

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

FAMILY HISTORIAN



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the perpetuity of
our common heritage
an honorable
Name.

Letter From the Editor

Our Block Island reunion is now history, and what a tremendous event it was. Reunion details and pictures are located elsewhere in this issue so I will not go into it here, except to mention the great pleasure I had in meeting the cousins with whom I had corresponded, but never before met.

I would like to tell you a little about the other highlights of our trip.

Hazel and I left Fairfax on July 18, drove north through Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York and crossed the Hudson River at the Bear Mountain Bridge. We then headed into Connecticut, where our first stop was the Rathbun Free Library at East Hadam. We will have a story later about this beautiful structure, built with a legacy from Norris W. Rathbun.

We then drove to the Colchester/Salem area, where we found two family cemeteries—one Rathbun and one Rathbone. We drove on Rathbun Hill Road and explored Rathbun Hill.

From there, we traveled along the coast through Groton (past Rathbun

Street) and on to Stonington Point, where we again saw the 1775 home of Rev. John Rathbone, and finally to Point Judith, R.I. where we spent the night before taking the ferry to Block Island on July 20.

Returning to the mainland on July 28, we had a wonderful visit in Cranston with 101-year-old Ernest Rathbun and his charming wife, Eola. Their daughter, Helen Rathbun (our organist at the reunion), took us to see her brother, Arnold, and his fantastic "music room," where he has installed a remarkable collection of organ pipes, drums, cymbals, bells and a xylophone—all wired to play from organ and piano rolls.

He also showed us an ancient cobbler's bench, owned by Joseph Sheffield Rathbun (1780-1850), which will be featured in a future story.

After staying two days with friends in Cranston, we drove Saturday morning to Westerly to meet Elwin and Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon, and her aunt, Hazel (Rathbun) Ritchie, all of whom had attended our reunion. They gave us a fascinating tour of Exeter and the Escoheague Hill area, home of many early Rathbuns.

We explored two Rathbun cemeteries and accidentally found a home built in

1804 by Joshua Rathbun, born in 1741. This, too, will be featured in a later issue.

Our last issue launched our new mailing system, handled by a mailing firm and using third-class bulk mail rates. This means the *Historian* will take longer in the mail, but it means a big savings for us in postage and time.

I cannot close without offering thanks to some very special people who helped make the reunion such a success—my wife, Hazel; Rev. Raymond B. Martin and Rev. William E. Rathbun; Lydia and Don Littlefield; Helen M. Rathbun, and the other 22 members of the Rathbun Family Choir.

And a hearty thanks to all who contributed to the monument fund. Their names are listed in a brochure which accompanies this issue. A copy will be placed in the files of the Block Island Historical Society.

Our next reunion, tentatively, will be held in 1985 in Rathbun, Iowa. Rev. Bill Rathbun has offered to explore this location for us. May it be as great a success as this year's gathering on Block Island.

Frank

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Dues Are Lowered Again

Believe it or not, this issue completes the third year of our Association and our *Historian*, and that means that 1984 dues are now due.

With 325 members now on the roll, we again are going to reduce the membership fee, and we have set it at \$15 for next year.

This means that we have reduced the cost of belonging to the Rathbun Family Association from the original 1981 price of \$25 by 40 percent. Not bad in these days of inflation.

With our new computerized mailing system, it is now very costly to put reminder notes in individual envelopes. So, *please*, send your checks in now. Last year, some members waited so long to send their checks

we had to drop their names from our list, and then add them again. This is time-consuming and, with the computer system, it will be costly. We are charged for each deletion and addition.

We have lots of stories and pictures lined up for the coming year. We are truly proud of our *Historian*, and we consider it one of the best family publications in the world. We hope and believe that you share this pride.

So, if you do enjoy the *Historian* and enjoy being part of our Association, send your check now. And keep trying to enlist new members. Let's keep our Association growing.

Nearly 50 Family Members Fought in Revolutionary War

This is the second in a series of articles on the role of our family in America's wars. In January, we covered the French and Indian War of 1754–1763. This story covers the Revolutionary War of 1775–1783. Captain John Peck Rathbun, whose history was outlined in the past four issues, was our family's outstanding hero of the Revolution, but nearly 50 other Rathbuns and Rathbones participated. Their names and details of their service will be listed in the next issue.

Nearly 50 Rathbuns and Rathbones served in the American armed forces during the Revolutionary War—the eight-year conflict which made the United States a free and independent nation.

This figure represents probably 75 percent of our family members who were of fighting age during the war. This is a most impressive average in light of estimates that one-third of the American colonists supported the war, one-third opposed it, and the other third really didn't care.

Detailed facts on the Revolution are easily available in any library, so we will not try to outline the history of the war in this article. Instead, we will concentrate on those factors of special interest to our family.

In the next issue, we will have a complete list of all the Rathbuns and Rathbones who served, with their ancestry and all that is known of their military or naval service. Also listed will be several who actively supported the war but did not enter service, and a few who refused to serve for varied reasons.

One of them was a Tory, two were Quakers and two hired substitutes to serve for them when they were drafted into the army or militia.

Our ancestors served from the colonies of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. A few served with Vermont or New Hampshire regiments. None of our family had moved by that

era to New York, Pennsylvania or other states.

Members of our family took part in the battles of Bunker Hill, Ticonderoga, Long Island, Germantown, Bennington, Saratoga, Newport, Stony Point and many others. At least one Rathbun wintered with George Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and one participated in Arnold's celebrated march to Quebec.

None, so far as known, was involved in later battles of the war which were fought in the southern states.

John Peck Rathbun's role as lieutenant and captain in the Continental Navy was described in detail in our last four issues.

Although records of the era are spotty, it appears that almost all the Rathbuns and Rathbones served in land forces, not in the Navy or on privateers. (Captain John Peck Rathbun and Cap-

WAR!

tain Jonathan Coffin Rathbone are notable exceptions).

This seems odd, since so many of our family lived near the sea, and many were mariners before and after the war. Future research may uncover more Rathbuns and Rathbones who served at sea.

Only three Rathbuns were officers in the land forces—Captain Amos Rathbun of Massachusetts and Lieutenants Thomas Rathbun of Connecticut and Samuel Rathbun of Block Island. The others served as privates, although a few were promoted to corporal or sergeant.

One Rathbun was killed in the war—a 17-year-old boy who died only six days

after he enlisted. One fatality out of 46 in our family is well over the war's average. Of 290,000 Americans who served, some 4,000 died, or one in about 72.

Several family members were wounded in action, and many were later pensioned by the Federal Government.

A number were listed as deserters, a common problem during the war, and one that was not taken as seriously as in our day.

Most New Englanders of fighting age in Revolutionary times belonged to local militia units, known as "train-bands" because they trained in small groups. One-third of them were expected to be ready to march "at a minute's notice"—hence the term "minute-men."

These militia units were often called out "on alarm" when battles took place within marching distance. Such service sometimes lasted only a few days or a week.

Records indicate that the average man at that time was much shorter than today. Descriptions are rare; only two Rathbuns' height was recorded. One was five feet, five inches, the other was five foot ten. Captain John Peck Rathbun was called the "little captain," and was probably an inch or two over five feet. John Paul Jones was about the same size. George Washington, at six feet two, was considered huge for his day.

Most militiamen carried their own gun—flintlock muskets often 10 to 20 years old, or more. They also carried powder horns, bullet pouches, bullet molds and extra flints. They fought in civilian clothing. Only officers and regular Army men had uniforms. Bayonets were rare; gun powder was scarce.

There was little discipline in the New England militia companies, where democracy was the rule. Amos Rathbun was elected by his neighbors as captain of his company by virtue of his earlier service in the French and Indian War.

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Another factor, no doubt, was his age—38.

