

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn  
**FAMILY**  
**HISTORIAN**



Richard Rathbun  
(1852-1918)

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

## Letter From the Editor

This issue of the Historian is somewhat late due to a health problem which my doctors have solved by inserting a pacemaker in my chest. Occasional dizzy spells over a period of several years was first diagnosed as hyperventilation, then a year ago as hypoglycemia, which resulted in my going on a sugar-free diet.

This diet, which deprived me of some of my favorite foods (ice cream, chocolate, doughnuts and pie), seemed to solve the problem, and also took some 20 unneeded pounds from my weight.

Then on May 4, after a rather severe spell, I was rushed to our local hospital, where intensive tests showed that the problem was "sick sinus syndrome," meaning that the electrical impulses which keep my heart beating were occasionally falling down on the job.

The pacemaker, my doctors say, will take over when and if this happens again, so the problem is solved.

On a somber note, I am sad to report the recent deaths of several members of

our association — our oldest member, Ernest Rathbun, aged 101; his wife, Eola; Marion Reymenandt, the Baroness Schilling von Constatt; Arthur G. Rathbun, and Frances Brusso Smith. Their obituaries appear elsewhere in this issue.

Our second annual family reunion has been scheduled tentatively for the first week in August 1985 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Highlights of the reunion will be trips to Rathbun Lake, the town of Rathbun, and a working Iowa farm. We will also have the opportunity to watch part of the National Balloon Races, which are being held at that time.

Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun of Des Moines checked housing facilities at Rathbun and Rathbun Lake, and we have decided it would be better to make Des Moines our reunion headquarters.

The theme of the reunion will be "The Family Moves West." John Bowen and your editor are planning a slide presentation of pictures and maps to show the westward movement of the Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns in the early and middle 1800s.

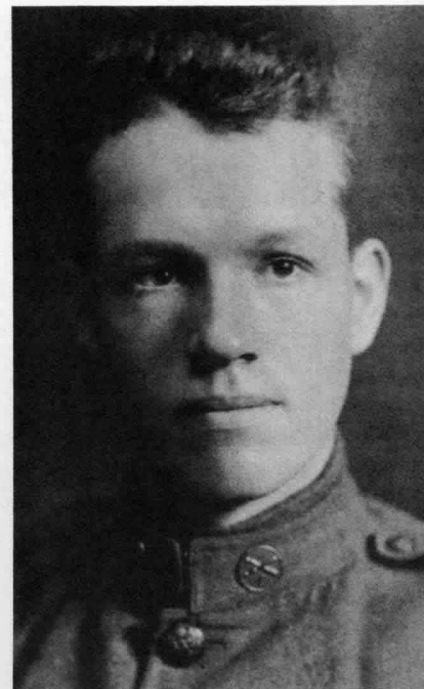
Rev. Bill and Dorothy will show a videotape of highlights from our first reunion in 1983 at Block Island.

Mark your calendar now and watch for further details in the next *Historian*.

I am most pleased to report that a spurt of new members, and late renewals by old members, has brought our membership to a record high of 380. This is truly wonderful, and gives me hope that we may reach 400 by year's end. We have indeed come a long way since 1981, when we began with barely 150 members.

Please do what you can to help us reach that 400 mark.

Frank



## Conn. VFW Post Named in Honor Of Rathbun GI

The name of Earl Burton Rathbun, who died in France during the First World War, lives on in the Murphy-Rathbun VFW Post 189 in New London, Conn. Rathbun, a New London fireman, enlisted in the Conn. National Guard, was transferred to the U.S. Army's 56th Heavy Artillery Regiment, and was among the first Americans sent to France after the United States entered the war.

He died of disease on April 22, 1918, aged 19. He was the son of Burton<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Frederick<sup>6</sup> Salah<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Nellie Thompson.

VFW Post 189 was organized Dec. 30, 1920, in New London, with more than 50 members and with Rathbun's brother, Frederick, as first commander. The post was named for Earl B. Rathbun and Mark Murphy, another New London soldier, who was killed in action in France on Oct. 5, 1918, aged 18.

Our thanks to cousin Frank E. Rathbun and to VFW Post 189's Edward Feldman for their help in locating this information and the picture.

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Marietta, Ohio, Tree Stood 105 Feet

# Rathbone Elm Was World's Largest

The Rathbone Elm Tree, believed to have been the world's largest, was a leading tourist attraction of Marietta, Ohio, for many years before it fell victim to old age, or perhaps Dutch Elm Disease, some 40 years ago.

The huge tree towered 105 feet in the air, had an immense trunk 44 feet in circumference just four feet above ground level, and supported a massive branch spread of nearly 150 feet.

The tree took its name from William Waldo<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (Deming<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Isaiah<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who moved to Marietta in 1851 and four years later

purchased the land on which the elm stood. Rathbone operated a thriving business, growing sweet potato plants, which he shipped to farmers and gardeners throughout the United States and Canada. At the time of his death, in 1884, he was the largest grower of sweet potatoes in the country.

Even then, the tree was becoming famous. Rathbone named his estate Elm Shade, and proudly showed the big elm to visitors.

About the turn of the century, Henry Howe, a local writer, measured the elm and reported its girth, two feet above

ground at 24 feet. He could not measure the height, but estimated its branch spread at 127 feet.

In his 1908 "Historical Collections of Ohio," Howe reported:

"I visited Lewis J. Putman, born in 1808. When he was a boy, he saw that elm. It was then a sapling of say 20 feet high, four inches through, and growing out of the hollow of a stump. This would make it about a century old from the seed. The average life of an elm is 170 years. This tree bids fair to become

*(continued on page 42)*



# Richard Rathbun Launched Wright Brothers' Research

Few events in this century had a greater impact on mankind than the invention of the airplane 81 years ago. The inventors, Orville and Wilbur Wright, built their first successful plane after studying research information provided by one of our little-known cousins — Richard Rathbun (1852-1918) — who was then acting head of the U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C.

Rathbun devoted much of his life to

the museum and its parent organization, the Smithsonian Institution, and is largely responsible for the Smithsonian's Children's Room, its Museum of Natural History and National Museum of American Art.

Rathbun was born Jan. 25, 1852, in Buffalo, N.Y., the son of Charles Howland<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>6</sup> Aaron<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Jane (Furey) Rathbun. Charles H. Rathbun was a

prominent Buffalo businessman who had inherited from his father a prosperous stone-quarry business. When Charles died in 1879, one of his pallbearers was Grover Cleveland, a future president of the United States.

Richard Rathbun was educated in Buffalo public schools and went to work at age 15 for his father's quarry company, Whitmore and Rathbun, which by then operated several stone quarries in western New York. Over a four-year period, he served as bookkeeper, financial clerk and finally "overseer of work."

In the quarries, Rathbun became fascinated by the ancient fossils frequently uncovered by the workmen, and began to collect them. Soon his weekends and holidays were devoted to his new hobby. He read everything he could find on the subject.

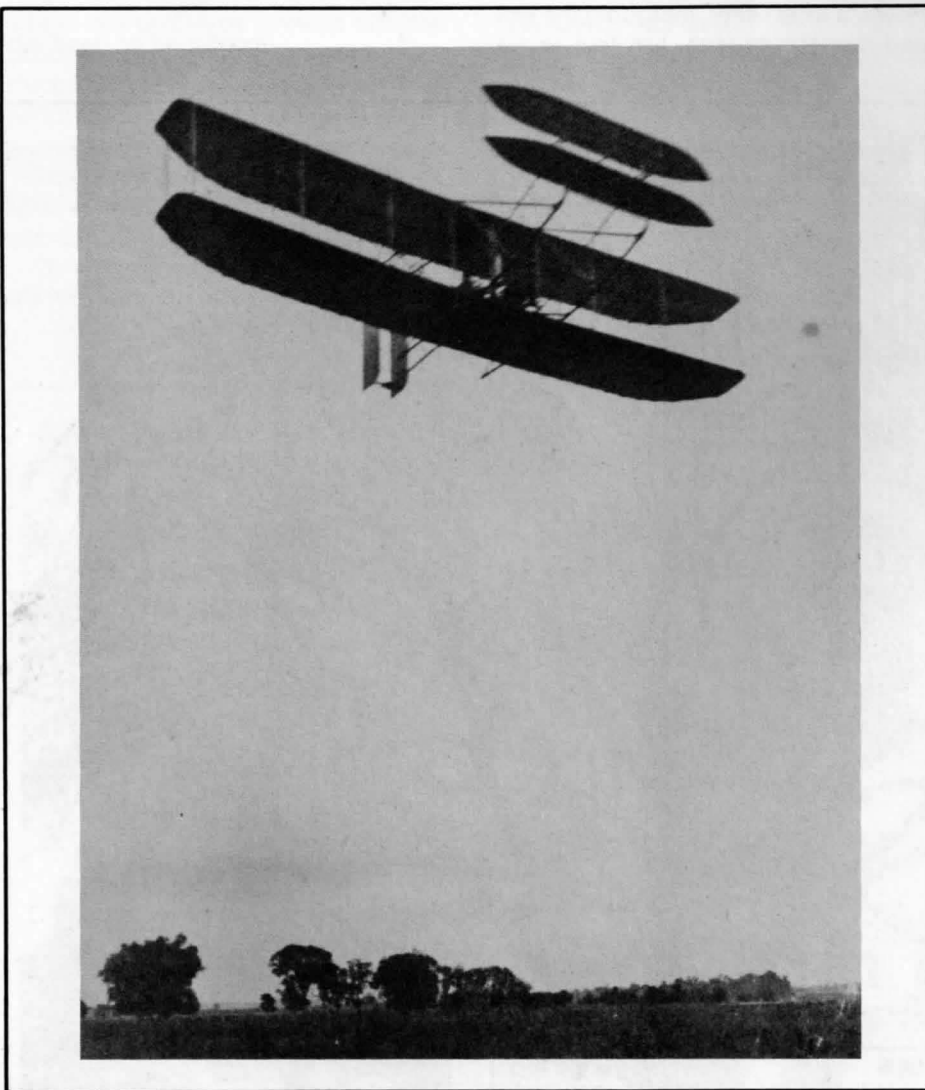
His expanding collection soon outgrew the family home, and he offered it to the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. The Society, impressed by his knowledge and enthusiasm, hired him as a curator and put him in charge of the museum's collections. He was considered a 19-year-old genius.

