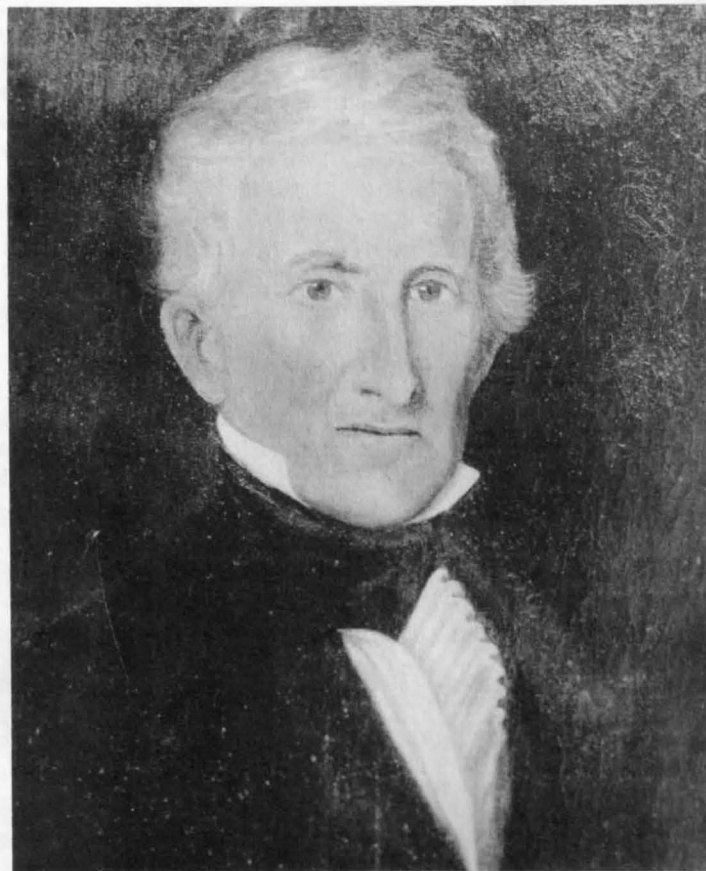


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
**FAMILY
HISTORIAN**



William Palmer Rathbone
(1782-1862)

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

Letter from the Editor

I am writing this early in January, following a busy and happy holiday season. Hazel and I send our thanks to all the members who remembered us with Christmas cards.

My special thanks to Rosma (Rathbun) Limbeck, who sent me a very special surprise Christmas present. She arranged with Hazel to get a complete set of all the 1981-89 Historians, and indices, and then had them beautifully hard-bound for me in a lovely blue book. It was a wonderful gift, and was deeply appreciated.

Our Association ended the 1989 year with 566 members. To date, only 450 have renewed, and the rest have been dropped from the rolls. We will be writing them this month, and hope that many will be back with us. Possibly this will be the year we reach 600 members.

In this Historian, you will find our 1989 financial statement. Thanks to all the new members, and many sales of past issues, our income last year reached a new high of more than \$11,000. We ended the year with a surplus of nearly \$2,800, which should make it possible to print the 1987-8-9 indices. I hope to have them ready in time to mail with the April Historian. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Earl Antes, who compiled each index, with the help of his wife, Gayle, who died last year.

We had a surprisingly small response to my request for recommendations on the next reunion site. Of 15 members who responded, nearly all voted for

Springfield, Illinois. There was one vote each for California, Denver, Nassau and Virginia. So it looks now as though Springfield is the leading candidate. I will keep you informed.

My favorite response came from Russell G. Rathbun, who has attended the last three reunions.

"I don't really have any choice," he wrote. "I enjoy all the relatives and getting acquainted with new ones. Also, I enjoy just seeing this beautiful country we live in, and will go any place that is chosen as long as I'm able to travel."

Our campaign to have a postage stamp issued in honor of Captain John Peck Rathbun is still moving along, but slowly. Bud Parfit, who has taken an active interest in the idea, reports a discouraging "stone wall" of bureaucratic indifference from the Postal Service in response to many letters. He predicts we will need much more outside help.

Victor Streeter has enlisted the support of his local American Legion post, and suggests that others seek similar endorsements. As I recommended earlier, each of you can help by writing to your congressman and senators, and to the Postal Service. Simply tell them that you support the Rathbun stamp, and ask why our long-delayed request has not been acted upon.

In our January 1988 issue, I outlined my theory that Elizabeth Rathbun, youngest daughter of John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun, married Nicholas Mosher. Rob Rathbun has found an additional bit of evidence. Elizabeth Mosher, second daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Mosher, married Benoni Tripp and named two of her sons Acres Tripp and Samuel Tripp. Acres, of course, was the maiden name of Margaret Rathbun, and Acres appears as a first name several times among her Eighteenth Century descendants. Samuel was the name of Elizabeth Rathbun's younger brother, and would have been the uncle of Elizabeth (Mosher) Tripp.

I am still reasonably certain my theory is correct, and will continue to seek other evidence. Any help will be appreciated.


In our genealogy section, we are now into the sixth-generation descendants of Thomas Rathbun, second son of John and Margaret. We began the sixth generation in our October 1985 issue, and it required 16 issues just to cover the 224 great-great-grandsons of John Rathbun Jr.

For the record, the five sons of John and Margaret were covered in our April 1981 issue. It took two issues to cover the 20 grandsons, and then four issues for the 54 great-grandsons. The fifth generation (158 great-great-grandsons) required 11 issues.

It will probably take another four to five years (16 to 20 Historians) to complete the sixth-generation descendants of Thomas, William, Joseph and Samuel. This estimate is based on our present rate of 12 to 15 persons per issue.

We could speed this up somewhat by devoting more pages of each Historian to genealogy, and less to individual family stories. If you have any thoughts of this, let me know.

Best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy and satisfying 1990.



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Frank H. Rathbun

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Single copies of any 1983-1989 issue are \$4 each. Earlier single issues (some available only in xerox) range from \$2 to \$5, depending on our supply. Write if interested.

Ancient Rathbun Graveyard Restored by Two Descendants

One of the oldest Rathbun burial grounds in the United States has been converted from a weed-grown wilderness to a well-kept cemetery, thanks to the efforts of a modern-day descendant.

The descendant is our member Frank E. Rathbun of Coventry, R.I., and the cemetery is located far off the beaten path in North Kingstown, R.I. It is believed to be the family burial plot of Samuel Rathbun (1702-1786), son of Thomas² Rathbun (John¹), who was born on Block Island and moved to North Kingstown as a young man.

The foundation of his home can still be seen near the ancient cemetery, about a mile north of Ten Rod Road.

Frank E. Rathbun located the cemetery several years ago, deep in an almost impenetrable tangle of trees, underbrush and vines. There were only six gravestones standing, but others could be seen lying on the ground.

With the help of his mother, Dorothy Rathbun, Frank began a several-year project of clearing the burial ground. They chopped down trees and vines, cleared the underbrush and dug out gravestones. Those lying on the ground were uprighted and placed on new cement bases. Those that were broken were repaired. Those that were leaning were straightened up. All the stones were then cleaned to make the inscriptions legible.

As a final touch, an ancient stone wall surrounding the cemetery was given a face-lifting by replacing or straightening stones which had fallen, shifted or disappeared.

Most of the work had to be done in late spring months or early fall. The area is inaccessible in winter and early spring, and snakes and insects make it difficult to work in the summer.

Today, the little graveyard has been restored to almost its original condition, and Frank intends to keep it that way. There are 15 legible stones, and many others whose wording can not be made out.

Gravestones were not found for the original Samuel Rathbun or his wife, Abigail (Eldridge) Rathbun, who may be buried in another old cemetery in the same area, where all the grave markers are illegible. Frank and his mother did, however, find the stones of Samuel's son John Rathbun (1737-1819), and John's wife, Hannah (Eldridge), who died in 1821 at the age of 84. Nearby

were the graves of John's son, John Rathbun, Jr. (1773-1813); his two wives, Mercy and Lydia, and his daughter, Alice, who died in 1815 aged 14 years.

Our thanks and admiration to Frank and his mother. She is the widow of Elmer⁹ Rathbun (Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ (the original owner of the cemetery) Thomas² John¹).



The Rathbun Cemetery as it looked just after it was cleared and before the gravestones and rock walls were repaired.



The grave marker of John Rathbun, who died June 1, 1819, aged 82. He was the son of Samuel Rathbun, probably the original owner of the cemetery.



The oldest legible gravestone in the cemetery — that of John Rathbun, who died Dec. 19, 1813, aged 40 years. He was a son of John Rathbun, at left.

