

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

# FAMILY HISTORIAN



Monroe Jackson Rathbone  
(1900-1976)

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

## Letter from the Editor

In our last issue, I reported the loss or theft of one of our bank deposits, which included several dozen members' checks totaling \$870. I urged members who had sent us checks in January or February to examine their records to see if their checks had cleared, and to send us new ones if they had not.

Only 10 members have responded, and sent us new checks totaling \$312. We are still short over \$500 and our budget just can't afford such a loss. We are writing to all members who we think sent us checks in January and February, asking them to check their records, but we cannot compile a complete list.

Please, if you sent us a check during that period, for new membership, renewal or purchase of back issues, look at your records, and if that check has not cleared, send us a new check for the same amount. The original checks were endorsed, so cannot be used by anyone else.

Our membership is creeping back up and now stands at 549, still below last year's total of 566. It looks as though we will have to postpone our goal of reaching 600 this year.

The 1991 reunion has been definitely set for Springfield, Illinois, during the week of July 22. Cousin Roy Rathbun of Streator, Ill., has volunteered to be our local contact. Although past reunions have been held in August or September, we are trying a July date in response to

many members who have children or are teachers, and cannot participate once school begins. We will see how this affects the turnout.

So, mark your calendar now for July 1991 in Springfield. That city was chosen because it was the home of President Abraham Lincoln, whose life was intertwined with several members of our family, from his birth through his death. The theme of the reunion will be "The Lincoln Connection."

We will have more details in the October issue, and will probably send reservation forms and hotel information with the January 1991 issue.

This Historian carries the sad news of Lois (Rathbone) McEachern's death at the age of 98. Those of you who attended the 1983, 1985 or 1987 reunions will remember this charming lady, who was such an inspiration to us all.

She was our Association's oldest member, and with her death that title now passes to Sadie May (Rathbun) Webster, of Hope Valley, R.I., who will be 98 in January. Close behind her is Oliver N. Rathbun of Springfield, N.Y., who will be 95 in December.

In my last letter, I told of my difficulty in keeping up with correspondence because of the growing workload of Association activities -- research, writing, proofreading, layouts, filing, new member recruitment and planning, as well as writing and answering letters.

Hazel, who has been and is a great help to me in all this work, has convinced me to hire a part-time secretary. Her name is Donna Lyons, and she is coming in for two hours, one day a week, for \$7 an hour. This will be another budget item for the Association, but one that we think has become necessary.

On the bright side, we have just discovered that our mailing costs will be much cheaper. When we purchased our last batch of Historian mailing envelopes, our supplier used a lighter paper than we have used for the past 10 years. To our surprise and delight, the Historian postage is now 45 cents, rather than the 65 cents we have been paying. That will save us more than \$450 a year!

The Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Association of Rhode Island has joined our fight to win a postage stamp honoring Captain John Peck Rathbun.

The Rhode Islanders have sent a strong letter to their state's United States Senators and Representatives, urging them to support our stamp request.

The letter was sent by Helen M. Rathbun, president of the Rhode Island group.

David, Frank E. and Donald Rathbun, were named to plan a picnic for the organization on July 29 in nearby Stonington, Conn.

The 1987-88 Historian indices are enclosed with this Historian. Our thanks again to Dr. Earl Antes for taking over this tedious but important task.

Hazel and I send you all our best wishes for a safe and happy summer.



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

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**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.

# Lois McEachern Dies at 98; Association's Oldest Member

**L**ois (Rathbone) McEachern, the oldest member of our Association, died May 25, 1990, at her home in Houston, Texas, less than two months before her 98th birthday.

Lois was an early and active member of the Association. She attended our first national reunion at Block Island in 1983, at the age of 91, and also came to our 1985 and 1987 reunions.

She had planned to attend last year's reunion in Rhode Island, but suffered a severe fall that summer, and had been bedridden ever since. Lois was an ardent Christian Scientist and refused any medical treatment. She was very proud of the fact that she shared a common ancestor — Edmund Rice — with Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science Church.

One of the highlights of our first three reunions was the group singing of "Happy Birthday" to Lois. Each time, in response, she walked firmly to the head table and thanked us for the tribute. "You are all my family, and I love you all," she said in 1987 with glistening eyes.

The several hundred Association members who attended the first three reunions had a rare privilege in meeting this truly remarkable lady — and a "real lady" she surely was.

Lois was born July 18, 1892, in a sod house on her grandfather's farm in South Dakota, between two Indian reservations. She was the daughter of Virgil Eugene<sup>8</sup> Rathbone (Albert<sup>7</sup> Amos<sup>6-5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) and his first wife, Tabitha Lucinda Green. Her father lived to be 93, and Lois obviously inherited his genes for longevity.

When Lois was two, she and her parents traveled by covered wagon to Missouri, where they lived several years, then moved to Tyler County, Texas, and Texas was to be her home for most of her long and fulfilling life.

Four years ago, Lois began putting together a 192-page booklet, with reminiscences of her life, pictures of family members, and dozens of favorite family



*Lois Rathbone aged 16.*



*Lois (Rathbone) McEachern about 90.*

recipies. She completed it after two years, and gave copies to all the members of her extended family. She also sent one to your editor, and it is a treasured addition to the family archives.

It was entitled, "The Family Cookbook," and was dedicated "In memory of Mama and Papa."

In the book, Lois related some of the fond memories of her Texas childhood:

"Young folks could have fun with simple things," she wrote. "No picture shows, radio or television. We would get together and go gathering walnuts or hickory nuts, pick wild flowers, jump rope.

"The older ones would play croquet in the back yard. We younger ones had a game called mumble-peg, played with a pocket knife.

"And what a thrill to come home from school to find that mama had made fried pies. And bread right out of the oven."

Lois eloped on January 16, 1910, to marry Robert Benton McEachern. They lived a few years in Oklahoma, but returned to Texas in 1915. They had three

children, but the marriage lasted only until the children were grown.

"We drifted apart," Lois wrote. "But we remained friends." McEachern died many years ago.

Her father had wanted to send Lois to college to study art, and was angry and disappointed when she ran off to marry at 17. She had a natural talent for painting, and for many years taught painting classes, both in her home and at studios in Galveston and Houston.

One of her early pupils was her younger sister, LaPrelle, who Lois raised for several years after their mother died in 1916.

LaPrelle, also a member of our Association, became a talented artist in her own right, and several of her paintings appear in Lois' booklet. LaPrelle has been married for 55 years to Robert Weatherford, former mayor of Independence, Mo., and a close friend of former President Harry S. Truman.

Lois put her artistic talents to use in very practical ways. Her Christmas

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# Monroe Jackson Rathbone Becomes World Oil Leader

In our last issue, we continued the story of the West Virginia Rathbones, who were pioneers in the oil industry. Their oil fields at Burning Springs were destroyed during the Civil War by Confederate troops, and the entire town was burned. In 1865, after the war's end, Burning Springs was rebuilt, and the oil fields were put back into operation. John Valleau "Val" Rathbone was a leader in the city's rebirth.

By mid-fall of 1865, Burning Springs, then officially named Rathbone City, again had a population of more than 6,000. A New York Herald reporter visited the town and reported: "Although there are no churches in Rathbone City, incense in the shape of petroleum is constantly floating upward . . . A Million and a half dollars will be spent this season in the development of oil territory on Burning Springs Run."

But just as the town was about to bounce back from adversity, tragedy struck again. A second fire broke out in the spring of 1866. A drilling team hit a gusher, which spewed gas and oil into the air for several days, covering a large section of the fields with a thick coating. The air was so noxious, many residents fled the city. Then, on the fifth day, a man carrying a lighted kerosene lantern slipped and fell. There was a sudden blast, and in minutes the oil fields and the river were a mass of flame. Only his charred bones were later found. Luckily, the fire did not reach the town, but oil production once again came to a halt.

Val Rathbone and his partner, Johnson Camden, discouraged but determined, once again built new derricks, tanks and offices. This time, their luck held, and Rathbone City, renamed Burning Springs again in 1868, settled down to serious oil production. Millions of barrels of oil were sent up the river to the Rathbones' refinery at Parkersburg.

But the oil industry was changing. A man named John D. Rockefeller had come to dominate the oil regions of Pennsylvania, and was plotting to take

over the entire American oil industry. In 1870, he organized the Standard Oil Company and began buying out independent refineries throughout the country. An industry-wide battle developed, but no one could stop him.

Rockefeller argued to his fellow oil refiners that the only way to bring stability to the industry was to unite in one organization — and Standard Oil was the obvious candidate. Skeptics were invited to Cleveland to look at the company's books. Most of those who saw the books were quickly persuaded to trade their refineries and equipment for Standard Oil stock. Those who refused



*John D. Rockefeller  
(1839-1937)*

found themselves paying higher and higher fees to ship their oil by railroad — Rockefeller had made a kickback deal with the railroad barons.

