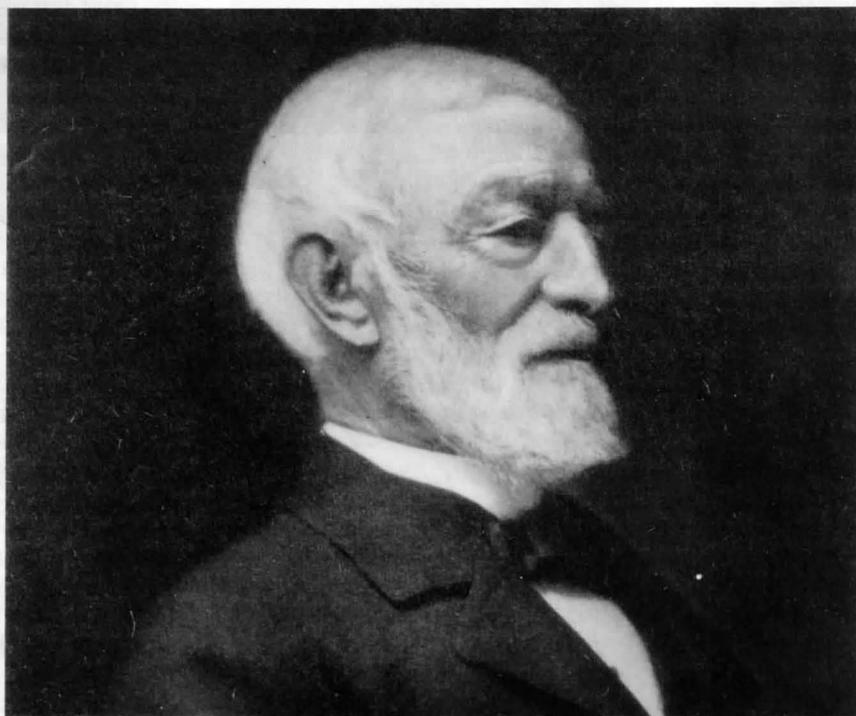


Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn

FAMILY HISTORIAN



John Finley Rathbone
(1819-1901)

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

Letter from the Editor

How the years fly! This issue of our Historian marks the end of our eighth year! That means that we have now printed 32 Historians. It hardly seems possible.

It also means that dues for 1989 are now due. A renewal form is enclosed with this issue. As you will see, we are again able to keep our dues at \$15, despite the recent raise in postal rates. We can do this because our membership has again gone past 500 — up to 504 as I write this.

In past years, 10 to 15 percent of our members have failed to renew, and many others always renew after the deadline. I have come to expect the discouraging loss of so many members each year, and I guess there is nothing we can do about it.

There is something, however, that you all can do about the other problem of late renewal. Please write your \$15 check NOW and send it in with the renewal form. You will save me a lot of time and trouble, and save yourself some money too.

We have set the renewal deadline this year at December 7, but PLEASE don't wait that long. Do it NOW! For those who miss the deadline, we will have to take their names off the mailing list, and then put them back on again if they renew late. This costs money, and time!

This year, we will charge an extra \$5 for those who renew late, and that means it will cost \$20 for late renewals.

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Frank H. Rathbun
Editor & Publisher

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So don't take a chance on wasting \$5 — renew now!

As I write this, Hazel and I are getting ready for our trip to Rhode Island to begin planning our fourth biennial na-

DUES ARE DUE!

A membership renewal form for 1989 is enclosed with this issue of the Historian. Dues are again \$15, and the deadline is December 7. If you miss this deadline, we will have to charge you an extra \$5 to cover the cost of removing and replacing your name on our mailing list. It will save you \$5 to renew on time, so send your check now before you forget!

tional family reunion in 1989. We have just about decided on Newport as the site, and middle September as the time.

We will be working with Helen M. Rathbun, president of the new Rhode Island-Massachusetts branch of the Rathbun Family Association, and its members.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions for the reunion, please let me know, soon.

Several more members have commented on our decision to pick Rhode Island for the reunion, rather than "Go West." Lois (Rathbone) McEachern pointed out that most of our ancestors left New England to settle the American West, and suggested that a western site would be more appropriate.

In one sense, Lois is right. However, our last two reunions (Des Moines and Rapid City) were in the American "Heartland." Our roots are still in Rhode Island, and many of our cousins, and many members of our Association, still live there. Not all our early cousins moved west.

As I reported in the last Historian, Glenn Rathbun and others are pushing for Boise, Idaho, as our 1991 reunion site, and Boise is now the leading candidate. However, John Bowen wrote to point out that if we really want to "go west," we should really select a site on the West Coast — in California, Oregon, or Washington.

The problem is, frankly, the need for local assistance in planning and conducting a reunion. Our choice of Rhode Island was strongly influenced by the promise of help by Helen Rathbun and her group.

If all goes well on our trip this month, we should be able to give full details of our 1989 reunion plans in the next (January) Historian. We should have firm dates, a headquarters hotel, a tentative agenda, and registration information.

Many members responded to my plea for more help on research. They are listed in our usual "Thanks" column, but I would like to give special thanks to Frank E. Rathbun of Covertry, R.I., who copied all the Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn vital statistics in the Hopkinton Town Hall — nearly a dozen pages of them! — covering a period of over 100 years.

My best wishes to you all for a happy holiday season, and again, please write out your 1989 dues check and send it now!



WE THANK the following members who have sent us family data, pictures, clippings and other material: Robert Willis, Margaret Speckman, Rev. Bill and Dorothy Rathbun, Dr. Donald Rathbun, Robert L. Rathbun, Clair Cornell, Lauren Landis, Janet and Grove Rathbun, Frank H. Rathbun III, Jean Halden Walker, Sharon Jahn, Pat Berry, Darryl Rathbun, Jim and Maxine Stites, Melva Gregory, Helen M. Rathbun, Bob Weiser, Frank E. Rathbun, Bill and Caroline Stelzner, Margaret Medved, Donald A. Rathbun, Reba Reeves, John Bowen, Laverne and Marge Rathbun, Charles Boardman, Rob Rathbun, Louise Marsh, Darleen Boyle, Anna Angelini, Rosma Limbeck, Rhoda Durkin, Nancy Mauro, Jim Chivers, Marlin Rathbun, Joy Baker, Mildred Rathburn, Frances Ayers, Mary Pearl Whitman, Donna Bender, Dorothy Schilling, Mike Rathbun and James Hosking.

Irish Rathbornes Founded Oldest Business in the World

What may be the world's oldest continuous business operation, located in Dublin, Ireland, was founded five centuries ago by a family of Rathbornes who were quite possibly distant cousins of our English ancestors.

The Rathborne candlemaking business was begun at least 500 years ago. Tradition places the founding date as 1488, but some historians think the family may have been in the candle business for a century or two before that!

At any rate, the Rathbornes of Dublin this year celebrated the "official" 500th birthday of their family's candlemaking business.

The early Dublin Rathbornes were called "tallow makers" and were leading members of the ancient Guild and Fraternity of Saint George, who was the patron saint of "tallow chandlers, soap boilers and wax light makers."

The earliest known Rathborne in Dublin was William Rathborne, whose name appears on the 1455 Dublin Assembly roll as William Rabone. This was little more than a century after our name, then spelled "de Rathebon," first appeared in the records of Chester, England.

The Dublin Rathbornes and the English Rathebons both probably descended from a family or families which left the little Irish hamlet of Rathboyne in the 13th Century. (See our issue of January 1981 for details of our likely Irish origin).

A direct genealogy of the Irish branch dates back to a Richard Rathborne, or Rabone, born about 1640, making him a contemporary of our English immigrant ancestor, John Rathbun, born in 1629.

Richard left his "wax chandler" shop to his oldest son, Joseph Rathborne (1679-1738), who in turn passed it on to his son, William (1710-1779).

The business kept descending from father to son, generation after generation, and seemed to grow and prosper under each owner.

Henry Rathborne, the proprietor in the early 1800s, died in 1836, leaving a huge estate of some 21,000 pounds—a millionaire in terms of today's dollars. He left the candle business to his son, John G. Rathborne, who operated it until his death, then willed it to his son, Henry B. Rathborne.

Henry B. unfortunately was not much interested in making candles and leased out the business, although the tenants kept the name, John G. Rathborne Candle Makers. After Henry's death in the 1920s, there were no more Rathbornes associated with the firm.



But today, although not owned by Rathbornes, the business is still going strong, and still bears the name "John G. Rathborne Ltd.," in honor of the last member of the family who was a real candlemaker.

Interestingly, a number of Dublin Rathbornes, descendants of the old candlemakers, migrated to America in the 1800s.

One was St. George Rathborne (1854-1938), who was a popular and prolific writer a century ago. He wrote some 70 novels and more than 250 books for children.

