

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

# FAMILY HISTORIAN



Henry Alanson Rathbone  
(1803-1867)

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

## Letter from the Editor

With this issue, we end our fourteenth year of publishing the Historian. And that means that "dues are due" for 1995.

As I said in our last issue, we will be changing our publication schedule for next year. Rather than print the Historian quarterly, we will be issuing it only twice a year—in the Spring and in the Fall. We will, however, be increasing the number of pages from 16 to 20, and devoting most of the added pages to the genealogical section.

After considering the added cost of mailing a 20-page magazine, we have decided to set the 1995 membership dues at \$12. And as in past years, I am again urging you all to please send in your checks promptly. A renewal form is enclosed with this Historian. We will again have to charge an extra fee for those who miss the deadline, which we have set for December 15.

In our Spring issue next year, I am hoping to do a story on Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns who served in the Civil War—either on the Union or Confederate Side. We have collected a number of pictures of our early cousins in uniform during the war, but would like to have more. If you have such pictures, and haven't sent me a copy, please send one as soon as possible. Xerox copies do not

reproduce well, so have your picture reproduced by a good photographer, and send us the bill along with the copy.

I am also working on a story of family members who were, or are, attorneys, with pictures whenever possible. If there have been or are attorneys in your family, please let me know, giving details of education and career highlights.

Our membership as we near the end of our 14th year stands at 537 and our finances are in good shape. Our membership peak was reached in 1991 with 583.

Members who have followed our attempts to have a postage stamp issued in honor of Captain John Peck Rathbun will be interested in knowing that our valorous cousin has been passed over again by the Postal Service.

The list for 1995 includes stamps to honor Richard M. Nixon (a president who resigned in disgrace), and such cartoon notables as Barney Google, Alley Oop, Popeye the Sailor Man, Krazy Kat and Dick Tracy.

The 1994 list featured such American heroes as Elvis Presley, and there was even a stamp to honor the old-fashioned "outhouse."

In response to our long-standing request for a stamp to honor Captain Rathbun, the most overlooked hero of the American Revolutionary Navy, the postal service has promised over and over again to "consider" our request.

What criteria did they "consider" when they chose Richard Nixon and Barney Google over a man who gave his life in our nation's war for independence?

The "scam artists" are still at it. Several members have reported receiving mailings offering Rathbun or Rathbone books.

The mailings are signed by "Carol Rathbun" or "Robert D. Rathbone," both probably being alias names to make potential buyers think they are hearing from a "cousin."

As we have pointed out before, such books, which cost up to \$40, are worthless from a genealogical standpoint. The Rathbone book, for example, states: the first Rathbone we found came to Massachusetts in 1628. His name was Richard." As our readers know, there was no Richard Rathbone who came to America.

These books customarily contain general historical and genealogical information, and may contain either lists of Rathbuns or Rathbones from outdated telephone directories, or sometimes a list of Social Security death records.

Our advice—don't waste your money on it.

After 14 years of publishing our Historian four times a year, I am looking forward now to enjoying a little more spare time. I am still working occasionally on my project of an updated history and genealogical study of Block Island, and have even begun a new, long-range project, of compiling the 18th Century genealogies of families in Newport, R.I.

So until next Spring, Hazel and I send our best wishes to you all, and our hopes that you all have a safe and joyous Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

*Frank*

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# Sex Scandals Uncovered in Lucius Rathbun Story

In our Historian of April 1989, we told the story of Lucius Rathbun (1800-1875), a pioneer of Ohio, who reportedly left his wife and eight children in 1841 to run off with their housemaid. New evidence gives a far different picture of what really happened, and tells us that sex scandals occurred in the 1840s as well as the 1990s.

Lucius, the son of Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), was married in 1821 in Ohio to Rhoda Gillette, and over the next 20 years they raised a family in Sandusky County.

Their troubles began about 1839, when Lucius began an "affair" with Sarah (Sally) Glick, an unmarried neighbor woman 26 years old. Lucius was then 39 and his wife Rhoda was 36.

On May 18, 1841, Rhoda filed a petition for divorce from Lucius, charging that "during the past two years he has spent time with Sally Glick, an unmarried woman, in repeated acts of adultery; he brought her to our house to reside and committed adultery in the house with the knowledge of his wife and children."

At that time, their eight children ranged in age from six months to nearly 18 years. It would appear that Lucius brought his "girl friend" into the house to live under the guise of being a housemaid.

In the early summer of 1841, Sally had become pregnant by Lucius. After the baby was born on Feb. 15, 1842, Sally and her father filed a paternity suit against Lucius. Apparently, Mr. Glick did not want to be stuck with the costs of raising his daughter's illegitimate child.

Lucius, facing a divorce suit by his wife and a paternity suit by his mistress, solved his problems simply and directly. In April, he left his wife and



*Lucius Rathbun  
(1800-1875)*

children, and headed West with Sally and her baby.

They joined his sister, Eliza Milliman (not Milliken as reported in our earlier story) and her family in a wagon train headed for Wisconsin, where their older brother Clark Rathbun was living. An accident halted their trip in Cass County, Michigan, and Lucius decided to settle there.

Meanwhile, back in Ohio, Rhoda's lawyer had temporarily dropped the divorce suit, but her father, Wilkes Gillette, apparently urged her to proceed with it again. The suit was reopened on May 2, 1842, asking \$2,500 in alimony. The petition stated that Lucius had "left about three weeks ago, taking a span of horses, personal property and Sally to parts unknown."

Rhoda's lawyer also asked the court to nullify an 1840 transaction in which Lucius and Rhoda had sold half of his farm, 120 acres, to his brother Chaplin for \$2,500.

That sale, Rhoda claimed, was a fraud. Lucius had persuaded her to sign the deed because he needed the money, but she now charged that Lucius and his brother had collaborated in a fake sale to keep her from getting the property.

Rhoda's lawyer contended that no money had been exchanged and that "it was a complete fraud from beginning to end." Chaplin Rathbun, he said, "was entirely unable to purchase the land and pay anything like its fair value. Nothing was paid at the time...and nothing has or will be paid."

Rhoda's father testified that Lucius had admitted to him that he had deeded the property to Chaplin only to keep it from being awarded to Rhoda in a divorce settlement.

"Lucius also told me," Gillette declared, "that he was the father of Sally's illegitimate child and that he would make a wife of her if all his property went to hell...that he loved Sally better than his wife Rhoda."

Gillette also told the court that Lucius had an affair with at least one other woman before Sally.

"I caught him with...the Widow Barnes two years ago last winter at her home 100 rods from my house at 10:30 p.m.," Gillette testified.

Under cross-examination, Gillette admitted that he had been advising and assisting his daughter in her efforts to regain the property. Another witness testified that Gillette was "not credible" and "tells a good many stories."

To complicate matters even more, Chaplin Rathbun had sold part of the disputed land to his son, Saxton, who also entered the suit to protect his interests.

The judge, after a lengthy and acrimonious hearing, dismissed Rhoda's suit for the land, but granted the

*(Continued to page 62)*



# Opposed to Civil War, Rathbone goes to France

**T**his is the story of Henry A. Rathbone, one of our most interesting early cousins, who “went south” as a young man and made a fortune as a banker in New Orleans. He took his family to France during the Civil War, rather than participate, and died in Paris a few years later.

Henry Alanson Rathbone was born Dec. 27, 1803, in Charlemont, Mass., the second son of Samuel<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). Samuel Rathbone was postmaster and magistrate in Charlemont, but moved in 1816 to New York City where he and a partner opened a dry-goods wholesale business.

Henry was 13 when the family moved to New York and spent the balance of his early years there. He undoubtedly had a good education and probably attended college, but we have no details. At least two of his brothers were college graduates.

