

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
FAMILY
HISTORIAN



Hugo B. Rathbun
(1841-1898)

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

X-11

Letter from the Editor

In my last letter, I asked for members' thoughts on the question of whether to change our Historian format and devote more space to genealogy and less to individual family stories.

Although I only heard from a few dozen members, the response was overwhelmingly against any change.

Only one member favored the change, although another suggested that we increase dues, expand the Historian to 20 pages, and devote the extra four pages to genealogy.

Everyone else who wrote on the matter expressed support for the present format.

Here are a few sample comments:

"We enjoy the family stories and hope you continue to publish them." — Betty and Cliff Drake.

"Your individual stories are most informative. Keep them coming instead of speeding up the genealogy." — Lydia Littlefield.

"I cast my vote in favor of continuing the Historian in the same format that has made our family association one of the most successful in the nation's history." — Bud Parfitt.

"The genealogy section is very interesting . . . however, I hope you continue the individual family stories which make the Rathbuns 'come alive' on your pages." — Clarice Fleharty.

So, it looks as though we will continue the present ratio of stories to genealogy, even though it will probably take us another several years to complete the sixth generation.

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

(703) 278-8512

Frank H. Rathbun
Editor & Publisher

ISSN 0737-7711

ALERT!

As we go to press, I have just learned that a number of members' checks have been lost in the mail. They were sent to our bank on March 1, and never arrived. They were checks received by me in January and February from new members, old members who were late in renewing, and some members who had purchased past issues. If you fall into any of these categories, please look at your check register and see if your check has cleared. If not, it means that your check is among those lost. Please send us a new check for the same amount, and list the old check as void. All the missing checks were endorsed and cannot be cashed by anyone else. The post-office is making an investigation, but there seems little hope they will be found. Your cooperation will be most appreciated.

I am pleased to report that our mailing to delinquent members brought in a flood of renewals, and that our membership roster is now up to 539. That is still 27 short of our record-breaking total of 566 for 1989, but we have a good shot at reaching our goal of 600 by year's end.

The choice of Springfield, Illinois, for next year's national reunion seems to be favored by most members, at least those who have written. Hazel and I may take a trip there later this year to make preliminary plans.

Unfortunately, not much member interest has been shown for our project to obtain a postage stamp honoring Captain John Peck Rathbun. However, Victor Streeter has written a hard-hitting letter to the National Disabled American Veterans (of which he is a life member). In asking that the DAV help in the project, Victor wrote:

"The Post Office Department needs a little pressure from our veterans on this. They like to issue stamps in honor of movie stars who play the part of heroes, but with real heroes it seems easier to bury them and forget them. It is time that

this country starts honoring its heroes. It is time for veterans to raise their voices."

With our large membership, I am finding it more and more difficult to keep up with correspondence. Reluctantly, I have had to give up making individual replies and sending thank-you letters to members who write and send information. My gratitude is expressed in each Historian under the "Thanks" column. I do try to answer all those who write with questions, but if you do not hear back right away, please be patient. You will get an answer eventually.

We have come a long way since those first few years, when we had less than 200 members, and I had time to correspond with each one as the occasion arose. We have grown far beyond my original expectations, and I guess this is the price we must pay for "success."

The 1987-88 indices will be mailed with the July Historian. We did not print the 1989 index, due to cost, but it will be included later with the 1990 index, which Dr. Earl Antes is already in the process of compiling.

Our thanks to Earl for his fine work, and to all of you who keep sending me the material which makes our Historian possible.



Past Issues Still Available

All issues, 1981-1989	\$140
All issues, 1981	22
All issues, 1982	20
All issues, 1983	15
All issues, 1984	15
All issues, 1985	15
All issues, 1986	15
All issues, 1987	15
All issues, 1988	15
All issues, 1989	15

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.

Three New Pictures Found of Early Albany Rathbones

Our Historians of July and October 1988 and June 1989 covered several generations of the prominent Rathbone family of Albany, N.Y., who started a small grocery business in the early 1800s and later operated the world's largest stove foundry.

Members of the family became wealthy and famous, including Albany's first mayor, Jared Lewis Rathbone; Civil War General John Finley Rathbone; Major Henry R. Rathbone, who was with President Abraham Lincoln when he was assassinated; his son, Congressman Henry Riggs Rathbone, and Albert Rathbone, assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department in 1919-20.

We have recently obtained pictures of three other early members of this remarkable family, which appear on this page.

One is of an unusual bronze-relief bust of Joel Rathbone (1806-1863), who launched the family's first stove business in 1827. He retired in 1841 as one of Albany's wealthiest and most prominent citizens.

The bust was made shortly after his death by Erastus Dow Palmer (1817-1904), a famous New York sculptor who specialized in portrait busts.

The bust is now owned by Joel Hall Rathbone, one of our new members, who is a great-great-grandson of the first Joel. Our thanks to Joel and his wife, Nancy Jean, for sharing it with us.

The other pictures, provided by the U.S. Army's Military History Institute, are of Joel's son, Joel Howard Rathbone, and of Jared Lawrence Rathbone, brother of the ill-fated Major Henry R. Rathbone.

Joel Howard Rathbone (1835-1865) enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1858, and served two years as a lieutenant. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Army and was commissioned a captain in the 12th Infantry Regiment. After nearly three years' service, he resigned due to ill health in December 1864 and died the following March 29, aged 29. He never married. The picture must have been taken only a few months before his death.

Jared Lawrence Rathbone (1844-1907), the younger brother of Major Henry, also had a successful military career. He attended the West Point Military Academy during the Civil War, and was graduated and commissioned a second lieutenant in June 1865.

He remained in the Army for seven years, rising to the rank of major by 1872 and served for several years as aide-de-camp to General John S. Schofield.

Rathbone resigned from the Army in 1872, and moved to California, where he developed the famous Palo Alto Ranch on which Stanford University is now located.

In 1887, he was named by President Cleveland as consul-general of the American Embassy in Paris, France, and served four years. He was awarded the French Legion of Honor for "special and brilliant service."

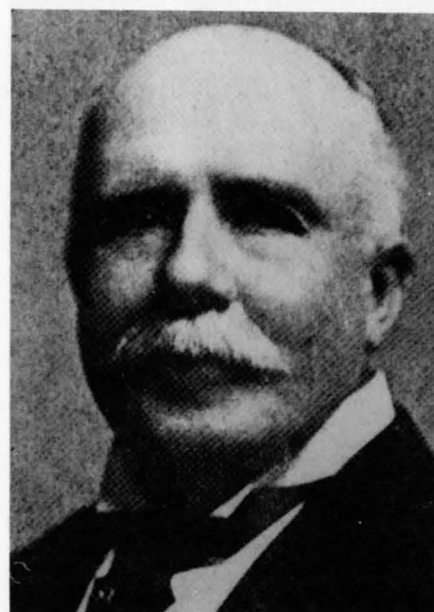
Jared returned to the Army in 1898 at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, and served as a special aide in the Army's Headquarters Division in the Pacific Theatre. He was married in 1871 to Maria Atherton, but had no children.



*Joel Rathbone
(1806-1863)*



*Joel Howard Rathbone
(1835-1865)*



*Jared Lawrence Rathbone
(1844-1907)*

West Virginia Rathbones Grew Rich in Oil Business

In our last issue, we began the story of the West Virginia Rathbones, who drilled the world's second successful oil well in April 1860. The next few years saw the Rathbones expand their operations and become political and business leaders in West Virginia, which was soon split from Virginia to become a separate state.

John Castelli (Cass) Rathbone, oldest son of William Palmer Rathbone, took the lead in the family's oil ventures with his father and younger brother, John Valleau (Val) Rathbone, as active partners.

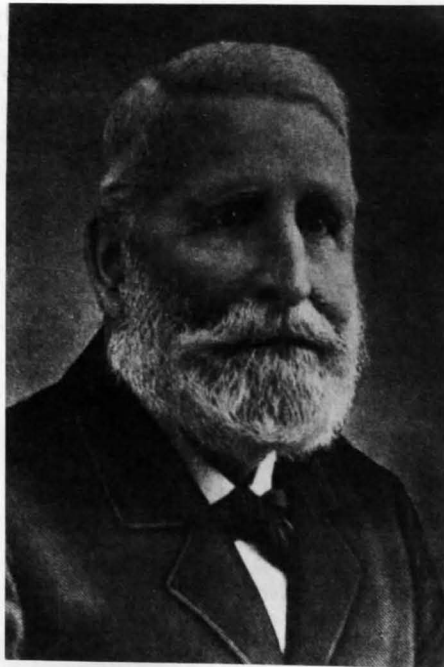
After their successful first well in 1860, the Rathbones drilled a second and then third well, which produced hundreds of barrels of oil a day. Each barrel was worth some \$15. Word of the second and third successful wells spread quickly, and launched what became known as the "Burning Springs Oil Rush." Speculators poured into the area, hoping to get on the ground floor of a financial bonanza.

