

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

FAMILY HISTORIAN



Joshua Henry Rathbone
(1801-1834)

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

Letter from the Editor

It is hard to believe, but this issue marks the end of our association's sixth year, and the 24th issue of our Historian!

From our first membership of some 150, we have grown steadily, and as this issue goes to press, our membership stands at 482. We are still short of our 500-member goal, but we should reach it next year.

This final issue of 1986 also means that membership dues for 1987 are due! We have decided to retain the dues at \$15, which should give us a surplus to cover unexpected expenses.

A membership renewal form is enclosed with this issue. Please use it promptly. It will save me a lot of time and trouble. The deadline is December 5. At that time, we will have to remove the names of all unpaid members from our mailing list in readiness for the January Historian mailing. Current members who renew after that date will have to pay an extra \$2 — \$17 total — to cover the cost of removing and replacing their names on the list.

Plans are moving ahead for our third National Reunion next year in Rapid City, S.D. The date has been tentatively set for mid-August. Terry, Jan and Grove Rathbun are working with Hazel and me on the details, and we

will have complete information in the January issue.

John Bowen who did such a splendid job on the early migration slide presentation for our Des Moines reunion last year is again planning a slide show, this time on later westward migration after 1850. We are looking for pictures of Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn pioneers of the 1850-1900 period, or of their

DUES ARE DUE!

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families, homes, etc. Please let me know if you have pictures we might use.

Plans for our "Family Roots" trip to England next May are also being completed. You can still get on the mailing list for information by sending me your check for \$75 per person (\$150 per couple), made out to Family Society Tours. It will be refunded if you later find you cannot participate.

We had hoped to publish the 1985 Historian Index and mail it with the January issue, but our printer has told us it will be cheaper to publish a two-year, or even three-year index. So we will wait for at least another year. Mrs. Margaret Dale has completed the 1985 indexing, but will not be able to continue the work. We have one possible volunteer to take over the task. I will let you know how it works out.

For the second time this year, I am happy to report that I have a new grandchild. Andrew Charles Duffey was born July 17 to my daughter, Becky,

and her husband, Rev. Scott Duffey. Little Andy is my third grandchild, joining Dawn Eileen Ramoz, now 10, and Frank Hugo Rathbun IV, now ten months old.

In our last issue, we listed three members of our family, and of our association, who are included in the latest Who's Who in America. We overlooked a fourth — Perry Townsend Rathbone, also an association member. Our apologies to Perry, who is senior vice-president of Christie, Manson and Woods, world-famous art auctioneers, and who for many years was director of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. He is the son of Howard Betts⁸ Rathbone (Peter⁷ Elijah⁶ Moses⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹).

Since the holiday season is fast approaching, let me wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a New Year of happiness, contentment and good health.

Frank

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

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Frank H. Rathbun
Editor & Publisher

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WE THANK the following members who have sent us family data, clippings, pictures and other material in recent months: Glenn E. Rathbun, Jan and Grove Rathbun, Robert Rathbun, Victor and Ruth Streeter, John Bowen, Dr. Lewis and Betty Rathbun, Helen M. Rathbun, Lois A. Swett, Marlin and Eileen Rathbun, Perry Rathbone, Marilyn Greene, Doris Stoppa, Anna May and Roy Rathbun, Capt. Benjamin Rathbun, Daniel B. Rathbun, Hazel Rathbun Koehler, Gail Jacobson, Bonnie McLaughlin, Mary Van Epps, Carol and Bill Stelzer, Richard N. Rathbun, Dr. Earl H. Antes, Jean Waddell, Margaret Rathburn, Joyce R. Simmons, Howard M. Rathbun, John H. Rathbun, Clair Cornell, K. Haybron Adams, John W. Rathbun, Frank E. Rathbun, Rosma Limbeck, Sharon Jahn and Elizabeth Dana.

Jack Rathbone Identified; Washington Link Unproved

In our last issue, we raised the intriguing possibility that George Washington, the "Father of Our Country," may also have been the father of an illegitimate son named Jack Rathbone. Following is a report on your editor's research into this fascinating story.

After considerable research and analysis, I have come to the conclusion that the mysterious Jack Rathbone was actually Dr. Joshua Ebenezer Rathbone Birch, a great-grandson of Mary³ Rathbun (John²⁻¹) who married Jonathan Birch.

Whether he was indeed the illegitimate son of George Washington remains a puzzle that I fear may never be satisfactorily resolved.

The mystery was brought to my attention by David J. Fowler, research associate at the David Library of the American Revolution. In cataloging the library's manuscript collection, he came across six letters written to a Peter DeWitt, five of them signed by Dr. Jack Rathbone.

The earliest letter, dated Feb. 27, 1799, at Clinton, N.Y., was addressed to DeWitt at Yale University, where he was a student in his senior year. It was signed, and presumably written, by DeWitt's older sister, Rachel, and announced her marriage to "Jack Rathbone, a smart lad..." But she signed her name "Rachel Birch."

The other five letters, all signed by Rathbone, were sent from New York City to DeWitt at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was studying law under the guidance of a relative who was an attorney. They are dated from 1800 to 1802. On the back of each letter was the name "Dr. J.E.R. Birch," leading me at first to think that Jack Rathbone was living with the Birch family, possibly his relatives. Both David Fowler and I, after studying the handwriting in the letters, agreed that Rathbone had written them

all, including the 1799 letter signed by his wife, Rachel. This discovery made that letter even more interesting, for in it is the story of Rathbone being George Washington's son.

It traces Rathbone's ancestry on his mother's side back to Eliza Perry, of Cape Code in the 17th Century, through her daughter, Becky; her granddaughter, Debby, and then to Rathbone's mother, who is not named. Then, the letter continues:

"In the time of the war 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... He gave her four cows husbands (bulls, a valuable gift) ... and pursued his march. Jack Rathbone exactly nine months after this gift first made his appearance. This account I believe to be true as I have it from his particular friend Dr. Neezer."

In researching the matter, I went first to a DeWitt genealogy. One of the later letters mentioned that Rachel's father was "Sheriff" DeWitt, and I had learned from a list of New York officials that a John DeWitt had been elected sheriff of Dutchess County in 1794.

Sure enough, the DeWitt genealogy listed a John DeWitt (1752-1808), who had a daughter Rachel, baptised in 1774, and a son Peter born in 1780. But the book did not tell who Rachel had married.

I then went to the Birch genealogy, to see if I could find a Dr. J.E.R. Birch. I found Dr. Joshua Ebenezer Rathbone Birch, who had married Rachel DeWitt! He was the son of Ebenezer Birch, born in 1743, and Mary Dakin, born in 1752, who were married in 1769! Ebenezer was the son of John Birch, born in 1711, and grandson of Jonathan Birch and Mary Rathbun. At this point, I became convinced that Dr. Jack Rathbone and Dr. Joshua Ebenezer Rathbone Birch were one and the same.

I confirmed the link by checking the Dakin Genealogy, which showed that Mary Dakin, daughter of Rev. Simon Dakin and Rebecca (Perry) Dakin, had married Ebenezer Birch.

This tied in to the Perry ancestry listed in the 1799 letter, and I then turned to the Perry genealogy. Sure enough, Elizabeth (not Eliza) Burgess, had married Ezra Perry in 1651 at Cape Cod. Their son Benjamin, born in 1670, had married Dinah Swift; their daughter Rebecca (the Becky mentioned in the 1799 letter) had married Simon Dakin, and their daughter Mary had married Ebenezer Birch! Everything had fallen into place, although "Jack Rathbone" had erred in some details of his Perry ancestry.

In the records of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, I found the births of the seven children of Dr. Joshua E.R. Birch and Rachel DeWitt:

Catherine Augusta, born Nov. 13, 1799.

John Wilson, born Dec. 27, 1801.

DeWitt, born Dec. 27, 1802.

George, born Feb. 24, 1807.

Robert, born July 13, 1808.

Bushrod, born Sept. 30, 1810.

Mary Ellen, born March 16, 1814.

And also in the church records I found the death of Dr. Joshua Ebenezer Rathbone Birch, who died "at sea" on Dec. 12, 1815. I confirmed this in the New York Evening Post, which reported on March 15, 1816, that Dr. Joshua E.R. Birch, aged 40, had died at sea.

So now I had the entire story of Dr. Joshua Ebenezer Rathbone Birch, alias "Jack Rathbone" — his ancestry, his marriage, his children and his death.

