lepy.

JOHN C., born Dec. 11, 1821; married (1) Mary O'Brien; (2) Mary Chadow.

30. EDMUND^s RATHBUN (Edmund^d John³⁻²⁻¹), born May 25, 1777, in Tyringham, Mass., and migrated with his parents about 1785 to Delhi, N.Y. About 1799, the family moved to Ohio County, Virginia (now West Virginia), where he married, on Jan. 1, 1801, Deborah Taylor, born March 25, 1782, daughter of Isaac Taylor. They moved about 1805 across the Ohio River to Belpre, Ohio, where they remained 11 years. In 1816, they moved to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and a year later to Crawford County,

Illinois. They later settled in Hardin County, Iowa, where he died Sept. 25, 1865. Deborah had died four years earlier, on June 27, 1861. A few years before his death, Edmund dictated a story of his life to his son, Gideon, which appeared in several issues of the *Rathbone Family Historian* of 1892-1894. We will have a special story on his life in a future issue.

CHILDREN

LOVICA, born about 1802; married Onatus Chaffee.

ELECTA, born in March, 1804; married (1) Washburn Blackburn; (2) Isaac Fail.

ELIZABETH, born about 1806; married (?) Jonathan Conger.

GIDEON, born August 6, 1809; married Eliza Jane Howell; (2) Lucy Ann (Brooks) Howell.

CELICIA, born about 1812; married Grove Maddox on June 20, 1828.

IRA P. WEBSTER, born March 6, 1815; married Sarah White.

CORNELIUS TAYLOR, born Nov. 12, 1818; married (1) Mary Ann Drain; (2) Helen Fordyce, and (3) Abigail Fordyce.

(continued on page 30)

If you could meet your ancestors all standing in a row there might be some of them perhaps you wouldn't care to know. But there's another question which requires a different view. If you could meet your ancestors would they be proud of you?

Anonymous

(continued from page 29)

31. PAUL⁵ RATHBUN (Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born March 2, 1764, at Exeter, R.I., and married there Sept. 4, 1796, Patience (Kenyon) Wilcox, born March 15, 1768, daughter of Nathaniel and Anna (Reynolds) Kenyon and widow of Thurston Wilcox. They moved shortly after their wedding to Easton, Washington County, N.Y., where Paul died March 13, 1848, and Patience on March 23, 1856.

CHILDREN

?LYMAN, born about 1798; married (?) Penelope ____.

KENYON, born Feb. 22, 1800; married Perolina Freeman.

?HIRAM, born about 1810; married (?) Nancy ____.

32. ELIAS⁵ RATHBUN (Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born June 23, 1767, at Exeter, R.I., and married, about 1787, Mary Merris, born about 1770, daughter of William and Mary Merris. They lived in Exeter for a few years, moved to Voluntown, Conn., by 1800 and then to Sterling, Conn., by 1830. Elias died Feb. 19, 1843. Mary was living in 1850 with her daughter, Betsey Nichols, but her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

ELIAS, born about 1788; married Sarah Perkins.

MARY, born about 1790; married William Douglas on April 8, 1813.

JOSHUA, born about 1792; married (1) Susannah Richmond; (2) Amy ____.

ELIJAH, born about 1794; married Esther Congdon.

NABBY, born about 1798; married Nathan Potter Dec. 7, 1817.

ROBY, born June 17, 1795; married Sheffield Corey Jr. Dec. 8, 1817.

PAUL, born about 1803; married Hannah S. Burdick.

BETSEY born May 4, 1805; married Stephen Nichols on May 15, 1842.

(To be continued)

New Major Error Found In Cooley's Genealogy

Discovery of a major error in John C. Cooley's *Rathbone Genealogy* changes the long-accepted lineage of many American Rathbuns, including some 20 of our members.

Thomas Rathbun, born in the 1760s who married Eliza Ann Cooper, was not the son of Thomas⁴ Rathbun (Ebenezer³ William² John¹) and Ann (Wilbur) Rathbun, of Westerly, R.I., but was the son of John⁴ Rathbun (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Hannah (Eldred) Rathbun, of North Kingstown, R.I.