The Rathbones, who owned 600 acres around their wells in the Little Kanawha Valley, wasted no time in turning the oil rush into a profit. Cass, who was a surveyor, divided the 600 acres into one-acre parcels, which were offered to all comers on a lease basis — for a \$1,000 advance payment, and one-fourth of all the oil produced on the lot. As investors continued to pour into the area, these terms were increased to \$2,000 and a one-third share of the oil.

It was estimated at one point that the Rathbones were making \$10,000 a day!

By the spring of 1861, hundreds of wells had been drilled or were under way.

Many were drilled with manual labor, using a spring-pole technique, but more ambitious drillers brought in steam engines to speed up the process. They knew nothing of geology, and assumed that the oil lay beneath the ground in inexhaustible streams like water. One man drilled 10 wells on his one acre.



*John Valleau Rathbone
(1821-1897)*

The rush of newcomers changed the little village into a major city. Homes, boarding houses, stores, office buildings and warehouses sprang up almost overnight, followed by churches, hotels, saloons, gambling houses and brothels. The new settlers included speculators, engineers, laborers and farmers, but also saloon keepers, gamblers, prostitutes, pickpockets, bandits and gun-slingers. One historian described Burning Springs at that time as a "Sodom of Sin, anointed with oil." The population reached 6,000 by early summer, and kept growing to nearly 15,000.

The Rathbones were at the center of activity. Their sawmill and gristmill were enlarged, another sawmill and then a planing mill were built; their little general store became a large "department store"; they opened a cooperage to make barrels and tanks for the flood of oil, and they even started a private bank to handle the flood of cash which was constantly changing hands.

Val Rathbone, in partnership with Johnson N. Camden, built an oil refinery at Parkersburg, 30 miles up the river, the largest city in the area. The Rathbones added to their fleet of barges, which hauled the crude oil from Burning Springs to the refinery. At that time, petroleum was refined into kerosene, which had become the nation's leading source of lighting.

Meanwhile, however, other events were about to put a sharp damper on Burning Springs' mushrooming growth. Abraham Lincoln had become president, and the southern states were in the process of seceding from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. The April attack on Fort Sumpter launched the nation into a bitter war.

Burning Springs was in the western part of Virginia, which had joined other southern states in leaving the Union, but in Burning Springs there were mixed emotions. Most of the natives favored the south; many of the newcomers were from Pennsylvania and other northern states, and favored the Union; a few, more concerned about their growing wealth than politics, wanted to stay neutral.

The Rathbones were leaders of those who favored the Union. Cass Rathbone, then 43, and one of Burning Springs' richest men, organized his own private army and called it the Burning Springs Home Guard. He enlisted only men with northern sympathies, and paid for their uniforms, equipment and salaries out of his own pocket. In a short time, he had two infantry companies and a troop of cavalry, probably more than 100 men.

But that fall, Rathbone suddenly faced a dilemma. The Federal Government inducted his troops into the Union Army, as the backbone of a new 11th Virginia Volunteer Regiment. Cass Rathbone was offered a commission as lieutenant-colonel if he could take command of the new regiment.

Rathbone, who had no military background whatever, was in a quandary. He had organized his troops only to protect

the oil fields and the town from the rebels. He had no interest or inclination toward an active combat role.

He finally agreed to accept the commission and the regimental command with the condition that his troops be used only as a defense force and kept at Burning Springs. He received the assurance, but only verbally. He should have insisted on a written agreement.

Within a few months, he received orders to move his regiment into surrounding counties to "clean out" Confederate units operating there. His protests were in vain. He was an Army officer who had taken an oath to obey orders.

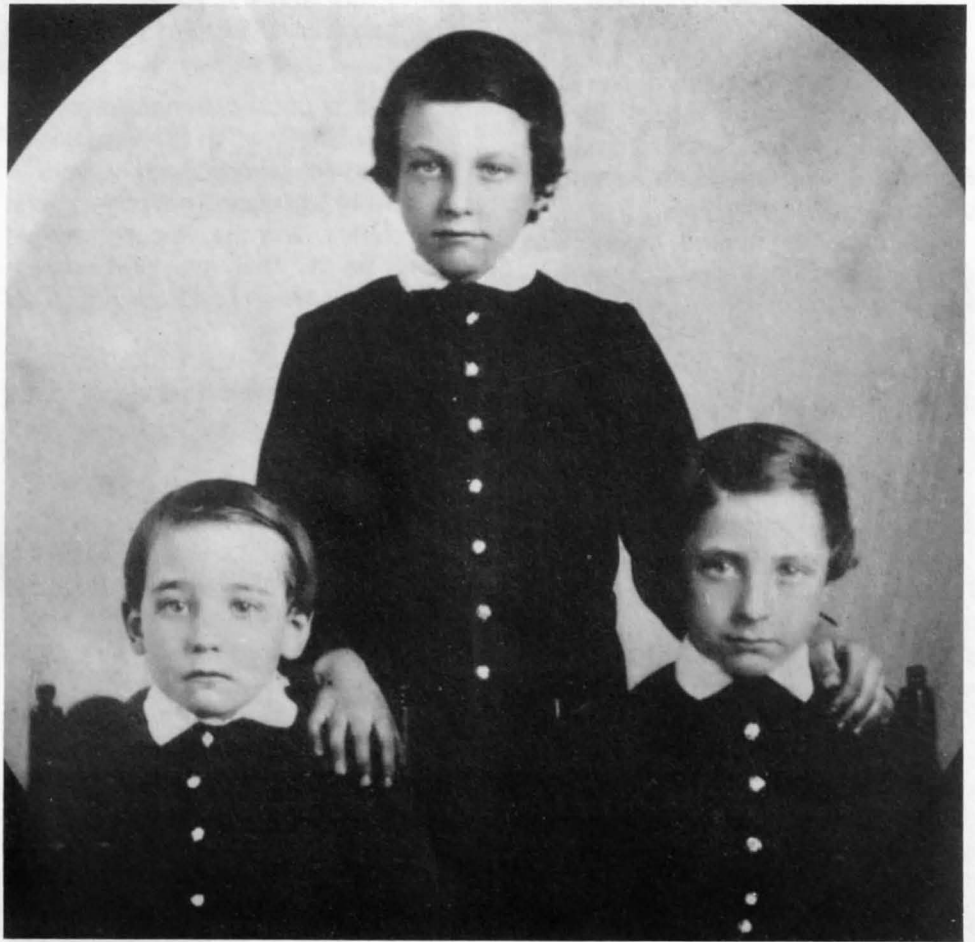
He reluctantly led his men into the adjoining counties, and had several skirmishes with Confederate forces. But he was not an aggressive soldier, and tried to avoid pitched battles. One of his superiors criticized Rathbone's "milk and water policy."

In May, 1862, after some minor clashes, he met with the commander of a Confederate unit, and signed an eight-day cease-fire. Rathbone's commanding officer, General B.F. Kelley, was aghast when he heard of the truce. He ordered it revoked, and sent word to Rathbone that if the rebels would not agree to lay down their arms and disband, Rathbone should "move on them at once and kill or capture their whole force."

The final straw came on Sept. 2, 1862, when Rathbone found his troops surrounded by Confederates, and facing what promised to be a bloody battle. His untrained band of farm boys and laborers was poorly armed and short of guns, ammunition and supplies. He decided not to waste any lives in what he considered a futile fight, so he agreed to surrender himself and his 1200 troops to Confederate General Albert G. Jenkins. He did not know it, but his force outnumbered Jenkins' by nearly two-to-one.

Rathbone was soon paroled, returned home, and was made commanding officer of Fort Lew Wallace, in Columbus, Ohio, pending a court of inquiry. He attended a hearing several months later, but no action was taken.

