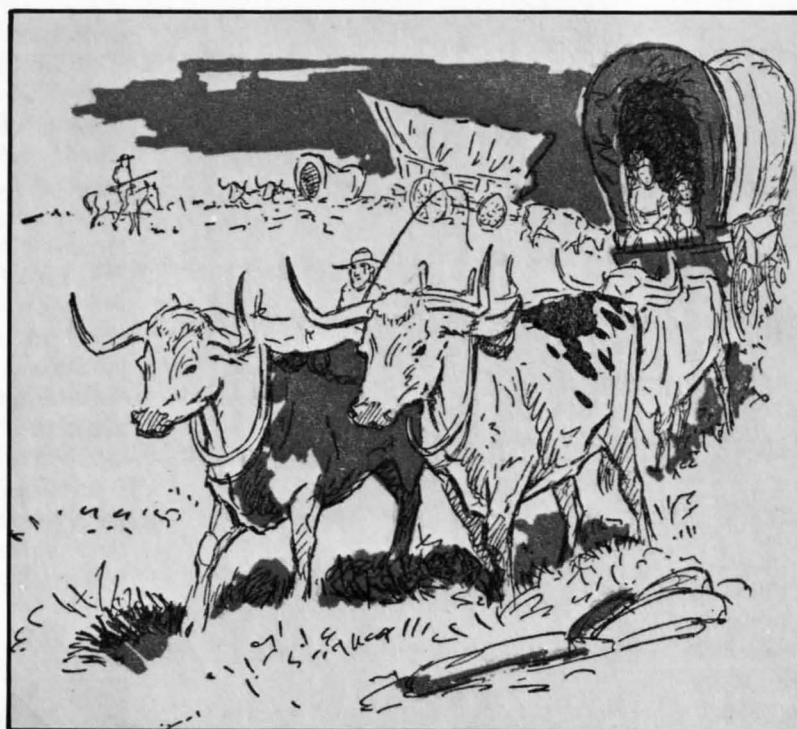


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

FAMILY HISTORIAN



Settlement of the Great West
(1850-1900)

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

Letter from the Editor

This issue of the Historian may be a little late. Hazel and I spent an extra week in England with her family following the Family Roots trip, and returned to find the grass knee-high and my tractor-mower out of order. I spent three days mowing by hand, and then had to buy a new mower. Then, to top it off, we found that our house had flooded during heavy rains while we were gone. And if that weren't enough, our house is under attack by termites! We are still trying to cure both problems.

But the good news is, the English trip was fabulous! Thirty-seven of us had an absolutely wonderful time. Full details and pictures will be in the October Historian, along with a report on the Rapid City Reunion in August. We are now busily preparing for the reunion, and looking for a turnout of some 150 cousins from throughout the country.

Our membership has only reached 480, still under last year's total of 490. That goal of 500 members still is eluding us. We have only 10 new members to report in this issue. Any help or suggestions will be appreciated.

Dr. Earl Antes and his wife, Gayle, of Evansville, Ind., have completed the indexing of the 1986 Historians, and have done a superb job. Mrs. Margaret Dale earlier completed the 1985 indexing, and we will print the two indexes in a combined volume late this year, to be mailed to all members early in 1988.

Our story on Frederick G. Rathbun, the composer, in our last issue, stirred some memories for 94-year-old Margaret Gottschalk of Stockbridge, Mass., the mother of our member Betty Angelini. Mrs. Gottschalk remembers playing with Frederick's daughter, Clara, who was her cousin and just her age. Fred Haines, a great-nephew of the composer, recently sent us the obituary of Clara, who died in Virginia of Bright's Disease in 1913, aged 20.

Mrs. Gottschalk also recalled that Fredrick G. Rathbun Jr. returned to Stockbridge after his father's death, and worked as an auto mechanic. His first wife was drowned when her car plunged through a bridge over the Williams River in 1927. Mrs. Angelini is trying to find whether he left any descendants in the area by either of his two wives.

This issue of our Historian is dedicated to the theme of our 1987 National Reunion — our family's role in the settlement of the far west.

Hazel and I are looking forward to seeing many of you in Rapid City!

Frank

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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WE THANK the following members who have sent us family data, pictures, clippings and other materials in recent months: Dr. Lewis and Elizabeth Rathbun, Frances Collord, Laverne E. Rathbun of Idaho, Eileen Owens, Frank E. Rathbun, K. Haybron Adams, N. Thomas Peck Jr., Benjamin and Rosalie Rathbun, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Alvin Moore, Helen M. Rathbun, Phyllis Walklet, Jeanne Chubbuck, Myrtle Rathbun, Katherine Coner, Beverly Gillette, Frank and Dorothy Rathbun, Dr. Earl and Gayle Antes, Victor and Ruth Streeter, Betty Angelini, R. Van Rathbun, Bettye Rathbone, C. Jay Brown, Rob Rathbun, Clair Cornell, Lois McEachern, John Bowen and Fred Haines.

Firm Offers Reprint of Cooley Book

A Massachusetts publishing company has reprinted John C. Cooley's 1898 "Rathbone Genealogy," and is offering copies for sale to our members for \$79.

The reprint also includes the index to Cooley's book compiled by our member, Margaret Dale, in 1966. It was included at my suggestion with Mrs. Dale's kind permission.

I have been provided with a review copy of the Cooley reprint, and found it to be of very good quality. It is hard-bound, contains over 1,000 pages, and includes the original pictures, although they did not reproduce very well in the recopying process.

In view of the inaccuracies in Cooley's account of the early generations, your editor wrote a short preface pointing out the major errors. Unfortunately, this was not included in the review copy, but the publisher has assured me that it will be included in all future copies.

If you are interested, send your check for \$79 directly to the printer — Higginson Genealogical Books, Derby Square, Salem, Mass. 01970.

Past Issues Still Available

All issues, 1981-1986	\$95
All issues, 1981	22
All issues, 1982	20
All issues, 1983	15
All issues, 1984	15
All issues, 1985	15
All issues, 1986	15

Single copies of any 1983-1986 issue are \$4 each. Earlier single issues (some available only in xerox) range from \$2 to \$5, depending on our supply. Write if interested.

Great Westward Migration Drew Many Family Members

In keeping with the theme of our Third National Family Reunion next month in Rapid City, S.D., this issue of the Historian is devoted to the settling of the Far West (1850-1900) and the role played by members of our family in that historic migration.

In our Historian of July 1985, we reviewed the great westward migration from the early 1700s until 1850, and described how our ancestors and early cousins participated in this march across America, from New England through New York and Ohio and on into the Midwest.

By 1850, the United States had grown into a nation of 31 states with a population of nearly 24 million.

In this issue, we continue the story for another 50 years, to 1900, a period that saw the admission of 14 more states and a tripling of the population to more than 76 million. Much of this population explosion came from natural increases, with families of 10 and even 12 children being commonplace. Many of the new Americans, however, were immigrants from Europe, some English but primarily Irish and Germans, escaping from the Irish potato famine of the late 1840s and the German Revolution of 1848.

From 1850 to 1860 some 2,500,000 immigrants flocked to America, and from 1860 to 1890 an estimated 1,500,000 Irish alone came to the new world. Smaller numbers came from Sweden, Scotland, Wales and the Scandinavian countries. Many of us today trace our ancestries to some of these immigrants, who were quickly assimilated into the American "melting pot."

As in earlier migrations, the primary drive behind the westward movement was the desire for cheap land and the opportunity for a better life. The fertile prairies of the Great Plains states were quickly turned into prosperous farms and bustling towns.

One event, however, stands out as the single greatest cause of westward migration in this period — the discovery of gold in California in 1848. The news spread across the country and around the world. Like a huge magnet, California attracted fortune-seekers everywhere — from every state in the Union, from Mexico, Europe and Asia, they descended upon California.

Taken from Mexico in 1847 during the Mexican War, California was then a sparsely-settled area with a population of about 10,000. In 1848 and 1849 alone, some 80,000 gold-seekers poured into the territory, and California became a state in 1850. By 1852, it had a quarter-million residents.

(The story of the California Gold Rush is too big to be covered now. We will have a separate story on the "Forty-Niners," and our family's role in this fascinating era, in a later issue.)

The westward movement boomed in the 1850s. The upper Mississippi Valley increased its population by more than 3,500,000 between 1850 and 1860. Even the Civil War of 1861-1865 did not

slow down the migration. In 1863, a traveler described the road west of Omaha, Neb., as "covered" with the wagons of those bound for the Far West. Huge trains of 800 to 1200 wagons were not uncommon.

As the area filled with settlers, new states were added constantly — Minnesota in 1858, Oregon in 1859, Kansas in 1861, Nevada in 1864, Nebraska in 1867, Colorado in 1876, North and South Dakota and Montana in 1889, Idaho and Wyoming in 1890 and Utah in 1896. The Great Plains, once called the "Great American Desert," had become America's "Last Frontier." By 1900, it was basically all over.

The U.S. entered the Twentieth Century with 45 states and a population of more than 76 million. (Oklahoma was to become a state in 1907, and New Mexico and Arizona in 1912.)

In the following pages, we will look at the experiences of some Rathbuns, Rathbones and Rathburns who participated in the settlement of the West in the exciting years between 1850 and 1900.

Several members of our family were early settlers in the Black Hills-Rapid City area, the site of our national reunion next month.