West Virginia Rathbones Were Pioneers in Oil Industry

The discovery of underground oil in 1859, and the realization of its potential use as a fuel and lubricant, marked a major watershed in American history. One branch of our family, the Rathbones of West Virginia, played a significant role in this story. They drilled the second successful oil well in history, and one of their descendants later became head of the first oil industry "giant" — The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

The story of the West Virginia Rathbones begins with William Palmer Rathbone, born Sept. 21, 1782, in Stonington, Conn., the second son of Wait⁴ Rathbone (Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and his second wife, Mary (Brown) Palmer. (The story of Wait Rathbone appeared in our Historian of April 1984).

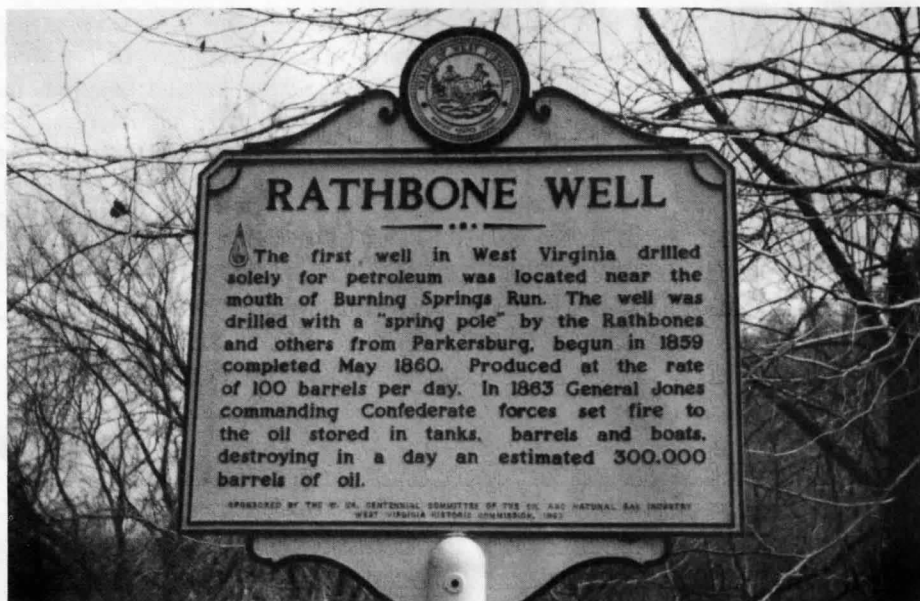
William Palmer Rathbone moved with his parents as a boy to Troy, N.Y., where he grew up, and as a young man was commissioned an ensign in the local militia. He moved to New York City about 1806, possibly to work for his uncle, John Rathbone, a wealthy merchant there.

He was married in New York on Oct. 3, 1810, to 17-year-old Martha Ming Valleau, daughter of William Valleau, a prosperous ship builder and part-time Methodist minister.

Rathbone tried the ship-building business for a short time, but with the outbreak of the War of 1812, he joined the Army, and was commissioned as the New York District paymaster. After the war, he remained in the service several years, and traveled extensively in the West.

In the fall of 1818, he was present during a historic meeting at St. Mary's (now Emmet), Michigan, where leaders of 10,000 Indians representing nearly a dozen tribes, gave up their land rights to the American government.

The following year, he was with Army troops in Kentucky, where he fell seriously ill and was cared for by a Roman Catholic bishop, Father Benedict-



Historical Marker at the site of the Rathbone oil well in Burning Springs, West Virginia. It was the second successful oil well in the world, and brought great prosperity to the area and to the Rathbones.

Joseph Flaget. Rathbone had befriended Father Flaget in Michigan, and the two had developed a warm friendship. There is a family tradition that Rathbone became a Catholic due to the bishop's influence, but this has not been verified.

Years later, however, he recalled how he had received and "highly prized . . . the venerable Prelate's blessing."

By the early 1820s, Rathbone had left the Army and returned to New York City, where in 1825 he was elected to the city council.

In the early 1830s, Rathbone, his wife and their six children moved to Paramus, in Bergen County, N.J., where in 1838 he was appointed a lay judge in the county court system. He also maintained a town house in New York City, where the family probably spent their winters.

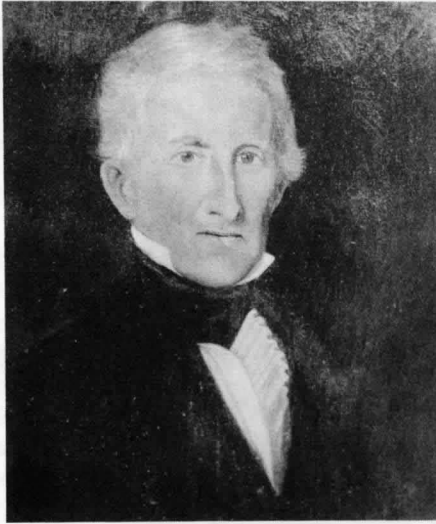
In 1831, Rathbone's eldest daughter, Juliette, was married to Peter G. Van Winkle, a young lawyer in New York City. A few years later, the newlyweds

moved to Parkersburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). Juliette wrote glowing letters to her family of the scenic beauty and balmy climate of the area.

In the late 1830s, the oldest Rathbone son, John Castelli (known as Cass) visited his sister in Parkersburg, and was also impressed with the area. He was particularly intrigued to learn that large underground salt deposits were believed to underly the area near a little village known as Burning Springs, so called because of numerous springs and ponds covered by an oily scum, which frequently caught fire.

Cass Rathbone returned to New Jersey and suggested to his parents that they move to West Virginia, where the climate would be good for Mrs. Rathbone's failing health. William went to Parkersburg, and was so taken with the area he decided to make the move.

The date of the move is somewhat vague. Local histories relate that the elder Rathbones came in 1840, followed by their oldest sons two years later.



*William Palmer Rathbone
(1782-1862)*

However, William's first recorded land purchase is dated in 1842, when he bought 100 acres at Burning Springs. In 1844, a New York newspaper referred to him as "Judge Rathbone of New Jersey."

It seems likely that Rathbone made several land-buying trips to the area in 1842 and 1843, and actually moved there permanently in 1844 or 1845.

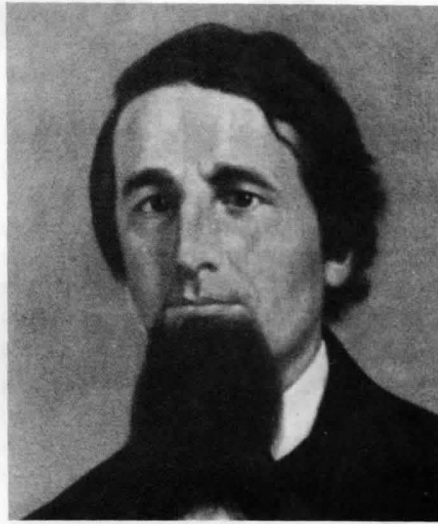
At any rate, by 1845, he was living in Parkersburg, and was the owner of hundreds of acres in the Burning Springs area, apparently in partnership with his two oldest sons — Cass and John Val-leau Rathbone, known as Val.

The family had hoped to establish a salt-making operation at Burning Springs. In that day, before refrigeration, salt was in great demand as a meat preservative. Salt pork, salt fish, salted beef and brine-cured ham were staple foods for most families.

The Rathbones drilled a well in the Kanawha River valley, hoping to find a pool of brine, which they could pump out and convert into salt. Their pumps did bring up a lot of salt water, but it was mixed with a heavy black oil, which made the brine useless for salt-making.

But local Indians had a tradition that the goeey, black liquid had miraculous medicinal properties. It was good, they said, for rheumatism and respiratory ailments.

Seeing an opportunity to profit from the useless salt well, the Rathbones let



*John Valleau Rathbone
(1821-1897)*

the oily brine flow into ponds, and then set about collecting the black liquid, which always rose to the top of the water. They spread blankets on the surface, and when they were soaked, the oil was wrung out into tubs. They also tried skimming the oily scum from the water.

The "black scum" was then bottled in quart jugs, and sold for 50 cents a bottle as "Rathbones' Rock Oil — Nature's Wonder Cure." Labels on the jugs read: "For rheumatism and muscular neuralgia, rub joints and affected areas frequently and vigorously with the fluid. For consumption, coughs, colds, croup, asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory ailments, take one tablespoon morning and evening as needed."

Their business boomed, and the Rathbones began sending their "Rock Oil" to neighboring cities for sale at one dollar a quart. Interestingly, they may have been partly responsible for the eventual use of the word "petroleum," which comes from the Latin words for rock and oil — *petra* and *oleum*.

The Rathbones also expanded into other enterprises. They began an extensive lumber operation, cutting timber on their growing land holdings, and hauling it to Burning Springs where they built a steam-powered sawmill. They also erected a steam gristmill, opened a general store, and even began a small boat-building business, based on William's experience in New York City.

The area was fast filling with settlers, and the Rathbones became the town's leading family. They continually added to their land holdings, and by 1848 owned a total of more than 21,000 acres.

