

Rathbun-Rathbone-Rathburn
**FAMILY
HISTORIAN**



Judge Elmer J. Rathbun
(1870-1952)

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

Letter from the Editor

With this issue, we begin the ninth year of our Association and of the Historian.

As I write this, in late-December, our membership stands at 450, a substantial drop from our 1988 total of 506. I am hopeful that late returns and new members will soon get us back to the 500 level.

In this issue, you will find our 1988 financial report. There are two disturbing figures in it. One is our balance on hand as we start the new year — only \$608. It has been double that amount in past years.

The other is our income last year from the sale of past Historians — only \$539, compared to over \$1200 in past years. This explains why our balance has dropped. The reason, of course, is that it is becoming more expensive each year for new members to purchase all back issues, and few are doing it. New members this year, for example, will have to pay \$125 for all the back numbers — 1981 through 1988. That is a considerable investment.

The bottom line is this: we just don't have enough money on hand to publish another Historian index. We have published indexes for the Historians of 1981 through 1986, and the indexing for 1987 and 1988 has been completed by Dr. Earl and Mrs. Gayle Antes.

Our last two-year index ran 40 pages, and cost \$2,462 to print our standard press run of 600. It cost nearly \$400

more to mail them to our more than 500 members — a total of nearly \$3000.

So what is the answer? To stop printing the indexes? That would make our Historian far less valuable for members today and for researchers in the future. Resort to some cheaper reproduction method, such as xeroxing? I think that would detract from the high standard we have set for our Historian.

One answer might be to raise our annual dues next year to \$20, giving us enough extra money to print the indexes. Would we lose members by doing this?

Another answer might be to take advance orders and only print enough indexes for those who order them. That would reduce the total cost somewhat, but it would probably cost \$10 to \$15 for each copy, based on at least 100 to 200 orders. I am not sure how many of our members would be that interested in the index.

Or, we could lower the prices for back issues, hoping this would encourage more members to buy back Historians to complete their sets. But would this be fair to older members, who had to pay the full price?

Any thoughts on these ideas, or any other suggestions, would be appreciated.

For those who participated in the 1987 English trip, I have heard from the historian at the manor of Shipton-on-Cherwell, where we visited early on our trip. He has copies of his history of the manor available. If you are interested, write him directly — Mr. Ian Pearson, The Manor, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxford, England OX 5 1JL — for prices and shipping information. The manor was owned in the 1500s by a Rathbone family, not our ancestors.

Hazel and I send our thanks to all the Association members who sent us Christmas greetings. We had a wonderful Christmas, and hope that all of you did also.

Our very best wishes to all for a bright and happy New Year!



R.I. Reunion Slated for Sept. 11-15

Our 1989 reunion will be held September 11-15 in Rhode Island, with our headquarters at the Dutch Inn Motel on Point Judith.

We had hoped to make our headquarters in Newport, but hotel prices there were just too high. The best deal we could find was about \$90 a night. At the Dutch Inn, our rate will be under \$60.

While in Rhode Island, Hazel and I made a startling discovery! Hammersmith Farm, just outside Newport, is the same farm that our immigrant ancestors, John and Margret Rathbun, leased from William Brenton in the early 1670s.

The original house, of course, has long since disappeared. In its place is the impressive mansion built by the Auchincloss family some 100 years ago. It was the home of President John F. Kennedy's wife, Jacqueline, whose society debut was held there in 1947. When she married Kennedy six years later, their wedding reception was held there with more than 1,200 in attendance. Hammersmith was the "Summer White House" during the Kennedy presidency.

A visit to Hammersmith, and a tour of the mansion and grounds, will be one of the highlights of our reunion. Its spectacular view of Narragansett Bay is virtually the same view that John and Margaret Rathbun had when they lived there more than 300 years ago!

We will also be making a day-long trip to Block Island, catching the ferry a few yards from the Dutch Inn's front entrance. Our visit to the island will include stops at Settlers' Rock, Mohegan Bluffs and the Rathbun monument which our Association placed in the old Island Cemetery in 1983.

As in past years, we will begin the reunion with a get-acquainted reception, but this year we will not be having a formal banquet and program as the reunion high point. Instead, we will enjoy

(continued on page 8)

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

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ISSN 0737-7711

Early Block Island Records Reveal More About Family

In September, we purchased from the Block Island Historical Society a xerox copy of the earliest town records as transcribed 65 years ago by the late George R. Burgess. I have been carefully studying the more than 600 pages, and have found a wealth of information on our ancestors and their lives on Block Island in the late 1600s. Here are some of my findings:

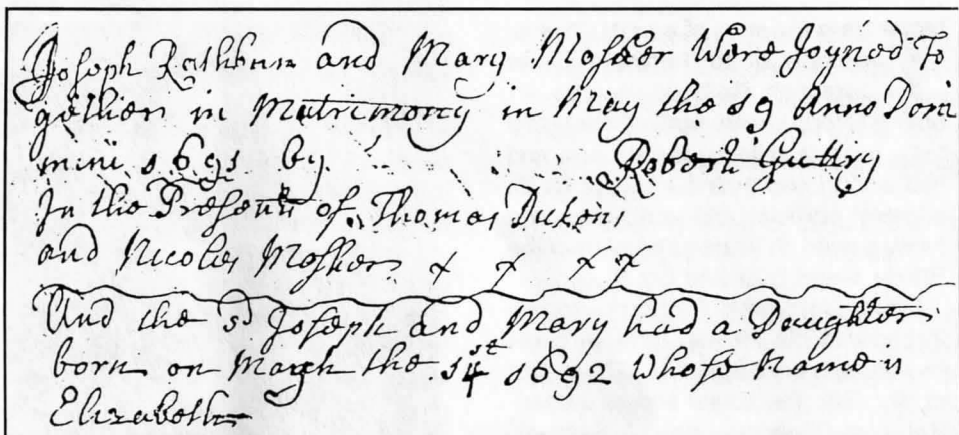
In our last issue, we related that John Rathbun Sr., our immigrant ancestor, was elected in 1681 to represent Block Island in the Rhode Island General Assembly, and I speculated that he may have been involved in politics even earlier.

The early records show that this was indeed the case. John and Margaret Rathbun returned to Block Island from Newport by 1676, when he was elected as the island's surveyor of highways and fences. In 1679, he was elected to the town council, was highway surveyor again in 1680, and was a jury foreman in 1681. That was the year he was elected to the General Assembly, and he apparently moved back to Newport.

He was back on Block Island by 1689, when he was a member of the town council. (His political career did not end in 1688 as I had speculated). John apparently held no public office after 1690, when he was about 61 years old. He and Margaret lived in Newport for several years in the early 1690s, and then returned about 1699 or 1700 to Block Island, where he died in 1702.

I had already known that Thomas Rathbun was the most prominent of John and Margaret's five sons, but the early records revealed that he was actually one of the principal leaders of Block Island for some 40 years! He was by far the most active and influential of the five brothers.

Thomas was admitted a freeman in 1678, when he was 21 years old, and became an active member of the island militia about that time. He was a ser-



The marriage record of Joseph Rathbun and Mary Mosher in 1691, from the early records of Block Island. Few of the records are this legible. It reads: "Joseph Rathbun and Mary Mosher were joynd together in matrimony on May the 19 anno domini 1691 by (illegible) Robert Guttry in the presence of Thomas Dickens and Nicholas Mosher." Then comes the birth of their first daughter: "And the sd Joseph and Mary had a daughter born on March 14, 1692, whose name is Elizabeth." The entry concludes with the births of Joseph and Mary's nine other children, the last in 1712, when the record was entered.

geant by 1685, lieutenant by 1699, and captain by 1704. He was called "Captain Rathbun" for the rest of his life.

His political career was even more impressive. His first elective office was that of constable in 1685. There are gaps in the town records for the next few years, but by 1691 he was serving on the town council, a post he held continuously for the next eleven years. In 1696, he was also town treasurer, and served on a committee to oversee construction of a new harbor.

In 1699, Thomas was elected as one of Block Island's deputies to the Rhode Island General Assembly, a position he held for at least six of the next seven years. In 1702, his fellow assemblymen named him to help audit the general treasurer's accounts.

In 1707, Thomas was awarded a contract by the Block Island Town Council to build an animal pound, 40 feet square with walls six feet high, to be secured with a gate with an iron lock and key.

In 1704, 1709 and 1710, he again served on the town council, was elected

deputy again in 1711, returned to the council in 1714 and 1715, and then served again as deputy in 1716 and 1717. He was back on the council again in 1723, was head warden in 1729, and in 1730, at the age of 73, "Captain Rathbun" was again chosen to represent the island in the General Assembly. He was reelected in 1731, the last time he held public office. He died two years later at the age of 76.

It is interesting to note that Thomas had such an active career, and was entrusted with so many high offices by his fellow islanders, although he was unable to read or write — a real tribute to his character and ability.

Two other items in the early town records shed a little light on Thomas Rathbun's personal life.