Most of the Revolutionary War enlisted men were farmers, and most were teen-agers, 17 to 19, with a few in their early 20s. Some older men, even into their early 40s, were in militia units, but most of these probably saw no action. There were some exceptions. Ebenezer Rathbun was in the battle of Newport at age 38. Joshua Rathbun was in action at 36. Roger Rathbun fought at age 40. Several family members enlisted at 15 or 16.

Soldiers from the southern and middle states looked down on the New England “Yankees” and the feeling was mutual. In the early years of the war there was much sectional antagonism among the troops.

By the end of the war, after marching, camping and fighting together, northern, central and southern troops had developed a mutual respect and the bitterness faded. The camaraderie engendered during the war contributed toward national unity in the newly created United States.

In 1818, 35 years after the war, Congress authorized pensions for surviving war veterans and their widows, and several Rathbuns took advantage of the offer. One of them, Jonathan Rathbun, wrote a book about his experiences to help support himself in his old age. His account appears with this story.

By the third decade of the 1800s, the ranks of war veterans had dwindled. The 1835 pension roll listed 10 Rathbuns, and in 1840 listed only four. The last survivor of our family’s Revolutionary soldiers was Joseph⁵ Rathbun (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), a private in the Rhode Island militia. He died in 1854, aged 91.

By the 1870s, with all the Revolutionary soldiers dead, an aura of nostalgic romance settled over the war. Many families “invented” Revolutionary service for their ancestors, making it difficult for historians today to separate fact from fiction.

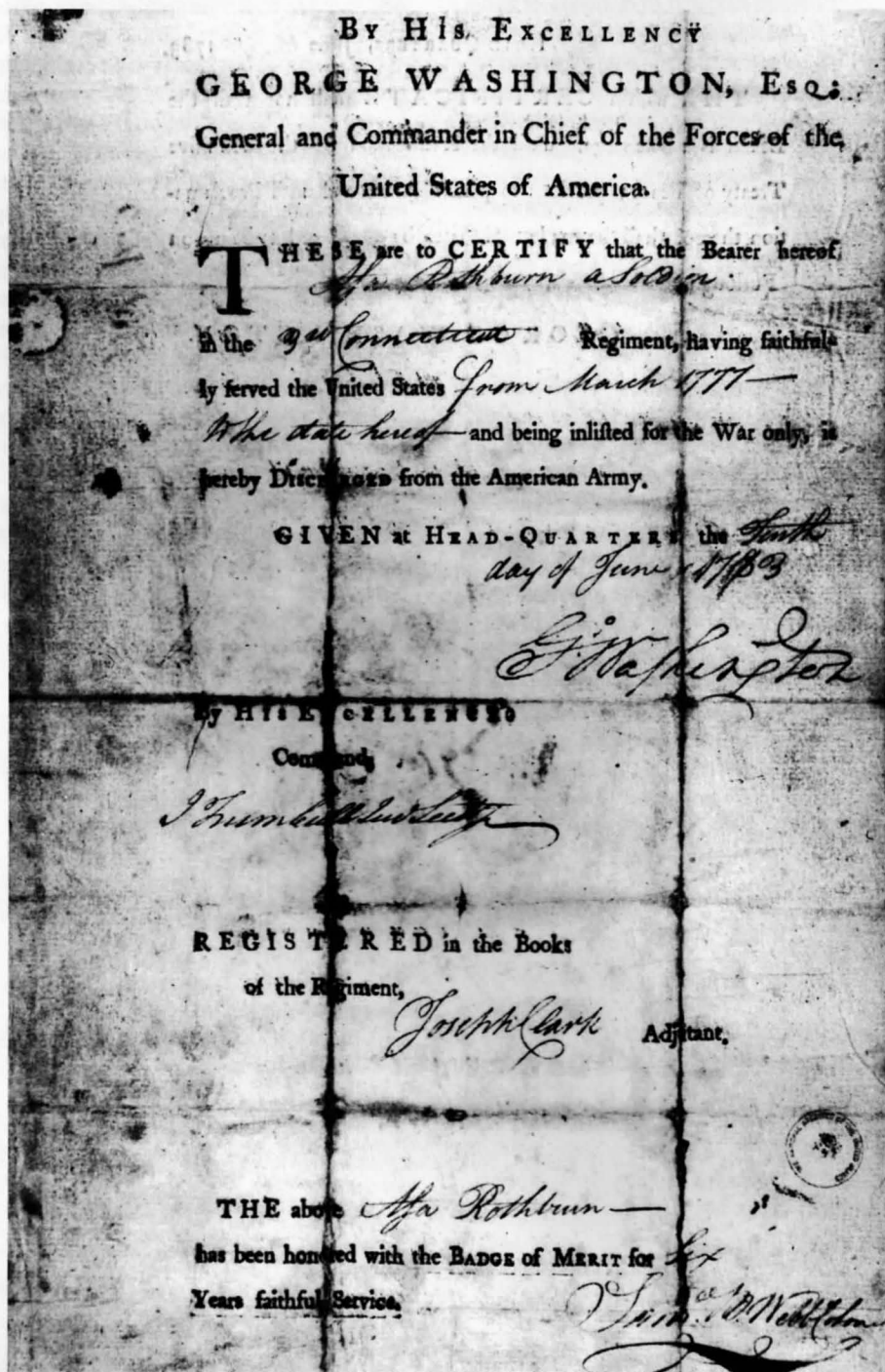
John C. Cooley, in his 1898 *Rathbone Genealogy*, accepted some of these claims at face value.

For example, he reported that Gideon Rathbun, born in 1766, was at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775—aged nine!

Cooley also stated that Jonathan Rathbun, born in 1762, was at Bunker Hill—aged 13!—and that his “wife” heard the noise of the battle, climbed a haystack to locate the scene of the fighting, then melted her lead and pewter kitchenware to provide bullets for the American Army. Later, Cooley said, she cared for

the battle’s wounded. All this when she, born in 1770, was five years old!

Despite these “tall tales” and impossible legends, Rathbuns and Rathbones did play important roles in the Revolution and we have reason to be proud of our family’s role in the war that made the United States an independent nation.



Revolutionary War discharge of Asa⁵ Rathburn (Thomas⁴⁻³ Samuel² John¹), signed by George Washington. (From the National Archives).

Jonathan Rathbun Writes Book Detailing His War Experiences

In 1781, as the British came to realize they were losing the war to keep their American colonies, King George and his advisors decided on drastic measures to turn the tide in their favor.

They turned their attention to the harbor between New London and Groton, Conn., which was a New England headquarters for American privateers and supply ships.

On Sept. 6, 1781, the British struck. A force of 800 men advanced on Groton, and another 700 landed at New London.

The 150 American troops in the area withdrew to Fort Griswold, overlooking the harbor. After a brief battle, the Americans surrendered the fort. The British

then engaged in an outright massacre.

Only six Americans had been killed and 18 wounded in the fighting, but another 85 were slain and 60 wounded after the surrender. The American commander, Col. William Ledyard, handed over his sword only to have it plunged into his body. He was then bayoneted to death.

The British force was led by the American traitor, Benedict Arnold, who had become a British general. Even though he had close relatives living in New London, Arnold gave his troops orders to burn and loot the city and neighboring Groton.