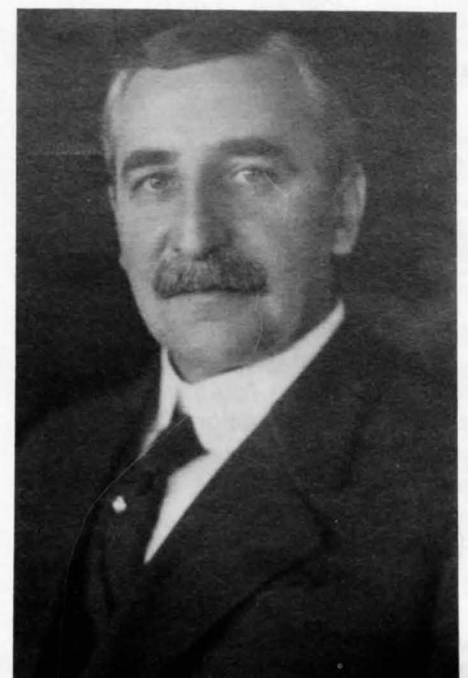
Then, on Jan. 6, 1863, Rathbone was notified that he had been dismissed



This remarkably clear picture, nearly 130 years old, shows the three oldest sons of John Valleau Rathbone — (front left) Peter Doremus Rathbone, born in 1856, and (right) John Valleau Rathbone Jr., born in 1853. Standing at rear is Francis Vinton Rathbone, born in 1851. Pictured below are two of the sons, John Jr. and Peter D. in later life. Our thanks for the pictures to Helen Layman, a descendant of Peter.



*John Valleau Rathbone, Jr.
(1853-1925)*



*Peter Doremus Rathbone
(1856-1911)*

(continued on page 22)

from the Army by Secretary of War Stanton, without even an official trial, for "cowardly conduct." He returned to Burning Springs, humiliated and in disgrace.

His former command, oddly, was given to his brother-in-law, Colonel Daniel Frost, who was married to Rathbone's sister, Eleanor. Frost, a former newspaper publisher and state representative, was killed in action on July 14, 1864, while leading the regiment in the Battle of Snicker's Gap, Georgia.

Rathbone's abrupt dismissal from the Army came only a few weeks after the death of his father, William Palmer Rathbone, at the age of 80. It was a harrowing time for Cass, and marked the end of his spectacular career. He remained in the area for a number of years, but was described by one local historian as a "broken old man, who was scorned by his neighbors and pointed out to children in the street as the man who had been publicly branded a coward."

He attained a strange sort of vindication, however, in a puzzling pair of events in 1866 and 1868.

Andrew Johnson succeeded to the U.S. Presidency after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865, and on May 18, 1866, without any official explanation, Johnson revoked Secretary Stanton's 1863 dismissal of Rathbone from the Army.

In the next two years, Johnson became embroiled in a fierce struggle with Republican radicals in Congress for control of post-war policy toward the South. The battle came to a head in February, 1868, when the House of Representatives impeached Johnson on a series of trumped-up charges.

Johnson then had to stand trial in the Senate, where a two-thirds vote was required for conviction. The Republicans, with a majority of 35 to 19, were sure they would prevail. But when the vote came, on May 16, some of the Republicans put their country ahead of politics, and voted to acquit Johnson.

The last name on the Senate rollcall was that of Senator Peter Van Winkle, Republican of West Virginia — and Cass Rathbone's brother-in-law! Six Republicans had already voted against

conviction, and the Radicals needed only Van Winkle's vote to find Johnson guilty.

Before a packed Senate chamber, with tension at its peak, Van Winkle stood and firmly announced his vote — "Not Guilty." Johnson's supporters burst into cheers, and the Republicans sat glumly as the final vote tally was announced: Johnson had been acquitted, saved by one vote.

Had Van Winkle voted to acquit Johnson in return for the President's 1866 action revoking Cass Rathbone's humiliating ouster from the Army?

If so, Van Winkle paid dearly for his action. He was denounced by the Republican Party, and in West Virginia, the influential Wheeling Intelligencer newspaper, branded him "West Virginia's Betrayer." His political career was over.

The death of William Palmer Rathbone in December 1862 resulted in the distribution of his estate to his four sons, one surviving daughter, and the heirs of his two deceased daughters. The size of the estate is not known, but it was considerable. One source reported that Cass Rathbone alone inherited more than \$2,500,000, but this seems unlikely. Another son, Samuel Brown Rathbone, is said to have inherited \$90,000 — a more probable figure.

After the father's death and Cass Rathbone's downfall, leadership of the family fell to the next son, Val, then aged 41, who proved more than able to the task. But he too met a temporary setback.

In the spring of 1863, General Robert E. Lee sent two task forces into West Virginia with orders to destroy railroads, seize livestock and provisions for the Southern Armies, and burn the oil fields at Burning Springs.

On the morning of May 9, the Confederate troops reached Burning Springs. Most of the inhabitants had fled, and those who remained were marched out of town. The rebels then prepared to put torches to the oil fields.

Val Rathbone made an attempt to negotiate with the Confederate general, offering to pay a "ransom" if he would spare the oil fields. But Rathbone would have to go to Parkersburg for the money, and the general dared not wait. He feared Union troops might already be on the way.

The rebel troops spread out with torches, and set fire to oil derricks, storage tanks, engine houses, the Rathbone sawmills and even the oil-laden barges at the river docks. They had not anticipated the results! The oil tanks and barges exploded, spewing burning oil hundreds of feet into the air and in every direction. Several of the soldiers were killed, and the town became an inferno. The flames swept through the streets like a tornado, burning virtually every building.

The oil from the exploding barges covered the river with a sheet of fire which eventually extended 13 miles. Trees and vegetation along the riverfront were destroyed in a swath 100 feet deep on both sides of the river.

Billows of black smoke rose a mile above the area. By nightfall, according to one witness, Burning Springs looked "like Hell had been brought to earth." The glum residents sat that night on the nearby hills and watched the flames destroy their homes and their possessions.

The same witness related: "As the night of horror passed, the fires began to die down, and by noon the next day they had gone out. The smoke cleared, and there before us lay a valley of desolation and ruin."

It was the Confederacy's most destructive raid of the war. An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 barrels of oil had been destroyed, along with an entire city. They had demolished one of the world's only two oil fields.

A few days later, Val Rathbone and his partner, Camden, called a meeting of the oil producers, businessmen and major landowners to discuss their situation. They decided not to even try rebuilding the town until the War was over.

After Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865, Burning Springs underwent a rebirth. The Rathbones again took the lead. They sold a large section of their oil lands for \$410,000, and used this capital to rebuild their mills and store. Carpenters put up new homes and offices. Derricks were rebuilt and the oil fields put back into production. The Rathbones built a new cooperage, and brought in 12 coopers to make barrels and tanks.

(To be Continued)

Hugo B. Rathbun Left His Life Story in Papers, Diaries

This is the story of your editor's grandfather, Hugo B. Rathbun (1841-1898), who died 26 years before I was born. Luckily for me, my father, Frank Hugo Rathbun Sr., and my uncle, Charles B. Rathbun, preserved many of his papers, letters, diaries, pictures and other items, which were left to me and which have enabled me to reconstruct his life in considerable detail. It is not a particularly exciting story, but it gives a good picture of a typical life in the last half of the Nineteenth Century.

Hugo Burghardt Rathbun was born Nov. 30, 1841, on a farm near the head of Owasco Lake in Cayuga County, N.Y., the youngest of 12 children of Charles⁶ Rathbun (Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Anna (Kniffin) Rathbun. He was named for his father's cousin, Hugo B. Rathbun (see our Historian of July 1986).

When Hugo was less than three years old, his parents decided to sell their farm and move to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where two of Charles' brothers and his eldest son had already settled (See our Historian of October 1982).

Although many New York families used the Erie Canal for the move west, our family tradition relates that Charles and his family made the trek with a caravan of horse-drawn carriages and heavy wagons pulled by ox teams.

Two of the wagons were probably driven by Charles' sons, Lansing, then 20, and Amos, 17. Hugo was too young to remember anything about the trip, but Lansing lived until 1898, and told my Uncle Charlie what little we do know.

In Grand Rapids, Charles bought one of the town's three hotels, enlarged it considerably, and renamed it the Rathbun House. It became one of the most popular hotels in western Michigan, and it was there that Hugo spent the next seven years, attending a nearby public school.

In 1851, his father, then 55, decided to give up the hotel business, and leased



Hugo Rathbun with his father and four sisters, pictured in the early 1870s. From left are the father, Charles Rathbun; Susan Lawton, Mary Gerts, Charity Morton, Hugo and Joanna Godfroy.

the Rathbun House to his cousin, Hiram Rathbun, who had married Charles' sister, Pamela. Charles purchased and moved to a 100-acre farm in Paris Township, just southeast of Grand Rapids.

Hugo, then 10 years old, lived the typical life of a country boy for the next few years. He attended a one-room rural school, worked on the farm, hunted in the fall, and trapped muskrats and minks along Plaster Creek, which ran through the Rathbun farm.

His life was rudely shattered on October 8, 1855, just before his 14th birthday, with the death of his mother. Anna, who had been in poor health, had decided to make a trip "back east" to visit relatives and old friends, hoping her condition might improve.

