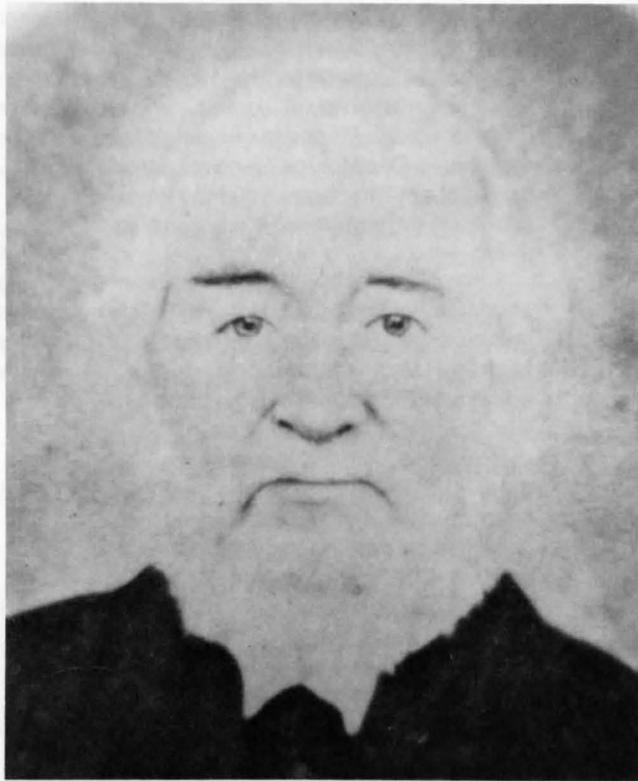


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

# FAMILY HISTORIAN



Joseph Sheffield Rathbun  
1780-1850

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

## Letter From the Editor

Hazel and I returned Dec. 28 from a three-week visit to England, where we spent the Christmas holidays with her family. It was her first trip to her native land in seven years. We enjoyed a few hours with Joy Robinson, one of our English cousins, and made a two-day trip to Liverpool, where we visited the old Rathbone estate, Greenbank, now part of the University of Liverpool.

We had a super Christmas and I hope all of you enjoyed the holidays as much as we did.

As you will see in the accompanying financial report, we ended 1984 with 405 members, a truly impressive number. Unfortunately, only 340 have renewed as I write this. We are hopeful that many of them will still send in their renewal checks.

The index to our first three years' *Historians* is included with this mailing, and I again want to express my thanks and admiration to Margaret Dale for her many hours of dedicated labor on the project.

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

(703) 278-8512

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

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Also in this month's mailing are registration forms, hotel reservation cards and general information on our upcoming reunion at Des Moines, Iowa, in August. I look forward to meeting many of you there. We are hoping for an even bigger turnout than the nearly 200 cousins who attended our first reunion in 1983 at Block Island. Iowa's central location should make it more convenient for many members, especially in the Midwest.

Why not include the reunion in your vacation plans this year?

We are still looking for pre-1900 family pictures, of people, homes, farms, businesses etc. for use in our slide presentation in Des Moines. Send me xerox copies of any old photos you may have, and I will let you know if we can use them.

Some of our research assistants have been doing a fine job of gathering information for us. Special thanks are due to Mildred Rathburn of Johnstown, N.Y., and Frank E. Rathbun of Coventry, R.I., who have sent batches of material from libraries and historical societies in their area, and to Rob Rathbun, who has been traveling far and wide, collecting genealogical data on early family members.

I again encourage all members to join in this research task by visiting libraries and historical societies in their areas to see what information may be available. It is not difficult, and it can be fun.

As you know, our *Historian* is published each January, April, July and October. We try to have it in the mail by the middle of each publication month, but problems do arise and we are sometimes a little late.

Let me take this opportunity to give special thanks to my wife, Hazel; my son, Frank, and his wife, Janice. Without their help, I could not keep the *Historian* going.

Thank you all for your continued support. Our Association has grown only with your help.

*Frank*

## Back Issues Of Historian Still Available

A number of members have asked about the cost of obtaining past issues of the *Historian*, either to complete their sets or to replace lost or damaged copies.

Since press runs are never exact, we are very short on some issues and can sell them only in sets. We cannot sell single copies of them. We will, however, make xerox copies. There are varying quantities of other issues on hand. We have settled on the following price schedule, based on the supply:

### (Sets)

All issues, 1981-84 .....	\$65
All issues, 1981 .....	22
All issues, 1982 .....	20
All issues, 1983 .....	15
All issues, 1984 .....	15

### (Single copies)

Jan. 1981 (xerox) .....	\$ 4
April 1981 .....	5
July 1981 .....	2
Oct. 1981 (xerox) .....	4
Jan. 1982 .....	5
April 1982 (xerox) .....	4
July 1982 (xerox) .....	4
Oct. 1982 (xerox) .....	4
Jan. 1983 .....	4
April 1983 (xerox) .....	4
July 1983 .....	4
Oct. 1983 .....	4
Jan. 1984 .....	3
April 1984 .....	4
July 1984 .....	4
Oct. 1984 .....	4

Members interested in completing their sets should consider doing it soon, for when the issues now in short supply are gone, it will be impossible to obtain complete collections of originals. It is unlikely that they will ever be reprinted.

Complete sets of the original 1890s Rathbone Family Historian are today exceedingly rare. Most exist only in libraries, and those still owned by family members are valuable family heirlooms.

# Plans Nearly Completed For 1985 Reunion in Iowa

Plans are shaping up for our second national family reunion next August 1-4 in Des Moines, Iowa. Theme of the gathering will be "The Family Moves West," honoring our ancestors' roles in the huge migration of the 1800s.

Aiding us in coordinating plans for the reunion are our cousins, Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun of Des Moines.

Enclosed with this issue of the *Historian* are hotel reservation cards, registration forms and preliminary information.

Headquarters for the reunion will be the Best Western Airport Inn, a modern hotel conveniently located both for those driving and flying to Des Moines.

We will plan to open the reunion on Thursday, Aug. 1, with a registration period from 4 to 6 p.m. in the hotel, followed by a two-hour "get-acquainted" reception, with light snacks and a cash bar, ending about 8 p.m. The rest of the evening will be free for dinner and conversation.

On Friday, Aug. 2, we are planning a

genealogy seminar at the hotel from 10 a.m. until noon for those interested in learning more about research techniques. The seminar will be led by K. Haybron Adams, one of our members, who is genealogical librarian at Brigham Young University. Questions will be welcomed.

In the afternoon, we will again set aside time for a family heirloom display, which proved so popular at our 1983 Block Island reunion. All cousins planning to join us in Des Moines are urged to bring family heirlooms for the display — pictures, albums, bibles, documents, letters, small antiques — any items which have family significance.

On Friday evening, we will gather in the hotel's private dining room for dinner and our "official" reunion program. Cousin John Bowen is planning a slide presentation of pictures and maps depicting the reunion theme — "The Family Moves West." We are still seeking appropriate pictures of pre-1900 Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns, their homes, farms, shops, livestock — anything to help present a picture of our family in 19th century America.

We are also hoping to present some songs by a Rathbun Family Chorus, led by Rev. Ray Martin, who did such a fine job at the Block Island reunion.

A full-day tour in chartered busses is on the agenda for Saturday, Aug. 3. We will begin with a short stop in the little town of Rathbun, south of Des Moines, which was named for one of our early cousins, and then proceed to nearby Rathbun Lake, one of the largest man-made lakes in the country. Built only 15 years ago, it is now a beautiful and popular recreation center. A lakeside picnic lunch will be served.

On the way back to Des Moines, we hope to arrange a tour of a working Iowa farm, complete with livestock, barns and cornfields.

Saturday night will be "free" time, but for those interested, the National Balloon Races will be going on that evening

and will offer an unusual attraction for reunion participants.

Following a precedent set at Block Island, we will sell reunion T-shirts, at cost, as souvenirs of the occasion.

To cover the basic reunion costs — snacks for the reception, the Friday night dinner, busses for the tour, the picnic at Rathbun Lake, and other miscellaneous costs, we will charge a fee, payable in advance, for each person planning to attend. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation and housing costs, and all meals except the Friday night dinner and Saturday's picnic lunch.

As on Block Island, we will distribute lists of all members in attendance, each with their line of descent, so that it will be easier to seek out cousins in the same branch of the family tree.

So, plan now to join us in Des Moines and meet your cousins, close and distant, from throughout this great land of ours.

Hotel rooms in Des Moines will probably be scarce, due to the balloon races, so return your reservations cards to the hotel early, and send us your registration forms and checks as soon as possible.

Information packets will be sent later to all who send us their reservation forms, with final reunion details, brochures and other information.