Another was Joseph Rathborne, who about 1880 founded one of the largest lumber companies in America — the Joseph Rathborne Lumber Company of Louisiana.

An even earlier Rathborne immigrant to America was one Gilbert Rathborne, born about 1748, who enlisted Jan. 5, 1777, in a Rhode Island artillery regiment during the Revolutionary War. Two days later his commanding officer advertised him as a deserter, describing him as a seaman, five feet nine inches tall, with blue eyes.

It is likely that Gilbert was a deserter from the British Navy, who joined the Continental Forces to get an enlistment bonus, then deserted the next day. There is no further record of him, and he probably made his way somehow back to Ireland after the war.

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Single copies of any 1983-1988 issue are \$4 each. Earlier single issues (some available only in xerox) range from \$2 to \$5, depending on our supply. Write if interested.

John and Margaret Rathbun Leave Mass. for Block Island

In our last issue, we outlined the English background of John Rathbone/bun (we will use the Rathbun spelling in this story), our ancestor who married Margaret Acres about 1654 and migrated to America a short time later. They settled in Dorchester, then a major town in Massachusetts, where many immigrants from Lancashire, England, had made their homes. In this article, we conclude the story of their lives, based on your editor's research.

Most English immigrants to America in the middle 1650s left their homeland to seek a better life, economically, but many came also to escape religious persecution. Most did improve their economic situation, but in Massachusetts, religious persecution became even worse than in England. The victims in England became the persecutors in New England.

The Puritan leaders in Massachusetts sought to build a religious theocracy with citizenship based on membership in the "purified" established church. Only church members could become freemen and vote. Members of other sects were dealt with harshly.

Puritan zealots especially hated Quakers and Baptists, who were whipped, seared with branding irons, robbed of their possessions and driven from the colony. Some had ears cut off and many were hung.

What beliefs or actions of the Quakers and Baptists stirred such bitterness? The Quakers challenged the civil authority of the ministers, wore their hats in church, and permitted women to speak in church. The Baptists were opposed to infant baptism.

The bloodshed and cruelty led one Indian chief to exclaim in amazement: "What a God have these English who deal so with one another about their God!"

Some of our members are descended from Mary Dyer, a Quaker mother of six, who was hung in 1660, aged 45, when she returned to Boston after being ban-

ished to Rhode Island. Others, including your editor, are descendants of Rev. Obadiah Holmes, a Baptist minister, who was given 30 lashes on his bare back in 1651 for preaching to fellow Baptists in Lynn, Mass.

We do not know the religious affiliation of John and Margaret Rathbun, but they were apparently not members of the established Puritan church. Their names do not appear in early Mass-



Massachusetts Governor John Endicott, one of the Puritan leaders who sold Block Island to Dr. John Alcock in 1660.

achusetts church records, and John was not listed as a freeman there. Both had been baptized in the Anglican Church back in England, but were not married in the church so far as we know.

They may have been Baptists, as were many of their grandchildren, or they could have been Quakers, a possibility we will explore later in this story.

At any rate, Massachusetts was not a pleasant place for a non-conformist to live in the 1650s, and there was a continuing exodus to the more tolerant neighboring colonies of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

One of the Rathbuns' neighbors in Dorchester was John Glover Jr., also a former Lancastrian. He was a 1651 graduate of Harvard College, and had become a wealthy merchant and land speculator. It is quite possible that John Rathbun and his brother-in-law John Acres worked for Glover or rented farms from him.

Glover, always on the lookout for a good investment, was intrigued when he learned in 1660 that Dr. John Alcock of neighboring Roxbury had purchased Block Island and was looking for investors and settlers.

(Block Island, seven miles long and three miles wide, lies 12 miles off the Rhode Island coast. For a detailed story on its early history see our *Historian* of July 1983.)

Dr. Alcock had purchased the island for 400 pounds from four prominent Puritan leaders — John Endicott and Richard Bellingham, former governors; General Daniel Dennison, and Major William Hawthorne. The four men had been granted title to the island after Massachusetts troops invaded it and took possession from the Manissee Indians. The invasion had been ordered after a Massachusetts trader, Captain John Oldham, was murdered by several of the island Indians.

Glover learned that Dr. Alcock was planning a meeting on Aug. 17, 1660, at his home in Roxbury, for interested persons. Glover decided to attend the meeting, and probably invited Rathbun and Edward Vose, another Lancastrian immigrant, to go with him. The three were among 12 men, including Dr. Alcock, who attended the meeting.

Dr. Alcock outlined his plan: he estimated that the island could be divided into 16 equal shares of 420 acres each,

which would easily support a family. Each investor was to pay 25 pounds for a one-sixteenth share, which would reimburse Alcock for the purchase price. Each purchaser then would give Alcock either another five pounds, or 25 acres of his land, for the doctor's "troubles and pains" in arranging the deal.

Most of the group liked the idea and agreed to participate, although some, according to old records, had doubts and "began for to decline," citing the remoteness of the island and fearing it could not be settled without considerable expense.

John Rathbun and Edward Vose, possibly with encouragement (and maybe a loan) from Glover, agreed to jointly buy a one-sixteenth share. Both were young men, in their early thirties, and relatively poor. A record made in 1674 indicates that Rathbun had paid 11 pounds, four shillings as a down payment.

The purchasers, or their agents, made at least one exploratory trip to the island, and then, after a survey had been made, participated in a drawing to determine the location of their lots. The actual settlement was probably made in 1662, and there is an island tradition that the settlers lived at first in dugouts until they could build their homes.

Edward Vose apparently decided quite early to drop out of the venture, and his share was eventually taken over by Rathbun's brother-in-law John Acres.

John and Margaret's first home was in the southeast section of the island, near the spectacular Mohegan Bluffs. When it was later discovered that a surveying error had shorted Rathbun by some 65 acres, he was given another piece of land near the east harbor, where he built a more substantial home, which he called his "mansion house."

Of the 16 original purchasers, only 10 including Rathbun actually moved to the island. The others sent tenant farmers. It appears that the Rathbuns remained on the island for only a few years, and then moved in the early 1670s to Newport, apparently leasing the island property to tenants.

They were definitely in Newport by 1672, when the birth of their youngest son Samuel was recorded there in Quaker records. It is that record which suggests that Rathbun, at least temporarily,

joined the Quaker Church. Newport, at that time, was a Quaker stronghold. (Rhode Island, founded by Roger Williams, had become a haven for persecuted Quakers and Baptists from Massachusetts).

John and Margaret Rathbun apparently remained in Newport, off and on, for more than 25 years, but he retained ownership of his Block Island lands, and continued to expand his holdings there.

Block Island records indicate that John and Margaret may have returned to the island on a regular basis.

In December 1677, Rathbun had an angry encounter with James Sands, one of the island's leading citizens. The incident gives us a rare insight into our



Sir Edmund Andros, Governor-in-Chief of New England, who appointed John Rathbun to the Rhode Island General Quarter Sessions Court in 1686.

ancestor's personality, showing that he had a hot temper and a somewhat belligerent nature.

Sands, in a complaint to the town council, charged that Rathbun "came to my dwelling house (and) showed much discontent . . . Rathbun told me I was an old thief and a rogue and . . . that I had been so ever since I came to the island."

Sands told the council that he had been "much troubled" by Rathbun's behaviour, and walked out of the house.

"Rathbun followed me and laid hold on me, using violence, and threatened to heave me over a log. . . I desired him to be quiet (but) Rathbun still continued

using abusive language to me and thrusting at me."

It is obvious that Rathbun, then aged about 48, was looking for a fight, and that Sands, some seven years older, would not fight with him.

Sands asked the council for five pounds in damages from Rathbun, but the town records give no indication of the outcome. Nor can we tell what caused the trouble, although it may have been a dispute over land boundaries. The two men had traded some property three years earlier.

John's wife, Margaret, also appears to have had some problems with their neighbors. On March 3, 1681, Philip Wharton appeared before the town council and "acknowledged that he had wronged Margaret Rathbun in speaking of that which was false against her (and) that he had never heard her speak any such thing." What he had accused her of, we do not know. It is likely that John Rathbun had confronted Wharton and forced him to make such a rare public apology.

Unfortunately, we can find no such information on the Rathbuns' life in Newport. The town records were removed during the Revolutionary War by the British, and sent to New York by sea. The ship hit a rock coming into port, and sank in shallow water. Although the records were recovered, they were thoroughly soaked with salt water, and allowed to mold for many years. Today, most of them are illegible.

From the few records available, we do know that in 1674, Rathbun was leasing two valuable farms in the Hammersmith area of southwest Newport from William Brenton, one of the town's wealthiest men. Brenton's 1674 will mentions "my two farms at Hammersmith now in possession of John Rathbun and all the houses, fences, barns and buildings with four oxen and working steers, two breeding mares and one hundred breeding sheep."