Just how it happened we don't know, but on May 12, 1875, Val Rathbone and Johnson Camden traded their refinery and other oil properties to John D. Rockefeller for Standard Oil stock. Maybe they had been invited to Cleveland to "look at the company books." Or maybe they just saw the handwriting on

the wall. By 1880, Rockefeller was refining 95 percent of all the oil produced in the United States.

Rathbone did keep the original 600-acre oil tract which had launched the family's rise to fortune — possibly for sentimental reasons, although it was sold by his heirs a few years after his death. The oil fields were abandoned, and the once-prosperous city of Burning Springs became a ghost town.

After the sellout to Rockefeller, Camden went into politics, and served several years as one of West Virginia's United States senators.

Val Rathbone had moved to Parkersburg some time in the early 1860s, and soon became a prominent figure. He and Camden had organized the Union Trust and Deposit Company, the city's largest bank, and Val later became president of its successor, the Parkersburg National Bank, and held that post until his death. He was also a director of the city's other major bank, First National Bank of Parkersburg. With his increasingly valuable Standard Oil stock, and his other investments, he became one of the city's wealthiest men.

When a court order dissolved the Rockefeller Oil Trust in 1892, Rathbone became a major stockholder in Rockefeller's new Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

Val Rathbone died in 1897, aged 76, leaving an estate valued at between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 to his five children.

Although he was one of Parkersburg's wealthiest men, according to his obituary he "was always a man of the plain people, unassuming and natural in his manners. Wealth did not make him proud or over-exacting in the respect he required from others. He was plain in his dress and speech, unostentatious in everything he did."

He had one peculiarity — he loved to whittle. He always carried a knife and stick of wood, and whittled as he walked or sat, even during business meetings.





*Monroe Jackson Rathbone  
(1900-1976)*

With his death, one chapter in the West Virginia Rathbones' saga came to an end. But two generations later, the name Rathbone would again become famous in the oil industry.

The new leader of the family was Monroe Jackson Rathbone Jr., born March 1, 1900, a great-grandson of Val Rathbone. (His father, Monroe Jackson Rathbone Sr., was the only son of Francis Vinton Rathbone (1851-1886), Val's oldest son, who married a niece of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson).

Monroe Jr., always known as Jack, was born in Parkersburg, where his father ran Standard Oil's local refinery. Jack enrolled at Lehigh University in

1917, but left after one semester to serve as a second lieutenant in the Army during World War I. He returned to Lehigh after the war, and was graduated in 1921 with a degree in chemical engineering.

With his family's Standard Oil connections, he had no problem finding a job. He went to work as a design engineer at the Baton Rouge refinery of Standard Oil of Louisiana.

But Jack Rathbone soon proved that he did not need family connections to make his mark. He was a man of ambition, intelligence and personal charm. Over six feet two inches tall, he had a commanding presence, and was de-

scribed as a man who "spoke softly and laughed readily."

In a phenomenal 44-year career with Standard Oil, he rose rapidly through the ranks to become head of the company and one of the giants of the world's oil industry.

Soon after joining the Baton Rouge refinery, he was elected by his fellow workers to a committee which represented them in labor-management negotiations — there being no industrial labor unions in those days.

In 1923, he was promoted to the operations division of Louisiana Standard as an experimental engineer, and a year after that he was named assistant to the general superintendent.

In 1926, he became general superintendent, and supervised the development and construction of extensive building projects, including new research laboratories. In the next few years, he advanced steadily — to assistant general manager, to vice-president, and finally in 1936, soon after his 36th birthday, he was named president of Louisiana Standard.

Rathbone served eight years as president, and helped make his company one of the most profitable in the Standard Oil network. His abilities were recognized at the national level, and in 1944 he was appointed president and director of Standard's new Esso Division.

In 1949, he was named to the board of directors of the parent Standard Oil Company. He took active part in company policy, and was credited with a leading role in developing new refinery processes, staking out new production fields and diversifying Standard's petroleum products.

Rathbone was quickly recognized as the most dynamic member of the board, and in 1953, when Standard's presidency became vacant, he was the unanimous choice to take over the job.

Six years later, he was named chief executive officer, and three years after that was elected chairman of the board of directors, retaining the chief executive position.

A little over a century after Val Rathbone drilled the world's second oil well, his great-grandson was in control of the nation's largest oil company and the

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# Bitter Political Feud Creates Rathbun Memorial Library

**E**ast Haddam, Conn., is one of the few small towns in America with two public libraries — thanks to a political feud and a stubborn, wealthy man named Norris Wheeler Rathbun, who died nearly 70 years ago. One of East Haddam's two libraries still carries his name — the Rathbun Free Memorial Library.

Norris Wheeler Rathbun Jr. was born Dec. 23, 1848, the son of Norris<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>5-4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). (Newspaper articles give his birth year as 1858, but the 1848 date appears to be correct. He was 12 years old in the 1860 census). Norris was raised on his father's 500-acre farm on "Tater Hill Road" in Millington, on the outskirts of East Haddam.

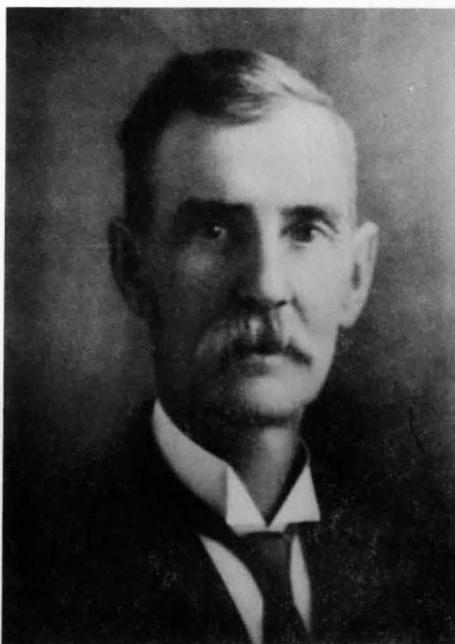
Young Norris attended East Haddam local schools, then was sent to the East Greenwich Academy in Rhode Island for further education. At 17, he returned home and for several years was a teacher in the local school district in the wintertime, and worked on his father's farm the rest of the year.

His father died in 1883, leaving Norris the family farm. In the next few years, he planted 1200 peach trees and developed one of the largest peach orchards in Connecticut. He also raised sheep, cattle, vegetables and "the best potatoes on the Tater Hill Road," according to an early local historian.

Rathbun was married in 1886 to Frances Lovina Emmons, but their only child, a son, died a few months after his birth in 1887.

Norris Rathbun became active in local politics, was elected town treasurer and justice of the peace, and served 40 years on the East Haddam Board of Education. In 1899, he was elected to represent his community in the Connecticut State Legislature, serving on the Education Committee. Education was one of his major interests.

Rathbun was also noted as something of a "tightwad." He was exceed-



*Norris Wheeler Rathbun  
(1848-1922)*

ingly careful with his money, although scrupulously honest. One of his friends later recalled an incident involving Rathbun and a local blacksmith.

It seems that Rathbun once had a broken wheel on his buggy, and took it to the smithy for repairs. The smith said he could fix the wheel for about \$4, and Rathbun agreed. When he returned later to get his buggy, the smith informed Rathbun that he had found and fixed some other items, and that the bill would be about \$6.

Rathbun adamantly refused to pay for the additional work, since he had not authorized it. He gave the furious blacksmith only \$4.

As a farmer, Rathbun was the chief spokesman for East Haddam's "country people," who were vastly outnumbered, and outvoted, by the "city folks." Rathbun fought for roads and bridges and other rural improvements, but seldom won.

His chief political opponent was Judge Albert E. Purple, the acknowledged leader of the business interests



*Frances (Emmons) Rathbun  
(1860-1930)*

centered in the urban areas of East Haddam. Purple was a cotton goods manufacturer, bank president and probate court judge.

Rathbun and Purple clashed often and bitterly at East Haddam town meetings, and old-timers used to talk about their "rip-roaring" debates and heated arguments.

Rathbun retired from farming in 1901, sold his farm, and moved into East Haddam Center. He never lost his hatred of Judge Purple.

Early in the 1900s, Purple donated \$20,000 and a plot of land to build a library. It was opened in 1919 after his death, as the East Haddam Public Library, and Judge Purple was hailed as a community benefactor.

Norris Rathbun did not join in the accolades, and was not happy to see his old enemy publicly honored, even in death. Rathbun planned his revenge in a strange way.