The Black Hills were part of a huge Indian Reservation granted in 1868 to the Sioux Nation. In 1874, gold was found in the hills by miners who accompanied General Custer that year on a surveying expedition. When the news reached the outside world, thousands of gold-seekers swarmed into the area in violation of the 1868 treaty, leading to open warfare by the Indians. In the most famous battle, General Custer and all his men were wiped out in 1876 at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

The Indians eventually were forced to give up their land, and permanent settlements soon followed — at places such as Rapid City, Deadwood, Spearfish, Custer City, Lead City and Belle Fourche.

One of the earliest permanent settlers was Daniel Rathbun (1830-1886), a son of Wightman⁶ Rathbun (Daniel⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Daniel left his home in New York as a teen-ager, and his family never heard from him again. In 1849, he joined the Gold Rush to California, working his way across the plains as a wagon driver. He later drifted north to Oregon,

(continued on page 43)

Hoxie Rathbun Dies in Storm on 1856 Pony Express Ride

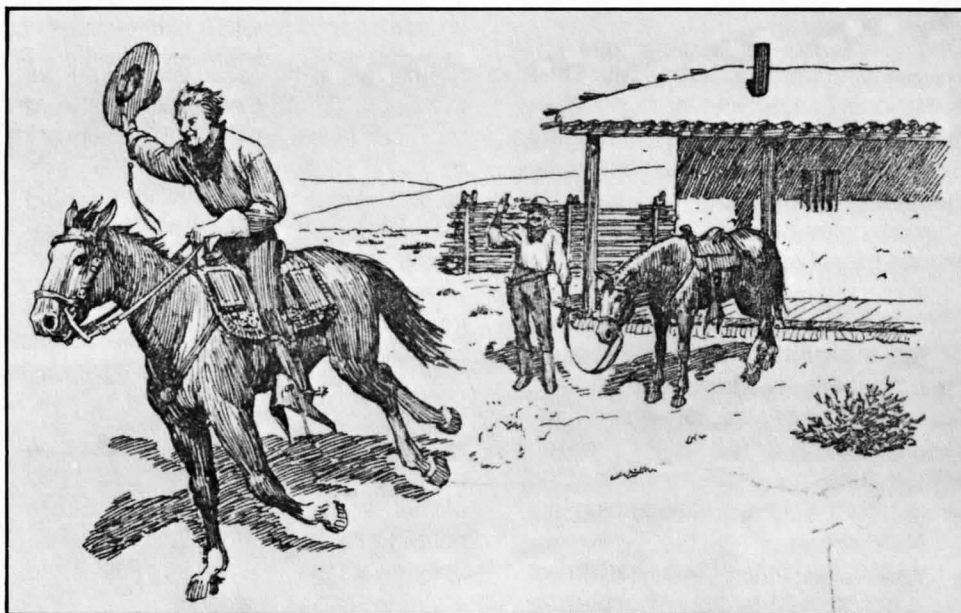
One of the most romantic figures in the early American West was the Pony Express Rider, who carried the mail on horseback to the small, far-flung villages throughout the frontier. These couriers rode fast and hard, exchanging horses along their way. One of our early Rathbun cousins was one of these riders, whose career and life both ended tragically when he was caught in a blizzard in 1856 on the prairies of Minnesota.

Gideon Hoxie Rathbun was born April 8, 1814, in Davenport, N.Y., the son of Gideon⁶ Rathbun (Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). He left home as a young man, after some difficulties with his father, according to family tradition. He always went by the name "Hoxie." One of his daughters later recalled that he was six feet tall, with blue eyes and light hair.

He ended up in Schuylkill County, Penna., where in 1838, at Minersville, he married Catharine (Brobst) Brewer, a 20-year-old widow with two young sons. They stayed a few years in Minersville, then moved in the 1840s to Fairfield, Westmoreland County, Penna., where they were living in 1850, operating a boarding house for Irish railroad workers. By this time, they had three daughters — Mary, born in 1839; Margaret, born in 1841, and Jane, born in 1848.

About 1851, they headed west, and settled near Steubenville, Ohio, where Hoxie worked several years on railroad construction. In 1852, a fourth daughter was born, named Rebecca. Seeking a better life for his growing family, Hoxie decided to move further west, and in March 1853 started with his family for Galena, Ill., where workers were wanted in lead mines.

Hoxie, however, decided that lead mining was not for him, and the family continued its march westward, ending up in St. Paul, Minn. Hoxie left his family there and headed north to find a suitable home. He decided on the little town of Mankato on the Great Bend of the Min-



nesota River. He built a small shack atop a hill overlooking the town, and returned to St. Paul in June for his wife and children. His daughter, Margaret, later recalled their arrival at Mankato:

"I came to Mankato in the year 1853 on the Steamship Clarion from St. Paul. I was 11 years old... We landed about four o'clock in the morning and father took us to a little shack he had built on the brow of the hill... Back of this shack at a distance of a couple of blocks were twenty Indian tepees... As nearly as I can remember there were nine families here at the time...

"The first winter here I attended school. The school house was built by popular subscription... It was a log structure of one room and in the middle of this room was a large, square iron stove. The pupils sat around the room facing the four walls... I came from my home across the prairie through the snow in the bitter cold of the winter. Oftentime, I broke through the crust of the snow and had a hard time getting out.

"The education the children received in those days had to be paid for either by their parents or by someone else who picked out a child and paid for his or her

tuition. That was how I received my education. My parents were too poor to pay for mine, and a man in town who had no children volunteered to pay for (me). I went to school for a few years on this man's subscription."

Hoxie apparently supported his wife and four children with odd jobs for several years, then in 1856, he was hired as a "Pony Express Rider" to carry mail from St. Paul to Sioux City, Iowa, a distance of about 150 miles. The round trip took about two weeks, and he made several trips in the summer and early fall.

On November 15, he set off on the trip which was to be his last.

His daughter later wrote:

"The government was supposed to have built shacks along his route at regular intervals of about 20 miles, where he could rest and seek shelter during cold weather and storms, but this had been neglected. He often slept under haystacks and where ever shelter was afforded."

The winter of 1856-7 was one of the most severe ever experienced in that part of the country. It was marked by bitter cold, deep snow and violent

storms. On Dec. 1, a terrible blizzard began, which lasted three days and three nights, and left two feet of snow. In hollows and ravines, the snow drifts were as deep as 20 to 30 feet.

Hoxie Rathbun found himself alone on the prairie at the height of this blizzard. He managed to reach Sioux City early in December, but with severe frostbite on one side.

His daughter wrote:

"The lady where he stopped in Sioux City wanted him to stay there a while before returning home, and until his side had been treated and he had recovered, but he would not have it so, and started on his return trip (on Dec. 6) during exceedingly cold weather."

Despite increasingly colder temperatures and driving snow, Hoxie pressed on toward home. As the temperature dropped and the blinding snow became deeper and deeper, his pony finally collapsed, and he had to go on foot. Realizing his danger, he headed for the nearest refuge — a cabin at Belmont Station, in Jackson County, Minn.

Hoxie must have been a man of great strength and determination. He did reach the cabin, but it was too late. His hands and feet were frozen, and he was unable to light the fire which would have kept him alive.

His daughter tells what happened next:

"He did not return on schedule time from Sioux City on this trip and mother became very worried about him. She went to the men who had contracted with father to carry the mail and asked them to send out men to look for him. They promised to send out a Frenchman and a dog team. This contented mother for a while but as father did not return she again went to these men and this time they sent out three men with a horse and cutter to look for him.

"After traveling over the route for some time, they came to a shack on the Des Moines River, near where Jackson (Minn.) is now, and in this shack (on Dec. 26, 1856) they found my father, badly frozen and barely alive. He lived but a few moments after shaking hands with the men who found him."

A more graphic account is given in the Minnesota Pioneer of Jan. 26, 1857, under the headline "Horrible Death from Freezing and Starvation."

"Mr. Hoxie Rathbun ... was found on Dec. 26th ... he was very badly frozen and could not speak, but extended his hand to one of the men; he died in about fifteen minutes after. He had, when found, matches in his pocket, and there were shavings and wood in the building, but it is supposed he was so badly frozen when he arrived there that he could not make a fire.

"It is the opinion of those who found him that he had remained in that situation ten or twelve days, entirely destitute of food. He had gnawed his fingers and hands badly ... it is the opinion of physicians that he died not only of cold but of absolute starvation... He would probably have been saved if found a few days earlier. Mr. Rathbun ... had an iron constitution and must have struggled long and hard against his awful fate..."

Ironically, in his mail pouch, near the body, was found only one letter, post-

marked at Sioux City on Dec. 6. Hoxie had risked, and lost, his life for a single letter!

His daughter related:

"They brought the body back to Mankato and he was buried out near our place of residence, at the foot of the hill. The weather was so extremely cold at that time that the family could not go out to the burial."

Hoxie Rathbun died the day after Christmas, only 42 years old, leaving his widow, aged 38, with six children, the youngest 14. She was married six years later to Ephriam Cole and died at Mankato in 1909, aged 91.

(Information on the life and tragic death of Hoxie Rathbun was provided by his descendant, Arthur Burris, a member of our Association. He is a grandson of Hoxie's daughter, Rebecca, who married James Salter Burris.)



The four daughters of Hoxie Rathbun in the early 1900s. — at rear, Mary Goodrich and Rebecca Burris; in front, Jane Fuller and Margaret Funk.