Rathbun quickly decided that science, not business, was to be his life's work. He enrolled in 1871 at Cornell University, concentrating on courses in geology and paleontology. Two years later, he became an assistant in zoology at the Boston Society of Natural History. During the summers of 1874 and 1875, he volunteered his services as a scientific assistant in marine explorations by the U.S. Fish Commission along the northeast coast.

The Fish Commission was a division of the Smithsonian Institution, thus giving Rathbun his first connection with the organization in which he was destined to play a key role.

His reputation spreading, Rathbun was named in 1875 as official geologist of a commission established to explore potential natural resources in Brazil.

Rathbun spent more than two years on the expedition, which ended when



*The Wright Brothers' airplane in its first sustained flight — 20 miles in 33 minutes — in October 1905 near Dayton, Ohio. Their first successful flight, in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, N.C., lasted only 12 seconds.*

yellow fever broke out among the members. The head of the expedition died of the disease, and Rathbun was severely debilitated by the fever, leaving him with an enlarged heart, which was to bother him the rest of his life and eventually cause his death.

Returning to the United States in 1878, Rathbun was named as scientific assistant for the Fish Commission, a position he held for the next 18 years. He also served two years as a part-time assistant in zoology at Yale University.

While working for the Fish Commission at Wood's Hole, Mass., he took on as a volunteer his sister, Mary Jane Rathbun, starting her in a scientific career which was to make her one of the world's experts on crabs. (See story of her life in our July 1983 issue.)

In 1880, Richard Rathbun was transferred to Washington, D.C., and named curator of the Department of Marine Invertebrates in the U.S. National Museum, part of the Smithsonian Institution's complex of museums. On October 6 that year, he was married in Eastport, Maine, to Lena Augusta Hume.

The Smithsonian had been founded in 1829 by a \$508,000 bequest, later increased, by an English scientist, James Smithson, who specified that the money was to be used for the establishment in the United States of an "institution for the increase and diffusement of knowledge."

Although working at the National Museum, Rathbun retained his title as scientific assistant for the Fish Commission, and soon became its chief executive officer.

In December, 1892, Rathbun was named by President Benjamin Harrison as the American representative on a joint American-British commission to study fishery problems on the boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada. He made a personal inspection tour of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, submitting a voluminous report on his findings. His work led to the creation in 1909 of the permanent International Joint Commission on Boundary Waters.

In 1896, he was moved to the Smithsonian's executive offices and a year later was named assistant secretary — the Institution's number two position. In 1898, he was also made director of the National Museum.

On May 30, 1899, as acting secretary of the Smithsonian during the absence of the secretary, Rathbun received a letter from Wilbur Wright, a bicycle manufacturer of Dayton, Ohio.

"I believe," Wright wrote, "that simple flight is at least a possibility to man . . . I am about to begin a systematic study of the subject . . . I wish to obtain such papers as the Smithsonian has published on this subject and if possible a list of other works in print. . ."

Government bureaucracy moved more swiftly then than now. Three days later, Wilbur Wright received a package from Rathbun. It contained four pamphlets printed by the Smithsonian dealing with experiments and theories of aerial flight. Rathbun also sent a bibliography of other books and articles on the subject.

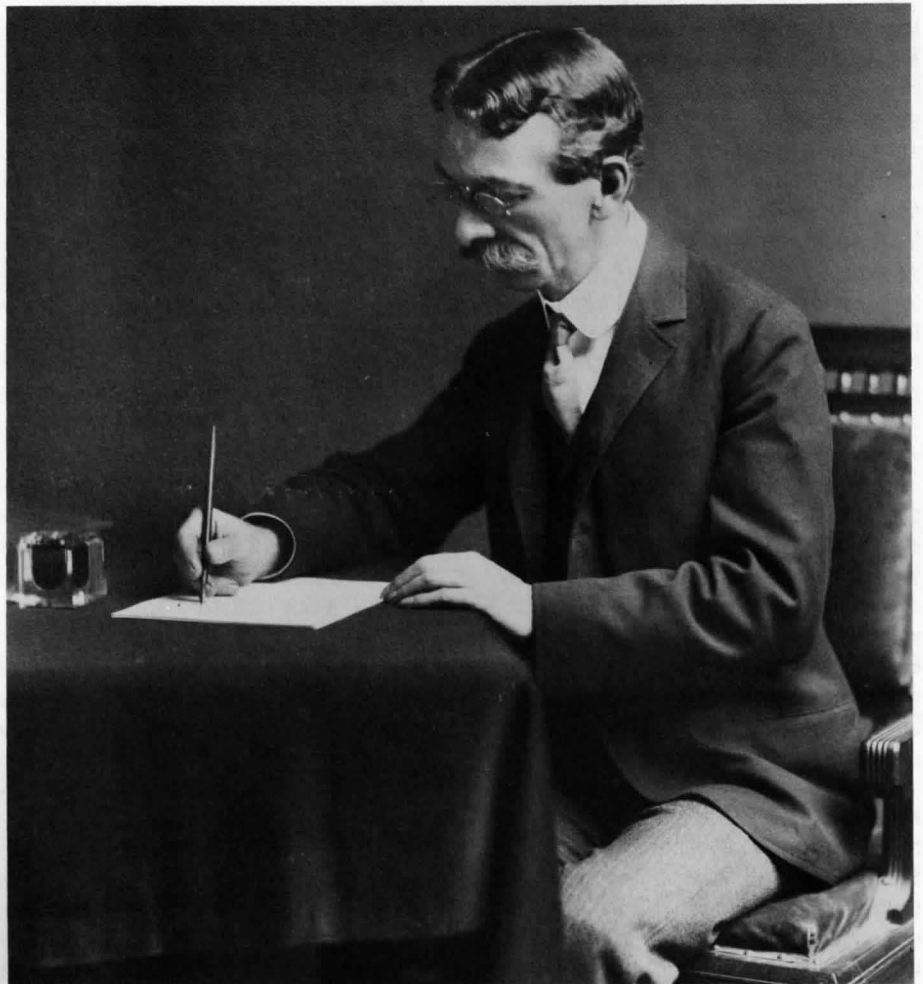
With Rathbun's package of informa-

tion as a starting point, Wilbur and his brother, Orville, began to study the ideas, experiments, achievements and problems reported by earlier flight researchers.

One of the first serious students of aerodynamics was a Frenchman, Mouillard, whose writings gave the Wright brothers special encouragement. They were particularly impressed with his statement — "If there be a domineering, tyrant thought, it is the conception that the problem of flight may be solved by man. Once this idea has invaded the brain, it possesses it exclusively. It is then a haunting thought, a walking nightmare, impossible to cast off."

The Wright brothers, indeed, found the idea of powered flight impossible to cast off. They carried on their studies for

*(continued on page 42)*



*Richard Rathbun at his desk. (Smithsonian Institution Archives)*

# Some Rathbuns, Rathbones Were Early Slave Owners

Although some of our early ancestors in America owned slaves, both Black and Indian, it is unfair to condemn or judge them on the basis of today's standards. Slavery in 17th and 18th century America was a fact of life, although we recognize it today, in hindsight, as inhuman, degrading and indefensible.

The development of slavery in America is too complex a subject to cover adequately in a few pages. In general, however, it originated among the more wealthy immigrants who had been accustomed in the Old World to the services of dependable and low-paid servants.

