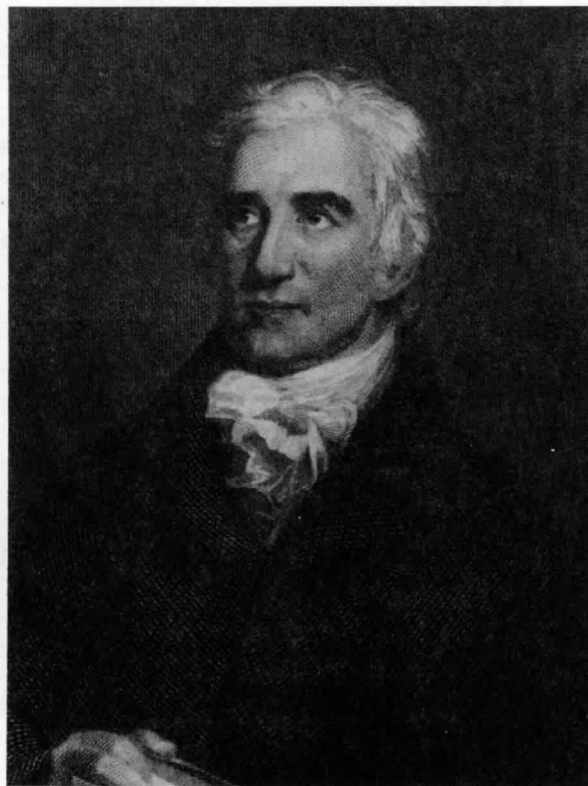


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
**FAMILY
HISTORIAN**



William Rathbone
1757-1809

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

Letter From the Editor

Tempus Fugit: Time does indeed fly! This issue marks the end of our Association's fourth year, and I am pleased to report that our membership is now nearly 400. We have surely come a long way from our humble beginning in January 1981.

And now the bad news — dues are due again.

We have decided to keep the 1985 dues at \$15, the same as this year, but will be offering a special bonus for those who rejoin, and for new members — an index to the first three years of our Historian (See accompanying story). It will be mailed to all members with either the January or April issue, depending on press schedules.

Although the dues will again be \$15, we must again impose a penalty on those who fail to renew on time. This is necessary because of our computerized mailing system. We must pay to delete the names of those who do not meet the deadline, and then pay again to have them put back in the computer.

The deadline is *December 10*, when

we must update our computer list for the January issue. Those who miss that deadline will be charged \$17, rather than \$15. So please, if you want to remain a member and keep receiving the Historian, send in your \$15 now, while you are thinking about it. A renewal form is enclosed with this issue.

We are proceeding with plans for our second national family reunion next August 1 through 4 in Des Moines, Iowa.

1985 DUES ARE DUE: DEADLINE—DEC. 10

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us. Full details in the next issue.

I want to express my thanks to all the cousins who sent me get-well cards and notes of concern after learning of my pacemaker implant. I am now feeling fine, and ready to continue my work on the Association and the Historian, which have become such an important part of my life.

Over the years, a number of cousins have visited us here in Fairfax when passing through the Washington, D.C. area. Visitors in recent months have included Roy D. and Anna May Rathbun, George and Linda Rathbun and their children; Eloise Lewis and her daughter, Louise; Helen and Lauren Landis; Rev. Ray and Marquerite Martin, and K. Haybron Adams.

Hazel and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting them, and other cousins who have visited us earlier from all over the country. We extend a cordial invitation to any members coming to this area to stop by and see us. Just write and give us a little notice when you plan to be in the area, and then call a day or two before.

Since this is the final issue of 1984, let me also take the opportunity to send best wishes, on behalf of us all, for a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Frank

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(703) 278-8512

Frank H. Rathbun
Editor & Publisher
Robert Rathbun
Research Director
Hazel J. Rathbun
Assistant Editor
Frank H. Rathbun III
Production Manager
Janice A. Rathbun
Business Manager

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Three-Year Index Coming for Association Members

Members of the Rathbun Family Association next year will receive a name-and-place index to the Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn Family Historian for 1981 through 1983.

It will be printed and bound in the same format as the Historian, adding to the historical and research value of the magazine for those who keep the entire set.

The index was compiled by one of our members, Mrs. Margaret Dale of Arcadia, California, who also indexed John C. Cooley's "Rathbone Genealogy" of 1898, and published it in 1966.

Margaret estimated that she spent about 140 hours on the task of compiling and typing the index to our Historian's first three years, which included 180 pages of type.

Her system of indexing, the same she

used for Cooley's book, was to put each name, of both people and places, on a 3 × 5 scratch pad, which she purchased in thousands by the pound. In the upper right hand corner, she wrote the page number and volume on which each reference appeared.

She then checked the results twice, and gave an additional third reading to the genealogical sections.

Satisfied that her results were complete and accurate, she then alphabetized the scratch pads — initially by first letters of the last name, then by exact alphabetical order, and finally alphabetically by first names.

Then, after one final check of the entire batch, to make sure none of the pads was out of order, she typed the entire index on copy paper, one pad at a time.

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Talented Rathbun Wrote Early Kansas Spelling Book

Our family has had many members who are little recognized by historians but whose accomplishments merit them a special place in the family record.

One such cousin was George Daniel Rathbun (1873-1953), a newspaperman, educator, attorney, inventor and builder — and author of a famous Kansas spelling book.

George was born Dec. 22, 1873, on a farm near Sedan, in Chataqua County, Kansas, the son of George Marshall⁷ Rathbun (Edmund⁶ Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and Tamar Ann Garringer. He attended local schools and graduated from the Sedan High School with top grades.

He became a teacher in 1891 in one of the local school districts. After a year of teaching and saving his money, he decided to enter the newspaper business and purchased the Ottawa Bulletin which he operated for about a year. In 1893, he sold the newspaper and became city editor for another local paper.

Rathbun then decided to study law and enrolled at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, teaching part-time to pay expenses. In 1898, at the age of 25, he finished his studies and was admitted to the bar. He returned to Ottawa and became a teacher again, practicing law in the evening, on week ends and during school vacations.

As a teacher, he became more and more concerned over the poor spelling ability of his students. Deciding that the spelling books then in use were woefully inadequate, he discarded them and drafted his own spelling lessons, keying them to his students' grade levels.

Rathbun saw a marked improvement in his pupils, and determined to put his techniques into more widespread use. He began composing a new spelling book, based on the lessons he had drafted for his own students. He completed the manuscript, but faced the problem of having it put into printed form for presentation to the Kansas State Text Commission.



*George Daniel Rathbun
1873–1953*

Lacking the money to have it printed commercially, he fell back on the printing skills he had learned as a newspaperman. He purchased a supply of type, set the manuscript in type, and then printed a few copies on a local press.

He took a copy to Topeka and presented it to the State Text Commission for consideration in 1902, when the board was taking bids for new textbooks. His manuscript was rejected in favor of the books already in print by the major publishing companies.

Discouraged but not defeated, he resolved to try again, but to fight the next time on a more equal footing. He realized that money was the key.

He continued teaching and practicing law in Ottawa, and was appointed in 1904 as the city attorney. Two years later, he resigned and moved to Stanton County, Kansas, where he was elected county attorney in the fall of 1906.

Meanwhile, he had been saving his money for another round with the State Text Commission. In May, 1907, he had 500 copies of his book commercially printed, and set out on a tour of the state,

visiting all members of the commission at their homes and leaving a copy with each.

Six days before the commission was to meet, the big publishing houses learned of his activities, and took steps to block him. They obtained a legal ruling from the state requiring all bidders to post a \$50,000 bond. This, they thought, would effectively shut out not only Rathbun but any other small bidders who might challenge their virtual monopoly on the textbook business.

Told of the bond requirement, Rathbun returned to Ottawa where he was well known and respected. He appealed for help to old friends, and former students and clients. In one hour he raised \$50,000 in pledges.

The following Monday morning, Rathbun filed the required bond in Topeka, and presented his book to the Text Commission. While waiting for a decision, he walked across the street to the State Capitol and won admission to practice law before the State Supreme Court. Returning to the Text Commission offices, he learned that the members liked his book, and that his bid had been accepted.

Elated, Rathbun went to Chicago and negotiated a contract with a printing firm there to publish 300,000 of his books. The text was used in all Kansas public schools and in several other states for the next decade.

In the preface, Rathbun stated:

"Spelling and orthography have occupied a neglected and obscure niche in our curriculum too long. We are a generation of poor spellers. . .

"One reason this important subject has been so long neglected is the inability of the teacher to apply the text at hand to the grades and conditions of our schools. . . This book is so graded that the mastery of each lesson is a possibility by the pupils of the proper grades."