In 1849, the settlement was large enough to rate a postoffice, and Val Rathbone was named as the first postmaster of Burning Springs. In 1861, the town was renamed Rathbone City, a name it kept until 1868, when it again became Burning Springs. Val was succeeded in the postmastership by his nephew, Abraham Rathbone, son of Cass.

William Palmer Rathbone had decided to move to the area largely because of his wife's poor health, but the climate did not make any difference. Martha died on Nov. 26, 1846, aged 53, just a year or two after the move.

Two years earlier, their daughter Juliette Van Winkle had died, on Feb. 10, 1844, leaving her husband with three small children. Van Winkle went on to become a prominent local and state leader. He was a Parkersburg councilman, served in the 1850 Virginia Constitutional Convention, and in the 1861 Convention when West Virginia became a state. He also served in the new state's first legislature, and in 1863 became one of the state's first two United States senators. He was also treasurer and later president of the Northwestern Virginia Railroad Company.

An event which was to change the family fortunes came in August 1859, when Col. Edwin Drake drilled the world's first successful oil well near Titusville, Pa. He struck oil at 69 feet, and pumped out nearly 10 barrels that first day.

Oil was already being used to a small degree for illumination, replacing the hard-to-obtain sperm-whale oil. No one had ever dreamed that oil could be found in such large quantities by drilling into the ground.

As word of the strike spread, there was a rush of speculators to Pennsylvania in 1860, similar to the California gold rush of 1849. Thousands were caught up in the dream of sudden riches.

(continued on page 9)

Yankee Civil War Veteran Makes New Home in 'Dixie'

This is the story of a most unusual cousin, whose life was marked by tragedy, but who left a wonderful legacy of faith and love to his descendants. Hallet Rathbun of Wisconsin was a Yankee soldier in the Civil War, who 30 years after the war moved to Georgia and spent the rest of his long life living "deep in the heart of Dixie."

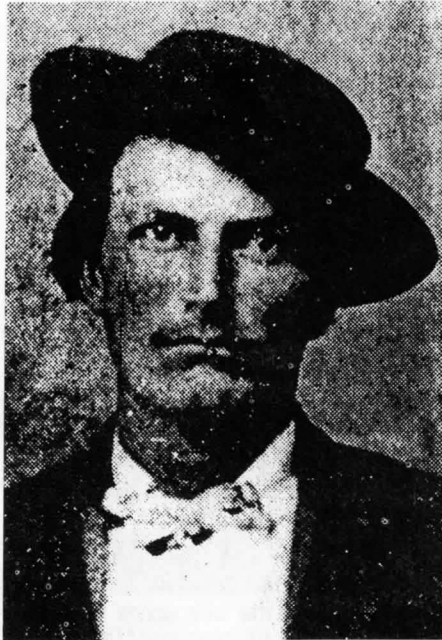
Hallet Rathbun was born June 7, 1841, in Norway, N.Y., the seventh son of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), and Lucinda (Austin) Rathbun. When he was two years old, the family moved to Wisconsin and settled on a farm in Monroe County, where Hallet grew up.

The Rathbuns were devout Methodists (two of Hallet's uncles were Methodist ministers), and religion played a large role in the lives of Hallet and his brothers and sisters. One year, Hallet and his brother, Jonathan, raised a calf, and when it was sold in the fall, they used their money to purchase a Bible.

Reading the Bible in front of the fireplace one winter night, they decided that scripture called for holy worship on the seventh day of the week — Saturday rather than Sunday. Both boys decided then to become Seventh-Day Adventists, and remained with that faith all their lives.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, five of the Rathbun brothers joined the Union Army. Hallet enlisted August 26, 1861, in the Wisconsin Light Artillery, and was assigned to Company B of the Regiment's First Battery. His enlistment papers described him as five feet eleven inches tall, with dark hair, hazel eyes and a ruddy complexion.

Little is known of his wartime service except that he served well and honorably. He did win a reputation as the most powerful man in his company. The men were loading cannons into boxcars one day, two men assigned to lift each end. A discussion broke out as to who was the strongest. Hallet quickly ended the



Hallet Rathbun pictured just after the Civil War.

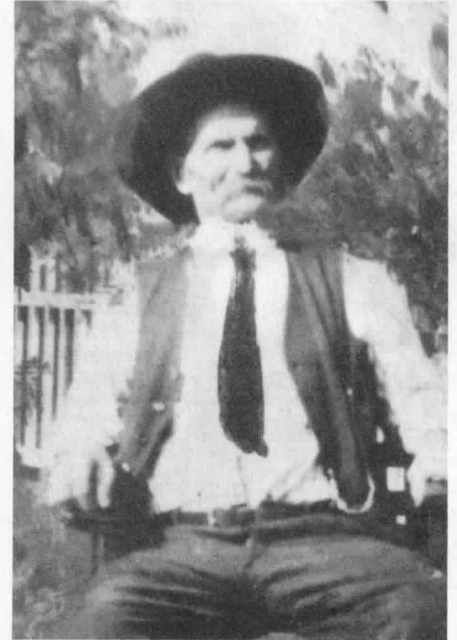
argument. He was the only man who could single-handedly lift one end of a cannon.

After seeing action in several battles, including Vicksburg, Hallet's company joined General Sherman on his famous march through Georgia, and Hallet was greatly impressed with the beauty of the Georgia countryside.

In 1864, he found himself stationed in New Orleans, awaiting discharge at the end of his three-year enlistment. While there, he met a German immigrant family — John and Agnes Kramer and their three daughters. Hallet became very fond of the family, especially the oldest daughter, Catherine, then 18.

The regiment left for Wisconsin later that year, and Hallet promised the Kramers he would be back to see them. He received his honorable discharge on October 22 in Madison, Wisc., and after a brief visit with his family, he returned to Louisiana.

After a brief courtship, he proposed to Catherine, and they were married on December 17 that year. The newlyweds



Hallet Rathbun a few years before his death.

took a train to Wisconsin, where Hallet rented a farm and settled down to the life of a farmer, specializing in dairy cattle.

Six years later, tragedy struck. Catherine died on February 4, 1872, two days after giving birth to their fourth daughter. Hallet left shortly after the funeral for New Orleans, to deliver the sad news to Catherine's parents and sisters. He probably left his four young daughters with one or more of his brothers or sisters.

He remained in New Orleans several months, and when he returned, he brought with him a new wife — Catherine's next youngest sister, Anna, then 24. They were married on May 15. Anna had agreed to marry Hallet and help him raise her four young nieces.

A year later, the Kramers also moved to Wisconsin, to be near their daughter and their four grandchildren.

But tragedy again intervened. On August 23, 1873, only 15 months after their marriage, Anna died of pregnancy complications, and Hallet was again a widower. Again, he turned to the Kramers.

Seven months after Anna's death, he was married to the youngest Kramer sister, Augustine, then 19 years old.

During the next 12 years, he and Augustine became the parents of six children, but misfortune still dogged Hallet's life.

In 1884, his oldest son Dewey, aged seven, died of scarlet fever. His daughter, Catherine, 12, also fell sick, but recovered despite a high fever which left her in a weakened condition. In 1887, diphtheria broke out in the community, and two of Hallet's children were stricken — Ruth, nine, and Thomas Hallet, six. They died a day apart in December, just before Christmas.

Four more children were born in the next six years, but Hallet and Augustine, having buried three children, had decided to leave Wisconsin, with its bitter cold winters. They were also influenced by an economic depression which struck in the early 1890s, along with several years of severe drought.

Hallet had heard about a colony being organized in southern Georgia for Union Army veterans. The project was spear-

headed by Georgia Governor William J. Northen and an Indiana newspaper publisher, Philander H. Fitzgerald. Hallet remembered Georgia from his wartime service, and he decided to explore the possibility of joining the new colony.

In 1894, he and a friend joined a wagon train headed for Georgia. It turned out to be a 40-day journey, but Hallet was impressed by what he found. He decided to make Georgia his home. He purchased nearly 700 acres of farm and timberland, and began construction of a house and barns. When they were nearly completed, he returned by train to Wisconsin to get his family.

Then began a busy time. Hallet sold his farm and some of his livestock and equipment. He hired seven railroad boxcars, and loaded the rest of his cattle and horses, farming equipment, and all the family's furniture and household goods. Early in 1895, they said goodbye to their friends and relatives, and set off on their way to a new life.

Hallet was 54, Augustine was 41. With them went their seven surviving children — Augustine, 20; John, 11;

Margaret, nine; Conrad, seven; Melinda, five; Blanche, four, and Beulah, two. Catherine, Hallet's youngest daughter from his first marriage, had been married only a year before, and she and her husband also decided to join the move.

His oldest three daughters — Anna, Laura and Lucinda — were also married, but decided to stay in Wisconsin.

