

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
FAMILY
HISTORIAN

Rathbun • Rathbone • Rathburn
1993 National Reunion



Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia

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

Letter from the Editor

This issue of the Historian completes our thirteenth year of publication. It also means that it is again time to renew your membership in the Rathbun Family Association.

Once again, we are keeping the dues at \$18. And again I am making my annual request—please send in your checks promptly, and save Hazel and me a lot of work and complications. As in the past, we will have to charge an extra \$5 for those who are late, meaning \$23 rather than \$18. So save yourself money and save us time and labor by renewing as soon as possible.

The deadline will be December 20. If we do not receive your check by that time, your name will be removed from our mailing list, and it will cost an extra \$5 to be put back on.

We are ending the year with 541 members, which means we should have a cash surplus to report. That is good news, for it looks as though we will be needing a new computer. Our present computer, now nearly 11 years old, began acting up while I was writing articles for the current issue.

One of the disk drives was apparently burnt out by a power surge, and it may be more economical to buy a new machine than have it repaired.

In this issue is a report on our Williamsburg reunion, which was a great success.

Block's Island's Southeast Lighthouse has been moved to its new location. The historic old structure, weighing an estimated 2,000 tons, was moved 245 feet back from the eroding cliffs of Mohegan Bluffs—the site of the land owned by our ancestors on Block Island 333 years ago.

We can all take pride in our members' contributions of more than \$2,000 to the \$2.3 million moving pro-

DUES ARE DUE!

A membership renewal form for 1994 is enclosed with this issue of the Historian. Dues are \$18, but we must charge an extra \$5, or \$23 total, if you do not renew by the deadline of December 20. It will save you \$5 if you renew on time, so send your check now. If you put it aside, you may forget.

ject. The moving was accomplished by raising the lighthouse with 38 hydraulic jacks, and then sliding it back on railroad tracks installed for the purpose.

We recently received a letter from the Lighthouse Foundation thanking us for "helping to make the move of the Southeast Light possible."

Our Association and Historian received highly favorable comment in a recent article in the Block Island Times. Written by Robert Downie, an island historian, the article especially praised our Historian, commenting that it "takes one on a whirlwind adventure of American life from the present to the past, from the fringes of insignificant events to the center of great ones."

Your editor was most gratified at such unexpected praise and greatly impressed with the colorful description of the stories in our Historian.

Dedicated genealogists in our Association will appreciate the following item which I noticed recently in the WyMonDak Messenger, a genealogical publication in Belle Fourche, S.D.

"Ancestors have made the game (genealogy) a challenge, never once giving in easily or making the hunt too simple. Sly, wily, sometimes downright sneaky, they have changed their names, died in the wrong places, given children identical names, traveled extensively without leaving tracks, married persons of the same name, changed occupations in mid-life, spelled their names in 27 different ways, stayed away from home during the censuses, lied about their ages and otherwise done just about everything possible to confound those would seek to collect them into a family tree."

But it is all those challenges that make genealogy so enjoyable, and which have made it the fastest growing hobby in the United States.

Which reminds me, have you sent in your family records? We need every scrap of information we can get—dates of birth, death and marriage; full names of children and wives; occupations, residences, public offices held, military service, etc.

I am planning a story for the coming year on members of our family who fought in the Civil War—on either side. If you have pictures of ancestors, uncles or cousins, in uniform, from the Civil War era, please have a copy made for me. Also, send any details of service, battles fought in, wounds suffered, or any stories about war experiences passed down through the years.

Since this is my last letter of the year, let me extend to you all my best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season, and for a wonderful New Year.

Frank

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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Editor & Publisher

ISSN 0737-7711

Sixth National Family Reunion Draws 110 to Williamsburg, VA

Our sixth national reunion in September was another outstanding success. Some 110 cousins from 25 states, and two from New Zealand, enjoyed a fun-filled four days in Williamsburg, Va.

We started with a get-acquainted party on the evening of September 7, then set off the next morning for a day-long tour of old Colonial Williamsburg.

The next morning, we went by bus to visit Jamestown, site of the first permanent English settlement in America. After a box lunch, we spent the afternoon at Yorktown, where the final battle of the American Revolution was fought and won by the Americans and their French allies.

That night, we had an outdoor dinner with a Civil War theme, with soldiers in Confederate uniforms entertaining us with a variety of songs.

On the final day, we started with our traditional memorabilia display, which featured a marvelous array of family antiques and records brought by various cousins. Lauren Landis conducted an excellent seminar on techniques for preserving old photographs and documents.

In the afternoon, we went by bus to Carters Grove, a completely restored colonial plantation, with a gorgeous manor house and beautifully landscaped gardens.

That evening was our closing banquet, served family style by waiters in colonial costumes, and enhanced by a group of musicians who played and sang songs from the colonial era.

President Frank Rathbun reported the official reunion attendance at 111, with the largest delegation from the state of New York with eleven cousins present. Runners up were Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Virginia.



June and Anthony Rathbun of New Zealand with Hazel Rathbun, who planned and directed the reunion. June and Tony won the award for traveling the longest distance to the reunion.

He also reported that cousins present represented descendants from all five sons of our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret Rathbun—John Jr., Thomas, William, Joseph and Samuel. John Jr.'s descendants were in the majority, with 54 percent of the total.

Prizes were awarded to the following:

Laverne and Marge Rathbun as the longest-married couple present. They have been married 52 years.

Princess (Rathbun) Frush, the oldest cousin present at 82 years and seven months. A close runner up was Catherine Laurie Rathbun, at 82 years and 6 months.

Issac and Lillian Rathbun, the newest married couple. They had been married only nine months. Issac is 76, and Lillian, a Rathbun widow, about the same.

Anthony and June Rathbun, who traveled the longest distance to the

reunion. They are from Papatoetoe near Auckland, New Zealand, and came nearly 9,000 miles. Tony is descended from a Rathbun sailor who went to New Zealand in the middle 1800s.

Also given awards were five cousins who had attended all six of our reunions—Jackie (Rathbun) Furgala, Caroline (Rathbun) Colbry, John Bowen, and Elwyn and Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon.

President Frank also made special presentations to Robert Rathbun and Lauren Landis for outstanding service to the Rathbun Family Association.

A highlight of the evening was a drawing for two prizes. One was a lovely hand-hooked rug with the Rathbun coat of arms, made by Horace Still. It was won by Judith (Rathbun) Pignone. The other was a wooden-framed mirror, contributed by

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the Rhode Island contingent, with a copy of the words and music to the old hymn Rathbun. It was won by Beverly Gillette.

President Frank presented another mirror, with a notice of the 1893 Rathbone Family Reunion, to Horace Still for making the rug. And Horace then presented another of his hand-hooked rugs to John Bowen for starting him on the rug project.

The program ended when Virgil Holdredge suggested a round of applause for President Frank's wife Hazel Rathbun, who planned and directed the entire reunion. She was given a standing ovation. Forrest Lee Rathburn gave a benediction to bring the reunion to its formal close.



