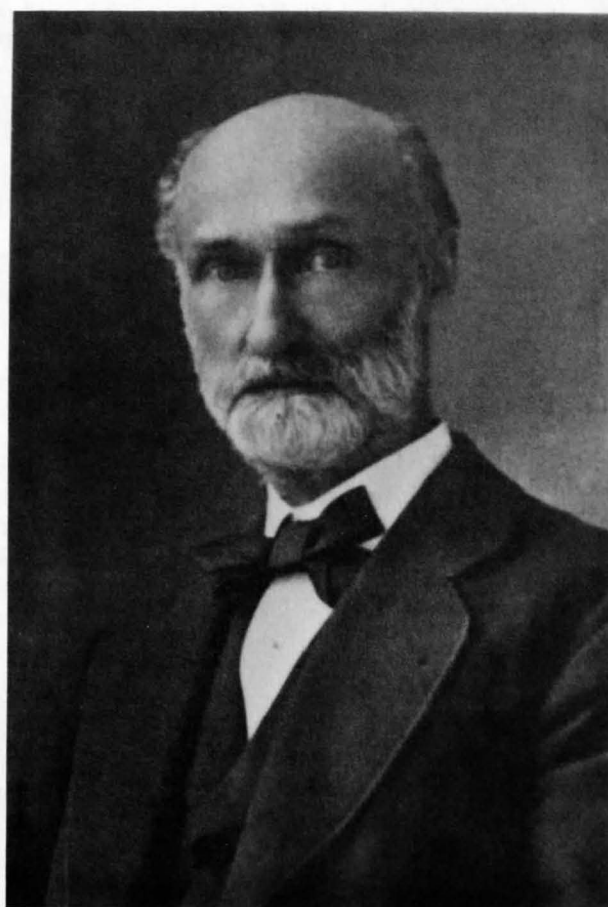


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
**FAMILY
HISTORIAN**



Hugo B. Rathbun
(1812-1886)

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

Letter From the Editor

Rapid City, South Dakota, is the definite site for our 1987 national reunion, and I am sure it will be an ideal location. With the help of Jan Rathbun, who suggested it, and Terry Rathbun, who is also helping out with details, we are working now on preliminary plans. Watch future issues for more information.

The trip to England next May is also settled. Fifty-one of us, so far, are enrolled for the "Family Roots" tour, well over the required minimum of 30. There is still time to get on the list. Just send me your check for \$75, per person, refundable if you find you cannot go, made out to Family Society Tours. Our tour agent, Jim Bolles, is in England as you read this, making arrangements for lodging, meals and our exciting schedule of family-oriented visits. We are hoping to arrange for the presentation of a marker to be placed on the inner wall of the ancient Farnworth Chapel in honor of our immigrant ancestor, John Rathbone/bun, who was baptised there in 1629.

As I write this, our membership has reached 466, surpassing our 1985 total of 462. But we need 38 more to reach the 500 mark by year's end. Your help will be appreciated! Already, we are one of the biggest family associations in the country. Let's make it the biggest!

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

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Elsewhere on this page is a price list for past issues of our Historian. The earlier issues are dwindling fast. If you want a complete set, you should order now, for it is doubtful they will ever be reprinted.

In this issue, we present a startling story that George Washington may have been the father of an illegitimate son named Jack Rathbone. In our October 1981 issue, we had the story of the amazing connection with our family to Abraham Lincoln. What a coincidence that there should also be a link to George Washington!

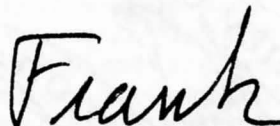
Other stories in this issue cover the early activities of the Rathbun Company of Canada, a forerunner of today's international corporations, and the gripping gunfight of an early Kansas Rathbun with a group of Sioux Indians in 1878.

When I started the Historian nearly six years ago, I was warned that I would soon run out of interesting stories about Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns. The opposite has proved to be true — there are so many I can't keep up with them. My files are overflowing, and they keep coming in. Our family has had more than its share of interesting people!

Mrs. Margaret Dale, who has compiled the indexes for our Historian's first four years, has completed the 1985 issues, but has reluctantly decided she will not be able to continue her efforts. Any volunteers to index the 1986 Historians for us? Mrs. Dale will be happy to explain her techniques and offer any advice and suggestions.

Fifteen of our members sent in their checks for copies of the original Rathbone Family Historians of 1892-94, as offered in our last issue. They copied surprisingly well for their age.

My very best wishes to you all.



Three Family Members Listed in Who's Who

The latest edition of Who's Who in America lists three members of our family — fittingly, a Rathbun, a Rathbone and a Rathburn.

The three are:

John Wilbert Rathbun, an English professor at California State University in Los Angeles and a member of our Association. He is the son of Wilbert⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ Elias⁷ Henry⁶ Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Donald Earl Rathbone, dean of engineering at Kansas State University. He is the son of Fay⁹ Rathbone (Albert⁸ Philander⁷ Lyman⁶ Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Eldon D. Rathburn, a musician and composer of Ottawa, Canada, and a member of our Association. He is the son of Caleb⁹ Rathburn (George⁸⁻⁷ Joseph⁶⁻⁵ Obadiah⁴ John³ William² John¹).

Also listed is the wife of another Rathbun — Mrs. Rose Dolores (Vargo) Rathbun, of Williamsburg, Va., wife of William A. Rathbun. We do not know his identity.

Past Issues Still Available

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All issues, 1981.....	22
All issues, 1982.....	20
All issues, 1983.....	15
All issues, 1984.....	15
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Single issues of 1983-86 issues are available for \$4 each. Earlier single issues (some available only in xerox copies), range from \$2 to \$5, depending on our supply. Write if interested.

Did George Washington Father A Son Named Jack Rathbone?

A collection of letters written some 190 years ago has raised the exciting possibility that George Washington, who had no known children, may have fathered an illegitimate son named Jack Rathbone.

Copies of the old letters have been made available to your editor by a major library in the hope that we can confirm or disprove the story, which has gone unnoticed by historians for nearly 200 years.

I will be researching the matter in the next few months, and hope to give an updated report in the next Historian.

At present, this is what we know, based on the letters:

In February 1799, a Jack (nickname for John?) Rathbone was married to a young lady surnamed DeWitt in either New York or Connecticut.

In that month, a Mrs. Rachel Birch wrote from Clinton (N.Y.?) to the bride's brother, Peter DeWitt, telling him an amazing story of the parentage of "a smart lad that has lately joined his fortune with that of your eldest sister's."

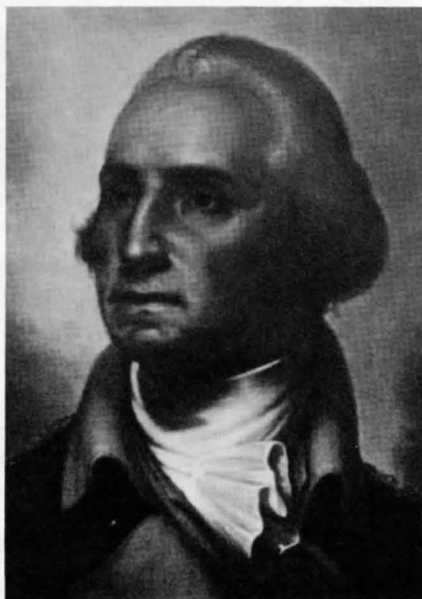
According to Mrs. Birch, "when General Washington was marching through that part of the country where she (Rathbone's mother) resided, he saw her and was smitten with her. Here Peter let thy charity drop a veil of forgetfulness over the frailty of the woman . . . He (General Washington) gave her four cows husbands in a faint earnest of his esteem, and pursued his march - Jack Rathbone exactly nine months after this gift first made his appearance."

Mrs. Birch then urged, "I pray you to keep the secret of Jack's birth to yourself."

From this old-fashioned wording, we can deduct that General Washington had an "affair" with one of the local girls somewhere in his travels during the Revolutionary War, apparently gave her four bulls — a valuable gift in that day — as a token of his gratitude, and then marched on to continue his battles with the British.

Nine months later, Jack Rathbone was born. It is not clear from the letter whether the mother was married or single. Mrs. Birch, whose husband was a doctor, claimed she had learned the story from another doctor, a "particular friend" of Rathbone.

Rathbone grew up and himself became a doctor. He possibly interned with Mrs. Birch's husband, for he apparently lived with the Birches for a time. The collection of DeWitt's letters



George Washington, the "Father of Our Country" and possibly the father of an illegitimate son named Jack Rathbone.

includes several written by Rathbone in the 1800-1802 period from New York City, and Jack Rathbone then seems to disappear from history.

