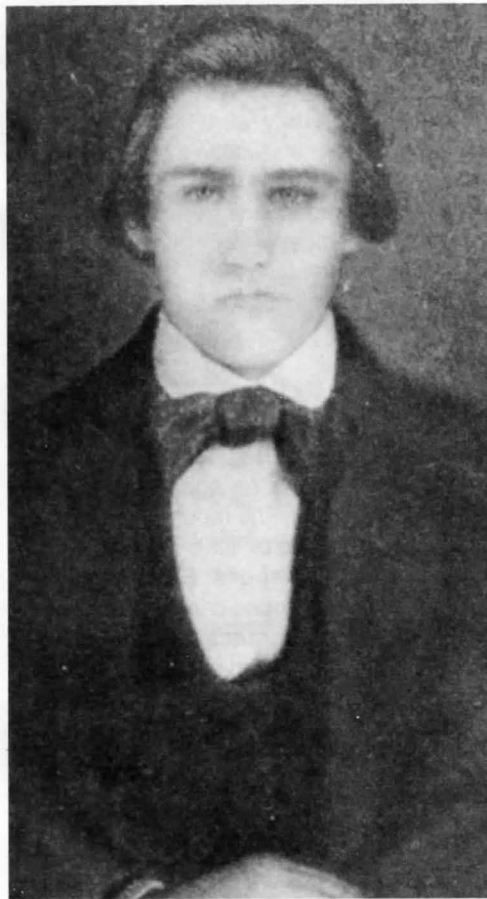


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

# FAMILY HISTORIAN



Thomas W. Rathbone  
(1824-1908)

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

## Letter from the Editor

Spring is finally beginning to show its sunny face after what has been the worst winter I can remember. Snow, sleet, hail, rain, ice and near-zero weather have combined to make life miserable all during January and February.

But now the grass is greening, crocuses and daffodils are in bloom, and I have already planted potatoes, turnips, beets, radishes and peas in my garden. Life is getting back to normal.

Hazel and I are still trying to catch up on the membership list. We sent letters to nearly 100 members who did not send in their renewals, and checks are now coming in daily. Our membership list stands at 480, well below our 1993 total of 541 and far under our peak of 583 in 1991.

We ended last year with a surplus of nearly \$2,000, not quite enough to resume publication of our Historian indices.

I had a warm letter from Paul Limbeck, whose wife, Rosma, died last Dec. 6, (See January obituaries). Paul and his children decided to make a donation of \$200 to the Association in Rosma's memory.

"The name Rathbun meant so much to Rosma," he wrote me. "She was

very proud of her heritage. Your organizing the Rathbun, Rathbone, Rathburn Family Association was to her the highlight of all the research she had undertaken in her many years of that activity.

"Frank, I want you to know that Rosma thought so much of you. She loved you as a person and also for all that you have accomplished in the keeping of the Rathbun name, one that is truly honorable."

I have already thanked Paul for these kind words of tribute, and for such a wonderful way to honor the memory of a truly great lady.

We have also received a \$23 donation from Joseph C. Rathbun, and smaller contributions from other members, specifically to help pay for our new computer.

I am pleased to report, by the way, that I have pretty well mastered the new computer and can breeze my way through the windows programs with hardly any mistakes. I guess you can teach an old dog new tricks.

In this issue is an appeal for donations to help pay the mounting medical bills of a very sick little cousin, four-year-old Alexandra Ellis, who is bravely fighting bone cancer. The family's health insurance was dropped because of a technicality, and they face hundreds of thousands of dollars in hospital and doctor bills for Alexandra.

We have been reluctant over the years to use the Historian for personal appeals, but this is such a tragic situation, I decided we should make an exception. I hope and trust you will all agree.

Hazel and I send our best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy spring and summer.



## Rotten Bread Possible Cause of Witch Mania

A fascinating theory to explain the infamous witch trials of 1692 in Salem, Mass., has been proposed by historically minded doctors. They blame the witch mania on rotten bread!

Historical documents reveal that 24 of the 30 "witches" put to death had suffered "fits" and hallucinations. These are both symptoms of ergot poisoning, caused by eating tainted rye bread.

Research has shown that 1691 was an unusually cold year, which would have encouraged the growth of ergot mold on rye crops. Then 1692 brought more bad weather, resulting in a food shortage, and forcing people to eat the contaminated grain harvested a year earlier.

To round off the theory, the medical historians cited old records to show that some of the bread eaten at alleged "witch gatherings" was red. Ergot, a natural alkaloid, causes flour to turn a cherry red! And the poison is not diminished by baking.

What a tragedy. Dozens of innocent persons may have been put to death because they had unknowingly eaten poisoned bread!

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

(703) 278-8512

**Frank H. Rathbun**

Editor & Publisher

ISSN 0737-7711

## Past Issues Still Available

All issues, 1981-1993.....\$200  
All issues, 1981.....\$ 22  
All issues, 1982.....\$ 20

All issues for any single year from 1983 to 1991 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.

# Friends Seek Contributions for Girl Stricken with Cancer

**T**he need for an overhaul of our nation's health-care system is exemplified in this story of a four-year-old girl, stricken with bone cancer, whose family is facing hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills because their insurance was cancelled.

The girl is Alexandra Ellis, daughter of Cliff and Regina Ellis of Portland, Oregon, and great-granddaughter of our members Forrest and Helen Rathburn.

Alexandra was born Dec. 6, 1989, and developed a malignant tumor when she was three. It was removed in August 1993, but three months later, tests showed that the cancer had spread to her chest, spine and hip bones.

The Ellises' insurance company cancelled Alexandra's coverage after the surgery, using the excuse that her condition had "pre-existed." She had been taken to a doctor with abdominal pains three months before the cancer was discovered.

The Ellises are challenging the insurance company's ruling through an attorney, but meanwhile a \$55,000 hospital bill remains unpaid.

Alexandra is now undergoing extensive chemotherapy, which will cost another estimated \$60,000. She is in constant pain and has to take pain medication daily. She has lost most of her hair due to the chemotherapy and can barely walk because of the hip cancer.

Her prognosis is grim. She may need more surgery to remove tumors if they become operable, and her doctors are considering a bone-marrow transplant.

That would require a hospital stay of two to three months in an isolation-ward "bubble," so that she would not



*Alexandra Ellis (left) as she looked a year ago, and (right) as she looks today, with a ribbon and bow to cover her bald head. She lost her hair after chemotherapy.*

be exposed to germs that could attack her weakened immune system. The cost would be at least \$250,000!

Doctors think there is a 25-percent chance that her two-year-old brother Zachary could be the donor for the marrow transplant.

Cliff and Regina Ellis own a small family-run business, and without insurance coverage there is no way they could pay the costs of the expensive measures needed to try and save their daughter's life. Doctors say she has, at best, only a ten to fifteen percent chance of survival.

The Ellises' friends have created a special bank account in Alexandra's name and are seeking donations and planning to raise money through other activities, to help the family pay their mounting medical bills. A benefit concert was held in January and other fund-raising events are being planned.

Some \$25,000 has already been collected.

This sad story was brought to our attention by Forrest Rathburn, who said, "I wouldn't ask help for myself, but this is for my little great-granddaughter. At this time in life (he is 79), I am reaching out to my family and friends. If you can ask for help through the Historian for Alexandra, either financial aid or prayers, I would be deeply grateful."

Forrest and Helen Rathburn are deeply religious people. Forrest attended our reunion last year and gave the benediction at our closing banquet. They are asking for all our prayers as well as financial help for little Alexandra.

We have used our Historian in the past to raise money on two occasions. Once to place a grave marker on

*(Continued to page 25)*

# Thomas Worthington Rathbone Joins in Gold Rush to California

In our Historian of April 1981, we outlined the fascinating career of Captain Jonathan Coffin Rathbone (1764-1836), a mariner in the Revolutionary War, a sea captain for many years, and a pioneer of Ohio in 1812. This is the story of his only son Thomas Worthington Rathbone, who had an equally interesting career, and fortunately for us left extensive diaries and letters which tell the story of his life.