Word of the massacre spread to

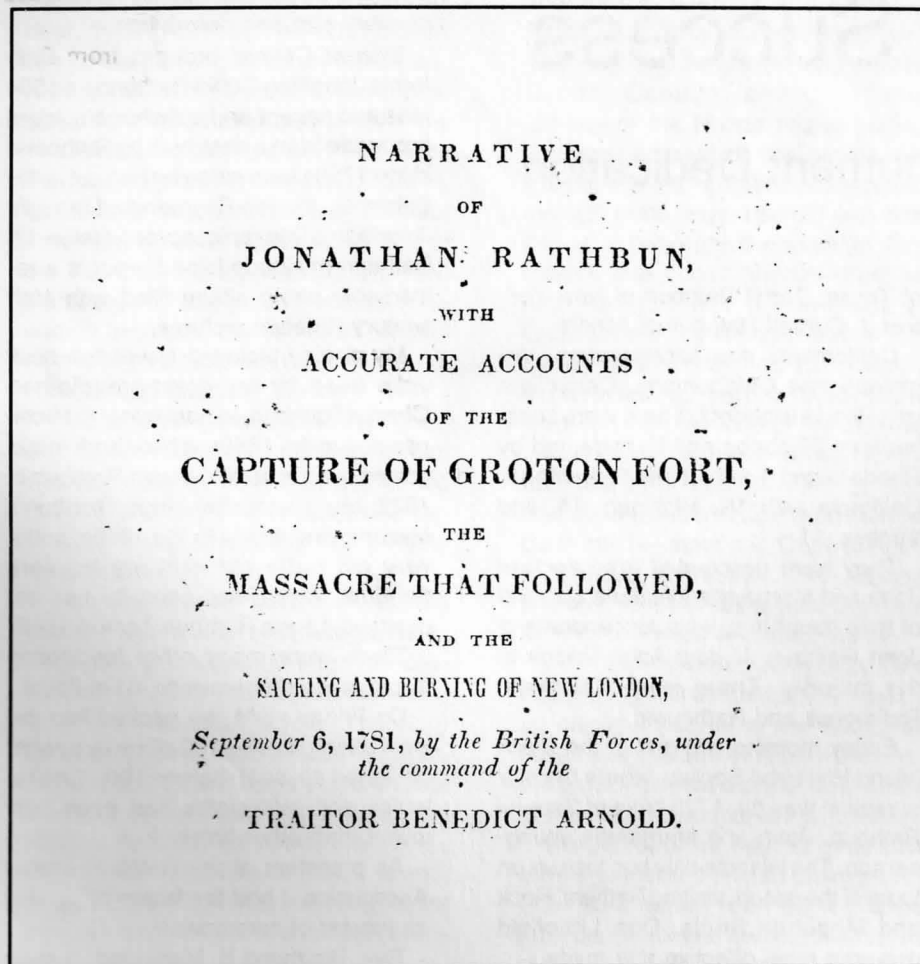
neighboring towns. Local militia were immediately ordered to the area, but Arnold and his men had already sailed for New York.

Among the arriving troops was Jonathan Rathbun of Colchester, Conn., just four months past his 16th birthday. Fifty-nine years later, he wrote his memories of what he had seen in New London. He published his account in 1840.

His 80-page booklet is one of the few written by a Revolutionary war soldier, and is today considered a collectors' item.

Jonathan (1765-1843) was the son of Isaiah⁴ Rathbun (Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). His account follows:

I was born in Colchester, Connecticut, in 1765. When 16 years of age, I joined as a volunteer a company of Militia, belonging to my native town, and marched to the relief of New London, intelligence having just reached us of an attack on that place by the British, under the conduct of the Traitor Benedict Arnold. We left home to the number of about one hundred men early on the morning of the 7th of September 1781, the day after the battle. On our arrival in New London we witnessed a scene of suffering and horror which surpasses description. The enemy were not to be found, but they had left behind them the marks of their barbarism and cruelty. The city was in ashes. More than one hundred and thirty naked chimneys were standing in the midst of the smoking ruins of stores and dwelling houses. Very little property had escaped the conflagration, except a part of the shipping which, on the first alarm, was sent up the river. But though the city was destroyed, it was far from being deserted. Numerous companies of militia from the neighborhood were pouring into the town; and the inhabitants, who had fled from their burning dwellings, were returning to



Frontispiece of Jonathan Rathbun's 1840 memoirs.

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Block Island Reunion Is Splendid Success

Nearly 200 Attend Monument Dedication

What can I say about our Block Island reunion?

It was tremendous, it was wonderful, it was overwhelming, it was an outstanding success. These words hardly do justice to the event.

Our Thursday night (July 21) reception drew over 100 cousins. Some 150 attended the dinner program Friday night. And nearly 200 attended Saturday's monument dedication.

The turnout surpassed my wildest expectations: Our headquarters hotel, the Narragansett Inn, was quickly filled, and Rathbun cousins spread throughout the island in a dozen other hotels.

We began Thursday night with a get-acquainted reception. And we did, indeed, get acquainted. A buzz of animated conversation filled the air of the Narragansett's bar and adjoining porch.

Two pair of first cousins met for the first time—Edison Rathbone of Washington met Lois (Rathbone) McEachern

of Texas; Darryl Rathbun of New York met J. Corbett Rathbun of Illinois.

Californians met Michiganders, Virginians met Oklahomans, Canadians met Rhode Islanders. There were cousins from 24 states and Canada, led by Rhode Island with 23, New York with 19, California with 16, Michigan, 14, and Virginia, 11.

They were descended from each of John and Margaret's five sons and one of their daughters, with descendants of John Rathbun Jr. and Anne Dodge in the majority. There were Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns.

Friday morning, we met at the Block Island Historical Society, where the star attraction was the 1725 bible of Samuel Rathbun, John and Margaret's youngest son. The island's only bus took us on tours of the island, visiting Settlers' Rock and Mogehean Bluffs. Don Littlefield proved a most effective tour guide.

In the afternoon, the Narragansett's

two parlors were filled with displays of family heirlooms brought by cousins from throughout the country—bibles, pictures, documents, jewelry, antiques of every size and description.

Everett Collord brought from California Jonathan Coffin Rathbone's 1804 Masonic papers and a mahogany jewel box made from a desk built by Rathbone in the 1790s from a tree he had cut in the Bahamas. Marian Reymenandt brought Jonathan's Masonic apron. Helen M. Rathbun of Rhode Island brought a remarkable photo album filled with 19th century Rathbun pictures.

My display included a wooden neck yoke used by my great-grandfather, Charles Rathbun, to haul water in Michigan during the 1850s, a New York militia commission issued to Hiram Rathbun in 1822, my grandfather Hugo Rathbun's Masonic ring dating to the 1860s, and a very old turtle pin sent me by Vera Schrank, which was used by her ancestress, Lewra Rathbun, born in 1809.

There were many other fascinating displays too numerous to list in detail.

On Friday night, we packed into the inn's dining room—150 of us in a room designed to seat barely 100. Chairs, tables and tablecloths had been borrowed from other hotels.

As president of the Rathbun Family Association, I had the honor of serving as master of ceremonies.

Rev. Raymond B. Martin led us in an opening prayer, after his son-in-law,



Association President Frank H. Rathbun dedicates the monument to John and Margaret Rathbun.

Timothy Fisher, opened the program with a solo version of "This Is My Country," which left many eyes misty. Tim and his wife, Debbie, joined in a beautiful duet, "Hiding in Thee," with David Warren accompanying them on the organ.

Introduction of all present was impossible, so I introduced only a few—my wife, Hazel, whose hard work had made the reunion possible; my son, Frank H. Rathbun III, production manager of our *Historian*; his wife, Janice, treasurer of the Rathbun Family Association; Rob Rathbun, my active and valuable research assistant; my daughter, Charity (Rathbun) Ramoz, and her husband, Ronnie, and daughter, Dawn.

I introduced the oldest cousin present, Lois (Rathbone) McEachern of Houston, Texas, who had celebrated her 91st birthday only four days earlier. The entire group sang her a lusty "Happy Birthday."