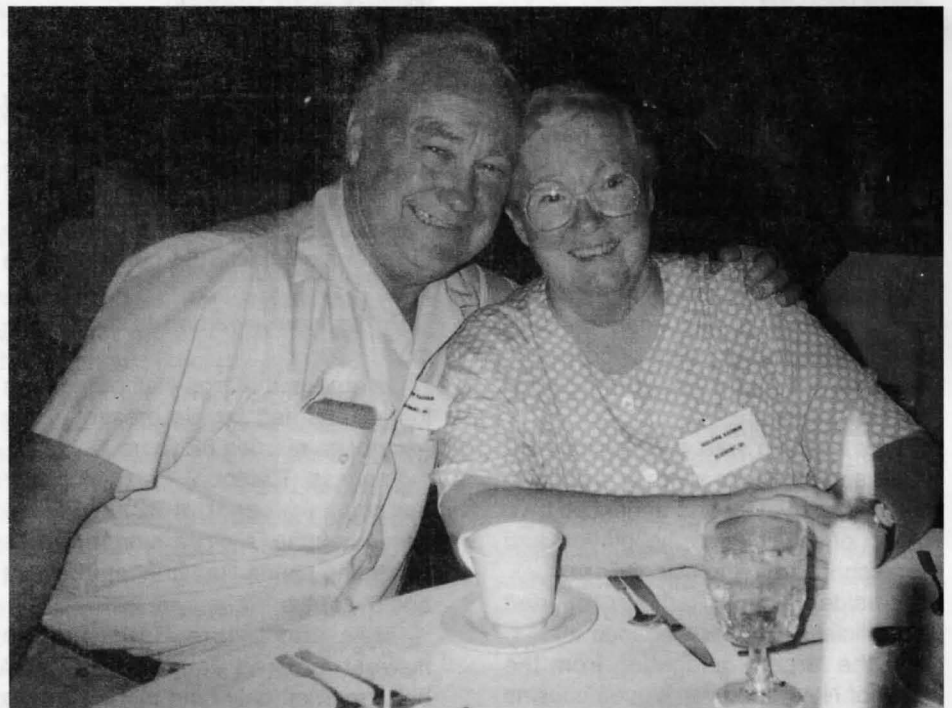
Descendants of William and Samuel Rathbun.



Princess (Rathbun) Frush, the oldest cousin at our reunion, at 82 years and seven months.



Elwyn and Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon



Laverne and Marge Rathbun, longest married couple at the reunion. They have been married 52 years.



Descendants of John Rathbun Jr. and Ann Dodge.



Descendants of Thomas Rathbun and Mary Dickens.



Descendants of Joseph Rathbun and Mary Mosher.

Winfred Rathbun Describes His Life as Boy in Connecticut

In 1965, Winfred P. Rathbun, aged 81, wrote the story of his life for his children and grandchildren. It is far too long to be printed in its entirety, but we are here presenting a condensed version, which gives an interesting insight into his childhood and early adult years during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Although edited, the words are basically his as he wrote them.

I was born October 21, 1884, at Bloomfield, Connecticut, the only child of Dutee Jerald Rathbun and Bessie Ann (Phillips) Marchant. (Editor's Note: Dutee Jerald Rathbun was the son of George Fox⁷ Rathbun (Joshua⁶ Acors⁵ Joshua⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). Bessie Ann, his wife, was the widow of William Marchant).

My parents, step-sister and I left the family farm about 1886 and moved to Rockville, Conn., where my father operated a small store near to a school. He carried school supplies, light grocery items, candy etc. The venture did not prove successful, so my father returned to farming.

He rented a small farm near Brooklyn, Conn., from a grocery store owner who was also the town jail keeper. I remember going to his store and eating cookies. I also remember that he sent prisoners to our farm to help with the harvest.

From Brooklyn, we moved to another farm in Hampton, Conn. I remember this place a little better. I recall standing on a high stone wall and eating cherries from the branches overhanging the wall.

It was a rambling farm of about four hundred acres with only forty acres of cleared land. The rest was mostly pasture and scrub timber. There were lots of huckleberries, wild raspberries, blackberries and strawberries.

About 1890, when I was six or seven years old, my father decided to

move again—to a farm near Lebanon, Conn. The land was rather stoney and there were many hills. About a half



Winfred P. Rathbun at the time of his wedding in 1910, aged 26.

mile from our house was a short, very steep hill called Kick Hill. There was a legend about a farmer who had a disagreement with his wife and kicked her down the hill.

At the top of the hill was a one-room schoolhouse known as the Kick Hill School. It was here that I started my formal education, when I was between seven and eight years old.

I could read and write some before attending school. My mother had taught me. It was common then for farm boys to leave school a little early in the spring to help with the planting, and start a little late in the fall so they could help with the harvest.

I lived on six different farms in Lebanon. We were on the move so much it was hard to establish a zone of prosperity. We were never destitute

or hungry, but we certainly lived very frugally at times.

There was always an abundance of food on a farm. Most farmers grew their own. Corn was taken to the grist mill to be ground into meal. Corn meal was a staple. Johnny-cakes were on the menu daily, and there was hasty pudding in milk for a supper dish. Nearly all farmers kept hens and had eggs, which could be sold for ten or twelve cents a dozen.

My father once took fifty bushels of potatoes to town to sell, but couldn't find a cash buyer. So he traded them to a grocer in exchange for groceries as needed, at twenty-five cents a bushel.

Nearly all housewives made their own bread and baked goods. Grocery stores carried only such staples as flour, sugar, corn meal, lard, extracts, etc. General stores carried smoked meats, salted codfish, dried beef and canned meats such as tongue and corned beef.

In the fall, farmers had "husking bees" and invited all their friends and neighbors. A young pig was usually roasted for the occasion. Lanterns were hung around the area, and corn bread, tea, coffee and sweet cider were served. There was hard cider for the older folks. In this way, a lot of corn got husked. Another incentive was, when you found a red ear, you had to kiss the nearest girl.

There was not a tavern or saloon in town. Hard cider was the chief intoxicating drink. It was very potent, with the kick of a mule.

I remember well the colossal job of moving. Not only household effects but farm equipment, animals, hay, grain and all sort of produce for family use.

All our farms were rented except one. The one we owned was in the Liberty Hill area of Lebanon. It had

seventy acres of land, with two small apple orchards, pastures, and woodland enough to last a lifetime for firewood. It had a medium-size house with a very large chimney built in the middle. There were five rooms on the main floor and two plastered rooms in the attic.

The large chimney had an iron door that could be opened for hanging hams, bacon or other meats to be smoked. There was a barn for eight or ten cows, a stable for three horses, and a poultry house. Huckleberries, raspberries and strawberries grew over the stone walls and piles of stone.

My father paid \$500 down to buy the farm on a contract, and he made several improvements—he built a wagon shed, set out some peach trees and made a strawberry patch.

My mother died at this farm on July 26, 1898. (Editor's note: she was 44 years old. Young Winfred was 13.) The following spring, my father sent me to his sister's home in Bloomfield, Conn. (The sister was Louise Goodman). I attended school there for one term, and then returned to my father's farm. In the fall of 1899, I attended a private school in Lebanon for one term, taking courses in book-keeping and penmanship. The school was three miles from our farm.