Hoxie Rathbun's daughters in 1926. From left, Rebecca Burris, Jane Fuller, Mary Goodrich and Margaret Funk.

Jennie Rathbone's Memoirs Tell of Wisconsin Pioneering

One of the most detailed accounts of a westward migration by one of our family was written by Jennie (Rathbone) Webb (1868-1956), daughter of Albert Rouse⁷ Rathbone (Amos⁶⁻⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), based on notes written by her mother, Adeline (White) Rathbone (1840-1925). The story was published by a Wisconsin newspaper about 1920. The following is extracted from her lengthy article, with some minor editing for the sake of clarity:

Albert Rouse Rathbone was born June 28, 1838, in Erie County, Pennsylvania. The family spelled the name "Rathbun," but in 1862, during the Civil War, Albert enlisted in a Pennsylvania Regiment, and his name was erroneously listed as Rathbone. He eventually adopted that spelling in order to claim veterans' benefits after the war.

Albert was taken prisoner May 3, 1863, at the Battle of Chancellorsville, and was held for 11 days at Libby Prison. He was exchanged on May 15, and rejoined his regiment. In November, 1863, he was promoted to first lieutenant, and in May 1864, he was struck in the elbow by a bullet as he raised his sword to lead his company in a charge at Spotsylvania Court House. He was given a medical discharge four months later. In the spring of 1865, he decided to seek his fortune in the west.

Taking his wife, Adeline, and their four-month-old baby, Kate, he set off for Wisconsin, where several older brothers were already settled. After a long journey, by stagecoach, river boat and a hired ox-team, they ended up in a little log cabin at the mouth of the Black River, 15 miles from LaCrosse, Wisc. We now take up the story with excerpts from Jennie's account:

"The little log cabin, but recently vacated, contained rough handmade furniture, but was clean. Our new cook stove was put in position, and mother

stored the provisions, hung the dimity curtains, wound and set the clock, while father at a near neighbor's filled a tick with bright oat straw and brought home the cow which had been included in the purchase price.

"Although father still carried his arm in a sling (from his battle wound), he earned enough that summer driving

teams for local farmers to buy three milch cows. Mother, by holding boards up to be nailed, and down to be sawed, helped him build a small milk-house over the spring. Mother made butter, and sold it.

"The cool days of May turned to summer, and hot weather, and mosquitoes. Oh, the mosquitoes! And oh dear, the



Albert and Adeline Rathbone surrounded by pictures of their 12 children — clockwise starting at the top — Alice, Mary, Jenny (author of the diary), Nancy, Clara, Ethel, Kate, Asa, Virgil, Edison, Edith, and Agnes.

resultant smudges! There was a smudge pot under the table while they ate, and one under the baby's cradle all the time, and another for the cow when it was milked, and yet the mosquitoes nearly ate them alive. Mother ran slapping to right and left. Father, his one arm still useless, tied down his coat sleeves and wore a veil and heavy coat for protection. The creatures, in a black cloud, followed anything that moved. Cattle rushed up out of the river bottoms, tearing like mad through the brush, trying to escape them.

"The summer passed and, best of all, the mosquitoes passed with it. During the winter, father had an opportunity to sell the place, and with the memory of the mosquitoes, decided to take the offer and move. By now, they had another child, Alice, born in September.

"They packed their belongings into the sled and drove over the ridge into the Trempealeau Valley. It took two days, but mother and the babies were cozy in the sled box. They located a few miles from Arcadia in the lower American Valley, where I was born in January 1868.

"We advanced a step in civilization here — we had horses to drive. Mother did most of the marketing. She tied me into the seat beside her, put the two older girls on the floor of the hack with a foot on each one's skirts, and away we flew.

"Father did not enjoy renting, and in March 1868 he bought his own place over in Travis Valley. Three years later, with another child (Virgil, born in 1869), we were off again, this time further west in Wisconsin to an 80-acre farm father had bought, sight-unseen. It turned out to be a run-down house on an unfenced, sandy plain. He realized he had made a mistake, but they had to make the best of it.

"It puzzles me how it was managed, but we never lacked comfort. Our homes, though plain, were always clean, our table provided with wholesome food, and our beds neat and inviting. I love to remember that snow-bound winter. Up in the attic you could hear the wind moan in the flue and rattle the dead oak leaves."

"In 1872, we moved back to Arcadia and lived there for five years, then father bought a 360-acre farm at Humbird, Wisc. What a place! Dead cattle lying unburied in the barnyard upon which

great, gaunt hairy dogs were eating. Dead fowl under the perches of the chicken coop. A new barn erected above the carcasses of several sheep. Half the pickets missing from the front fence. Buildings unpainted. Windows of the house broken and stuffed with rags. Worn-out fields.

"Father went to work. The dead animals were buried, fences and windows repaired, buildings painted, a new barn built. Father bought all the manure at the town's livery stable for a dollar a load, and fertilized the depleted fields.

"In 1881, father bought another farm near Arcadia, and we moved again, this time to a larger, three-story house, for we had prospered in more than wealth: there were now 11 children — eight girls and three boys.

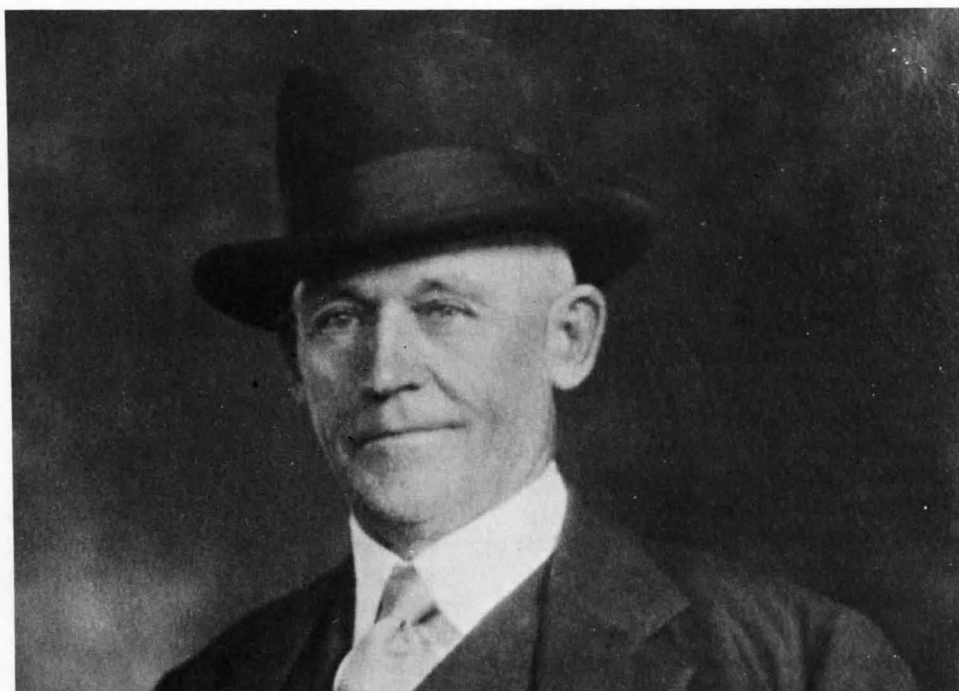
"Father took up dairying. One room of our house held long rows of rich, yellow home-made cheese. We sold milk, cream and cheese. Our place was rich, and grew wonderful crops of corn and clover. We were near good schools. It was a pity to sell, but sell father did, in April 1885. We headed southwest this time, for the Ozark Mountains, with ten of the 12 children — the two oldest married daughters stayed in Arcadia.

"It was a most unfortunate move, made by passenger train. It was a wild life there in the woods, filled with flowers, nuts and fruits, but we lived in constant fear, father being a northerner. The people were still bitter over the Civil War.

"In 1891, we moved again, to the open prairies of South Dakota, where we found drought, hail storms, cyclones and even an Indian outbreak!

"Father stuck it out for 10 years, and in 1901, after an injury, an intensely hot summer and poor medical treatment, he died, needlessly, at the age of 62. His body was taken for burial back to Arcadia, by his favorite team of horses."

(His widow lived on for another 24 years, and thanks to her memories, and Jennie's writing ability, we have an account of their pioneering years together. Several of our members are descended from Albert and Adaline — Lois McEachern, LaPrelle Weatherford, Edison Rathbone and Veora Rotter, all grandchildren, and Winfred Brown and Glenda Faust, daughter and granddaughter of Mrs. McEachern. If anyone would like the complete text of Jennie's story, send us one dollar and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)



Virgil Eugene Rathbone (1869-1962), son of Albert and Adaline Rathbone, who later moved to Texas and was a deputy sheriff. He was a powerful, rugged man, who carried a gun but never had to use it. His daughter, Lois McEachern, recalls that "whenever there was a disturbance, they would 'send for Rathbone.' He would just walk in and all would quiet down."

Some of Our Early Cousins Left Records of Pioneer Days

A number of our early cousins have left records of their pioneering experiences in the 1850-1900 period. The following is a sampling of some of their stories.

