

MIKE &  
WILL

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



## Letter From the Editor

Our 1985 family reunion is now history, and the 240 of us who attended can look back on a truly wonderful experience. But I'll leave the details for a full report elsewhere in this issue.

I do want to express thanks to those who did so much to make the reunion such a success — my wife, Hazel; Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun; John Bowen; K. Haybron Adams; Rev. Ray Martin; Candise Rathbun and Mark Rathbun.

And special thanks to some cousins who went out of their way to make the trip especially enjoyable for Hazel and me — Emmett and Florence Rathbun, who took us on a unique antique shopping tour; Russell and Norma Rathbun, who took us to the Hot Air Balloon Championships and to the Living History Farms; Lois McEachern, Barbara Bulmer and Norma Rathbun for their kind gifts, and again, Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun and their daughter, Candise, who showed us the real meaning of midwestern hospitality.

And, finally, my sincere thanks to all who have sent us cards and letters of appreciation for the reunion. We are so glad you enjoyed it.

It hardly seems possible, but this issue marks the end of our Historian's fifth year — and that means that dues are due once again. At the suggestion of

several members, we have decided to keep the 1986 dues at \$15. That will give us a little surplus and will pay for printing the 1984 index, which has been compiled by Margaret Dale and will be mailed to all members with the next issue.

A membership renewal form is enclosed with this issue. Please respond promptly; it will save me a lot of work.

The following members are already paid for 1986, but please send back your renewal forms with a notation "paid in advance." Lee F. Rathbun, Robert Allen Greene, Albert Rathbun, Helen M. Rathbun, Lynn Carb, Margaret Dale, Russell G. Rathbun, Michael D. Rathbun and Wayne Rathbun.

As we go to press, our membership has passed the 450 mark, our all-time high and a most impressive figure. In the past, we have lost an average of 10 percent of our members each year. Let me urge each of you to stay with us and help keep the Association growing by recruiting new members. I am told that family associations average 300 members. Let's prove that the Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns are not "average." Let's shoot for the 500 mark, which few family associations have ever reached and maintained.

Several members wrote us in August to report that they had not received their April or July Historians. I immediately asked our computer mailing firm, PRAids, for a copy of our complete membership as shown on their records. Checking with my own card file, I found that they had dropped the names of 25 members! If you were among them, you should by now have received an apology and copies of the April and July issues. If you have not, let me know!

We sometimes fall behind schedule with the Historian, but if you do not receive an issue within a month after each publication date (January, April, July and October), please let me know right away.

We have heard nothing more in our efforts to obtain a postage stamp honoring Captain John Peck Rathbun. You can help by writing your senators and

congressman to urge their support for the idea. Tell them the request is being considered by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

In our next issue, I am planning a story on Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns who have been, or are, physicians. Any of you who are doctors, or who have had doctors in your family, please send us pictures and short biographies so that they can be included.

Accompanying this Historian is a questionnaire asking your preference for the location of our third national reunion, probably in 1987. Your answers will help us decide. Also, we are looking for members who might be interested in a trip to England, in May 1987, to visit the home area of our ancestors, and also explore London and other parts of England. Please mark this part of the questionnaire also.

Reach for your checkbook now, send in your membership renewal and let me know your thoughts on the next reunion and the English trip.

Let me once again urge also that each of you let me know of any births, marriages, deaths or other important events in your family, and watch your local newspapers for any stories about people with our name.

*Frank*

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

*(703) 278-8512*

**Frank H. Rathbun**  
Editor & Publisher

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### **DUES ARE DUE!**

A membership renewal form for 1986 is enclosed with this issue of the Historian. Dues are again \$15 and the deadline is December 10. If you miss this deadline, we will have to charge \$17 to cover the cost of removing and replacing your name on our computer list. It saves us a lot of time and frustration if you renew early. Please send your check now, before you forget!

# Iowa Family Reunion Draws 240 Cousins from 32 States

Our second national Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn reunion at Des Moines was an outstanding success, exceeding our brightest expectations. About 240 cousins from 32 states joined us, surpassing the nearly 200 who attended our first reunion at Block Island in 1983.

Judging from the virtual flood of letters and cards received in the week after our return from Iowa, everyone had a good time and enjoyed the varied activities we had planned for the three days.

It all began with a get-acquainted reception on Thursday night, August 1, at the reunion headquarters, the Best Western Airport Inn. For the 32 of us who had attended the Block Island reunion, it was a chance to renew friendships and make new ones. For many, it meant meeting close cousins for the first time or after many years.

For two, it was an unexpected personal reunion. Wilfred Rathbun, looking over the list of registrants and their ancestries, gasped in amazement to see the name of his nephew, Michael Rathbun. The two had not met in over 25 years, since Michael, now 38, was a young teen-ager. They had lost touch over the years.

Friday morning was memorabilia time. Hundreds of precious family heirlooms and records were displayed upon row and row of tables — pictures, bibles, antiques of all sort. One of the oldest was a whale-oil lamp nearly 200 years old, brought by Beverly Gillette.

After a break for lunch, we gathered for a group picture, and then assembled for a genealogical seminar led by Professor K. Haybron Adams, genealogical librarian and teacher at Brigham Young University.

Friday evening was our dinner program. We had expected about 200, but 225 attended. Another 15 younger cousins had been left in the care of baby sitters.

After the meal, President Frank as master of ceremonies, made a few introductions — his wife, Hazel Rathbun,

the "chief planner and organizer" of the reunion; Rev. William Rathbun and his wife, Dorothy, who made advance arrangements in Des Moines; Robert Rathbun, research director; Art Burris, who first suggested the idea of a family association and magazine, and several regional researchers — Fred and Shirley Rathbun, Rosma Rathbun Limbeck and Professor Adams.

Repeating a tradition begun in 1983 at Block Island, everyone joined in singing happy birthday to the oldest cousin present — Lois Rathbone McEachern, who had celebrated her 93rd birthday on July 18. We also sang happy birthday to Les Meisner, who was 82 that day. A round of applause went to Jeannette and Buzz



Busboom, who were to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary the following Monday.

The major event of the night was a slide show, prepared and narrated by John Bowen, depicting the reunion theme — "The Family Moves West." The slides showed immigration patterns, routes and methods of travel beginning in the 1600s, when the first Rathbuns came to America from England. Included were pictures of early Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn pioneers in the westward movement of the early 1800s.

Rev. Ray Martin then led a musical program by a Rathbun Family Chorus which had been assembled only that morning. The chorus members included Donna Rathbun Barhyte, pianist, and Wilfred and Dorothy Rathbun, Michael Rathbun, Brandy and Hope Littlejohn, Eva Rathbun, Ruth Rathbun McPherson, Harry Sanborn, Elaine Sawtrell, Duane and Janet Nielson, Shirley Rathbun, K. Haybron Adams, Maxine Stites and Helen M. Rathbun.

The program was concluded by awards and door prizes donated by Des Moines business firms and arranged by Candise Rathbun and Mark Rathbun. Everyone received at least one prize, ranging from books to pens and business cards holders.

Winners of special awards were:

Lois McEachern as oldest cousin present at 93, followed by Thomas Fred Rathbun, 91, and his sisters, Myrtle Rathbun Showalter, 88, and Irene Rathbun Meyers, 86.

Rebecca Katheleene Kirshner, the youngest cousin present, at four months. She is the daughter of Pat and Darcy Kirshner and granddaughter of Virgil and Phara (Rathbun) Holdredge.