During the summer, I picked huckleberries and did other small jobs and made enough money to buy a new bicycle from Sears Roebuck in Chicago. It cost \$17.95, plus freight. I used it that fall to ride to school, unless the weather was bad or a tire was flat, when I had to walk the three miles.

My father and I then moved to another farm a mile closer to the village, renting our farm to a family from Canada. The new farm had a large house, with 14 rooms. I had a room on the second floor. My father slept on the first floor. We never unpacked our few household goods.

My job was to feed the animals, clean the stables, take care of the horses and poultry, and keep the woodbox full. I also found time to do various odd jobs in the village. For a while, I was sexton of a small non-denominational church. I built fires in

cool weather, rang the church bell and other duties. I was paid \$2 every three months.

I also worked for the storekeeper in the village grocery and sorted the incoming mail in the local postoffice, which was connected to the store. Many postal cards were used then, and the plain postage was one cent. As was customary, I read most of the cards. This way, I kept abreast of the local news and gossip.

The last school I attended had eight pupils and I was the second highest in my class, and I was rightfully proud although there were only two in my class. I remember one of my teachers. She was about seventeen years old and had just finished high school. She was a rather pretty girl and had been a former pupil in this same school.

A young man in the village came to visit the school nearly every day and would sit around for an hour or two. Finally, the selectmen came and had a chat with him. He was told that if he wanted to attend school, bring his books and register. If not, keep away.

In all of this time living with my father, there had been no woman in the house to cook or do housework. One of my greatest difficulties was with my clothes. I had no decent clothes at all. I had had nothing new since before my mother died, and I had outgrown what I had. My trousers came about half way between my knees and shoe tops, and my sleeves were equally short.

We never attended any social functions and hadn't attended church since the death of my mother. The last time I attended a neighborhood house party, people laughed at my clothing, and I realized that my social career had come to an abrupt end.

I went to work for a neighbor farmer in his woods, cutting tree tops and branches. I cut them up in four-foot lengths with an axe and bucksaw. These pieces had to be put in piles eight feet long and four feet high—one cord. It was rough work, and I could not quite do a cord in one day. I was paid 75 cents for each cord.

About this time, my father answered an ad in a farm journal for a young lad to help about a farm, for five dollars a month, with room and board. My

father took me to the railroad station and bought me a ticket for New London, where the man was to meet me.

It turned out that there had been an error, and I was a week ahead of time. I waited all afternoon, and slept on the station seats that night. I had two or three dollars, so I bought coffee and a sandwich, and inquired about the man who was to have met me.

I found out that his farm was about eight miles away. I had a valise weighing about twenty-five pounds, but I picked it up and walked the eight miles to the farm. I found two middle-aged men living alone in a dilapidated farm house. There was no woman, and I quickly decided not to stay. I was afraid to tell them, as they were a rather rough type.

The next day, they both went to a village store nearby, and I immediately headed back to New London. I made a harness out of rope to carry my valise on my back for the eight-mile walk. I caught an inter-urban electric train to Norwich, and walked about fourteen miles to my father's farm, arriving just before dusk.

My father was surprised to see me, and not too happy about it. It seems he had been corresponding with a lady "pen pal" who he had contacted through the New England Homestead magazine. He had eventually visited her at her farm in Massachusetts, and they had made plans to be married.

In September of 1902, I left the farm and went to Pawtucket, and began driving a delivery wagon for a meat market, and working in the market afternoons. My salary was five dollars a week.

My father had bought me a pair of trousers and a pair of shoes, and I had been given a good suit coat, so I looked rather presentable. I had never lived in a city before and it was all new to me. I had to learn the city and my delivery routes. I soon became accustomed to the work and liked it.

In April 1903, a young lady came to work there. She was not quite 16 years old. Seven years later she became my wife, and we celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary on

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Rathbun Woman Dies in 1877 after Kitchen Table Surgery

This is the sad but true story of a Rathbun woman who underwent abdominal surgery on her kitchen table 116 years ago, and died two days later. Before the operation, she wrote a touching letter to her six children, the youngest only 12 years old.

Julia Rathbun was born Nov. 23, 1824, in Mechanicsburg, Champaign County, Ohio, the first child of Joseph Sharpe⁶ Rathbun (Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹) and his first wife, Mary Blackner Davis.

The family moved in 1840 to Middletown, Montgomery County, Mo., and it was probably there that Julia was married on Oct. 15, 1852, to Augustus Solomon Mermod, a native of Switzerland. Julia was 28; Augustus was two years younger.

They moved to nearby St. Louis, where they lived for many years, and had six children—four girls and two boys. In 1853, her father and his second wife set out for California, and left his daughter, Abigail, 13, with the Mermods. Julia raised her younger sister for the next five years.

Joseph Rathbun wrote from California to Abigail at the Mermod house in St. Louis in 1856:

"Julia writes that you are getting along in your studies. Be careful to mind the advice of your sister. If you need any money I will send it to you, but Julia appears to take it to heart if I talk of anything of that kind. But I do not intend for Mr. Mermod to do everything for you without remuneration."

Joseph Rathbun returned to Missouri about 1858, and Abigail went back to live with him. She and Julia's children, however, remained close, treating her like a sister, although they jokingly called her "Aunt Abby."

Little is known of Julia's life for the next 20 years. By 1877, she and her family had moved to Kirkwood, Mo., and early that year she developed abdominal pains.



*Julia (Rathbun) Mermod
(1824-1877)*

Her doctor apparently diagnosed her problem as stomach cancer, and recommended surgery. Such an operation was a frightening thing in that early day of medicine, but he told Julia it was her only chance to survive.

She reluctantly agreed to the surgery, and it was scheduled for March 28. On March 26, Julia sat down and wrote her "will," actually a letter to her children dividing her most valuable possessions among them.

"My Precious Children," she wrote, "there are many things I would like to say to you in case my life should close on or near the 28th. I hope to be spared yet a little, and at the same time I am in the hands of a kind Heavenly Father—who has kept you as I all our lives from harm or trouble.



*Eugenie Jaccard Mermod, Julia's
daughter, ancestress of our member
Gail Jacobson.*

"He hears our prayers—like Alex when he was so sick. (Alex was her youngest son, Alexander Donaldson Mermod, then 12). Also for Alice when we thought she must die (Alice was her second daughter, then 19). How can we not trust Him still?

"His promises are to you—you are his children—of that there is no doubt. And though your way sometimes seem dark, He is just as near. Keep your eyes on Him and never lose sight of the Blessed Lord.

"Earthly care has kept me from enjoying His presence much of my life, being weak in body. I permitted little things to disturb me and lost much I might have enjoyed. Life is so short that we can't afford to waste it.

"I wish you to love each other and don't forget to honor your father. He

will want all the love and care you have to bestow next to your Heavenly Father. You may think he is old and 'behind the times,' but he is wiser than you, so don't forget to pay him due respect.