She got only as far as Allegan, 20 miles from home, when she collapsed. She was taken from the stage coach into Bradley's Hotel, where she died within a few hours.

Charles was married again the following year to Jane Van Tuyl, a widow one year older than himself, who became Hugo's stepmother. At age 15, he had trouble accepting her as a replacement for his beloved mother. Hugo later wrote: "At age 15, I left the home fireside to attend school in an adjoining county."

He probably went to live with his oldest sister, Sarah, and her husband, Benjamin Smith, who operated a sawmill at Ottawa, 25 miles northeast of Grand Rapids. When Hugo was about 17, he went to work full time at the Smith sawmill, having, as he later wrote, "nearly whole charge of the logging store and postoffice."

About 1859, Smith sold the sawmill and moved to Grand Rapids, where he and Sarah took over the Rathbun House, leasing it from Sarah's father. Young Hugo went with the Smiths and became a clerk in the hotel. In the 1860

(continued on page 24)

census, he was listed both at the hotel and at his father's home in Paris Township.

In 1861, with the outbreak of the Civil War, Benjamin Smith helped raised volunteers for the Second Michigan Cavalry, and was commissioned captain of the regiment's Company D. Among his early recruits was his young brother-in-law, Hugo Rathbun, then 19, who enlisted Sept. 12, 1861, and was immediately promoted to corporal in Smith's company.

Hugo served four years with the Second Michigan Cavalry, and, as he later wrote, "was never in a hospital and was always at the front." He was promoted to master sergeant in March 1863 and a year later, when his three-year term expired, he reenlisted and was commissioned a first lieutenant "for meritorious conduct." Unfortunately, no stories have come down to us about his Civil War activities.

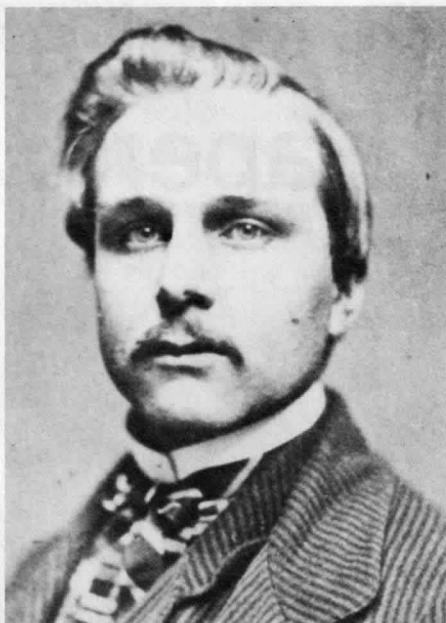
He did later write: "In the Spring of 1862, we took the field and were at the siege of New Madrid (Missouri), where we saw our first 'Johnnies.' We were constantly in service in seven of the different rebel states." From published records, we know that his regiment also fought at Rienzi and Corinth, Mississippi; Nashville, Knoxville, Franklin, Mossy Creek and Pulaski, Tenn., and in minor skirmishes in Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia. Of the regiment's 2500 men, 70 were killed, several hundred wounded, and 268 died of disease.

Benjamin Smith had been promoted to major in May 1863, and to lieutenant-colonel four months later. On January 20, 1864, he became commanding officer of the regiment, then part of the First Cavalry Division's First Brigade.

Then, as now, family connections were helpful. Hugo Rathbun was named assistant adjutant-general of the brigade in September 1864, and a month later became acting regimental adjutant.

By this time, the war was nearing its end, and Hugo was having health problems — he suffered from piles (hemorrhoids) and partial deafness.

In applying for a pension in 1890, Hugo wrote that he had "deafness in both ears, caused, I believe, by over-



Hugo and Leversa Rathbun, probably about the time of their marriage in 1869.



Hugo and Leversa Rathbun about 1890

doses of quinine (for malaria) prescribed by Dr. Charles L. Henderson, our regimental surgeon, and taken by me at his order and direction. He frequently gave me doses of five grains or more at one time."

"I first began to notice that I was growing deaf sometime in 1863 or 1864 . . . and have been deaf ever since," he wrote.

Captain E.D. Budington, Hugo's commanding officer in 1864, wrote: "In

giving orders to him (Rathbun), I had to speak in a loud tone of voice to make him understand. He was always in line, and I often wanted to excuse him from duty, but as long as he could sit his horse, he refused."

Benjamin Smith, also writing on behalf of Hugo in 1890, recalled: "I excused Rathbun from duty after the Battle of Perrysburg on account of the 'piles,' and he was treated for said piles by Dr. Henderson."

Hugo was promoted to captain and given a medical discharge on Feb. 12, 1865, due to "piles and slight deafness in both ears," and returned to Grand Rapids.

After two months at home, Hugo became restless, and accepted an invitation to join his brother Benjamin, who had invested in the Pennsylvania oil fields near Oil City. Hugo spent several months in Pennsylvania, working with his brother, but decided that there was "no future" in the oil industry.

He went back to Grand Rapids in November 1865, spent several months there, then went to Chicago in the spring of 1866 to live with his sister Charity and her husband, George C. Morton, a prosperous lumber merchant. He went to work as a bookkeeper for Morton, and enrolled as a part-time student at H.G. Eastman's Business College.

In 1868, he met 20-year-old Leversa Vacilla Wright, with whom he fell in love and later that year asked her to marry him. She agreed, and the wedding date was set for March 4, 1869. Hugo chose that date to coincide with the inauguration of General Ulysses S. Grant as President of the United State. Hugo was a great admirer of Grant, and was always proud of his service under Grant during the war. They were married at the home of Leversa's mother in Urbana, Ohio.

The newlyweds moved immediately to Michigan, and Hugo took over the family farm in Paris Township, "my father being too old and feeble to carry on the work," he later said. Charles and Jane Rathbun apparently stayed on the farm with Hugo for several years, and Leversa later told her children how the old man, then about 73, always had a supper of bread, broken up in a bowl of milk, and sprinkled with brown sugar.

Early in 1875, Charles moved into Grand Rapids to live with his daughter, Joanna, who ran a boarding house. He was possibly influenced by the birth of Hugo and Leversa's first three children, in 1870, 1871 and 1874. Three little children in a small house could be trying for a man in his 70s.

Charles may have been too "old and feeble" to carry on the farm work, but he was apparently in good physical shape for a man in his seventies. He was still horseback riding at 78, when he broke



Hugo and Leversa Rathbun with their children about 1884. From left, Hugo, Eugene, George, Charles, Frank and Leversa, with the twins, Louisa and Leversa, in front.

his arm in falling from a runaway horse. Hugo wrote in his diary on Oct. 23, 1874, "Father was hurt by Bird (his horse) running away. I went and got Bird. Dr. Wooster set father's arm."

The following year, both Charles and his wife Jane died. Hugo, who apparently never became fond of his stepmother, and always referred to her as the "old lady," wrote in his diary on March 16, 1875:

"Called to see Old Lady. She is no better." Two days later, he wrote: "Went to town. Found Old Lady dead. Died at 3 a.m." On Feb. 21, he wrote: "Wife and I went to Old Lady's funeral. It was a very respectable funeral."

Ten months later, on Nov. 13, he wrote: "Went to see father. He is very low. Telegraphed Sally and Ben (the Smiths). Mrs. Morton (Charity) is already here. Lant (brother Lansing K. Rathbun) sent word that father died at 11:50 a.m." (The cause, according to Uncle Charlie, was a stroke suffered some months earlier.)

The next day, Hugo went to town and bought a coat and vest for \$13, and a hat for \$6, all apparently for the funeral, which was held on Nov. 17.

"All the children here but Colonel Smith," he wrote. "Joan (sister Joanna) was sick abed with erisifulas (erysipelas, a severe skin infection), and could not go."

Charles was buried next to his first wife in the Rathbun lot at Grand Rapids' Fulton Street Cemetery. Both graves have handsome markers. Sadly, there is no marker for Jane, his second wife, "The Old Lady," who was his wife for 20 years.

Charles, a few months before his death, had given the Paris Township farm to Hugo for his lifetime, but stipulated that it could not be sold and would eventually go to Hugo's children. He already had three, and would have three more in the next five years.

Hugo's diaries for 1874, 1875 and 1876, now owned by your editor, are filled mostly with comments on the weather, farm activities and financial matters, but an occasional entry sheds some light on Hugo's personality, and his every-day life.