## Financial Statement

### 1984 Income

Memberships (405 @ \$15) . . . . .	\$6,075
Sale of past <i>Historians</i> . . . . .	1,360
Bank account interest . . . . .	276

**Total . . . . . \$7,711**

### 1984 Expenses

Printing of <i>Historian</i> . . . . .	\$3,892
Printing of 1981-83 Index . . . . .	2,000
Computer mailing costs . . . . .	1,523
Postage . . . . .	415
Research . . . . .	302
Supplies . . . . .	198
Typewriter repair . . . . .	92
Photographs . . . . .	63
Telephone . . . . .	46
Miscellaneous . . . . .	39

**Total . . . . . \$8,570**

**Carryover from 1983 . . . \$2,864**

**Balance on Hand . . . . . \$2,005**

## Tallest Rathbun?

Possibly the tallest Rathbun who ever lived was Isaac Rathbun (1810-1880, a son of Dyer<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Isaac was six feet seven inches tall, and weighed 260 pounds. He was a railsplitter and lumberman in early life, and later became a physician. Does anyone know of a larger family member?

# Exeter, R.I., Was Home Of Many Early Rathbuns

*During the third and fourth decades of the 1700s, the third generation of Rathbuns living on Block Island decided, largely for economic reasons, to leave the island where their grandparents, John and Margaret Rathbun, had pioneered in 1661.*

*Moving across to the mainland, they settled in towns along the coast — Stonington, Groton, Lyme and Greenwich in Connecticut, and Newport, Westerly and North Kingstown in Rhode Island.*

*For some reason, the largest migration was to the western section of North Kingstown, later to be known as Exeter. This little town by the middle 1700s had the greatest concentration of Rathbuns in America.*

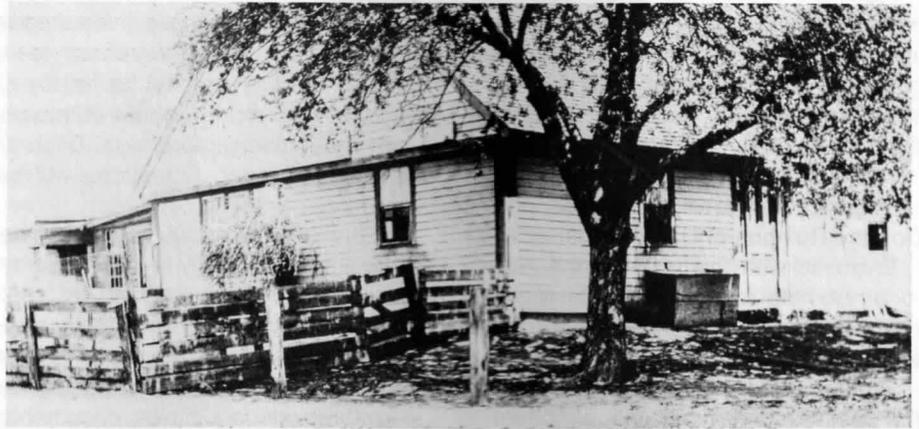
The town of Exeter, named for Exeter, England, was created in March 1743, by the Rhode Island Colonial Assembly. Exeter was, and still is, bounded on the west by Connecticut, on the north by West Greenwich, on the east by North Kingstown, and on the south by Hopkinton, Richmond and South Kingstown.

Most of the early Rathbuns settled in the northwestern section of the town, their farms clustered around the approaches to Escoheag Hill, which reaches its highest point in West Greenwich.

Probably the first of our family to settle in the area was John Rathbun III (1693-1752), son of John<sup>2</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>1</sup>) who bought 420 acres in 1725. He was admitted a freeman of North Kingstown in May 1732, described as "of Nesquaheague," as the Escoheag Hill area was then called.

John encouraged three younger brothers to join him. He sold 50 acres to 21-year-old Nathaniel in 1728, and in 1731 sold 60 acres to Benjamin, aged 30, and 80 acres to Thomas, aged 22. The names of these three brothers appear on the freeman list for 1736.

Other Rathbuns in the area by the early 1730s were Thomas, son of Samuel<sup>2</sup>, John, son of William<sup>2</sup>, and Joseph, son of John<sup>1</sup>. They were joined in the



*This old picture, probably taken in the 1890s, shows a house possibly built in the late-1700s by John<sup>5</sup> Rathbun, (John<sup>4+1</sup>) in the Escoheag Hill area of Exeter, R. I. It burned down early in this century. Barely visible on the side of the house are two signs: "Postoffice," indicating that one of the early Rathbuns was town postmaster, and "Rathbun Homestead," which shows that it was considered an old Rathbun home at least a century ago.*



*This home, built in 1804 by Joshua Rathbun (1741-1827) on Ten Rod Road in Exeter, R. I., is still standing in good condition. It has been remodeled over the years, but still has the old wide-planked flooring and large kitchen with an oversized fireplace. Joshua and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried a short distance from the house.*

1740s by Thomas, son of Thomas<sup>2</sup>, who bought 290 acres in 1744, and his brother, John, who purchased 161 acres and a "dwelling house" in 1749.

The population of Exeter was recorded in 1749 as 1,103 whites, 63 blacks and eight Indians. The white inhabitants included at least 50 Rathbuns, some five percent of the total.

In 1744, many of Exeter's freemen signed a petition "to the Honorable Governor, Deputy Governor and Council of His Majesty's Colony of Rhode Island," protesting Exeter's assigned share of a special tax levy as "more than our just proportion." They asked that the town's share be reduced in the interest of "justice and equity."

Among the 100 signers were Joseph Rathbun, Joseph Rathbun, Jr., John Rathbun, John Rathbun "ye 3rd" (actually the fourth), Obadiah Rathbun and Nathaniel Rathbun.

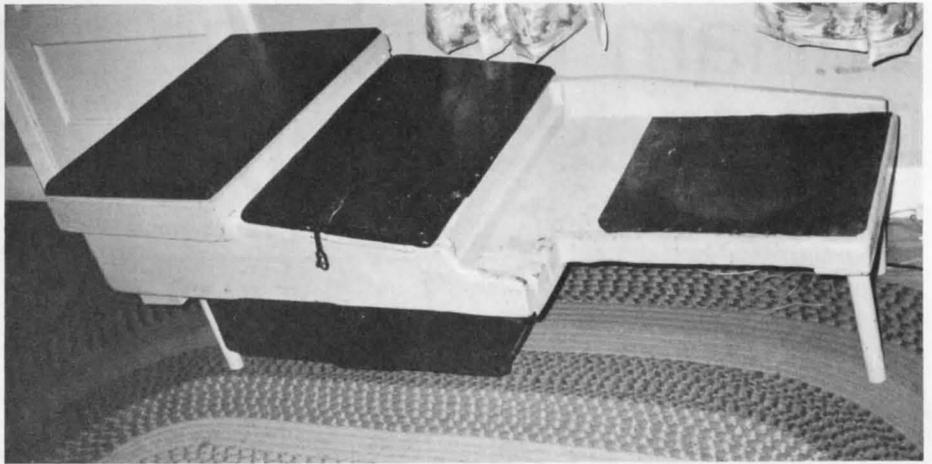
Little is known of the lives of the early Exeter Rathbuns. The area of their homes and farms is now a virtual wilderness — a state-owned tangle of forest, underbrush and vines.

In the 1700s, however, the land was dotted with farmhouses, surrounded by gardens, orchards and pasture. Scattered throughout the wilderness today can still be found the crumbling foundations of houses and barns.

The main thoroughfare through the area was and still is Ten Rod Road, built about 1703, which extends from the Rhode Island-Connecticut line eastward to Wickford on Narragansett Bay. It was so named for its width — 10 rods (160 feet) — designed to allow livestock to graze as they were driven to Wickford for shipping.

From Ten Rod Road, the Escoheag Hill Road climbs northerly to the top of the hill, in West Greenwich. From this road, a network of smaller roads was built to connect the scattered farms. One of the early residents' primary concerns was the maintenance of these roadways, then little more than narrow lanes. The Exeter Town Council regularly assigned residents to keep the roads in passable condition. The names of various Rathbuns appear frequently on these lists.