"The fine possessions I have may be divided between you. Hattie (her eldest daughter, then 24), my first-born, has been a precious gift and companion for years. To her I leave my cameo set—pin, earrings and sleeve buttons; my grosgrain silk, white lace, including point lace collars.

"To Alice, my darling devoted child, the velvet cloak and guipere lace and gimp. Also my lace shawl and black onyx set.

"Mary (her third daughter, then 18), my precious little woman, must have my watch with the new chain, the white onyx set, and eight yards of wide black lace. Also my wedding pin.

"To Eugenie (the youngest daughter, aged 16), my dear affectionate child, my diamond pin, my wedding belt or shawl, old-fashioned pencil case and some lace.

"Last, but not least, my two precious sons and pride of their mother's heart (Arthur, 22, and Alexander, 12), can have a diamond from the earrings and the choice of my best books.

"And to Arthur, I leave the care of his sisters, and especially Eugenie, who has not had her mother's care and love as long as the others.

"And Alex, my youngest and precious—what can I say for him? He will want to learn patience and be obedient to all. He is loved and idolized by us all. I hope he will keep in mind what is expected of him. His life has been precious in God's sight and he will remember that he is God's own child. I am sure, though young as he is, no one trusts and loves his Saviour more.

"There are some little things of mine which I cannot think of, which you may divide as suits you. The two spoons which were given me by my friend Mr. Goodman King are for Mary. The best white wrapper for Alice. Underclothing for Eugenie. Blue flannel wrapper and waterproof for some of the family.

"To "Aunt Abby" (her younger sister), my shawl and drapes if she will have them, my ivory pin and one set of sleeve buttons.

"The purple shirt and sleeves can be made for Alice. If I have not divided as suits you all, I am sorry. Make any changes you like."

It was signed simply, "Mother."

The operation took place as planned on March 28, on the kitchen table in her home. She died two days later on March 30, age 52. Whether she actually had cancer, we will never know. It is likely she died of infection. In that day, doctors had not learned the danger of using unsanitary tools and the value of sterilization.

Julia's husband, Augustus S. Mermod, lived another 26 years, and died Aug. 23, 1903. Sadly, two of Julia's daughters did not live long after their mother's death. Hattie died June 10, 1878, and Alice died Dec. 7, 1882.

Mary married Emmons Booth and raised a family. Arthur and Alex both married and each had one daughter.

Eugenie married a man with the marvelous name of Metellus Lucullus Cicero Funkhouser. They are the ancestors of our member Gail Jacobson, who gave us this fascinating story and the pictures which accompany it.

We thank the following members who have submitted family data, clippings, pictures and other items: Ivan and Rosemarie McPherson, Rosalie and Ben Rathbun, Dorcas Jones-Hendershott, Rob Rathbun, Larry Trask, Mary Helen Rathbone, Beatrice St. Onge, Mary Pearl Whitman, Patti Garrett, Marlene Wilkinson, Joan Byers, Rev. William Rathbun, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Jim and Maxine Stites, Dorothy Retzke, Fred C. Rathbun, Mildred and Gail Rathburn, Glenn and Louise Rathbun, Louise Marsh, Gerald Reser, Mary Champlin, Ethyl Grady, David E. Rathbun, Sherman Boivin, Rosma Limbeck, Mary Eade, Reba Reeves, Fern Thompson, Orson Rathburn Jr., Lauren Landis, Barbara Jordan, Bert Burdick, John Bowen, K. Haybron Adams, Shirley Rathbun, Lydia Littlefield, Martha Mardavich, Frank E. Rathbun, Robert Willis, Myrtle Davenport, Jean Halden Walker, Art Hutchinson, Mary Ellen Claypool, Meryl Zimmerman.

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Oct. 2, 1960. (The young lady was Lottie May Wheeler).

I worked at the market until 1906, and my wages rose to twelve dollars a week. During these years, I attended a business school at night. I worked for a time as stock clerk for the Maxwell Briscoe Company, forerunner of the Chrysler Corporation, then had several other positions in a market, a textile dye works and a manufacturing company.

About 1909, I tried to operate my own store with a delivery route, but lack of adequate capital forced me out of business. After my marriage, I went to work for the Providence (R.I.) Public Market.

In 1912, Lottie and I moved to Detroit, Michigan, and on June 13, 1913, our first child was born—Milton Rathbun. About that time, I opened a market at the corner of Grand River and Brainard, a block from our home. Our second child Donald was born Oct. 17, 1915. The third, Russell, was born March 11, 1923, and our last child Muriel was born April 29, 1928. The doctor's charge for the first baby was \$15, the second \$20, the third \$25, and the fourth was \$50.

(Editor's note. Winfred stayed in the grocery business until 1957, when he retired. During his career, he developed some of his own products, including Rathbun's potato salad. Your editor recalls buying some of it while living in the Detroit area nearly 40 years ago. Winfred's business expanded so much he had to open a factory to produce his potato salad and other delicatessen items.

(Lottie died Feb. 11, 1971, aged 84. Winfred died June 14, 1972, a few months before his 88th birthday.

(We thank his daughter, Muriel Mercer, a member of our Association, for letting us share her father's wonderful manuscript biography.)

Caroline (Regally) Rathbone, wife of Aaron Henderson⁶ Rathbone (Aaron⁵ John⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), died in July or August 1857 in New York City. Her obituary appeared in the New York Herald of August 4, 1857.

John C. Rathbun Won Fame in Civil Engineering Field

Members of our family have made their marks in many fields of endeavor—as lawyers, doctors, ministers, military men and women, industrialists, financiers and merchants. This is the story of a Rathbun who went into civil engineering and had a long and notable career earlier in this century.

John Charles Rathbun was born March 14, 1882, in Mondovi, Buffalo County, Minn., the second son of John Chauncey⁷ Rathbun (Chauncey⁶ Rodney⁵ Simeon⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), and Elizabeth (Goldenberger) Rathbun.

The father, a graduate of Wisconsin State University, began life as an educator, and in 1877 was elected to a two-year term as superintendent of Buffalo County schools.

The family moved about 1884 to Midland, Texas, where John Chauncey Rathbun became editor of that city's first newspaper. The location is still marked by a historical plaque.

In 1889, the Rathbuns moved again, this time to Olympia, Washington, where the father became editor and later owner of the Seattle Times.

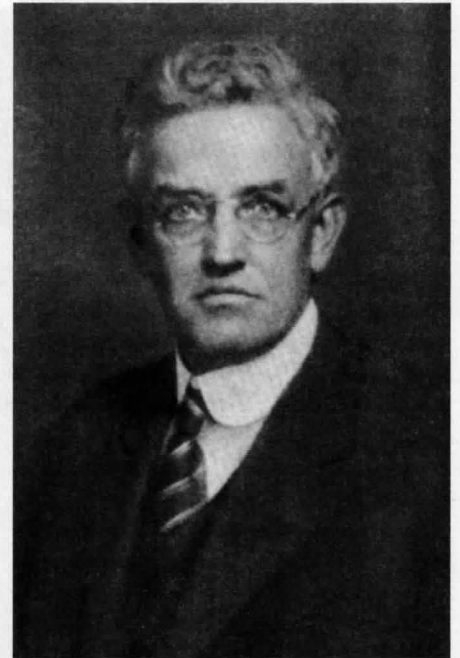
Young John Charles Rathbun was an exceptional student and after completing high school he enrolled at the University of Washington. He received a bachelor's degree in 1903, after working as a student instructor in mathematics in his spare time.