The letters indicate that he had first practiced medicine in Clinton and Red Hook, N.Y., and then in May 1800 moved his practice to New York City. But what about the story of his

(continued on page 58)

A Rathbun Sells His Hat Shop to See the World as a Sailor

Many early members of our family who resisted the urge to "go west", and remained in the seacoast cities of New England, turned to the sea for their livelihood. This is the story of one — Joshua Rathbun, Rhode Island Quaker and hatter, who gave up both his religion and his original trade to become a successful sea captain and world traveler.

Joshua Rathbun was born Aug. 26, 1767, in Westerly, R.I., the son of Joshua⁵ Rathbun (Joshua⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). His father, Joshua Rathbun III (1743-1773), went to sea as a young man, became a captain, and died at sea of yellow fever, when only 30 years old. He left his widow, Sarah (Borden) Rathbun, aged 25, with three small children and five months pregnant with her fourth. She inherited Joshua's half-interest in the family gristmill at Stonington Point, Conn.; a tract of land in Pennsylvania, and a one-eighth share in the ship he captained — the schooner Polly.

The family on both sides had been Quakers for years. Young Joshua and his brothers — Abraham, Acors and Benjamin — were raised in a devout Quaker household. Sarah, nine years after her husband's death, married the Rev. Peter Hoxie, a Quaker minister, by whom she had two more children.

Sarah was related to some of the Westerly-Stonington area's leading families — the Borden, Hazards, Bagnals, Redwoods and Mifflins. Her cousin, Thomas Mifflin, was General George Washington's quartermaster during the Revolutionary War, served as president of the Continental Congress in 1783-4, and was governor of Pennsylvania from 1790 to 1799.

As her four sons grew up, each was apprenticed to local tradesmen to learn a trade. Abraham and Benjamin became blacksmiths and Joshua and Acors were hatters.

Young Joshua moved to Providence, R.I., by 1789, and was a hatter there for several years. In 1794, he married



This drawing, which also appears on our front cover, is that of Joshua Henry Rathbone (1801-1834), youngest son of Captain Joshua Rathbun. It was once thought to be that of Captain Joshua, but our member, Perry Rathbone, an expert in such matters, dates the "Sunday Best" clothing from the late 1820s, when Captain Joshua would have been nearly 60, too old to be the man in the picture.

Wait Kilton by whom he had four children in the next 10 years. He apparently dropped his Quaker affiliation, for in 1795 he was an ensign in the Providence militia, and served as a lieutenant from 1796 to 1798. Practicing Quakers at that time refused to bear arms or perform military service.

In 1798, Joshua and his family were living in a waterfront home owned by his widowed mother-in-law, Wait Kilton, on the Great Salt Cove, just off Main street near Powderhouse Lane. It was to be the family home for many years, and was listed as 90 South Main street when the city's homes were given numbered addresses.

About this time, Joshua decided to leave the hattery business and pursue his father's career as a sailor. In July 1799, he signed on as third officer aboard the ship *Ann and Hope*, owned by the prominent merchant firm of Brown and Ives. Owned by John Brown and Thomas P. Ives, the company operated a fleet of merchant ships which sailed to ports throughout the world, sending local products abroad, and bringing back cargoes of foreign goods. The firm specialized during these years in the lucrative China and East Indies trade.

The *Ann and Hope*, named for the wives of Brown and Ives, was a three-masted square-rigger, just returned from her maiden voyage. She was a double-decker, 98 feet long, with a 32-foot beam (widest width), and built of seasoned white oak. She carried 12 nine-pound cannon, three landing boats and water casks with a capacity of 6,000 gallons.

Joshua remained with the *Ann and Hope* for the next seven years, making five trips to ports in Asia, Africa, Europe and the East Indies. He was promoted to second officer in 1800, and to first officer (second-in command) in 1802. In 1806, the *Ann and Hope* was shipwrecked off Block Island, and Joshua had to seek new employment.

With his seven years' experience, including four as first officer, Joshua had no problem finding a new ship, this time as captain. In 1807, he was commanding the ship *Isis*, which made a profitable cruise to Batavia (now Djakarta) on Java in the East Indies. He had sailed there several times on the *Ann* and *Hope*.

In 1809, he was captain and part owner of the *New York Packet*, a 65-foot coastal sloop, and in 1812 he was commanding the *Merchants' Array*, a 75-foot brig. Nothing else is known of his sailing activities, although he was listed as a mariner in Providence city directories as late as 1826, when he was 59 years old.

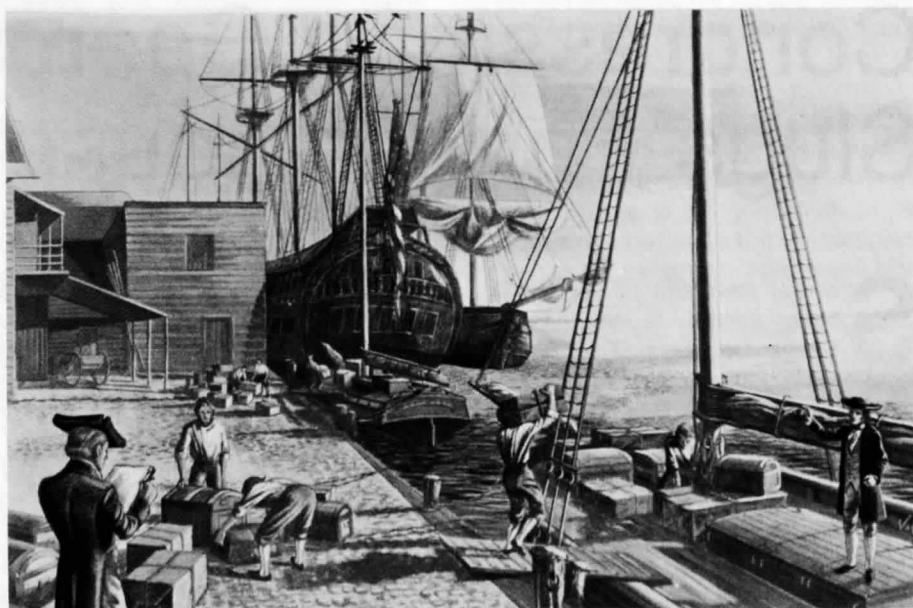
He must have become prosperous in his career, for in 1822 he made a pleasure trip to England, a rarity for ordinary Americans in those days. He quite likely had done a bit of importing on his own as a sideline. Captains and other top officers on trading cruises were usually allowed to invest in foreign goods with their own money and bring them back in their ships' hold for sale in America.

By the early 1830s, he had been named "clerk of the markets" for the city of Providence. This position made him the "general manager" of the Providence Market House, then the equivalent of today's "civic center." A large three-story building, its lower floor was filled with display stalls where local farmers and tradesmen sold their produce and wares. On the second floor were the town council's meeting hall, the city clerk's office, other municipal offices, and Joshua's headquarters. From there, he assigned stall locations, collected rents, and saw to the building's maintenance. The third floor was occupied by the local Masonic Lodge.

In 1832, Joshua was also listed as the city's overseer of the poor.

By this time, Joshua and Wait's four children had reached maturity. All three of his sons adopted the Rathbone spelling of our name, although Joshua apparently used the traditional Rathbun spelling until his death.

The oldest son, Stephen Kilton Rathbone, born in 1796, became a merchant and later a banker. From 1824 until 1838, he was the owner of a dry goods store. By 1841, he was



A typical dock scene of the early 1800s, as it would have looked to Joshua Rathbun. Workers are loading chests aboard cargo vessels, and merchants' clerks are overseeing the work and inventorying the merchandise. A big three-masted ship is in the background. At lower right is what appears to be a single-masted sloop.

cashier of Rhode Island's largest bank — the American Bank of Providence. He held that position for 20 years. Like his father, he joined the city's militia, serving as lieutenant in 1818-19, and captain from 1820 to 1825. He and his wife, Sarah Waterman Brown, had 10 children, eight of whom lived to maturity. One of his descendants is Ellen Rathbone (Gardner) Brown, a member of our Association.

The second son, William Penn Rathbone, born in 1798, lived for some years in Augusta, Georgia, where he was a prosperous cotton merchant. He later returned to Providence, where he died. By his three wives, he had 11 children, only four of whom lived to maturity. One of our members, Mrs. Ethel Rathbone, is the widow of his grandson, William Thomas Rathbone. Another of his grandchildren was Josephine Adams Rathbone, the noted librarian. (See story in our January 1986 issue).