George Washington, born in 1732, would have been in his middle forties at the time of Jack Rathbone's birth — the period from 1775 to 1777, since Rathbone was called a "lad" in 1799 but was already a doctor. That is also the time that Washington spent in the

New England-New York area after being named commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

Washington had married Martha Dandridge Custis, a wealthy widow with two children, in 1759. They never had children of their own. After serving as our first president from 1789 to 1797, he retired to Mount Vernon and died there on Dec. 14, 1799 — 10 months after Rachel Birch wrote her intriguing letter.

Hopefully, in our next Historian, we will be able to report some progress in solving this fascinating puzzle and possibly cast some light on the identity and later life of Jack Rathbone. Who knows? Maybe the "Father of Our Country" was also the father of a Rathbone!

Police Commander Rathburn Belongs to N.C. Branch

Several members last year sent us copies of a Parade Magazine article telling about William M. Rathburn being named Police Officer of the Year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Rathburn, a commander with the Los Angeles Police Department, was in charge of security for the 1984 Olympics.

We have contacted Commander Rathburn, and learned that he is a descendant of the North Carolina Rathbones, whose family connection has not been determined. See story in our October 1984 issue.

He is descended from John Rathbone, founder of the North Carolina Rathbones, as follows — John¹ Christopher² Jesse³ Zebedee⁴ William⁵ and Commander William M. Rathburn⁶.

Commander Rathburn has become a member of our Association.

Little Rathbun Sawmill Started Huge Canadian Lumber Empire

Few Americans today have ever heard of the Rathbun Company, which flourished for nearly 75 years in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Although based in Canada, it was founded by a New York Rathbun and eventually had offices in Canada, New York City, England and Scotland. Its rise from a small sawmill operation to a multi-million-dollar corporation is a truly remarkable story of a family business which achieved fantastic success through the simple rules of hard work, common sense and intelligent planning.

The Rathbun Company story begins with Hugo Burghardt Rathbun (1812-1886), a son of Edward⁵ Rathbun (Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Born in Scipio, Cayuga County, New York, Hugo was named for the family's long-time physician in Richmond, Mass. — Dr. Hugo Burghardt, who later served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Hugo's father, Edward Rathbun, was an early settler in Scipio, where he was a wheat farmer and an officer in the local militia. The family moved soon after Hugo's birth to nearby Ledyard, where Edward died in 1825, when Hugo was only 13. The widow moved a few years later to Auburn, N.Y., which was to be Hugo's home for many years.

Three of his older brothers became prominent citizens in Auburn. George, born in 1802, was the city's postmaster in 1837 and represented the area in the U.S. Congress from 1843 to 1847. Edward, born in 1806, became a surgeon-dentist. Amos Scott Rathbun went into the lumber business. Two other brothers, Erastus and John, were early pioneers in Ohio, and the seventh brother, Hiram, was a farmer and later a hotelman, and was county sheriff in 1838.

Hugo, while still a young man, joined his brother Amos in the lumbering business — the A.S. Rathbun Company, with headquarters in Oswego, N.Y. He



Rathbun Company lumbermen working on a boom of logs in the late 1800s near the firm's headquarters on the Bay of Quinte in Ontario.

became a field man for the company, making frequent visits across Lake Ontario to Canada, where he sought timber-cutting leases for his brother's firm.

In 1840, aged 28, he was married in New York City to Louise Storm, daughter of Isaac Storm, a senior partner in the prestigious Manhattan firm of Storm, Smith and Company, East India merchants. Hugo probably met the Storm family through his lumbering activities.

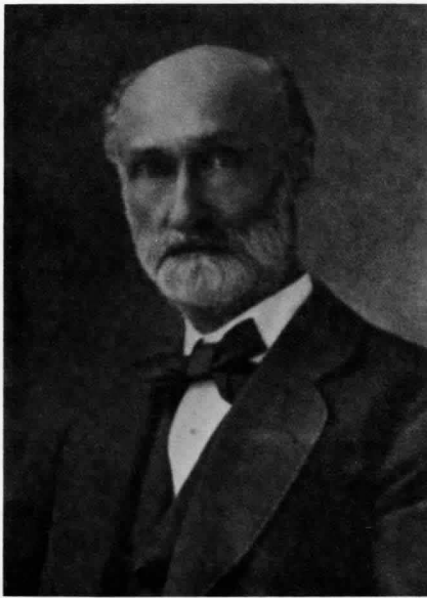
About this time, the Canadian government was becoming concerned over the growing export to the United States of fresh-cut timber. In a move to encourage local manufacturing, Canadian officials were considering an embargo on the export of raw timber by non-Canadian firms.

Amos Scott Rathbun reacted quickly. In 1840, the A.S. Rathbun Company purchased land in the Bay of Quinte area of Ontario, and opened a purchasing agency there. This gave him a

Canadian business which would not be affected by an embargo. In 1848, the firm erected a sawmill on the property, located on a small inlet of the Bay at what was then called Culbertson's Landing.

The venture may have been financed by brother George Rathbun, then a lawyer in Auburn. Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy says that George was briefly associated with the firm, and that he visited its mill in Ontario. He returned, Cooley says, "disgusted with the country and the Indians."

Amos Scott Rathbun may have shared this view, for in 1849, only a year after opening the mill, he decided to sell the operation. Hugo leaped at the chance to buy the business, but could not raise enough money to finance it alone. He recruited two partners — Thomas Y. How Jr. and L.E. Carpenter. How, a cousin by marriage, was active in Auburn politics. He had served as county surrogate and earlier as inspector of Auburn Prison.



Hugo B. Rathbun (1812-1886), left, founded the Rathbun Company in 1849. His son, Edward W. Rathbun (1842-1903), center, directed its growth into a multi-million-dollar empire,

with the help of his younger brother, Frederick S. Rathbun (1856-1898), at right. The two brothers, who married sisters, worked well together and were close friends.

Both Carpenter and How apparently had been employed at one time by the A.S. Rathbun Company, and had accompanied Hugo on his trips to Ontario. They were familiar with the area, recognized its potential, and agreed to join Hugo Rathbun in buying the sawmill property.

The three partners formed the United States Company, based in Auburn, and took over the Canadian sawmill. They added a grist mill and a general store, and the name of the site was changed to Mill Point, later changed to Deseronto.

The operation was not a financial success. Cooley reported that it had "many difficulties" which were overcome "with patience and undaunted enterprise" on the part of Hugo, who was apparently the active partner. He lived in Auburn, let local agents run the business, and commuted across Lake Ontario only when necessary.

Some of the problems may have been caused by resentment on both sides of the border. Canadians were not happy about American absentee-landlord businesses, and American lumber interests did not appreciate the competition of Canadian sawmills.

The situation changed in 1854, when the U.S. and Canada ratified a Reciprocity Treaty, designed to

promote freer trade between the two nations. Hugo decided to take full advantage of the opportunity, and in 1855 he and his family moved to Mill Point and became Canadian residents.

The following year, he bought out the shares of his two partners, How and Carpenter, and became the sole owner of the Mill Point operation. How had moved up in politics. He had served two years in Congress, in the same seat earlier held by Hugo's brother, George Rathbun, and then was elected mayor of Auburn.

With full ownership of the business, Hugo changed the firm's name to H.B. Rathbun and Company. He operated it with fair success for several years, but in 1861 he suffered severe health problems. It is not clear what his illness was, but Cooley reported that Hugo "was never what could be called a strong man, having always been in delicate health."

There seems to have been a congenital weakness in Hugo's family. Five of his 12 children died as youngsters, and only one of his six sons lived to be 60.

Now, at age 59, his health failing, Hugo could no longer carry on the business. He called upon his oldest surviving son, Edward Wilkes Rathbun, then only 19. Edward had stayed in

New York to attend Auburn Academy when the family moved to Mill Point. He had then attended college in New York City, and in 1861 he was working in the offices of his maternal grandfather's trading company.

Edward immediately responded to his father's call for help and moved to Mill Point. His business experience in New York City was put to good use, and he soon mastered details of his father's business. Two years later, Hugo turned the operation over to his son, then just 21, and the company's name was changed to H.B. Rathbun and Son.

It proved to be a wise move. Edward quickly displayed a streak of brilliance which was to eventually make him one of the barons of Canadian business.

Edward realized that the key to the company's future lay in expansion, and launched an intensive drive to find added sources of lumber and better means of transportation. He scoured the area north of the Bay of Quinte, and bought or leased timber rights on vast tracts of forest lands. He concentrated his efforts near the four major waterways which flowed into the bay — the Trent, Moira, Salmon and Napanee rivers.

(continued on page 38)

(continued from page 37)

These rivers flowed at relatively low levels during most of the year, but swelled into wide, deep torrents in the spring, when the heavy winter snow began to melt. The logging, consequently, was done in the summer, fall and early winter, and then hauled to the riverbanks to await the spring floods. They were then floated down to the bay, collected into large rafts called "booms" and towed to Mill Point by tugboats.