He then enrolled in graduate school, studying physics, and as part of his graduate program he went to China in 1904 and became a teacher of science and mathematics at the Tung Wen Institute at Amoy. Within a short time, he was also made assistant principal.

Returning to the United States about 1906, he earned his master's degree and then enrolled again to



John Charles Rathbun as a young man.



John Charles Rathbun in later years.

earn a degree in civil engineering, which he received in 1909. On March 29, 1910, he was married to Dora Frances Breece.

Then 27 years old, with an impressive scholastic background, he launched a career in engineering which was to last 40 years and take him to many states and other parts of the world.

He first took a position as construction engineer and chief draftsman for the Washington State Highway Commission for two years. Then he served 10 months as design draftsman for the city of Tacoma, Washington.

In 1912, he went to the Philippine Islands, where for three years he was in charge of engineering work for the Islands' Bureau of Public Works.

Returning to the United States in 1915, he became superintendent of bridge construction for the city of

Seattle. During the First World War, he joined the Army and became a captain with the Corps of Engineers. After the war, in 1918, he was named supervising draftsman for the Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Paul Railroad Company.

In 1919, Rathbun accepted appointment as assistant professor of civil engineering at his alma mater—the University of Washington—where he remained six years.

In 1925, he joined the faculty of the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, as a full professor and head of the department of civil engineering. Four years later, he took a position at Antioch College as head of the civil engineering department.

Then, in 1931, Rathbun made a major career move. He went to New York City and began what was to be an 18-year association with the City

College of New York. Starting as associate professor of civil engineering, he became a full professor in 1941 and held that position until he retired in 1949, aged 67, as professor emeritus.

During that time, he won international acclaim for his research into the application of mathematical analysis to engineering problems. He wrote extensively, and his articles appeared frequently in professional journals.

In 1934, he was awarded a doctorate in engineering by Columbia University.

Among other projects during those years, he was consulting editor for several publishers, and revised engineering textbooks and encyclopedia information.

His most famous work in the 1930s came when the American Institute of Steel Construction commissioned him to supervise a study of wind action on the Empire State Building, then the world's tallest structure.

Results of his five-year study were published in 1940 by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Rathbun reported exactly how many feet the Empire State Building swayed at the top during heavy winds.

In 1938 and 1939, Rathbun toured southeast Asia and some of the South Pacific islands to "study primitive architecture of various cultures." Looking back, it seems possible he was on a mission for the Federal Government, which was already expecting a war with Japan.

During World War II, Rathbun did studies for the War Department on stress analysis in airplane design, and gave a series of lectures to top Air Force officers and engineers for airplane manufacturers.

After his retirement, Rathbun occupied his time with genealogical research, chess, photography and travel. He was a staunch Republican in politics and attended a Methodist church.

He died Nov. 12, 1958, in New York City, aged 76, survived by his wife and a daughter. Mrs. Rathbun died in 1975, aged 91. Their daughter Mary Charlotte married Walter L. Dillinger, but we have never been able to locate her or any descendants.



Lydia Littlefield, Robert Willis and Mary (Rathbun) Champlin were among our members who participated in Block Island ceremonies on September 4 honoring the 268-year-old family Bible of Samuel Rathbun, shown in forefront.

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All issues for any single year from 1983 to 1992 are available at \$15 per year. Single copies of any issue are \$4 each, but some early issues are available only in xerox unless ordering a complete back set.

Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns have been prominent in many fields, but none so far have broken into major league baseball. That may change soon. Jason Rathbun, 21, of Corpus Christi, Texas, has joined the Oneonta Yankees, a Class A farm team for the New York Yankees. A left-hander, six feet two and weighing 225 pounds, Rathbun was a star pitcher at Baylor University, and we may be hearing more about him in the coming years. We do not know his identity. Our thanks to Larry Trask.

Genealogy: The Seventh Generation in America

73. AMOS SHEFFIELD.⁷ RATHBUN (Newman⁶ Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹), born August 25, 1816, in Exeter, R.I. He was married there Aug. 4, 1861, to Sarah (Potter) Tanner, born May 10, 1822, daughter of Smiton and Lydia/Lucy Potter and widow of Gideon Tanner. They moved to Richmond and later Hopkinton, R.I., where Sarah died Jan. 28, 1891, and Amos died Sept. 5, 1894.

CHILDREN

SUSAN ETTA, born May 27, 1862; married Edgar V. Wood on Dec. 19, 1878.

CHARLES NEWMAN, born Nov. 2, 1863; married Nellie R. Langworthy.

AMOS SHEFFIELD, born Oct. 15, 1865; died young.

74. JOHN S.⁷ RATHBUN (Amos⁶ Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹), born in March 1819 at Exeter, R.I. He migrated as a young man to Ohio where he was married Aug. 4, 1840, in Medina County, to Elizabeth Hoot, born about 1821, daughter of Philip Augustus and Mary (Blackley) Hoot. They were living at Richland, Allen County, in 1850, when John was called a chairmaker. He enlisted Oct. 28, 1864, in the 47th Ohio Infantry, and was listed as a deserter in July 1865. He was described as five feet six inches tall, with grey hair and eyes. Elizabeth died by 1890, and John died Jan. 26, 1901, probably in Allen County.

CHILDREN

MARILLA, born about 1842; married John Ambre on June 20, 1859.

PHILIP CLARK, born Jan. 31, 1844; married Mary Ellen Baker.

AMOS SHEFFIELD, born about 1846; married (1) Nancy Bailey, and (2) Eva Dora Rouse.

WILLIAM A., born Aug. 25, 1848; married (1) Eliza Shirer, and (2) Cordelia Neishevets.

CAROLINE, born about 1850; married Alvarado Curtis on Sept. 20, 1868.

AUGUSTUS, born Jan. 25, 1852; married Susan Harpster.

VICTORIA, born July 13, 1861; married William Bard in 1892.

VIOLA (twin), born July 13, 1861; married (1) Franklin King on May 1, 1880, and (2) Adolphus Alexander on Oct. 30, 1882.

75. JONATHAN CLARK⁷ RATHBUN (Amos⁶ Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹), born in April 1825 at Exeter, R.I., and moved as a young man to Ohio, where he was married Sept. 4, 1849, in Cuyahoga County to Lucy Ann Stow, born about 1832, parentage unknown. They lived in Ohio for some years, then moved in the 1870s to Michigan, first to Barry County and then to Lake Odessa. Lucy died there May 19, 1890, of "Anderson Fever," and Jonathan died there May 18, 1918, aged 93.

CHILDREN

FREEMAN A., born in August 1850; married (1) Elzada Dark, and (2) Rebecca Trumpour.

GEORGE DeFORESTER, born in July 1861; married Josephine Venneman.