Joshua's youngest son was Joshua Henry Rathbone, born in 1801. Little is known of his career, but he apparently went to sea and became a captain like his father. He died unmarried in 1834, aged 33, crushed between a ship and a

dock in New York City, leaving an substantial estate of \$30,000, according to Cooley. A watercolor sketch of him appears on our front cover and with this article.

Joshua's only daughter, Cornelia, born in 1804, married Thomas C. Hartshorne, a college prep school principal.

Joshua died Jan. 19, 1844, in Providence, aged 76. His wife, Wait, had died four years earlier. They and many of their descendants are buried in the Rathbone lot of Providence's Swan Point Cemetery.

An interesting analysis of the Providence Rathbones was written early in this century by a descendant, Ellen Gladding (1857-1939). The Rathbones, she wrote, were "industrious, intelligent, self-centered and stubborn to a fault." There are at least some in-laws today who believe that the latter trait is still noticeable in our family.

(In our next issue, we will have the complete story of Joshua Rathbun's cruises on the Ann and Hope, and of the ship's tragic end on a reef off Block Island.

Congressman George Rathbun Slugs Former House Speaker

Several members of our family have served in the United States Congress. This is the story of one — Congressman George Rathbun, who was a Democratic representative from Auburn, New York, for two terms, from 1843 to 1847. His career in the House was highlighted by one of the first fistfights on the floor of the House. Rathbun, called a liar by one of his colleagues, responded by knocking him to the floor.

George Rathbun was born Oct. 16, 1802, in Scipio, N.Y., the son of Edward⁵ Rathbun (Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He attended public schools in Scipio, and then enrolled at Hamilton College, in Clinton, N.Y. After graduating, he moved to nearby Levanna, where in 1823, described as "merchant," he was married to Eliza Glover. She may have been a daughter of James Glover, who was Cayuga County clerk in 1819.

He apparently decided about this time to take up the profession of law, probably studying under a local attorney. A few years later, he was admitted to the New York State Bar and began practicing in Auburn.

Rathbun became active in Democratic politics, and emerged as a party leader in Auburn. He was an active supporter of Martin Van Buren for many years, during Van Buren's rise to governor, U.S. senator and finally vice-president under Andrew Jackson from 1833 to 1837.

In 1837, when Van Buren succeeded Jackson as president, he appointed Rathbun as postmaster of Auburn. Four years later, when Van Buren lost the presidency to William Henry Harrison, a Whig, Rathbun lost the postmastership to a Whig politician.

In the election of 1842, Rathbun decided to run against the local Whig congressman, Christopher Morgan, who had served two terms. It was a

Democratic year. The party won control of the House of Representatives, and Rathbun was among the Democrats elected. In March 1843, he went to Washington and took his seat in Congress.

After an uneventful first year, Rathbun "made the news" early in his second year as a congressman.

On April 23, 1844, he became involved in a dispute on the House floor with Congressman John White,



Congressman John White, of Kentucky, a former speaker of the House of Representatives, who was knocked to the floor after calling Congressman George Rathbun a liar.

a Kentucky Whig and 10-year House veteran, who had served as speaker when the Whigs controlled the House in the 1841-42 session.

White was angrily defending his fellow Kentuckian, Henry Clay, who had resigned from the Senate in 1842 to launch his campaign for the presidency in the 1844 election. In a blatantly political maneuver designed to discredit Clay as a presidential candidate,

Congressman Linn Boyd, Kentucky Democrat, had taken the floor to revive some rather dubious charges made against Clay 24 years earlier.

Among other things, Clay had supposedly said in a speech defending Negro slavery: "If the gentlemen will not let us have black slaves, we must have white slaves."

Congressman White, a friend and political ally of Clay, jumped to his feet to defend Clay, and demanded an hour's time to reply to Boyd's charges. At the end of an impassioned hour's speech, he asked for more time to continue his argument. His request was ruled out of order by the Speaker, a Democrat, under a House rule limiting each member to one-hour speeches.

White moved that the rule be suspended to allow him to continue.

At this point, Rathbun, who sat near White on the House floor, entered the dispute. "The chairman has already ruled your motion out of order," he told White, who reluctantly yielded the floor.

Congressman Andrew Kennedy, an Indiana Democrat, then took the floor and renewed the attack on Clay, challenging anyone to disprove the charges.

Rathbun stated loudly that their "truth could be proved all over the House."

White, furious, turned to Rathbun and called him "a damned liar." Rathbun immediately leaped up and knocked White to the floor with one blow.

At this point, according to the official House reporter, "other members rose, interfering with the reporter's view. A good deal of confusion ensued. A general rush was made by members toward the spot."

Apparently, other congressman had stepped in to prevent an all-out fight between Rathbun and White, both 42 years old. The speaker pounded his gavel, calling for order, which was finally restored "in some degree," according to the reporter.

In the aftermath of the controversy, one congressman moved that both Rathbun and White be arrested by the sergeant-at-arms, a suggestion that White loudly opposed as "inflicting dishonor" upon both him and Rathbun. Another member, seeking to cool down the situation, suggested that a committee be appointed to investigate the incident, and report its findings to the House at a later date.

White agreed to this, and then Rathbun asked for the floor. In an apologetic speech (see accompanying copy of his remarks from the Congressional Globe), he pointed out that he was a relatively new member of the House, and was more apt to become excited and make mistakes than more experienced members. He expressed regret on behalf of his constituents, who he termed "peaceable and quiet people," and blamed his action on the "excitement of the moment." Like White, he agreed to the idea of an investigating committee, and promised to abide by its decision. "I regret this occurrence more than any circumstance of my life," he declared.

White and Rathbun then shook hands, and the House broke into applause. The motion to appoint an investigating committee was then approved, over the objections of some members who felt that stronger action should be taken. One even offered a motion to expel both Rathbun and White from the House, but he was ruled out of order.

The investigating committee reported its findings three weeks later on May 13, after interviewing 34 of the members who had been close enough to the scene to see and hear what had happened. The report basically confirmed what everyone already knew, although White raised some objections. He contended that he had "whispered the offensive remark" to Rathbun, and had therefore created no disorder.

He had, White said, been "cool and collected" at the time, and had "replied to what he supposed was intended as an insult in what he considered a proper manner."

Rathbun remained quiet during the debate, but did rise to point out that

White had raised his fist and attempted to hit Rathbun when he called him a liar.

Congressman Cave Johnson, a Tennessee Democrat, came to Rathbun's defense, charging that White had frequently caused trouble in the past. "There is no gentleman in the House who has caused more confusion than the gentleman from Kentucky," Johnson declared.

Johnson also complained that White had taken too active a role in the discussion, acting as "lawyer, judge and witness" in his own behalf. Rathbun, he noted, had been "modest and unassuming, rarely uttering a word." After a lengthy debate, the House voted 102 to 58 to accept the investigating committee's report without further action.

The affair did not affect Rathbun's political career or his popularity at home. John Cooley, in his 1898 Rathbone Genealogy, said that Rathbun "on his return home by stage was met some miles (from Auburn) by a large number of his followers and a brass band which struck up 'Hail to the Chief.'"

(to be continued)

Mr. RATHBUN remarked that he was a young member on this floor; he knew but little, by experience, of the business of legislation having commenced, for the first time in his life, business of this kind at the present session; and perhaps, owing to that fact, he was more likely to become excited, and was more liable to err, than those who had been long accustomed to seats on this floor. That he had erred, whatever might be his excuse, and whatever his justification, he was not disposed to deny. He knew it was due to the character of this House, it was due to the country, if he had been ever so much wronged, and respect for its dignity would prompt him to make a proper submission. And he regretted exceedingly that a moment's reflection had not been permitted (might he not say) to each of them. Though he said this, it must not be supposed that he intended to impute any thing wrong to the gentleman from Kentucky, or to attempt any justification of himself. He left the whole matter, as the gentleman from Kentucky had left it, to be investigated in the proper form—by a committee; and if it were found that the whole fault was his, he was ready to submit to the judgment and the action of the House. To say that he regretted the occurrence as inflicting, in some degree, upon his fellow members in that House an

indignity, was not to express the full extent of his regret. He regretted it on account of his constituents. They were a peaceable and quiet people, and it would give them pain to be informed that, in anything which occurred in that House, the conduct of their representative had not conformed to their disposition. But what had been done could not be recalled. He desired that a committee should be appointed, and that an investigation should be had; and that the blame, if any, should fall where it properly belonged. It might be deemed that an apology was due from him to the House, as he had been guilty of what looked certainly more like fighting to-day, than he ever had been before in his life, or, as he hoped, ever would be again. He was, like other men, subject to passion, and it was often more hasty than he could wish. He would add, moreover, that he never treasured hate. Whatever may have occurred was occasioned by the excitement of the moment, and that being passed, he regretted the occurrence. He might say he regretted it more than any circumstance of his life; but, inasmuch as it could not be recalled, he was willing to submit the whole matter to the judgment of the House, and abide by what the House should thereupon determine.