This inaccuracy in the *Rathbone Genealogy* was discovered by John D. Bowen, one of our members, and Janet Johnson, a Rhode Island researcher retained by Mr. Bowen to research his Rathbun ancestry. Mr. Bowen is a descendant of Thomas and Eliza Ann (Cooper) Rathbun.

Cooley, on page 745, says that Thomas Rathbun was born March 8, 1768, the son of Thomas and Anna Rathbun of Westerly, R.I. There was such a Thomas, born in 1768, but nothing is known of him. He may have died young.

The Thomas Rathbun who married Eliza Ann Cooper can easily be shown to be the son of John and Hannah (El-

dred) Rathbun of North Kingstown.

Thomas was recorded in the 1790 census of North Kingstown near John and Hannah, and is mentioned in John's will of 1819. Thomas' son, Samuel, died in Wickford (North Kingstown). Finally, Thomas and Eliza named one of their sons James Eldred Rathbun, obviously for one of his mother's brothers.

Incidentally, this discovery gives the descendants of Thomas and Eliza Ann a second line of Rathbun lineage, for his mother, Hannah Eldred, was the daughter of Robert Eldred and Hannah³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹).

Eliza Ann (or possibly Elsie Ann) was the daughter of Gilbert and Elizabeth (Davis) Cooper, and probable granddaughter of Matthew Cooper and Abigail (Updike) Cooper.

With the help of Mr. Bowen, we are preparing a chart showing the ancestry of Eliza Ann Cooper, and will send it to interested descendants who forward a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

We offer our gratitude to Mr. Bowen for bringing this correction to our attention. Such corrections in Cooley's book are one of the major goals of our association.

New Data

Alfred⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹) was born April 14, 1792, at Colchester, Conn., according to records deposited with the Church of Latter Day Saints in 1944 by Mrs. Annie J.B. Peterson of Salina, Utah. We do not know her source for this date, and are trying to make contact with Mrs. Peterson or her family. In our story on Alfred and his family (Vol. 2, No. 3), we estimated his birth year as 1791, so this date would be about right. Mrs. Peterson also gave the birth date of Alfred's sister, Sarah Ann, as May 15, 1794, which would also be about right.

The wife of Jeremiah⁴ Rathbun (Joseph³⁻² John¹) was Mary Phillips, born about 1746, daughter of Samuel Phillips (1726-1748) and Anna _____, who after her husband's death married Benjamin Lawton.

Roger⁴ Rathbun (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) died March 19, 1833, at North Kingstown, R.I. James Rathbun, probably a hitherto unknown son of Roger, died Jan. 1, 1806, also at North Kingstown. Our thanks to Frank E. Rathbun for locating these dates in North Kingstown records.

People

BEVERLY (RATHBUN) GILLETTE of Frankfort, New York, may own the oldest Rathbun family antiques in existence. She has an old secretary desk brought to New York from Rhode Island about 1801 by her ancestor, Thomas⁵ Rathbun (John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). She also has an old whale oil lamp which may have belonged to Thomas, but was definitely used by his son, John Rathbun, born in 1796. Does anyone have any older items?

CHESTER CLAIR CORNELL, one of our members, was the compiler and author of *The History of Ossian and Military Township*, published in October at Ossian, Iowa. The book represents many years of research by Mr. Cornell in local records. The 300 copies were sold out within a few months. He is a grandson of Bradshaw⁷ Rathbun (Thomas⁶ Walter⁶ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹) and Elizabeth Hall.

LETTY LEOTA (COLE) STREETER, celebrated her 82nd birthday on January 9 in a Yakima, (Washington), nursing home. She is still recovering from the effects of a stroke suffered last year. Mrs. Streeter is the granddaughter of Harriet (Rathbun) Cole, daughter of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Her son, Victor, and his wife, Ruth, are among our members.

LAURA RATHBUN, 93, of Bakersfield, California, recently made her first television appearance. She moved last year into a convalescent home, and was forced to give her pet cat to her son, Bryce. Recently, however, the hospital recognized the therapeutic value of animals, and brought in a dog and four pups who have the run of the building. Mrs. Rathbun was photographed with them, gave an interview to a local newspaper, and then appeared on television. She is the widow of John Edward⁹ Rathbun (Virgil⁸ Giles⁷ James⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Her son Bryce is one of our members.