The book contained 10,000 spelling

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Rathbone Family of Liverpool Has Long, Impressive History

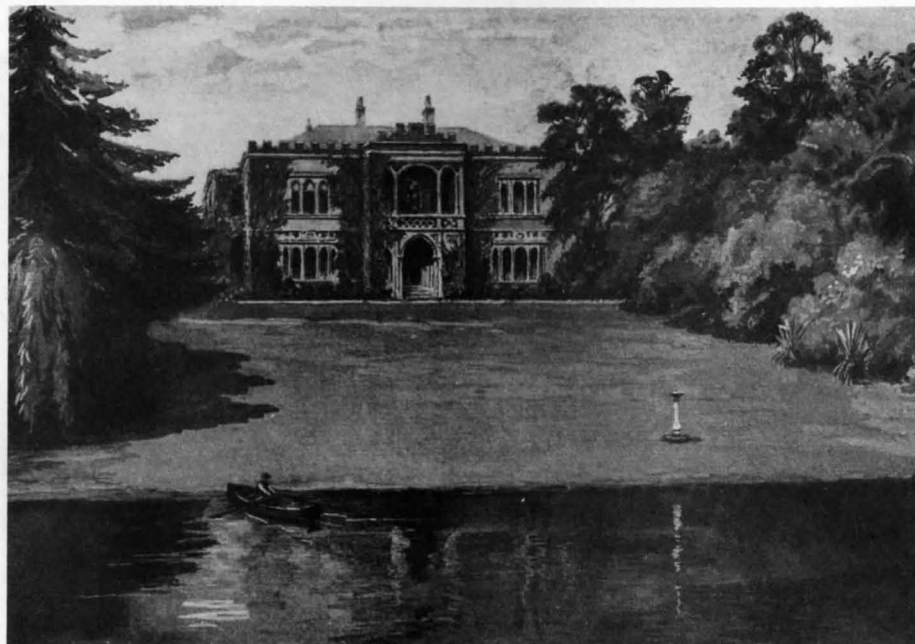
In past issues, we have mentioned the prominent Rathbone family of Liverpool, one of England's most illustrious families. Although we cannot trace their exact relationship to us, they are undoubtedly distant cousins, also descended from an early Irish immigrant to England in the Thirteenth Century. In the past two centuries, these distinguished Rathbones have produced a dazzling array of highly successful merchants, philanthropists, influential politicians, authors, several members of parliament, including the second woman member, and even a founding member of the British Communist Party. Their friends included such notables as Florence Nightingale and John Audubon, and one family member was entertained at the White House by President John Tyler. This is the first of a two-part series on this distinguished family and its role in English history.

The genealogy of the Liverpool Rathbones can be traced back in a direct line to John Rathbone (who spelled the name Rabone), born about 1585. He died in Newbold-Astbury, Cheshire County, in 1654, the year our ancestors came to America. His son, Philip Rathbone, born about 1620, married Ellen _____, and moved to Gawsworth, also in Cheshire.

Among their children was Philip Rathbone Jr., born in 1644, who had several children including William, born in 1669, who married Martha Vigars about 1688 and later became a Quaker. He was a sawyer by trade and moved by 1730 to Liverpool, where he established a sawmill. William and Martha apparently retired to Alderly, near Gawsworth, where he died in 1739 and she in 1743. Both are buried at Macclesfield.

Their son William Jr., born May 22, 1696, at Gawsworth, joined his father in the sawmill operation and helped expand it into a timber-exporting business known as William Rathbone and Son.

William Jr. was apparently an energetic and far-sighted man. He con-



Greenbank, ancestral home of the Liverpool Rathbones, as it appeared in the early 1800s.

tinued to expand the business after his father's death, began building his own ships and became a commission merchant, importing and exporting various goods.

By the time he died in 1746, at the early age of 50, the company and his family were prosperous and influential.

By his two wives — Sara Hyde (1701-1727), whom he married in 1722, and Elizabeth Shephard (1701-1784), whom he married in 1731 — he had nine children. Continuing a family tradition, he named his first son William. This son, William Rathbone the Third, whose picture appears on our cover, took over the family business upon the father's death.

Young William, only 24 years old, drastically expanded the Rathbone company's activities. To obtain new capital for expansion, he took on two partners and the firm name became Rathbone, Hughes and Duncan. Their ships, built in their own yards, ranged throughout the world, sending salt to Norway and Sweden, and bringing back lumber; brought mahogany, and sugar

cane from the West Indies, and carried earthenware and linens to America, returning with tobacco, wheat, rye, rice, cattle, pork and fish.

The family remained pious and steadfast Quakers. William's younger sister, Penelope, became the manager and owner of a Quaker meeting house which operated soup kitchens for the poor.

Despite his Quaker beliefs, Rathbone was apparently tempted to enter the lucrative slave trade, where the "living cargoes" offered great profits. His son, William the Fourth, was strongly opposed to the idea and told his wife he was going to remonstrate with his father. The wife, fearful of a family spat, advised against such a move.

"He will never get over your having to make such a remonstrance, and it will be difficult for you to meet him in the next world," she said.

"Yes," William replied, "but how can I meet him in the next world if I don't?"

The elder Rathbone overcame the temptation and in fact became an ardent abolitionist. He even refused to allow



William Rathbone The Third
1726-1789

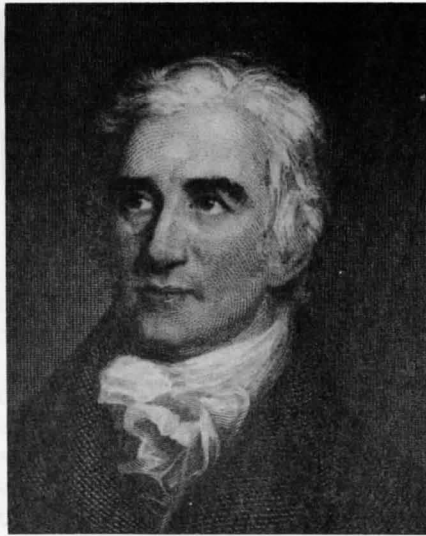
any of his timber to be used in the construction of slave ships. The slave trade was finally abolished by Parliament in 1807, nearly 20 years after Rathbone's death.

By his first wife, Rachel Rutter (1730-1761), the Third William Rathbone had one son and four daughters. By his second wife, Margaret Fletcher, he had four children who all died young. His only son, William Rathbone the Fourth, had joined his father in the family business as a young man, and took over the company when his father died in 1789.

This William was described as a man of "great business ability and fine intellect, with a love of learning, great energy and will power." He was well educated for that era, but considered his education inadequate. Throughout his adult life, he studied every night, often until early morning, even after long, hard days at the office. To keep himself awake during these late study hours, he wrapped wet towels around his head and studied on his knees.

Under his leadership, the house of Rathbone continued to prosper and expand. The English wool industry was declining in the 1780s, and he conceived the idea of replacing wool with cotton, then a fledgling industry in the new United States.

The first shipment of cotton from America was made by Rathbone in one of his ships in 1784 — eight bales and three barrels. It was the forerunner of a flood



William Rathbone The Fourth
1757-1809

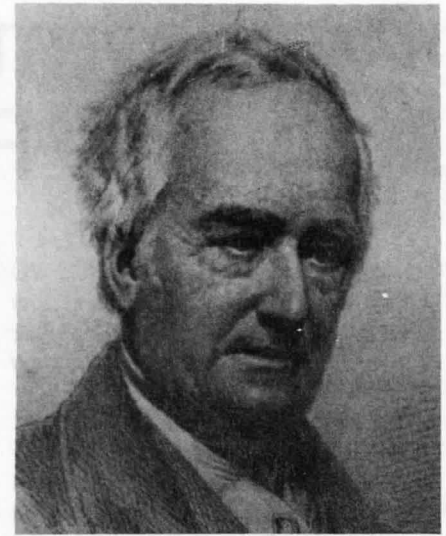
that was to change the history of both England and America.

The 200th anniversary of this historic event was marked this year in August by the still existing Rathbone firm. A full-rigged sailing ship carried a symbolic cargo of cotton from the United States to Liverpool for the occasion.

William Rathbone the Fourth married Hannah Mary Reynolds (1761-1839) in 1786 and their first son, born in 1787, was named William Rathbone, thus becoming the Fifth William Rathbone. He was a "delicate boy" and the family physician recommended that he be taken from the city, at least during the summers, and raised in a rural setting with "country air."

The family then lived in the Cornhill section of Liverpool, near the docks and close to the Rathbone company's offices. Acting on the doctor's advice, Rathbone in 1788 leased a "summer estate" several miles northeast of the city, a two-story home, built at least 50 years earlier. It was surrounded by 10 acres of gardens, fields, pastures and orchards. He named it Greenbank, and it was to be the family home for more than 150 years to five generations of Rathbones.

Rathbone's intense life style — working hard all day and studying until late at night — soon took its toll. By 30, his hair was almost snow white, and his health was poor. He died in 1809, aged 51, still immersed in his business, his studies and in drafting plans for an elaborate



William Rathbone The Fifth
1787-1868

expansion of his Greenbank estate. His widow purchased the property, carried out his plans for enlarging the house, and later expressed shock at the cost. The remodeling took eight years.