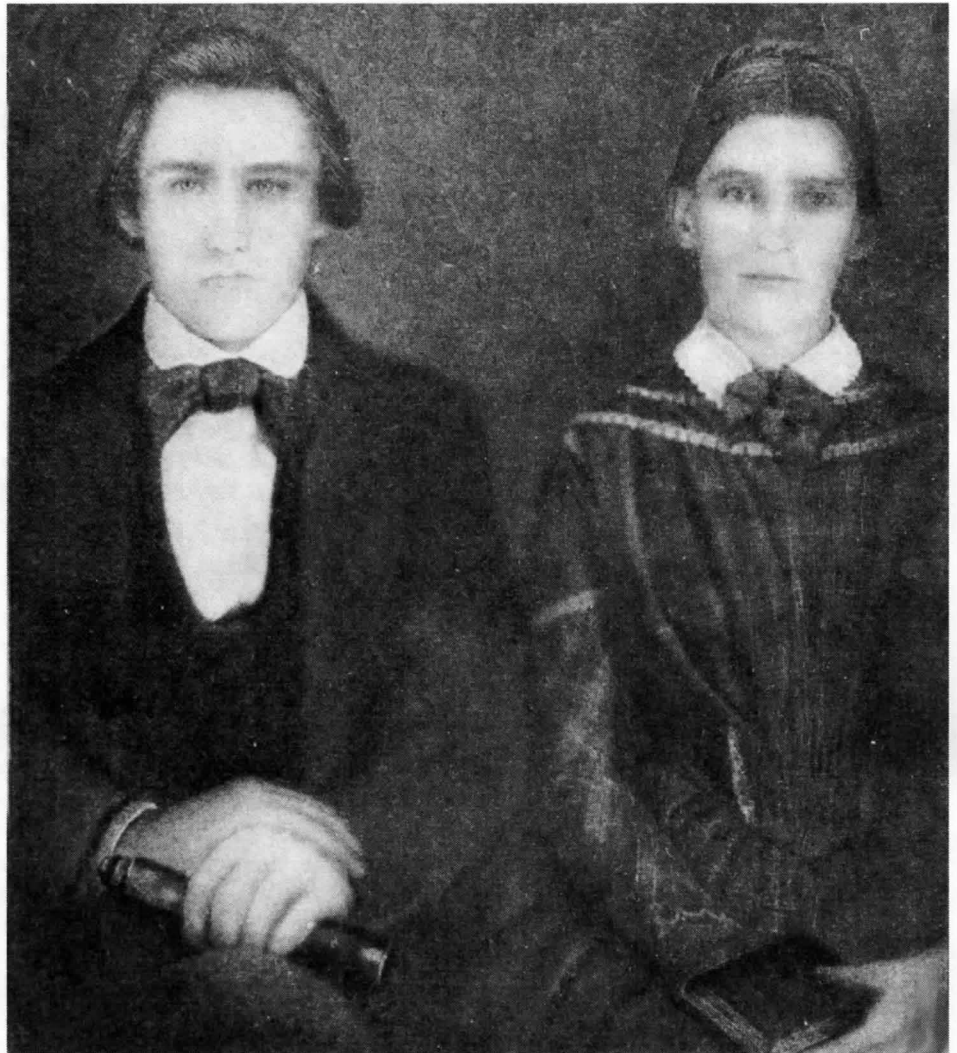
Thomas Worthington Rathbone was born September 21, 1824, in Clermont County, Ohio, the son of Jonathan Coffin<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (Coggeshall<sup>4</sup> Abraham<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>.)

Jonathan Coffin Rathbone was 50 years old when Thomas was born, and died in 1836, when Thomas was only 12. In 1841, when Thomas was 17, his mother died, "leaving me alone in the world," he wrote in his memoirs.

Thomas had only a basic education in the one-room school near his home, but he had an exceptional mind, and continued learning throughout his life. Thomas had another, more serious problem. He was born with crossed eyes—strabismus—a condition which is easily corrected today, but which was untreatable in those days.

Thomas did not let this handicap nor his limited education stop him from advancing in life. He became a voracious reader, covering one of his eyes with a hand when he read. He studied surveying, civil engineering, mathematics, astronomy and law, and mastered each of these fields in varying degrees.

After his mother's death, he supported himself by teaching for three years in a rural school. According to one of his letters, he went to school for one year, probably at the Clermont Academy. The academy had an "exhibition" in 1845, when Thomas was 21, and the program listed "T.W. Rathbone" as a member of the arrangements committee, a lecturer on



*Thomas Worthington Rathbone and Martha Wyatt in what was probably their wedding picture in 1846. He was 22; she was 16.*

the history of astronomy, and a debater on the topic, "Our Right to Oregon," then a major issue in the country.

In 1846, Thomas fell in love with a 16-year-old neighbor girl, Martha Wyatt. Some of his love letters to her are still owned by descendants.

On May 10, 1846, he wrote: "I have always thought more of you than anyone else, ever since we became acquainted, and I hope you will not cast me off, for my heart beats with an

affection for you too plain to be misunderstood."

A month later he wrote again: "I love and respect you, nay adore you above all on this earth ... I love you devotedly."

Thomas must have had some encouragement from Martha, for on November 11, 1846, he wrote to her parents in the traditional way, asking for her hand in marriage. He received his answer the next day: "After reading yours of the 11th and finding your

request not the least ground for any objections ... we herewith grant your request."

They were married Dec. 26, 1846, three months before Martha's 17th birthday. Thomas was 22. They moved onto his father's farm, which he had leased out since his mother's death.

Nine months later, in September 1847, they had a premature son who lived only a few hours. In another nine months came another son, also premature, who died the same day. Then, 11 months later, they had a healthy boy, born July 6, 1849, who was named Dwight Washburn Rathbone.

Thomas was delighted to have a son, but he had other thoughts on his mind. Gold had been discovered the previous year in California, and the great Gold Rush was under way. He decided to join the migration to the "land of gold."

"I went not alone for the purpose of filling my pockets," he later wrote, "but to see and learn by actual experience the many ways of the world, the reality of things and places previously read of, and to improve and cultivate a knowledge of human nature."

On March 19, 1850, he "bade adieu to my wife and baby son Dwight, as well as my friends." He was then 26 years old.

His wife's brother drove him by horse and buggy to Cincinnati, where he booked passage on the steamboat *Gulnare*, bound for New Orleans via the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. The *Gulnare* left Cincinnati on March 24. It had been a rainy spring and the rivers had overflowed their banks.

"Nearly all the little towns for the last hundred miles of the Ohio are under water," he wrote in his diary.

They stopped briefly in Memphis, then continued southward.

"We passed several large cotton plantations," he wrote on March 28. "Saw in one field twenty plows and about forty Negroes, male and female, at work planting cotton ... The slaves are as well dressed as our farmers are in Ohio. Their houses show a general rule of neatness about them; as a rule they are painted white."

On March 30, they passed Baton Rouge and went through an area of "splendid sugar plantations," one of 59,000 acres!

The steamship arrived at New Orleans on March 30, a seven-day trip from Cincinnati. Rathbun purchased a ticket on the steamship *Fanny* to Chagres, Panama, for \$45, to sail on April 8.

It was a 105-mile trip further south on the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, and on April 14, the *Fanny* reached the Gulf and headed south for Panama.

"How grand it was to go out on the bowsprit ... to get the full benefit of the sea's beauty," he wrote. "Alas, ere we were out of sight of land, the stomach was out of sorts ... from Sunday morning until Tuesday noon it was 'seasick' time.

For the rest of the trip, his diary is full of complaints about the ship's food: "At one dinner, we had our coffee served in an old rusty tin pan, which held about two gallons ... it tasted very queer. When we were finished, Lo and behold! a half mackerel was found in the pan, dropped by a careless cook."

Reaching Chagres on the eastern shore of Panama, Rathbun and several companions hired two natives to take them on the first leg of their trip across the Isthmus of Panama. They were "poled and oared" up a river, heading for the village of Gorgona.

"The scenery was beautiful," he wrote. "The river is about one hundred yards but not very deep." They made 20 miles the first day and stopped at Pamperaroa, where they pitched tents for the night. The next morning, they started off again at 3 a.m.

"Trees and vines are so thick along the banks that a man could barely get through," he wrote. "There is a sweet and fascinating odor from the foliage of the forest that almost causes one to feel like having taken an opiate of some kind."

They reached Gorgona at 2 p.m. and set up camp. The next day, they hired five mules and drivers to haul their luggage the final 25 miles over the mountains to Panama City on the west coast. One of their mules turned out to be a big black ox.

"The mercury stood at 106 degrees at 8 a.m. when we started on foot, our only road a bridle-path up the mountain ... we arrived at Panama at 2 p.m., pretty tired, and camped in the suburbs a half mile outside the city."

They had walked 27 miles over mountains in 106-degree heat. One of Rathbone's companions collapsed on their arrival. He was not favorably impressed with Panama.

"The natives often go entirely naked, both male and female. The people are a mixed race indeed, of all colors and shades, from the whitest white to the darkest black. Amalgamation is in its worst state in this country. God forbid that our United States should every come to this!"

Rathbone and his companions bought tickets for \$150 each on the American sailing ship *Norman*, of Nantucket, Mass., bound for San Francisco. He learned that the captain was John J. Gardner, whose father was an old sailing companion of Rathbone's father.

At Panama, Rathbone was offered a surveying job at \$20 a day, but he turned it down, "not liking the idea of staying here any longer than I could help."