In 1748, Thomas<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2-1</sup>) was in charge of a "squadron" to "mend highways." Listed as workers on other crews were Joseph<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (Joseph<sup>2</sup>



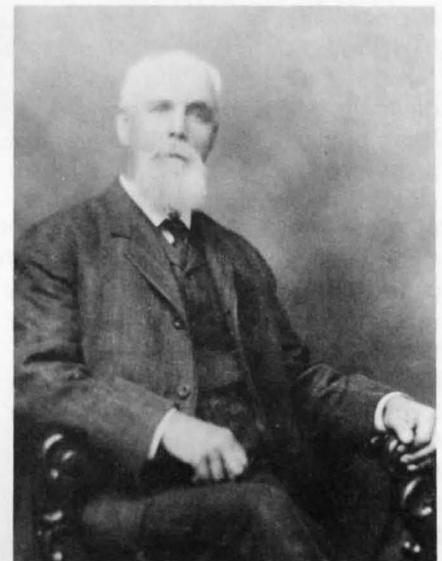
*This ancient cobbler's bench, built more than 200 years ago, was used by Joshua Sheffield Rathbun until his death in 1850, then left to his son John Gardiner Rathbun. John in turn left it in 1889 to his son, Seneca, who willed it 10 years later to his son, Horace. When Horace died in 1948, it was inherited by his nephew, Ernest Rathbun, and is now owned by Ernest's son, Arnold C. Rathbun. It is probably the oldest Rathbun heirloom in existence.*



*Joseph Sheffield Rathbun (1780-1850) was the original owner of the cobbler's bench, and left it to his son, John Gardiner Rathbun.*

John<sup>1</sup>); John Rathbun III and his son John; John<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and his son, Obadiah, and John<sup>3</sup> Rathbun, son of Thomas<sup>2</sup> (John<sup>1</sup>).

In 1761, among the workers assigned to "care for the road from the Bushy Creek Bridge westward to the colony line" were Jonathan Rathbun, supervisor, and his brothers, Gideon, John, Joshua and Edmund (all sons of John III); Benjamin and Thomas Rathbun,



*John Gardiner Rathbun (1810-1889) inherited the cobbler's bench from his father, and left it to his son, Seneca Rathbun.*

sons of John<sup>2</sup>, and Benjamin's son, Benjamin Jr. Also on the list was Alice Rathbun, widow of John III, who presumably was expected to hire someone in her place.

In the early days, dams and water wheels were built along the network of small rivers and streams which meander through the area. They were used

*(Continued on page 10)*

# William Rathbone the Sixth Expands Family Business

*In our last issue, we traced the history of the distinguished Liverpool Rathbones for several centuries, through the early 1800s, when the family's cotton-import business was declining under the leadership of the fifth William Rathbone, born in 1787. In this article, we continue the story of these noteworthy English cousins.*

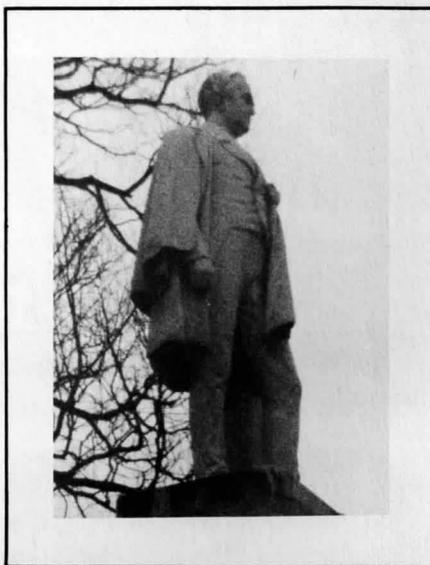
The fifth William Rathbone did not have his father's intellectual power or eloquence, but by all accounts was a man of great courage and generous nature. He was quick-tempered and sharp-tongued, especially when roused by injustice.

In 1812, he married Elizabeth Greg, daughter of Samuel Greg of Quarry Bank near Manchester. Greg was a prosperous cotton-mill owner and a member of the Unitarian Church. For marrying outside his family's Quaker Church, Rathbone was temporarily expelled by the Quakers. He refused to repent his marriage, but was readmitted to the Quaker Church upon promising, tongue in cheek, that he would "never do it again." Later, he and his family left the Quakers for good and became Unitarians.

Rathbone possessed an exuberant personality, abounding energy and great determination. While continuing to run the family business, he turned his attention increasingly to politics and public affairs, serving for a time in the non-elective office of justice of the peace.

Like his father, he earned considerable unpopularity for his outspoken views. He centered his fight against the corruption and bribery in Liverpool's municipal elections. His efforts were successful, and by the 1830s, he had regained his popularity and was elected mayor in 1837.

William, like his forebears, was a genial and charming host. He and his wife made their Greenbank estate a center of social life in Liverpool. Among their frequent visitors were such prominent



Statue of the fifth William Rathbone (1787-1868) in Liverpool

Americans as John Audubon, the famous naturalist; Robert Owen, prominent early socialist, and Dorothea Dix, who led the successful campaign to reform American insane asylums.

Audubon was especially fond of the Rathbones and in his diary frequently commented on his enjoyable visits to Greenbank. He even named a bird for the family — the Rathbone Warbler.

With his many outside interests, Rathbone devoted less and less time to the Rathbone Brothers firm, which in 1842 actually showed a loss of 960 pounds, approximately \$5,000. In that year, his sons, William Rathbone the Sixth and Samuel Greg Rathbone became partners and began the task of rebuilding the business.

During the 1840s, William the Sixth gradually took control, with his father's advice and brother's assistance. He recognized the need for drastic changes in the business, which had deteriorated under his father's fiscally conservative policies.

He decided that the company must expand to survive. "I want to class us

among the swallows rather than the swallowed," he once wrote.

His ideas were often opposed by his more cautious father and brother. Samuel, in fact, accused him of being "too apt to neglect the articles we understand and turn too much of your attention to new and untried paths to profit."

Samuel felt that financial success was meaningless if it meant nothing but hard work and no time for leisure activities.

"We have worked much too hard for either the good of our minds or bodies," he told his brother. "It is all humbug, slaving our constitutions away to leave large fortunes to our children, which will probably only get them into grief and debauchery."

William was not to be dissuaded from his goal of expanding the company. He proved to be a man of extraordinary ability. The company's total capital was less than 40,000 pounds (\$200,000) when he became a partner. Less than 30 years later, under his leadership, the firm was worth 600,000 pounds (\$3,000,000)!

To accomplish this, William almost single-handedly converted the business into a world-wide operation. The company's agents, serving as commission merchants, bought and sold goods for clients in the United States, China, Egypt, South America, India, Japan, the Philippines, Java, Cuba, Italy, France and other areas.

William was particularly interested in the American trade, and during the 1840s made three trips to the United States. On a visit in 1841, he was a guest of President John Tyler at the White House, and later wrote:

"At Washington, the President received us most kindly. He had no wife and the honours of the White House were done by a charming Boston lady, the daughter-in-law of Daniel Webster, then secretary of state."

In 1851, Rathbone sent a brother-in-law to New York to establish a full-time agency in the United States. Their American profits doubled in six years,



*The fifth William Rathbone (1787-1868), pictured a few years before his death.*



*The sixth William Rathbone (1819-1902), pictured about 1860, when he was leading the family business to success.*

and for a time accounted for half of the company's earnings.

He also leaped whole-heartedly into the then-new China trade, opening branches at Canton and Shanghai. By 1869, Rathbone Brothers was the largest importer of tea in London.

Rathbone was quick to adapt to changing trends, and even added new ideas of his own — bonuses and profit-sharing for employees, for example.

In 1866, when the first trans-Atlantic cable was laid, the Rathbone company was among its first users.

William Rathbone's Quaker upbringing had given him a strong moral code: he was one of the few merchants operating in China who refused to deal in the lucrative opium trade.

He also had a "profound horror" of what he called "pecuniary paralysis, or the rich man's disease," which he defined as a "dislike to spend on others, which by a strange moral paradox seems to grow with the growth of wealth."

From the beginning of his career, he contributed 10 percent of his income to helping others, and increased the percentage as his income rose.

"My feeling with a merchant," he wrote, "was that when he got over 200,000 pounds (\$1,000,000 in that day), he was too rich for the Kingdom of Heaven."

He and other members of the family looked to business as a means of raising money to pursue other interests. By the 1860s, William's "other interests" began taking priority over the family business, following his father's pattern twenty-five years earlier.

In 1859, during his first wife's final sickness, he hired a nurse to care for her in their home. He was so impressed with the nurse's work that, after his wife's death, he decided to institute a system of home nursing for the poor in Liverpool.

He hired the woman who had nursed his wife to help him launch the program, but in one month she was so appalled by

the misery she encountered that she wanted to quit. He persuaded her to stay on, and the program became a success. In 1861, with the help of Florence Nightingale, he founded the Liverpool Training School and Home for Nurses (now the William Rathbone Staff College of the Queen's Institute). Within four more years, 18 nursing homes had been established.

Rathbone also established what he called "Domestic Missions," a special ministry to bring religious teaching to the poor in their own homes.

During the Irish potato famine in 1846-47, he took charge of distributing food for the victims, using money he helped raise throughout the world — including some \$75,000 in New England alone.

During the American Civil War, he refused to deal in cotton shipped from the southern states, feeling he would be helping the cause of slavery.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Long Lives Are A Tradition In Many Lines of Our Family

The recent death of 101-year-old Ernest Rathbun of Cranston R.I. (See July issue), and last year of James Colburn Rathbone at 102, highlights a tradition of longevity in many branches of our family tree.