Rathbone was a man of considerable talent with a rare ability to predict the future based on his observations of current events. A year before his death, he predicted that British hostility to America's foreign trade, and aggression against American shipping, would lead to another war between England and America. This prediction came true four years later with the War of 1812 — triggered by English harassment of American ships and impressment of American sailors into the British Navy.

In politics, he was what would today be considered an ultra-liberal in American terms. He favored complete freedom of trade, universal suffrage, assistance to the underprivileged, abolition of slavery, unrestricted freedom of speech and non-intervention abroad.

As a Quaker, he strongly opposed war, but was ousted by the Quakers for questioning the authority for some of their practices. His outspoken opposition to slavery made him so unpopular among his neighbors that the family doctor would make house calls only after dark.

Upon his death, the business was taken over by William Rathbone the Fifth, then only 21 years of age, who

(continued on page 58)

Two Former Black Slaves Adopted Rathbun Surname

In our last issue, we reviewed the history of our early family members as slave owners. Following are the stories of two former Rathbun slaves who adopted the Rathbun surname:

The 1766 will of Jonathan³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) specified that his "Negro boy Ezra" was to be freed at age 21 and given 10 pounds to launch him on his life as a free man. Ezra, born in 1757, was only nine at the time, and apparently remained for the next ten years with Jonathan's widow, Katherine, in Colchester, Conn.

In February 1776, aged 19, he enlisted in the Connecticut Militia under Capt. Levi Wells, in the Regiment of Col. Samuel Willis. Ezra served at the battles of Roxbury (Mass.) and Flat Bush (N.Y.) before he was discharged in January 1777. He enlisted again, and served several more years.

After the war, he remained in Connecticut, living at various times in Salem, Windham and Litchfield. He married in Windham on April 16, 1782, Silence Phillips, born June 19, 1764, the daughter of Samuel and Martha (Decker) Phillips. They had several children before he divorced her on March 17, 1790, on the grounds of adultery and desertion.

Ezra was married again about 1791 to a wife, name unknown, who died March 10, 1811, aged 49, at Windham. He was married for a third time, about 1813, aged 57, to a young woman aged 23, whose name also is unknown.

A hard-working, respected citizen, Ezra had received a good education in the Rathbun home. He was one of the few Negroes of that era who were literate and could sign their own name. Windham records show that he purchased a home there and paid for it by laying stone walls for a neighbor.

On Sept. 16, 1818, he applied for a pension based on his service in the Revolution. John R. Watrous, former surgeon with the Third Conn. Regiment, testified as to his service and good character. Two years later, Ezra tes-

tified that he was aged 63, had a wife and two small daughters aged four and one, and was a day laborer unable to support his family.

Ezra testified that he had been crippled in an accident "many years ago" in which he broke one leg, his collarbone and hip. The pension was granted and a short time later he moved with his family to Smithfield, Bradford County, Pa., where he died in 1829.

An early Bradford County historian wrote that "Ezra Rathbun . . . while a mulatto was a very good man." The "mulatto" description raises the possibility that he had some white blood.

Ezra had "three or four sons" but we know the names of only two — Jonathan, named for Ezra's old master,

Ezra Rathbun was one of the few negroes of that era who were literate and could sign their own name . . . he purchased a home and paid for it by laying stone walls for a neighbor.

Jonathan Rathbun, and Abner, who became a "forceful Methodist minister."

Abner, born in 1785, and Jonathan, born about 1800, joined the westward march in the early 1840s and ended up in Des Moines, Iowa, by 1845. Abner had a son, Ezra, who also became a Methodist minister, and by all accounts was a most remarkable man.

Born about 1809, Ezra was in his mid-thirties when the family moved to Iowa. He is recorded as having preached the first sermon in Des Moines, then an Army fort, in September 1845. The occasion was the first death in the settlement — an infant daughter of the Army garrison's commander.

Earlier that year, Ezra had organized

the first Sunday school in Des Moines, with seven children as students. In 1846, Ezra and his father founded the city's first Methodist Church, called the Fifth Street Methodist Church.

An early historian of the area had high praise for Ezra:

"A Methodist preacher, he traveled on foot over the country, preaching wherever he could get two or three Christian people together. He was a college graduate, an eloquent speaker, very unostentatious, and gained friends wherever he went. The people were poor, and for support he did manual labor as a carpenter on week days. On Sundays, he would preach.

"He was active in civic affairs, became quite prominent and was greatly esteemed as a person of high ideals and excellent character."

An early Des Moines settler later recalled Ezra as "about the smartest preacher we ever had in the county . . . he was a gentleman; and not to disparage others of his profession, he was every way their superior."

Ezra must indeed have been quite a man to gain such praise. It is not likely that he actually had a college education, but he must have been well educated and was possessed of intellect and courage.

A story recounted in an early Des Moines history book indicates something of his character and courage.

Iowa had been admitted to the union as a state in 1846 and adopted a constitution which forbade Negroes the right to vote. There was a strong pro-slavery element in Des Moines whose members were determined to enforce this ban.

Despite threats and pressure, Ezra bravely went to the polls for the first state election and was immediately challenged on the grounds that he was a Negro.

Ezra then showed both his courage and his imagination. Denying that he was a Negro, he told his challengers that he was of mixed French and Portuguese

stock, and was descended from a "Joshua Rathbun," a full-blooded Portuguese who had come to America on the Mayflower.

He was able to put across this wild tale, apparently, because he was "tall, slim, of swarthy complexion and thin lips, with hair and eyes distinctly of the Portuguese type," according to a contemporary. In later Federal censuses, however, he is described as "Mulatto."

Ezra remained in Des Moines the rest of his life, working as a carpenter, teamster and practicing minister. He died in 1879. It cannot be determined, as yet, whether he was married or had children.

Abner's brother, Jonathan, was also a teamster and in 1849, with a companion, used horse-drawn wagons to haul into Des Moines the printing press, type and paper used to print Central

Iowa's first newspaper, the State Leader. Jonathan worked with Abner and Ezra to organize the Fifth Street Methodist Church in 1846. He was married in 1848 to Elizabeth _____, probably a second marriage, and had several children. He was living in California in 1860 but his death date is not known.

The second Black man to bear our family name was Exeter Rathbun, born about 1790 in Exeter, R.I., possibly the son or grandson of Joseph, a former slave of Joseph³ Rathbun (Joseph² John¹). Exeter was married about 1818 to a black woman named Question, born in 1798, and lived for many years at Johnstown, R.I. He eventually returned to Exeter, however, and is buried there.

He was described by a local historian as "an uncommon shrewd man, rather too unprincipled and unscrupulous." He died in the early 1840s leaving Question with several children:

JANE A. RATHBUN, born Aug. 23, 1822; married Allen Robinson on June 2, 1845.

SAMUEL J. RATHBUN, born about 1826; married (1) Mary E. Brown Nov. 20, 1867, and (2) Mary F. Doyle Oct. 11, 1871. No known children.

MARY ANN RATHBUN, born about 1829; married John Hamilton Hill on March 21, 1861. She had several children.

THOMAS ANDREW RATHBUN, born Feb. 15, 1832; married Laura Phillips. No known children.

More Data Found on Family's Slaves

We have found more information on early Rathbun slaves in a publication, "Black Roots in Southeastern Connecticut 1650-1900," published in 1980 by the Gale Research Company of Detroit.

The book includes previously unpublished data on four slaves of Jonathan³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) of Colchester, Conn.

Jacob, given to Jonathan's son, Joshua, and ordered to be freed at age 35, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army in May 1777. He adopted the surname Freeman and moved to New London, Conn., where he was living as late as 1820.

Abraham, willed to Jonathan's wife, Katherine, for her lifetime, and then to be freed, also enlisted in 1777, served three years, and moved to New London. He also took the surname Freeman.

Peter, not mentioned by name in Jonathan's will, also took the name Freeman and remained in the Colchester area. He owned land at Salem and was married there by 1789. He was married again in June 1807 to a black woman named Maria, who divorced him in 1821 for infidelity. She died in 1844 at Norwich, Conn. He was in Salem as late as 1827.

Edward (also called Ned), not listed

by name in Jonathan's will, also served in the Revolution, as Edward Rathbun. He later adopted the Freeman surname. He died in January 1787 and left a will which named his brothers Peter, Abraham and Jacob, as well as his sister, Jennie (Jane). Jane had been freed in Jonathan's will "to take care of my three weak (retarded?) children" and "not to

Mingo, a black slave who died in 1805 at the age of 82, was owned by three generations of Rathbuns. Prime, another slave, was ordered freed at age 25 "if he behaves himself."

be controlled but to dwell in my house . . . and to be maintained out of my estate and to have her bed and furniture."

Ezra, the only one of Jonathan's six slaves who kept the Rathbun surname, was not mentioned in Edward's will. Possibly he was not a brother, or it may

be the others resented his taking the name of their former owner.