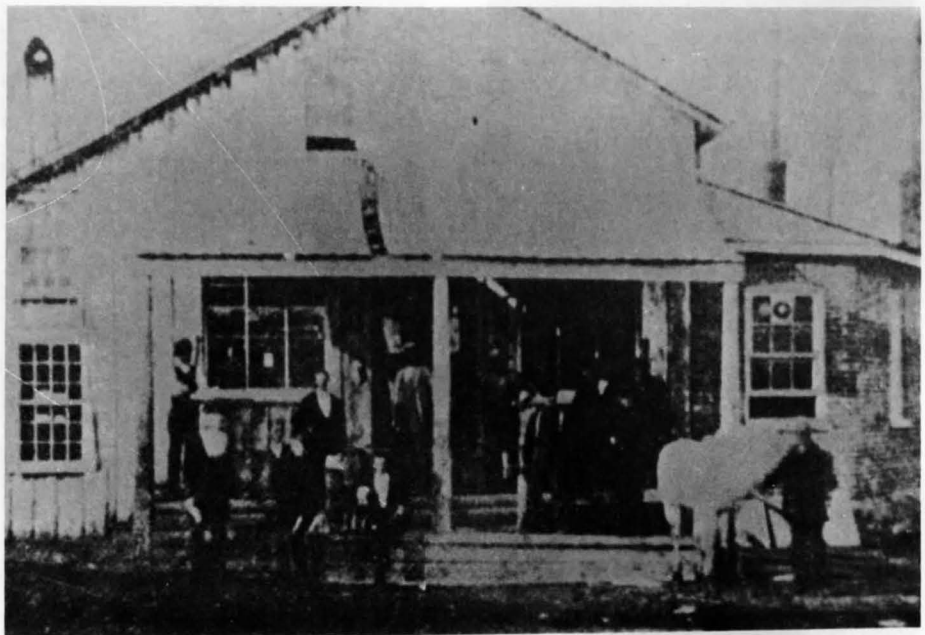
With this system, in use for many generations, sawmills stood idle for much of the year, once the spring "harvest" was sawed. If all the cut logs could not be floated down the river before the spring flood ended, the rest had to wait until the following spring.

Edward saw a way to extend the river's spring flow. He hired engineers to build dams along the rivers to hold back some of the spring runoff and release it as needed to keep the logs moving. In this way, he was able to keep sending logs to his mill well into the summer.

But this was only the beginning of Edward Rathbun's plans. He also bought his own tugboats to haul the log booms to his mill, thus ending his dependence on others. Then, to keep his boats in top condition, he built a small shipyard at Mill Point in 1868. Within a few years, he expanded the shipyard and offered repair and maintenance service to other boat owners. This proved so successful, and profitable, that he again expanded the shipyard and began to build lake vessels, both for his own use and for sale.

Since most of the sawmill output was shipped across Lake Ontario to the United States, he organized an American subsidiary, E.W. Rathbun and Company, and purchased lake-front property in Oswego, N.Y., where he built docks and storage buildings. From Oswego, his lumber was shipped on the Oswego Canal to the Erie Canal, and then to New York City and the eastern markets.

Now able to move more lumber, he built another sawmill at Ferry Point (now Rossmore), on the other side of the Bay of Quinte. He also sent his agents further north to find still more timber tracts to buy or lease.



The Rathbun Company's early headquarters at Mill Point (now Deseronto), Ontario. Erected in 1856, it was used for several decades until expanding operations created the need for a larger building.

Hugo Rathbun by this time had withdrawn almost entirely from active participation in the business. In 1867, he moved to New York City, evidently for health reasons, and returned to Mill Point only for a few months each summer. He must have been exceedingly proud of his son as he watched the family business grow and prosper.

During its first two decades, the original sawmill had produced primarily sawn lumber, but Edward now reconized new opportunities. A great railroad building boom had just begun, and there was an enormous demand for railroad ties. And railroad ties meant lumber.

In 1871, he began construction of still another sawmill, not far from the original mill in Mill Point. It was put into operation the following year and then expanded over the next few years. It eventually was 60 by 180 feet, three stories high, with adjoining buildings for storage and for the boilers and steam engines which ran the saws.

The new mill produced immense quantities of railroad ties, fence posts and cedar shingles. Within 10 years, its annual output reached 20,000,000 shingles and 12,000,000 board feet of railroad ties and fence posts. Even the company's extensive timber tracts

could not keep up with the new mill's capacity, and Edward had to buy lumber from other sawmills. The plant, with 145 workers, was the largest of its kind in Canada.

Two years later, Edward built a fourth mill, this one to manufacture doors, window sashes and blinds. He also erected a huge drying kiln to cure his new-cut lumber. It had a capacity of 25,000 board feet daily.

Rathbun also recognized the potential profit in the waste materials from his growing sawmill operations. It was then customary to dispose of end cuts, damaged wood and other unwanted pieces by burning them in incinerators. Some operators even paid to have the "trash" disposed of.

He established a new operation to utilize every bit of usable wood. Machinery was installed to manufacture small items — laths, fencing pickets, mouldings, broom handles and curtain rods. Even pieces of lath too short to meet regulation length were used — they became banana crates! Within a few years, the former "waste" material had become the source of a profitable sideline.

Edward ordered that all remaining waste material, even that which had been left lying in the forests, be hauled

to the mills and used as fuel for the big steam boilers which powered the machinery.

He also sought ways to make use of the great mounds of sawdust which accumulated at the company's mills. He first tried to ferment it to produce gas for illumination, but the costs outweighed the benefits. He had his engineers and chemists experiment with ways to compress the sawdust into blocks for use as heating fuel. This too proved impractical with the technology of the times. (The idea is widely used today in imitation fireplace logs — compressed sawdust mixed with petroleum products).

Unable to find any practical use for the sawdust, Edward had a special incinerator built near the new mill, and installed four 100-horsepower steam-power boilers. The sawdust was burned to fuel the operation and was also available for the company's steam-powered tugs and barges. The sawdust was stored in a huge open crib, 75 by 296 feet, and 27 feet high. A special elevated railroad line was installed to haul sawdust to the crib. Edward Rathbun never thought small!

As a result of these moves, H.B. Rathbun and Son was making a profit on material that other firms considered as waste. Such common-sense planning was a major reason why the company grew and prospered, even during financial recessions, and why it kept its growing work force busy all year long, without layoffs during slack periods. At the same time, many new jobs were being constantly created.

The company very early adopted a far-sighted and progressive labor policy for its expanding family of workers. Hugo Rathbun had established a special department in 1850 to make sure that all his employees had adequate food and housing. In hard times, when cash was scarce, workers were paid with coupons which they used to buy food and fuel at the company store and pay their rent. In good times, they were paid in cash, but the company withheld fifteen cents each payday for an accident insurance plan — a forerunner of today's Social Security System.

The company also established its own bank which provided loans for its employees to build or buy homes. Most of the Rathbun employees came to own their own homes — a rarity in that day.

Qualified workers were also promoted at every opportunity, and few employees ever left the company.

The work force expanded constantly, as Edward kept building new mills and opening new avenues of profit. It required hundreds of workers in the mills alone, but there were also field men to find and lease new cutting areas, surveyors to establish boundary lines, engineers to plan and build river dams, loggers to cut and trim the trees and teamsters to haul logs to the rivers, raftsmen to guide them down the rivers, and collect them into booms on the bay, boatmen for the tugs and barges on the bay, cooks for the field camps, and boiler operators for the steam systems.

Then, of course, there were the departmental and plant managers and their staffs; the clerks, accountants and secretaries. And there was a host of salesmen on the road selling the company's products.

The company also operated a large horse farm to maintain a pool of working horses and mules. Another farm operation developed around a large vegetable garden which raised produce for the company store. Both added more jobs to the payroll.

There was also a forestry department which Hugo Rathbun had created shortly after taking over the company. It was one of the first firms in Canada to adopt long-range forest programs and progressive cutting policies, leaving and protecting smaller trees to provide future forests.

By the late 1870s, after nearly 20 years as head of the company, Edward Rathbun found himself overwhelmed with a burgeoning workload. He needed some trustworthy top assistants, and he turned to family members for help.

His next youngest brother, Frederick Sherwood Rathbun, had joined the firm as an accountant in 1872 at the age of 16. He proved so capable that Edward in 1880 made him secretary-treasurer of the company. A cousin, Hugo B. Sherwood (son of Edward's aunt, Annie Rathbun Sherwood), had joined the company in 1866, and he too became one of Edward's top aides.