Les and Pearl Rathbun Meisner, the longest married couple, at 61 years.

K. Haybron and Mary Lynn Adams, for the most children at the reunion — seven.

Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun for the largest immediate family present — 11.

Irene Rathbun Meyers, as head of the only four-generation family at the reunion.

An award was given to Elwyn and Ellen Rathbun Kenyon for driving the longest distance to the reunion — 1350 miles from Rhode Island, and to Robert R. Rathbun — 1100 miles from Florida. We later learned that Russell and Norma Rathbun were the actual winners, having driven more than 2,000 miles from California.

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# Pictorial Highlights of Family Reunion in Des Moines

Photos by Candise Rathbun, Hazel Rathbun, Norma Rathbun and John Bowen.



Those attending the reunion were greeted by this sign at our headquarters hotel.



Lois Rathbone McEachern, 93, who was the oldest cousin at the reunion, pictured with President Frank at Rathbun Lake.



John Bowen and his wife Mary Ann, relaxing after his wonderful slide show on early family migration.



Thomas Fred Rathbun, at 91 the oldest man and second oldest cousin at the reunion.



Rebecca Kershner, at four months old the youngest cousin at the reunion.



K. Haybron Adams at the podium during his presentation at our genealogical seminar.



Rev. William Rathbun and his wife Dorothy with a lovely quilted family coat-of-arms made by Dorothy and displayed in our meeting room during the reunion.



Russell Rathbun, Rob Rathbun, Frank and Hazel Rathbun at Rathbun Lake.



Wilfred Rathbun (left) and his nephew, Michael Rathbun, who met unexpectedly at the reunion for the first time in 25 years.



Jack and Jim Rathbun, brothers, and Art Schroeck at Rathbun.



This 200-year-old whale-oil lamp was the oldest heirloom at the family memorabilia display. It is owned by Beverly Gillette.

# Little Town of Rathbun Once Was Prosperous Mining Center

The little town of Rathbun, Iowa (population 93), has never had a resident named Rathbun, but on August 3, the town was bursting with Rathbuns, Rathburns and Rathbones. About 240 of us descended upon the village in four busses and a caravan of cars in one of the most interesting events of our second national reunion.

For more than an hour, there were more people in the sleepy little hamlet than had been there, at one time, in nearly half a century. Many of the residents, and the town's two business places — a tavern and a general store — greeted us warmly. From them, we learned a great deal about Rathbun's history.

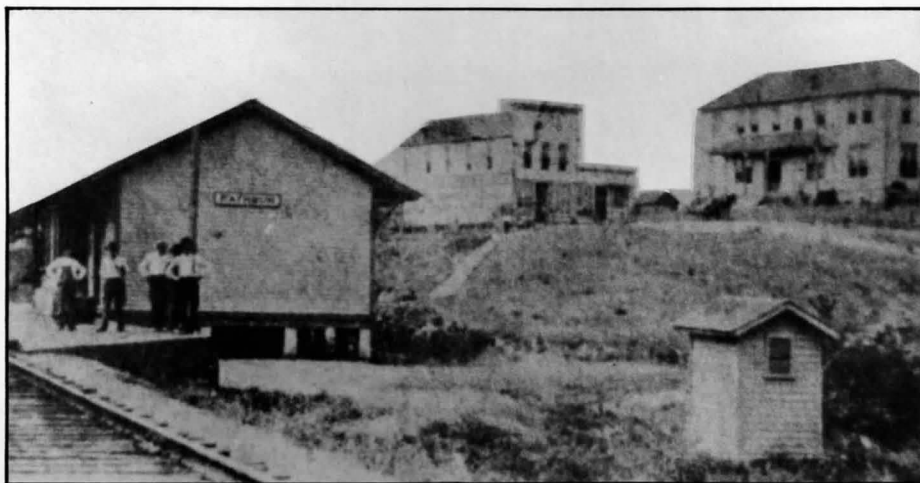
Large veins of coal were found underneath the area in the 1880s, and thousands of acres were purchased or leased by the Pacific Star Coal Company, of Chicago. As mines were opened, hundreds of miners flocked to the area, and housing was needed. In 1892, the company laid out a town, platted it and began to build houses.

About that time, the mines and the fledgling town were taken over by the Star Coal Company, of Streator, Illinois, possibly a subsidiary of Pacific Star. Secretary and general manager of Star Coal was Charles H. Rathbun.

Rathbun, born in 1846 at Cohocton, N.Y., was the son of Hubbard<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Hubbard<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He had moved to Ogle County, Illinois, in 1867, worked there for some years as a bookkeeper, and eventually moved to Streator, where he became one of the founders of Star Coal.

He took a keen interest in the development of the new mining village, and when it was incorporated in September 1893, Star Coal's management decided to name it in his honor.

Thus was born the town of Rathbun, which grew quickly as the mining operations increased and more miners came to the area. Within a decade, Rathbun had nearly 900 residents, a railroad de-



*This picture of the town of Rathbun, taken in 1906, shows the village during its heyday. The depot, hotel and a large commercial building can be seen.*

pot, a 20-room hotel, a thriving business district, church, school and hundreds of homes.

Mine shafts, sunk into the ground just outside the village, were extended in all directions, following the rich deposits of coal. Eventually, a network of tunnels extended five miles or more under the area.

At Rathbun, I spoke with one old miner, now in his seventies, whose father had also worked in the mines. The tunnels, he said, were barely four feet high and about the same width. The miners crawled on their hand and knees and then lay on their backs or sides to dig out the coal. Rope-drawn carts were used to haul the coal to the surface.

As the decades passed, more modern techniques and equipment were brought in, and working conditions improved somewhat.

By the 1930s, Star Coal realized that the veins were nearly exhausted. Operations were cut back, and miners were laid off. Within the next decade, the entire mining program came to a halt. By the early 1940s, there was no more work for the miners.

Families began to move out, seeking jobs elsewhere. The population dropped rapidly. The hotel and railroad depot were torn down, most of the stores closed and houses were deserted. The mine entrances were closed off, and vegetation soon covered the piles of slag surrounding them.

Fifty years after its founding, Rathbun was on the way to becoming a ghost town.

Today, Rathbun is a quiet crossroads hamlet, with a few dozen houses, a general store, tavern and church. The old frame miners' hall still stands — unused — shrouded in cobwebs, dust and memories.

Charles Rathbun went on to continue a successful business career. He served as secretary and general manager of Star Coal for many years, and became a director of Streator's National Union Bank. He was still living in Streator as late as 1910 with his second wife, Sarah. His first wife, Mary, had died in 1880. Their daughter, Winifred, born in

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# First Family Reunion in 1893 Marred by Housing Fiasco

Our family's first national reunion, held 92 years ago in Chicago, had a vastly different outcome than that of our recent successful reunion in Des Moines.

The 1893 reunion was arranged by Franklin P. Rathbone, the editor of the original Rathbone Family Historian. He planned it to coincide with the World's Fair held that year in Chicago.

It was to be a two-week reunion, from September 18 through September 30, and Rathbone in the August issue of the old Historian predicted it would be "one of the greatest gatherings of one family in the history of America."

One of his first problems was to find "suitable Headquarters, with ample room, and at a price within the means of all, yet in keeping with the character of the guests.

"After much inquiry, and at the suggestion of officers of the Supreme Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, the Pythian Headquarters in Chicago was selected (at) the reasonable rate of One Dollar a day per room.