In 1822, he was an ensign in the 100th New York Militia Regiment, but in his early 20s, for some reason, he moved south and settled in Rogersville, Tennessee. He was married there about 1831 to Anne Powell, 18, daughter of a local judge and prominent citizen. They moved a short time later to Taladega, Alabama, where two sons were born—Samuel Powell Rathbone, on Oct. 25, 1832, who died the following August, and George Powell Rathbone, born Feb. 15, 1834. Ten months after his birth, Anne died at the age of 20, on Christmas Day, 1834.

Henry's activities for the next few years are not known, but at some point, probably about 1836, he moved to New Orleans, and was listed there in the 1840 census. He was apparently in the banking business.

In 1845 or early 1846, aged about 43, he was married to Marie Celeste



*Henry A. Rathbone pictured in a lithograph made in New Orleans by Jules Lion, probably in the 1840s. Lion was a Black artist, born and trained in France, where he reportedly worked with Louis-Jacques Miegre, inventor of the Daguerrotype photo process. Lion moved to New Orleans in 1836 and was the city's first photographer, possibly America's first Daguerrotypist.*

Forstall, 23, daughter of Francis Placide Forstall and Delaphine Borga de Lopez Forstall, members of two of Louisiana's oldest and most prominent Creole families, with both French and Spanish ancestors.

With his new family connections, Henry prospered in the banking field and became president of the New Orleans Canal Bank. Unfortunately, there are no known records to document his activities. He was, however, a wealthy slave owner in the 1840s and 1850s. (See story in our Historian of

July 1984 for copies of two deeds involving his slave purchases, and a picture of him in later life.)

They lived in a large, three-story, white frame house at 173 Esplanade Avenue, in what was then one of New Orleans' finest residential areas. The house had impressive upper and lower balconies facing the street and was surrounded by beautiful gardens behind brick walls and black iron fences. It must have been one of the centers of the city's social life.

In the next 15 years, Henry and Marie Celeste had eight children—six daughters and two sons. All the girls were given the name Marie, and were distinguished only by their middle names—Marie Celeste Emma, Marie Pauline, Marie Elizabeth Stella, Marie Laurie, Marie Louise Alice and Marie Rita.

The sons were Paul Henry, who lived only five months, and Francis Henry, who died at 17 months.

New Orleans was hit by a severe Yellow Fever epidemic in 1853, which killed nearly 8,000 persons. Among the victims were Henry's little son Francis Henry, and his oldest son, George Powell Rathbone, age 19, from his first marriage. The two boys died three months apart, and Rathbone had lost all four of his sons.

Marie Laurie died in 1858, aged 16 months. The other five daughters lived to maturity and married.

In 1861, with the outbreak of the Civil war, Henry was in a quandary. His wife's family and friends, and most of his banking associates, favored secession and were supportive of the war. Henry, though a slave owner, was a northern Yankee and could not bring himself to support a war against his friends and relatives in the North.

He solved the problem in 1862 by taking his wife and five daughters to France, where he rented a home in Paris for the duration of the war. The



girls ranged in age from Marie Celeste, 16, to Marie Rita, only a few months old.

What he did in Paris is not known. Possibly his bank had a branch office or other connections there. But when the war ended in 1865, the Rathbones did not return to New Orleans. Possibly he was in no hurry to face his wife's relatives and his former neighbors. Or possibly he was in poor health, for on March 10, 1867, Henry died at the age of 63.

His widow, 43, was devastated. She donned the traditional black mourning dress, and wore nothing but black for the rest of her long life. She and the children sailed back to America, and Henry's body was shipped back for burial in New Orleans.

In his probate file are papers showing that it cost \$400 to send his body to the United States. The widow received \$2,800 from the estate that year for expenses—probably living costs after his death, and the cost of

sailing back to New Orleans. Her father, Placide Forstall, was the executor of the estate.

On Henry's coffin in the Rathbone vault in Metairie Cemetery is written, in French:

"Henry Allenson Rathbone, decede a Paris le 10 Mars 1867 a l'age 63 ans."

On a marble slab in the tomb is inscribed, also in French, the records of his two young sons and daughter:

"Henri Paul, fils de H.A. Rathbone et de Cte. (Celeste) Forstall ne le 6 Janvier 1849, decede le 17 Mai de la meme anno," and "Son Frere Francis Henri, ne le 12 Mars 1852, decede le 7 Mai 1853," and "Marie Laure Rathbone, nee le 28 Avril 1857, decedee le 7 Aout 1858—Trois Ange au ciel (Three angels in heaven)."

Marie Celeste Rathbone lived the rest of her life in the family home. One of her daughters, Marie Alice, was Carnival Queen for the 1880 Mardi Gras celebration (See our Historian of

April 1982.) But one by one, the girls married and left home, and for some years she was alone. About 1903, her widowed daughter Marie Pauline, came to live with her.

The once stately home fell into disrepair, and a generation of New Orleans children growing up in the early 1900s called the Rathbone place a "haunted house" and made up stories about the "strange old woman" who lived there.

On April 3, 1914, the day before her 91st birthday, Marie Celeste Forstall Rathbone died, at 6:30 p.m. Her body was placed in the family tomb near that of her husband, whose death she had mourned for 47 years.

(Much of the information in this story, and the pictures, came from Maxine Bray, a charter member of our Association and a great-granddaughter of Henry and Marie Celeste. For a complete list of their children, see the genealogical section of our April 1988 Historian, page 29-30.)



*Marie Celeste Forstall Rathbone as portrayed by an unknown artist at the time of her marriage about 1845 to Henry A. Rathbone. The original painting is still owned by descendants.*



*Marie Celeste Forstall Rathbone pictured some years before her death in 1914. She is wearing a black dress, as she did for the last 47 years of her life, following her husband's death.*

# Woman, 22, Drives Car Across America in 1909

This is the story of a Rathbone in-law who made history 85 years ago, when she became the first woman to drive an automobile across the United States—some 3,800 miles from New York City to San Francisco, California. She was only 22 years old when she made the trip with three women companions.

Alice Huyler was born Nov. 11, 1886, the daughter of a coal dealer in Hackensack, N.J. She attended the prestigious Vassar College, and then on Jan. 10, 1906, when she was 19, Alice was married to John Rathbone Ramsey, a 44-year-old widower from Wyckoff, N.J. His first wife died three months after their marriage in 1898.

Ramsey, whose nickname was "Bone," was the son of John Post Ramsey and Martha<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (John<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>5</sup>, Wait<sup>4</sup>, Joshua<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2-1</sup>). John Rathbone Ramsey was a successful businessman, attorney and politician. He was president of the Hackensack Brick Manufacturing Company, a bank director and later served in the U.S. Congress.

He doted upon his young wife, less than half his age, and showered her with love, devotion and expensive gifts. Thirteen months after their marriage, Alice had a baby boy, named John Rathbone Ramsey Jr., born Feb. 13, 1907.

Alice was a devoted wife and mother, but she had many outside interests. Since her childhood days, she had been fascinated by mechanical engineering, and when the first automobiles appeared, she knew she wanted one. And on her 21st birthday, her husband surprised her with a red Maxwell roadster.

Alice took driving lessons from the Maxwell dealer, and began driving her roadster up and down the roads near her home. She took her friends on jaunts throughout New Jersey and



*Alice Ramsey, in her driving cap, pictured at the wheel of the Maxwell roadster in which she drove across America in 1909.*

neighboring New York. Within a few months, she had clocked more than 6,000 miles on her beloved roadster.

As she became more confident in her driving ability, she entered endurance tests sponsored by auto manufacturers and soon came to the attention of Carl Kelsey, sales manager of the Maxwell-Briscoe Motor Company. He considered her the "most natural woman driver he had ever seen."

The automobile was still something of a novelty at the time, and driving a car was considered a man's prerogative. One prominent doctor, in fact, had declared publicly that traveling at automobile speeds (more than 25 miles an hour), could cause women "acute mental suffering, nervous excitement, circulatory disturbances and insomnia!"