Edward, in 1863, had married Elizabeth H. Bert, who bore him three children before she died in 1871, aged 31. Two years later, he was married again, to Bunella McMurrick, by whom

he had six more children. Frederick was married in 1877 to Jean McMurrick, a sister of Edward's wife. They had four children.

The two brothers, and their cousin, Hugo Sherwood, worked well together, and Edward had found the men he needed to share the company's leadership and give him more time for his growing family and to carry out his ambitious plans for the company.

As the decade of the 1880s got under way, H.B. Rathbun and Son, with Edward firmly and confidently in control, was ready to launch a period of spectacular growth which would make the firm a multi-million-dollar enterprise and one of Canada's major corporations.

(to be continued)

(Most of the material and all the pictures used in this story on the Rathbun Company are taken from the book, Lost Horizons, by Donald M. Wilson, which is a detailed story of the Rathbun Company. It is available from the Mika Publishing Company, 200 Stanley Street, Belleville, Ontario K8N, Ontario. A lesser amount of data was taken from John C. Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy, and from a detailed article on the Rathbun Company which appeared in the September 5, 1891, issue of the Northwest Lumberman.)

WANTED — Information on Charles B. Rathbun, born in June 1865 in Ohio, married a woman named Stella and lived in 1900 at Olean, N.Y. They had a daughter, Gladys, born in 1888.

Carbon paper was invented in 1806 by Ralph Wedgewood in England and was first sold from his shop at 4 Rathbone Place, Oxford Street, London.

Rathbun Drives off Indians After Day-Long Gun Battle

One of our early cousins took part in the last major Indian uprising in Kansas, during the late 1870s, in which some 60 whites and untold numbers of Indians were killed. This is the story of his exciting experience, with a surprise ending worthy of an O. Henry.

Patrick Henry Rathbun was born in 1851 in Ogle County, Illinois, the oldest son of Benjamin⁶ Rathbun (Benjamin⁵ William⁴ Job³ Joseph² John¹). When he was about 22, he headed west, as so many young men did in those days. He was a miner for several years in New Mexico, but finally ended up in Decatur County, Kansas. There, he apparently was a civilian scout for the Army, and lived in a dug-out on the Beaver River, about two miles east of what is now the town of Traer.

At that time, the late 1870s, western Kansas was just starting to fill up with settlers, and Indians were becoming a serious problem. The difficulties dated to the late 1860s, when Army troops were sent to the plains area to round up the native Indians and herd them into reservations.

Hostilities continued and reached a peak in 1876, when General Custer and his troops were killed by Sioux Indians at the Battle of Little Bighorn. More troops were sent west to overcome Indian resistance. In 1877, some 1,000 Cheyennes, headed by Chief Dull Knife, were forced into a reservation in what was then known as the Indian Territory, now the state of Oklahoma.

On the reservation, many of the Cheyennes died of disease and starvation, and Chief Dull Knife decided to break out and take his people back to their original home near the Yellowstone River, some 1,500 miles away. He made his break in September of 1878, and, with hundreds of braves and their families, headed north into Kansas. Along the way, they stole cattle for food; horses to haul their supplies, their sick and their aged, and guns and ammunition to fight the cavalry which had been



Patrick Henry "Pat" Rathbun (left) with his brother, Benjamin, and a young woman who is most likely one of their sisters, Mary or Ellen. The picture was probably taken in the 1880s, only a few years after Pat's shootout with the Indians.

sent to take them back to the reservation. They killed scores of white settlers during their raids.

A major battle took place on September 27 near Squaw Den, in Scott County, but Dull Knife and his remaining people pushed on northward and reached Decatur County two days later. This is when Pat Rathbun enters the story. Details are conflicting, but the major facts have been passed down in the family.

On September 30 (or possibly October 1), Private Frederick Hamper of

the 89th Indiana Volunteers, was sent out with two other soldiers, all on horseback, to look for a span of Army mules which had strayed or been stolen. Hamper was a German immigrant, about 30 years old, possibly stationed at Fort Wallace, not far from Pat Rathbun's home. Hamper was married and had five children. He and Rathbun were good friends.

Somewhere on Beaver Creek in Rawlins County, just west of Decatur County, the three soldiers met Pat Rathbun, who was probably also out

looking for the stolen mules. Hamper sent the other two soldiers back along Beaver Creek (where they were ambushed and killed by Indians a few hours later), while he and Rathbun continued the search along Driftwood Creek.

Both men were carrying Colt 45 six-shooters, and also had Winchester carbines in their saddle scabbards. Finding no sign of the missing mules, they started back toward Beaver Creek. On the way, they met some of Chief Dull Knife's Cheyennes — either two or four, according to different versions of the story.

The Indians appeared peaceful, so Rathbun and Hamper were wary but friendly. Using sign language, they asked the Indians about the missing mules. The Indians replied that they had not seen them, and then asked for tobacco. They were given some, hands were shaken, and Rathbun and Hamper turned to ride away. They had only gone a few feet when Rathbun heard the click of a rifle hammer being cocked.

An experienced frontier scout, he recognized the sound immediately. He shouted a warning to Hamper and flung himself down the right side of his horse. A bullet ripped through his coat, just under his left arm, but he was unhurt. Hamper was not so lucky. He had not responded quickly enough to Rathbun's shout, and a bullet struck him in the back, tore through one of his lungs, and out his chest. He fell to the ground, blood spurting from his back and chest.

Rathbun reached over and grabbed the reins of Hamper's horse, along with his own, looping them over his left arm as he reached for his revolver with his right hand. The horses, terrified at the gunfire, reared up in panic, and Rathbun lost control of them. He was thrown to the ground and both horses galloped away, taking the two carbines with them. He whipped out his revolver to defend himself from the Indians, but to his amazement, they rode off in pursuit of the horses.

Knowing they would return, Rathbun half-dragged, half carried his wounded companion to a nearby buffalo wallow, where he could put up a defense. A short time later, the Indians did return, and immediately opened fire on Rathbun's position. For the next several hours, Rathbun held the Indians off, using both his gun and Hamper's. They

made several charges, but were driven back each time. In one attack, Rathbun killed one of their horses, which fell a few feet from the wallow. He knew he had also hit at least one of the Indians.

Sometime during the afternoon, Hamper died. He knew he could not survive, and at one point, grabbed Rathbun's hand and whispered: "Pat, take care of my wife and children." Rathbun promised he would.

As dusk fell, Rathbun had used up almost all his shells. He was down to about six, and he wanted to save one for himself. He well knew how Indians treated their prisoners. But his luck held out. Indians did not like to fight at night, and by the time it was dark, they had gone.

Rathbun slipped out of the wallow, made his way to Beaver Creek, and followed it back to the settlements in Decatur County. Two days later, he returned with several men to the site, and buried Hamper's body.

He had the grim task of telling Hamper's wife of her husband's death, and he no doubt told her of Hamper's request that Rathbun "take care of my wife

and children." Rathbun definitely fulfilled his promise to the dying Hamper.

On June 13, 1880, Patrick Henry Rathbun and Mary Catherine (McKenzie) Hamper were married. Rathbun became the stepfather of Hamper's five children, and in the next nine years, he and Mary had three children of their own — Harry, Edward and Goldie.

Pat Rathbun died in 1898. Mary (Hamper) Rathbun died in 1909. They are both buried at Oberlin, Kansas. Fred Hamper still lies buried near the place where he died, one of nearly 60 whites killed in the hectic days of 1878.

(We thank three members of our Association for helping to compile the information and pictures for this fascinating story — Ivalee (Rathbun) Horne, a great-granddaughter of Pat and Mary (Hamper) Rathbun; Florence Vulgamore, their granddaughter, and Glenn E. Rathbun, a grandson of Pat's younger brother, Benjamin, who married Nancy Callie Hamper, one of Pat's stepdaughters, "making me," he proudly points out, "both a Rathbun and a Hamper.").



This picture, taken in 1909, shows the three children of Pat and Mary (Hamper) Rathbun, and Mary's five children by Fred Hamper, her first husband, who was killed in the Indian fight. Seated, from left, are Florence Hamper, Goldie Rathbun, Harry Rathbun and Callie Hamper, who married Pat's brother, Benjamin. Standing, from left, are Lewis Hamper, Fred Hamper Jr., Edward Rathbun and Richard Hamper.