While waiting for the *Norman* to sail, Rathbone explored the area and studied the people.

"Although Roman Catholic, they are not very chaste," he wrote. "Of all the births in Panama, only about one in ten is legitimate. The women are very common with their charms and more indiscreet with their language, far more vulgar than the men ... some of our boys went to a cock fight and saw a priest betting on the game-cocks."

On May 12, the *Norman* set sail for San Francisco, carrying 140 passengers for what was expected to be a 70-day trip.

"I was soon taken sick, which lasted about two weeks," Rathbone wrote. He had apparently not inherited his father's sea-legs. He continued to complain about the food:

"The ship's food is very poor, consisting of tainted beef, old pickled pork (wormy), sea biscuit, buggy rice, old black molasses, yams and duff, or flour pudding—poor flour mixed with water, put into sacks holding about a peck each, about a handful of raisins in each peck. Each sack is then tied and the whole is boiled in an old kettle, in sea water. All this is a hard dose for

*(Continued to page 24)*

# Edmund Rathbone's Memoirs Tell Story of Pioneer Days

The following biography of Edmund Rathbone (1777-1865) is taken from the old Rathbone Family Historian of March 1892. It was written by his grandson, John Quincy Rathbone (1837-1915), based on conversations the two had in the early 1860s. It is unusual to find such a detailed life story of a man born nearly 200 years ago.

Edmund Rathbone was born May 25, 1777, at Great Barrington, Mass., the seventh of eight children born to Edmund<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>3-1</sup>). At some point in life, Edmund Jr. adopted the Rathbone spelling, which his descendants use to this day.

In 1785, Edmund Sr. and his family moved to Delhi, Delaware County, N.Y., where they were among the earliest settlers. Edmund was a miller, and built a mill on a stream called Fall Brook.

About 1796, he was on the move again, and settled in Ohio County, Virginia (now West Virginia), near present-day Wheeling. He died there in the summer of 1801, reportedly from the effect of drinking too much water while overheated from working. He was then about 64 years old, and a heart attack would be a more logical cause of death.

Edmund Jr. had worked in his father's mill and learned the miller's trade, but after moving to Virginia, when he was about 19, he turned to the business of coopering, making barrels which were in much demand.

On January 1, 1801, Edmund Jr. was married to Deborah Taylor by the Rev. Joseph Chuvion in the Short Creek Methodist Church. About five years after their marriage, they moved with their two young daughters, Lovica and Electa, to Athens County, Ohio, in what was called the Sundry Creek Settlement. They moved a short time later to a farm about six miles south of Marietta, Ohio, near the Ohio River.

He opened a cooper's shop, and worked for some time making barrels. Then he found a quarry near his home, and began manufacturing grindstones, which every farmer needed to keep his scythes and other tools sharp and useable.

About 1816, he decided to move further west to the Illinois Territory. He had a large stock of grindstones on hand, which were too heavy to haul by land, so he built a large flatboat to haul the stones along with his household goods and family down the Ohio River to Cincinnati. By that time, he and Deborah had six children.

At Cincinnati, they stopped and unloaded the grindstones. He sold as many as he could, and turned the rest over to a commission merchant. They then continued down the river on their flatboat.

At Lawrenceburg, Indiana, some of the family became ill, so Edmund decided to stop there for a while. He opened a cooper shop and operated it for 14 months.

In 1817, they started west for the Illinois Territory, this time with a wagon and team of horses. On August 1, 1817, they arrived at Vincennes on the Wabash River, in Crawford County, where they went to the home of his brother-in-law, Cornelius Taylor.

Edmund rented and later bought a farm about three miles northeast of the village, and there opened another cooper's shop. That first year, he made about 400 barrels designed for salt pork, for a contract price of \$1.25 each. He also made a number of flour and whiskey barrels.

Many of the barrels were shipped on flatboats to New Orleans, via the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers. That was the only cash market, for money was scarce on the frontier. Unable to obtain cash for the pork barrels, he took as part payment 10 milk cows for his farm. He continued to

work as a cooper, leaving the farm work to his oldest son, Gideon, then in his early teens.

In 1826, Edmund set out an apple orchard of two hundred seedlings, which he had personally selected from a nursery. More than 60 years later, the orchard was still producing, and the trees had diameters of two to three feet. It was considered one of the best orchards in that part of Illinois.

Edmund apparently had the wanderlust. In 1827, he decided to move further west, and on October 14 that year, he and Deborah headed for Springfield, Illinois, then the capital. Illinois had become a state in 1818.

The year of his move, Edmund recalled, was the same year that matches were invented. They reached Springfield on October 28, and he purchased an 80-acre government tract about five miles east of the city. The property cost \$1.25 an acre, and he soon bought another 80 acres, giving him a 160-acre farm. He built a small log cabin and began the task of clearing the land for farming. He had the help of his youngest sons, Ira and Cornelius. Gideon, the eldest son, had married and left home.

Among his neighbors in Springfield was a young man named Abraham Lincoln, later to become President of the United States.

The wanderlust struck Edmund again in 1831. He sold his farm and bought a quarter-section of land 14 miles southeast of Springfield. He also purchased another tract six miles further east, on Clear Creek, where he and his son Gideon built a sawmill. They had been told that lumber was in great demand.

To pay for the needed mill equipment, he mortgaged his farm, but was confident that lumber sales would soon recover the money. It was not to be. The winter of 1831-32 was very dry, and there was not enough water in the

creek that spring to operate the mill. He and Gideon had to abandon the mill, and Edmund lost his farm.

Edmund and Deborah moved into Springfield, where he found work in a cooper's shop, and where they spent the next eight years. In 1840, he moved again, this time to McLean County, where his son Ira was living. Edmund built a home and cooper's shop on Ira's land, where they spent the next 10 years.

In 1850, Ira sold the farm, and Edmund had to move out. By this time, he was 73 years old, and in failing health. He moved onto the nearby farm of his son Gideon, who built a small home there for his parents.

Three years later, Gideon sold the farm and on October 14, 1853, headed west with his family for Hardin County, Iowa. Edmund, 76, and Deborah, 71, went along with them.

They reached Hardin County on October 28. It was Edmund's final move. His eyesight had been failing for some years, and he was soon almost totally blind. It was probably cataracts, which were then untreatable.

In early life, Edmund had been a great reader, and he possessed an unusually good memory. He could repeat word for word much of what he had read, especially songs, hymns and the Bible.

His grandson wrote, "If anyone would recite the first two or three verses of any chapter in the Bible, he could repeat the remainder and give the book and chapter in which it could be found."

Edmund also spent considerable time in his old age composing poetry and paraphrasing scriptural passages into song. His grandson wrote down many of these poems and songs as the old man dictated them, but over the years they were lost.

Always a deeply religious man, Edmund at one time had considered entering the ministry, and spent many hours reading the Bible and studying the scriptures. The pressures of earning a living forced him to give up the idea.

He was raised as a Methodist, became a Baptist in later years, and then about 1842 he became a member of the Mormon Church. He was strongly opposed, however, to the Mormon doctrine of polygamy, and

soon left the church. For the rest of his life, he was a "Universalist," believing firmly in the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

In politics, he was originally an Adams-Jefferson Republican, but when the Whig Party was organized in the early 1830, he joined that party. He voted for Abraham Lincoln, a former friend and neighbor in Springfield, in the 1860 election, and from that time was a staunch Republican.

Deborah Rathbone died in 1861 a few months before her 80th birthday. It was a terrible shock for Edmund; they had been married over 60 years. His

health went downhill after that, and in June 1864, he suffered a stroke which left him partially paralyzed. He then lost his speech and became entirely helpless, a condition which lasted for more than a year.

Death finally brought him relief on September 25, 1865, at the age of 88. He was buried next to his wife in Greenwood Cemetery, Eldorado Township, Hardin County.

(Edmund's grandson, Franklin P. Rathbone (son of Gideon) was the founder and editor of the first Rathbone Family Historian, published from 1892 to 1894.)

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## John Rathbun Honored for Business Success

John Willard Rathbun of Monroeville, Ohio, was the subject of a modern-day success story in the Toledo Blade of last July 4.

Fifteen years ago, he opened a small plastic-packaging business in a leased building, with five employees including his two teen-aged sons.

Today, that business has grown into Venture Packaging Inc., with annual sales of \$30,000,000, some 320 employees, and holding six Federal patents, with others pending.

Rathbun started with capital of \$125,000, which he raised by mortgaging his house, borrowing from friends and taking two partners. "I beat my brains out for 15 years," he recalled.

His successful career was climaxed when he was named the winner of the Northwest Ohio Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Rathbun, 56, descends from one of our unsolved-mystery Rathbuns. His father, Henry John Rathbun (1880-1960), was the son of a Charles M. Rathbun, born about 1844, reportedly in Pennsylvania. Charles was married

Sept. 6, 1879, in Toledo, Ohio, to Barbara Speck.