In Georgia, the Rathbuns found themselves in a booming area. Settlers were arriving by the hundreds every week. Four sawmills worked around the clock to provide lumber for new homes. Stores, restaurants and hotels sprang up. The once quiet backwoods area suddenly became a thriving community, which was incorporated in 1896 as the city of Fitzgerald. It was named for the Yankee publisher who had helped make it possible.

The year after their arrival, Hallet and Augustine greeted another baby — Richard Rathbun, born March 14, 1896.

(continued on page 8)



Hallet Rathbun and his family in a picture taken in 1896, the year after they moved to Georgia. From the left are Melinda, Hallet, Beulah, John (standing behind his father), Conrad, Margaret, Augustine, holding baby Richard, and Blanche. Both Beulah and Richard died later that year.

(continued from page 7)

But Hallet had not seen the last of the bad luck which had plagued him for so many years.

One day in 1896, Hallet was clearing some of his land, and had set fire to several large tree stumps. Three-year-old Beulah, playing nearby, wandered too close to the flames, and her clothing caught fire. She burned to death in minutes despite the frantic efforts of her horrified father.

That same year, little Richard contracted diphtheria, the dread disease which had taken two of their children's lives in Wisconsin. The baby died in a few days.

Then Catherine's husband fell ill, and his doctor recommended he return to Wisconsin. Catherine, whose mind had been affected by the scarlet fever 10 years earlier, suffered a complete mental breakdown. Hallet and Augustine cared for her as best they could in the midst of their own grief.

In 1899 or 1900, Augustine developed a severe cough, which her doctor diagnosed as tuberculosis. It was a sentence of death in those days. She died October 8, 1901, leaving Hallet again a widower, this time with five small children still at home, as well as the mentally stricken Catherine.

Hallet was determined to raise the children, but he could not cope with Catherine. He reluctantly had her committed to a mental hospital, where she was to spend the rest of her days.

It is a measure of Hallet Rathbun's faith and indomitable spirit that he was able to survive those tortured years.

But finally, his luck seemed to change. The rest of his life was spent in relative peace and happiness, surrounded by his loving children and a growing circle of devoted grandchildren.

Hallet became a successful and prosperous farmer, growing corn, cotton, oats, rye, peanuts, potatoes, sugar cane, melons and all sorts of fruit and vegetables. He raised large herds of cattle both for beef and for milk and butter. He had hives of honey bees, and groves of fruit orchards.

Every fall, when the harvest was over, Hallet returned to Wisconsin to visit his three married daughters there, and his brothers and sisters. To the end of his



Hallet Rathbun's five oldest daughters, pictured on his 50th birthday in 1891 — front, from left, Anna, Katherine and Augustine. In back are Laura, at left, and Lucinda.

life, he was a devoted and dedicated family man.

Finally, in 1922, at the age of 81, Hallet decided he was too old to keep up the farm. He sold the property, and bought a home in the city of Fitzgerald, where he lived with his daughter, Blanche Carter, and her family.

Three years later, after a few days' illness, Hallet Rathbun died at the age of 84, on October 12, 1925. He was survived by nine of his 15 children, and by

37 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

His daughter Blanche, with whom he had lived for three years, maintained his room exactly as he had left it, with his cherished mementos — his Civil War uniform and musket, and pictures of his three wives, his children, and his grandchildren. She cleaned the room once a week, and allowed no one to enter it. She kept the room that way until she had to sell the house in her old age, and move into a nursing home. She died in 1970, aged 79, the last survivor of Hallet's children.

Among his older surviving grandchildren today, Hallet is still remembered vividly as a kind and thoughtful man, with twinkling eyes and a ready smile.

Alice Wiley, a daughter of Blanche, recalls:

"Granddaddy died on my 16th birthday, and I was heartbroken. When my daughter was born on Granddaddy's birthday, June 7, I named her Hallet in his memory."

Other grandchildren who are members of our Association include Susie Carter Baston, Reba Reeves, Dixie Lee Fountain, Annie Laura Paulk and Augustine (Gustia) Harrell.

Special thanks are due to Susie, Reba and Alice, who provided most of the pictures and information which made this story possible. Thanks also to Rosma Limbeck, a great-grandniece of Hallet, who located the early picture of Hallet in a regimental history book.

More on Lincoln

In earlier issues, we have commented on the many strange connections between Abraham Lincoln and members of our family. We have found another. When Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address, a Rathbone in-law was seated on the speakers' platform a few feet away. He was George A. Benedict, editor of the Cleveland Herald newspaper. At the end of Lincoln's short talk, Benedict turned to another reporter and commented, "That man is the salt of the earth." Benedict, who died in 1876, was married to Sarah Frances Rathbone (1815-1902), a daughter of Amos⁵ Rathbun (Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

'Freeman' Defined

A number of members have asked the meaning of the term, "freeman," as it was used in the Eighteenth Century. Most of our ancestors were "admitted freeman" in one town or another. In Rhode Island, and with similar rules in other states, a man could be admitted as freeman, with the right to vote, when he reached the age of 21 and owned property with a rental value of 30 pounds a year, or more. This basically limited the franchise to men who had farms or small businesses. The "admission" was made by vote at a town meeting. The list of freemen was sent each year to the colonial legislature, which ordinarily approved each man as a freeman of the colony.

(continued from page 5)

The news reached Burning Springs late in 1859, and struck a responsive chord with Cass Rathbone. He remembered how his early salt well had failed because there was so much oil in the water. In April 1860, with several partners, he began drilling a new well on the family's land along the Kanawha River. In July, at a depth of 303 feet, they struck oil, which spouted out at the rate of over 1,000 barrels a day!

It was the second successful well in history drilled solely for oil, and although the original "gusher" slowed down, it continued producing 100 barrels a day for the next four months and was known as "Rathbone's Flowing Well."

Cass Rathbone, his family and partners, were jubilant. The whole town joined that first night in a wild celebration which lasted until early the next morning.

Happy though he was, Cass hardly realized what he had started, both for himself, the community and the Rathbone family.

(to be continued)

(We thank several cousins for helping gather information on the early West Virginia Rathbones — Helen (Rathbone) Layman, a descendant, and Rob Rathbun, Kathy Phillips, Mildred Rathburn, Rev. Ray Martin and Mary Pearl Whitman).

In our January 1989 issue, we had a story on Judge Elmer J. Rathbun of Rhode Island. We can add a few items to that story. He was a grandmaster in the Masonic Order, and a member of the highly regarded Kentish Guards. In his will, he left a substantial trust fund to his wife for her lifetime, and at her death, the following bequests: \$5,000 to Boston University; \$5,000 to the Roger Williams General Hospital; \$5,000 to the Rhode Island Hospital, and \$1,000 to the Rhode Island Historical Society, with the balance going to Brown University. The money for the universities was to be used to establish scholarship funds. He also left smaller amounts to several relatives. Our thanks to Frank E. Rathbun.

Some Early Cousins Couldn't See Future in Oil Business

Several other early cousins were early participants in the development of the oil industry, but none had the foresight, or the luck, of the West Virginia Rathbones.

Amos Rathbun (1800-1847), the son of Amos⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), was an itinerant doctor in Erie County, Pennsylvania, who used what he called "kerosene oil" in treating his patients for colds and throat troubles. He produced his oil by skimming it from pond surfaces.

His son, Albert Rouse Rathbun (later Rathbone), was familiar with his father's use of oil, and when the Titusville oil boom was at its peak in 1865, Albert went to Titusville and purchased shares in an oil-drilling company.

Within a few months, he decided there was no future in the oil industry, sold his shares, and moved to Wisconsin.

Benjamin Kniffin Rathbun (1833-1868) was the son of Charles⁶ Rathbun (Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua² John²⁻¹). He went to the Pennsylvania oil fields early in the 1860s, and settled at the new town of Oil City. He purchased land and invested in oil-drilling operations. He was one of the original proprietors of the Oil City Petroleum and Bridge Company, one of the area's largest.

In 1865, he convinced his younger brother, Hugo, to come to the oil fields. Hugo remained several months, working with his brother, but he finally decided there was no future in the oil business and returned to Michigan.

By 1868, Benjamin had made a lot of money and decided to visit his family in Michigan. Walking with his father along the banks of Plaster Creek on the family farm near Grand Rapids, Benjamin looked out over the valley and told his father, "I think there's oil here."

He then offered to buy the farm, reached into his pocket, and pulled out a wad of bills.

"Here's \$69,000," he told his amazed father. "I'll give it to you for the farm." The older Rathbun turned down the offer, and Benjamin left the next day to visit his sister, Elizabeth Gibbs, in Greenville, Mich. While there, he fell ill and died on June 16. The cause of death was officially listed as "brain fever," but family tradition says he was a heavy drinker and actually died of the "DT's."