It has been claimed that medical advances in the past century have drastically increased the average life span of Americans, but this claim is somewhat misleading. Medical technology has increased the average age at death only by sharply reducing the number of deaths during infancy and childhood. Based on our family records, the life span of those who reach maturity has really not increased that much.

The average man of 45 in the 1800s could expect to live to age 69, while today's 45-year-old can expect to reach 73 — an increase of only four years.

A look at our family tree shows that our early ancestors in America did far better than average, and in fact often exceeded the traditional life span of 70 years.

John Rathbun, our first immigrant ancestor, lived to be about 74, while his wife, Margaret (Acres) Rathbun, died sometime after she was 83. The exact date of her death is not known.

Their five sons died, respectively, at 66, 68, 76, 83 and 85 — an average of nearly 76. Their two daughters whose death dates are known died at 57 and 78.

The 17 grandsons of John and Margaret who lived to maturity and whose death dates are known had an average age at death of over 64. The oldest of these grandsons reached 85, two died at 83, and seven were in their seventies at death. One granddaughter, Sarah, daughter of Thomas, lived seven weeks past her 100th birthday, the longest lived Rathbun of that era. She was born April 1, 1698, and died May 21, 1798, missing by only 17 months the unique record of living in three different centuries.

In the fourth generation, of 46 great-grandsons who lived to maturity and



*James Colburn Rathbone*  
1881–1983



*Ernest Charles Rathbun*  
1882–1984

whose death dates are known, six reached their nineties, 13 died in their eighties and seven in their seventies. Excluding three who died in war, only 13 failed to reach 70.

This impressive average was boosted by the eight sons of Joshua<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2-1</sup>). One was killed in the Revolution at age 23. The others died, respectively, at 97, 92, two at 90, and one each at 85, 79 and 77 — an average of over 84!

The tendency toward long life was continued in Joshua's grandchildren. One reached 99, eight others died in their nineties, and one died just seven months before his nintieth birthday.

Early death also seems to have been concentrated in a few lines. Nathaniel<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) died at 31, and his wife at 30. Their three daughters died at 36, 25 and 24, and their only son, Captain John Peck Rathbun, died at 36.

Causes of death prior to the middle 1800s were seldom recorded. Records that do exist are often vague: Mary, daughter of Clark<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>4</sup>

John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) died in 1814 of "the cold plague." Hannah, daughter of Thomas<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), died in 1813 of "epidemic fever." Mary, daughter of Gideon<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Allen<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) died in 1849 with "inflammation of the lungs."

History does tell us that many lives were lost to smallpox, cholera and typhoid. Coggeshall<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Abraham<sup>3</sup> Samuel<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) died of smallpox in 1788 at Nantucket. Smallpox also killed Joseph<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Lyman<sup>6</sup> Paris<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) in 1849 at Oxford, N.Y. A cholera epidemic in Cincinnati claimed the lives of Isaac<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) in 1849 and Loring Putnam<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Isaiah<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) in 1850.

Pneumonia, still a serious disease but now rarely fatal, took many lives in the early years. Lucy<sup>6</sup> (Rathbun) Kennedy (Ashley<sup>5</sup> Isaiah<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) died of pneumonia in 1847 in Chenango County, N.Y.

Another major killer was tuberculosis, then called consumption. Six of the

The honor of being the longest-lived Rathbun of all time probably belongs to Frank<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Albert<sup>6</sup> Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), who was last known in 1981 living in a California nursing home at the age of 104. We have been unable to determine whether he is still living, or when he died.

A close runner-up was James Colburn<sup>9</sup> Rathbone (David<sup>6</sup> Nathan<sup>7</sup> Amos<sup>6-5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) who died Oct. 24, 1983, six days before his 102nd birthday.

Who holds the record as the oldest living cousin today? We know of no family member even close to 100. The oldest members of our association are Lois (Rathbone) McEachern, who was 92 in August; Harry J. Rathbun, who was 90 in June, and Oliver N. Rathbun, who was 89 in December. Does anyone know of older cousins still living?

seven children of Clark<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>5-4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) died from consumption within a decade in the mid-1800s. John<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) lost a daughter, two sons and a daughter-in-law to consumption between 1874 and 1885. Elizabeth<sup>7</sup> (Rathbun) Gibbs (Charles<sup>6</sup> Amos<sup>5-4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) lost her oldest daughter, at 22, to consumption in 1882, and then saw her twin daughters die of the same disease four years later, two weeks apart, also at 22. Overcome by grief, she turned to opium, and was an addict the rest of her life.

It was not unusual for parents to lose all or most of their children when epidemics hit. William Adams<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>6</sup> Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Isaiah<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), lost two small children to scarlet fever in 1857 at Springfield, Mass., lost another a year later, and then his fourth son in 1877, aged five.

Thomas<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), saw six of his seven little children die from diphtheria in one terrible week during the

early 1860s. Some died while others were being buried.

Childbirth and its complications took the lives of many women in the early days of our country, and many of our male ancestors had second and even third marriages after losing their wives on the delivery bed.

Women of today who are frustrated with raising two or three children can sympathize with women of the last century, when pregnancy every two years for 20 or 30 years was commonplace. Despite heavy infant mortality and childbirth death of mothers, most men had large families.

Two examples stand out in our records:

Job Oliver Cromwell<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Alfred<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), fathered 14 children over a 30-year period by his first wife, who died in 1891. Then, at age 64, he married a 28-year-old second wife, and fathered five more — the oldest when Job was 80! Ten of his 19 children lived to maturity.

William<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>6</sup> Robert<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) had eight surviving children after 20 years' marriage to his first wife, who died. He remarried at age 60 and fathered five more children by his second wife — the last when he was 71!

As in today's hectic world, fire, drowning and other accidents all took their toll.

David<sup>5</sup> Rathbone (John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) died of a broken neck when he was thrown from his horse-drawn carriage going down a steep hill in 1823. Reuben<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Valentine<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) in 1807 and Clark<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Clark<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) in 1813 were killed by falling trees. Milton<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) died from natural gas poisoning while cleaning the bottom of a 20-foot well.

Drowning took the life of Gideon<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) in 1838, Amos<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Clark<sup>5</sup> Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) in 1824, and Samuel<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) in 1811.

House fires killed Thomas<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Simeon<sup>4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) in 1839, Huldah<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and her husband Robert Rogers in 1838, and John<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Paris<sup>6</sup> Job<sup>5</sup> Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) in 1880.

Samuel<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was "killed by a fall" in 1786,

Daniel<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Daniel<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>) died after a sawmill accident in 1808, and Job<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Joseph<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), a sea captain, was poisoned by natives in South America in 1797.

Struck and killed by lightning were James<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Ebenezer<sup>4-3</sup> William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) in 1829 and Heman Lindsay<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Nathaniel<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5</sup> Paris<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) in 1881.

Cancer and heart attacks, two of today's biggest killers, no doubt took their toll in the early years, but were seldom diagnosed as such. One exception is Thomas<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>2-1</sup>) who "died of a cancer" in 1784. Edmund<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) died in 1801 aged 64 "from drinking too much water while overheated from working." A heart attack was the more probable cause.

Dwight<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Gamaliel<sup>6</sup> Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) died in 1905 with a fractured skull after being kicked by a horse. Also kicked to death by a horse, in 1843, was Ansel<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Ansel<sup>6</sup> Abel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

Today, we have automobile, industrial, train and airplane crashes among the many accidents which imperil us at work and at play.

Also changed are illnesses as causes of death. Yesterday's dreaded diseases — smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, typhoid and tuberculosis — have been conquered, children rarely die from scarlet fever or measles, and few mothers die in childbirth. Cancer, stroke, heart disease and diabetes have taken their place as major threats to life.

Perhaps when man more fully recognizes the perils of water and air pollution, the dangers of chemicals in food, and the effect of our salty, fatty and sugar-filled diets, these afflictions too will be mastered.

The actual life span of men and women, excluding child mortality, really hasn't changed that much over the years. The Biblical "three score years and ten" still seems to be man's allotted years on earth.

Who can predict what causes will lead the death toll for our descendants in 2084 or 2184? Who can foresee whether genetic engineering, organ transplants and other techniques will enable our descendants to make 100 years the normal life span, rather than the rarity it is today.

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to provide water power for grist mills, saw mills and woolen mills. John<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) in his 1810 will referred to a "fordway across the road . . . six or seven rods below the dam I built."

We get some picture of life in the mid-1700s from the inventory taken of the estate of John Rathbun III after his death in 1752.

On his farm he had a pair of oxen, nine cows, five hogs, 23 chickens, 11 geese and four sheep. The oxen were used for farm work, the cows provided milk, butter and cheese, and occasionally were butchered for meat; the hogs provided the ever-present salt pork; the chickens and geese provided both eggs and an occasional meal, and the sheep provided wool, woven into cloth on spinning wheels or at one of the water-powered mills. Virtually all the clothing was handmade in the homes from wool or flax.

In John's house were one table, seven chairs, four beds, a loom, spinning wheel, pewter and ironware, a candlestick, two trammels (for the fireplaces), pots and jugs, a razor and a gun. In the cellar or pantry were two barrels of cider, a barrel of tobacco, a barrel of salt pork, two bushels of beans, and quantities of cheese and salt. In the barn were hay, flax, 20 bushels of corn, a grindstone, cider press and farm tools.

John<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) in his 1759 will had much the same sort of belongings, but was apparently somewhat wealthier. His possessions also included a riding mare, a Negro slave and a sword.

Land was considered a measurement of wealth for our ancestors, and men often gave their sons land to start them off in life. John Rathbun III in 1743 gave a farm to his oldest son, John, then 20, and in 1751 gave 240 acres each to his sons, Daniel and Jonathan, then 20 and 17 years of age. The tracts given Daniel and Jonathan were along the Connecticut colony line and were adjacent to the lands of John's brothers, Thomas and Benjamin. In his will a year later, he left 120 pounds each to his three youngest sons, Gideon, Edmund and Joshua, enabling them to buy land.

We can only guess at the social life of those days, which probably centered around the Baptist Church. Young men

and women obviously met somehow, for few remained single. We get a glimpse of romance in the Revolutionary War pension application of Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who married her cousin, Paris<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Gideon<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>). To prove their marriage, she produced a deposition by Elisha Sweet, a boyhood friend of Paris:

"We were boys together," Sweet testified. "He lived near the line of West Greenwich in Exeter. I have reason to remember the marriage, for I courted her myself . . . and wanted to have her myself . . ."

The early residents of Exeter were primarily farmers, but most had other skills as well. John<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was a weaver. No doubt some of the early Rathbuns were blacksmiths, coopers, millers and shoemakers. At least one of them was something of a doctor: Thomas<sup>3</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was paid four pounds by the town council in 1747 for "doctoring Hannah Bly, the destitute mother of an illegitimate child." He was probably our family's first physician. Another early Rathbun doctor in Exeter was Nathan<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), who was a justice of the peace for many years, studied medicine in middle life and became a physician.

Exeter, like other towns throughout the American colonies, was hardly governed in a democratic fashion. Voting was limited to white property-owning males. Newcomers were allowed to settle only if they could establish their "suitability." The town records are replete with the efforts of the local council to rid the community of "undesirable" settlers from other towns. Destitute families, unmarried mothers, criminals and mentally unstable persons were frequently ordered to "depart the town," and sometimes were conveyed by constables to their former places of residence.

For the town's "own" needy and unfortunate, however, an overseer of the poor was appointed and money allocated to provide food, clothing, lodging and medical care.

As the Eighteenth Century drew to a close, particularly after the Revolution, there was a tide of immigration out of Exeter, and indeed from most New England communities. Ambitious younger men, and even older men, set out to

make new homes in the "west" — then meaning western Connecticut and Massachusetts, New York or Pennsylvania.

Among those who chose to stay in Exeter were John and Joshua Rathbun, the oldest and youngest sons of John Rathbun III.

Joshua, in 1786, was licensed by the town council to "keep a tavern and sell all sorts of strong liquor by retail at any quantity in his dwelling house." He also was apparently a blacksmith, for his will mentioned "my blacksmith tools."

He probably lived on Ten Rod Road near Escoheag Hill. A house he built there in 1804 is still standing — a fine example of an early Nineteenth Century home. It has a huge kitchen fireplace and wide planked floors. Carved in the chimney are "JER (Joshua and Elizabeth Rathbun?) 1804." Joshua and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried in a small family cemetery on the property.

Their son, Joseph Sheffield Rathbun (1780-1859), married a cousin, Olive Rathbun, daughter of John<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (John<sup>4-1</sup>). They were married by Nathan<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Thomas<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>), a justice of the peace, and lived on Escoheag Hill. The stone foundations of their house and barn can still be seen on Barber Road. They may have been built originally by Olive's father two centuries ago. The house burned down early in this century, but a picture of it survives.

Sheffield, as Joseph was known, was a prominent citizen of Exeter, serving 18 years as justice of the peace. He was a shoemaker; a cobbler's bench used by him is still owned by his descendants.

The bench was left to his son, John Gardner Rathbun (1810-1889), who made special boots for several club-footed men in the area. It passed to John's son, Seneca Rathbun (1832-1899), and then to Seneca's son, Horace Rathbun (1858-1948). Horace left it to his nephew, Ernest Rathbun, who died last year aged 101. It is now owned by Ernest's son, Arnold Rathbun, one of our members. The bench, believed to be over 200 years old, may be the oldest heirloom in our family.

The only reminder of the family's prominence in early Exeter history is Rathbun Pond, on the Exeter-West Greenwich border, a short distance west of the New London Turnpike, and south of Congdon Mill Road.

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His father, William Rathbone the Fifth, died in 1868, aged 81, having seen his son and namesake develop the family business into a major world force. After the father's death, an impressive statue of him was erected by public subscription in Sefton Park, in Liverpool, where it still stands today.

William Rathbone the Sixth was elected that same year to the House of Commons, the first of six Rathbones to serve in Parliament. He was to remain for 26 years as an influential and effective legislator for the Liberal Party. He was defeated for reelection only once, but easily won reelection two years later.

His political career marked the end of his active participation in the family business. His brother Samuel and other partners took over the management, and for a few years carried it on successfully. One of their partners was William Lidderdale, who in 1870 became a director of the Bank of England, and later, from 1889 to 1892, served as the bank's governor.

By the late 1870s, without William's leadership, the Rathbone business began to decline. Despite several reorganizations, it never regained its earlier prosperity and importance.

William Rathbone, however, was happy in Parliament. "Politics are far more absorbing and engrossing than business," he wrote enthusiastically.

(To be continued)

In our last issue, we referred to the cover picture as that of William Rathbone III (1726-1789). It was actually a picture of his son, William Rathbone IV (1752-1809). We decided at the last minute that the likeness of the third William, a faded pen-and-ink drawing, would not reproduce as well as the striking oil painting of the fourth William. Unfortunately, we neglected to change the reference in the story.



This picture, taken by James Rathbone, one of our members, on a 1982 trip to England, shows one of a fleet of trucks owned by Rathbone's Bakery, in Wigan, not far from Ditton, the home of our immigrant ancestors, John and Margaret Rathbone/bun. The company's owners are undoubtedly our distant cousins.

## Century-Old Census Shows Life on A Rathbun Farm

An interesting picture of life on a Nebraska farm one hundred years ago is painted by 1885 census records located by Keith L. Rathbun in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Keith found the records of his grandfather, Frank Rathbun, and his great-grandfather, James<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Ebenezer<sup>6</sup> Perry<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>), in Glenwood Precinct of Gage County.

James and his wife, Mary (Wolf) Rathbun, had five children living with them at that time, on a farm of 160 acres valued at \$5,000. He had livestock worth \$1,500 and machinery valued at \$200.

The livestock included five horses, two mules, 12 milk cows, 23 other cattle, 40 pigs and 40 "barnyard poultry." During 1884, the Rathbuns reported the birth of 12 calves, the purchase of one cow and the sale of 3, and production of 250 gallons of milk, 500 pounds of butter and 40 dozen eggs.

In 1884, the farm had 80 acres planted to corn, which yielded 4,000 bushels; 15 acres of wheat (50 bushels); a half-acre of potatoes (50 bushels); and two acres of apple orchard, no output reported.

The total value of the farm's production, both sold, consumed and stored, was estimated at \$1,500.

Living nearby were Keith's grandparents, Frank and Maggie (Yates) Rathbun, who were renting an 80-acre farm valued at \$4,500. They had two horses, two milk cows, 17 other cattle and 30 poultry. They reported 1884 production at \$750, including two calves, 200 pounds of butter, 26 pounds of wool (although they reported no sheep), 15 dozen eggs, 2,400 bushels of corn, 10 acres of wheat (no bushel amount reported), 150 bushels of potatoes and 15 bushels of clover seed.

## The Family Fish!

A blind salamander found in Texas caves is known as Typhlomolae Rathbuni, apparently named for one of our family, according to the Biological Bulletin of 1921. Does anyone know of the Rathbun for whom it was named? (Thanks to Robert R. Rathbun.)

# Genealogy: The Fifth Generation in America

**118. WILLIAMS<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Aug. 16, 1772, at Colchester, Conn., moved with his parents as a boy to Springfield, N.Y., and married there about 1797 Jemimah Green, born March 16, 1777, parentage unknown. She died Jan. 25, 1842, at Springfield, and he married on Nov. 22, 1843, Mary Green, in Thompson, Conn. She was born about 1810 and was probably a relative of his first wife. Williams died July 12, 1848, at Springfield, and Mary returned to Thompson, Conn., where she was living in 1850.