Charles disappeared about 1884, and Barbara was married on June 6, 1885, to Reuben Nason, by whom she had several children. In 1877, a badly decomposed body was found in the Maumee River near Toledo, and could not be identified. However, one of the dead man's fingers was missing, and Charles Rathbun did have one missing finger.

But who was Charles? A Charles M. Rathbun appears in Chicago city directories from 1875 to 1879, the year that our mystery-man Charles was married to Barbara Speck. It was quite likely the same Charles, but that does not answer our question.

In the 1880 census, Charles listed himself as 35 years old, born in Pennsylvania, to parents who were also born in Pennsylvania. The 1850 Federal census shows no Rathbun in Pennsylvania with a son named Charles.

It is a mystery that may never be solved.

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a well man, and much worse for a sick one."

The Norman encountered strong north winds, forcing the captain to zig-zag continually to move northward. Sleeping accommodations were rough. Rathbone slept on a wood plank, "with only one blanket between me and the board."

The long, miserable trip finally ended on July 21, 1850, after 79 days, when the ship sailed into the harbor of San Francisco.

"The great city of San Francisco," Rathbone wrote, "is literally scattered over a hilly country, the main part occupying a beautiful 'dish' in the hills. Some brick buildings, but the city is built mostly of wood. Many tent houses are scattered over every hill as far as the eye can reach.

"There are at least a thousand vessels in port. The harbor in my opinion is unsurpassed in the world. The surrounding country does not look very inviting—baked and barren hills."

After paying another dollar each for "hospital care" on the ship, Rathbone and his companions hurried ashore and enjoyed their first decent meal in months ... "good roast beef, coffee, light bread, etc. An excellent meal for which we paid 75 cents each."

That same day, they booked passage for Sacramento, in the gold country, at \$17 each. They sailed across San Francisco Bay and up the Sacramento River. Rathbone woke up on the morning of July 23 to find himself in Sacramento.

Rathbone and a friend hired a team of mules and a driver to take them to the nearest gold fields, at the town of Nevada, some 55 miles away. They reached Nevada on July 28, "a flourishing city of about 1,000 inhabitants, situated on Deer Creek and right among the hills."

He immediately tried his hand at prospecting, and found some gold dust by washing gravel in a ravine. He was delighted, and the next day, with a partner, he commenced prospecting in earnest. "We were soon into it with a rush," he wrote. "The results of one day's work was \$28."

For the next eight months, he worked daily, exploring hidden ravines,

digging, probing, and "panning" gravel and dirt, always hoping to find large nuggets. He had mixed results, making from \$5 to \$15 a day. On October 19, he disgustingly reported that he had made only \$2.32.

Excerpts from his diaries and letters to his wife, give us some idea of his experiences and feelings:

"This community (Ophir, in Sutter County) is made up of all nations, languages and colors, and of every character ... there might as well be no law. Hardly a week passes without murder, robbery and incendiarism. The people are compelled to take the law into their own hands."

"Harvey Terwillegar ... is going to bring his family out here. I (prefer) to keep my family in civilized society than to bring them into such a place as this."

"Four Indians were hung at Pilot Hill yesterday for the murder of a White man named Avery."

"Worked very hard today ... washed 460 buckets full and made \$12.80."

"Everything here is very costly—shovels are six to thirteen dollars, picks from five to six dollars, axe handles two dollars, pans \$2.50, bread 35 cents a loaf, bacon 40 cents and flour 21 cents per pound.

"Started in pursuit of two men who worked a claim for us and they vamoosed with about \$200 of our money."

His labors seemed to produce little gold. "Went prospecting up Gold Run. Worked all day and found nothing ... went down Deer Creek, worked all day and found nothing ... Worked all day and made about \$6."

On October 19, 1850, he wrote: "Working since September 1st and made up to this date \$232."

Strangely, there is nothing in his records to show how he made out financially for his whole stay in California. Presumably, it was little or nothing, or he would have mentioned it.

By the fall of 1851, he had had enough, and decided to return home. He made his way back to Sacramento by early October and took a coastal ship down to San Francisco. There he booked passage on the steamship New Orleans with 350 passengers and headed south on October 16.

On October 26, they stopped at Acapulco, Mexico, where they spent a day and Rathbone fell sick with a fever. He was still sick when they reached Panama City on November 3. Too ill to make the trip on foot, he hired a mule and three days later was in Chagres.

On November 8, he sailed from Chagres on the steamship Philadelphia, stopped briefly at Havana, Cuba, and then boarded the ship Empire City, headed for New Orleans. Arriving there November 18, he spent four days and then headed up the Mississippi on a steamboat.

By this time, he was anxious to be home, and his diary entries are brief. His last entry reads: Arrived at Cincinnati Dec. 5th, reached B.W. Pease's house (a friend in Clermont County) on December 6, 1851—and then HOME!"

(Our story of Thomas Worthington Rathbone will be concluded in our next issue, with the story of his experiences in the Civil War. The information on his life is taken from his diaries and letters as printed in "Rathbone Chronicles," a fascinating book published in 1977 by his descendant, Frances Collord, a member of our Association.)

## Baby Girl Saved By Technology

Modern technology has saved the life of a year-old baby with Rathbun ancestors.

Kendra DuBois was born Feb. 1, 1992, to Darren and Kay DuBois of Colorado Springs, Colo. It was soon discovered that she had major heart defects. Two months later, she underwent surgery to repair her faulty heart, and today is a healthy and happy little girl.

Kendra is the granddaughter of Adrian DuBois and the late Jean (Rathbun) DuBois, and great-granddaughter of our members Leah and Gathern<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> 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>).



(Continued from page 25)

Block Island for our ancestors, and again to help save the historic Southeast Lighthouse on Block Island.

Alexandra's mother, Regina Ellis, says that she and her husband have been amazed at the "strength, vitality, courage, humor and patience" displayed by "Alex" during the ordeal.

"Her bright smile pulled us through days when our bodies and minds were trying to surface from the unspeakable depths of terror, disbelief and pain."

"Having to experience such pain, grief and fear with our children reminds us of the fragility of life, the brevity of the moment and the pain of living and loving."

I feel the Ellises' tragic situation is most deserving of our help. I would suggest that any members who would like to contribute to Alexandra's fund send their checks to me, made out to "The Alexandra Ellis Donation Account."

We will forward all the checks we receive, in one batch, to the bank handling the account, and we will send a list of all donors to Forrest and Helen Rathburn. I propose to include a \$50 check from our Association funds.

Our cousins, the Rathbuns and the Ellises, have asked for help, and I strongly feel we should respond.

Forrest is the son of George<sup>9</sup> Rathburn (Charles<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Raymond<sup>6</sup> Stephen<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>).

(To make a contribution, send your check, made out to the Alexandra Ellis Donation Account, to the Rathbun Family Association, 11308 Popes Head Road, Fairfax, Va. 22030. Any amount, large or small, will be appreciated. Please do it soon. We would like to forward the checks to the bank by June 1.)

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Nicholas Elliott Upah is the son (not daughter) of John and Cindy Upah (Historian of Oct. 1993). Our thanks to eagle-eyed Dr. Earl Antes.

## Old Advertisement Sheds New Light on John Rathbone

In our Historian of July 1992, we printed a story on the life of John Rathbone (1751-1843), of Connecticut, who moved to New York City in the early 1790s, established a commercial business, and became our family's first "millionaire."

We have just discovered an early newspaper advertisement which sheds light on Rathbone's early operations in New York, and dates his arrival there to about 1793. The advertisement reads as follows:

"JOHN RATHBONE, from Connecticut, Auctioneer and Commission Merchant, Has opened a Vendue Room at No. 78 Wall Street, between the Tontine Coffee House and Stewart and Jones's store. He has also provided himself with a large store on Murray's Wharf, the east side of the Coffee-House Slip, where goods may be stored and reshipped as occasion may require, without the expence of cartage. His stand is inferior to none in the City for the Disposal of property, either at publick or private sale, and his accommodations are equal to any for the purpose of doing business upon economical principles. He purposes to transact every species of business appertaining to Auctioneers and Commission Merchants. He respectfully offers his service to the Public, and his Connecticut friends in particular, in the line of his profession, in which capacity every exertion will be made to give satisfaction and to secure the approbation of his employers, and all favours will be gratefully acknowledged. New York, April 17, 1794. N.B. Cash in amount of ten thousand dollars will be advanced for goods left with him for sale if required."

(Our thanks to our member John Rathbone of Hamilton, N.Y., who sent us the advertisement, which one of his friends found while researching in early Connecticut newspapers).