The family was unable to locate anyone who knew anything at all about his investments in Pennsylvania.

The story had a sequel 72 years later. The Michigan farm was inherited by Benjamin's nephew, Charles Benjamin Rathbun (1870-1956), who had heard his father, Hugo, tell the story of "Uncle Ben."

In the late 1930s, oil was discovered in central Michigan, and Charles Rathbun decided that maybe Uncle Ben had been right. He obtained oil leases from his neighbors, and on April 6, 1940, a crew began drilling on the Rathbun farm.

On June 2, they gave up, after going down more than 2,500 feet. Rathbun wrote in his journal: "Started oil well April 6. Finished June 2. Went down 2,503 feet. Plenty of salt water, plenty of expenses and plenty of trouble, but no oil. But I still think there is oil here."

He died in 1956, still convinced that he would have struck oil if the drillers had only gone deeper.

Correction

Emma B. Rathbun, listed as a daughter of Lucius⁶ Rathbun (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) in our July 1986 issue (Page 44), was actually a granddaughter. Her mother was Emeretta, the oldest daughter of Lucius and his first wife. The mistake was printed in Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy, and your editor discovered it during research for our story on Lucius, which appeared in our April issue.

Distraught Teen-Age Son Kills Association Member and Self

One of our Association members was shot to death October 5 by his mentally disturbed son, who then committed suicide by burning down the family home.

Victims of the tragedy were Ronald James Corkins, 54, and his youngest son, Leslie James Corkins, 19, both of Arvada, Colorado.

Ronald's sister, Joyce Campbell, who recently joined our Association, told us of the sad story, and sent us newspaper clippings and other details.

Young Leslie had lived for some time with his father, who was divorced from his wife, Doris, 15 years ago. In 1988, Leslie enrolled at the University of Colorado, but had difficulty adjusting to college and moved back with his father last year.

He apparently developed a severe paranoia, and became convinced that he was being followed by CIA and FBI agents. Ronald told friends that he was becoming more and more worried about his son, and tried to persuade him to enter counseling. He even made an appointment with a therapist for him, but the boy refused to go.

The father repeatedly tried to talk with Leslie, but the youth would not respond, and often locked himself in his basement apartment where he spent hours with his computer.

The tragic tale came to its violent end early in the morning of October 5. Ronald was apparently eating breakfast when his son called to him from the basement apartment. The father went down stairs, and as he reached the door of his son's room, Leslie fired three shots through the door. He then came out and fired five more shots into his father's body.

A short time later, police believe, he set fire to the house and deliberately died in the flames. His death was listed as suicide.

Joyce Campbell said her nephew was not involved with drugs, but apparently suffered a complete nervous breakdown.

"Les had a genius IQ and was extremely talented with computers," she

wrote. "Ron just lived for his boys, and was such a good father. It has been a living nightmare for me and my mother.

Ronald was the son of Gerald and LaVon (Flick) Corkins, and grandson of Homer Corkins and Martha Lavina⁸ Rathbun (Alvin⁷ Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). In addition to his mother and sister, he is survived by another son, Kenneth, now serving with the Air Force in Germany.

Ronald joined our Association early last year, after learning of us through a cousin. He wrote that he was "thrilled and delighted" to learn of his family heritage.

One of our early cousins was given the unusual choice more than 100 years ago of keeping her Rathbun name or inheriting \$56,000. She "solved" the problem by taking the money and also keeping the Rathbun name.

Sarah Elizabeth Rathbun, who faced this strange situation, was born Dec. 3, 1847, in Haddam, Conn., the daughter of Norris W. Rathbun and Louisa Luna (Swan) Rathbun.

Sarah, who never married, was a favorite of her uncle Daniel Swan, her mother's brother. When Swan died in 1879, he made Sarah executrix of his will and left her \$56,000 on condition that she change her name from Rathbun to Swan. Sarah was also given \$5,000 to care for any of her other aunts or uncles who might need help during their lifetimes.

Sarah did take care of her uncles and aunts during their lives. Sarah also took and spent most of the \$56,000, but she never did change her name.

The strange story was not discovered until after Sarah's death on July 9, 1926. In her bank vault was found a copy of Swan's will, and in a bank account was the original \$5,000 (swollen by interest to \$12,000), which she had never touched. Any help she had given the uncles and aunts had apparently come from the \$56,000.

Year Bought Mix of Good, Bad News for These Cousins

The year 1989 was a time of mixed tragedy and blessings for the family of our members Earl and Marge Rathbun of Ceres, California. Earl is the son of Carl Joseph⁹ Rathbun (Porter⁸ John⁷⁻⁶ Robert⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

On February 14, Earl's brother, Clarence Anthony Rathbun, died at age 63 of cancer, in California. Then on July 13, another brother, Alfred, 79, died of cancer in Texas.

On March 2, Earl's niece, Lena Marie (Rathbun) Chanove, died in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, aged 44, of myotonia dystrophy, a disease which has affected at least 10 members of this branch of our family. Lena was the daughter of Earl's brother, Jack, who was killed in World War II.

Happier news was reported by Earl's sister, Elva (Rathbun) Gooch. Elva's daughter, Mari L. Bauhofer, had twins born on January 27 — Christian Joseph and Hannah Marie. On Feb. 4, Elva's daughter Sandra was married to Robert Duckmanton, and the newlyweds moved to Australia.

On August 19, Elva's granddaughter, Deborah Bateman (daughter of Diane), was married to Joseph Frank Felice at Mission San Juan Batista, California.

Although little is known of the houses built by our early ancestors on Block Island, the old records do give a few clues. In 1679, John Williams leased land to Thomas Mitchell, with a provision that Mitchell erect "a frame house twenty-five feet long and sixteen feet wide, with twelve-foot studs and a good stone chimney," for which Williams was to pay him 40 pounds. In 1684, Dr. John Rodman leased land to John and William Dodge, and promised to build a house 16 by 16 feet for them.

This gives us some idea of house sizes and cost, although it is likely that most of the better-off residents had somewhat larger homes.

Thanks!

WE THANK the following members who have sent in family data, clippings, pictures and other materials: Robert L. Rathbun, Marge and Earl Rathbun, Larry Trask, Lauren Landis, John Bowen, Darleen Boyle, Ray Martin, Rob Rathbun, Mildred Rathburn, Aileen Brewer, Ruth Rathbun, Robert B. Rathbun, Keith M. Rathbone, Fred C. Rathbun, Bill Hosking, Mary Van Epps, Helen Layman, Dr. Donald Rathbun, David E. Rathbun, Jane Wyckoff, Beverly Gillette, Jan Herbert, Betty Angelini, Jan Stewart, Elwin and Ellen Kenyon, Howard Rathbun, Bill Lieuellen, Betty Winterland, Edith Leppla, Claire Cornell, Richard N. Rathbun, Ethyl N. Grady, Howard M. Rathbun, Dr. Earl Antes, Anna Angelini, Frank E. Rathbun, Mary Pearl Whitman, Arline Cox, Alice Phillips, Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun, Janet and Grove Rathbun, Jerry and Sandra Rathbun, Eugene W. Rathbone, Ronald L. Rathbun, Marge Esmay, George and Roy Rathbun, Russell G. Rathbun and Doris Stoppa.

SELENA RATHBURN of Fitzgerald, Georgia, has been nominated for the second year for Who's Who Among American High School Students. Selena, who graduated in June from Fitzgerald High, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry¹¹ Rathbun (John¹⁰⁻⁹⁻⁸ Hallet⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

DEBORAH JEAN (RATHBUN) SMITH and Michael Peter Miller were married April 22, 1989, in Peacedale, Rhode Island. Deborah is the daughter of our member Donald Rathbun, and granddaughter of Dorothy and the late Elmer⁹ Rathbun (Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund⁵ Rathbone (Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), is probably the Betsey Rathbone who married Benjamin Pearson on Feb. 12, 1823, in Lawrence County, Ill. She did not marry Jonathan Conger as we had theorized in our April 1983 issue, on page 28.



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The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.
proudly presents this
Official Certificate of Registration
in
THE AMERICAN IMMIGRANT WALL OF HONOR
to officially certify that
JOHN RATHBUN
who came to America from
ENGLAND
is among those courageous men and women who came to this country in search of personal freedom, economic opportunity and a future of hope for their families.



Lee A. Iacocca
The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island
Foundation, Inc.



Certificate of registration that our ancestor John Rathbun came to America from England. It was issued by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. Our thanks to Howard and Hooter Colborn.