Alice paid no attention to such nonsense and continued driving her Maxwell whenever she could get away.

Kelsey, the Maxwell salesman, was always looking for publicity to help popularize his cars, and Alice's driving skill gave him the idea for a great sales "gimmick." He asked her if she would consider driving one of his Maxwells all the way across the continent. Such a drive had already been made by several men, but a woman doing it would be unprecedented.

There were no paved roads outside the major cities, and once in the mid-west and far west there were few real roads at all, just narrow country lanes and, in some areas, only horse trails and wagon trails. Bridges had been built over major rivers, but many smaller streams and creeks in rural areas would have to be forded.

Alice was intrigued by the idea and broached it to her husband. Ramsey was reluctant at first, but apparently could not say no to his young and enthusiastic wife. He did stipulate, however, that his two sisters would have to accompany her. Alice happily agreed, and the planning began.

The company was to provide the car and pay all expenses. An advance man would travel ahead by train, arranging hotel reservations and making sure that Maxwell dealers along the way would have gasoline, spare tires and mechanics on hand.

The car selected for the trip was a 1908 forest green Maxwell Model DA-30, with an all-steel frame and a folding top which could be rolled up in rainy weather. It had a four-cylinder engine with a four-inch piston stroke, weighed 2100 pounds and had a top speed of about 40 miles an hour.

The company replaced the standard 14-gallon gasoline tank with a 20-gallon container, installed under the front seat. Gasoline stations were few and

far between, and fuel had to be purchased at hardware or general stores. There was no fuel gauge in the car; a ruled stick was provided to check the gasoline level.

Two spare tires and an extra set of springs were bolted to the running boards which ran along each side of the car, along with a metal tool box for emergency repairs. Tire blowouts were common, so the tools included tire irons, tube-patching materials and a hand pump. The tires were treadless, made of heavy canvas with a rubber coating, with an air-filled rubber tube inside.

The headlights were acetylene lamps and the left running board carried a carbide generator to provide the lamp fuel.

The car was started with a hand crank and the driver, once the engine started, had to rush to the front seat and adjust the spark and gasoline levers, located on the steering wheel column. The driver's seat was on the right and within reaching distance was the emergency brake and a rubber bulb to operate the "honk-honk" horn.

On June 9, 1909, all was ready. Alice and her companions went to a Maxwell dealership at 1930 Broadway, in New York City, to begin their epic journey. Joining her were her husband's sisters, Annette (Nettie) Powell, 48, and Margaret Atwood, 44, and one of Alice's young friends, Hermine Jahns, also in her 20s. Each had packed one suitcase, all they were allowed because of the weight factor.

It was a rainy day, so the top was put up and the four women donned rubber ponchos and rain hats. They took their seats, Alice at the wheel, and drove off to shouts of encouragement from their families, friends and Maxwell employees. Alice was to do all the driving. None of the others knew how.

They drove northward through Yonkers and along the Hudson River to Albany, where they spent the night. The next day, they headed west on wet and muddy roads. The rain had continued, and the treadless tires slipped and skidded in the mud. The car broke down along the way, and Alice decided it needed a new coil. They had to wait until the nearest



*Alice Ramsey and her three companions seated in the roadster which took them 3,800 miles across the continent 85 years ago.*

Maxwell dealer could deliver and install a replacement.

Passers-by, in horse-drawn buggies and carts, jeered at them scornfully, "Get a horse!" By the time they resumed their trip, the rain had stopped and Alice wrote in her memoirs, "We sped along at a good clip."

They reached Buffalo about 3:15 a.m. and checked into a hotel for a much-needed night's sleep. They spent the next day relaxing and sight-seeing, including a trip to Niagara Falls.

On June 13, they headed west for Cleveland, Ohio, 198 miles away. For the next three days, they made good time, slowed down only by one tire blowout. Alice made the repairs. She jacked the car up, took off the wheel and pried off the tire. She patched the inner tube, put it back in the tire, and hand-pumped it full of air. Then she replaced the wheel, lowered the jack, and they were on their way. Her companions could only watch Alice work, and hand her tools as needed.

Averaging nearly 140 miles a day, they drove into Chicago on June 16, and drove triumphantly down Michigan Avenue, delighted to be on a paved

street once again. They spent several days in Chicago, seeing the sights, and making a visit to "a Rathbone cousin in the suburbs," probably John Valleau Rathbone, son of her husband's uncle, Peter<sup>7</sup> Rathbone (John V.<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Wait<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who lived in Kenilworth and was a fruit and produce commission merchant in Chicago.

Resuming their journey, the four women headed southwest across Illinois. Another tire blew out, which Alice repaired, refusing help from a group of men who gathered to watch. She did relent and let one of the men pump up the tire, a tedious task.

As they drove on, it began to rain again, and the road became "sticky as glue with mud as deep as the car wheels," Alice wrote.

They crossed the Mississippi River from Fulton, Illinois, into Clinton, Iowa, over a bridge floored with wooden planks. At Mechanicsville, Iowa, in a downpour of rain, they drove into the

*(Continued to page 56)*



(Continued from page 55)

open doorway of a livery stable, panicking the horses inside.

They spent a night in Cedar Rapids, then drove along roads that "seemed bottomless" with mud. Then the car radiator boiled dry. They stopped by a ditch for water, but realized that they had no containers. Ingenuity solved the problem. From her luggage, one of the women produced a set of expensive, cut-glass jars with silver caps. They made trip after trip from the ditch to the car, carrying little jars of water to fill the radiator.

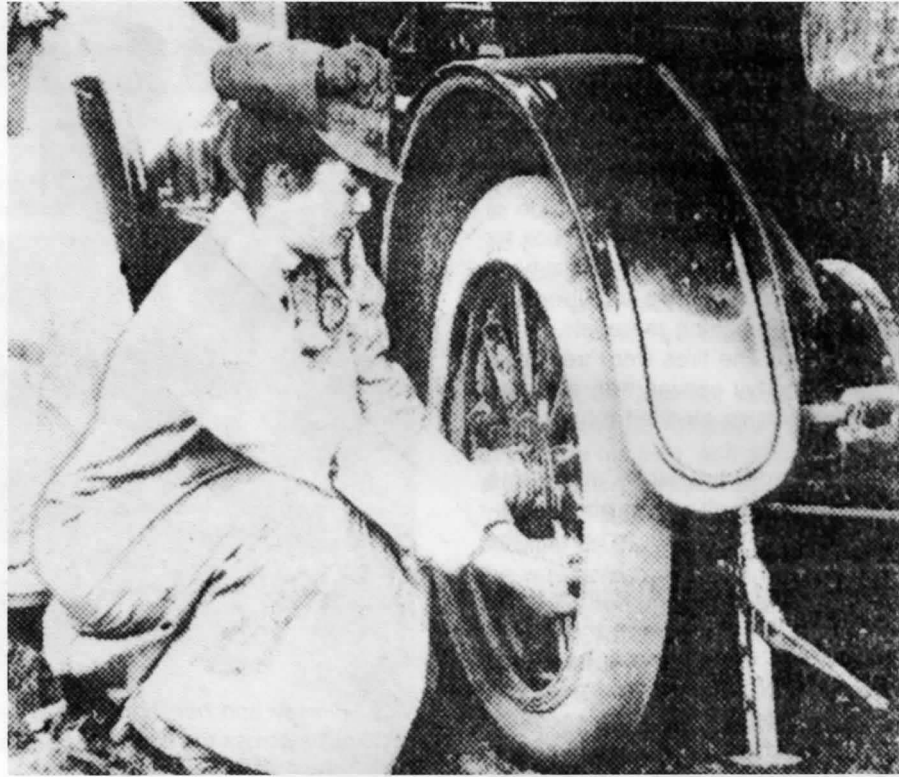
They had to repeat the operation three times before reaching the next village, where Alice immediately bought a water can.