Rathbun died in 1922, leaving an estate of nearly \$200,000 — a considerable fortune at that time. His will

provided that the bulk of the money was to be put into a trust fund to support his wife until her death, and was then to be used to build a new public library — bigger and more expensive than the one Judge Purple had given the community.

The will stipulated that, after his wife's death, the trust fund would be used "to establish a free public library in the village of East Haddam, to be called the Rathbun Free Memorial Library." It was to be built on the site of Rathbun's home, which he donated to the village for that purpose. Rathbun even specified the architectural design of the building.

The balance of the fund, after the library was built and furnished, was to be kept in perpetuity for the library's maintenance.

Mrs. Rathbun died eight years later, in 1930, and in her will left another \$10,000 for the library, as well as the family's book collection and several valuable pieces of furniture.

The trust fund managers began their work a short time later. The Rathbun home was moved, and the site cleared.

The library was built and furnished, and opened in 1935. It had cost some \$50,000 — more than double the amount that Judge Purple had contributed for "his" library.

In death, Rathbun had finally outdone his long-time political rival.

The Rathbun library is today about as it was when it opened 55 years ago. The main reading room, 66 feet long and 30 feet wide, has fireplaces at both ends, with a painting of Norris Rathbun over one, and his wife over the other. In the lower level is a large "social room" with adjoining kitchen, still used for community gatherings. Book stacks, offices, storage areas and restrooms comprise the rest of the building.

For its day, the library was a magnificent structure, and remains so today, thanks to the maintenance money from Rathbun's trust fund. Additional funding is raised by a community group called the "Friends of Rathbun."

The current librarian is Martha Monte, who has run the library since 1960. She is very proud of the fact that the Rathbun

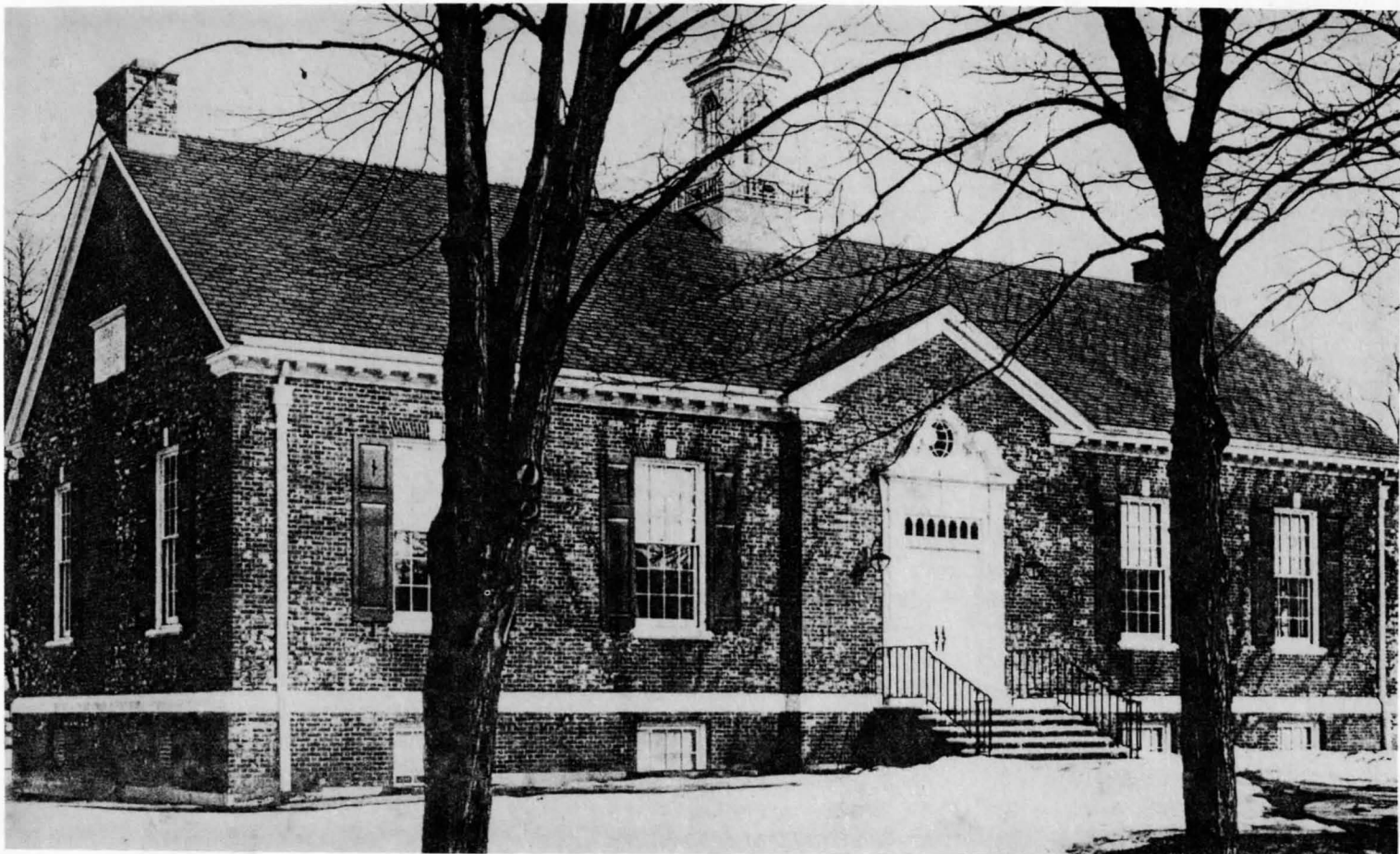
library is the only one in Connecticut which is completely operated with private funds.

"We have never had to seek any town, state or federal aid," she says with satisfaction.

The Rathbun library today specializes in local history, genealogy, biography and art books, primarily for adult readers, leaving "Judge Purple's" library to concentrate on pleasure reading and children's books.

The two libraries cooperate in serving the community, and few East Haddam residents know that they have two libraries because of a bitter feud so many years ago.

*(Our thanks to our members, Loren Marvin and Alvin A. Rathbun, and to Martha Montie of the Rathbun library for supplying clippings and other background on the library and on the Rathbun-Purple feud which made this story possible. Alvin is a great-nephew of Norris Rathbun, and received a bequest in his will to provide for a college education.)*



*The Rathbun Free Memorial Library in East Haddam, Conn.*



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world's wealthiest and most powerful corporation, with assets of over \$5 billion!

Some measure of his success can be seen in Standard's spectacular growth during his years in charge. The company's gross operating revenues rose from \$6.2 billion to more than \$12 billion.

Rathbone is credited by company historians with many major policy decisions, including two with immense impact on the company, on the oil industry and on the world.

In 1960, soon after taking over as Chief Executive Officer, Rathbone decided that his company, and the oil industry, was facing a crisis situation. There was a world-wide glut of oil on international markets, and prices were falling. Standard would have to cut its prices to compete, but the company was already operating with a razor-thin profit margin.

Rathbone took drastic action. Over the objections of many top Standard advisors, he challenged the powerful oil sheiks of the Middle East by announcing that Standard would cut its payment for oil from \$2 a barrel to \$1.80. The action cut the annual oil income of Saudi Arabia alone by \$30 million. Other major oil companies followed Rathbone's lead.

The Saudi royal family and other Middle East leaders were furious. They called a meeting of the world major oil-producing nations, and a few weeks later the world was faced with OPEC — the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The United States came to realize OPEC's power a few years later, when an oil boycott forced millions of Americans to wait in long lines at filling stations to buy a few gallons of gasoline at inflated prices.

Rathbone's second major decision sprang from the first. He was concerned that Standard Oil was too dependent on the Middle East for its petroleum. Again, over objections from more conservative stockholders, Rathbone launched a \$700 million search for new sources, and within 10 years, his company had secured drilling rights to reserves with nearly 20 million barrels of oil — all outside the Middle East.

This action by Rathbone has been called the most important decision in

Standard's long history.

Rathbone's activities ranged far beyond the oil industry. He served on the boards of directors for many other major corporations, including Bethlehem Steel, American Telephone and Telegraph, and Prudential Insurance, and on such private groups as the Deafness Research Foundation, the National Fund for Medical Education, and the Council for Financial Aid to Education.

He was active in the Lehigh Alumni Association, serving as board chairman and president; was board chairman of the American Petroleum Institute, and a director of Junior Achievement. During World War II, he served on President Roosevelt's Business Council.

Rathbone was married in 1922 to Eleanor Groves, and had two children — Virginia and Dr. Monroe Jackson Rathbone III.

He retired in 1965 from the Standard Oil operation, and when his retirement plans were announced at the company's annual meeting in 1964, the stockholders gave him a standing ovation. One proposed that Rathbone be made "Chairman for Life," a suggestion that he firmly rejected.