Financial Statement

1989 Income

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Memberships (566 @ \$15) | \$8,490 |
| Sale of Past Historians | 2,043 |
| Reunion Surplus | 187 |
| Late Renewal Fees | 195 |
| Advance Dues | 120 |
| Total | \$11,035 |

1989 Expenses

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Printing of Historian | \$4,718 |
| Computer Mailing Costs | 2,300 |
| Postage | 409 |
| Stationery & Supplies | 269 |
| Research | 384 |
| Telephone | 214 |
| New Printer | 309 |
| Pictures | 141 |
| Miscellaneous | 13 |
| Total | \$8,757 |
| Carryover from 1988 | 608 |
| Balance on Hand | \$2,786 |

In our October obituary column, we listed the home of Shirley (Mrs. Harley) Rathbun as Belle Fourche, S.D. Her home was in Hulett, Wyoming. Our thanks to Jan Rathbun.

In our October issue, page 62, we reported that Mary Weed, wife of Edward⁷ Rathbun (William⁶ Robert⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), was the daughter of William and Polly (Chamberlain) Reed (Reed was a typographical error; the family name was Weed). Our thanks to Dr. Earl Antes.

John⁴ Rathbun (Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), was born in 1773, not about 1761 as we speculated in our April 1984 issue, on page 30. His mother, Hannah, was born in 1737, not 1734, as reported in our July 1982 Historian, page 44. She was the daughter of Robert Eldridge and Hannah³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹). Our thanks to Frank E. Rathbun.

Amos Rathbun, son of Amos⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), died Feb. 9, 1848, in Wattsburg, Pa., not Feb. 10, 1847, as reported in Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy. Also, his daughter Harriet married Thomas Jefferson Williams. Our thanks to Jay Peterson, a descendant of Amos, who found the correct date and Williams' name in Erie County, Pa., probate records.

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

240. NATHAN DAWLEY⁶ RATHBUN (John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born April 2, 1797, in North Kingstown, R.I. He was married about 1822 to Martha Taylor Adams, born March 4, 1804, daughter of Ebenezer and Mercy (Rose) Adams. They lived in Exeter for a short time, then returned to North Kingstown where Martha died Jan. 29, 1860. He was married three months later, on April 8, 1860, to Martha (Congdon) Hazard, born Jan. 5, 1805, daughter of George and Elizabeth Congdon, and widow of Rodman Hazard. Nathan died Oct. 11, 1868, and his second wife died August 24, 1880, both at North Kingstown.

CHILDREN

All by Martha Adams

SON, unnamed; born and died August 29, 1823.

MERCY ANN, born Oct. 7, 1824; married Arnold Congdon on Nov. 8, 1846.

JOHN ADAMS, born April 16, 1827; married Mary A. Hazard.

ABIGAIL FRANCES, born Sept. 15, 1830; married John R.C. Eldred.

SARAH S., born Feb. 11, 1832; married Jared S. Miner in 1851.

ROBERT REYNOLDS, born Sept. 8, 1835; married Abigail F. Reynolds.

MARTIN VAN BUREN, born March 4, 1837; married Sarah Lewis.

WILLIAM BARTON, born June 20, 1839; married Minerva Greene.

GEORGE SMITH, born Sept. 12, 1841; married Amy Sherman.

THOMAS WILSON DORR, born Feb. 8, 1844; married Hannah D. Lewis.

LORENZO DOW, born Aug. 24, 1846; married Roxanna Simmons.

241. ROBERT⁶ RATHBUN (John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born Dec. 9, 1799, in North Kingstown, and married there about 1831 Abigail Brown, born March 10, 1814, daughter of James Eldred and Waity B. Brown. He was a

farmer and part-time peddler. They moved to East Greenwich, where he died May 22, 1874, and Abigail on Feb. 10, 1879.

CHILDREN

NATHAN, born Oct. 13, 1832; married Mary Whitford.

HANNAH, born June 20, 1834; married (1) Edward LaValley, and (2) Oliver Dowd.

JOHN E., born March 9, 1836; married (1) Evelyn Spencer; (2) Lydia Ann (Noyes) Congdon, and (3) Evangeline Kenyon.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, born August 20, 1838; married Alice Spencer.

MARY JANE, born March 21, 1840; married Oliver Dowd on Oct. 2, 1859. She died May 29, 1863, and he then married her sister, Hannah.

WILLIAM C., born March 5, 1842; married Lucetta Potter.

AMANDA F., born August 1, 1843; married William Arthur Stone.

JEREMIAH, born March 5, 1845; he enlisted in the Army during the Civil War, was captured, and died in Andersonville Prison on August 29, 1864.

JAMES W., born Oct. 11, 1846; married Melissa Drusilla Capwell.

242. OLNEY⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born May 26, 1799, in Foster, R.I. He was married about 1820 to Celinda Davis, born Nov. 28, 1800, daughter of James and Amy Davis. They lived at Scituate, R.I., where he died Oct. 13, 1880, and Celinda on Sept. 7, 1885.

CHILDREN

LAURA M., born June 1, 1821; married Allen Austin on July 4, 1838.

AMY A., born June 10, 1825; married Stephen Olney on Jan. 12, 1860.

EMERALD ASA, born July 4, 1830; married (1) Martha Walker, and (2) her sister, Angeline Walker.

CHARLES OLNEY, born Oct. 30, 1832; died Dec. 1, 1896, unmarried.

GEORGE W., born April 18, 1835; married Matilda Tyler.

243. AMBROSE⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born Nov. 18, 1804, at Foster, R.I. He was married about 1830 to Lucinda Davis, born April 11, 1805, daughter of James and Amy Davis. They lived for some years at Foster, then moved to Scituate, R.I., where Ambrose died Oct. 30, 1858, and Lucinda on Oct. 19, 1895.

CHILDREN

WILLIAM H.A., born June 1, 1831; died August 18, 1832.

MELISSA, born Jan. 17, 1834; died May 4, 1879, unmarried.

ANNE MARIE, born about 1840; married Joseph B. Rounds.

ANGELINE, born in July 1846; married Frank Dexter.

244. SAMUEL CARR⁶ RATHBUN (Charles⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born August 8, 1804, at Whitehall, N.Y., and married there on Feb. 14, 1828, Hannah Grover, born April 23, 1811, parentage unknown. They moved in the 1830s to Cayuga County, N.Y., first settling in Conquest, then at Brutus, where Samuel died April 16, 1873, and Hannah on Jan. 9, 1896.

CHILDREN

MARY, born May 5, 1829; married George Hayden on Nov. 10, 1872.

SARAH JANE, born Nov. 20, 1831; married George Wright April 14, 1849.

L. EVELINE, born Feb. 3, 1838; she went to the Far East as a missionary, serving in India and then in Burma, where she died Oct. 5, 1888.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS, born April 25, 1840; married Eliza Taylor.

245. ANTHONY⁶ RATHBUN (Charles⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born Sept. 22, 1808, at North Granville, N.Y. He was married there on Nov. 9, 1827, to Malinda Kingsley, born Feb. 12, 1812, daughter of John and Rebecca (Turner or Warner) Kingsley. They moved to nearby Whitehall, where Malinda died April 12, 1890, and Anthony on March 18, 1893, aged 85, after being both blind and deaf for several years.

CHILDREN

ISAAC, born June 2, 1832; died August 11, 1838 or 1858.

SARAH JANE, born June 1, 1833; married James A. Wilson on March 28, 1850.

ELIZABETH, born June 14, 1835; married (1) David Ryder, and (2) Robert Carlton.

SAMUEL C., born May 10, 1836; died June 27, 1852.

JULIE MELISSA, born April 26, 1838; died July 23, 1854.

LYDIA ANN, born March 21, 1840; died young.

WILLIAM HENRY, born June 22, 1841; married (1) Marietta Cook, and (2) Elizabeth Cozzens.

GEORGE ALONZO, born Oct. 13, 1842; married Josephine Mason.

JOHN T., born May 20, 1845; died May 13, 1846.

CHARLES ARTHUR, born Nov. 7, 1847; married Mary Bartholomew.

TYLER LEROY, born July 26, 1849; died in 1885, unmarried.

ADELIN FRANCELIA, born May 19, 1851; married Isaac Wood in 1873.

JULIA ADELAIDE, born Dec. 28, 1854; married a Faxon.

CHILD

?MARY, born about 1860; no further information.

247. STEPHEN C.⁶ RATHBUN (Charles⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born Nov. 24, 1816, at Fort Ann, N.Y. He moved to Michigan as a young man and was married by 1843, possibly in Detroit, to Mary Jane Wray, born August 30, 1821, daughter of Garret Wray. They were living in Detroit in 1844, when they were members of the Central Methodist Church there. They were back in Fort Ann by 1850, and by 1860 were living at nearby Whitehall. A Stephen C. Rathbun, probably him, was a farmer at Mt. Vision, Otsego County, N.Y., in 1872. He died April 1, 1887, according to Cooley, place not known. Mary Jane died March 3, 1893, and is buried at North Granville, N.Y.

CHILD

STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER, born in June 1844; married Marion Kingsley.