The town council meeting of June 4, 1683, refers to "the evil proceedings of a servant of Thomas Rathbun who not long since abused an Irishman called Samuel Owings, striking him with a stick

(continued on page 8)

Elmer J. Rathbun — Farm Boy to Supreme Court Justice

This is the story of a most unusual member of our family — Elmer Jeremiah Rathbun, a “country boy” in Rhode Island, who left the family farm, went to college, studied law, and had a long and eventful career as an attorney, politician and local judge, and finally served 16 years as a justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Elmer Jeremiah Rathbun, known throughout his life as Jerry to close friends, was born April 16, 1870, in Coventry, R.I., the eldest son of James⁷ Rathbun (Robert⁶ John⁵⁻⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹) and Melissa Capwell.

He was born on his father's 400-acre farm and attended a little country school in Coventry, working on the family farm on weekends and summers. The father was a political activist, a Democrat in his younger days, and later a Republican, serving 30 years as chairman of the local Republican Committee. Young Jerry was to inherit his father's political interest.

He must have been a strong and active young man. In 1888, aged 18, he was credited by a local newspaper with cutting, splitting and stacking more than four cords of firewood in a single day!

When Jerry was 15, the family moved to neighboring West Greenwich, where young Rathbun completed grade school and then attended the nearby East Greenwich Academy, taking a college-preparatory course. He had set his sights on a college education, and hoped to study law.

The family was not wealthy, however, and money was hard to come by in the 1880s. Young Jerry had to interrupt his schooling for a year, taking a teaching job to earn enough money to pay for his academy studies.

He then returned to the Academy, and was graduated in 1892. He immediately enrolled at Brown University in Providence, working part time as a clerk to pay his tuition. During summer vacations, he was a street car conductor. All his extra money he carefully put aside for law school.



*Judge Elmer Jeremiah Rathbun
(1870-1952)*

Graduated from Brown University with a bachelor's degree in 1896, he then entered the Boston University Law School, working two hours every day in the school office to help pay for his tuition and law books.

He took every course offered by the Law School, won a \$250 prize for his outstanding ability, and completed the normal three-year course in two years, finishing second in his class. Thirty-two years later, after a distinguished career, he returned to the University to receive an honorary doctorate of law.

Having finished his formal education, at the age of 26, Rathbun set out to put his schooling to good use. As in his years of study, he did not shrink from work or challenge.

He became a member of the Republican State Central Committee, served on the West Greenwich School Board, was elected in 1897 on the Republican ticket to represent West Greenwich in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, and was named in 1900 as clerk of Rhode Island's Fourth District Court.

Less than a year later, he was appointed a judge on the court.

In the Rhode Island General Assembly, he served for two years on the Judiciary Committee, and then became a member, and finally chairman of the powerful Committee on Corporations.

In 1908, still serving both as judge and general assemblyman, Rathbun set his sights on a higher position — the Rhode Island Superior Court. The chief justice of the State Supreme Court was retiring, and by tradition, that meant a Superior Court Judge would be moved up to the Supreme Court.

Rathbun threw his hat into the ring in what became a bitter fight to win the expected Superior Court vacancy. He ran into a buzzsaw of opposition. Apparently, his dual role as a judge and legislator did not set well with many of his fellow attorneys.

The Rhode Island Bar Association, of which he was a member, voted 73 to 16 that Rathbun was “unfit” for the state's highest court. His qualifications, his work as a judge, and even his personal character came under attack. A dozen of the state's leading law firms opposed his appointment, and some 70 individual lawyers publicly campaigned against him.

Even the Providence Journal, the state's leading newspaper, joined in the attack, suggesting editorially that any legislator who voted for Rathbun should be ousted from office.

The selection was to be made on Jan. 22, 1909, by the General Assembly sitting in “grand committee.” Competition for the appointment was spirited. The leading candidate was William B. Greenough, the state's attorney-general, who had the endorsement of the Bar Association and the Journal. Six other candidates had their own bases of support.

Rathbun did not panic, but carefully lined up his supporters, and his votes. He was well liked in the Assembly, where he had served for 12 years. He had the backing of “Political Boss”

Charles Brayton. Also in Rathbun's corner were Frank Tillinghast, chairman of the Republican Executive Committee, and George Lawton, chairman of the Rhode Island Republican Party.

His father, chairman of the West Greenwich Republican Committee, was campaigning for him, and there were a lot of Rathbun brothers, uncles, cousins and relatives by marriage scattered throughout Rhode Island, who probably let their support be known.

On January 22, the Assembly met, and as expected chose Superior Court Presiding Judge William H. Sweetland to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. The Assembly then voted among the seven contenders for the Superior Court opening.

In a tension-filled balloting, Rathbun outpolled all his opponents combined, with 56 votes. Greenough won only 30 votes, and the other five candidates gathered but 21 votes between them. It was a tremendous victory for Rathbun, over what had seemed to be impossible odds.

Rathbun resigned his seat in the General Assembly, and for the next 10 years served capably and without controversy on the Superior Court bench. Even his most bitter opponents in the appointment battle came to acknowledge that he was an able, fair and competent judge.

Ten years later, a vacancy occurred on the State Supreme Court. Republican Party leaders immediately proposed Rathbun to fill the vacancy. There was no repetition of the harsh criticism of 1909. He was nominated without opposition, and the General Assembly selected him by a straight party-line vote of 86 to 47.

Jerry Rathbun, the "country boy" from West Greenwich, took his seat on the bench of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

His tenure on the state's highest court was uneventful. He served quietly and capably. One observer called him "a man of culture and intellectual force, of strong reasoning power and eloquent speech." Another called him an "able jurist, learned, just and impartial, with the patience to follow a knotty point of law through all its windings, that truth may be arrived at."

In 1935, after 16 years on the Supreme Court, Rathbun became the vic-

tim of shifting political winds. The Republican party had long controlled the country, and Rhode Island, but the Roosevelt landslide of 1932 had changed all that, nationally and in Rhode Island.

With old-line Republicans on the U.S. Supreme Court blocking much of his New Deal legislation, Roosevelt tried, but failed, to expand the court and "pack" it with his liberal Democratic supporters.

The Democrats in Rhode Island were more successful. On Jan. 1, 1935, the Democratic majority in the General Assembly staged what was called a "peaceful revolution." Among other actions, they voted to replace the entire five-member State Supreme Court. The five ousted justices, all Republicans, were replaced with liberal Democrats. Rathbun and his fellow ex-judges were given life-long pensions.

The later years of Rathbun's life were spent in peaceful retirement, with one major scandal affecting his personal life.

He had been married in 1914 to Virginia Pollock, whose brother, William Pollock, was a United States Senator from South Carolina in 1918-19. Virginia died in 1923, and Rathbun was alone. They had no children.

The scandal came a few years later. Rathbun reportedly had a love affair with his housekeeper, a married woman named Martha Macomber, whose husband committed suicide. Local gossip

claimed that he had killed himself after learning of his wife's affair with Rathbun. True or not, the story shadowed Rathbun's life.

He and Mrs. Macomber were married in 1944, and made their home in Providence. They spent some of their summers on Block Island, the home of his Rathbun ancestors.

Gladys Steadman, one of the island's oldest residents, wrote your editor several years ago that she remembered meeting the Rathbuns on the island in the 1940s, and found them to be friendly and likeable.

"He used to talk a lot about his Block Island ancestry," Mrs. Steadman recalled.

Rathbun died in Providence on Dec. 21, 1952, aged 82, leaving a sizeable estate, much of which he willed to his alma mater, Brown University. His widow unsuccessfully sued her husband's estate for \$120,000 in bonds, which she claimed he had purchased for her support. She died in 1957.

Judge Rathbun is buried in Providence's Swan Point Cemetery, between his two wives.

(We thank Frank E. Rathbun of Coventry, R.I., a great-nephew of Judge Elmer J. Rathbun, who did extensive research for us in newspaper files to gather information for this story, and found a picture of the judge for us in the Supreme Court building.)



Judge Elmer J. Rathbun and his second wife, Martha Macomber, possibly taken on Block Island in the 1940s.

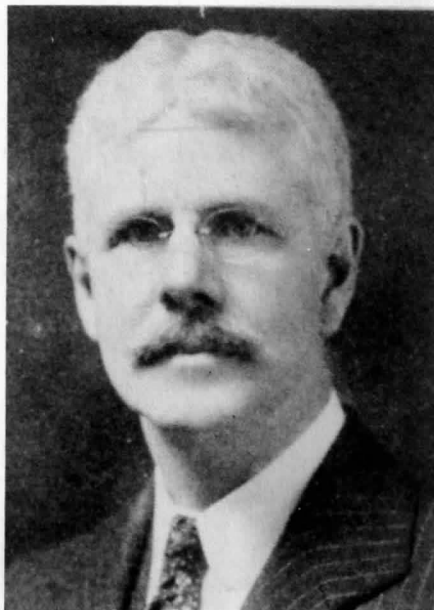
Albert Rathbone Continues Family Tradition of Leadership

In our last two issues, we related the early history of the prominent Rathbones of Albany, N.Y. Three brothers, Valentine, Jared and Joel Rathbone, settled there in the early 1800s and founded a dynasty which lasted for over a century. In our last issue, we outlined the fabulous career of General John Finley Rathbone, who built the world's largest stove factory, and became both wealthy and famous. In this concluding article, we cover the careers of later members of the Albany family, including Albert Rathbone, a talented lawyer and financial expert, who served as assistant secretary of the treasury under President Woodrow Wilson.