Congressman George Rathbun's statement as reported in the Congressional Globe.

Rathbun Company Prospers Under Edward's Leadership

In our last issue, we began the story of the Rathbun Company, founded in Ontario in 1849 as a small lumber mill by Hugo B. Rathbun, born in 1812, the son of Edward⁵ Rathbun (Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Failing health in 1861 forced him to call upon his oldest son, Edward W. Rathbun, for help, and two years later, Edward took over management of the firm, which was renamed H.B. Rathbun and Son. Edward proved to be an effective and far-sighted executive, who led the company into an era of spectacular growth and prosperity.

Edward W. Rathbun was only 19 years old when he joined his father in the family business, and had just turned 21 when he took over the operation in 1863. For such a young man, he had impressive abilities and a keen business sense. He quickly realized that expansion and diversification were the key to success.

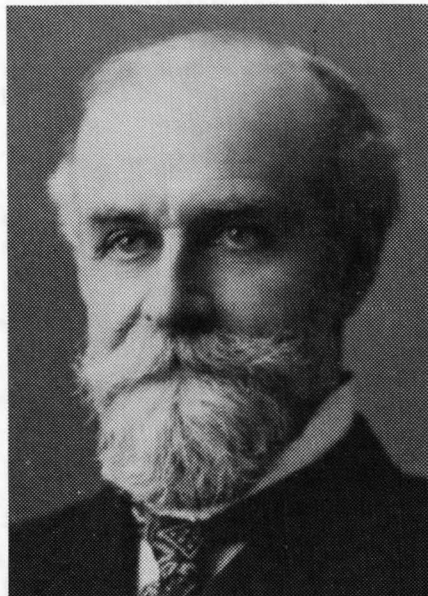
One of Edward's first moves was to make his firm self-sufficient in transportation to serve its sawmills. By 1873, the company had opened a shipyard to build and repair its own lake vessels. But Edward had only just begun.

The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1874, and six years later the Bell Telephone Company of Canada was formed to provide service in Canada. Edward immediately recognized the value of this new instrument, and twelve days later, two telephones were installed for the Rathbun Company. More were soon added, and the company became an agent for the Bell system and established its own exchange in Deseronto, as Mill Point had come to be known.

In 1881, unhappy with his dependence on water transportation, Edward established the Bay of Quinte Railway and Navigation Company, and built a four-mile railroad to connect Deseronto with the nearest junction of the Grand

Trunk Railroad. Within a decade, the Rathbuns were to own three railroads and lease a fourth.

With his transportation problems solved, Edward turned his attention to new products. He had been using left-over lumber to manufacture charcoal in a series of kilns, but was worried about the resultant air pollution. He put



Edward W. Rathbun
(1842-1903)

his engineers to work on the problem, and soon had the answer. A chemical plant was built to trap and distill the smoke from the kilns, and extract wood alcohol, tar and acetate of lime — a new line of products and a new source of income.

Also in 1881, Edward opened a flour mill, with a daily capacity of 250 barrels, and established a branch office in Toronto. New lumber mills were also built, and a three-story office building was erected in Deseronto as headquarters for the growing operations.

In 1883, Edward expanded his railroad operations. He acquired control-

ling interest in the Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway Company, and created still another — the Thousand Islands Railway. He also opened a branch office in Ottawa.

Edward now decided that his expanding business should be incorporated, and in 1884 he created the Rathbun Company Limited, with a registered capital of \$2,000,000 — the equivalent in today's currency of probably ten million dollars! He had come a long way since he took over the firm in 1863, with assets of only \$50,000.

Hugo B. Rathbun, the founder of the business, was named honorary president. Edward was vice-president and general manager, and his younger brother, Frederick, was secretary-treasurer.

In 1884, Edward turned his attention to another field. He acquired control of the Napanee Cement Company, and sent two of his engineers to Europe to study the then new process of manufacturing Portland cement. Armed with their reports, he built the first Portland cement plant in North America. His product won immediate praise in the construction industry, and proved to be a most profitable new enterprise. Two years later, the Rathbun Company added a gas works to its growing empire, to provide illumination for the firm's mills and factories, and also to sell to the growing city of Deseronto to light the town's streets and homes. The gas was made from coal, petroleum and steam.

The year 1886 also brought the death of Hugo B. Rathbun, the company's founder. He had been in poor health for many years, and had spent most of the 1860s and 1870s in New York City to be near medical help. In 1877, he returned permanently to Deseronto with his wife, Anna, and devoted himself primarily to his garden and vineyard.

In February 1885, Anna had died unexpectedly, leaving him severely

depressed. In the winter of 1885, Edward persuaded Hugo to travel to the southern United States, and across the continent to California, together with his ailing youngest son, William, hoping the mild climate would improve the health of both. Hugo returned, however, with a severe cold which left him weak and emaciated. He suffered a stroke in early May of 1886, and died three weeks later on June 1.

Hugo had lived long enough to see his little lumber operation grow into one of Canada's major corporations, under the direction of his eldest son. He must have been very proud. Edward, now 44, became president of the company and launched a series of new ideas to continue its rapid growth.

In 1887, he turned to the vast clay deposits along the routes of his new railroads. He was already using clay in the manufacture of cement and brick, but with such ample supplies so easily available by rail, he wanted new ways to utilize it. His engineers found the answer by mixing it with sawdust and firing it in large ovens. As the sawdust burned out, it left a brand new product, similar to brick, but much lighter and capable of being nailed and sawed. He called it terra cotta, and had it patented.

Terra cotta soon became one of the company's most profitable products. It was used extensively in construction projects, and proved both strong and durable. It cost about \$400 a ton to produce, and sold for \$1200 to \$1500 a ton. The terra cotta was made in a new plant, employing 40 men, with a daily capacity of more than 30 tons. In 1887, with Edward's growing interest in railroads, the company built its own shop and railroad yards for the manufacture and repair of railway cars. Within four years, it had produced 500 freight cars and 15 passenger cars, many of which were sold to other railroad companies.

The decade of the 1880s was a real boom period for the Rathbun Company. Donald Wilson, in his book "Lost Horizons," pointed out that Deseronto had been "transformed into the nerve center of an industrial empire, unmatched in its time anywhere else in the young Dominion of Canada. Like a giant rolling snowball that grows larger as it gains momentum, the Rathbun Company with each new addition to its industrial empire, generated yet another field of endeavour."



The Rathbun Company's headquarters building in Deseronto, erected about 1884. It was a three-story structure of bricks, made by the company, and finished inside with the finest hardwood from the Rathbun mills.

By 1889, Deseronto had become such an important community that it was incorporated as a city, and Edward Rathbun was elected its first mayor. He was to hold the position until his death.

The city's population, which was 864 in 1871, had grown to nearly 5,000 in the 1890s, as a result of new jobs created by the Rathbuns. The company by this time provided the city with its lighting, telephones and even a newspaper — the Tribune, published in the company's own printing plant.

By 1890, the Rathbun Company employed about 5000 persons — 1500 in the Deseronto area alone — in its varied operations. The Rathbuns had four saw mills, a window-and-door factory, flour mill, railroad shops and yards, boiler repair shops, blacksmith shops, shipyards, miles of docks and wharves, gas works, print shop, newspaper, general store, a large farm, stables, terra cotta plant and cement works. They also owned some 60,000 acres of timberland, and leased more than 3,500,000 acres. They operated two tugboats on the Bay of Quinte, and two freighters and five passenger boats on the Great Lakes.

The Rathbuns' growing railroad operations enabled them to import grain from western Canada for their flour mill, and to ship their expand-

ing line of products throughout the nation and indeed throughout the world. The Rathbuns had offices in Oswego, Albany and New York City; in Glasgow, Scotland, and in London, England. They also had a big lumber yard and dock property in Oswego, and smaller retail lumber yards in nearly a dozen Canadian cities.