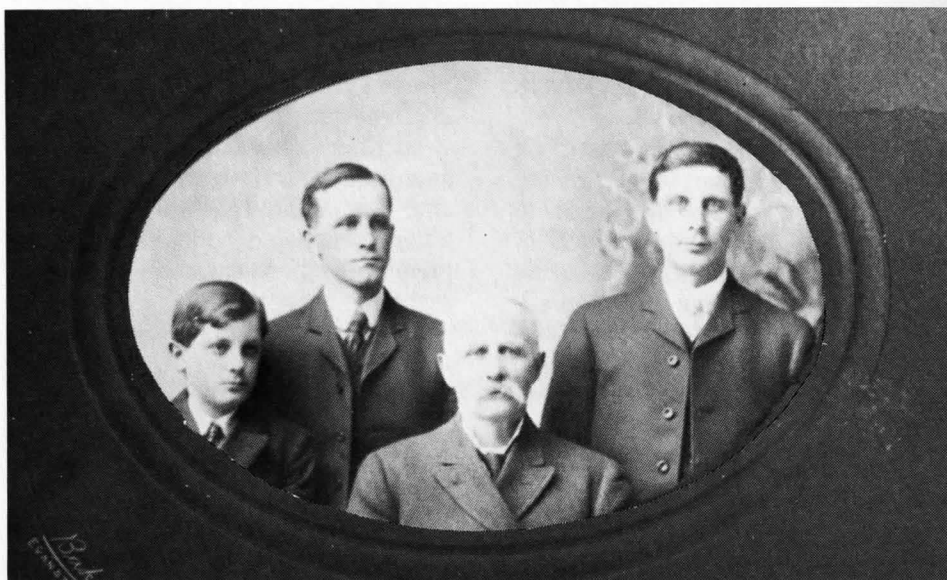
Daniel Boardman Rathbun (1836-1913) was stricken with "western fever" as a young man of 22. He was born in Cortland County, N.Y., the son of Greene⁶ Rathbun (Greene⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

He made his first trip across the plains to California in 1858, and returned each year for the next four years. In 1861, while preparing for his fourth trip at St. Louis, he was caught up in Missouri's bitter clash between Northern and Southern sympathizers. He and a companion were arrested and charged with being Confederates, but were able to prove they were "good Yankees!"

In the fall of 1861, he embarked at San Francisco for Hawaii, where he remained two years. Returning to the United States in 1863, he spent some time in Nevada as a miner and rancher, then went to California where he was married and became the father of two children. Little is known of these early years. One story that has been passed down relates that six Indians one day appeared at his home and demanded to be fed. While Daniel and his wife were preparing a meal for them, one of the Indians decided to spit on the griddle. Daniel, irate at such behavior, picked up the heavy, hot griddle and brought it down on the Indian's head.

About 1867, Daniel's wife and two children all died in an outbreak of typhoid fever. Sadly, there is no record of his wife's name, or of the two children. After their deaths, Daniel left California and moved to Wyoming, where in 1874 he married Hattie Fuller.

Daniel was involved in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Evanston-Green River area, where he had homesteaded 400 acres on Fontenelle Creek. He served several



Daniel Boardman Rathbun, seated, and three of his five sons — from left, Henry, Mark and Daniel.

terms as County Commissioner for Uinta County, which then extended from the southern border of Wyoming to the Yellowstone River. In 1902, he was elected chairman of the County Board of Commissioners.

His wife, Hattie, died in 1892, and Daniel spent the rest of his life in Evanston. They had six children and a number of grandchildren, including his namesake Daniel Boardman Rathbun, a member of our Association, who provided information for this story.

Joseph Sharp Rathbun (1797-1866) was a prosperous merchant and farmer in Montgomery County, Mo., when he decided in 1853 to move to California. His second wife, Rebecca, was reluctant to go, but Joseph promised her if she did not like California, they would return in five years.

In the Spring of 1853, the Rathbuns joined a wagon train at Independence, Mo., and set out for California. With them were his four sons — Erskine, 24;

Edwin, 22; Davis, 15, and Jesse, 11, — and a 12-year-old daughter, Abigail.

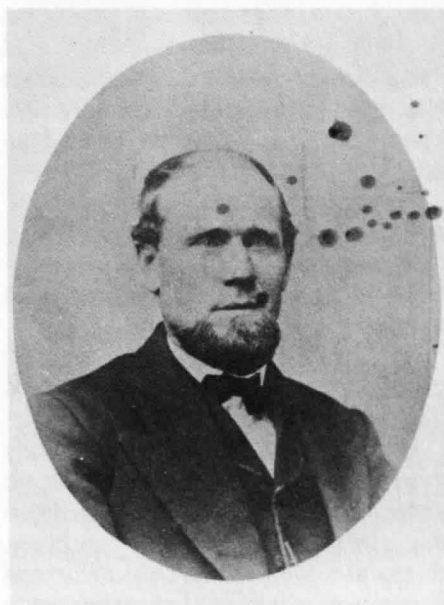
The story of their trip was later told by Davis to his son Carl, who wrote it out in 1942, when he was 66 years old.

"They started across the plains gentling along a herd of milk cows for the far west, where my grandfather proposed to start a cheese factory... Joining others westward bent at Independence, Missouri, in the spring of 1853, my grandfather's party, made up of husky sons and a daughter, well-equipped for the venture, started on a six-month trek into the sunset.

"They dawdled along the golden summer, much to the enjoyment of my father and his little brother. They, with their hound dogs, wandered far afield as the caravan progressed across the vast basin lying east of the Rockies. Here they met all sorts of adventures, including Red Indians. Once my father and his brother were captured by Indians, but it was a friendly capture. The boys had gotten lost and wandered into an Indian village, where they were kindly

received, playing with the Indian boys throughout the day and then returned on the backs of a couple of Indian ponies by the old chief, who delivered them safely to a much perturbed family.

"The party entered California just before the snow began to fly in the mountains, by way of Hangtown, then the name of what later became known as Placerville. The two older sons had gone ahead to select a likely place to locate, and met the wagons at Hangtown and led them cross-country to what is now Petaluma in Sonoma County. Here my grandfather and his two older sons took up homesteads of 160 acres each."



Edwin Davis Rathbun (1831-1897), who accompanied his father, Joseph Sharp Rathbun, on their 1853 trip to California, and later related the story to his son, Carl Rathbun.

Joseph Rathbun's cheese factory was a success, and he became a prominent man in California, serving in the State Legislature in 1855 and 1856. But in 1858, his wife reminded him of his promise to return to Missouri if she didn't like California. She didn't like it, she told him, and wanted to go back home.

True to his promise, Joseph sold his home, his farm and his cheese factory, and moved back to Missouri. He died there eight years later when he was thrown from his carriage by a runaway horse.

Carl Rathbun's account of Joseph S. Rathbun's trip to California was provided by our member, Hazel (Rathbun) Koehler, a descendant of Joseph Sharp Rathbun.

Daniel Rathbun was born May 13, 1830, in Otsego County, N.Y., the son of Benjamin⁶ Rathbun (Daniel⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). He moved with his parents as a boy to Ohio, and in 1853, at the age of 23, he and two friends decided to go to California.

They contracted with a wagon master to take them via the northern route to Sacramento, but on the way, the man decided to instead take the southern route to lower California and told Rathbun and his companions he would pay their fare to Sacramento. They reluctantly agreed, and proceeded on to San Bernardino.

There, the man informed Rathbun and his friends that he had changed his mind and would not pay their fare to Sacramento. With no money, they were stranded in San Bernardino.

While they were sitting on a wagon tongue whittling and dejectedly discussing the situation, a man walked by and overheard their conversation. He introduced himself as George Garner, and told them he would help.

He took the matter up with other citizens of the town, a meeting was held, and a committee was named to try and force the wagon master to carry out his agreement to pay the three young men's fares to Sacramento. The man again refused, however, and it was obvious nothing could be done.

Garner took Rathbun and his two companions home with him, and offered them board and lodging until they could find work. Rathbun quickly found a job in a small dairy for a few weeks, then went to work as a farm hand. After two years, he accepted a job as a stage driver, and was credited with driving the first stage into Los Angeles. He continued stage driving until 1856, carrying passengers and mail as far as Utah.

In 1856, he married Garner's 19-year-old daughter, Sarah Ann, and the young couple moved to a seven-acre farm given them by her father. They sold this in a few years, purchased 30 acres, and later added another 80 acres, giving them a prosperous 130-acre farm.

Rathbun later went into the freighting business for 12 years, making long, arduous trips to Utah, Montana and other western states. His knowledge of the area brought him the position of construction superintendent for the Union Pacific when the railroad was being built through Utah. Then, after a spell of cattle trading, he became a rancher in San Bernardino, raising prize cattle and horses which took top honors in local stock shows. He climaxed his busy career by opening a grocery store and later a general merchandise store in San Bernardino, and was elected a county supervisor.

Rathbun and his wife had eight children, but we have been unable to locate any descendants. Information on his life was found in a history of San Bernardino.

Cornelius Taylor Rathbone (1818-1907) wrote a brief synopsis of his early life in the first issue (Jan. 1892) of the old Rathbone family Historian. He was born in Crawford County, Ill., the son of Edmund⁵ Rathbone (Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

In 1850, he was living in McLean County, where his wife, Mary Ann Drain, died on May 22, leaving him with two small children. We take up his story from there:

"In a short time, Father Drain came to my house and stopped for a few weeks. He urged me very strongly to marry again. I was married to Hellen Fordyce, who only lived about nine months. Soon after this, I sold my farm and went to Iowa. My next marriage was to Abigail Fordyce, a half sister to Hellen, who has been my faithful wife ever since, through thick and thin.