VELMA (RATHBONE) LAWSON and her husband, Archie, have moved from Cave Junction, Ore., to Chattanooga, Tenn., where Rev. Lawson is co-pastor of two churches for the Church of God (Seventh Day). Mrs. Lawson is the daughter of Lemuel⁹ Rathbone (Rufus⁸ George⁷ Rufus⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

ALICE M. PHILLIPS relates how her grandfather Rathbun used to correct anyone misspelling or mispronouncing his last name. "His method was very simple and usually cleared the mistake," she writes. "He was an 'angry biscuit'—a Rath Bun." Her grandfather was Thomas A.⁸ Rathbun (Alonzo⁷ Thomas⁶ Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹).

GATHERN AND LEAH RATHBUN of New Auburn, Wisc., were honored on their 45th wedding anniversary, February 5, at a party given by their three children—Judy Geer, Max Rathbun and Rex Rathbun. They were married in 1938, and have 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Their daughter, Jean Dubois, died last year. Gathern is the son of George Elmer⁹ Rathbun (Jonathan⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Sadie Nichols.

FRANK H. RATHBUN III, our production manager, has joined the Aluminum Association in Washington D.C., as a public relations representative. In December, he won a top award from the International Association of Business Communicators for a brochure he produced for the Glass Packaging Institute. He is the son of our editor, and grandson of Frank Hugo⁸ Rathbun (Hugo⁷ Charles⁶ Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

We thank the following members who have sent in family records and other data in recent months—John D. Bowen, Florence Selleck, Beverly (Rathbun) Gillette, Marsha Magley, Joseph Wiswall, Dorothy Schumann, Phyllis Walklet, Frank E. Rathbun and Betty Drake. How about seeing your name here next time?

Queries

WANTED—Information and/or present whereabouts of Harold S. Rathbun, last heard of living in Burnsville, N.C., in 1978. He was a disabled veteran, and had children living somewhere in Texas.

WANTED—Information on Milton Rathbun, born about 1824, possibly in Maryland; married in 1847 Mary Watson in Fayette County, Pa., and was killed in the Civil War. Had children named Benjamin, Walter and Margaret.

WANTED—Information on Sidney Rathbun, born in January, 1853, in New York; married Mary _____, and was living in Washtenaw County, Mich., in 1900. Had children named Mercy, Anna and George, all born in New York.

WANTED—Information on Alpheus or Alpha Rathbun, born in June, 1862, in Ohio; married Laura Randolph in 1887, and had children named Mable and Norman. They lived in Athens County, Ohio, in 1889, and in Columbus, Ohio, in 1900.

Corrections

In the list of soldiers in the French and Indian War, (Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 9) the mother of John Rathbun (1730-1816) was erroneously listed as Anna (Hopkins) Albro. Anna was John's wife. His mother was Experience Mott. Our thanks to Art Burris for noting this error.

Abigail Wilbur, wife of Joseph³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹), did not marry (1) Jonathan Hilliard, as reported in Vol. 1, No. 4, Page 62. This information came from the *Brownell Genealogy*, but further research has revealed that it was another Abigail Wilbur who married Jonathan Hilliard.

Births

BORN—July 26, 1982, at Omaha, Neb., Kelan Anthony Rathbun, son of Rodney L. and Kathaleen (Koenig) Rathbun. He has an older brother, Asten Charles Rathbun, aged five. Rodney Rathbun is the son of William Leroy¹⁰ Rathbun (Charles⁹ John⁸ William⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

BORN—Oct. 22, 1982, at Arco, Idaho, Jason Wayne Rathbun, son of Philip Allan and Cinthia Loraine (Peterson) Rathbun. Grandparents are Wayne L. and Mildred (Doughty) Rathbun of Moore, Idaho, who are members of our association. Wayne is the son of Clark Allen⁸ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹) and Cora (Tibbetts) Rathbun.