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

42. JOHN TILLINGHAST⁶ RATHBUN

(Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Aug. 18, 1790, at West Greenwich, R.I., and moved with his parents as a boy to Pennsylvania and then to Clark County, Ohio. He married Jan. 21, 1809, in Trumbull County, Ohio, Lydia Brown, born Dec. 11, 1784, daughter of Caleb and Polly Brown. He served in the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812, and was described as five feet, ten inches tall, with blue eyes and dark hair. He and Lydia lived for a time in Champaign County, Ohio, and then in the 1820s moved to Pike Township, Madison County, Ohio, where they were among the first settlers. John became a Methodist preacher and is considered the founder of the Barren Run Methodist Church, in Pike Township. He was also a "steam doctor," and erected a small building where he gave steam treatments. Lydia died Oct. 21, 1839, at Rosedale, Ohio, and he was married April 30, 1840, in Brown Township, Franklin County, to Elizabeth (Hayden) Downing, born Oct. 6, 1804, a widow whose parentage is unknown. He died in Brown Township on Jan. 30, 1850. Elizabeth died there Dec. 22, 1882.

CHILDREN

(By Lydia)

CHARLES, born Oct. 4, 1809; married (1) Elizabeth Russell, and (2) Margaret Nicholson.

LEVI, born May 28, 1811; married Eliza Mitchell.

AMOS, born Oct. 16, 1812; died Sept. 29, 1822.

NELSON, born Jan. 14, 1814; married Eleanor Fox.

ABIGAIL, born Nov. 27, 1815; died Nov. 11, 1839, unmarried.

SARAH, born May 27, 1817; married Luke Clemens.

STRANGE HARMON GRIFFIN, born Jan. 15, 1819; married Alzina Hall.

(By Elizabeth)

LEMUEL BANCHER, born April 5, 1842; married Kate Cary.

WILLIAM SIMMONS, born March 28, 1844; died Oct. 23, 1858.

See New Data 16-2 p 38

43. JOSEPH SHARPE⁶ RATHBUN

(Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Feb. 20, 1797, in Butler County, Pa., and moved with his parents as a boy to Clark County, Ohio. He moved as a young man to Mechanicsburg, Champaign County, and was married there on March 4, 1824, to Mary Blackner Davis, born July 10, 1805, daughter of Jesse and Mary (Blackner) Davis. He taught school there for several years, and then became a merchant. He was elected the town's first mayor in 1834, but resigned the post in 1836 to move to Liberty in Logan County. In 1840, he and his family moved to Middletown, in Montgomery County, Missouri. Mary died there on May 13, 1844, and on March 30, 1845, he was married to Rebecca Pearl, a widow born about 1804, ancestry unknown. In 1853, he decided to move to California. His wife was reluctant, but he promised her that they would return to Missouri if she did not like California after five years. In the summer of 1853, they set off for California, driving a large herd of cattle, and riding in wagons pulled by ox teams. After a five-month journey, they arrived in Sonora County, California, with one of the first herds of cattle in the state. They settled near Petaluma, where Joseph operated a stock and dairy farm and built a cheese factory. He became a prominent citizen, and was elected to the State Legislature in 1855 on the American Party Ticket. In 1858, recalling Joseph's promise, Rebecca declared that she did not like California and wanted to return to Missouri. He sold his farm and cheese factory, and returned with her to Missouri, settling in Franklin County, 40 miles from St. Louis. In the summer of 1866, he was thrown from his carriage, and

died from his injuries the following Dec. 21. Rebecca survived him, but her death date is not known. Most of his children remained in California, or returned there after his death.

CHILDREN

See Corrections 06-4 p 62

(All by Mary)

JULIA, born Nov. 23, 1824; married Augustus S. Mermod on Oct. 15, 1851.

HENRIETTA, born March 8, 1826; died Nov. 30, 1851.

TEMPERANCE, born Nov. 27, 1827; died Aug. 27, 1835.

ERSKINE, born Sept. 23, 1829; married Cynthia Boyle.

EDWIN DAVIS, born April 24, 1831; married Catharine Donaldson.

JESSE DAVIS, born March 22, 1833; died Aug. 15, 1833.

EMILY, born May 21, 1834; died March 22, 1835.

RUTH, born Feb. 4, 1836; died Oct. 13, 1843.

DAVIS LINCOLN, born Aug. 25, 1838; married Rosanna O'Brien.

ABIGAIL HUNT, born Oct. 26, 1840; died unmarried Jan. 16, 1914. She was a teacher for many years in St. Louis and California.

JESSE PERRIN, born Nov. 8, 1842; married Mary Johns.

44. STEPHEN ALLEN⁶ RATHBUN

(Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born June 8, 1799, in Browndale, Butler County, Pa., and moved with his parents as a boy to Clark County, Ohio. He became a Methodist Episcopal minister, and settled in Addison, Gallia County, Ohio. He married there on June 26, 1827, Mary (Van Zant) Bing, born March 12, 1786, daughter of Elijah and Elnora (Wilson) Van Zant, and widow of James Bing. He was an itinerant preacher for many years, and died April 5, 1853, at Cheshire, Ohio. Mary died a year later, April 16, 1854, at Green Brier, Va.

CHILDREN

JAMES BING, born June 22, 1828; died Nov. 11, 1840.

MARY ABIGAIL, born May 4, 1830; married Rev. Albert G. Byers on Dec. 7, 1852.

45. JONATHAN⁶ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1787 in Tyringham, Mass., and moved with his parents as a young man to Avon, N.Y. He married there about 1810 Mary (Polly) Higbee, born about 1790, parentage unknown. He died about 1816, probably at Avon. Polly moved to Portage County, Ohio, where on Oct. 30, 1817, she married Enoch Judson. Her death date is not known.

CHILD

MARY CALISTA, born about 1814; married Leonard Aldrich on July 2, 1848.

46. CLARK⁶ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Oct. 8, 1789, at Tyringham, Mass., and moved with his parents to Avon, N.Y. He served in the War of 1812 in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, and married soon afterward Maria Woodruff, born about 1792, parentage unknown. They moved with his father to Sandusky County, Ohio, but returned to New York and settled at Seneca Falls, where Maria died about 1825. He was married about 1827 to a wife who lived only one year, whose name is unknown. He was married a third time about 1829 to Nancy Barlow, born about 1807, parentage unknown. They moved by 1840 to Clark County, Ohio, and in 1845 to Mackford, Marquette County, Wisconsin. He died there in 1876 and Nancy about the same time.

CHILDREN

(By Maria)

CAROLINE, born about 1814; married John Chapel.

MARIA, born about 1816; married Peter Van Ness Dec. 30, 1836.

ORRIN, born about 1820; no known

marriage; he moved to New Haven, Conn., and died there some time after 1855.

(By Nancy)

RANDOLPH, born about 1830; married Theresa Emily Menroy (spelling of her surname questionable).

ANNA MARETTA, born about 1836; apparently died young.

HANNAH JANE, born about 1838; married Francis Shephard.

FRANCES ADELIA, born about 1845; married _____ Shephard.

47. CHAPLIN⁶ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born July 4, 1793, in Tyringham, Mass., and moved with his parents to Avon, N.Y. as a young man. He served as a drummer in the War of 1812, and was married about 1812 at Buffalo, N.Y., to Lucinda L. Sutliff, born April 3, 1792, daughter of Gad and Catharine (Squire) Sutliff. They moved by 1820 to Lorain County, Ohio, and about 1824 joined his father at Green Creek, Sandusky County, Ohio. He was described as a large man with a hardy constitution and muscular frame. Lucinda died July 29, 1852, at Green Creek, and Chaplin on Jan. 1, **1863 (or possibly 1865)**.

See Corrections 06-4 p 62

CHILDREN

SAXTON SQUIRE, born June 3, 1813; married Barbara Elizabeth Huss.

JANETTE, born May 19, 1815; married James Cleveland on March 3, 1831.

CATHARINE, born May 3, 1818; married Christian Huss on July 5, 1837.

LUCINDA, born Oct. 14, 1819; married (1) Morris Lemmon in 1837, and (2) David Lemmon in 1846.

JONATHAN, born about 1822; died about 1829, aged seven.

SARAH, born Dec. 5, 1825; married Hasael Foster on March 4, 1841.

ELIZA, born Feb. 2, 1827; married John Hunter on Sept. 12, 1847.

CHAPLIN BRUCE, born March 10, 1831; married (1) Roxie Tucker, and (2) Rose Hearl.

48. LUCIUS⁶ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born April 11, 1800, and moved with his parents as a boy to Avon, New York. He moved as a young man to Cayahoga County, Ohio, where he married on July 26, 1821, Rhoda Gillette, born Aug. 15, 1803, daughter of Wilkes Gillette. They moved to Green Creek, Sandusky County, Ohio, near his father. In 1841, after fathering 11 children by Rhoda, he left her to move west with Sarah Glick, the family maid, who he then married. He was a most unusual man and we are planning a separate story on his life. He died July 2, 1875, in Cass County, Michigan, where Sarah died March 14, 1891. Rhoda, his first wife, died Oct. 27, 1871.