With the death of General John Finley Rathbone in 1901, leaving no sons to carry on the family name, leadership of the Albany clan fell to his cousin, Clarence Rathbone, son of Joel. Clarence, born in 1844, was the only one of Joel's six sons who lived to marry and have children. Three of the six died in infancy.

Of the other two, Joel Howard Rathbone, born in 1835, joined the Marine Corps and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1858. He was assigned to the USS Lancaster and was serving aboard her when the Civil War broke out. Evidently hoping to see some action, he resigned his naval commission in January 1862 to join the Army and was commissioned a month later as a captain. After a year of recruiting duty, he was finally given a field command in 1863, and led a company at the Battle of Gettysburg. Suffering ill health, he returned to desk duty for a year, and then resigned in December 1864. He died three months later.

The other brother, Albert Rathbone, born in 1841, was educated at private schools and then entered Union College in 1857. He left school without graduating, and joined the Army after the outbreak of war. In 1862, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the



Albert Rathbone (1868-1943), who served as assistant secretary of the United States Treasury from 1918 to 1920.

17th Regiment of New York Volunteers, but contracted typhoid fever and returned home in September. He died three years later, only a few months after the death of his brother, Joel.

Clarence Rathbone also saw military service during the war. After several years of private schooling, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1861, and completed the three-year course in two years, graduating fifth in his class. Commissioned as an ensign, he first served on the USS Niagara, then in 1864 was assigned to the flagship of Admiral Farragut at New Orleans. It is likely that some family influence helped bring about this choice assignment.

Clarence served at the Battle of Mobile Bay, where he was slightly wounded in action, and then was assigned to blockade duty near Galveston, Texas. At the end of the war, in 1865, he returned to Albany, and was married in 1866 to Angelica Bogart Talcott.

As his widowed mother's sole surviving son, he became head of the family, and began to consider his career options. Like so many of the Albany Rathbones, he chose the stove business, and joined the S.H. Ransom Stove Company, owned by his cousin, Samuel H. Ransom.

Clarence became a dominant figure in the business, and when Ransom retired in 1883, the company was incorporated with Rathbone as president and principal owner. The company's main plant occupied a four-block area along the Hudson River, bounded by Mulberry, Church and Cherry streets. By 1884, it was employing 300 workers, with a yearly payroll of more than \$200,000.

Although the business prospered, Clarence followed in the footsteps of his father, and retired from business in his prime of life, devoting himself to his family and public service. Possibly, he recognized that the growing use of central heating meant the end of the long-profitable stove business.

He became a trustee of the Albany Savings Bank, the Albany Medical College and the Dudley Observatory. He and Angelica became the parents of four children, all of whom were to do well in life.

Their son, Joel, was educated at the Albany Academy, entered the banking business and a few years later became treasurer of the Albany Railway Company. In 1895, he moved to New York City, became secretary of the Lawyers Surety Company, and was named vice-president in 1902. He later joined the National Surety Company as vice-president and general manager. Joel was married twice, and died in New York City in 1936, aged 69, leaving one son, Carlisle Norwood Rathbone.

The oldest daughter, Angelica, born in 1871, married Dr. Charles Russell Lowell Putnam, a prominent New York City physician. Her sister, Ethel, married Jean Marty, descendant of a prominent family in France.

It was Clarence's oldest son, Albert, who was to become the most noted Rathbone of his generation.

Born in 1868, he attended the Albany Boys' School and then enrolled at Williams College, in Williamstown, Mass., where he was graduated in 1888. He then entered the Albany Law School, where he earned a law degree in 1890. Admitted to the New York State Bar, he joined an Albany law firm, and soon became a partner, the company taking the name of Tracy, Cooper and Rathbone.

In 1899, Rathbone moved to New York City, and joined the law firm of Butler, Notman, Joline and Mynderese. He became a partner in 1901, and helped reorganize the firm four years later as Joline, Larkin and Rathbone.

Rathbone specialized in corporate law, organization and finance, and in the booming decade before World War I, he helped organize and reorganize many major corporations, including several railroads.

Rathbone's expertise in financial matters was recognized in 1917, after the United States entered World War I. In January 1918, he joined the U.S. Treasury Department as a foreign loan advisor, and nine months later President Woodrow Wilson named him as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in charge of the Foreign Loan Bureau.

Carter Glass, who became Secretary of the Treasury that year, later described Rathbone as one of his most indispensable advisors. Glass took Rathbone with him when he was called to testify in Congressional hearings on the foreign loan situation.

After the end of the war, the question of British and French war debts became a major issue, and in 1919 President Wilson sent Rathbone to Paris as financial advisor to the American Peace Commission. His task was to work out a schedule of payments for the war debts. In Paris, Rathbone also became the unofficial advisor to the War Reparations Committee, which was charged with deciding how much Germany should be required to pay for war-time damages.

Rathbone's assignment ended in failure, through no fault of his own. President Wilson's 14-point peace plan was rejected by the Republican controlled Senate, and both England and France

balked at full payment of their war debts. Rathbone spent several months in London, negotiating with the British Treasury officials, but finally gave up in frustration and returned to the United States in June 1920. He resigned from the Treasury Department and returned to private law practice.

In New York City, he rejoined his former partners, Adrian Larkin and John Morris Perry, in the law firm of Larkin, Rathbone and Perry, later reorganized as Rathbone, Perry, Kelley and Drye, with Rathbone as senior partner.

The partnership became one of the most prominent law firms in New York, listing such financial giants as Chrysler Corporation and Hanover Bank and Trust among its many clients.

The cream of the nation's law-school graduates applied for positions with Rathbone's firm. One, who was hired in 1925, was a young law-school graduate named Thomas E. Dewey, later governor of New York and Republican candidate for president in 1944 against Roosevelt, and in 1948 against Harry Truman.

Rathbone was highly respected by his peers in the legal profession, and served on the executive committee of the New York Bar Association from 1922 to 1925, and as vice-president from 1928 to 1930.

Albert was deeply interested in genealogy, and in 1937 published a 70-page book on his branch of our family. He issued a supplement in 1941. (The books are rare; your editor has been trying to find copies to buy for many years).

Rathbone died on August 20, 1943, aged 75, leaving his widow, Emma (Olcott) Rathbone, with two daughters. They had no sons, and the Rathbone name died out in this branch of the family, as it did in most of the Albany group.

Albert's cousin, the unfortunate Major Henry Reed Rathbone (see his story in our issue of October 1981), had two sons, but both died childless. One was Henry Riggs Rathbone, who served in the United States Congress. We are planning a separate story on him.

Major Rathbone's younger brother, Jared L. Rathbone (1844-1907), married, but had no children. He did have an impressive career.

An 1865 West Point graduate, he served eight years in the Army, rising to

the rank of major. In 1887, he was appointed by President Grover Cleveland as the American counsel-general in Paris, a post he held for four years, and which won him the French Legion of Honor for "special and brilliant service."

He returned briefly to the Army during the Spanish-American War of 1898-9, then devoted his remaining years to development of the famed Palo Alto Ranch in California. The ranch is now the site of Stanford University.

The three Rathbone brothers who settled in Albany more than 150 years ago had a total of seven sons who lived to maturity. Only one of them today has living descendants named Rathbone — the grandchildren and/or great-grandchildren of Albert's brother, Joel Rathbone. We have been unable to make contact with them.

We have, however, found a non-Rathbone descendant of the Albany Rathbones — Bronson Chanler of Rhinebeck, N.Y., who is a great-grandson of General John Finley Rathbone, and who is one of the newest members of our Association.

Financial Statement

1988 Income

Memberships (506 @ \$15)	\$7,590
Sale of Past Historians	539
Membership Advance Dues	135
Reunion Surplus	160
Total	\$8,424

1988 Expenses

Printing of Historian	\$4,679
Computer Mailing Costs	2,301
Stationery and Supplies	214
Postage	265
Research	398
Telephone	239
Pictures	65
Miscellaneous	109
Total	\$8,270
Carryover from 1987	\$454
Balance on Hand	\$608

(continued from page 2)

an old-fashioned New England clam-bake on the grounds of the Dutch Inn.

There will also be a new feature. We will reserve a meeting area in the motel for our group on two other nights, so that those attending can meet, chat and get better acquainted. We will also have our traditional "Family Heirloom Display," and we will have other tours to places of interest in the area.