"I stopped nearly four years in Iowa City, Iowa, working at the carpenter trade, with the exception of one year, during which time I was running a ten-pin alley, which was the hardest work that I had ever done. In June of that year, my brother Gideon came along and we went to Cedar Rapids, following up the Cedar River to the Falls, and from there struck across to where Eldora now stands. Gideon traded for some land and I bought two hundred acres at \$1.25 per acre, which I afterwards sold and

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Rathbun Buffalo Hunt in 1876 Described in Long-Lost Diary

In 1876, John Pearson Rathbun of Downs, Osborne County, Kansas, organized a buffalo-hunting trip to Texas. The story of the expedition is told in an old diary which was discovered in 1976 and published in 1977 by the Gazette newspaper of Emporia, Kansas. The following story is based on extracts from the diary. John Pearson Rathbun (1829-1905) was the son of Pearson⁶ Rathbun (Joseph⁵ Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He was accompanied on the trip by his adopted son, Edwin Boggs Rathbun (1848-1914), and 12 other men, including W.A. Wilson, who wrote the diary.

Thursday, Oct. 26. We left Osborne County bound for the buffalo country. Our outfit (The J.P. Rathbun Company) consists of 14 men, well armed, and several teams and wagons.

(For the next 12 days, the caravan traveled southwest through Kansas and on Nov. 2 reached Walnut Creek, halfway to Dodge City, then a major supply center for hunters and shipping point for buffalo hides.)

Friday, Nov. 3. We left camp at 8 o'clock, made 12 miles and took dinner. Here we saw our first buffalo. Myself, Mat Page and Ed Rathbun saddled our ponies for the chase. We run him about 4 miles and gave him up.

(On Nov. 5, they reached the Arkansas River, camped for the night, and the next day went into Dodge City, known as the "wickedest little city in America." Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson had left the town a few months earlier, having failed in their jobs as deputy marshals to "clean up" the city.)

Monday, Nov. 6. I am writing this in the Eldorado Saloon. There is all kinds of gambling going on — hundreds of dollars changing hands every hour. The women is on the streets and smoking cigars. This is the hardest place I ever saw in my life.

Tuesday, Nov. 7. We left town at 9 o'clock, made 7 miles and took dinner.

The boys is all on a rampage... everybody has a bottle. They are going to bed early. They was out all night to the dance halls. Everything is high here — 25 cents for a shave, 75 cents for cutting hair, whiskey 25 and 50 cents a drink.

(The group then continued southerly, killing an occasional antelope or raccoon to eat with their bread, corn cake and molasses. They also killed a few wolves, which Wilson described as "five to nine feet in length and very ferocious." Then they killed their first buffalo, just north of the Cimarron River, near the Oklahoma (then Indian Territory) line.)

Thursday, Nov. 9. This morning we were on our way by sunup. We made 12 miles and took dinner. At 1 o'clock we started again. We went about 4 miles and struck a herd of buffalo and killed eight. We skinned them and took the best of the meat and went into camp at dark.

Friday, Nov. 10. We was busy this morning collecting the hides and baking up bread. Our outfit had a few words and came near a fracas between H. Gibler and J.P. Rathbun... John Rathbun and Ed Rathbun killed five buffalo. We are in the Indian hunting grounds and keep a sharp lookout.

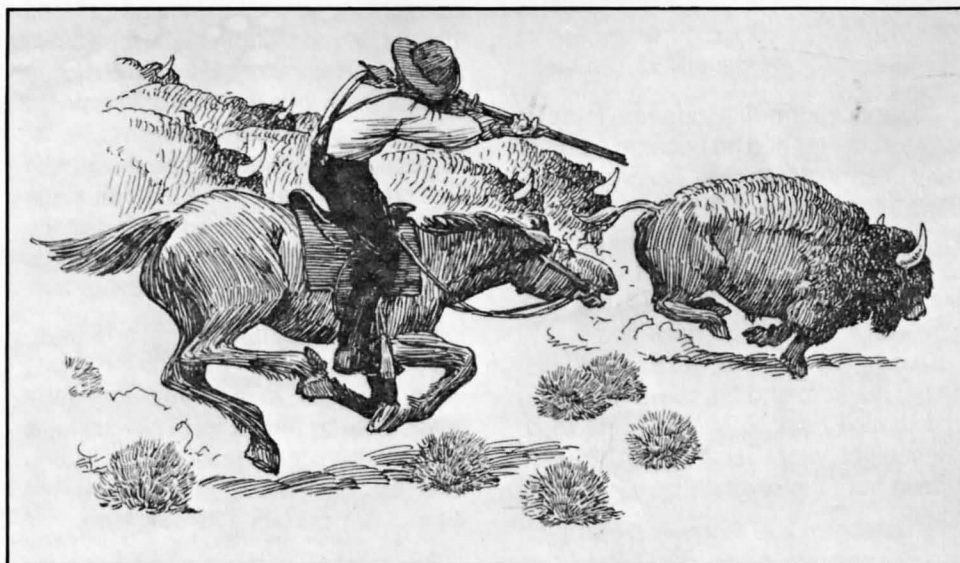
Sunday, Nov. 12. We killed 19 buffalo today. I killed my first buffalo. I shot two shots and it fell. I went up within 50 feet of it and it jumped up and came after me. I ran about 3 rods, put in a shell and fired. He bucked, blew blood and fell dead. I was never so scared before.

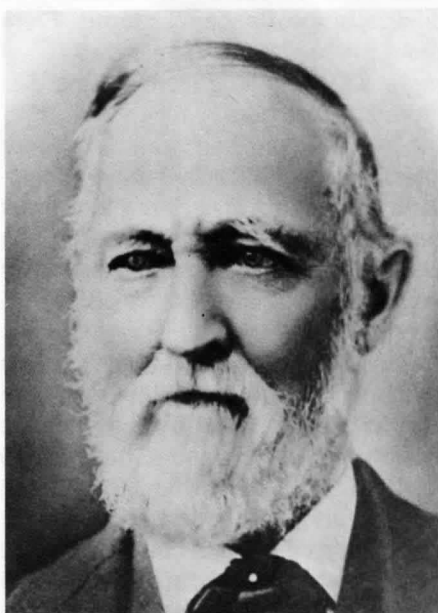
Monday, Nov. 13. Myself and J.P. Rathbun killed a buffalo. A portion of the day was spent in reloading shells and fixing up ammunition as we are within five miles of the Indian Territory. We keep ourselves ready for fear of an attack.

Thursday, Nov. 16. One of our hunters killed 10 buffalo before breakfast. We staked the hides, loaded our wagons, ate dinner and started southwest through the Indian Territory.

(On Nov. 19, the expedition crossed into the Texas panhandle and the next day reached a small village.)

Monday, Nov. 20. On our way early this morning on account of having no water for ourselves or horses. We drove three miles and found water in abundance at a small place called Hunter's Resort, where they sell corn at five cents a pounds, tobacco at 2 dollars a pound, flour \$6 a hundred. We went into camp here. I saw buffalo hides piled up as high





John Pearson Rathbun
(1829-1905)

as a house, and hundreds more stretched for drying. This firm pays from 50 to 90 cents for buffalo hides and sells salt for \$11 a barrel.

Tuesday, Nov. 21. Moved down to Locus Grove and went into camp. J.P. Rathbun being sick, we stayed here all day. I went up to the headwaters of the Paloduro River to an indian Wigwam of the Blackfoot and Cheyenne Tribe. They treated me very courteously and invited me to dinner. They were having a feast on roast dog.... I refused not being hungry, although it was 3 o'clock and I had not eaten anything since morning.

Wednesday, Nov. 22. Our hunters that went out yesterday came in today and had killed 6 buffalo. We are now 130 miles from New Mexico, 120 miles from Colorado, 69 miles from the Indian Territory and 800 miles from Kansas City.

Friday, Nov. 24. Struck the Canadian River and went down it. Made 12 miles and stopped for dinner. Then we drove 6 miles and struck a herd of buffalo and killed 45 of them. I saw 10,000 buffalo at one sight. Richard Bancroft was chased by a crippled bull. We laughed and hollered at him. The nearer you come to getting killed and then escape, the more fun it is.

Saturday, Nov. 25. Killed 32 buffalo this forenoon, took the hides and moved 2 miles to a permanent camp on the Canadian River. There is plenty of turkeys, blacktail deer and quails.

Sunday, Nov. 26. Four of us started out for Wolf Creek. We had not gone over 5 miles when we encountered a herd of buffalo and killed 22.

(During the next week, the group killed 92 buffalo and were kept busy skinning them and stretching the hides.)

Monday, Dec. 4. We loaded 100 buffalo hides and hundreds of pounds of meat on a four-horse wagon. Tomorrow morning, myself and J.P. Rathbun start for Dodge City for supplies. It will take 20 days to make the trip and return.

Tuesday, Dec. 12. We struck Dodge City today after 9 (actually 8) days on the road. The dance halls is in full blast tonight. This is a wild country and wild people in it. There is no law here except the gun and revolver or knife.

Wednesday, Dec. 13. Will not start back to camp until tomorrow because the man that came with me (John P. Rathbun?) is on a spree. We have bought \$80 worth of groceries, ammunition and feed. He entrusted me to do all the business for him.