## Rathbun Girl's Letter Makes Sad Reading

Thirteen-year-old Tara Rathbun had the following letter published on January 4 in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, in California. It is a sad commentary on our nation's schools:

"Gangs, drugs, sexual harassment. Sound familiar? These are probably some of the things that you think about when you go over what happened at school today.

"Hey, let's face it! Today's schools are definitely nothing to brag about.

"Most people I know usually know who it is they want to avoid. You either see them getting high in the bathroom or hear them bragging about it.

"Sexual harassment is no longer a subject you hear the 'grown-ups' talking about, but something that you see, hear or experience at school almost every day. 'Bitch' and 'slut' are not all that uncommon among the words you hear every day at school.

"When sexual harassment happens, most people are too scared to do anything.

"The really dumb thing is that the teachers don't really get on to the ones who upset and disturb the class the most."

We do not know the identity of Tara Rathbun, who is in the 8th Grade at Forestville School. But she writes a sad and thought-provoking letter.

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Thomas Richmond Rathbone, who served in the 6th N.C. Regiment of the Confederate Army in the Civil War, was honored last Oct. 24 when the United Daughters of the Confederacy dedicated a grave marker to him in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Ashland, Va.

Rathbone died of measles on April 17, 1862. He was the son of Christopher Rathbone and grandson of John Rathbone of North Carolina, whom we cannot identify.

He left a widow, Elmira (McKinney) Rathbone, and five children.

# Rathbun Father's Letter Survives after 150 Years

In 1844, Hiram Rathbun of Auburn, N.Y., wrote the following letter to his daughter, Helen, then 16, who was attending Ferndale Seminary in Utica, N.Y. Helen had written her father for permission to come home for Christmas, and Hiram had to tell her no.

The letter gives an interesting insight into the times, and also into the character of Hiram (1800-1884), who was the son of Edward<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>):

"Auburn Dec 23rd 1844

"Father's good girl wishes to come home. I think she had better not do so this vacation. I have various reasons for thinking it is not best. It is a season of the year when it is very unpleasant to be exposed to the weather, attended with many other inconveniences such as getting home in the night and having to stop over the night at Syracuse, all of which there are no remedy for except you remain at Utica.

"In the spring we shall expect you as a matter of course. I don't think you would enjoy yourself very much if you should come home, except in kissing your father and perhaps mother and the captain (?) It is dull, no balls or parties, very little of that sort of thing to amuse even those who indulge in those things.

"Theodore (her brother) was engaged last evening in winding wreaths for the church. Mr. Sherwood attended a donation party at Brother Backus's with Brother Chappell one evening last week, and came home much improved (neighbor?).

"Your mother received a letter from your Aunt Mary How (Mary Rathbone How, sister to Hiram's wife, Pamela Rathbun). They are all well. Mr. How is at home. We had a letter from Amos Saturday from the Rapids (Pamela's brother Amos Rathbone in Grand Rapids, Mich.). He starts in a few days for Indiana and will remain there until March.

"A most shocking occurrence took place here on Saturday. Mr. Bisell at



*Hiram Rathbun about the time he wrote the letter to his daughter. For a picture of Hiram as an older man, see our Historian of July, 1985, page 43.*

Mills cut his throat and when found was dead. Was buried today. We have had a few cases of the Black Tongue (typhoid?) and some three or four have died, very sudden indeed. Now Telemachus (a nickname?), your father hopes that you will think as he does that it is best not to come home this winter. Be a good girl and be assured we should be very glad to see you if we thought it best for you to come home.

"Your mother sends her respects to those young ladies who helped make up your letter, and say to them for me I shall be glad to make their acquaintance and to have them visit us with you in the spring.

"Your father Hiram.

"Addressed to) Helen M. Rathbun, Utica, Ferndale Seminary."

(The letter and picture of Hiram are owned by your editor.)

# Story Features Major Rathbone

Major Henry Reed Rathbone, who was with President Abraham Lincoln when he was assassinated at Ford's Theater in 1865, was the subject of a story entitled "The Haunted Major" in the February/March issue of American Heritage Magazine. Major Rathbone, who later murdered his wife and died in an insane asylum, was the son of Jared Lewis<sup>6</sup> Rathbone (Samuel<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

New light on Jared Lewis Rathbone has been found in a 1967 biography of William Henry Seward, who was Lincoln's secretary of war. Rathbone, a wealthy merchant in Albany, N.Y., was Seward's partner in the Holland Land Company in 1835.

According to the biography, Rathbone decided that bankers were charging the company too much for their services, and that Seward was being too lenient with purchasers and settlers on the company's land. He decided he wanted to get out.

Accordingly, Seward purchased Rathbone's share for something over \$30,000, but failed to pay Rathbone all the money. After Rathbone's death in 1845, his heirs settled with Seward for \$10,000.

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WE THANK the following cousins who have sent us clippings, pictures, family data and other material; Maxine Oltrogge, Rob Rathbun, Lola Phillips, Bill Nichols, Charles Boardman, Bill Lieuellen, Beth Kiteley, William E. Wright, Frank and Dorothy Rathbun, Beverly Gillette, Forrest Rathburn, Sherman Boivin, Rose Rathbun, Issac B. Rathbun, Lydia Littlefield, LaVerne E. Rathbun, Mary Champlin, Helen M. Rathbun, Patti Baron, Princess Frush, Grove and Janet Rathbun, Clair Cornell, Evelyn Abernathy, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Bruce Mark Rathbun, Edith Leppla, Chester Rathbun, Rev. Van Rathbun, Clarice Fleharty, Jack Rathbun, Dale Bennett, John Rathbone.

# Genealogy: The Seventh Generation in America

**108. RODNEY D.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Lucius<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Oct. 8, 1853, in Cass County, Mich. He was married on Feb. 23, 1875, to Nancy Maria Gifford, born June 23, 1859, daughter of Hiram Leroy and Lucy Sophronia (Milliman) Gifford. They lived in Jefferson, Cass County, where Nancy died in 1888. Rodney was probably married again in 1889, but no record of his wife's name has been found. She apparently died by 1900, and he was married in the early 1900s to Viola Isadore Phelps, daughter of George and Mary (Barker) Phelps. She was a widow, but the name of her first husband and his death date are not known. Rodney died in 1929.

## CHILDREN

All by Nancy

ARTEMUS ANDREW, born May 28, 1877; married Lena Gager.

BRUCE LEROY, born June 3, 1879; married Merle Truckatt.

BLANCHE ETHEL, born Jan. 15, 1885; married L.H. Sanford.

BESSIE, born March 6, 1888; no further data.

**109. GEORGE FRANCIS<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Martin<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born July 17, 1835, at Green Creek, Ohio. He was married on Jan. 26, 1858, in Michigan, to Fallie Jordan, born Oct. 1, 1841, possibly the daughter of Zebulon and Martha Jordan. They moved to South Bend, Indiana, soon after their marriage, were living in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1880, and by 1900 were in Elkhart, Indiana, where he died Nov. 9, 1903. Fallie was married on Feb. 28, 1907, to Jonathan Bucher, and died April 30, 1913.

## CHILDREN

IDA M., born Nov. 2, 1858; died Aug. 7, 1869.

Another child, name unknown, according to Cooley; died young.

**110. RILEY HENRY<sup>7</sup> RATHBURN** (Martin<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born June 1, 1848, in Cass County, Mich. He was married March 10, 1870, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Kalilly Isabelle Richardson, born May 28, 1853, daughter of Zodac S.W. and Mercy Jane (Balcom) Richardson. They lived for many years in Cleveland, then moved in the 1880s to Lincoln, Neb., and then to nearby Falls City, where he died Feb. 12, 1914. Kalilly died there Dec. 15, 1924. Riley changed the spelling of his name from Rathbun to Rathburn.

## CHILDREN

MAUD ISABELLE, born July 29, 1871; married Henry Rufus Miner on Oct. 17, 1899.

WINTHROP WESLEY, born April 29, 1874; married (1) Mina E. Nelson, and (2) Myrtle Snyder.

HOWARD MARTIN, born Aug. 12, 1877; married Elizabeth Emily Gaylord

MARK HARVEY, born March 23, 1879; married Ethel Galley.

MERLE CONNER, born July 8, 1885; married Jessie Louise Gibson.

**111. JOHN PEARSON<sup>7</sup> RATHBURN** (Pearson<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born in Feb. 1829, in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. He moved to Portage County, Ohio, where he was married Jan. 29, 1851, to Cordelia Larcomb, born in 1831, parentage unknown. They had one child of their own, and in 1856 adopted Edwin Boggs, an orphan, and named him Edwin Boggs

Rathbun. Cordelia died Aug. 13, 1858, and John was married again on Sept. 20, 1859, to Ellen Hitchcock, born May 1, 1837, daughter of Chauncey and Lamira Hitchcock. They moved in 1871 to Osborne County, Kansas, where he operated a saw mill and grain mill. (See our Historian of July 1987 for his picture and a story of his buffalo hunt in 1876.) Ellen died in 1897 and John died in 1905, both in Corinth Township, Osborne County.