Rathbun was listed as a Newport freeman in 1683, sold land there in 1687, and bought land in 1695.

It seems that as his sons came of age, and his daughters married, he gave each of them a farm on Block Island.

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John F. Rathbone Builds World's Biggest Stoveworks

In our last issue, we traced the early history of the Rathbones of Albany, N.Y., a branch of our family which played a major role in that city's history. In this installment, we continue the story with the spectacular career of John Finley Rathbone, who was truly one of the most remarkable members of our family in America.

John Finley Rathbone was born Oct. 18, 1819, in Albany, the son of Valentine⁶ Rathbone (Samuel⁵ Joshua⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹). He was educated at the Albany Academy, and then attended the Collegiate Institute at Brockport, N.Y. His life changed abruptly in 1833, when his father died at the age of 45, leaving his widow, Nancy, with four children, the eldest a daughter aged 17.

John, then 13, had to leave school and go to work to help support the family. He found a clerking job in Rochester, N.Y., not far from the family home in Clarkston. Four years later, he went to Albany to work in the wholesale grocery business of his uncle, Jared L. Rathbone. A short time later, he became a clerk in the stove manufacturing operation of another uncle, Joel Rathbone.

In 1841, the two uncles agreed to help John and his cousin, Samuel Ransom, both 22 years old, get started in business. The uncles each put up \$15,000, a considerable sum at that time, and helped their two young nephews establish the stove-manufacturing business of Ransom and Rathbone.

They signed a four-year contract to take over Joel Rathbone's stove foundry, and opened a new sales office. The two uncles were "silent" partners, and let the younger men run the operation.

The business prospered, but at the end of the four-year period, both John Rathbone and Samuel Ransom decided to end the partnership and each strike out on his own. The two cousins, then 26 years old, were both ambitious young men with their own ideas and plans for the future.

An advertisement for John F. Rathbone's stove business from an 1862 Albany City Directory. Barely visible on the building's front can be seen "Rathbone & Co. Stove Works." Although faded it is the only known picture of the Rathbone foundry. Courtesy of Joan Szablewski, per Mildred Rathburn.

Ransom took over the foundry, and operated it for some 37 years as S.H. Ransom and Company.

John Finley Rathbone went into partnership with Charles Baker, and built a new foundry on North Ferry Street, moving away from the traditional stove-manufacturing district on the Hudson riverfront, where property values had risen drastically.

Rathbone's stove works became the city's largest, and eventually the biggest in the world. The operation originally covered nearly two acres, with two five-story buildings — one 314 by 151 feet, and the other 250 by 125 feet. Each had

its own cupola furnace, with a total daily production capacity of 40 tons.

The company's work force totaled over 500, with a yearly payroll of \$100,000. Rathbone soon reached an annual production of between 30,000 and 40,000 stoves a year, with sales of nearly half a million dollars. Rathbone stoves were shipped all over the world. A traveler in the 1860s reported seeing Rathbone stoves in Turkey and Greece, and in Egyptian towns along the Nile River.

Baker left the business after a few years, and Rathbone had a series of partners in the 1850s and 1860s. They

included a number of relatives — his brother, Lewis Rathbone; his brother-in-law, James Kennedy; two cousins by marriage, Joseph P. Stanford and Theodore Townsend, and later two sons-in-law, Robert S. Oliver and Edward W. Bowditch.

Rathbone's brother, Lewis, a partner from 1845 until 1857, was a year older than John and the two had attended the same schools. Like John, he had worked as a young man for their uncle Joel Rathbone, but Lewis returned in 1840 to Clarkston. He came back to Albany in 1845 to join his brother in business.

Lewis Rathbone was a deeply religious man, serving many years as a trustee of Albany's Emmanuel Baptist Church. He was a major supporter of the church's Madison Avenue School Mission, where he was a Sunday School teacher for many years. He built a chapel for the mission at his own expense.

In 1844, John Finley Rathbone married Mary A. (Baker) Allen, a young widow who was possibly a sister of Charles Baker, an early partner. John and Mary had 10 children, five of whom died in infancy. Their deaths left a deep mark on Rathbone.

Among his very few letters that we could find was one written in 1867, telling of the severe illness of his daughter Grace, then eight years old.

"My past experience with sick children," he wrote, "has been so bad that I shall be very miserable until . . . she is quite convalescent."

In 1860, Rathbone was commissioned a brigadier general in the New York National Guard, and given command of the Ninth Brigade. It was primarily a political appointment, but it proved to be a wise one. He served so successfully that in 1861, with the outbreak of the Civil War, Rathbone was named commandant of New York's major recruiting depot, at Albany. He organized 35 regiments during the war.

Although General Rathbone never saw combat duty during the war, he was a keen observer of its many battles. One surviving letter, dated Oct. 2, 1862, gives an idea of his insight.

The letter was written to Dr. Martin Brewer Anderson, president of the University of Rochester, regarding Rathbone's unsuccessful attempt to procure



*John Finley Rathbone
(1819-1901)*



*Lewis Rathbone
(1818-1889)*

muskets for the university's military cadets. After explaining that the guns were not available, Rathbone wrote:

"What do you think of the (war) news? Is it not depressing? I confess to a feeling of discouragement greatly increased of late."

Rathbone then went on to discuss General George B. McClellan's actions at the Battle of Antietam, Maryland, on September 17-19, 1862. The Confederates, under General Robert E. Lee, had invaded Maryland, causing McClellan to send his troops hastily to keep Lee from moving further north. After a bloody two-day battle, Union troops drove Lee's forces back to the Potomac, but then McClellan inexplicably held his men in check as Lee crossed the Potomac, his army intact, and headed back into Virginia. A strong follow-up attack before Lee could cross the river might have captured most of Lee's troops and brought a much earlier end to the war.

Rathbone's letter sarcastically attacked McClellan's "wonderful strategy" in permitting the Confederates "to escape with bag and baggage." Calling McClellan's actions "sickening," Rathbone told Anderson:

"I predict that until McClellan changes his policy, or some active man is placed in command, our want of success will continue."

Rathbone was a good prophet. McClellan dawdled for five weeks before he

ordered his troops across the Potomac in pursuit of Lee. President Lincoln was furious. On November 7, he fired McClellan and replaced him with General Ambrose Burnside.

At the end of the war, in 1865, Rathbone received high praise for his work. In 1873, Governor John A. Dix named him a major general and appointed him the state's adjutant general for two years.

In addition to his military service and his stove-manufacturing interests, Rathbone also found time to become one of Albany's leading philanthropists and civic leaders. He was one of the founders, and a president, of the Albany Orphan Asylum, president of the Albany Academy's Board of Trustees, president of the Albany Mutual Insurance Company, President of the Dudley Observatory, and superintendent for 30 years of the Emmanuel Baptist Church Sunday School.

Rathbone was also a major financial supporter of the University of Rochester and served for over 40 years on the board of trustees, including 15 years as vice-president. He and his brother Lewis donated some \$40,000 to found the university's Rathbone Library, which is still in existence.

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(continued from page 55)

He made only one political venture. In 1864, he was the Republican Party's candidate for mayor of Albany, and lost to the Democratic candidate by a vote of 5,375 to 3,462.

By the early 1880s, Rathbone was at the peak of his career. His business was booming, his fortune was growing, and he was one of his city's most prominent citizens. His home at 119 Washington Avenue was a city landmark, the former mansion of Governor William C. Bouck. He also had a summer home in Lenox, Mass., in the Berkshire Mountains, designed and built especially for him by the famed architect-builder Richard Wickham, at a cost of more than \$25,000.

Of course, there had been problems. The 1850s had seen the birth of the Iron Molders Protective Union, formed to negotiate better pay and working conditions for employees of Albany's many stove foundries. There were several outbreaks of violence, and in 1870, one of Rathbone's buildings was set afire by arsonists, causing \$100,000 damage.

In the 1870s, he had taken two new partners — brothers Grange Sard and William Sard. In 1873, Rathbone changed the name of his company to Rathbone and Sard, and opened branch sales offices in many American cities, including Chicago and Detroit, as well as in European cities.

In 1883, at the age of 64, Rathbone decided it was time to slow down his business activities. Rathbone and Sard was incorporated, with Rathbone as president, but with the Sard brothers taking much of the responsibility. Grange Sard was named first vice-president, and William Sard second vice-president and manager of the fast-growing Chicago office.

To protect the family interests, Rathbone placed two of his sons-in-law in other top positions. Robert S. Oliver was named general superintendent, and Edward W. Bowditch became secretary and treasurer.