(At this point, Wilson ended the diary and sent it with a letter to his father in Kansas. Presumably he and Rathbun left the next day for the camp. According to Wilson's entries, the party had killed and skinned over 400 buffalo as of Dec. 4, most of them in Texas. At an average of 75 cents each, that meant a total of \$300, a sizeable sum in those days. Our thanks to Catherine Pirotte, granddaughter of John P. Rathbun, for providing his picture.)

Dakota

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where he married and had two children, and where he was a businessman and county sheriff.

In 1876, he left his family and set out for the Black Hills, where he quickly became a prominent citizen. In 1877, he helped build the first state road to Deadwood from Cheyenne, Wyoming, and on his own constructed a toll road from Deadwood to Custer City. He erected a stage stop — a house and barn — on the Deadwood-Cheyenne road, the beginning of a town first called Ten Mile, now known as Englewood.

He was a contractor and later a foreman for the famous Homestake Gold Mine, and was part owner of the Minnesota Mine on Silver Creek.

Unfortunately, his investments did not prosper. Part of his toll road was washed out in a torrential spring flood in 1883, and the Minnesota Gold Mine produced little gold. He was also the victim of poor health, and died in 1886 after several years of suffering from an unidentified illness. His obituary described Daniel as "a man of warm and generous impulses, honest and sincere, kindly and open-hearted ... his lot had been hard and the way rugged (but) he seldom complained."

One of Daniel's first cousins, also named Daniel and also born in 1830, had even worse luck in the Black Hills.

This Daniel, son of Ransom⁶ Rathbun (Daniel⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), left Indiana in the 1850s for the west, and in 1860 was a miner in what is now Colorado. Upon hearing of the Black Hills gold strike, he went there, but after a few years of rugged life in the mines, he developed tuberculosis. He went to live with a brother in Minneapolis, and died there about 1888.

James Reuben Rathbun (1844-1930), a Civil War veteran, settled about 1877 at Spearfish, S.D. He was a son of Benjamin⁶ Rathbun (Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). He was a freight wagon driver for several years, and on one of his trips, in 1888, he met and married Mary Geis, a widow with two young children.

He had built a "snug log house and barn" on the Miles City Trail, and after his marriage he enlarged the house, covered it with siding, and converted it into a major stage stop. Drivers kept a change of horses in his barn, and both they and their passengers were fed by Mrs. Rathbun. A German woman, her specialty was ham, cured in her own smokehouse, and sauerkraut she made from cabbage grown in her garden.

James lost one of his legs to frostbite during a buffalo-hunting trip, and for

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then went to Boonsborough where I bought some lots and built a house.

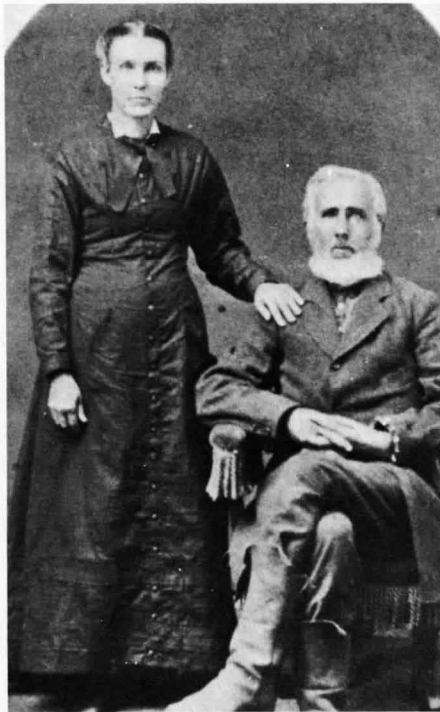
"There I went into the cabinet business with Wm. Wheeler who proved to be a gambler and we got badly involved. I sold out and moved to Kansas, stopping at Paris, the county seat of Linn County, on the 4th day of July 1859. The following August, my wife and children were all taken down with fever and ague which lasted almost a year, keeping me from business and near ruining me financially.

"I put up one farm house in the spring and summer of 1860, besides planting 20 acres of corn which was entirely burned up with the drought of that year. I did not get a single bushel of corn nor a ton of hay, and had three yoke of oxen and eight cows to winter through, which I managed to do in pretty fair shape.

"At the first election held in 1860, the pro-slavery party threatened to kill any man that offered to vote the Republican ticket. Two men came to me in the morning before the polls were opened and advised me not to attempt to vote, as my politics were pretty well known. Nevertheless, I voted, while men stood over me with their hands on their guns. I afterwards lived there in much trouble and danger, being compelled to go well armed all the time. In the fall of 1865 (after the Civil War), the same men elected me to the office of Justice of the Peace, which I held for eight years.

"From there I went to Bates County, Missouri, where I had bought 240 acres of good prairie land for \$1500. I built a house, stable for eight horses, and had about 40 tons of hay and feed stacked near it. About this time, I had been doing considerable business with an Irish man... He afterward claimed there was a deal still unsettled and wanted me to advance him some more money, which I refused to do ... I did not consider that I owed him anything.

"He told my son that he would burn me out unless I complied with his demands. Soon after this, I was awakened one night by a light at the window. Running out, I found the barn and hay on fire. I succeeded in getting the horses out and part of the harnesses, which was all that could be saved. There were also about



Cornelius and Abigail Rathbone

300 fruit trees burned that I had shipped from Bloomington, Ill., at a cost of more than \$100. By hard work, we saved the house.

"At daylight the next morning, the Irishman in company with another man came along and stopped near the door. I said, 'I suppose you are satisfied now, Jack, that you have burned me out.' He replied, 'No ba-gobs, I am not and never will be until I get your heart's blood.' I replied, 'You are too much of a coward to do that unless you do it in the dark.' He replied, 'I will do it now,' and stooping down pulled a revolver from his boot which caught on his pants and fell to the ground. Before he could recover it, I fired my shotgun at him, causing a slight wound from which he recovered in about a month.

"After this, I left the place for a while, but returned and got the matter settled without the aid of the law. Then, finding that the title to my land was not perfect, I quit-claimed it and moved to Greenwood County, Kansas, 80 miles west of Fort Scott, where I remained until the spring of 1879. Then I started with my family overland for Idaho. On account of the dangerous health of my wife, we stopped at Topeka, Kansas, for three weeks, and finally reached Marsh Basin, Idaho, the last day of July. We

lived there ten years and I was elected Justice of the Peace four terms. From there, I moved to Bellevue, Idaho, to get more water for irrigation, as there is more snowfall here.

"As to religion, I am what is called a free thinker... Politically I am a Republican, although I think there is a great deal of corruption in the party... In stature I am five feet seven inches in height, and my average weight is 135 pounds."

Cornelius remained in Idaho until his death at the age of 89. We have one story of his later life told by descendants. During the 1890s, his son Charles, born in 1874, was arrested for stealing horses and sentenced to be hung. Cornelius and his older sons somehow helped him escape from jail just before the hanging, and he made his way to Canada.

For this intriguing bit of information, we thank Cornelius' descendant, Gary Rathbone, and his wife, Donna, of Boise, Idaho. We thank Dixie Miller, also their descendant, for the picture of Cornelius and Abigail.

Dakota

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many years he hobbled around on a wooden peg-leg. It was finally replaced with a modern prosthesis. The handicap did not slow him down. He rode horses, maintained his ranch, and hauled coal from the hills. He died in a veterans hospital at the age of 86.

Benjamin Franklin Rathbun (1846-1924) was in Lead City by the late 1870s. He was the son of Benjamin⁶ Rathbun (Allen⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). A carpenter, he was a contractor in the early gold mines. His wife, Anna Eliza, died in Lead City on June 10, 1882, a week after giving birth to a daughter. He later moved to Wisconsin, where he died. Benjamin and Anna are the ancestors of our member Rev. Ray Martin.

(Our thanks to Grove and Janet Rathbun, of Rapid City, who did extensive research in South Dakota records to find information on our early cousins there.)

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

99. (?) LYMAN⁶ RATHBUN (Paul⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1798. He is not listed in Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy, and little is known of him. He appears in the 1830 census at Easton, N.Y., and possibly died there about 1836 (his brother, Kenyon, named a son Lyman that year). A Penelope Rathbun, aged 56, appears in the 1850 census at Easton, and may have been his widow. She died Oct. 1, 1875, in Barry County, Mich. The 1830 census indicates Lyman had three sons and a daughter, but nothing is known of them. Much more research is needed on this family.

100. KENYON⁶ RATHBUN (Paul⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Feb. 22, 1800, in Easton, N.Y., and married there Oct. 1, 1822, Perlina Freeman, born June 10, 1802, daughter of Elijah and Pernella (Follett) Freeman. They had a 1000-acre farm on the slopes of Mt. Willard, near Easton. He died there July 20, 1858, and Perlina on June 15, 1879.

CHILDREN

HIRAM C., born June 29, 1823; married Mary A. Rumboldt.

ANNA ZOE, born Sept. 12, 1825; married Morris G. Brownell.

PAUL, born May 13, 1828; married Mary Gifford.

STEPHEN F., born May 27, 1830; married Jane Hill.

JULIA P., born May 5, 1832; married Job Brownell Feb. 15, 1851.

LOIS J., born Aug. 2, 1834; married John Tripp Jan. 1, 1853.