"Black Roots" also mentions Prime, a slave owned by Job⁴ Rathbun (Job³ Joseph² John¹), who in his 1795 will provided that Prime was to be freed at age 25 "if he behaves himself." There is no further record of him.

The book also contains the gravestone record of Mingo, a "Negro man belonging to Thomas Rathbun" — the son of Thomas⁴ Rathbun (Jonathan³ William² John¹). Mingo died Nov. 11, 1805, aged 82, and is buried in the Millington Churchyard at East Haddam, not far from the graves of Thomas Rathbun and his wife, Sarah (Williams) Rathbun.

Mingo, born about 1723, was owned in 1760 by Thomas' grandfather, Jonathan Rathbun (1688-1773). The slave was left in 1773 to Jonathan's wife, Sarah, who was also a Rathbun, daughter of Thomas and granddaughter of John and Margaret of Block Island. Sarah died in 1798, aged 100, and apparently left the black man to her grandson, Thomas. Mingo was thus a Rathbun slave for most if not all of his 82 years — owned by three generations of Rathbuns.

(continued from page 51)

words, carefully categorized for students through the eighth grade. Today's eighth-graders might be shocked at the words their counterparts had to master 75 years ago — the spelling and definition of plagiarism, desuetude, synecdoche, diapason and herculean, for example.

Sixth graders had to know the difference between a primitive and a derivative word, and to define a radix. Seventh-graders were expected to know the range of prefixes and suffixes, and syllables from the ultimate through the pre-antepenult.

Rathbun felt that words were the basic first step for youngsters, and his book was designed to give them a solid grounding for the tougher courses that lay ahead.

Pleased with the success of his writing and publishing venture, Rathbun returned to the teaching field, and soon became a high school principal. At Edwardsville, Kansas, where he was principal for eight years, he developed one of the nation's earliest basketball programs.

In 1920, he gave up teaching, and moved to Kansas City, where he entered the residential contracting business. For three years, he built homes in the city, then decided to go back into legal work.

He moved to Manhattan, Kansas, where he practiced law for the next 20 years, retiring in 1940 at the age of 67.

Rathbun's mind was too active to remain idle. As a city attorney, he had been frustrated by long delays in tabulating election results from old-fashioned paper ballots, and worked out

plans for an electric voting machine. It was patented in 1951 and purchased by the IBM Corporation.

During his years in rural areas, he had also observed problems in farm machinery and designed several improvements which also were patented.

Rathbun was married in 1903 to Zetta Grace Hester, by whom he had three children — Harold, Mildred and Harlan. Much of the information on his life was provided by Harlan, now an architect in Denver.

Zetta Grace Rathbun died in 1942 and Rathbun was married in 1948 to Maude Alexander.

When he died on Oct. 3, 1953, the Kansas City Star commented: "If there exists an older generation of excellent spellers in Kansas, at least part of the credit rightfully belongs to . . . George D. Rathbun."

(Our thanks to Victor Mastin of Des Moines, Iowa, for bringing the interesting career of George Daniel Rathbun to our attention. We urge all our members to help us find material for similar stories.)

RATHBUN'S GRADED SPELLER.



Containing ten thousand practical words for spelling,
a treatise on ORTHOGRAPHY, and much
practical work for all grades.



GEO. D. RATHBUN,
OTTAWA, KAN.

Published by the Author.

We again warn our members of firms which are making mailings offering books about our family. An organization using the name "Sharon L. Taylor" of Bath, Ohio, is offering "The Amazing Story of the Rathbuns (or Rathbones or Rathburns) in America." Another company, Halbert's Inc., of Bath, Ohio, in a letter signed "Sharon Taylor," is offering "The Complete Registry of the Rathbuns (or Rathbones or Rathburns) in America." Both are charging \$24.95, plus mailing costs. A similar publication has been offered in the past by a company using the name "Beatrice Bayley." The books contain no actual family data, but offer only general genealogical information and a listing of names and addresses culled from telephone books. Families throughout the country are receiving these mass mailings, which are deplored by reputable genealogists.

(continued from page 50)

She finalized the task by proofreading the entire list twice.

Mrs. Dale says the alphabetizing was the longest and most difficult part of the whole job.

"I figure that it took me roughly 140 hours," she says, "I started the week before Christmas and ended the latter part of May. It was and still is fun.

"I worked out the best time to work on it. My husband is a late sleeper and I arise at the crack of dawn. I took advantage of those quiet hours before he arose to do the project, and then forgot about it for the rest of the day. It was ideal — no interruptions or frustrations — because I would rather have been working on this than on something I had to do.

"It was time-consuming, yes, but tedious, never. Perhaps if the subject had been anything but genealogy I might have found it so. I had great enjoyment re-reading the articles, word for word — they are so interesting and well-written. As for the genealogy section, I found a lot of new friends among all those ancestors. By the time I proof-read everything twice, and some parts three times, I got to know the people by heart."

Mrs. Dale volunteered her time for this tremendous job, and our only cost was \$6.60 for the scratch pads and \$29.76 for mailing the results to your editor.

Every member of our Association owes Mrs. Dale a great vote of appreciation for this wonderful project. I want to personally express my appreciation to her for a great service to the Association.

Mrs. Dale's husband, James, is a great-grandson of Sarah Frances⁷ Rathbun (Charles⁶ Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Colonel Benjamin Smith.

Pictures Needed

One of the highlights of our family reunion next August will be a slide show with pictures on the theme "The Family Moves West." We are looking for old photographs of people, houses, farms or anything that helps capture the "flavor" of the mid-1800s. If you have such pictures, please send us a xerox copy so that we can decide if it is suitable. We will pay the cost of making photographic copies of those we can use.

North Carolina Rathbones Unplaced in Family Tree

The largest concentration of Rathbones in the United States today is found in Haywood County, N.C., but we have as yet been unable to unravel their genealogical link to our family tree.

The telephone book for Haywood County lists 84 Rathbone families, mostly in Waynesville, Clyde and Maggie Valley. There is, in fact, a local saying that there are "more Rathbones than Ragweeds" in the area.

The Haywood County Rathbones are apparently descended from a John Rathbone, born before 1760 in Connecticut, according to family tradition.

The first known record of this John Rathbone occurs in a list of Virginia taxpayers in 1782. He appears in Montgomery County tax rolls through 1787, the owner of 120 acres near Bull Run Waters at New River, and 45 acres on the west side of New River.

By 1796, he had moved across the state line into North Carolina, and that year purchased 200 acres on the Caney River, then in Buncomb County, now part of Haywood County. In 1803, he bought another 200 acres in the same area, with his wife Sarah, as a witness.

John Rathbone appears among the North Carolina heads of households in the Federal Censuses of 1800 and 1810, but not in 1820. He may have died by that time, or was living with one of his children.

His widow, Sarah, was living in Yancey County, N.C., in 1850, aged 70, with Nancy Furgerson, aged 46, possibly a daughter. Sarah's birthplace is listed as Virginia.

The names of their children, based on census and other records, shed no clues on the family origin. His probable sons were Andrew, born about 1781; Russell, about 1783; Parnell, about 1785; Jacob, about 1787; Daniel, about 1790; Wesley, about 1799; Christopher, about 1801; William, 1806, and John 1809. A possible daughter, in addition to Nancy, was Alice, who married Jeremiah Furgerson in 1794.

If this mysterious John Rathbone was born in Connecticut, he was almost certainly a descendant of our ancestors,

John and Margaret of Block Island.

There are two Johns in our family tree who are possible candidates: John⁵ Rathbun (John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born April 26, 1742, in Colchester, Conn., who according to Cooley, "married late in life, had no children and died in 1827." We have found no record of him anywhere in New England, and he was not mentioned in the 1766 will of his grandfather, although his brothers were.

John⁶ Rathbun (Amos⁵ John⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 7, 1758, in Colchester, Conn., was not even mentioned by Cooley, although his birth is recorded in Colchester records. He might have gone to sea, never returned to his family and was considered dead. This would explain Cooley's lack of information about him.

Both these theories need further study. Two descendants of the North Carolina Rathbones — Frances Higgins and Margaret Rathburn, both members of our Association — are working on the problem with us.

If any of our members come across any information which might shed light on this mystery, please let me know.

Reunion Held

DESCENDANTS OF OSCAR RATHBUN held a reunion August 11 at the home of Gloria Elizabeth (Rathbun) Rao and her husband, Joseph, in Fairlawn, N.J. Gloria is the daughter of George Daniel¹⁰ Rathbun (Oscar⁹ George⁸ Corbet⁷ Gideon⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). The youngest descendant present was month-old Robert James Harris, born July 10, son of George Daniel's daughter, Doreen, and her husband Scott Avery Harris. The July 6 birth of Heather Catherine O'Connell, daughter of William and Catherine Ann (Sands) O'Connell, was announced. Catherine is the daughter of the late Catherine Mildred Rathbun, daughter of Oscar, and her husband Edgar W. Sands.