The new corporation was capitalized at \$800,000, the equivalent of many millions in today's dollars. The corporation continued to expand, and was soon recognized as the largest stove manufactory in the world. By 1886, the firm had five furnaces in operation, melting 95 tons of iron a day, and was pro-

ducing 75,000 stoves a year.

The workforce grew to nearly 1,500, and the yearly payroll exceeded \$450,000. The 1886, the company's sales hit \$1,500,000.

John F. Rathbone survived another 18 years, living on his share of the income from the stove business, continuing much of his philanthropic and religious activities, and enjoying his many grandchildren.

In a day when few girls received higher education, Rathbone sent his daughters to the Albany Female Academy. All did well, and married well.

Marion, the oldest daughter, born in 1847, married Robert Shaw Oliver, who became one of the Rathbone's partners, was a general in the New York Militia, and served as assistant secretary of war under Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft.

Lucy, the second daughter, born in 1851, married Edward W. Bowditch, an 1869 Harvard graduate, who became a driving force in the Rathbone-Sard Corporation.

Grace, the third daughter, born in 1859, married Henry Russell Shaw. Their son, Gardiner Shaw, joined the U.S. Diplomatic Corps, and had an outstanding career.

Alice, the youngest daughter, born in 1861, married John Archibald Murray. One of her daughters married the Earl of Moray in Scotland.

Rathbone's only son, John Henry Rathbone, born in 1863, became a successful stockholder, but died in 1900, two years before his father, leaving one daughter. The Rathbone name in this line thus came to an end.

Rathbone's brother, Lewis, died in 1889, leaving one daughter, and ending the Rathbone name in that line.

John Finley Rathbone was stricken early in March 1901 with influenza, then called "the grippe," and died two weeks later on March 20 in his Albany home at the age of 82.

At Rathbone's stipulation in his will, no inventory was made of his estate, so we do not know his exact wealth, but it must have been substantial.

He left a \$50,000 trust fund for the young daughter of his deceased son John, and his home and personal belongings to his wife for her lifetime.

All the rest of his estate, and the home at his wife's death, was to be converted

to cash and invested in a trust fund. At the death of his wife (which occurred less than a year later, on Jan. 26, 1902), the fund was to be divided into five equal parts, with the annual interest going to his four daughters and to Mary Rathbone, daughter of his son John, for their lifetimes.

At their death, the fund was to be divided among their children.

Rathbone was thus ensuring that his grandchildren and great-grandchildren would share in some of the fortune he had accumulated in his long life. The Rathbone-Sard Company lasted another 24 years, and finally closed its operation in 1925. Some Rathbone stoves can still be found today, and are valuable antiques.

There was one other interesting provision in Rathbone's will. After ordering his debts and funeral expenses paid, Rathbone's next provision was: "I give and bequeath to my grandson, John Rathbone Oliver, 100 books from my library, to be selected by himself."

Since he had no Rathbone grandchildren, he had apparently developed a strong empathy for his oldest grandson, and namesake.

John Rathbone Oliver was an appropriate heir for John Finley Rathbone, for he had inherited his grandfather's intelligence and ambition. He was 30 years old when Rathbone died, and already had shown signs of a budding genius. As a boy, he was an outstanding student, and one of his teachers had predicted that he would become either a teacher, writer or minister — a most prophetic statement, for Oliver was to be all three, and more!

After attending a private school in his teens, young Oliver spent 18 months in Europe, studying in Germany and France. Upon his return to the United States, he entered Harvard at the age of 18, and was graduated in 1894 with the degree of Master of Arts *Summa Cum Laude*. He wrote the senior class poem and was chosen to give the valedictory address at graduation.

John Rathbone Oliver then launched an almost unbelievable career. For four years, he was a teacher. Then, after a year-long trip around the world, he enrolled in a seminary in 1900 and earned a degree in theology.

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John F. Rathbone Brings First Working Computer to America

General John Finley Rathbone is credited with bringing the first computer to the United States — some 133 years ago!

The concept of a computer originated in the early 1830s. An English mathematician, Charles Babbage, designed in 1834 what he called an “analytical engine,” using punched cards. He was unable to obtain financing for his design, and it never reached the construction stage.

That same year, a Swedish engineer, Pehr Georg Scheutz, announced the basic design of a “mechanical brain” to calculate and print mathematical tables. Three years later, his son, Edvard Scheutz, transferred his father’s idea into a working model. After three more years of improvements, the father-son team constructed a new working model, which was certified in 1843 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Armed with that certificate, the Scheutzes sought to market their inven-

tion, but like Babbage could find no one to finance them. Undaunted, they continued working on their invention, and about 1853 they produced a larger, more advanced model, which they called a “Difference Engine.”

It was exhibited throughout Europe, and in 1855 was a great hit at the Exhibition of Paris, where it won a gold medal. But the Scheutzes could still not find anyone interested in financing mass production of the machine. No one in Europe seemed to realize its immense potential.

In America, however, it was a different story. News of the invention was greeted with enthusiasm by Benjamin A. Gould, a 32-year-old astronomer who was director of the Dudley Observatory in Albany.

Gould immediately recognized that the Difference Machine could be of great help in the calculation of astronomical data, and the printing of tables, to be used in predicting changes in tides

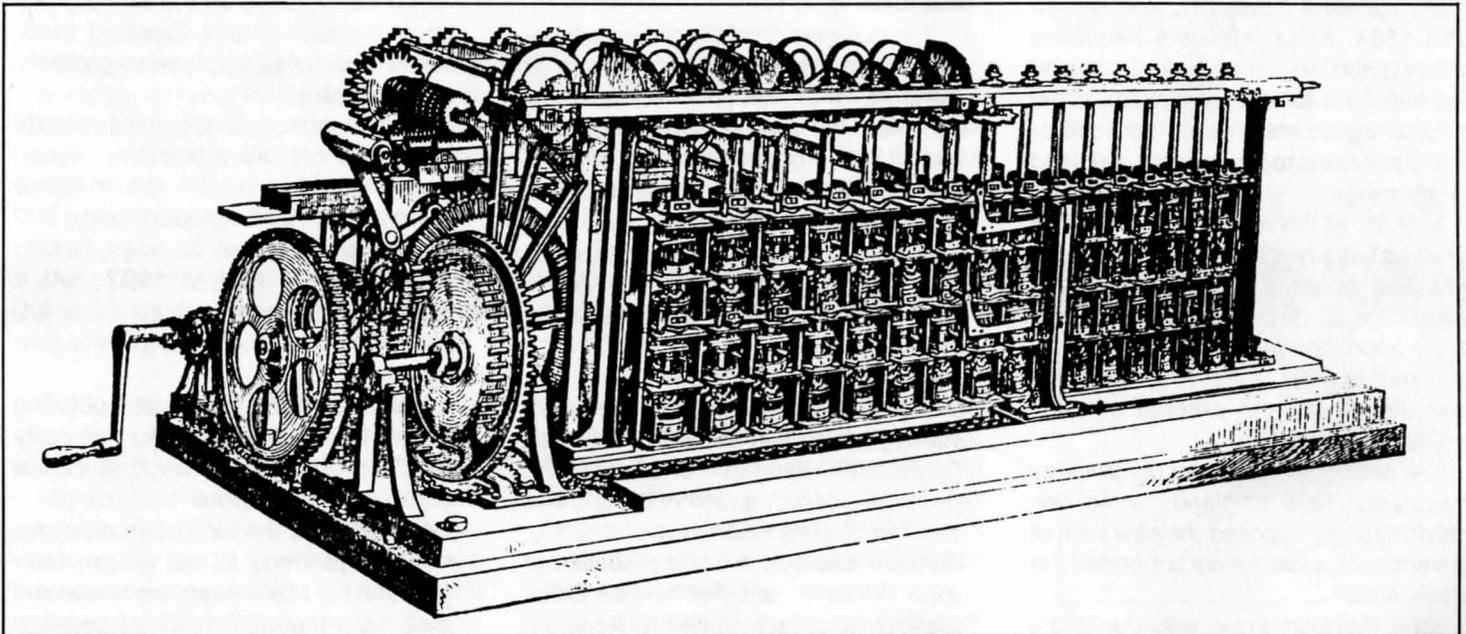
and weather.

Knowing that the Dudley Observatory did not have sufficient funds to buy the machine, Gould went to General Rathbone, possibly a friend, but certainly a well-known, wealthy and philanthropic citizen.

Rathbone heard Gould’s story, and agreed with him that the invention had enormous possibilities. He purchased the Scheutzes’ machine for \$5,000, and presented it to the Observatory.

The results, in the capable hands of Gould, were spectacular. He used the machine for all sorts of calculations, and shared printed results with his peers throughout the nation. The computer revolution had been born in America, thanks to John Finley Rathbone! In gratitude, the Dudley Observatory elected him as its president.