On Jan. 19, 1874, he recorded the birth of his third son (my father), Frank Hugo Rathbun:

(continued on page 26)

"Wife sick at ten o'clock. Baby born at 3 1/2 o'clock a.m. I went and got Dr. Wooster and Joan (his sister) and Sally Ann (his sister-in-law, wife of Lansing, a near neighbor). John (the hired man) took them home this morning. Weight of baby eleven pounds (Someone, probably Leversa, later changed the weight to 9 1/2 pounds)."

On March 31, Hugo wrote: "Went to (Republican) Caucus and was nominated for constable." He was elected in April, launching a political career that was to include terms as township clerk, treasurer, supervisor and justice of the peace, and director and moderator of the township school board.

On April 1 (April Fools' Day), he fell victim to a trick by his wife, who apparently called him for help, and then shouted "April Fool" when he came.

"Got fooled by wife," he wrote. "Won't run again when she calls."

He religiously recorded his purchases on shopping trips. One typical list, on Sept. 17, 1874, included a ball of twine, coffee, salt, crackers, starch, codfish, 25 pounds of flour and half a pound of butter — all for \$2.06.

Family tradition tells that Hugo loved to play cards, bet on horse races and target shoot with his favorite gun. The following diary entries deal with each of these activities:

"March 17, 1875 — Lant and CP (Lansing's son Charles) came down and we played Old Sledge and Casino. I of course came out victorious."

"June 11, 1875 — Went to races and lost \$5.00 on quarter races. (My horses) went off good, but always got left somehow. I guess it's time to stop this foolishness."

"Dec. 23, 1875 — Went to Saranac (for a shooting match). I won a bear 9 1/2 inches, and a fox 11 5/16 inches (apparently a baby bear and baby fox). Stayed all night and got left by the train. Stayed at the American Hotel."

"Dec. 24, 1875 — Came home from the shoot. Rowland (cousin Rowland Rathbun?) and I brought the bear and fox. Rowland led the damn things home."

The farmhouse was not very big, and with three babies, space was becoming a problem. Leversa wanted something bigger and better. Hugo, his eyes on a

tight family budget, was willing to put up with what they had. There were obviously some arguments, as shown by these diary entries in 1876:

"June 21 — Wife went down the river (apparently to visit friends).

"June 23 — Wife will be back tomorrow" (He probably missed her. Did she leave the three children with him?).

"June 24 — Wife came home, sick and fault-finding. She won't go off again, then she won't get dissatisfied with our home."

Hugo seemed to make a lot of trips "to town" during these years. A hint of his activities there might be shown in this 1876 entry:

"Went to town. Saw GBR (brother Gouveneur) in Jerome's Saloon playing pedro."

This might explain another entry: "Wife cross because I stayed down town late last night."

Leversa also had other problems in 1875:

"June 27 — Wife cross as fury."

"June 29 — Got wife's teeth fixed — \$15.00 worth."

The life of a farmer's wife with three small children was not easy, but Leversa found time to help Hugo pick apples, boil cider, husk corn, pick blackberries, feed chickens and gather eggs, tend the vegetable garden, shuck hickory nuts, and entertain a constant stream of visitors — relatives, friends and neighbors, who came to lunch or dinner and often to spend the night, or longer.

It was perhaps with a feeling of relief that Hugo wrote in his diary one Sunday: "At home all day. No one here. We had roast turkey."

There were some bright spots for Leversa, as these entries show:

"May 29, 1875 — Went to town and brought home the piano." (It sat proudly in the parlor for the rest of his life).

"Sept. 20, 1875 — Took my family riding in the afternoon," and two days later: "Took Ma and the boys to the Fair. Had a good time."

"Dec. 7, 1875 — Took wife to town to see about a new dress and hat." Then, 10 days later, "Went to town and got dress and hat for wife."

Dec. 30, 1875 — Wife and babies went to Chicago to be gone two weeks." (Leversa's brother lived there, as well as two of Hugo's sisters.)

In 1877, they had their fourth son — Eugene, and then in 1879 came twin daughters, named Leversa and Louisa (See the front cover of our May 1988 Historian).

There are no more diaries to tell of events during the next few years. Early in the 1880s, son George, then about 12 or 13, went to Chicago to live with his aunt, Charity Morton. The crowded house may have been a factor.

In the early 1890s, Leversa finally got her way. Hugo agreed to expand their house, and he did it in a big way.

The original dwelling had four rooms downstairs, a loft overhead for the boys' beds, and a leanto shed for storage.

Hugo built a large three-story addition, with a wide entrance hall, parlor, dining room, sunroom and master bedroom on the first floor, and five bedrooms on the second. The third story was a huge standup storage area. He also included a large basement, several fireplaces and broad verandas on three sides of the new addition. A summer house (gazebo) was built in the front yard, and a stone milkhouse was erected in back.

It was a truly magnificent house, befitting a man who was then head of the local school board, justice of the peace, notary public and even the county's "Horticultural Correspondent" for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He wrote in the 1892 Rathbone Family Historian: "Politically, I am a Republican, having served in the war under President Lincoln. I cast my first vote for him and am proud to hand this record to my children. I was made a Master Mason in Dearborn Lodge, Chicago, and am now a member of Grand River Lodge in Grand Rapids." (His Masonic ring is now one of your editor's prized possessions).

Hugo had purchased another 53 acres adjacent to the original 100-acre farm, built a large new barn and silo, and was turning more and more of the hard farm work over to "hired men." He used his new barn for winter boarding of horses from the city, meaning that he used more and more of his land to grow hay and oats.

Life was going along smoothly, but tragedy inevitably burst into their lives. On Feb. 8, 1893, Leversa's mother was killed in a gas explosion at her home in Urbana, Ohio.

Then, 18 months later, came the news that every parent dreads the most: their son George was dead. On August 27, 1894, they received a telegram from Hugo's sister Charity in Chicago that George had drowned.

George had done very well in Chicago. He had graduated at the head of his class in high school, attended college for a few years, and then went to work for a storage company. By 1894, he had become assistant to the firm's head cashier. "Aunt Charity" was proud of her young nephew, and the entire family predicted a bright career for him. He was one of Franklin P. Rathbone's first associate editors for the original Rathbone Family Historian, which began publication in 1892 (See our Historian of July 1981).

On the weekend of August 25, 1894, George and some friends went for an outing at the Sylvan House, at Channel Lake, just north of Chicago, in Wisconsin. On the afternoon of August 26, George and a friend were boating on the lake and George decided to have a swim. He dove into the water, and never came up. His body was found 16 hours later in 30 feet of water.

Hugo left immediately for Chicago, and returned two days later with his son's body on a passenger train. George was buried in the family lot at Grand Rapids.

Hugo aged rapidly after the tragedy. A photograph taken on New Year's Day, 1898, shows him looking far older than his 57 years. Five months later he was dead. He died in bed early on the night of May 30, 1898, during a choking spell, caused by "acute congestion of the lungs" (pneumonia, possibly).

It was the night of his twins' 19th birthday. They and their brothers were with friends at a dance, and returned just before midnight to learn of the tragedy. Hugo was buried in the family lot near his parents, his son George, and other relatives.

Leversa lived another 30 years. A picture of Hugo was on a stand by her bedside until she died in 1928. She was to lose another child before her death. Her daughter Leversa was married in 1901 and died the following year aged 23, after childbirth.



Picture taken about 1900 of Hugo Rathbun's home in Paris Township, Michigan. The original old house can be seen at left. The big 1893 addition is at right.



Picture of horsebarn and men with teams and wagons on Hugo Rathbun's farm, probably about the time of his death.

New Data

Old papers in the possession of our new members, Evelyn and Barbara Jordan, have uncovered new data on the descendants of Joshua⁴ Rathbun (Joshua³ John²⁻¹). His son, Acors (1751-1827), did have three wives as we theorized in our issue of July 1983. After the death of his first wife, Lydia, in 1788, he married Mary (Lawton) Gorton about 1789, and after her death, about 1807, he was married again in 1811 to Mary Douglas. Acors' sister, Sarah, born in 1753, married Sands Niles after the death of her first husband, George Thurston. Acors' grandson, George Fox Rathbun, son of Joshua, was born June 10, 1813. He had an older brother, also named George, who was born Oct. 27, 1810, and died young.

See New Data 16-2 p 38

Patience James, the first wife of Moses⁵ Rathbun (John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), was the daughter of Benjamin and Rhoda (Kenyon) James, of Richmond, R.I. The eldest son of Moses and Patience was Benjamin Rathbun, the famous Buffalo financier (See our Historians of January, April and July of 1982). He was obviously named for his grandfather, Benjamin James.

Anna (Allen) Rathbun, wife of Robert⁵ Rathbun (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), died July 6, 1840, aged 63 years, four months and 22 days, according to her gravestone in the Pioneer Cemetery, Wooster Township, Wayne County, Ohio. Our thanks to Jan Herbert.