"The proprietors," he wrote, "have guaranteed first class accommodations in every respect, and have signified their desire to make special efforts in behalf of those taking part in this Great Reunion. The Pythian is conveniently located to be easily reached from any part of the city, and restaurant accommodations are connected with the building, so that patrons will be amply provided for in every particular. There are large halls suitable . . . to hold meetings."

The sad results of Rathbone's hopes and plans are indicated in the next Historian of September 1893:

"After many months of anxious expectations, the last half of September brought together in Chicago a very happy number of the Rathbone family, intent upon forming acquaintances that might ripen into substantial friendship in future years.

"Upon arriving at Pythian Headquarters, a cloud burst upon the scene,

## The Rathbone Family Reunion.

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Beginning Monday, September 18, 1893,

Continuing Two Weeks,

Closing Saturday, September 30, 1893.

There will be held a Reunion of all those in anywise related to the Rathbun, Rathburn, Rathbone, Rathborne families.

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*Advertisement in the old Rathbone Historian for the 1893 reunion in Chicago.*

which all but ruined the long-looked-for pleasure.

"Pythian Headquarters," he wrote, turned out to be "simply a row of poorly furnished flats, with no Knights in sight. There was no time to notify the gathering host, and as party after party arrived, and found the state of affairs as they were, each sought separate quarters, which scattered them widecast over the city."

We can imagine the heartache and frustration Rathbone felt at seeing his dream of a great reunion shattered even before it began.

"There are many things the editor regrets about the unfortunate choosing of headquarters," he wrote, "but none grieves him more than the fact that he was so completely misled by the supreme officers of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. How gentlemen and Knights could have chosen a row of flats for headquarters in a city with innumerable first-class hotels is a mystery. There is

not a hall or parlor that will accommodate a score of people. It is no wonder failure followed."

Rathbone expressed special regrets that he never did make contact with Sarah and Lulu Rathbone, daughters of Justus Henry Rathbone, deceased founder of the Knights of Pythias. He no doubt hoped that they might have appealed to Pythian leaders for a way out of the mixup.

The reunion was to have begun on Monday, September 18, and by the following Friday, an attempt was made to salvage the situation. Associate Editor George A. Rathbun called upon his cousin, J. Mortimer Rathbone, who was manager of the Savoy Hotel on Michigan Avenue. A room was provided on Friday night, and 40 cousins were rounded up for a meeting.

It was an "informal meeting, which was devoted to handshaking and a gen-

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# Justus Henry Rathbone Dies on Knights of Pythias Travels

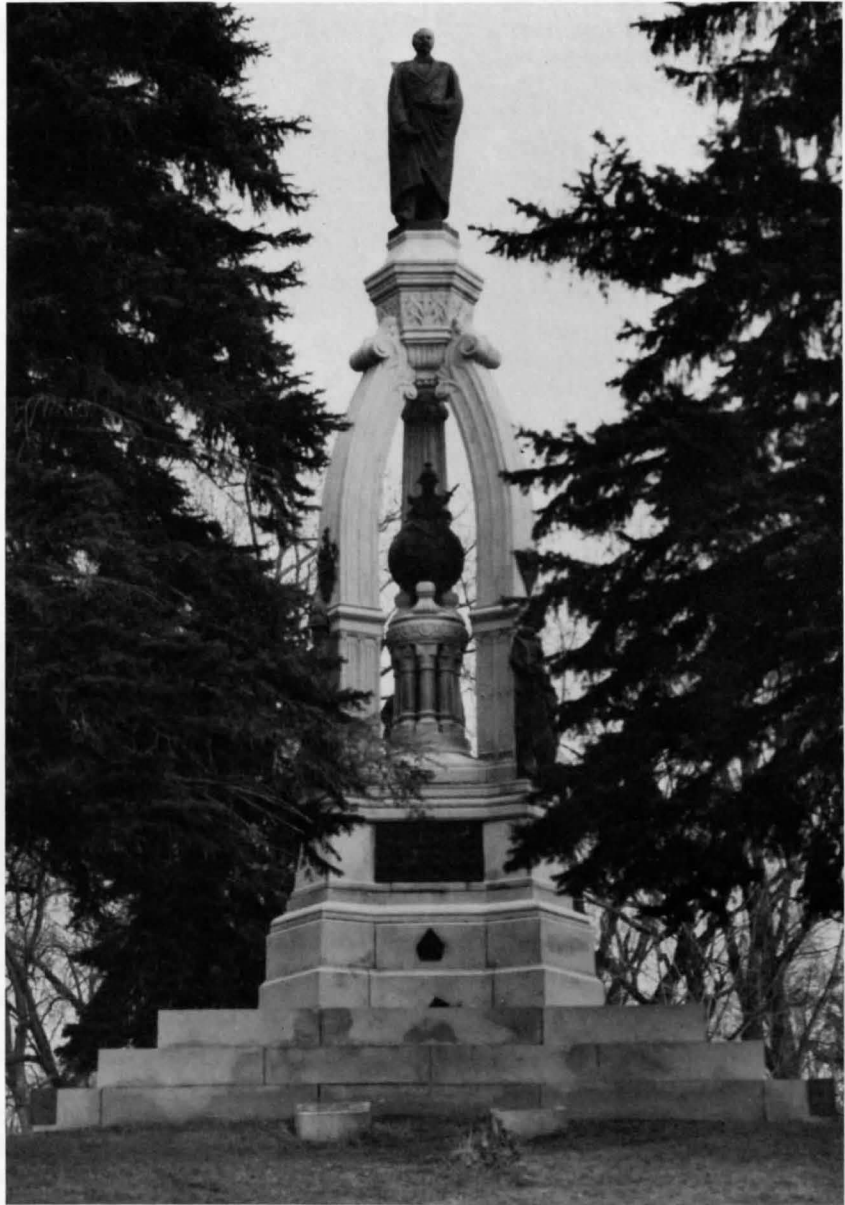
*In our April 1985 issue, we covered the early career of Justus Henry Rathbone, founder of the Knights of Pythias. His wife died on Dec. 31, 1887, and Rathbone was suffering from a severe boil, then called a carbuncle, under his left armpit. On March 6, 1889, he resigned his government clerkship in Washington, D.C.*

"I am advised by my physicians," he wrote, "that a change of climate is absolutely necessary to enable me to recover from the malady under which I have been suffering for the past 15 months, and to that end I have the honor to tender my resignation. . ."

His home at this time was in Alexandria, Va., where he had moved in 1888 from Lanham, in Prince George's County, Md. He apparently had moved there from Washington in the early 1880s.

Despite the constant pain from the enlarging boil, Rathbone continued his travels to lodges throughout the country. In the fall of 1889, he lectured in Chicago and Omaha, then began a tour of Indiana and Ohio. On Nov. 17, he became severely ill in Lima, Ohio, and was ordered to a hospital. Doctors lanced the carbuncle the next day, but the infection had spread throughout his system. Physicians pronounced him "beyond recovery." The carbuncle, they said, was the largest they had ever seen, being nine by seven inches in size! A second "operation" was performed early in December, but the infection had gone too far. His sister and two daughters were advised to come to Lima.

They were at his bedside when he died on Dec. 9, 1889, a few weeks before his fiftieth birthday. Rathbone's body was taken by a special train to Utica, with a two-hour stop at Cleveland, where hundreds of Knights paid their respects to the Order's founder. Pythian graveside services were held at the Rathbone family lot in Forest Hill Cemetery, Utica.