NEWMAN CALEB, born about 1863; married Lydia A. _____.

CORDA, born about 1865; married O. Amertis Cooper on Jan. 1, 1881.

EDWARD B. born in May 1869; married Mary Nichols.

ALTON, born in August 1871; married Hattie _____.

76. NEWMAN CALEB⁷ RATHBUN (Amos⁶ Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹), born about 1828 in either Exeter, R.I., or New York State. He went as a young man to Ohio and was probably married Feb. 26, 1852, in Crawford County to Elvira Richards (the marriage record shows his name as Freeman J. Rathbun). They were apparently divorced, for on Aug. 12, 1856, an Elvira Rathbun was married to Samuel Montgomery. Newman appears in the 1870 Federal census in Minneapolis, Minn. with a wife Eliza, 36, and a possible step-daughter Josephine Doty, aged 16. Nothing more is known of them.

77. JEPHTHA⁷ RATHBUN (Zebulon⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born about 1810 in Avon, Ontario County, N.Y., and moved as a young man to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where he was married March 15, 1837, to Eliza Ann Persons (Pearson?), birth date and parentage unknown. Jephtha died about 1841, and Eliza was married on Dec. 16, 1843, to Jacob (or Jonah) P. Hill. Nothing more is known of her.

CHILD

ALMIRA, born about 1838; married a Bailey.

78. AMBROSE⁷ RATHBUN (Zebulon⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born May 18, 1814, in Avon, Ontario County, N.Y. He was married there about 1856 to Hannah Crimmin, born about 1830 in Ireland, daughter of Edward and Hannah (Corbet) Crimmins. He was a veterinary surgeon and lived all his life at Avon, where he died Sept. 18, 1890. Hannah died April 16, 1904, at Mumford, N.Y.

CHILDREN

CHARLES C., born in March 1857; married Rachel _____.

EDWARD E, born in July 1858; possibly the E.E. Rathbun living in Barnes, N.D., in 1900; no known marriage.

EMMA L., born Sept. 4, 1859; married Addison Kingsbury on June 30, 1897.

FRANKLIN, born in May 1863; alive in 1900, unmarried.

MARY, born about 1865; no further data.

79. GEORGE E.⁷ RATHBUN (Zebulon⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born in August 1819 at Avon, N.Y. He moved as a young man to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where he was married Jan. 1, 1851, to Catherine Greenlee, born Dec. 6, 1830, in Canada, daughter of Patrick and Catherine (Boylan) Greenlee. They lived for many years in Newburg near Cleveland, then moved to Richfield, Summitt County, Ohio, where he died June 30, 1902, and Catherine died Aug. 12, 1915.

CHILDREN

WILLIAM HENRY, born in 1852; married Flora Bell Richardson.

CHARLES FRANCIS, born in Oct. 1856; married Minnie Edgell.

?ELIZA, born about 1861; listed in the 1880 census aged 19, but possibly a first wife of William Henry.

80 .GEORGE S.⁷ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born May 8, 1816, probably at Avon, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a boy to Ohio. He was married March 3, 1845, at Lake County, Ohio, to Emily Simmons or Simons, born about 1826, parentage unknown. They lived in Chagrin Falls and later Solon, Ohio, where George died June 19, 1894. Emily was living then but died by 1900.

CHILDREN

GEORGE STEWART, born Sept. 3, 1847; married Sarah L. Young.

ALBERT H., born May 7, 1853; married Julia Wood.

FRANK E., born Feb. 7, 1855; married (1) Mary _____, and (2) Helen _____.

See New Data 16-2 p 38

81. BILLINGS O.⁷ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born Jan. 9, 1824, in Newburg, Ohio, and was **married about 1841** (aged 17!) to Prudence Marble, born about 1824, daughter of Aretas and Azentha (Goodell) Marble. She died Dec. 18, 1848, and he was married on July 7, 1850, to Eliza A. Bryant, born about 1830, parentage unknown. Billings owned a grocery store in Solon, Ohio, which was still standing in recent years. He died on April 1, 1862, and Eliza was married a year later on March 21, 1863, to John Goodell, an uncle of Billings' first wife. Her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

By Prudence

JEPHTHA, born Sept. 30, 1842; married (1) Louise McGrew; (2) Minnie Weeks, and (3) Elizabeth Wells.

MARTHA, born about 1844; married (?) Freedom Nutt on Oct. 6, 1867.

ALMEDA, born about 1847; married (?) Alonzo Cathan on Sept. 24, 1865.

By Eliza

SABRA, born about 1853; no further data.

MARY, born about 1855; married (?) George Waite on March 15, 1874.

82. ALVIN D.⁷ RATHBUN (Edmund⁶⁻⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born Jan. 30, 1820, at Newburg, Ohio, and was married there Oct. 20, 1853, to Esther T. Hubbard, born Sept. 8, 1830, parentage unknown. They lived near Cleveland until 1886, when they moved to Bethany, a suburb of Lincoln, Neb. Esther died there by 1900, and he died sometime after 1900, when he was living with his son Marcellus in Solon, Ohio.

CHILDREN

MARCELLUS A., born Sept. 29, 1855; married Clara Boynton.

Three daughters died in infancy.

83. GEORGE SOLON⁷ RATHBUN (George⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born Feb. 27, 1829, in Newburg, Ohio. He left home at 17 and went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he attended Bacon's Commercial College, graduated about 1847, and moved to Cleveland. There he studied law with two attorneys, but in 1848 moved to St. Louis, Mo. He was married there Feb. 14, 1850, to Jane Vanlier, born about 1829, parentage unknown. She died nine months later on Nov. 29, 1850, probably in childbirth, and on Aug. 2, 1853, he was married to her sister, Rachel, birth date unknown, who apparently died about 1856, leaving no known children. He moved to Wellington, Mo., after her death and was a teacher and then director of the Wellington Academy. He was licensed as an attorney in 1857 and on July 4, 1858, he was married to Dicie Jennie Dean, born May 22, 1831 or 1833, daughter of Jesse and _____ (Walter) Dean. In 1860 Rathbun was elected as a Whig to the Missouri House of Representatives. He sided with the South when the Civil War broke out, was a candidate for the Confederate Congress, and served in the Confederate Army for several years, rising to the rank of colonel. After the war, he returned to Missouri, settling in Lexington, Lafayette County, where he resumed the practice of law. He became attorney for the Lexington and St. Louis Railroad Company and served on its board of directors. He died March 16, 1907, in Springfield, and Dicie died there Nov. 1, 1915.

CHILDREN

JESSE W., born April 7, 1859; married (1) Mary Belle DeVine, and (2) Isabelle Compton.

GEORGE SOLON, born Aug. 22, 1861; married Adah L. Fellows.

(Continued to page 62)

(Continued from page 61)

WILLIAM ARTHUR, born Aug. 14, 1865; married Isabelle Curlee.

EDWARD BERT, born June 19, 1867; died April 23, 1899, no known marriage.

JENNIE D., born June 10, 1869; married Lafayette Johnson Haines.

HATTIE MAY, born Sept. 7, 1871; married (?) Frank L. Manasse on June 15, 1907.