LYMAN D., born Sept. 10, 1836; married Deborah Tubbs.

PATIENCE J., born May 2, 1840; married Roderick Salisbury Oct. 14, 1857.

MARY E., born Oct. 14, 1844; married (1) _____ Dennis, and (2) Elisha Freeman.

101. ELIAS⁶ RATHBUN (Elias⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1788 in Voluntown, Conn., and married there Jan. 24, 1819, Sarah Perkins, born about 1803, parentage unknown. They later moved to Lisbon, Conn., where he died April 11, 1860, and Sarah on Sept. 9, 1864.

CHILDREN

JOHN L., born Jan. 22, 1820; married (?) Mary _____.

AMANDA ALVINA, born Dec. 15, 1821; died Oct. 4, 1824.

ELIAS, born May 17, 1824; died young.

ELIZABETH A., born about 1826; married Thomas Pollack on April 11, 1847.

SARAH, born about 1828; married (1) Amos W. Griswold on July 5, 1847, and (2) _____ Haderson.

ALBERT M., born Nov. 29, 1830; married Anna Kelley.

JANE C., born about 1832; married Andrew Mattison Oct. 20, 1850.

WILLIAM F., born about 1833; died young.

ROBY M., born in 1835; died Aug. 9, 1835.

R.F. (twin), born in 1835; died Aug., 12, 1835.

ENOCH, born in 1836; died Sept. 12, 1836.

ELIAS, born in 1838; married (?) Ellen L. King.

HARRIET L., born about 1840; died Aug. 17, 1841.

LEVI, born about 1842; died Aug. 31, 1842.

JAMES M., born March 17, 1844; died Oct. 4, 1850.

MARY F., born about 1846; died April 28, 1860.

PARDO (?) (twin?), born about 1846; died Oct. 5, 1846.

102. ELIJAH⁶ RATHBUN (Elias⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1794 in Exeter, R.I., and married about 1828 Esther Congdon, born about 1809, daughter of _____ and Elizabeth Congdon. They moved to Hopkinton, R.I., and later to Griswold, Conn., where he died March 5, 1870. Esther died between 1860 and 1870.

CHILDREN

PHOEBE, born about 1829; unmarried in 1860; no further information.

?SARAH, born about 1831; married _____ Parbell.

MARY ANN, born about 1834; married Allen Lewis.

EDWIN L., born in July 1840; married (1) Rhoda Ann Franklin, and (2) Venella Frink.

MARTHA A. (twin), born in July 1840; alive in 1860; no further information.

JOHN, born Feb. 20, 1842; married Lucy M. Pratt.

ISABELLA, born about 1846; alive in 1870; no further information.

CHARLES WEEDEN, born in May 1848; married Phoebe A. Briggs (or Tyler?).

HIRAM, born Oct. 14, 1852; married Amy W. Wallbridge.

103. JOSHUA⁶ RATHBUN (Elias⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1797 at Exeter, R.I., or Voluntown, Conn. He married May 22, 1817, at Exeter, Susannah Richmond, born March 22, 1802, daughter of John and Mary Richmond. They lived at Exeter for a few years, then moved to Lisbon, Conn., where Susannah died Feb. 3, 1856. He married about 1858 Amy _____, born about 1814, parentage unknown. They moved by 1860 to Griswold, Conn., and by 1870 back to Lisbon, where Joshua died, probably in the 1870s. Amy also died after 1870, exact date unknown. The Richmond

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Genealogy reported that Joshua and Susannah had 11 children. We have been able to identify only six.

CHILDREN

GEORGE M., born about 1819; married Celinda Palmer.

WILLIAM M., born about 1823; married Harriet Terry.

JOSHUA SHEFFIELD, born June 2, 1825; married Rhoba A. Frye.

JASON TILLINGHAST, born about 1827; married Sarah Louise Wright.

MARY ANN, born about 1829; married Dwight Corey Jan. 3, 1847.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, born Oct. 23, 1837; married Anna D. Fletcher.

OTHERS (names unknown).

104. PAUL⁶ RATHBUN (Elias⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born about 1805 at Voluntown, Conn., and married there April 9, 1826, Hannah S. Burdick, born in May 1809, parentage unknown. They moved by 1850 to Plainfield, Conn., where Hannah died Dec. 12, 1854. Paul died Feb. 24, 1885, in Coventry, R.I.

CHILDREN

HANNAH L., born in 1827; married Arnold Rounds Jan. 5, 1846.

SANFORD WARREN, born Feb. 13, 1830; died March 29, 1850.

ROBY W., born about 1833; alive in 1850; no further information.

NATHAN E.S., born about 1837; married Mary ____.

FRANCIS P., born in December 1840; married Maria ____.

MARY E., born about 1844; no further information.

PHOEBE M., born about 1846; died Sept. 2, 1865, unmarried.

ABIGAIL LUCINDA, born Jan. 3, 1850; died June 24, 1850.

105. LYMAN⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born March 18, 1804, at Exeter, R.I. and married there about 1825 Sally Northrup, birth date and parentage unknown. They moved to Sterling, Conn., and then to West Green-

wich, R.I., where Sally died in the late 1840s, and Lyman on Aug. 15, 1851. He was a blacksmith.

CHILDREN

WINTHROP, born in the 1820s; died young.

ROXY OR ROBY (?), born in the 1820s; died young.

106. JOHN GARDNER⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Feb. 28, 1810, in Exeter, R.I., and married June 30, 1830, Dorcas Tyler, born March 26, 1810, parentage unknown. They moved to West Greenwich by 1840 and then to Coventry, where Dorcas died Dec. 5, 1856. John married on Oct. 18, 1863, Eunice Louise (James) Albro, born April 18, 1822 or 1824, daughter of Rodman and Margaret (Stringer) James, and widow of an Albro. He was a stonemason, and returned late in life to Exeter, where he died Feb. 13, 1889. Eunice died April 15, 1896, in Worcester, Mass.

CHILDREN

(All by Dorcas Tyler)

ELIZABETH, born May 17, 1831; died March 1, 1832.

SENECA SHEFFIELD, born June 18, 1832; married Susan Cahoon.

WILLET G., born May 21, 1834; married Mary Reynolds.

JOHN TYLER, born May 31, 1836; married Sarah E. Douglas.

JASON P., born Dec. 25, 1837; married Emma Gardner

WILLIAM ETHBUN, born Dec. 6, 1839; he was mentally retarded and died June 7, 1882, of pneumonia.

HULDAH A., born April 12, 1841; died March 1, 1843.

HULDAH A., born May 21, 1843; died May 1, 1848.

PHOEBE ANN (twin), born May 21, 1843; married Barber Wilcox Sept. 9, 1865.

JAMES N., born March 10, 1845; died June 28, 1862.

HANNAH M., born Jan. 12, 1848; died April 15, 1850.

LYDIA E., born May 21, 1849; married John E. Phillips.

107. WILLETT⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Oct. 11, 1812, in Exeter, R.I., and married there Sept. 9, 1832, Hannah Matteson, born Oct. 16, 1815, daughter of Reuben and Esther Matteson. Willett died Dec. 20, 1833, and she married Oct. 31, 1839, his cousin Beriah⁷ Rathbun (Abel⁶ John⁵⁻¹). She died less than three years later, on Jan. 26, 1842.

CHILD

REUBEN MATTESON, born Oct. 30, 1833; married (1) Betsey Burleson, and (2) her sister, Calista Burleson.

108. HENRY DEXTER⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born Oct. 9, 1815, at Exeter, R.I., and married there March 4, 1841, Susan James born April 28, 1815, parentage unknown. They moved about 1865 to Wethersfield, N.Y., where he died Oct. 16, 1890. Susan died March 18, 1899, in Henry Co., Ind.

CHILDREN

HENRY, born Nov. 14, 1842; died young.

CHARLES, born March 30, 1844; married Magdalen ____.

ABEL L., born Feb. 18, 1846; died unmarried in 1916.

CATHARINE, born Sept. 30, 1848; died unmarried in 1927.

JAMES POLK, born July 10, 1850; married Susan Ellis.

FRANCES P., born April 15, 1852; died Aug. 24, 1868 of diphtheria.

109. JOSHUA PERRY⁶ RATHBUN (Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), born July 3, 1818, at Exeter, R.I., and married there Sept. 1, 1844, Phoebe Ann Tyler, born Nov. 9, 1822, parentage unknown. They remained in Rhode Island, moving from Exeter to West Greenwich, then to Richmond, to Hopkinton and finally to East Greenwich, where he died Aug. 12, 1896. Her death date is not known.

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CHILDREN

PHOEBE ADALINE, born May 14, 1846; married (1) Richard Potter on April 26, 1866; (2) Adelbert Tillinghast on March 4, 1869, and (3) James B. Miller on March 12, 1876.

PERRY A., born Oct. 14, 1847; died Aug. 2, 1848.

OLIVE CAROLINE, born June 10, 1849; married Stephen Whitman Sept. 10, 1865.

HULDAH ALZADA, born March 15, 1851; married (1) Charles Cooper, and (2) Americus V. Potter.

LYDIA ELIZABETH, born April 22, 1853; married Albert Henley Feb. 21, 1875.

SALLY B., born Sept. 1, 1856; died April 16, 1860.

DORCAS CLARINDA, born July 25, 1858; married (1) Thomas Gardiner Nov. 24, 1878, and (2) Peter B. Clark on Dec. 16, 1882.