Plan to bring along your family heirlooms for the display — any interesting old items such as pictures, old letters, bibles, small antiques, etc.

This is how our agenda is shaping up:
Monday, Sept. 11, beginning 6 p.m. — Get-Acquainted party and buffet dinner at the Dutch Inn

Tuesday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Day-long bus tour, with stops at Wickford, Smith's Castle, Fort Adams (to see the sloop Providence), old-town Newport and Hammersmith Farm

Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Day-long trip to Block Island

Thursday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon — Family Heirloom Display at the Dutch Inn. Afternoon free to explore Point Judith area. Evening clambake on the Dutch Inn grounds (to be held inside in the event of bad weather)

Friday, Sept. 15, — Possible bus trip to Mystic, Conn., a restored New England fishing village

Complete details and reservation forms will be sent with the April Historian. Mark your calendar now and make plans to join us for what should be an exciting and fun-filled week

NOTE: If you plan to drive to Point Judith in a recreation vehicle, there is an excellent state park a few minutes from the hotel. Early reservations are vital, so if you would like to stay in the camp, let us know immediately, and we will send you a reservation form.

(Hazel and I spent an interesting week in Rhode Island, scouting out the area for a headquarters motel, and looking for places to visit on our bus tours. We want to thank Ellen and Elwin Kenyon, who spent a day driving us around the area, and Helen M. Rathbun, who is helping us gather information for the reunion.)

(continued from page 3)

on his head and arms, making several breaches in his flesh."

This servant, identified as John Downing, was arrested, and the town council asked that Thomas Rathbun post cash security "for his said servant's good behaviour."

Rathbun "positively refused" the council's request.

This incident tells us that Thomas was prosperous enough to have a servant when he was only 26 years old, and that he also had a stubborn streak. The affair did not seem to hurt his reputation, for he was elected constable two years later.

Another, stranger incident was recorded on January 2, 1694, while Thomas was a member of the town council.

The body of "an Indian woman called Ruth, the daughter of Indian Sue," was found in the woods, apparently on New Year's Day. After a committee of both English and Indians investigated her death, it was concluded that "she being drunk at Thomas Rathbuns the night before, went out into the cold, being very hard, frosty weather (and) the cold overcame her."

What is the real story behind this strange tale? Had the woman attended a New Year's Eve party at Thomas Rathbun's home? Was he possibly operating a tavern at that time? The records do not reveal the answer.

Thomas' brother, John Rathbun Jr., the oldest son, had a much less active career. He was constable in 1686, but "positively refused" to serve again in 1687. He was jury foreman in 1688 and deputy to the general assembly in 1696. In the late 1690s and early 1700s, he was "holder of sheep," apparently meaning that he was in charge of the animal pound. These are the only records I could find of any public office.

I did, however, discover that John did not have a son by his first marriage, as earlier reported (April 1981 Historian, Page 28).

The existence of this supposed son was recorded by James N. Arnold in his "Vital Records of Rhode Island, Volume Four." In his transcription of Block Island town records, Arnold listed the death of

"John Rathbone, son of John," just before the birth of John's daughter, Anna, in 1703.

When I checked that page of the town records, I found the following:

"John Rathbun, son of John Rathbun deceased, had a daughter Anna born the 9th Day of August 1703."

Arnold had apparently interpreted the faded writing to read that John Rathbun's son John had deceased!

John Rathbun Jr. apparently did have a first wife, name unknown, as we reported. They were married in either January or June of 1679, 1680 or 1685 — the writing is too faded to make out. There were no known children, and she must have died within a few years, for John married Ann Dodge on Nov. 11, 1686.

Early researchers of our family had assumed that Ann Dodge was the daughter of Tristram Dodge, one of the island's first settlers along with John Rathbun Sr. I had rejected this theory, since the settlement of Dodge's estate in 1683 does not list any daughters. I suggested instead that Ann may have been the widow of a previously unknown Dodge son, Thomas, who apparently died as a young man.

My reading of the early records confirmed the existence of this Thomas. His name appears in 1680, 1681 and 1682. He presumably died in 1682 or early 1683, for he is not listed as one of Tristram Dodge's heirs.

The Ann Dodge who married John Rathbun was having children until 1709, indicating that she was born after 1664. Women then and now seldom bear children after age 45. If she was indeed the widow of Thomas Dodge, she must have married him about 1681 or 1682, when she was 17 or 18, and then was widowed before she was 20.

It is still possible that Ann was a daughter of Tristram Dodge. His five sons were born in the 1640s and 1650s, and Ann may have been a "late" baby about 1664. Tristram's wife's name was Ann, and they possibly named a daughter for her. I did discover in the records that Tristram had at least one daughter, Amy, born about 1652, who married Daniel Briggs and then, probably, Josiah Helling. She was not listed in the estate settlement of 1683, so Tristram Dodge may well have had other daughters.

Old Records

ters, names unknown, also unlisted in the settlement.

William Rathbun, the presumed third son of John and Margaret, had a modest political career. He was constable from 1686 to 1688, and fence viewer in 1694 and 1699, and again in 1705 and 1706.

The records did reveal a problem with our estimate that William was born about 1661. He was admitted a freeman in 1678, meaning that he was at least 21, and thus born by 1657. He was married in 1680, another indication that he was born several years before 1660, for men rarely married at 19 or 20.

We do know that William's brother Thomas was born about 1657 (per his gravestone), and that his sister Sarah was born in 1659 (according to Cooley, and confirmed by her marriage in 1678). It also seems obvious that John was the oldest brother, based on his being given the family "mansion house" in 1679, and on being named first in the list of sons in the 1702 will of John Sr. I had therefore estimated John's birth year as about 1655.

So how does William fit in before 1660? Could he have been a twin of John or Thomas? We may never know the answer.

Joseph Rathbun, fourth son of John and Margaret, was born about 1667, and was was a juror in 1692, constable in 1693, fence viewer in 1700, 1709-10, and in 1714, and a member of the town council in 1717 and 1718.

Samuel Rathbun, the youngest son, born in 1672, was constable in 1695 and 1696; packer in 1706, and a member of the town council in 1708, 1715 and 1716. He was also a militia ensign in 1715-16.

Other offices held by Samuel, and possibly by the other brothers, may be recorded in Town Record Book Two, which has not been transcribed.

(We thank Pamela Littlefield of the Block Island Historical Society, who arranged the copying of the early town records for us. Pam is the daughter of our members, Donald and Lydia Littlefield. We will have other items of interest from the early records in our next issue.)



In our issue of July 1982, we had a story on five brothers and a cousin who joined in a mass migration from Missouri to Kansas in the late 1880s. We recently obtained this picture of the six Rathbuns from our member Russell Rathbun. Seated, from left are Uzel Rathbun (1847-1937), Elon Rathbun (1859-1936), and Lorenzo Dow Rathbun (1861-1934). Standing from left are Alfred Rathbun (1853-1935), William Rathbun (1860-1948), and John Rathbun (1863-1937). Lorenzo was a cousin; the others were all brothers, sons of John⁶ Rathbun (Alfred⁵ Job⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

Queries

WANTED — Information on Elizabeth Rathbun, aged 80, who died Nov. 16, 1873, in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. She was described as a widow, born in New York.

WANTED — Information on Lydia E. Rathbun, who married Albert O. Handy on Feb. 21, 1875, at Ashaway, R.I. Both were residents of Hopkinton, R.I.

WANTED — Information on the ancestry of Caleb Brown, whose son, Robert, born in 1779, married in 1800 in Butler County, Pa., Ruth Rathbun, daughter of Clark⁵ Rathbun (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). Robert's sister, Lydia Brown, born in 1784, married Ruth's brother, John Tillinghast Rathbun. Could Caleb be the son of Ezra and Anna Brown of Rhode Island?

Answers

Vol. 5, No. 2 — Ellis Rathburn was born a Rathvon, the son of Michael and Catherine (Downing) Rathvon of Dauphin County, Pa. Ellis and his brothers, Edward, Michael and Horace, apparently changed their name to Rathburn as young men. Members of this family lived in Moline, Ill., in the late 1800s, and some later moved to Chicago. Rathvon, also spelled Rathfon, is a German name often confused with ours. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

Vol. 4, No. 2 — The Ida Rathbun who is buried at Conneaut, Ohio, was actually Ida Taft, whose daughter Sophronia Taft married Henry Rathbun, probably the son of Valentine⁷ Rathbun (Caleb⁶ Valentine⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Our thanks again to Rob Rathbun.

Genealogy: The Sixth Generation in America

178. LEWIS or LOREN⁶ RATHBUN

(Russell⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born about 1799, probably at Canaan, Conn. We have very sketchy information on him. He was living in Elk Creek, Erie County, Pa., in 1840, and he married there about 1848 Maria (Hurlburt) Clark, born Oct. 11, 1824, daughter of Asel and Sarah (Winchester) Hurlburt, and widow of Benjamin Clark. They moved in the early 1850s to Wisconsin, where he died by 1854, in either Columbia or Dane County. Maria married in Dane County on May 10, 1854, Thomas Russell, and died some time after 1868. She had at least three children by her first husband — Sarah, Adelaide Josephine and Julia Ann, who all apparently took the Rathbun name. She also had three children by her third husband.