248. JOSEPH⁶ RATHBUN (Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born about 1810 at Stephentown, N.Y., and was married about 1831 to Melissa Bruce, born about 1812, daughter of ?Moses Bruce. They moved to Oppenheim, Fulton County, N.Y., where he died between 1845 and 1850. Melissa was married again, sometime after 1857, to Peter Bovee, and moved to Johnstown, N.Y., where she died July 14, 1879.

CHILDREN

SAMUEL, born August 23, 1832; married Eliza Ann Curtis.

JOHN HIRAM, born August 18, 1833; married Mary Nash.

MARY, born about 1841; alive in 1860; no further information.

CHRISTIANN (or Christine Anna), born about 1845; married Henry Shaw.

THREE OTHERS, names unknown; died young.

249. BENJAMIN⁶ RATHBUN (Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born June 10, 1814, in Stephentown,

N.Y. He was married January 1, 1840, to Elizabeth Cutter (or Cutler), born about 1812, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Washburn) Cutter or Cutler. They lived at Whitehall, N.Y., where she died May 10, 1831. He was married the following year to her cousin, Lydia, surname unknown. They moved soon after their marriage to Bond County, Illinois, where Benjamin died on Nov. 21, 1855, according to Cooley, who also says he was buried in Vermont, which is most unlikely. Lydia was married probably the following year to (?John) Davis, by whom she had at least one child, Benjamin Franklin Davis, born Jan. 6, 1857. She died Jan. 2, 1863, in Bond County.

CHILDREN

DORCAS, born Jan. 17, 1841; married Matthias Brown on Nov. 8, 1859.

MARY ELIZABETH, born April 30, 1843; married John Baldt in 1862.

JAMES REUBEN, born Nov. 22, 1844; married Mary Geiss.

HARRIET AMELIA, born March 8, 1848; married Samuel Brown on Oct. 4, 1877.

SAMUEL, born June 6, 1850; married Annie Quatier.

250. ELIJAH BROWN⁶ RATHBUN (Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born June 4, 1815, at Stephentown, N.Y., and married about 1838 Louisa Hunt, born about 1817, daughter of Gilbert and Sarah Hunt. She died on Nov. 14, 1842, five days after childbirth, and Elijah was married a year later, on Nov. 9, 1843, in Whitehall, N.Y., to his cousin Abigail Maria Rathbun, born March 16, 1811, daughter of Charles⁵ Rathbun (Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). They lived at Fort Ann, where he died of cancer on April 11, 1867. Abigail died March 28, 1899. She provided John C. Cooley with much information for his 1898 Rathbone Genealogy.

CHILDREN

By Louisa

MARY LOUISA, born August 25, 1839; married Frederick Archer on Nov. 27, 1861.

ELIJAH AUGUSTUS, born Nov. 9, 1842; married Betsey Chamberlain.

(continued on page 14)

246. PETER J.⁶ RATHBUN (Charles⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born January 28, 1820, in Fort Ann, N.Y., and was married, date and place unknown, to Mary _____. They moved in the 1840s to Michigan, and were recorded in the 1850 census at Noble, in Branch County. He died there on Nov. 16, 1873. Mary was living as late as 1893, but her death date is not known. He reportedly left no children, but a Mary Rathbun, aged 10, was living with Peter and Mary in 1870, and was presumably their daughter.

(continued from page 13)

By Abigail

MARTHA JANE, born June 2, 1845; married James Henry Crandall on June 4, 1864.

SAMUEL EDGAR, born Sept. 2, 1847; married Armenia Granger.

CHARLES EDWIN, born April 10, 1849; died Sept. 30, 1860.

251. JOSEPH ANTHONY⁶ RATHBUN (Benjamin⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born July 26, 1822, in North Kingstown, R.I., and later moved to Smithfield. He was married August 28, 1842, in North Providence, to Lucy Audrey Woodward, born May 5, 1822, parentage unknown. They lived in North Kingstown, where Joseph died Nov. 22, 1855, at the age of 32. Lucy was married in 1860 to John Brown, and died Dec. 22, 1894.

CHILDREN

MARY ANGELINE, born Dec. 14, 1843; married William H. Johnson.

JOSEPH ALPHONZO, born Oct. 2, 1847; died April 1, 1848.

LAURESTON A., born April 20, 1850; married Phoebe Phillips.

JOSEPH ALPHONZO, born Dec. 6, 1854; married Irene C. Caswell.

See Corrections 12-2 P 30

252. ALBERT C.G.⁶ RATHBUN (Benjamin⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born August 24, 1824, in North Kingstown, R.I. He was married about 1845 to **Martha Hines**, born May 7, 1823, daughter of Wanton and Susan Hines. She died on June 17, 1851, and he was married a few years later to her sister, **Susan C. Hines**, born July 29, 1833. She died April 25, 1864, and he was married about a year later to Clarissa Esther Phillips, born July 20, 1829, daughter of Nathan and Sarah (or Clara) Phillips. Albert moved in the 1850s to Lyme, Conn., and died there on March 6, 1907. He was described as a "skinner" in the 1850 census, and as a "manufacturer of woollen goods" in 1860. In the 1870s, he went into the shipping business, and was part owner of several ships sailing out of Lyme. Clarissa died April 30, 1912, at Warwick, R.I.

CHILDREN

By Martha

BENJAMIN ALBERT, born Oct. 13, 1845; married Elizabeth Jewett.

By Susan

AMELIA, born in 1855; died March 17, 1873, unmarried.

MINNIE O., born July 25, 1858; married Charles Reynolds.

253. THOMAS S.⁶ RATHBUN (Anthony⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born June 11, 1821, in North Kingstown, R.I. He moved as a young man to New York and settled at Milo in Yates County, where he was called a carpenter in 1860. He was married by 1851 to Wilhelmina Davis, born in January 1825, daughter of John and Rachel Davis. Thomas died at Milo on Feb. 11, 1890. Wilhelmina died there May 6, 1903.

CHILDREN

WILHELMINA, born in 1854; died March 24, 1856.

GRACE, born in Dec. 1857; married _____ Simmons.

254. ROBERT⁶ RATHBUN (Samuel⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born in April 1804 in South Kingstown, R.I., and married there Jan. 24, 1833, Eliza Jane Knowles, born July 13, 1809, daughter of Jeremiah N. and Abigail (Tourgee) Knowles. He was described as a clothier in the 1850 census. He died at South Kingstown on Oct. 2, 1873, and Eliza died there March 1, 1897.

CHILDREN

SARAH ABIGAIL, born in 1833; married William M. Hathaway on Dec. 25, 1859.

JEREMIAH KNOWLES, born June 18, 1835; married Abbie E. Holland.

MARY ELIZA, born Jan. 24, 1843; died Aug. 28, 1863.

JULIA ANN, born May 11, 1847; died Sept. 18, 1863.

EMMA E., born Jan. 18, 1851; died August 28, 1863. (Since Mary and Emma died the same day, and Julia three

weeks later, it would appear that they died in some type of epidemic, possibly typhoid or cholera).

255. NORMAN⁶ RATHBUN (John⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born July 12, 1805, at Berlin, N.Y., and was married there about 1829 to Emily D. Babcock, born Sept. 12, 1811, parentage unknown. They lived all their lives in the Berlin area. Emily died Feb. 13, 1882, and Norman on May 15, 1897.

CHILDREN

JOHN THOMAS, born in April 1830; married Elizabeth P. Burdick.

ROGER, born July 27, 1833; died young.

ORLOW HOWARD, born Feb. 22, 1838; married Ida M. Ellsworth.

NORMAN ORLANDO, born June 7, 1841; married Diana Wightman.

PHOEBE SOPHRONA, born April 16, 1843; married Charles M. Sanders.

HENRY BARBER, born Aug. 25, 1845; married Clarissa M. Dymond.

GEORGE R., born March 15, 1848; died August 31, 1849.

256. JOHN B.⁶ RATHBUN (John⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born about 1810, at Berlin, N.Y., and married there in the 1830s to Ruth Smith, born about 1816, parentage unknown. They moved by 1850 to Bustie, Chautauqua County, N.Y., and by 1860 to Tuscola County, Michigan. They may also have lived for a few years in Ohio. Ruth was called "insane" in the 1850 census, and at least two of their children were living with relatives in Berlin, N.Y., in the 1850s. The family was together again in later years. Both John and Ruth were still living in Michigan in 1880. Their death dates are not known.

CHILDREN

ROGER, born about 1839; married Ann Read.

HIRAM, born about 1841; probably the Hiram Rathbun living in Hancock County, Ohio, in 1900.

CHARLES, born in Feb. 1843/5; married Ann M. _____.

RUTH, born about 1848; married Albert Halsey Crandall in 1868.

Obituaries

DIED — September 29, 1989, Neva Dolores (Rathburn) Collman, 88, of Norwalk, Ohio. She was the youngest and last surviving child of James Henry⁸ Rathburn (Judson⁷ John⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). Her husband, Herman J. Collman, died in 1964. She is survived by two nephews and four nieces, including our member, Helen Landis.