Later that day, they came to detour signs and had to leave the main road, which was under repair. Following detour signs along narrow side roads, they came to "Weasel Creek," to find the bridge flooded by a raging torrent. Fearful of crossing, they stopped for the night and slept in their car seats.

By morning, the creek had partially subsided, so Alice gingerly drove across the bridge in several inches of water. She made it safely, but the Maxwell stalled on the other side. Alice solved the problem by removing the four spark plugs, cleaned and dried them, and they were soon on their way again.

They crossed the Tama Indian Reservation and another heavy rain-storm forced them to stop at Boone, Iowa. They were still 150 miles from their next major stop, at Omaha, Neb. Alice was advised she could never drive through the muddy roads without lightening the car's load. After a conference, it was decided that her three companions would take their baggage and go on to Omaha by train. The Maxwell advance man, J.D. Murphy, joined Alice in the car.

They left Boone at 1 p.m. and plowed through roads that were inches deep in mud. They became mired several times. At Vail, Iowa, they found the town flooded and a foot of water in stores along the main street. Alice was told that roads to the southwest were absolutely impassable. For the first and only time on the trip, she gave up.



*Alice Ramsey changes a tire after one of the many blowouts on her trip. Her companions could only stand and watch her work.*

She and Murphy took a train to Omaha and shipped the car there by freight train.

At Omaha, Alice was joined by her three companions, and they struck off again. Alice had changed her plans. Rather than go west where the roads were all flooded, she drove northward, heading for Sioux City, Iowa, where they could resume their westward drive, hopefully missing the flooded areas of Nebraska. Barely three miles on the road, the car broke down and Alice realized that the rear axle had broken. They returned to Omaha, waited until a new axle could be shipped and installed, and then started off north again.

On Friday, July 2, they reached Sioux City, and crossed the Missouri River back into Nebraska, hoping to find better roads. It was not to be. The rains had moved north, and the roads were still muddy and slick. One day, they were mired twice in a single mile

stretch. A farmer used his horse to pull them out the first time, for a fee. He returned the second time, and towed them out again, this time doubling his fee!

Then the axle broke again, and again they waited for a replacement. On the road once more, the rains finally stopped, and they drove across the rest of Nebraska on dry roads, making good time. They crossed into Wyoming and pulled into the capital city of Cheyenne.

From Cheyenne, they followed an old stagecoach route through Wyoming into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. They found that the road, while getting dryer as they moved into the mountains, was also getting narrower. It finally dwindled into a horse trail. Arriving at a sizable stream, they found the bridge damaged and Alice had to drive the Maxwell through the water. Luckily it was shallow and had a stony bottom.

The Maxwell worked overtime as they climbed steeper and steeper grades. They had to stop frequently to fill the radiator from roadside creeks and mountain pools. They pushed onward, stopping several times to repair flat tires.

At one point, they had to cross the Platte River on a railroad bridge, first checking with Union Pacific officials to make sure no trains were approaching from either direction.

Alice eased the roadster over the three-quarter-mile bridge, following the steel tracks and bumping over each railroad tie. None of the women dared look down into the river below.

They began making better time—81 miles in one day. At Opal, they checked into the only hotel, sleeping two to a bed. At 2 a.m., Alice and Hermine awoke to a terrible itching, and found their bed infested with bugs. They spent the rest of the night on chairs in the hotel lobby.

They finally crossed Wyoming and entered Utah. Arriving at Salt Lake City, they spent three days resting, seeing the sights and having the Maxwell thoroughly checked before crossing the great Utah desert, which Alice knew would be a tough drive.

The first day out, driving on trackless desert, they hit a hidden prairie dog hole. The jolt loosened a tie-rod bolt, and the car's front wheels suddenly splayed apart. Alice managed to make temporary repairs with wire, and they limped along to a nearby ranch, where a blacksmith made more permanent repairs.

At one small town, they stopped to eat at the general store, but found that the owner could offer them only dry cereal, canned tomatoes, and coffee—and Alice didn't drink coffee!

Continuing westward, they came to a wide gully, four feet deep and 12 feet across. Alice bravely drove across, stopping occasionally on the far side to jack up the front wheels.

She was a resourceful woman! Crossing into Nevada, they spent the night in a reasonable hotel, and came down the next morning to a breakfast of lamb chops and chocolate cake, served by a "fat and smiling Indian squaw." Alice later wrote that she had never before, and would never again, have such a combination for breakfast.



*Alice Ramsey in late life.*

A day-long drive took them to Reno, Nevada, and the next morning they set off on the final 200-mile leg of their amazing voyage.

They went through Carson City and up steep, sandy hills, "an old wagon trail," Alice termed it. The motor overheated and she raised both sides of the hood to give it more ventilation.

At one stop, they took their dirty clothing to a Chinese laundry. When they returned to pick up their clothes, they found their skirts being pressed by a man with a mouth full of water, spraying the skirts from his mouth as he wielded the iron. The women later wore the skirts, but Alice commented: "I tried to forget what I saw."

They crossed into California and reached Lake Tahoe, where "Our hearts grew lighter," Alice wrote. "We knew we would soon reach our goal."

At Stockton, they were greeted by a "good-sized parade of automobiles," cheering them on. At Hayward, they had "a perilous snack of hot tamales and cheese omelettes." Then on to Oakland, and a ferry across the bay into San Francisco.

They had done it! Alice had driven across the entire continent of North America, 3,800 miles in 59 days (41 days of actual driving, an average of nearly 98 miles a day). They were met at the city limits by a cavalcade of Maxwells, waiting to escort them into

the city, where they were greeted as celebrities. Newspapers had published accounts of their progress, and thousands turned out to see the four women.

Full recognition of Alice Ramsey's accomplishment did not come until half a century later. In 1960, then aged 73, Alice was the guest of honor at the 43rd National Automobile Show in Detroit. She was presented with a plaque designating her the "Woman Motorist of the Century."

"Your feat," she was told, "helped unleash those forces which put America and the world on rubber-shod wheels. Your trip through all but trackless land helped convince skeptics that automobiles were here to stay."

In 1961, Alice wrote a book about the trip, calling it "Veil, Duster and Tire Iron." At that time, only one of her three companions was still living—her sister-in-law Nettie, then 100 years old. Nettie died the following year.

After her historic trip, Alice returned to her life as a housewife and mother. In 1910, she had a second child, named Alice. She never lost her love of cars and owned more than 25 during her lifetime. She traveled across the country several more times, and drove over much of Europe.

In her thousands of miles of driving, over a period of more than 60 years, Alice received only one traffic ticket—for making an illegal U-turn in 1953 in Covina, California, where she spent the last years of her life.

John Rathbone Ramsey served in the United States Congress as a representative from New Jersey, from 1917 until 1921. He died in 1933 at the age of 71.

Alice lived another 50 years, and died September 10, 1983, at the age of 96 years and 10 months.

Her son, John Rathbone Ramsey Jr. (an Episcopal priest), and his sister, Alice Bruns, were charter members of our Association, but we have since lost contact with them and do not know whether either is still alive.

(Our thanks to Lauren Landis, who sent us a magazine article on Alice Ramsey's trip, and gave us the idea for this story. Thanks also to Rob Rathbun, who let us borrow his autographed copy of Alice's book.)

# Genealogy: The Seventh Generation in America

**141. HIRAM<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Greene<sup>6-5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born about 1822, probably in Cortland County, N.Y. He was married by 1850 to Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_, born about 1828, surname and parentage unknown. They appear in the 1850 census at Cincinnatus, N.Y., where he died Dec. 3, 1856. His widow, Betsey, aged 32, and their son, Charles, age 9, appear there in the 1860 census, but nothing more is known of either.

## CHILD

CHARLES, born in 1851; possibly the Charles Rathbun living in Nevada in 1910.

**142. HENRY L.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Greene<sup>6-5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born April 30, 1828, probably in Cortland County, N.Y. He was married about 1852 to Maria L. \_\_\_\_\_, born Dec. 10, 1832, surname unknown. He was a blacksmith and lived for some years at Tully, Onondaga County, N.Y. They later lived at Owego, Tioga County, N.Y., and finally moved to Sayre, Pa., where Maria died July 17, 1887, and Henry died Aug. 16, 1900. Both are buried at Owego.

## CHILDREN

CLARENCE, born May 15, 1855; died June 18, 1858.

CARROLL HENRY, born in March 1860; married Bessie House.

ELLA V., born March 9, 1865; died May 6, 1882.

**143. RANDALL<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Greene<sup>6-5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born in May 1832, in Cortland County, N.Y., and was married there to Olive H. Richards on

Dec. 23, 1858 (according to records in the Mormon library, but probably in 1853, unless he had an unknown first marriage). Olive was born Jan. 25, 1836, the daughter of James and Parthena (Shephard) Richards. Randall was a shoemaker and Olive a dressmaker. They lived all their lives at Cincinnatus, N.Y., where he died in 1915 and she died Jan. 19, 1901.

## CHILDREN

CHARLES, born in September 1854; married Nellie Embry.

ELLA, born in 1855; died May 15, 1856, aged eight months.

ALICE M., born in April 1860; died in 1933, apparently single.

M.L., born in 1864; died in 1868.

CLARA B., born in 1867; died in 1888.

**144. DANIEL BOARDMAN<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Greene<sup>6-5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Oct. 17, 1836, in Cortland County, N.Y. He went west as a young man and traveled extensively, crossing the plains to the far west several times, apparently working as a miner and ranch hand. He sailed about 1859 from San Francisco to Hawaii, where he spent two years. Back in California, he was married about 1862 to a wife whose name is unknown. They had two children but the wife and both children all died within a few years during a typhoid epidemic. He was married again in October 1874 at Salt Lake City, Utah, to Hattie C. Fuller, born Jan. 6, 1851, daughter of Jeduthan Fuller. They moved to a 400-acre ranch which Daniel bought in Uinta County, Wyoming, and he became a prominent civic leader, serving as a county commissioner for many years and in 1902 as chairman of the board of commissioners. Hattie died Oct. 16,

1892, at Salt Lake City, and Daniel moved to Evanston, Wyoming, then to Denver, Colorado, where he died in October 1913.

## CHILDREN

DANIEL EDGAR, born September 2, 1875; married Mary E. Foote. He died June 16, 1957, leaving no children.

HARRIET C., born in May 1877; married Dr. Fred Wertel.

MARK ELMER, born in August 1870; married Helen Forncrook. He died in 1958, leaving no children.

HENRY FULLER, born Dec. 9, 1883; married three times, to Cass, Helen and Emily, none of whose surnames are known. He was a medical doctor and died Nov. 14, 1941, leaving no children.

GEORGE LYON, born in June 1885; married Florinda C. Ristine.

DONALD BERTRAM, born Sept. 19, 1889; married Mary Louise McCabe. He died in 1979, leaving no children.

**145. J. EDGAR<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Greene<sup>6-5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born in May 1838 in Cortland County, N.Y. He was married about 1866 to Delight \_\_\_\_\_, born in July 1846, surname unknown. They lived at Pitcher, N.Y., and then at Cincinnatus, where they were living in 1900. Nothing more is known of them.

## CHILDREN

EDITH, born about 1867; single in 1900.

ROY E., born in February 1883; married Ruth Cole Holmes.

**146. ELIAS<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Stephen<sup>6</sup> Greene<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Feb. 7, 1831, at Lisle, Broom County, N.Y. He was married Sept. 27, 1870, to



Augusta E. (Stratton) Turner, born in December 1839, daughter of Seth and Sarah (Miller) Stratton, and widow of a Turner. They lived at Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y., where Elias died May 27, 1901, and Augusta died August 13, 1903.

*CHILD*

AUSTIN, born Oct. 12, 1871; married (1) Ida Taylor, (2) Nettie Sanders, and (3) Bertha Rider.

**147. GIDEON<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Henry<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Nov. 12, 1826, at Scriba, N.Y. He was married on July 23, 1851, at Detroit, Michigan, to Elizabeth J. Fitch, born March 11, 1836, daughter of Montgomery and Abigail (Servis) Fitch. She was only 15 years old, but gave her age as 18 on the marriage license. They were in Scriba in 1855, but by 1859 were in Chicago, where Gideon was a sailor on the Great Lakes. In 1861, after the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the 10th Illinois Cavalry Regiment, and was promoted to corporal. He was listed as a deserter on April 14, 1862, and was taken into custody two years later. He told Army officials that he had been captured and paroled by the Confederates. That same year, in 1864, he enlisted at Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the 13th Infantry Regiment, and was again listed as a deserter. He was described as having blue eyes, a fair complexion and grey hair. He apparently returned to Chicago and died there on September 1, 1867. His widow, then living in Bellaire, Ohio, applied years later for a widow's pension but was turned down, apparently because of his desertions. She died at Bellaire on March 21, 1913.

*CHILDREN*

GRACE, born about 1857; died young.

MARY L., born Nov. 12, 1860; married Charles H. Lewis on Jan. 13, 1876.

CHARLES, born April 12, 1863; he was adopted by his mother's sister,

Charlotte Myers, and took the name of Myers.

**148. ELIAS HENRY<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Henry<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Aug. 20, 1828, in Scriba, N.Y. He moved as a young man to Illinois, and was married there, at Princeton, on Dec. 4, 1857, to Nancy Jane Watson, born Sept. 5, 1832, parentage unknown. They lived for a time in Illinois, where he enlisted Aug. 11, 1862, in the 115th Illinois Volunteer Regiment, and served for three years during the Civil War. He was described as five feet, nine and a half inches tall, with blue eyes, auburn hair and a fair complexion. They moved by 1880 to Onawa, in Monona County, Iowa, where Nancy died Jan. 14, 1897. Elias died there Sept. 22, 1913.

*CHILDREN*

CHILD, born in 1858; died young.

CHILD, born in 1860; died young.

GEORGE ELIAS, born Nov. 13, 1862; married Lucy Martin.

MARY JOSEPHINE, born Aug. 11, 1866; married Wesley Dodd on Oct. 25, 1885.

HENRY B., born in 1868; died young.

LYDIA SAMANTHA, born Dec. 3, 1870; married J.W. Hughes on Oct. 29, 1889.

**149. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Henry<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born in November 1846, probably at Scriba, N.Y. He joined his older brother Elias in Monona County, Iowa, and was married there Jan. 5, 1875, to Adelpia M. Watson, possibly a sister of his brother's wife. She was born in November 1856. They lived in Liberty, Monona County, where he died sometime after 1900. Adelpia died there in 1939.

*CHILDREN*

ROSE E., born in 1877; no further data.

HANLEY, born in January 1886; no further data.

DAISY, born in July 1888; no further data.

ETHEL, born in June 1890; no further data.

CHARLES E., born in June 1892; probably the Charles Rathbun who died in 1942 in Monona County.

**150. JESSE FREMONT<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born July 23, 1856, in Parish, Oswego County, N.Y. He attended the Mexico (N.Y.) Academy, where he was an honor student, and then taught for several years



*Rev. Jesse F. Rathbun  
(1856-1932)*

in the Mexico area. He became interested in religion, and in 1881 was licensed as a religious "exhorter." Three years later, he was licensed as a Methodist preacher, in 1888 was ordained as a deacon, and in 1890 was ordained as an elder. For nearly 40 years, he served as pastor of various churches in New York State—at Volney, Vermillion, Minetto, Rodman, Earlville, Cold Brook, Russia, Vernon, Sackett's Harbor, South Hannibal, Brownsville, Decker, Cape Vincent, Belleville and Copenhagen. He was

*(Continued to page 60)*

(Continued from page 59)

married Aug. 29, 1877, at Mexico, N.Y., to Flora Fidelia Grant, born Dec. 23, 1862, daughter of Darius Grant Jr. and Fidelia (Nutting) Grant. He was



Flora (Grant) Rathbun  
(1862-1943)

28, 1846, daughter of Edward M. and Lydia Ann (Hayes) Winslow. They lived in Oswego until 1877, when they moved to Grand Ledge, Mich. In 1882 they moved to Petoskey, Mich., and then in 1900 to Richmond, Va., where he died June 22, 1912. Emerancy's death date is not known.

#### CHILDREN

PERLEY EDWARD, born Oct. 22, 1867; married (1) Louisa Besout, and (2) Jessie Cason.

CORA A., born Jan. 10, 1870; married \_\_\_\_\_ Helbing.

NEWELL CHANDLER, born Oct. 10, 1873; married Harriet Roberts Robinson.

LELA M., born April 12, 1883; married \_\_\_\_\_ Wise.

**152. SILAS E.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Jan. 19, 1848, in New Haven, N.Y., and was married sometime after 1870, but his wife's name is unknown. He died March 12, 1886, at New Haven. There were no known children and nothing more is known of his wife.

**153. JOHN WILLIS<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Feb. 3, 1860, probably at New Haven, N.Y. He was married about 1888 to Jennie May Barlow, born Nov. 25, 1869, daughter of William T. and Elnora (Bacon) Barlow. They lived at New Haven, where Jennie died Oct. 10, 1889, three months after the birth of their first child. John never remarried and died Jan. 2, 1924.

#### CHILD

HOWARD WILLIS, born July 4, 1889; married Emma Sherman.

**154. FRANK E.<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born June 17, 1863, at New Haven, N.Y. He was married Dec. 24, 1890, to Winnie Thompson, born in October 1871, parentage unknown. They were living at New Haven in 1900. Nothing more is known of them.

#### CHILDREN

HAZEL GRACE, born Oct. 17, 1891; no further data.

BEATRICE EVA, born Aug. 17, 1893; no further data.

MARION BELL, born July 31, 1895; no further data.

JOHN EARL, born March 15, 1897; died in May 1973, no known marriage.

DEWITT T., born in June 1899; no further data.

**155. HORACE<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>6</sup> Stephen<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born March 2, 1828, in New York state. He was married about 1856 to Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_, born about 1836, parentage unknown. They moved from New York to Michigan about 1866, and were living at Sanilac, Mich., in 1880. Elizabeth died there sometime before 1894, when he was married to Sara Watson, born in Oct. 1875, daughter of Jarvis Watson. She was 19 and he was 64. They lived at Carsonville, near Sanilac, where Horace died Feb. 3, 1913, aged 85. Sarah was alive in 1910, but her death date is not known.

#### CHILDREN

By Elizabeth

JOHN, born about 1857; alive in 1880, no further data.

MARTHA, born about 1860; alive in 1880, no further data.

MARY, born about 1863; alive in 1880, no further data.

JOSEPH, born about 1865; married (?) Mina \_\_\_\_\_.

MYRON, born in October 1868; living as late as 1910.

ANNIE, born about 1871; no further data.

By Sarah

ISAAC EARL, born Oct. 24, 1894; served in the Army during World War I; no further data.

GLENN, born in September 1896; alive in 1920, no further data.

?ISABELLE, born in 1908; living with Horace and Sarah in 1910 and apparently their daughter, although Horace would have been 80 when she was born!

21; she was not quite 15. Jesse retired from the ministry in 1921 at the age of 65, and they settled at Mexico, where he died Nov. 4, 1932, and Flora died Jan. 12, 1943.

#### CHILDREN

STELLA ELECTA, born Aug. 22, 1883; married (1) Elmer M. Haythorn, and (2) William H. Young.

MYRTLE MAE, born April 12, 1885; married Fred P. Wright.

JESSE ARTHUR, born June 16, 1886; married Mertie F. Adams.

WILLIS H., born Dec. 20, 1889; died Jan. 25, 1891.

**151. HENRY ADDISON<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (John<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born April 22, 1843, in Oswego, N.Y. In 1861, he enlisted in the First New York Light Artillery, served throughout the Civil War and participated in 21 battles. He was married Sept. 18, 1866, to Emerancy Ann Winslow, born Sept.

**156. WILLIAM OLANDER<sup>7</sup> RATHBURN** (Raymond<sup>6</sup> ?Stephen<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born August 17, 1831, in Rhode Island. This ancestry is not proven, but seems most likely. He was married about 1856 in Ohio to Lydia Marie Mariat, born Oct. 16, 1837, daughter of Lucas and Winnie E. Mariat. They were living in 1860 at Bellevue, Huron County, Ohio, and he enlisted in 1864 in the 178th Ohio Volunteers. He was mustered out in June 1865, and they moved to Sheridan, Mecosta County, Michigan, where he spent the next three years in bed with tuberculosis. He died August 3, 1869, aged 38. Lydia was possibly the Lydia Rathburn who was married Feb. 11, 1871, in Mecosta County, to Leonard Flech. She died August 12, 1871.

#### CHILDREN

GEORGE JEFFERSON, born June 22, 1857; married Sophia Diehm.  
WILLIAM FRANKLIN, born July 7, 1859; married Ida Mary Brockway.  
CHARLES OLANDER, born Aug. 4, 1861; married Mary E. Weidman.  
LAURA BELL, born July 26, 1863; married (?), and died Feb. 3, 1912.  
LUCAS H. born Aug. 6, 1869; died in 1881.

**157. BRADFORD MATTESON<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Reuben<sup>6</sup> Stephen<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born in May 1839, in Rhode Island, and was married Feb. 8, 1872, at Scituate, R.I., to Adaline Amanda Albro, born in January 1840, parentage unknown, and possibly a widow. She died April 11, 1909, at Providence, and he died Oct. 23, 1915, probably in West Warwick, where he is buried. There were no known children, but two young Albro grandsons were living with them in 1900, probably hers by a first marriage.

**158. SYLVANUS ISAAC<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Joseph<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born about 1841 in Norwich, N.Y. He enlisted April 30, 1861, in the 17th NY Volunteer Infantry, described as five feet eight inches tall, with dark hair,

eyes and complexion. He deserted two months later, was arrested, court-martialed and discharged. He then moved to Iowa, where he enlisted July 8, 1863, in the 8th Iowa Cavalry. After the war, he was married on August 28, 1865, in Keokuck, Iowa, to Mary Pryor, born about 1846, parentage unknown. They moved by 1880 to Glenwood, Missouri, and then to Kingman, Kansas, about 1884. He died Aug. 28, 1895, at Wichita, Kansas, and Mary died April 25, 1906, at Pueblo, Colo.

#### CHILDREN

JOSEPH S., born in November 1870; married Pearl B. McClelland.  
BELLE, born in March 1872; no further data.  
EDNA M., born about 1876; no further data.  
MYRTLE, born about 1878; no further data.  
ZERELDA, born March 8, 1882; married \_\_\_\_\_ Casey.  
AMBROSE E., born Aug. 2, 1885; no further data.

**159. WILLIAM ALPHONZO<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Newman<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born May 26, 1844, at Franklinville, N.Y. He moved with his parents to Sugar Grove, Pa., and served in the 111th Pennsylvania Regiment during the Civil War. He was married Nov. 30, 1877, at Groton, Pa., to Mary Cornelia Talman, born in December 1859, daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ and Eliza Talman. They lived at Sugar Grove, where William died in 1911 and Mary died on July 29, 1940.