His retirement marked the end of a fabulous success story — a small-town boy from West Virginia who became one of the world's most powerful industrial leaders.

Rathbone, even in retirement, maintained a strong voice in Standard Oil policy. He returned to the arena briefly in 1972, when he strongly opposed plans to change Standard's official name to Exxon. He lost the battle, and later admitted that he had been wrong.

The name change, he said, was "the best damn thing that ever happened to the company."

Rathbone died at the age of 76 on August 2, 1976, at a hospital in Baton Rouge.

*(Our thanks to several cousins for their help in this story of Monroe Jackson Rathbone — to Daniel Rathbone, retired official of the American Petroleum Institute, for helping obtain our front-cover picture of Mr. Rathbone; to Gaal and Mildred Rathburn, and to Rev. Ray Martin, for sending me books on the history of Standard Oil and the oil industry, and to A.H. Wofford of Exxon's public affairs department.)*

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cards were hand-painted and hand-lettered — exquisite works of art. Hazel and I will always treasure those she sent to us.

Lois had lived for over 50 years with her daughter, Winfred Brown, who accompanied her mother to our first three national reunions. Lois' other two children — both sons — have been dead for some years.

"Mother was a truly lovely person," Winfred told your editor. "She was a great woman and a good Christian all of her long life. She loved to do things for others."

In her early 90s, Lois taught painting classes for two years in a nursing home. Most of the "old folks" there were much younger than her.

"Age never stopped mother from enjoying life," Winfred said. "She and a lady friend made four trips to Hawaii and one to Mexico when they were both in their 80s.

"The thrill of her life," Winfred said, was attending the 1983 Block Island reunion and helping to finance the monument our Association erected in honor of her immigrant ancestors.

Lois also was delighted with our Family Historian, and as her eyes began to fail in recent years, she asked family members to read the stories to her.

Lois outlived two of her three children, and is survived, in addition to Winfred and her sister LaPrelle, by nine grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, nine great-great-grandchildren and one great-great-great-grandchild.

News of Lois' death came in a letter from her brother-in-law, Bob Weatherford, and the letter was so touching, we reprint part of it here:

"Lois McEachern graduated into Heaven on May 25, 1990. . . . She was truly a great lady, loved and respected by all and was probably in a closer relationship with God than most of us. . . . We all loved her but now she is safely cradled in God's arms and enjoying a great reunion with those she loved."

*(Our thanks to Winfred Brown for providing the pictures and information for this story about her mother's life.)*

# Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

**268. ELIJAH<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born July 14, 1783, at Granby, Conn., and married there on March 11, 1802, Cynthia Messenger, born Sept. 27, 1784, daughter of David and Hannah (Higley) Messenger. They followed his brothers, William and Daniel, to Ohio in 1805, and settled in Granville, Licking County. He was an early member of the Center Star Masonic Lodge there. With the outbreak of the War of 1812, he joined the local militia and marched with General William Hull's Army to Detroit, and participated in the invasion of Canada on August 16, 1812. He was wounded and captured, and later paroled. He returned home in poor health and died on July 20, 1814, from the effects of his wounds. Cynthia was remarried on August 11, 1816, to William Percy or Perry, and died March 12, 1877, nearly 93 years old. She received a Federal pension for many years based on Elijah's war service.

## CHILDREN

LUCY, born Sept. 3, 1803; died Oct. 11, 1804.

SERENO, born Dec. 23, 1804; married (1) Sally Braley, and (2) Melissa (Darth) Kennedy.

JAMES E., born Feb. 15, 1807; married Jane Bitler.

ELIJAH, born Aug. 29, 1809; married Sally Kirkpatrick.

CYNTHIA, born May 9, 1812; married Reul Braley on July 6, 1828.

**269. JOHN CLARK<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Ebenezer<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Sept. 17, 1792, in Lyme, Conn., and moved with his father as a baby to Lima, Ontario County, N.Y., in 1793. He enlisted in a troop of New York cavalry in the War of 1812, and was wounded in the Battle of Bridgewater, Canada, in 1814, suffering gunshot wounds and saber cuts, for which he

was later pensioned. He was apparently married about 1815, for he appears in the 1830 census at Lima with a wife and two children, names all unknown. By the early 1830s, he was living in Madison County, Illinois, where on Feb. 11, 1833, he was married to Lydia W. Smith, a widow, born about 1807, parentage unknown. (She may have been a Quigley: an Adam Quigley, aged 81, was living with her in 1860). John C. Rathbun died about 1859 in Madison County, and his widow was remarried on Feb. 15, 1863, to Alvin Hauskins. Nothing more is known of her. John may have had a son, Anthony, who was living in Madison County in 1850 aged 30. He was not listed in the 1860 census and nothing more is known of him.

**270. DAVID B.<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Ebenezer<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 13, 1808, at Lima, N.Y. He moved as a young man to Michigan, and was married there, at Plymouth, Wayne County, on June 9, 1832, to Susan B. Smith, born Jan. 12, 1811, parentage unknown. He was a farmer all his life at Plymouth. On Jan. 12, 1853, he sold his share of his father's estate at Lima. Susan died Oct. 5, 1865, and he was married about four years later to Jane \_\_\_\_\_, born Sept. 2, 1822, parentage unknown. She died Oct. 12, 1894, and David died April 11, 1895.

## CHILDREN

CHAUNCEY GOODRICH, born in 1834; married Genette Whittaker.

JOHN E., born in Sept. 1836; married (1) Mary \_\_\_\_\_, and (2) Charlotte \_\_\_\_\_.

LEVI W., born about 1839; married Ella Merritt.

GEORGE, born about 1841; died May 20, 1847.

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

ESTHER G., born Dec. 22, 1847; died July 10, 1849 with "fits."

HIRAM T., born in October 1853; married (1) Kate \_\_\_\_\_, and (2) Lovice \_\_\_\_\_.

**271. EBENEZER<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Ebenezer<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1813 at Lima, N.Y., and married there on Nov. 23, 1837, Lucy Austin, born about 1819, parentage unknown. They moved about 1842 to near Thornapple, Barry County, Michigan, where they were among the first settlers. When the Civil War broke out, Ebenezer enlisted in the 13th Michigan infantry at the age of 48, giving his age as 41. He died on April 26, 1862, in a hospital at Nashville, Tenn., of typhoid and pneumonia. Lucy received a pension for his Army service, and lived until April 19, 1891, when she died at Hilliards Station, Allegan County, Mich. In her pension application, neighbors stated that Ebenezer spelled his name at different times as Rathbun, Rathbone and Rathburn.

See Corrections 10-4 p 62

## CHILDREN

SUSAN CECELIA, born Dec. 29, 1838; married William F. Heusel on Dec. 9, 1857.

JOHN E., born in April 1840; married (1) Elizabeth Buckles, and (2) Fanny B. Molinaro. (See our issue of January 1987 for this family's tragic story.)

NANCY ORILLEA, born Jan. 1, 1842; married Edward Cole on Feb. 15, 1860.

GURDEN CLARK, born in 1844; joined the Union Army and was killed in action June 30, 1862, during the Civil War, only two months after his father's death.

MARY A., born about 1846; married \_\_\_\_\_ Hellar.

ELIZA A., born Oct. 22, 1847; married (1) a Bronson, and (2) James Gilbride on May 22, 1897.

SARAH EVALINE, born Sept. 10, 1849; married (1) an Austin, and (2) Ernest Gosch in 1911.

(continued on page 42)



(continued from page 41)

EDWARD, born about 1851; died in infancy.

ERNEST JESSE, born March 18, 1853; married Cynthia Sheldon.

EDWIN FILLMORE, born March 11, 1855; married Seraphina Mabel Hawley.

NOYES EBENEZER, born Dec. 25, 1858; married Sarah K. \_\_\_\_\_.

ELLA CAROLINA, born April 26, 1861; married (1) \_\_\_\_\_; (2) Joseph Buckley, and (3) Edward Edeler.



This picture is believed to be that of Ebenezer Rathbun (1813-1862).



Lucy (Austin) Rathbun  
(1819-1891)

**272. THOMAS<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Thomas<sup>5-4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1794 at East Haddam, Conn., and married there on Feb. 8, 1821, Annie Ingraham, born about 1799, parentage unknown. He served in the War of 1812, returned to East Haddam and lived there until his death on Oct. 14, 1842. Annie died July 14, 1868, in Cromwell, Conn.

#### CHILDREN

SARAH ANN, born in July 1825; married Josephus Merriman on June 6, 1847.