(continued from page 53)

married Elizabeth Greg. He was later joined by his younger brother, Richard — the firm being renamed the William and Richard Rathbone Company.

The American cotton trade, begun by their father, had become the bulwark of the family operations, and indeed the leading business of Liverpool. The Rathbones dropped most of the company's other interests to concentrate on cotton imports and again changed the name — to Rathbone Brothers Company in 1824.

Richard Rathbone retired from the business within a few years, but the name Rathbone Brothers has been retained to this day.

The firm prospered for a time, but by the late 1830s, William Rathbone the Fifth began to worry about the future of the American cotton trade. He was deeply concerned over rampant speculation in cotton, and rumors of loose American banking practices.

He considered dropping out of the cotton import business, and toyed with

the idea of entering the fledgling China trade or even selling his ships and opening a cotton mill. He decided, however, that he lacked sufficient capital for such drastic moves.

Rathbone continued in the cotton trade, but became so overcautious that the business began to suffer. His letters of the time reflect his pessimism and indicate the family's financial problems.

In 1840, he wrote his son Samuel that the family business was uncertain "as a means of support," and a year later wrote Samuel, "never has there been a time of less activity and more uncertainty."

Part of the problem may have been Rathbone's growing pre-occupation with politics (he was a justice of the peace and later mayor, in 1837) and municipal affairs in Liverpool. Some of the money problems also resulted, no doubt, from the severe financial panic which swept the United States in the late 1830s and eventually spread to England.

American credit in Britain fell to low levels and the rampant speculation

which Rathbone had so feared did in fact finally drive cotton prices down to their lowest level in 20 years. English mills began laying off workers, and unemployment skyrocketed.

The once-booming Rathbone family business continued to decline and the company did not even clear expenses in 1845.

In this time of crisis, new ideas and bold leadership were needed. William Rathbone the Fifth, then in his fifties, was literally strangling the company with his caution and conservatism.

The task of saving the family enterprises was to fall to his oldest son, William Rathbone the Sixth, then in his early 20s.

(To be continued)

Fear of Woman President Raised by Rathbun of 1837

The Democratic Party's selection of Geraldine Ferraro as vice-presidential nominee has opened the door for a woman to someday be elected President. The following story shows what one of our early cousins nearly 150 years ago thought of such an idea:

Solomon⁵ Rathbun (Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) was a veteran of the Revolutionary War who was living on a farm near the village of Silver Creek, N.Y., in 1837 — the year Queen Victoria ascended to the throne of England.

It was his custom to walk the nearly eight miles into the village several times a year to pick up his pension check and other mail.

One day, he walked to town and stopped first at the home of the local postmaster, who operated the post office in his home. To his amazement, he learned that a new postmaster had been appointed by the newly elected President Martin Van Buren. The job had

gone to a Mrs. Van Duzer, and "Uncle Sol" as Rathbun was called, was directed to her house for his mail.

Rathbun proceeded to Mrs. Van Duzer's house, picked up his mail, then walked over to the local general store, where he joined a group of men lounging around the pot-bellied stove.

He found a vacant chair, sank into it, and sat in deep meditation without saying a word.

Someone asked him why he was so quiet, and Rathbun looked up. "I declare," he said with vehemence, "the King of England is a woman, the postmaster of Silver Creek is a woman, and I declare I am feared that a woman may become president of the United States."

The men gathered around the store laughed, and assured him that such an event could never happen.

Rathbun shook his head and said firmly: "If it does, all our seven years struggle in the Revolution was in vain."

Father-Son Confrontation Is Clarified

In our story of Valentine W. Rathbun (Oct. 1981 and Jan. 1982), we told how Valentine had struck one of his sons on the head with a hickory staff during a confrontation with leaders of the Shaker Society in 1783.

We had speculated that the son was Reuben Rathbun, who remained with the Shakers and became an active leader after his father had renounced them. Reuben later left the Shakers and became reconciled with his father.

We have now learned, from an 1816 Shaker pamphlet, that the son was Valentine Rathbun Jr., who remained a Shaker until his death. The son, his head bleeding from the blow, seized the staff from his father and hurled it into a fire.

Our thanks to James and Beatrice Rathbun of Nash, Texas, who visited the Shaker Village at Hancock, Mass. (near Valentine's home) last February and uncovered this new information as well as other interesting items of Rathbun connection with the Shakers.

Genealogy: The Fifth Generation in America

99. BENJAMIN⁵ RATHBUN (Samuel⁴ Jonathan³ William² John¹), born in March 1766 at Canterbury, Conn. he served in the Revolutionary War, and on Jan. 28, 1790, at Canterbury, married Naomi Stevens, born Dec. 16, 1769, daughter of John and Ruth (Adams) Stevens. They moved to Vermont by 1800, living at Shaftsbury and later Orwell, and then about 1825 to Johnsburg, N.Y. He was living in 1840 at Chester, Warren Co., N.Y. He is probably the Benjamin Rathbun, "formerly of Clarkston (N.Y.)," who died Sept. 29, 1846, at Lockport, N.Y. He may have had a second wife, Eunice Reed, who was living at Clarkston in 1850, aged 68.

CHILDREN

(Probably all by Naomi)

JOHN, born March 3, 1791; probably died young.

?NANCY, born about 1792; married Elijah Russell Feb. 2, 1809.

WALTER, born Aug. 18, 1796; married Lucina _____.

PHOEBE, born about 1804; married Solomon Kingsley.

?SUSAN, born about 1809; married James Kenyon.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

Obadiah

100. WILLIAM⁵ RATHBUN (Obadiah⁴ John³ William² John¹), born Jan. 28, 1744, at Exeter, R.I., and probably married there in the 1770s to a wife whose name is not known and who apparently died soon after their marriage. He then moved to Norwich, Conn., where, on July 9, 1786, he married Mrs. Sarah Greene, a widow, born in the 1750s, parentage unknown. He died at Lisbon probably between 1800 and 1810. Sarah died there March 12, 1840, "upwards of 90."

CHILDREN

(By first wife)

OBADIAH, born about 1780; apparently died young. Mentioned in the 1791

will of his grandfather, Obadiah Rathbun.

(By Sarah)

ANNA, born Dec. 25, 1786; no further information.

DANIEL, born July 22, 1787; married Ramona _____.

ISAAC, born April 3, 1789; probably the "Isaac Rathburn of Connecticut" who died in New Orleans in 1824, aged about 30, most likely a sailor.

THURZA, born June 28, 1790; no further information.

MAHALA, born May 31, 1792; married Samuel Wild, Sept. 28, 1823.

STEPHEN, born May 25, 1794; probably died young.

101. JOSEPH⁵ RATHBUN (Obadiah⁴ John³ William² John¹), born Sept. 22, 1745, at Exeter, R.I., and married there Aug. 17, 1766, Margaret Dawley, born about 1746, daughter of John and Mary (Tripp) Dawley. She apparently died by 1780 and their daughter was reared by relatives. Joseph was the only known Tory member of our family in the Revolutionary War. He was employed as a waggoner by the British Army at Lloyd's Neck, N.Y., in 1781, and in April, 1783, was among a group of Tories who sailed from Long Island to St. Johns, New Brunswick, in the *Union*. In St. Johns, he married about 1784 Elizabeth _____, birth and parentage unknown. Neither of their death dates is known.

CHILDREN

(By Margaret)

JUDITH, born about 1767; married Rufus Joslin by 1790.

(By Elizabeth)

THOMAS, born about 1784; alive in 1818; no further information.

JOSEPH, born Feb. 18, 1794; married Ruth Solding.

WILLIAM HENRY, born about 1796; married (1) Elizabeth Johnson; (2) Susannah Hersey.

OBADIAH, born about 1800; died July

16, 1850, in New Brunswick. No known marriage.

PROBABLY OTHERS.

102. ISAAC⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴⁻³ William² John¹), born about 1753 at Exeter, R.I., and married there Jan. 14, 1776, Mary Eldred, born about 1756, daughter of Samuel Eldred. Isaac died about 1781 at Exeter. Nothing more is known about Mary.

CHILD

PHOEBE, born about 1776; married Stukely Northrup Oct. 4, 1795.

103. JOHN⁵ RATHBUN (John⁴⁻³ William² John¹), born June 8, 1770, at Exeter, R.I., and married there March 3, 1793, Joanna Joslin, born Nov. 8, 1767, daughter of John and Joanna (Andrews) Joslin. They moved about 1795 to Frankfort, Herkimer County, N.Y., after selling their 60-acre farm in Exeter. Joanna died July 24, 1829, at Frankfort, and John married a short time later Susan _____, surname and parentage unknown. They lived briefly at Sandy Creek, Oswego County, N.Y., returned to Frankfort in the 1830s, but then moved by 1849 to Richland, Oswego County, where John died Jan. 9, 1850. Susan's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

RAYMOND COGSWELL, born about 1794; married Susan Veerman.