#### CHILDREN

ELMER EDGAR, born Aug. 18, 1879; died Sept. 18, 1879.  
ARTHUR HALE, born March 6, 1881; died April 12, 1881.  
HOWARD ALMERON, born April 3, 1883; married Anna Mae Ristine.  
FLOYD ALPHONZO, born April 10, 1890; died unmarried July 7, 1967, in Findlay, Ohio.

**160. ALMERON NELSON<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Newman<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born July 17, 1848, at Franklinville. He moved as a young man to Kansas, where he was married in McPherson County, on July 29, 1883, to Mary Ellen Giverson. She was born Nov. 26, 1866, daughter of Daniel and Ruth (Wells) Giverson. They moved to Pawnee County, Oklahoma, in the 1890s and then to Noble County by 1910, but returned to Kansas, where Almeron died in January 1921, and Mary died Aug. 16, 1924.

#### CHILDREN

DORA THEO, born Oct. 8, 1884; no further data.  
WILLIAM PARIS, born Oct. 11, 1886; married Lillie Conger.  
ERA EDGAR, born Jan. 3, 1893; married Edna Adams.  
ARTHUR RALPH, born Sept. 24, 1896; no further data.  
HAZEL IRENE, born May 29, 1899; no further data.  
DELLA LEE, born Sept. 6, 1901; married \_\_\_\_\_ Halloran.  
RELLA JANE MAE, born August 8, 1904; no further data.  
ARTIST FLORENCE, born Feb. 11, 1908; married \_\_\_\_\_ Bliss.

**161. EDGAR PRATT<sup>7</sup> RATHBUN** (Paris<sup>6</sup> Newman<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), born Feb. 29, 1856, in Sugar Grove, Pa. and married about 1880 Mattie O'Dell, born in April 1859, parentage unknown. They moved to Cattaraugus County, N.Y. by 1900 and were there as late as 1920. Nothing more is known of them.

#### CHILDREN

ALMERON, born about 1881; no further data.  
ELLA ROSE, born in October 1885; no further data.



(Continued from page 51)

divorce and awarded her \$2,500 in alimony. The records do not indicate whether she ever collected, but with Lucius living in another state, she probably did not.

Lucius, once he learned the divorce had been granted, married Sally the following December 24 in Michigan, and they went on to have six more children over the next 11 years, the last one born when Lucius was 53 and Sally was 40. Lucius died on his 75th birthday in 1875. Sally died 16 years later on March 14, 1891, aged 78. Rhoda, who never married again, died in 1877, aged 74.

As we noted in our earlier story, Lucius' children by Rhoda seemed to bear no hard feelings toward their father. Two of them lived with Lucius and Sally for some time, and two later moved to Michigan to live near their father.

(Our thanks for the new information to our member LaVerne E. Rathbun, a descendant of Lucius and Rhoda, who found the property trial records in Sandusky County, and to Lauren Landis, who found the divorce proceedings in a recent book on early Ohio divorces.)

## Old Tombstones Can Be Humorous

Early tombstones often bear humorous inscriptions. These examples appeared in the Luther Family Association newsletter:

"In memory of Ellen Shannon, aged 26 years, who was fatally burned March 21st, 1870, by the explosion of a lamp filed with R.E. Danforth's Non-Explosive Burning Fluid."

"Here under the sod and under the trees, lies the body of Jonathan Pease. He is not here, but only his pod. He's shelled out his peas and gone to his God."

"Here lies Jane Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, marble cutter. This monument erected by her husband as a tribute to her memory and a specimen of his work. Monuments of the same style 350 dollars."

The United Methodist Church of Ellis, Nebraska, had a one-hundred-year celebration in July, and paid special tribute to a Rathbun who helped finance and build the church in 1894.

Edward G. Rathbun (1863-1913) gave the property on which the church was built and contributed \$400 to help build it. He was one of the largest donors and later served on the first board of trustees. Edward was the son of Job<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>5</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

Among those who attended the centennial celebration were Edward's grandson, Grant Horace Still, and a great-niece, Beryl (Rathbun) Beerenstrauch, both members of our Association.

Hammersmith Farm, in Newport, R.I., the home of our ancestors more than 300 years ago, has changed owners again.

The property was willed by the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis to her half-brother Hugh Auchincloss. Mrs. Onassis, who died May 19, inherited Hammersmith from her mother.

The original home on the property, where our ancestors John and Margaret Rathbun lived in the 1670s, was built in the mid-1600s by William Brenton, who named it Hammersmith for his former home in England. In its day, it was one of the finest homes in New England. It was torn down early in the 1700s, and a number of houses have occupied the land over the years.

Captain John Peck Rathbun has helped a modern-day cousin improve her school grades. Gillian Lee Betzold, 11, wrote a paper on Captain Rathbun's career in the Revolutionary Navy, based on stories published in our Historian. She received an A- for her work, which included pictures and bibliography. She is a fifth-grade student, and the daughter of Victor and Joan (Rathbun) Betzold of Joppa, Maryland. Joan is the daughter of Dr. William B.<sup>11</sup> Rathbun (Walter<sup>10</sup> Francis<sup>9</sup> Albert<sup>8</sup> Stephen<sup>7</sup> James<sup>6-5</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

## New Data

Abigail Rathbun, daughter of Gideon<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), married, as his second wife, William Alonzo Dawley (1835-1909), on Dec. 17, 1871, at Parish, N.Y. She died Sept. 20, 1907, at Parish. (Historian of October 1986, page 60). Thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Obadiah Rathbun, son of Joseph<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Obadiah<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was probably married but his wife's name is not known. They were most likely the parents of Stephen Rathbun, born about 1824, who married Hannah DeLong and lived in Carlton, New Brunswick. Thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Maria Pawling, wife of Dennison<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Dyer<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), was the daughter of John and Harriet (Connor) Pawling. (Historian of April 1991, page 28). Our thanks to new member Lyn Harter, a descendant of Dennison. Lyn has also corrected our record of Dennison's children—John B. (not D.), died April 25, 1845, aged one year, and George F. (not L.) died September 30, 1851.

WE THANK the following members who have sent us clippings, family updates, pictures and other materials: Lauren Landis, Eileen Rathbun, Jim and Maxine Stites, Rob Rathbun, Mary Frances White, Marlow C. Rathbun, Jean Halden Walker, Mary Ann Cummins, Terry Carnahan, Dorothy Mueller, Donna Bender, Marlin Rathbun, Carol Jeanne Rathbun, Kathy Phillips, Edith Leppla, Jacki Blasko, Rosalie Rathbun, Eleanor L. Rathbun, Dorothy Retzke, Laura Wheeler, Ethyl R. Grady, Betty Rathbone, Beryl Beerenstrauch, Eleanor Eckert, David Rathbun, Mary Champlin, Ellen Kenyon, Carolyn Colbry and Jacki Furgala.

# Obituaries

**DIED**—August 14, 1994, at Lansing, Michigan, John Charles (Jack) Rathbun, aged 67, after a traffic accident. A charter member of our Association, he was the son of Charles<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Alfred<sup>8</sup> Segester<sup>7</sup> Issac<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). He operated a family-owned insurance business in Lansing for many years. Survivors include four daughters—Caroline Colbry and Jacqueline Furgala, both members of our association; Tamara Van Tilburd and Jennifer Rathbun; two brothers, James and Eugene, and eight grandchildren.

**DIED**—June 26, 1994, at Cranston, R.I., Sarah Rachel and Sharon Ruth McCulley, newborn twin daughters of John and Cheryl McCulley; granddaughters of our member Mary Champlain, and great-granddaughters of our member Helen M. Rathbun. Helen is the widow of Eugene Byron<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>9</sup> Raymond<sup>8</sup> Amy<sup>7</sup> Olney<sup>6</sup> Joshua<sup>5</sup> Anthony<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), and daughter of Ernest<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> Seneca<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>).