CHILD

?E.W., (a son), born about 1848; possibly died young, between 1850 and 1860. He appears in the 1850 census, aged two, but not in the 1860 census.

179. RANSOM⁶ RATHBUN (Whitfield⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born about 1823 in Ohio, and married Nov. 19, 1844, in Woodford County, Illinois, Elizabeth Beltz, born about 1823, parentage unknown. They moved by the 1880s to Denver, Colorado, where he was living as late as 1890 with his son, Thomas. Neither his death date nor his wife's is known.

CHILDREN

?HARRIET, born about 1846; died young?

AMOS, born about 1849; died young?

THOMAS B., born about 1852; married Lydia C. _____.

EDWARD, born about 1856; no further information.

HANNAH, born about 1859; no further information.

180. NATHAN WILLIAMS⁶ RATHBUN

(Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born about

In our last issue, in the genealogical section, we omitted one of the sons of Elihu⁶ Rathbun (Solomon⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). The missing son is FitzWilliam Rathbun, born July 7, 1841, who married Mary Jane Little. The next child, Homer Dwight Rathbun, was born Feb. 23, 1843, not 1842. Our thanks to Phyllis Miller, a granddaughter of FitzWilliam.

1792 at Troy, N.Y. He studied law with his brother-in-law Thomas Y. How, practiced a few years at Brownville, N.Y., and in 1824 joined a group of emigrants to Lenawee County, Mich. He then moved to Maumee, Ohio, and invested a large sum of money in river frontage, expecting Maumee to be the principal city in that area. When that honor went instead to Toledo, his property became almost worthless. He remained in the area for some years, practicing law and serving as a justice of the peace. He was married, date unknown, to Mary Turner, born about 1800, but had no children. In the 1840s, he moved to Washington, D.C., and with the help of Thomas Y. How Jr., then a congressman, he was appointed as a clerk to the Committee on Postoffices and Roads. He died August 16, 1852, at Havre deGrace, Maryland, after a long illness. His widow died April 22, 1883, at Toledo

181. CHARLES⁶ RATHBUN

(Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born April 18, 1796, at Troy, N.Y., and moved with his parents as a boy to Scipio, Cayuga County, N.Y. He was married there on Sept. 1, 1818, to Anna Kniffin, born April 28, 1798, daughter of Benjamin and Charity (Brundage) Kniffin. In 1825, he moved with his wife and three children to Ash-tabula County, Ohio, purchased a tract of forest, and cleared it for farmland. Eight years later, they returned to Cayuga County, but in 1844, again moved west, this time to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he purchased a hotel,

expanded it, and named it the Rathbun House. (See our Historian of October 1982). He sold the hotel about 1852, and moved to a farm in nearby Paris Township. He later returned to Grand Rapids, where he died Sept. 1, 1875. His first wife died Oct. 8, 1855, and he was remarried the next year to Jane Van Tuyl, birthdate and ancestry unknown, who survived him.

CHILDREN

GOUVERNEUR BROWN, born Aug. 19, 1819; married Emily Tucker.

SARAH FRANCES, born March 31, 1821; died in infancy.

SARAH FRANCES, born Oct. 19, 1822; married Benjamin Smith on May 3, 1847.

LANSING KENDALL, born Sept. 11, 1824; married Sally Ann Pratt.

CHARITY JANE, born Aug. 26, 1826; married George C. Morton on Sept. 9, 1854.

AMOS, born Dec. 27, 1827; died Aug. 18, 1854, when he fell over a cliff in California where he had gone in the Gold Rush.

JOANNA MERRIMAN, born March 15, 1829; married (1) Frank Godfroy on Feb. 18, 1851; (2) Edward Godfroy, and (3) _____ Weston.

MARY ANN, born May 25, 1831; married George E. Gerts on Dec. 19, 1860.

BENJAMIN KNIFFIN, born April 6, 1833; died June 16, 1868, unmarried.

ELIZABETH HUDSON, born April 13, 1835; married Thaddeus S. Gibbs on Feb. 9, 1858.

SUSAN MADDEN, born May 9, 1839; married Joseph Lawton on Jan. 23, 1860.

HUGO BURGHARDT, born Nov. 30, 1841; married Leversa V. Wright.

182. JUDAH WILLIAMS⁶ RATHBUN

(Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 8, 1801, in Scipio, N.Y., and married there Nov. 23, 1823, his cousin, Celia Rathbun, born Feb. 4, 1805, daughter of John⁵ Rathbun (Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He was a farmer all his life in

Cayuga County, N.Y., moved as an old man to live with his daughter, Mary Strail, in Long Branch, N.J., and died there June 19, 1885. His wife had died June 7, 1871, at Auburn, N.Y.

CHILDREN

MARY HOW, born Aug. 9, 1826; married James Milo Strail on Sept. 25, 1849.

NATHAN WILLIAMS, born Oct. 13, 1828; married Maria Woodruff.

ADELIA MATILDA, born Jan. 12, 1832; married Henry B. Fitch on July 16, 1855.

ROWLAND ISAAC, born April 26, 1835; married Eva J. Hughes.

JUDAH WILLIAMS, born Jan. 7, 1839; died April 7, 1843.

CAROLINA LOUISA, born Aug. 17, 1844; married Henry A. Jackson.

183. ALFRED DAY⁶ RATHBONE (Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Jan. 17, 1806, at Scipio, N.Y. Like his brother, Nathan, he studied law with their brother-in-law Thomas Y. How, was admitted to the State Bar, and then moved to Silver Creek, N.Y., where on July 25, 1836, he married Lucy Gould Redfield, born Feb. 12, 1816, daughter of Samuel R. and Sarah (Gould) Redfield. They moved that fall to Grand Rapids (then called Kent), Mich., where he became one of the town's leading citizens. He served on the school board, was the first postmaster, and in 1839 was elected the county's prosecuting attorney. He became a leader of the local Democratic Party, and in 1854 was the party's unsuccessful candidate for state senator. He changed the spelling of his name to Rathbone as a young man. He died April 5, 1856, and left an estate valued at more than \$57,000, a fortune for that time. His wife, Lucy, had died July 19, 1844, and he was married again about 1848 to Caroline Van Tuyl, born April 9, 1821, ancestry unknown. Caroline fell ill a few years after her husband's death, and died Oct. 21, 1893, after being bed-ridden for more than 35 years.

CHILDREN

All by Lucy

EMMA SANFORD, born June 30, 1837; married Eugene Carpenter on Sept. 18, 1855.

SARAH FRANCES, born Feb. 19, 1840; married Mordicai Hopkins on Sept. 22, 1857.

ALFRED DAY JR., born June 14, 1842; married Orcelia Adams.

184. AMOS⁶ RATHBONE (Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 11, 1808, at Scipio, N.Y. He moved as a young man in 1834 to Covington, Indiana, where he operated a general store, and moved three years later to Grand Rapids, Mich., where his brother Alfred was living. Like Alfred, he changed the spelling of his name to Rathbone. (See our Historian of Oct. 1982). He became a wealthy businessman, and served as city treasurer, alderman and a member of the Grand Rapids Academy board of trustees. He was married there on Feb. 9, 1845, to his cousin, Amanda Carver, born Oct. 4, 1810, daughter of Dyer Carver and Lucy⁵ Rathbun (Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). Amos died at Grand Rapids on Nov. 21, 1882, leaving a substantial estate of more than \$135,000. Amanda died in 1895. They had no children.

185. AMOS⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Sept. 11, 1801, at Venice, N.Y., and married on May 22, 1838, Jane Ann Robinson, born April 24, 1814, parentage unknown. He was a farmer near Moravia, N.Y., where they lived all their lives and where he died Oct. 2, 1874, and she died Dec. 2, 1902.

CHILDREN

GEORGE, born Nov. 10, 1838; married (1) Sarah Main, and (2) Mary Harris.

NILES, born Aug. 13, 1841; died May 27, 1858.

THOMAS, born Nov. 14, 1843; married Caroline Rhodes.

SCOTT, born Sept. 16, 1845; married Adelia Mattoon.

IRENE O., born June 28, 1848; married (1) Calvin Curtis and (2) _____ Wright.

EDWARD, born April 13, 1850; married Anna Rowley.

ELIDA J., born about 1852; died March 12, 1870.

MARY ELLEN, born July 24, 1854; living, unmarried, in 1900.

186. EDWARD⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Sept. 28, 1803, at Venice, N.Y. He was married about 1832 to Phoebe Remington, born April 30, 1812, parentage unknown. They moved to Ossian, N.Y., where she died May 13, 1844. He was married again on May 6, 1845, to Rebecca McCurdy, born March 25, 1814, daughter of James D. and Jean (McNair) McCurdy. Edward died May 12, 1877, at Ossian, and Rebecca died there on Dec. 23, 1898.