Also introduced were 87-year-old Marian Reymenandt of Calistoga, Calif., a hereditary baroness through her descent from the 900-year-old German family of Von Canstatt; Lydia (Rathbun) Littlefield and her husband, Don (earlier, our tour guide), and three of the original founders of our association—Gaal and Mildred Rathburn of Johnstown, N.Y., and Esther Littlefield of Block Island, who claims six Rathbun lines of descent through three of John and Margaret's eight children.

Recognized as well were Fran Collord

from Seattle, Wash., author of the "Rathbone Chronicles," the story of Jonathan Coffin Rathbone and his descendants; George and Geraldine Rathbun, and their son and daughter-in-law, Hugh and Jane Rathbun from Nova Scotia, Canada, and Col. Robert Greene of the Rhode Island militia, a gunnery sergeant on the replica sloop *Providence* and a Rathbun descendant through three lines. He had with him a dozen autographed copies of Hope Rider's fine book, "Valour—Fore and Aft," the story of the *Providence* and Capt. John Peck Rathbun's role in her career. Mrs. Rider had been with us earlier in the day, but had to return to her home on the mainland in the afternoon.

And finally I introduced two Rathbun families who had traveled to Block Island the same way John and Margaret did in 1661—under sail. Capt. Benjamin F. Rathbun, his brother, John Rathbun, and their families sailed their own boats from their homes in Noank, Conn.

First Town Warden John Gray, Block Island's highest elected officer, gave us an official welcome to the island, and noted that the 150 Rathbun cousins in the crowded room equaled one-quarter of the island's permanent population.

Warden Gray introduced other Block Island guests at the head table: Kathryn Champlin, former town clerk and now town councillor and co-sexton with Gray of the cemetery; Luella Ball of the Historical Society; her daughter, Martha

Ball, a Rathbun descendant who serves as town treasurer and zoning-board chairman, and 93-year-old Miss Gladys Steadman, the island's historian.

On Saturday morning, with nearly 50 more cousins who had arrived on the morning ferry, we gathered in the old island cemetery—200 strong—to dedicate the monument, which was still wrapped in canvas.

It was a beautiful, sunny day, with a light breeze blowing across the cemetery hill and toward the blue waters of Great Salt Pond in the background.

I opened the program by noting that we were standing on hallowed ground. "Beneath us," I said, "lie the remains of the courageous men and women who left the safety and security of their homes, first in England, then in Massachusetts, to create new homes on what was then a desolate island inhabited only by Indians.

"We have come today to pay special tribute to two of these brave pioneers—John and Margaret Rathbun.

"This monument was purchased through contributions from 225 descendants of John and Margaret Rathbun. Their names will be recorded and placed in the files of the Block Island Historical Society. This monument will stand here for many years to come as a tribute to our ancestors and a reminder of their role in this island's settlement and development."

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Above—descendants of John Rathbun Jr. and Ann Dodge through their sons, John and Jonathan. Below—descendants of John and Ann through their sons, Joshua and Thomas.



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John Gray, first warden and cemetery co-sexton, then outlined the cemetery's history, pointing out that the first recorded burial was in 1675. He closed his remarks with the quotation: "From the fire of the past, take the embers, not the ashes."

Then, the 22-member Rathbun Family Choir, organized by mail by Rev. Martin, and with only two practice sessions that morning and the day before, provided a beautiful musical program, accompanied by Helen M. Rathbun on a

portable organ which she had brought from the mainland.

The choir sang the 1551 hymn, surely known to our ancestors, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People." Muriel (Rathbun) Mercer offered an outstanding solo rendition of "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say," written some 90 years ago by Frederick G. Rathbun. The final number was the world-renowned hymn, "Rathbun," written about 1850 in honor of Mrs. Beriah Rathbun.

Rev. William E. Rathbun of Des Moines, Iowa, then gave the following prayer of benediction:

"Our Father, who in times past led your children into lands of promise, we your children have gathered together here on this hallowed, windswept hill. We have come seeking our heritage and to reconsecrate this plot of land in which our ancestors are buried. In that task, we raise up a stone, our Ebenezer. The stone honors our first ancestors in this land, but it is more than that. Let it remind us of the hopes and dreams that have become our birthright. Let it remind us of the courage and determination that was theirs. Give to us the sense of faith in the future that inspired their courage.



Above—descendants of Thomas and William Rathbun, sons of John and Margaret Rathbun. Below—descendants of John and Margaret's sons, Joseph and Samuel.



Give to us a determination to leave to our children and to their children and to their children's children a similar future that this land may ever be a place of hope and dreams, a place of possibilities. So dedicate we this site, this stone, and this family. In the name of the Rock of Ages and the anchor of our souls, Jesus Christ."

I then officially dedicated the monument:

"I am proud and privileged to hereby dedicate this monument to John and Margaret Rathbun, and their children, in the name of the Rathbun Family As-

sociation and all their descendents and their families gathered here today. May it long stand as an inspiration to our family and its members who may visit here in the future."

As Helen M. Rathbun played background music on the organ, my son, Frank H. Rathbun III, and son-in-law, Ronald Ramoz, removed the cover and the crowd had its first look at the monument. There was a murmur of admiration and then a burst of applause.

The next hour was filled with group pictures and exploration of the cemetery, where about a dozen Rathbun and

Rathbone gravestones still stand, including those of two sons of John and Margaret—Thomas who died in 1733, and Samuel who died in 1757.

A few feet from the monument are the markers of Walter Rathbun (1734-1818), a great-grandson of John and Margaret, and his wife, Hannah (Rose) Rathbun (1728-1807). Walter was town clerk for nearly 60 years and was known as "Walter the Scribe."

Most of the cousins left Block Island that afternoon, but some two dozen

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The Rathbun Family Choir at the monument dedication services, with Rev. Raymond B. Martin directing and Helen M. Rathbun at the organ.

Following is a list of the members of the Rathbun Family Choir, whose music gave a special glow to the dedication program:

Rev. Raymond B. Martin (Director) Taylors, S.C.	Barbara Allen Whittier, Calif.	Mildred Rathbun Cranston, R.I.
Helen M. Rathbun (Organist) Cranston, R.I.	Edith (Rathburn) Anders Falmouth, Mass.	Nancy Rathbun Montgomery, N.Y.
Deborah (Martin) Fisher (Soloist) Greenville, S.C.	Everett Collord Happy Camp, Calif.	Rosalie Rathbun Noank, Conn.
Timothy Fisher (Soloist) Greenville, S.C.	LaVerne Collord Happy Camp, Calif.	Yolande Rathbun Cornwall, N.Y.
Muriel (Rathbun) Mercer (Soloist) Waterford, Mich.	Marguerite Martin Taylors, S.C.	Marjorie (Rathbun) Raymond Coventry, R.I.
	Beth Rathbun Swazey, N.H.	Hazel (Rathbun) Ritchie Hope Valley, R.I.
	Betty Rathbun Columbus, Ohio	Marina Shawver Berkeley, Calif.
	Darryl Rathbun Bayport, N.Y.	Maxine Stites Lee's Summit, Mo.
	Donald Rathbun Columbus, Ohio	David Warren Greenville, S.C.



Relaxing after the monument dedication are Association President Frank H. Rathbun and Research Director Robert W. Rathbun. Rob is wearing a T-shirt with a reunion monogram, 140 of which were sold at cost to reunion participants.

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stayed overnight and attended church services Sunday morning conducted by Rev. Martin in the hotel parlor. He based his sermon on the religious beliefs of the early Rathbuns as shown in their wills and a few surviving writings.

Rev. Martin graciously donated the collection (\$56) to help cover reunion expenses.

The following excerpts from letters received since the reunion give an idea of how those attending felt about the gathering:

"Thank you and your charming family for all the time and effort you put into making the first Rathbun reunion such a success. . . . The monument was beautiful and the unveiling brought tears to my eyes. I was so proud to have a part in the dedication ceremony."—Muriel (Rathbun) Mercer, Waterford, Mich.