Many of the early immigrants brought their servants with them to America, but soon found that servitude could not exist in a land where any ambitious man could easily own his land and become self-sufficient.

Finding they could not keep low-paid servants, the immigrants turned first to Indians, often buying them from their parents for fixed periods, or even capturing and enslaving young Indians. The Indians, with a long tradition of independence, did not take kindly to this practice. Most of those who became servants or slaves simply disappeared into the nearby forests.

The colonists then turned to Black slavery. The African slave trade was not new. Warring African tribes for many years had sold their captives into slavery. Many of these unfortunate Negroes were already being shipped as slaves to English, French and Spanish possessions in the Caribbean area, where cheap labor was needed for the sugar plantations.

Black slaves seemed a perfect answer to the need for servants and field hands in the North American colonies. Slave ownership was limited, however, to the relatively wealthy. They were too expensive for the average small farmer to buy and maintain, and became what we today would call "status symbols."

John and Margaret Rathbun, our immigrant ancestors, owned one Black

*Know all persons whom it may concern that I Daniel J. Fort of the town of Half Moon in the County of Saratoga and State of New York for and in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars, Lawfull money of the State of New York to me in hand paid by Daniel Rathbun Jun'r. of the Town of Milton and County of Saratoga and State of New York have granted, bargained, sold and delivered unto the said Daniel Rathbun Jun'r one Negro man about Nineteen years of age, named Frank . . . (I) will warrant and defend against all persons whomsoever claiming or to claim the said Negro Man. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-fifth day of October in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Four.*

*Excerpts from a bill of sale for a slave purchased in 1804 in Saratoga County, N.Y., by Daniel Rathbun Jr. (1759-1808). The document is owned by his descendant, Richmond J. Rathbone.*

slave at the time of John's death in 1702. John's will left his "neager man" to his wife for her lifetime, then to his son, Thomas for three years, and then to be set free. Since Margaret lived at least another 14 years, it would appear that this slave remained in the family until 1720, although there are no records to confirm this.

The son, Thomas, who became the wealthiest of John and Margaret's five sons, owned six Black slaves at the time of his death in 1733 — a male named Mingo, a boy named Quoming and four unnamed females.

Of the other four sons, only William appears to have been a slave owner. His 1727 will left a Negro woman, Jenny, to his son, Ebenezer. William's son, Jonathan, in 1773 left a Negro slave named Mingo to his wife.

John Rathbun Jr., the oldest son of John and Margaret, had no Black slaves so far as it known, but did purchase the services of a young Indian girl, Betsey, in 1698, from her parents — "Great James and his wife." The girl was to remain with the Rathbun family for 18 years, for regular payment to the par-

ents of blankets and rum. Early Block Island records do not indicate how well, or how long, this arrangement lasted.

By the middle of the 1700s, slavery in New England was becoming rare. Economics and large families had made it both impractical and unnecessary. Religious opposition, led by the Quakers, had made it unpopular.

One of our family was involved in a famous Quaker controversy over slavery in 1765.

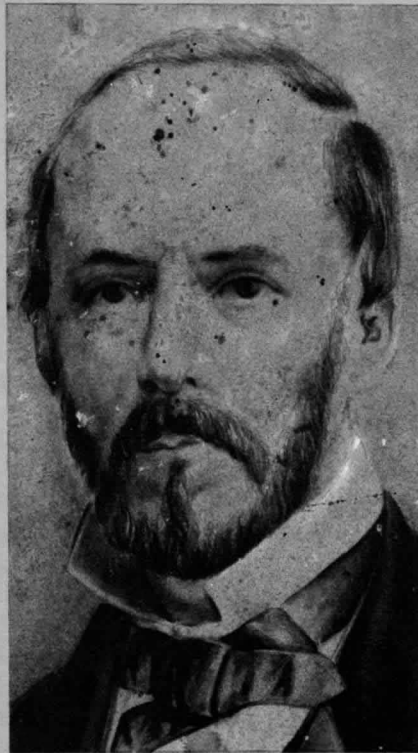
Joshua<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Joshua<sup>4+3</sup> John<sup>2+1</sup>) was a Quaker living at Westerly, R.I., when he ignored the teaching of his church and purchased a young Negro girl as a slave.

Rebuked by his fellow Quakers, Joshua made a public confession that he had "acted disorderly in purchasing a Negro slave," but claimed he had not known of the "Rules of our Society as well as the nature and inconsistency of making slaves of our fellow creatures." He agreed to "take the advice of Friends (Quakers) both as to the bringing up and discharging of the aforesaid Negro."

Joshua apparently agreed to raise the girl in his family and set her free when

State of Louisiana, Parish and City of New Orleans.

Miss Louise Victoire Claret of this city, does by these presents sell and deliver with all legal warranties, specially with full guarantee against the vices and maladies proscribed by law . . . unto Mr. Henry Alanson Rathbone, also of this city, the slave Judith, a creole negro woman aged about thirty one years belonging to the said Miss Claret by means of the purchase she made of the same from Louise Rosema Whitting . . . in consideration of the sum of Seven hundred and fifty dollars cash. . . By the Certificate of the Recorder of Mortgages in this city bearing even date herewith, it appears that there is no mortgage standing in the name of said Miss Claret and recorded against the slave now sold. Done . . . on the eighth day of February, eighteen hundred and forty seven.



Above, Henry A. Rathbone (1803-1867) and excerpts from two bills of sale for slaves purchased by Rathbone in New Orleans in the 1840s. The documents are still owned by his descendants.

State of Louisiana, Parish and City of New Orleans.

Be it known that on the Second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine . . . Mistress Caroline C. Searle of lawful age, wife of John Breckenridge Grayson of this city, duly authorized by her said husband . . . does by these presents grant, bargain, sell and convey with full warranty unto Henry A. Rathbone also of this city . . . a certain Negress slave, for life, named Mary, aged about Thirty-four, an excellent cook. The said slave is sold without any warranty whatsoever against the inhibitory vices, maladies and defects proscribed by law . . . the said vendor declares that the slave herein conveyed is her true and lawful property. . . This sale is made and accepted for and in consideration of the price and sum of Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars.

she came of age.

Six years later, he was in trouble again. He sold the girl for fifty dollars to his son, Joshua Rathbun Jr., a Quaker sea captain, who promised to "sett her at liberty at a suitable age." Instead, he sold her and she was "carried out of the country."

The angry Quakers denied Joshua Jr. further membership in their church, and urged the father to prosecute his son for breach of promise.

Joshua Sr. was a leading Quaker, and his home was used by the local Society as a meeting place, but he refused the Quakers' urgings that he take his son to court.

The controversy continued for several years, while the Quakers continued to meet in Joshua's home. Finally, in 1773, the Church leaders voted to revoke Joshua's membership. That winter, Joshua Jr. died at sea from yellow fever.

On Dec. 5, 1775, the father applied for readmission to the Quakers in a touch-

ing letter to the church elders.

He wrote:

" . . . it was a great cross to me to be denied by Friends. It was all most too much for me to bear . . . I should not only have advised my son, but should have constrained him to have done justice to the girl, and I see now I should have taken the advice of Friends in prosecuting my son."

He closed by asking the Quakers to "take me under their Christian care."

A committee of Church leaders visited Joshua and reported that "he appears to be in a good degree sincere in his request." Joshua was readmitted and remained a Quaker until his death in 1801.

No such problems were met by Jonathan<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2-1</sup>) of Colchester, Conn., who died in 1766, leaving four Black slaves, apparently a mother and three sons. His will listed them by name.

The mother, Jane, was freed immediately with the stipulation that she "is not to be controlled but to dwell in my house

and take care of my three weak (retarded?) children and to be maintained out of my estate."

One of the Negro boys, Abraham, was given to Jonathan's wife, Katherine, for her lifetime, and then to be freed. Unfortunately for Abraham, Katherine lived for another 29 years, but he may have been freed, or died, during that time, for he is not listed in her will.

The second boy, Jacob, was given to Jonathan's son, Joshua, to be freed at the age of 35. There is no further record of him.

The youngest boy, Ezra, is the only one of the three of whom anything more is known. The will stipulated that Ezra was "to be brought up until he is 21, then to be freed and given 10 pounds." A story of his life will appear in our next issue.

Another early Rathbun slave owner was Joseph<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>),

(continued on page 43)

# First Research on Family Started by Samuel Rathbone

In our last issue, we related the story of John C. Cooley's many years of research on our family which led to his publication in 1898 of the *Rathbone Genealogy*. Others had done preliminary work even before Cooley, and many have added to Cooley's research over the years.

The first serious attempt to compile a history of our family was made early in the 1800s by Samuel<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who visited town halls and records offices in Rhode Island and Connecticut to obtain all available data. Samuel was born in 1776, and thus had ample opportunity to talk with older family members born early in the 1700s.