BETSEY, born about 1798; married John Joslin.

AMY, born about 1800; married Samuel Perrin.

RUTH, born about 1802; married Charles Holdridge.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

(continued on page 60)

(continued from page 59)

104. STEPHEN⁵ RATHBUN (Thomas⁴ Ebenezer³ William² John¹), born Nov. 17, 1750, at Westerly, R.I., and married there March 25, 1779, Elizabeth Taylor, born about 1759, daughter of David and Elizabeth Taylor. He died in Westerly by 1831. Her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

ANNA, born Sept. 14, 1781; no further information.

JOB WILBUR, born June 20, 1784; married Thankful Gavitt.

DAVID TAYLOR, born March 6, 1792; married Hannah (Sims?).

OTHERS, names unknown.

105. JAMES⁵ RATHBUN (Thomas⁴ Ebenezer³ William² John¹), born May 6, 1754, at Westerly, R.I., and married there Sept. 27, 1778, Susannah Clark, born about 1758, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Perry) Clark. He served in the Revolutionary War and was a pensioner in 1835. They were the first settlers, by 1800, in Laurens, Otsego County, N.Y., where Susannah died Jan. 18, 1818. He married about 1819 Polly Babcock, born April 22, 1773, parentage unknown. James died Dec. 17, 1843, at Laurens, and Polly died there April 22, 1844.

CHILDREN

ANNE C., born March 25, 1779; married Joel Grover.

HANNAH PERRY, born Oct. 27, 1782; died Feb. 7, 1788.

JAMES, born May 20, 1786; married (1) Esther Fuller; (2) Mercy Fuller.

HANNAH PERRY, born Aug. 11, 1791; married (?) David Austin.

JOHN HAZARD, born about 1794; married Nancy Cooley.

106. PAUL WILCOX⁵ RATHBUN (Thomas⁴ Ebenezer³ William² John¹), born Dec. 29, 1756, at Westerly, R.I. Little is known of him except that he lived and died in Westerly, probably in the 1820s. He and a Mercy Rathbun, probably his wife, are buried in the Rathbun Cemetery in Westerly. The markers

have long since disappeared. Based on census records, there were probably no children.

107. THOMAS⁵ RATHBUN (Thomas⁴ Ebenezer³ William² John¹), born March 8, 1768, at Westerly. Nothing more is known of him, but he may be the Thomas Rathbun who married Phoebe Clark, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Williams) Clark of Saybrook, Conn.

108. EBENEZER⁵ RATHBUN (Ebenezer⁴ William³ John²), born July 30, 1791, at Westerly, R.I., and was married there about 1815 to a wife whose name is not known. He served in the War of 1812, and died in an accident in April, 1824, at Lyme, Conn., leaving a wife and several children, names uncertain.

CHILDREN

?SAMUEL G., born Sept. 27, 1818; married (1) Clarissa B. Dewey; (2) Maria

?AMY EMILY, born about 1820; married Josiah B. Crosby on Sept. 25, 1843.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

109. CHRISTOPHER⁵ RATHBUN (Ebenezer⁴ William³ John²), born Feb. 13, 1796, at Westerly, R.I., and married about 1819 Pamela Mitchell, born about 1800, parentage unknown. They lived at Lyme, Conn., for a time, but returned by 1830 to Westerly where Pamela died about 1847. He married about 1848 Celia W. Sisson, born in Jan. 1811, daughter of Barney and Mary Sisson. Christopher died in Westerly June 29, 1877, and Celia died there July 3, 1883. According to an 1878 history of Westerly, their home was "near where the Shore Road enters the Post Road."

CHILDREN

SARAH, born Aug. 7, 1820; married Edward Spencer Feb. 2, 1845.

JOSEPH DENNISON, born Oct. 14, 1822; married Sarah Carpenter.

ELISHA KENYON, born April 17, 1824; married Maria Newbury.

FRANCES, born Nov. 2, 1828; married James Amos Kenyon on July 27, 1847.

WILLIAM CLARK, born Aug. 18, 1830; married (1) Emeline Parks; (2) Martha (Burdick) Maine.

JOSEPHINE, born about 1835; probably died young.

JOHN E., born Nov. 1, 1841; married Mary A. Sprague.

110. JAMES NOYES⁵ RATHBUN (Ebenezer⁴ William³ John²), born March 4, 1802, at Westerly, R.I. He is undoubtedly the "Mr. Rathbun," who while gathering hay in 1829 on the farm of James Noyes, "went to turn the horse he had used for haying into the pasture" and "having let down the bars and led the horse through, he was slipping off the bridle when he was struck by lightning and was instantly killed. He fell across the bars without a struggle, his face almost blackened by the effect of the electrical current. No wound or scratch was found on his person." There is no record of marriage or children.

111. WILLIAM⁵ RATHBUN (Ebenezer⁴ William³ John²), born about 1815 at Westerly, R.I., and married there about 1837 Mary Ann Blivin, born about 1813, parentage unknown. He died at Westerly by 1880, when Mary was living there with her son, Ebenezer. Her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

See Correction 06-2 p 25 (Barber)

ANNA MARIA, born in Dec. 1837; married _____ Greene.

EBENEZER, born Oct. 30, 1844; married Susan Idella **Barbara**.

SARAH A., born in 1847; married (?) Noyes Clark Feb. 11, 1868.

112. SAMUEL⁵ RATHBUN (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³ John²), born Oct. 10, 1764, at Exeter, R.I., and moved with his parents as a boy to Petersburg, Rensselaer County, N.Y. He married by 1790 a wife whose name is unknown and who apparently died young. He was married again to Elizabeth _____, surname and parentage unknown. By 1810, he moved to Norway, Herkimer County, N.Y., where he died April 20, 1842. Samuel is not mentioned by Cooley, and nothing more is known about him.

CHILDREN

SALLY, born about 1790, married Benjamin Baker by 1810.

DAUGHTER, name unknown; married (John?) Vincent.

113. ROBERT⁵ RATHBUN (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), born Sept. 17, 1771, at Exeter, R.I., and moved as a boy with his parents to Petersburg, N.Y. He was married about 1793 to Anna Allen, born Feb. 14, 1777, probably a daughter of Caleb Allen. By 1800, he was in Moravia, Cayuga County, N.Y., where he was elected fence viewer at the first town meeting in 1802. He served during the War of 1812 in Captain Martin's Company of Col. Henry Bloom's 19th N.Y. Regiment, and in 1814 moved to Wayne County, Ohio, settling in Chester Township. He died there April 22, 1822. His wife died April 18, 1834.

CHILDREN

MARY, born April 1, 1794; married Nathan Warner on May 14, 1815.

ELIZABETH, born in 1796; married Benjamin Edmunds.

ROBERT, born March 16, 1798; married Hannah Warner.

SAMUEL, born March 5, 1800; married Elizabeth Edmunds.

ANNA, born in 1802; married Thomas McCulley on Oct. 10, 1832.

CALEB ALLEN, born Jan. 6, 1805; married Mary Edmunds.

114. JONATHAN⁵ RATHBUN (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), born Aug. 11, 1775, at Exeter, R.I., and moved with his parents as a boy to Petersburg, N.Y. He was married, probably about 1800, to a wife whose name is not known. He served in the War of 1812 in Capt. Jedediah Noble's Company of Col. Philletus Swift's Regiment, and after the war apparently lived for some years in New York State. He moved to Sandusky County, Ohio, where he died March 27, 1841, and is buried in Townsend Township. Nothing more is known of his wife.

CHILDREN

?JEREMIAH, born about 1800; married _____.

EZRA, born about 1806; married Rachel _____.

?ALMERON, born about 1811; married Jane Martin.

FRANCIS WILBUR, born Aug. 23, 1815; married Mary Ann Marsh.

?HARRISON, born about 1819; married Sarah Spencer.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

115. JEREMIAH⁵ RATHBUN (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), born Sept. 10, 1778, at Petersburg, N.Y. He served in the War of 1812 in Captain Joseph Bancroft's Company under General Van Rensselaer and was captured by the British. He moved by 1830 to Scioto County, Ohio, settling in Union Township. He was apparently married twice, but the name of his first wife is not known. His second wife was Margaret _____, surname and parentage unknown. Jeremiah died about 1841 in Scioto County. His second wife was living as late as 1850 in Allamakee County, Iowa.

CHILDREN

(Probably by first wife)

?JEREMIAH, born about 1809; married _____.

(By Margaret)

WILBUR, born about 1821; no further information.

LAURA, born about 1825; married James P. Russell on Aug. 22, 1844.

SARAH, born about 1830; married _____ Ancomb.

OLIVER P., born May 27, 1833; married Mary M. May.

BENJAMIN, born in April, 1836; died unmarried Dec. 3, 1907, in McPherson County, Kansas.