During the 1890s, younger family members entered the company's managerial ranks, joining Edward; his brother, Frederick, and their cousin, Hugo B. Sherwood. Herbert B. Rathbun, a younger brother, became general superintendent of outside work, and E. Walter Rathbun, Edward's oldest son, was named superintendent of the terra cotta works and later became assistant general manager. Edward's youngest brother, William, also joined the company, but was in poor health and never took an active role.

Edward, by the middle 1890s, slowed down somewhat in his drive to expand the company, and devoted more of his time to the firm's growing network of railroads.

His final expansion move came in 1899, with construction of a pig iron furnace and creation of the Deseronto Iron Company. The plant occupied four

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acres and had a yearly capacity of 1200 tons. Edward considered iron manufacturing the "crowning industry of all," and had great hopes for the new plant. He recognized that dwindling forest land would mean the end of lumbering as the company's major interest. Unfortunately, the final years of the century also brought tragedy for the Rathbuns.

The youngest brother, William, who had never been in good health, died in 1896, aged 30, leaving a wife and two children.

In 1898, Frederick S. Rathbun died at 42, leaving a wife and three children. He had been Edward's chief assistant for many years, serving as the company's secretary-treasurer and company head in Edward's absence. He was also Deseronto's city treasurer and postmaster, a director of the town library, and member of the high school board.

That same year saw the death of the second youngest brother, Herbert, aged 37. Though not as prominent as Frederick, he had been an active member of the firm. He also left a wife and two children.

Edward, the oldest brother, at age 56 found himself the only survivor of the four brothers, and he had only a few more years to live. He died Nov. 24, 1903, of "heart trouble."

Edward was a most remarkable man. In addition to being president and general manager of the Rathbun Company, he was also president of the Canadian Portland Cement Company, the Bay of Quinte and Thousand Island Railroads, and the Deseronto Navigation Company — all Rathbun subsidiaries. He was a director of several other corporations, a founder and governor of the Kingston School of Mines, trustee of Queen's University, vice-president of the Dominion Marine Association, and member of the Royal Commission on the Forests of Canada. In Deseronto, he was mayor, an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and superintendent of the Sunday School. The church had been founded and financed by Edward's father in 1881.

The death of Edward marked the beginning of the end for the Rathbun Company. His eldest son, E. Walter

Rathbun, succeeded his father as president and general manager, but did not seem to have either the interest or the drive of his father. He was then 38 years old, and an authority on reforestation. Unfortunately, the heyday of lumbering was over, and E. Walter found himself presiding over the gradual demise of the Rathbun Company. His major interests were in military matters (he was an artillery lieutenant-colonel) and in politics (he served three years in the Ontario Legislature).

A series of disastrous fires hit the company in his first years as president. In 1906, fire destroyed much of the Deseronto dock property and large stores of lumber. Two years later, the iron plant and cement works were

burned, and put out of commission. They were never rebuilt. The terra cotta operation had been destroyed by fire several years earlier, and it was never rebuilt.

The lumber operations also faded. The last Rathbun "log drive" was in 1907, and by 1916 all the sawmills were closed. The railroads were eventually sold, and in 1923 the Rathbun Corporation was liquidated, and its charter surrendered.

Writing in 1948, a Canadian historian/journalist, commented: "There's magic in the name of Rathbun . . . in Deseronto. The name became a household word there and the fabulous story of the Rathbun Company and its lumbering empire have gone down in history."

Washington

(continued from page 51)

being the illegitimate son of George Washington? The only reference was in that strange 1799 letter. But there are some other tantalizing clues!

The Birch genealogy lists 11 children of Ebenezer and Mary (Dakin) Birch. In addition to Joshua Ebenezer Rathbone, there was a younger son named Ebenezer, birth date unknown. Why would they name one son Ebenezer for his father, after naming another son Joshua Ebenezer? Did Ebenezer Birch Sr. know or suspect that Joshua E.R. was not really his son? We know from Joshua's age at death — about 40 late in 1815 — that he was born about 1776. George Washington was in New England in 1775, and could "conceivably" be his father. Also, look at the names that Joshua E.R. Birch gave to his third and fourth sons — George, born February 24, 1807 (two days after George Washington's birthday!), and Bushrod, born in 1810. Bushrod is a Washington family name! George Washington's nephew, Bushrod Washington (1762-1829), was a U.S. Supreme Court Justice from 1798 until his death.

If Joshua E.R. Birch (or Jack Rathbone) was George Washington's illegitimate son, Judge Bushrod Washington would have been his first cousin!

Why, on giving his ancestry in the 1799 letter, did he give only his mother's lineage, and not mention the Birch side? Does that imply that he did not consider himself a Birch? And most puzzling of all, why did Joshua use the name Jack Rathbone? All five of the DeWitt letters signed by him are signed either "Jack Rathbone", "Rathbone," or "J. Rathbone." And in one of the letters, he refers to his wife, Rachel, as "Mrs. Rathbone!"

Did he use the Birch surname only professionally, because he was an illegitimate child, and not really a Birch? But why Rathbone?

A possible answer lies in the final paragraph of the 1799 letter — "I pray you to keep the secret of Jack's birth to yourself. . . . My little rib to let you see that she (his wife Rachel) is pleased with the change of her name will let you see it in her own hand. . . ."

Then, and now, a "rib" is a joke. Was the joke in having Rachel sign the letter? Or was the whole George Washington story a joke? It supposedly came from "his special friend Dr. Neezer." Was Neezer a nickname for Ebenezer, one of his middle names?

His mother was still living at this time. Would a physician, or anyone, accuse his own mother of adultery, as a joke?

If it was indeed all a joke, Jack Rathbone pulled one of the best jokes in history! He still has us puzzling over it nearly two centuries later!

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

58. PARIS⁶ RATHBUN (Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Jan. 5, 1794, in Pennsylvania, and moved with his parents to Licking County, Ohio, as a boy. He married there on March 21, 1816, Ruth White, born Dec. 3, 1798, parentage unknown. They moved from Ohio to DeWitt County, Illinois, in 1832, and to Lodi, Wisconsin, by 1860. He died there on Nov. 16, 1873. Ruth died Feb. 21, 1885, at Oelwein, Illinois. His name appears in early records as "Parr Rathbun."

CHILDREN

JOB, born in 1817; married Sophia Frankelberger.

MARY, born about 1819; married Daniel G. Craig on Nov. 15, 1836.

?PARIS, born about 1821; married Caroline Montgomery.

SARAH, born about 1823; married Nathan Bowman in November 1843.

ELIJAH S., born about 1825; married Catherine Maynard.

NANCY S., born about 1827; married (?) Robert Marston Hopkins on Dec. 26, 1867.

RHODA, born about 1829; alive in 1850, unmarried; no further data.

CYNTHIA ANN, born Feb. 11, 1833; married Pat Y.M. Pool on Dec. 23, 1853.

MARTHA, born about 1835; married John William Goodale on Feb. 20, 1856.

JAMES WESLEY, born Sept. 12, 1838; married Julia A. Green.

ROBERT M.P., born about 1840; married Marietta Ashley.

JOHN W., born about 1845; married (1) Ella V. Ashley, and (2) Emma L. Hidden.

59. GREENE⁶ RATHBUN (Greene⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1791, in Exeter, Rhode Island, and moved as a young man to Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y., where he married about 1818, Sarah Lyon, born about 1795, probably the daughter of John Lyon. He lived for some years in Willet, Cortland County, N.Y., but returned to Chenango County by 1850, settling in the town of Pitcher, where he died Jan. 5, 1851, of consumption. Sarah died there on Feb. 18, 1868.

CHILDREN

DAUGHTER, name unknown, born about 1819; died young.

HIRAM, born about 1822; married Betsey _____.

PHOEBE, born about 1824; married William H. Boyden Jan. 26, 1842.

LYDIA, born about 1826; unmarried in 1850; no further information.

HENRY, born about 1828; married (?) Elizabeth Vandewater.

RANDALL, born in May 1832; married Olive H. Richards.

DANIEL BOARDMAN, born Oct. 17, 1836; married (1) _____; (2) Hattie C. Fuller.

J. EDGAR, born in May 1838; married Delight (?Warner).

FRANCES, born about 1843; no further information.