DIED — Sept. 27, 1989, Mary Emily (Davis) Rathbun, 89, at Pawcatuck, Conn. She was the widow of Clifford⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ Asher⁷ Christopher⁶ Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), who died in 1983. She is survived by a daughter, Doris Stoppa, a member of our Association; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, and a foster sister.

DIED — July 8, 1989, Hartley Edward Rathbun, 67, of Strawberry Point, Iowa. He was the son of Charles⁸ Rathbun (Bradshaw⁷ Thomas⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹). Survivors include two daughters, Shelba Montes and Pamela Rathbun; six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a brother, Lawrence Rathbun. His wife, Luella, died in 1977. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

DIED — Nov. 8, 1989, Alice Gertrude (Rathbun) Schmitz, 87, of Oak Lawn, Illinois. A charter member of our Association, she was the daughter and last surviving child of Jesse⁸ Rathbun (William⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Her husband, Joseph Schmitz, died 15 years ago. Her only child died as a young girl, and there are no immediate survivors.

DIED — October 8, 1989, Henry Miller, 94, of Littleton, Colo. He was the father of our member Betty (Miller) Rathbun, wife of Bobby Dale¹⁰ Rathbun (Melancthon⁹ George⁸ Rowland⁷ Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹). Other survivors include two other daughters; a son; 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

DIED — October 31, 1989, Lucille (Roberts) Rathbun, 87, widow of Robert Lester¹⁰ Rathbun (Leonard⁹ Saxton⁸⁻⁷ Chaplin⁶ Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). She is survived by a son, Donald L. Rathbun, a member of our Association; three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

DIED — May 18, 1989, James Rathbun Esmay, 51, of Rockwell City, Iowa. He was the son of our member, Marge (Rathbun) Esmay, and grandson of Frederick Noble⁸ Rathbun (Edward⁷ Charles⁶ Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Donna; a son, David James Esmay, and daughter, Elisa Rae Esmay; a sister, Glenna Dean Sharp, and a brother, Frederick C. Esmay.

People

WAYNE W. WINTERLAND JR. and Carol R. Thacker were married September 23, 1989, at Oklahoma City, Okl. He is the son of our member, Betty L. Winterland, and grandson of Bertrand⁹ Rathbun (Ross⁸ Francis⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

REV. SCOTT DUFFEY and his wife, Rebecca (Rathbun) Duffey, have moved from Glen Arm, Maryland, to Greensburg, Pa., where he has become pastor of the Greensburg Church of the Brethren. Rebecca is your editor's youngest daughter.

MARGERY FOSS, a member of our Association, has been cited for her work as village historian of Newport, N.Y.; past president of the Mohawk Valley Chapter of the Colonial Dames, and an active member of the Kuyahoora Valley Historical Society. She is a granddaughter of Perry Kimball and Martha⁸ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Births

BORN — March 14, 1989, Jeri Leta Rathbun, daughter of Andrew and Lori Rathbun; granddaughter of our members, Jerry and Sandra Rathbun, and great-granddaughter of our members Louise and Paul⁹ Rathbun (John⁸ Elon⁷ John⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Andrew, a lieutenant in the Air Force, is a jet tanker navigator stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington.

BORN — October 5, 1989, Joseph Allen Rathbun Gilbert, son of George and Joan Darlene (Rathbun) Gilbert, of Farmington, Maine. Joan is the daughter of Allen Harris¹⁰ Rathbun (George⁹ Raymond⁸ Amy⁷ Olney⁶ Joshua⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN — August 9, 1989, Daryn Lee Cox, son of Mark and Sheri Cox of Harisburg, Oregon, and grandson of our members, Merle and Arlene Cox. Merle is the son of Clarence Cox and Jessie Aurelia⁹ Rathbun (Thomas⁸ Alonzo⁷ Thomas⁶ Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹).

BORN — June 28, 1989, Jordan Steven Lane, son of Steven and Katherine (Stewart) Lane, and great-grandson of our member Alice (Cox) Phillips, daughter of Clarence Cox and Jessie Aurelia⁹ Rathbun (Thomas⁸ Alonzo⁷ Thomas⁶ Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹).

BORN — June 6, 1989, Edwin Kyle Disbrow, son of Sharon Lisette Disbrow; grandson of Charles Bryon and Marcia Rathbun, and great-grandson of our members, Robert L. and Gale (Samson) Rathbun. Robert is the son of Charles Raymond⁹ Rathbun/Woodard (Charles⁸ James⁷⁻³ Samuel² John¹).

BORN — August 2, 1989, Chad Richard Streeter, son of Abraham and Shirley Streeter, of Spring Lake Park, Minn., and a great-grandson of Harriet (Rathbun) Cole, daughter of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

People

CHELSEA V. RATHBUN and his wife, Delores (Marrington) Rathbun, of Des Moines, Washington, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on October 23, 1989. They were honored on October 22 with a surprise party by their family and friends. Chelsea is the son of Chelsea⁹ Rathbun (Henry⁸ William⁷ Gideon⁶ Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

REV. WILLIAM AND DOROTHY Rathbun of Des Moines, Iowa, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary June 24, spending several days with their children and grandchildren in a resort park near Park Rapids, Minn. Bill is the son of Elmer⁹ Rathbun (Marshall⁸ George⁷ Edmund⁶ Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He retired last year from his position with the Mid-American Baptist Churches, but is still working part time on financial planning and editing a church publication.

CANDISE RATHBUN and Steven West were married January 6 in Des Moines, Iowa, and have moved to Oak Park, Ill. She is the daughter of Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun (see above).

RANDALL SCOTT RATHBUN and Denise Ann Englert were married September 30, 1989, at Missoula, Montana. He is the son of Larry and Penny Rathbun, and grandson of Leon⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Byron⁷ James⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

RENE (RATHBUN) LUNA and Carl James Holman were married Dec. 17, 1989, at Scarsdale, Arizona. She is the daughter of the late Robert¹⁰ Rathbun (Elmer⁹ Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Her first husband, Tony Luna, died several years ago.

JOHN C. WYCKOFF and Susan Jane Osborne were married Feb. 11, 1989, in Titusville, Florida. He is the son of our members, Roger and Jane Wyckoff. Jane is the daughter of Harry R. Drew and Hazel Florence⁹ Rathbun (William⁸ Valentine⁷ Saxon⁶⁻⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

Our New Members

Daniel Lee Anders
E. Falmouth, Mass.

Joyce L. Campbell
Colorado City, Texas

Irene R. Cusato
Raleigh, N.C.

Franklin A. Dorman
Cambridge, Mass.

Clarice M. Fleharty
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Ethyl Nadine Grady
Tucson, Arizona

Francis Hopper
Scotia, N.Y.

Robert & Susan Hosking
Austin, Texas

Carl H. Jordan
Guilford, Conn.

Molly Ledeboer
Belvue, Kansas

Caroline Jane Newberry
Sun City, Calif.

Roma Lee Pursifull
Redkey, Indiana

Ann Rathbun
San Diego, Calif.

David Rathbun
Carrollton, Texas

Gary Rathbun
San Jose, Calif.

George E. Rathbun
Pawcatuck, Conn.

Jerrold L. Rathbun II
United States Navy

Lee Almon Rathbun
Stamford, Conn.

Richard E. Rathbun
Laramie, Wyo.

Rita Rae Rathbun
El Paso, Texas

Gail R. Snider
Amboy, Wash.

Laurinda Wingate
E. Falmouth, Mass.

JOHN BOWEN has written an excellent paper on techniques for cleaning old marble tombstones for the purpose of transcribing data or making rubbings. If you would like a copy, write to John at 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904.

BORN — Jan. 30, 1989, James Lucas Rathbun, son of Gregory and Angela Rathbun, of Fremont, Ohio, and grandson of Donald and Barbara Rathbun, all members of our Association. Donald is the son of Robert¹⁰ Rathbun (Leonard⁹ Saxton⁸⁻⁷ Chaplin⁶ Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Gregory and Angela live on a farm which has been in the Rathbun family for some 175 years.

HELEN MILTIMORE had two close calls last year. After leaving our Rhode Island reunion, she and her sister decided to visit a niece in South Carolina. They arrived to find that Hurricane Hugo was descending on the area. They cut their vacation short and left just before the storm hit. Back home in San Lorenzo, California, less than a month later, Helen found herself right in the middle of the big earthquake. Luckily, her home suffered only minor damages. She is the daughter of Willard⁸ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

JOHN STEWART RATHBUN and Susan Leanne Campbell were married September 16, 1989, at Dana Point, Calif. John is the son of Dr. Sanford¹⁰ Rathbun (Grove⁹ Heman⁸ Nathaniel⁷ Gideon⁶ Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).