FRANCES AUGUSTA, born April 20, 1830; married (1) Dr. Linus Garr Smith on Sept. 17, 1851, and (2) Deacon John Stevens on April 12, 1856.

**273. NORRIS WHEELER<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Thomas<sup>5-4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Jan. 22, 1811, in East Haddam, Conn. He was married Nov. 24, 1833, in Lyme, Conn., to Louise Luna Swan, born May 10, 1813, daughter of Thomas W. and Luna (Emmons) Swan. They lived on a prosperous 500-acre farm at Millington, Conn., most of their lives. Louisa died at East Haddam on August 5, 1867, and Norris on June 16, 1883.

#### CHILDREN

LOUISA LUNA, born May 16, 1837; she was a bright and ambitious young woman, who attended Bacon Academy and later New Britain Normal School, and was a teacher for 14 years. She contracted tuberculosis, had to retire in 1869, and died Oct. 2, 1871, unmarried.

ISABELLA MARIA, born June 2, 1840; died Sept. 13, 1861, unmarried.

SARAH ELIZABETH, born Dec. 3, 1845; married James H. Manwaring on Nov. 9, 1896. (In our January 1990 Historian, we had a story on her interesting "inheritance," in which we incorrectly stated that she was never married, and gave her birth year incorrectly as 1847. Our thanks to Alvin A. Rathbun for these corrections.)

NORRIS WHEELER, born Dec. 23, 1848; married Frances Emmons.

THOMAS SWAN, born August 5, 1852; married Della Brown.

**274. SAMUEL C.<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Dec. 3, 1777, at Canterbury, Conn., and married there about 1802 Polly Parrish, born July 19, 1781, daughter of Roswell and Anna (Starkweather) Parrish. They moved about 1806 to Foxborough, Norfolk County, Mass., and in the 1820s to Wrentham, Mass., where he died on Jan. 28, 1864, and Polly on March 19, 1874. Samuel was a cooper by trade.

#### CHILDREN

POLLY, born Jan. 11, 1803; no further data.

ADELIN MATILDA, born Feb. 5, 1805; married Joseph Jewett on Sept. 7, 1828.

ELIZA ANN, born July 21, 1807; married (?) Abner Putnam on March 31, 1839.

SARAH EMELINE, born July 20, 1809; died Oct. 14, 1867, unmarried.

WILLIAM PAYSON, born Feb. 5, 1812; died April 14, 1876, unmarried.

SOPHONIA, born Sept. 27, 1815; died Sept. 28, 1896, unmarried.

HENRY AUGUSTUS, born June 25, 1818; married Mary Ruggles.

HARRIET ANN (?), born about 1820; married John Albert Ware in June 1841.

ALBERT PARRISH, born April 5, 1822; married Lucy E. Patten.

**275. DANIEL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 1, 1780, at Canterbury, Conn. He moved as a young man to Springfield, Mass., where on July 26, 1818, he was married to Jerusha (Sweetland) Alden, born about 1797, daughter of Daniel and Hannah Sweetland, and widow of Elijah Alden. He died at Springfield on Jan. 15, 1844, and Jerusha on Dec. 24, 1857. So far as is known, they had no children, although Jerusha had two daughters by her first marriage.

**276. BENJAMIN<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born June 16, 1786, at Canterbury, Conn. Like his brother, Daniel, he moved as a young man to Springfield, Mass., and was married there about 1810 to Joanna \_\_\_\_\_, born about 1790, parentage unknown. She died Jan. 28,



1838, and he was married again on July 3, 1839, to Harriet E. Bliss, born May 10, 1802, daughter of Nathaniel and Mary (Morgan) Bliss. Benjamin was a cooper. Harriet died March 23, 1862, and he died five years later on Oct. 23, 1867. (It is probable that he had a third wife: the 1869 Springfield directory lists a Mrs. Benjamin Rathbun, and a Widow Sarah Rathbun, who we cannot place, died April 21, 1869, at Westboro, Mass., possibly Benjamin's widow.)

#### CHILDREN

(By Joanna)

CHARLES ELLIOTT, born about 1812; married (1) Nancy Davis; (2) Louise Sawyer, and (3) Anne E. Van Deusen.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

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**277. WALTER<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Samuel<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born August 18, 1796, in Shaftsbury, Vt., and married about 1820 to Lucina \_\_\_\_\_, born about 1795, parentage unknown. They moved in the late 1820s to Essex County, N.Y., and by 1850 to Athol, Warren County, N.Y. He died there on March 22, 1860. Lucina survived him, but her death date is not known.

#### CHILDREN

LUCINA, born about 1821; married Nehemia Warren.

WALTER (?), born possibly about 1822; alive in 1850, no further data.

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**278. DANIEL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (William<sup>5</sup> Obadiah<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born July 22, 1787, at Lisbon, Conn. He moved as a young man to Chautauqua County, N.Y., and was married there, at Ripley, on Jan. 20, 1822, to Armenia Birch, born about 1806, daughter of Admiral Rodney and Mary Etta (Rathbun) Birch, born about 1806, daughter of Simeon<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). They moved in the late 1830s to LaPorte County, Indiana, where he was called a carpenter in the 1850 census. They moved by 1860 to Waterloo, Iowa, where Daniel died on June 12, 1861. Armenia returned to LaPorte and died some time after 1865.

#### CHILDREN

SYLVANUS, born about 1826; married Amelia \_\_\_\_\_.

JOEL, born about 1830; alive in 1847; no further data.

MARIETTA, born about 1832; married John E. Flucard on March 14, 1853.

WARREN, born about 1834; served in the U.S. Army during the Civil War; no further data.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, born about 1841; died of typhoid on Jan. 12, 1863, while serving with the U.S. Army in the Civil War.

ELIZA J., born about 1843; alive in 1850, no further data.

HARRIET, born about 1845; married Philander Birch on June 22, 1870.

CHARLOTTE, born about 1847; married Charles C. Campbell on Oct. 11, 1871.

ANDREW, born in May 1850; died by 1860.

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**279. JOSEPH<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Obadiah<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 18, 1794, in Kings County, New Brunswick, Canada, and married Nov. 26, 1818, at St. Johns, New Brunswick, Ruth Solding, born in 1795, daughter of Thomas and Ruth (Shalor) Solding. He died in Kings County some time after 1861. Ruth was still living in 1881.

#### CHILDREN

JOSEPH, born Oct. 14, 1819; married Amelia Jennette Brown on April 23, 1851; no children.

THOMAS, born about 1821; married Margaret \_\_\_\_\_.

JOHN SOLDING, born March 21, 1824; married Elizabeth Ann Brown.

ELIZABETH ANN, born about 1826; married John H. Brown on Feb. 2, 1848.

FRANCES RUTH, born April 18, 1829; married (?) Joseph Pelvin on May 6, 1870.

EUNICE, born in 1833; no further data.

NANCY JANE, born about 1835; married Richard Estey on Sept. 22, 1853.

JANE MATILDA, born in 1836; apparently never married, but reportedly had an illegitimate son, Abner Rathbun, born in 1877.

GEORGE JAMES, born June 17, 1838; married Frances (Everts) Brown.

**280. WILLIAM HENRY<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Obadiah<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1797 in Kings County, New Brunswick, and married there on Oct. 25, 1828, Elizabeth Johnson, birth and parentage unknown. She apparently died within a few years, and he was married on Oct. 17, 1834, to Susannah Hersey, born about 1801, parentage unknown. They moved by 1838 to Burton, Simsbury County, where he was called a ship's carpenter in the 1851 census. Both died some time after 1871, when they were listed in the Burton census. He was described as a pauper. With them were their daughter, Almira, then 34, and a Permelia Rathbun, aged 8, possibly Almira's illegitimate daughter.

#### CHILDREN

ALMIRA AMELIA, born in 1838; no known marriage.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

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**281. RAYMOND COGSWELL<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>5-4-3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born about 1794 in Exeter, R.I., and moved as a boy with his parents to Frankfort, N.Y. He was married in 1818 in Arlington, Vermont, to Susan Veerman, born about 1798, parentage unknown. They were living at Sandy Creek, Oswego County, N.Y., in 1830, and by 1850 were at Naples, in Yates County, where Susan died some time after 1855, and Raymond died April 11, 1885, aged 91.

#### CHILDREN

DAUGHTER, name unknown; born about 1819; possibly died young.

JANE, born about 1825; married (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Combs, and (2) Phares Clark.

GEORGE, born about 1835; no known marriage.

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**282. JOB WILBUR<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Stephen<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born June 29, 1784, in Westerly, R.I., and married there March 28, 1831, Thankful Gavitt, born about 1787, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Gavitt. They had no children. Job died at Westerly on March 22, 1855, and Thankful on April 17, 1864.