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A contemporary drawing of the Scheutz “Difference Engine,” purchased and brought to America in 1855 by John F. Rathbone. It was the first computer in the United States. Courtesy of Robert Rathbone.

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In 1679, his oldest son John was married, and was given the family's "mansion house" on Block Island, along with 60 acres.

In 1683, John Sr. gave 37 acres to his eldest daughter Sarah, who had married Samuel George.

In 1688, he gave his son, Joseph, then about 20, three tracts totaling 63 acres with a house.

In 1693, he gave 63 acres and a house to his son, William, and 70 acres with a house to his youngest son Samuel.

There is no record of his giving land on the island to his son Thomas, or his daughters Margaret and Elizabeth. It is possible the deeds have been lost, or he gave them either money or property in Newport. Thomas seems to have inherited the original family farm in the southeast corner of the island.

At any rate, all the sons and two of the three daughters ended up on Block Island by the late 1690's. The other daughter, Elizabeth, apparently did not live there very long, if at all.

John Rathbun Sr. may have become involved in Newport town politics and civic life, but destruction of the town records makes this impossible to confirm. In 1681, however, he was chosen to represent Block Island in the Rhode Island General Assembly, and served until 1684. Block Islanders frequently chose island landowners with homes on the mainland to represent them in the colonial legislature. It was too difficult for island residents to travel to the mainland for meetings.

In 1685, all the New England colonial charters were revoked by King James II, who had ascended to the throne that year on the death of his brother, Charles II. He appointed Sir Edmond Andros as governor-in-chief of all New England, and disbanded the elected colonial legislatures.

The action stirred a bitter controversy throughout New England. Some colonists strongly opposed the new form of government, while others supported the king's action.

John Rathbun sided with the king's supporters, and was rewarded in 1686 with appointment to the Rhode Island General Quarter Session Court, which

took over the general assembly's role. In this stand, Rathbun aligned himself with some of the wealthiest and most influential merchants and businessmen in the colony. Politically, it placed him among the conservatives of his day. Ironically, when a group of the king's supporters signed a petition pledging their loyalty, Rathbun was the only one who signed with "his mark — JR." All the others were literate, and signed their full names.

Rathbun served on the General Quarter Sessions Court until 1688, when James II was overthrown. His successor, William III, restored the original colonial charters. The conservative Americans who had supported King James were out of favor. Liberals took over, and Rathbun's political career was ended.

Although records are few, we can get a glimpse of the sort of cases Rathbun and his fellow grand jurors handled on the Quarter Sessions Courts.

Meeting in September 1688, Rathbun and 13 fellow grand jurymen fined Mary Cory, a single woman, twenty shillings "for having a child bone of her body," and fined Francis Brayton ten shillings for selling alcoholic drinks to Indians on a Sunday. Having an illegitimate baby was considered twice as serious a crime as violating the colony's liquor laws.

The court's other duties included approval of those proposed to be freemen, and the issuances of licenses for inns and taverns.

It is possible that Rathbun had become a merchant during his years in Newport, for his will (in 1702) mentions his "shop" in Newport, and he was also one of the proprietors of the Newport town wharf at the time of his death. This would suggest that he was in the shipping business to some degree, possibly importing wool, fish, and other goods produced by his sons and tenants on Block Island.

An indication of the Rathbuns' high social standing is shown by the 1692 marriage of his son Samuel to Patience Coggeshall, daughter of Major John Coggeshall, deputy governor in 1690 and member of a prominent Newport family. Rathbun was also a close associate of John Williams, another former Block Islander, who had moved to Newport, become a wealthy merchant and served in 1686 as attorney-general of Rhode Island.

The last known record of John Rathbun in Newport is in 1695, when he is described in a deed as "yeoman, of Newport."

He must have moved back to Block Island within the next few years, for he is listed in attendance at town meetings there in 1700, 1701 and 1702. He and Margaret possibly lived with their son Samuel, for John's will left Samuel "the table and cubbard which stand now in his house as (they) are lomes (heirlooms) to the house."

John made his will on Block Island, Feb. 12, 1702, calling himself "John Rathbun Senior of Block Island . . . yeoman being sick in body but of perfect memory. . ." The will was probated on Oct. 6 that year, indicating that John, who had been sick in February, probably died about September.

The inventory of his "moveable estate" on Block Island did not include land. He had apparently given all or most of it to his children. It did list 11 head of cattle, 50 sheep and 20 lambs.

In his "Newport house" were beds, furniture, kitchen utensils, tools, clothing, a bible and a gun, indications that he had only recently moved to Block Island, and possibly planned to return to Newport. There was also a copper still and a pair of "stilyards"(?). Was he making and possibly selling rum? His total estate was valued at slightly over 100 pounds, a great deal less than many of his contemporaries on the island, but it does not include his Newport land, house and shop, which were probably quite valuable.

By comparison, Block Island records show that his old adversary, James Sands, who died in 1695, left an estate of more than 700 pounds, including 300 sheep, 56 cattle and 30 hogs. Robert Guthrie, who died in 1692, left a 659-pound estate, which included 400 sheep, 39 cattle, 15 hogs and two horses.

In view of these figures, it is puzzling to find Rathbun described in an early Block Island record as one of the island's wealthiest men.

Rathbun left the income (rent) of his Newport property to his widow, Margaret, for her lifetime, and the house and shop were then to be divided between his two grandsons named John Rathbun — sons of John and William. (He was to have another grandson with the

name a few years later (John Rathbun, born in 1705, son of Thomas).

He also left his Negro slave to his wife for her lifetime, then to his son Thomas for three years, and then to be freed. The slave was not listed in his inventory, but would probably have been worth 30 to 40 pounds, depending on his age. There is no record of when Rathbun acquired the slave, but it was probably during his later years at Newport. Slave ownership there became common about 1696.

(For a complete transcript of John Rathbun's will, see our Historian of January 1981).

John Rathbun was undoubtedly buried in the old Block Island town cemetery, as was his wife Margaret, who died shortly after 1716. Their grave markers long ago disappeared, although they may be lying down, covered with only a few inches of dirt. Our Association in 1983 erected a monument to their memory in the cemetery.

Computer

(continued from page 57)

It took many more years, and such developments as electronics and memory chips, to bring the computer age out of its infancy. Today, we are only on the brink of what futurists call the "Computer Age."

John F. Rathbone and Benjamin A. Gould would not recognize today's computers, but they did recognize a good thing when they saw it 133 years ago.

(Our thanks to Robert Rathbone of New Hampshire, who first brought our attention to the story of John F. Rathbone's role in bringing the first computer to America. Bob ran across the story some 35 years ago, in his job as researcher-writer-editor for the Digital Computer Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also supplied the picture which appears with this story.)

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After his ordination as an Episcopal priest, he was first assigned to St. Mark's in Philadelphia, then became curate at St. Peter's in Albany.

But in 1904, aged 32, this amazing man set off again for new horizons. He went back to Europe, entered the Royal Academy at Innsbruck, Austria, and began the study of medicine. He earned his medical degree in 1910, practiced in Austria for four years, then enlisted in the Austrian Army as a surgeon at the outbreak of World War I. In 1915, he suffered a heart attack and had to return home.

When the U.S. entered the war in 1917, he applied for a commission in the Army Medical Corps, but was turned down because of the heart attack. In later years, he confessed that he had no interest in or sympathy with the war, but only wanted to help the wounded.

Oliver then moved to Baltimore, where he returned to the priesthood, but chose to work at Johns Hopkins Hospital. There he became interested in the problems of prison inmates, and soon became an expert in the field. He was named chief medical officer for the Baltimore court system.

Despite this busy schedule, he found time to enroll in the graduate school of Johns Hopkins University, and in 1927 was awarded a doctorate in philosophy, with a major in Greek!

His far-reaching mind was still not satisfied. He had developed an interest in psychiatry, and resumed his medical education in this field. A year later he became a consulting psychiatrist.

In this same period, he began delving into medical history, and from 1927 to 1938 was a professor of the history of medicine at the University of Maryland Medical School.

This amazing man still had spare time! He wrote hundreds of articles, poems and books. One of his books, "Victor and Victim," came within one vote of winning a Pulitzer prize! He turned over all the royalties from his writings to a fund for needy medical and theological students.

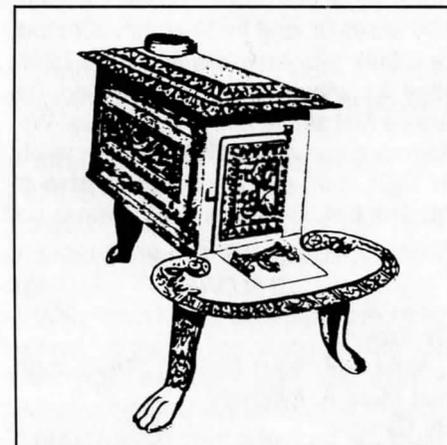
He also served as student warden at Johns Hopkins Memorial Hall and as assistant rector at Mount Calvary Episcopal Church.