## CHILDREN

(All by Jemimah)

SALINDA, born Dec. 29, 1797; died unmarried Aug. 13, 1835.

WILLIAMS, born Feb. 11, 1799; married Mary Chargo.

ANNA MARIA, born Aug. 14, 1802; married James Marks on May 2, 1831.

HULDAH E., born May 6, 1805; died unmarried April 21, 1836, described as "feeble."

STEPHEN GREEN, born March 20, 1808; became a lawyer and died Jan. 27, 1852. No known marriage.

LAVANTIA W., born March 2, 1811; married Simeon Burlingame.

MENZO W., born May 17, 1813; accidentally killed Dec. 29, 1840, on a hunting trip.

MALISSA E., born Dec. 20, 1815; married Jerome Waggoner.

LOUISE J., born in 1817; died July 3, 1833.

**119. DANIEL<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Nov. 6, 1774, in Colchester, Conn., and moved with his parents as a boy to Springfield, N.Y. He married there about 1795 Dorothy (Dolly) Stocking, born March 19, 1776, daughter of Hezekiah and Harriett (Williams) Stocking. Daniel was an ensign in the Otsego County militia in 1805, was promoted to lieutenant in 1806, and served until 1809, when he resigned. He died Dec. 23, 1824, at Springfield. Dolly

died March 22, 1859, in Shiawassee County, Mich.

## CHILDREN

RUSSELL, born about 1796; left home as a young man and was never heard from again.

BENJAMIN, born about 1798; married Sabrina Pierce.

CALEB, born about 1800; married Demmis Abbott.

ABNER, born about 1802; married

HENRY CARTER, born about 1804; graduated from Union College in Albany, and moved to Milledgeville, Georgia, where he died in 1838. No known marriage.

FERNANDO C., born March 29, 1806; married Eunice Colf.

ELIZA, born March 18, 1810; died Dec. 22, 1810.

HARRIETT, born in February 1812; died unmarried Oct. 22, 1834 in Parma, N.Y.

**120. BENJAMIN<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Feb. 11, 1777, in Colchester, Conn., and moved with his parents as a boy to Springfield, N.Y. He was married Feb. 7, 1802, at Warren, N.Y., to Mary Carter, born March 22, 1778, daughter of Nathan and Mary (Squires) Carter. He became a ruling elder of the Springfield Presbyterian Church, serving from 1835 until his death on April 1, 1854. He gave the Springfield church its parsonage and grounds, and in his will left \$12,000 to religious organizations, including \$5,000 each to the American Bible Society and foreign missions. His wife died four years before him, on Oct. 16, 1850.

## CHILDREN

CHARLES, born Feb. 5, 1803; married Mary Griffin.

LAURA, born Feb. 21, 1804; died unmarried July 10, 1830.

ANDREW, born Oct. 5, 1808; married Lavina Peck. He died Oct. 20, 1836, leaving no children.

LAVINA C., born May 31, 1815; married Calvin Porter Smith on Aug. 26, 1834.

**121. JOEL<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Aug. 29, 1779, in Colchester, Conn., and moved with his parents as a boy to Springfield, N.Y. He moved to Williamstown, Oswego County, N.Y., where he married on Aug. 22, 1802, Philomelia Alden, born Dec. 10, 1783, daughter of Isaac and Irene (Smith) Alden, and a descendant of the Mayflower's famed John Alden. Joel and Philomelia were the first couple married in Williamstown. He studied medicine and became a physician, locating in Camden, Oneida County, N.Y. He was a surgeon in the local militia by 1809, and served as a surgeon during the war of 1812 in the 68th N.Y. Regiment. In 1820, he made a trip to Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, to buy land as an investment for his sons. He caught a severe cold on the trip, and died soon after his return. His widow and younger children moved about 1835 to Louisiana, where she died in June 1861. She made several visits to her old home in Camden, N.Y., the last in 1860. Letters describing the trips were still owned by descendants 80 years ago, but we have been unable to locate them.

## CHILDREN

LEVANT, born June 26, 1803; married Laura Comstock.

SELDEN, born July 18, 1806; married

ALDEN, born Oct. 24, 1808; married Rosanna Dunbar.

PHILANDER, born Dec. 18, 1810; died in 1842; no known marriage.

JOHN LYSANDER, born June 11, 1813; married (1) Ruth Ann Lower; (2) Mary King.

DORLISKA, born Aug. 22, 1815; married Luther Pratt in 1837.

PHILOMELIA, born Dec. 15, 1817; married R.R. Day.

JOSHUA, born Oct. 5, 1819; died in infancy.

JOEL, born Jan. 21, 1821; married \_\_\_\_\_

**(From the tombstone of Dr. Joel Rathbun (1779-1820) at Camden, N.Y.)**

*As a physician he was able and skillful, possessing during 18 years of extensive practice the deserved confidence of the community. He was an active and liberal patron of religious institutions, a friend of order, and a peacemaker.*

*Being among the early settlers of Camden, he contributed much to its prosperity.*

*In life respected and beloved, and in death no less lamented.*

*By this event, the poor have lost a benefactor, and the tears of his widow and orphans attest how kindly he has fulfilled the office of husband and father.*

**122. SELDEN<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Sept. 2, 1781, in Colchester, Conn., and moved as a boy with his parents to Springfield, N.Y. He married about 1805 Rosanna Eldredge, born about 1785, the daughter of Solomon and Sarah (Fiske) Eldredge. She died about 1810, and he married on March 28, 1811, at Cooperstown, N.Y., Elizabeth Knowlton, age and parentage unknown. Selden died before 1848. Cooley says his second wife died June 21, 1861.

#### CHILDREN

(Both by Rosanna)

CORNELIA, born about 1806; married (?) \_\_\_\_\_ Hinds.

ANGELINE, born Sept. 29, 1808; married John Carpenter.

**123. ARTEMUS<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born March 16, 1784, in Colchester, Conn., and moved as a boy with his parents to Springfield, N.Y. He married in January 1813 Phoebe Carpenter, born Sept. 4, 1783, daughter of Josiah and Phoebe (Porter) Carpenter. He died May 20, 1820, at Springfield. She then married \_\_\_\_\_ Frink, and died Oct. 9, 1870.

#### CHILDREN

JOHN A., born in Jan. 1814; married Marilla A. Griggs.

PHOEBE, born July 10, 1815; died unmarried Dec. 14, 1834.

GEORGE, born May 12, 1817; married Caroline Griggs.

JANE A., born Feb. 14, 1819; died Nov. 27, 1832.

**124. GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Oct. 16, 1775, in Colchester, Conn. He married about 1799 his cousin, Eunice<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>4</sup> Job<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 2, 1780. They moved to Warren, Herkimer County, N.Y., and in 1818 to Howard, Steuben County, where Eunice died June 15, 1833. He married later that year, on Oct. 6, 1833, Anna Matthews, born about 1797, ancestry unknown. They moved to Marion County, Iowa, but returned in a few years to New York. They lived for a time in Hornellsville, N.Y., where Anna may have died. He went to live with his son, Sebra, in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he died June 3, 1864.

#### CHILDREN

(By Eunice)

EMILY, born April 23, 1802; married Abram Bennett.

PAMELA, born Nov. 22, 1803; married (?) Cornelius Madole.

LAURA, born Jan. 28, 1805; married George Cole.

WEALTHY A., born Feb. 22, 1806; married Seth Higgins.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, born March 19, 1807; married (1) Catherine Contrician; (2) Rebecca Schwenk.

REBECCA, born Aug. 6, 1808; married (?) Abraham Fox.

LUCINDA, born Nov. 7, 1809; married John B. Barber.

CORNELIUS, born April 22, 1811; married Delilah Miller.

BENJAMIN, born Oct. 24, 1812; no further information.

MARY ANN, born March 15, 1814; married Isaac T. Pope Jan. 24, 1834.

CALISTA, born Oct. 1816; married John Ryan.

SEBRA, born Sept. 20, 1817; married (1) Catharine Van Dyke; (2) Mary Ann Proper.

EDWIN, born Nov. 11, 1819; married Laura Hart.

ALVIN E., born in 1821; married Catherine Amgert (or Wingest?).

MARIA DEBORAH, born June 15, 1823; married William Boyden Dec. 14, 1846.

(By Anna)

OSCAR, born June 22, 1836; died Dec. 12, 1862, of disease while serving with the Union Army in the Civil War.

**125. RUSSELL<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born June 13, 1780, at Colchester, Conn., and married there about 1805 a wife whose name is not known. She apparently died, and he married about 1810, Elizabeth Treadway, born Dec. 17, 1783, parentage unknown. They moved to New York State, first to Oneida County, and then to Richland in Oswego County, where Elizabeth died June 2, 1863, and Russell on Dec. 17, 1867. Cooley says he had a third wife, name unknown.