## CHILDREN

By Cordelia

BION PAUL, born in November 1857; married Kate Baldwin.

EDWIN BOGGS, born August 7, 1848; married Alice Jane Freer.

By Ellen

FRANK ERNEST, born July 5, 1860; married Catherine Miage.

JOSEPH ADDISON, born Nov. 29, 1862; married Addie Ashburn.

**112. ALONZO WILLIAM<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Pearson<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Sept. 27, 1818, in Newburg, Ohio. He was married there on June 5, 1844, to Mary Ann Miles, born in 1826, daughter of Theodore and Fanny (Holly) Miles. Alonzo went to California in the 1849 Gold Rush, returned sick and died within a week, in July 1854. Mary Ann later moved to Adams County, Mississippi, where she died some time after 1881.

## CHILDREN

ALICE V., born Nov. 15, 1846; married W.E. Ling on Nov. 15, 1866.

RANSOM, born about 1848; apparently died young.

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**113. STEWART M.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Pearson<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Nov. 9, 1821, in Newburg, Ohio, and was married there Jan. 16, 1844, to Laura Carter, born Jan. 9, 1824, daughter of Alonzo and Julia (Aikens) Carter. Stewart was reported in the county jail in 1851, and upon his release, he left for California. He was last heard of crossing the plains and was presumed killed by Indians. Laura moved to Cleveland, where she died Nov. 11, 1895.

#### CHILDREN

IDA, born June 30, 1845; married Morgan Condit McIntosh on May 2, 1866.

EMMA J., born Feb. 10, 1848; married Philo Beakle on Oct. 7, 1866.

MILES C., born May 2, 1850; he died in 1931 in Cleveland; no known marriage.

**114. CORYDON LAFAYETTE<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Pearson<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Sept. 10, 1826, in Newburg, Ohio, and was married there on Jan. 20, 1848, to Amelia Marie Carter, born Nov. 17, 1826, daughter of Alonzo and Julia (Aikens) Carter, a sister of his brother Stewart's wife. He operated a hotel at Newburg for a few years, then moved to Akron and finally to Olmsted Falls, Ohio, where he died Dec. 5, 1895, "of a liver complaint." Amelia died at Cleveland on Dec. 10, 1906, of pneumonia.

#### CHILDREN

FRANCES CELIA, born March 15, 1849; married John Lynch on Dec. 24, 1868.

CLIFFORD MYRON, born Aug. 10, 1852; married Clara Northrop.

CHARLES STEWART, born Oct. 10, 1854; married Adeline Maddox.

NORMAN C., born Dec. 25, 1856; married Agnes Reynolds Jan. 27, 1883. They had no children. He died July 15, 1900. She died Sept. 18, 1922.

**115. SYLVESTER L.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Erastus<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born May 17, 1817, at Newburg, Ohio. He was married Dec. 19, 1838, in Amboy, Ohio, to Fanny E. Kent, born in Oct. 1821, parentage unknown. They lived in Conneaut, Ohio. Cooley stated that Sylvester died August 3, 1845, but he was still living in 1860, and perhaps died August 3, 1885. Fanny was living in 1900 in an Old Women's Home at Bay City, Michigan.

#### CHILD

ELLEN LOVINA, born Dec. 14, 1844; died Nov. 21, 1850.

**116. GEORGE W.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Erastus<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Jan. 15, 1825, at Conneaut, Ohio, and married there June 5, 1851, Maria Collins, born in March 1829, in England, parentage unknown. He was a miller in Ashtabula County, Ohio, until he retired in 1892. Maria died there some time after 1900, and he died after 1910.

#### CHILDREN

ELLEN F., born March 26, 1854; died April 23, 1854.

ELMER C., born April 27, 1856; was killed April 5, 1865, aged nine, when he fell into the flume of his father's mill and was crushed by the wheel.

MIRIAM, born in 1860; died young?.

MARY ELEANOR, born Oct. 22, 1861; married Willard S. Montgomery on Feb. 14, 1889.

WILLIAM ERNEST, born 1, 1868; married Minnie Reels.

**117. NATHAN H.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Milton<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Feb. 15, 1819, in Newburg, Ohio. He moved as a young man to Kentucky and was married there, in Bourbon County on Dec. 28, 1849, to Mary Elizabeth Susan Higgins, born Feb. 20, 1830, daughter of \_\_\_ and Susan (Anderson) Higgins. He was listed in the 1850 census as a tailor in Bourbon County. In 1853, they moved to Andrews County, Mo., and in 1862 to

St. Joseph, Mo. He gave up his tailor business and moved in 1866 to Oak Mills, Atchison County, Kansas, where he operated a grocery store for several years, then purchased a farm. Mary died in Oak Mills on July 22, 1884, and he returned to Missouri to live with a daughter. There he met and was married, on Feb. 20, 1888, to Martha (Glover) Pepper, born in May 1827, widow of John D. Pepper. Her parentage is not known. The old Rathbone Family Historian of July 1893 reported that Nathan was a commissioned officer in the Civil War, but we have been unable to verify this. His wife died Dec. 7, 1900, in Dearborn, Mo., and he died three days later on Dec. 10.

#### CHILDREN

All by Mary

MILTON THOMAS, born Oct. 3, 1850; died Dec. 21, 1850.

SARAH EBIE, born Nov. 11, 1852; married William Kidd on March 3, 1871.

LAURA, born July 17, 1854; married James W. Palmer on Feb. 24, 1872. She died seven years later, on Oct. 27, 1879, when she fell into a well.

ELLA, born Jan. 12, 1857; married J.R. Noland on Oct. 4, 1879.

REBECCA JANE, born April 29, 1860; married Benedict Wallace on Dec. 20, 1880.

DESMONA, born May 29, 1863; died July 28, 1863.

CARRIE LEE, born Sept. 26, 1865; married Isaiah F. Lynch on Dec. 14, 1881.

LESTER, born April 19, 1868; married Etta May Mitchell.

LILLA, born about 1870; died sometime after 1880.

**118. CHARLES DAVIS<sup>7</sup> RATHBURN** (Joseph<sup>6-5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born April 9, 1842, in Monroe, Ohio. He was married June 16, 1865, in Ashtabula, Ohio, to Alice Celia Fox, born in May 1844, daughter of Alvin and Vesta Celestia (Ward) Fox. He was a farm laborer for several years, and moved in the winter to Michigan to work in lumber camps. His wife accompanied him and became a cook in one of the camps. In 1877, they decided to move

permanently to Michigan, and bought a farm at Sherwood, in Branch County. His daughter later wrote: "We thought we were in paradise, such a beautiful country, although some of the family thought father was crazy to take a wife and kids out west among the Indians..." When Charles was 40 years old, he went to school and studied veterinary medicine. He was a practicing veterinarian the rest of his life. He died in 1912 at Sherwood, and his wife died there in 1919.

#### CHILDREN

MARION ALVIN, born June 27, 1866; married Hannah Russell.

LILLIE, born July 8, 1869; married George A. Drumon on Sept. 23, 1891.

**119. JOSEPH PEARSON<sup>7</sup> RATHBURN** (Joseph<sup>6-5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born Feb. 26, 1844, at Monroe, Ohio. He moved to Michigan as a young man and was married there, in Ypsilanti, on March 9, 1867, to Margaret E. Butts (or Bull?). They moved a few years later to Sherwood, Michigan, where his brother had settled, and bought a farm just north of the city. He was elected on the Republican ticket as township supervisor in 1894. Margaret died in 1907, and he was married a short time later to Eva Stanton, a widow, born about 1867, whose parentage and the name of her first husband are not known. She died in Sherwood in 1924, and he died three years in 1927.

#### CHILDREN

NATHAN FRANCIS, born Jan. 13, 1868; married Laura McElroy.

CORA WILLIAMS, born Sept. 13, 1869; married Webster Harrison on July 4, 1892.

MINNIE BELLE, born Feb. 8, 1872; married N.S. Hass on July 16, 1892.

SARAH, born June 15, 1877; died April 3, 1899.

EFFA MAY, born Dec. 28, 1878; married O.F. Thornton.

ETTA RAY (twin), born Dec. 28, 1878; married William Baker.

**120. EDWARD RICHARD<sup>7</sup> RATHBURN** (Joseph<sup>6-5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born June 3, 1852, in Monroe, Ohio. He joined his brothers in Sherwood, Michigan, and was married there Sept. 26, 1872, to Alta J. Ellis, born in September 1854, parentage unknown. They lived in Sherwood many years. Edward died in 1908 and Alta in 1938.