JOSHUA PERRY, born April 11, 1860; married (1) Margaret Alice Baker, and (2) Una P. (Dunbar) Smith.

FRANCES C., born Nov. 12, 1862; married (1) Henry Weeden in 1889; (2) _____ Carter, and (3) _____ Wright.

ALLEN SHEFFIELD TYLER, born June 17, 1864; married (1) Myrtle Boss, and (2) Katherine French.

110. JOSHUA⁵⁻⁴⁻³ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵⁻⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Aug. 22, 1767, in Westerly, R.I., and married Sept. 23, 1794, at Providence, R.I., Wait Kilton, born Dec. 12, 1771, daughter of Stephen and Wait (Greene) Kilton. (See story of his life and career in our issue of Oct. 1986). Joshua's wife died Nov. 7, 1840, and he died Jan. 19, 1844, both in Providence.

CHILDREN

STEPHEN KILTON, born Nov. 6, 1796; married Sarah Brown.

WILLIAM PENN, born May 3, 1798; married (1) Ruth Ann Leonard; (2) Frances Amelia Leonard, and (3) Ruth Ellen Hall.

JOSHUA HENRY, born July 20, 1801; died unmarried Sept. 14, 1834.

CORNELIA, born June 12, 1804; married Thomas C. Hartshorne on May 30, 1836.

111. ABRAHAM BORDEN⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵⁻⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 11, 1769, probably at Westerly, R.I. He was apprenticed to a blacksmith as a boy, and was a blacksmith all his life. He lived at Wickford, R.I., where a home he built in 1802 is still standing. He married on Sept. 3, 1792, Deborah Cook, born Nov. 6, 1767, daughter of Charles and Ann (Green) Cook. She died May 16, 1795, and he married July 12, 1797, at Wickford, Waity Thomas, born Nov. 10, 1778, daughter of Samuel and Hope Thomas. She died Dec. 19, 1804, and he married on June 19, 1808, Mary Peckham, born in 1778, daughter of Benedict and Mary Peckham. She died Aug. 12, 1814, and he married for the fourth time April 19, 1819, Honor Brown, born Sept. 15, 1783, daughter of Beriah and Amy (Sherman) Brown. Abraham died April 11, 1830, at Wickford, and Honor died there July 4, 1840.

CHILDREN

(By Deborah)

SARAH, born July 21, 1793; married Barton Ballou Nov. 24, 1823, and died Nov. 25, 1830.

(By Waity)

JOSHUA B., born Dec. 5, 1797; married (1) Jane Bailey; (2) Mary Ann Peckham; (3) Amy Hambly, and (4) Maria J. Brown.

DEBORAH COOK, born Nov. 24, 1799; married Dec. 30, 1833, Barton Ballou, her sister's widower.

ELIZABETH THOMAS, born Oct. 30, 1801; married (1) on Jan. 6, 1847, her cousin Rowland Robinson Rathbun, son of Acors⁵ Rathbun (Joshua⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹), and (2) Paul Aldrich, on May 31, 1871.

WAITY MAY, born Nov. 4, 1803; died May 18, 1834, unmarried.

(By Mary)

MARY born June 26, 1814; died Aug. 11, 1814.

(By Honor)

THOMAS RODMAN, born Jan. 10, 1820; married (1) Lucy Ann Gardner, and (2) Dorcas Gifford.

WILLIAM WALLACE, born Aug. 2, 1821; married (1) Lydia Angell, and (2) Mary (Snow) Field.

WALTER NICHOLS, born May 21, 1823; married Rebecca Smith.

GEORGINA MARIA, born May 17, 1826; married Andrew F. Willard.

Obituaries

DIED — Nov. 6, 1986, at Tucson, Ariz., Richard Perry Rathbun, aged 74. He was a son of John⁸ Rathbun (Rowland⁷ Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹). He is survived by his wife, Ann, and a sister, Annie Rathbun.

DIED — March 20, 1987, at East Providence, R.I., Ethel Rathbone, aged 83. She was the widow of William Thomas⁹ Rathbone (Julian⁸ William⁷ Joshua⁶⁻³ John²⁻¹). A former member of our Association, Mrs. Rathbone provided much data on her husband's branch of our family. She had no children and her only survivor is a sister, Evelyn C. Straight.

DIED — April 29, 1987, at Warwick, R.I., Robert W. Regnaiere, aged 51. He was the son of the late Armand Regnaiere and Helene¹⁰ Rathbun (Walter⁹ William⁸ John⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

DIED — April 17, 1987, at Newington, R.I., Robert Alan Rathbun, aged 35. He was the son of our members, Capt. Benjamin and Rosalie Rathbun, of Noank, Conn., and grandson of Benjamin⁹ Rathbun (Benjamin⁸ William⁷ Benjamin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹). In addition to his parents, he is survived by a brother, Franklin; two sisters, Beth A. Lukin and Katherine A. Rathbun, and his maternal grandmother, Bertha R. Wilkes.

DIED — May 31, 1987, at East Herkimer, N.Y., Olive (Rathbun) Herringshaw, aged 83. She was the widow of Joseph E. Herringshaw, who died in 1980, and the daughter of John⁸ Rathbun (John⁷⁻⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Her death followed by less than two weeks that of her son, Vern Herringshaw, who died May 16, aged 61. Mrs. Herringshaw is survived by five other sons, seven daughters, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

People

REV. ARTHUR J. RATHBUN JR. and Theresa Lewis were married June 6 at Salina, Kansas. Rev. Rathbun retired in May after serving eight years as dean of Christ Cathedral (Episcopal) in Salina. He was previously vicar for two years at Salina's Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. He is planning to complete his work at Kansas State University for a master's degree. We have been unable to contact Rev. Rathbun. Does anyone know of him or his ancestry?

DR. LEWIS RATHBUN and his wife Betty of Asheville, N.C., have recently inherited a valuable family heirloom — a hand-woven quilt made in 1834 for Martha Standish (1814-1864), the wife of Dr. Rathbun's great-grandfather, Ransom⁶ Rathbun (Daniel⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

DAVID A. RATHBUN of Providence, R.I., and Suzanne Lee McCoombs were married June 20, 1987. David is the son of Ernest¹⁰ Rathbun (Ernest⁹ George⁸ Jeremiah⁷ Robert⁶ Samuel⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

LESLIE AND LOUISE DUFFEY of Logan, Ohio, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 8, 1987. She is the daughter of Pearl Samuel⁹ Rathbun (Julius⁸ Sereno⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹). The Duffeys, members of our association, have two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They are taking a trip to Alaska this month as part of their anniversary celebration.

Dr. GEORGE AND ALICE RATHBUN of Princeton, Ill., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 5, 1987. George is the son of Homer⁸ Rathbun (Fitzwilliam⁷ Elihu⁶ Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). The Rathbuns, who are members of our Association, have four children.

Our New Members

Eleanor Eckert
La Canada, Calif.

Robert L. Fox
Warsaw, Ind.

Ruth Hartman
Saugatuck, Mich.

Alvin W. Moore
Maricopa, Ariz.

Marjorie Norrie
Spokane, Wash.

Caroline Erickson
Duluth, Minn.

N. Thomas Peck Jr.
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Emery A. Regnaiere
Green, R.I.

Phyllis Smith
Rochester, Minn.

Patricia L. Solum
Missoula, Mont.

Robert A. Wieser
Gambrills, Md.

(Erroneously listed as Florence Erickson in our last issue.)

ROBERT RATHBUN, a decorated New York City police officer was sentenced to 10 years in prison last month for stealing drugs and money from pushers. Rathbun, 36, blamed burn-out for his problems. He was one of 13 officers charged. We do not know the identity of this unfortunate cousin.

JOHN R. (TIM) RATHBONE was reelected to the British House of Commons in the national elections held last month. Rathbone, who represents the city and area of Lewes, has served in parliament since 1974. He is a member of the prominent Liverpool Rathbone family, and is 54 years old.

ROBIN RATHBUN, a high school junior in Warner Robins, Ga., has been selected to be listed in the 1986-7 Who's Who Among American College Students. She is the daughter of our member, Charles¹¹ Rathbun (Henry¹⁰⁻⁹ Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). A similar honor was won last year by her brother Charles.

BORN — Sept. 11, 1986, at Kalamazoo, Mich., Julia Rae Rathbun, daughter of R. Van and Terry Rathbun, members of our Association. Van is the son of the late Louie⁹ Rathbun (John⁸ Rowland⁷ Acors⁶ Joshua⁵⁻⁴ John²⁻¹).

BORN — April 25, 1987, at Omaha, Neb., Paul Allen Rathbun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert John Rathbun and grandson of our members Frank and Dorothy Rathbun. Frank is the son of Frank⁸ Rathbun (Joseph⁷ Valentine⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

BORN — March 3, 1987, Patrick Joseph Gillespie, the sixth son of Curtis and Kathy Gillespie, and grandson of our members Victor and Ruth Streeter of Sparta, Wisc. Victor is descended from Thomas⁶ Rathbun (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN — Jan. 20, 1987, Kady Elizabeth Bonawitz, daughter of James and Amy Bonawitz and granddaughter of our members Duane and Betty Bonawitz. Duane is descended from Charity⁶ Rathbun (Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹) and also from Elizabeth⁵ Rathbun (Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹).