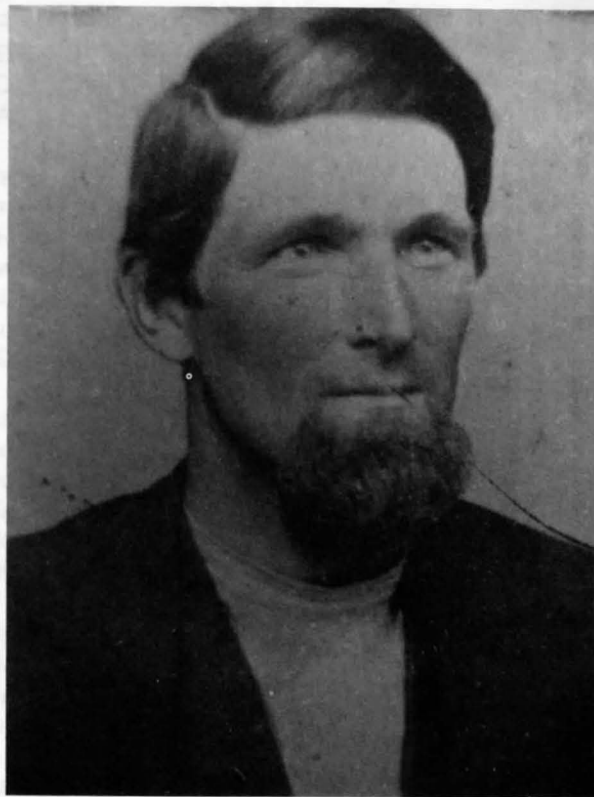


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

FAMILY HISTORIAN



Thomas Wilson Dorr Rathbun
(1844-1924)
"The Swamptown Lawyer"

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

Letter from the Editor

This issue of our Historian is dedicated to Rhode Island, site of our upcoming family reunion in September. All the major stories deal with our family's long involvement in Rhode Island history, including some present-day cousins.

There is good news on the membership front. We have now reached a new record high of 541 members, making us one of the largest family associations in the country. In addition to our members, our Historian is sent to several dozen of the nation's leading libraries, including the Library of Congress.

But there is a little bad news, financially, and a sorry story to go with it. Early in April, our Radio Shack printer broke down. A wire cord that moves the printing head back and forth had snapped in two. The printer still worked, but kept typing in the same spot over and over.

We took it to the Radio Shack outlet where we purchased it and our computer four years ago. We were told by the manager that it could be fixed for about \$60 within a week or 10 days. We told him to go ahead.

Over the next seven weeks, we waited for the printer to be repaired, as the price continued to climb with each telephone call. The original \$60 repair cost went to \$125, then to \$200, then to \$300 and finally to \$375. At that point,

we gave up and bought a new, cheaper printer for \$226, and asked to have the old one returned. So now we are back in business, having been without a printer for nearly two months.

We have also become somewhat skeptical about Radio Shack's customer-service policy, having been treated so shabbily, but we are willing to give them the benefit of the doubt until the company's top management has the opportunity to respond.

A copy of this Historian is being sent with a cover letter to Radio Shack's main office in Texas. I will report on further developments in the next Historian.

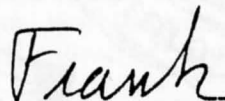
But on to better things. Our reunion plans are completed (see story on this page). We are expecting a turnout of more than 100 cousins, and it should be a fun-filled week. It is not too late to sign up, but do it quickly.

Some of our Rhode Island members, led by Frank E. Rathbun and Ellen Kenyon, have been exploring the idea of a monument to Captain John Peck Rathbun in the Veterans Cemetery at Exeter, where he was born. Cemetery officials have suggested a stone bench in his memory, with the name "Rathbun" engraved on it.

I think that Captain John Peck Rathbun deserves a more fitting memorial than a bench, and we plan to pursue the matter further while in Rhode Island this fall. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please let me know.

Mrs. Lewis Rathbun of North Carolina has made the interesting suggestion that we establish a special, lower membership rate for young people, as a way of getting them interested in family history. The rate, the age limit and other questions are open for comment. For example, should it be available only to children or grandchildren of members? Should the Historian be sent to the young members, or to their sponsors? If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know.

I hope to see many of you in Rhode Island.



Family Reunion Plans All Set!

Everything is ready for our Fourth National Reunion to be held September 11-15 in Rhode Island. Registrations are still coming in, and it looks like we can expect well over 100 cousins to attend.

There is still time to sign up, but do it quickly!

Our headquarters will be the Dutch Inn at Point Judith, overlooking Block Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. From there, we will make side trips to Block Island, Wickford Village, Smith's Castle, Hammersmith Farm, Fort Adams and Newport.

At Fort Adams, we will tour the reconstructed sloop Providence — the ship made famous by Captain John Peck Rathbun during the Revolution — and will be greeted by Rhode Island militiamen in Revolutionary regalia, led by our member Colonel Robert Allan Greene.

At the Dutch Inn, we will have plenty of time for greeting old friends and making new ones among the Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns attending. There, also, we will have our traditional display of family heirlooms. Be sure to bring yours along.

On the final evening, we will end the reunion with a new England Clambake, prepared the authentic, old-fashioned way in an outdoor pit with heated rocks and fresh seaweed.

It will be a wonderful family week of land and sea travel, exploring, talking, eating and just having fun.

Are you coming? If not, why not?

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

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Single copies of any 1983-1988 issue are \$4 each. Earlier single issues (some available only in xerox) range from \$2 to \$5, depending on our supply. Write if interested.

Rhode Island History Laced With Rathbuns and Rathbones

Rhode Island, the site of our Fourth National Reunion in September, has a history that is liberally sprinkled with the name Rathbun or Rathbone.

Our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun, were among the proprietors and first settlers in 1661 of Block Island, which became part of the Rhode Island Colony in 1664.

From 1681 to 1684, and again in 1696, John represented Block Island in the Rhode Island General Assembly. His son, Thomas Rathbun, held the same post for 10 years in the early 1700s.

In the later 1700s, our name is found abundantly in the town records of Exeter, North Kingstown, West Greenwich, Newport and Westerly, as the second and third generations moved from Block Island to the mainland.

During the Revolutionary War, Captain John Peck Rathbun, born in Exeter, served with distinction as one of the outstanding officers of the fledgling Continental Navy. (See our Historians of Oct. 1982, and Jan., April and July 1983.)

Captain Rathbun died in a British prison, but his wife, Polly, and their infant child, lie buried in a quiet South Kingstown Cemetery.

After the war, many of our family turned to the sea and helped put the Rhode Island ports of Providence and Newport in the forefront of international trade. Among them were Captain Joshua Rathbone and his son Captain Benjamin Rathbone, of Newport, and Captain Joshua Rathbun of Providence (see our Historian of Jan. 1987). Another branch of the family moved to the Groton-Noank area of Connecticut, and began a seafaring tradition that continues to this day.

As Rhode Island became a major manufacturing center in the 1800s, we find Oscar J. Rathbun as one of the state's leading industrialists, owning

large textile mills in Woonsocket. He later served in the state senate and in 1882-3 was Rhode Island's lieutenant-governor. (See our Historian of Jan. 1987.)

In the early 1900s, Elmer J. Rathbun, a young lawyer of West Greenwich, became a district court judge, later a superior court judge and then in 1919 was appointed to the Rhode Island Supreme Court, where he served for 16 years. (See our Historian of Jan. 1989.)

During the past two centuries, others in our family have made their marks in many fields.

Josephine Adams Rathbone of Providence was one of the nation's earliest women librarians, and won national recognition. (See our Historian of Jan. 1986.)

George Sears Rathbone of Newport was a prominent merchant, city alderman, member of the State Legislature, and quartermaster of the Rhode Island Militia from 1828 to 1832.

Stephen Kilton Rathbone of Providence was a merchant, banker and militia captain in the early 1800s, and an active abolitionist in the pre-Civil War days.

Thomas Wilson Dorr Rathbun was a community leader in North Kingstown for many years, and was widely known as "The Swampstown Lawyer." (See story in this issue of the Historian.)

Herbert Warren Rathbun of Westerly was an attorney, law professor, town solicitor and local judge for many years in the early 1900s.

William Sherman Rathbun had an unusually varied career as veterinarian, pharmacist, attorney and journalist. (See story in this issue.)

Scores of other family members served in the legislature and held local offices, or were successful business and professional men and women.

The tradition of public service continues today, as our member William Rathbun is a captain of the Coventry police department.

In the business field, Rathbuns still operate a family sawmill in West Greenwich, and our members, George and Ruth Rathbun, own the Greenwood Hill Family Campgrounds in Hope Valley. For many years, the Rathbone Fish Market has been a familiar landmark in Charlestown.

The Potter-Rathbun Organ Company in Cranston has been operated for 32 years by our member, Arnold C. Rathbun. (See story in this issue.)

Our family is connected by marriage and descent with many of Rhode Island's most noted citizens.

Many of our members, including your editor, are descended from Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island.

Johnston, one of the state's largest cities, was named for Augustus Johnston, who married into our family. (See story in this issue of our Historian.)

Edward Green Malbone, one of the most talented portraitists in early America, was a Rathbun in-law.

Reminders of our family's Rhode Island heritage are found throughout the state. There is a Rathbun Pond in West Greenwich, and Rathbun or Rathbone streets in Providence, Newport, North Kingstown, Woonsocket and probably other towns.

In the village of Wickford, the 1802 home of Abraham Rathbun has been marked as a historic dwelling, as are homes owned by two brothers-in-law of Captain John Peck Rathbun — Immanuel Case and Samuel Phillips.

Another indication of our family's Rhode Island connections is found in the use of Rathbun or Rathbone as a first name. In various Rhode Island town records, we have found the names of such persons as Rathbone Littlefield, Rathbun Dodge, Rathbun Northrop, Rathbone Gardiner and Rathbone Greene.

Our family members have left their mark on Rhode Island more than any other state.

Talented Rhode Island Cousin Had Four Different Careers

A look through the back issues of our Historian will reveal a lot of interesting and talented family members. For sheer versatility, however, it would be difficult to match the record of William Sherman Rathbun, a Rhode Island native who in his 83 years was a veterinarian, pharmacist, attorney and newspaperman. He did exceptionally well in each field.

William Sherman Rathbun was born Sept. 6, 1875, at Peace Dale, in South Kingstown, the son of George⁷ Rathbun (Nathan⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He was a nephew of Thomas Wilson Dorr Rathbun, whose story also appears in this issue.

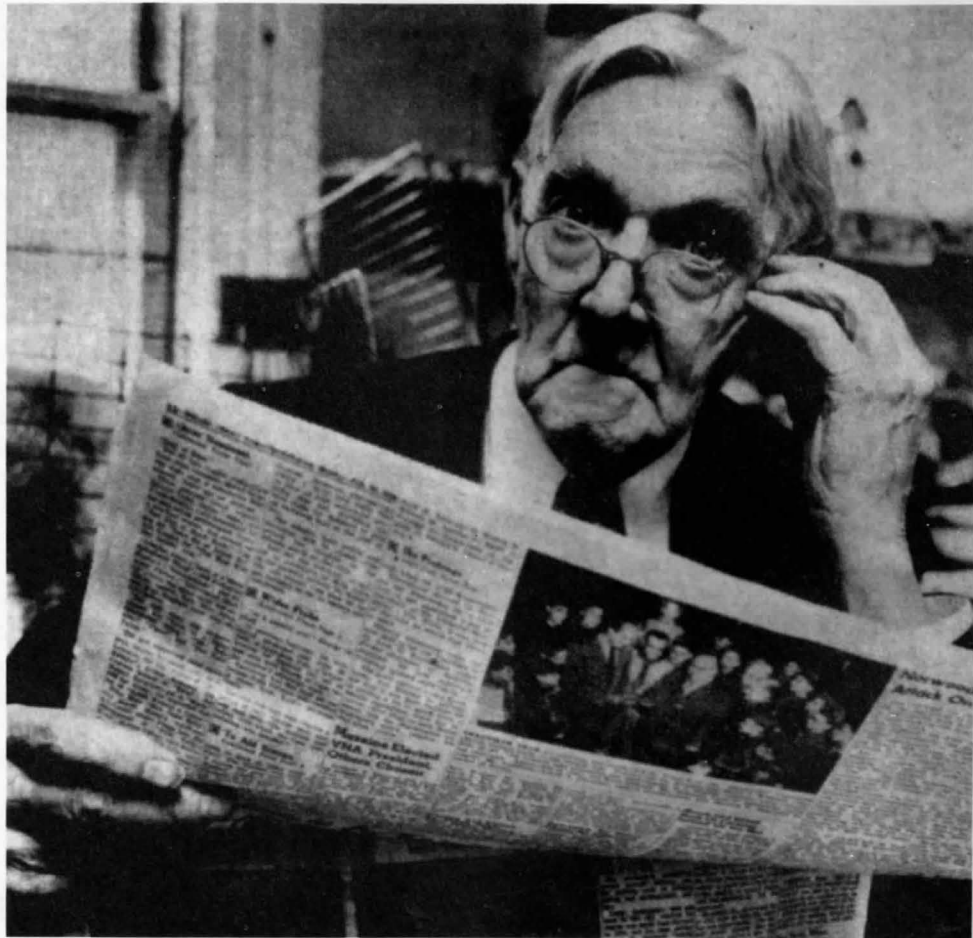
"Bill" Rathbun was an extremely bright boy and after attending local grade school, he entered the Rhode Island Agricultural School (now the University of Rhode Island) in 1890, at the age of 15. The school became a college in 1892, and Rathbun was a member of its first graduating class two years later.

A great lover of animals, he had studied to become a veterinarian, only to learn that a defect in its state charter prohibited the college from granting him a degree in "animal surgery." School officials made arrangements to have the degree issued by the University of Toronto, but young Rathbun couldn't see the point of going all the way to Canada "for a piece of paper."

"I just went right to practicing," he later recalled. "My first job was to remove two tumors the size of plug hats from a farm horse."

He opened his office in the back of a Peace Dale drugstore, where he had worked during his college years to help pay expenses. His education had given him a basic knowledge of drugs and medicines, and when veterinary work was slow, he dispensed medicine in the drug store. Before he realized it, Rathbun had become the town pharmacist.

After four years of filling prescriptions and treating sick animals, Rathbun de-



William Sherman Rathbun a few years before his death.

cidied he wanted to do something more challenging and exciting.

In 1896, he became a news correspondent for the local Wickford Standard. His work as pharmacist and veterinarian stood him in good stead.

"What you don't know about a community after doctoring its horses and cows, and filling peoples' prescriptions, is known only to God," he once stated.

After several years of local reporting, Rathbun decided to move up into journalism's "Major Leagues." He worked briefly for the daily Westerly Sun, then in 1906 he joined the editorial staff of the Providence Tribune, at that time one of Rhode Island's major daily newspapers.

Meeting daily deadlines was a new and challenging experience. "They

worked the life out of me," Rathbun later recalled. But he turned out to be a born journalist. He loved the excitement and drama of a reporter's life, so much so that he soon launched his own newspaper, the South County News, while working for the Providence Tribune.

In 1906, he incurred the wrath of someone during his coverage of a weavers' strike in a Peace Dale textile mill. Walking home late one night, he saw two men approach him at a bridge underpass. One of them raised his arm, and Rathbun saw something glinting in his hand.

Luckily, Rathbun was carrying a .19-inch lead-type container, which he quickly put to use as a weapon.

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Arnold Rathbun Builds Career on Devotion to Organ Music

The name Rathbun or Rathbone is widely known throughout Rhode Island, but probably nowhere better than in Cranston where the Potter-Rathbun Organ Company has been a local landmark for decades.

The business has been operated for more than 30 years by Arnold Charles Rathbun in a historic building which has been in his family for some 85 years.

Arnold, now 60 years old, is the son of Ernest Charles Rathbun, who died in 1984, just three months before his 102nd birthday. Arnold's mother, Eola May (King) Rathbun, died two weeks later at the age of 91. Ernest was the son of Charles⁸ Rathbun (Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Music, especially organ music, has been Arnold Rathbun's major interest since childhood. He learned to play the piano as a boy and then graduated to the organ, sometimes playing in his church on Sundays when the regular organist was not available.

One day, the church organ broke down, and Rathbun took the damaged part to Ralph Potter, who owned a local organ company. As he watched Potter make the needed repairs, Rathbun was fascinated. He asked questions, and Potter explained the workings of organs and details of their maintenance.

Rathbun, then a junior in high school, began to visit Potter's organ shop regularly. Potter, recognizing the boy's interest and natural ability, hired him on a part-time basis. Their friendship grew, and when Rathbun graduated from high school, Potter hired him as a full-time assistant.

Then came the Korean War, and Rathbun entered the Army. On his return in 1954, he found that Potter's health was failing. The two had several long discussions, and Potter agreed to turn the organ business over to Rathbun, remaining in the firm as a consultant.

Rathbun had a partner for several years, but in 1957, he took complete

ownership. In deference to his teacher, employer and old friend, he called it the Potter-Rathbun Organ Company.

The firm is located in a building which dates back to 1772. Originally a mill, it first produced "shoddy," a cheap cloth used for wadding in muzzle-loading rifles. It remained in that business until after the Civil War, when it became a horse barn.

In 1905, the old building was purchased by Arnold's grandfather, Charles E. Rathbun, who brought in a steam engine and converted the structure into a shingle mill.

For a time, in the 1920s, it was a cider mill, but was then turned back into a

shingle mill by Arnold's father, Ernest, who installed a gasoline engine. In 1927, Ernest cemented the old dirt floor and began installing machine-shop equipment.

During World War II, it was called the Cranston Machine Works, and produced material for the Armed Services. Among the employees at that time was young Arnold Rathbun.

It remained a machine shop until Arnold took over the organ business and decided to establish his headquarters in the old building that had been used by his father and grandfather.

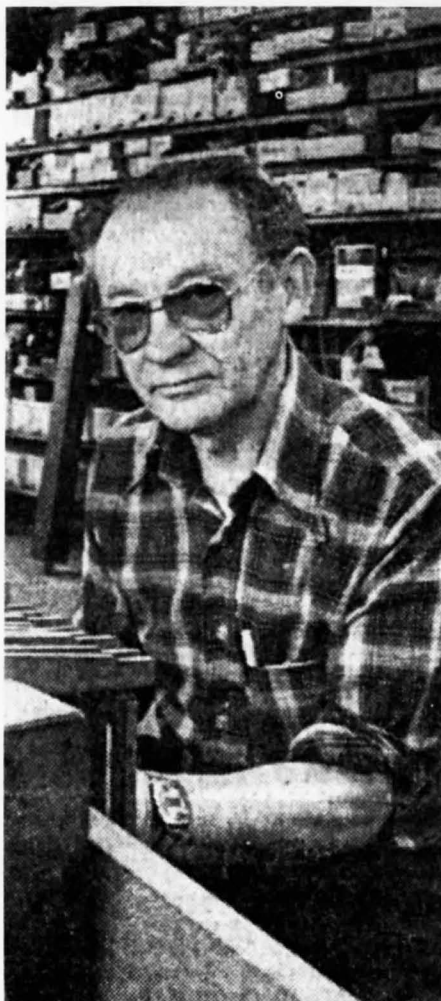
The old mill has changed considerably over the years. The roof and siding have been replaced several times, and a second story was added in 1882, but the original section, with its two-foot-thick stone walls, is still intact after 225 years. It is listed on Rhode Island's Register of Historic Buildings.

Arnold is the owner and manager of the Potter-Rathbun firm, and his wife, Carol, is bookkeeper, accountant and scheduler. They have five employees and hundreds of contracts to service organs throughout New England and northern New York. They are also agents for the Moller Organ Company and sell and install that company's organs throughout the same area. Most of their clients are churches, of all denominations.

Music is not only Rathbun's business, it is also his hobby. In the basement of his Cranston home, he has installed a remarkable "musical wonderland."

Rows of organ pipes line the walls, surrounded by a piano, xylophone, bells and drums, all connected with intricate wiring and electronic controls. At the flick of a switch or two, Rathbun can fill the basement with an almost unbelievable "sound of music."

A visitor upstairs or outside, would have to believe there were a dozen musicians performing.



Arnold Rathbun at work.

(continued on page 42)

Famous Hammersmith Farm Was Home of Our Ancestors

In our last issue, we gave a brief history of Hammersmith Farm, at Newport, Rhode Island, where our ancestors John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun lived in the 1670s. Further research by your editor has revealed new information on the history of Hammersmith, where we will visit during our reunion in September.

Hammersmith was owned and named by William Brenton (?1605-1674), a surveyor who came to America in 1634. He brought with him a commission from King Charles I, which granted him land in proportion to the area he would survey.

After completing his surveying work, Brenton claimed his land. He chose a tract of nearly 2,000 acres in one of Rhode Island's most choice areas — a point of land southwest of Newport which is still known as Brenton's Point. A recent oil spill in the area occurred when a tanker struck Brenton's Reef, not far from Hammersmith.

Brenton established several farms on his new property, setting aside 1,100 acres for his own home. He then built, about 1640, an impressive mansion which was the largest home in the colonies, and one of the few made of brick.

It was 150 feet square, with a central hall 16 feet wide. Upon its roof was built a promenade, with railings around the sides and seating for guests. From this vantage point was a breathtaking view of Narragansett Bay, with the wooded hills of Jamestown across the bay to the west, and waters of Block Island sound to the south.

To heat such a mansion required a lot of fireplaces. There were probably eight, each two served by one of four chimneys — a rarity in the colonies at that time. It became known as the "The House of Four Chimneys."

The grounds about the mansion were laid out with fruit trees, shrubs and flowers. Brenton imported new types of

fruits from England, including the yellow russet apple, never before grown in America.

Around the house and gardens was built a five-foot wall of selected granite stones, erected by expert stoneworkers. Within this wall, smaller stone walls and wooden fences marked off vegetable gardens and pasture lands for Brenton's large herds of sheep and cattle.

When the estate was completed, Brenton named it Hammersmith, in honor of his native town in Middlesex County, England.

Brenton became one of Rhode Island's most prosperous and influential citizens. He was deputy governor from 1640 to 1647, president of Newport from 1660 to 1662, deputy governor again from 1663 to 1666, and then governor for three years.

During this time, Hammersmith must have been a center of Rhode Island's civic and social activities. Roger Williams, founder of the colony and a good friend of Brenton, was no doubt a frequent guest.

About 1670, Brenton moved to Taunton, Mass., and leased out Hammersmith Farm, as he had done earlier with his other, lesser farms.

Just when John and Margaret Rathbun moved onto the property, we cannot determine. They may have been the first tenants after the Brentons left. We do know they were in Newport by 1672, when their son Samuel's birth was recorded there.

They were definitely living at Hammersmith by Feb. 9, 1673, when Brenton made his will, leaving to his son Jahleel "two farms at Hammersmith now in possession of John Rathbun, and all the houses, fences, barns and buildings . . . with the marshes and uplands . . . thereto belonging."

The other farm at Hammersmith may have been Rocky Hill Farm, also referred to in the will.

The Rathbuns were still there 18 months later, on August 20, 1674, after

Brenton had died and his estate was inventoried.

The first and most valuable item on the lengthy list was "farmes and houses at Hammersmith in possession of John Rathbun, and lands and the stock," valued at 2,600 pounds, more than one-fifth of Brenton's 10,768-pound estate.

Livestock listed in the inventory included 80 horses, 52 cattle and nearly 1,500 sheep. The stock was distributed among the various farms and estates owned by Brenton, but the greater part of them were surely at Hammersmith, the "crown jewel" of Brenton's holdings.

John and Margaret Rathbun, and their sons and daughters at Hammersmith, probably cared for dozens of cattle and many hundreds of sheep, which grazed on the wide slopes between the mansion house and the waters of Narragansett Bay. Rathbun, in an early deed, is called a "husbandman" about this time.

When the Rathbuns left Hammersmith cannot be determined. All we know is that they were back on Block Island by 1700. The Hammersmith property was left to Brenton's oldest son, Jahleel (1655-1732), who was only 19 when his father died. It is not likely he moved there immediately, and there is no proof he ever lived there.

The mansion, then over 60 years old, burned down in the early 1700s, and Jahleel Brenton built a smaller house on the site, called "The Castle." When he died in 1732, he left "the mansion house and farm called Hammersmith" to his nephew and namesake, Jahleel Brenton II.

This house too disappeared with the passing years, and later generations of Brentons and later owners sold off parts of the estate. There were only 97 acres left by 1887, when the farm was purchased by John Winthrop Auchincloss. It was he who commissioned and had

(continued on page 42)

Shrewd Farmer Wins Fame As "The Swamptown Lawyer"

American history is rich with stories of talented men and women, without advanced education, who gained the respect and admiration of their neighbors through native skill and ability. This is the story of a farmer and carpenter with no special education, whose sharp mind and hard-won knowledge earned him the title, "The Swamptown Lawyer."

Thomas Wilson Dorr Rathbun was born Feb. 8, 1844, in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, one of seven sons of Nathan Dawley⁶ Rathbun (John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), and his first wife, Martha Taylor Adams.

He was named for Thomas Wilson Dorr (1805-1854), a lawyer, legislator and political leader, who organized the controversial Peoples Party in the 1840s and fought for expanded voting and property rights and other liberal issues of the day.

Dorr's election as Rhode Island's governor in 1842 was marked by bitter fighting and ended up in the famous "Dorr's Rebellion." Dorr was arrested for treason, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was freed a year later, however, and is now considered a Rhode Island hero. He was obviously considered a hero in his lifetime by Nathan Dawley Rathbun, who named a son for him.

The Rathbuns lived near Lafayette in an area of North Kingstown known as Swamptown. Young Thomas grew up there, attended the local school, and worked on his father's 760-acre farm. As he got older, he hired himself out to neighboring farmers.

Nathan Dawley Rathbun died in 1868, leaving the family farm jointly to his two youngest sons, Thomas and Lorenzo. On Oct. 11 that same year, Thomas, then 24, married Hannah Deborah Lewis, the 20-year-old daughter of a neighboring family. They had three children, spaced about five years apart —



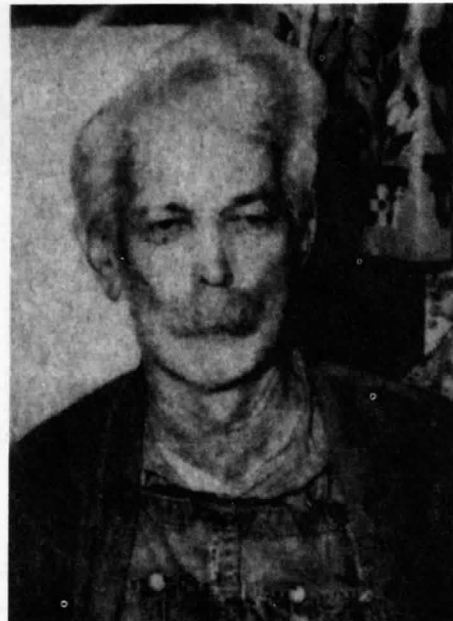
*Thomas Wilson Dorr Rathbun
(1844-1924)
"The Swamptown Lawyer"*

an unusual feat in a day when most women had children regularly every two years.

Hannah took care of the children and the house, while Thomas ran the family farm and did carpentry work on the side. But he soon developed another interest. He became fascinated with legal questions and problems, especially those relating to land — deeds, titles, probate and taxes.

Possibly he was inspired by the stories his father told of Thomas Wilson Dorr, who had successfully fought to change an old Rhode Island law which had once enabled banks to foreclose on a mortgage and sell a debtor's farm all in one day if he fell behind in his payments.

Rathbun haunted the local library and law offices, poring over law books. He talked and argued with attorneys, and sat in on interesting court cases. He became intrigued with the way lawyers found loopholes in the law to win their cases. He decided those same loopholes could be used to help ordinary farmers and laborers.



*Nathan Rathbun at 79, after "cutting" his
third set of teeth in 1954. He was Tho-
mas Rathbun's only son.*

He began to spread his ideas, advising neighbors on land matters. As his reputation spread, more and more people came to him for advice on land contracts, wills and tax problems.

Local lawyers and judges were outraged, and complained loudly that he was illegally practicing law, but Rathbun skillfully avoided this problem. He never charged for his advice, and never represented anyone in court, although he was often there as an observer.

It is likely, however, that local attorneys did find their business dropping off because of Rathbun.

Inevitably, his neighbors urged him to run for public office, and put his talents to work for the entire community. He was elected to the town council, to the school committee and finally to the board of tax assessors — a position he held for many years until his death.

Rathbun was known to the end as the "Swamptown Lawyer," a name possibly given in derision by trained attorneys,

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City of Johnston Named For Early Rathbun In-Law

The city of Johnston, one of Rhode Island's major communities, was named for a prominent but controversial man who was a Rathbun in-law!

Augustus Johnston was born about 1730 in South Amboy, New Jersey, studied law and then moved as a young man to Newport, where on Oct. 27, 1758, he was married to Patience Gould, daughter of James and Mary (Rathbun) Gould. Mary Rathbun (1700-1779) was a daughter of Samuel² Rathbun (John¹) and Patience Coggeshall.

Johnston had an interesting ancestry. His mother was the daughter of Augustus Lucas, a French Huguenot, who had married a granddaughter of John Elliott (1604-1690), the famed "Apostle to the Indians," who translated the Bible into the Indian language, and had it published — the first Bible printed in North America. With the help of that Bible and his own personality, he converted hundreds of Indians to Christianity.

At Newport, Johnston quickly became a popular community leader. He was elected on June 13, 1757, as attorney-general of the colony, when he was only 27 years old! So great was his popularity, that when part of Providence was cut off to form a new city in 1759, it was named Johnston in his honor.

A contemporary described Johnston as "a man of extraordinary powers . . . (who) had unlimited confidence in his own ability and would recognize no superior."

Six years later, his popularity plummeted. In 1765, he accepted a Royal appointment as one of Newport's stampmasters, named to enforce the highly unpopular Stamp Act, which paved the way for the Revolutionary War.

As in other parts of America, citizens rose up in fury against the act, and against those appointed to enforce it. In Newport, mobs broke into the homes of

Johnston and the other two stampmasters, smashing windows, breaking furniture and stealing liquor, food, clothing and books.

Augustus and Patience snatched their three children from bed and fled to the safety of a British ship in the harbor to avoid injury at the hands of the mobs.

Johnston and the other stampmasters were hanged in effigy in the town square, and the protesters insisted that all three resign their offices. The other two refused, and their homes were destroyed. Johnston prudently compromised. He would not resign, but he agreed not to carry out his duties.

His home, built by his grandfather Augustus Lucas earlier in the century, was spared further damage. Known as the Lucas-Johnston House, it is still standing in Newport, at the corner of Mary and Division. During the Revolution, the house was described as having eight rooms, with 23 inhabitants (including slaves and servants), and a stable of five horses. It was later occupied by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry.

Although the house was spared, the Johnstons suffered extensive property loss in the mob violence. In 1773, he submitted a bill to the Rhode Island General Assembly for 108 pounds to cover his losses.

Included in his itemized bill were a case of rum, more than 30 books, linens, two wigs and clothing, including "one beaver hat worn but two or three times."

Johnston did not regain his former popularity, however, as the American colonies moved closer to revolution. He was an avowed supporter of the King, a Tory, and was regarded with suspicion.

In 1766, he accepted appointment as judge of the vice-admiralty court in South Carolina. He and Patience and their children moved to Charlestown, S.C., for a number of years.

They were back in Rhode Island by 1773, and appear in the 1774 census at

Newport with a household of nineteen, including six black slaves and a number of other servants.

The revolution finally broke out in 1775, and a year later British troops occupied Newport. The Johnstons welcomed them with open arms, and he was appointed to help govern the city.

The Rhode Island Colonial Legislature ordered him arrested and jailed, and his estate confiscated, but so far as can be determined, he and his family remained safely in Newport during the three-year British occupation.

When the British evacuated Newport in 1779, the Johnstons packed up and left with them, returning to South Carolina, where Augustus resumed his duties as admiralty judge.

After the war, his estate was confiscated by Rhode Island, and the Johnstons were left homeless. The British government, in recognition of his services during the war, granted him a lifetime pension.

Johnston died in South Carolina in 1790, and Patience evidently returned to Rhode Island. Her death date has not been found, but England reportedly continued paying her a pension for the rest of her life.

Little is known of their nine children. The oldest, Bathsheba, born in 1759, married a McIntyre and died in 1834 at Newport. Another daughter, Margaret, died there in 1851, aged 76 and unmarried.

The only son who survived was Mathew Robinson Johnston (1763-1818), who married his cousin Anstis Ellery Almy (1768-1854), and served in the British Army as a major for several years after the war. He eventually returned to Newport and died there.

Anstis was the daughter of Patience's sister, Mary (1736-1808), who married Benjamin Almy. Mary operated one of the best-known rooming houses in Newport. George Washington was once a guest there after the war.

Smith's Castle Was Owned By Thomas Rathbun in 1870s

Smith's Castle in Cocumscussoc near Wickford, Rhode Island, is probably the oldest building still standing in the state. It is one of the places we will visit during our reunion, and has at least two Rathbun connections.

The building was erected in 1678 on the site of a brick "block house" (or fortified home), built about 1641 by Richard Smith Sr. It was near a trading post established by Roger Williams about the same time.

Richard Smith Sr. (1596-1666), who built Smith's Castle, was one of the prominent leaders of early Rhode Island.

His building was burned down in the Indian Wars of 1675-6, and the present structure was erected by his son, Richard Smith Jr. (1630-1692), using many of the same bricks. This Richard Smith was appointed a justice of the peace in 1686, which brings us to the first Rathbun connection.

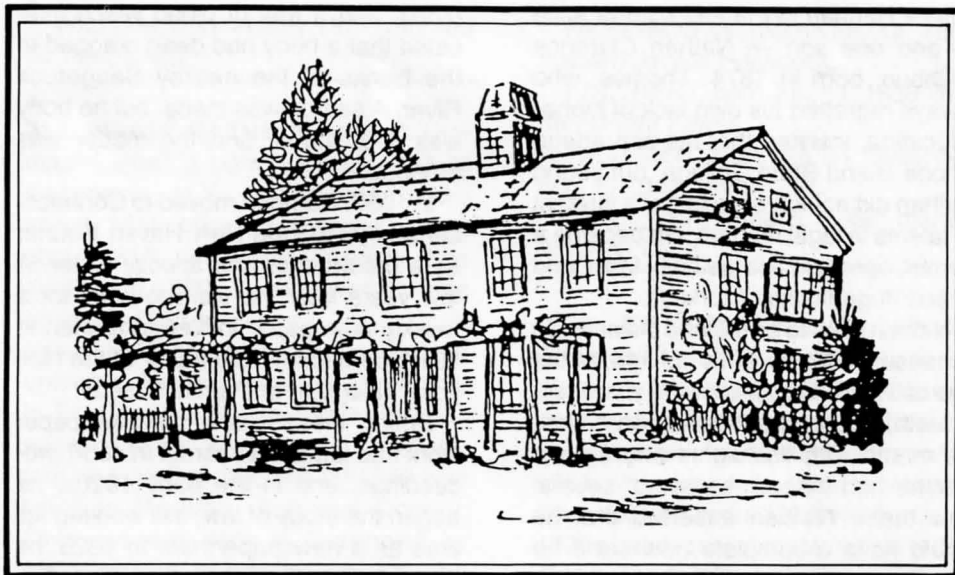
In Book One of the Block Island Town Records is the following entry:

"These may certify unto all persons wherever . . . that John Rathbun Jr. and Anne Dodge are lawfully joined together in marriage before Richard Smith and John Fones, his majesty's Justices of the Peace in the Kings Province at Rochester (signed) November 11, 1686 (by) Richard Smith and John Fones."

Rochester was the name given at that time to what is now North Kingstown. Smith and Fones had obviously given the newlywed Rathbuns a certificate of the marriage, and Rathbun had taken it back to Block Island with him to have the town clerk copy it into the town records. This was done commonly to protect future property rights of descendants.

John Rathbun Jr. of course was the son of our ancestors, John and Margaret. Anne was probably either the daughter or daughter-in-law of Tristram Dodge of Block Island.

The marriage was almost certainly performed at Smith's Castle by Smith



Artist's version of Smith's Castle as it looks today.

and Fones, who lived nearby. The building was the largest and most important in the area. The colonial legislature often met there.

Just why John and Ann were married there, or even on the mainland rather than on Block Island, is a mystery. Smith's Castle is some 15 or 20 miles from Block Island, across Block Island Sound and up Narragansett Bay — a major trip in those days and a substantial one even today. We will probably never know the answer.

After the death of Richard Smith Jr. in 1692, Smith's Castle was inherited by his nephew, Lodowick Updike, and it remained in the Updike family for several generations.

By the 1800s, it had passed out of the Updike family and was held by a succession of owners.

This is where the second Rathbun connection enters the picture.

In 1870, the building and property were purchased by Thomas Rodman Rathbun (1820-1893), a son of Abraham⁶ Rathbun (Joshua⁵⁻⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹),

whose 1802 home in nearby Wickford is still standing.

Thomas was born in North Kingstown and by 1850 was an established jeweler in Providence. Just why he bought Smith's Castle is not known. It was a recognized historical site, and he may have planned to develop it as a tourist attraction.

Whatever his plans, they apparently never developed. Rathbun sold the property six years later and moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he died in 1893. His son, Thomas Rodman Rathbun Jr. (1853-1929), established a general insurance business in Providence, which was continued by his son, Rodman Gardner Rathbun (1891-1957).

In 1948, Smith's Castle had become rundown and dilapidated, and its owners planned to tear it down. A group of Rhode Islanders, recognizing the historic value of the building, formed the Cocumscussoc Association, and raised funds to buy the property. Cocumscussoc is an old Indian name for the area.

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but which became his affectionate nickname throughout the area.

Rathbun's wife died of pneumonia on January 4, 1912. He survived for another 12 years, dying on June 21, 1924, in his 85th year.

Thomas and Hannah had two daughters — Hannah Maria and Martha Alice — and one son — Nathan Clarence Rathbun, born in 1874. Thomas, who always regretted his own lack of higher education, insisted that his son attend Rhode Island State College, but young Nathan did not have his father's interest or talents in legal matters. He became a farmer, operated a large dairy farm, and raised huge flocks of turkeys.

Nathan lived to be 82, and did achieve a measure of fame in his old age. At the age of 79, he began growing a new set of teeth! Skeptical reporters peered into his mouth with flashlights and agreed that he had indeed "sprouted" several new teeth. Nathan asserted that he would have a complete new set if he lived long enough, but died three years later.

Nathan credited his long life, good health and third set of teeth to his life style. After retiring from farm work, he slept every day until noon, and ate only twice a day — oatmeal for breakfast and creamed codfish for supper — and chewed plug tobacco all the rest of the day!

Hammersmith

(continued from page 38)

built the 28-room "cottage" now on the property.

It is that cottage we will see on our visit in September, but the spectacular view of Narragansett Bay is the same that our ancestors enjoyed three centuries ago.

The estate has been maintained in its rural state, and today is the only working farm in Newport.

When Jacqueline Bouvier, an Auchincloss stepdaughter, married John Fitzgerald Kennedy in 1953, their wedding reception was held at Hammersmith, with more than 1,200 guests. Hammersmith was a "Summer White House" during Kennedy's presidency.

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"I let him have that piece of lead over his head with all the force I had," Rathbun related. The man fell to the ground and Rathbun ran to the nearby police station for help. Returning a few minutes later with a policeman, all they found was a homemade stiletto, a pool of blood, and a trail of blood which indicated that a body had been dragged to the banks of the nearby Saugatuck River. A search was made, but no body was ever found, and the matter was dropped.

In 1907, Rathbun moved to Connecticut and joined the New Haven Courier as a proofreader and special writer. A few years later, he went to work for a weekly newspaper in Vermont, then in 1917, he became city editor of the Holyoke Telegram in Massachusetts.

During these years, his newspaper work had led to an interest in court proceedings, and in the early 1920s, he began the study of law, still working full time as a newspaperman. In 1925, he was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar and began practicing law in Hadley, Mass.

He still kept his finger in journalism, however, and from 1934 to 1940 published the South Hadley Times in a rear room of his home, doing all the writing, composing and printing.

World War II put an end to this venture, and during the war he went to work in a machine shop, making anti-aircraft guns. Too old, at 66, to join the Army, he wanted to help some way in the war effort.

After the war, Rathbun remained in Hadley, enjoying retirement with his wife, Julia Gardner, whom he married in 1900. He died in May 1959, aged 83, eight months after he and Julia celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. Her death date is not known. They had one daughter, Helen, born in 1909. We have no further record of her.

New Data

Amanda Hills, wife of Demarcus⁶ Rathbun (Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), was the daughter of Adino and Chloe (Lord) Hills.

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The whole arrangement is a tribute to Arnold Rathbun's musical and mechanical genius.

A love of music seems to run in this branch of our family. All the Rathbun's children play musical instruments. Arnold's sister, Helen M. Rathbun, is a church organist. Those who attended our first reunion in 1983 at Block Island heard her play a portable organ during the monument dedication ceremonies in the old island cemetery, Helen, born a Rathbun, was also married to a Rathbun. She is the widow of Edward Bryon Rathbun, son of George⁹ Rathbun (Raymond⁸ Amy⁷ Olney⁶ Joshua⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Helen is one of the founders and now president of the new Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Organization in the Rhode Island-Connecticut-Massachusetts area. Helen, her three daughters, and Arnold and Carol, are all members of our Association, as were their parents.

Castle

(continued from page 41)

Funds were then raised to undertake a massive and careful restoration of the building and lands. The association still owns the property and maintains it through membership dues, donations and visitor fees.

It has been called a "living museum," giving a fascinating insight into a way of life long since gone. It is furnished with antique furniture, utensils and china-ware, including a chair owned by Roger Williams.

In the kitchen is the original massive fireplace, eight feet wide and nearly six feet high, where the Smiths and later the Updikes cooked their meals and burned huge logs to help heat the home in wintertime.

Among the items on display is an old Updike ledger, which contains the account of Captain John Peck Rathbun in 1780-81, when he owned the Kingston Inn a few miles away in South Kingstown.

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

211. LEWIS M.⁶ RATHBUN (Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born June 24, 1806, in Cazenovia, N.Y., and moved as a young man to Erie County, Pa. He married about 1834 Dorothy Treat, born March 4, 1814, daughter of Peter and Lydia Treat. She died April 3, 1841, and he was married about 1842 to Laura _____, birthdate and surname unknown, who died within a few years. He was married about 1851 to Lovica (or Louisa?) _____, born about 1834, parentage unknown. They moved to Mercer County, Ohio, about 1857, and to Grand Rapids, Mich., about 1868. He died there about 1879. She died some time after 1880.

CHILDREN

By Dorothy

REUL, born about 1835; alive in 1850; no further data.

AMANDA, born about 1838; alive in 1850; no further data.

By Laura

CAROLINE, born about 1843; alive in 1860; no further data.

JERMAINE, born June 24, 1845; married Katherine Schaffer.

ELLEN O., born about 1846; alive in 1860; no further data.

FLORA, born about 1847; alive in 1860; no further data.

By Lovica

RANSOM A., born in Feb. 1852; married Mary Sweet.

MATTISON M. born in March 1857; married Celia Bridget Toohey.

LEWIS, born in March 1860; married Alice Sweet.

MELISSA, born about 1864; married William Maloney.

RENIE, born about 1870; married Burton Henderson.

GEORGIA, born about 1872; married Edward Skelly.

JAMES BURTON, born Nov. 24, 1874; married (1) Kate Carmen, and (2) Mildred _____.

WILLIAM, born in May 1877; married Grace Baraga.

212. HIRAM⁶ RATHBUN (Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Sept. 13, 1808, at Cazenovia, N.Y., and married there about 1840 Minerva (Hatch?), born about 1818, parentage unknown. She died in the 1860s, and he was married again by 1865 to Wilma _____, born about 1816, surname and parentage unknown. He may have lived for a time in Erie County, Pa. (a Hiram Rathbun appears in the 1840 census at Waterford, in Erie County), and by 1850 was living in Moulton, Auglaize County, Ohio. He was back in Cazenovia by 1860, moved to nearby Nelson, and died there on Dec. 19, 1889. He was buried at Chittenango Falls. Wilma survived him, but her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

By Minerva

WILLIAM H., born about 1841; served in the Civil War and died June 2, 1863, at Port Hudson.

Adopted Child

ADA (born a Zuckerman), born about 1853; married William Adams.

213. ABIATHER⁶ RATHBUN (Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born December 10, 1818 (? year uncertain) at Cazenovia, N.Y., and was married there in the 1840s to Elizabeth _____, born about 1820, surname and ancestry unknown. She died by 1853, and he married a short time later Sarah A. Brown, born Jan. 7, 1830, ancestry unknown. Abiather was a farmer all his life at Cazenovia, where he died Oct. 24, 1894. Sarah died two years later in 1896.

CHILDREN

All by Sarah

GEORGE A., born Dec. 21, 1854; died May 21, 1866.

HARRISON W., born Oct. 12, 1857; married Jennie Hitchcock.

ADELBERT, born Jan. 11, 1859; married Uretta Fargo.

WILLIAM H., born Jan. 31, 1865; died Jan. 6, 1941, unmarried.

EMILY, born June 6, 1868; married Almeron Laird.

214. ERI⁶ RATHBUN (Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born April 23, 1821, at Cazenovia, N.Y. He was married by 1854 to Anna _____, birth and parentage unknown, who died by Jan. 1, 1865, when he was married to Margaret Scoville, born about 1823. He died in the 1870s, and she died March 1, 1877. There were no known children.

215. CLARK⁶ RATHBUN (Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born about 1823 at Cazenovia, N.Y., and married on Sept. 24, 1854, at Skaneateles, N.Y., to Maria Benedict, born about 1823, parentage unknown. She died Dec. 21, 1856, at Georgetown, in Madison County, N.Y. He married about 1858 Savilla Spencer, birth and parentage unknown, and was apparently divorced. He was married again about 1880 to Mary J. _____, born about 1828, parentage unknown. Clark died April 16, 1900, at Eaton, N.Y. Savilla, his second wife, was married June 24, 1882, in Marshall County, Kansas, to James L. Terry, and was dead by 1900. Mary, his third wife, predeceased Clark.

CHILD

By Savilla

CLARK COLUMBUS, born Aug. 2, 1859; married Bertha Pritz on March 12, 1885, in Washington County, Kansas. No known children. He died sometime after 1900.

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(continued from page 43)

See Corrections 11-4 p 61

216. DAVID⁶ RATHBUN (Amos⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born about 1824 in Cazenovia, and married by 1846 to Elizabeth _____, birthdate and parentage unknown. They were living in Moulton, Auglaize County, Ohio, by 1849, and he apparently died there by 1854. **Elizabeth may be the Betsey Rathbun who was living with David's brother Abiather in 1880 at Cazenovia.** There were no known children.

217. THOMAS RUSSELL⁶ RATHBUN (Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 24, 1817, probably in Chenango County, N.Y. He was married March 20, 1838, at Jamestown, N.Y., to Elizabeth Aurelia Howe, born about 1821, parentage unknown. They moved to Pittsburg, Pa., by 1850 and to Ottawa, LaSalle County, Ill., by 1860. Elizabeth died in 1859, possibly in childbirth, and he was married in 1860 to Lucretia (Sopher?), a widow, born in May 1822, parentage unknown. He died about 1864 at Ottawa. Lucretia was still living as late as 1911.

CHILDREN

By Elizabeth

ERASTUS R., born in Oct. 1840; married Harriet Andrews.

ALONZO EMERY, born May 6, 1844; married Anna E. Bassett.

ANNA MARIA, born about 1847; married _____ Ashley.

LAURA, born about 1849; alive in 1860; no further data.

IRENE, born about 1855; alive in 1860; no further data.

JOHN MILFORD, born Nov. 2, 1859; married Clara Warren.

By Lucretia

ELLA, born in July 1862; married Clarence Wilder.

ALBERT, born March 31, 1864; he enlisted in the Navy in 1879 and died Jan. 3, 1880, of disease aboard the USS Constitution at Fort de France on the island of Martinique.

218. JOHN A.⁶ RATHBUN (Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born March

8, 1819, at Mollyi, Chenango County, N.Y. He was married on May 31, 1840, to Rebecca Scott, born about 1820, parentage unknown, who died in 1847 in childbirth at Virgil, N.Y. He then moved to Ohio, and was married there on August 13, 1848, at Bucklin Corners, Lake County, to Asenath Leroy, born April 24, 1824, daughter of Abraham and Mary (Chaffee) Leroy. She died June 22, 1899, in Ellery, N.Y., where they may have gone to live. He probably died before her, and does not appear in the 1900 Federal Census.

CHILDREN

By Rebecca

ELLEN, born June 21, 1841; married George Stacy on June 22, 1857.

MINERVA JANE, born Aug. 3, 1843; married William Hadley on Oct. 22, 1859.

ELIZABETH, born April 19, 1845; died (?) June 6, 1881, at Jamestown, N.Y.

JOHN, born July 6, 1847; died Jan. 7, 1848.

By Asenath

JOHN NESLER, born July 19, 1849; married Phoebe Barrons.

OBED RUSSELL, born Oct. 18, 1850; married Hortense Manel.

LAURA, born in 1851; married Hollis Attwood on March 23, 1870.

MARY, born June 19, 1853; died July 30, 1855.

FANNY, born Oct. 4, 1855; married (2) James Cross on Sept. 10, 1886. (Details of first marriage not known).

FRANK BYRON (twin), born Oct. 4, 1855; died July 31, 1857.

ELIZA ANN, born March 8, 1859; married Columbus C. Hazard on Sept. 10, 1878.

219. ERASTUS⁶ RATHBUN (Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born Feb. 28, 1828, probably in Chenango County, N.Y., and moved as a young man to Ohio. He was married there, in Columbiana County, on Dec. 23, 1847, to Alice Grubley Ward, born about 1827, daughter of Benjamin West and Armfield Cooper (Morgan) Ward. They moved soon after their marriage to Pittsburg, Pa., where he operated a planing

mill, and then in 1852 to Wheeling, West Virginia, where he established a lumber mill. Alice died there in 1874, and Erastus moved to Garrett County, Maryland, where he died in 1909.

CHILDREN

CLARENCE MORTIMER, born July 9, 1849; married Mary Virgin.

WILLIAM R., born Nov. 16, 1852; died Feb. 10, 1853.

EMMA R., born July 22, 1857; died Aug. 28, 1857.

ELLSWORTH, born July 1, 1863; died in infancy.

MARY JANE, born March 9, 1867; married Lewis E. Hanson.

220. NATHAN⁶ RATHBUN (Nathan⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born about 1813 in Rhode Island and was married May 10, 1840, at Smithfield, R.I., to Stacy Young, born in April 1813, daughter of Stephen and Mary Young. They were living in Providence by 1850 and in Scituate by 1860. Nathan apparently died by 1870 at Smithfield, where Stacy was then living as a widow. She later moved to East Greenwich, and died there Oct. 4, 1882.

CHILDREN

MARY E., born in 1842; married (?) Sidney H. Winsor on Nov. 10, 1870, at Providence.

PHOEBE A., born in 1844; died June 1, 1884, unmarried.

EMMET EMERY, born in 1850; married Ella S. Arnold.

221. JOHN L.⁶ RATHBUN (Nathan⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born about 1820; probably the John Rathbun who married Julia Inman on Dec. 25, 1854, in Providence. They apparently moved to Boston, Mass., where he appears in city directories in the 1850s. Nothing more is known of them and there is no record of any children.

222. GEORGE NELSON⁶ RATHBUN (Nathan⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born March 1, 1822, at Foster, R.I. He became a sailor, and little is known of

him. He died June 5, 1868, at Scituate, R.I., described as married, but his wife's name is not known. There is no record of children.

223. NATHANIEL WHEATON⁶ RATHBUN (Nathan⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born April 24, 1825, at Exeter, R.I., and moved with his parents as a boy to Blackstone, Mass. He returned to Rhode Island, and was married there about 1854 to Sophia Ardelia Young, born Dec. 10, 1817, daughter of Stephen and Mary Young, and a sister of his brother Nathan's wife. They lived for a time at Pawtucket, R.I., but later moved to East Greenwich, where Sophia died Jan. 13, 1895, and Nathaniel died Jan. 15, 1903.

CHILDREN

HANNAH, born about 1856; died April 29, 1858.

NATHANIEL, born in 1858; married (1) Emma Gertrude Gardner, and (2) Martha _____.

WILLIAM I., born in 1859; no further data.

MARY E. (twin?), born in 1859; no further data.

JAMES P., born about 1861; no further data.

?BENSON, born about 1868; married Marie _____.

224. CHARLES R.⁶ RATHBUN (Elias⁵ Nathan⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), born Sept. 16, 1849, in Hopkinton, R.I. He moved to Worcester, Mass., where on Sept. 16, 1873, he was married to Lucy Adelaide Wilson, born April 23, 1855, daughter of Henry Clark and Mary Elizabeth (Clemence) Wilson. He was a machinist and lived all his life at Worcester, where he died March 6, 1921. Lucy died there in 1925.

CHILDREN

WILSON HERBERT, born Oct. 26, 1876; married Sadie _____.

OSCAR LEON, born Sept. 28, 1879; died Sept. 24, 1889.

MYRTLE ERVILLA, born Oct. 14, 1885; no further data.

RUTH E., born June 14, 1897; died June 15, 1897.

This ends the sixth-generation descendants of John Rathbun Jr., oldest son of John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun. We now begin with the descendants of Thomas Rathbun, the second son, carrying down only the Rathbun lines. Daughters' descendants are not covered, in the interest of space, although we are maintaining files on them.

225. THOMAS J. (or I)⁶ RATHBUN (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹), born April 11, 1793, at Broadalbin, N.Y., and married about 1812 Laurena Bates, born Feb. 14, 1795, parentage unknown. He is probably the Thomas Rathbun who served in the War of 1812 in the New York State Volunteers. Thomas and Laurena lived in Cayuga County, N.Y., where Laurena died July 4, 1821. He was married on March 3, 1823, possibly at Marcellus, N.Y., to Sally Belknap, born August 22, 1801, parentage unknown. They moved by 1840 to Portage County, N.Y., and by 1850 to Winnebago County, Ill. In 1854, they moved to Winnishiek County, Iowa, where Thomas was active in public life. He was elected in 1855 to the first board of trustees for Bloomfield Township, and in 1858 a Universalist Church was organized in his log cabin home. He died on June 8, 1866. Sally died Dec. 26, 1874.

CHILDREN

See Corrections 10-4 p 62

By Laurena

LAURENA, born Aug. 24, 1813; married Gardner Green in 1838.

ANNA, born June 22, 1815; no further data.

ROSWELL, born June 22, 1817; married Clarissa Willard.

CHAUNCEY, born May 14, 1819; died in 1820.

HARRIET, born Jan. 21, 1821; no further data.

By Sally

AMANDER, born Oct. 15, 1823; died April 20, 1851; no known marriage.

WALTER, born Dec. 11, 1825; married Wealthy Loomis.

CHARLES, born Nov. 24, 1827; married Electa Ann Cook on Sept. 25, 1850. He died Oct. 17, 1853, leaving no known children. Electa married William Phagan on Nov. 23, 1857.

SIDNEY, born Sept. 15, 1829; he may have traveled west in 1854 with his cousin Perry (son of Gamaliel) and with Perry was killed by Indians in the Dakota Territory.

EUNICE, born July 19, 1831; married William Henry Bailey on June 22, 1851.

DOLPHUS (Adolphus?) S., born Nov. 7, 1833; married Isaphene Everett.

BRADSHAW W., born Feb. 10, 1836; married (1) Elizabeth Hall, and (2) Florence Miller.

ELIZABETH, born Feb. 16, 1837; married John McKay on Feb. 7, 1855.

CORDELIA, born Feb. 21, 1840; married Joseph Lambert on Dec. 8, 1861.

MARY ANN, born July 8, 1843; married (1) Alvora Everett on Jan. 8, 1861, and (2) William Schoonmaker.

LIMA, born July 15, 1845; married Alfred K. Pierce on April 11, 1865.

LAURA, born Dec. 2, 1849; died in January 1854.

226. NATHANIEL SAMUEL⁶ RATHBUN (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹), born about 1798 in Broadalbin, N.Y., and married about 1820 Lydia (Sears?), born about 1799, parentage unknown. (An Allen Sears, aged 80, was living with them in 1850, possibly her father). They were living in Pike, Allegany County, N.Y., in 1830; in nearby Portage in 1840, and in Leicester, Livingston County, in 1850. He is probably the Nathaniel Rathbun of Livingston County, N.Y., who settled briefly in St. Joseph County, Michigan, in 1831. In the 1850s, he and his family moved to Spring Valley, Fillmore County, Minnesota, where he died Feb. 26, 1871, and Lydia on Feb. 19, 1872.

CHILDREN

DAUGHTER, name unknown; born about 1821; died young?.

HENRY, born Oct. 13, 1826; married Amy Minerva Strivens.

CINDERELLA, born about 1828; married Squire A Cox.

EMORY, born April 10, 1831; married Eva (Dop) Krauser.

WILLIAM CLARK, born in Sept. 1834; married Ruth Brooks.

CLARISSA SALINIA, born Nov. 11 or 18, 1836; died August 17, 1918, unmarried.

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227. GAMALIEL JOHN⁶ RATHBUN (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹), born August 6, 1800, possibly in Otsego County, N.Y. He married there Nov. 25, 1825, Lucretia Richardson, born Sept. 8, 1807, parentage unknown. They lived for a time in Onondaga County, then in Eagle, Allegany County by 1840, and in the late 1840s joined his brother Thomas in moving to Winnebago County, Illinois. By 1870, he had joined his brother Nathaniel in Fillmore County, Minn., where he died Feb. 8, 1875. Lucretia had died 10 years earlier, on July 23, 1865.

CHILDREN

DORR, born June 2, 1826; married Susan Pike.

ADELE, born Oct. 10, 1827; died June 28, 1828.

DWIGHT, born May 15, 1829; married Jane C. Monroe.

PERRY, born Nov. 7, 1831; he went west, possibly with his cousin Sidney (son of Thomas), and was killed June 13, 1854, by Indians in the Dakota Territory.

EMERETT, born Oct. 16, 1833; she died of consumption April 18, 1898, unmarried.

JOHN W. DAMON, born June 30, 1835; married Elvira Monroe.

CORVANDO, born July 25, 1837; married Ann Syme on June 26, 1884, when he was 47 and she was 40, and they had no children. Corvado, who was born with a club foot, died Dec. 22, 1907. Ann died Nov. 20, 1896.

WASHINGTON DAY, born Aug. 8, 1939; married Tamar Eliza Townsend.

OPHELIA, born July 11, 1841; married Frank Baker.

BRYON, born July 16, 1845; married Hannah Haslam.

AMANDER ELMER, born Nov. 13, 1851; married Eva (Monroe) Brooks.

228. WALTER⁶ RATHBUN (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹), born about 1805, probably in Otsego County, N.Y. He was married Feb. 13, 1835, in Pike, N.Y., to Eliza Bacchus, born in 1814, parentage unknown. In 1854, they moved to Leslie,

Ingham County, Michigan, where Eliza died on Jan. 24, 1889, and he died later the same year.

CHILD

JAMES HARVEY, born in 1836; enlisted in the First Michigan Artillery in 1864 during the Civil War and died of disease on June 23, 1865.

229. HENRY⁶ RATHBUN (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹), born about 1810 in Otsego County, N.Y., and moved with his parents to Pike, Allegany County. He was married about 1840 to Susan Reynolds, born in 1814, parentage unknown. They lived in Genesee Falls near Pike for many years. He died there May 17, 1867, and Susan on Jan. 17, 1893. Both are buried in Pike.

CHILDREN

NYRUM, born in May 1841; married Mary B. Gove.

ANGELO F., born in June 1845; alive in 1900, no known marriage.

MARY A., born about 1854; no further data.



*This recently discovered picture is that of Gideon Rathbun (1806-1888), son of Allen⁵ Rathbun (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He appeared in our genealogical section in the *Historian* of January 1987, Page 11. Our thanks to Roy Rathbun, a descendant, who found the picture in an old history of Beloit, Wisconsin.*

Sudden Riches

Peter Rathbone, American art expert at Sotheby's in New York City, played a major role in a fantastic story which resulted in a Connecticut couple becoming "overnight millionaires."

The couple, who remained anonymous, had inherited an oil painting many years ago from the woman's mother, who had received it as a gift.

It hung in the couple's bedroom for 25 years. The man did not even like it, and once considered taking it to the town dump. Then they saw an advertisement for free appraisals of oil paintings, and took the picture in for appraisal.

The appraiser looked it over and offered them \$1,000 for it. The owners said they would get a second opinion, and the dealer then raised his offer to \$100,000.

Now convinced they had a valuable painting, they took it to Sotheby's, where Peter Rathbone was "staggered" to find that it was a real masterpiece, by Martin Johnson Heade, called "Hummingbirds and Passion Flowers." It was in perfect condition, and still in its original frame.

At an auction in May, the painting was sold for \$1.1 million by Sotheby's.

Peter Rathbone is the son of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Perry⁹ Rathbone (Howard⁸ Peter⁷ Elijah⁶ Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

The University Press of New England has recently published a two-volume work, "The Correspondence of Roger Williams." It includes a translation of every known letter written by Williams, the founder of Rhode Island and ancestor of many of our members. The two volumes sell for \$100, but are available to members of our association for \$75, plus \$4 mailing costs. If interested, send your \$79 check to University Press of New England, 17 1/2 Lebanon Street, Hanover, N.H. 03755. Be sure to mention your membership in the Rathbun Family Association.

In our last issue, there were two errors in one of the obituaries. Cleo Bell Jones (not James) was born a Corkins, not Corking. Her first husband was Everett James. Our thanks to Dr. Earl Antes.

Obituaries

DIED — May 24, 1989, at Chester, Conn., Dr. Douglas Joseph Rathbun, aged 89. He was the son of Leonard⁸ Rathbun (Leonard⁷ Calvin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹). Dr. Rathbun was graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathy in 1925, and practiced medicine in New London and later Lyme, Conn., for 55 years until his retirement in 1979. He served in the Connecticut General Assembly for two terms in the 1950s. Survivors include his wife, Lillian (Morlock) Rathbun, to whom he had been married 61 years; two daughters, Margaret Scheide and Judith Whitney, both members of our Association; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

DIED — April 18, 1989, at Westerly, R.I., John I. Rathbun, aged 64. He was the son of Charles⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ Asher⁷ Christopher⁶ Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁵ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He was a Purple Heart veteran of World War II. Survivors include two sons, Jack and Terry Rathbun; two daughters, Debbie and Melanie Rathbun; a brother, George Rathbun, and three sisters, Eleanor Mello, Dorothy Sanborn and Shirley Hitchman.