#### CHILDREN

OLIVIA ESTELLE, born Sept. 16, 1873; married Allen F. Williams on June 4, 1892.

ERVA J., born Aug. 13, 1876; married Ida May Barst.

MAUDE ELSIE, born Sept. 21, 1878; married Guy Hanson.

ALONZO EDWARD, born April 12, 1883; probably married, but no record found.

FRANK WESLEY, born June 24, 1885; probably married, no record found.

OPHRA OLIVIA, born August 30, 1888; married \_\_\_\_\_ Elliott.

ELLIS, born in April 1894; no further data.

RAY CHARLES, born June 26, 1896; married \_\_\_\_\_ and moved to Texas.

**121. RICHARD<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1812, possibly in Vermont. Little is known of him. He died June 6, 1840, in Geneseo, N.Y. An Ann Rathbun, who may have been his widow, was in the Livingston County Poor House in 1850, aged 34. There is no record of any children

**122. NATHANIEL HIRAM<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born March 22, 1814, in Granville, Washington County, N.Y. He migrated as a young man to Michigan, then moved to Stephenson County, Illinois, and was married there Nov. 28, 1847, to Almira (Boynton) May, born Sept. 14, 1812, in Canada. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Polly (Burt) Boynton and the widow of James May, by whom she had three children. Nathaniel and Almira lived at Wadam, Stephenson County, for some 15

years, and then moved to Jo Davis County, Ill. They settled about 1871 in Guthrie County, Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives. Nathaniel was a devout Methodist, and soon after his marriage opened his home to traveling preachers. He died April 25, 1893, of "dropsy of the heart" and Almira died a year later on April 24, 1894. (It is possible that Nathaniel had an earlier wife and was the father of Minerva Rathbun, who died in 1839 in Wadam, Stephenson County, as a young girl, when she was accidently thrown against a clothes peg while playing.)

#### CHILDREN

SUSANNA, born about 1848; died young.

HEMAN LINDSEY, born Dec. 2, 1849; married Amanda Ellen Hopkins.

ALIDA, born about 1850; died young.

HARRIET A., born about 1852; married James D. Stannard.

OSCAR J., born Nov. 4, 1856; married Nancy Baker.

**123. HARRISON<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1816, probably in Granville, N.Y. He was married about 1836 to Mary Ann Bennett, born about 1816 in England, ancestry unknown. They lived in Geneseo, Livingston County, N.Y., where Harrison died July 12, 1869. Mary Ann died April 14, 1875.

#### CHILDREN

WILLIAM CHARLES, born about 1837; died Nov. 28, 1839.

MARTHA E., born about 1839; no further data.

MARY J., born about 1841; married James Blackman.

ELLEN ELIZABETH, born about 1842; died July 12, 1843.

SARAH A., born May 27, 1843; married Rev. Julian V. Lowell on April 18, 1866.

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(Continued from page 29)

**124. DANIEL<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born about 1820 in New York State, and migrated as a young man to Michigan. He was married about 1848 to Rebecca (Engle?), born in February 1827 in New York. They were living in St. Joseph, Mich., in 1850, but moved to South Grove, DeKalb County, Illinois, probably about 1856, when his brother Nathaniel deeded him five acres of land in nearby Stephenson County. By 1870, they had moved to Monroe County, Missouri, where Daniel died Sept. 11, 1899, aged 79. Rebecca died some time after 1900.

#### CHILDREN

HENRY, born about 1851; alive in 1860, no further data.

STEPHEN AMARIAH, born in May 1853; married Nancy E. Engle.

CHARLES C., born Feb. 14, 1855; married Rosella Engle.

MARY, born about 1857; no further data.

MARTHA, born about 1859; died young.

RICHARD R., born about 1862; married Emma \_\_\_\_\_.

DANIEL, born in August 1865; died Feb. 23, 1945, at Galena, Ill. No known marriage or children.

**125. PARIS<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), born August 4, 1829, in New York State. He was married Sept. 2, 1849, in Lakeville, N.Y., to Effa Van Valkenberg, born in March 1833, daughter of "B" Van Valkenberg. In 1850, he was a hatter in Geneseo, N.Y., and again a hatter was in Rochester, N.Y., in 1857. He moved soon after that to Stephenson County, where his brother Nathaniel was living, but returned to New York early in the 1860s. Paris enlisted in the New York Heavy Artillery in 1863, described as five feet six inches tall, with blue eyes, brown hair and light complexion. He deserted in 1864, was arrested, court-martialed, fined and discharged. He moved to Michigan in 1868 and settled first in Evergreen,

Montcalm County, then in Manton, Wexford County. By 1890 he was in Ionia County, where he died Jan. 4, 1902. Effa died July 2, 1911, at Muir, Mich.

#### CHILDREN

CORNELIA, born about 1850; married William H. Southwell on Feb. 21, 1872.

MARY, born about 1852; died young?

GEORGE, born in February 1855; married Margaret \_\_\_\_\_.

ELLEN, born about 1857; no further data.

FRANK, born about 1860; no further data.

EMEN (?), born about 1862; no further data.

JOHN, born in September 1866; alive in 1900.

CHARLES, born in May 1870; alive in 1900.

ELIZABETH, born in September 1874; alive in 1900.

## Some of Us Are Cousins to Abe Lincoln

A great many of our members are cousins of Abraham Lincoln, and may not know it. Anyone descended from Joshua<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2-1</sup>) and his second wife Mary Wightman is a Lincoln cousin. The connection comes from Mary Wightman's grandfather, John Holmes, whose sister Lydia married John Bowne and was a great-great-great-grandmother of Abraham Lincoln.

Coming down to modern times, all of us are also cousins of the late actress Marilyn Monroe. She is descended from Thomas Mitchell who married Margaret Rathbun, daughter of our immigrant ancestors John and Margaret (Acres) Rathbun. Miss Monroe (1926-1962) would be about our ninth cousin. Our thanks to Bob Willis for this interesting connection.

## New Data

Derwin Rathbun, son of Lucius<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), had a second wife, not listed in our Historian of July 1986, page 43. Derwin, a twin of Franklin Rathbun, was married a second time on March 25, 1870, in Berrien County, Michigan, to Calista Hopkins. Cooley reported that Derwin died on February 6, but did not give a year. He probably died about 1877, for on April 4, 1878, Calista was married to Amasa S. Emerson in Berrien County. There were no known children by either wife. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Sarah (Parks) Rathbun, the second wife of Philander<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Philander<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), died Nov. 14, 1891. (Historian of July 1988, pages 44-45). Philander's son, Livingston C. Rathbun, went to California as a young man and died there June 12, 1894, in Sacramento. Cemetery records list the cause of death as "suicide by strangulation, age 64."

The middle name of John B. Rathbun, son of Alfred<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was Benjamin. (Historian of July 1991, page 42). We also have learned the birthdates of four more of his children: Laura Lucinda was born August 23, 1849; Charlotte was born Dec. 18, 1854, and Nancy Ann and Mary Elizabeth, twins, were born Oct. 28, 1856. Our thanks to Mrs. Rose Rathbun, wife of James Rathbun, a descendant of John.

Nelson Niles Rathbun was born Feb. 18, 1839, not April 13, 1841, as reported in our Historian of Oct. 1988, page 60. The child born on April 13, was Elijah, who was scalded to death on Oct. 8, 1842. Their father Nelson<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), was born June 19, 1805 (not June 13), and married Mercy Rider Nov. 14, 1831, not in September. Our thanks to Edward Kipp, a descendant of Nelson.

# Obituaries

**DIED**—January 21, 1994, Lowell Alfred Rathbun, 68, of Roundup, Montana. A long-time member of our Association, he was the son of Alfred<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Bowen<sup>7</sup> James<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, then attended Montana State College and was graduated in 1951 with a degree in civil engineering. He was a municipal engineer for many years in California and Montana. Since 1982, he had been a rancher in Roundup. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth; three sons, Lowell Alfred Jr., Randall Lawrence and Michael Allen, and two grandchildren.

**DIED**—January 14, 1994, Ora (Rathburn) Lieuellen, 99, in Pickerington, Ohio. She was the daughter of David<sup>7</sup> Rathburn (Lewis<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). Her husband, Arthur V. Lieuellen, died in 1971. She is survived by a daughter, Lola M. Phillips, and a son, William Lieuellen, both members of our Association; five granddaughters and a step-grandson; ten great-grandchildren, and a step-great-grandchild.

**DIED**—January 16, 1994, Zona L. Rathbun, 77, at Tecumseh, Nebraska. She is survived by her husband, Paul<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Fred<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>), a member of our Association. She also leaves two sons, Ronald E. and Thomas V. Rathbun; a daughter, Donna Robison, a member of our Association, and several grandchildren.