(continued on page 44)

(continued from page 43)

**283. DAVID TAYLOR<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (Stephen<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born March 6, 1792, at Westerly, R.I. He served in the R.I. Militia during the War of 1812. He was married at Westerly March 7, 1816, to Amelia Lamphere, born about 1796, parentage unknown. She died by 1850, and he was married by that time to Hannah (Babcock) Sims, born Sept. 18, 1794, possibly the daughter of Henry Babcock and widow of Jeremiah Sims. David died early in the 1860s, and Hannah died May 18, 1875.

## CHILDREN

?ELIZABETH T., born about 1819; unmarried in 1850.

?STEPHEN, born in August 1821; married Anna McDonald.

MARTHA C., born about 1823; died June 18, 1851, unmarried.

NANCY MARIE, born about 1826; died Dec. 13, 1886, unmarried.

SUSAN D., born about 1820; alive in 1860, unmarried.

**284. JAMES<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (James<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born May 20, 1786, at Westerly, and moved as a boy with his parents to Laurens, Otsego County, N.Y., where he was married about 1809 to Esther Fuller, born April 10, 1791, daughter of Jonathan and Rhoda Fuller. She died Sept. 10, 1818, possibly in childbirth, and he was married the following year to her sister, Mercy Fuller, born July 2, 1786. She died Oct. 13, 1847, and James died March 31, 1865. His obituary notice called him "Captain," meaning that he probably held that office in the local militia.

## CHILDREN

By Esther

ISAAC P., born Feb. 15, 1810; married Almira Whitcomb.

STEPHEN C., born June 28, 1812; married Phoebe Johnson.

CYRUS F., born June 27, 1814; married Susan Straight.

THOMAS W., born Aug. 17, 1816; married Jane Hume.

By Mercy

JONATHAN FULLER, born March 3, 1820; married Mary Lowe in 1849. He died Feb. 14, 1889, and had no children.

ESTHER FULLER, born Sept. 14, 1822; married Warren Grant April 5, 1868.

MARY A., born Sept. 16, 1831; married Edwin Van Slyke on Nov. 8, 1856.

**285. JOHN HAZARD<sup>6</sup> RATHBUN** (James<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 10, 1794, in Westerly, R.I., and moved with his parents as a boy to Laurens, N.Y. He served as a bugler in the Army during the War of 1812, and was married at Laurens about 1815 to Nancy Colley, born about 1795,

daughter of Peter and Mary (Samped) Colley. They moved a few years later to Ontario, Canada, where Nancy died in 1845 and he died on Oct. 18, 1854.

## CHILDREN

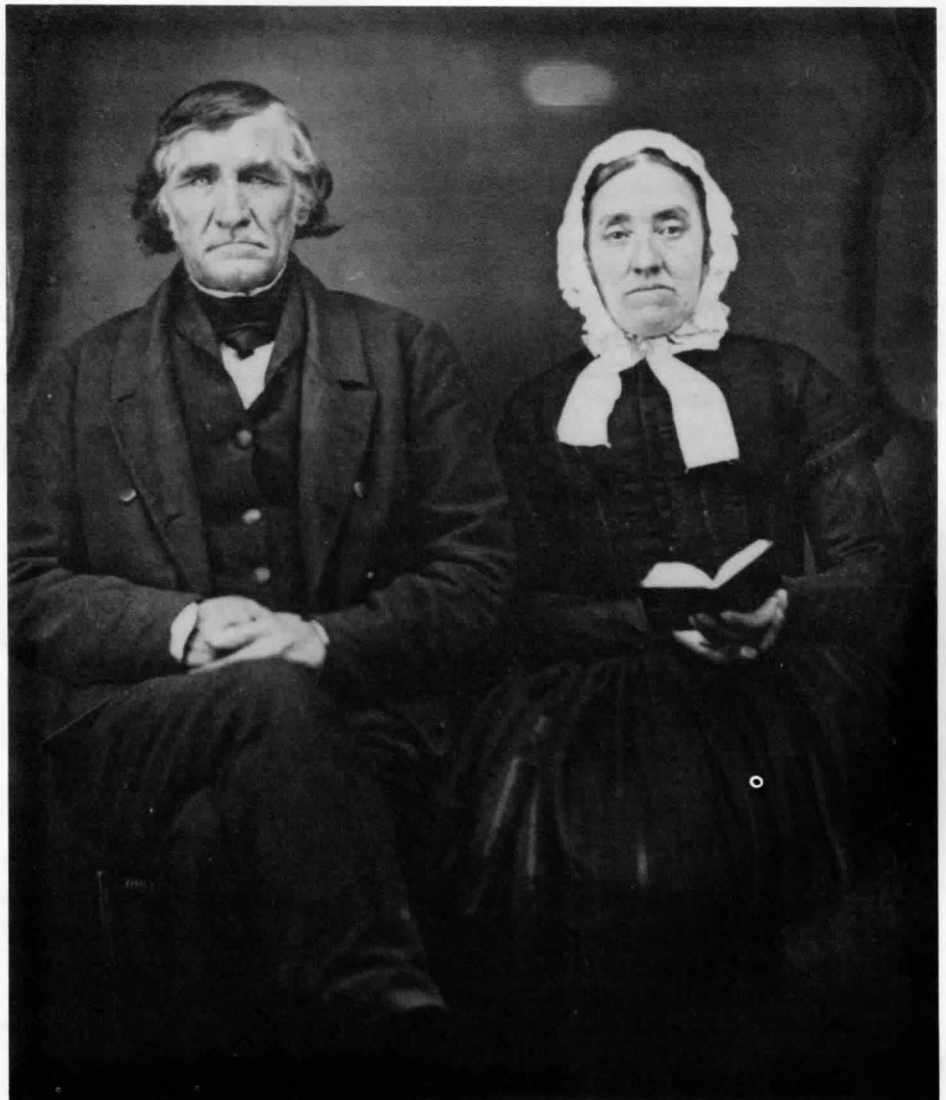
HANNAH MARIA, born about 1816; married John Bellamy.

JOHN COLLEY, born Sept. 30, 1822; married (1) Susanna Bellamy; (2) Charlotte Windover, and (3) Eliza \_\_\_\_\_.

JAMES RICHARD, born about 1828; married Martha Oliver.

HENRY, born April 3, 1838; married Mary M. Marsh.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.



*In our last issue, we printed pictures of John S. Rathbun (1794-1869) and his second wife Susan (O'Lacy) Rathbun. We have since received this remarkably clear picture of the couple, possibly taken at or shortly after the time of their marriage in 1850. Our thanks to Lauren Landis, a descendent.*

# Early Account Of Ancestors

An interesting account of some early Rathbun ancestors, written nearly 150 years ago, has been submitted by our member Arthur Hutchinson.

Among Art's family papers is a copy of a letter written in the early 1800s by his ancestor, William Hunt (1769-1852), whose wife was Susannah Fellows, daughter of William Fellows and Susannah<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Hunt wrote the letter to his daughter Sally Cowles, probably in the 1840s. It was copied in 1855 by Sally Cowles' daughter, Susannah, and then copied again in 1904 by Susannah's daughter, Fannie Hutchinson. Each added a little information, updating the family records. Some of the errors noted below were probably made in the copying and recopying.

After relating some of his own family background, Hunt went into the Rathbun history.

"Your grandmother Fellows maiden name was Susannah Rathbone, daughter of Elder Valentine Rathbone, your great-grandfather. She was born at Stonington, Conn., and married there. In the year 1784, they moved from Stonington to Stephentown, N.Y.

"Your great-great-grandfather Rath-

bone whose name was John (actually Joshua) was . . . from Ireland (obviously incorrect) and his wife's name was Mary Witmark (actually Wightman). They settled in early life in the town of West-erly near the Pawcatuck River in R.I. (Actually across the river in Stonington, Conn.) Your great-grandfather Valentine Rathbone (Valentine actually used the Rathbun spelling) moved from Stonington, Conn., to Pittsfield, Mass., in 1768 and in 1800 moved west into the town of Marcellus, N.Y., where he and his wife died at a great age. Her name was Tabitha Brown.

"Your great-great-grandfather John Rathbone (actually Joshua Rathbun) was very rich for those days, raised a large family (he had 12 children by Mary), and after settling off his children had between \$3,000 and \$4,000 left, which one of his sons took to pay his and his wife's expenses for the rest of their lives (this was probably his eldest son, Rev. John Rathbun or Rathbone)."

The letter then goes on to tell more about the Hunts, Fellowses and other families. It is always fascinating to find such old letters with family information, and we thank Arthur Hutchinson for sharing this one with us.