He never published his work, but compiled it in two books of manuscript. These valuable documents were in the hands of Samuel's son, Charles E. Rathbone, in the 1890s, but their fate is not known. John Cooley reported in 1893 that he had seen the manuscripts, but was unable to copy them.

The first published account of the family appeared in August, 1860, in the *Narragansett Weekly*, under the pen name, "Pequod." The writer was William H. Potter, who had married Bridget Rathbun, daughter of Elisha<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

Potter had contacted Samuel Rathbone for information and no doubt used at least part of the data Samuel had compiled.

The first account in book form appeared in 1883 in a volume of nearly 800 pages entitled, *Genealogical Notes of New York and New England Families*, compiled by Sebastian Visscher Talcott, born in 1812, whose daughter, Angelica, married Clarence<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (Joel<sup>6</sup> Samuel<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

Talcott devoted 34 pages to Rathbones and Rathbuns, incorporating much of what Samuel Rathbone and William Potter had compiled, but adding a great deal more on the early generations. He apparently searched, or had

searched for him, the town records of Block Island.

In his preface, he credited assistance from his wife's cousin, Colonel Henry R. Rathbone of Albany, the ill-fated Army officer who was in the presidential box when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated (See Vol. 4, No. 1 of our current *Historian*). It would appear that Col. Rathbone had also done some research on the family.

The next major breakthrough came in 1887, when John Osborne Austin published his *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*, outlining the first three generations of early Rhode Island settlers. The Rathbone section covered our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret; their children, and 49 known grandchildren, with information from wills and vital records.

Interest in genealogy reached a peak

in the 1890s, and during that decade, James N. Arnold published his invaluable seven-volume *Vital Records of Rhode Island, 1636-1850*.

Arnold's records included births, deaths and marriages of many early Rathbuns and Rathbones on Block Island and in Exeter, North Kingstown, West Greenwich and other Rhode Island towns.

From January, 1892, until June, 1894, Franklin P. Rathbone published his *Rathbone Family Historian* at Oberlin, Kansas, (See Vol. 1, No. 4 of our current *Historian*).

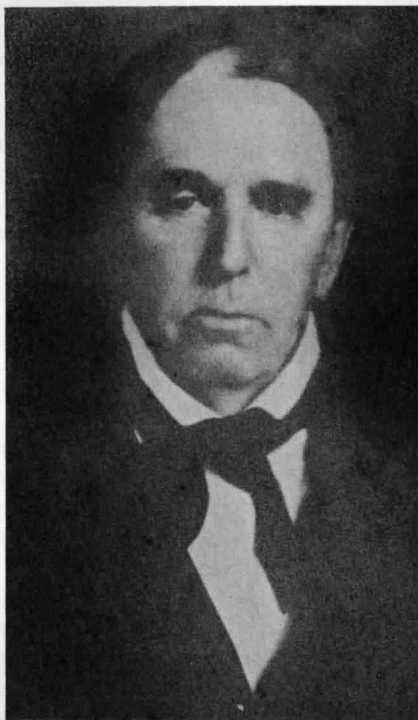
Meanwhile, John C. Cooley had been working for several decades, and in 1898 published his *Rathbone Genealogy*, with its incorrect claim that Richard Rathbone was the American founder.

In the early 1900s, a pamphlet, *Richard Rathbone*, was published by Douglas Merritt, a great-great-grandson of the Rev. John<sup>4</sup> Rathbone (Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). His work was basically a repeat of Cooley's book, concentrating on Merritt's line of the family. Merritt repeated Cooley's inaccurate statement that Richard Rathbone was the founder of our family in America.

In 1937, Albert<sup>8</sup> Rathbone (Clarence<sup>7</sup> Joel<sup>6</sup> Samuel<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) published a 70-page book, *Descendants of Samuel Rathbone and Lydia Sparhawk*, and issued a supplement in 1941.

Both of Rathbone's books were top quality works, carrying the various lines down to the 1930s but again tracing the family back to the imaginary Richard Rathbone.

The first published work to challenge Cooley's claim about Richard Rathbone came in 1947, when Frederick Rathbun Townroe published a 15-page pamphlet entitled *Rathbun-Rich and Allied Families*. Townroe was a grandson of Isaac<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Dyer<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), although he repeated Cooley's error in the ancestry, giving it: (Isaac<sup>7</sup> Dyer<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).



Samuel Rathbone  
(1776-1865)



Townroe did, however, make a real effort to correct Cooley's work. He opened his manuscript with the following:

"After considerable research, it is the opinion of the writer that the often accepted statement that Richard Rathbone was the emigrant ancestor of all the Rathbones and Rathbuns in America is erroneous and bears no substantiation."

Unfortunately, Townroe's little pamphlet had limited circulation and did not come to the attention of many genealogists. The Richard Rathbone myth continued its merry way.

The first serious challenge to the "Richard Rathbone" theory came in 1951 from the late G. Andrews Moriarity, one of America's most respected genealogists for many years. Writing in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* about John Rathbone/bun of Block Island, he ignored the Richard Rathbone theory, termed Cooley's book "inadequate" and called John Rathbun of Block Island the first of the family in America. He also speculated that John Rathbun's wife may have been Margaret Acres – a suggestion your editor has since shown to be most probable. (See Vol. 1, No. 1).

In the past two decades, many writers have covered various branches of our family in published works. To name just a few:

1. *The Story of Jonathan Rathbone Jr.* written by the late Floyd E. Neikirk and published as a weekly serial in the *Clyde (Ohio) Enterprise* from October 8, 1959, to Dec. 16, 1960. It covers many of the descendants of Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (actually Rathbun), son of Jonathan<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

2. *"Descendants of Wilson Beckwith,"* published by Mrs. Florence J. Whiton in 1960, and revised in 1979 by Robert E. Johnson. It has detailed data on the descendants of Leonard<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Calvin<sup>6</sup> Samuel<sup>5</sup> Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

3. *"Ancestry of the Rathbuns in Cayuga County, N.Y.,"* by Kathryn May (Cole) Gillett, in *Yesteryears Magazine*, 1967, Vols. 10 and 11. This is basically a repeat of Cooley's information on the family of Daniel<sup>4</sup> (Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), but adds some new data.

4. *"Burris Ancestors,"* compiled and

printed by Arthur P. Burris, one of our members, in 1974. It includes the descendants of Gideon Hoxie<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Tibbetts<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

5. *"A Partial History of Certain Mastin-Rathbun-Dye Families,"* compiled by Victor E. Mastin, also one of our members, in 1975. He traces the family back to John and Margaret of Block Island, expresses doubt about the Richard Rathbone theory, and traces many descendants of Gideon<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

6. *"Robert Burrows and Descendants, 1630-1974,"* published in 1975 by Robert Burrows, includes the descendants of Samuel<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) who married Abigail Burrows.

7. *"Jonathan David Rathbun; His Ancestors and Descendants,"* by Rosma (Rathbun) Limbeck, published in the 1976 *"American Bicentennial Biographical Album"*. Mrs. Limbeck is a descendant of Jonathan David<sup>7</sup> Rathbun, a son of Thomas<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), and is a member of our association.

8. *"Rathbone Chronicles,"* published in 1977 by Frances Collord, another of our members, is a comprehensive study of Jonathan Coffin<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (Coggeshall<sup>4</sup> Abraham<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), and

his descendants. (See our current Historian, Vol. 1, No. 2).

9. *"Descendants of Reason Tippie and Elvira Sophia Rathburn,"* produced last year in manuscript form by Mrs. Marsha Magley, one of our members. Elvira Sophia Rathburn was a daughter of Gideon<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

10. *"The Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas I. Rathburn,"* also completed last year, by Chester Clair Cornell, another of our members. It traces many of the descendants of Thomas I.<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and his two wives – Laurena Bates and Sally Belknap – by whom he had 17 children.

11. *"The Genealogy of our Branch of the Rathbun Family Tree,"* a bound xerox compilation last year by Mrs. Myrtle Rathbun, also one of our members. It covers the family of Alfred<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Laura Brown, especially the descendants of their son, Elon G. Rathbun (1830-1883). Mrs. Rathbun dedicated her work to her late husband, Arthur Dow Rathbun (1897-1979), a grandson of Elon.

12. *"The Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Historian,"* published since 1981 by our Rathbun Family Association, which is updating and correcting the work done by Cooley and other early researchers.

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## New Data

Mary, daughter of Abraham<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Sept. 21, 1740, on Block Island, is probably the Mary Rathbun who married David Welding April 1, 1765, at the First Presbyterian Church of Southold, Long Island, N.Y. Abraham Rathbun, son of her brother, Coggeshall, was baptized in the same church on June 26, 1765.

Perry<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), did not die in 1833 as reported in Cooley's *Rathbone Genealogy*. His descendant, Keith Rathbun, one of our members, has found tax records in Washington County, Ohio, which indicate he was still alive after 1840, in Belpre, Ohio.