60. STEPHEN NICHOLS⁶ RATHBUN (Greene⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Jan. 26, 1799, in Plainfield, Conn., and moved as a young man to Chenango County, N.Y. He married there about 1825 his cousin, Anna Rathbun, daughter of Daniel⁵ (Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born June 3, 1805. They moved soon after their marriage to Willet, Cortland County, N.Y., and then to Pittsfield, Lorain County, Ohio, where Stephen died about 1845. Anna was married there on Sept. 4, 1847,

to Orlando Crandall, and moved to Monroe County, Michigan, where she died Dec. 21, 1892.

CHILDREN

ELIZA ANN, born Oct. 27, 1826; married Peter Cook.

SARAH M., born Jan. 13, 1829; married John Q.A. Ellis on May 12, 1855.

ELIAS, born Feb. 7, 1831; married Augusta E. (Stratton) Turner.

MARY JANE, born Dec. 14, 1834; died Dec. 25, 1840.

MELISSA, born Feb. 29, 1836; married Charles J. Hart Nov. 18, 1861.

MARY ANN, born Jan. 13, 1842; married Otis Newell Oct. 11, 1870.

61. HENRY⁶ RATHBUN (Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Jan. 21, 1796, in Arlington, Bennington County, Vt. He moved with his parents as a boy to New York State, and married about 1822, Olive Lewis, birth date and parentage unknown. They moved to New Haven, N.Y., and then to East Scriba, where Olive died about 1840. He was married again by 1845 to Harriet L. Meyers, born Dec. 18, 1815, parentage unknown. They moved to Tyre, Seneca County, N.Y., where Henry died March 17, 1865. Harriet's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

(By Olive)

FREELove ANN, born Nov. 15, 1823; married Morgan Hill Sept. 1, 1843.

GIDEON, born Nov. 12, 1827; married Elizabeth J. Fitch.

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ELIAS HENRY, born Aug. 20, 1828; married Nancy Jane Watson.

DIANTHA, born July 24, 1834; married Jacob Whitney.

ADELIN, born July 29, 1836; married (?) Henry J. Mapes Nov. 20, 1853.

(By Harriet)

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, born in November 1846; married Adelphia M. Watson.

MERCY J., born May 13, 1848; married L.C. Cramplin Nov. 15, 1867.

HARRIET N., born about 1850; married H.H. Hogeboom Feb. 21, 1869.

JOSEPHINE, born about 1852; married I.B. Russ Nov. 26, 1880.

ELIZA D., born about 1854; married J.M. Curry July 26, 1881.

JOHN W., born about 1857; died Aug. 17, 1860.

62. GIDEON⁶ RATHBUN (Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Dec. 6, 1797, in Bennington, Vt., and moved with his parents as a young man to New York State. He married by 1830 Margaret _____, born about 1796, parentage unknown. They were living in Parish, Oswego County, N.Y., in 1850. Nothing more is known about them.

CHILDREN

MARY, born about 1833; married _____ Bush.

ABIGAIL, born about 1838; alive in 1850; no further information.

63. JOB⁶ RATHBUN (Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born March 3, 1807, in Hartford, Washington County, N.Y. He married Nov. 22, 1836, Electa A. Halladay, born July 26, 1818, daughter of Reuben and _____ Halladay. They lived for many years at New Haven, N.Y., and later in Mexico, N.Y., where Electa died April 19, 1890, and Job on Feb. 13, 1900.

CHILDREN

FRANCES ARABEL, born Jan. 18, 1838; married Anthony P. Severance on March 13, 1856.

HELEN RHODMAN, born July 7, 1840; married Orrin D. Sprague Dec. 19, 1862.

LUCYETTA, born Oct. 16, 1842; married Charles Service Sept. 13, 1863.

WILLET JOB, born Nov. 26, 1844; he died June 15, 1863, at Key West, Fla., during the Civil War while serving with the 110th N.Y. Regiment.

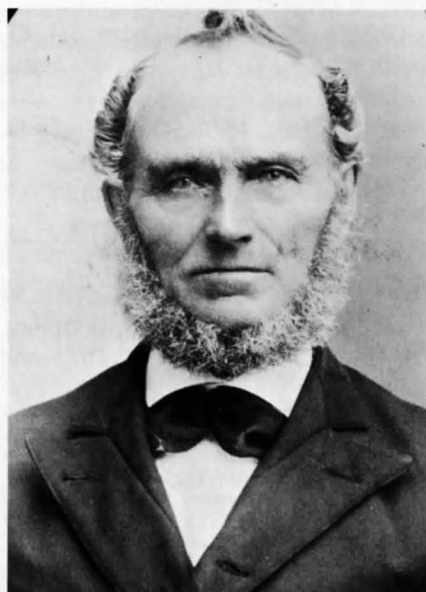
EUNICE IMOGENE, born June 10, 1848; married William S. Griggs Oct. 19, 1870.

MARY ANN, born May 21, 1851; died Jan. 23, 1857.

JESSE FREMONT, born July 23, 1856; married Flora T. Grant.

HOMER JUDSON, born July 22, 1859; died unmarried Dec. 11, 1880.

64. JOHN DAVID⁶ RATHBUN (Gideon⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Aug. 5, 1817, at Argyle, Washington County, N.Y., and moved as a young man to New Haven, where he married on Nov. 12, 1840, Mary Malvina May, born Sept. 1, 1821, daughter of Dexter and Amanda (_____) May. They lived for many years in a one-room log cabin, but eventually built a bigger home to house their growing family. Mary died at New Haven on May 22, 1900, and John on Sept. 9, 1901.



John David Rathbun
(1817-1901)

CHILDREN

CHANDLER A., born Aug. 17, 1841; died May 26, 1863, of typhoid during the Civil War while home on leave as a corporal in the First N.Y. Artillery Regiment. He was described as five feet, eleven inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair.

HENRY ADDISON, born April 22, 1843; married Emerancy Ann Winslow.

JOHN WILLIS, born June 29, 1845; died Dec. 17, 1845.

MARY ANN, born in August 1846; died young.

SILAS, born Jan. 19, 1848; married _____.

ANNETTE ISABELLA, born May 15, 1850; married Milton Kenyon in 1870.

NANCY MARY, born Oct. 15, 1852; married _____ Woolson.

CAROLINE A., born Oct. 10, 1854; married Delbert Kenyon in 1878.

ELLIS T., born Oct. 10, 1854 (twin); died in November 1854.

JOSEPHINE ELLA, born Dec. 15, 1856; married _____ Chesebro.

IMOGENE, born April 15, 1858; married Edward Eggleston.

JOHN WILLIS, born Feb. 3, 1860; married Jennie Barlow.

MILDRED, born Feb. 3, 1860 (twin); died young.

FRANK E., born June 17, 1863; married Winnie Thompson.

CORA, born in August 1864; died in the winter of 1864-65.

65. JOB⁶ RATHBUN (Stephen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1796, probably at Exeter, R.I., and married, date unknown, Maria Thornton, birthdate and parentage unknown. He died July 13, 1829, at Coventry, R.I., but apparently had lived somewhere in New York State, where his son, Horace, was born. Nothing more is known of Maria.

CHILDREN

HORACE, born May 2, 1828; married (1) Elizabeth _____, and (2), Sarah Watson.

PROBABLY OTHERS, names unknown.

66. REUBEN M.⁶ RATHBUN (Stephen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1798 at Exeter, R.I. He married July 7, 1822, at Killingley, Conn., Sarah Place, born about 1801, parentage unknown. They lived at various times in Scituate, Coventry and Warwick, R.I., and he may have been the "Reuben Rathbone of Rhode Island" listed in the Chicago city directory of 1856-7. He died at Warwick on Aug. 10, 1857. Sarah died there Aug. 1, 1873.

CHILDREN

DAUGHTER, name unknown; born in 1823; died Oct. 5, 1823.

PHOEBE M., born about 1827; married Apollos Lincoln Jan. 14, 1851.

LUCY A., born in November 1830; died unmarried Sept. 11, 1902.

ANN, born about 1832; alive in 1850; no further information.

MARY, born about 1835; married (?) Amos Herrington Nov. 11, 1855.

BRADFORD MATTESON, born in May 1838; married Adeline Amanda Allen (or Gillen).

JAMES E., born Feb. 11, 1842; died March 20, 1847.

67. RAYMOND⁶ RATHBUN (?Stephen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1800 in Rhode Island. His ancestry has not been confirmed. He married Eliza _____ by 1832, in Rhode Island, and moved by 1840 to Norwich, Chenango County, N.Y. They moved about 1856 to Bellevue, Huron County, Ohio, where both were living in 1860. Nothing more is known of them.

CHILDREN

WILLIAM, born Sept. 13, 1832; married Lydia Mariat.