#### CHILDREN

(By first wife)

DYER, born about 1806; died young.

ABIGAIL, born about 1808; married Justin Wait.

(By Elizabeth)

ORRIN, born April 10, 1811; married Philinda Marsden.

SARAH A., born July 8, 1813; married Chauncey D. Spade.

HANNAH MOFFITT, born June 3, 1817; married A.D. Harrington Oct. 4, 1837.

PHILINDA M. (twin), born June 3, 1817; married Solomon Marsden.

ANNA ELIZABETH, born Nov. 12, 1819; married Lewis Pitts.

ELECTRA SOPHRONA, born Nov. 12, 1823; married Morgan S.<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Stricklin<sup>5</sup> Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

(Continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

**126. HUBBARD WELCH<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 24, 1781, at Colchester, Conn., and married there Feb. 10, 1808, Mary Abigail Saxton, born about 1789, daughter of James and Deborah (Fox) Saxton. She died about 1811, and he married in November, 1813, Nancy Brown, born Jan. 17, 1787, daughter of Mason Brown. They moved a short time later to Howard, N.Y., where she died June 6, 1852. He married about 1853 Susan Clark, born about 1803, parentage unknown. They apparently separated, and he married again in the late 1850s Rebecca White, a widow, born about 1800, parentage unknown. He died April 29, 1861. She died Jan. 10, 1872. Hubbard's third wife, then called Susan Holmes, was living in 1855 with Hubbard Jr. He is probably the H. Rathbun who was Howard town supervisor in 1832.

## CHILDREN

(By Abigail)

MARY ABIGAIL, born Jan. 16, 1809; married James Young.

HUBBARD SAXTON, born May 11, 1811; married Lucretia Calkins.

(By Nancy)

MASON BROWN, born Aug. 27, 1814; married Almira Page.

FANNIE, born about 1816; married Daniel Head.

MARIA, born about 1818; married George White.

ARTEMUS MARTIN, born about 1821; married (1) Mary Rumsey; (2) Caroline Dunn.

**127. DYER DANA<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 6, 1784, in Colchester, Conn. He moved as a young man to New York State and married at Smithfield, Madison County, in 1809 Susannah (Rich) Strong, born May 9, 1784, daughter of Isaac and Mary Rich and widow of Ezekiel Strong. They moved about 1816 from Madison County to Howard, N.Y., where he purchased a farm from his brother, Alfred. In November 1834 he mortgaged the farm and set out supposedly for Con-

necticut to collect some money owed him, carrying a ham and a loaf of bread. His travels took him to Michigan and finally Ohio, where he was arrested for horse stealing in 1835 in Belmont County. He was sentenced to three years in the Ohio State Penitentiary, where he died of chronic diarrhea on July 28, 1837. He was described as five feet, eight inches tall, with blue eyes, brown hair, a florid complexion and a "frequent drinker." Family tradition says he was never heard from again after leaving home, and it is possible his family never knew his tragic fate. His eldest son, Isaac, reportedly tried for years to locate him. His widow and children remained in Howard, where she died Jan. 29, 1871.

## CHILDREN

ISAAC, born Sept. 10, 1810; married Roxa Theresa Madole.

SALLY, born May 11, 1813; married Wilson Braisted.

DENISON, born April 14, 1815; married Marie Pauling.

EUNICE, born March 10, 1818; married Stephen Sayles on July 3, 1842.

CHAUNCEY, born Feb. 3, 1820; married (1) Jane MacNaughton; (2) Fidelia Gleason, and (3) Angeline Derrick.

HIRAM, born April 22, 1822; married Louisa Shearer.

NANCY, born in July 1823; died in July 1825.

WILSON, born Dec. 28, 1824; married Rhoda Crevlyn.

**128. AMIZIAH RILEY<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Dec. 25, 1789, at Colchester, Conn., and married Dec. 31, 1812, in Waterford, Conn., Johanna L. Wheeler, born about 1793, possible daughter of Guy Wheeler. Ami, as he was known, served in the War of 1812, and moved shortly after the war to Howard, N.Y., where Johanna died in the late 1820s. He married about 1830 Sarah Whiting, birth date and parentage unknown. In 1836, he set out for Illinois, and built a log home in McDonough County. He returned for his family the following year and took them to their new home in a high wagon known as a "Pennsylvania Schooner," painted blue and pulled by four yoke of oxen. Cows and horses were driven along behind. His house was one of the largest in the

area, and was used as a tavern and overnight inn. The area was later incorporated as the town of Cordova, a name he suggested. The first town meeting was held in his house. His daughter, Josephine, was the first child born in the new town, and later became its first school teacher. Ami died at Cordova on Sept. 13, 1872. His second wife's death date is not known.

## CHILDREN

(By Johanna)

GUY WHEELER, born in 1813; married (1) Mary Edson; (2) Emily J. Hurd.

WILLIAM RILEY, born Feb. 19, 1815; married Hannah Gillihan.

JOHANNA, born about 1817; married (1) Nehemia Hurd; (2) P. Carter.

PHIDELIA, born about 1819; married Philip Yeple Oct. 1, 1844.

PHILENA S., born May 20, 1823; married Rudolphus J. Baker Oct. 4, 1844.

(By Sarah)

JAMES V., born Jan. 13, 1831; married Jane Moody.

THOMAS J., born Nov. 1, 1832; died young?

SARAH ANN, born July 11, 1834; married (1) Dexter Bigelow; (2) William R. Curtis.

LORENZO DOW, born April 15, 1836; married Margaret Kimball.

HANNAH M., born May 24, 1838; married Lewis Slininger in 1858.

JOSEPHINE W., born May 10, 1840; married Jasper Forsythe Dec. 21, 1864.

MELISSA E., born Jan. 10, 1842, died young.

See New Data 16-2 p 38

**129. ALFRED<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born April 14, 1792, at Colchester, Conn., and married, probably in Connecticut about 1815, **Laura Brown**, born **May 28, 1792**, possible daughter of John Brown. They moved shortly after their marriage to Howard, Steuben County, N.Y., where he was tax collector in 1825. He built a large stone house, later known as the Old Castle, which was used by the town to house paupers under contract with Alfred. He migrated west about 1838, settling in Lee County, Iowa, where he died about 1845. **Laura died July 23, 1874** in Scotland County, Missouri.

**CHILDREN**

ALEXANDER C., born about 1817; married Sally Ann Everett.

CHARITY, born about 1819; married James Arnold Oct. 6, 1839.

JOHN B., born May 1, 1821; married (1) Keturah Corey; (2) Eliza Bain.

ALFRED, born Feb. 24, 1823; married (1) Mary Thorington; (2) Eunice Beckwith.

JOB OLIVER CROMWELL, born May 20, 1826; married (1) Rebecca Titus; (2) Mary A. Ungar.

?GEORGE, born about 1828; married Mary Griffiths.

ELON G., born about 1830; married (1) Charlotte Corey; (2) Mary Gattis.

EMILY COLT, born about 1832; married Asahel B. Pierce Feb. 11, 1855.

?WILLIAM HENRY, born about 1836; married Martha Guthrie.

ONE OTHER, name unknown.

**130. ?SIMEON SPENCER<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Nov. 6, 1771, at Salem, Conn. (The birth of Simeon is recorded by Cooley, but he does not appear in later Connecticut records. Spencer Rathbun does, however, and we are assuming that Spencer was Simeon's middle name. This family is not covered by Cooley and all information has been obtained from local records.) He married about 1794 a wife whose name is not known, but who might have been Mary (Polly) Jones. He was a cooper, served in the War of 1812, and lived in the Colchester-Salem area until about 1838, when he moved to Hebron, Conn. He died there April 5, 1850. A Polly Rathbun, aged 70, was in the Salem poorhouse in the 1850 census, and may have been his widow. Spencer was left 35 pounds in the 1798 will of Jabez Jones, in Salem, leading to the assumption she may have been a Jones.

**CHILDREN**

RENSSALAER, born about 1796; married Elizabeth McCracken.

ANTHONY, born about 1801; married Abigail Beckwith.

SEVERAL DAUGHTERS, names unknown.

**131. SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> RATHBUN** (Simeon<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>), born Nov. 14, 1776, in Salem, Conn., and moved as a young man to New York State. He married about 1800, at Springfield, N.Y., Beulah Wright, born Oct. 30, 1780, parentage unknown. They lived in Williamstown, N.Y., where he died Sept. 2, 1817. Beulah died Sept. 5, 1860.

**CHILDREN**

LOUISA, born July 15, 1801; married Herman Baldwin.

BETSEY, born Aug. 8, 1803; married Enos Weed.

PHILANDER ALDEN, born July 24, 1805; married Mary Ames.

PHILOMELIA, born Sept. 19, 1807; married James Howard.