**DIED**—December 30, 1993, Joseph M. Wiswall, 80, of Freehold, N.J., a long and active member of our Association. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann (Rathbun) Wiswall, daughter of Oscar Lewis<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Corbet<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Tibbetts<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He also leaves three children, Dennis, Kevin and Karen; nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Joe was an avid genealogist and had compiled extensive records of his wife's Rathbun line.

He had also published two books on the Wiswall genealogy.

**DIED**—February 5, 1994, Harry Reuben Rathbun, 84, of Ringgold, Georgia. A retired carpenter, he was the son of Ernest<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Segester<sup>7</sup> Isaac<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Survivors include three daughters, Dorothy Doyal, a member of our Association; Frances Hale, and Trudy Smith; a son, David E. Rathbun; a brother Isaac Rathbun, a member of our Association; a sister, Charlotte Mallett; 21 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—February 14, 1994, Elizabeth (Steel) Rathbun, 81, at West Palm Beach, Fla. She is survived by her husband, Walter Latham<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Walter<sup>8-7</sup> Samuel<sup>6-5</sup> Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), a former member of our Association. She also leaves three daughters, Susan R. Hussey, Betsey A. Rathbun-Gunn and Cynthia Fowler; a son, John A. Rathbun; nine grandchildren; one great-grandson, and a brother, Edward Steel.

**DIED**—March 6, 1994, Gladys Bell Rathbun, 86, at Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was the widow of Charles Romaine<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Clark<sup>9</sup> Charles<sup>8</sup> Thomas<sup>7</sup> Isaac<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). She is survived by three sons, Bruce, a member of our Association, Carl and Philip; eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—December 20, 1993, Agnes Mae (Rathbun) Pickering, 80, at Cranston, R.I. She was the widow of Ralph O. Pickering and the daughter of Frederick<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>6</sup> Christopher<sup>5</sup> Ebenezer<sup>4-3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by two sons, Ralph and Bruce Pickering; eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—February 5, 1994, Mary (Rathbone) Bishop, 69, at Monterey, Calif. She is survived by her husband, Col. Bertram Bishop; a brother Robert Rathbone and a sister Margaret Sheldon. We do not know her identity.

**DIED**—November 15, 1993, Major Jack H. Wemmer, 77, of St. Michaels, Maryland. A retired major in the U.S. Air Force, he is survived by his wife, Nancy Ann (Rathbun) Wemmer, daughter of Walter<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>9</sup> Frederic<sup>8</sup> Edward<sup>7</sup> Charles<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5</sup> Amos<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), and by five children and several grandchildren.

**DIED**—February 13, 1994, Mary Elizabeth (Rathbun) Sanders, 84, of Springfield, Mo. She was the widow of Arthur Sanders and the daughter of William Arthur<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>7-6</sup> Edmund<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>). A member of our Association, she is survived by a brother, Joseph C. Rathbun, also a member.

**DIED**—January 26, 1994, Alfred Macari, 58, of Coventry, R.I. He is survived by his wife, Arlene (Rathbun) Macari, several children, grandchildren and other relatives. We do not know the identity of Arlene Rathbun.

**DIED**—February 7, 1994, Robert V. Wilson, 44, of Wakefield, Rhode Island. He was the son of the late Robert E. Wilson and Elizabeth M. (Rathbun) Wilson, former town clerk of South Kingstown. We do not know Mrs. Wilson's ancestry.

**DIED**—December 6, 1993, Heather (Higgins) Rathbun, 32, in Houston, Texas. She was the wife of the Rev. Richard Rathbun, whose identity we do not know.

**DIED**—November 8, 1993, Virginia May Rathbun, 84, of Arlington, Washington. She was apparently a Rathbun widow and had been married previously, for she is survived by a son, Jim McKinnon, and a grandson Gordon McKinnon. We do not know her identity.

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Lt. John R. Rathbun of the United States Army committed suicide with a pistol while stationed near Perry, Oklahoma, according to the New York Times of August 24, 1894. Can anyone shed any light on him or his ancestry?

# People

**CHESTER RATHBUN** and his wife Lillie, of Bryan, Ohio, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 14, 1994. They were honored at an open house sponsored by their son Dr. Lynn Rathbun, his wife Bonnie and their son Nathan; their son Dennis, his wife Vicki, and their son Cole and daughter Brooke. Chester is the son of Howard<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Valentine<sup>7</sup> Horace<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**JERROLD L. RATHBUN II** and Eva Grace Little were married in Lewiston, Idaho, on January 11, 1994, which was also his 26th birthday. He is the son of our member Jerrold L.<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Fred<sup>8</sup> Erastus<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>).

**REV. WILLIAM RATHBUN** was graduated in July 1993 from the Denver College of Financial Planning and is now a certified financial planner. He is also preaching occasionally in his part-time work with the Mid-American Baptist Foundation. Bill and his wife Dorothy will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on June 24. He is the son of Elmer<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Marshall<sup>8</sup> George<sup>7</sup> Edmund<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>).

**CARL PIGNONE** was inducted February 20, 1994, into the Connecticut Scholastic and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame. Carl has been umpiring high school softball for 25 years, and college football for 12 years. He is married to Judith<sup>11</sup> Rathbun (Lawrence<sup>10</sup> Everett<sup>9</sup> Jerome<sup>8</sup> Nathan<sup>7</sup> Robert<sup>6</sup> John<sup>5-4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**MICHAEL ADAMS** and Shannon Irvine were married March 4, 1994, at Logan, Utah. He is the son of our members Haybron and Mary Adams. Haybron is a grandson of William Payne Haybron and Martha Ann<sup>8</sup> Rathburn (John<sup>7</sup> Ruel<sup>6</sup> David<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>).

**MELISSA RATHBUN**, the first woman prisoner in the 1991 Gulf War, is back in the news. Now married to Michael Coleman and the mother of a baby daughter, Melissa is suffering from memory loss, severe headaches, congestion, arm and leg cramps and fatigue, which she believes is the result of her service in the Gulf area. She left the Army last November. Melissa, now 24, is the daughter of Leo<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Hugh<sup>8</sup> Mattison<sup>7</sup> Lewis<sup>6</sup> Amos<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Many other Gulf veterans have had similar ailments.

**JESSICA RATHBUN**, age 11, is considered a real heroine these days in Lansing, Michigan. She is credited with saving the life of a little boy on his way to school. As the boy was crossing a railroad track, a train appeared and the little boy froze in terror. Jessica saw what was happening, and raced over to the youth and pulled him from the tracks just before the train roared by. Jessica is the daughter of Keith and Ronda Rathbun, whose identity we do not know.

**ANDREW AND TINA RATHBONE** of San Diego, Cal., are becoming well known in the computer world. They have published a book, "Hundreds of Fascinating and Unique Ways to Use Your Computer," and are touring the country to help promote the use of home computers. We do not know their identity.

**MARTY RATHBUN** is president of the Religious Technology Center in Los Angeles, Cal., which is operated by the Church of Scientology. The church recently won an IRS ruling that it is a tax-exempt religion. We do not know his identity.

**PETER RATHBUN** is the architectural conservator for an on-going project to restore Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin house/school complex in Wisconsin. We do not know his identity.

**DEANNA RATHBUN** and Andrew Young are planning to be married in June at Lewisville, Texas. She is the daughter of Robert and Margie Rathbun of Richwood, Texas. Does anyone know their identity?

# New Members

Regina Rathburn Ellis  
Portland, Ore.

Rochelle Rathburn Hall  
Eden Prairie, Minn.

Katherine Rathbone McCord  
Dallas, Texas

Barbara V. Rathbone  
Chicago, Illinois

Kert Rathburn  
LaMesa, Calif.

Dr. M.J. Rathbone, Jr.  
Baton Rouge, LA.

M.J. Rathbone, IV  
Norway

Dr. Richard F. Rathbone  
Clinton, LA.

# Births

**BORN**—January 11, 1994, Jocelyn Sara Rathbun, daughter of David and Sherlyn Rathbun, and granddaughter of our members Frank and Dorothy Rathbun of Omaha, Neb. Jocelyn is their eighth grandchild. Frank is the son of Frank<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Joseph<sup>7</sup> Valentine<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**BORN**—January 14, 1994, Taylor J. Rathbun, son of John S. and Susan Rathbun and grandson of the late Dr. Sanford MacArthur<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Grove<sup>9</sup> Heman<sup>8</sup> Nathaniel<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-1</sup>).

**BORN**—February 13, 1994, Sarah Grace Rathbun, daughter of our members Terry and Rev. Raymond Van Rathbun. Rev. Van is the son of Raymond<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Louie<sup>9</sup> John<sup>8</sup> Rowland<sup>7</sup> Acors<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**BORN**—July 13, 1993, Emily Ann Rathbone, daughter of Scott and Janet Rathbone of Springfield, Washington. We do not know their identity. Can anyone help?