"Our delightful visit to Block Island was a never-to-be-forgotten experience. Thank you and all your helpers for arranging the meeting of so many Rathbun descendants in such a beautiful and historically significant place." Rachel Laurgaard, Oakland, Calif.

"I want to congratulate you on such a great job in getting so many Rathbuns, Rathburns and Rathbones together. The island was such an appropriate place for the gathering." Lois (Rathbone) McEachern, Houston, Texas.

"It was the grandest of times and the greatest of times . . . a lot of meaning and purpose. I know your wildest of dreams were fulfilled." Rob Rathbun, Bowling Green, Ky.

"I do wish to compliment you all on the fine arrangements. . . . I was especially impressed with the dedication ceremony. The music, the words, the reason for being in such a place had me spellbound. You have enriched the lives of so many by instilling in us that pride of heritage to make us 'stand tall.'" Fran Collord, Seattle, Wash.

Town Councillor Kathryn Champlin summed up the Block Island reaction when she told me: "Our island is richer because of your visit. We are all so proud of the Rathbun family."

Genealogy: The Fifth Generation in America

44. VALENTINE WIGHTMAN⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born May 13, 1761, in Stonington, Conn., and married on May 6, 1790, Hepsibah Carpenter, born in 1771, daughter of Daniel and Chloe (Letheridge) Carpenter. He accompanied his father to Ashford, Conn., in 1779, and like his father became a Baptist minister. He returned to Stonington in 1782, began preaching in 1783, and was ordained minister of the Stonington Point Baptist Church in May 1785. He remained 13 years, and left to become minister of the Baptist Church in Bellingham, Mass., from 1798 until 1800. He then served 12 years as pastor in Bridgewater, Mass., returned in 1812 to Bellingham where he died May 12, 1813 "after an accident which after a few days of suffering closed his earthly career." His widow died Oct. 2, 1859, in Willington, Conn.

CHILDREN

HANNAH TRIPP, born Jan. 30, 1791; married Barzilla Hayward Dec. 27, 1813.

VALENTINE WIGHTMAN, born Sept. 10, 1795; married Lois Avery.

SUSAN LETHERIDGE, born June 15, 1801; married Jonathan Weston Nov. 15, 1817.

SAMUEL CARPENTER, born May 29, 1805; married (1) Ruth Britton; (2) Priscilla Griffin.

45. DAVID⁵ RATHBONE (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born May 29, 1763, in Stonington, Conn., and moved with his parents to Ashford, Conn., in 1779. He married there July 9, 1789, Nancy Wales, born March 16, 1773, daughter of Elijah and (?) Mary (Abbe) Wales. Although born with severely deformed legs and forced to use crutches all his life, he studied for the ministry and became an active Baptist preacher at the age of 20, giving his sermons while seated. He helped his father organize the Baptist church in Ashford at the age

of 17, and preached there for a short time. He later served churches in Uniontown, Conn., Charlestown and Sutton, Mass., and Whiting, Vt. He then moved to New York State, preaching in Hoosic, Richfield, Scipio and Painted Post. His last pastorate was in Lawrenceville, Pa., where he died Aug. 2, 1823, when he suffered a broken neck after losing control of his carriage while going down a steep hill. Descendants reported that he was a deeply religious, brilliant man, who studied scripture in the original Greek and Hebrew. His widow died May 4, 1826.

CHILDREN

AARON, born Jan. 11, 1790; married Martha Ballard.

VALENTINE WIGHTMAN, born Dec. 4, 1791; died Feb. 8, 1809.

JUSTUS HULL, born June 19, 1794; married Sarah E. Dwight.

CLARENDON BATES, born March 23, 1796; married Mary Wilson.

CONTENT, born March 28, 1798; apparently died young.

PHILA WALES, born Sept. 8, 1800; married Calvin Cowley Dec. 25, 1823.

NANCY WALES, born Dec. 20, 1802; married John Steward Dec. 10, 1820.

ELIJAH WALES, born March 19, 1805; he was mentally retarded and died unmarried on Jan. 10, 1868.

JANE PHILA, born Oct. 6, 1808; died June 24, 1814.

MARY ANN FLEMING, born May 5, 1811; married Luke Darling on March 12, 1828.

JOHN WELLINGTON, born March 26, 1815; died April 16, 1817.

46. JOSEPH AVERY⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born June 16, 1765, in Stonington, Conn., and moved with his parents to Ashford, Conn., in 1779. He was clerk of his father's church there for several years. He married June 8, 1785, Abigail Topliff, born Aug. 17, 1766, daughter of Clement and Ruth

(Merrick) Topliff. They moved to Pittsfield, Mass., where their first child was born, and where Abigail apparently died a short time later. Joseph left the baby with relatives and moved to Lucerne County, Pa., where on June 7, 1788, he married Priscilla Stewart, born Oct. 20, 1770, daughter of Lazarus and Martha (Epsy) Stewart. They moved about 1796 to Steuben County (now Allegheny County), N.Y., where he purchased 674 acres, and later another 1,600 acres. In 1802, he taught the first school in the area, and was town clerk from 1801 to 1804. He died Jan. 18, 1813, in Alfred. Priscilla died April 10, 1840.

CHILDREN

(By Abigail)

HANNAH, born Sept. 12, 1786; married (1) John R. Weston on April 24, 1803; (2) Gershon Hawkes.

(By Priscilla)

LAZARUS STEWART, born Jan. 7, 1789; married (1) Lydia Granger; (2) Mary Evart.

JOHN, born Oct. 30, 1791; married Sarah Van Campen.

MARTHA, born Jan. 16, 1793; married Lemuel Granger.

CONTENT, born Nov. 30, 1795; died March 20, 1796.

PRISCILLA ANN, born Jan. 24, 1797; married David Clark Oct. 29, 1819.

MARY, born March 6, 1800; married Henry McHenry on March 1, 1819.

JOSEPH, born April 22, 1802; married Sally French.

ELIZABETH, born Jan. 13, 1805; married (1) Guy Putnam; (2) Milton.

MARGARET, born March 26, 1807; married John Drake Sept. 6, 1829.

MINERVA, born July 19, 1810; died unmarried sometime after 1888.

(continued on page 60)

(continued from page 59)

47. MOSES⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born July 25, 1770, in Stonington, Conn., moved with his parents to Ashford, Conn., in 1779, and married there Jan. 25, 1790, Patience James, born July 29, 1770, parentage unknown. They moved to Westford, Conn., where Moses was employed as a clerk and became a trader on the side. He was a strict Baptist, and did not smoke, drink, gamble or dance. He was a stylish dresser and was described as having a keen and agile mind, considerable personal attractiveness and a strong desire to make money. In 1807, he moved to Monticello, Otsego County, N.Y., where he opened a general store and helped organize a Baptist Church. About 1817, he moved to Batavia, Genessee County, N.Y., and then in the early 1820s to Buffalo, where his wife died Oct. 7, 1823. He was married the following May 2 to Charlotte Moore, a widow who lived only 14 months and died July 21, 1825. Three months later, on Oct. 15, he married Roxanna Bates, a 32-year-old widow. Moses was an early business partner in Buffalo with his son, Benjamin, the ill-fated builder and financier. (See Vol. 2, No. 1.) He died May 6, 1860, in Batavia, N.Y., aged 90. His third wife died July 5, 1857.

CHILDREN

(By Patience)

BENJAMIN, born Dec. 1, 1790; married Alice Loomis.

RHODA MALINDA, born July 1, 1792; married Orange Allen.

MARY, born July 10, 1797; married Benjamin Howlett.

LYMAN, born July 16, 1799; married Maria Clark.

JEANNETTE CONTENT, born July 12, 1801; married Bissell Humphrey March 23, 1823.