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

257. HENRY⁶ RATHBUN (John⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born April 19, 1819, in Berlin, N.Y. He moved as a young man to Auburn, Geauga County, Ohio, where on Nov. 5, 1848, he married Betsey Thwing, born Aug. 14, 1828, daughter of Calvin and Betsey (Kingsley) Thwing. They moved by 1860 to Arabella, Michigan, and then to Chardon, Ohio, where Henry died on Oct. 13, 1872. (Four of his children died between 1871 and 1873, indicating some sort of epidemic). Betsey was married again on Feb. 7, 1876, to John Cook. Her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

VALERIE HANNAH, born Sept. 21, 1849; married Clark Powell on Sept. 7, 1867.

VIOLA, born Dec. 29, 1850; died May 13, 1853.

CHARLOTTE MARIE, born Oct. 4, 1854; died Sept. 5, 1872.

ALIDA ALVIRA, born June 21, 1857; married Jay L. Newberry on July 4, 1875.

CAROLINE, born August 29, 1860; no further information.

ADA, born Dec. 29, 1861; died Jan. 20, 1873.

HARRY, born June 3, 1871; died August 1, 1871.

LILLIAN, born May 13, 1868; no further information.

KATHERINE, born Feb. 7, 1871; died March 30, 1871.

258. DANIEL R.⁶ RATHBUN (John⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), born about 1824 in Berlin, N.Y. He was married there on July 4, 1857, to Emeline Boone, born July 10, 1834, daughter of Joseph S. and Elsie (Hull) Boone. Daniel was a portrait painter in Berlin, where he died Dec. 22, 1861. Emeline was married May 4, 1865, to Robert A. McClellan, at Hallock, Illinois. She died

some time after 1902. She and Daniel apparently had no children. His nephew, Charles, son of John, was living with them in the 1860 census.

259. GIDEON HOXIE⁶ RATHBUN (Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹), born Jan. 23, 1776, at Exeter, R.I. He was married about 1804 to Mary P. Wardwell, born April 30, 1786, daughter of David and Mary (Eggleston) Wardwell. They moved to Davenport, Delaware County, N.Y., where in 1814 he was drafted into service for the War of 1812. Gideon died at Davenport on May 15, 1862. Mary died there August 6, 1870.

CHILDREN

POLLY, born March 12, 1805; married _____ Robison.

SAMUEL, born August 19, 1806; married Clarissa Dibble.

OLIVER, born Feb. 4, 1808; married (1) Leah Dingman, and (2) Sarah Smith.

REBECCA, born May 7, 1810; married Joseph Sheperdson.

ALMYRA, born March 1, 1812; married John Milham on June 17, 1834.

GIDEON HOXIE, born April 8, 1814; married Catharine (Brobst) Brewer.

PHOEBE, born April 15, 1816; alive in 1830; no further data.

JANE, born Jan. 29, 1818; married John S. Ostrander.

ANNE, born Dec. 29, 1819; married Clark Rice.

SALLY, born April 10, 1822; alive in 1830; no further data.

CORBETT, born April 13, 1824; married Lydia J. Goodrich.

260. SIMEON⁶ RATHBUN (Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹), born Dec. 17, 1787, at Hancock, Mass., and married on June 2, 1811, Elizabeth Twitchell, born Nov. 1, 1794, parentage unknown.

They lived until the 1830s at Davenport and later Maryland, N.Y., then moved by 1840 to Paris, Oneida County, N.Y. He died Jan. 30, 1853, according to Cooley, who does not give the place of death. He does not appear in the 1850 census, and may have died by that time. Elizabeth moved with some of her children to Bremer County, Iowa, where she died August 31, 1863.

CHILDREN

PHILANDER, born March 24, 1812; married (1) Almira Butterfield, and (2) Sarah Shaffer.

NELSON, born Jan. 14, 1814; apparently married and had a daughter, Louisa, who died Aug. 17, 1848, in Middlefield, N.Y. His wife, whose name is not known, probably died by 1850, for in the federal census that year he was living in Lysander, N.Y., with his sister, Harriet. He died April 23, 1858, place unknown.

LUCENA, born Sept. 29, 1815; married John Brazee Sept. 2, 1834.

ABIGAIL, born Sept. 4, 1817; died Feb. 2, 1852, probably unmarried.

HENRIETTA, born March 11, 1819; married Benjamin Victory.

SALLY, born May 15, 1821; died Nov. 5, 1841.

WILLIAM, born March 27, 1823; married Catherine (Dobson) Boddice.

MARY MARIA, born May 12, 1825; married (1) William F. Peck on Dec. 30, 1852, and (2) Ensign Pruyn.

SHELDON, born April 16, 1827; married Anna A. Webster.

JAMES, born April 23, 1830; died April 23, 1840.

JANE, born Sept. 31, 1833; married a Sanders.

ELIZABETH, born Sept. 31, 1833; died March 16, 1848.

AMANDA M., born Sept. 16, 1836; married Richard V. Dibble.

261. JOHN MOTT⁶ RATHBUN (Tibbets⁵ John⁵⁻⁴ Thomas² John¹), born about 1794 in Otsego County, N.Y. He was married about 1820, possibly to Polly Leonard, but the marriage did not last. She may be the Polly Rathbun, aged 60, who was living in 1860 at Franklin, N.Y. He moved by the 1830s to Petersham, Mass., where on August 18, 1837, he was married to Sarah Ann (Foster) Hodskins, born April 25, 1814, daughter of Richard and Sally (Sawtelle) Foster, and the widow of a Hodskins by whom she had a daughter, Elizabeth, born about 1832, who married a Joslin. John and Sarah lived most of their lives at or near Petersham, where she died July 11, 1865, of consumption. John died of typhoid fever on March 27, 1874, at Tewksbury, Mass. He adopted the Rathburn version of our name and his descendants by the second wife still use that spelling.

CHILDREN

(By Polly?)

EPHRIAM T., born in September 1825; married Julia Ann Robertson.

(By Sarah)

ESTHER ALICE, born in 1838; married George Alexander.

ALONZO L., born Aug. 28, 1840; married Jane Abigail Sears.

VALENTINE ORSON, born June 25, 1842; married (1) Mary A. Pratt; (2) Mary Ann White, and (3) Julia _____.

HENRY B., born Oct. 8, 1844; died August 29, 1863, while serving in the Union Army during the Civil War.

HIRAM B. (twin), born Oct. 8, 1844; married (1) Nettie Aldrich; (2) Jane White, and (3) Delia Haggerty.

SIMEON, born Feb. 27, 1847; married Anna _____.

CHARLES FRANKLIN, born April 10, 1849; married Julia Ann Foster.

MARTHA A, born about 1854; no further information.

JOHN MOTT, born in May 1856; married Mary Eleanor Totman.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, born in August 1859; married Alice A. Bliss.

262. TIBBETS H.⁶ RATHBUN JR. (Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹), born July 16, 1796, in Otsego County, N.Y., and was married there on Feb. 5, 1818, to Susannah Durham, born Feb. 4, 1797, daughter of Simeon and _____ Durham. They lived most of their lives at Davenport, N.Y., but moved by 1870 to Maryland, also Otsego County, where Tibbets died in September 1871, and Susannah on Jan. 3, 1878.

CHILDREN

AMOS H., born August 6, 1821; married Elizabeth Wilbur.

HANNAH MARELLA, born July 12, 1823; married Nicholas Wilber on April 20, 1847.

SABRINA, born Feb. 10, 1825; alive in 1860, no further data.

ELIZABETH ADELUS, born Sept. 19, 1827; no further data.

263. FRANCIS MARION⁶ RATHBUN (Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹), born October 15, 1819, in Berlin, N.Y., and was married there on May 2, 1842 (or 1845?) to Penelope Bran Scott, born about 1827, parentage unknown. They lived in Berlin for a number of years, moved briefly to Williamstown, Mass., and then to Michigan, where Penelope died March 18, 1887, of "inflammation of the lungs" — probably tuberculosis. He died in 1898, exact date and town not known.

CHILDREN

FANNIE ELIZABETH, born Nov. 18, 1847; married Eugene Bortle on June 27, 1883.

JOSEPH TIBBETS, born Nov. 20, 1848; died Nov. 10, 1867, in a hunting accident.