Alice Rathbun, listed as a possible daughter of Samuel<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was actually the daughter of Joseph<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She was born Oct. 5, 1792, and married Chauncey Green on Dec. 1, 1814, at Hartford, Conn.

Celicia Rathbone, daughter of Edmund<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) married George (not Grove) Mattox (or Maddox) on June 20, 1828, in Sangamon County, Ill. She died in the late 1840s. Our thanks for this correction to her descendant, Loretta Yount Smith.

The first wife of William<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was probably Frances Banning, who died in 1793. His second wife was Lucy Sterling, widow of a Mr. Wooster and earlier married to Lemuel Frisbee.

# Richard Rathbun

(continued from page 39)

four years. Then, on Dec. 17, 1903, the Wrights achieved man's first powered flight, at Kill Devil Hill near Kitty Hawk, N.C.

The flight lasted only 12 seconds, but it launched the age of air travel and Richard Rathbun could claim a role in bringing it about.

Rathbun remained Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian in charge of the National Museum for the rest of his life, serving as acting secretary on numerous occasions.

He devoted these years to building up the priceless collections of the National Museum, and to the concept of three new Smithsonian units — the Children's Room, opened in 1901, the Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of American Art.

He was particularly interested in the natural history building, and wrote the preliminary study for its creation and construction. When it was completed in 1911, he published a detailed account of the project.

The building has been called a "monument . . . to his painstaking genius."

He took an equal interest in the idea of a national collection of American art. It was Rathbun who developed the idea in 1903, when Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston bequeathed her valuable collection of paintings and art objects to the Smithsonian.

Recognizing the potential, Rathbun developed the idea of a national gallery. His dreams were advanced in 1904, when the Smithsonian received the valuable Charles L. Freer collection, and in 1907 with the acquisition of the William T. Evans collection of paintings by contemporary American artists.

The collection, today known as the National Collection of Fine Arts, eventually found a permanent home in 1968, in the building now called the American Art and Portrait Gallery Building.

Rathbun died on July 16, 1918, in Washington, D.C., of heart disease caused by his bout with yellow fever forty years earlier.

Little is known of his life as a private person. He had one son, Seward Hume Rathbun (1886-1966), a noted architect, writer and teacher, and one granddaughter, Mrs. Edith (Rathbun) Bell,

one of our members, who was born after her grandfather's death.

Mrs. Bell remembers her father saying that Richard was a quiet, unassuming man, who preferred small dinners with friends to the busy Washington social life.

An article written about him by a long-time friend, Dr. Marcus Benjamin, after his death, said:

"Intense devotion to study was a striking trait of Mr. Rathbun's character, and so, absorbed in the details of his various activities, all of which had to do with the institution to which he gave his life, he had but little time for other interests."

An account of his professional memberships indicate that he was held in high regard by his peers both in the United States and throughout the world. He was president of the Washington Philosophical Society in 1902, president of the prestigious Cosmos Club in 1905, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

International memberships included the Fisheries Society of Finland, the

Russian Imperial Society for the Acclimatization of Animals and Plants, the Zoological Society of London, the International Zoological Congress, the International Congress of Applied Chemistry, the Pan American Scientific Congress and many others.

A newly discovered species of fishes was named *Rathbunella* "in honor of his many services to science," and a genus of starfish was named *Rathbunaster* "in appreciation of his pioneer work on Pacific starfishes."

The educational community also recognized Rathbun's ability. He received numerous honorary degrees — Master of Science from the University of Indiana in 1883, Doctor of Science from Bowdoin University in 1894, Master of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in 1916 and Doctor of Philosophy from George Washington University in 1917.

At his death, the Smithsonian memorialized him as "an executive officer of marked ability and one whose administration has had a wide influence upon the scientific institutions of the nation."

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## Rathbone Elm

(continued from page 35)

widely famous, for the soil is remarkably generous for tree growth."

Howe proved to be a good prophet. The tree continued to grow and became known throughout the country as the world's largest. It was listed on the city's official tour guide, and pictures of it were reproduced on post cards. An estimated 25,000 persons a year were visiting it by the time it died.

The property passed out of Rathbone ownership in the early 1900s, but the name Rathbone Elm was retained by later owners.

In 1920, the city of Marietta spent \$2,000 to preserve the old giant. More than seven tons of concrete were used to patch huge holes in the lower trunk, and metal braces were installed to support the larger branches.

By 1939, the tree was again in poor

condition. James E. Gavin, who had bought the property about 1927, appealed to the state of Ohio for help in preserving it. The state declined on the ground that it was on private property.

It was apparently cut down as a safety measure soon after that, although Marietta records do not reveal the date. It must have supplied firewood for many years.

Several legends sprang up about the Rathbone Elm. Its age was estimated in 1939 at more than 500 years, and a state newspaper reported that George Washington had once camped under its branches.

Henry Howe's 1908 writings give us a more realistic story. It sprang up about 1808 (after Washington's death) from a seed which had fallen into a hollow stump. It probably lived about 130 years — 40 years short of the 170-year "average" cited by Howe.

(continued from page 37)

who died in 1759 at Exeter, R.I., leaving “my Negro man Primus to my son George.”

Primus, who was valued at 1,000 pounds, apparently remained in the family for some years. He was listed as “Primus Rathbun” as a member of the Exeter Baptist Church in 1766 and 1777. He was sold by George in 1773 to a brother, Jeremiah Rathbun, who apparently sold him later to another brother, Joseph Rathbun. The 1782 Exeter census shows Joseph Rathbun with two Black slaves. Possibly Primus had married.

The 1790 Rhode Island census lists a free Negro, Joseph Rathbun, living in Exeter. This could be Primus, who possibly had been freed and then took his old master’s name, or it could be a son of Primus, born in the 1760s.

Either this Joseph, or Primus, was likely the father of Exeter Rathbun, a Negro born about 1790 who adopted the Rathbun surname. The story of his life will also appear in our next issue.

Another slave-owning Rathbun was John<sup>3</sup> (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), who died in 1759 at Exeter leaving “my Negro man Newport to my wife,” to be sold after her death or remarriage, and the proceeds divided among John’s children. Newport was valued at 1,000 pounds.

The 1774 Exeter census shows Thomas<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2-1</sup>) with one Black and one Indian in his household — either slaves or servants. They are not mentioned in his will 10 years later.

Job<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), a sea captain of New London, Conn., was listed with one Negro in his household in 1790 — possibly a servant.

Joshua<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), a sea captain in Newport, R.I., was recorded in the 1790 census with one Black and one Mulatto who could have been slaves or servants.

As reported in our earlier list of Rathbuns and Rathbones in the American Revolution, a Black sailor, Scipio Rathbun, died in 1776 during the American invasion of Nassau. He was likely a slave or servant to John Peck<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Nathaniel<sup>4</sup> Thomas<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), then a Navy lieutenant.

Slavery disappeared quickly in New England after the Revolution. The Rhode Island General Assembly in

1784 passed a law freeing all slaves’ children born after that year. The number of slaves in Rhode Island dropped from 952 in 1790 to 381 in 1800, 108 in 1810, 48 in 1820 and 17 in 1830. The same trend was followed in other northern states.

The last known instance of a Rathbun slave-owner in the North was in 1804, when Daniel<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), of Milton, N.Y., purchased for \$325 a Negro slave named Frank, aged about 19.

In the south, it was a different story. Invention of the cotton gin brought about the massive development of a new industry based on slave labor. Slavery became a vital and accepted part of Southern living. Our family members who moved South were no exception.

Rufus Cogswell<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) moved from New York to South Carolina by 1810,

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Two former slaves adopted our family name, but have no known Rathbun descendants today.  
—Story in October issue.

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established a cloth manufacturing plant and married a wealthy widow. He was listed with nine slaves in the 1810 census. Rufus moved to Alabama in 1816, and later censuses do not show him as a slave owner.

Nathan<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Milton<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) moved from Ohio to Kentucky in the 1840s, and owned at least one slave — a woman named Mary Jane who gave birth in 1851 to a daughter named Harriet.

The 1860 census of Tennessee listed two “mulatto” women, an Elizabeth Rathburn, 49, born in Virginia, and Sarah Rathbone, 32, born in Alabama, both living in the “Red Light District” of Nashville. They may have been former slaves of Rufus or Nathan who were freed and took the family surname. The Nashville City Directories for 1853 and 1856 describe them as “free colored.”

Henry A.<sup>6</sup> Rathbone (Samuel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) moved from New York to New Orleans in the 1830s, became a wealthy banker, and owned a number of slaves.

His descendants today still possess several bills of sale for some of his slave purchases.

Although he was a slave owner, Henry remained a loyal unionist as the Civil War approached. At the outbreak of hostilities, he moved with his family to France rather than participate in war with his native North. He died there in 1867.