POSSIBLY OTHERS, names unknown.

68. THOMAS JEFFERSON⁶ RATHBUN (Stephen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1803 in Warwick, R.I., and married about 1825 Joanna Thornton, born in 1803, daughter of Casiah (?) Thornton. They lived in Warwick for

many years, then moved to Cranston, where he died Sept. 17, 1874. Joanna died Feb. 12, 1877, in Natick, R.I.

CHILDREN

ALONZO, born Jan. 27, 1826; died March 12, 1826.

HERCULES VALENTINE, born March 14, 1827; died Dec. 25, 1833.

ALFRED, born March 25, 1828; died Aug. 25, 1829.

E. FRANCES, born May 4, 1831; died June 4, 1847.

ARDELIA SUSAN, born July 23, 1833; died Sept. 3, 1834.

69. JOSEPH NICHOLS⁶ RATHBUN (Daniel⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1798 in Connecticut, and moved as a young man to Cortland County, N.Y. He married about 1824 Charlotte _____, born in June 1804, parentage unknown. They moved to Jones County, Iowa, where Charlotte died Aug. 2, 1855. Joseph returned to New York, where in Preston on March 5, 1857, he married Hannah Hill, born in 1817, parentage unknown. They remained in New York several years, and moved by 1863 to Fayette County, Mo., and later to Taylor County, Iowa, where Joseph died in 1885. Hannah's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

(By Charlotte)

TWO SONS, names unknown; no further information.

SYLVANUS, born in 1841; married Mary E. Pryor.

70. NEWMAN⁶ RATHBUN (Newman⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born April 16, 1807, in Chenango County, N.Y. Little is known of his life. He may have had an unknown first marriage, and children. He married, possibly secondly, in 1845, Lucinda Bennett, birthdate and parentage unknown, in Franklin, Cattaraugus County, N.Y. He

was living with his father in Lyndon, same county, in the 1850 census. He later moved to Warren County, Pa., where he divorced Lucinda in April 1857. He was still living in there in 1860, but nothing further is known of him. Cooley reported that he died in Bee Creek, Tenn. Lucinda died Sept. 20, 1873.

71. PARIS⁶ RATHBUN (Newman⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Jan. 13, 1820, in Norwich, N.Y. He married July 4, 1843, in Franklinville, N.Y., Hannah M. Hale, born in 1823, parentage unknown. They moved in the 1850s to Warren County, Pa., where Hannah died in 1900 and Paris in 1905.

CHILDREN

WILLIAM ALPHONZO, born May 26, 1844; married Mary C. Talman.

ALMERON NELSON, born July 17, 1848; married Mary Guierison.

ELLA ELIZABETH, born Sept. 17, 1852; married Eber Way.

EDGAR PRATT, born Feb. 29, 1856; married Mattie Odell.

72. ALLEN⁶ RATHBUN (Allen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1804 in Rhode Island, and moved as a boy with his parents to Chenango County, N.Y. He married about 1826 Ruth E. Gates, born May 14, 1808, probably the daughter of Rathbun Gates, whose mother was Ruth⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). They lived at McDonough, N.Y., where Allen died by 1875 and Ruth on June 15, 1877.

CHILDREN

SARAH, born in 1827; married _____ Smith.

LEWIS AUGUSTUS, born in 1829; married Lois Nicholson.

JOHN G., born in January 1831; married Almira Philley.

MAURICE, born March 15, 1833; married Julia E. Brooks.

MARYETTE, born in 1835; married DeForest Philley.

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ALMEDA, born March 13, 1837; married Lorenzo Beardsley Nov. 15, 1857.

ADELIA, born in April 1840; married Isaac⁷ Rathbun (Amos⁶ Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

GEORGE, born in July 1842; married Victoria Congdon.

RUTH ELIZABETH, born July 28, 1848; married Tyler Congdon.

REUBEN WILLIAM, born in October 1851; married Mary Cross.

Reunions

More than 40 descendants of Dr. Walter Latham Rathbun (1878-1949) and Grace Peckham (Fitch) Rathbun gathered July 19-20 for a family reunion at his birthplace, Groton, Conn. Among those attending were his three children, all members of our association — Walter L. Rathbun Jr., James P. Rathbun and Mrs. Grace Reed. Dr. Rathbun was the son of Walter⁷ Rathbun (Samuel⁶⁻⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹). Dr. Rathbun's life and medical career were outlined in our January 1986 issue.

Descendants of Gamaliel Rathbun (1800-1875) and Thomas Rathbun (1793-1866) gathered Aug. 2 at Decorah, Iowa, for a Rathbun family picnic. Among them were several members of our association — Marlin and Eileen Rathbun and Sharon Jahn, of Spring Valley, Minn., descendants of Gamaliel, and C.C. Cornell of Ossian, Iowa, a descendant of Thomas. The cousins made contact through our association. The two brothers were sons of Walter⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹).

Nearly 150 descendants of Hallet Rathbun (1841-1925) gathered July 5 at Fitzgerald, Georgia, for their annual family reunion. Among those attending were two members of our association, Reba Rathbun Reeves and Annie Rathbun Paulk. Hallet was a son of Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Town's Library Began As Rathbun Collection

A collection of books kept by a Rathbun widow in the back of her general store a quarter-century ago became the nucleus of a city library which has received national honors.

The Clark Fork, Idaho, library was cited by Friends of Libraries U.S.A. for building a library with no assistance from any government agency.

It all began with the late Emma Montana Smith Rathbun, widow of Robert Bean Rathbun (1898-1958), son of Clarence⁷ Rathbun (Guy⁶ Amiziah⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

Robert and Emma purchased the store in 1957, a few years after he retired as assistant superintendent of an oil refinery. He died the following year, leaving Emma to run the store on her own. She ran it exceptionally well and became one of the little town's best-known citizens.

In the early 1960s, she was named Idaho's "Grocer of the Year." She served on the village council from 1959 to 1964, and was mayor from 1964 until 1974. Emma was also vice-president of the Clark Fork Chamber of Commerce, and was Sunday School Superintendent for the town's Methodist Church. In 1969, she was listed in "Who's Who in the West."

Emma loved books, and kept a growing collection in the back of her store. Since the town (population less than 500) had no library, she made her books available to her customers on a loan basis. In time, she developed a lending library of more than 2,000 books. Patrons came from a radius of 25 miles.

She continued to operate the store, and the library, until her death in 1981, aged 78. The book collection was left to her daughter, Joy Baker, with the request that it be put to good use. Her wishes were carried out.

A committee was organized in 1984 to raise money for a real library. The group raised \$5,600 through donations, dinners, bake sales and other fund

raisers. The city donated land, and the local high school's vocational carpentry class began work on a library building as a class project.

In March, 1985, the 20-by-40-foot library was opened to the public, with Emma's books as the nucleus of its collection. It is run by a paid part-time librarian.

It was the city's community spirit in building a library with its own resources that earned it the national award. Emma Rathbun would be pleased with the award — and with the library.

(Robert and Emma Rathbun's three children — Robert R. Rathbun, Joy A. Baker and Nan C. Friesen — are all members of our association. We thank Joy Baker for providing the information for this story.)

Corrections

In the list of children of Christopher⁶ Rathbun (Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹) in our January issue, we inadvertently left out the oldest — Sarah A. Rathbun, born in October, 1824, who married Julian Arnaud LaPierre on May 28, 1843. Our thanks to Doris Stoppa.

Chaplin⁶ Rathbun (Jonathan⁵⁻⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), whose death date in our last issue was listed as 1863 or 1865, actually died on Jan. 1, 1865. Our thanks to Bonnie McLaughlin, a descendant, who visited his grave at Bakerstown Cemetery, Sandusky County, Ohio, to get the accurate date.

Abigail Hunt Rathbun (1840-1914), daughter of Joseph Sharpe⁶ Rathbun (Clark⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), was married to Charles Stevens. Our thanks to Hazel Rathbun Koehler and Gail Jacobson.

Obituaries

DIED June 3, 1986, Mrs. Elsie V. Rathbun, 94, at Ord, Neb. She was the widow of Melvin J. Rathbun (1899-1942), son of Dimick⁷ Rathbun (Hiram⁶ Dyer⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Arthur (Genevieve) Pierson; two sons, Richard, a member of our association, and Tracy; eight grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

DIED August 9, 1986, James A. Rathbun, 64, of New Port Richey, Fla. He was the son of Arthur⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; a son, James Rathbun Jr.; a daughter, Mrs. Karen Paul; a brother, Arthur; three sisters, Ann Guindon, Catherine Adams and Lillian Bottello, and three grandsons.

DIED August 13, 1986, Archie Burwell Rathbun, 67, at Roundup, Mont. He was a son of Alfred⁸ Rathbun (Bowen⁷ James⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). An Army veteran of World War II, he is survived by his wife, Mary; three sons, Fred, William and Richard; six daughters, Jean, Beryl, Barbara, Bonnie, Rose and Juanita; several grandchildren, and a brother, Lowell, a member of our association.

DIED Jan. 16, 1986, at San Francisco, Cal., Donald Ralph Rathburn, ancestry unknown. He is survived by his parents, names unknown; his wife, Susan, and three children, David, Ralph and Karen. Does anyone know this family?

In our last issue, we mentioned the death of Robert Rathburn, who was shot to death in Yancey County, N.C. At the time we did not know his ancestry. We have learned that he was the uncle of our member, Harold Rathburn, and is descended from the mysterious John Rathbone of Virginia and North Carolina whose ancestry we have not yet determined.

DIED May 1, 1986, Fred L. Rathbun, 85, at Battle Creek, Mich. He was the son of Charles⁸ Rathbun (Levi⁷ Orsemus⁶ Thomas⁵⁻⁴⁻³ Samuel² John¹). A Navy veteran, he is survived by his wife of 59 years, Katherine; two daughters, Mrs. John (Betty) McLachlan, and Mrs. Lloyd (Ruth) Hartman; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Myrle Gordon.

DIED May 19, 1985, Herbert D. Rathbun, 82, at Philadelphia, Pa. He was the son of Alonzo⁸ Rathbun (Lewis⁷ Ransom⁶ Daniel⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He retired in 1966 after a career as an accountant and business executive. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; two sons, Howard, a member of our association, and David; seven grandchildren, and two brothers, Dr. Lewis, a member of our association, and Richard.

DIED March 16, 1986, Velma Rathburn, 79, at Denver, Colo. She was the widow of Russell⁹ Rathburn (Harvey⁸ Orrin⁷⁻⁶ Russell⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), who died in 1975. Mrs. Rathburn retired in 1972 as assistant city clerk and recorder for the city of Denver. Survivors include a son, Donald Stroh, by a first marriage; two brothers; three sisters; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

DIED May 24, 1986, Gladys Potter Villiard Edward, 84, adopted daughter of Otis Potter and Minnie⁸ Rathbun (Jonathan⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). She was the mother of 10 children, including two sets of twins.

DIED Feb. 8, 1986, Dorothy (Lane) Windsor Seiflein, 85, at Woodinville, Washington. She was the daughter of Otis Lane and Sarah⁸ Rathbun (Jonathan⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). She is survived by her husband, Richard; three daughters; a son, Murray Windsor, and a brother, Ward Lane.

Births

BORN July 17, 1986, Andrew Charles Duffey, son of Rev. Scott and Rebecca (Rathbun) Duffey, of Glen Arm, Md., and grandson of your editor. It was the first child for the Duffeys and the third grandchild for your editor, Frank Hugo⁹ Rathbun (Frank⁸ Hugo⁷ Charles⁶ Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

BORN June 20, 1986, Alexandra Rae Rathbun, daughter of Christopher and Lynn Rathbun of Crystal, Minn., and first granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hubert⁹ Rathbun (Clarence⁸ Addison⁷ Sebra⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹). Both the parents and grandparents are members of our association.

BORN July 19, 1986, Chelsea Lee Smith, daughter of Russell J. Smith and Debora (Rathbun) Smith, of North Kingstown, R.I. Debora is the daughter of Donald J.¹⁰ Rathbun (Elmer⁹ Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN July 11, 1986, Andrew Daniel Luna, son of Tony and Renee (Rathbun) Luna, of El Paso, Texas. Renee is a daughter of the late Robert E.¹⁰ Rathbun (Elmer⁹ Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN Dec. 31, 1985, Jennifer Leigh White, daughter of Jeffrey and Kathleen (Ledford) White, and granddaughter of our member, Jean (Rathburn)¹⁰ Ledford (Bonnie⁹ Henry⁸ Valentine⁷ John⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

In our last issue, we printed a picture purchased at a garage sale with the name, "Mrs. E.J. Rathbun, Cordova. Ill.," on the back. We did not make clear that we thought the picture was that of Rev. Guy Wheeler⁶ Rathbun (Amiziah⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹), and the initials those of his wife, Emma Jane Rathbun.

People

DR. JOHN MALCOLM RATHBUN

has been named Associate Medical Director for Park Center, Inc., a private comprehensive mental health clinic in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he and his family have moved from Cumberland, Wisc. Dr. Rathbun is the son of William⁹ Rathbun (William⁸⁻⁷ John⁶⁻⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

TERRANCE RATHBUN, Rapid City, S.D., real estate broker, has been named a Certified Commercial Investment Member by the Realtors National Marketing Institute. He completed five courses, a screening process and an examination to win the certification, one of three in South Dakota. Terrance is the son of Burl¹⁰ Rathbun (Samuel⁹ James⁸ Samuel⁷ James⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

WILFRED EUGENE RATHBUN and his wife, Hazel (Brown) Rathbun, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 18, 1986, in Hesperia, Calif. They have two sons, Wilfred E. Jr. and Daniel, and five grandchildren. He is the son of Emma⁹ Rathbun (Lucius⁸ John⁷ Dyer⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

WILLIAM M. RATHBURN has been named a deputy chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. A commander since 1979, he was in charge of security for the 1984 Olympic Games, and was named Police Officer of the year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In his new post, he will be in charge of personnel and training. Rathburn is a descendant of John Rathbone of Virginia and North Carolina, whose ancestry we have not yet determined.

SANDRA D. RATHBUN and Kevin A. Hayes were married July 17, 1986, at Coventry, R.I. Sandra is the daughter of Edward H.¹¹ Rathbun (Everett¹⁰ Arthur⁹ George⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Our New Members

Dr. and Mrs. Earl H. Antes
Evansville, Ind.

Diane E. Archer
Port Jervis, N.Y.

Mary Lee Farrell
Providence, R.I.

Mabel Rathbun Gebler
West Warwick, R.I.

Sarah F. Hinson
Eskridge, Kansas

Mary Phillips Hyde
Colchester, Conn.

Hazel Rathbun Koehler
Colusa, Calif.

Joyce Mitchell
Pawcatuck, Conn.

Billy and Martha Rathburn
Asheville, N.C.

Christopher and Lynn Rathbun
Crystal, Minn.

John H. Rathbun
Sauk Rapids, Minn.

Robert L. Rathbun Jr.
Gresham, Ore.

Vivian Rathbun
Westerly, R.I.

Jayne N. Rezin
Sparta, Wisc.

Kenneth E. Smith
Lenexa, Kansas

Nancy J. Snowden
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

CHARLES HENRY RATHBUN has been selected among 1987 high school graduates to be listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students." Only six percent of all seniors in the nation's 22,000 high schools are chosen for the honor, which is based on scholastic achievement. Charles, who lives in Warner Robins, Ga., is the son of Charles¹¹ Rathbun (Henry¹⁰⁻⁹ Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). His father and grandfather are both members of our association.

GEORGE AND MARGARET (Rathbun) Harding of Bardstown, Ky., enjoyed an early celebration on August 2 of their forthcoming 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 1, 1987. They are charter members of our association. Among the many friends and relatives attending were three other members of our association — Robert B. Rathbun of Bowling Green, Ky., and William and Dorothy Rathbun of Haskel, Okla. Margaret is the daughter of James⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

ELLEN L. COATES retired in June after a 35-year teaching career. She began teaching at a Colorado country school in 1942, temporarily "retired" to raise her two children, and then returned to the classroom in 1959. She has taught mathematics for the past 27 years in Modesto, California. Her husband, Jack, retired in 1985. Ellen is the daughter of Franklin and Oleava (Cline) Sharp, and a granddaughter of Samuel Cline and Ellen Lucinda⁸ Rathbun (Jacob⁷ Edwin⁶ George⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

KARIE RATHBUN and William Stafford were married May 24, 1986, at Chippewa Falls, Wisc. Karie is the daughter of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Rathbun, and granddaughter of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Gathern⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ Jonathan⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

REMINDER — Dues for 1987 are again due! A renewal form is included with this issue. Please send your \$15 renewal check now, before you forget!