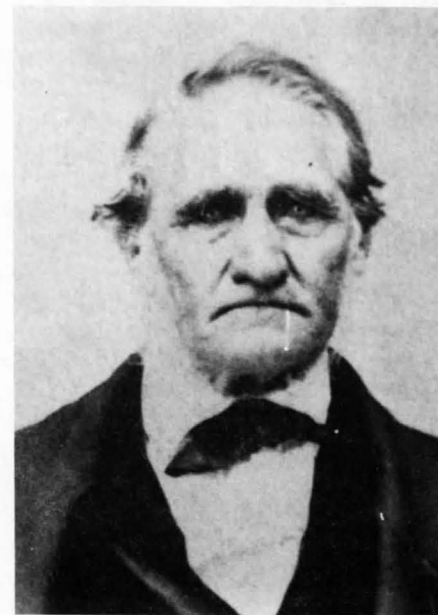
GEORGE MARION, born May 2, 1850; married Eugenia Veitch.

EMMA LUCETTA, born Feb. 15, 1854; died Jan. 10, 1873, of smallpox.

CHARLES WOODBURY, born March 31, 1856; married Charlotte Brabazon.

264. JOHN S.⁶ RATHBUN (?Thomas⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹), born Jan. 27, 1794, probably in Kinderhook, Columbia County, N.Y. (This ancestry has not yet been positively proven, but all evi-

dence indicates that it is correct.) He served in the New York militia during the War of 1812, and was married on Feb. 6, 1814, to Abigail _____ by "Squire Gregory," according to his bible records. They lived for a time at Nassau, Rensselaer County, N.Y., and in 1823 were "dismissed" from the Log Meeting House Baptist Church at nearby North Schodack, in Columbia County. They apparently moved about that time to Worcester, Otsego County, N.Y., where



John S. Rathbun
(1794-1869)



Susan (O'Lacy) Rathbun
(1806-1881)

(continued on page 30)

(continued from page 29)

they were living in 1826. They moved in the 1840s to Milan, Erie County, Ohio, where Abigail died on June 22, 1849. He was married the following Sept. 15 to Susan O'Lacy, a widow, born Dec. 3, 1806, parentage unknown. John was a wagonmaker according to census records. He died Jan. 22, 1869, at Milan, and Susan died there Nov. 11, 1881, listed as a "pauper." John's descendants use the Rathburn spelling.

CHILDREN

(All by Abigail)

CHARLES H., born Dec. 10, 1814; married (1) Clarissa Smith, and (2) Mary Burroughs.

CORYDON O., born Jan. 28, 1817; apparently still living in 1830; no further data.

EBER MIARS, born April 18, 1822; married Dorcas Ann Cluxton.

ADONIRAM JUDSON, born Sept. 30, 1823; married (1) Louise Slauson, and (2) Mary Burke.

EMMA AMANDA, born Oct. 11, 1825; married Jason Rogers on May 4, 1843.

CALISTA ADELIA, born June 15, 1828; married Ebenezer Knight on Oct. 29, 1844.

(A William Rathbun, aged 28, was living with John and Susan in the 1850 census, but he was probably a son of Susan by her first marriage and was incorrectly listed as a Rathbun by the census taker.)

(This ends the sixth-generation descendants of Thomas Rathbun, second son of John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun. We now begin the sixth-generation descendants of William Rathbun, the third son.)

265. DANIEL⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹), born Feb. 24, 1767, at Granby, Conn., and married there Sept. 15, 1784, Muriel Desire Rice, born June 21, 1769, parentage unknown. He was 17 and she 15 when they were married, unusually young for that era. They lived at Granby for about 20 years, then in 1804 migrated westward to Ohio, settling in Salisbury Township, Gallia County (now the town of Rutland, Meigs County). He was one

of the electors for governor in 1805, and was supervisor of a road district in 1806, when he paid a highway tax of \$2.15 — one of the highest in the town, indicating he was one of the larger landowners. In 1819 he was a jury foreman. Daniel was a devout Methodist, and his home was a regular stopping point for itinerant Methodist ministers. Daniel died in September 1852, aged 85, and Desire, as she was called, died April 24, 1868, aged nearly 99. Their descendants use the Rathburn spelling.

CHILDREN

DANIEL CLARK, born Jan. 15, 1786; married Laura Higley.

DESIRE, born Dec. 25, 1787; died young.

ELISHA, born June 30, 1789; married Polly Giles.

ALVIN, born Oct. 20, 1791; married Salinda Harding.

JOHN M., born Oct. 21, 1794; married Roanna James.

TIMOTHY M., born July 17, 1797; married Elvira Daniels.

FRANCIS ASBURY, born March 9, 1800. He was named for Francis Asbury, a prominent Methodist bishop, and a close associate of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Francis Rathbun never married and died Nov. 2, 1886, at the age of 86.

SAMUEL BANNING, born Aug. 21, 1803; married Joanna Vanden.

266. WILLIAM⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹), born August 10, 1770, at Granby, Conn. He was married June 14, 1798, at Barkhamsted, Conn., to Dorothy Rockwell, born Feb. 11, 1777, daughter of John and Dorothy (Wetmore) Rockwell. They migrated to Ohio about 1804, probably with his brother Daniel, but William settled in the town of Hartford, Trumbull County. One of his grandsons later recalled that William made two trips from Connecticut to Ohio with ox teams, bringing his family and their possessions. William died March 3, 1840, at Hartford, and Dorothy on April 22, 1849. Most of their descendants use the Rathburn spelling.

CHILDREN

PHOEBE, born August 2, 1799; mar-

ried Eli Gibbs on August 15, 1824.

CHAUNCEY, born Jan. 10, 1804; married Harriet Ganyard.

FRANCES, born Feb. 15, 1807; married Timothy Brockway on Dec. 5, 1830.

LYMAN, born Feb. 18, 1810; married Mary Ann Messersmith.

WILLIAM B., born Feb. 3, 1813; married Mary Bickforth.

HANNAH, born May 9, 1815; married Morgan E. Hayes on Nov. 6, 1836.

SARAH, born July 31, 1817; married John R. Fell on Dec. 1, 1836.

ELISHA R., born Feb. 12, 1819; married Armina Sawyer.

LUMAN, born Feb. 7, 1821; died August 27, 1826.

267. JONATHAN⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹), born Nov. 6, 1780. He was the only one of the family who remained in Connecticut. He was married about 1802 to Polly Wilcox, born about 1781, possibly the daughter of Aaron Wilcox. They lived for some years at Hartland, but later moved to Canton, where he died Sept. 5, 1846. Polly died there on Sept. 27, 1864.

CHILDREN

ARABELLA MARIA, born in 1803; married John Moore on Oct. 31, 1824.

MELISSA, born Aug. 25, 1805; married Leland Park on May 17, 1827.

POLLY, born March 25, 1807; married Walter Gleason on Nov. 16, 1831.

AUGUSTA M., born about 1808; married John W. Smith on April 19, 1826.

HARRIET, born about 1810; married Thomas Fox Jr. on July 6, 1828.

ANNA, born about 1812; married Caleb Beach on Jan. 23, 1832.

LUCY, born about 1814; married Ransom Wood on Feb. 27, 1837.

WILLIAM J., born June 14, 1815; married Mrs. Hannah Hudson.

AARON W., born Jan. 1, 1818; married Laura Beach.

ELIJAH B., born about 1819; married Mary C. Clark.

DAVID F., born Jan. 21, 1821; married Adeline Cooley.

DANIEL., born Nov. 27, 1823; married (1) Parney Barber, and probably (2) Augusta Case.

FRANCIS J., born in December 1827; married Rachel Crane.

Obituaries

DIED — January 9, 1990, Cyril J. Hladik, 62, at Hennessey, Okl. He was the husband of our member, Dorothy (Cole) Hladik, who is descended from two daughters of Ebenezer⁶ Rathbun (Ebenezer⁵ Thomas⁴ Jonathan³ William² John¹). He is also survived by two daughters, Elsie Seigmann and Fran Walker; three brothers; a sister, and three grandchildren.

DIED — January 6, 1990, C.W. (Bud) Mommaerts, 65, at Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was the husband of our member, Marjorie (Rathburn) Mommaerts, daughter of Fred¹⁰ Rathburn (James⁹ Elijah⁸ Sereno⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹). He is also survived by five sons, two daughters, and six grandsons.

DIED — December 24, 1989, Lewis James Rathbun, 78, at Helena, Montana. He was the son of James⁸ Rathbun (Henry⁷ Nathaniel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻² John¹). His wife Ruby (Smith) Rathbun died in 1980. He is survived by a foster son, Mike Cooper; a brother, Alvin Rathbun, and two sisters, Thelma Norton and Jerrine Tillinghast.