CHILDREN

(By Rhoda)

JONATHAN, born about 1822; died in 1832 of smallpox.

DERWIN, born Dec. 18, 1823; married Harriet Burdick.

FRANKLIN (twin), born Dec. 18, 1823; married Louise Tucker.

LUCIUS LAFAYETTE, born Nov. 18, 1825; married (1) Orpha Judson, and (2) Julia (Jordan) Rathbun, widow of his brother, Vortimer.

WILKES GILLETTE, born Feb. 20, 1829; married (1) Naomi Clark; (2) Jane A. Ward; (3) Hattie Sage, and (4) Jennette (Allen) Hughes.

JAMES, born about 1831; died about 1836, aged five.

MARTIN, born March 22, 1833; married Sarah Simerson.

VORTIMER, born July 5, 1834; married Julia Jordan.

EMERETTE ELIZABETH, born July 3, 1836; married Samuel Baker on March 23, 1853.

MARGUERETTA, born July 3, 1836 (twin); died July 24 1836.

EMELINE, born Oct. 16, 1840; married James G. Hayden on March 4, 1860.

(By Sarah)

FRANCIS B., born Feb. 15, 1842; married Julia Ann Hall.

NORMAN, born Sept. 23, 1843; married (1) Emily J. Bonnell, and (2) Jane E. Fallayda.

(continued on page 44)

(continued from page 43)

See Correction 10-1 p 9

HARRIET, born Jan. 30, 1845; died 1850.

CAROLINE, born Feb. 20, 1846; married Thomas Higgins, July 4, 1867.

EMMA B., born in 1847; married Nicholas Wadsworth in 1873.

CLARK, born Feb. 12, 1848; married Carrie Earl.

WARREN, born Sept. 20, 1849; died Sept. 9, 1851.

RODNEY, born Oct. 8, 1853; married Nancy Ann Gifford.

49. MARTIN DUDLEY⁶ RATHBUN (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born June 17, 1807, at Avon, N.Y., and married there Feb. 13, 1834, Frances Harvey, born Dec. 29, 1815, daughter of Mark and Nancy (Goodin) Harvey. They moved a short time later to Sandusky County, Ohio, and then in 1842 to Cass County, Mich. He died there Nov. 24, 1866, and Frances married Daniel M. Fisher on July 8, 1873. She died in 1899.

CHILDREN

GEORGE FRANCIS, born July 17, 1835; married Fallie Jordan.

MARY ELIZABETH, born May 1, 1839; married Joseph Garwood on Dec. 25, 1860.

ALVIRA LYDIA, born April 4, 1841; married Madison Fisher.

ALMIRA M., born Feb. 11, 1843; died Aug. 23, 1851.

MARK HARVEY, born Aug. 22, 1846; died Aug. 25 1851.

HENRY RILEY, born June 1, 1848; married Kalily Richardson.

MARTHA ARLETTA, born June 22, 1850; died Sept. 9, 1854.

LEWIS MARTIN, born Jan. 11, 1852; died Oct. 11, 1854.

EMMA DETTE, born Dec. 7, 1853; married Almerion Parks on Nov. 8, 1876.

ADDIE PERDITTI, born April 4, 1859; died April 1, 1865.

50. PEARSON⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born March 8, 1793, at Duanesburg, N.Y. He served as a sergeant in the War of 1812, and then moved with his parents as a young

man to Cayahoga County, Ohio. He married there March 9, 1817, Laura Stewart, born about 1797, parents unknown. He owned a farm of 200 acres on the Ohio Canal in Newburg, but had to sell it in 1829 due to financial insolvency. A number of other farmers had the same problem, due to a financial recession. He died at Newburg Aug. 24, 1843. Laura died there in the spring of 1849.

CHILDREN

ALONZO WILLIAM, born Sept. 27, 1818; married Mary Ann Miles.

STEWART, born Nov. 9, 1821; married Laura Carter.

CORYDON LAFAYETTE, born Sept. 10, 1826; married Amelia Carter.

JOHN PEARSON, born in February 1829; married (1) Cordelia A. Larcomb, and (2) Ellen Hitchcock.

51. ERASTUS⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born June 23, 1795, in Duanesburg, N.Y. He enlisted in the Army for the War of 1812 but took sick and never served. He married about 1815 Sally Lilley, born in 1800, parentage unknown. They moved soon after their marriage to Newburg, Ohio, where Erastus became a miller. They moved by 1830 to Monroe, Ashtabula County, Ohio, where Sally died in 1863 and Erastus on May 24, 1876.

CHILDREN

SYLVESTER L., born May 17, 1817; married Fannie E. Kent.

LAVINA, born in June 1822; married William Tinker.

GEORGE W., born Jan. 15, 1825; married Maria Collins.

JOSEPH, born about 1830; died aged three.

ADELIA MELISSA, born Sept. 14, 1836; married Lebbius Lothrop Skinner on Nov. 24, 1853.

52. MILTON⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born June 6, 1797, probably at Hartford, Ontario County, N.Y. He served in the War of 1812 in the New York Militia. He

moved to Newburg, Ohio, about 1817 with his parents and married there on Jan. 22, 1818, Laura Aiken, born about 1799, daughter of George and Tamizen (Higgins) Aiken. He died August 14, 1822, when he was overcome by poisonous gasses while cleaning a 20-foot well. Laura married on April 11, 1825, Marvin Cochran, by whom she had eight children. She died August 8, 1882, at Newburg.

CHILDREN

NATHAN H., born Feb. 15, 1819; married (1) Mary Susan Higgins, and (2) Martha (Glover) Pepper.

ALMIRA, born in 1821; married Marvin Miner on Feb. 11, 1838.

53. JOSEPH⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born March 10, 1813, at Caledonia, Genesee County, N.Y., and moved with his family as a young boy to Newburg, Ohio. He was married March 28, 1836, at Franklin, Ohio, to Sarah Olivia Brown, born June 13, 1817, daughter of Charles Brown. They lived for many years in Ashtabula County, Ohio, and moved in 1857 to Elk, Delaware County, Iowa, where he died Oct. 2, 1858. Sarah returned to Ohio and later moved to Branch County, Michigan, where she died sometime after 1880 at the home of her son, Edward.

CHILDREN

OLIVIA, born Jan. 31, 1837; married Lewis Fox on Feb. 8, 1855.

FRANCIS MARION, born March 31, 1838; died July 17, 1858.

CHARLES DAVID, born April 9, 1842; married Alice E. Fox.

JOSEPH PEARSON, born Feb. 26, 1844; married (1) Margaret Butts, and (2) Eva Stanton.

ELECTA ALICE, born May 30, 1846; married James Johnson on June 22, 1871.

DEBORAH HARRIET, born Aug. 23, 1848; died Sept. 20, 1851.

ELLEN ELMIRA, born June 3, 1852; married Edward Ward on June 9, 1870.

EDWARD RICHARD, born June 3, 1852 (twin); married Alta J. Ellis.

MARIETTA RUTH, born Aug. 8, 1855; married Frank H. Lee on April 10, 1881.

54. GIDEON CLARK⁶ RATHBUN (Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1785 at Exeter, R.I. (This family was not covered by Cooley and the data has been assembled from census and other records. More research is needed!) He moved with his parents to Vermont as a young boy and was married, probably in Vermont about 1807, to Sarah White, born about 1790, parentage unknown. They lived for a time in Granville, Washington County, and York, Livingston County, and then settled by 1840 at Geneseo in Livingston County, all in New York. He is described in the Revolutionary War pension papers of his mother as "an intemperate, wandering man," and fought with his brothers and sisters over the pension rights. Both he and Sarah were living in 1857 at Geneseo. Their death dates are not known.

CHILDREN

?AMANDA, born about 1808; married Albert Perry on June 8, 1837.

?ALMERON, born about 1810; married Jane Martin.

RICHARD, born about 1812; married (?) Ann _____.

NATHANIEL, born March 22, 1814; married Almira (Boynton) May, possibly his second wife.

HARRISON, born about 1816; married Mary Ann Bennett.

PARIS, born Aug. 4, 1829; married Effie Van Valkenberg.

OTHERS, names unknown.

55. AMOS⁶ RATHBONE (Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1799 at Exeter, R.I., and moved with his parents first to Vermont, then to New York State, and finally settled at German in Chenango County. He was married there about 1825 to Eliza Hamilton, born in 1804, daughter of Squire and Nancy Hamilton. He died at German by 1860. Eliza died at nearby McDonough on Jan. 1, 1876.

CHILDREN

ISAAC H., born in November 1829; married Adelia⁷ Rathbun (Allen⁶⁻⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

?LYDIA, born about 1832; married George Carpenter on June 1, 1849.