Slavery in the South was effectively ended in 1863 with Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. Slavery was officially abolished in 1865 with the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The abolition of slavery came only after many years of protest and work by many Americans. Anti-slavery sentiment reached a peak in the North during the 1830s and 1840s. Active abolitionists established the famed “Underground Railroad,” a network of secret stations through which an estimated 75,000 runaway slaves from the South were passed on their way to freedom in various northern states and Canada.

One of these stations was operated by Levi<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>6</sup> Clark<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), a merchant in Mechanicsburg, Ohio, who was a dedicated abolitionist and a close associate of anti-slavery leaders throughout the midwest.

In 1858, abolition forces organized the Free Soil Party, which nominated Martin Van Buren, an ex-president, as its 1860 presidential candidate. Van Buren drew nearly 300,000 votes, mostly in New York and the Great Lakes states. One of the active members of the Free Soil Party in Rhode Island was Stephen Kilton<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (Joshua<sup>6-5-4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), a Providence banker who ran for office on the party ticket. Rathbone was described in his obituary in 1871 as “an unflinching anti-slavery man when that cause was at the height of its unpopularity” and “received a great deal more derision than votes.”

(In our next issue — the stories of two former black slaves who adopted the Rathbun name and lived on into the 19th century.)

# Genealogy: The Fifth Generation in America

**83. ROBERT<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1777 in North Kingstown, R.I., and married there about 1797, Freelove Northrup, born about 1773, the daughter of Samuel and Waity Northrup. They moved about 1801 to Delaware County, N.Y., and "built a log house on the south side of the Susquehannah River." Freelove died Dec. 9, 1811, probably in childbirth. Robert died July 17, 1830. Both are buried in a farm cemetery between Otego and Wells Bridge.

## CHILDREN

WILLIAM, Born June 20, 1798; married (1) Sarah Packard; (2) Caroline Roberts.

JOHN, born March 7, 1800; married Abigail Fitch.

SAMUEL, born about 1802; married (?) Rebecca \_\_\_\_\_

ELDRIDGE, born about 1804; married (1) (?) Polly Carpenter; (2) Harriet \_\_\_\_\_

GEORGE, born Aug. 26, 1806; married Electa Jones.

HANNAH, born Nov. 10, 1807; married Rufus Fisk on Jan. 12, 1836.

WAITY, born about 1809; married \_\_\_\_\_ Goodrich.

SARAH, born about 1811; married Joseph Goodrich.

**84. JOSHUA<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born May 1, 1775, at North Kingstown, R.I., and married about 1796 Nancy Phillips, born May 1, 1770, parentage unknown. They were listed in Foster, R.I., in the 1800 Federal census, but moved by 1810 to Scituate, where Nancy died Feb. 9, 1834, and Joshua died April 16, 1855.

## CHILDREN

?ELIZABETH, born Oct. 26, 1797; married (?) Robert Walker on Jan. 18, 1829.

OLNEY, born May 26, 1799; married Celinda Davis.

AMBROSE, born Nov. 18, 1804; married Lucinda Davis.

ANN, born about 1809; married Thomas Hill.

MERCY, born about 1811; married Stephen Hill on Feb. 26, 1831.

FREELOVE, born about 1815; married Asaph Ingraham.

**85. CHARLES BROWN<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Oct. 2, 1776, at North Kingstown, R.I., and married there Jan. 4, 1797, Sarah Carr, born Feb. 11, 1780, daughter of Samuel and Frances Carr. They moved soon after their marriage to Washington County, N.Y., and built a homestead on 1,000 acres a few miles south of Whitehall Village. He died there Feb. 3, 1847, and Sarah sometime after 1855.

## CHILDREN

FRANCES, born March 18, 1798; married Isaac Dwent in 1818.

ELEANOR, born Aug. 6, 1800; married David Christian in 1832.

MARY ELIZABETH, born May 29, 1802; married Abner H. Stark in 1817.

SAMUEL CARR, born Aug. 8, 1804; married Hannah Grover.

ALICE ANN, born May 6, 1806; married \_\_\_\_\_ Christian.

ANTHONY, born Sept. 22, 1808; married Malinda Kingsley.

ABIGAIL MARIA, born March 16, 1811; married Elijah B.<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>5</sup> Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

LYDIA ANN, born April 24, 1813; probably died young.

STEPHEN CLARK, born Nov. 24, 1816; married Mary Jane Wray.

PETER J., born Jan. 28, 1820; married Mary \_\_\_\_\_

SARAH JANE, born April 21, 1823; died Sept. 6, 1826.

**86. SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1782 at North Kingstown, R.I., and married about 1808 Mary Reynolds, born about 1790, parentage unknown. They moved shortly after their marriage to Johnstown, Montgomery County, N.Y., where Mary died about 1823, probably in childbirth. He may have then returned to Rhode Island, and married about 1824, Margaret (Gardner) Champlin, daughter of Huling and Elizabeth Gardner and widow of Jeffrey Champlin. In 1860, he was living with his sister, Abigail Gardner, at Stephentown, N.Y., where he died Sept. 29, 1866. The death date of his second wife is not known.

## CHILDREN

(By Mary)

JOSEPH, born about 1810; married Melissa Bruce.

DORCAS, born about 1812; no further record.

BENJAMIN, born June 10, 1814; married (1) Elizabeth Cutter; (2) Lydia \_\_\_\_\_

ELIJAH BROWN, born June 4, 1815; married (1) Louisa Hunt; (2) Abigail<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>5</sup> Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

ABIGAIL, born April 2, 1818; married Robert Reynolds.

ANTHONY H., born about 1820; died unmarried in Missouri according to Cooley, and "left a fortune to his brother."

GEORGE T., born about 1822; drowned about 1845 in Lake Champlain on the day he was to be married to a "Miss Martin."

INFANT (unnamed), born and died about 1823.

(?By Margaret)

HULING GARDNER, born in August, 1825; died Feb. 7, 1840, in South Kingstown, R.I.

**87. BENJAMIN<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1788 in North Kingstown, R.I., and married about 1820 Mary Brown, birth date and parentage unknown. Cooley reported his death date as July 5, 1857, and Mary the same year, although they do not appear in the 1850 census.

#### CHILDREN

JOSEPH ANTHONY, born July 26, 1822; married Lucy Woodward.

ALBERT C.G., born Aug. 24, 1824; married (1) Martha Hines; (2) Susan Hines, and (3) Clarissa Phillips.

**88. ANTHONY<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1795 in North Kingstown, R.I., and married there about 1820 Waity S. Eldred, born in 1791, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Spink) Eldred. Waity died June 1, 1839, and is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Providence. Anthony may be the Anthony Rathbun listed in the 1840 census in Clarkston, Monroe County, N.Y. In 1850, he appears twice in the Federal census in Michigan, as a teamster and lumberjack. His death date is not known.

#### CHILDREN

THOMAS S., born June 11, 1821; married Wilhelmina Davis.

SARAH ELDRED, born Nov. 10, 1823; married Silas Spink.

**89. SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (?Roger<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1766 in North Kingstown, R.I., and married there about 1792 Sarah \_\_\_\_\_, surname, birthdate and parentage unknown. This family is not listed in Cooley and the ancestry is not proved. They lived in South Kingston, where there is a gravestone, transcribed nearly a century ago, of "\_\_\_\_\_ Rathbun (who) drowned in Larkin Pond sometime about 1800." This could be his grave or that of a son. He apparently died by 1810, when his name does not appear in the Federal census. Sarah was reported in 1820, living alone. Her death date is not known.

#### CHILDREN

SON (name unknown); born about 1795 and listed as under 10 in the 1800 census. No further information.

POLLY, born about 1798; died June 25, 1806.

ROBERT, born in April 1804; married Eliza Jane Knowles.

SEVERAL OTHER DAUGHTERS, names unknown.

**90. JOHN<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Roger<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Jan. 4, 1783, at North Kingstown, R.I. He moved as a young man to Berlin, Renssalaer County, N.Y., where he married Feb. 24, 1804, Elizabeth Babcock, born May 27, 1784, daughter of John and Sophrona Babcock. He served in the War of 1812. He died at Berlin on Aug. 19, 1859, and Elizabeth died there June 30, 1877.

#### CHILDREN

NORMAN, born July 12, 1805; married Emily Babcock.

THOMAS, born about 1807; no further information.

ELIZABETH MARIA, born about 1808; married Philander Wilson Gorton in 1836.

JOHN B., born about 1810; married Ruth Smith.

PHOEBE, born May 23, 1812, married Charles Saunders.

?CATHERINE, born July 31, 1814; married Calvin Silvernail.

ESTHER, born Oct. 11, 1816; married Percy T. Davis Feb. 6, 1841.

HENRY, born April 19, 1819; married Betsey Thwing.

DANIEL R., born about 1824; married Emeline \_\_\_\_\_.