*The impressive tomb of Justus Henry Rathbone in Utica, N.Y.*

Picture courtesy of Edith Roberts

Four years later, in 1893, a New York Pythian official visited the cemetery and was dismayed to find Rathbone's grave unmarked and neglected. He reported his findings to the state Grand Lodge, and a special committee was appointed to investigate. The Grand Lodge appro-

priated \$1,000 for perpetual care of the gravesite.

In 1894, the National Grand Lodge decided to raise money from member lodges to erect a suitable monument in Rathbone's honor. The response was overwhelming. In less than three years,



more than \$13,000 was contributed. The Knights purchased a 10,000-square-foot lot in the nearby New Forest Cemetery and Rathbone's body was moved there. An impressive monument, 40 feet high, was erected, with a statue of Rathbone at the top. It was formally dedicated on July 26, 1899, just 35 years after Rathbone organized the first Pythian Lodge in Washington, D.C.

As the organization continued to grow in the decades after his death, Rathbone's name gained new honor. Candidates for admission to the Knights first attend a "Rathbone Bible Class," commemorating the fact that he had given to the Knights a bible, given him as a boy by his mother, and used by him when he administered the oath to the first 13 members in 1864. Dozens of new lodges were named in his memory.

In 1888, the Order of Pythian Sisters was organized for female relatives of Knights. Six years later, when the Supreme Council refused to recognize the Sisters, many of them broke away and founded The Rathbone Sisters. The Supreme Council relented in 1904, and the Pythian Sisters and Rathbone Sisters were consolidated as the Pythian Sisters.

Other problems plagued the Knights over the years. When Blacks were refused admission, they formed their own similar organization — the Knights of Pythias of North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. When the Supreme Council ordered that the ritual could only appear in the English language, a number of German-speaking members broke away and formed their own group. For a number of years, the order refused admission to bartenders and saloon-keepers. There was even a controversy over Catholic members.

By the 1920s, the Knights were at the peak of their success, with nearly one million members. In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became a member. Since that time, the organization's fortunes seem to have gone downhill. The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Fraternal Organizations in 1980 commented: "The fraternity is facing what appears to be a gloomy future. Many of the lodges have . . . closed their doors and many of those still open are located in buildings that require care and upkeep."

A letter from the Rathbun Family Association to the national Pythian headquarters asking about present membership was not answered, but the 1985 Encyclopedia of Associations lists the Knights with 2,000 lodges and 117,417 members — a far cry from their heyday of 50 years ago.

Whatever the future holds for the Knights of Pythias, there is no doubt that

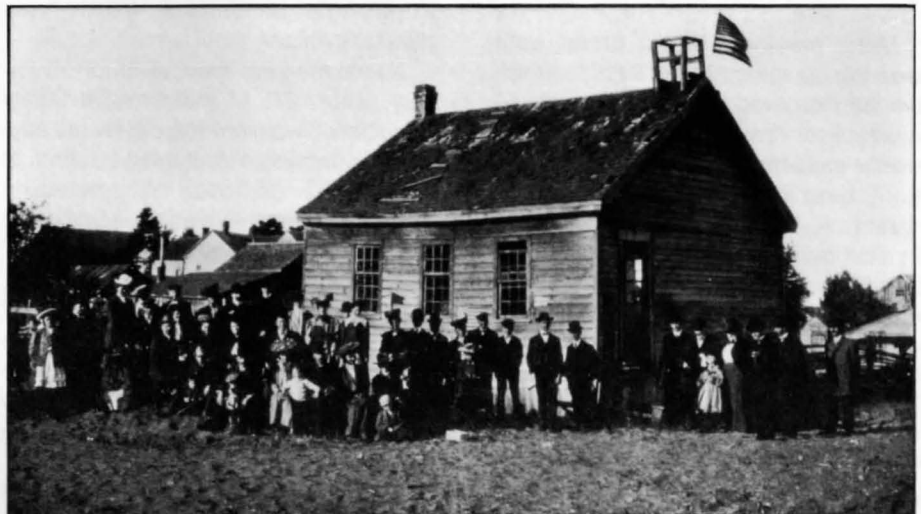
our cousin, Justus Henry Rathbone, performed a great service to his country and to mankind when he conceived the idea 121 years ago. The Knights helped unify the United States after the bitter Civil War and millions of men and women have since been influenced by the Pythian ideals of friendship, charity and benevolence.



*Rathbone wearing his Founder's Medal*



*Rathbone's Founder's Medal*



*The old schoolhouse at Eagle Harbor, Mich., where Justus Henry Rathbone taught in 1859-60, and where he developed the idea of the Knights of Pythias. The schoolhouse is now a national Pythian shrine. This picture was taken in 1906 during a Pythian program.*

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At the suggestion of Donna Barhyte, the group gave a big round of applause to Margaret Dale, who was not present, for her work in compiling the index to the 1981-83 issues of the Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Historian.

On Saturday morning, we boarded four busses and, followed by a caravan of cars and recreation vehicles, set off for the little town of Rathbun, a 90-minute drive from Des Moines. (See story on the town of Rathbun).

The 93 residents gave us a warm welcome. Most of us signed the guest book in the the quaint local tavern, complete with a pot-bellied stove and a 1940 wall calendar.

Some reunion statistics: Of the 240 in attendance, 138 were descended from John Rathbun Jr., oldest son of our immigrant ancestors John and Margaret. Descendants of the other four sons included 57 from Thomas, 41 from Joseph and two each from William and Samuel. Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska each had 24 in attendance, followed by Illinois with 15 and Colorado with 14. There were 23 cousins all descended from Gamaliel<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

Many members of our group were wearing special reunion T-shirts which we had ordered and sold at cost — corn-yellow in color and bearing the reunion emblem which appears on our front cover this month.

From Rathbun we proceeded to nearby Rathbun Lake, where a catered picnic lunch was served on a beautiful point overlooking the lake — Iowa's largest.

On the return trip, we stopped briefly at the Rathbun Marina, where sales clerks watched in amazement as more than 200 of us swarmed into the sales area and bought out their supply of every item carrying the Rathbun name.

We returned to Des Moines in time for many of us to attend the National Hot Air Balloon Championships at nearby Indiana. By dusk, more than 100 huge

balloons were sailing over the area in a wide variety of shapes and colors — a truly remarkable sight.

By Sunday night, most of the cousins had left for home, taking with them warm memories of three days filled with fun and family togetherness.

Among the many thank-you messages we have received, one from Victor Mastin seemed to sum up the general feeling. He quoted a few lines from the musical, "Carousel":

"That was a real nice clambake,  
We're mighty glad we came.  
The food we et was good you bet,  
The company was the same."

"Our hearts were warm,  
Our bellies were full,  
And we were feeling fine.  
That was a real nice clambake,  
And we all had a real good time."

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## Chicago

(continued from page 55)

eral good time." Plans were made for a banquet to be held the following Monday night at the Savoy, and Rathbone reported that the banquet was a "very pleasant affair."

A final meeting was called for Thursday, Sept. 27. At that time, a family association was formally organized and "The Rathbone Family Association of North America," was chosen as its name. A committee was chosen to draft a constitution and by-laws.

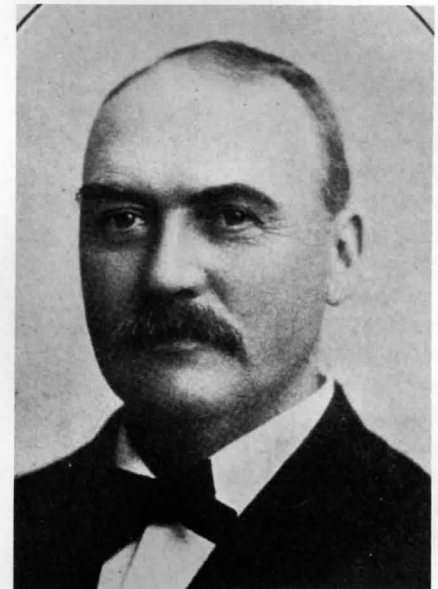
The committee apparently never met, for Rathbone in the first few months of 1894 complained in the Historian of the lack of action. The Historian's final issue was published in June 1894. The family association and magazine both came to an end.

Franklin P. Rathbone would no doubt be delighted to know that his dream of a family association and a national reunion finally has been realized nearly 100 years later.

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1872, married Williams Hawkins in 1895, but nothing more is known of her.

The little town of Rathbun would have remained unknown but for an act of Congress in 1954 to build a flood control dam on the adjacent Chariton River and create a huge man-made lake. Since Rathbun was the nearest community, it was decided to give its name to the lake — and Rathbun Lake was born. Work was begun in 1964, and by 1971 it was completed. A huge dam, two miles long and more than a hundred feet high, held back the waters of the Chariton River. It was officially dedicated in July 1971 by President Richard Nixon. Today, the lake covers 11,000 acres and can expand to 22,000 acres in times of high



Charles H. Rathbun for whom the town of Rathbun was named.

water. It extends 11 miles at its longest point, and has 180 miles of shoreline.

Rathbun Lake has become one of the most popular recreation spots in Iowa, with excellent fishing, fine beaches, picnic and camping areas and boat-launching ramps. It is surrounded by thousands of acres of woodland, pasture and bottomland, which are home to all sorts of wildlife. Thanks to Cousin Charles Rathbun, our family name will be known throughout Iowa for generations to come.

# Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

**1. AMOS<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born July 9, 1761, at Horton Landing, Nova Scotia, and married there Jan. 14, 1799, Mary Faulkner, born about 1779, parentage unknown. He died at Horton Landing on Feb. 18, 1836, and Mary on March 2, 1854.

## CHILDREN

JAMES, born Oct. 28, 1799; married Matilda Trefrey.

LAVINIA, born Oct. 16, 1802; married Thomas Curry.

MARCUS, born March 12, 1806; married Sarah Ann Godfrey. He was a teacher and was dead by 1871. No known children.

AMOS, born March 2, 1810; married Sarah Ann Godfrey.

**2. ROSWELL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born Jan. 20, 1767, at Horton Landing, and married about 1793 Charity Reed, born about 1774, parentage unknown. She died sometime after 1838 and Roswell after 1849.

## CHILDREN

WILLIAM, born Jan. 20, 1794; married Olive Fuller.

ELIJAH, born about 1797; died unmarried Dec. 16, 1867.

ANNA, born about 1799; died unmarried in 1825.

EMILY AMELIA, born in June 1804; died unmarried after 1851.

REBECCA SARAH, born about 1812; died unmarried after 1851.

**3. ARUNAH<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born April 15, 1770, at Horton Landing, and married there April 14, 1796, Elizabeth Ann Crane, born about 1776, parentage unknown. He died at Horton Landing on March 19, 1845, and Elizabeth on June 20, 1859.

*With this issue, we begin the sixth generation of our family in America, beginning as in past issues with the oldest son of the oldest son. Although we are not carrying on the lines of Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn daughters, we are compiling their family data and will share any information we have.*

## CHILDREN

MARY ANN, born April 26, 1797; died unmarried April 8, 1826.

ELIZA, born June 22, 1799; married Jacob B. Curry on Jan. 4, 1822 and died in 1849.

JAMES EDWARD, born March 16, 1802; married Lavinia Hamilton.

SILAS, born June 10, 1804; married Sarah Buchanan.

LUCY, born Dec. 17, 1806; married William Allison Sept. 19, 1833.

REBECCA, born Aug. 28, 1809; married in 1850 her sister Eliza's widower, Jacob B. Curry.

AMELIA, born March 27, 1812; married Anthony Shaw on July 15, 1841.

WILLIAM, born June 27, 1815; died June 29, 1826.

LAVINIA, born June 27, 1817; married her cousin, John<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>6</sup> Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

SUSAN INGLES, born Dec. 20, 1820; no further information.

See Corrections 13-3 p 46

**4. CHARLES<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born Oct. 7, 1775, in Horton Landing, and married Sept. 28, 1803, in Cornwallis, N.S., Sarah Allison, born Sept. 7, 1780, daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Whidden) Allison. They lived for a time at Falmouth and Newport, N.S., but returned to Horton Landing where he died May 29, 1830, and Sarah on May 15, 1837.

## CHILDREN

JOSEPH, born Aug. 9, 1804; married Grace A. Irish.

CHARLES WILLIAM, born July 18, 1806; married Rebecca Morris.

AGNES ELIZABETH, born May 23, 1808; married William Harvey in August 1836.

SARAH, born May 27, 1810; married Stephen Harvey on Jan. 7, 1830.

HANNAH WHIDDEN, born March 12, 1814; died April 2, 1825.

JOHN ALLISON, born Feb. 4, 1818; married Mary Bill.

MARY JANE, born Dec. 7, 1820; died unmarried June 2, 1845.

**5. DANIEL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born Feb. 21, 1781 at Horton Landing, and married March 18, 1809, at Cornwallis, N.S., Sarah Ingles, born about 1788, daughter of Archibald P. and Susanna Ingles. Sarah died Oct. 16, 1839, and Daniel in the summer of 1848, both at Horton Landing.

## CHILDREN

INGLES, born about 1810; married (?).

JOHN, born about 1811; married his cousin, Lavinia<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Arunah<sup>6</sup> Amos<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

SUSANNA, born about 1813; married (?) Robert L. Harris.

CATHERINE, born about 1815; died unmarried Oct. 24, 1890.

MARGARET, born about 1817; married Thomas McLatchey.

**6. ABEL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Abel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born June 6, 1776, at Salem, Conn., and married there in 1798 Alice Brown, born July 17, 1774, daughter of Oliver and Mary Brown. He died at Salem on Aug. 12, 1820, and

(continued on page 60)

(continued from page 59)

Alice on May 27, 1853. Both are buried at Rathbun Hill Cemetery.

## CHILDREN

ERASTUS, born April 8, 1799; married Mary Alice Latimer.

ENOCH ARNOLD, born March 16, 1801; died unmarried Aug. 30, 1856.

LUCIA ANN, born Nov. 8, 1803; married Phineas Grover Goodrich on April 13, 1833.

ABEL, born June 30, 1810; married Lydia Thurston.

SELINDA, born July 1, 1814; married Butler Hamlin Oct. 21, 1838.

**7. ASA<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Abel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born June 22, 1779, at Salem, Conn., and married there about 1799 Lucy A. Brown, born Jan. 31, 1779, daughter of Oliver and Mary Brown. She died Jan. 4, 1824, and he married again on April 18, 1825, Lydia Harris, born in 1785, parentage unknown. He died at Salem on Dec. 19, 1852 (or 1853), and Lydia on Nov. 11, 1873. He and both wives are buried in the Rathbun Hill Cemetery.

## CHILDREN

(All by Lucy)

ASA, born Oct. 3, 1800; married Fannie Geer.

RUSSELL B., born Sept. 27, 1802; married Jerusha Harvey.

ALBAN, born Nov. 27, 1803; married Harriet Rogers.

LUCY ANN, born Oct. 13, 1807; married Gershom B. Worthington on Sept. 18, 1831.

GEORGE W., born Aug. 18, 1809; married Olive Chapman.

AMOS, born Dec. 28, 1812; married Margaret Feno.

**8. ANSEL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Abel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born Nov. 23, 1788, at Salem, Conn., and married March 11, 1810, at Colchester, Conn., Lodicia Roth, born March 16, 1791, ancestry unknown. They moved by 1820 to Preston, Chenango County, N.Y., and by 1830 to Scipio, Cayuga County, N.Y. Either he or his son Ansel was living in 1840 at Westfield, Tioga County, Pa.

Ansel Sr. was apparently dead by 1850, for he does not appear in the Federal census that year. Lodicia's death date is not known.

## CHILDREN

HARRIET, born Feb. 1, 1811; married John Gavitt.

MARY ANN, born March 7, 1813; married Ariel A. Cornwell in 1831.

ANSEL WILLIAM, born March 12, 1816; died March 14, 1843, in Jackson County, Michigan, after being kicked by a horse. No known marriage.

AUGUSTUS N., born July 23, 1818; married Louisa \_\_\_\_\_.

GEORGE W., born Sept. 3, 1820; married Jerusha Ann Adams.

URSULA RUBY, born May 17, 1823; married Nathan Delemater.

SARAH A. born Dec. 3, 1825; married Philo Finch on July 3, 1846.

**9. ANDERSON<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Joshua<sup>5-4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born about 1777 at Salem, Conn., and married about 1800 Hannah \_\_\_\_\_, born about 1780, surname and parentage unknown. They moved by 1810 to Brookfield, Madison County, N.Y., where he served in the War of 1812, and by 1819 to McDonough, Chenango County, N.Y. They apparently separated in the early 1820s, and he remarried. In 1830 he was living in Warren, Herkimer County, with a younger woman and two young boys, possibly sons by the second marriage, or stepsons. He may have died by 1840, for he does not appear in the Federal census that year. Hannah moved to New Berlin, Chenango County, and died there May 20, 1859.

## CHILDREN

(By Hannah)

?HARRIET A., born about 1807; married Benjamin Wightman.

?JANE, born about 1815; married Smith Thompson on Jan. 4, 1835.

MINER A., born about 1821; married (?).

OTHERS, names unknown

(By second wife)

?TWO SONS, names unknown.

**10. MARTIN<sup>6</sup> RATHBONE** (Joshua<sup>5-4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born Oct. 16, 1787, at Salem, Conn., and married there about 1810 Betsey Brown, born about 1790, parentage unknown. She died March 1, 1826, at Salem, and he married on Nov. 18, 1829, Eliza Benjamin, born Feb. 18, 1802, daughter of Stephen and Barbara (Phillips) Benjamin. Martin died Nov. 7, 1864, at Salem, and Eliza on Oct. 16, 1879.

## CHILDREN

(By Betsey)

RANSOM B., born July 5, 1811; married Cynthia Daniels.

HARRIET ELIZABETH, born Feb. 14, 1813; married Griswold Randall on March 20, 1836.

HENRY W., born April 20, 1815; married Emily Benjamin.

SARAH A., born March 18, 1817; married Eliphalet Beckwith on March 23, 1845.

RUSSELL B., born May 15, 1819; married (1) Lucy Welch; (2) Mary Hilliard, and (3) Emily Story.

OLIVER MARTIN, born Aug. 28, 1824; married (1) Mary Gates; (2) Harriet Clark.

(By Eliza)

GEORGE BENJAMIN, born April 4, 1833; married Henrietta Swift.

DELIA E., born June 16, 1839; married (1) Henry Rogers on Jan. 14, 1861, and (2) Charles Leffingwell on Dec. 7, 1875.

**11. AMASA<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Moses<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born Feb. 17, 1778, at Colchester, Conn., and married Oct. 16, 1813, Lucy Newton Jones, born April 2, 1791, daughter of Amos and Auriel (Newton) Jones. Amasa died at Salem, Conn., on Oct. 6, 1829, and Lucy died Nov. 3, 1851, at the home of her son, Elijah, in Calhoun County, Mich.

## CHILDREN

ELIJAH, born June 15, 1815; married Mary Craig.

JOHN F., born June 12, 1817; married Lucy Hills.

RANSOM, born April 16, 1821; died unmarried Nov. 6, 1897.

AMOS JONES, born June 5, 1823; no further information.

ELIZABETH, born July 16, 1825; married Nelson T. Stevens.

HENRY L., born April 30, 1828; married Maria \_\_\_\_\_.

**12. RANSOM<sup>6</sup> RATHBONE** (Moses<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born April 10, 1780, at Colchester, Conn., and moved as a young man to Oxford, Chenango County, N.Y. He married there Oct. 22, 1807, Catherine Fisher, born in 1790, daughter of John and Catherine Fisher. Ransom became a brigadier general in the local militia and operated a paper mill in Oxford. He moved to Steuben County, N.Y., about 1838 and founded the town of Rathboneville, later known as Rathbone. He opened the first store there, built the first hotel, and operated a lumbering business. He was postmaster of Rathbone from 1839 until his death. He died July 17, 1861 at Rathboneville. His wife had died four years earlier on July 25, 1857.

#### CHILDREN

JOHN FISHER, born Jan. 7, 1809; died unmarried Oct. 28, 1865.

WILLIAM RANSOM, born Nov. 18, 1810; died unmarried July 5, 1873.

HENRY WELLINGTON, born Aug. 14, 1813; married Sarah Bailey.

CATHERINE ELIZA, born June 5, 1817; died unmarried Dec. 30, 1879.

CORNELIA MARTHA, born Feb. 4, 1819; married Dr. William G. Micks on May 7, 1840.

See Corrections 06-1 p 14

**13. ISRAEL<sup>6</sup> RATHBONE** (Moses<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born April 1, 1783, at Colchester, Conn. and moved as a young man to what was then the western frontier in Onondaga County, N.Y., and later to Niagara County, N.Y. He moved about 1820 to LeRoy, Genesee County, where on Jan. 7, 1821, he married Lucy (Anderson) Ganson, born Feb. 13, 1892, daughter of David and Sally (Ewell) Anderson and widow of John Ganson. At LeRoy, Israel became a prominent citizen — major in the local militia, banker, and trustee of the Ingham Collegiate Institute. He died at LeRoy on June 29, 1852. His widow died several years earlier, on Nov. 21, 1849.

#### CHILDREN

ELIZABETH, born Dec. 22, 1821; married David Rinaldo Bacon.

CAROLINE, born May 10, 1824; died May 2, 1826.

WILLIAM PALMER, born Sept. 28, 1826; married Maria H. Crane.

CAROLINE PALMER, born Aug. 23, 1829; married Rev. W.H. Barris.

HARRIET C., born Jan. 26, 1832; married William Lovering Feb. 18, 1857.

GUSTINA B., born Oct. 26, 1833; married Robert D. Ferris.

HENRY B., born July 26, 1836; died unmarried Oct. 19, 1854.

**14. JOHN<sup>6</sup> RATHBONE** (Moses<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born March 27, 1788, at Colchester, Conn. He moved as a young man to Greene, Chenango County, N.Y., where he married about 1818 Elizabeth Fisher, born about 1796, sister of his brother Ransom's wife. He served in the War of 1812, and later was quartermaster for the local militia. He operated a store at Greene for some years, but according to a local history, "became dissipated and impoverished" and moved to Cortland County, where he died in the 1830s. His wife later moved to Potter County, Pa., where she died sometime after 1860.

#### CHILDREN

See Corrections 06-1 p 14

ELIZABETH, born about 1818; alive in 1860, unmarried.

LEVERETT BUSH, born about 1820; married Anne Eliza McNeil.

HENRY W., born March 27, 1829; married Lydia Ann Dwight.

**CORNELIA**, born about 1833; married **F.W. Bert**.

**15. ELIJAH<sup>6</sup> RATHBONE** (Moses<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), born April 24, 1792, at Colchester, Conn., and moved as a young man to Greene, N.Y. He married Feb. 15, 1825, at Bainbridge, N.Y., Eliza Betts, born July 9, 1803, daughter of Peter and Eliza (Fitch) Betts. Elijah became a colonel in the local militia and a prominent businessman in Greene, where he died June 21, 1849. Eliza died July 13, 1873, at the home of her son Peter in Syracuse, N.Y.

#### CHILDREN

MARY ELIZABETH (Adopted), born about 1826; married Arnold D. Conkey on Sept. 2, 1845.

PETER BETTS, born Aug. 12, 1828; married Eliza Dederer.

ELIJAH, born April 19, 1842; died March 10, 1843.

(To be continued)

## Corrections

In our last issue, there was an error in the ancestry of two Rathbuns in the genealogy section, on page 47. The correct ancestry of James<sup>5</sup> Rathbun, number 155, and Samuel<sup>5</sup> Rathbun, number 156, is James<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>. Our thanks to Joe Wiswall for catching the error.

Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) died Sept. 3, 1840, not Sept. 13. His wife, Margaret, died Oct. 7, 1876. Their son, Daniel W. Rathbun, as listed by Cooley, is a mistake. His name was David W. Rathbun. He married Charlotte \_\_\_\_\_ and moved to Texas and later New Mexico. Our thanks to Lorna Vogt.

In our listing of the early emigrants from Block Island in the July issue (page 36), we omitted John Rathbun (1684-1759), a son of William<sup>2</sup> Rathbun. John moved from Block Island to Exeter (then North Kingstown) by 1727, possibly as early as 1722. He married his cousin, Margaret Rathbun, daughter of Thomas<sup>2</sup> Rathbun. Our thanks to his descendant, Rachel Laurgaard.

Nathaniel Rathbun Jr. (1728-1810), son of Nathaniel<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2-1</sup>), had two previously unknown daughters — Hannah, who married Joseph Howe, and Mollie, who married (Nathan?) Rice. Our thanks to new member, Betty Angelini, a descendant of Nathaniel's son, Samuel.

# Obituaries

**DIED** — Jan. 20, 1985, at Morgan Hill, Calif., Helen (Rathbun) Myers, aged 73. A charter member of our association, she was the daughter of Charles Amory<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Alfred<sup>6</sup> Wait<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). She is survived by a daughter and two brothers, William and Charles Rathbun.

**DIED** — May 31, 1985, at Denver, Colo., Helen M. Rathbun, aged 79. She was the widow of Owen<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Uzel<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by a son, Owen F. Rathbun; a daughter, Rita R. Eaton; a sister, Julia Klein; five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**DIED** — June 2, 1985, at Minneapolis, Minn., Victor F. Rathbun, aged 64. He was the son of Fritz<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Jesse<sup>8</sup> Lamar<sup>7</sup> Henry<sup>6-5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He is survived by his wife, Sylvia; three sons, Richard, James and Victor Jr.; four grandchildren; his mother, Lydia Rathbun; two brothers, Martin and Francis Rathbun, and two sisters, Sophia Egge and Sadie Hilte.

**DIED** — Sept. 2, 1985, at Boise, Idaho, Edmond C. Rathbone, aged 71. He was a son of Eugene<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (Cornelius<sup>6</sup> Edmund<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). He is survived by his wife, Edith; a son, Gary, and daughter, Arlene Gates; two stepdaughters; four grandchildren and nine step-grandchildren; a great-granddaughter and 12 step-great-grandchildren, and seven sisters — Zelda Aitchison, Clara Eshelman, Helen Van Over, Lula Owen, Stella Shuter, Verona Neufeld and Wanda Hawkins.

**DIED** — April 6, 1985, at Fruitland, Idaho, Wilburn E. Rathbone, aged 73, brother of Edmond C. Rathbone (above). He is survived by his wife, Ruth; six stepchildren; 22 grandchildren, and 43 great-grandchildren, as well as seven sisters.

**DIED** Sept. 10, 1985, in suburban Washington, D.C., Phyllis (Rathbun) Andrews, aged 62, daughter of the late Dean Malachi<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Adelbert<sup>8</sup> John<sup>7</sup> Allen<sup>6-5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). She is survived by three children, two grandchildren and a brother, Dean A. Rathbun.

**DIED** — May 16, 1985, at Center, Colo., Shirley Mae (Kopfman) Leach, aged 55, wife of Kenneth Carl Leach. Kenneth is a great-grandson of Sophia (Rathbun) Tippie (Gideon<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). Other survivors are two daughters, Judith David and Carlene Sanderson, and several grandchildren.



*This gravestone, unearthed recently in the Barnes Cemetery, Norway, N.Y., is that of a previously unknown daughter of John and Sarah (Austin) Rathbun. It was found nearly a foot deep by our members, Beverly Gillette and Margery Foss, both descendants of John and Sarah. John was the son of Thomas<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). The name is incorrectly engraved as Rathburn on the stone.*

# Reunions

Descendants of Sophia Elvira Rathbun (1815-1871) and Reason Tippie were among those attending the Second Annual National Tippie Family Reunion on June 16 in Bird City, Kansas. A family business meeting was led by one of our members, Fred D. Magley, a great-grandson of Sophia and Reason Tippie. Sophia was the daughter of Gideon<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

Descendants of Hallet Rathbun (1841-1925) gathered July 6 in Fitzgerald, Georgia, for their annual family reunion. Among the nearly 100 in attendance were three members of our association — Reba Rathbun Reeves, Annie Rathbun Paulk and Susie Carter Baston. Hallet Rathbun was 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>).

Descendants of Elon Rathbun (1859-1936) gathered August 11 in Lincoln, Kansas, for a family reunion. Among them were two of our members, Roosevelt and Hazel (Rathbun) Jones. Elon Rathbun was a son of John<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

Twenty-four Denver-area cousins joined in a "mini-reunion" September 15 at the home of Roy and Anna May Rathbun. Among them were 13 members of our association, including Roy and Anna May. The others were George, Linda and David Rathbun; Wilfred and Dorothy Rathbun, Roger and Katie Rathbun, Linda Rathbun, Fred and Shirley Rathbun, and Ethel Ann (Rathbun) Pfost, who at 84 was the oldest cousin present. Nine of them also attended our reunion in Des Moines. Others present were Ernest Rathbun, Edward and Alma Rathbun, Henry and Shirley Rathbun, Don and Greta Pollard, Don and Betty Rathbun and J.C. (Joe) Rathbun. Several have expressed interest in joining our association. We recommend this idea of mini-reunions in cities throughout the country. It is a fine way to meet cousins in your area, and spread the word about our association.