# New Data Found on Acors Rathbun

A little additional information has been found on Acors Rathbun (1772-1855), son of Joshua<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Joshua<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), whose picture appeared in our Historian of July 1985.

Acors was married in 1794 to Sarah Peckham (1777-1859). According to a 1922 Peckham Genealogy, her parents were "lofty-minded and objected to her marriage" with Acors, who was a mere "hatter." She married him anyway, without their consent, and they moved soon after the marriage to Oneida County, N.Y., where they purchased a wilderness tract and cleared it for a farm.

The book also relates how Sarah helped Acors clear the land and how roving bands of up to 10 Indians sometimes slept in their kitchen before the great fireplace. They would leave early in the morning "with grunts of thanksgiving."

It also tells the story that Acors once cut his foot with an axe while chopping wood. While Sarah was helping him dress and bandage the wound, the family's pet fox, attracted by the smell of blood, fastened its teeth on Acors' leg and held on until its jaws were pried loose!

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**WE THANK** the following members who have sent in family data, clippings, pictures and other materials: Ruth Rathbun, Mary Van Epps, Clair Cornell, Jayne Resin, Darleen Boyle, Martha Mardavich, Larry Trask, Dorothy Mueller, Hazel Jones, Anna May and Roy Rathbun, Rob Rathbun, Rosma Limbeck, Betty Drake, Mary Pearl Whitman, Sherman Boivin, Beth Kately, Mildred Rathburn, Marilyn Greee, Anella Hunt, Lauren Landis, Russell G. Rathbun, Russell P. Rathbun, Anna Angelini, Arthur Hutchinson, Bruce Rathbun, John Robinson, Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Best, Glen Rathbun, David E. Rathbun, Fred C. Rathbun, Jean Peterson, Jan and Grove Rathbun, Mary Ellen Claypool, Jim Chivers, Marjorie Rathbun, Frank E. Rathbun, Mabel Gebler, Bob and LaPrelle Weatherford, Winfred Brown, William Wright, Elaine Flathers, Jean Hal-den Walker and John Bowen.

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## In Remembrance

One of the newest additions to our membership list is David E. Morgan, head of the Milan (Ohio) Public library, who ordered a membership for the library in memory of the late Neva Delores (Rathburn) Collman, who died September 29, 1989. Mrs. Collman was a long-time volunteer worker for the library and for the Milan Historical Society. She was the daughter of James Henry<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (Judson<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She was the aunt of our member Helen Landis. After this year, the Milan Library will be added to our list of complimentary subscriptions for the Historian.

## Old Family Deed

Alvin A. Rathbun of Portola Valley, California, is the proud possessor of what is probably the oldest family-owned Rathbun deed in the country.

The deed, dated May 30, 1762, was made in Lyme, Connecticut, by John McCurdy, who sold "seven acres and seventy-four rods" of land to "Mr. Thomas Rathbon of Lyme."

The property was bounded by a black oak tree, two heaps of stones, and by "said Rathbon's own fence."

This Thomas (1730-1769) was the son of Thomas<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He was Alvin Rathbun's great-great-grandfather.



# Births

**BORN** — March 26, 1990, Bradley Russell Lavin, son of Russell and Jill Lavin of Laurence, Kansas, and the first great-great-grandchild of our member, Vera (McNemar) Rathbun, of Topeka, Kansas, the widow of William Harley<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Daniel<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**BORN** — June 8, 1990, Skylar Jordan Baker, daughter of Loren and Deborah Lee Baker of Havre, Mont., and the second great-great-grandchild of our member Vera Rathbun (see preceding birth).

**BORN** — March 5, 1990, Jessica Lynne Bender, daughter of Todd Eugene and Laura Renee Bender; granddaughter of our member Donna Bender, and great-granddaughter of Vera Rathbun (see preceding births). Vera, who will be 86 on August 14, now has 14 living grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. She is the mother of three Association members — Donna Bender, Patti Garrett and Bruce M. Rathbun.

**BORN** — April 15, 1990, Ryan Michael Best, son of Captain Michael R. and Deborah A. Best, of Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; first grandchild of our members, Dr. Raymond H. and Nikki C. (Stone) Best, and first great-grandchild of our member Beverly Stone. Beverly, now recovering from a broken hip and heart attack, is a granddaughter of George T. Brown and Mary Adeline<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (Thomas<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Coggeshall<sup>4</sup> Abraham<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**BORN** — December 15, 1989, Robin Rathbun, son of Scott and Christine (Westover) Rathbun of Sumner, Washington, and grandson of Barbara and Robin<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Chelsea<sup>9</sup> Henry<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

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**PLEASE** — Look at the Editor's Letter on Page 34. Does one of our missing checks belong to you? Look at your records and see.

# New Data

We have obtained a complete and corrected list of the children of Gideon<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), from Martha Mardavich, a descendent. It was compiled nearly 100 years ago by George Marshall Rathbun, one of Gideon's grandsons. The list follows:

ELIZABETH, born March 13, 1796; married John Moore.

JONATHAN, born Sept. 1, 1798; died young.

EDMUND, born Sept. 29, 1800; married Mary Dye.

MERCY, born March 12, 1802; married Nicholas Francis.

JOSEPH, born July 1, 1804; died May 24, 1818.

DAVID, born Jan. 21, 1806; married Rachel Dunlop.

ELSA, born Nov. 9, 1807; married Abisha Cole.

DANIEL, born Sept. 9, 1809; married Margaret Ann Gardner.

HIRAM, born June 20, 1811; married Frances Clark.

WILLIAM, born Jan. 11, 1813; married Melissa Blough.

SOPHIA, born April 11, 1815; married Reason Tippie.

ELVIRA, born June 13, 1819; married Volney Tryon (or Lepy?).

JOHN CARPENTER, born Dec. 11, 1821; married (1) Mary O'Brien, and (2) Mary Chadow.

In the genealogical section of our April 1982 Historian, we covered Job<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who married Abigail Russell. We noted that Job, in an 1804 booklet, gave his birth year as 1734, but Cooley listed him as a twin of Martha, born in 1736. We now know that Job was indeed born in 1736, was originally named Joshua, and that his name was changed to Job about 1740.

We also reported that Job's wife, Abigail, may have been the Mrs. Rathbun who died May 22, 1807, according to church records in Canaan, Conn. This has now been confirmed by Mary Ellen Claypool, a descendant, who found an entry in the North Canaan Town Records that "Job Rathbun's wife died May 22, 1807." Job apparently married again a month later, on June 7, to a Mrs.

Deming, whose first name does not appear in the records. This second marriage is borne out by the 1810 census, which shows a female over age 50 living with Job. She apparently died before Job's death in 1821, since she is not mentioned in his will.

Priscilla Baldwin, wife of Thomas<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was the daughter of Henry and Mercy (Read) Baldwin, of Lisbon, Conn. Our thanks to John Bowen.

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## Another Scam!

Several dozen members sent us postcards which they had received from "The Rathbun Family News" in Denver, Colo., inviting them to join the organization and receive its publications.

Your editor sent in a check (for \$19) and received the "Summer 1990" edition of the Rathbun Family News, and "The National Registry of Living Rathbuns."

The "Registry" proved to be only another compilation of Rathbun names from telephone directories and possibly other sources — the type which has been offered for years by an organization or organizations using such names as Beatrice Bayley, Sharon Taylor and others.

The "Family News," which lists a "Connie Stewart" as editor, contained a mish-mash of articles, frequently using the Rathbun name, but containing absolutely no genealogical data or any information on specific family members.

It was obviously designed to be adapted to use for any surname, simply by changing the Rathbun references to any other name.

It is a great disservice to authentic family associations, such as ours, and to sincere genealogists, that such groups are using the growing popularity of family history to make money through such misleading practices.

People who fall victim to such "scams" naturally become suspicious of all genealogists, and are reluctant to respond to legitimate genealogical queries or invitations.

# Obituaries

## Rathburn Cousin Murdered by Terrorists in Lebanon

**DIED** — March 30, 1990, in Craig, Colorado, Myrtle Mae (Rathburn) Showalter, 93, a charter member of our Association. She was the widow of Lee Showalter, and the last survivor of six children born to John Thomas<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (William<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) and Cora Johnson. She is survived by a son, Robert; a daughter, Eileen Schrader; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Her brother, Thomas Frederick Rathburn, died two years ago at the age of 94, and her sister, Annie Irene Myers, died in 1986 at the age of 88. Both were members of our Association. Mrs. Showalter was active for many years in Republican Party affairs, serving 22 years as county vice-chairwoman. She was also active in church and civic organizations; was a piano teacher, Sunday School teacher and member of the county library board. She was named as local "Woman of the Year" in 1967 and "Citizen of the Year" in 1981. The Colorado Federation of Republican Women named her "Woman of the Year" in 1983, when she was 85 years old.

**DIED** — May 6, 1990, at Tecumseh, Mich., Frances G. Rathburn, aged 82. She was the widow of Clark<sup>10</sup> Rathburn (Frederick<sup>9</sup> Edgar<sup>8</sup> James<sup>7</sup> Dyer<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who died in 1956. She is survived by a son, Robert C. Rathburn, and a daughter, Dr. Marvel Jane Rathburn-Kohn, who was listed as unidentified in a list of Rathburn doctors in our Historian of April 1986. There are also five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

**DIED** — March 27, 1990, at Fort Pierre, S.D., Laurence E. "Sonny" Reinhard Jr., aged 51. He was the son of the late Laurence E. Reinhard and Delores<sup>10</sup> Rathburn (Elzie<sup>9</sup> (Henry<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>)). He is survived by his mother; wife, Anita; two daughters; six grandchildren, and a brother, Dennis Reinhard.

William E. Robinson, one of our Rathburn cousins, was shot to death March 27 in Lebanon, where he and his wife were operating an orphanage for handicapped children.

Robinson, 59, was killed by three masked gunmen in the village of Rashaya Foukhar, in the Israeli-occupied sector of Lebanon.

The slayings culminated a dispute over land that Robinson was trying to acquire to build housing for the elderly. His Lebanese neighbors had charged that he wanted the property to help Israel establish Jewish settlements there.

**DIED** — May 11, 1990, at Des Moines, Iowa, Robert N. Rathburn, aged 54. A member of our Association, he was the son of Henry Rathburn, also an Association member, and grandson of James<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (William<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He is also survived by his wife, Janet; two sons, Jason and Mark; three daughters, Lynn Radcliff; Lori Lalalberti, and Kelley Rathburn; two sisters, Carol Thomas and Sandra Crabtree; a brother, Edward N. Rathburn, and two grandchildren. There are also several stepbrothers and sisters.

**DIED** — Feb. 4, 1990, at Grand Junction, Colo., Orin Victor "Bill" Rathburn, aged 56. He was the son of Edith (Reed) Rathburn and the late Frank<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Henry<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). Survivors include his mother; a son, Lee Rathburn, and several stepchildren. He died of injuries received in a fall two days earlier.

**DIED** — April 6, 1990, at Texarkana, Ark., Mary Helen Rathburn, aged 80. She was the widow of Willie C.<sup>10</sup> Rathburn (William<sup>9</sup> Joseph<sup>8</sup> Aaron<sup>7</sup> Joseph<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), who died three months earlier, on January 1. She is survived by two sisters and a brother.

Robinson, a native of Athol, Mass., was one of 12 children born to William E. Robinson Sr. and Hazel<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Henry<sup>8</sup> Valentine<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Tibbets<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). A Marine Corps veteran, he was ordained a non-denominational minister in his 40's, and in 1978 decided to become a missionary to Lebanon.

He and his wife, Barbara, opened the orphanage in 1983, and had 29 children there at the time of his death. The Robinsons have seven children of their own. Four of them were living with their parents; the three oldest are in California.

The American Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, had warned the Robinsons several times of possible danger, and had advised them to leave Lebanon, but Robinson had refused because he could not take the orphans with him.

The Robinsons were conducting an evening prayer service in their home with their own children and 26 youngsters from the next-door orphanage, when the gunmen burst in. They had first killed six German shepherd watchdogs which guarded the Robinson home.

Mrs. Robinson and the children were taken to a back room before the intruders shot Robinson three times in the head and neck. They took \$4,000 in cash and some jewelry before fleeing.

The Lebanese Communist Party and the Lebanese National Resistance Front claimed responsibility for the murder.

Robinson was buried in Lebanon and his wife plans to remain there and carry on their work to help the orphans.

In addition to his wife and children, Robinson is survived by four grandchildren, three sisters and three brothers, including our member John Robinson.

*(We thank William Robinson's brother, John, and his cousin, Anna Angelini, both members of our Association for sending us clippings and other information on the tragedy.)*

# People

**RONALD AND BEULAH POWER** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 17 at their home in Waterloo, Iowa. They are members of our Association, and have two daughters; a son; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Beulah is the daughter of Charles Wesley<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (James<sup>7</sup> Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**WILLIAM AND DOROTHY RATHBUN** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 29. The Rathbuns, charter members of our Association, operate a cattle ranch in Haskell, Oklahoma. They have two children and two grandchildren. He is the son of James<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Alfred<sup>6</sup> Wait<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**JOHN AND KITTEE WOHLERS** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 8 in College Place, Washington. John, a member of our Association, is a son of William Wohlens and Bertha Louise<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>7</sup> Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**PATRICK MARTIN** and Rebecca Sheets were married May 19 at Muncy Valley, Pa. Patrick is the son of Karl and Phyllis (Rathburn) Martin, and grandson of our members, Mildred and Gaal<sup>10</sup> Rathburn (William<sup>9-8</sup> Samuel<sup>7</sup> Joseph<sup>6</sup> Samuel<sup>5</sup> Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Gaal and Mildred have another reason to celebrate this year: their grandson, David D'Amore, has been accepted into the State University at Buffalo's School of Architecture for the 1990-91 school year.

**JOYCE CAMPBELL** became a great-grandmother for the first time on April 24 with the birth of Gaige Ryan to her grandson Dennis Coldiron and his wife Brenda in Oilton, Okl. Joyce is the granddaughter of Martha Lavina<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Alvin<sup>7</sup> Edwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**ROSEMARY COATES** and David Jacques were re-married May 2, 1990, the twentieth anniversary of their first marriage. They were divorced eleven years ago. Rosemary is the daughter of our members, John and Ellen (Sharp) Coates. Ellen is a granddaughter of Samuel Cline and Ellen Lucinda<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Jacob<sup>7</sup> Edwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Rosemary and David are second cousins: he is a great-grandson of Samuel and Ellen Lucinda (Rathbun) Cline. David and Rosemary's son, Shawn David Jacques, was an outstanding high school student, winning numerous awards and scholarships, and is now studying computer science at California Polytechnic University.

**PAMELA LITTLEFIELD** and John B. Gasner were married May 6, on Block Island, R.I. Pam, who is administrative director of the Block Island Historical Society, is the daughter of our members Donald and Lydia (Rathbun) Littlefield. Lydia is the daughter of Charles<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Joshua<sup>6</sup> Elias<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**KATHLEEN MARIE RATHBUN** and James Donald Sevigny were married April 28, 1990, in Hope Valley, R.I. She is the daughter of our members, Ruth and George<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> James<sup>7</sup> Royal<sup>6</sup> Rodney<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**JEREMY DAVID BARTLETT** and Heather Lynn Shafer were married Dec. 29, 1990, at Wills Point, Texas. Jeremy is the grandson of our members William and Gertrude Lieuellen. Bill is the son of Arthur V. Lieuellen and Ora Jane<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (David<sup>7</sup> Lewis<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**JOHN BOWEN** still has a supply of Rathbun Family Crest Pins at \$5 each, and video tapes of our 1987 English trip and the "Westward Movement" slide show which was featured at our 1985 reunion in Des Moines. He is also working on a video of the 1989 Rhode Island reunion. John's address is 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904.

**ROBERT WEATHERFORD** has been relected to a fourth term of chairman of the board of trustees for the United Methodist Foundation of Christian Higher Education. Bob is senior member of the board, having served for 20 years of its 26-year existence. The foundation raises funds to help the more than 130 United Methodist colleges and universities throughout the world. He is the husband of LaPrelle (Rathbone) Weatherford, daughter of Virgil<sup>8</sup> Rathbone (Albert<sup>7</sup> Amos<sup>6-5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**RICHARD ALAN RATHBONE** has completed a three-year tour of duty with the Navy and will enter the University of Texas in Austin this fall. His sister, Marthanne Rathbone, graduated from high school in June and will attend Austin College in Sherman, Texas, in the fall, having earned three scholarships. They are children of the late Stephen Rathbone and grandchildren of our members Bettye and Lemuel<sup>10</sup> Rathbone (Lemuel<sup>9</sup> Rufus<sup>8</sup> George<sup>7</sup> Rufus<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

## Our New Members

Bruce and Pauline Blanchard  
Naples, N.Y.

Rosemary Brumm  
Portland, Indiana

Caribell Follows  
Niantic, Conn.

David E. Morgan  
Milan, Ohio

Veronica Rathbun Price  
Christchurch, New Zealand

Allen and Carol Rathbun  
Palm Bay, Florida

David Rathbun  
Fulton, N.Y.