John Rathbone Oliver died in 1943, aged 71. He never married, but left behind an unparalleled record of varied public service — a teacher, clergyman, writer, physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, poet, historian, philosopher, soldier and world traveler.

He was called an "intellectual dynamo," and was surely a fitting heir and namesake to his multi-talented grandfather, General John Finley Rathbone.

We have still not covered all the achievements of the Rathbone family of Albany. The next generation was also to play a major role in history, and we will cover that story in our next issue.

(Our thanks for the pictures, letters and biographical information of John Finley Rathbone and his brother Lewis to Karl Kabelac, manuscript librarian at the University of Rochester. Thanks also to Mildred Rathburn and Fred C. Rathbun for valuable research assistance.)



Drawing of a John F. Rathbone stove from an 1846 patent, and the design of its firebox door.

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

165. WILLIAM⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 31, 1802, in Tioga County, Pa., and moved with his parents to Ontario, Canada, about 1814. He was married there about 1832 to Susan Crambrook, born about 1810, parentage unknown, but the marriage lasted only a short time, owing to "a misunderstanding and the interference of relatives," according to Cooly's Rathbone Genealogy. She later married Samuel Furtney, had six children by him, and died about 1885 in Kent County, Mich. William married on Feb. 1, 1833, at Burford, Ontario, Cynthia Lawrence Lester, birthdate and parentage unknown. William bought 200 acres of land in Blenheim, Ontario, and built two sawmills which he operated for many years. He erected the area's first single mill in the 1850s. **William died sometime after 1870, possibly in 1891, but we have been unable to confirm this.** Cynthia's death date is not known.

See New Data 16-2 p 38
CHILDREN

By Susan

WILLIAM, born April 11, 1833; married Mary A. Mitchell.

By Cynthia

WILLIAM HENRY, Born Aug. 15, 1834; married Mary Dickson.

SOPHIA CATHERINE, born Sept. 1836; married Finley M. Smith on July 13, 1859.

CHARLES NILES, born Jan. 16, 1839; married Sarah Allen.

LOIS ANN, born March 1, 1841; married Isaac J. Horner on March 1, 1868.

HORATIO NELSON, born Jan. 6, 1844; married Rachel Orrey.

SALINA, born May 27, 1846; died January 1849.

ALVIRA ALICE, born April 27, 1849; married Francis Strachan.

See Corrections 14-3 p 45

166. NELSON NILES⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born **June 13, 1805**, in Tioga County, Pa., and moved with his parents about 1814

to Ontario. He was married there in **September 1830** to Marcy Ryder, born March 5, 1807, daughter of Gideon and Ruth (Conger) Ryder. He purchased 100 acres at Burford, Ontario, from the Canadian government in 1831, and farmed there all his life. He died July 7, 1880, and his wife on Jan. 10, 1898, both at Burford.

CHILDREN

See Corrections 14-3 p 45

EMILY, born June 6, 1832; died April 18, 1869, unmarried.

HORACE, born April 13, 1834; married Eliza Hatterim.

SARAH JANE, born Sept. 7, 1836; married Allen McCaskill.

NILES NELSON, born April 13, 1841; died in December 1842.

167. DANIEL⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Feb. 24, 1812, in Milton, N.Y., and moved with his parents about 1814 to Ontario, Canada. He married there about 1838 Ruth Ryder, born June 5, 1818, daughter of



Daniel Rathbun (1812-1898), and his wife Ruth (Ryder) Rathbun (1818-1898). Courtesy of Donna Bender, a descendant.

Roland and Rebecca Ryder. He inherited the family farm in Ontario, but sold it about 1857, moved to Michigan, and bought a 70-acre farm near Keeler, Van Buren County, for \$1400 in 1863. He farmed there for the rest of his life, and died at Keeler on March 5, 1898, just a month after the death of his wife on Feb. 4.

CHILDREN

WILLIAM W., born Aug. 26, 1839; married (1) Catherine Smith, and (2) Lydia M. Dawson.

ELIZA JANE, born Oct. 9, 1840; married William Long, who was killed in the Civil War.

LYMAN L., born April 19, 1842; married Anna _____.

CYRUS PHILANDER, born Jan. 19, 1844; married Emma McCombs.

ELIZABETH E., born Oct. 8, 1845; married Mazor Conkwright.

REBECCA JANE, born Aug. 1, 1847; married Wilbur F. McCombs.

GIDEON L., born Aug. 10, 1849; married Ellen Drullinger.

168. CHARLES⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 19, 1815, probably in Ontario, Canada, where his parents moved about that time. He was married there on Sept. 27, 1840, to Pamela Ann Ryder, born June 22, 1821, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Ryder. They lived on a farm near Blenheim, where Charles died June 30, 1896, and Pamela on Aug. 5, 1890.

CHILDREN

GEORGE W., born about 1841; died in his teens.

JOHN FRANKLIN, born May 18, 1849; married (1) Martha Markle, and (2) his cousin Mary Rathbun, daughter of William⁷ (William⁶⁻⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

PHOEBE ANN, born Feb. 16, 1851; married John W. Fritch.

WALLACE, born Feb. 1, 1853; married Sarah Kennedy.

169. HORACE⁶ RATHBUN (William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born about 1816 in Ontario, Canada, and married there Nov. 14, 1844, Eliza Jane Winchell, born in Feb. 1814, parentage unknown. They lived in Blenheim, Ontario, until 1873, when they moved to Michigan and bought a farm near Tyce, in Huron County. Horace died there in October 1874, and Eliza some time after 1900.

CHILDREN

HARMON JEFFERSON, born Oct. 9, 1845; married Ada Getty.

HELEN R., born April 30, 1847; married Joseph Malachi DesJardins.

CYRENUS, born Oct. 3, 1848; died unmarried sometime after 1910.

SARAH A., born August 30, 1851; died unmarried sometime after 1900.

VALENTINE, born Jan. 3, 1855; married Ida Ann Getty.

170. ALLEN FAXTON⁶ RATHBUN (Josiah⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born probably in the early 1790s in Columbus, Lewis County (then Chenango County), N.Y. Our information on him is very sketchy. He apparently moved as a young man to Ontario, Canada, and married there about 1812 Hannah Collison, born about 1793, daughter of John Collison. She probably died by 1819, when he married Isabella McIntosh, birth and parentage unknown. They separated after a few years, and about 1842 he married Louisa Cummings, birth and parentage unknown. He returned to the United States sometime after his third marriage, but reportedly to the United States sometime after his third marriage, but reportedly died in 1888 at Portland, Leeds County, Ontario. We have been unable to find confirmation. Louisa's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

By Hannah

(?) MARY, born about 1814; married Charles Shaver (for Charles S. Haven) on Jan. 1, 1833.

By Isabella

ALLEN FAXTON (or FACTON), born about 1820; married Leonora Schofield.

?HUGH, born about 1826; married Elizabeth Hough.

By Louisa

FRANK, born about 1843; died Aug. 16, 1907; no known marriage.

ALBERT FAXTON (or FACTON), born Dec. 29, 1845; married Emma Bowen.

JOSEPH, born about 1847; **no further information.** See New Data 16-2 p 38

HENRY, born in August, probably 1849; married Harriet Shepherd.

LOUISE, born in the 1850s; no further information.

MYRA, born in the 1850s; no further information.

171. JOSIAH⁶ RATHBUN (Josiah⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 12, 1795, at Brookfield, Chenango County, N.Y. He became a doctor and practiced for 55 years. (See story of his life, and his picture, in our Historian of Jan. 1986). He married about 1824 Irene Ballarad, born about 1804, parentage unknown, who died Aug. 20, 1856, in Utica, N.Y. On June 17, 1868, he married at Utica, Eliza Foster, born Feb. 11, 1805, daughter of Joshua and Betsey Foster. He died March 1879 at Utica, and Eliza died there Jan. 14, 1893.

CHILDREN

By Irene

ANNA BALLARD, born about 1826; married John W. Fuller, a Union general in the Civil War.

JANE, born about 1828; died as a young woman.

172. NICHOLAS P.⁶ RATHBUN (Josiah⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Aug. 18, 1805, at Columbus, N.Y., and moved as a young man to Denmark, Lewis County, N.Y. He was married about 1826 to Marinda (or Miranda) Richards, born in February 1804, parentage unknown. They lived there until his death March 13, 1854. She died July 13, 1857.

CHILDREN

?ABIGAIL ANN, listed by Cooley, but no record is found.

IRENE MIRANDA, born about 1830; married Henry Canfield.

JAMES R., born in June 1832; married Harriet _____.

KENDRICK, born about 1834; no further record.

NELSON K., born about 1836; died April 22, 1859. (He and Kendrick may be the same person; the records are confusing).

HENRIETTA, born Feb. 27, 1845; died Jan. 30, 1861, in Hemlo, Illinois, where she had apparently gone to live with her sister, Irene, after their parents' death.

173. THEOPHILIS FITCH⁶ RATHBUN (Josiah⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born July 23, 1808, possibly in Copenhagen, N.Y. He married Nov. 16, 1829, Belinda L. Root, born April 7, 1811, daughter of Judge William and Rebecca (Hammon) Root. They lived at various times in several New York cities — Sandy Creek, Rensselaer Falls (where he was a shoemaker), and Copenhagen, where he died Aug. 24, 1860. Belinda died Dec. 11, 1887, at Chicago, Ill., where she moved about 1875.

CHILDREN

AMELIA JANE, born July 8, 1831; married Dr. John Albert French on Jan. 22, 1850.

JAMES MONROE, born Nov. 18, 1833; died Oct. 11, 1834.

ABIGAIL ANN, born Dec. 28, 1835; married James R. Phillips on Aug. 19, 1858.

WILLIAM ROOT, born Aug. 23, 1838; served in the Union Army during the Civil War, was captured, and died in October 1865 at Andersonville Prison.

MARY ARZELLA, born Oct. 30, 1840; married William Henry Potter on Jan. 24, 1863.

TASKIT HARRIS, born July 9, 1843; died Aug. 16, 1851.

EDWARD JOSEPH, born Aug. 9, 1848; married (?) Mary _____.

174. DEMARCUS⁶ RATHBUN (Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born May 1, 1788, in Washington County, N.Y., and married Jan. 12, 1815, at Nunda, N.Y., Amanda Hills, born June 21, 1795, daughter of Edino and Chloe Hills. He served in the New York Militia in the War

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of 1812, and moved after his marriage to the town of Eagle, where he was the first town clerk. They later moved to Hanover, Chautauqua County, N.Y., where he was active in educational affairs and a school district was named in his honor. He died there on Nov. 10, 1878, and she on Sept. 29, 1883. Both are buried in the Rathbun Cemetery.

CHILDREN

CARLTON ANSON, born Oct. 8, 1815; married Sarah Ann Connars.

SON (name unknown), born Sept. 10, 1816; died young.

SON (name unknown), born Feb. 11, 1818; died young.

MALVIRA ELIZA, born March 1, 1819; married Allen B. Goodrich on Feb. 24, 1846.

EDWIN JAY, born Sept. 30, 1820; married Laura Ann Munsell.

LOUISA AURORA, born July 13, 1822; married Franklin C. Trask on Aug. 1, 1841.

EMILY ANGERONA, born June 10, 1824; married (1) Abraham Hunt, and (2) Charles Allen.

JOSEPH ADDISON, born Oct. 31, 1825; married Theresa Meade.

EUNICE E., born Dec. 18, 1827; married John Travis on May 26, 1846.

CHLOE A., born June 16, 1829; married Nathaniel C. Southworth on Jan. 12, 1860.

ELIHU, born Aug. 7, 1831; died Sept. 2, 1853; at Galena, Ill., unmarried.

ALVIN FULLER, born May 20, 1833; married Margaret (Palmer) Hough.

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS, born April 8, 1835; married Clarissa Griswold.

175. ELIHU⁶ RATHBUN (Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Sept. 8, 1794, in Washington County, N.Y., and married on Feb. 28, 1818, in Pennsylvania, Eleanor Beatty, born June 19, 1790, daughter of John Beatty of Carlisle, Pa. Family tradition relates that Elihu served in the War of 1812, and met Eleanor while serving in the army barracks at Carlisle, where John Beatty was a captain. Elihu remained in Pennsylvania and became an itinerant Lutheran minister, travelling 25,000 miles

by horseback over an 11-year period. From 1830 to 1845, he served the Lutheran Ohio Synod, covering the Pennsylvania counties of Venango, Crawford, Mercer and Butler. He was the second pastor of the Lutheran Church at Venango, organized in 1828, and was pastor for 16 years at Zion's Lutheran Church in Crawford County. Eleanor died Oct. 8, 1838, and he married the following year, on Sept. 10, 1839, Sarah Powell, born March 8, 1811, daughter of Thomas and Isabella (Fulton) Powell. They lived in Crawford County until 1854, when they moved to Rock Island, Ill., where he was a grand jurymen in 1863 and an election judge in 1864. They later moved to Viola, Mercer County, Ill., where he died June 4, 1890, aged 95. Sarah died there Feb. 26, 1900.

CHILDREN

By Eleanor

ADALINE ELIZA, born Jan., 18, 1819; married Jonathan Saeger on Feb. 28, 1839.

JOHN BEATTY, born Oct. 12, 1820; married Emeline F. Waugh.

MARGARET ELEANOR, born May 27, 1822; married (1) Dr. Lyman Howard, and (2) R.N. Tate.

BULINA ALMIRA, born March 23, 1824; married Robert K. Wick on Jan. 1, 1846.

FINLAW DARLINGTON, born Nov. 20, 1827; died Aug. 25, 1855, in Moline, Ill., unmarried.

ALPHONZO, born Aug. 30, 1830; died Sept. 30, 1830.

By Sarah

STILLBORN CHILD, born June 3, 1840.

HOMER DWIGHT, born Feb. 22, 1842; died April 19, 1862, in the Civil War.

STILLBORN DAUGHTER, born Nov. 26, 1844.

ELIHU, born July 19, 1848; married Mary A. Gilmore.

ISAAC HALE, born May 8, 1850; married Mary A. Honens.

PHOEBE EMELINE (Twin), born May 8, 1850; married William H. Gilmore on Oct. 27, 1869.

SARAH (Sadie), born Aug. 16, 1853; married Talbot T. Spicer on Feb. 12, 1879.

176. MATTHEW⁶ RATHBUN (Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born May 26, 1802, in Columbus, Chenango County, N.Y. He moved as a young man to Medina County, Ohio, where he married August 16, 1827, Jane McCabe, born in January 1809, parentage unknown. He died less than eight years later, on May 3, 1835, aged 33, and four years later on May 24, 1839, she married William Chapman. They moved to Waterloo, Indiana, where he died in 1870. Jane died July 9, 1901, in Hillsdale County, Michigan, where she had lived more than 20 years with her daughter Emily. She had five children by Chapman — Mary, Amanda, William, Oscar and Ellen.

CHILDREN

EMILY R., born in 1828; died some time after 1910, unmarried.

MARTHA, born about 1833; married William Sprole.

MATTHEW E., born about 1835; died April 21, 1865, in the Civil War.

177. VALENTINE⁶ RATHBUN (Russell⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born about 1797, probably at Canaan, Conn. Little is known about him and we are still researching his family. He moved as a young man to New York, and is listed in the 1830 census at Farmersville, Cattaraugus County. He married about 1818 Catherine Matilda Blackburn, born about 1798, parentage unknown. They both died sometime after 1863, possibly at Eagle, N.Y.

CHILDREN

?LIBERTY W., born about 1824; died March 26, 1850, aged 25, and is buried at Franklinville, N.Y.

CHARLES PROPERTY, born about 1826; married Frances Wood and possibly had several later marriages.

?BENJAMIN, born about 1828; married Theresa _____.

CHARLOTTE, born about 1830; married Harvey Chaffee.

PAULINA, born about 1836; alive in 1850.

ROSELLA, born about 1838; alive in 1850.

POSSIBLY OTHERS, names unknown.

Obituaries

DIED — August 2, 1988, at Modesto, Calif., Nellie Marie (Fenno) Rathbun, aged 88. She was the widow of Carl⁹ Rathbun (Porter⁸ John⁷⁻⁶ Robert⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Carl died in 1971. There are a number of survivors, including our member, Earl Rathbun.

DIED — August 7, 1988, at Yakima, Wash., Letty Leota (Cole) Streeter, aged 87. She was the granddaughter of Richard Cole and Harriet⁷ Rathbun (Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Survivors include her son, Victor Streeter, a member of our Association.

DIED — June 20, 1988, at Ashland, Ohio, Leonora Catherine Rathbun, aged 97. She was the widow of Alfred⁸ Rathbun (Abel⁷ John⁶ Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John¹), who died in 1967. She was formerly assistant postmaster of New London, Ohio. Survivors include a daughter Mary Chase; two grandchildren, and a nephew.

DIED — May 28, 1988, in St. Mary's, Alaska, Kelsey Duane Babich, aged 51. He was the son of Michael J. Babich and Vera Viola⁹ Rathbun (Henry⁸ William⁷ Gideon⁶ Job⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He is survived by his mother; his wife, Victoria; three children, Emily, Kelly and Valerie; one grandchild born three months before his death; a brother, Michael, and a sister, Darleen Boyle, a member of our Association.

DIED — April 29, 1988, at Winterville, Ohio, Raymond C. Rathbun, aged 65. He was the son of Jesse⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). A former teacher, he was an Army veteran of World War II. Survivors include a son, Keaney Rathbun; two daughters, Jessica Williams and Laura Depas, and two grandchildren.

DIED — August 10, 1988, at Stephentown, N.Y., Norman M. Rathbun, aged 77. He was the son of Perry⁸ Rathbun (Norman⁷⁻⁶ John⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Survivors include two sisters, Frances Staples and Hazel Barrett, and several nephews and nieces.

Reunions

Descendants of Henry G. Rathburn gathered August 13 for a family reunion in Rutland, Mass., hosted by Elnora and Mac Coppelino. Among the 75 present were 16 members of our Association, including the Coppolinos, Anna and Lenny Angelini, Linda and Charles Duclos, Michael and Alice Angelini, Thomas and Debby Angelini, Jean and Richard Ledford, John and Helen Robinson and Orson Rathburn Jr. The oldest person present was Mary Rathburn, 84, widow of Henry's son, Orson Rathburn Sr. The youngest was year-old Jody Strong. Henry G. Rathburn (1870-1960) was the son of Valentine⁷ Rathburn (John⁶ Tibbets⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

The East Springfield, N.Y., Rathbuns conducted their 65th annual reunion August 6, with 50 persons attending. Among them were our members, Margaret (Rathbun) Medved, and her sister, Susan. The oldest cousin attending was Mary (Rathbun) Lybeck, aged 85. The honor usually goes to her older brother, Oliver Rathbun, 92, who stayed home this year because of threatening weather. Mary and Oliver are the last surviving children of George B. and Fanny (Wyckoff) Rathbun. George was the son of Levant⁷ Rathburn (Williams⁶⁻⁵ Benjamin⁴⁻³ Joseph² John¹). The Springfield Rathbuns descend from

Benjamin⁴ Rathburn (1747-1819), who settled there about 1780.

More than 75 descendants of Clark Rathburn (1890-1972) attended a reunion July 1-4 at the homes of three grandchildren in or near Kennebec, Washington. All of Clark's living children were present — Dale, Russell, Wayne, Melva, Ernest and Lola. Special guests included David B. Rathburn, 88, Clark's only living brother; Donald Rathburn, a nephew, and his wife Opal; Glenn and Louise Rathburn, and David and Edna Rathburn, all cousins. The attendees were from five different states, and included several members of our Association. Clark Rathburn was the son of John⁷ Rathburn (John⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

Descendants of Hallet Rathburn (1841-1925) held their annual family reunion July 2 at Fitzgerald, Georgia, with more than 120 in attendance. Among them were several members of our Association — Junior and Reba (Rathbun) Reeves, Annie (Rathbun) Paulk, and Susie (Carter) Baston. Hallet Rathburn was the son of Thomas⁶ Rathburn (Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹). Hallet was a Union veteran of the Civil War, who settled in Georgia after the war.

Births

BORN — Feb. 14, 1988, Christopher Rex Rathbun, son of Christopher G. and Rebecca Rathbun, and the first grandchild of our members Gathern Rexford (G. Rex) and Sheila Rathbun. Gathern is the son of Gathern⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ Jonathan⁷ Thomas⁶⁻⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN — August 22, 1988, Caitlin Christine Gill, daughter of Mike and Annette Gill, and a great-granddaughter of William Gill and Lois⁸ Rathbun (Byron⁷ Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹).

BORN — May 22, 1988, Mickenzie Hope Rathbun, daughter of Kelley and Kimberly (Mackey) Rathbun, and granddaughter of Keith⁹ Rathbun (Maurice⁸ Byron⁷ Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹).

BORN — August 8, 1988, Ashley Suzanne Bassett, daughter of Dane and Julie Bassett, and step-granddaughter of Steven⁹ Rathbun (Maurice⁸ Byron⁷ Gamaliel⁶ Walter⁵ Thomas⁴⁻³⁻² John¹).

People

ELLEN RATHBONE BROWN has been named editor of *Ancestry*, the quarterly bulletin of the Palm Beach (Fla.) Genealogical Society. Ellen is the daughter of Rathbone Gardiner (1856-1931), a son of Henry Wood Gardner and Mary⁸ Rathbone (Stephen⁷ Joshua⁶⁻³ John²⁻¹).

A 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY party was held August 13 in Schoharie, N.Y., for Karl R. and Phyllis (Rathburn) Martin. They were married August 31, 1963, and have two sons. Phyllis is the daughter of Gaal and Mildred Rathburn, members of our Association, who hosted the party. Gaal is the son of William⁹ Rathburn (William⁸ Samuel⁷ Joseph⁶ Samuel⁵ Anthony⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

JOHN BYFIELD and his wife Margaret participated in the World Championship Horseshoe Tournament August 1-2 at Pleasanton, Calif. John placed 14th in Men's Class F, with 39 percent, and Margaret placed 3rd in Ladies' Class A, with 64 percent. Margaret was state woman's champion in 1981 and 1986, and placed second last year in the world playoffs. John, who recently joined our Association, is the son of Gertrude (Rathburn) Byfield, a daughter of Clarence⁷ Rathburn (Guy⁶ Amiziah⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

MARJORIE L. RATHBUN and Christopher L. Adorno were married July 2, 1988, in Dalton, Mass. She is the daughter of our member, Henry Howe¹¹ Rathbun III (Henry¹⁰⁻⁹ Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

ERIC CHARLES RATHBUN graduated June 5, 1988, from Greater Grace Christian Academy in Baltimore, Md. His sister, Robin Faye Rathbun, graduated four days later from Northside High School, Warner Robins, Ga. They are children of Henry Howe¹⁰ Rathbun III (Henry¹⁰⁻⁹ Charles⁸ William⁷ Alfred⁶ Wait⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

KRISTIN L. RATHBUN and Craig Ryan Waldron were married June 25, 1988, at Greenwood, Ark. Kristin is the daughter

Our New Members

Frances W. Ayers
Vienna, Va.

Darleen Boyle
Las Vegas, Nev.

William M. Brown
Cullman, Ala.

Laura M. Burrows
Blacksburg, Va.

John Byfield
Mt. Vernon, Wash.

Mary Lou Byom
Arcadia, Wisc.

Josephine S. Dugan
Block Island, R.I.

Melva Gregory
Boise, Idaho

Philip Rathbun Harper
New York City, N.Y.

Janet Hayes
Seattle, Wash.

James and Shirley Hosking
Watertown, Conn.

Vineta Martin
Tolleson, Ariz.

Bertinice Rathbun
Kingston, Okl.

Janet Rathbun
Hagerstown, Ind.

Jerry and Sandra Rathbun
Richland, Wash.

Robert D. Rathbun
Littleton, Colo.

Eva A. Urban
Avonport, Nova Scotia

of Sandra Lee (Remer) and Jack⁹ Rathbun (David⁸ John⁷⁻⁶ Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

ARNOLD RATHBUN of Cranston, R.I., built and dedicated the Wilber C. Rathbun Retreat House in Slocum, R.I., in memory of his son, Wilber Charles Rathbun, who died in 1985 of spinal meningitis at the age of 22. Arnold is the son of the late Eola and Ernest⁹ Rathbun (Charles⁸ Seneca⁷ John⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

JIM AND MAXINE STITES reported recently that their son, a planning architect in Kansas City, Mo., found a "Rathbone Place" on an old city plat, dated in 1908 and signed Cornelia L. Rathbone. We have identified Cornelia as the oldest daughter of Oliver Smith⁷ Rathbone (Benjamin⁶ Joshua⁵⁻³ John²⁻¹), who was born in 1840, never married, and was living as late as 1910.

FRANK E. RATHBUN of Coventry, R.I., was honored in March by the com-

manding officer of the Naval Submarine Base in New London, Conn., for "professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties" in the base's supply department. During a fire in the principal supply building last December, "Rathbun met the challenge of recovery and repair in an impressive manner . . . reflecting great credit upon himself and the United States government service." Frank later received a promotion to go along with the award. He is the son of the late Elmer⁹ Rathbun (Frank⁸ James⁷ Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

In our last issue, on page 40, we reported that the will of Thomas Rathbone, father of our immigrant ancestor John Rathbun, was probated in 1633. This was a typographical error. It was probated in 1663, nine years after Thomas' death. Our thanks to K. Haybron Adams, whose "eagle eye" noticed the error.