116. WILBUR⁵ RATHBUN (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), born Oct. 11, 1791, at Petersburg, N.Y. His parents died when he was a young boy and he was bound out to a physician. He received a good education and became an engineer. A bridge he built in 1843 was still standing in recent years. He married on Dec. 16, 1813, Esther Case, born June 29, 1791, the daughter of Wheeler and Mercy (Merritt) Case. He served in the War of 1812 as a sergeant in Capt. Elijah Carpenter's Company in Colonel Chris-

topher Bellinger's 27th N.Y. Regiment, and was granted a pension in 1854. He moved by 1820 to Newport, Herkimer County, N.Y., where his wife died on May 9, 1865, and he died on March 16, 1881.

CHILDREN

JANE ELIZA, born April 2, 1815; married Joseph Bushnell on Dec. 4, 1839.

MARY ANN, born Aug. 17, 1816; married Albert Swezey on March 7, 1838.

MERCY ANN, born May 20, 1818; married Joseph R. Coffin on March 21, 1848.

SAMUEL CLARK, born Feb. 26, 1820; married (1) Hannah Zeru Jones, and (2) Mary Thompson.

SON, unnamed, born and died April 25, 1825.

CHARLES WILBUR, born July 29, 1829; died Oct. 11, 1829.

MARIE E. born Oct. 5, 1830; died unmarried Aug. 19, 1868.

117. JOSEPH⁵ RATHBUN (George⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹), born June 25, 1779, in Exeter, R.I., and moved as a young man to Schuyler, Herkimer County, N.Y. He was married about 1803 to a wife whose name is unknown and who probably died about 1810. He was married again about 1816 to Olive _____, surname and parentage unknown. He moved in the 1830s to Russia, in Herkimer County, where he died Dec. 19, 1841. Olive died there March 8, 1847.

CHILDREN

(By first wife)

JOHN, born about 1804; married Sarah _____.

?MERCY, born about 1806; married Andrew Eddy.

WILLIAM, born about 1809; married Mary Ann (Meyer) Wilcox.

(By Olive)

JOSEPH, born April 8, 1817; married Dorothy Mykel.

GEORGE, born about 1819; married Nancy _____.

JEREMIAH, born about 1824; married Catherine _____.

(To be continued)

Block Island May Secede

Block Island, R.I., the home of our ancestors and the site of our first family reunion last year, has been making the news in recent months.

Nearly 200 of the island's 620 year-round residents attended an emergency town council meeting in June and voted to secede from Rhode Island unless the state grants them authority to control the growing number of "mopeds" — little motor scooters — used by tourists.

Since 1970, when the first moped rental shop opened, the problem has grown annually. There are now five rental agencies leasing 500 of the gas-powered scooters to many of the nearly 15,000 summer visitors to the island.

Past attempts to control the problem have been struck down in state courts, and the islanders have now asked for a state referendum on the question of giving the town authority to control the number of mopeds on the island.

The mopeds, claim the Block Islanders, shatter the island's peaceful atmosphere, tear up the beaches, and cause accidents — 78 of them last year.

Both Connecticut and Massachusetts have expressed interest in acquiring Block Island should secession ever occur.

Corrections

Two errors in genealogical numbering in past issues have been pointed out by Mrs. Alice Phillips of Marcola, Ore. In the July 1982 issue on page 38, Mrs. Ellen Coates' ancestry should read: (Jacob⁷ Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). In the Jan. 1983 issue, on page 16, H. Dickenson Rathbun's ancestry is: (Newell⁸ Henry⁷ John⁶ Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Queries

WANTED — Information on Dorcas Rathbun, born about 1827 in New York; married James Bierce in 1846 and Russell Chubbuck in 1864, and died in 1888 in Van Buren County, Mich.

WANTED — Information on William Rathbun who married Lena Miller and had a son, Clarence Albert, born in 1908 in Goodgunder, Minn. Clarence married Margaret Fisher.

WANTED — Information on Hugo Rathbun, born in Cedar Mills, Minn., married Lilian Edna Hill. They had daughters, Ruth Edna and Leone Opal, born in 1939 and 1941 in Stearns Co., Minn.

WANTED — Information on David Rathbun, born about 1824 in New York; and married Mary _____, and living in 1880 in North Hartford, Conn., with her and children named Henry, Charles, Mary and Jane.

WANTED — Information on William Rathbun, born in April 1845, in Pennsylvania; married Sarah _____ about 1868, and was living in Wellsville, N.Y., in 1900.

New Data

Perry T. Rathbone has sent us a copy of the 1807 will of his ancestor, Joshua⁴ Rathbun (Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), of Colchester, Conn., which adds to information on Joshua's family. He died between March 13, 1807, when he made the will, and May 22, 1807, when it was probated, and had a second wife, previously unknown, named Abigail. The will mentions only four daughters, Elizabeth Ransom, Tabitha Holmes, Sarah Chamberlain and Anna Holmes, eliminating the theory that his daughter, Lucy, married Joshua Ransom and died in 1819 (Vol. 3, No. 4, page 61). Lucy presumably died young. It was possibly Elizabeth who married Joshua Ransom. Also, it appears that the daughter, Tabitha, was not first married to a Treadway, as reported by Cooley. Two of her daughters married Treadways, causing Cooley's confusion.

Answers

Vol. 1, No. 1, Page 16—Alvah Rathbun, born June, 1813, in New York, was the oldest son of Samuel⁶ Rathbun (Samuel⁵ Nathaniel⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹) and Elizabeth Carroll.

Vol. 1, No. 1, Page 16—Ezra Rathbun, born about 1806, was living in 1860 in Vermillion County, Ill. In addition to children named Everett, Elizabeth and Napoleon, he had a son, Andrew, born about 1853. Our thanks to Mrs. Alice Phillips for this data. Although proof is lacking, Ezra was probably the son of Jonathan⁵ Rathbun (Jeremiah⁴ Joseph³⁻² John¹).

Vol. 1, No. 1, Page 16—Raymond C. Rathbun, born in 1794 in Rhode Island, was the son of John⁵ Rathbun (John⁴⁻³ William² John¹) and Joanna Joslin. He appears in early census records as Cogswell Rathbun, apparently his middle name. His wife was Susan Veerman.

Vol. 1, No. 3, Page 48—Walter Clark Rathbun was the son of Thomas⁴ Rathbun (Thomas³⁻² John¹) and Mary (Rogers) Clark.

Vol. 4, No. 2 — Myrtle Rathbun, who was adopted by a McIntire family in Minnesota a century ago, was Minnie Myrtle Rathbun, daughter of Albert Eber⁸ Rathbun (Eber⁷ John⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). She was born April 25, 1885, in Brainerd, Minn. Her mother died six months later. The father apparently put his children out for adoption and moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he was married again.

Vol. 2, No. 4 — Augustus⁸ Rathbone (Stephen⁷ Joshua⁶⁻⁵⁻⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹) died Feb. 26, 1909, in Santa Clara County, Calif. His wife, Hannah E. Chase, died sometime between 1900 and 1909. Our thanks to Research Director Rob Rathbun.

See Corrections 05-2 p 30
Vol. 3, No. 4 — The wife of Arthur E.⁸ Rathbun (George⁷ Gideon⁶ Allen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) was Mary Ann Bodycoat, not "Rodycoat." Our thanks for this correction to their descendant, Roy D. Rathbun.

People

KATHREN PRENTISS, of Colorado Springs, Colo., was graduated in June from the Word of Life Bible Training Center after a three-year course and has been licensed as Rev. Kathren Prentiss. Her mother, Westa Joy (Rathbone) Hunt, has also been graduated and licensed. Mrs. Hunt is the daughter of West Rufus⁹ Rathbone (Rufus⁸ George⁷ Rufus⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

CHARLES RATHBONE, 49, of Morristown, Tenn., was shot to death early this summer in a fight with his brother, Clyde, 57, over "who had done the most for their father," according to newspaper accounts. Clyde and wife Virginia, 52, were both injured in the shoot-out, which took place at the home of the father, Homer Rathbone, near Hot Springs, N.C.

GEORGE AND LINDA RATHBUN of Evergreen, Colo., made a backpacking trip through the Colorado mountains in early August, and visited the old mining village of Rathbun, now a ghost town. They reported: "It is located in a stupendously beautiful setting just below the continental divide at Gray's Peak. A few houses are still standing and the old gold mine is mostly intact. The mountainside above the town is still denuded of trees where the avalanche swept down to wipe out the town."

ROBERT RATHBUN, of Bowling Green, Ky., our research director, has traveled far and wide this year in his search of Rathbun records. He has visited Minneapolis, Minn.; Oklahoma City, Okl; Atlanta, Ga., and Canada.

PEARL (RATHBUN) MEISNER and her husband, Lester Meisner, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last month at their home in Redmond, Washington. They were married Sept. 2, 1924. Mrs. Meisner, 78, is the daughter of Charles William⁸ Rathbun (Byron⁷ James⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Grace E. (Lyons) Rathbun. One of their children is our member, Barbara J. Bulmer.

ALICE AND LLOYD PHILLIPS report the births of two more great-grandchildren — Travis David Millsap, born Feb. 25, 1984, son of Michael and Teresa (Lane) Millsap, and Garret Cole Millsap, born July 3, 1984, son of Gary and Darceil (Lane) Millsap. Teresa and Darceil are daughters of Darrell and Marceil (Phillips) Lane. Alice Phillips is the daughter of Jessie Aurelia⁹ Rathbun (Thomas⁸ Alonzo⁷ Thomas⁶ Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹) and Clarence Ivon Cox.

MICHAEL RATHBUN of Springfield, Mo., one of our newest members, reports the marriages this year of three of his cousins, all granddaughters of David Brinnon⁸ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), of Fort Smith, Ark. Sherril Lee Rathbun, daughter of Jack Rathbun, married Adam John Blalock on Aug. 8. Laura Elizabeth Rathbun, daughter of David, married Timothy Scott Thompson on June 16. Rina Shannon, daughter of Loren, was to marry John Love on Oct. 6.

ELLEN G. BROWN is seeking contact with other descendants of Joshua⁴ Rathbun (Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and especially his son, Joshua Jr. She is preparing a book on this branch of the family. Write her at 463 Country Club Drive, Atlantis, Fla. 33462.

JAMES ROBERT STITES, one of our members, has been listed in the latest edition of "Who's Who in the Midwest." The listing is in recognition of his 28-year career in engineering, and other achievements including his Federal and military service during World War II. Jim and his wife, Maxine, and son, James Jr., live in Lee's Summit, Mo. Another son, Marc, lives in Dallas, Texas. Jim is the son of Carolyn⁹ (Rathbone) Stites Green (Howard⁸ Elijah⁷ Amasa⁶ Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He is supervisory engineer for a branch of the National Weather Service.

CORRECTION—Merle Cox is the son, not grandson, (People, April 1984) of Jessie Aurelia (Rathbun) Cox.

K. HAYBRON ADAMS has been appointed development librarian for the genealogical collection at the Brigham Young University Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Haybron is the grandson of Martha Ann⁸ Rathbun (John⁷ Ruel⁶ David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and William Payne Haybron.

H. DICKINSON RATHBUN has been named chairman of the board of directors of the Christian Science Church in America. Now a resident of Boston, he formerly lived in the Washington, D.C. area where he managed the office of the Christian Science Committee on Publications. He was named to the board of directors in 1982, and moved to the Boston area with his wife, Margaret. Dick is the son of Newell Chandler⁷ Rathbun (Henry⁶ John⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

JOY ROBINSON, one of our English cousins, is recovering nicely from a mild stroke suffered in June. She writes that "England is not a happy place at present and we may well be in for a grim winter, with serious industrial unrest and possibly power cuts and other shortages."

Births

BORN—May 23, 1984, at Washington, D.C., Emma Eureka Hamilton, daughter of Andrew Hamilton and Eliza (Rathbone) Hamilton. Mrs. Hamilton is the daughter of our member, Perry T.⁹ Rathbone (Howard⁸ Peter⁷ Elijah⁶ Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹) and Eureka C. (deCosson) Rathbone. Eliza is assistant curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery. She and her husband have one other child, Claudia, aged four.

BORN—May 22, 1984, Nathan Daniel Rathbun, son of John D. and Connie (Grimes) Rathbun, and the third grandchild of our members, Rev. William E. and Dorothy (Newcomer) Rathbun of Des Moines, Iowa. Rev. Rathbun is the son of Elmer Albert⁹ Rathbun (Marshall⁸ George⁷ Edmund⁶ Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and Mabel Ruth Buchner.

Obituaries

DIED—March 24, 1984, Clara Margaret (Morley) Rathbun, 74, at Stonington, Conn. She was the wife of our member, Herbert Warren⁹ Rathbun Jr. (Herbert⁸ Warren⁷ Calvin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹). Other survivors include three sons, David M., one of our members; Lawrence, and Herbert Warren III, and four grandchildren. Mrs. Rathbun attended our reunion last year at Block Island.

DIED—June 17, 1984, at Tallahassee, Fla., Robert Dewey Rathbun, aged 51. He was the son of Conrad⁸ Rathbun (Hallet⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Fannie (McDearmid) Rathbun. He is survived by his wife, Gloria (Rogers) Rathbun; one son and a daughter; one brother, Rev. William Thomas Rathbun, who conducted the funeral services, and seven sisters — Mable Brown, Maggie Tomlin, Ella Stone, Anna Melton, Fannie Smith, Jacqueline Hammock and Loretta Avis.

DIED—June 4, 1984, at Eau Claire, Wisc., Helen J. (Rathbun) Swanson, aged 74. She was the daughter of Roy E. and Nettie (Anderson) Rathbun, of Douglas County, Wisconsin. Survivors include a brother, Joseph Rathbun, of Chetek, Wisc.; her husband, Adolph Swanson; two sons, Allen and Dean, and two grandchildren. Does anyone know the ancestry of this family?

DIED—June 30, 1984, at Tonganoxie, Kansas, Lucile Elizabeth (Rathbone) Lenahan, 99, daughter of John Cass⁷ Rathbone (John⁶ William⁵ Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹) and Mary Chancellor. She is survived by four sons and a daughter, Mrs. Rhoda Vogel, one of our members. Mrs. Lenahan's husband, Frank W., is deceased.

DIED—Sept. 16, 1984, at Charlestown, R.I., Helen C. (Rounds) Rathbun, 90, the wife of Harold L. Rathbun. He is the son of William⁸ Rathbun (Henry⁷ Martin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). She is also survived by a daughter, Marilyn Greene; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Our New Members

Mary Callison
San Diego, Calif.

Myrtle E. Davenport
Spring Valley, Minn.

Mason and Eva Davis
Mesa, Ariz.

Marie Hiatt
St. Paul, Minn.

Michael W. Hochgraf
Lansdale, Pa.

Nellie (Rathbun) Hooghkirk
Killingworth, Conn.

Susan Morrison
Tucker, Ga.

Eileen Owens
Monmouth, Ill.

Eldon Rathburn
Ottawa, Canada

Ethel Rathbone
Warwick, R.I.

Lee F. Rathbun
Visalia, Calif.

Linda Rathbun
Boulder, Colo.

Robert M. Rathbun
Houston, Texas

Robert N. Rathbun
Anchorage, Alaska

Richard R. Rathbun
Garden Grove, Calif.

Joan Woodger
Norwalk, Conn.

DIED—Aug. 29, 1984, at Morristown, Ohio, Dulcie Riebel, 79, daughter of Ursula (Rathbun) Martin and granddaughter of Amos⁸ Rathbun (Seren⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹). Survivors include her husband, Robert Riebel; one son, Joseph Young, and two daughters, Jean Ann (Mrs. Charles Bradbury) and Mary Jane (Mrs. Bill Kitchen). Mrs. Riebel was formerly married to Albert Young who is deceased.

DIED—March 12, 1984, Anna Thersea (Johnson) Rathbun, 85, of Groton, Conn. She was the widow of Capt. Benjamin Franklin⁹ Rathbun (Benjamin⁸ William⁷ Benjamin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹). Survivors include two sons, Capt. Benjamin F. Rathbun Jr., one of our members, and John A. Rathbun; eight grandchildren, and a sister.

DONALD RATHBUN, who was one of 84 men killed when an oil rig sank off the coast of Nova Scotia in February 1982 (see our issue of Oct. 1982), has been identified as a son of Earl¹⁰ Rathbun (George⁹⁻⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) of East Greenwich, R.I. Donald was 30 at the time of his death, and left a wife, Nancy, as well as his parents, a brother and sister.

WE THANK the following members who have sent in family records and other data in recent months: James and Beatrice Rathburn, Margery Foss, Bettye Rathbone, Donald L. Rathbun, Betty Bonawitz, Jim Chivers, Ivalee Horne, Roger H. Rathburn, Lorena Yount Smith, Frank E. Rathbun, Jack and Phyllis Rathbun, Wayne and Mildred Rathbun, Neil Rathbun, Susie Carter Baston, Roberta Buckley, Richmond J. Rathbone, Victor and Ruth Streeter, Perry Rathbone, Glenn E. Rathburn, Mildred Rathburn, Fred C. Rathbun, John Bowen, Grove A. Rathbun and Charles Murray.

Also, K. Haybron Adams, Helen M. Rathbun, Roy D. and Anna May Rathbun, Jean Grace, Rev. Ray Martin, Ellen G. Brown, Glenn E. Rathbun, Rosma Limbeck, Jesse Rathbun, Frances Col-lord, Rachel Laurgaard, Jeanne Chubbuck, George and Linda Rathbun, Barbara Bulmer, Rhoda Durkin, Kris Ring, Mike Rathbun and Beverly Gillette.

This ends our fourth year. Many thanks to all who made our *Historian* possible.