CHILDREN

By Phoebe

GEORGE, born in January 1833; possibly the George Rathbun living in Price County, Wisc., in 1900.

ADELIA, born in January 1835; alive in 1850; no known marriage.

CELIA (OR PELIA) ANN, born about 1837; died young.

EMALINE, born about 1839; died young.

EDWARD, born about 1841; died young.

ROBERT BRUCE, born April 18, 1843; married Martha Ward.

By Rebecca

MARTHA JANE, born March 4, 1846; married Albert Clendenin on July 12, 1877.

JAMES McCURDY, born Oct. 10, 1847; died Sept. 21, 1867.

CHARLOTTE AUGUSTA, born Sept. 16, 1849; died April 4, 1881, of measles, just as she was about to graduate from medical school.

EDWARD AUGUSTUS, born Sept. 27, 1852; married Lucinda McCartney.

187. JOSHUA⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 11, 1805, at Venice, N.Y. He was married in 1826 at Malcolm, Greene County, to Phoebe Keith, born Nov. 27, 1807, parentage unknown. They lived for many years at Ossian, N.Y., where he was township supervisor in 1840 and 1844, and county sheriff in 1846. They moved in the 1860s to Eau Claire, Wisc., where he died Oct. 7, 1875. Phoebe died May 14, 1883, in Ashcroft, British Columbia, Canada.

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

CHILDREN

MARY, born Aug. 15, 1827; married John Rowell on Dec. 25, 1845.

FRANCIS B., born May 15, 1829; married Evaline Holmes.

HARRIET ANN, born Dec. 27, 1830; married Abel E. Angel on Sept. 22, 1853.

ADELINE, born in May 1832; died in 1834.

JOHN, born Jan. 11, 1835; died unmarried on Nov. 25, 1865, as a soldier during the Civil War.

WILLIAM, born in August 1838; died young.

HARRISON, born Oct. 22, 1840; died young.

MARTHA, born Nov. 18, 1842; died in 1847.

CHARLES, born Sept. 22, 1845; died young.

BENJAMIN K., born Dec. 25, 1849; died Feb. 27, 1888, at Grant's Pass, Oregon.

188. JAMES D.⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Feb. 19, 1811, at Moravia, N.Y. He was married about 1836 in Penn Yan, Yates County, to Caroline E. Amsburg, born about 1817, parentage unknown. He was a shoemaker in Naples and Milo, N.Y., and then moved in the 1850s to Adrian, Michigan, where he died sometime between 1890 and 1900. Caroline died some time after 1905.

CHILDREN

DUANE B., born March 23, 1838; died July 19, 1857, in Adrian.

DEWITT GEORGE, born in 1839; married Seyoretta (Walker?).

WINFIELD SCOTT, born in May 1841; married Hannah _____.

GEORGE H., born in January 1843; married Sarah Ann Prindle.

STEPHEN B., born in January 1845; married Elva, and possibly others.

CHARLES H., born about 1848; no further information.

189. CHARLES S.⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born May 14, 1815, at Moravia, N.Y. He mar-

ried about 1836 Sarah Ann Kent, born March 9, 1816, parentage unknown. They moved soon after their marriage to Dundee, Michigan, where she died Nov. 17, 1840. He was married again about 1844 to Martha Lawrence, who died in the 1850s, and he was married again, date unknown, to Margaret Stewart. He died Jan. 26, 1897, at Dundee. Margaret's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

By Sarah

EDWARD S., born April 18, 1837; married (1) Sophronia Rood, and (2) Dolly Davis.

NILES, born about 1839; living in 1850, no further information.

ANN, born about 1841; died young?

By Martha

JOHN, born in May 1844; alive in 1900; no known marriage

MARY, born about 1846; alive in 1850.

ELLIE (ELIZABETH?), born about 1851; died aged 17.

190. NILES S.⁶ RATHBUN (Joshua⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born March 26, 1821, in Moravia, N.Y. He was only five years old when his father died, and was raised by his brother, Edward. He operated a hotel and livery stable in Allegany County, N.Y. for several years, and was living there in 1852 when he married Lucy M. Chesebrough, born in March 1827, parentage unknown. He served as a justice of the peace for a number of years, and in 1867, moved to Oak Claim City, Wisc., where he was a justice for eight years. In the 1870s, he moved to Decatur, Mich., where he opened a grocery store. He died at Decatur between 1900 and 1910. Lucy died sometime after 1910.

CHILDREN

CORA, born about 1854; died about 1863.

EDWIN NILES, born in Sept. 1860; married Mary E. _____.

191. HIRAM⁶ RATHBUN (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Dec. 18, 1800, at Scipio, N.Y., and married there on March 16, 1824, his cousin, Pamela Brown Rathbun, daughter of Amos⁵

Rathbun (Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹). He was an ensign in the Cayuga County militia in 1821, and lieutenant in 1822. In 1838 he served as county sheriff. Hiram and Pamela lived in Auburn for many years, but moved by the 1850s to Grand Rapids, Mich., where for a few years he leased the Rathbun House hotel from Pamela's brother, Charles Rathbun. He died in Grand Rapids on June 3, 1861 (or 1864?). Pamela died there Feb. 4, 1870.

CHILDREN

JAMES MORTIMER, born Dec. 29, 1824; enrolled in 1842 at Geneva College (now Cornell University), and drowned there on Feb. 24, 1843, when he broke through the ice while skating on Seneca Lake.

HELEN MARR, born Nov. 25, 1828; married Alden Lafayette Gage on July 6, 1849.

THEODORE HIRAM, born April 15, 1832; married Susan Smith.

192. GEORGE⁶ RATHBUN (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Oct. 16, 1802, at Scipio, N.Y., and married there on Sept. 1, 1823, Eliza Treat Gould, born in 1804, parentage unknown. He became an attorney, moved to Auburn, and was postmaster there in 1837. He served in the U.S. Congress from 1843 to 1847. (See our Historians of Oct. 1986 and Jan. 1987). Eliza died July 2, 1866, at Auburn, and he died there Jan. 4, 1870.

CHILDREN

GEORGE OSCAR, born Aug. 31, 1824; married Anna Mowbry.

JAMES EDWARD, born in July 1826; married Charlotte Broughton.

CAROLINE E., born in 1830; married John Perkins.

193. ERASTUS M.⁶ RATHBUN (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born April 16, 1804, at Scipio, N.Y., and married there July 20, 1822, Catherine Dills, born Aug. 25, 1807, daughter of William and Mary Dills. They moved in 1828 to Huron County, Ohio, and later to nearby Ruggles, in Ashland County. His wife died Feb. 18, 1873, and he moved to Bloomington, Ill., where he died Sept. 22, 1875.

CHILDREN

GEORGE WASHINGTON, born July 23, 1823; died April 20, 1865; no known marriage.

CHARLES, born Oct. 17, 1825; died Oct. 29, 1825.

ANN FULLER, born July 19, 1827; married Phineas Weston Dec. 25, 1849.

MARY HOW, born June 26, 1829; married Elisha F. Beal on June 15, 1852.

EDWARD E., born Oct. 16, 1831 (or 1833); married Laura Stevens.

ELIZA R., born Oct. 12, 1835; married William Jones on June 11, 1857.

SARAH LOUISA, born Feb. 28, 1837; married Robert Mahan on Dec. 30, 1858, and is probably the Sarah Rathbun who married Orsemus S. Merrifield on June 27, 1860, both in Ashland County. Her first husband possibly died, or there was a divorce.

WALLACE PURDY, born July 6, 1843; married Gertrude Smith.

194. EDWARD⁶ RATHBUN (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born in 1806 in Scipio, N.Y. He became a dentist and moved to Auburn, where on Sept. 14, 1830, he married Anna Huffman, born June 12, 1805, daughter of Matthias Huffman. She died Feb. 10, 1851, and he married again on Jan. 1, 1853, Maria (Ballou) Tanner, birthdate unknown, daughter of Obadiah and Nancy Ballou, and widow of a Tanner. Edward died Nov. 12, 1879, at Auburn. Maria's death date is not known. There were no known children by either wife.

195. AMOS SCOTT⁶ RATHBUN (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Aug. 8, 1810, at Scipio, N.Y., and moved as a young man to Auburn, where he was postmaster from 1845 to 1848. He later went into the lumber business and was an early investor in Canada, but later sold his interest to his partner/brother, Hugo. (See our Historian of July 1986). He was married on Feb. 3, 1848, at Elmira, N.Y., to Mary Baldwin, born Aug. 24, 1824, daughter of Isaac Baldwin. She died Jan. 10, 1857, and he married on Sept. 27, 1865, Emma Louise Carpenter, born Aug. 3, 1844, daughter of Ward and Frances (Pugley) Carpenter. He later lived for a while in New York City, but finally moved to Eb-

ensburg, Penn., where he died Jan. 28, 1886. Emma's death date is not known.

CHILD

By Mary

MARY ALICE, born Dec. 31, 1856; died April 12, 1857.

196. HUGO BURGHARDT⁶ RATHBUN (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born Sept. 4, 1812, at Aurora, N.Y. He was married May 6, 1840, in New York City to Louise Storm, born about 1820, daughter of Isaac and Anna Storm. He founded a lumber empire in Canada which later became one of the country's major businesses. (See our Historian of July 1986 for the story of his life). Louisa died Feb. 15, 1885, and he died less than a year later on June 1, 1886, at Deseronto, Ont.

CHILDREN

WALTER SCOTT, born Feb. 5, 1841; died Jan. 19, 1852.

EDWARD WILKES, born Oct. 5, 1842; married Elizabeth Burt.

ISAPHINE STORM, born July 6, 1845; died Feb. 6, 1848.

SARAH BENEDICT, born Sept. 22, 1846; died May 16, 1854.

ANNIE LOUISA, born May 28, 1851; married William Hindhough on April 5, 1871.

FANNY GERTRUDE, born May 31, 1853; married Rev. R.J. Craig on April 10, 1878.

FREDERICK SHERWOOD, born Jan. 26, 1856; married Jean McMurrick.

HUGO BURGHARDT, born March 16, 1859; died Sept. 29, 1859.

LOUISE (twin), born March 16, 1859; married (1) Edward C. French on Oct. 22, 1884, and (2) Frederick W. Powell.

HERBERT BURT, born Sept. 4, 1861; married Agnes C. Bell.

FLORENCE, born Aug. 22, 1863; died May 11, 1875.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT, born March 16, 1866; married Jean Blaikie.

197. JOHN WILLIAMS⁵ RATHBUN (Edward⁵ Amos⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), born April 28, 1820, at Aurora, N.Y., and moved as a young boy to Ruggles, Ohio, with his brother Erastus. He was married there about 1842 to a wife whose

name is not known, and who died by 1850. He was married again on Jan. 1, 1862, to Mary Jane Eaton, born about 1840, daughter of Abel and Sylvia Eaton. He died in 1869 at Fitchville, Ohio. Mary's death date is not known.

CHILDREN

By first wife

EDWARD JACOB, born about 1843; married Emma _____.

By Mary Jane

SYLVIA, born about 1863; no further information.

ABEL, born in June 1866; married Stella Green.

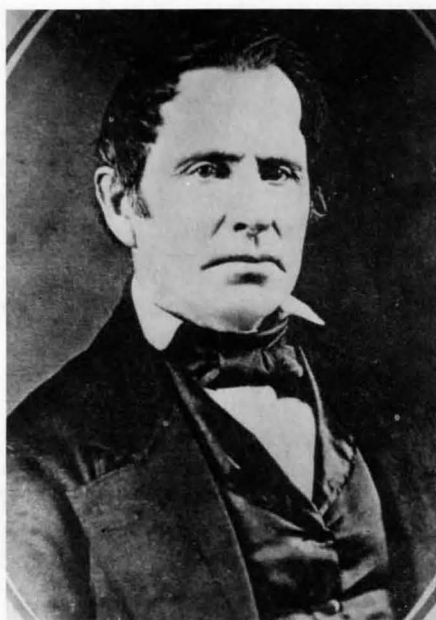
People

MAX. L. RATHBUN reports that his farm near Fremont, Indiana, has been listed as a "Hoosier Homestead Farm," having been in the family since 1853. The land was homesteaded that year by Max's great-great-grandfather, Valentine W. Rathbun (1792-1876), a son of Daniel⁵ Rathbun (Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

TURNER LEE RATHBUN and Stuart Pummell were married July 2, 1988. Turner, of Spearfish, S.D., is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Lynn Rathbun, members of our Association, and a granddaughter of Grove¹⁰ Rathbun, (Grove⁹ Heman⁸ Nathaniel⁷ Gideon⁶ Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

KERRY G. RATHBUN and Deanne Campbell were married Sept. 25, 1988, at Wickford, R.I. Kerry is the son of Lois and Lester¹⁰ Rathbun (Leonard⁹ William⁸ John⁷⁻⁶ Joseph⁵ Joshua⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

GEORGE S. RATHBUN and Theresa M. Castonquay were married Sept. 17, 1988, at Hope Valley, R.I. George is the son of Ruth Meyer and George Lewis⁹ Rathbun (George⁸ James⁷ Royal⁶ Rodney⁵ Simeon⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).



We have recently obtained pictures of three early Rathbuns who have already been covered in our genealogical section, but the pictures are so striking we thought they should be used, even though late. At the far left is Edmund Rathbun (1800-1882), son of Gideon⁵ Rathbun (Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), courtesy of Rev. William Rathbun. In the center is Joshua Rathbun (1801-1884), son of Daniel⁵ Rathbun (Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), and at right is Joshua's wife, Penelope (Cutler) Rathbun (1804-1876), both courtesy of Dorothy Schilling. Let us know if you have such early family pictures for the Historian.

New Data

In our April 1984 issue, we reported that Simeon⁵ Rathbun (Simeon⁴ Thomas³ John²⁻¹), was supposedly shot while attending a shooting match in Richmond, R.I. This story came from Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy. Confirmation of this, and the actual date, have been found in the published diary of Thomas "Nailer Tom" Hazard, who wrote in December 1808: "I am informed that one Rathburn had his brains shot out last week in Richmanton and lived several days." We still have no data on Simeon's supposed wife, Ruby Hopkins, and their four alleged children — Simeon, Nathan, Susan and Ann, as listed by Cooley. It is possible that Cooley confused this Simeon with his father Simeon, who married Robie Hopkins. Simeon Jr. was only 24 when he died, and it is unlikely that he already had four children. It is possible he never married.

In our genealogy section of Vol. 6, No. 1, Page 13, we reported that Jonathan⁶ Rathbun (Jonathan⁵ Isaiah⁴ Jonathan³ John²⁻¹), left a son Deming and three other children, names unknown. These

children were probably Emilia Abigail, born about 1828, who married Horace Carruthers; Cora, born about 1834, and possibly Jacob. Our information is based on Brooklyn, N.Y., city directories and census records, researched by Rob Rathbun.

Rev. Stephen Allen Rathbun, son of Clark⁵ Rathbun (Jonathan⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), apparently did not die on April 5, 1853, as reported in Cooley's Rathbone Genealogy. He appears in the 1860 census in Fayette County, Va. (now West Va.), aged 70 (he was actually 61), with a wife, Elizabeth, aged 35. Rathbun's first wife, Mary, died in 1854, and he apparently married again a few years later. Our thanks to Rob Rathbun.

We reported in our last issue that Frank Rathbun (1843-1907), son of Allen Faxon⁶ Rathbun (Josiah⁵ Job⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹), had no known marriage. It now seems that he was married, for his son, William G. Rathbun, born Dec. 24, 1885, in Canada, moved to Gouverneur, N.Y., about 1902, and died there on Dec. 16, 1961. Our thanks to Ruth Hatzenbuehler.

Skull Found?

In our January 1988 issue we told of the search for the missing skull of Pancho Villa by Dr. Donald Rathbun of El Paso, Texas, and a group of associates. The mystery may be solved!

Dr. Don and his group believe it is in the possession of Yale University's secretive Skull and Bones Society. Villa's skull was stolen by grave robbers in 1926. President-Elect George Bush, a member of the Skull and Bones Society when he was a student at Yale, has not replied to a letter asking for his help.

It has since been revealed that the skull of Apache Indian Chief Geronimo, who died in 1909, may also be in the Society's collections. It was reportedly stolen by a group of grave-robbers led by Bush's father some 50 years ago, when he was a student at Yale.

DIED — Dec. 9, 1988, Marie E. Rathbun, aged 54, of Cranston, R.I. She was the widow of Ernest¹¹ Rathbun (Ernest¹⁰⁻⁹ George⁸ Jeremiah⁷ Robert⁶ Samuel⁵ Roger⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Births

See Correction 09-3 p 47

BORN — Aug. 24, 1988, Anna **Luisa** Rathbun, daughter of Gary J. and Eileen Rathbun of Coon Rapids, Minn., and the first grandchild of our members John and Alberta Rathbun of Walton, N.Y. John is the son of Ernest⁸ Rathbun (Granville⁷ Alfred⁶ Epaphroditus⁵ Simeon⁴ Benjamin³ Joseph² John¹).

BORN — Dec. 21, 1987, Cameron Robert Zook, son of Robert and Vicki (Rathbone) Zook, and grandson of Robert and Betty Rathbone, of Monrovia, Calif. Cameron joins two sisters, Ashley and Cortney. The parents and grandparents are members of our Association. Robert is the son of Cameron⁸ Rathbone (Francis⁷ John⁶ William⁵ Wait⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

BORN — April 17, 1988, Christopher Scott Duffey, son of Scott and Melanie Duffey; grandson of Ronald Duffey, and great-grandson of our members Leslie and Louise (Rathburn) Duffey. Louise is the daughter of Pearl⁹ Rathburn (Julius⁸ Sereno⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹).