**91. BENEDICT ELDRED<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Roger<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born in 1785; married Frances \_\_\_\_\_ by 1810 and lived for a time in Bristol, R.I. They moved about 1816 to Belpre, Washington County, Ohio, where he died Oct. 5, 1822, the first victim of an epidemic which hit the area that year, leaving a sizeable estate but no children. His will contained the strange stipulation that his wife's share of his estate, if she remarried, should revert to Job Lawton Briggs of Newport, R.I. She was remarried, on Sept. 30, 1824, to Isaac Barstow, by whom she had two daughters. Barstow died about 1827 and she was married for a third time to Jesse Howard on Sept. 26, 1834.

**92. TIBBETS<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born in 1755 at Exeter, R.I., and married there in Sept. 1775, Rebecca Straight, born in 1756, the daughter of John and Mary Straight. He served in the Revolutionary War, and by 1790 moved to Hancock, Mass. In 1792 he was ordered by town officials to leave, "never having obtained permission to join the community." They moved to Broadalbin, Montgomery County, N.Y. and then to Otsego County, N.Y. In 1815, he left his wife and moved to Hoosick, Renssalaer County, N.Y., purportedly to seek a pension for his war service. While living there, in 1818, he married a widow, Elizabeth (Chatham) Austin, daughter of Daniel Chatham, apparently not telling her about his wife in Otsego County. He died in Hoosick on July 14, 1820, at the home of his sister, Lydia Bentley. His second wife Elizabeth, died in September, 1842. His first wife, Rebecca, died in Delaware County, N.Y., on March 16, 1847, aged 92.

#### CHILDREN

(By Rebecca)

GIDEON HOXIE, born Jun. 23, 1776; married Mary Wardwell.

SAMUEL, born about 1782; died by 1843, no known marriage.

MARGARET, born July 28, 1784; married William Moon.

MARY, born about 1786; no further information.

SIMEON, born Dec. 17, 1787; married Elizabeth Twitchell.

ANNE, born Nov. 18, 1789; married Corbett Orr Oct. 27, 1808.

HENRIETTA, born about 1791; no further information.

JOHN M., born about 1794; married (1) \_\_\_\_\_; (2) Sarah Ann (Foster) Hodges.

TIBBETS H., born July 16, 1796; married Susannah Durham.

EXPERIENCE, born about 1798; no further information.

(By Elizabeth)

FRANCIS MARION, born Oct. 15, 1819; married Penelope Bran Scott.

(continued on page 46)

(continued from page 44)

**93. THOMAS<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1763 at Exeter, R.I. He served in 1780 in the Revolutionary Army from Massachusetts, and apparently married about 1790 to a wife whose name is not known. He was living in Stephentown, N.Y., in 1796, but on Dec. 3, 1797, as a resident of Hancock, Mass., he married Sarah Babcock at Plainfield, Conn. They moved to Otsego County, N.Y., where in 1810 he was the executor of his father's will. By 1817, they were at Laurens, Otsego County, where he sold land. There is no further record of them.

## CHILDREN

(By first wife)

?JOHN S., born Jan. 27, 1794; married (1) Abigail \_\_\_\_\_; (2) Susan O'Lacy.

(By Sarah)

LYDIA, birth date unknown; mentioned in the 1810 will of her grandfather, John Rathbun.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

**94. WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Jan. 1, 1742, at Lyme, Conn., and married about 1764 Frances Banning, born about 1745, parentage unknown. They moved to Hartland, Conn., where she died Nov. 21, 1793. He was married again about 1795 to Lucy (Sterling) Wooster, born March 14, 1754, parentage unknown. She was the widow of a Wooster and had earlier been married to Lemuel Frisbee. William served as a private and sergeant during the French and Indian War. He died Oct. 17, 1804, at Granby, Conn. Lucy died there Nov. 1, 1849, aged 95.

## CHILDREN

DIADEMA, born July 28, 1765; married \_\_\_\_\_ Moses.

DANIEL, born Feb. 24, 1767; married Murial Desire Rice.

FRANCES, born Oct. 7, 1768; married Jesse Rice.

WILLIAM, born Aug. 10, 1770; married Dorothy Rockwell.

HANNAH, born April 7, 1773; married \_\_\_\_\_ Rockwell.

JONATHAN, born Nov. 6, 1780; married Polly Wilcox.

ELIJAH, born July 14, 1783; married Cynthia Messenger.

ELIAS (twin), born July 14, 1783; died young.

**95. EBENEZER<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Thomas<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born March 2, 1766, at Lyme Conn., and married there by 1790 to a wife whose name is not known, but was possibly Betsey. They moved about 1793 to Lima (then Charlestown), in Livingston County, N.Y., where he was one of the first purchasers of land in the Phelps and Gorham Purchase. He died at Lima in January 1813. His wife probably remarried, and may have died about 1852, when the children sold their rights in the estate.

## CHILDREN

ELIZA, born in 1790; married Chauncey Goodrich on Dec. 2, 1809.

JOHN CLARK, born Sept. 17, 1792; married Lydia \_\_\_\_\_.

MARY, born about 1796; married Samuel Bullen.

CLARISSA, born about 1798; married Truman Bullen.

DAVID B., born April 13, 1808; married (1) Susan Smith; (2) Jane \_\_\_\_\_.

EBENEZER, born about 1812; married Lucy Austin.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

**96. THOMAS<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Thomas<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born March 19, 1768, at Lyme, Conn. He married, Dec. 23, 1790, at East Haddam, Conn., Sarah Williams, born in 1767, parentage unknown. They lived at East Haddam where she died Nov. 9, 1851, and he died April 3, 1853.

## CHILDREN

SARAH, born about 1792; married Rev. George Cone in March, 1811.

THOMAS, born about 1794; married Annie Ingraham.

ELIZA, born about 1796; married David Beckwith in May 1820.

VESTA, born about 1800; married Jedediah Gardner on Nov. 5, 1818.

HULDAH W., born in May 1804; married Urson Gates in 1826.

NORRIS W., born Jan. 22, 1811; married Louisa Swan.

**97. JOSEPH<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Dec. 8, 1751, at Canterbury, Conn., and married there on May 2, 1777, Zilpha Stevens, born Nov. 14, 1757, daughter of John and Ruth (Adams) Stevens. They moved to East Hartford, Conn., by 1810, and later to East Windsor, where he died sometime after 1830. Zilpha died Sept. 18, 1849, at Manchester, Conn., aged 92.

## CHILDREN

SAMUEL, born Dec. 3, 1777; married Mary Parrish.

DANIEL, born Feb. 1, 1780; married Jerusha Alden.

LOIS, born Sept. 3, 1782; no further information.

BENJAMIN, born June 16, 1786; married (1) Joanna \_\_\_\_\_; (2) Harriet Bliss.

WILLIAM, born April 3, 1790; probably died young.

ALICE, born Oct. 5, 1792; married Chauncey Greene Dec. 1, 1814.

ZILPHA, born Dec. 7, 1793; married Vinton Porter in Oct. 1816.

?VESTA, born about 1795; married Dr. Thomas Barrows Dec. 2, 1818.

?EUNICE, born about 1800; married Thomas Hills Nov. 22, 1822.

?LOUISE, born about 1802; married John Hills on April 14, 1822.

**98. SYBIL<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 7, 1754, at Canterbury, Conn. She had two illegitimate Rathbun sons, names unknown, born in May, 1783, and on Dec. 20, 1785. They were living with her in the 1790 census at Canterbury, but there is no further record of her or them. She may have married, and the boys possibly took her new husband's surname.

(To be continued)

# Obituaries

**DIED**—March 26, 1984, at Cranston, R.I., Ernest Charles Rathbun, aged 101. His wife of 62 years, Eola May (King) Rathbun, died three weeks later at the age of 91. Ernest was the last surviving child of Charles<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Seneca<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) and Ella Sweet. Joseph<sup>5</sup> Rathbun married Olive<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>5-1</sup>), giving Ernest two Rathbun lines of descent. Ernest and Eola were among the early members of our Association, and provided extensive data on their branch of the family. When your editor visited them last August, after the Block Island reunion, Eola expressed her wish to live "long enough to take care of Ernest while he lives." Her wish was granted. Survivors include a daughter, Helen Rathbun, one of our members; a son, Arnold; seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. (See story of Ernest Rathbun's life in our issue of April 1981.)

**DIED**—March 8, 1984, in Glendale, Calif., Marion Reymenandt, the Baroness Schilling Von Constatt, aged 88. She was a daughter of Baron Charles R. Schilling and Sarah Matilda<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (Thomas<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Coggeshall<sup>4</sup> Abraham<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Through her father, Mrs. Reymenandt was a baroness of the ancient Schilling Von Constatt family of Germany. She had attended several of the family's reunions, which have been held in Germany every three years for many centuries and had planned to attend this year's gathering in June. Last summer, she attended our Block Island reunion. Survivors include two sons, William Schilling von Canstatt Lutz (one of our members) and Robert Charles Lutz, three grandchildren and a sister.