**DIED**—August 28, 1994, at West Greenwich, Rhode Island, Myrtle L. Rathbun, aged 72. She was the widow of Everett W.<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Arthur<sup>9</sup> George<sup>8</sup> Seneca<sup>7</sup> John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Joshua<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). She is survived by three sons—Edward H., Richard E. and Kenneth A. Rathbun; three daughters—Arlene J. Macart, Nancy J. Payne and Cathy A. Mills; 17 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

In our January 1994 obituaries, Dr. Robert Jesse Rathbun died September 16, 1993, not September 27. Our thanks to Terry Carnahan.

**DIED**—July 2, 1994, Sherrill Slade Rathbun, 71, of Rancho Bernardo, California. He was the son of Sherrill Slade<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Granville<sup>7</sup> Alfred<sup>6</sup> Epaphroditus<sup>5</sup> Simon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Survivors include two sons, Scott and Mark Rathbun, and a sister, Martha McAvoy. Mr. Rathbun was a partner in a construction firm specializing in road and airplane-runway design. He was also an inventor and held a patent on a device for injecting epoxy into cement cracks as a permanent seal.

**DIED**—Feb. 13, 1994, Erwin Rathbun, 81, at Spring Valley, Minn. He was the son of William<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> Henry<sup>7</sup> Nathaniel<sup>6</sup> Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). He operated a septic tank service in Spring Valley for 20 years. Survivors include his wife, Irene; a son, Erwin Rathbun, Jr.; four daughters—Judy Long, Gloria Reed, Mary McNiff and Cheryl Bornhold; 18 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

**DIED**—July 9, 1994, Nancy Diane (Rathbun) Conn, 36, at Amarillo, Texas. She was the daughter of B.H. (Bud) Rathbun, and granddaughter of William<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Charles<sup>8</sup> Henry<sup>7</sup> Nathaniel<sup>6</sup> Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). She is survived by her parents; husband Gary Conn; a son John C. Butenschoen; a half-brother, Daniel C. Rathbun, and a grandmother, Lowsie Page.

**DIED**—April 20, 1994, Cromer Chambers Rathbone, 88, of Canton, N.C. He was the son of William Riley Rathbone, and a great-great-grandson of John Rathbone of Virginia and North Carolina, who we have not been able to identify. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son, James Rathbone; two daughters, Betty Jo Coleman and Joanne Wilson; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mary Ann Treadway.

# Births

**BORN**—March 22, 1994, Wendy Katherine White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald White of Bethesda, Md., and granddaughter of our member Mary Frances White. Mary is the daughter of John Furness and Mary Jane<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Edson<sup>9</sup> Curtis<sup>8</sup> Ransom<sup>7</sup> Asa<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**BORN**—Feb 23, 1994, Jessica Glenn, daughter of Tony and Leanna Glenn and great-granddaughter of our members Bill and Patti (Rathbun) Garrett. Patti is the daughter of Vera M. Rathbun and the late William Harley<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Daniel<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

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Major Henry R. Rathbone, who was with Abraham Lincoln when the president was assassinated in 1865, is featured in a recently-published historical novel.

Entitled, "Henry and Clara," the book was written by Thomas Mallon, and is based on the tragic lives of Rathbone and his step-sister/wife Clara Harris.

The two were in the presidential box on the night of the murder, and Rathbone was severely slashed by the assassin John Wilkes Booth. Rathbone never forgave himself for failing to protect the president, and later became insane. He murdered his wife in 1883 and spent the rest of his life in a mental institution.

Readers of our Historian have read the historical details of Rathbone's life and tragic fate. Readers of Mallon's book will find the facts interwoven with fancy. It is a good story, but much of it comes from the author's imagination.

That is the prerogative of an author, of course, but for those of us who know the real story it is somewhat disconcerting to read of episodes and situations that never existed.

Aside from that, it is a well-written book. If interested, check with your local book store. It sells for \$22.95.

# People

**ALICE RATHBUN BINGMAN** was honored on her 90th birthday September 9 at a party in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Nearly 100 relatives and friends welcomed Alice as she arrived in a horse-drawn "surrey with a fringe on top," accompanied by her daughters and her college roommate Eva Rathbun. Alice, who still lives on her own, is the daughter of Erastus<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Edwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**VERA M. RATHBUN** was honored on June 18, 1994, in advance of her 90th birthday on August 14. Gathered in Topeka, Kansas, for the occasion were 75 persons from six states, including 55 of her 58 living descendants. She has six children, 15 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Her children include three members of our Association—Patti Garrett, Bruce M. Rathbun and Donna J. Bender. Vera is the widow of William Harley<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>8</sup> William<sup>7</sup> Daniel<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

**KAREN HUNT** was married to David Carl on August 13, 1994, at Minneapolis, Minn. Karen is the daughter of our member Jeanne (Rathbun) Hunt, and granddaughter of Neal<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (William<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>).

**JOANN RATHBUN** is a top candidate for the 1996 American field hockey Olympic team. JoAnn, 25, of Atlanta, made the final tryouts for the 1992 team, but barely missed out. As a member of the Georgia Field Hockey Association, she was captain this year of her team, which won the state championship. Among her teammates was a younger sister, Jody Rathbun. We do not know the identity of these talented young ladies, who were educated in Vermont. Can anyone help?

## Our New Members

Jeanne L. Bogart  
West Sheffield, Conn.

Martha S. Finrock  
Zephyrhills, Fla.

Marabeth Houstman  
Tucson, Arizona

Lyn Harter  
Houghton, N.Y.

Marjorie Henninge  
Glouster, Ohio

Rick Van Vliet  
Savage, Minn.

Alan and Gayle Weiss  
Everett, Wash.

Laura Wheeler  
Santa Paula, Calif.

## New Data

Mary Rathbun, daughter of Roger<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), and his second wife, Mary Eldred, married Job Lawton about 1785. Mary was born Jan. 25, 1764, and died Sept. 1, 1821, in Newport, R.I. Her daughter Abigail (1786-1868), married Sebastian Riggs and had a son Job Lawton Riggs, born in 1824, who was named in the 1822 will of Mary's brother Benedict Eldred Rathbun. (Historians of July 1984, page 45, and July 1982, page 44).

Lucy Adelaide Rathbun, daughter of Nathan James<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Elijah<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), married Feb. 22, 1871, as her second husband, Dr. Philip Grier, who was mayor of Elizabeth, N.J. Her first husband, Francis Turner, died Aug. 19, 1869. (Historian of July 1982). Thanks to new member Jeanne Bogart.

Edward E. Rathbun, son of Ambrose<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Zebulon<sup>6</sup> Edmund<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), died at New Orleans in 1931. He apparently never married. He and his brother Franklin were both living in Harding, N.D., in 1920. Thanks to Rob Rathbun.

## Reunions

More than 200 persons attended a reunion in August of the Rathbun, Elwood and Calkin families in Bear Lake, Wisconsin. The gathering was held at the farm formerly owned by Elmer Rathbun (1910-1976). He was the son of George<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>7</sup> Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

Special tribute was paid to the late Rosma (Rathbun) Limbeck, and a plaque in her memory was presented to local officials to hang in the town hall.

On display was a note written by the late Sadie Nicholas Rathbun, and found in her family bible—"Home is the only spot on earth where the faults of others are hidden under the mantle of love."

Another Rathbun reunion, also in August, was held at Mentone, Indiana, for descendants of William Lewis<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Hiram<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). Among those attending were Princess Rathbun Frush and her niece Carol Rathbun Boyer, and Rob Rathbun of Bowling Green, Ky., all members of our Association.