# New Data

Joanna L. Rathbun, the first wife of Amiziah Riley<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), died in December 1829 at Howard, N.Y. She was the daughter of Captain Guy Wheeler of New London, Conn.

Amy Rathbun, daughter of Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) married Zenas Curtis on Sept. 10, 1809, at Marcellus, N.Y.

The wife of Ebenezer<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Ebenezer<sup>4-3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was Amy, maiden name unknown. Amy Emily, listed as a possible daughter, has been verified definitely as their daughter. Born about 1820, she married (1) Josiah B. Crosby on Sept. 25, 1843, and on Oct. 30, 1873, married Phineas Fray in Blandford, Mass. She was married a third time in 1884 but the husband's name is not known. Our thanks for this data to the Fray Family Association.

George Nelson Rathbun, son of Nathan<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Simeon<sup>4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), was born March 1, 1822, and died June 5, 1868, at Scituate, R.I. He was married, but the name of his wife and whether they had children are not known. Our thanks to Frank E. Rathbun.

Several members have asked about obtaining copies of the original Rathbone Family Historian, published monthly from 1892 to 1894 (See story in July 1981 issue).

Your editor has a complete set, including some originals and some copies, which could be reproduced. The cost would probably run between \$40 and \$60 a set, depending on the number ordered. Some pages are badly faded and might not reproduce well.

If you would be interested, let us know and we will obtain a more specific price estimate, and report back in the next issue.



*James and Maxine Stites, pictured last August at the rear of Farnworth Chapel, in England, where our immigrant ancestor, John Rathbun, was baptised in 1629. They also visited nearby Prescott Parish Chapel, where John's wife, Margaret Acres, was baptised in 1633. The two stops were among the highlights of a 16-day tour of the British Isles. Jim is a son of Charles Stites and Carrie<sup>3</sup> Rathbone (Howard<sup>3</sup> Elijah<sup>7</sup> Amasa<sup>6</sup> Moses<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).*

## Queries

**WANTED** — Proof of the birth or parentage of Sarah Austin, wife of John<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She was born about 1797 and was probably the daughter of William and Sarah (Sweet) Austin. Also, who was the Harriet Rathbun, aged 16, listed in the 1850 census in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, with John's brother, Thomas Rathbun?

**WANTED**—Information on Arthur Rathbun, born in July 1882 in New York and lived in the early 1900's in the Bleeker/Caroga area of Fulton County, N.Y. His wife's name was Ruth.

**WANTED**—Information on Charles F. Rathbun, born June 1858 in New York, and living in 1900 in Cass Co., Neb., with a wife, Ella, and children named Ethel, Rosa, Charles, Blanche, Clara, Frank and Dora.

## Answers

Vol. 1, No. 4 — John J. Rathbun, born in 1833, was actually John Hiram Rathbun, son of Joseph<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>5</sup> Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He married Marquisis (Mary) Washington Nash. All four of his sons died young, and only two daughters left descendants. Thanks to new member Paula Boone, his descendant.

Vol. 1, No. 2 — A picture of Dr. Sereno Rathbun and of his 120-year-old medicine bag have been located by his descendant, Louise (Rathbun) Duffey. She has provided us with pictures, which will be used in a story on Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn doctors in our next issue.

Vol.1, No. 1 — Mrs. Lewis Rathbun, one of our members, sought contact with descendants of George Rathbun (1839-1925), a son of Ransom<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Nancy Holesapple, one of our new members, is his great-great-granddaughter.

# People

**GROVE RATHBUN** has sent us a fascinating book entitled "Rathbun's Oil Facts," containing information on the oil industry compiled between 1921 and 1926, by a J.B. Rathbun. It was published by Petroleum Age of Chicago. Does anyone know who this J.B. Rathbun was? Our thanks to Grove Rathbun and his wife Janet, who have just moved from Eveleth, Minn., to Rapid City, S.D., where Grove has accepted a position as associate professor of mining at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

**GRACE RATHBUN** celebrated her 90th birthday on August 18 in a retirement home at Federal Way, Washington. She is the widow of Ford<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Albert<sup>8-7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**LAURA E. LITTLEFIELD** was married July 20 on Block Island, R.I., to James Winslow Bourne. Laura is the daughter of our members, Donald and Lydia (Rathbun) Littlefield, and granddaughter of Charles William<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Joshua<sup>6</sup> Elias<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**FLORENCE SELLECK** was honored earlier this year in an informal reception marking her 25th anniversary with the University of Connecticut's Department of Political Science. She has been an administrative secretary for the past 10 years. Florence, an early member of our association, is the granddaughter of Horace B. Rood and Florence May<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>8</sup> Jason<sup>7</sup> Joshua<sup>6</sup> Elias<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**VICTOR AND RUTH STREETER** report three births in their family. Victor's stepson, Dale Gillespie, and his wife Cindy had a daughter June 6 named Jana Rae Gillespie. His stepdaughter and her husband, Cheryl and Scott Abbot, had a son May 28 named Duane Steven Abbot. Ruth's granddaughter, Shawn, and her husband Ronald Kurelich, had a son Jan. 4 named Justin Drake Kurelich.

## Our New Members

Betty Angelini  
West Stockbridge, Mass.

James L. Busselle  
Plano, Texas

Elizabeth B. Coffin  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Mary J. Davis  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Mary M. Erickson  
Mountain Iron, Minn.

Jackie Furgala  
Lansing, Mich.

Miner Hayward  
Janesville, Wisc.

Virginia McPeak  
Washington, D.C.

John and Connie Motsinger  
Lincoln, Neb.

Dr. Richard C. Parfitt  
Guam

Candise Rathbun  
Polk City, Iowa

Demetries Rathbun  
Flint, Mich.

Elihu Rathbun  
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Dr John M. Rathbun  
Cumberland, Wisc.

Neil Rathbun  
West Henrietta, N.Y.

Mrs. Richard Rathbun  
San Rafael, Calif.

Richard M. Rathbun Jr.  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Richard N. Rathbun  
Fort Madison, Iowa

Russell G. Rathbun  
Simpson, Kansas

Thomas Fred Rathbun  
Lakewood, Colo.

William Rathbun  
Westport, N.Y.

Grace (Rathbun) Reed  
Beaufort, S.C.

**EMMET AND FLORENCE RATHBUN** of Lake San Marcos, Calif., will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on October 30. They were married Oct. 30, 1935, in West Union, Iowa. Emmet is the son of Charles<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (James<sup>7</sup> Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**DR. STEPHEN D. RATHBURN** and Alison Monica Griswold were married April 27, 1985, and are now living in Columbus, Ohio. Stephen is a son of Cecil<sup>10</sup> Rathburn (David<sup>9</sup> Amos<sup>8</sup> Dr. 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>).

**PATRICK JOSEPH RATHBUN** was married September 28, 1985, at Bay St. Louis, Miss., to Melissa Lynne Shafer. Patrick is the son of Clarence<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Oscar<sup>9</sup> George<sup>8</sup> Corbett<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Tibbets<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

## Thanks

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