RUTH M., born in 1834; married Charles Sheldon on Nov. 28, 1856.

SARAH E., born about 1836; no further data.

MARY I., born about 1840; married Francis Selgraph.

NANCY ADELAID, born about 1843; died Aug. 15, 1858.

CHARLES E., born in February 1846; married Mary Kenyon.

56. LYMAN⁶ RATHBUN (Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1802 in Washington County, N.Y. He married about 1822 Diana _____, born about 1802, parentage unknown. They settled at Oxford, Chenango County, N.Y., where both were still alive in 1880. Their death dates are not known.

CHILDREN

PHILANDER, born July 6, 1823; married (1) Sarah Minerva Randall, and (2) Margaret Burrows.

WARREN B., born June 26, 1825; died unmarried May 21, 1901.

?EUNICE, born about 1825 (twin?); married Joseph Squires on April 6, 1848.

LYMAN, born about 1827; married Susan Crandall.

SUSAN E., born about 1830; married _____Herrick by 1865.

SIMEON G., born about 1832; married Rosanna J. _____.

RUBY A., born about 1834; no further data.

JAMES, born about 1839; died April 6, 1865, of smallpox.

57. GIDEON⁶ RATHBUN (Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born July 19, 1792, in Pennsylvania, and moved with his parents as a boy to Newark, Licking County, Ohio. He married there on Nov. 14, 1812, Sarah Ann Delzell, born about 1794, parentage unknown. He served in the Ohio Militia in the War of 1812, and died in Newark on March 1, 1836. Sarah later moved to Porter

County, Indiana, where she was living in 1860. Her death date is not known.

CHILDREN

SARAH, born Sept. 12, 1813; married Jacob Tederick by 1839.

JAMES, born in 1815; died a month later.

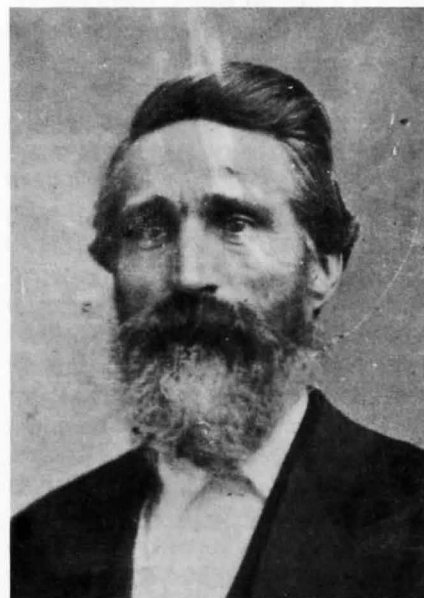
JOHN, born May 7, 1817; married Hannah Horn.

CASTINE, born July 8, 1823; married Andalusia Gould.

GEORGE, born Feb. 6, 1827; married Isabel _____.

WILLIAM, born Oct. 23, 1829; married Ellen McCurdy.

(to be continued)



This picture, sent to us by Jim Stites, was purchased by Jim's nephew at a garage sale. On the back, in clear letters, is written, "Mrs. E.J. Rathbun-Cordova, Ill." We have decided that the initials must be those of Mrs. Emma Jane (Wood) Rathbun (1828-1905), whose husband was the Rev. Guy Wheeler⁶ Rathbun (Amiziah⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Rev. Rathun and his wife both lived and died in Cordova. Can anyone prove or disprove, our theory? Our thanks to Jim Stites, and a word to all members — look at the backs of any old pictures you see in garage sales, antique shops, etc. If you find a picture with our surname on it, buy it for us! And don't forget to write names on the backs of all your own pictures.

Another Cousin Tells Memories of 1910 Comet

Another elderly cousin has shared her memories of the 1910 Halley's Comet with us.

Vivian A. Rathbun, 87, of Charlestown, R.I., wrote the following:

"There was great excitement among Rhode Islanders in May 1986 when we were urged to watch the skies for Halley's Comet, whose last visit here occurred in 1910 and whose next visible appearance will not come until the year 2061. For most people, this makes it a 'once in a lifetime' event. There are not, I believe, too many alive today who can remember watching it 75 years ago.

"I do have a vivid memory of that night, when as Vivian E. Johnson, living in Providence, a student 11 years of age, I was invited to spend the night with my best friend so that we might enjoy watching the unusual spectacle together.

"Her mother awakened us in the middle of the night and from her front porch we had a beautiful view of Halley's Comet. Due to unfavorable conditions for my viewing the spectacle this year, I was not able to see it again, but I do have happy memories of its 1910 appearance."

Mrs. Rathbun is the widow of Charles Harold Rathbun (1890-1976), the son of Charles⁸ Rathbun (Amos⁷ Newman⁶ Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹). Our thanks to her niece, Ellen Rathbun Kenyon, who asked her to write her memories for us.

Isaac⁵ Rathbun (John⁴⁻³ William² John¹) died Nov. 21, 1779, "in the British Service," according to records in Canadian archives. His name and death date appear on a muster roll of "Loyal New Englanders" in New Brunswick. Isaac is the second member of our family known to have been a Tory in the Revolutionary War. The other was his cousin, Joseph⁵ Rathbun (Obadiah⁴ John³ William² John¹).

A Rathbone Launched Career of Admiral Horatio Nelson

A Rathbone launched the naval career of Admiral Horatio Nelson, one of England's most famous heroes. Nelson was sent to sea in 1771 at the age of 13 in a merchant ship commanded by a Captain John Rathbone. On that early voyage, to the West Indies, young Nelson began a career which was to make him an admiral, a lord and one of the best-known Englishmen of all times.

Nothing is known of this John Rathbone's ancestry and very little of his life. Born about 1730, he had originally served in the Royal Navy and risen to the rank of master's mate on the Dreadnought, commanded by Captain Maurice Suckling, an uncle of Nelson. The Dreadnought and two other British ships

won a famous victory about 1758 over a French fleet in the West Indies.

Rathbone took and easily passed an examination to become a Navy officer, but never received a commission. Officers in those class-conscious days were chosen almost exclusively from England's aristocratic upper class.

Disgusted with the system, Rathbone left the Navy to enter merchant service, Nelson's biographers called Rathbone an "excellent seaman," and his quick rise to captain seems to bear this out. He obviously remained on good terms with his old Navy commander, for it was Captain Suckling who chose Rathbone's ship in 1771 to take his young nephew on his first voyage to sea.

We have been able to identify three of the family doctors listed in the April Historian whose ancestries were unknown.

Dr. John Campell Rathbun (1915-1972) was the son of John⁸ Rathbun (Herbert⁷ Hugo⁶ Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

Dr. Flora J. Rathbun, born in 1947, is the daughter of Dr. John Campbell Rathbun.

Dr. Margaret L. Rathburn, born in 1955, is the daughter of Carlisle Baxter¹⁰ Rathburn (Carlisle⁹ John⁸ Henry⁷ John⁶ James⁵ Thomas⁴ Ebenezer³ William² John¹).

In addition, we have found another early Rathbun daughter who would have been the family's first woman doctor, but she died of measles at age 31 just as she was about to graduate from medical school. The unfortunate young lady was Charlotte Augusta Rathbun (1849-1881), daughter of Edward⁶ Rathbun (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

Still another early family physician was Dr. Jack Rathbone, born about 1776, possibly the illegitimate son of George Washington (see story on page 35).

In our January 1985 issue (page 11), we reported on a blind salamander called Typhlomolae Rathbuni, and wondered for whom it had been named. Research Assistant Bettye Rathbone has found the answer.

Its proper scientific name is Eurycea Rathbuni and it was named for Richard Rathbun (1852-1918), noted scientist whose career was reported in our July 1984 issue.

Eurycea Rathbuni is a weird-looking creature which exists in only one spot in the world—the limestone springs and wells underlying San Marcos, Texas. Its existence is known only because one of them occasionally is washed up through an artesian well into surface stream beds.

It is lungless as well as blind, and has a transparent skin through which can be seen its heart, digestive tract and other organs. It has red gills, sharp teeth and four spindly legs.

Now that we know the answer to this question, can someone now research another problem; there is a columnar cactus of the Sonoran Desert named Sina Rathbunia Alamosensis. For which cousin was it named?

Obituaries

DIED — March 21, 1986, Annie Irene Rathbun Myers, 87, at Tucson, Ariz. She was a daughter of John⁸ Rathbun (William⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Her husband, Ernest Myers, died in 1982. Survivors include one daughter, Jeanette Busboom, a member of our Association; a son, Loyd; a sister, Myrtle Showalter, and brother, Fred Rathbun, both members of our association; seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

DIED — March 8, 1986, Frank Florin Rathbun, 74, at Gainesville, Fla. A retired lieutenant-colonel in the U.S. Army, he was also a former journalism professor at the University of Florida. He was the son of Clarence⁸ Rathbun (Clarence⁷ Erastus⁶ Russell⁵ Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹). Survivors include his wife, Mary; two sons, Frank F. Rathbun Jr. and Joseph Alexander Rathbun; a daughter, Elizabeth Pitner, and five grandchildren.