**DIED**—May 20, 1984, Sarah Kathryn Rathburn, 70, at Berea, Ohio. She was the daughter of Joseph<sup>10</sup> Rathburn (John<sup>9</sup> Amos<sup>8</sup> Sereno<sup>7</sup> Elijah<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by a brother, Robert Rathburn, and a sister, Jean.

**DIED**—Jan. 25, 1984, Arthur Glen Rathbun, 78, of Moscow, Idaho. Art and his wife, Eva (Kellberg) Rathbun, were among the early members of our association. Survivors, in addition to Mrs. Rathbun, include three sons, Martin, Gordon and Bernard, and nine grandchildren. Art was the youngest son of Erastus Artemus<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Edwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He had a double Rathbun ancestry through the wife of George<sup>5</sup> Rathbun, who was Eunice<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**DIED**—April 14, 1984, Cora F. (Tibbets) Rathbun, 90, of Boise, Idaho. She was the widow of Clark A.<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>7-6</sup> Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Survivors include four sons, Wayne (one of our members), Dale, Russell and Ernest; two daughters, Melva Gregory and Lola Espy; a brother, nine grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—March 17, 1984, Frances (Brusso) Smith, 67, one of our members, at Rochester, N.Y. She was the widow of Vernon Smith, who died last November, and the daughter of John Brusso, who died last October, and Minerva Ione<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>7</sup> Artemus<sup>6</sup> Hubbard<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Mrs. Smith is survived by three sons, Vernon, David and Richard; three daughters, Barbara Newcomb, Sharon Bales and Marie Smith; five brothers, John, Daniel, Edward, Charles and Martin, and three sisters, Helen Bel (one of our members), Louise Drushel and Agnes Sargent.

**DIED**—May 11, 1984, Wilda May Hardy, 69, at Finlay, Ohio. She was the daughter of Ruth (Rathburn) Mankins and the granddaughter of Amos<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (Sereno<sup>7</sup> Elijah<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by her husband, Gerald Hardy, a daughter, Faith, and several grandchildren.

**DIED**—April 21, 1984, Tillie (Rathburn) Holeman, 56, in West Mill Grove, Ohio. She was a daughter of Charles<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Amos<sup>8</sup> Sereno<sup>7</sup> Elijah<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by her husband, Floyd Benjamin Holeman, and three children — Clifford, Diane and Gary.

# Births

**BORN**—Jan. 31, 1984, at Arco, Idaho, Ashley Janelle Rathbun, daughter of Phillip and Cynthia Rathbun. Phillip is the son of our members, Wayne Leonard<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Clark<sup>8</sup> John<sup>7-6</sup> Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Mildred (Doughty) Rathbun.

**BORN**—Feb. 12, 1984, at Bedford, Texas, David Karl Rathbun, son of Thomas<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>9</sup> Lewis<sup>8-7</sup> Ransom<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) and Rebecca (Thurmond) Rathbun.

**BORN**—March 26, 1984, in New York City, Sarah Townsend Rathbone, daughter of Peter Betts Rathbone and Genevieve Alanna Chesebrough, who were married June 25, 1983. Peter is the son of our members, Perry T.<sup>9</sup> Rathbone (Howard<sup>8</sup> Peter<sup>7</sup> Elijah<sup>6</sup> Moses<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) and Eurette C. (deCosson) Rathbone.

# New Data

One of the unidentified daughters of Paris<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) was probably Dorcas Rathbun, born Jan. 22, 1792, who married Jacob Heath on Dec. 3, 1807. Another daughter, Cynthia, whose birthdate we estimated as 1791 (Vol. 3, No. 1, Page 13), was probably born closer to 1801. Also, it is quite likely that the Jediah Rathbun, who appears in the 1810 census at Washington County, N.Y. (not far from Paris), was a son of Paris, born about 1780. Nothing more is known of him.

The wife of Wait<sup>5</sup> Rathbun Jr. (Wait<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) was Elizabeth Carr, not "Barr" as reported earlier. Research Director Rob Rathbun, her descendant, discovered the error in a closer check of local records in Tinmouth, Vt. Elizabeth may have been the daughter of Ephraim Carr.

Elizabeth Marie Frances, second wife of Wait<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Wait<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) was born May 14, 1788, in Wells, Vt., the daughter of Ezekiel and Thankful (Ives) Frances.

# People

**FRED C. RATHBUN**, our research assistant in Denver, has written to each of the 44 Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns in the Denver metropolitan area, telling them of our Association and seeking family data. To date, he has heard from eight, and several have become members. Good work, Fred.

**DONNA HARTSHORN**, one of our members, was married May 12 in Winslow, Arizona, to Glenn Cain. Donna is the widow of Charles Hartshorn, the son of Frank W. Hartshorn and Rose Mary<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Allen<sup>7</sup> Joshua<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). Congratulations, Donna and Glenn.

**JAMES DAVID RATHBUN** has finished his first year at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. He is the son of Charles Jacob<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Ottie<sup>9</sup> Marvin<sup>8</sup> David<sup>7</sup> Lewis<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**K. HAYBRON ADAMS**, our research assistant in the Salt Lake City, Utah, area, has offered to provide guidance for members researching there in Mormon records, the Genealogical Society of Utah, and the Brigham Young University, where he is librarian. He asks only that members planning to seek his help let him know in advance.

**DIANA (RATHBUN) CROAD**, one of our new members, has compiled and sent to us 25 Rathbun tombstone inscriptions from the Rathbunville Cemetery near Verona, N.Y. The graves include those of Acors Rathbun (1772-1855) and many of his family and descendants. Diane is descended from Alva Rathbun (1825-1876), probably a son of Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**DARYL HOLDREDGE**, son of Virgil Holdredge and Phara<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Ottie<sup>9</sup> Marvin<sup>8</sup> David<sup>7</sup> Lewis<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) of Olathe, Kan., has been accepted at the Marquette School of Dentistry in Milwaukee, Wisc., for the coming semester. He accompanied his parents to the Block Island reunion last summer.

## Our New Members

Janice (Rathbun) Borer  
Bowling Green, Ohio

Roberta (Rathburn) Buckley  
Green Bay, Wisc.

Diana (Rathbun) Croad  
Blossvale, N.Y.

Eunice (Rathbun) Fisher  
Morro Bay, Calif.

Ivalee Horne  
Hutchinson, Kan.

Laura Lynn (Rathbun) Longo  
West Hartford, Conn.

Marjorie Mommaerts  
Green Bay, Wisc.

Donald L. Rathbun  
Gaithersburg, Md.

George & Linda Rathbun  
Evergreen, Colo.

Gregory Lee Rathbun  
Lakewood, Calif.

Helene Rathbun  
Fremont, Ohio

Henry & Shirley Rathbun  
Aurora, Colo.

Dr. J. Earl Rathbun  
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Dr. J. Edwin Rathbun  
Walnut Creek, Calif.

John F. Rathbun  
Bremerton, Wash.

Leonard E. Rathbun  
Longmont, Colo.

Neil M. Rathbun  
Las Vegas, Nev.

Roger H. Rathburn  
Boulder, Colo.

Stephen Rathbun  
Branford, Conn.

Wilfred & Dorothy Rathbun  
Denver, Colo.

Loretta Yount Smith  
Garden City, Kan.

Peter Rathbone Whitehead  
Harwell, Oxon, England

Victoria Augusta Rathbone Whitehead  
Harwell, Oxon, England

Mae B. Whittermore  
Summerland, Calif.

**DR. J. EARL RATHBUN** was listed in our January issue as the new president of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. We asked if anyone knew him, and have found the answer. He is the son of our new member, Jesse E.<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Edwin<sup>8</sup> Jacob<sup>7</sup> Edwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Dr. J. Earl and his brother, Dr. J. Edwin, have also become members.

**JAMES AND MARGARET DALE** of Arcadia, Calif., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30, 1983. Their children, James S. and his wife, Mary Beth, and Sarah (Mrs. William Wolf) made it a festive occasion. Mrs. Dale, the former Margaret Stewart, published the index to Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy. James Dale is the great-grandson of Sarah Frances<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>6</sup> Amos<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) and Colonel Benjamin Smith.

**WILLIAM A. RATHBUN**, a captain with the Coventry, R.I., police department, has been awarded a commendation for "excellence in performing his duties as commander of support services." Rathbun, 45, an Army veteran, began the 1983 fiscal year with a \$3,000 budget deficit, and finished with a \$3,000 surplus. Said Police Chief Jack Palo: "There's no secret to Rathbun's skill with the books. He simply handles our money just like his own." He is the son of Walter Eugene<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>8</sup> John<sup>7</sup> Robert<sup>6</sup> John<sup>5-4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**CHARLES A. MURRAY** of Gallipolis, Ohio, graduated this month from the University of Dayton with a master's degree in school administration. He is a fifth-grade teacher at Gallipolis. His wife, Donna, is a granddaughter of David Roscoe<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Amos<sup>8</sup> Sereno<sup>7</sup> Elijah<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).