Obituaries

DIED—Jan. 2, 1983, Stephen M. Rathbone, 27, of Austin, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Martha; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel M. Rathbone; daughter, Marthanne, and son, Richard Alan; brothers, James Bird, David Rathbone and Jeffrey Rathbone; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt, all of Austin, and a great-grandmother, Mrs. W.M. Hattenbach of Boerne, Texas. The parents and brother, David, are members of our Association. Stephen's father, Lemuel, is the son of Lemuel M.⁹ Rathbone Sr. (Rufus⁸ George⁷ Rufus⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

See Corrections 03-3 p 45

DIED—Jan. 26, 1983, Elenora M. (Harris) Rathbun, at Clayville, R.I. She was the widow of Charles Olney⁹ Rathbun (Raymond⁸ Amy⁷ Olney⁶ Joshua⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Among her survivors is a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Helen Rathbun, one of our members, and several grandchildren.

DIED—Nov. 9, 1982, Hattie Nancy (Huff) Rathbun, 92, in Allamakee County, Iowa. She was the widow of Charles Herbert⁸ Rathbun (Bradshaw⁷ Thomas⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹). Survivors include three sons, Lawrence, Kenneth and Hartley, and 14 grandchildren.

Our New Members

William D. Cossey
Boise, Idaho

Kevin DuBois
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Marjorie C. Gibson
Clinton, Iowa

Allie May (Rathbone) LaBaume
Fresno, Calif.

Mrs. JoAnn Lanke
Fredonia, Wisc.

Elsie Phillips
Greenfield, Calif.

Mrs. Frank J. Rathbun
Westminster, Vt.

J. Corbet Rathbun
Glenview, Ill.

Donald and Agnes Rathbun
Troy, N.Y.

Gathern and Leah Rathbun
New Auburn, Wisc.

Jerrold L. Rathbun
Lewiston, Idaho

John W. Rathbun
Glencoe, Okla.

Leon W. Rathbun
Cornwall, N.Y.

Paul V. Rathbun
Tecumseh, Neb.

Dorothy (Rathbun) Schumann
Charleston, N.H.

Mrs. Nellie Smith
St. Paul, Minn.

Irene (Rathbun) Trumble
Canajoharie, N.Y.

Joseph M. Wiswall
Freehold, N.J.

DIED—April 5, 1982, Florence May (Rathbun) Rood, aged 91, at Windham, Conn. She was the widow of Horace B. Rood and the daughter of William D.⁸ Rathbun (Jason⁷ Joshua⁶ Elias⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and Jennie Elizabeth Grey. She is survived by five children—Dorothy May Selleck, Horace Ira Rood, Charles Herbert Rood, Agnes Elizabeth Franklin and Olive Winifred Ruppen—and 16 grandchildren, including Florence Selleck, one of our members.

DIED—Jan. 18, 1983, Anna (Rathbun) Woodmansee, aged 94, at Warwick, Rhode Island. She was the widow of Walter L. Woodmansee and the last surviving child of William W.⁸ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and Ruth⁸ Rathbun (John⁷ Nathan⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

DIED—Jan. 23, 1983, at Cooperstown, N.Y., Ward H. Rathbun, 88, of East Springfield, N.Y. A retired carpenter, he was the son of Duncan⁸ Rathbun (Levant⁷ Williams⁶⁻⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). Survivors include a son, Leon W. Rathbun, one of our newest members; a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Druse; a sister, Mrs. Pauline Matson; six grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

DIED—Sept. 21, 1982, Katherine (Rathbun) English, 91, at White Bear Lake, Minn. She was the widow of John G. English and the daughter of Virgil⁸ Rathbun (Giles⁷ James⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Mary Towe. Survivors include a son and two daughters; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and a brother, Giles Rathbun, of California.

DIED—March, 1982, Juliette (Rathbone) Mumma, 87, in Clearwater, Florida. She was the widow of Brigadier General Harlan L. Mumma and a daughter of John Valleau⁷ Rathbone Jr. (John⁶ William⁵ Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). She is survived by three children, Juliette Redington, John Rathbone Mumma and Harlan Leslie Mumma Jr. Mrs. Mumma was one of our Association's earliest members.

I can write the stories, and we can publish the Historian, but we need your help. Please, if you haven't done so, send in your family records, and any information on our family you can find.