RANSOM, born July 25, 1807; died in infancy.

BIANCA, born April 18, 1812; married Richard C. Jones on May 24, 1827.

(By Roxanna)

CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH, born Jan. 28, 1829; married George W.⁶ Rathbone (Samuel⁵ Simeon⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

48. AARON⁵ RATHBONE (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born July 25, 1770, in Stonington, Conn. (twin brother of Moses), and moved with his parents in 1779 to Ashford, Conn. He married in 1793 Sarah Copp, born Oct. 9, 1770, daughter of Samuel and Sally Copp. Cooley does not list any children by this marriage, but early census records indicate they had at least one daughter. Aaron was a wholesale grocer in New York City for several years, but moved by 1810 to Ballston, Saratoga County, N.Y., where he was a merchant. His wife died there Jan. 15, 1821, and he was married later that year to Eliza Chesebrough, born Sept. 11, 1785, daughter of Robert and Hannah Chesebrough. Aaron died May 13, 1845, in Ballston. His second wife died in August 1870 in New York City.

CHILDREN

(By Sarah)

?DORCAS, born about 1805; married Philo Sanford in 1828 in Saratoga Co.

(By Eliza)

ROBERT CHESEBROUGH, born Aug. 23, 1825; married Juliet Bleecker.

AARON HENDERSON, born Nov. 7, 1827; married (1) Carolina Regally; (2) Margaret Loper.

49. SAMUEL⁵ RATHBONE (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born July 1, 1776, in Stonington, Conn., and moved to Ashford, Conn., with his parents in 1779. He married, April 13, 1800, in Montville, Conn., Mary Turner, born April 7, 1781, daughter of Isaac Turner. They moved first to Hartford, Conn., where he was a merchant, and then about 1808 to Charlemont, Mass., where he was in business and served as postmaster and magistrate. In 1816, he moved to New York City, where he was in business for more than 20 years, and then relocated in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1841. Samuel spent many years compiling the family history, and much of his work was used by John C. Cooley in his *Rathbone Genealogy*. Samuel died in Buffalo on Nov. 5, 1865. Mary died Nov. 29, 1868, in Clarence, N.Y.

CHILDREN

MARIA THERESA, born Feb. 28, 1801; married (1) James Clary Feb. 19, 1830; (2) Bryant Burwell Feb. 26, 1845.

JAMES HANMER, born July 14, 1802; married Elizabeth Beekman.

HENRY ALANSON, born Dec. 27, 1803; married (1) Anne Powell; (2) Marie Forestall.

SAMUEL, born Aug. 16, 1809; he became an attorney and died, unmarried, on Nov. 6, 1834, in New York City, aged 25.

JOHN ROOSEVELT, born Dec. 3, 1810; died April 22, 1811.

JULIET CONTENT, born April 8, 1812; married Rev. Albert C. Patterson Jan. 7, 1836.

SARAH ANN, born Sept. 30, 1814; married Alonzo Rayner on June 12, 1834.

JOHN EDWARD, born May 26, 1816; died July 9, 1817.

CHARLES EDWARD, born Dec. 17, 1818; married Harriet Harvey.

ISAAC TURNER, born July 21, 1821; died unmarried June 12, 1849, of cholera in Cincinnati, Ohio.

50. DANIEL⁵ RATHBUN (Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Feb. 27, 1759, in Stonington, Conn., and moved with his parents about 1763 to Richmond, Mass. He served in the Revolutionary Army, and married March 17, 1789, Ann Redington, born Sept. 14, 1764, daughter of Eliphalet and Anna (Kingsbury) Redington. Soon after the marriage, they moved to Milton, Saratoga County, N.Y., where he became a leader in the local militia, serving as lieutenant in 1798, rising to captain in 1803 and vice-major by 1808. He was also town constable in 1802. Daniel established a cloth-dressing business, and later built a sawmill with his brother, Valentine. His descendant, Richmond J. Rathbone, has papers showing that Daniel joined the local Masonic lodge in 1798, and purchased a slave, aged 19, named Frank, for \$325 in 1804. Daniel died Dec. 13, 1808, after his leg was smashed in an accident at his mill. (See letter describing the accident and his death in Vol. Two, No. 3, Page 43). Ann (Redington) Rathbun died March 4, 1855.

CHILDREN

ANNA, born Dec. 29, 1789; married (?) Aaron Whitlock.

WIGHTMAN DANIEL, born April 11, 1791; married (1) Anna Betts; (2) Rebecca Hawley, and (3) Evaline _____.

WILLIAM, born Sept. 22, 1792; died May 23, 1793.

PHOEBE, born May 30, 1794; married William B. Goodrich.

AMANDA, born Nov. 14, 1796; married Abraham Shears Nov. 24, 1814.

WILLIAM, born Aug. 29, 1798; died Feb. 22, 1807.

LUCY, born March 1, 1800; married Richard Stillson.

MALINDA, born March 9, 1802; married (1) David Shears; (2) William Duryea.

JULIA (twin), born May 31, 1804; died April 2, 1806.

RANSOM (twin), born May 31, 1804; married (1) Catherine Thompson; (2) Martha Standish.

LAURIN, born May 19, 1806; married Elizabeth Barker.

JULIA ANN, born Nov. 8, 1808; married David Cobb.

51. PHILANDER⁵ RATHBONE (Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 24, 1764, in Richmond, Mass., and married about 1785 Nancy Clark, born Aug. 31, 1766, parentage unknown. They lived first at West Stockbridge, Mass., where he was postmaster in 1804-5. They then moved to Saratoga, N.Y., where he operated a flour and cloth-dressing mill. He later moved to Castille, N.Y., where he died Dec. 8, 1844. In his will, he called himself "Philander Rathbone, formerly written Rathbun." Nancy died May 15, 1851, in Hamburg, N.Y.

CHILDREN

JAMES, born Sept. 16, 1786; married Caroline Hamilton.

NANCY, born May 15, 1788; married William Vernam.

SYLVESTER, born Nov. 5, 1789; married Cornelia _____.

AUGUSTUS, born Feb. 22, 1792; died March 26, 1792.

CLARINDA, born May 26, 1794; married William Millard.

PHILANDER, born Jan. 27, 1796; married Cynthia Van Brent.

ELIZA, born June 5, 1798; married Timothy Newton.

SIDNEY SMITH, born April 24, 1800; married Eva A. Shaffer.

CORDELIA, born Aug. 13, 1802; married Abraham Hynds Nov. 19, 1820.

52. VALENTINE⁵ RATHBUN (Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born March 17, 1768, in Richmond, Mass., and married there Feb. 3, 1789, Love Redington, born July 11, 1768, daughter of Eliphalet and Ann (Kingsbury) Redington. They moved soon after their marriage to Milton, Saratoga County, N.Y., where he and his brother, Daniel, built a sawmill. He also owned a hotel and store and was a local justice of the peace. He died in Milton on March 20, 1844, "of an inflammatory disease of the throat and lungs." Love died two months later on May 28, 1844.

CHILDREN

INFANT (unnamed), born Jan., 27, 1794; died in Feb. 1794.

HIRAM (twin), born about 1798; married Margaret Wannamaker.

SALLY (twin), born about 1798; married (?) Aaron Whitlock.

LAURA, born April 4, 1800; married Richard Frink Oct. 28, 1820.

RUBY, born Feb. 7, 1802; died Dec. 10, 1819.

INFANT (unnamed), born in Nov., 1804; died Nov. 10, 1804.