DIED — March 31, 1986, Amos Fred Alexander Rathbun, 91, at Westerly, R.I. He was the son of Charles⁸ Rathbun (Amos⁷ Newman⁶ Jonathan⁵ John⁴⁻¹). A picture of Mr. Rathbun receiving a 65-year Masonic membership pin appeared in our January issue. Survivors include two daughters, Ellen Kenyon, a member of our Association, and Jean M. Place; two sons, Charles and Robert; two sisters, Hazel Ritchie and Sadie Webster, both members of our Association; 17 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

DIED — May 15, 1986. Morris R. Rathburn, 75, at Texarkana, Ark. He was a son of William⁹ Rathburn (Joseph⁸ Aaron⁷ Joseph⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Survivors include his wife, Martha; a son, R.M. Rathburn; two grandchildren; three brothers, James, a member of our Association, William and Jesse; two sisters, Elsie Haack and Ann Auerbach, and many nephews and nieces including Mrs. Kathryn Phillips, a member of our Association.

DIED — Feb. 23, 1986, Kenneth L. Rathbun, 68, at Waterville, Iowa. He was the son of Charles⁸ Rathbun (Bradshaw⁷ Thomas⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹). Survivors include two sons, Ralph and Kenneth, and two daughters, Sharon Klingaman and Paula Rathbun.

DIED — March 12, 1986, Evea A. Winner, 92, at The Plains, Ohio. She was a daughter of John Parmiter and Edith May⁸ Rathburn (David⁷ Lewis⁶ David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Survivors include her husband, J. Louis Winner; four daughters; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two brothers, Jewitt Parmiter, a charter member of our Association, and John Parmiter, and a sister, Edythe Noble.

DIED — Nov. 25, 1985, Mary J. Rathbun Harrington-Matteson, 71, at Warwick, R.I. She was the daughter of Frank Edward⁸ Rathbun (James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). She is survived by her third husband, Herman Matteson; three stepsons and a stepdaughter, and a sister, Carrie May Clark.

Queries

WANTED — Information on John E. Rathbun who died April 26, 1886, at Burlington, Iowa, aged 46. His wife's name was Lizzie J. Rathbun.

WANTED — Information on John Charles Fremont Rathbun who married Harriet Amanda Reeder and had children named George, Myrtle, Guy, Millard and Alice between 1877 and 1888.

WANTED — Information on William J. Rathburn who died June 27, 1937, in Portland, Oregon. He had no known wife or children, but was survived by a sister named Mrs. A.C. Haley.

Births

BORN — Nov. 24, 1985, Jason Ryan Rathbun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Rathbun of Spring Valley, Minn., and grandson of Lawrence⁹ Rathbun (Arthur⁸ Byron⁷ Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹).

BORN — Feb. 26, 1986, Kathy Ann Magley, daughter of Wayne and Marcee (Lewis) Magley of Oakley, Kansas, and grandson of our member, Frederick D. Magley of Bird City, Kansas, a descendant of Elvira Sophia⁶ Rathbun (Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), who married Reason Tippie.

BORN — May 14, 1986, Vanessa Rolande Rathbone, daughter of Peter Betts and Alanna (Chesebro) Rathbone, and granddaughter of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Perry⁹ Rathbone (Howard⁸ Peter⁷ Elijah⁶ Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

BORN — Feb. 12, 1986, Elizabeth Hannah Jacoby, daughter of Barry and Kathy (Weatherford) Jacoby, and granddaughter of our members Robert and LaPrelle (Rathbone) Weatherford. LaPrelle is the daughter of Virgil⁸ Rathbone (Albert⁷ Amos⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹).

Answers

Vol. 4, No. 4 — William Rathbun who married Lena Miller was actually Franklin A. Rathbun, son of Charles⁷ Rathbun (Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹).

Vol. 4, No. 2 — (Correction of an answer) Daniel Rathbun, born about 1822, was not the son of Daniel⁶ Rathbun (Samuel⁵⁻⁴ Thomas³ Samuel² John¹). We are still researching the identity of this Daniel.

People

WILFRED AND DOROTHY RATHBUN

of Denver, Colo., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20, 1986. They are members of our Association and were married in Denver. Wilfred is the son of Lester⁹ Rathbun (William⁸ Joseph⁷ Valentine⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

PAUL AND ZONA RATHBUN

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 16, 1986. An open-house party was held in their honor on May 15 by their three children — Ronald and Tom Rathbun and Donna Robison. Paul and Zona, who are members of our Association, live in Tecumseh, Neb. He is the son of Frederick⁸ Rathbun (William⁷ John⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

ARNOLD RATHBUN of Cranston, R.I., was featured in a story by the Providence Journal-Bulletin on May 8, 1986. Arnold, a member of our Association, owns the Potter-Rathbun Organ Company and has specialized in organ repairs for nearly 40 years. His company is headquartered in a historic building some 200 years old, which was once owned by his late father, Ernest⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

ROBERT RATHBURN, aged 60, was shot to death March 31, 1986, in the culmination of a three-year feud in the Pensacola area of Yancey County, N.C. Police said Rathburn and his wife Martha were sitting on a neighbor's front porch when he was shot by Roscoe Elkins, who has been charged with murder. We do not know the ancestry of this cousin.

EARL C. TOURGEE of Killingworth, Conn., has begun publishing a unique genealogical magazine — "The Blank Family." His idea is to help researchers fill in "Blanks" in their family trees by advertising for their missing data. Earl is a descendant of Robert⁶ Rathbun (Samuel⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). His address is Box 160, Clinton, Conn. 06413.

Our New Members

Alan B. Borer
Toledo, Ohio

Marilyn Rathbone Greene
Charlestown, R.I.

Bonnie McLaughlin
Diamond Bar, Calif.

Robert Rathbun Miller
Sacramento, Calif.

Connie Motsinger
Lincoln, Neb.

Catherine Rathbun Pirotte
Downs, Kansas

Marvin A. Rathbun
Harbor City, Calif.

Robert L. Rathbun
Everett, Wash.

William M. Rathburn
La Habra Heights, Calif.

Joyce R. Simmons
Hawthorne, Fla.

Joanne H. Sterrett
Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. and Mrs. William Zink
LaFayette, La.

ROY AND ANNA MAY RATHBUN

of Denver, Colo., on Memorial Day placed a marker on the just-discovered grave of Roy's uncle, Henry C. Rathbun (1869-1906). They thought he had died as a teen-ager until they found his grave in Denver. Roy is the son of Henry's older brother, George⁸ Rathbun (George⁷ Gideon⁶ Allen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

BRIAN K. RATHBONE of West Sussex, England, heard of our Association and recently contacted your editor. He is the grandson of a Polish emigrant to England named Rothborn who later changed the name to Rathbone.

SUZANNE RATHBUN was named valedictorian of the 1986 graduating class at Stonington (Conn.) High School. Suzanne is president of the school's National Honor Society, winner of a Science Award and a Good Citizen Award, class treasurer, captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, a member of the yearbook and school newspaper staffs, and a volunteer worker at Westerly (RI) Hospital. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Rathbun of Pawcatuck, Conn. Does anyone know these cousins?

AVANELLE RATHBUN JONES

and her husband Delmont Jones, of Barnard, Kansas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 12. Mrs. Jones is the daughter of Newton⁸ Rathbun (Elon⁷ John⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). A party in the Joneses' honor was planned for July 13.

WE THANK the following members who have sent us family data, pictures, clippings and other materials in recent months: Daniel B. Rathbun, Catherine Pirotte, Art Schroeck, John Bowen, Rob Rathbun, Fred and Shirley Rathbun, Mildred Rathburn, Fred Haines, Betsey Dana, Bill Lieuellen, Sharon Jahn, Jeanette Busboom, Eileen Owens, Margaret Rathburn, Jim Chivers, Wilfred and Dorothy Rathbun, Roy and Anna May Rathbun, Joe Wiswall, Haybron Adams, Clair Cornell, Bettye Rathbone, Marsha Magley, Helen M. Rathbun, Art Burris, Kathy Phillips, Paul V. Rathbun, Eugene W. Rathbone, Ellen Kenyon, Rachel Laurgaard, Glenn E. Rathbun, LaPrelle Weatherford, Joyce R. Simmons, Bonnie McLaughlin, Darrell Rathbun, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Gail Jacobson, Lois Swett, Lauren Landis and Blanche Weirum.