84. WARREN E.⁷ RATHBUN (George⁶ Edmund⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born in August 1823 at Newburg, Ohio, and married there Jan. 14, 1846, Cornelia E. Robinson, born about 1828, ancestry unknown. In 1860, he was working in a chair factory, and in 1861 he enlisted in the 42nd Ohio Infantry, described as barely over five feet three inches tall, with black eyes, brown hair and dark complexion. He was discharged for disability in 1863. He died of consumption on March 17, 1886, in Cleveland. Cornelia died May 21, 1889.

CHILDREN

HERBERT G., born about 1847; married Mary Ada Dunham.

HERMAN WARREN, born 1849; died Oct. 3, 1879 of consumption.

HETTIE (Helen?), born about 1854; married Strebney Cochrane on May 27, 1873.

85. JOHN TILLINGHAST⁷ RATHBUN (Thomas⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born Jan. 22, 1806, in Butler County, Pa., and moved with his parents as a boy to Brighton, Clark County, Ohio. He was married there Dec. 27, 1829, to Mary Curl, born Feb. 17, 1809, daughter of Jeremiah and Cynthia (Romine) Curl. They moved in the late 1840s to Indiana, but returned to Ohio in 1856. They lived on a farm near Vienna Crossroads, where Mary died Oct. 18, 1886, and he died March 28, 1887.

CHILDREN

THOMAS A., born May 9, 1832; married Harriet Bacon.

JEREMIAH, born Feb. 7, 1834; died Dec. 27, 1854

CYNTHIA, born Nov. 20, 1835; married Issac Van Deventer on Sept. 24, 1854.

ELIZABETH, born Aug. 13, 1837; died Feb. 20, 1839.

MARY, born March 26, 1839; died April 4, 1856, on a train while the family was returning to Ohio from Indiana.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, born May 31, 1841; married Maria Anna Miller.

JOHN, born July 4, 1843; died Jan. 9, 1845.

AZUBA ANN, born Aug. 17, 1846; died Sept. 10, 1856.

REI, born March 22, 1849; married Anna M. Reynard.

NANCY JANE, born April 1, 1851; died March 30, 1855.

BEDA, born Nov. 20, 1853; died Sept. 3, 1854.

86. CLARK⁷ RATHBUN (Thomas⁶ Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻¹), born Oct. 22, 1812, in Clark County, Ohio. He was married April 15, 1835, in Logan County, Ohio, to Mary Ann Hannah, born May 18, 1815, daughter of David and Jane (Smith) Hannah. Clark died Feb. 7, 1844, in Vermillion, Illinois. Mary Ann was married again on Oct. 25, 1856, to James Ford in Clark County, Ohio. She died March 11, 1882.

CHILDREN

ELIZABETH JANE, born March 25, 1836; married Nathan Brooks on July 14, 1855.

NANCY, born March 18, 1838; married George M. Warren on Jan. 21, 1858.

THOMAS CORWIN, born June 11, 1840; married Susan Kaylor.

DAVID, born June 2, 1842; married Isabelle Bennett.

A number of family items displayed at our reunion are available for sale to interested cousins.

John Bowen has family crest decals designed for mounting on the inside of windows or small picture frames, for \$3.50 each, including shipping. Also colored 8x10 family crests on white parchment for \$12.50, or 17x22 for \$22.50, both including shipping costs. John also has family crest pins for \$5.50, postpaid. If interested, contact John Bowen at 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-3331.

Also available are wooden framed mirrors, 22 3/4 by 13 inches, with either the old song Rathbun or the 1893 Rathbone Family Reunion notice included in the frame. They are hand made by Brian Rathbun, a son of Charles¹⁰ Rathbun (Jesse⁹ George⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻¹). Brian will also make special orders. If interested, write David E. Rathbun, 255 Michelle Lane, Apt. 305, Groton, Conn. 06340.

David also has a supply of family-crest coffee mugs available at \$6 including shipping.

Forrest Lee Rathburn grows hybrid day lilies and will send a selection of bulbs to members for only shipping costs. If interested, write Forrest at 9101 Steilacoom Road S.E., Sp. 171, Olympia, Washington 98503.

Jeff Rathbun of Cleveland, Ohio, was commended recently by the Cleveland Plain Dealer for writing "a beautifully haunting and wonderfully resolving (musical) piece for oboe."

Jeff, who is second oboist for the Cleveland Orchestra, wrote the piece, entitled "Threnody" in memory of Lisa Pruett, 16, who was murdered in 1990. A 21-year-old man was acquitted in July on charges of killing her.

We do not know Jeff's identity. Can anyone help?

Obituaries

DIED—April 22, 1993, Edward Everett Rathbone, 64, of Lindsay, California, a member of our Association. He was a son of Ward⁸ Rathbone (Edward⁷ Thomas⁶ Jonathan⁵ Coggeshall⁴ Abraham³ Samuel² John¹). He is survived by his wife Betty; two sons, Edward and Robert; two daughters, Debra Russo and Becky Sheeley; two sisters, Elizabeth Witham and Kathleen Weiss, and four grandchildren.

DIED—Sept. 1, 1993, Vera B. (Rathbun) Davis, 79, at Beatrice, Neb. She was the daughter of Henry⁸ Rathbun (Clarence⁷ Job⁶⁻⁵ William⁴ Job³ Joseph² John¹). She was the widow of Johnie Davis who died in 1989. She is survived by two sisters, Meryl (Mrs. Russell) Zimmerman, and Beryl (Mrs. Ervin) Beerenstrauch, all members of our Association.

DIED—Aug. 22, 1993, George Mark Harding, 79, at Muskogee, Oklahoma, a member of our Association. He is survived by his widow, Margaret Harding; a son, Mark; two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Margaret is the daughter of James⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

DIED—March 1, 1993, Geneva Ledford, 68, in Johnson City, Tenn. A member of our Association, she was the widow of Charles Ledford, who died in 1978, and the daughter of Byron Aldrich and Bonnie⁹ Rathburn (Henry⁸ Valentine⁷ John⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). She is survived by two sons, Richard and John Ledford; two daughters, Jeane Ledford and Kathleen White, and 10 grandchildren.

DIED—April 18, 1993, Milton Rathburn, 88, at Gloversville, N.Y. He was the son of Earl⁹ Rathburn (William⁸ Samuel⁷ Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). The only close survivors are three cousins, Gail Rathburn, a member of

our Association, Richard Rathburn and Marie Trident.

DIED—Sept. 11, 1993, Harold Q. Rathbun, 74, of Providence, R.I. He was a son of Elmer⁸ Rathbun (Nathaniel⁷⁻⁶ Nathan⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹). A Marine Corps veteran of World War II, he is survived by three daughters, Linda DiMaggio, Sharon Perry and Patricia Czarnicki; two sons, Howard and Robert Rathbun; two sisters, Olive May Ashton and Grace V. McCaffrey; a brother, John Rathbun, and several grandchildren.