DIED — May 22, 1989, at Oneonta, N.Y., Warren J. Rathbun, aged 85. He was the son of Joel⁸ Rathbun (Jacob⁷ Williams⁶⁻⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He was a dairy farmer all his life at Middlefield, N.Y., until his retirement in 1972. He was a former member of the Middlefield Board of Assessors and the Middlefield Planning Board. Survivors include his wife, Ada (Griggs) Rathbun; one son, Leslie Rathbun; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

DIED — June 6, 1989, at Aurora, Colo., Shirley Mae Rathbun, aged 61. She was the wife of Henry Maurice⁹ Rathbun (James⁸ William⁷ John⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), a member of our Association. Survivors include her husband; five sons, Robert, Edward and Bill Rathbun, and Dennis and Philip Stanion; three daughters, Carol Thomas, Sandra Crabtree and Pat Hentson; 27 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

DIED — June 27, 1988, Marie (Hagen) Rathbun, of Ellis, Kansas, aged 76. She was the widow of Verne⁹ Rathbun (Lewis⁸ Alfred⁷ John⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Survivors include a son, Alfred Adair Rathbun; two daughters, Eileen Mae Goetz and Oneita Jean Bollig, both members of our Association; seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

DIED — Feb. 8, 1989, at Warwick, R.I., Parker G. Webb, aged 72. He was the husband of Jean¹⁰ Rathbun (Walter⁹ William⁸ John⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He was a retired truck driver. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a stepson, Lewis Potter; three brothers, and three sisters.

People

RONALD RATHBUN, a member of our Association, has been promoted to vice-president of American National Property and Casualty Company at Springfield, Mo. He joined the company as an underwriter in 1974, when there were 12 employees. The firm now has 328 employees and is licensed in 38 states. Ronald is the son of our members Zona and Paul⁹ Rathbun (Fred⁸ William⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

CHARLES BEVERIDGE and Shirley Mae Farrell were married Sept. 17, 1988, at Lake Wales, Fla. Charles, a member of our association, is the son of David William Beveridge and Minnie Emma⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ George⁷ Joshua⁶ Acors⁵ Joshua⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). His first wife, Charlotte (Davis) Rathbun, died in 1985, after 45 years of marriage. His new wife has been twice widowed.

KAREN SUE RATHBURN, manager of the AAA South Central Ohio office, recently earned the designation of Certified Travel Counselor. The title required five years experience, graduate-level college courses, and 16 hours of examinations. Karen is the wife of Jack¹² Rathbun (John¹¹ Carl¹⁰ John⁹ Amos⁸ Sereno⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹).

DIED — July 12, 1988, at LaCrosse, Wisc., Edith L. Pahl, aged 73. She was the daughter of George Bohrnstedt and Naomi⁸ Rathbone (Albert⁷ Amos⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). She was the widow of Edwin A. Pahl, who died in 1979. Survivors include four daughters, Jayne Rezin, a member of our Association; Sally Johnson, Judith Lenz and Sue Prinsen; a son, Wayne Pahl; 19 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Births

BORN — April 18, 1989, Eric William O'Connell, son of William and Catherine Ann (Sands) O'Connell, and grandson of Edgar William Sands and the late Catherine Mildred¹⁰ Rathbun (Oscar⁹ George⁸ Corbet⁷ Gideon⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN — Feb. 20, 1989, Grant Simeon Cragun and Linda Michelle Cragun, twin children of Kenneth and Cynthia Cragun of San Jose, California. Cynthia is a descendant of Samuel Cline and Lucinda Rathbun (a twin!), daughter of Jacob⁷ Rathbun (Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

BORN — May 8, 1989, Rodney DiMarlo Darrel Kearney Jr., son of Rodney and LaDonna (Drones) Kearney; grandson of Michael Drones and Sandra Marie Rathbun, and great-grandson of our member, Fred Charles⁹ Rathbun (Fred⁸ Erastus⁷ Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

Correction

In our January issue, we misspelled the name of Anna Liisa Rathbun, born August 24, 1988, as Anna Luisa. She is the daughter of Gary J. and Eileen (Ranta) Rathbun of Coon Rapids, Minn., and granddaughter of our members John and Alberta Rathbun. The baby's mother is of Finnish ancestry, and the Liisa spelling is Finnish.

People

MARTHANNE RATHBONE was named a member of the National Honor Society in April at James Bowie High School in Austin, Texas. She is the daughter of the late Stephen Rathbone, and granddaughter of our members Betty and Lemuel¹⁰ Rathbone (Lemuel⁹ Rufus⁸ George⁷ Rufus⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

JAMES STITES won first place this year in a writing contest sponsored by the Community Association for the Arts in Independence, Mo. His submission was a short story entitled, "Queen's Gambit." He won a fourth-place award in 1986, and first prize in 1987 for a science fiction story. Jim is the son of Charles Stites and Carrie Ella⁹ Rathbone (Howard⁸ Elijah⁷ Amasa⁶ Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

CLAUDIA A RATHBUN has been named assistant vice-president of Alexander and Alexander, the largest retail insurance brokerage firm in the United States, and second largest publicly owned broker-agent consulting firm in the world. The company has some 17,000 employees, more than half of whom are international employees. Claudia joined the firm in 1972 after graduation from the University of Nebraska, beginning as a clerk and backup receptionist. She is the wife of Thomas Rathbun, the son of Zona and Paul⁹ Rathbun (Fred⁸ William⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), all members of our Association.

JOHN RATHBUN and Wendy J. Paolino were married May 7 in North Providence, R.I. He is the son of Charles and Carole Rathbun of North Providence. We do not know the identity of this family. Can anyone help?

MELISSA KAYE RATHBUN and Jay Schweinfus were married May 6 in Spring Valley, Minn. Melissa is the daughter of Jerry⁹ Rathbun (Wilbur⁸ Byron⁷ Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹), and his wife, Carol (Norby) Rathbun.

Our New Members

Aileen Brewer
Lynwood, Wash.

Ronald J. Corkins
Arvada, Colo.

Almeda Rathbun Ekstedt
Bellevue, Wash.

Joyce Rathbun Kelley
Great Bend, Kansas

Vern Kittleson
St. Paul, Minn.

Glen and Eva Lang
Somerset, Mass.

Kirk and Cindy Lang
Baton Rouge, La.

Calvin Rathbun
Anchorage, Alaska

Dr. Charles Rathbone
Burlington, Vt.

Chelsea Rathbun
Des Moines, Wash.

John Rathbone
Hamilton, N.Y.

Lee Rathbun
Thermopolis, Wyo.

Robin Rathbun
Pullaylap, Wash.

Phillip A. Thurston
Sparta, Wisc.

Twila Rathbun Wood
Thermopolis, Wyo.

William E. Wright
Houston, Texas

GRETCHEN EKSTEDT and Pat McKendry were married Feb. 19, 1989, at Issaquah, Wash. She is the daughter of the late Edward Ekstedt and Almeda¹⁰ Rathbun (Chelsea⁹ Henry⁸ William⁷ Gideon⁶ Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), a new member of our Association.

PERRY T. RATHBONE, senior vice-president and director of Christie's International, has been given a new honor — three Perry Rathbone Fellowships have been established at Columbia University in his honor by one of his admirers. Rathbone, former director of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, is a member of our Association. He is the son of Howard Betts⁸ Rathbone (Peter⁷ Elijah⁶ Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

ANN HAYMAKER and Vincent Callaway were married April 29, 1989, at Yuma, Arizona. Mrs. Haymaker, widow of Wesley Haymaker, is a member of our Association. She is the daughter of Walter Berry and Vida⁹ Rathbone (Coker⁸ Edmund⁷ Gideon⁶ Edmund⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

GEORGE RATHBUN has been working in Alaska as a project engineer on the tremendous job of cleaning up after the tragic oil spill. He reports working 12 hours a day, seven days a week. A member of our Association, he is the son of Roy and Anna May Rathbun, also members. Roy is the son of George⁸ Rathbun (George⁷ Gideon⁶ Allen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

WE THANK the following members who have sent us family data, pictures, clippings and other materials: Howard Rathbun, Dorothy Danks, Ellen Coates, Phillip C. Thurston, Aileen Brewer, Beth Kiteley, Rob Rathbun, Jayne Rezin, Ellen Kenyon, Robert L. Rathbun, John Bowen, Joe Wiswall, Mildred Rathburn, Victor and Ruth Streeter, Fred C. and Shirley Rathbun, Paul and Zona Rathbun, Ronald L. Rathburn, Perry T. Rathbone, Betty Drake, Jean Bollig, Charles Beveridge, Charles A. Murray, Richard and Roberta Rathbun, Jay Peterson, Cheryl Jensen, Mary Van Epps, Frank E. Rathbun, Lauren Landis, Imogene Hodges, Howard and Hooter Colborn, Ben and Rosalie Rathbun, Mary Pearl Whitman, Clair Cornell.