SIMEON, born Feb. 7, 1810; married Ann Eliza Mather.

ELIZA, born May 23, 1812; married Robert Wright.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, born April 12, 1814; married Elizabeth<sup>6</sup> Rathbun (Moses<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>).

*(To be continued)*

## New Data

A heretofore unknown daughter of Edmund<sup>5</sup> Rathbun (Jonathan<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) has been discovered in a published Rice Genealogy by Rob Rathbun, our research director. She was Anna Malinda Rathbun, born in 1791, who married Oliver Phelps Rice and died July 12, 1843, aged 52, in Livonia, N.Y.

Early land records in Rhode Island have almost definitely confirmed the identity of Samuel Rathbun (Number 89 in Vol. 4, No. 3) as a son of Roger<sup>4</sup> Rathbun (Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>). Samuel's wife has been tentatively identified as Sarah Knowles, born about 1770, daughter of Robert and Abigail (Smith) Knowles. Samuel Rathbun was drowned July 24 or 25, 1809, in Larkin's Pond, then known as Teft's Pond, in South Kingstown, R.I. One of his daughters may have been Penelope Rathbun, born in the 1790s, identified earlier (Vol. 2, No. 3) as a possible daughter of Roger's brother, Anthony. One of Samuel's sons may have been Samuel Rathbun, who married Margaret Gardiner.

## Reunions Held

Descendants of Byron<sup>7</sup> Rathbun (Gamaliel<sup>6</sup> Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) hosted a family reunion Sept. 22 at Spring Valley, Minn. Sixty cousins were present, representing the families of Byron and his brothers, Dwight, John Damon and Amander, and some descendants of Nathaniel and Thomas I. Rathbun, brothers of Gamaliel<sup>6</sup>. Many of those present were members of our Rathbun Family Association. Reunion officers elected were Marlin Rathbun, president; Irma Rathbun, secretary-treasurer, and Sharon Jahn, historian. All are descendants of Byron Rathbun and live in the Spring Valley area.

See Corrections 05-2 p 30

Descendants of Ellen Lucinda (Rathbun) Sharp (1871-1959) gathered August 7-14 at Modesto, California, for a family reunion. Ellen, who married Samuel Cline, was the daughter of Jacob Washington<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>) and Catherine Kee. Among those present were 31 direct descendants of Ellen and Samuel — eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and 15 great-great-grandchildren — and 11 other Rathbun cousins. A total of 65 persons, including spouses, attended the reunion, which included a catered dinner and several side trips to local places of interest. Among those present were Jack and Ellen (Sharp) Coats, members of our association, and seven of Ellen's eight brothers and sisters, all children of Samuel and Ellen Cline's daughter, Oleana, and Frank Sharp.

**OUR THANKS** to the following members who have contributed family data, clippings, pictures and other material in the past few months: Diane Croad, Carmen Rathbun, Jim Stites, Mildred Rathburn, Frank E. Rathbun, Ethel Pfof, Alice Phillips, Dr. Robert N. Booth, Lorraine Barrick, John Bowen, Rosma Limbeck, Betty Bonawitz, Ted A. Rathbun, Phyllis Cuevas, Bill and Dorothy Rathbun, Rachel Laurgaard, Beverly Gillette, Joy Baker, Robert L. Rathbun, Dolly Rathburn, Jean Grace, Robert Rathbone and Dorothy Hladick.

# People

**JOAN LEA BETZOLD** was named Therapeutic Recreation Practitioner for 1984 by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association's Therapeutic Branch. She was graduated in December with a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Maryland's College Park campus. 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>) and Eva Joyce Adams.

**JAMES P. IPPOLITO** was married Oct. 21 in Hackensack, N.J., to Venus Roth, daughter of Donald and Josephine (Ripp) Roth. James is the son of Dorothy<sup>10</sup> Rathbun (Oscar<sup>9</sup> George<sup>8</sup> Corbett<sup>7</sup> Gideon<sup>6</sup> Tibbets<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4-3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Phillip Ippolito.

**ELLEN COATES** reports that the hymn, Rathbun (In the Cross of Christ I Glory), was chosen as the song of the month for September by her church, the Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Modesto, Calif. It was played each Sunday as members and guests entered the church and then sung during each of the two morning services. On Sept. 23, Ellen was asked to rise and explain the history of the hymn to the congregation. Ellen is the granddaughter of Ellen Lucinda<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Jacob<sup>7</sup> Edwin<sup>6</sup> George<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Samuel S. Cline.

**KEVIN DUBOIS** was married Nov. 24, 1984, at Colorado Springs, Colo., to Carol Jean Mansky, daughter of Chester and Lila Mansky. The newlyweds are now in England, where Kevin is stationed with the Air Force. He is the son of Jean (Rathbun) DuBois, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gathern<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (George<sup>8</sup> Jonathan<sup>7</sup> Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

**CHARLES MURRAY** has been named editor of the Gallia County (Ohio) Historical Society's quarterly newsletter. His wife, Donna, is a granddaughter of David Roscoe<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Amos<sup>8</sup> Sereno<sup>7</sup> Elijah<sup>6</sup> William<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> William<sup>3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>).

## Our New Members

Dr. Robert N. Booth  
Alameda, Calif.

Martha (Rathbun) Briggs  
Torrance, Calif.

Bernard Hielman  
Piedmont, S.D.

Roy and Mary Ann Kline  
El Paso, Texas

Gerald and Ruth McClure  
Lincoln, Neb.

Ethel Pfost  
Aurora, Colo.

Daniel C.B. Rathbun  
Las Cruces, N.M.

Dolly Rathburn  
Los Osos, Calif.

Laurence and Helen Rathbun  
Frankfort, Mich.

Michael Rathbun  
Springfield, Mo.

Robert N. Rathbun  
Des Moines, Iowa

Ronald and Sharon Rathbun  
Abilene, Texas

Ronald E. and Mildred Rathbun  
Springfield, Mo.

Prof. Ted A. Rathbun  
Columbia, S.C.

Terrance S. Rathbun  
Rapid City, S.D.

Thomas V. and Claudia Rathbun  
Lincoln, Neb.

Mrs. Ruby Reser  
Salem, Ore.

Donna (Rathbun) Robison  
Pawnee City, Neb.

Melva Senty  
St. Paul, Minn.

Greg and Jan Spanos  
Antioch, Calif.

Jeannette Dale Wachter  
Port Ludlow, Wash.

Vicki (Rathbone) Zook  
Encinitas, Calif.

## Births

**BORN** — Nov. 15, 1984, Tyler William Krause, son of Steven and Rebecca (Rathbun) Krause. Rebecca (Becky) is the daughter of our members, Rev. William and Dorothy Rathbun, who now have four grandchildren. Becky, Steve and their oldest son, Nicholas, attended our 1983 reunion at Block Island, where Nicholas, now three, was the youngest cousin present. Reverend Rathbun is the son of Elmer Albert<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Marshall<sup>8</sup> George<sup>7</sup> Edmund<sup>6</sup> Gideon<sup>5</sup> Edmund<sup>4</sup> John<sup>3-2-1</sup>) and Mabel Ruth Buchner.

**BORN** — June 18, 1984, Ruby June Rathbun, daughter of Malcolm William and Valerie (DeGrasse) Rathbun. She was born on Guam, where Malcolm is an ensign in the U.S. Navy. Ruby has three older sisters, Amber Jean, Kathleen and Melody. Malcolm is the son of the late George Malcolm<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (William<sup>8</sup> Jonathan<sup>7</sup> Thomas<sup>6-5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Samuel<sup>3</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Velma (Scott Sherwood) Rathbun.

## Obituaries

**DIED** — April 25, 1984, at Boise, Idaho, William D. Cossey, a member of our association, aged 63, after a 10-year fight with cancer. He was the son of Mildred<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Clarence<sup>7</sup> Guy<sup>6</sup> Amiziah<sup>5</sup> Job<sup>4</sup> Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and Clifford H. Cossey. He was unmarried, and left his entire estate to a college scholarship fund.

**DIED** — June 22, 1984, in Minnesota, Erwin Gill, aged 62. He was the son of Lovina<sup>8</sup> Rathbun (Byron<sup>7</sup> Gamaliel<sup>6</sup> Walter<sup>5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3-2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) and William Gill. Survivors include his widow, Wilma (Heidtke) Gill, also a descendant of Gamaliel<sup>6</sup> Rathbun, and two children, Debora and Philip.

**DIED** — Nov. 8, 1984, at Templeton, Calif., Effie Emma (McIlfree) Rathbun, 68, wife of Tad<sup>9</sup> Rathbun (Asa<sup>8</sup> Albert<sup>7</sup> Amos<sup>6-5</sup> Thomas<sup>4-3</sup> John<sup>2-1</sup>). In addition to her husband, she is survived by two daughters, Sandra Davis and Sally Garrett; three grandchildren, and a sister.