DIED—Sept. 23, 1993, Rose L. (Morrison) Rathbun, 94, at Flint, Mich. She was the widow of Rev. John A. Rathbun, who died in 1962, who was the son of George⁸ Rathbun (Paris⁷ Clark⁶ Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻¹). Survivors include four sons, Stanley, Rufus, John and Jerry Rathbun; two daughters, Rose Walker and Geraldine Burgess; 17 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren, and a brother.

DIED—August 6, 1993, Russell R. Clark, 73, of Coventry, R.I. He was the son of Charles Raymond Clark and Carrie May⁹ Rathbun (Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). A former state representative, he is survived by his wife, Gertrude; two daughters; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

DIED—May 21, 1993, Jessie L. (Rathbun) Sullivan, 80, at Madison, Wisc. She was the widow of Carl Sullivan and the daughter of Jesse⁸ Rathbun (Archibald⁷ John⁶ William⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ Samuel² John¹). She is survived by three children; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces including our member Joan Byers.

DIED—May 31, 1993, Irene D. Cartier-Rathbun, 63, of Port Orange, Fla., and formerly of Cumberland, R.I. She is survived by her second husband, Ernest Rathbun Sr.; two stepsons, David and Ernest Rathbun Jr.; two children by a first marriage; eight grandchildren, and a sister. We do not know the identity of this family.

Births

BORN—March 22, 1993, Nicholas Elliott Upah, daughter of John and Cindy Upah, and great-grandson of Fern (Rathbun) Thompson, all members of our Association. Fern is the daughter of John Maurice⁹ Rathbun (Richard⁸ William⁷ Daniel⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

BORN—July 13, 1993, Alden James Rathbun Falcone, daughter of Katherine Rathbun and William Falcone, and grandson of our members Rosalie and Benjamin¹⁰ Rathbun (Benjamin⁹⁻⁸ William⁷ Benjamin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹), of Noank, Conn.

BORN—July 10, 1993, Nishayla Rashawn Kearney, daughter of Rodney Kearney and LaDonna (Drones) Kearney of Seattle, WA.; granddaughter of Michael and Sandra (Rathbun) Drones, and great granddaughter of our members Shirley and Fred⁹ Rathbun (Fred⁸ Erastus⁷ Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

Descendants of Hallett Rathbun held their annual family reunion July 3 at Fitzgerald, Georgia. Among the nearly 100 in attendance were several members of our Association, including Dixie Rathbun Fountain, Junior and Reba Rathbun Reeves, and Ann Rathbun Paulk. Hallet Rathbun (1841-1925) was a Union soldier who settled in Georgia after the Civil War. He was the son of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Members of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Rathbun Family Association recently took a day trip to the Rathbun Free Memorial Library in East Haddam, Conn. They toured the three-story building which was built in 1935 with a grant from Norris Wheeler Rathbun. (See our Historian of July 1990.)

People

REV. WILLIS E. DANKS and his wife, Dorothy of Woodville, N.Y., celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Sept. 1, 1993. She is the daughter of Jesse⁸ Rathbun) Jesse⁷ Job⁶ Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻¹). Rev. Danks is the pastor of the United Church in Rodman, N.Y., where Dorothy's grandfather Jesse⁷ was pastor in 1898-9. The Dankses are members of our Association.

TIMOTHY RATHBURN has been promoted to Chief Petty Officer aboard the USS Leyte Gulf, home based in Mayport, Fla. Tim is the son of our member Orson Rathburn Jr. of Orange, Mass., and Iantha Boulanger of Fitchberg, Mass. Orson is the son of Orson⁹ Rathburn (Henry⁸ Valentine⁷ John⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

THOMAS RATHBUN, a senior at Santa Rosa High School, California, has received the Eagle Scout Award. A scout for nine years, he has been senior patrol leader, quartermaster and junior assistant scoutmaster. He is the son of Dr. J. Earl and Kathy Rathbun, and grandson of Jesse Earl⁹ Rathbun (Edwin⁸ Jacob⁷ Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Both the parents and grandparents are members of our Association.

ALLISON RATHBUN-PIERCE has been named contract/sales supervisor at Paul Arpin Van Lines in Coventry, R.I., where she has worked for seven years. She is the daughter of our member Donald¹⁰ Rathbun (Elmer⁹ Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

RANDY RATHBUN of Wichita, Kansas has been nominated by President Clinton to be United States attorney for the state of Kansas. Randy is an active Democrat and was a district chairman of the Clinton-Gore Campaign last year. He is the son of Ronald¹¹ Rathbun (Cleo¹⁰ Melancthon⁹ George⁸ Rowland⁷ Acots⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹).

Our New Members

Patricia Bohler
Shorewood, Ill.

Caroline Colby
Corunna, Mich.

Irene Dawson
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Carolyn Dix
Wooster, Ohio

Beverly J. Glines
Wilson, Wyoming

James and Susan Mild
Columbus, Ohio

William and Eleanor Nichols
Lake Wylie, S.C.

Richard H. Rathbun
Bristol, Conn.

DONNELLE D. BOWEN is teaching at the Evergreen Montessori School in Kensington, Md., after graduation in August from Kent State University in Ohio. She is the daughter of our members John and Mary Ann Bowen of Silver Spring, Md. John is a descendant of David Abel and Elizabeth⁷ Rathbun (John⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

ELIZABETH EVANS RATHBONE and Daryn Patrick Bartlett were married September 18, 1993, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Elizabeth is the daughter of our members John and Valorie Rathbone of Hamilton, N.Y. John is a distant cousin descended from Rathbones who migrated to the United States in the early 1800s.

STEVE RATHBUN has been appointed Deputy Chief of Uniformed Patrol for the Will County, Illinois, Sheriff's Department. Rathbun, a deputy sheriff since 1969, was promoted to sergeant in 1978 and to lieutenant in 1988. He and his wife Marsha have three children. We do not know his identity. Can anyone help?

In our July 1993 issue, we listed a daughter of George⁷ Rathbun (Isaiah⁶ Ashley⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹) as Frances Rathbun. Her actual name was Frankie Rathbun according to our member Ivan McPherson, her grandson. Also, Ivan's wife is Rosemarie, not Rosemary, as we listed her.

Rathbuns Grain Sale to Russia Falls Through

Leslie Garfield Rathbun of Topeka, Kansas, came close to completing a deal to sell 500,000 metric tons of grain to Russia.

Rathbun, president of Ecology Inc., said that the deal fell through because the Russians were unable to secure financing. If completed, the deal would reportedly have meant \$50 million to Kansas farmers and grain dealers.

However, Rathbun later reported receiving a "firm offer" from the government of India for 200,000 metric tons of wheat. He is negotiating with a six-state consortium to obtain the wheat.

Rathbun is also negotiating to purchase a 90,000-ton ocean tanker and to charter another vessel to make the delivery to India.

A retired ship's captain, Rathbun recently received a medal from the Russian Government for services he performed during World War II. He was first mate on U.S. merchant ships which delivered war material and equipment to Russia via the famed Murmansk Run through the North Atlantic.

Similar medals were awarded by Russia to other seamen who braved the bitterly cold weather and German submarines to deliver vital equipment to the Soviets in the early years of the war.