BORN — July 12, 1988, James Wilder Schellens, son of Thomas and Jane (Scheide) Schellens and grandson of our member Margaret (Rathburn) Scheide. Margaret is a daughter of Douglas⁹ Rathburn (Leonard⁸⁻⁷ Calvin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹).

BORN — Oct. 17, 1988, Benjamin Douglas Kershner, son of Patrick and Darcy (Holdredge) Kershner, and grandson of our members, Virgil and Phara (Rathburn) Holdredge. Phara is the daughter of Ottie⁹ Rathburn (Marvin⁸ David⁷ Lewis⁶ David⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

BORN — August 15, 1988, Rose Louise Dovi, daughter of Jeffrey and Susan (Bonawitz) Dovi, and granddaughter of our members Duane and Betty Bonawitz. Duane is a descendant of two Rathbuns — Charity⁶ Rathburn (Paris⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹), and also Paris' wife, Elizabeth⁵ Rathburn (Thomas⁴⁻³ John²⁻¹).

BORN — July 29, 1988, Daniel Clancy Rathbun, son of David and Carol Rathbun, and grandson of Daniel and Betty Rathbun. The parents and grandparents are all members of our Association. Daniel Rathbun is the son of George⁸ Rathbun (Daniel⁷ Greene⁶⁻⁵ Gideon⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

BORN — August 16, 1988, Jacob Eric Pacilio, son of Eric and Lilly Ann (Rathburn) Pacilio, and granddaughter of our member Gail Alice Rathburn, widow of Clarence⁹ Rathburn (Henry⁸ Valentine⁷ John⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹).

BORN — Oct. 16, 1988, Eric Collin Rathbun, son of Richard Charles and Treyse (Reed) Rathbun, and grandson of our members Frank and Dorothy Rathbun. Frank is the son of Frank⁸ Rathbun (Joseph⁷ Valentine⁶ Daniel⁵ Valentine⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

Reunion

Thirty-one descendants of Joseph Rathburn (1850-1896) and Mary Elizabeth (Griffin) Rathburn held their first family reunion last May 14 at the Rathburn Cemetery near Texarkana, Texas. Among the group were several of our members, including James and Beatrice Rathburn, Bert and Katherine Phillips, Edith Braddock and Virgie Hines. It was decided to make the reunion an annual event, to be held the second Saturday of each May. Joseph Rathburn, born in Madison County, Mo., moved to Texas in 1890, making the six-week trip with his family in three covered wagons. He was the son of Aaron⁷ Rathburn (Joseph⁶ Perry⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹).

Thanks

WE THANK the following members who have sent us family data, pictures, clippings and other materials: John Bowen, Rob Rathbun, Charles Boardman, Louise Duffey, Mrs. Clarence Rathburn, Mary Lou Sharp, Ray Martin, Margaret Scheide, Phara Holdredge, Mary Pearl Whitman, David G. Rathburn, Daniel B. Rathburn, Claire Cornell, Roger H. Rathburn, Dorothy Hladik, Leta Hollman, Bob Willis, Phyllis Miller, Katherine Hoxie, Ruth Hatzenbuehler, Dorothy Danks, Janet and Grove Rathburn, Chester F. Mack Jr., Willard G. Rathburn, Betsey Dana, Neal M. Rathburn, Frank E. Rathburn, Chester Rathburn, Helen M. Rathburn, Loren Marvin, Elaine McMahan, Joe Wiswall, Rosma Limbeck, Betty Angelini, Imogene Hodges, Earl and Gayle Antes, Jim Busselle, Darleen Boyle and Mildred Rathburn.

JOSEPH WISWALL has solved a mystery reported in our last issue. When our immigrant ancestor, John Rathburn, died in 1702, the inventory of his estate listed a "pair of stillyards," a term we could not figure out. Joe called to point out that a stillyard was an early form of weighing scale. John Rathburn obviously used them in his "shop" to weigh produce and other items.

Obituaries

DIED — Sept. 22, 1988, at Honolulu, Sherman Leonard Rathbun, aged 53. He was the son of our member, Jack Wooten¹⁰ Rathburn (George⁹ Ulysses⁸ Alfred⁷ Daniel⁶ Gideon⁵ Edmund⁴ John³⁻²⁻¹). He is also survived by his wife, Carol (Oppel) Rathburn; a son, Sherman Scott Rathbun; three daughters, Stacy, Margaret and Lucinda, and four grandchildren.

DIED — Oct. 10, 1988, at Englewood, N.J., Philip Ippolito, aged 61. He was the husband of Dorothy¹⁰ Rathburn (Oscar⁹ George⁸ Corbet⁷ Gideon⁶ Tibbetts⁵ John⁴⁻³ Thomas² John¹). Other survivors include four children, Philip, Mona, Michael and James.

DIED — Sept. 29, 1988, at Green Valley, Arizona, Raymond Wachter. He was the husband of our member, Jeanette Wachter, who is a great-granddaughter of Col. Benjamin Smith and Sarah Frances⁷ Rathburn (Charles⁶ Amos⁵⁻⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

People

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN F. RATHBUN

has been named vice-chairman of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Grant Review Panel. Rathbun, of Noank, Conn., has served on the panel since 1986. The group advises the Secretary of Commerce and other agencies on policy matters. A mariner for more than 40 years, Captain Ben is the son of Benjamin⁹ Rathbun (Benjamin⁸ William⁷ Benjamin⁶ Samuel⁵ Elijah⁴ Samuel³⁻² John¹).

KIRK RATHBURN was graduated in May from the Creighton University Dental School, and is now in a residency program at the Colorado Dental School in Denver. His sister, Lisa (Rathburn) Haswell, received a master's degree at Texas Wesleyan and a certificate as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, from Harris Hospital, Fort Worth, in November. Another sister, Sara Rathburn, will receive her master's degree in geology in May at the University of Arizona. The three talented youngsters are children of our members Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rathburn, of Boulder, Colo. Roger is the son of Raymond¹⁰ Rathburn (James⁹ Elijah⁸ Sereno⁷ Elijah⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ William³⁻² John¹).

JOHN AND MARY ANN BOWEN celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary on July 5, 1988, by returning to the church where they were married in Dover Plains, N.Y., and renewing their vows. John is a great-grandson of David Abel and Elizabeth⁷ Rathbun (John⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹), and is a member of our Association.

TERRY RATHBUN won rave reviews for his acting performance as Jim Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's "A Moon for the Misbegotten," presented last October by the Group Theatre in Rapid City, S.D. A newspaper reviewer commented, "When Rathbun was on stage, it was difficult to watch anyone else." Terry, a member of our association, is the son of Burl¹⁰ Rathbun (Samuel⁹ James⁸ Samuel⁷ James⁶ Thomas⁵ John⁴ Samuel³ Thomas² John¹).

Our New Members

Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Best
Lakewood, Colo.

Bronson Chanler
Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Dorothy Danks
Woodville, N.Y.

Joan Goldammer
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Jane Hartmann
College, Station, Texas

Anella Hunt
Talent, Ore.

Vickie Kruger
Ukiah, Calif.

Rhonda L. Leonard
Santa Rita Park, Calif.

Virginia R. Lindley
West Union, Ill.

Elaine McMahan
Sumner, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Mook
Memphis, Tenn.

Rexford W. Parfitt
Novato, Calif.

Gail Poineau
Saginaw, Mich.

Nell Powell
Santa Ana, Calif.

David Rathbun
Fort Smith, Ark.

David Rathbun
Farmer Branch, Texas

Donald P. Rathbun
San Antonio, Texas

Gary Rathbun
New York, N.Y.

Katura C. Rathbun
San Mateo, Calif.

Marc Rathbun
Dallas, Texas

Marvin Rathburn
Harbor City, Calif.

Max Douglas Rathbun
Chippewa Falls, Wisc.

Paul and Louise Rathbun
Tescott, Kansas

Raymond Willis Rathburn
Tucson, Ariz.

Richard Lee Rathbun
Littleton, Colo.

Frances Roy
Coventry, R.I.

Mary Slater
Indio, Calif.

Virginia Snowden
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stone
Salinas, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stone
Pleasanton, Calif.

Dorothy Wheelock
Kent, Conn.

Bonnie Woodbury
Phillipstown, Mass.

THOMAS ALLAN RATHBUN and Carrie Ann White of Painesville, Ohio, were married Oct. 22, 1988. Thomas is the son of Allan⁹ Rathbun (Howard⁸ Valentine⁷ Horace⁶ William⁵ Daniel⁴ Joshua³ John²⁻¹).

CHESTER F. MACK JR. and Frances Michelle Soto were married Dec. 17, 1988, at Dahlgren, Virginia. It was the second marriage for both. Chester, a member of our Association, is a descendant of Daniel⁴ Rathbun (William³⁻² John¹).