INFANT (unnamed), born Nov. 11, 1811; died Jan. 15, 1812.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

53. JOHN ZACHEUS⁵ RATHBUN (Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 21, 1771, in Richmond, Mass., and married June 26, 1800, in Lee, Mass., Celia Tobey, born April 10, 1780, possibly a daughter of Stephen and Lydia (Ellis) Tobey. He became a physician and practiced for many years in Ballston Spa, N.Y. He later moved to Scipio, Cayuga County, N.Y., and practiced

medicine there for 20 years. His wife died March 17, 1853, in Scipio, and he moved to Elmira, N.Y., where he died Dec. 8, 1868, aged 97.

CHILDREN

LORENZO, born Feb. 25, 1801; married Permelia Anderson.

CELINA PAULINE, born Jan. 7, 1803; married (1) Philander West; (2) Daniel VanLieu.

CELIA, born Jan. 14, 1805; married Judah Williams⁶ Rathbun, son of Amos⁵ (Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) Rathbun.

MARY, born Dec. 10, 1806; married Alanson Goodrich.

CAROLINE L., born May 2, 1808; married Henry Hunt.

JOHN TOBEY, born March 8, 1810; married (1) Maria Reed; (2) Sarah Benjamin.

SARAH MARIA, born Nov. 28, 1812; married Lewis Toan.

VALENTINE, born Feb. 25, 1815; married Lucinda Baker.

CLARISSA, born May 13, 1818; married W. Franklin Benjamin Oct. 22, 1852.

MELISSA, born March 23, 1822; married Perry H. Parker.

ANGELINE, born Jan. 29, 1824; died March 4, 1831.

(To be continued)

New Data

See "New Data" 04-4 p 62

Lucy Rathbun, born April 29, 1756, daughter of Joshua⁴ Rathbun (Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), is probably the Lois Rathbun who married Joshua Ransom (1744-1829) about 1775 in Colchester, Conn. She died in February 1819, in Springfield, N.Y.

Olive, the wife of Joseph⁵ Rathbun (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), was the daughter of Ephriam and Hannah (Barrett) Pearson. Our thanks to Mrs. Clinton Whitman for this new information.

Ruth (Langworthy) Rathbun, wife of James⁵ Rathbun (Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) died May 30, 1788, in Pittsfield, Mass. Our thanks to Arthur Schroeck, who found this new information in a Pittsfield newspaper.

(continued from page 53)

gaze with anguish on the worthless remains of their property. Women were seen walking with consternation and despair depicted in their countenances, leading or carrying in their arms their fatherless and houseless babes, who in a few short hours had been bereaved of all that was dear on earth. Their homes, their provisions and even their apparel were the spoils of the enemy or lay in ashes at their feet. Some were inquiring with the deepest distress for the mangled bodies of their friends, while others were seen following the carts which bore their murdered fathers, husbands or brothers to the grave. More than forty widows were made on that final day. Never can I forget the tears, the sobs, the shrieks of wo, which fell from the kindred of our brave countrymen, who then gave their lives to achieve our national independence. It was my melancholy duty to assist in the burial of the dead, which brought me directly into the midst of these heart rending scenes where the wife first recognized her husband, the mother her son, the sister her brother, in the body of a mangled soldier, so disfigured with wounds and clotted with blood and dust, as to be scarcely known! Often on my visits to New London have I walked near the spot where I helped to inter my slaughtered countrymen; and though many years have since rolled away, the recollection is still fresh in my mind, awakening anew the strong feelings of sympathy I then felt, and rousing into activity the love of my country.

I recollect several interesting facts, connected with the capture of Fort Griswold and the burning of New London, which, I believe, are not mentioned in the narratives of Messrs. Avery and Hempstead.

After the capture of the fort and the massacre which followed, the enemy laid a line of powder from the magazine of the fort to the sea, intending to blow up the fort, and complete the destruction of the wounded within and around it. Stillman Hotman who lay not far distant, wounded by three strokes of the bayonet in his body, proposed to a wounded man near him, to crawl to this line and saturate the powder with the blood, and thus save the magazine and fort, and perhaps the lives of some of their com-

rades, not mortally wounded. He alone succeeded in reaching the line, where he was found dead lying on the powder which was completely wet with his blood. I do not find his name among the killed in the list of Mr. Avery.

Another fact of a different character was currently reported at the time and deserves to be recorded to the deeper disgrace of the infamous Arnold. He had a sister living in New London, with whom he dined on the day of the battle, and whose house was set fire to, as is supposed, by his orders, immediately afterwards. Perhaps he found her too much of a patriot for his taste, and took this step in revenge.

The next year, 1782, I was led by the spirit which the scenes I had witnessed in New London had fanned into a flame, to leave my father's house and the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, and to enlist as a private in the Connecticut State troops. Never shall I forget the

“On one occasion, a rifle ball passed thru my hat and cut away the hair from my head.”

impressive circumstances under which I took the soldier's oath. With five others of my townsmen, who enlisted with me, I was marched into the meeting house on the first Monday in April, it being free-man's day, and there in the presence of a large concourse of people, we swore to discharge our duty faithfully. We were ordered to fort Stanwich, in Stamford, Ct., where I remained during all but the last month of my term of service. Here I was subjected to the usual hardships of a military life. Many a time have I been out for several days on scouting parties, sometimes to the distance of twenty-five miles. These were not only attended with fatigue, cold and hunger, but with no little peril of life. On one occasion a rifle ball passed through my hat and cut away the hair of my head, but a kind Providence protected me.

A party of fourteen men, under Lewis Smith, were surprised by a body of mounted troops to the number of sixty,

by whom they were ordered to surrender. Lewis Smith perceiving the hopelessness of resistance against such an overwhelming force, inquired of the British officer in command, whether if they should surrender, they would be treated as prisoners of war. The answer was, yes; but no sooner had they lowered their muskets, than the enemy shot them down.

As a specimen of the hardships to which the private soldier in time of war is constantly liable, I may mention the following. One evening the orderly sergeants passed around among the men and with a whisper commanded us to equip ourselves without noise; and then we were marched out of the fort to a woods two miles distant, and ordered to lie down on the frozen ground, where we passed a bitter cold night with only a single blanket and our over coats to protect us. We afterwards learned that this step was taken to avoid the enemy, who it was reported were that night to attack the fort with an overwhelming force. From such exposures and hardships as these my constitution received a shock, from which I have never recovered. The sickness of my father was considered a sufficient reason for giving me a discharge; and after eleven months service I left Stamford for Colchester. On reaching home I was immediately taken sick, and for six months was unable to do any business. From that time mingled mercies and misfortunes have attended me. The infirmities thus contracted in the service of my country, disabled me from arduous manual labor, and much of my life has therefore been spent in trade and other light employments: My heaviest misfortune, however, has been the sickness of my excellent wife, who for forty years has been confined to her bed, and for whose medication and comfort, with the other expenses of my family, the earnings of my industry have proved insufficient, especially since the infirmities of old age have come upon me. But of none of these things do I complain. They are wisely appointed, and have been greatly alleviated by the kindness of a generous community. I mention them for the sole object of interesting my countrymen in my present effort to supply my wants through this little book.

JONATHAN RATHBUN

Two Children Killed, Two Others Injured In Year of Tragedy

One family of Rathburn descendants has had far more than its share of tragedy in the past year. Dean and Karen (Adams) Stegman in less than nine months lost two of their four children, and the other two were severely injured.

The Stegmans live in Littleton, Colo. Mrs. Stegman is the granddaughter of Martha Ann⁸ (Rathburn) Haybron (John⁷ Reul⁶ David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Tragedy first struck in the spring of 1982, when their son, Randy, 13, was hit in the eye by an air-rifle pellet fired by another boy. Randy underwent surgery earlier this year and his parents are hopeful he will regain part of his vision.

On July 30, 1982, the Stegmans' son Dan, 19, was sitting in a lawn chair at a friend's home when a 17-year-old motorist lost control of his car and swerved onto the lawn, killing Dan instantly.