DIED — May 19, 1989, Elizabeth Viola Menard, 64, at Monroe, Michigan. Her first husband was Keith⁹ Rathbun (Howard⁸ Valentine⁷ Horace⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), who died in 1955. Survivors include three sons, Ronald and Dale Rathbun, both members of our Association, and David Rathbun.

DIED — January 1, 1990, William (Willie) Calvin Rathburn, 88, at Texarkana, Arkansas. He was the son of William Thomas⁹ Rathburn (Joseph⁸ Aaron⁷ Joseph⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Survivors include his wife, Mary, to whom he had been married 51 years; two brothers, James, a member of our Association, and Jesse; a sister, Elsie Haak, also a member of our Association; a daughter, Vera May Ritchie, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

DIED — January 1, 1990, Richard E. Haak, 82, of Texarkana, Arkansas. He was the husband of Elsie (Rathburn) Haak, whose brother, William Rathburn, died the same day. (See preceding obituary.) In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Ricky and Ronnie; a daughter, Pat Henson; a sister; two stepsons; two stepdaughters, and six grandchildren.

DIED — September 26, 1989, Ruby (Lindgren) Rathbone, 75, at Fresno, California. She was the wife of Carleton (Dick) Rathbone, son of Carleton¹⁰ Rathbone (Leland⁹ Albert⁸ Erastus⁷ Abel⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). She is also survived by three sons, Richard, Robert and Donald Rathbone; a brother, and five grandchildren.

DIED — January 29, 1990, Everett W. Newman, 86, of Providence, R.I. He was the son of William Newman and Florence (Florie)⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ William⁷ Joshua⁶ Elias⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He is survived by his wife, Irene; three sons; 16 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

DIED — March 1, 1990, at Lincoln, Kan., Wilma Avanelle (Rathbun) Jones, aged 72. A former member of our Association, she was the daughter of Newton⁸ Rathbun (Elon⁷ John⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Delmont Jones; three sons, Larry, Dean and Gary; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a brother, Dale Rathbun; and three sisters, Hazel Jones, a member of our Association; Wanda Totman, and Cleo Geering.

DIED — January 9, 1990, at Barnard, Kansas, Roosevelt William Jones, aged 85. He was the husband of our member, Hazel (Rathbun) Jones, whose sister, Wilma Avanelle Jones, died two months later (see preceding obituary). He is also survived by two daughters, Sandra Ward and Cheryl Winters; eight grandchildren; a great-grandson; three brothers, Delmont, Melvin and Lester, and a sister.

New Data

We have new and complete information on the children of Daniel⁶ Rathbun (Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and Margaret Ann Gardner, whose family appeared on page 28 in our Historian of April 1987.

Following is a corrected list of their children, with birth dates and marriages:

CAROLINE E., born Jan. 23, 1832; married John Hawkins on July 24, 1851, and died nine months later on April 21, 1852.

GARDINER, born March 14, 1834; married Sarah Jane Carpenter.

ANGELINA H., born July 15, 1835; probably married three times — (1) Allen P. Belew on Sept. 11, 1856; (2) Elias Pash on March 3, 1858, and (3) Israel Flesher on Dec. 29, 1860.

HARRIET VICTORIA, born Oct. 6, 1838; married Martin V. Collins on April 2, 1857.

ALFRED R., born April 14, 1841; married Sarah Elizabeth Allen.

AUGUSTA M., born May 18, 1844; married James H. Collins on July 16, 1865.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, born Oct. 14, 1847; married Mary Taylor.

JULIUS CLARK, born April 11, 1851; married Christina Bisel.

The Augusta Rathbun whom we reported as marrying Grandville Rhoads was probably the daughter of Daniel's brother, William. She did not marry James H. Collins as we reported.

Our thanks for all this new information to our new member Virginia Fraser, a descendant of Daniel's son, Alfred.

Benjamin Franklin⁶ Rathbun (James⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), and his son, LeGrand Rathbun, both apparently died sometime before 1860. Benjamin's wife, Caroline, was recorded in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in the 1860 census, with only her daughter Loretta, living with her. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Alice James, wife of Joshua⁴ Rathbun (Nathaniel³ John²⁻¹), was the daughter of John and Susannah (Wilcox) James. Again, thanks to Rob Rathbun.

People

WALTON A. RATHBUN, a lieutenant-commander in the U.S. Navy, has taken over new duties as head of the Oral Medicine Department at Camp Pendleton, California. He and his wife, Linda, moved to California last year from their former home in Rockville, Maryland. Walton is the son of Walton¹⁰ Rathbun (Andrew⁹ John⁸ Andrew⁷ Orrin⁶ Russell⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

HEATHER LYNN PATTERSON and James Edward Walters were married July 29, 1989, at Haskell, Okl. Heather is the daughter of Jerry and Caren Jan (Rathbun) Patterson, and granddaughter of our members Dorothy and William Ade¹⁰ Rathbun (James⁹ Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

JAMES F. RATHBUN has retired as superintendent of the Kootenai National Forest in Montana. He has been with the U.S. Forest Service for 32 years, and was previously deputy supervisor of the Klamath National Forest in California. He is the son of Noel⁹ Rathbun (James⁸⁻⁷ Paris⁶ Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

TAMMY LEA IVES of Fitzgerald, Georgia, has been nominated for the second consecutive year for listing in "Who's Who Among High School and College Students." She will graduate in June from Valdosta State College as an all-A student, and plans to enter the University of Georgia Law School this fall. Tammy is the daughter of the late Hallet Wiley, and granddaughter of our member Alice (Rathbun) Wiley, whose grandfather was Hallet⁷ Rathbun (Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

LAUREN LANDIS, who is now working as a genealogical librarian, has traced her ancestry (through non-Rathbun lines) back to Alfred the Great, Charlemagne and at least two signers of the Magna Carta in 1215. She was also pleased to learn that she is eligible for membership in the Society for the Descendants of the Bastards of the Kings of England. Lauren and her mother Helen are descendants of John⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

Our New Members

Gretchen Artman
Plant City, Fla.

Helen M. Foster
Modesto, Calif.

Virginia Fraser
Seal Beach, Calif.

Mildred Johnson
Sidney, N.Y.

Nancy Klahn
Postville, Iowa

Don A. Rathbun
Overland Park, Kansas

Floyd Rathburn
Oneida, Wisc.

Joel and Jean Rathbone
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Letha L. Rathbun
Lancaster, Calif.

Anne H. Sanford
Carmel, Calif.

Sharon Shein
Willows, Calif.

Karen Stegman
Littleton, Colo.

CHARLES A. MURRAY is editor of the Gallia County (Ohio) Historical Society Newsletter, published quarterly. Charles's wife, Donna, is a granddaughter of David Roscoe⁹ Rathbun (Amos⁸ Sereno⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹).

BORN — July 19, 1989, Richard Russell Rathbun Jr., son of Richard R. and Judith (Ramos) Rathbun. He was born in Lima, Peru, but the family has since returned to the United States. The newcomer is a grandson of our members Marilyn and Richard N.¹⁰ Rathbun (Frederick⁹⁻⁸ Edward⁷ Charles⁶ Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

BORN — January 3, 1990, Nicole Marina Rathbun, daughter of Patrick and Melissa Rathbun of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Patrick is the son of Clarence¹⁰ Rathbun (Oscar⁹ George⁸ Corbet⁷ Gideon⁶ Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN — February 8, 1990, Bernadette Marie Gillespie, daughter of Curtis and Cathy Gillespie of Rapid City, Michigan. Curtis is the stepson of our members, Victor and Ruth Streeter. Victor is a descendant of Harriet⁷ Rathbun (Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

WE THANK the following members who have sent in family data, clippings, pictures and other materials: Ronald J. Rathbun, Eva Urban, Bud Parfitt, Carl Jordan, Frank E. Rathbun, Charles A. Murray, Joy Baker, Rob Rathbun, John Bowen, John H. Rathbun, Carson Hunt, Roma Lee Pursifull, Chester Mack, Janet and Grove Rathbun, Keith M. Rathbone, Bill and Carol Stelzner, Dorothy Mueller, George E. Rathbun, Kathy Phillips, Richard N. Rathbun, Lydia Littlefield, Robert C. Rathbone, Lauren Landis, Dorothy Hladik, Betty Drake, Edith Leppla, Joel and Jean Rathbone, Gerald Reser, Mary Rathburn Eade, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Gail Snider, Roy Rathbun, Kenneth Rathbun, Rhoda Durkin, Letha Rathbun, Hazel Jones and Alvin A. Rathbun.

WANTED — Information on William Henry Bailey, who married Eunice Rathbun on June 20, 1851, in Winnebago County, Ill. She was the daughter of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹). Who were his parents? Where did William and Eunice live and die? Where are they buried? Who were their children?