On Feb. 26, 1983, the Stegmans' eldest son, Tom, 21, a student at Colorado University, slipped and tore the ligaments and tendons in one of his knees. His leg was in a cast for nearly a month, and then doctors fitted him with a metal brace from his hip to instep.

In early April, despite the awkward brace, Tom went ahead with plans he had made to visit his sister, Joedy, 22, in Chicago, where she had graduated with honors the previous October from Northwestern University.

Tom, Joedy and a friend, returning from a football game, were waiting for a traffic light, next to a tanker truck carrying 7,800 gallons of gasoline. Another truck, loaded with steel, collided with the tanker truck, causing an explosion.

All three youngsters were severely burned. Joedy Stegman died five weeks later. The friend is still in critical condition. Tom Stegman, who suffered second- and third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body, has been released from the hospital, but will require treatment for at least a year.

The tragic story was sent to us by Mrs. Stegman's brother, Kenneth Haybron Adams, one of our members. On behalf of our membership, we offer sincere sympathy to Cousin Karen and her family.



Mrs. Susie Carter Baston (one of our members) and Rev. William Thomas Rathburn (both pictured above) were among more than 120 Rathburn cousins who gathered July 2 in Fitzgerald, Ga., for their annual family reunion. All are descendants of Hallet and Augustine (Kramer) Rathburn's sons, John and Conrad. Other members of our association there were Reba (Rathburn) Reeves and Annie (Rathburn) Paulk. Hallet Rathburn (1841-1925) was a son of Thomas⁵ Rathburn (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Lucinda Austin. We are planning a story on him for a future issue.

Queries

WANTED — Information on Charles A. Rathburn, born about 1847 in Ohio; married Florence (Gilbin?) and died about 1882 in St. Louis. His daughter, Edith, married Joseph A. Ellard in 1891.

WANTED — Information on David (or Daniel) Rathburn, born in June 1828 in New York, and living in 1900 in Grant County, N.M., with sons named William and Charles.

WANTED — Information on Ed (Edward/Edwin?) Rathburn, born in March 1862 in Iowa; married Leah _____; lived for a time in Washington and Oregon, and was in Escondido, Calif., in 1900 with children named Howard, Mable and Helen.

WANTED — Information on Elmer F. Rathburn, born October 1832 in New York, died Oct. 7, 1911, in Waterloo, N.Y. He was a half brother of Garner Bennett and apparently never married.

Answers

Vol. 1, No. 1 — The father of Benjamin and Oliver Rathburn was not William Rathburn, but was Jeremiah⁵ Rathburn (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹). Their mother was Margaret _____, who may have been Jeremiah's second wife. There were also children named Wilbur, Laura, Sarah and possibly Jeremiah Jr.

Vol. 3, No. 1 — Francis Wilbur Rathburn was undoubtedly a son of Jonathan⁵ Rathburn (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹). Jonathan died in 1841 in Townsend Township, Sandusky County, Ohio, where Francis was living in 1850. Jonathan had a brother named Wilbur.

Vol. 1, No. 3 (obituary) — Bertha H. Rathburn's husband is John Ezra⁹ Rathburn (Edwin⁸ Demornington⁷ Sebra⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Our thanks to Robert and Barbara Rathburn for this information.

People

DEBORAH JEAN RATHBUN was married June 11, 1983, to Russell John Smith. Deborah is the daughter of Donald J.¹⁰ Rathbun (Elmer⁹ Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) of Coventry, R.I. Her father and her uncle, Frank E. Rathbun, are members of our association

LAPRELLE (RATHBONE) WEATHERFORD offered hand-painted copies of our family's English coat-of-arms at the reunion for \$5 each. She will mail them to other interested cousins for \$5.75 each. They are nine by twelve inches, and ideal for framing. Please order directly from LaPrelle at 333 East Desert Park Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85020. Specify whether you want the name spelled Rathbun, Rathbone or Rathburn.

DESCENDANTS of Isaac and Harriet Rathbone held their annual reunion August 9-11 in Ocean Shores, Wash. Isaac was a son of Gideon⁶ Rathbone (Edmund⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and Eliza J. (Howell) Rathbun. Among those present were three of Isaac's grandchildren, including one of our members, Rosamond (Rathbone) Demman.

JEANNINE LIMBECK was married May 8 in Wheaton, Ill., to Khosrow Dandeshgari. She is the daughter of Paul and Rosma (Rathbun) Limbeck of Ladysmith, Wisc., who are members of our association.

Birth

BORN—May 11, 1983, on Parris Island, S.C., Ashley Elizabeth Nye Rathbun, daughter of Walton Andrew Rathbun Jr. and Linda (Nye) Rathbun. The Rathbuns also have a son, Robert Andrew, who will be three next February 2. Walton is the son of Walton Andrew¹⁰ Rathbun (Andrew⁹ John⁸ Andrew⁷ Orrin⁶ Russell⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹) and Dorothy Eleanor (Menger) Rathbun.

Our New Members

Kenneth and Lois Allen
Whittier, Calif.

James A. Carter
Warsaw, N.Y.

Delores (Rathbun) Faylor
Haigler, Neb.

Katherine (Rathbun) Hoxsie
Westerly, R.I.

Hollie H. Lewis
Minneapolis, Minn.

Carolyn Rathbun
Austin, Texas

Harry J. Rathbun
Palo Alto, Calif.

Herbert W. Rathbun
Westerly, R.I.

Larry D. Rathbun
Middletown, Conn.

Veora (Rathbone) Rotter
Eastonville, Wash.

Karen Anne Smith
Mt. Shasta, Calif.

Caroline Stelzner
Lyme, Conn.

Doris (Rathbun) Stoppa
Pawcatuck, Conn.

Eileen M. Twomey
Norwich, Conn.

Sadie (Rathbun) Webster
Hope Valley, R.I.

Alice (Rathbun) Wiley
Fitzgerald, Ga.

Obituaries

DIED—Sept. 9, 1983, Mrs. Helen (Boehm) Rathbun, 70, of Warner Robins, Ga., wife of Henry Howe¹⁰ Rathbun Jr. (Henry⁹ Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). In addition to her husband, she is survived by three sons, Henry H. III, Charles M. and Robert W., (our research director), and five grandchildren. She and her husband were charter members of the Rathbun Family Association.

DIED—March 2, 1983, Clifford Richard Rathbun, 81, in Pawcatuck, R.I. He is survived by his wife, Mary E.; a daughter, Mrs. Richard (Doris) Stoppa, one of our members; a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Lewis Rathbun; a sister, Ida Manchester; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. A retired fireman and an active Mason, Mr. Rathbun was the son of George Deming⁸ Rathbun (Asher⁷ Christopher⁶ Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

DIED—June 12, 1983, Miss Justine Rathbone, 87, in Elizabeth, W. Va. She was the youngest and last surviving child of John Atkinson⁷ Rathone (Samuel⁶ William⁵ Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

DIED—April 7, 1983, Robert W. Rathbun, 93, in Davenport, Iowa. He was the last surviving child of FitzWilliam⁷ Rathbun (Elihu⁶ Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Mary Jane Little. Survivors include his widow, Edith (Farwell) Rathbun; a son, John; a daughter, Phyllis Miller; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

DIED—June 26, 1983, Armand J. Breault, 79, of Coventry, R.I. He was the husband of Ethel M. (Rathbun) Breault (Walter⁹ William⁸ John⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), who survives. Also surviving are a son, three daughters, 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two brothers.

DIED—July 31, 1983, Lillian Blanche Rathbun, 98, of Schuyler, N.Y. A retired milliner, she was the daughter of James⁹ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Annie (Head) Rathbun. She is survived by a niece, Beverly (Rathbun) Gillette, one of our members; her husband Lowell; their son, Darryl Gillette, and daughter-in-law, Donna.